OUR NEW STORY.

SHAUGH BRIDGE: THE STORY OF A WOMAN'S REVENGE.

BY SIDNEY SHELLY.

☞ SEE 6TH PAGE.

The Consett Guardian

AND DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER.

SOMETHING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND OUR LADIES' COLUMN.

☞ SEE 6TH PAGE.

No. 1,222 | REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. | FRIDAY EVENING, January 11th, 1884. | PRICE ONE PENNY.

Money.

THE INDUSTRIAL LOAN COMPANY advances Money from £5 to £500 to respectable Householders, at a moderate rate of interest and easy payments. Applications personally or by letter (strictly private), 20, Clayton Street East, Newcastle.—Manager, I. TURNER. Business hours, 10 till 5.

MONEY WITHOUT SECURITIES.—The Monetary Advance Company Lends Money from £10 to £500 to respectable householders, farmers, &c., on their own security, at moderate interest and easy repayments. Applications, personal or by letter, receive prompt attention, with the strictest privacy. Offices, Neville Street, (opposite Central Station Hotel), Newcastle-on-Tyne.—H. S. SCOTT, Manager. 539s

MONEY ADVANCED, in large and small sums in Town or Country, on Personal and Household Security, Farm Stock, Second Mortgages, Deeds, Life Policies, Building Society or any other Shares or Interest, repayable to suit borrowers' convenience, as may be arranged. Write or call on Agent, Mr. JAS. FROSDICK, Rose Mount, Consett, or direct to M. L. ROSENBERG, Cross House Chambers, 54, Westgate Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (opposite Mr Angus, Coachbuilder.) Established 1860. 696jr

Contracts.

LANCHESTER UNION RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

TO CONTRACTORS.

THE above Authority is prepared to receive TENDERS for certain Sewerage Works, consisting of Subsiding Tanks, Pipe Sewers, Manholes, &c., at Dipton, near Lintz Green.

Plans and Specifications may be seen at the Union Office, Lanchester, on and after Monday, the 7th instant, and Tenders (on the form supplied) endorsed "Dipton Outlet Works," must be sent to the undersigned not later than Wednesday, the 16th instant.

No quantities are supplied, but any further information may be obtained from Mr. J. W. Rounthwaite, the Surveyor to the Authority.

No pledge is given to accept the lowest or any Tender.

WM. HENRY RITSON, Clerk.

Lanchester, January 3rd, 1884. 585s

Lost.

LOST, in the District of Consett and Medomsley, on 29th ult., a GOLD EARRING.—Any one returning it to the *Guardian* Office, Consett, will be rewarded.

Found.

FOUND, near Consett Railway Station, on Wednesday morning last, a SUM OF MONEY. On giving a description to GEORGE B. SIBBS, 51, Clayton Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, the money will be returned. 601s

Wanted.

AGENT WANTED to push first-class Lubricating Oil. Liberal Commission.—Box 322, Post Office Liverpool. 600s

WANTED, a steady Woman as HOUSEKEEPER for a working man, with three children.—Apply T. TAILFORD, St. Ives Road, Leadgate. 604s

BOARD and RESIDENCE offered to Ladies and Gentlemen. A comfortable, quiet Home.—Mrs. J. PROUD, Derwent House, Shotley Bridge. 409s

REGISTRY OFFICE.

LADIES requiring Servants; also, Servants wanting Situations.—Apply at Mrs. COCKBURN'S Registry, 13, Front Street, Consett. 149p

WANTED, at once, COOKS, HOUSEMAIDS, NURSEMAIDS, and good General SERVANTS.—Apply, Miss SCOTT'S Registry Office for Male and Female Servants, 3, Saville Row, Newcastle.

QUEENSLAND EMIGRATION.—A few Free Passages for Female Domestic Servants, and Assisted Passages for others, by "Otago," from Glasgow for Brisbane, on 24th January, 1884.—Apply at once to ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett, the only Authorised Agent in the District. 500s

EMIGRATION TO QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA.

WANTED, 500 Female Domestic Servants, Farm Labourers (married or single). Coal Miners, and all classes of Mechanics. Immediate employment upon arrival, at high wages. Free and assisted passages granted by mail steamer every month.—Apply to Local Agents, J. DALY, 2, Shakespeare St., Consett; or J. HILLARY, Auctioneer, Tow Law

WANTED, Ladies requiring SERVANTS, Male or Female, also NURSES, INVALID NURSES, &c., and Servants good situations, can be suited daily by applying to Miss PHELAN, Servants' Institute, 75, Clayton Street, Newcastle (formerly with the late Miss Leybourne). Hotels supplied from the Bar to the Kitchen.—Wanted, daily, Cooks, Kitchen and Scullery Maids, House and Kitchen Maids, Head and Under Laundresses. General Servants, &c., &c. 15s

FREE AND ASSISTED PASSAGES TO QUEENSLAND. Five thousand Domestic Servants, Farm Labourers, Miners, Mechanics, and good workmen of all kinds Wanted, at once. Immediate employment obtained at highest wages.—Apply to THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT EMIGRATION AGENCY (Chief Office for the District), 96, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD. Passages Booked to Canada, Texas, and all parts of America and Australia at exceedingly low rates. 453s

To Let.

TO LET, a TWO-STALLED STABLE, with HAY LOFT.—Apply to G. BROWN, Railway Hotel, Consett. 514s

TO BE LET, a HOUSE AND SHOP (well adapted for any business), situated at Catchgate, on the Main Road, near Annfield Plain.—Apply to R. W. PEARSON, Catchgate. 596s

For Sale.

FOR SALE, an Incalving COW; time up on January 24th inst.—Apply to GEORGE MUNCASTER, Lanchester. 593s

FOR SALE, an Incalving COW; due on the 22nd inst.; good milker.—Apply to Mr. J. JOHNSTONE, Grocer, Annfield Plain. 595s

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, RIDING SADDLES and BRIDLES HORSE CLOTHING, GIG APRONS CLIPPING MACHINES, and SINGING LAMPS. —THOMAS OWEN, 67, Side Newcastle-on-Tyne.

VALUABLE FREEHOLD BUILDING SITES FOR SALE, overlooking the proposed New Park, situate at Mount Pleasant, Consett.—Apply to Messrs. JOHN SMITH & SON, Shotley Bridge; or Mr. WILLIAM AYNSLEY, Middle Street, Consett. 451r

AN IMPORTANT FACT!

£10 AND upwards carefully invested in Options on Stocks and Shares is the safest and most popular way of rapidly making money on the Stock Exchange by the non-liability system. *Explanatory Book (New Edition) giving all details gratis and post free.*—Address GEORGE EVANS and Co., Sworn Brokers, Gresham House, London, E.C. 582s

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Business Announcements.

STANDARD LUBRICATING OIL Co.
1, DRAPERS GARDENS, THROGMORTON STREET, LONDON, E.C.
IMPORTERS AND MANUFACTURERS OF LUBRICATING OILS. 713r

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JASPER COCKBURN,
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ACCOUNT BOOKS, DIARIES, POCKET BOOKS, BIRTH-DAY CARDS, And STATIONERY of every Description in Stock.

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CELEBRATED
FELT 2s. 6d. HAT,
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First-class, full-powered Iron Steamships.

Accommodation for passengers equal to any European Line.

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

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Apply to RICHARDSON, SPENCE, & CO., 17 and 19, Water Street, Liverpool; ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett; E. SLOANE, Postmaster, Blackhill; G. LEADBITTER, Catchgate, *via* Lintz Green; A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Dipton. 833p

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Light BROUGHAM of newest design, weighing 8½ cwts.

Light One-horse LANDAUS under 9 cwts.

Handsome LANDAULETTE BROUGHAM, forming perfect Victoria or Brougham.

Three Elegant Second-Hand BROUGHAMS, with circular fronts.

A. Fashionable Single BROUGHAM, by Hooper, London.

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With all the latest Improvements, of Superior Workmanship, and made of the Best Materials. Life-like in Appearance, &c.

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EVERY CASE WARRANTED FOR FIVE YEARS

FROM 4s. TO 10s. PER TOOTH. PARTIAL SETS, FROM 3s. PER TOOTH, UPWARDS.

COMPLETE UPPER OR LOWER SETS, FROM £1 10s TO £4 10s.

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TEETH PAINLESSLY EXTRACTED BY NITROUS OXIDE GAS, 5s.

Teeth Scaled, Cleaned, &c.
Children's Teeth Regulated.
Deformities of the Mouth Treated.

ALL OPERATIONS SKILFULLY PERFORMED.

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T. MILNER, Chemist, Consett, wishes to draw the attention of the above to Messrs. NESS & CO.'S CONCENTRATED TAR ELIXIR SHEEP DIP, which is one of the Cheapest and Best Dippings for Sheep or Cattle ever discovered, and received the Prize Medal at the Amsterdam Exhibition, 1883. Sole Agent for Consett, Benfieldside, and the surrounding district,

T. MILNER, A.P.S.,
DISPENSING AND AGRICULTURAL CHEMIST,
7, SHAKESPEARE STREET, opposite the Post Office CONSETT.

Price 2s. 6d. per quart; 4s per half gallon; 7s. 6d. per gallon. One gallon sufficient for 100 Sheep.

"Hylton, Southwick, Sunderland,
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"I beg to inform you that after having used your Sheep Dip for two seasons, I can with confidence recommend it, as it improves the quality of the wool, and keeps the sheep clear of maggots. J. RENNOLDSON.

"Agent for Major Briggs, of Hylton Castle, R. L. Pemberton, of Hawthorn, &c., &c."

N.B.—T. M. is likewise Agent for BELL & RIDDLE'S Hexham SHEEP DIP, McDOUGALL'S, COOPER'S, BIGG'S, MORRIS'S, LITTLE & CO.'S, WILSON and KITCHEN'S, &c.

HORSE AND CATTLE MEDICINES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

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Numerous testimonials have been received for Milner's Dandelion and Podophyllyn Pills, Blood Purifying Mixture, Quinine and Iron Tonic, &c. Finest New Season's Cod Liver Oil.

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Balsamic Cough Mixture, an excellent remedy for Coughs, Colds, Influenza, and all diseases of the Chest and Throat. Dr. Coffin's Composition Powder and Composition Essence. Homœopathic Medicines in great variety. 434s

Business Announcements,

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

SMOKE UNCLE TOM CIGARS, 2D. EACH. SOLD EVERYWHERE,
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TELFER'S MEERSCHAUM CLAY PIPES, 1d. each. The best 1d. pipe ever made.
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STOVES OF EVERY KIND.

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"Castle GRAND" SCOTCH WHISKY — Fine Highland Malt Whisky—Very old, 10 *per cent under proof* — BOTTLE 3/6, DOZEN 42/



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Each Bottle should bear W & A Gilbey's Gold Label and Capsule with Patent Seal on Cork as in margin, and Signature on side of Cork thus—W & A Gilbey

TO BE OBTAINED FROM W & A GILBEY'S AGENTS IN EVERY TOWN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

WINES & SPIRITS FOR THE PRESENT SEASON

Selected from W & A Gilbey's List of 258 varieties, representing the largest finest and best matured Stock in the world.

The purity of every article is guaranteed under Act 38 & 39 Vict., Cap. 63. Consumers will recognise in this Act a means of verifying the guarantee W & A Gilbey have always given of the purity and genuineness of all WINES and SPIRITS bearing their seals and labels.

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	Bottle	Dozen
PORT Castle A *from Portugal* An excellent fruity Wine, well matured 5 years old	2/	24/
PORT Castle B *from Portugal* A fine full-flavored fruity Wine 8 years old	2/4	28/
SPANISH PORT Castle 1 *from Spain* A fruity Wine of good body 2 years old	1/3	15/
SPANISH PORT Castle 4 *from Spain* The finest old Red Wine produced 10 years old	1/10	22/
SHERRY Castle SPANISH *from Spain* A good Spanish Wine 2 years old	1/3	15/
SHERRY Castle C *Pale from Spain* An excellent type of dry Sherry 6 years old	2/4	28/
MARSALA Castle VP *Pale from Sicily* A delicate dinner Wine 3 years old	1/4	16/
MARSALA Castle C *Pale from Sicily* The finest Marsala imported 7 years old	1/8	20/
CLARET Castle A *from France* A good sound Beverage Wine 6 months in bottle	1/	12/
CLARET Castle C *from France* A superior Médoc Wine 18 months in bottle	1/6	18/
SAUMUR Castle *Silver Foil* A Sparkling dry Champagne	2/1	25/
SAUMUR Castle *Gold Foil* A choice Wine of the District	2/6	30/
CHAMPAGNE Castle 1 A good Sparkling Wine for ordinary use	2/2	26/
CHAMPAGNE Castle 3A A high-class delicate Champagne	3/6	42/

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	Bottle	Dozen
GIN Castle UP Highly rectified at W & A Gilbey's Distillery 33 per cent. under proof	2/	24/
GIN Castle PROOF Highly rectified at W & A Gilbey's Distillery Strength, proof	2/10	34/
IRISH WHISKY Castle UP Fine Dublin Whisky 33 per cent. under proof	2/3	27/
IRISH WHISKY Castle PROOF Fine Dublin Whisky Strength, proof	3/	36/
SCOTCH WHISKY Castle UP Fine Scotch Malt Whisky 33 under proof	2/3	27/
SCOTCH WHISKY Castle PROOF Fine Scotch Malt Whisky Strength, proof	3/	36/
BRANDY Castle UP Possessing the wholesome qualities of Cognac 33 under proof	2/6	30/
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COGNAC Castle D A fine old Cognac Brandy 33 per cent. under proof	3/6	42/
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All Bottles (except for Sparkling Wines) are charged 1d. each, which is allowed when returned.

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NINE-GALLON CASKS.—CASH PRICES.

	NINE GALLONS		EIGHTEEN GALLONS.
Mild Ales	10s. 6d., 12s., 13s 6d.	Indian Pale Ale	18 Gallons for 21s., 27s.
Bitter Ales	10s. 6d., 13s. 6d.	Mild Burton	18 Gallons for 21s., 24s.

BOTTLED ALES AND STOUT.—PER DOZEN.

	HALF-PINTS.	PINTS.		HALF-PINTS.	PINTS.
Bass & Co.'s Indian Pale Ale	2s. 0d.	3s. 6d.	Maunders' Invalids' Stout	2s. 0d.	3s. 0d.
Bass & Co.'s Sparkling Mild Ale	1s. 9d.	2s. 8d.	Nourishing Stout	1s. 9d.	2s. 9d.

Fine Old.	HALF-GALLONS.	GALLONS.	Fine Old.	HALF-GALLONS.	GALLONS.
Glenlivet Whiskey	9s., 8s., 6s. 9d.	18s., 16s., 13s. 6d.	Old Tom Gins	From 6s. 0d.	From 12s. 0d.
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BRITISH WINES.—PER BOTTLE.

Port Wine	1s. 2d.	Orange	1s. 2d.
Sherry	1s. 2d.	Raisin	1s. 2d.
Tent	1s. 2d.	Raspberry	1s. 2d.
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TRAFALGAR STREET, CONSETT.

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☞ ALL ORDERS WILL RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION

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

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VALUER, AND COMMISSION AGENT,
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Agent for the SALE of BUILDING SITES at the following places:—Benfieldside Estate, Broomhill Estate, Ebchester, Low Finings Estate, Langley Park, Consett, Leadgate, and Blackhill.

☞ All Business promptly and carefully attended to

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ITALIAN WAREHOUSEMEN,
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FOR the incoming Festive Season, WILSON BROS. are now Booking Orders for their splendid Ornamental, Table, and other CAKES, including Maderia, Sultana, Almond, Coker, Sponge, Mince Pies, &c.

Orders in CONFECTIONERY will be made of the best quality by an experienced Artist, and promptly attended to.

BRIDE'S CAKES, CHRISTENING CAKES, and FUNERAL ORDERS supplied on the shortest notice. 399t

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Offices—56, North Bondgate, Bishop Auckland.

THE Directors are prepared to ADVANCE MONEY on approved securities. The payments may spread over 16 years, or any less number, to suit the means of borrowers.

INVESTING SHARES may be entered at any time, and withdrawn, if required, at a month's notice.

PROFITS are divided every three years.

The Interest and Profits paid to members on Completed Shares has averaged 6½ per cent. per annum.

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THE Shop beside the railway gates
Has opened been by C. F. COOKE;
So do not any longer wait
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At all the goods therein displayed,
In quality—both rich and rare—
And this much may at least be said,—
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Examine well, the prices note,
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COOKE'S Suits are noted near and far,
A ready sale they must command,
For neatness, elegance, and wear,
They are renowned throughout the land.
Some hundreds have been sold, and still
Their sale increases day by day,
For suits like these they must, and will,
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If then you want a useful Suit
Or Draperies of any kind;
Go to COOKE'S shop and I've no doubt,
Full satisfaction you will find.

HUGHES & CO.'S
PHARMACY,
(From HOOPER & Co.'s., London),
(LATE CURRY)
OPPOSITE THE NEW TOWN HALL.

PURE CHEMICALS OF ALL KINDS IN STOCK.

A VARIETY OF OTHER ARTICLES USUALLY SOLD BY CHEMISTS & DRUGGISTS.

GENUINE PATENT MEDICINES.

HUGHES' BALSAM OF HONEY. An invaluable remedy for Coughs and Colds, especially for Children.

QUININE and Iron Tonic, in Bottles, 1s., 1s. 6d, and 2s. 6d. Curry's Celebrated Stomach and Liver Pills. Hughes' Rheumatic, Cough, and Neuralgic Pills. Savory and Moore Ridges, and Neave's Food for Infants Liebig's Cocoa and Extract of Beef, Kepler's & Hoff's Malt Extract. Hop, Dandelion and Mandrake Bitters, in 1s. and 2s. Bottles, a most efficacious remedy for Dypepsia in its varied forms.

EUPHORBIA PILULIFERA the Great Australian Specific for Asthma and Chronic Bronchitis.

Congreve's Preparations for Consumption and all Chest Disorders.

☞ SPECTACLES IN A GREAT VARIETY.

AGENTS FOR THE CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS OPTICAL ASSOCIATION.

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ALTERATIVE POWDERS FOR HORSES.

CATTLE DRINKS, &c.
OILS, PAINTS, AND COLOURS.

☞ ALL ORDERS PUNCTUALLY ATTENDED TO.

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TEACHER OF MUSIC
(PIANOFORTE AND HARMONIUM),
HARVEY STREET, MEDOMSLEY ROAD, CONSETT. 482s

R. VON DIX,
THE PHOTOGRAPHER,
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HALF-DOZEN CARDE-DE-VISITES AND ONE CABINET FOR 3s. 6d. SPLENDID FINISH.

WEDDING RINGS! WEDDING RINGS

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

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WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,
ANNFIELD PLAIN 926p

MESSRS. FEGAN AND MURRAY,
AUCTIONEERS,
DERWENT STREET AND TINMILL PLACE, BLACKHILL,

RESPECTFULLY announce that they have commenced Business as above, and as they intend to conduct their Business in a straightforward manner and at Moderate Terms, they hope to secure a share of public patronage.

☞ All Orders left at either Address will be promptly attended to. 697q

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS!

THE CHEAPEST HOUSE IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND FOR CLOCKS, WATCHES, JEWELLERY, ELECTRO-PLATED GOODS, CUTLERY, AND FANCY GOODS, IS

BUNN AND DICK,
10, WEST GRAINGER STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. 458s
☞ WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

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

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

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

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

GEORGE PATTON,
PLUMBER, GASFITTER, BRASS FOUNDER, &c.,

Has great pleasure in informing his Friends and the Public of Newcastle-on-Tyne and District that he has Removed from Neville Street, to larger and more commodious premises,

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Newcastle, July 5th, 1882. 711q

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The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11TH, 1884.

THE RAILWAY COMMISSION.

It is an instance of our tentative and piecemeal legislation that ten years have gone by since the appointment of a Railway Commission, and yet this new Board of Control of our new monopolists only exists on sufferance. It was avowedly set up as an experiment for three years. It has since been carried on year after year by a renewal Bill, being regarded still as not past its experimental stage. Committees in Parliament have reported in 1881 and also in 1882 in favour of the Commission and the efficient way in which the Commissioners have discharged their delicate and difficult duties. And yet, such is our lingering love for *laissez-faire*, such our indulgence for monopolies if only established by ourselves in modern times and sheltered behind an Act of Parliament, that we have scarcely the courage of our convictions by making this Board of Control permanent. We leave the Commission to linger on ignominiously under a kind of suspensory sentence of execution at any time. It exists only on sufferance: it is barely tolerated as a detective might be on our premises if a burglar's visit were expected, or if some great man were with us on a visit who was under special police protection. Can we wonder that Lord BRABOURNE and the directors of such delinquent lines as the South-Eastern should pluck up courage to denounce a Commission that has been continued in this way on sufferance during the last ten years? A meeting was summoned the other day, naturally enough, on the South-Eastern premises, at the Cannon Street Hotel, under the presidency of the inevitable Lord BRABOURNE. The cry of the meeting was entirely in unison with the Defence of Property League, that wonderful combination of capitalists of the old school of political economy and Conservatives of the new school of protection for class interests and chartered abuses. Directors of the Lord BRABOURNE type who are in possession of a profitable monopoly which they muddle and mismanage in the fearful and wonderful way that the affairs of the South-Eastern are mismanaged, naturally enough ask to be left alone. With the travelling public at their mercy and all effective competition kept at arms' length, it is only what we might expect that they should cry "Hands off!" to the detectives who are empowered by Parliament to check some of the abuses of monopoly, and put some restraint on an unfair straining of the letter of an Act of Parliament within the four corners of which the powers of the Company's right to toll the public lies. History abounds with proofs of the mischief wrought by chartered monopolies. This combination of monopoly and free trade has all the disadvantages of the one without any of the compensating good of the other. It exhibits the State in its worst aspect: it is a kind of political tyranny, a despotism not tempered even with assassination, since the fear of tyrannicides is, after all, the only known check to tyranny. What the petty despotisms of the East can become when sheltered by the British flag, and with an English resident to make rebellion hopeless, that a chartered monopoly soon becomes in this country. We see this in the attitude of our City magnates, who flourish their musty charters given by Plantagenet Kings centuries ago in the face of our modern reformers. The Liberals of our day soon cool down into the Conservatives of another. So it was and ever will be, and for this reason these must always be called out by the press a certain *vis viva*, to use a new phrase of the physicists, to overcome the *vis inertix* of respectable but outworn Conservatism still flying the Liberal flag and using Whig phrases now out of date. On all accounts then, let Parliament continue the Commission, and if need be, strengthen its hands It is the Board of Control of a monopoly at least as powerful for good or evil as the old East India Company now merged in the State.

In a multitude of counsellors there is wisdom, says the proverb; but it is signally disproved nearly every day. Everybody has got a suggestion for the best method of dealing with the great social problem of the condition of the poor. Statesmen are wrangling in magazines, and on platforms over their rival remedies. Columns of great newspapers are filled daily with letters and speeches recommending a vast variety of plans. But amidst this Babel there is heard a still small voice from America. Elder Evans, of the Shaker community, Mount Lebanon, New York State, has found the talisman which is to banish poverty and vice and make us a united and contented people. "I am deeply interested in the spread of vegetarian ideas in England, believing, as I do, that England will never cease to learn and practise the horrible art of war until she hears the divine command 'Thou shalt not kill,' and religiously obeys it. Of course a new land system would logically follow; for the war system originated the present land system. Meat-eaters, sword in hand, took possession of the land by force. Possession is nine points in law, and they made the law to secure to themselves title to the remaining tenth part. I am religiously converted and conscientiously convicted, that riotous eating of food from the butcher is a direct cause of war, land monopoly, intemperance, and their concomitant evils. You speak of forming a colony of vegetarians in England. Do it by all means. My opinion is that such a colony would become a Shaker family holding their land in common, labouring in common, all being teetotallers and non-resistants." Here is the new social gospel; let us hasten to embrace it. The logical sequence between a new land system and vegetarianism must be patent to the most cursory observer. If we ceased to eat meat, the great landlords would not want deer forests. They would be content with a few acres, on which they could cultivate vegetables. But—horrible thought!—suppose they became inordinately fond of carrots, let us say, and insisted on retaining possession of vast tracts of land in order to have prodigious crops of those dainties. In that event, we should be as badly off as we are now. But we must not be incredulous of the virtues of human nature when those virtues are developed in the beneficial glow of Shaker principles. "All truths," says Elder Evans, "have a family relation"; and then he tells a story about a Southern planter "who owned many slaves and prohibited his daughter from introducing the use of brown bread into his family, saying, 'I have observed that vegetarians all become abolitionists; and brown bread is the first step to vegetarianism.'" This logic is very similar to that of the venerated Elder. Butcher's meat and social tyranny and crime are as nearly allied as brown bread and the abolition of slavery. It is clear that we shall have to revise not only our diet and our land system but our methods of reasoning. Mill, Bentham, Archbishop Whately, and all the logicians have utterly misled us, and given a perverse twist to the human mind. Let us eat carrots, beloved brethren, and we shall have a foretaste of Paradise and the serene joys of eternity.

It was not to be expected that the proposal of the Psychical Society to test common experience of hallucinations and dreams would meet with the approval of the *Lancet*. The business of that journal is not to deal with things which are undreamt of in its philosophy. It is the natural disposition of the medical man to ascribe all abnormal perturbations of the mind to physical ailments. The ire of the *Lancet* is, therefore, aroused by the procedure of a society which is simply concerned with studies of the world of visions. To ask people to state their experiences of strange dreams is, in the opinion of the *Lancet*, to give a direct incitement to mania. "An invitation is thrown out to all the weak-minded people who think they have seen 'ghosts' or 'spectres,' or been 'touched' by mysterious shades, and to all the dreamers who dream dreams of the nature of 'coincidences,' to state their experiences. Here is a grand opportunity, for the mad folk outside Bedlam. If it were not for the trouble involved, we should like to peruse the mass of 'communications' these invitations will be certain to call forth. There are, however, two preliminary questions which ought to be asked. First, has any 'society' of presumably sane men a moral right to instigate the crazy public to formulate its 'mysterious' experiences? We know that the most disastrous consequences sometimes ensue to weak brains from dwelling too intently on subjects of the nature of 'fixed ideas.' It is, therefore, doubtful whether this sort of thing ought to be allowed. No sober-minded person can doubt that *all* impressions of seeing, or hearing, or feeling spiritual manifestations must be morbid. Such things exist only in the imaginations of the persons who are subject to them." So all inquiry into mental phenomena of this kind is to be stopped lest some weak-brained persons should brood too much over their hallucinations. That a man with quite as strong a head as that of any writer in the *Lancet* should be a dreamer of strange dreams is a contingency which has not occurred to the genius whose remarks we have quoted. No doubt the *Lancet* would like to see the Psychical Society suppressed by law, and men like Professor Barrett and Mr. Sidgwick prosecuted for the heinous offence of trying to increase general knowledge of a subject which has more interest for thoughtful men than the dogmatic utterances of a medical journal. But if we are to have a prosecution, a good deal may be said for a criminal indictment against the paper which has frightened all the weak-minded folk in the kingdom by its silly exaggeration of the dangers of shampooing.

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

Mr Labouchere's predictions in *Truth* of the forthcoming appointments are not often fulfilled. They are frequently predictions by way of advice, and indicate the Editor's notion of the direction in which Government patronage ought to be bestowed rather than any intimate knowledge of the intentions of those in high places. But in selecting Mr Matthew Arnold as a probable successor of Sir Francis Sandford as Permanent Secretary of the Education Department *Truth* is likely enough to prove correct. He would fill the post well, and he is a man who has served long and creditably under the Education Department, and for whom, not only on that ground, but also on account of his literary eminence, the Government would be glad to provide with a good berth. With £2,000 a year he could hardly retain the £200 a year which has recently been granted to him out of the Civil List, and thus that sum would be set free for some other and perhaps more deserving author.

At last the Ecclesiastical Commissioners have succeeded in doing what a Bishop and an Archbishop failed to do in the case of Mr Maconochie. They have run him to earth, or rather tired him out, not to use too sporting a metaphor of this much-hunted parson. The Bishop of London, weakly enough, consented to his institution at St. Peter's, London Docks, after having done his best to deprive him of St. Alban's, Holborn; but the Commissioners refused to pay the £300 a year endowment to him. Mr Maconochie accordingly has resigned on the ground that he does not wish to starve the parish; and so let us hope there will be peace at last.

As if to make up for our want of moonlight above ground and in the streets, we are to have perpetual moonshine on the Underground Railway. The new incandescent lamps attached to a dynamo connected with the engine have turned out a perfect success. So the same stream which drives the locomotive is also to light the carriages, and the result will be that we shall go underground for the light and cheerfulness denied to us in the upper world of so-called day-light. In a word, the District Railway, which advertised itself as the day-light route, will now have to change its language, and call itself the moon-light route.

The appointment of lady guardians has thrown some light upon Workhouse management. But the ladies cannot do everything. What is wanted now is *gentleman* guardians. By this I mean nothing specially flattering to social status nor depreciatory of the class from which male guardians are selected. I mean that we want not merely the best and most cultivated intelligence, but also the most independent judgment and the most ample leisure, to be devoted to the pressing problems connected with the relief of poverty by the state. The recent gruel riots at the Lambeth Workhouse and Peek's horrifying work on "Social Wreckage" have brought these problems to the front. It is startling to read of large numbers of able-bodied young women in the poorhouse. Dirt is said to be matter in the wrong place; and the same may be said of much of the human refuse of the Unions. Every able-bodied female pauper in England has a happy and comfortable home waiting for her in the colonies, if she can only be got there. Then again, something must be done, by boarding-out or otherwise, to separate the pauper children from their depraved elders. If the author of "Social Wreckage" is right, the majority of girl-paupers, *i.e.*, those who are brought up from infancy at the workhouse, become prostitutes, and few or none turn out really well. A sadder book than "Social Wreckage" I have seldom read.

Mr Shaw-Lefevre is said to be contemplating an important extension of the national Walhalla. If all the corpses and monuments of undistinguished persons could be removed from Westminster Abbey, there would still be room for the ashes and effigies of our great men perhaps for centuries to come. As it is, the vaults are becoming over-populated, and the Abbey itself choked with monuments. There is still plenty of room in St. Paul's Cathedral. But, somehow, in spite of the presence there of the dust of Wellington and Nelson, St. Paul's is not esteemed so honourable or magnificent a sepulchre as the Abbey. Mr Shaw-Lefevre proposes the enlargement of the Abbey by the erection of a large mausoleum or monumental chapel. No doubt something of the kind ought to be done. The addition, if made, must be worthy of the existing fabric, and whatever the cost may be, it would be cheerfully borne by a nation which is proud of its heroes, and which has heroes to be proud of.

The Stoke Newington murder is one which has horrified the inhabitants of the Metropolis in a peculiar degree. In the eye of the law the lives of all are equally valuable. But the murders in low neighbourhoods, the tragedies of the slums, which recur with sickening frequency, excite but little notice and occasion no personal apprehension amongst the great mass of respectable inhabitants. The butchery of a young gentleman like Mr Tower in a high-class neighbourhood brings the hidden dangers of London life home to all alike. The spot can hardly be called lonely. The road-frontage of the Reservoir premises occasions a slight break in the continuity of houses; but the whole neighbourhood is populous, and the adjacent road as much frequented as most suburban roads. This part of Stoke Newington is particularly pleasant. The New River runs by a succession of pretty villa gardens from the Reservoir. The name of Queen Elizabeth's Walk takes one back to the time when as yet Sir Hugh Middleton's enterprise was not thought of, and when Stoke Newington was a pretty country village. The Tudors had a small residence here. A part of an ancient building is still shown near the Green from the Tower of which, according to a local tradition (which, however, is unsupported by any trustworthy evidence) King Henry the Eighth stood watching for the signal upon Tower Hill which was to announce the execution of Queen Anne Boleyn.

The distinction between "you may" and "you must" conveniently enough describes the difference between our past and our present attitude in Egypt. Till the other day Cherif Pasha administered and Sir E. Baring controlled the Administration. Now this sham of an Egyptian Ministry is to be shuffled out of the way, and the Controller General is to be virtually master in Egypt. It is not easy to say how the new arrangement will work, but if we may judge by the "boom" in Egyptian securities the change is popular on the Stock Exchange.

Stepniak's letter to the *Daily News* throws a lurid light on underground Russia and the way in which it is honeycombed with conspiracies. The suspicion that the Czar's being thrown out of his carriage was a mere blind to conceal the fact that an attempt had been made to assassinate him now turns out to be the true account of the matter. He was, in fact, waylaid by Nihilists, and but for the promptness of his escort would have been shot. As it was he was wounded in the shoulder, and yet it is too terror-stricken to let the world know the exact facts of the case.

The public have not largely availed themselves of the opportunity afforded by the legal vacation for visiting the Law Courts. The fact is that the Vacation is just the time when the public don't care to see Courts of Justice. They would rather go when they can hear the bustle of business and see the Judges on the Bench. It is a mere fiction that visitors are excluded from the Courts during term. There is no one to exclude them. Even if they have not professional friends to conduct them round, they may enter the building and inspect nearly any part they like. No one knows that they are not parties to actions or witnesses or jurymen. During the recess some of the temporary deal partitioners and doors put up to keep out the draughts have been replaced by substantial oak. But there is still much to be done before the vast building can be said to be completely fitted up and furnished.

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The fortnightly meeting of the above Board was held at Lanchester on Thursday se'nnight, Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P., being in the chair. Present: Messrs. W. Logan, W. H. Hedley, J. Lax, T. Taylor Smith, T. Pringle, R. Clark, N. Clark, J. Collinson, T. J. Maze, Jos. Eltringhan, and the Clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson).

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and passed, the Guardians were occupied for a considerable time in considering the applications for relief.

VISITING COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

This Committee reported that they had gone through the House on that morning, and found everything in a clean and orderly condition, the bright and attractive appearance of the Dining Hall being especially noticeable. They, however, recommended that a new bible and prayer book be purchased by the Board, for the use of the chaplain (the Rev John Dingle, M.A.), when conducting the services in the House.

Mr LOGAN explained that the present bible and prayer book used by the chaplain were in a very dirty and dilapidated condition, and he should think they had been procured when the Workhouse was first established forty or fifty years ago.

The report of the Committee was adopted.

MASTER'S REPORT.

The Master (Mr W. Brotherhood), in his report, stated that Mrs Tom Taylor Smith, of Greencroft Park, visited the House on Christmas Day, and distributed a large quantity of useful and ornamental toys amongst the various children. On New Year's Day, Mr Edward Taylor Smith, J.P., of Colepike Hall, provided the inmates with their usual treat; and Mrs Taylor Smith likewise presented each child with a suitable toy. On the 28th ult., Miss Crawhall and Mrs Pearce, both from Durham, visited the place, each lady giving a number of toys and other articles to the boys and girls. The following persons also forwarded suitable presents, &c.:—Mr C. F. Cooke, of Annfield Plain, oranges and nuts; Mrs Cumming, Post Office, Lanchester, packets of sweets and nuts; Mr Edward Wylam, of Lanchester, bag of Brazil nuts; Mrs Reed, of Lanchester, sweets, &c. Mr John Calvert, of Consett, left at the House on Christmas Day a great quantity of tobacco for the use of the adults. Altogether a merry Christmas and an enjoyable new Year had been spent by the inmates.

The Clerk was directed to write to each of the donors conveying the warmest thanks of the Board for their seasonable generosity.

INMATES OF THE WORKHOUSE.

Week ending Dec. 26th	158
Corresponding week of last year	155
Week ending Jan. 2nd	159
Corresponding week last year	170
Vagrants relieved during past fortnight	15
" " corresponding fortnight last year	49

The Board afterwards rose.

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

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

SPECIAL LONDON LETTER.

I wonder if Mr. Moberley Bell knows the secrets of the Cabinet. Cairo is so far from London, and the means of learning on the banks of the Nile what has been done in or about Downing-street must be so few that any revelation of Ministerial intentions from the City of the Thousand Mosques must be hard to the most credulous persons. Still times have been when the Bazaars of the East told the secrets of the West before the Occidental newspapers and Mr. Bell may have. He says that the Cabinet has had forced upon it the necessity of accepting responsibility in Egypt, and talks as though a protectorate of ten years were under consideration. I believe that if this news turned out to be true most people would rejoice; for the whole country has practically long ago reached the conclusion that only our pledges stand between us and the assumption of power in Egypt. Can we get quit of our pledges? What does Lord Granville say?

"Oh!" but cry the Lawsonites, "Behold the French are moving in Syria, and if we seize Egypt they will seize the holy places, and plant the tricolour on the summits of Lebanon amid the immemorial cedars." By all means. Why not? It is true that French rule is somewhat unprogressive in Algeria, and that the French are arrogant in Tunis; but if the Republic, instead of spending its forces on an attempt to arrest a progressive people in Madagascar, or to found an impossible empire in Tonquin, has thought of redeeming another Turkish province from the Sultan as we redeemed Cyprus, Englishmen would have had the right to rejoice. Fancy Jerusalem again under the control of a civilised Power, its people freed from oppression, and its commerce aided, the brigandage of the Arabs put down, roads made as safe as the Rue de Rivoli, and Palestine once more the home of a living people! If English taking of Egypt means the French in Syria—that is the Turk turned out of it—all the more reason why Egypt should be taken.

The *Times* is again speaking of Lord Ripon as though he were a pickpocket. It has discovered that the denial of the story about the disestablishment of the chaplaincies in India is one of those which depend for their accuracy upon the use of the least important word in the statement denied. Lord Ripon, the *Times* says, does intend to disestablish the Church, but he has been told from home to wait. On Thursday the *Times* thought disestablishment quite right and proper; but whatever his policy may be, it declares Lord Ripon is wrong, so—though still supporting his policy as right—it denounces him as the Viceregal villain of tragedy. The Viceroy is moved with an ambition to distinguish himself out of all proportion to his ability. He has no constructive gifts. "Fortunately for the world, there are few positions where they are indispensable save in exceptional crises; but in their absence it is necessary that a Viceroy should possess masculine common sense, superiority to the petty ambition of personal display, and loyalty to the general tenour of a policy more important, more enduring, and certain, in the long run, to be more wise, than the most settled convictions of any but an exceptionally endowed individual. Of these qualities Lord Ripon has shewn himself totally destitute. He has regarded his tenure of power as an opportunity for making himself a name as an innovator rather than for adding solid and unobtrusive work to the foundation laid by his predecessors. He has thus become a living illustration of that which is written, that he who seeks to save his life shall lose it. Having tried to be somewhat he has become naught, and his reign which he thought to make glorious, is an ignominious failure." Lord Ripon has only that passion for uniformity which is the weakness of machine made minds. It is quite right that the chaplains should be disestablished, quite corrupt that Lord Ripon should disestablish them; and so he is wrong anyway. I confess I do not understand this form of journalism, but it is like the *Times*.

Sir John Bennett sings a pæan in honour of the Paris Municipality, which, he says, should be a pattern to London. "They control, for instance, the supply of water, the lighting, the markets, and even the fêtes and festivals. And well they do their noble work. They take in hand all we do and a great deal more. For they regulate and manage all the parks and gardens, and every year or two they invite the world to some great international exhibition conducted in a masterly style, concluded with éclat, and usually crowned with a handsome surplus. To this the Paris artisans have free access without charge, at convenient times of an evening, or on the Sunday afternoons. Last year the municipality voted nineteen millions and a-half of francs for the elementary education of Paris, which is by law universal, compulsory, and gratuitous. In addition to which, for higher educational purposes, they voted about ten millions of francs for the encouragement of a diffusion of knowledge in the natural sciences, the fine arts, and technical instruction for every branch of Paris manufacture." All this is very admirable, but the London ratepayer is much more likely to be alarmed by this expenditure on education than desirous to see it rivalled. What does Sir John Bennett suppose would be the reception by the present representatives of the ratepayers of a proposal to devote some £400,000 to the encouragement of learning in natural science and the fine arts?

Misquotation is not a penal offence; but Mr. William Phillips, who within the City walls valiantly carries on the fight against the Corporation, should look up his literary authorities. The recent ward elections, he says, were "painfully suggestive of that fatal passage which damned the tragedy of 'Vortigern':—

'O, that this vile mockery were o'er!'"

Solemn mockery, Mr. Phillips; for "vile" does not scan. The utterance of this line was one of John Philip Kemble's rare strokes of humour. He gave it a peculiar intonation which made the pit laugh, and the author writhe.

Mr. Joseph Lister is made a baronet. So the Royal seal is set upon the latest development of surgery. Mr. Lister is the inventor of the anti-septic system of surgery. By his disinfecting spray, used while he is performing an operation, he prevents germs from reaching the wound he has made with his knife; he closes up the wound with cloths steeped in disinfectants, and in consequence the wound heals from first intention, and without suppuration, to the great quickening of the process of healing, the great immediate comfort of the patient, and the eventual painlessness of the healed sore. For this invention Mr. Lister becomes Sir Joseph; and science has obtained one more recognition.

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

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.

GENERAL RELIGIOUS STATISTICS.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

DEAR SIR,—In your religious statistics published last week, you give the numbers of the United Methodist Free Church as being 67,628, with 7,116 on trial, whereas the latest officials returns procurable, viz., the annual minutes of the conference held at Rochdale, in August, 1883, give the numbers as follows:—Members, 75,577; on trial, 8,575; chapels and other preaching places, 1,360; Sunday scholars, 185,681, of whom nearly 11,000 are members in the various churches Your insertion of the above in your next issue will oblige.—Yours respectfully,

CIRCUIT SECRETARY.

"INCEDO" AND THE WORKING CLASSES.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—I am surprised at Incedo; he never has one kind word to say of his fellow-workmen; as last week's paragraph is what I think a gross insult. Would he infer, that all the aristocracy are cruel, because a Lord Malbury pulled down the house of two maiden women. He has as much right to do that as to infer that because two or three workmen took in lodgers and broke a pane of glass or two; or will he infer that the middle class has no right for comforts of a good house, because a captain at the head of one of the largest police forces in the North of England was summoned for doing damage to the rooms he had taken for lodgings. He has as much right to blame his fellow-workmen because a little plaster was knocked off some lodging-house in or near Newcastle. He says no one that knows anything of the subject will contradict what he says. I do, and will give him proof in your own district. If he will look back when all of the workmen had to find room in the two-roomed cottages, the Consett Iron Company were for ever repairing. Now since they have got better houses it is quite the reverse. If he will compare the clean houses that the women keep now, and what was, as they could not at that time keep them clean, it is evidence against him; for is it possible for man or woman to take the same interest in a room with two or three generations in it, and the sects mixed, as one or your neighbours with a five-roomed house in a good and ventilated street?—Yours, &c.,

A LOVER OF TRUTH.

NORTH OF ENGLAND IRON TRADE.

ARBITRATION AT NEWCASTLE.

At the Station Hotel, Newcastle, on Friday, Dr. Robert Spence Watson sat as arbitrator in the question of the rate of wages to prevail in the North of England iron trade for the ensuing three months. In addition to the President of the Board of Arbitration (Mr W. Whitwell) and the Vice-President (Mr Cullen), Mr W. Jenkins (Consett), Mr T. Siddell (Consett Tinmill), and most of the employers were present; while Mr C. Finn (Consett), and Mr M. Nugent (Consett Tinmill), attended on behalf of the operatives.

The ARBITRATOR felt very acutely the responsibility of being chosen arbitrator. They had had as arbitrators on previous occasions eminent men, well acquainted with the trade, and he felt it to be a considerable difficulty that he did not know anything of the details of the trade. Perhaps that would occasion some slowness in the proceedings, as he should require explanations of technical terms which experienced men would thoughly have understood. At the same time on weighing the whole matter with the knowledge he had of the working of the Board, and the fact that not only their trade, but the entire community in that great district, should have an example held up with regard to the method of arranging trade disputes he felt bound—considering it was really his duty—to endeavour to the very best of his ability to agree with their request. (Hear, hear.) He felt strongly that whatever his award might be they would give him credit for a fair and impartial attempt to endeavour to ascertain what was really right. (Applause).

Mr WHITWELL then read the employers' claim, which stated that "the undoubted depression in the finished iron trade, as evinced by the lessened prices obtainable and the great falling off in the demand, point to the necessity for a reduction of 5 per cent., to enable manufacturers to compete in the markets of the world for such orders as are to be given out, and the employers trust that after giving full consideration to the statement of usual practice and prevailing custom, the Arbitrator may award them the full measure of relief asked for. They are certain that such award would be in the interest alike of their workmen and themselves, feeling assured that unless wages are in proportion to the obtainable prices of iron, they cannot secure orders for their products and give employment to their workmen. (Applause).

Mr E. TROW read a statement in reply, in which he traced the whole history of the arbitration since 1874. He alluded to the awards of Sir Rupert Kettle, Messrs Tom Hughes, Williams, and Mundella, Mr David Dale, and Sir Joseph Pease. They had had fifteen years' experience of arbitration, and the result was that they now received 7s per ton for puddling, whilst the Midlands men received 7s 6d per ton. The men failed to see any grounds why a reduction in wages should be made, but, on the other hand, claimed that an advance should be given.

Mr Whitwell (on behalf of the employers), Mr Edward Trow (on behalf of the operatives), Mr T. Cullen, Mr William Jenkins, Mr J. C. Ianson, Mr Daniels, Mr Price, Mr J. Heads, Mr Charles Finn, and Mr Dryden then addressed the arbitrator in support of their respective cases.

Mr WHITWELL, on behalf of the Board, thanked Dr Watson for undertaking the post of arbitrator, and Mr TROW thanked Dr Watson specially on behalf of the operatives.

Dr WATSON responded, and the proceedings terminated. It was arranged that the award when made should be printed by the arbitrator and forwarded to the delegates.

The *Newcastle Chronicle* states:—The arbitration in the iron trade, held on Friday, at the Station Hotel, Newcastle, before Dr. R. S. Watson, must contain much that is mysterious to the outsider; nor is it quite so easy to explain. The arbitration is the first in the finished iron trade that has been held in Newcastle; but we believe that on one occasion the Board of Arbitration met in Newcastle for an allied purpose about twelve years ago. Round the table, at which Dr. Watson presided, there were gathered the largest producers of iron in the North. Messrs. W. Jenkins, E. W. Richards J. Head, W. Whitwell, and their colleagues, representing probably the largest producers of iron and steel, not in this district only, but in the world; and Mr. Trow, Mr. Cullen, and their friends, represent the whole of the workmen in the trade in the North of England. They represent in manufactured iron alone a production of 660,000 tons, and the value of that tonnage is falling. That fall cannot be ascribed entirely to the unbounded competition; it is rather ascribable to the fall in the demand. It was pointed out that the increase in the extent of the production had not benefited the producing workman, because his wage was less now than a year or two ago. But this is a view that looks at the gain or loss to the individual, rather than to the labour market as a whole. In 1879, there were produced 300,000 tons; in the past year, the production was more than double that. The price of the iron was not very different then to what it was at the close of the last year; and the rate of wages was not very dissimilar. Hence double the amount of money was spent in the labour market of the North, so far as the manufactured iron trade of the North is concerned. If the contrast were taken further back, it might be different; but one branch of the trade—the iron rail trade—has collapsed. And if it were mainly spoken to by Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Price, it is none the less possible that the steel plate trade may soon seriously and adversely affect the iron plate trade. Eleven years ago the iron rail trade was prosperous—now it is nearly dead; and it may be the same with iron plates. The lesson from this would be differently read by the employers and the workmen; but it may at least be said that high prices of iron would tend to increase the chance of the substitution, and for that substitution the northern iron trade is not yet prepared. These are the facts that bulk out most prominently in the arbitration, apart from the question which cannot be touched upon until after the award—the question whether a case has been made out for a fall in the rate of wages.

DURHAM DISTRICT ODDFELLOWS' ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Durham District of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, M.U., was held at the Half-Moon Hotel, Durham. The officers were:—President, M. Maugham, G.M., St Oswald Lodge, Shincliffe Bank Top; vice-president, Robert T. Briggs, D.G.M., Mills Lodge, Willington; secretary, P.G.M. George Walker, Shakespeare Lodge, Durham; guardian, Bro. C. Bell, Star of the North Lodge, Durham. The following lodges were represented by the deputies named:—"Greenwell," Annfield Plain, P.G. George Ayre, N.G. William Rutherford; "Christiana," Leadgate, P.Pr.G.M. George Matthews, P.G. George Coulson; "Rose of Derwent," Consett, P.G. Wm. S. Davies, N.G. Taylor Harwood; "Clavering," Lanchester, P.G. Thomas Dunn, P.G. Thomas Ward; "Pride of Medomsley," Medomsley, P.G. John G. Armstrong; "Queen Bee," Witton Gilbert, P.G. James Wilson.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

On the motion of P.G. WM. S. DAVIES, "Rose of Derwent" seconded by P.G. THOMAS HALL, of the "Shakespeare," that the auditors' report and corresponding secretary's balance-sheet be received and adopted.

PROPOSED PURPLE LECTURE AT CONSETT.

P.G. GEORGE BIRTLEY proposed, and P.G. JOHN BROWN seconded, that the next purple lecture be held at the "Prince Albert" Lodge.

P.G. WM. S. DAVIES, "Rose of Derwent," Consett, moved as an amendment that the new purple lecture be held at Consett. For the past twenty years he was not aware that the purple lecture had been given at Consett. He believed that members at Lanchester, Medomsley, and other places in that district were anxious to attend the lecture, and that by holding it at Consett an impetus would be given to Oddfellowship in the district.

N.G. TAYLOR HARWOOD seconded.

The result of the voting was in favour of the "Prince Albert Lodge," Middle Rainton.

DEPUTIES TO A.M.C.

The meeting proceeded to elect deputies to attend the A.M.C. to be holden at Reading, on Whit-Monday.

It was unanimously agreed that the Grand Master be sent to represent the district.

Certificates to attend the A.M.C. were granted to P.G.M. George Walker, P.Pr.G.M. Craig, P.Pr.G.M. Simon Spensley.

DISTRICT AUDITOR.

The next business was to select the lodge from which an auditor should be appointed. The voting was as follows:—"Christiana," Leadgate, 8; "Queen Bee," Witton Gilbert, 9; "St Oswald," Shincliffe Bank Top, 4; "Star of the North," Durham, 8; "Lambton," Houghton-le-Spring, 4; "Eden Vale," Castle Eden, 6.

The Grand Master declared the "Queen Bee" as the lodge chosen.

APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.

On the motion of P.Pr.G.M. JOHN OLIVER, seconded by P.G. WM. YOULL, "Byron" Lodge, Thornley, the several applications from the various lodges for the relief of the widows and orphans of deceased members and the grant of the usual allowances were passed.

VALUATION REPORTS.

P.Hr.G.M. PETER FLYNN moved the adoption of the valuation reports of the lodges, and said he could not help feeling regret that this report should have entered the newspapers before it had been discussed at that meeting, and then it was in the discretion of the deputies whether it was public property or not. The figures set forth in the report to the various lodges were startling and actually staggered them, and made them wonder how in the name of heaven they had prospered so well. Some of them were said to be £2,000 deficient in value, and they might say nearly on the verge of bankruptcy. He was glad they had seven lodges each of which had a good surplus, and if they were men, who had Oddfellowship at heart, they would put their shoulders to the wheel and grapple with the question until the seven lodges who had a surplus were increased to 28 in the district.

P.G. RICHARD WEATHERALL "Poor Man's Friend," Durham, having seconded P.Pr.M.G. Peter Flynn's motion, it was carried.

REPORT OF EXAMINER OF LODGE BOOKS.

P.G. Forster, secretary of the "Poor Man's Friend," as examiner of lodge books, said that in the face of the recently published report of the actuary it would be presumptuous for him to say that the district was in a satisfactory condition, but that there was no cause for the alarm. True it was that during the last few years the sick fund had been heavily taxed in some lodges, and it behoved then to watch and be careful how they mete out the funds. Members should exercise very great caution in electing their secretary. Speaking generally, there was more uniformity of method in keeping books than some years ago.

P.Pr.G.M. FLYNN moved that the report of the examiner be received.

P.Pr.G.M. SPENSLEY seconded the motion.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Pr.D.G.M. Robert T. Briggs, "Mills," Willington, was unanimously elected to the office of Grand Master.

The following nominations were put in for the office of Deputy Grandmaster:—P.G. William S. Davies, "Rose of Derwent Lodge," Consett; P.G. William Youll, "Byron Lodge," Thornley; P.G. Henry Forster, "Poor Man's Friend Lodge," Durham; P.G. Thomas Hopper, "Shakespeare Lodge," Durham. The result of the first voting was:—P.G. Henry Forster, 14; P.G. William S. Davies, 14; P.G. William Youll, 9; P.G. Thomas Hopper, 8. The contest between Forster and Davies resulted as follows;—Forster, 25; Davies, 19.

P.G. John Monks, "Shakespeare," Durham, was elected examining officer, and P.G. Thomas Coxon, "Victoria," Durham, was elected relieving officer.

ARBITRATION COMMITTEE.

On the motion of P.G. Hopper, seconded by P.G. Thos. Hall, the arbitration committee were re-elected as follows:—P.Pr.G.M. John Grey, "Shakespeare;" P.Pr.G.M. Bobt. Green, "Prince Albert;" P.Pr.G.M. T. Chapman, "Mills;" P.Pr. G.M. John Bowmen, "Standard of Liberty;" P.Pr.G.M. Richard Glass, "Byron;" P.Pr.G.M. William Gardner, "Robert Hall;" P.Pr.G.M. Martin Smith, "Shakespeare;" P.G. Thomas Hood, "Haswell;" P.G. George Coulson, "Christiana."

SUB-COMMITTEE.

P.Pr.G.M. Matthew Maughan, "St. Oswald;" P.Pr.G.M. John Craig, "Poor Man's Friend;" P.G. W. S. Davies, "Rose of Derwent;" P.G. R. W. Kirkley, "Shakespeare;" P.G. G. Hagan, "Star of the North;" P.G. W. Maddison, "Victoria;" P.G. J. Jeckell, "Star of the North;" P.G. Thomas Hopper, "Shakespeare;" P.G. Wm. P. Davison, "Star of the North;" P.G. Thos. Brown, "Prince Albert."

OFFICERS OF THE ORDER.

P.Pr.G.M. Maugham was nominated to serve on the district committee, and P.Pr.G.M. Craig, the estimate committee.

CERTIFICATES FOR DEGREES.

On the motion of P.Pr.G.M. Oliver, seconded by P.Pr.G.M. Spensley, it was resolved that P.Pr.G. M. Maugham, and P.Pr.G.M. Craig have certificate to receive the degree of P.Pr.G.M.

NORTHUMBERLAND DEPUTIES.—In connection with the wage question of the Northumberland deputies, a joint meeting of owners' and workmen's representatives was held on Saturday to arrange the wage and drawing questions upon a better basis for next year, as recently great dissatisfaction has existed upon these points throughout the county. After hearing the owners' proposals the deputation decided to call a delegate meeting to accept or reject the terms offered.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.—Rheumatism and Gout.—These purifying and soothing remedies deserve the earnest attention of all persons liable to gout, sciatica, or other painful affections of the muscles, nerves, or joints. The Ointment should be applied after the affected parts have been patiently fomented with warm water, when the unguent should be diligently rubbed upon the adjacent skin, unless the friction causes pain. Holloway's Pills should be simultaneously taken to diminish pain, reduce inflammation, and purify the blood. This treatment abates the violence, and lessens the frequency of gout, rheumatism, and all spasmodic diseases which spring from hereditary predisposition, or from any accidental weakness of constitution. The Ointment checks the local malady while the Pills restore vital power

NORTHERN LIGHTS.

V.—THOMAS BEWICK.

The simple means which men of genius find to bring the superior faculties with which they are endowed into action, is indeed a fit subject for admiration. He who has music in himself communicates it to some rude instrument of his own construction; a burned stick is said to have been the first implement with which a gifted artist practised his divine art; while the faithless sand has supplied the first tablet to which others have transmitted their sketches. So was it with the subject of this article. Devoted to the art of wood engraving his efforts were ever directed to the accomplishment of that end.

Thomas Bewick was born on the 12th of August, 1753, at Cherryburn, a Northumbrian hamlet, not far from the pleasant little village of Ovingham. Receiving an education suited to the means of his parents, he was apprenticed in his 15th year, to Mr Ralph Beilby, an engraver in Newcastle. Howitt in his "Visits to Remarkable Places," thus describes the house in which Bewick resided until this time:—"The state in which it was when Thomas Bewick passed his boyhood in it, was as humble a rural nest as any son of genius ever issued from. It was a thatched cottage, containing three apartments and a dairy or milk-house on the ground floor, and a chamber above. The east end of this was lately pulled down, and the rest is now converted into stables. Bewick was very fond of introducing his native cottage into his vignettes, and often used to talk of the little window at his bed-head. Which room this was, however, none of the family knew." When only a boy his decided genius for drawing displayed itself in chalk sketches upon the doors of the village cottages; and many tales, some of which we think are of a questionable character as to the facts, are told of sketches drawn by him under circumstances more wonderful than probable. One of Bewick's first attempts on wood was a set of diagrams for Hutton's well-known work on "Mensuration." The creditable manner in which he performed his work, brought him at once into repute, and not only received the approbation of his master, but evoked from that gentleman the advice that he should make wood engraving the occupation of his life.

Acting upon the instruction of Mr Beilby, he devoted all his powers to perfecting himself in the art, and the wisdom of this decision was soon proved by the skilful manner in which he executed the illustrations for Dr. Hutton's successive works on "Mathematics." On the completion of these works, he directed his genius to the exhibition of natural objects with the most gratifying results, and in 1775 he received a premium from the Society for the Encouragement of Art and Manufacture for his cut of the "Old Hound." After this he went on a visit to some Cumberland friends, and, an able writer says, "took the opportunity, for the first and last time, to view the lake scenery of the district; and on his return, he proceeded to London. His reputation as an artist, and as a professor in the neglected walk of wood engraving, now began to be established; but his residence in London was not protracted much beyond a year. He returned to Newcastle with a thorough contempt for everything belonging to the land of Cockaigne, for which, and the natives and dwellers and sojourners therein and thereof, he ever after entertained a contempt of no mitigated description. On his return to Newcastle, he became the partner of his former master, Mr Beilby."

On April 20th, 1786, Mr Bewick married Isabella, daughter of Mr Robert Elliott, of Ovingham, and in the following year produced the celebrated cut of the Chillingham Bull, which some say is one of the most splendid efforts of the artist's graver. His next work was a "History of Quadrupeds," a publication which established his character as an engraver on wood, and one of the best delineators of animal life, the world has ever seen. In this work, he and Mr Beilby, were joined by Mr Hodgson, at that time proprietor of of the *Newcastle Chronicle*. So well was the work received that a second edition was required in 1791, and a third in the following year; since which time, several others have been published. In 1795, he commenced a "History of British Birds, comprising the Land Birds," with wood engravings, and also furnished cuts for editions of "Parnell's Poems" and the "Chace of Somerville." The engravings for these works were shewn to the King, who was so incredulous as to the possibility of such beautiful things being cut upon wood, that the blocks were brought to the palace for His Majesty's inspection. In 1797, his "British Birds" was published, and the brilliancy of conception and accuracy of execution which it exhibited, caused it to be universally admired; and few works which have appeared either before or since, have taken such a hold upon the public attention. Until Mr Hodgson's death, which took place in 1800, the editions of Mr Bewick's works had been printed, and the cuts struck off, at the press of the *Newcastle Chronicle*; after that time, the work was performed at the office of the *Newcastle Courant*.

In Chambers' "Exemplary Biography" we get a beautiful description of Bewick's works:—"A great and unexpected charm belonged to both the history of quadrupeds and birds. This was the profusion of vignettes and tail-pieces with which the volumes are adorned. Many of these happy little embellishments are connected with the manners and habits of the animals near which they are placed; others, again, merely exhibit the fancies and dry humour of the artist, his particular notions of men and things partaking both of the droll and the pathetic; as, for instance, a ragged, half-starving sheep, picking at a besom; a troop of Savoyards, weary and foot-sore, tugging a poor bear to the next fair; a broken-down soldier, trudging with stern patience through the slant rain-storm; a poor, travelling woman, looking wistfully at a multilated milestone; a blind, old beggar, whose faithful dog stops short, with warning whine, on the broken plank that should have crossed the swollen brook; youngsters flying their kite; a disappointed sportsman, who, by shooting a magpie, has lost a woodcock; a horse vainly endeavouring to reach the water; a bull roaring near a stile, which he cannot surmount; a poor mendicant attacked by the rich man's mastiff; and so forth, all delineatory of scenes true to nature, and calculated to excite pleasing emotions in the mind of the reader."

His last finished work was an edition of Gay's Fables, and it is said to contain internal evidence that the celebrated artist knew it to be so. The tail-piece at page 162 bears the date of his mother's decease, and that at page 176 the date of the death of his father. The final tail-piece describes a funeral passing through a country church-yard, which is supposed to be a sketch, though not a close one, of that at Ovingham, now pointed out as the last resting place of the great artist.

An amusing incident occurred on an interesting occasion towards the close of Bewick's life; it is described by Fordyce, in his "History of Durham," as follows:—"A few of the members of the Literary and Philosopeical Society, in Newcastle, wished to present a marble bust of him to the institution. To expect the artist to go to London to sit to any sculptor there, was a somewhat hopeless expectation, and was therefore not entertained; but Mr Bailey was brought down in order to make the model, from which the bust was afterwards to be cut. So far all went smoothly; but when it came to be debated in what 'costume' it should be taken, a sore controversy arose. The sculptor, as is usual, insisted upon covering the engraver's shoulders with some kind of drapery, which, for want of a better word, we shall call *Romanesque*. Whether it was precisely a 'toga' or not, we cannot say; but it was, no doubt, something classical, in so far that it was not English. Against this, however, Bewick at once rebelled. The 'toga' was accordingly given up, and the artist was taken in his coat and waistcoat, not forgetting his neck-cloth and ruffle shirt; nor can we say that the likeness is thereby injured, whatever may be the case with the classicality."

Thomas Bewick died on the 8th of November, 1828, at his residence in West Street, Gateshead. We cannot do better than close this sketch with a quotation from "Tyneside Celebrities." "Bewick's works were the creation of his own mind. The niche he occupies in the Temple of Fame carved out by himself. His artistic contemporaries in Newcastle unanimously accorded to him the honour of presiding genius. His fellow craftsmen throughout the country subscribed to the acknowledgement of his superior and original skill. While he lived, in the metropolis or in our own provincial town, the public opinion of his merits as an artist was a favourable one, and to-day, we believe, Thomas Bewick is justly considered to have been the Father of the art of Wood Engraving in this country."

The subject of the next sketch will be General Havelock.

HISTORICUS.

CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

MONDAY, Jan 7th.—Before J. PRIESTMAN, Esq (in the chair), and ROBERT DICKINSON, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

Thomas McIdle, of Milkwell Burn, having been found by P.C. Hudson lying across the footpath at Ebchester in a very drunken state, on the night of the 29th ult., was fined 10s and costs for non-appearance at the Court.

Thomas Bewick, a respectable-looking middle-aged man, pleaded guilty to the same offence, committed at Ebchester, on the 29th ult.—P.C. Hudson said that about half-past nine o'clock he found the defendant lying across the footroad in a helpless state of intoxication.—Defendant said he was exceedingly sorry if he had broken the law, as this was the first time he had been found in that position.—The Chairman, in imposing a fine of 5s and 6s 6d costs, observed that the defendant should be thankful he was found by the police, because had he lain across the road for any length of time, some harm might have befallen him.

James Arnold was brought up at the instance of P.C. Campbell on a charge of being drunk and guilty of disorderly conduct at Consett, last Saturday evening.—Shortly after nine o'clock, the officer observed the prisoner along with several other men standing on the footpath at the corner of Middle Street and Front Street. As the men were causing an obstruction, they were ordered to go away. Arnold, however, refused to move, but commenced to make a great noise, and also swore at the police. Prisoner had been turned out of a public-house prior to this occurrence, and as he conducted himself in a most disorderly way, he was lodged in the police cells.—P.C. Stubbs adduced corroborative testimony.—Defendant, who repudiated the allegation that he was intoxicated, called a companion named Greoge Brock as a witness. His testimony was to the effect that as he was walking down the street accompanied by the prisoner, the police officer came up and roughly shoved Arnold to one side. The constable then indulged in some bad language, and taking hold of the prisoner, he dragged him off to the Police Station. Arnold was not the worse for liquor, and he never uttered a curse.—P.C. Campbell: This man [meaning the witness] was very little better than the prisoner, your worships.—The Chairman: How much drink had Arnold taken?—Witness: About three half-glasses of gin.—Supt Oliver: Were you there when the prisoner was put out of the public-house?—Witness: Yes; Arnold was just entering the doorway when he was sent away.—The Chairman said the Bench were of opinion that the prisoner was under the influence of liquor, and he would have to pay a fine of 5s and 6s 10d expenses.

ALLEGED OUTRAGE ON A YOUNG WOMAN.

A dirty-looking youth, named *John McDonald* (17), living in Princess Street, Consett, was brought forward in custody, charged with committing a rape upon Catherine Collins, a young woman, who resides with her step-father in Queen Street, Consett, on the night of the 4th inst.—Mr T. W. Welford (Consett) appeared to prosecute.—The complainant, stated that about nice o'clock on Friday night last, the prisoner and another young man called Edward Keenan came to the house, and invited her to go out for a walk. She agreed to accompany them, and they proceeded down Delves Lane. When they reached the signalman's cabin at the first railway crossing, the prisoner knocked her down and took liberties with her against her wish. She shouted as loud as she could, but he thrust his hand into her mouth, to prevent her cries being heard, and he threatened to choke her if she did not "shut up." Her smothered screams, however, brought someone to her assistance.—The girl subsequently made a complaint to P.C. Campbell, and the prisoner was taken into custody.—On the application of Mr Welford a remand was granted.

ASSAULT ON THE POLICE: ROUGH HANDLING ALL ROUND.

Charles Hagan, a labourer, (who appeared in court with a bandage covering his right eye), pleaded guilty to the charges of being drunk and disorderly and assaulting P.C. Garbutt, at Blackhill, on New Year's day.—The officer attested that about twenty minutes to five o'clock in the afternoon, he was called into Brannigan's beerhouse, in St. Mary's Square, to eject the prisoner. He met Hagan coming out of the doorway accompanied by another young man, and witness succeeded in getting him home. On entering his house, the prisoner (who is a married man, but living apart from his wife) caught hold of a poker, and appeared as if he was about to fell some one with it. The weapon was wrenched from his hands. As the prisoner commenced to indulge in some abusive language, he was taken into custody. When about 200 yards away from his house the man became furious and excited. He savagely attacked the constable, striking him several times in succession, and also kicking him on the legs. The prisoner struggled so violently that he fell down with great force on to the flags, and his head coming in contact with some hard projecting substance, it is alleged that the ball of his right eye burst in consequence.—Prisoner said he was very drunk at the time, and did not know what he was doing. He was exceedingly sorry at what had occurred; and he had lost one of his eyes through the affray, the ball having been broke.—A certificate by Dr G. Renton was handed in, which stated that the prisoner's right eye was so much swollen and inflamed that he would, in all probability, lose his sight therefrom.—Prisoner has been previously convicted, having already undergone a term of imprisonment for breaking a policeman's jaw, at Bishop Auckland.—The Chairman remarked that the prisoner had doubtless suffered a great deal in consequence of the loss of one of his eyes, although he had inflicted this punishment on himself. The Bench would therefore dismiss the charge of drunkenness, and for the assault they would only inflict a penalty of 10s. and costs (6s. 6d. in all). He must remember that being drunk was no excuse whatever for misconducting himself in the way.—As the prisoner was unable to pay the fine imposed, he was committed for 14 days' hard labour.

[ERRATA.—In our record of the proceedings at the Consett Police Court last week, it was erroneously stated that a little boy named Lawrence Curtice was charged with stealing a bundle of laths from the premises of the New Town Hall at Consett. It seems that the lad was only accused of taking a single lath, which was a broken one, and the Bench treated the offence as a case of wilful damage, eventually discharging the defendant with a warning.]

DURHAM QUARTER SESSIONS.

The magistrates met in the Law Library of the Assize Courts, on Thursday se'nnight, for the transaction of the county business. J. L. Wharton, Esq., presided, and there was a large attendance of justices.

THE INCREASE IN THE COUNTY CONSTABULARY.

The CHAIRMAN read a letter from the Home Secretary approving of the addition of one inspector, four sergeants, and thirty constables to the police force.

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT.

I have the honour to submit the usual returns of the county constabulary for the past quarter, there being at this date 15 vacancies in the authorised strength of the force, including the augmentation of 35 voted at last Quarter Sessions, which has received the sanction of the Secretary of State.

The annexed statement of charges for the same period gives the number as follow, viz:—Committed for trial, 68; summarily convicted, 7,618; discharged, 818. Total persons charged, 8,504, of whom 2,147 were apprehended. These figures shew, as compared with the corresponding quarter of last year, an increase of 28 in the number committed for trial; of 339 in the number summarily convicted; and of 357 in the number of persons charged.

By the quarterly returns of the Divisional Superintendents, there appears to be payable, through the services of the police, as follows, viz:—Fines and penalties due to county, £534 5s 4d; fines and penalties due to superannuation fund, £451 4s 8d; fees and allowances in summary convictions, due to police rate, £750 8s 11d; clerks' fees, payable to county, £1,476 2s 11d.

The deductions from the pay of the force, on behalf of the superannuation fund, for the last two months, amounting to £16 8s 7d, together with £10 10s 0d, fines for misconduct, have been paid into the bank.

As inspectors under the "Weights and Measures" Act, the superintendents of police have, during the past quarter, visited 636 shops, &c., and inspected 8,504 weights, measures and machines; and 11 persons have been proceeded against, 10 of whom were convicted, for using unjust weights, &c.

Under the "Food and Drugs" Act 130 samples were taken, and 16 persons proceeded against, of whom 12 were convicted and fined.

Under the "Explosives" Act, 48 stores, 220 registered premises, and 80 unregistered premises were inspected, and 6 persons were proceeded against, and 6 convicted.

I regret to have to state, with regard to the cattle disease, that foot-and-mouth has again become very prevalent in the county, and appears to be on the increase, there being now 112 animals suffering from the disease, which has broken out in 8 out of the 12 police divisions. Eleven "infected circles" have been declared, in 4 of these, however, the disease has already ceased. The total cost to the county of the inspection was £13 8s 2d, including £1 3s 0d for veterinary aid.

Subject to the approval of this court, I have appointed three "additional" constables (one a sergeant) at South-wick, at the expense of Mr George Clark, the owner, for the protection of the Engine Works at that place. I have also arranged to appoint a constable at the County Asylum, Sedgefield, by the request of the Committee of Visitors, the expense of which office will be defrayed by the Asylum rate from 1st January, 1884.

GEORGE F. WHITE, Lieut.-Colonel.

The report was adopted.

ARCHITECT'S REPORT.

During the past quarter the roadways on the approaches to and the masonry of the several county bridges (in number 185) have been kept in good repair.

The contracts for keeping in repair the roadways and approaches to the several county bridges (132 in number), the roads of which the county are liable to repair, expire at May-day next. I propose, as usual, to offer the contracts to the Local Authorities in whose districts the bridges are situate, and failing satisfactory offers from them, to advertise publicly for tenders, and accept such as are satisfactory, and report result of such offers and recommendations as to same to a future Quarter Sessions for confirmation.

I am happy to state that, taking into consideration the violence of the gale on the night of the 11th December comparatively little damage has been done to the numerous county buildings, 78 in all.—I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

WM. CROZIER, M.I.C.E.

The report was received and adopted.

REPORT OF COUNTY ANALYST.

The County Analyst (Mr W. F. Stock) reported that he had analysed 137 samples of food and drugs, 36 of which he found to be adulterated. After giving a detailed account of the articles examined, the inspector concluded by stating that "it is very satisfactory to note that for the first time since my appointment I am able to report an absence of adulteration in the milk supply, and also that the whole of the samples of flour and meal, butter and groceries, are of a satisfactory character."

The report was adopted, the CHAIRMAN observing that it was a very valuable and exhaustive one.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Finance Committee recommended that the following rate be levied:—County, ½d, payable on the 16th February next.

THE OUTBREAKS OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE NEAR CONSETT.

The Executive Committee under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1878, reported that, in consequence of the increase of foot-and-mouth disease, they had found it necessary to prohibit the importation of Irish cattle into the county. The Privy Council had also renewed the markets and fairs order which was in force last summer, prohibiting the holding of public and private sales of cattle, except on prescribed conditions. The committee hoped that these two measures would prove sufficient to check the further spread of the disease, especially as it was not making rapid progress.

Captain BECKWITH, in moving the adoption of the report, was glad to observe that there were only seven cases now. The previous day there were only six; but yesterday there was a fresh outbreak at Medomsley. He thought the county of Durham was better off and had far less disease than the neighbouring counties.

Mr W. A. WOOLER (Darlington), moved that each petty sessional division be a separate committee with the addition of tenant farmers.

The CHAIRMAN said it would be better for Mr Wooler to give notice that he would move the resolution at the next Sessions.

The Earl of RAVENSWORTH said within the last few days the tenant farmers had recommended that all importations from countries where disease was known to exist should be stopped, and, secondly, that the present mode of conducting the Irish cattle traffic was in a very unsatisfactory condition. A greater uniformity of action was required in the northern counties, and until this uniformity between Benches and Courts of Quarter Sessions was established they would never be safe from disease. At Wylam and Prudhoe Irish cattle were not allowed to be landed. They passed on to Blaydon, which was in the county of Durham, and here large quantities of Irish cattle were set down and moved into the roadway which divided the two counties of Durham and Northumberland. The consequence was that several cases of disease had broken out at Consett, and now another at Medomsley. The disease at Consett was clearly traceable to the importation of Irish cattle. He gave that as an illustration that there should be uniformity of action with the counties adjoining Durham, and he thought it was desirable that the Clerks of the Peace in this and the adjoining counties should place themselves in connection with each other and endeavour to secure a uniformity of system in Cumberland, Westmorland, Northumberland, Durham, and the North Riding of Yorkshire.

Sir HEDWORTH WILLIAMSON moved a resolution to the effect that a stricter system of quarantine should be observed in regard to Irish cattle, and that the Clerk of the Peace make a representation to that effect to the veterinary department of the Privy Council.

MAJOR BRIGGS seconded the motion, which was carried.

THE FISHERY CONSERVATORS.

The twenty members on behalf of this county for the above board were re-appointed, with the substitution of the name of Mr Jonathan Priestman, of Shotley Bridge, in the place of Mr Annandale Town, deceased.

COST OF PAUPER LUNATICS AND GOVERNMENT GRANT.

Some interesting details of the number and cost of pauper lunatics chargeable to each union in England and Wales are contained in a parliamentary paper just issued, together with the amounts of the grants made by Government in aid thereof. We quote the figures relating to this, and the surrounding Unions:—

LANCHESTER.—There were 48 lunatics chargeable. Of these 35 were in asylum, 12 in workhouse, one with relations. The cost being £1005. In aid of this the treasury granted £365. In 1871 there were 33 chargeable, costing £607.

WEARDALE.—There were 27 lunatics chargeable. Of these 20 were in asylum, 7 in workhouse, none with relations. The cost being £613. In aid of this the treasury granted £210. In 1871 there were 13 chargeable, costing £318.

DURHAM.—In this union there were 73 lunatics chargeable. Of these 62 were in asylum, 6 in workhouse, 4 with relations, and one in a licensed house. The cost amounted to £1,556. In aid of this the treasury granted £595. In 1871 there were 45 lunatics chargeable, the cost being £677.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—There were 37 lunatics chargeable. Of these 21 were in asylum, 16 in workhouse, none with relations. The cost being £645. In aid of this the treasury granted £222. In 1871 there were 21 lunatics chargeable, costing £400.

GATESHEAD.—There were 190 chargeable. Of these 138 were in asylum, 27 in workhouse, and 25 with relations. The cost being £3,626. In aid of this the treasury granted £1,240. In 1871 there were 112 chargeable, costing £1,856.

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

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.

THE RATING OF FARM HOUSES.—At the meeting of the Hexham Local Board, on Monday, Mr Wm. Alexander in the chair, a letter from the Local Government Board was read, in reference to the rating of farm-houses stating that the occupiers of farm-houses were not entitled to be assessed in the proportion of one-fourth only of the ratable value. The Assessment Committee of the Union should be asked to appoint a valuer to make a new valuation or supplemental valuation list, assessing the farm-houses separate from the land attached to them. If the Assessment Committee were unwilling to give directions for the preparation of the requisite valuation, the only course open to the Local Board was to apportion the existing assessment between the land and the buildings, to which such land is attached in the best manner they were able. A motion that the instructions contained in the letter be carried out was carried.

TOW LAW LOCAL BOARD.

The ordinary meeting of the members of the above Board took place at the Local Board Offices, Tow Law, on Tuesday evening. There were present—Mr Joseph Ridley (in the chair), Mr William Ridley, Mr W. R. Teasdale, Mr J. W. Schofield, Mr L. P. Wherley, Mr W. Atkinson, the clerk (Mr E. Milburn), the medical officer (Dr Hood), the inspector (Mr W. Garroway), and the surveyor (Mr J. Hillary).

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

After the confirmation of the minutes of the preceding meeting, the subjoined report was read from the Inspector:—

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

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to lay my report before you for the quarter ending December 31st. Out of 79 notices served during the month of November, few have been attended to, although the principal part of the property-have promised that the same shall have their earliest attention: but owing to the recent gale, a considerable amount of damage has been done to property in nearly every part of your district, in addition to what has already been reported to this Board. The defective spouting, stench traps, and general nuisances which have been abated during December, are as follows:—Mr Walker—spouting and stench traps in Bridge Street; Messrs Morris, McLindon, Henry Harril, G. Randall, Cuthbert Hall, Mrs Morris, and J. R. Wherley, in High Street; and Messrs Westgarth, Thompson, Hall, and Watson promise either to remove their pigstyes, or alter their present position by removing the outrakes further into their respective gardens, and this, no doubt, will effect a great improvement.

The two defective traps—one at the Roman Catholic Schools, and the other at Miss Appleby's private school Dan's Castle—have been properly cemented. The list of nuisance notices forwarded to the Weardale Iron Company have not been attended to, owing to a change in their police officer. A second copy will have to be prepared, but in the meantime I have pointed out a portion of the said nuisances to P.C. Tones, and have also given verbal notice to Mr Miles Barron—one of the Company's agents—to repair the flags, slates, and coping stones, which were lying on the roofs of several of the Company's houses, to the danger of the public. With reference to the ashpit and privies, I have had some difficulty in getting the nuisance removed during the month of December, as, owing to the land being so very soft, the farmers have been prevented from getting on with their work.

As your Medical Officer will give you his yearly report, it is not necessary for me to add anything further, except to report that two fatal cases of fever have occurred in Burrell's houses in Back High Street West, which require immediate attention. Instructions have been given to me to destroy the bed clothes used by the deceased woman, Mrs Hooligham. Moreover, complaints have been made to me for allowing privy nuisance and other household refuse to lie upon the public streets during the day time whilst it is being carted away, or remaining on the streets throughout the night. The bye-law has never been enforced compelling the owners or occupants of premises to cause the said nuisances to be removed before eight o'clock in the morning. Awaiting instructions on the matter from this Board,—I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

WM. GARROWAY, Nuisance Inspector.

The Inspector said he had received a complaint only on the previous day for allowing a heap of refuse to remain at the back of Mr Whealey's premises, but no action could be taken as the filth was removed within twenty-four hours.

No instructions, however, were given to the Inspector relative to this matter.

DESTROYING INFECTED PROPERTY.

The Medical Officer having recommended that the bed and bedding belonging to the late Mrs Hooligan should be immediately destroyed, a long discussion arose as to whether the Local Board should give instructions to their Inspector to do this work, or whether the duty did not devolve upon the parish authorities or the Relieving Officer, seeing that the woman had been in receipt of out-door relief; also whether the parties ought to be compensated for the loss sustained thereby.

The Clerk pointed out that the Local Board, being the Sanitary Authority for the district, could order the destruction of any property that might be considered a nuisance, and injurious to the health of the public, without recompensing any of the parties. Supposing they ordered certain piggeries and outhouses to be removed, they were not legally bound to replace these erections.

The Doctor said they were dealing with this case from a humane standpoint. The parties were in very poor circumstances, and probably if this bed was destroyed they might not have another one to use.

Ultimately, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr TEASDALE, the Inspector was instructed to claim possession of the bed and bedding, and destroy them forthwith.

MEDICAL OFFICERS' REPORT.

This report is as under:—

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

GENTLEMEN,—During the quarter ending the year we have 23 deaths and 42 births, which gives us a death rate per thousand 19·4. In this quarter we made a general inspection of the locality, but as I will refer to this and other matters in my yearly report, I will now proceed to make that report.

THE YEARLY REPORT.

The deaths for the whole year amount to 88, giving a death rate from an estimated population of 4,736 of 18·5 per thousand.

To shew the death rate for the last few years, I will give you the following figures:—

YEAR.	DEATH RATE.
1877	14·4
1878	16·7
1879	19·7
1880	11·7
1881	13·5
1882	13·9
1883	18·5

In like manner I give you the number of births:—

YEAR.	NUMBER.	PER 1,000.
1877	246	43·9
1878	233	42·9
1879	167	32·9
1880	169	31·9
1881	192	38·3
1882	167	33·3
1883	172	36·3

Returning to the death rate we find a marked increase this year. The infant rate of mortality being 39 deaths from a total of 88. I will now give you the causes of the mortality in detail, showing you as far as I can the amount of diseases that has been in our midst during the year, and repeating (as I have done) quarterly where the weak part in our Sanitary system exists.

Measles.—We have only had one fatal case of this disease this year, although we have had many cases through the year of a mild type.

Scarlet Fever.—Four deaths are registered from this cause, occurring in High Street, Dan's Castle, St. Alban's Street and Helm Park Road Ends. This disease has prevailed more or less throughout the year in almost every part of the town. Some 25 cases have been reported to me in all—these have not been of a special malignant type, although a few of them caused the medical attendants considerable anxiety.

Continued Fevers.—Three deaths are registered under this heading. No fewer than 18 cases have been reported to me, and no doubt many more have occured which have not been noted.

Phthisis.—Thirteen fatal cases have been registered of this disease.

Puerperal Fever.—Two cases are reported from this cause.

Pneumonia, Bronchitis, Pleurisy.—Fifteen fatal cases occur under this heading.

Heart Diseases.—We have seven cases registered.

Injuries.—No accidental deaths during the year.

From all other diseases.—No fewer than 39 deaths are registered under this heading.

GENERAL INSPECTION.

According to the instructions issued by the Central Local Government Board, the Sanitary Inspector and myself have made two complete and systematic inspections, besides others of a special nature.

The first of these was made in June, and the result duly reported to your Board in the July report.

I will shortly recapitulate what I then said. The slaughter-houses were in good order; schoolyards in good condition; a good many defective traps, spouting, &c.; drain opposite Forge was faulty; defective drain in Bridge Street; leakage from byre on Wolsingham Road these defects and others which I need not mention were ordered to be looked after, and have been in the majority of cases remedied.

THE SECOND INSPECTION

Was begun and finished in the month of November, and I will now detail what requires to be altered, and the different localities where we found defects:—

In Bridge Street South, we found a large pool between two byres, the result of leakage from the byres and adjoining pigstyes and the fall of rain on manure heaps; in fact the whole condition of the place was as bad or worse than formerly reported, although the owners of the property have inserted small tanks to stop the leakage, which appear to be perfectly inadequate for the purpose. If proper drains cannot be made at this place, I fear that the Board must order a removal of these constructions.

In Bridge Street North, we found a somewhat similar state of matters, resulting in this instance from pigstyes alone. In another part of the street we found a collection of waste stagnant water.

In Wolsingham Road, the same nuisance existed, resulting in this instance likewise in the leakage from pigstyes. Behind public-house in the same locality we found pigs creating nuisance in back street. Beerhouse Yard in the same street in bad condition.

Baring Street: This street, where we have had so many fever cases, is in good order, as far as existing conditions will allow, but as long as the middens and privies remain as at present, it is impossible that good sanitary condidions can exist, and I would strongly recommend the Board that immediate steps be taken in this case, viz:—That the existing structures should be moved backwards, the middens covered over, cemented at the bottom, and an open channel run the whole length of each back street. This would cause the area to be made dry between cottages and back street. As it is, the road is barely passable from the ordinary rainfall, which also causes a stagnant pool against the railway wall. The case is the more serious that for the last two years we have had fever cases constantly recurring here, and at the present moment we have a case in the middle block, while in the end block we had two fatal cases.

Immediately opposite Baring Street, in Back High Street, we have had fever cases, one dying before the end of the year, and another died since.

In the High Street Back North East, the channel has got twisted from the level and the street wants levelling.

At the Brick Flats, we found the main drain discharging into the pond; this surely can be remedied effectually.

Drainage of Ridley's Terrace still remains defective. Schools and schoolyards were all inspected by us and found in a fairly good condition.

Slaughter-houses all clean and in a satisfactory state, although one of them is not registered.

These are the principal facts observed in our last inspection, and I hope that ere long all these defects may be remedied.

GEORGE HOOD, M.D., F.F.P.S.

Tow Law, Dec. 31st, 1883.

INCREASE IN THE DEATH RATE.

The Medical Officer stated that the number of deaths during the year was exceedingly large, and if the rate of mortality kept on increasing until it reached the average of 21 per 1,000, he understood that any individual would be at liberty to lay a complaint to the Local Government Board, and a strict enquiry would thereupon be made into the sanitary arrangements in the district. The population at the last Imperial census was 5,005, and after deducting 5·5 persons for each of the 49 empty houses in the town, he had based the foregoing calculations on the ratio of the population being 4,736. It was a remarkable fact that there had being no accidental deaths during the year.

EXISTING NUISANCES.

The Doctor explained that there was a large swamp behind Bridge Street South, caused by the leakage of manure from the cow-byres and adjoining pigstyes, and he accordingly recommended that the whole of the buildings should be removed.

The CHAIRMAN: Or put in proper condition?

The DOCTOR: Yes, that is right enough.

Mr RIDLEY: You would allow these erections to stand, if the place was well drained for a certain distance?

The DOCTOR: You could not lay a drain there to be of any use.

The CHAIRMAN observed that as these wooden structures had been erected without the sanction or approval of the Board, it was the duty of the owners, now that their Medical Officer had condemned them, to put these byres and pigstyes in proper order, to the satisfaction of their Inspector. They should treat these buildings in the same way as if they were dealing with dwelling houses. He would move that the Board give instructions for the nuisances existing in the byres belonging to Messrs Thos Muse and Jas. Little, situated at the back of Bridge Street, be remedied within 14 days; otherwise the buildings will have to be removed.

After some discussion, the proposition was at length seconded by Mr Schofield, and carried without opposition.

The other nuisances arising from defective pigcrees, &c., in the Wolsingham Road, enumerated in the report of the Medical Officer, were ordered to be dealt with in a similar way.

Respecting the nuisance in Baring Street, arising in consequence of the privies and ashpits standing in too close proximity to the dwelling houses, it was decided, on the recommendation of Mr Ridley, that the Clerk write to the Weardale Coal and Iron Company drawing their attention to this matter, (which has been reported on time after time,) and enclosing an extract from the Medical Officer's report; also tendering the Company notice to remove the privies, &c., further from the dwellings within the space of three months.

The Inspector reported that the nusiance existing at the Brick-flats had been abated.

Concerning Ridley's Terrace, Mr W. RIDLEY suggested that if the Board would lay a drain across the bottom of the field, he would be willing to drain the back side of the houses.

It was agreed to let the matter stand in abeyance until the next meeting.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The Surveyor (Mr Hillary) read the subjoined report:—

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

GENTLEMEN,—Since your last report, I have had about 45 tons of limestone from the Gas Works laid on your main road at Dan's Castle, Castle Bank, and High Street, which completes the metalling of the main roads for this season. I have had 33 loads of slag put on at the back of High Street and Harrison Street. The footpath from High Street to Inkermann Lane is in a very bad state. I propose to cut down the road beside the reservoir, and cover the surface with ballast, and thus render it safe for pedestrians to travel over. The sewage from North Street having blocked up the gutter on the low side of the railway, and flowed over the field, I have sent the roadman to clean it out. The late weather has left the roads in such a soft state that they require almost constant attention; and I have had to procure the services of another man to assist your roadman for a few days. The flagging and kerbing at the corner of Campbell Street is in a very bad condition. I have deferred getting the work executed, until it is decided whether the Board or the owners should repair the same. The Railway Company have not acceeded to my request to lay planks or flags between the rails at the High Street crossing. I have had the sewer at the Brickflats walled in, so that the sewage cannot again overflow into the pond.

Appended are the monthly accounts:—

	£	s.	d.
Main Roads:			
Manual labour	3	10	0
Stonebreaking	1	10	0
Carting stone	1	12	0
Other Roads:			
Manual labour	0	17	6
Carting slag	1	12	0
Streets: Lamplighting, &c	1	8	0
Gas Works: Foreman's wages	5	16	0
Labourer's wages	0	17	6
Carting coals	0	4	0
Total	£21	9	0

I have banked yesterday £35 10s 11d, which I received for coke and tar.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

JOHN HILLARY.

CAMPBELL STREET.

The CHAIRMAN said that none of the back streets were flagged, unless it was done at the expense of the owners. It was not a very suitable time to repair the street footpaths at the present.

Several members considered that Campbell Street, was in a dangerous state, and ought to be attended to forthwith, and the Surveyor stated it was not safe for people to travel round the corner after dark.

Mr RIDLEY suggested that when they cemented a portion of High Street, they could use some of the old flags for reparing some of the back thoroughfares.

FINANCIAL.

The monthly accounts represented a total sum of £136 14s. 8d., and on the proposition of Mr SCHOFIELD, seconded by Mr RIDLEY, it was resolved that the several bills should be paid.

Some of the members suggested that the banking book account should be laid before the Board at each monthly meeting, so that the members might understand their exact financial position, and a motion to that effect was carried, on being proposed by Mr WHERLEY, and seconded by Mr RIDLEY.

THE RURAL GROUND QUESTION.

It was stated that the Churchwardens had received the Order from the Privy Council closing the two existing burial grounds in the parish from and after the 31st December, 1884, but the Clerk had not received any official notification of the fact from the Privy Council.

A letter was read from Mr G. H. Race, on behalf of the Weardale Iron and Coal Company, dated 6th December, stating that they had carefully considered the contents of the letter from their Clerk on the 27th September, requesting them to reserve the working of the minerals beneath the ground selected as a site for the proposed new cemetery. The Company stated that they were not prepared to give up such a valuable bed of coal, and they suggested that the Board should select a more suitable site for a burial ground. The Clerk subsequently wrote asking the Company upon what terms they would reserve the coal underneath this particular portion of ground, and a reply had been forthcoming to the effect that the company estimated the probable quantity of coal thereunder at 2,8680 tons, which, after allowing 5 per cent off for loss in working out the coal, would realise 11s. 6d. per ton, or an aggregate sum of £2,040. (Laughter).

It was decided to acknowledge receipt of the letter.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the Burial Acts Department, London, stating the terms required by the Weardale Iron Company for reserving the coal lying beneath the site chosen for the contemplated cemetery, and stating that the Board were prepared to accept the ground, even if the minerals underneath were disturbed, providing that such an arrangement would not be objected to by Dr Hoffman, the Government Inspector.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the field in Thornley Road, in the occupation of Miss Armstrong, would make a most suitable site for the new cemetery, and most of the members concurred in this opinion.

The Clerk was accordingly directed to write to Mr Snowball, agent to Mr Straker (of the firm of Messrs Straker and Love), asking upon what terms he would be willing to allow the Board to purchase two acres of the land or thereabouts in the above-named field for burial ground purposes.

The Clerk was furthermore authorised to forward another petition to the Burial Acts Department, praying for the formation of a Burial Board for the district.

THE LOCAL BOARD OFFICES.

The landlord having consented to make certain alterations and improvements to the Board's Offices, and restore the furniture therein, it was agreed to procure the services of a charwoman to clean out the offices three days in the week, the Clerk promising to attend in future on the Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, in each week:

THE POLICE RAID ON THE TRADESPEOPLE.

Mr WHERLEY said he would like to know whether the prosecution—or rather "persecution" he might call it—of tradesmen and their assistants for wheeling sack-barrows along the flags had been sanctioned by that Board?

The Clerk replied in the negative. He explained that some time ago the Board issued notices cautioning drivers and others from riding over the kerbstone with their conveyances; also prohibiting men from causing an obstruction by standing at the corners of the streets; and warning mischievous lads from climbing up the lamp-posts, damaging the lamps, and extinguishing the lights.

Mr WHERLEY said it was coal carts and waggons referred to in that notice; and nothing was specified as to prohibiting tradespeople from wheeling sack-barrows along the flags. The speaker denounced, in very strong language, the conduct of the police constables, in summonsing certain tradespeople in the town for the offence of wheeling their barrows along the flags during the day-time, when hardly a single individual was astir in the streets. It was a crying shame that such persecution was allowed to go on. It was merely done out spite; and the Local Board had nothing to say in the matter, although such proceedings were usually taken at their instigation. Mr Wherley explained that because their Surveyor had justly complained to that Board of people standing in groups at the railway crossing, thus creating an abominable obstruction, and had incidentally mentioned, in reply to an interrogation from a member, that he had on one occasion seen a constable intermixing with the crowd, the police were exhibiting their vindictiveness in prosecuting the people in this way; so that not only were the tradesmen prohibited from wheeling their barrows on the flags, but the married women and nurses were afraid to run their perambulators along the streets, and they were now pushed through the rough stones on the highroads. The people had used the flags for such purposes for upwards of 25 years, without any interference from the police. Such tyranny, he considered, could not be tolerated any longer. He, for one, strongly objected to the town being "police-ridden", as it were, by one or two beardless youths, who were dressed in the constabulary uniform. He did not blame either Supt. Liddle or Sergt. Christison in having a hand in such dirty work; but the magistrates at Wolsingham expected that the Board had moved in this matter and authorised these proceeding to be instituted. He suggested that the attention of Chief-Constable White should be called to these spiteful and factious prosecutions, so that an end might be put to them.

The CHAIRMAN thought it unnecessary to adopt that course, as it would only be productive of ill-feeling in the place, and moreover the police-sergeant had informed him that such prosecutions would henceforth cease.

Mr W. RIDLEY likewise objected to the proposal.

The other members, while agreeing to the proposal, advised Mr Wherley to postpone the subject for another month; and if in the meantime any additional similar prosecutions cropped up, then they would be prepared to support the motion in its entirety.

A long and animated discussion ensued, and ultimately Mr Wherley agreed, in the face of the undertaking of the police-sergeant, to allow the matter to remain in abeyance until the next month.

Mr WHERLEY added that he exonerated Sergt Christison from any blame in these police court proceedings.

No other business was transacted.

TEMPERANCE SOCIETY. — A very successful meeting was held on Monday night in the Board Schools. Songs, readings, and recitations were given by friends of the cause. Addresses were delivered by Mr Ramsey (Blaydon) and Mr Robert Watson (Newcastle). The chair was occupied by the Rev A. B. Tebb, pastor of the Congregational Church.

HEXHAM UNION RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.—On Tuesday, at the monthly meeting of this Authority, held in the Court House Buildings, Hexham, Mr John M. Ridley in the chair, the Medical Officer of Health (Dr Maclagan) reported that several very mild cases of small-pox had occurred in West Wylam recently.—Some discussion ensued, in which it was stated that there were cases of small-pox at Cann House, which was just outside the Authority's district, and in the district of the Ryton Local Board, and the Clerk was directed to write to that Board on the subject.—Dr Maclagan reported that the death-rate was 16·5 per 1,000.—A report by Mr Hubert Laws on the water supply of Corbridge was read, and the Clerk was instructed to get a loan of £700 to carry out the works required to improve the water supply of the village.—A letter was read from the Local Government Board in reference to the Prudhoe water supply, and the Clerk was instructed to reply to it, and to state that if Captain Hildyard, the Board's Inspector, was in the north of England, it would be desirable for him to inspect the place.—Plans for the erection of two houses at Prudhoe were not passed on account of an adequate water supply not having yet been brought to the village.

DURHAM PRISON STATISTICS.—Some Durham Prison statistics, which have made their appearance in a newly-issued appendix to the Report of Her Majesty's Commissioners of Prisons for 1882-3, show that criminal labour is sometimes utilized to a greater extent than may generally be believed to be possible. In Durham prison, during the period mentioned, the value of work done was:—Grinding wheat, £68 17s 4d; mat making, weaving, &c., £51 15s; oakum pickers, £420 4s 10d; sack and ship fender makers, and twine spinners, £90 2s 2d; coopers, joiners, &c., £1 16s 3d; cotton, linen, &c., weavers, £11 0s 5d; needle-women, £69, 15s 3d; learning trades, £39 5s; washing, not including prisiners' clothing, £38 15s. The daily average number of prisoners thus employed was 376. The value of work done on the prison buildings was:—Bricklayers, £93 18s; carpenters, £83 12s; slaters, £1 2s; labourers' £33; painters and glaziers, £16, 16s 3d; plumbers, &c., £11 18s; smiths, £29 4s; and white-washers, £106 6s 8d. The daily average number thus employed was 15. The estimated value of the work done in the ordinary service of the prison, viz., baking, cooking cleaning, repairs to clothing, &c., was £1,406. The daily average number thus employed was 67. There were three engaged in unproductive labour, and 117 non-effectives.

Business Announcements.

NINTH YEAR OF ATTENDING CONSETT.

MR. MARKHAM, SURGEON DENTIST, of Newcastle, Attends at Miss WILLIAMS', No. 4, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT, EVERY MONDAY, from 1·30 p.m. to 3·30 pm.

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TRY J. GOODFELLOW,
MIDDLE ST., CONSETT,
For the Best Value in
MEN'S OVERCOATS, at 10s. 6d., 12s. 6d., 16s. 11d., 19s. 9d., 22s. 6d., &c.
BOYS' OVERCOATS, from 4s. 11d., 5s. 6d., &c.
BOYS' SUITS, from 2s. 7½d., 2s. 9d., 3s. 11d., &c.
MEN'S HEAVY TWEED SUITS, from 16s. 11d., 19s. 9d., 21s., &c.
MEN'S BLACK WORSTED SUITS, Well-made and Bound, 22s. 6d., 26s. 6d., &c.
MEN'S TWEED TROUSERS, from 2s. 11d. MOLESKINS, from 3s. 11d.
CHEAP CALICOES, HOLLANDS, FLANNELS, SHIRTINGS, WINCIES, &c.
CHOICE MILLINERY, Lowest Prices in the District.
A TRIAL SOLICITED!
605s

HALL'S FOR FLOUR, at 1s. 8d., 1s. 10d., 2s., and Finest Hungarian at 2s. 6d.
HALL'S FOR TEA, Standard Blend, 2s.
HALL'S 2s. TEA, is the best.
HALL'S FOR SUGARS, at 2d., 2½d., 3d., and 3½d.
HALL'S FOR SOAPS, at 2d. to 4d. Curd Soap is sold at
HALL'S 6s. 8d. in the £ Cheaper than other places.
HALL'S is decidedly the BEST and CHEAPEST
HOUSE FOR READY-MONEY PEOPLE TO BUY Groceries, Flour, Feeding Stuffs, Cake, Patent Medicines, &c., &c.
HALL'S 2s. TEA IS THE BEST. 6lbs Free by Post for 11s., on receipt of Post Office Order. Sample on receipt of Addressed Envelope.

JOHN HALL'S,
ANNFIELD PLAIN, VIA LINTZ GREEN. 332s

PERSONS WISHING TO MAKE UP THEIR
HORSES FOR SALE OR SHOW,
SHOULD USE THE
"OPTIMUS" HORSE MIXTURE.
IT IS UNEQUALLED BY ANY OTHER MIXTURE.
PREPARED ONLY BY
JOHN HUME AND SONS
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
BRANCH—MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 563r

FOR THE VERY
BEST VALUE IN DRAPERY GOODS,
WE RECOMMEND YOU TO
DONALD BAIN,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL WAREHOUSEMAN,
150, WESTGATE ROAD, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

BEST VALUE IN DRESSES AND DRAPERIES.
BEST VALUE IN LINENS AND COTTONS.
BEST VALUE IN FLANNELS AND BLANKETS.
BEST VALUE IN SHIRTS AND HOSIERY.
BEST VALUE IN SMALLWARES.
BEST VALUE IN WOOLS.
BEST VALUE IN YARNS.

N.B.—DONALD BAIN SUPPLIES SHOPS, DRESSMAKERS, CLOTHING CLUBS, MOTHERS' MEETINGS, DORCAS SOCIETIES, AND OTHERS ENGAGED IN THE DRAPERY TRADE AT THE LOWEST GLASGOW, MANCHESTER, AND LONDON WHOLESALE PRICES.

N.B.—Mr. MATTHEW WILLEY, Iveston Road, Leadgate (late with GEORGE HAWDON, Rate Collector), will be happy to wait upon you, on receipt of Post Card, and submit Patterns and Prices of our well-known Dress and Drapery Goods. All Parcels forwarded at once, CARRIAGE PAID! 99s

---

HARPERLEY AND CATCHGATE STEAM AND WATER CORN MILLS,
NEAR ANNFIELD PLAIN, *VIA* LINTZ GREEN,

GEORGE HOBSON,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
MILLER AND CORN MERCHANT, GARDEN AND FIELD SEEDSMAN, GROCER AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
HAS ALWAYS ON HAND A LARGE STOCK OF
PURE LINSEED AND COTTON CAKES, WHOLE OR READY BROKEN.

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

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

THE CELEBRATED EXCELLO HORSE FEED
Thoroughly Cleaned by New and Improved Machinery, Spiced, or otherwise, to order.

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

HOBSON'S AROMATIC CALF FOOD. REARS CALVES WITHOUT MILK.
This Calf Meal is an excellent substitute for milk, and what is of very great importance to Stock Breeders, it tends greatly to save calves from that inflammatory fever commonly called quarter-ill.

G. H.'S MIXTURE OF
PERMANENT CLOVER AND GRASS SEEDS has been tested and approved by the leading Agriculturalists of the district upwards of thirty-five years.

PRICE LISTS ON APPLICATION. 427r

Public Notices.

GREENCROFT SCHOOL BOARD.—FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The District Auditor's Act, 1879 (42 Vict., c. 6).

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE BY THE GREENCROFT SCHOOL BOARD, FOR THE YEAR ENDED THE 29th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1883.

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.
To Balance on 29th September, 1882	149 6 3
" Grants from the Committee of Council on Education (including Grants from the Science and Art Department)	250 3 7
" Payments made to the Treasurer by the Rating Authorities at 7d. per pound	260 9 10
" School Fees	150 5 0
" Books and other Articles sold to Children	13 0 0
	£823 4 8

EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Expenses of Administration:		
By Salaries of Officers of the Board	81 14 3	
" Legal and other Expenses of Administration	2 0 0	
		83 14 3
Expenses of Maintenance of Public Elementary Schools:		
" Salaries of Teachers	308 0 9	
" Books, Apparatus, and Stationery	52 3 11	
" Fuel, Light, and Cleaning, Replacement of Furniture, and Repairs to Buildings and Furniture	49 13 7	
" Rents, Rates, Taxes, and Insurance	19 0 0	
" Other Expenses of Maintenance	0 16 3	
		429 14 6
Loans:		
" Repayment of Principal of Loans	68 16 0	
" Interest on Loans	63 4 2	
		132 0 2
" Balance in hands of Treasurer, 29th September		227 15 9
		£823 4 8

MEMORANDUM.

Total Expenditure as above	595 8 11	
Deduct— Parliamentary Grants	250 3 7	
		345 5 4
Net Expenditure		£345 5 4

OUTSTANDING LIABILITIES OF THE BOARD AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

Loans from Public Works Loan Commissioners outstanding £1754 8 0

I Certify that this Account has been examined and passed by the School Board as provided by Sec. 17 of the Act 36 and 37 Vict., c. 86,

R. MITCHINSON, Jun., Chairman, 7th day of November, 1884.
W. W. THOMPSON, Clerk to the School Board, 15th day of October, 1883.

I Hereby Certify that I have compared the entries in the above Statement with the Vouchers and other Documents relating thereto, and that the regulations with respect to such Statement have been duly complied with.

I Hereby further Certify that I have ascertained by Audit the correctness of such Statement, and that the total amount Expended as above by the School Board during the year ended the 29th day of September, 1883, and allowed by me at the Audit, is £595 8s. 11d., and that the Expenditure for the purposes of Act 42 Vict., c. 6, and allowed by me, is £345 5s. 4d.

As Witness my Hand this 28th day of November, 1883,

JAMES RADFORD, District Auditor.

Business Announcements.

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

ROBERT SAVILLE,
HAIRDRESSER,
13, NELSON STREET, CONSETT.
UMBRELLAS COVERED AND REPAIRED ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE.
GRINDING OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

EMIGRANTS! EMIGRANTS!!!
EMIGRANTS Booked to and from all parts of AMERICA and CANADA, also to AUSTRALIA, at the most reasonable rates, compatible with accommodation. Recent Pamphlets on Canada and its Prospects free on receipt of stamp for postage.
JOSEPH WETHERALL, Emigration Agent,
Oxhill, Chester-le-Street, Durham. 326r

SURGICAL DENTISTRY.
HENRY DELLOW,
SURGEON DENTIST,
1, NEW BRIDGE STREET (Corner of Higham Place), NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
17 Years with the late Messrs. NIGHTINGALE.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH of superior make on most Reasonable Terms, and all Surgical Operations skilfully performed. Attendance Daily, 41, New Bridge Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 877q

FURNITURE AND HARDWARE SOLD UPON THE CO-OPERATIVE SYSTEM.
DISCOUNT 2s. IN THE POUND FOR CASH ONLY
WILLIAM WILKINSON,
CATCHGATE,
BEGS to inform his friends that owing to the great increase of business he has had to take the whole of his premises to meet the demands of his customers, and is now prepared with a well selected Stock of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, in all its Branches. Also, HARDWARE, GLASS, CHINA, CLOCKS, WATCHES, JEWELLERY. WEDDING RINGS from the best makers—Wholesale and Retail.
Agent for the New Patent Table Wringing and Mangling Machine, Hickman and Claris Coffin Furniture, and Patent Horse Nails. 371r

Public Notices.

119. 447, 141, are the WINNING NUMBERS for the Flour, Potatoes, and Ham Drawn for at Consett on January 9th. 602s

166. 90, 189, are the WINNING NUMBERS for the Watch, Machine, and Swing Looking Glass Raffled for at Leadgate on New Year's Eve. 599s

134 IS THE WINNING NUMBER for the Albert Raffled, belonging to Mr. R. WAUGH, Kyo. 611s

213. 394, 86, 252, 285, 165, 115, 345, 121, 331, 325, 17, 267, 246, 1, 310, 114 275, 108, 205, 321, 245, 216. Persons having any of these Numbers, on calling at FRED the BARBER's, will get the Pictures.

THE SALE OF WORK in aid of the Benfieldside Church Organ and Bell Fund will be held in Easter Week. 594s

NOTICE.
THE Game upon Medomsley Beat House and Allendale Farms is strictly preserved.—Dogs found on these Farms will be destroyed, and all Persons found Trespassing will be prosecuted. 389p

GIRLS' BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL.
POPLAR HOUSE, SHOTLEY BRIDGE.
PRINCIPAL, MRS. BURTON.
THE Duties of the above School will be resumed (D.V.) on Tuesday, January 22nd. Special Class for DRAWING and PAINTING on Saturday Afternoons. Prospectus on application to the Principal, January 10th, 1884. 610s

SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND CONSETT DISTRICT GAS COMPANY.
ANY Person Removing, Altering, or Tampering with any Meter, Pipe, or other Property of the above Gas Company, or Consuming Gas upon any Premises without first having obtained permission from the Secretary to the said Company, will be prosecuted as the Law directs.—By order,
M. RICHLEY, Secretary.
Gas Office, Shotley Bridge. 148q

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. J. Jenkins.

Trafalgar Street Sale Rooms, Consett.
MR. JOHN JENKINS will SELL BY AUCTION, on Monday, January 14th, 1884, a large quantity of Valuable Household FURNITURE, consisting of Mahogany Drawers and Bookcase; Mahogany Lobby Drawers; Mahogany Bed-room Drawers; 2 Mahogany Centre Tables; large Square Table; 2 Kitchen Tables; 6 Hair-seated Chairs; 2 Easy Chairs; Windsor and Cane Chairs; Sofa, in Leather; 2 Longsettles; Desk Bed; 2 Four-po'ed Bedsteads; Brass and Iron Tester Beds; 3 French Beds; 3 Pairs of Mattresses; Flock Mattress; Feather and Down Beds; Clocks and Timepieces; 2 Excellent Sewing Machines; large Writing Desk; 2 Cornice Poles; 18 Yards of Oil Cloth; 8 Towel Rails; Parlour and Kitchen Fenders and Fire-irons; Pans, Tubs, and Pails; Pictures and Ornaments; together with a large quantity of other useful articles.
Sale to commence at One o'clock. 619s

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. Joseph Oley.

Edmondbyers.
MR. JOSEPH OLEY, instructed by Mr. J. PROUD, who is leaving the above place, will SELL BY AUCTION, the whole of his BLACKSMITHS' TOOLS, NEW AND OLD IRON, &c., &c., on Saturday, January 19th, 1884, at One o'clock prompt. See full particulars in Handbills. 603s

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

TO FARMERS, GRAZIERS, AND OWNERS OF LIVE STOCK.
MESSRS. HEDLEY and BRODIE, Agricultural Auctioneers and Live Stock Salesmen, Town Hall, Consett, are prepared to undertake the Sale by Auction, or otherwise of every description of Live Stock and Agricultural produce, and trust, by careful attention to all commissions with which they may be favoured, to merit the confidence of the Agriculturists of the District. Valuations for probate. Insurances on Farming Stock effected through the London Insurance Corporation (Established 1720). 744h

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

A. PHILLIPSON,
GENERAL AUCTIONEER, VALUER, EMIGRATION AND HOUSE AGENT, &c.,
DIPTON.
TO AMERICA, £4, BY THE BEST LINES.
FURNITURE, &c., Bought for Cash. Business done Promptly, and upon Reasonable Terms.

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

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

By Mr. Thomas M. Dawson.

PERSONS having Goods for Disposal should send them to a General Auction Room,
Where there is a regular Weekly Sale held every Friday.
Where there is always a large attendance of Buyers.
Where the Auctioneer's experience can be trusted to secure a fair price.
Where prompt and ready settlements are always made.
Where the Auctioneer will Purchase the Goods, and thereby undertake the risk of Sale.
Where the Auctioneer will advance Cash prior to the Sale.
Where Goods of every description are regularly Sold.
Where?
AT "THE" AUCTION ROOMS,
6, MARKET STREET, AND 16, HOOD STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
THOMAS M. DAWSON, AUCTIONEER. 835

Business Announcements.

4s. POUND. 4s. POUND.
YE TEA OF YE OLDEN TIME,
SUCH AS OUR FOREFATHERS DID DRINKE AND ENJOIE.
Sold only under the above registered title in 6lb., 4lb., 2lb., 1lb., and ½lb. Tins, air-tight and damp proof.
AGENTS IN EVERY TOWN.

YE TEA OF YE OLDEN TIME.
This Tea is selected and offered to those who are JUDGES of GOOD TEA by an old established London Firm of Tea Merchants with the object of reviving the taste for HIGH-CLASS Tea, such as enriched the tables of our forefathers, and, where such taste exists, supplying the quality to gratify it.

YE TEA OF YE OLDEN TIME.
Our grandparents prided themselves on the quality of the Tea they drank or presented to their friends. "But such Tea cannot be got now-a-days" is a remark often made. "There are, however, as good fish in the sea as ever came out," and as fine Tea to be got to-day as ever was drank.

YE TEA OF YE OLDEN TIME.
But the quality grown of choicest early pickings full of sap, and exquisite, delicate flavour is very limited and the competition for them keen, especially by Russia. They therefore command a high price on the London Market, and cannot be retailed under 4s. per pound.

YE TEA OF YE OLDEN TIME.
AGENT FOR CONSETT:—
JOSEPH MURRAY,
FAMILY GROCER,
Who will be happy to forward by Parcels Post to customers at a distance.
4s. POUND. 4s. POUND.

Business Announcements.

THE NEW
COAL AND STONE BORING MACHINE
From 20s. and 25s. each, complete with Drills; also BURY's and HARDY's PATENT STEEL PICKS and SHAFTS, DRILLS, JUMPERS, and STEMMING GEAR, Wholesale and Retail at
THOMAS BOSTON'S,
NUN STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

MOST MONEY LENT
On Silver Plate, Watches, Jewellery, Diamonds, and other Precious Stones, Plated Goods, Cutlery, Guns, &c., &c., at
J. & E. WILSON'S,
The Oldest Established and Largest Pawnbroking Business in the North of England. Established 1780.
12, PILGRIM STREET
OUR 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 and Silver GUARDS, ALBERTS, &c., on Sale at the Lowest Prices.

Patent Medicines at less than London Store Prices.
A NOTE!
Were the enormous advantages resulting from purchasing "Patent" and other Medicines from J. REDMAYNE, The Newcastle Chymist, properly understood, we have no hesitation in stating that Consett residents requiring such and similar articles would invariably call (when in Newcastle) and consult Mr. REDMAYNE, at 1, NEW BRIDGE STREET, or 97, CLAYTON STREET. Our Consett friends will do well to make 'a note' of this fact! 126s

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11TH, 1884.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

There seems to be no want of good Samaritans at Consett. First one good Christian and then another comes forward with offers of broad acres, until the Local Board, overpowered by generosity, find themselves poised on the horns of a dilemma, from which position they will not venture until the waning of the moon. Caution is a commendable trait of character, but like many another virtue it may be carried to extremes. To the outsider the proffered gift seems to be a very handsome one, but "that all is not gold that glitters" is evident from the skilful manœuvering of a leading member of the Board, whose native sense places him, like Cæsar's wife, above suspicion. If by turning the current of the sewerage by Stanniford am or through Carribees estate the pestilential exhalations are got rid of, the sooner the change is made the better; but if the proposed change is a simple transfer from one point of the compass to the other, the seeming indecision of the Board is in every way justifiable.

To whom are the public indebted for bringing from the shades of the lonely urn that almost forgotten project—the public market? If the Vicar meets with even a shadow of support, the matter will never again be lost sight of. Durham County in the olden time was justly celebrated for the courage and the hardihood of its prelates, nor does the talent seem to have died out, although in modern times it finds a healthier outlet. The Vicar of Consett's energy and tact for carrying to a successful issue whatever he puts his hand to will not be forgotten while a stone of the National Schools remain. Opinion seems to be divided as to the best possible spot for a site. One party has a decided leaning towards the east side of the town, by way of the pig market. These are the economists. The rival faction claim to be heard on the score of beauty and finance—strange companions. They plead, with some show of truth, that if a respectable structure was erected on a line with the Town Hall it would impart a more aristocratic air to Middle Street, by keeping from the gaze of the curious the long serrated lines of ashpits and kindred receptacles of filth. Both schools of philosophy merit the attention of the public, for, as Sir Roger has it—"much could be said on both sides."

There is, however, a phase of this public market question which ought not to be lost sight of—equalization. Consett is at the present moment reaping the lion's share of the district trade; but the introduction of a public market will turn the balance. The crowd hurries to Consett in one continuous stream, leaving the district merchants to bewail the established order of things; but let a public market be built at Consett and it will be seen that if the shopkeepers in the adjacent villages cannot stem the living stream they can at least go with it.

Churches, like nations and individuals, are sometimes cradled in the lap of fortune, and sometimes too their existence is imperilled and their usefulness circumscribed by what Grey very graphically denominates—"chill penury." I am thinking of the United Methodist Free Church, Blackhill, and of the successful struggles of the members to emerge from the incubus of debt under which they have long groaned. They are, however, meagre in numbers, and unless assistance comes from without it would seem as if a generation must needs pass away before the burden can be removed. The present minister of the church—the Rev G. Lord—is a gentleman of excellent abilities, but the charge of the congregation devolved on him at a period when not a few of the most influential members had—owing to circumstances which need not here be detailed—thrown in their lot with another people. I was present at the first public meeting in the district at which Mr Lord took part, and I know that the verdict of the critics was complimentary in the extreme. It would be well for the United Methodist Free Church if Mr Lord could be induced to sojourn in Blackhill a little longer; but the usages of the Methodist bodies in relation to the wherabouts of their ministers is to me incomprehensible; but it is doubtless a provision of wisdom, if not of nature, although it savours somewhat of the feathered denizens of the lakes, better known perhaps as—birds of passage.

Mr Siddell has just made his *debut* in a new character, and although promenading with fickle fair ones beneath the witching misletoe is hardly in his line, he was equal to the emergency, as the neat speech delivered on the occasion conclusively proves. Among working men who have risen superior to the exigencies by which they were environed, I know of no finer specimen than Mr Siddell, of Viewfield. Bluff and outspoken, pride and ostentation forms no part of his character; but beneath a seemingly rough exterior is a gushing fount of genial manly feeling. Although considerable advanced in years, Mr Siddell is hale and hearty; and to see him abroad on a winter morning before the dawn is enough to put to shame, if not to rout, a troup of carpet knights. I met him frequently last winter under such circumstances—his Herculean form enveloped in a huge greatcoat dimly seen in the gathering light, which, together with his silvery looks and flowing beard, invested the well-known figure with a tinge of the supernatural; at least I used to think he would pass for one of the patriarchs risen from the dead. Mr Siddell is well skilled in the ever-recurring questions which creep up between the rival forces of capital and labour, and although there is as a rule comparative peace at Consett, I remember that on one occasion a gang of puddlers clustering together looked as if they meant mischief, but on Mr Siddell approaching the group they vanished in thin air, like so many boys at the sight of their daddy! It is to be hoped that Mr Siddell will be spared to see a good many new years yet in the beautiful residence which the fruit of a useful life has enabled him to call his own.

A curious illustration of the sorrows of single blessedness, and of the instability of earthly things, came under my notice in course of the late festive season. It seems that several of the leading firms on the Tyne are in the habit of giving their officials an annual treat in either cash or kind. An aged gentleman who has, alas! no wife to grind his corn, was lately the recipient of such a gift which, in his case, took the form of a real Christmas goose, and from reasons best known to himself he did not deem it advisable to entrust his landlady with his treasure, but choose rather to carry Mrs Goose to the house of a neighbour, by whom the necessary roasting was duly attended to, after which the goose was again handed over to its rightful owner; but as the landlady was not in the secret the goose could not, of course, be taken to where our friend "hung out;" hence he had no alternative but to carry it with him to a small office set apart for his especial use. All's well that ends well, says the proverb, but the ending well—that's the rub. The steam whistles shrieked, and the buzzar blew the call to breakfast, and the goose was unfolded from its winding sheet and laid with pardonable pride on a three-legged stool near by. Turning, however, to go outside for a moment, a roving gent of canine specie chanced to enter in the interim, and pouncing on the tempting goose took to his heels and decamped in a twinkling! Great was the consternation and dismay of the bachelor when he returned to his sanctum. Rushing to the door in a towering passion he forthwith charged a harmless Irishman who was passing with having stolen his goose. Paddy burst into a fit of uncontrollable laughter, and the bereft man, setting that down as a sure indication of guilt, was about to knock him down, when tidings came of the whereabout of the real sinner, who in an out-of-the-way corner was making short work of his victim. You see, reader, that there is still such a thing in the world as—many a slip 'tween the cup and the lip.

ROUNDABOUT NOTES.

[BY "RAMBLER."]

The art of disguising seems to be at Christmas and New Year's time a wonderful achievement in the colliery districts, and generally causes a great deal of harmless fun both with old and young; at least, such has been the case at the Spen. It seems that two young women, who are very fond of clothing themselves in male attire, dressed themselves a few nights ago in their brother's clothes, including felt hat, top coat, and the indespensible short "cutty" pipe, &c. They sallied forth arm-in-arm to a public-house about a quarter of mile away; and entering the bar they partook of drink. On returning home again they encountered an old man whom they knew very well, and who was, to use a nautical phrase, about "half-seas over." Accordingly they took their acquaintance by the shoulders, and gave him a good shaking, afterwards running away to practise some other freaks further on. Meanwhile the old man's cries of "Thieves!" "Murder!" &c., brought a few people round, and the said individual, waxing very valiant, all at once, instantly gave chase, but the young women were too nimble for him, and like many a good soldier who

"——fights and runs away,
Lives to see another day."

* *

Teuching the permanent enlargement of the *Guardian*, an esteemed correspondent writes as follows:—"Allow me to congratualate the proprietor on the very great improvement effected by the enlargement of your valuable journal, which is the best medium, as a local paper, in this and surrounding district, for advertising any kind of business or whatever else may require prominent notice; and the manner in which publicity is given to all public matters of interest transacted in Consett and all adjacent villages. I am sure we are much indebted to the *Guardian* for the vast amount of news that we read, that we should otherwise never be cognisant of but for your paper, I am also glad to notice that you have opened a column for the Young Folks, and I trust many boys and girls will avail themselves of the opportunity of improving and developing their intellects."

* *

Some remarkable instances of longevity have recently appeared in the Leadgate Local Board district. I am informed that during the past month, five old persons, all resident within the limits comprised in this district, have died, whose united ages reach up to 380 years, thus giving an average of 76 years to each person.

* *

Speaking of longevity at Leadgate reminds me of a similar incident which occurred at Tow Law, on Saturday last. Amongst the guests present at the Old Folk's Tea, given in the Mechanics' Hall, was a worthy dame in her 100th year. Special provision had been made for this good lady, and a carriage was sent to convey her to the scene of action, but she refused all vehicular aid, and walked to the hall and back again without any assistance whatever.

BISHOP AUCKLAND POLICE CASES.—On Monday, Wm. Foster, tailor, Mount Pleasant, Crook, was fined 10s and costs for trespassing on the Stanley Incline, Crook, on the 19th ult.—A lad named Wm. Lee was fined 10s and costs or 14 days' imprisonment for ill-using a pony at Bank Foot, Crook, by beating it with a stick.—Henry Hindmarch and Robert Silvester Murray, Patrick O'Brien, James O'Brien John McAllister, Margaret McAllister, and Margaret Ann McAllister were charged on Monday with committing a breach of the peace at Crook, on the night of Christmas Day. They had all been at a dance, and when they left were dissatisfied with their treatment. Some went to an adjoining house, where spirits were partaken of, and later joined their companions, when a fight among themselves arose. The women were bound over to keep the peace; the men were discharged.

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

A CONSETT MAN "ON THE SPREE."—At the Durham City Petty Sessions, Charles O'Connor, labourer, of Consett, was charged with drunkenness and disorderly conduct in Milburngate, on the 30th ult. The defendant was found fighting with another man, named Hugh O'Brien, working at Brasside.—He admitted the offence, and was ordered to pay a fine of 5s and costs.

THE WEATHER.—The remarkable mildness of the present winter still continues, the temperature of the present month has been seldom below 40 dgs., and for the most part nearly 50 dgs. (at four feet from the ground). It was much the same for the same period last year. The rainfall for the past week, ending on Wednesday, has been rather heavy, being 1·53 inches—rather more than fell during the whole of last January. The barometer, as usual at this season of the year, has been high. Winds have been variable, both as to force and direction. The sky has been overcast nearly the whole of the present month.

THE PROPOSED COVERED MARKET.—"Elfin" writing in yesterday's (Thursday's) *Newcastle Chronicle* says:—A proposal to provide a new market at Consett is attracting much attention in that district. It has been suggested that Middle Street should be utilized for the purpose, but a counter proposal has been made in favour of another spot, and the Board have advisedly left the matter over for a month. The selection of a site may be very properly left with the Board to decide, but the turning up of the subject brings into prominence the aspect of Middle Street as the principal thoroughfare of the town. It is a street that is both a credit and a disgrace to Consett. It contains many excellent business premises which exhibit enterprise on the part of the tradesmen, it is well paved and cemented, and with its ornamental fountain at one end, and admirable police buildings at the other, it boasts much that is modern, neat, and attractive. All these things, however, are overshadowed by the deplorable wretchedness seen at the opposite side of the street. Several rows of miserable-looking cottages run in parallel lines on this ground, and the ash middens joined to these, with the altogether bare and uneven character of the site on which they stand, gives one the idea of a poverty-stricken place in the truest sense of the word. On the one hand, in fact, we have what appears to be a miserable pit village of the olden time, on the other a modern thoroughfare; the old cottages confront the visitor who, entering from the Police Court end, looks to the left; on the right he has before him many proofs of modern enterprise. Contrasts are sometimes pleasant, but the contrast presented by the main street at Consett is neither agreeable nor creditable. Whatever the Local Board members may do with respect to the proposed market, they should at any rate make some attempt to improve the appearance of what is confessedly the general meeting and marketing place of the inhabitants for miles around.

BLACKHILL.

We regret that we omitted to mention the name of Mr A. Struthers from the list of vocalists at the Consett Football Club supper held on New Year's night, that gentleman favouring, in his usual able manner "The Death of Nelson."

RAILWAY EMPLOYES' SUPPER.—On Saturday night, the annual supper of the North-Eastern employés at Consett Station, better known as the "Rolleymen's Supper," was held at Mr W. Robson's, Derwent Hotel. Ample justice was done to the good things provided, which reflected the highest credit on the worthy host and hostess. The cloths being removed, Mr Wm. Hay, as usual, occupied the chair, the vice-chair being taken by Mr Joseph Eltringham. After the customary loyal and patriotic toasts had been given from the chair and duly honoured by the company, the vice-chairman submitted "The Trade of the District," which was responded to by Messrs McDonald, Elsdon, and G. Christopher. The vice-chairman proposed "Success to the North Eastern Railway Company," and the toast was replied to by Mr Carr, Leadgate, and Mr T. John. The vice-chairman likewise gave "The Coal and Iron Trades of the District," which was acknowledged by Messrs Wm. Watson and David Dunn. The chairman proposed the tyast of the evening, "The North-Eastern Rolleymen," which was warmly pledged and drunk with musical honours. Messrs J. Hay, Hill, Mason, Reed, and Wm. Billany responded. The latter gentleman, having recently married, gave the young men in the room some good advice concerning the happiness claimed for matrimonial bliss. "The Licensed Victuallers," proposed by the vice-chairman, was spoken to by Messrs Longstaff, Richardson, and Christopher. The chairman next gave "The Building Trade," responded to by Messrs J. Lovett and Joseph Eltringham. The vice-chairman submitted "The Visitors," to whice Messrs Elsdon and Dixon replied. "The Host and Hostess," by the chairman was responded to by Mr William Robson. The other toasts included "The Chairman and Vice-Chairman," "Our next merry meeting," &c. The harmony of the evening was ably sustained by songs from the following gentlemen, Messrs Dixon, Richardson, Hill, Lowes, Matthews, and others. Mr Wm. Billany as M.C. gave the utmost satisfaction. After the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," and "God save the Queen," the company broke up at a late hour highly delighted with the evening's entertainment.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

BENFIELDSIDE PARISH CHURCH.—A sale of work, in aid of St. Cuthbert's Organ and Bell Fund, is to be held in Easter Week. The enlarged and beautiful Church was reopened last July, through the generous help of the inhabitants of the district, free of debt; but as the building expenses exceeded the estimate, a sum of at least £200 is still required for a suitable organ, which cannot be obtained for less than £400. A further sum of money is also needed for two new bells. The choir has recently been strengthened by the accession of several new members, and is still carefully trained by Mr. C. Stephenson, the very efficient choir-master of Benfieldside Church.

ANNUAL SUPPER AND PRESENTATION.—The annual supper of the Shotley Bridge Primitive Methodist Choir was held in the schoolroom, Wood Street, on Wednesday evening, when about eighty sat down to a splendid repast, provided by Mr W. Urwin, of Front Street. After doing justice to the good things provided, and the cloths were removed, Mr W. Telford in a humorous little speech, told how one of the members of the choir had entered into the ties of matrimony, and that Mr James Ridley who had for so many years been associated with the choir, was about to be presented with a token of the esteem by which the members of the choir had held him. Mr Telford called upon Mr W. Urwin (the conductor of the choir) to make the presentation. Mr Urwin then handed to Mr James Ridley a beautiful electro-plated teapot and cruet stand, the gift of the members of the choir. Mr Ridley very feelingly replied and thanked them all for their kindness. He trusted that the sight of the beautiful articles would ever remind him of his kind friends at Shotley Bridge.—A vote of thanks to the ladies for the equisite choice they made in purchasing the articles, was moved by Mr W. Campbell, seconded by Mr James Leadbitter, and carried by acclamation. The rest of the evening was spent in singing and a few innocent games, to the delight of the young friends, and all retired home perfectly satisfied with the evening's entertainment.

MEDOMSLEY.

DISTRICT TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.—The first of a series of public temperance meetings was held in the Templars' Hall, Medomsley, on Saturday evening, under the auspices of the above Society, and was presided over by the president Mr John Weddle, who spoke briefly on the objects and aims of the meetings. Very homely addresses were delivered by Messrs John Teasdale and William Robinson. At intervals the Misses Annie and Minnie Robinson, assisted by Master Joseph Robinson, rendered some choice melodies and hymns in a most creditable manner. The friends at Medomsley are accomplishing a noble work in trying to stay the ravages of intemperance. There are connected with the above Society something like between 60 and 70 members, and besides the above, the Sons of Temperance at Medomsley can boast of a membership of 70 adult members, whose united efforts ought to wield some mighty influence for good.

LANCHESTER.

ACCIDENT.—About eleven o'clock on Wednesday night, as two or three workmen employed in the erection of the New Primitive Methodist Chapel at Lanchester were engaged in dissolving some pitch or composition in a large chaldron, having prepared a great fire for the purpose, a loud explosion was heard, and a massive stone slab lying in front of the fire came to pieces and flew about in all directions. A lump of stone caught one of the workmen named Matthew Brown, on the left side of the breast, and he was so severely injured that he had to be assisted home. Some of the flying missiles also struck the other masons, but none of them were much hurt thereby.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

CO-OPERATIVE INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETY.—The fifty-fourth quarterly meeting of the above society was held last Saturday evening, the chair being taken by Mr Philip Reay, president. The results for the year 1883 are as follows:—Total cash received, £54,763; making a profit of £8,996. The total business done by the society is £226,919, realising a gross profit of £46,957, and a net profit of £35,385; there has been a subscribed capital of £9,587; drawn from share capital, £28,764; including interest and dividend, showing that £19,177 has been distributed more than has been subscribed. The total value of the assets is £14,135 15s 11½d. The aggregate sales in all departments for the quarter ending December, 1883, are £15,554 11s 1d, an increase of £1,253 over the last quarter; and has produced a net profit of £2,472 5s 11d; which is appropriated as follows:—£125 2s 6d interest on share capital; £1 14s 0d to interest on savings' bank capital; £20 0s 0d to reserve fund; £2,317 10s 0d to dividend on members' checks at 3s in the pound, and the balance of £7 19s 5d to be carried forward. The total number of members is 1,650. Election of officers: Mr P. Reay, re-elected president; Mr Wm. Bell, secretary; Mr Thomas Carr, treasurer; and Messrs A. Hendry, R. Tindale, and W. Porter, jun., committee; Mr Daniel Crabb, for Langley Park branch, and Mr G. Sterling, auditor.

CATCHGATE.

RED STAR FOOTBALL CLUB.—The first annual social gathering, under the auspices of the above club, took place on New Year's eve, in the Greencroft Board Schools, which were kindly granted for the occasion by Mr R. Mitchinson. An excellent supper was provided by Mrs Martin, of Catchgate, and ample justice was done to it by upwards of forty couples. Miss Brown and Miss Jenny Irwin presided at the tables. The repast finished, part of the company indulged in the terpsichorean exercise, which was conducted by Mr Johnson (M.C.) in a very efficient manner. The remainder of the company upheld the time honoured game of forfeits, and the fun which they occasioned was immensely enjoyed. Singing also formed a prominent part of the evening's entertainment. Thus passed away the last hours of the departed year, and with them the company, highly satisfied with the night's enjoyment. Great credit is due to Messrs Mason (captain), Humphrey, Rutherford, and the Committee, for the quiet and orderly manner in which the programme was carried out.

GREENCROFT SCHOOL BOARD.—At the monthly meeting of the above Board, held at the Schoolroom, Catchgate, on Monday, there were present, Mr R. Mitchinson (Chairman), Mr H. Greener (Vice-Chairman), Mr Brown and Mr J. Orr.—The minutes of last meeting were read, and on the motion of Mr Orr, seconded by Mr Brown, the same were confirmed.—The Clerk laid before the Board the result of the examination of the Schools, from which it appeared that the total grant earned for the year was £282 1s. 1s. being £6 6s. 1d. in excess of the sum allowed by Government. Also the result of the Drawing Examination, of which 60 passed as fair 55 good, 3 excellent, with pupil teachers and monitors, 62 failures only. Five prizes were given, in addition to compasses in case, a box of water colours and one box of drawing instruments The 55 who passed will receive cards of merit, and the extra prizes mentioned above, will be presented to the receipients by the Managers. No report was received form the Master, or from the Attendance Officer, in consequence of the holidays. It was decided that the meetings in future should be held at 5·30 p.m. instead of at 2 o'clock.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

A SUMMER VISITOR.—The weather has been unusually genial and spring-like at Chester-le-Street during the past few weeks. As evidence of this, Mr Thomas Burn, of the Lambton Arms Hotel, caught a beautiful butterfly in his garden on Wednesday. The little visitor has been viewed by a large number of persons.

WESLEYAN METHODISM.—The quarterly meeting has been held at Chester-le-Street, presided over by the Rev. James Duff, superintendent, supported by the Rev. R. Lang. The stewards presented a cheering financial statement, showing the income for the quarter to exceed the expenditure by £20. The numerical report given by Mr Duff was also pleasing. The total number of members in the circuit is 805, with 75 on trial, a nett increase for theq uarter of 21. The stewards were thanked for their services and re-elected—Mr George Heppell for a fourth and Mr Phillip Kirkup for a third year. The secretary (Mr George Bowman) was also thanked for his services and re-appointed. The circuit is in a very hopeful condition.

LINTZ COLLIERY.

AMATEUR BICYCLE CLUB.—A five miles handicap was held by this club on New Year's Day. A fair attendance of spectators paid gate. The track was in splendid condition, the recent alterations to which have rendered it equal to any in the North of England, and great credit is due to Mr W. Johnson, the groundsman, in bringing it to its present high state of perfection. Results:—1st prize timepiece, 2nd a teapot, 3rd gold scarf pin. Heat 1—J. Robson, WABC, 150 yards, 1; W. Ferguson, WABC, 100, 2; Wm. Temple, Dipton, 700, 3; J. Turnbull, WABC, 1,000, 4; W. Braidford, WABC, 700, 5; John Marshall, WABC, 220, 0; W. Lowes, Sunniside, 200, 0; D. Harris, Spen, 550, 0. Heat 2—W. Harkes, WABC, 220, 1; W. Gladders, WABC, 700, 2; T. Turnbull, WABC, 400, 3; W. Coleman, WABC, 100, 4; W. Black, Leadgate, 100, 0; Thomas Scott, Stanley, ABC, 160, 0; A. Temple, Dipton, 700, 0; S. Bainbridge, 900, 0. Heat 3—John Little, Lintz ABC, 350, 1; W. Prittoe, Lintz ABC, 175, 2; C. Harrison, Lintz ABC, 500, 3; W. Haughan, Lintz ABC, 700, 4; W. Turnbull, Lintz ABC, 1,250, 5; W. Ritson, Stanley ABC, 160, 0; P. Allen, Burnopfield, 750, 0; P. Graham, Dipton, 750, 0. Final heat—Robson, †; Prittoe, †. Harkes rushed off with a tremendous spurt and succeeded in catching Little in a lap and a half, and rode at his back wheel for a mile or so, when Robson spurted past, closely followed by Prittoe, with Ferguson lying off at a short distance. At the third mile Prittee went to the front, and then commenced the most splendid race there has ever been since the track was made. Both men were abreast when the bell rang for the last lap, the excitement of the crowd around the judge being intense. On entering the straight Robson was two yards behind, but made a splendid spurt for the tape, which they both touched simultaneous, by a dead heat being at once declared. Time, 18 min. 49 sec.

TOW LAW.

TREAT TO THE OLD FOLKS.—On Saturday the second annual free tea and treat to the old folks over sixty years of age, provided by the Good Templars' Lodge, assisted by contributions from the trades people of the town &c., was held in the Mechanics' Hall, when over 130 took tea, their united ages amounting to over 8,450 years, one old lady who walked to the hall being in her hundreth year. The hall was nicely decorated with evergreen and mottoes, cabs were used to convey the old people to and from the hall, and between the tea and meeting an unlimited supply of pipes and bacca were provided. At seven o'clock a public meeting was held, presided over by the Rev M. H. Simpson (vicar), and appropriate addresses delivered by the Revs E. Blair Allen (Wesleyan Minister), T. C. Hughes (curate), H. P. Slade (Presbyterian), and R. Gillender (Primitive Methodist), and readings by Mr J. W. Schofield. An interesting programme of songs and instrumental music was provided by Mr John Hughes, assisted by Mrs Hughes and Messrs Ayton, Raine, and Macintosh. Votes of thanks brought the meeting to a close. There was a very large audience present, the room being crowded to the door.

BURNOPFIELD.

EVANGELASTIC SERVICES.—On Sunday last, Mr Emerson Davison, known as the ex-champion wrestler and Sheffield Hero, conducted special evangelistic services in the Presbyterian Church, Co-operative Store Hall, Burnopfield, and at both afternoon and evening services the building was crowded.

WASKERLEY.

EXTENSION OF THE CONSETT WATERWORKS.—The Waskerley Waterworks' Company are extending their pipes from Ferryhill to Mainsforth. The work is expected to be completed in three weeks. The boon will be invaluable, as at present the water has to be carried above a mile.

MARLEY HILL.

CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL.—On Thursday night last the annual treat to the scholars attending the Marley Hill Church Sunday School was again given by Mr J. Gilchrist of Longfield House, Marley Hill. An excellent tea was provided and was partaken of by about 230 children. After tea a magic lantern next claimed their attention, and to judge from their numerous and hearty peals of laughter, the efforts of their kind host to provide amusement for them had been, as usual, successful. Prizes were then given to the successful children, and after a few remarks from the vicar (Rev S. White), hearty cheers were given for Mr and Mrs Gilchrist. The singing of an evening hymn brought the proceedings to a close.

TANFIELD LEA.

SAD DEATH FROM DROWNING.—An inquest was held on Saturday afternoon by Mr John Graham, coroner, at the Colliery Office, Tanfield Lea, on the body of a boy named Charles Stanton, aged seven years, who was drowned at that place on the previous day. The lad was in the act of passing over a plank bridge six inches wide, which crosses a burn in the rear of the houses at the above place, on Friday afternoon, when his foot slipped and he fell into the water, which was in high flood. He was at once swept away, and although the cries of his companion brought assistance, he was carried down the stream to the Causeway Arch (a mile from where he fell in), where the masonry brought him up. He was instantly hauled out, but was quite dead when found.—A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

LANGLEY.

BLUE RIBBON CONCERT.—On Saturday night the members of the Blue Ribboh Army held a grand concert at Langley Moor, in the Methodist New Connexion Chapel. There was on the whole a very fair audience, and the entertainment was of a very high order. The singers all did their part in an admirable manner. Mr Joseph Gair presided. Votes of thanks to all who had taken part in the arrangement and carrying out of the programme concluded the proceedings.

ESH COLLIERY.

ASSAULT ON THE POLICE NEAR WATERHOUSES.—On Wednesday, at the Durham County Petty Sessions, two young men, namen Henry Fairish and John Fairish, were charged with assaulting P.C. Stephenson, at Waterhouses, on the 22nd September last. It appeared that about eight o'clock on the night in question the officer was called to quell a disturbance in Mr Coxon's house. He went, and there found some half-dozen men fighting. He ordered them out, including defendants. The two defendants threw stones into the house and at the officer, who warded off the stones as well as he could. Several panes were broken by the stones they threw.—Defendants had absconded, and had only been apprehended. Other men had been fined for the offence.—They were each fined 10s and costs.

WOLSINGHAM.

On Saturday night, a tea was given to the Wolsingham Wesleyan Sunday School children. This was followed by a magic lantern exhibition.

STACK FIRE.—Shortly before one o'clock, yesterday (Thursday) morning, a fire was discovered in a field in which three large stacks of hay, belonging to Mr Wm Robinson, Doctor Pasture Farm, near Wolsingham, were standing. The largest of the stacks, which contained about 12 tons of old land had, was totally destroyed, and but for the strong wind which prevailed and kept away the flames, the remaining two stacks would have shared a similar fate. The stack was insured. The origin of the fire is unknown.

WEARDALE.

STEALING DUCKS.—On Tuesday morning, John Nattress, East Blackdean, and Ralph Harrison, Sedeny (the latter a deaf muto), were apprehended by Sergt. F. White, at St. John's Chapel, on a charge of stealing ducks, the property of Mr Pratt, farmer of Hill Top.

THE LEAD MINES.—We are informed that the number of miners now employed at these mines will be further augmented; as a number will be placed in Stanhope mines, which have been in course of preparation for some time past, the levels, &c., having become dilapidated.

RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.—At Friday's meeting—Mr C. Bainbridge in the chair—the Surveyor's plan of a water supply for Frosterley was approved for adoption.—Messrs Ord and Maddison consent, jointly with the owners of cottage property, to furnish funds for making a good water supply available at Hill End.—The Local Board and the Guardians are still in conflict as to the terms and conditions of water supply for fire-protection and general purposes at the Workhouse, and the Surveyor will try a further interview with the Local Board.

BOARD OF GUARDIANS.—At the usual meeting on Friday, Mr C. Bainbridge presided, and there was a large attendance.—The Board unanimously assented to resolutions, moved by Mr Snowball, and seconded by Mr Curry, to purchase 3,675 yds. of land for Workhouse frontage, to expend a sum not exceeding £413 8s 9d on such purchase, to erect a wall, an entrance, and gateway, and make an approach from the main highway, to the expenditure of a sum not exceeding £136 11s 3d for incidental purposes, and to the borrowing of £550 for the purposes aforesaid, such sum to be repaid by thirty equal annual payments of principal, with interest on the balance remaining unpaid each year.—Mr Maddison moved instructions to the Surveyor to ascertain the cost of land owned by Mr M'Callum in contiguity to the Workhouse, though the proposal to thus increase the expenditure was assailed by Dr Livingstone, Messrs Robinson, Walton, and others, as an unnecessary strain upon the burdens of an impoverished Union.—The Guardians out of their own pockets discharged the Workhouse Master's account for the festive tea to the Workhouse inmates on New Year's Day.—At the Master's suggestion, the Visiting Committee agreed to take measures, by spiking the wall, or by other means, to secure a safe custody of tramps, some of whom had recently escaped.

SWALWELL.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—On Sunday morning, and every evening during the present week, Mr Emerson Davison, the well-known evangelist, has been engaged in conducting a series of special services in the above church.

TEMPERANCE ENTERTAINMENT.—On Wednesday night, before a large audience in the Board Schools, a public temperance meeting was held, the chair being occupied by Mr Thompson, who was supported on the platform by Mr W. D. Stephens, J.P., of Newcastle; Misses Lumley, Spencer, &c. During the evening selections of music were ably rendered by the choir, solos and recitations by Misses Lumley, Morton, Misses Forster, Lawson, &c. Mr Stephens delivered a stirring address, which was enthusiastically received. At the close several persons donned the blue ribbon.

DEATH OF MR THOMAS ROBSON.—We have to announce the death of Mr Thomas Robson, who was for many years in the employment of Messrs Crowley, Millington, and Co. The deceased was a keen and true observer of natural history, especially in zoology ornithology. He contributed to the "Zoologist" and other papers. Twenty-two years ago he was obliged to leave this country owing to bad health, and by the advice of his medical adviser he went to Constantinople, where he derived great benefit, following his favourite pursuits with unabated resolution, and collecting a large quantity of eggs and skins, a small portion of which he sent to England to be disposed of amongst his numerous friends. In private life the deceased was unassuming, and was a kind friend and a genial companion.

DIPTON.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.—On New Year's Day the annual tea was held at the above place, which was preceded by a bazaar, which was opened by Dr Mantle, of West Stanley. The doctor offered a few complimentary remarks on the earnest endeavours of the Primitive Methodists. Afterwards business commenced briskly, the sales proceeding during the tea, which was partaken of by upwards of 140 persons. During the last three months this society has raised more than £52, consequently the debt now resting on this chapel will be cleared off. The members propose to erect a new school, and operations will be probably commenced this spring.—Sermons were preached on Sunday, Dec. 30th to good congregations, morning and evening by Mr D. Reed, of Leadgate; and in the afternoon by Mr T. Brabban, of Marley Hill.

PRESENTATION AND SUPPER.—On New Year's eve, the officials of Dipton Colliery, met at the house of Mr William Darling, Fox Inn, to present Mr W. C. Murray, surveyor, with a splendid timepiece, also Mrs Murray with a beautiful keeper ring, in commemoration of their wedding. A grand supper was provided, to which everyone did full justice. After supper, Mr George Eltringham was elected to the chair, and Mr John Curry to the vice-chair. The chairman, in opening the meeting in his usual enthusiastic style, gave an interesting speech on "Life and duty." He dwelt principally on courage, fidelity, perseverance, and economy, and in conclusion, congratulated Mr W. C. Murray on the success that had already crowned his efforts in obtaining knowledge. He subsequently requested the vice-chairman to make the presentation.—In response, Mr Curry said it gave him much pleasure to have to perform this honourable duty, and he wished the recipients long life and much enjoyment, hoping that they would in future years look on their presents with joy.—Mr W. C. Murray thanked the officials, on behalf of Mrs Murray and himself, and said he could not express his extreme gratitude for the kindness shewn to him by the officials, and trusted that the same good feeling might exist, and that they might work together in harmony for years to come.—After the usual toast, "The health of the visitors" was drunk, to which Messrs J. A. Curry, J. Coulthard, and C. Cain responded. Mr Joseph Taylor favoured with a song entitled "The dewdrop on the rose," which was given in good style. "The health of the host and hostess" was proposed by Mr W. C. Murray and acknowledged by Mr Darling.—A vote of thanks to the chairman and vice-chairman brought a merry meeting to a close.

CRAGHEAD.

A COLLIERY FIREMAN DROWNED.—Yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, an inquest was held at the house of Mr Reuben Oxley, Punch Bowl Inn, Craghead, before Mr John Graham, coroner, on the body of John Jackles (27), of Chapel Row, employed as a fireman at Craghead Collieries, who was accidentally drowned early on the morning of Wednesday last. It appears that about six a.m. the deceased was assisting the overman, Edwd. Herron, to remove the "lengtheners" (or chains) attached to the water cage, prior to commencing to work coal. Whilst in a stooping position Jackles overbalanced himself and suddenly slipped off the scaffold, and, falling into the swamp below, was drowned. When the body was recovered, life was quite extinct.—The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned."

CRAGHEAD AND HOLMSIDE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.—A new co-operative society was commenced at Craghead Colliery about four months ago, in premises erected by the colliery owners several years since for a similar purpose, but where a private business had been carried on for some time prior to the commencement of the present society. About sixty of the workmen were enabled to start the present society, principally through the kindness of Mr W. Hedley, J.P., the owner of the colliery, granting many very favourable privileges, besides lending very substantial help to commence the the undertaking. At the first quarterly meeting, a dividend of 2s 9d in the pound was declared, and confidence was expressed for the future success of the society. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the colliery-owners for their assistance.

WITTON GILBERT.

DRUNK ON LICENSED PREMISES.—At the Durham County Petty Sessions, on Wednesday George Leybourne was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of George Emmerson, at Witton Gilbert, on the 27th ult. He pleaded guilty, and was fined 5s and costs.—George Johnson, whose wife appeared, was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of Mrs Hunter, at Witton Gilbert, on the 27th of December.—Defendant was fined 5s and costs.

THE NEW YEAR.—On New Year's eve a watch night service was held in St. Michael's Church. Shortly after the ushering in of the New Year the Rev C. F. Carr, rector, gave a very homely and earnest exhortation, from Deuteronomy iv. chapter, 4th verse, "Ye are alive every one of you this day."—On New Year's Day, a lecture on the life of Doctor Adam Clark was delivered in the Wesleyan Chapel, by the Rev H. Bunting, Durham. There was a large audience, which listened with interest to the thrilling narrative of the lecturer.

Mr J. H. Auckland, late organist and choirmaster of Ryton Parish Church, has been appointed choirmaster of St John's Church, Newcastle.

AN AMATEUR BEGGAR IN TROUBLE.—At the Marlborough-street Police Court London, on Tuesday, Mr H. S. MacLauchlan, a journalist, was charged with being a suspicious character. A policeman stated that he was on duty between two and four o'clock on Tuesday morning near Hanover Square. At a quarter to three he saw the prisoner loitering in the square, and told him to go home. The prisoner took no notice, but continued walking round the place. The witness subsequently asked the prisoner to give an account of himself, as he thought he looked like a bad character. The prisoner replied that he was a journalist. He was then taken into custody and charged with being a suspicious character. On Tuesday morning the prisoner referred the witness to a gentleman living in Charlotte Street; but this gentleman said he knew nothing about him, except that a man of the same name had been a journalist some time ago. In reply to the magistrate, the prisoner now stated that he was a journalist, and had been commissioned by the editor of his paper to make inquiries into the profits of begging in London. He disguised himself as he now appeared, and begged all day on Monday in the West End. He sang songs with a man who had a banjo, and afterwards sold matches. Mr Newton: Was your arrest, then, to be made part of your article? Prisoner: No; that was unrehearsed; but it is a useful and not disagreeable experience.—Mr Newton: Why did you not explain yourself properly to the officer? If you are engaged in those rash enterprises you must be prepared for such unfortunate *denouements* as this is.—Prisoner, to the policeman: Did I not explain to you that I was a journalist, and engaged in my professional work? The Policeman: No; you only said you were a journalist, and you refused to give any other account of yourself.—Prisoner: My recollection of the fact is different. You should study "Stokes on Memory."—Mr Newton said he must have a witness to confirm the prisoner's story; and the prisoner thereupon called Mr Hawks, who stated that he was secretary to the proprietor of the *Echo*, and knew the prisoner to be a member of the staff of that paper. He had known him as a journalist for five years. He was of good character. Last week the editor arranged with the prisoner to get himself up as a beggar and do a day's begging in the streets of London. The prisoner was to write some articles on his experience. It was not arranged that the prisoner was to be taken into custody or committed for a term of imprisonment. No doubt either of these experiences would be useful to a journalist.—By the prisoner: Did you dress me in my present get-up in your chambers in the Temple on Monday morning?—The witness: Yes.—The prisoner: Did you make these tears in my clothes? The witness: Yes.—Mr Newton said he was satisfied as to the prisoner's story, and he would be discharged. He trusted that the unpleasantness he had encountered would make him more cautious if he should meditate other enterprises of this kind.—[Mr MacLauchlan was for some time employed in this district and was well known to many of our readers. His contributions to our columns were always interesting and instructive.—Ed. *C. G.*]

LEADGATE LOCAL BOARD.

The ordinary meeting of this Board was held in the Reading-room, Leadgate, on Wednesday afternoon, the Chairman, Mr R. W. Shaw, presiding. There were also present—Messrs W. Brown, W. Keenleyside, J. H. Hudson, J. Davison, R. Todd, G. Nicholson, L. Nicholson, W. Robson, W. H. Hedley, T. Lammonby, J. J. Hedley, the Clerk (Mr M. Coupland), and the Surveyor (Mr T. Longstaff.)

The minutes of last meeting were read and, after confirmation, signed by the Chairman.

ALLEGED BREACH OF THE BYE-LAWS.

The Inspector said he had, as instructed, served a notice on Mr Thos. Severs, of East Castle Colliery, relative to the alterations he was making to Iveston old pit cabin, without having first consulted the Board on the matter. That gentleman had since forwarded a letter to the Board to the effect that he intended to make the cabin fit for keeping any machinery in that would be used in the working of the old pit, which he intended to do; and, therefore, considered that as he had not made any addition to the cabin, the Board could not interfere with him.

MR BROWN: The members were lead to believe at last meeting that Mr Severs intended making the cabin into a cow-byre or stable; but as the matter now stands, I do not think we can say anything further on the subject.

MR ROBSON: It was Mr Severs original idea to make a stable of it, but since the notice was served on him, he seems to have changed his mind.

MR HUDSON: At any rate, Mr Severs had no right to commence working the colliery without getting the consent of the villagers, and afterwards ours, as custodians of the village green.

MR BROWN: That is quite right; the land was left by the Claverings for the use of the villagers to get their coal from, and he should, therefore, have gained the consent of the inhabitants of the village, before breaking the land.

MR G. NICHOLSON: I think we had better instruct our Inspector to ascertain from Mr Severs if he has the full consent of the villagers to work the land left for their use; and then we, as custodians of the land, could either approve or disapprove of it, as we thought proper.

This course was agreed to.

RATE FOR THE ENSUING HALF-YEAR.

The Clerk intimated that he had made out a rate of 8d. in the pound on house property, and 2d. on land for the coming six months, which required the approval and seal of the Board before being issued.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, the rate was sealed.

MR. BROWN'S NOTICE OF MOTION.

MR BROWN said that since he gave notice to move that the hour of meeting be changed from three to five p.m., he had completely altered his opinion on that matter. They only met in that place on suffrage, and if they altered the time of meeting it would infringe on the time allotted to the members of the Reading-room. This he would not like to see done, and therefore, begged to withdraw his motion until they had a proper Board-room erected, which they greatly needed.

MR HUDSON: I as seconder of Mr Brown's proposed motion, am somewhat loth to withdraw without first positively knowing that there has been any complaint from the member of the Reading-room.

MR BROWN: I have had several.

MR HUDSON: Oh, then I will withdraw with you for the time being.

MR NICHOLSON: As treasurer of the reading-room, I can say that I have heard no complaints about the projective alteration of the time of meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said it would be a pity to infringe on the reading-room hours, and thought Mr Brown's withdrawal of motion was quite proper.

The subject then subsided.

THE PROPOSED NEW BOARD-ROOM.

The Clerk stated that there had been no reply forthcoming from the Consett Iron Company with regard to appointing a time and place for a committee from the Board to confer with the general manager, with regard to the purchase of a site on which to erect a Board-room, &c. He (the Clerk) could hardly understand why the Company had not replied to his communication, as they had previously been so punctual in answering letters sent from the Board to them.

The CHAIRMAN thought they should again write to the Company, and if no reply was forthcoming, then negotiate for another site.

MR BROWN thought the Clerk's communication must have been overlooked by the Company, and, therefore, moved that the Clerk be instructed to again write to the Company on the matter.

This was seconded by MR KEENLEYSIDE and agreed to.

FINANCE.

The Clerk reported the balance in hand to be £192 7s. 6d.; and also stated that he had received from the Treasury the sum of £34 for the half-cost of the main roads.

Accounts for the quarter amounting to £67 12s. 11d. were submitted for payment, and on the motion of MR BROWN, seconded by MR HUDSON, cheques for the same were signed.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The following is the Surveyor's report:—

To the Chairman and Members of Leadgate Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—For the month of December now past, your highways have had the following repairs, &c., done to them, and accounts for the same will come before you:—

Durham Main Road.—The last of the limestone and slag is all laid on for this winter, and part levelling and scraping done. There has also been a little carting done, such as putting on broken limestone, and carting off scrapings, &c.

Other Roads.—Iveston Village: Part manual and team labour done, such as carting and laying on soft stone and ashes to improve the approach to the village pond. Some scraping done; also, a few loads of small slag and soft stones laid on the bank. Redwell Hills Road: some slag, broken, carted, and laid on the sides of the same. Watling Street: Part guttering and water-tabling done; and a few loads of small slag carted on the footpath. Pontop Pike Lane: 25 yards of slag broken and carted. Also, general repairs executed to Annfield Plain, Brooms, and Stockerley Lanes, and a few days' levelling to the streets in Leadgate.

Annexed are the monthly pay bills:—

	£ s d	£ s d
Durham Main Roads:		
Manual labour	3 2 4	
Team labour	1 7 0	
		4 9 4
Other Roads:		
Manual Labour	7 7 2	
Team do.	4 17 9	
		12 4 11
Total		£16 14 3

From your obedient servant,

Leadgate, Jan. 9th, 1884. THOS. LONGSTAFF.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Inspector (Mr Longstaff) read the subjoined report:—

To the Chairman and Members of Leadgate Local Board.

GENTLEMEN.—Since your last monthly meeting I have inspected your district several times. Four grates, channels, &c., have also had attention. I do not think any sanitary complaint need come from me, as I consider your district very orderly and clean for this time of the year.

I have given consent to Mr John Lee to occupy his new dwelling-house in Plantation Street, Leadgate, it being fit for habitation from January, 1884.

I have also had two urinals erected—one at each end of Leadgate, as ordered by you. I engaged Mrs Smith's son to do the plumbing work and find the piping, &c. There was a door to put in to cover each of the meters, which necessated the employment of a blacksmith and joiner. One of your own workmen did the excavating. An agreement will be laid before you from the Consett Water Company as to the said urinals and meters.

I served a notice on Mr Thomas Severs, which was written by your clerk, as to the Iveston Pit Cabin. I expect his reply will be before you to-day.

Gas burnt during the month, 217½ hours.

Accounts will come before you for the expense of the above urinals; two days' attention to the settling ponds, &c.; and the scavenger's quarterly salary, amounting in all to £17 17s. 10d.

I remain, your obedient servant,

Leadgate Jan. 9th, 1884 THOS. LONGSTAFF.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, the foregoing reports were adopted.

DR G. RENTON AND MR WARD.

The CHAIRMAN read the following communication received from the Medical Officer, Mr George Renton, M.D.:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Leadgate Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—In answer to your letter of the 11th ult., enclosing a copy of the reply of the Lanchester School Attendance Committee to my report for the quarter ending September 30th, 1883, I have to say that my statement concerning the outbreak of scarlatina at Iveston was based upon the most reliable authority (that of my partner, Mr Richards); that I then believed it to be true, and that, notwithstanding the contradictory statements of Mrs Thompson, I still believe it to be *substantially* correct. Although I am prepared to withdraw the direct charge against the School Attendance Officer, viz., that he "*ordered* the children to be sent to school," yet I still maintain that it was through fear of him and the action he might take against her that this woman was induced to disobey the doctor's orders, and so cause the lamentable results which have followed. I beg to enclose a letter I have received from Mr Richards bearing out my statements. From it you will observe that five other cases have occurred in Mr Reed's house, and that another one has proved fatal. I do not observe that any steps have been taken by the proper authority to punish the author of all this misery. Yet, surely it is not a light thing that these poor people should lose two out of their family by her culpable behaviour.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

GEO. RENTON, M.D.

9th January, 1884.

The following is the letter from Dr Richards, referred to by Dr Renton:—

Leadgate, 9th January, 1884.

DEAR SIR,—The outbreak of scarlatina in Mr Reed's house at Iveston was traceable to the attendance at school of Mrs Thompson's children. Five of Mr Reed's family have suffered from this disease since your last report, and one of these has died. I interviewed Mrs Thompson immediately after her children were sent home from school, and she acknowledged that it was contrary to my orders that she had sent them, but excused herself by saying that the action of the School Attendance Officer compelled her to do so.—Yours faithfully,

R. O. RICHARDS.

Dr Geo. Renton.

MR HUDSON: Now that this letter of Dr Renton's will go before the public, it will cast all the blame on Mrs Thompson, and in all fairness to her, I think we should ask her and Dr Richards to appear before us at our next meeting, so that she will have an opportunity of defending herself.

MR G. NICHOLSON: I think we had better allow discord to cease. The thing that should have been done was for the doctor to have given Mrs Thompson a certificate stating the time the child should be kept from school, and then if she disobeyed that, he could have summoned her and had her punished.

The CHAIRMAN: It is unfortunate that we have no arrangement of that stamp, as a very serious result might have been averted. However, we might still do something towards making necessary stipulations in order to avoid a repetition of the case in future.

MR G. NICHOLSON: In cases of infectious epidemics, I think the doctor attending them should give a certificate of the fact to our Inspector, and for him to serve official notice on the parents as to the length of time the children are to be kept from school; and if they refused to comply with this order, then for the Inspector to prosecute. This could entirely clear the doctors of all responsibility, and we could then see that things were carried out properly.

MR HEDLEY: I think it would only be just towards Mrs Thompson to have her and Dr Richards before us.

MR G. NICHOLSON: I do not think it is any use at all to have any more statements on the matter. We have all the facts before us, and could not possibly get any satisfaction in the grievance. I move that we take no further notice of it.

MR HUDSON: It is a well-known fact that the Lanchester Union School Attendance Committee cleared Mr Ward of all blame with flying colours; now the doctor clears himself; and I think it is only fair and proper that Mrs Thompson should have a chance of defending herself.

MR HEDLEY: Yes; she asserted that the children were kept at home as long as the doctor ordered them.

The CHAIRMAN: The doctor said that he told Mrs Thompson to keep her children from school until further orders from him; but on the other hand, Mrs Thompson said that she kept them at home three weeks, the time ordered by the doctor. Seeing this, I do not think we could gain any satisfaction, as each party would strictly adhere to their assertions.

MR LAMMONBY: Yes, and we would have to give as much credence to one assertion as the other.

MR HEDLEY: Then, if you think it not worth while to bring the parties before the Board, would it not be wise on our part to appoint the Sanitary Committee to meet our Medical Officer, and confer with him as to the best means of avoiding a repetition of similar cases?

The CHAIRMAN thought it would be a very proper course.

The other members also agreed, and it was resolved that the Sanitary Committee, in conjunction with the Chairman, meet Dr. Renton as suggested by Mr Hedley.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

The medical officer (Dr. Geo. Renton) submitted the following quarterly report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Leadgate Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—During the quarter ending December 31st, 1883, twenty-one deaths and forty-two births have been registered in your district; showing an increase of twenty-one in the population. The death-rate for the quarter is at the rate of 18·518 per 1,000 per annum. This, as will be observed, presents a very unfavourable contrast to that of the quarter immediately preceding and is in some measure the consequence of the prevalence of scarlatina throughout the district.

Whereas during the last quarter your district was entirely free from scarlatina, yet during that just concluded twenty-five cases have come under observation. Many of these have been of a very severe type, and four deaths have resulted. It is almost impossible to trace directly the origin of these repeated outbreaks of this disease, but it may be generally set down to carelessness on the part of the people.

The outbreak at Iveston, and its cause, was mentioned in my last report, and anent this sad case I should like it to be generally known that no child who has had scarlatina should be permitted to attend school for at the very least three months from the date of attack.

One case of typhoid fever has occurred in a house in Durham Road, proving fatal in seven days.

One case of diphtheria also has been noted, but beyond these no other cases of zymotic diseases have arisen.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

GEO. RENTON, Medical Officer of Health.

Jan. 8th, 1884.

The CHAIRMAN, in moving the adoption of the report, said he was sorry that it was not so good as the last quarterly statement of health; but he hoped, however, the state of affairs would soon be put into proper order, and the district again wear its usual healthy aspect.

The report was adopted.

ALTERATION OF PROPERTY.

A letter was read from Mr Thomas Coates, Leadgate, asking the Board's permission to make some alteration to the chimney in connection with a new house which he was building in Iveston Lane.

The matter was left in the hands of the Building Committee, with the power of sanctioning the alteration if found necessary.

A COMPLAINT.

The CHAIRMAN read a communication from Mr W. H. James, Watling Street, Leadgate, complaining of the owner of the house he was occupying making certain alterations thereto, by which he would have to ascend to the upper storey by means of a step-ladder, in which the pantry was proposed to be situate. He protested against the pantry being upstairs, and also the step-ladder as being the means of ascending to the same, and hoped the Board would move in the matter.

The subject was referred to the Building Committee to report on.

DANGEROUS PLACES.

MR DAVISON said that the wall beside the railway arch was in a very dangerous state, and people's lives were greatly risked by it. He thought the Consett Iron Company's attention should be called to it.

The Clerk was thereupon instructed to write as suggested.

MR TODD also complained that some part of the embankment opposite his house was perilous to the pedestrian. He had seen several people fall to the ground through it; and he thought the Surveyor might be instructed to make the thing safe.

This was likewise done.

After signing the agreement referred to in the Inspector's report, the Board adjourned.

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

A little girl, the daughter of R. Slater, of Frosterley, died on Tuesday from the effects of burns received on Monday from her night dress having accidentally got on fire.

OUR LADIES' COLUMN.

"Even in our kitchens," says Shakespere, "we cook the fowl of season." Having faithfully discharged this essential duty of the Christmas season, we are ready to dismiss the old year and welcome in the new. Between Christmas Day and New Year's Day there is one great difference, in the first being a retrospective anniversary when we all unconsciously look back on past years, and the other being prospective, when we are entering on new time, with new hopes, and as few fears as possible.

The great feature in the shops of this year has been the Christmas cards; for design and execution these have passed into quite a new stage of perfection, one which it is scarcely possible to expect will be excelled in the future. Apart from the beauty of the cards, which everyone must admit, there is another consideration. To such an extent is card sending now carried that the omission of a friend in the distribution of these favours is looked upon as an intentional slight. Thus one more care is added to the season, one more burthen laid upon the purse, time, and attention of many whose energies are already overtaxed. As a natural result there has been a strike this year; whole families have joined it, and communicated with each other, and no doubt next year the ranks of the rebellious will have many recruits. The money saved has been, in many instances, devoted to deserving charities, and few people are aware, until the calculation is thus compulsorily made, how much money is spent annually by each family on cards, envelopes, and postage. A very good development of the card custom has been pretty general this year, of special designs being made for certain families, generally something original and appropriate. A text, a verse, a motto, or some graceful little emblem with words of greeting and name and address of the sender. These cards, being lithographed, are all alike, can be enclosed in envelopes and addressed, a great saving of time by not having to suit the card to each individual and find an envelope the right size. There is one drawback to the receipt of one of these personal or family cards; being special designs they cannot be made to do duty over again for some one else, and this is a severe trial to an economical recipient, who is base enough to make the souvenir of one friend serve to compliment another. When the custom of card-sending was young, household albums were started to form collections, but these have long since been filled, and no new ones begun. Utilitarian people also tried to turn their cards to account, and wrote piteous appeals for hints to the correspondence columns of ladies' papers. The results were not all that very æsthetic people could desire. One suggestion made was to cover folding screens, and each year a panel was to be completed. Another was to decorate a table top by arranging the cards carelessly, fastening them with liquid glue, and sizing and varnishing them. The only real and right-minded advice ever given was to send the collection of the previous year to some workhouse, to be distributed among the aged and the children. In every union, on the board of which sat lady guardians, hearty co-operation was found in the delicate office of distribution, and the pleasure to be afforded is infinitely greater than any derived from covering screens or dining table-tops.

The new curtains for the dining-room of Marlborough House are being woven in Dublin, of Irish poplin, of a deep claret colour, the design, arms, and motto, &c., being thrown up in a rich brocade. Curtains of the same material, in gold colour, have just been hung in two rooms in Windsor Castle; and the looms are busy with crimson poplin for Osborne. A rich white brocade is being woven also, to be finished as soon as possible, which, it is almost unnecessary to add, is for the fair bride at Darmstadt, who is coming to take up her residence in England. Few people know exactly what is the difference between poplin and thick silk, or what it is in the make of the former which gives the material such enduring qualities. Instead of adulterating the silk with chemicals to weight it, as is common at Lyons and other centres of the silk trade, poplin has its richness from a pure woollen thread as warp, thickly coated over with silk as weft. The thorough amalgamation of the two threads, both animal productions, be it remarked, produces a material very rich and thick, on which damp has no effect. It is very unlike cotton mixture in this respect, which shrinks when the textile in which it has been interwoven is exposed to a moist atmosphere. To give an idea of the intrinsic value of poplin, far beyond what its appearance suggests, Lord Waveney, who takes a lively interest in the material prosperity of Ireland, stated publicly that the gold-coloured poplin with which he hung his drawing-rooms nearly 40 years ago, is still in admirable condition, though exposed in his town house in Audley-square to London sun and the inevitable London smoke. Whether the crimson dye now employed, such as will be used for the Osborne hangings, will be as excellent as that of which Lord Waveney speaks, those who live until the twentieth century must decide. But it is remarkable that Lord Waveney's window curtains shew the colour equally distributed over the whole surface, no faded patches as must have appeared in ordinary rep, or silk damask.

Mr. Barre Beresford, who is a candidate for the representation of the County Derry in Parliament, comes of a family which for several generations enjoyed one of those pleasant sinecures which the English Government bestowed liberally upon loyalists in good old times. The Beresfords were wine tasters to the King in Ireland, and when George the Fourth visited Dublin in 1821, Mr. Barre Beresford was in attendance to discharge these onerous duties.

The agony column of a leading journal announces in an advertisement the formation of a primrose Tory league, under the banners of which admirers of the late Lord Beaconsfield and his policy are invited to enrol themselves. It will scarcely be credited, but it is a fact, that ladies are ineligible as members of the Primrose League. More in surprise than in comprehension the issues must be waited for. When one remembers the almost dying words of the great Tory leader, in his novel "Endymion," his last great public utterance, the decision of the League requires explanation. In that remarkable work Lord Beaconsfield laid it down that the first duty of a woman was to be beautiful, her second to be clever, and her third and greatest, to be a politician. The aim and object of every woman's creation and existence in society was to help the political party to which her male relatives belonged. It was no secret at the time the book appeared that Lord Beaconsfield, looking around him, saw how useful the political ladies of the Liberal party proved themselves at the last General Election, and he meant, had he lived, to have educated the Conservative contingent, and turned their drawing-rooms to account. At present there is no union in the Conservative female camp. Lady Salisbury has never realised the use of the rank and file. Lady Cairns is devoted to a little band of sectaries. Lady Randolph Churchill is an American. Lady Northcote considers her husband to be all that the country and his party require, and in the middle rank there are none like those of the Bright and Cobden families, who looked upon going to Court as mere trifling with time, and have never allowed themselves to be distracted from the performance of those public services which Lord Beaconsfield has laid down as the whole duty of woman. If the Tory Primrose League has more than a name, that is to say, a local habitation, it might be desirable for some ladies to take its education in hand; or at least shew them the great error of their way of going about the formation of a new factor in politics. At present the names of the promoters are kept altogether in the dark, and the registrar, who replies to the enquirers, frankly admits that no scheme has yet been prepared. Only upon one point is he agreed, viz., that ladies are not to be invited to honour the memory of the late Lord Beaconsfield.

AURORA.

SOMETHING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

UNION AMONGST ANIMALS.

All the readers of this column have heard the proverb, "Union is strength," and know that it is true of mankind—that none of our houses, villages, and cities could have been built, no victories could have been won over our enemies, and no good laws could have been passed, if men were always at cross-purposes and could not be got to unite and work together. But the birds and animals seem to have heard of the proverb too, or at least of something like it, and many stories are told of weak creatures banding together to defend themselves against their stronger enemies.

On a gentleman's estate in Holland, one summer evening, a number of birds were noticed to be in a state of unusual excitement, flying about as if they were preparing for some important movement or making a demonstration on a great scale. It soon appeared that a "fluttering in the dovecots," had been caused by the presence of a falcon, which had taken the liberty to carry off a pigeon. The hawk with its victim in its talons was soaring into the air, when a company of crows that had witnessed the outrage determined to fly after it and rescue their unhappy friend. Keeping up the pursuit for a considerable time, the plucky crows at length compelled the hawk, which had become exhausted with fatigue and fright, to set its prey free; and we may be pretty sure the poor pigeon was very glad to escape from the clutches of the terrible falcon.

A skilled naturalist possessed a cat, which was rather old, though still strong and active. This cat was a terror to a colony of rats which inhabited the neighbouring piggeries, banks and hedgerows. Many a rat was brought by pussy and deposited with great pride at her master's feet. During several weeks this sport continued, but one morning pussy came in from her kennel, looking dirty, rumpled, and scarcely able to crawl. The naturalist examined his pet, and his skilled eye soon saw the cause. Pussy was severely bitten by rats in twenty or thirty places. An examination of the scene of action plainly shewed that there had been a battle-royal; at least a dozen rats must have combined, and coming on pussy in a body had so punished her, that she died a few days afterwards from the effects of their bites.

One of the most interesting cases of a combination on the part of animals to rid themselves of a foe is reported to have occurred near the Winterberg, a mountain to the north of the eastern frontier of the Cape of Good Hope. In this locality there were several troops of baboons, young and old, which resided in the deep rocky ravines and gambolled among the fearful precipices around. But their mountain stronghold, safe as it seemed to be, was once invaded by an enemy, hungry, cunning, and powerful. It was a Cape leopard. Crouching down among the tall grass or amidst the crevices of the rocks, the leopard would suddenly spring upon a young baboon and actually devour it before the eyes of its screeching parents. Strong as is a baboon, the leopard is yet far stronger, and with its terrible claws could soon tear to pieces the largest male baboon.

During some days the leopard feasted on baboons, but at length these creatures combined and jointly attacked the leopard. They did not really mean to risk a pitched battle with him, for these creatures evidently knew and respected his great powers. They had, as the result proved, determined on a much safer and more crafty method of proceeding.

The leopard, fearing the combined strength of his adversaries, left their neighbourhood, and retreated across country, but he was followed by nearly all the large baboons.

On went the leopard; on followed the baboons. The day was hot, and the leopard disliked this perpetual tramping, and so tried to seek a retreat and lie down to rest. Then it was that the baboons closed round and worried him. Soon, too, he began to thirst, his tongue hanging out of his mouth, and the white foam covering his jaws. Water was soon scented by the hunted brute, and to this it rapidly made its way; but now the baboons became frantic; they closed on the leopard, some by their great activity actually tearing him with their sharp teeth, and the creature could not drink. The baboons could relieve one another, and some could eat and drink too, whilst their companions continued worrying the leopard.

During two days and a night the country for several miles along the course of these creatures was startled by the cries of pursuer and pursued, and several farmers were witnesses, from a distance, of portions of the scene here described. They would not interfere, but watched the baboons' method of administering justice.

Worn out with exhaustion and thirst, the leopard at length could totter on no further, and sank to the ground a prey to the baboons, who, in spite of his claws and teeth, which were still formidable, attacked him with their whole force, and soon tore him to pieces, they themselves escaping with only a few severe scratches.

Assembling their forces, the baboons returned rapidly to their stronghold, where they were welcomed by their wives and young ones with choruses of loud and triumphant barks, which were continued during the greater part of the night, whilst for several days the excitement did not seem to calm down, but was shewn by the unusual noises which proceeded from this curious colony.

FORGIVE AND FORGET.

'Tis the best of all rules,
As often is sung,
For wise folk and fools,
For old and for young
As they journey thro' life,
Whene'er insult is met,
To think not of strife,
But forgive and forget.

When someone has spoken
To you a cross word,
O! give not a token
That it you have heard;
'Tis better by far
An example to set
Of peace than of war,
And forgive and forget.

For blows return kisses,
Whenever you can,
For know you that this is
The only true plan
By which to win heaven!
As you hope your debt
In the future forgiven—
Forgive and forget.

NUTS TO CRACK.

1.—I consist of seventeen letters. My 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 is a man's name mentioned often in the Old Testament; my 13, 14, 17, 11 is a part of the body; my 6, 5, 15, 16, 2, 11, 3 is somebody of great use to a nation; my 17, 9, 2, 15 is part of a ship; my 7, 5, 3, 6, 11 is an animal, on whose head my 10, 11, 2, 13, 17 will generally be found; my 9, 15, 11 is a liquid; my 15, 14, 10, 16, is a title; my 1, 9, 2, 15, 5, 3 is one who, when on my 6, 11, 9, is mostly very glad to see my 15, 9, 13, 16; my 7, 9, 13, 16 is part of the body; my 7, 9, 10, 11 is an animal noted for its agility; my 15, 5, 14 is a game played with cards; my 15, 11, 9 is a river; as also is my 12, 9, 10, 11; my 4, 9, 2, 15, 14, 10 is a person who guards my 4, 9, 2, 15; my *whole* is the name of a celebrated painter.

2.—My *whole* means ill; change my head and I become successively, a tool, a heap of hay in the field, a notch, and a boy's nickname.

3.—I never cry, but sometimes weep;
I never talk but in my sleep;
My doors are open day and night;
Old age I help to better sight;
I, like chameleon, feed on air,
And dust to me is dainty fare.

4.—(*a*) Behead sheaves of corn and leave a sort of wine; (*b*) a timekeeper and leave something found in the canal; (*c*) A part of a lady's dress and leave counterfeit.

5.—My *first* is to eat; my *second* is water; my *whole* is a cape.

6.—In meadow, not in lane.
Not in Welsh, but in Dane.
In gnat, in spider.
Not in cross, but in mitre.
In heavy, also in lighter.
Whole an ancient writer.

7.—There came to *first*, one happy day,
When riding along a country way;
Some *second*, *third* asked me if I would care
To join the hunt on an occasion rare.
We found at once the scent was keen;
Ten miles gallop, and ne'er loosed a rein
Till *last* death we brought him—I got the brush.
As a *whole* of the day I enjoyed very much.

LAST WEEK'S KERNELS.

1. Chrysanthemum. 2. Dandelion. 3. Horse, dog, cat, goat, bear. 4. Goodwill. 5. Please, lease, ease, sea. 6. Sergeant. 7. Manchester.

DAY SCHOOLS TREAT.—The annual tea to the children attending the Lintz Colliery Day Schools took place on Monday. After tea Mr Gooch greatly delighted the children by a magic lantern. At the close of the entertainment there were three hearty cheers for Mr Gooch, who has given a treat annually to the scholars of the Lintz School for about 20 years. As the children left the school, Mrs Gooch gave each an orange. The number of children present was 304.

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SHAUGH BRIDGE:

THE STORY OF A WOMAN'S REVENGE.

BY SYDNEY SHELLEY.

CHAPTER III.

Lady Calmady, calm, quiet, addicted to knitting, and much devoted to a delicate little spity dog, who was equally fond of her, was a woman of sense and utterly unselfish. She saw that the great thing for Amy was to keep her mind from dwelling on the terrible accident, some of the results of which she had seen, and to which she had so nearly been a victim. She therefore established herself at a small table by the fire when her niece retired to rest, and talked a little, and read a little, till Amy went to sleep; and when she awoke during the night, she again talked or read a little, so as to keep her mind away from the accident, and even before she had so established herself she had sent a groom through the pouring rain on horseback with a telegram to the nearest station.

No two persons ever understood each other better than Lady Calmady and Amy Conyers. Most people quietly smiled when they spoke of Lady Calmady, as if in a sort of homage to her quiet, inoffensive character, and in apology for her supposed want of higher and more striking qualities.

Amy, however thought differently of her aunt. Perhaps, above those depths of the soul in which we all dwell in utter solitude, save for Him who created it, those two women knew each other thoroughly.

Through the judicious management of Lady Calmady, Lady Amy slept during the latter part of the night and far into the next day. She was not hysterical nor feverish, but gradually awoke to the consciousness of the events of the previous day. Scarcely, however, had she time to arrange her ideas when a clear, ringing voice said:

"Now, don't be cross, Amy; you know I always come when I think it necessary, whether you want me or no."

"Lina, dear, good Lina," said Amy, "when are you not wanted?"

"Never. I am among the persons wanted, advertised for in the columns of the *Southshire Times*. I am always in the lists. This, for instance—

'A disagreeable, noisy girl wanted where the family is too quiet.'

'A tolerably good-looking girl, apt to fall in love, wanted to instruct several young ladies in the sciences.'

'A young lady of good family, pretty and well-dressed enough for the sons of the house to dance with, but not attractive enough for matrimony, when a coronet or a millionaire is concerned.'

'A young lady to whom all the ineligibles propose, so as to attract them from the daughters of the house,' etc., etc.

"And now, Amy, enough of this; when are you going to get up? Do you mean to lie here all day?"

"But Simpson! How is Simpson? She is not hurt—I remember that."

"Oh, no, of course not; only wants to make a fuss. Stanlake is ready to help you, if you will get up, and I shall be present to see that she does not display too much sentiment."

"Dear Lina, I won't have Stanlake or anyone. I will get up. Come to me again in ten minutes and you will find me ready for any little cousenly help that you may be generous enough to give me. But where is my aunt? She sat up all night, I think."

"Oh, of course she is gone to take out her sleep, her dreamless sleep. She never dreams, you may be sure."

As soon as breakfast was over, Lord Coningsborough proposed to his sister to drive into Elmbrook, to take such supplies as the house afforded for the use of the sufferers, and to see in what way they themselves could be useful in dispensing their gifts.

Amy and her cousin, Evelina Gray, were not to accompany them. They walked down to the village, near Conyers Towers.

The Earl and his sister drove to the infirmary. Elmbrook is a small town, and there is no hospital in the place. But the vacant beds in the infirmary were placed at the disposal of the unfortunate victims of the railway disaster, and those who could not be thus accommodated were taken to the principal hotel and the Rectory.

It was to the last that Lady Calmady was driven after meeting the other two.

She was shewn into the morning room. In a few minutes the rector's wife entered, looking worn and pale, even more so than her visitor. She had been up all night with the injured, or those who were painfully hysterical from alarm. Thankfully she accepted the contents of two boxes which stood in the hall; but Mrs Neville thought Lady Calmady had better not visit the sufferers. She saw that her placid friend had gone through much that night.

"My dear Mrs. Neville," said Lady Calmady, "I *must* see the widow. I *must* kiss the dead cheek of her boy. Mrs. Andrews, you say, from Carlington. There are many Mrs. Andrews's to be sure, but I must see Mrs. Andrews."

Mrs. Neville tried to put aside the thought; but Lady Calmady persisted.

"These placid people are so obstinate!" thought Mrs. Neville. "I'm sure that poor widow will hate to see her. She only wants, poor, poor woman, to be alone with her dead."

Noiselessly the two good compassionate women walked through that house, now so sad, generally so bright, so cheerful, so happy. Mrs. Neville very gently opened a door, and Lady Calmady entered a darkened room.

"A friend wishes to say one word of sympathy, dear Mrs. Andrews," said Mrs. Neville. "Forgive me if I err in thinking that such words are never spoken in vain."

And she retired into the passage, closing the door behind her.

Lady Calmady stole softly into the room. She did not speak, but she went to the widow, put her arms round her neck, and laid her head on her own bosom.

"God comfort you, Mary," she said, as she kissed that aching head.

"By-the-by," she said, "I ought to have told you that I am Emma Calmady. You may have forgotten me, but I thought perhaps you might divine it. May I, may I, dear Mary, just kiss him? Only once!"

A gentle pressure from the hand of Mrs. Andrews indicated her assent. Lady Calmady knelt down by the bed on which lay the deformed boy, Amy's travelling companion of the fatal yesterday, and kissed his cheek.

"Pray for me, Reginald," murmured she, "in that happy place whither you are gone!"

She rose in a few moments, again pressed the widow to her heart, and then noiselessly left the room.

Lina saw that her forced attempt at a lively kind of talk had not the hoped-for effect in distracting Amy's thoughts from the awful scene she had gone through, and she drew her gently to think of her village poor, the village schools, and also of the return of her father and aunt from Elmbrook, when she might learn how matters stood with the sufferers, and how her help might be most useful.

Another day saw Lady Amy and Lina in lodgings in a respectable tradesman's home near Elmbrook Rectory. Amy spent most of her time at Mrs. Neville's, helping her to attend to her poor inmates. A quiet sister from a nursery institution was there also. But Amy soon found that her chief duties were in the room of the once lovely girl who had travelled with her to Shaugh Bridge, now, alas! beautiful no longer. Lina was kind and helpful. Nursing, however, was not her vocation. She cried so much that the doctors thought her not suitable for some of the sick rooms. And, to relieve her own spirits, she occasionally went by train to a large town about ten or twelve miles from Elmbrook, where she had a friend, the gay wife of a Lieutenant-Colonel of a Light Dragoon Regiment quartered there.

Lord Coningsborough and Lady Calmady drove every day to Elmbrook to see Amy, and to take supplies for the wounded.

On the third day after the accident they drove in as usual. Lady Calmady, generally so quiet and impassive, was so particular about the time that her brother even was surprised. But he got ready sooner than usual; and as they entered Elmbrook they heard the bell of the old parish church tolling.

"Reginald," said Lady Calmady, "I'm sure you would do anything in your power, either to help those poor people or to soothe their feelings; and I think it would, at least, shew our sympathy for the poor widow, and our thankfulness for the preservation of Amy, if we were to join—join that procession."

"Let us do it, Emma dear! Let us do it."

The coachman had orders to stop, and the Earl and his sister got out of the carriage, and walked backwards and forwards on the pavement till the funeral *cortège*—a little and a humble one—left the Vicarage gate.

Amy was there. The widow leaned on her arm, and the Earl and Lady Calmady fell in after them, and followed them till the little coffin was lowered into its last resting-place.

The Earl's white hair, from which his hat was reverently raised, blew round his face with the wind that had succeeded the pitiless rain. He looked on the coffin.

"R. G. C., aged seven years," might be read upon it.

Whether something in the letters struck him, or whatever might be the cause, he started and turned to his sister. Her hands were clasped together, and the tears streamed down her cheeks.

We cannot speak of the mother; the whole thing is too sad, too real to dwell upon.

take lunch with you after church. I'm going to St. Werburgh's."

"St. Werburgh's! Why St. Werburgh's?"

"Well, dear Mrs. Fitz, I really am going to St. Werburgh's, and I only wanted to know if you would have me to lunch afterwards; so you will, won't you? And good-bye for the present."

So saying, Lina opened the door and vanished. The morning had been as beautiful as a morning of the late autumn could be, the low sunbeams streaming over the meadows, finding their way up the grand old High-street, and touching here and there the beautiful tracery of the south window of the transept of the Minster.

Soon, however, the grey clouds closed over the gates of the sunshine, and when Lina came out of St. Werburgh's drops of rain thickened into a smart shower; at the same time she was aware of a tread of martial feet, and though the band was not playing she perceived that the regiment was returning by a short cut to the parade ground to be dismissed.

She did not like to be seen either standing under a doorway or walking in the rain down the street, so she turned into a narrow lane, and stood concealed beneath an archway, which sheltered her from the shower.

While she stood here a rapid step passed down

high ground, and the river, which either itself, or by its affluents, often flooded a large district several miles away, here flowed at the foot of the Castle-hill, and was kept within bounds by a slight elevation on its farther shore, and there were many broad well kept, and tastefully planted promenades within the precincts of the town. There was a happy, orderly kind of quiet on those mornings; when it was summer time there was a wonderful enchantment about them.

Even now, when Lina Grey issued, tastefully but simply dressed in harmony with the declining year, from the station, the chimes from several churches were shaking the grey mist that hovered over the town; and in a moment the rich, deep-toned ancient Minster bells poured out their noble music over hill and meadow, and far down the river. Bugle notes for church parade rang out here and there. Orderly, well-dressed citizens gathered near a certain square, to see the regiment marching to church, and to hear the band, before they themselves went to church.

And Lina hastened to Mrs. Fitz's temporary residence, and was ushered into the breakfast room, in which that lady soon joined her.

Handsomely and expensively dressed Mrs. Fitz always was; but her attire was invariably dark: "The regiment would be too tawdry," said she, "if the colonel's wife came out like a paroquet." And now she looked her very best in her rich silks and velvets of the most sober colour.

"You good child," said she, as she kissed pretty graceful Lina. "You are come to accompany me to the Cathedral, and it is nearly time to set out."

"No, I'm not, Mrs. Fitzgerald; but I mean to the lane, and a gentleman happened to glance from beneath the shelter of his umbrella, and saw her.

"Do permit me to offer you my umbrella," said the same young clergyman whom she had seen at Mrs. Fitz's three days previously.

"Oh, not to take it from you," said Lina shrinking back in her doorway. "You are on duty, no doubt."

"Allow me, then, to send you a fly from the cab-stand yonder. You are a friend, I believe, of Mrs. Fitzgerald's?"

"I am; thanks very much; it will be a work of charity, if you will do so."

He raised his hat and passed on; his earnest, kind face looking as if it were a pleasure to him to perform even that trivial act of kindness.

Lina had a higher colour than usual; she felt as if she must look supremely foolish, with her smart attire, in a shabby archway in a shabby lane. And she was glad when a fly drove up and carried her to Mrs. Fitzgerald's house in Prince's-square.

"Lina, my dear!" exclaimed that kind personage, "what in the name of eccentricity could take you to St. Werburgh's instead of coming to the Cathedral? We had a most admirable——"

"Yes, dear Mrs. Fitzgerald, I am sure you had, but do let me go to your room and ring for your maid to arrange this feather in my bonnet. I got a few drops of rain through my parasol before the fly drove off."

So Lina cleverly parried Mrs. Fitz's wondering inquiries and when she returned to her she found Colonel Fitzgerald and a major, besides Lieutenant de Bathe, ready to take the ladies into the dining-room to luncheon.

Lieutenant de Bathe, when he saw Lina, felt himself in a state of delightful surprise. This condition became intense when he found that Lina was gentle beyond her wont; that the contemptuous badinage with which she usually encountered his admiration was not exercised on this occasion, and that she permitted him to offer several observations in a low voice while a general conversation was going on between the other members of the party. I am sorry to be obliged to observe in this place that such behaviour was very hypocritical in Evelina Grey. She did not come to Mrs. Fitz's ball, as it was called, because she had got it up, and she did come very often to the afternoon teas in Prince's square, and she frequently visited Stowminster in order to make purchases, and even went to two services at St. Werburgh's on the week-days as well as to one on the next Sunday, when her visit to Elmbrook drew near its conclusion.

CHAPTER IV.

Happy were those inhabitants of Stowminster who had the *entrée* at Mrs. Fitzgerald's afternoon teas.

Happy, too, was Evelina de Grey to be present at them when she could get to the station so as to return to Elmbrook by the seven o'clock train, and join Amy at the hour at which she returned from her attendance on the wounded to her lodgings, there to take an early tea, and to sit and rest for an hour or two.

Supremely happy was Lina on one particular occasion to which we now allude. For she was not superior to certain little vanities and certain flattered feelings erroneously supposed to be the attributes of the fair sex only.

Two or three officers were trying to persuade her to attend a ball to be patronised by the colonel's wife, Mrs. Fitzgerald.

This lady, Mrs Fitz, as she was called in the regiment, "for shortness," as Count O'Neill said, was a very well-bred, very fashionable lady; her patronage always filled a ballroom, her bespeaks never failed to crowd a provincial theatre. She was very highly connected, being niece to a marquis and also to the premier baron, Lord Rildawivern, who had refused any number of steps in the peerage, preferring to remain in the rank won by his celebrated ancestor, the first wearer of that distinguished name—which explained itself.

In the regiment, in which were many men of family, and some of rank, this signified little. In the society of counties, and especially of county towns, it signified much, and in these Mrs. Fitz was immensely popular. She might, indeed, have spent the whole of the time during which the 23rd Lancers were quartered in any given place, at different country houses. But she preferred to hold her little court at head-quarters. Her duty, she said, to the regiment required it.

This was a powerful motive with Mrs. Fitz—her duty to the regiment—and I must say that the wives and children of the privates felt its results in ways most beneficial to them, as also did the extravagant young cornets, who were always getting into scrapes and coming with repentant looks and promises, not always very trustworthy of amendment, to ask the advice of Mrs. Fitz.

"So you have given me your word to be at the ball, Miss Grey." "And I am first on your list," said one of the officers. "And I second," said another of Lina's worshippers. "And I third."

"And so on, *ad infinitum*," said Lina. "But your stand-point, or platform, as the graceful and polished phrase goes, is uneasy and doubtful. That is, I can't dance with you if I do go to the ball."

"Rivet the platform, then, and the results are safe. There are St. Henry and his brother. Now I should like to bet you a dozen pair of gloves that the cornet will ask you, within ten minutes, whether you are going to the ball, and if you will put him down in your list."

"Oh, I never bet with gentlemen; they don't pay—that is, they don't pay ladies. At any rate, I shall think it my duty to tell him how unstable the platform is."

"That young man's costume makes us all look very tawdry, it appears to me," said a certain Captain Spencer. "I am sick of scarlet and gold."

"Of scarlet, if you will—of gold never, so that it has the Queen's portrait impressed on it. But as to dress, I go with you," replied one of his brother officers.

Lina's eyes being thus directed to a young man, evidently a clergyman, who talked for a little while with Mrs. Fitz, and then went quietly away, she also went with the last speaker. She took a sudden dislike to the splendid Lancer uniform. She thought it resembled the tickets on showy articles in shop windows, indicating that they are all alike, and all cheap and secondrate. Of course her comparison was quite wrong; but such was her passing thought.

Suddenly she changed her mood. She took out a delicate little note-book and entered the names of her would-be partners in it; and she began to talk with some apparent pleasure of the coming ball.

"White is of course the only wear," said she, "in contrast to all the finery of 'The Regiment,' as Mrs. Fitzgerald says, just as if the British army consisted of the 23rd Lancers. So in that I shall appear. My conversation will probably be as colourless as my dress, considering that I have had a most dear friend mixed up in the horrors of a railway accident."

"Ah! that sad affair at Shaugh Bridge, you allude to; a terrible smash! So many slaughtered. So many maimed or disfigured for life."

"One whom I know to have been most lovely is now a mere wreck," said Lina sadly. "A thing of beauty—now not a joy, but a grief for ever. But excuse me; I cannot talk of this."

"How one would like," said one of the officers, after a short silence, "to prove to such a woman, so unfortunate, the depth and truth of——"

"Bah, De Bathe! No sentiment! If you pursue this strain I shall ask Mrs. Fitz if she allows it in 'The Regiment,'" said Lieutenant Arthur Belmore.

"Well," replied De Bathe, "I will leave the sentiment to you; you are the master in that line."

A little contempt was evident in De Bathe's manner as he spoke.

(*To be continued.*)

Football.

LOCAL FIXTURES.

Jan. 12.—Castleside v. Tow Law, at Tow Law.
" 12—Consett v. South Shields Rovers, at Shields.
" 12—Consett 2nd v. St Matthew's (Newcastle), at Blackhill.
" 12—Tantobie v. Hobson Wanderers, on Hobson Ground.
" 12—Tantobie 2nd v. Hobson Wanderers 2nd, at Tantobie.
" 19—Tantobie v. Dipton, at Tantobie.
" 19—Hobson Wanderers v. North-Eastern, at Heaton.
" 26—Tow Law v. Darlington, at Tow Law.
Feb. 9.—Tow Law v. Castleside, at Tow Law.
" 9.—Tantobie v. North-Eastern, at Tantobie.
" 9.—Tantobie 2nd v. North Eastern 2nd, at Tantobie.
" 16.—Tantobie v. North Eastern, at Newcastle.
" 16.—Tantobie 2nd v. North-Eastern 2nd, at Newcastle.
" 23.—Tow Law v. Middlesbrough, at Middlesbrough.
" 23.—Hobson Wanderers v. Catchgate Red Stars, at Catchgate.
Mar. 1.—Hobson Wanderers v. Catchgate Red Stars, at Hobson.

TOW LAW FOOTBALL CLUB.—(*To the Editor of the Consett Guardian*).—SIR, Would you please contradict the statement made in your paper last week; it read as follows:—Tow Law v. Thornley.—This match was played at Thornley on New Year's Day, Thornley having the best of the play both ways, nil to nil." This statement is entirely false; there was no match played that day by any of the Tow Law clubs.—Yours truly, T. E. DIXON.

HOBSON WANDERERS v. RED STAR, CATCHGATE.—These clubs met on the ground of the latter on Saturday, and after a very pleasant game the home team won by one goal to nil. Allan and Rodham did some good work forward for the visitors, and Green defended his goal with considerable skill. The home backs played a good defensive game, and the forwards played hard and passed well together throughout the game.

TANTOBIE V. DIPTON.—Played on the ground of the latter, and resulted in a victory for the visitors by two goals to 1. Teams:—Tantobie: Hodgson, goal; Shield and Scott, backs; W. Stoker, McCrum and Hannent, half-backs; Dixon and N. Atthey, left wing; R. Stoker, centre; Gelding and C. Atthey, right wing. Dipton: G. Brown, goal; Temple and Bowes, backs; Gibson, Humes, and Johnson, half backs; Lennon and J. Brown, left wing; Smith, centre; Leadbitter and Evans, right wing.

TANFIELD LEA v. CATCHGATE.—(*To the Editor of the Consett Guardian*)—SIR,—I shall not comment on the article published by "A Player" of Tanfield Lea, but shall allow Association players to judge which club is right from the afore-said article. The committee of the Red Star F.B.C. will meet the committee of the Tanfield Lea F.B.C. at Mr Bullerwell's, of Low Kyo, on Monday night first, between 7 and 9 p.m., to accommodate the Tanfield Lea players. Names of intended players to be supplied by each committee.—I remain, sir, yours, &c., SPECTATOR.

CONSETT v. TOW LAW.—These clubs met for their return match on Saturday at Blackhill. The ground was in a deplorable condition owing to the heavy rains during the week. The Consett captain kicked off, the ball being returned to the centre of the ground where a lot of loose play took place, and the home forwards getting the ball away scored a touch down. Both teams did their utmost to gain an advantage, but the slippery ground and ball prevented any good play being shown, and dribbling was resorted to by both sides. The Consett men being superior in this, quickly took the ball over their opponents' line seven times in succession, their swift following up and good kicking being of great service to them. After half time the Tow Law men seemed to play better together, and the ball travelled fast from one to the other towards the finish. W. Hall almost got over Consett line, but being stopped by one of the Consett backs, Wilkinson saved by touching down; and when time was called the game was drawn in favour of Consett by seven touches down and one touch in goal to two touches down. Teams:—Tow Law—Back, T. Hall; three-quarter backs, W. J. Hall, R. B. Stankley, and J. T. Turner; half backs, L. Parker and J. Wilkinson; forwards, W. Emmerson, T. Wetherall, A. Collingwood, J. Walton (captain), J. Robson, J. Rapier, J. Hildreth, W. Pattinson, and J. Costman. Consett—Back, J. Wilkinson; three quarter backs, W. Kempster, T. Haird, and M. Holday; half backs J. Petherick and T. Jameson (captain); forwards, W. Beldon, A. Struthers, T. Davis, W. Fiddes, J. Fiddes, J. Taggart, J. Robson, F. Perkins, and A. McCorty.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY.—The traffic returns for the week ending Jan. 5th, 1884, shew a decrease to the amount of £4,625, this being owing mainly to the decrease in the revenue derived from merchandise, cattle, and mineral traffic.

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

ADDRESS ON "TEMPERANCE" AT BLACKHILL.

At the annual entertainment given on New Year's Day, by the members of the Blackhill League of the Cross, the Rev Father Powers delivered an able address on "Temperance." He said: Father Smith promised that I should tell you your fortunes; great as your expectations may be, they are destined to disappointment. Your future rests in other hands than mine, and the knowledge of it is hidden from me as well as from yourselves. If I cannot gratify your curiosity on this point, I will take you into my confidence, and let you know the circumstances that brought me here tonight. Mr McPhillips a few days ago invited me to be present, and I, in the innocence of my heart, thought that no more onerous task was to be imposed upon me than that of demolishing some of your good cheer and of enjoying your music. But I soon found that I had reckoned without my host. A hard and fast bargain was struck by Mr McPhillips in return for cake and tea and music. I was to deliver an address to the members of the League; exchange was evidently not robbery in Mr McPhillips's mind. To keep me to the fulfilment of my contract, he sent a great big Irishmen, 6ft. 4in. in height at least, to refresh my memory by enumerating the terms of our bargain. Retreat was impossible, for a large number of the League men stood between me and the door. Some Sunday, when preaching on justice, Mr McPhillips's eye would charge me with a want of conformity between my preaching and my practice. I have lately said all I could on the subject of temperance, its importance and its value, and the striking contrast between the blessing that follow in its train and the evils on the other hand that are the punishment of intemperance men on this side of the grave. Temperance is a great virtue most pleasing to God, and in keeping with the noble nature with which the Creator has endowed our race. It is not only admirable in itself, but moreover it is a most useful means to a noble end. The intemperate man does not and can not employ his reason aright. He is incapable of performing his duties as a citizen or as a man. To you, then, I recommend perseverance in the good path on which you have entered; you must not, however, consider that by the practice of temperance you have reached the goal of perfection, much has been done in the past, much remains to be done yet. The past has earned for the Catholics of Benfieldside an enviable reputation. The future must sustain and increase that credit. You must not only persevere, but you must seek to increase your numbers; when our countrymen are all members of the League of the Cross a new prospect will be opened up to the Irish in this country. The temperate Irishman is merged in the natives of this country, but the drunkard receives an unpleasant prominence. If the drunkard himself had to suffer the punishment of his evil deeds, matters would be fair enough; but unfortunately our nation is judged by unfavourable specimens. Suspicion and contempt often mar the happiness of the sober and prudent. The drunkard brings shame to his priest and debars his neighbours from the advantages of well merited promotion. If we stop at temperance the work of the League must be regarded as a partial success at best. We must make the League the means of attaining the desirable end of spreading moral and intellectual culture among our people. The poet tells us that the inhabitants of an Alpine village saw passing through their streets a young man who bore, 'midst snow and ice, a banner with a strange desire, "Excelsior!" The youth was the type of the resolute man bent upon elevating the morals and intellectual tastes of the world. The sadness depicted on his brow was caused by the opposition he had encountered, and the flashing eye told the determination to perform duty even though that duty meant death. The motto may be translated not literally, indeed, but with fidelity of spirit. Advance or progress, any man who values the rational soul that God has given him; any man who desires to develop the capabilities of his nation, should take this for his motto; any nation that believes it has a destiny to work out, should inscribe on its banner the word "Excelsior!" Every man here who has a drop of Irish blood in his veins, and those who have not, but sympathise with sorrow and distress, must regret the miserable state in which Ireland stands at present. Sympathy, to be of any value, must be practical. Ireland needs progress most sadly. Can you doubt that a great destiny is in store for her? The God of heaven promised that a cup of cold water given in His name would receive an adequate reward from Him. The blood of the Irish Martyrs that flowed down the hillsides in torrents, filling the rivers and turning the waters of the ocean, will return in the form of a blessing to our distracted poverty-stricken land. The blood of Christian Martyrs cries not for vengeance, but for the promotion of Christian love. I say deliberately that the hopes of Ireland are centred in the good conduct of the Irish in England. The bright sun that is to dispel our darkness must rise from the English shores. The work of the regeneration of Ireland must be accomplished here by the League of the Cross. When the Irish are sober to a man they will attain social and political influence they little dream of now. To the boys here present, I say join the League and remain faithful to its principles. Father Smith proposed as a test of the value of temperance to ask to-morrow morning a sober man—one of you for instance—how he had enjoyed the evening, and to compare the answer with that of the man who had passed the night in drinking. But if this be a good test of the value of temperance we have on the platform in the person of Mr Peter Flynn the living testimony of the advantages of a life of temperance. Every grey hair of his head is a reproach to the drunkard trusting to his dishonoured and untimely end. Drinking and gambling are the only amusements that many seem to possess; they are the only resources for uncultured leisure. To the boys and girls now at school I say, take advantage of the golden chance now given you, when the time comes for you to work for your living, be sure to employ your leisure in reading good books from the library. Those who are already members of the League should persevere—those who are not should join. The medal given by Father Theobald Mathews to Mr Flynn has inscribed on the one side the words "Integrity; domestic comfort." On the other is the figure of the Cross and the Latin words, *In Hoc Signo Vincas*—"In this sign thou shalt conquer," as they appeared 1500 years ago to Constantine, the great presage of victory over the tyrant Maxentius, under the banner of the Cross—of the League of the Cross—you, too, will secure a victory over social evils, intemperance and the crime that springs therefrom.

According to the census returns of 1881, there were 443,563 miners of all kinds, of whom coal requires the lion's share—viz., 381,763, or 87 per cent. of the whole.

THE MILD WEATHER.—There is now to be seen in the different gardens at the Spen and Victoria Garesfield an abundant display primroses, pansies, daisies, wallflowers, &c., which is really surprising for the time of the year. There are also growing a number of cauliflowers, and different sorts of vegetables, which were long since out of season.

FREEMASONRY AT CHESTER-LE-STREET.—The annual meeting of the members of the Lambton Lodge of Freemasons was held in Chester-le-Street on Friday evening. Among those who attended were—The Marquis of Londonderry, the Earl of Durham, Sir Henry Pottinger, Sir Hedworth Williamson, Mr Victor Williamson, Colonel Fife-Cookson, Mr H.T. Morton, Major Eminson, Captain Roberts, Mr J. W. Barnes, Canon Cundill, the Rev J. P. De Pledge, Mr Fawcett, Dr Morris, and others. In the evening a banquet was held at the Lambton Arms Hotel.

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A BEAUTIFUL FLEECY WOOL WRAP, splendid quality, sent free by the Manufacturers on receipt of 18 or 22 stamps. Larger size, 2/6 or 32 stamps; also at 5/-, 7/6, & 10/6 each. Any colour. HAND-MADE IRISH LACE COLLARETTE, 4in. deep, only 9d. Warranted to wash. W. R. WILKINSON & Co., 14, BOTTLE LANE, NOTTINGHAM.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."
CLARKE'S WORLD-FAMED BLOOD MIXTURE
Trade Mark, "Blood Mixture."
THE GREAT BLOOD PURIFIER AND RESTORER
For cleansing and clearing the blood from all impurities cannot be too highly recommended.
For Scrofula, Scurvy, Skin Diseases, and Sores of all kinds it is a never-failing and permanent cure.
It Cures old Sores.
Cures Ulcerated Sores on the Neck.
Cures Ulcerated Sore Legs.
Cures Blackheads or pimples on the Face.
Cures Scurvy Sores.
Cures Cancerous Ulcers.
Cures Blood and Skin Diseases.
Cures Glandular Swellings.
Clears the Blood from all impure matter,
From whatever cause arising.
As this mixture is pleasant to the taste and warranted free from anything injurious to the most delicate constitution for either sex, the Proprietor solicits sufferers to give it a trial to test its value.
THOUSANDS OF TESTIMONIALS FROM ALL PARTS.
Sold in bottles, 2s 6d. each, and in Cases containing six times the quantity, 11s. each—sufficient to effect a permanent cure in the great majority of long standing cases—by all Chemists and Patent Medicine Venders throughout the United Kingdom and the World, or sent to any address on receipt of 30 or 132 stamps by
THE LINCOLN & MIDLAND COUNTIES DRUG COMPANY, Lincoln.

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 delicious 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.

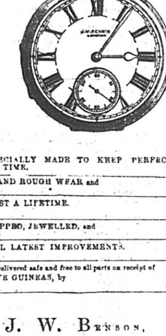
Just published, price 6d., by post, 7d.
BOOKKEEPING SIMPLIFIED; a Method, with examples of keeping Accounts as required from every trader or person by Bankruptcy Act, 1883, applicable to any business without alteration of existing books. FEAST & HOLE, Accountants, Bond Ct., Walbrook, London.

INSTITUTION for HOSPITAL TRAINED NURSES, 37, North Audley Street, London, W. (Estd. 1858), for the supply of resident, medical, surgical, fever, mental, and monthly nurses.—Terms on application to the Lady Superintendent, Miss Harrison.

BRODIE'S HERB JAUNDICE AND LIVER CURE.
STIMULATING, APPETISING, and INVIGORATING. Everybody who has had and benefited by this Herb Cure asks, "Why not let it be generally known? It is a sin to keep such a valuable remedy a secret." Acting on this suggestion, I now offer to the public
BRODIE'S HERB JAUNDICE AND LIVER CURE. Stimulating, appetising, and invigorating. The secret of this great and valuable cure has lately come into my possession, having been used privately during the last century with unfailing success. It is guaranteed to cure the worst cases of jaundice, indigestion, and all liver complaints.
WILL SUCCEED where all else fails. Testimonials and directions with each bottle.
Ask your Chemist for it, 2/- and 5/- per bottle; or of the Proprietor, W. H. COLE BRODIE, Offices and Depôt, 39, Pentonville-road, Islington, London, N. Free by Parcels Post, on receipt of remittance 3 6 & 5 6, to any part of Great Britain.
COMPOSED SOLELY of HERBS containing peculiar properties for this complaint. A thorough blood purifier, containing 20 different properties. One wine-glass full to be taken three times a day.
A Captain's daughter writes: "*My dear mother was cured of an attack of the worst sort of Jaundice by taking your* 'BRODIE'S HERB JAUNDICE and LIVER CURE,' *after having been given up by the family doctor and a physician.*"

INGHAM'S EUPHORBIA PILULIFERA
The Australian or Great Queensland Cure for Consumption, Asthma, Bronchitis, Influenza, Coughs, Colds, Difficulty of Breathing, and all Chest Affections.
Brighton, Melbourne, September 24, 1881.
Dear Sir,—Having suffered from Asthma for the last six years, I have the pleasure to acknowledge the great benefit I have derived from your Essence—Euphorbia Pilulifera—together with your Euphorbia Anti-Asthmatique Tobacco. I have taken 2 or 3 bottles of your Essence according to directions, and have also smoked your Euphorbia Tobacco at night when the attack comes on; and am happy to state that for the last 6 months I have been perfectly free of these Asthmatical attacks, for which I am truly grateful.
I am, yours very truly, Charles Rogers.
The above Testimonial is one of hundreds already received.
Price, 2s. 9d. per bottle. Thomas Ingham, Pharmaceutical Chemist, Rockhampton, Queensland.
Wholesale Agents—Burgoyne & Co., 16, Coleman St., London.

BENSON'S
WORKMAN'S
SILVER ENGLISH LEVER.
£5. 5. 0.



SPECIALLY MADE TO KEEP PERFECT TIME.
STAND ROUGH WEAR and
LAST A LIFETIME.
CAPPED, JEWELLED, and
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Delivered safe and free to all parts on receipt of
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J. W. BENSON,
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Illustrated Lists of Watches from £2 2s. to £200 free. Agents, Secretaries of Societies, Foremen, and others, required to establish Watch Clubs for the above.

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What is your Disease—What is your Remedy!
For Answer—Read the
Book of Positive Eclectic Remedies for Self-Treatment. GRATIS and Post Free to any part of the World, on receipt of two Stamps to prepay postage.
THE BOOK OF POSITIVE REMEDIES FOR THE CURE OF ALL DISEASES EVERY HOUSEHOLD, EVERY MAN AND WOMAN SHOULD POSSESS A COPY.
GUIDE-BOOK gives Instructions for Developing and Strengthening the Body. How to Regain Lost Health.
GUIDE-BOOK OF POSITIVE MEDICINES. All Invalids should read the Chapter on General Diseases.
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GUIDE-BOOK OF POSITIVE REMEDIES must be studied by those who have broken down their health by High Pressure Business Life, City Work, Worry, Overtaxed Energies, Intemperance, and Late Hours.
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GUIDE-BOOK OF POSITIVE REMEDIES give also a List of Diseases resulting from Loss of Vital Power.
GUIDE-BOOK for Diseases of Old Age or Decay of Nature, Nervous Prostration, &c.
GUIDE-BOOK to there Constitutional or Hereditary Diseases, Scrofula, Consumption, Pimples, &c.
GUIDE-BOOK of Medicines for the Cure of Diseases of Winter Coughs, Bronchitis, Asthma, &c.
GUIDE-BOOK gives what Medicines will Cure Diseases resulting from Impure Blood, all Skin Diseases, &c.
Self-Treatment is Easy, Safe and Effectual by following the Rules given in this Book.
GUIDE-BOOK OF POSITIVE REMEDIES treats on Wasting Diseases and gives Positive Remedy for all Diseases. It is a Guide-Book of Positive Medicines, and should be kept in every house as a Guide to the Cure of Disease. SEND FOR A COPY OF ONE—GRATIS. Two Stamps must be sent to pay the postage.
May be had Direct from the Publishers,
H. & E. SMITH & Co., Positive Remedy Laboratory, 26, Southampton Row, London, W.C.

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Ever introduced to the English Market.
MANUFACTURED BY THE
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At CLEVELAND, Ohio, U.S.



See a "WHITE" before Purchasing.
Warranted by Legal Guarantee for Five Years.
Also the "PEERLESS" Hand Machine.
Agents and Wholesale Dealers Wanted.
Send for Circulars to the
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LARGE STOCK OF
VALENTINES
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COMIC VALENTINES.
NOW READY, FROM ONE PENNY.
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Girls' Own Annual, containing 848 pages of Interesting Reading, Profusely Illustrated by Eminent Artists, Cloth, 7s 6d, for 6s.
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Routledge's Every Boys' Annual, with Illustrations and 12 Full-paged Coloured Plates, Cloth, Gilt Edges, 6s, for 4s 6d.
Routledge's Every Girls' Annual, with Illustrations and 12 Page Plates, printed in Colours, Cloth, Gilt Edges, 6s., for 4s. 6d.
Little Wide Awake—a Coloured Annual for Children, a most Attractive Book for Young Folks, with Coloured Pictures; Boards, 3s. 6d., for 2s. 8d.; Cloth, 5s., for 4s. 4d.
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Chatterbox, The Favourite Volume for Young Readers, full of Stories, and Hundreds of Engravings Boards, 3s., for 2s. 4d.; Cloth, Gilt Edges, 5s. for 4s.
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Little Folks' Christmas Volume, with nearly 1500 Pictures, and full of Stories, Poems, and Interesting Papers for Children of all ages; Boards, 3s. 6d., for 2s. 9d.; Cloth, Gilt Edges, 5s., for 4s.
The Children's Friend, Infant's Magazine, Family Friend, British Workman, &c.—the old Favourites—full of Stories and Pictures; Boards, 1s. 6d., for 1s. 3d.; Cloth, Plain, 2s., for 1s. 8d.; Cloth, Gilt Edges, 2s. 6d., for 2s.
The Band of Hope, Child's Own Magazine, The Adviser, Children's Picture Annual, and many others, published at 1s., for 10d.
The Sunday at Home—A Family Magazine for Sabbath Reading for 1883; Cloth, 7s., for 5s. 10d.
The Leisure Hour for 1883; Cloth, 7s., for 5s. 10d.
The Quiver, for Sunday and General Reading for 1883; Cloth, 7s. 6d., for 6s.
Cassell's Family Magazine, for 1883, containing Amusing and Instructive Reading; Cloth, 9s., for 7s. 6d.
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☞ Wholesale Buyers supplied as usual at Dean Street.

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GOLD SELF-WINDING LADIES' WATCHES, no key required, of exquisite workmanship. Jewelled in every hole. Perfect Timekeepers. Elegantly chased. This Watch is perfection. Price only 38/6. A liberal percentage by taking a dozen. Country shopkeepers should see a sample. Exceedingly handsome cases, Hall-marked. Cheques and P.O.O. to be made payable to FENTON & CO., Watch Importers, 33, TOWER CHAMBERS, LONDON, E.C.

PILES! Both kinds. A certain cure in most cases. Easily applied. Free by post, 7 stamps. W. A. Spicer, Colchester.

SHARES IN STEAMERS. Dividends of from 20 o/o to 25 o/o per annum. For particulars of a most promising Steamship undertaking, Limited Liability, £50 Shares, Address THOMAS BEER, Steamship Surveyor, Bute Docks, Cardiff.

BRYANT & MAY'S MATCHES

Business Announcements.

EVELINA HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN, Southwark Bridge Road, London, S.E.
THE Committee of Management *urgently appeal for Subscriptions or Donations* to meet the necessary expenses of this Charity, as well as to cover the present deficit of £1,500. The Applications for Admission far exceed the accommodation which the present income enables the Committee to provide. Number of Patients treated last year: In-patients, 541; Outpatients, 6,281. Chairman of the Committee of Management—HENRY CHURCHILL, Esq., J.P. Treasurer—F. H. BEAUMONT, Esq. Bankers—Messrs. SMITH, PAYNE, & SMITHS. T. S. CHAPMAN, Secretary.

YARMOUTH BLOATERS, HAM-CURED RED HERRING, HIGH-DRIED HERRING, and SMOKED HADDOCK, in 7lb Boxes, 3/- each; Parcel Post paid to all parts of the Kingdom; KIPPERS 4/-. Postal Order to JOHN HILLIDGE, Fish Curer, Moss Factory, PRESTON, Lancashire.

OYSTERS BY PARCELS POST. From 1s. per dozen upwards. Price list of all kinds sent free on application to FRANK HASTINGS, Manager of the Oyster Merchants' Association, 6, Botolph Alley, Billingsgate, London.

SHARES IN STEAMERS, dividends of from 20% to 25% per annum. For Particulars of a most promising Steamship Undertaking, Limited Liability, £50 shares, address THOMAS BEER, Steamship Surveyor, Bute Docks, Cardiff.

THE PATENT SOLIDIFIED OIL. Samples and Prices on Application. For Use wherever Oil, Tallow, or Suet is used.
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Just published, for two stamps.
TO THE NERVOUS AND DEBILITATED.—Read the New Medical Work, entitled "HOW TO ENSURE HEALTH," a most valuable book on the Treatment and Cure of Nervous and Physical Debility, Loss of Memory, Dimness of Sight, Lassitude, Pains in the limbs, Depression of Spirits, Palpitation of the Heart, &c., with plain directions for perfect Restoration to health and vigour. Sent post free on receipt of two stamps (or by letter Post, three stamps). Address, J. A. BARNES, M.D. (U.S.), 48, Lonsdale Square, Liverpool Road, London, N.

EMIGRANTS' PASSAGES.—For lowest fares and information apply to Sewell and Crowther, 18, Cockspur Street, Charing Cross. Canada, £3; United States, £4; Australia, £13 13s.; Brisbane, £14; New Zealand, £13 13s.; and South Africa, £19 19s.; Queensland, £5. Food provided. Saloon passages at low rates. Goods Shipped and Insured.

BRITISH HOME FOR INCURABLES, CLAPHAM.—Information and Forms of Application either for the Home or Pension can be obtained from R. G. SALMOND, Secretary, 73, Cheapside, London, E.C. Funds urgently needed.

STAMMERING CURED. See book written by one who cured himself. Price, post free, thirteen stamps. From B. BEASLEY, Hall Green, near Birmingham.

EPILEPSY—A certain Cure. Pamphlet free two stamps.—Dr. HAMILTON, 81, Oxford Street, London.

TUNE YOUR OWN PIANOS.—Send 12 stamps for "TUTOR," which will enable you to ... tune ... Address, ... New Oxford Street, London.

CANADA and EMIGRATION ... booking Office for all parts ... Lowest Government fares ... Canada, Australia ... HOME BUCHANAN ... Glasgow.

CROWE'S BALSAM of LINSEED and HONEY perfectly cures COUGHS, COLDS, BRONCHITIS, DIFFICULT BREATHING, LOSS of VOICE, and all CHEST and LUNG AFFECTIONS, is more reliable and efficacious than any other known medicine. Sold by all Chemists in Bottles at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d., or by Parcel Post, 15 or 36 Stamps, by THOMAS CROWE, Practical Chemist, 21, Wardour Street, London.

BRANN'S SKIN LOTION.—Prescribed by the late James Startin, the celebrated skin doctor. Marvellous cure for pimples, blotches, redness, &c. Bottles 2s. 9d. By post 3s.—2, Cosmo Place, London, W.C., and from Chemists.

BOOK of MEDICAL WONDERS, should be read by all young men. Important to debilitated nervous sufferers and those about to marry. Free in Envelope for 4 stamps. Publisher's Medical Hall, Fitzalan-square, Sheffield. Estab. 1828.

PARCELS POST.—PARCELS POST.—On and After August 1st, 1883, ONE PAIR of LACE CURTAINS, four yards long, splendid design, will be sent to any address on receipt of P.O.O., 7s. 6d., carriage free.—W. COTTON, Weekday-cross, Nottingham.

EN AVANT YEAST-BUTTERINE WILKIN & Co., Appold St., Finsbury, LONDON.

CLEANLINESS. Nixey's REFINED Black Lead. POLISHES EQUAL TO BURNISHED STEEL. USED WITHOUT WASTE OR DUST. SOLD EVERYWHERE. Manufactory, Soho Square, LONDON.

KEYLESS WATCHES. LADIES' GOLD 14 carat, warranted. Jewelled in every hole, perfect timekeepers, honestly worth 4 guineas. Price only £2 5s., and money returned if not approved of within 7 days. Handsome presents. Sent registered on receipt of P.O.O. for £2 5s. to H. KING & Co., 11, Vigo Street, Regent Street, W.

WATCHES. MR. W. WILKINSON begs to call attention to his extraordinary low priced LADY'S GOLD KEYLESS WATCHES. Jewelled in every hole, will stand any climate. Price only £3 5s. Well adapted for making presents. P.O.O. to be made payable to E. L. WILKINSON & CO., 2, Colville Square Terrace, London, W.

HORSE GIBBS' PATENT COGS, No Screw Threads; A set fixed or detached instantly. LUTON, BEDS. ROUGHING.

PARCELS POST FREE. SPECIAL NOTICE. CONCERTINAS & MELODEONS for HOME or BANDS. CONCERTINAS, 20 keys, 6/- and 7/6. Do. steel notes, leather bellows, 10/6, 12/6, and 14/6. Melodeons, Two sets of Reeds, powerful basses, elegant finish, draw stops, 7/6, 10/-, 12/6, 15/-, 17/6, and 20/-. Forms an excellent accompaniment for singing. Unrivalled for Dance Music. Price Lists on application. J. MOORE & CO., BUXTON ROAD, HUDDERSFIELD.

THE "SANS SOUCI" BRAND of CLAY PIPES. In short and medium lengths. A 3 DOZ. box of these admirable smoking pipes, perfect in design, finish, and porosity, sent to any address in the United Kingdom on receipt of 2/6. THOS. DAVIDSON, jun., & Co. (late Murray & Co.), Caledonian Pipe Works, Glasgow. Estd. half a Century.

LADY'S GOLD KEYLESS WATCHES, warranted thoroughly genuine, quite new, of exquisite workmanship and perfect timekeepers, will stand any climate. Price 38 6. These watches cannot be excelled in London shops for £4. They are jewelled in every hole and beautifully finished with all the latest improvements. Forwarded on receipt of P.O.O. to CHARLES FISHER, 71, Balby Road, Doncaster.

LADY'S GOLD KEYLESS WATCHES, warranted perfect Time Keepers, beautifully chased cases, & jewelled in every hole. Price 38s. 6d., honestly worth £4. Money returned if not approved of within 3 days. Forwarded registered on receipt of P.O.O. for 38s. 6d. THOMSON & CO., 68, Hawksley Road, Albion Road, Stoke Newington, London, N.

LADY'S GOLD KEYLESS WATCHES, perfect Time Keepers and beautifully finished. Price 38s. 6d. These watches cannot be excelled in London shops for £4. Money returned if purchasers are not perfectly satisfied. Forwarded on receipt of P.O.O. for 38s 6d. to W. C. TOOMER, Grayling Road, Stoke Newington, London, N.

WATCHES.—LADY'S GOLD KEYLESS.—Pretty articles of exquisite finish. No 10 Guinea Watch contains more delicate movements. Jewelled in every hole, self hand-setting and winding. These Watches cannot be bought in a shop under 4 Guineas. Sent on approval, on receipt of P.O.O. for 38s. 6d. to ANDERSON & Co., 43, Church Road, Northwich.

STAMMERING CURED. See Book written by one who has cured himself. Price, post free, 13 stamps, from B. BEASLEY, HALLGREEN, near BIRMINGHAM.

ON NERVOUS DEBILITY and the Art of Healing all Diseases arising from Errors and Indiscretions of Youth and Manhood, Loss of Vitality, &c. Post free 3 Stamps from PROFESSOR DE VERE, 226, KING'S ROAD, CHELSEA, LONDON, S.W.

"ADVICE TO ... and Indigestion ... pamphlet appe... to decide every ... J. M. RICHARDS ...
IF YOU ARE ... Rheumatism ... obtain of any che... extraordinary ... Lady Waldegrave, the ... and many other eminent ... Sold in bottles ...

"FOR ASTHMA, HAY FEVER AND CATARRH.—Himrod's Cure ... in the case of the late Lord Beaconsfield ... which his lordship ... Powder. "The ... J. M. RICHARDS, 22 and 23, Great ... London.

"BRIGHT'S DISEASE ... COMPLAINT.—The 'Holman Pad' ... wonderful efficacy in all ... or diseased kidneys ... 'Holman Pad' is a cure ... 'Nature's Laws' ... Holman Pad Co., 93, Great Russell ... Price of Holman Pad, 10s.

"GET A BOTTLE TO-DAY OF PERRY DAVIS' PAIN KILLER.—It ... cures sprains, burns, bruises, ... pains in the side, joints, and limbs ... Taken internally cures at once coughs ... in stomach, colic, diarrhœa, and ... PAIN KILLER is the great household medicine ... the test of 40 years. Any chemist can supply ...

"BEEF TEA ... Liebig Company's EXTRACT OF BEEF is the best ... general use ... and Medical ... awarded. ... Depot ... Great ...

DR. BARDSLEY'S ANTIBILIOUS PILLS.—For eradicating 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.

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.

THIS DAY'S NEWS.

"GUARDIAN" OFFICE, FRIDAY, 4 P.M.

THE JEWS IN RUSSIA.

[CENTRAL NEWS TELEGRAMS.]

ST. PETERSBURG, FRIDAY.

The Senate has recommended the immediate abrogation of the laws of General Ignatieff affecting the Russian Jews.

THE LONDON HYGIENIC EXHIBITION

BRUSSELS, FRIDAY.

A decree is gazetted appointing a committee for organising the Belgians to participate in the London Hygienic Exhibition.

NEW MILITARY MANŒUVRES.

Preparations are being commenced for extensive military manœuvres in the Casque provinces.

A DISABLED MAIL STEAMER

A Central News Penzance telegram says that the steamer *Argosy* arrived off the Lizard Point reports passing a disabled mail steamer *Celtic*. The *Argosy* transferred several of the *Celtic* passengers to the tug *Emperor*, which proceeded to Falmouth.

THE COMTE DE PARIS.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.]

PARIS, FRIDAY,

The Comte de Paris left here for Spain at seven o'clock yesterday evening. To-day's Monarchist journals state that, just before the departure of the train, an address, was handed to the Prince in the name of the Royalists, and that a few cries of "Long live the Comte de Paris; long live the King!" were heard. It is added that three or four arrests were made in consequence of the demonstration. On the other hand, the *Voltaire* declares that invitations had been distributed yesterday morning in view of a demonstration to be made on the departure of the Comte, which, however, took place without any incident or manifestation whatever.

THE HEALTH OF PRESIDENT GREVY.

PARIS, FRIDAY.

The *Journal le Paix*, to-day, gives a contradiction to the recent unfavourable reports regarding the health of President Grevy.

THE SITUATION IN THE SOUDAN.

ALARMING POSITION OF SINKAT AND KHARTOUM.

SUAKIM (*via* SUEZ), DEC. 13.

Baker Pasha's agents are now among the Arab chiefs, who have had fifteen days' grace offered within which to submit. If the chiefs decline, Baker Pasha expects to advance upon Sinkat shortly after his return from Massowah, for he sails to-morrow with Admiral Hewett. The object of the voyage is to pacify the Abyssinians, who are raiding on Egyptian territory, and bring back the troops at Agig. Including Zebehr's men, coming from Cairo, detachments from Massowah, and the garrisons southwards, about two thousand blacks are expected to be available for the relief of Sinkat. All Turks, Bashi-Bazouks, and selected Egyptians will raise the troops to nearly five thousand. It is believed the friendly tribes will contribute three thousand more.

SUAKIM, JAN. 3.

Sheikh Mohammed-el-Marganee, the greatest religious Sheikh after the Sheikh-ul-Islam at Constantinople and the Grand Shereef of Mecca, has arrived here from Cai[illegible]. He was received with much enthusiasm. He has already issued a proclamation to the surrounding tribes, exhorting them to submit.

Letters received from Tewfik Bey in Sinkat say they can hold out till the end of the month.

THE STORMS ON THE AMERICAN COAST.

WRECK OF TWELVE VESSELS.

PHILADELPHIA, THURSDAY.

A *Times* telegram states:—The recent gales on the coast caused the wreck of twelve vessels. It appears that the storm following the cold wave passed from Texas in a north-easterly direction, going into the Atlantic from the New England coast.

FRANCE, CHINA, AND TONQUIN.

HONG KONG, THURSDAY.

A *Times* telegram states that the Viceroy of Canton has notified that he will block the river immediately below the city and above the Bogue forts, leaving a passage 90 feet in width. Proclamations have been issued calling for recruits. The Hainan Chinese solicit the Imperial protection against the French.

It is reported that a force of 2,000 men is proceeding to Hainan.

AMERICA AND THE INFLUX OF CHINESE.

PHILADELPHIA, THURSDAY.

The *Times* says:—The steamer Tokio has arrived at San Francisco with only eleven Chinamen on board, having objectionable traders' certificates. It is thought that the opposition shown by the Government has practically put an end to this method of introducing the Chinese.

EXTRAORDINARY CASE OF TRANCE IN LEEDS.

A singular circumstance of the inability of medical men to distinguish between a trance and actual death has just occurred in Leeds. Emma Whittaker, 16 years old, has for a long time been suffering from consumption, and the disease, it was believed, terminated fatally on Thursday last. She apparently breathed her last early in the afternoon, and the body was accordingly washed and laid out in the usual manner. An undertaker was called in and took the measurement for the coffin, and other preparations for the funeral were in course. Late at night the mother and a neighbour were sitting in the kitchen, when they were startled by hearing a noise upstairs, followed by a cry of "mother." Much startled, they went to ascertain what it all meant, when they found the poor girl still wrapped in her grave clothes, standing on the top of the stairs complaining that she was very cold. She was put to bed and medical aid summoned. She soon became quite rational, though, of course, she has not been told how far the arrangements had progressed towards her burial. This singular case of trance is exciting a good deal of interest both among medical men and the public generally.—*Manchester Examiner.*

GENERAL GORDON AND THE CONGO.

The *Times* says the military authorities having refused permission to General Gordon to proceed to the Congo, he has been compelled, at great pecuniary sacrifice, to resign his commission in the English Army, in order that he may be able to fulfill his engagement with the King of the Belgians. He will leave for the Congo in about a fortnight's time. One of the principal objects of his mission will be the suppression of the slave trade in the Niam Niam, the district in which the Soudanese slave dealers mainly procure their supplies.

LANCHESTER PETTY SESSIONS.

THURSDAY, Jan. 10th.—Before M. KEARNEY, Esq. (chairman), GEO. G. TAYLOR, SMITH, Esq., and GEO. HEDLEY, Esq.

DRUNK.

George Blake pleaded guilty to being drunk and disorderly at Craghead, on the 25th ult.—P.C. Carruthers having spoken to finding the defendant creating a disturbance at Craghead whilst under the influence of liquor a lot of children having gathered around him, the usual fine of 5s and 6s 6d costs was imposed.

PITCH AND TOSS.

John Bell, John Parker, Samuel Birtley, George Oswald, and *John Brown*, young men, all pleaded guilty to playing at pitch and toss, at Annfield Plain, on the 23rd ult.—The charge was preferred by P.C. Minto, who attested that at about a quarter to three o'clock on the afternoon above-mentioned, he watched the defendants for the space of ten minutes gambling behind a cart shed.—Each offender was mulcted in a fine of 5s and 6s. 6d. costs.

BREACH OF THE PEACE.

Robert Ferry, a young man, well known to the police, was brought up by Sergt. Nicholson, on a warrant, charged with a breach of the peace by fighting with another youth at Quebec, on the night of the 8th ult.—The prisoner's companion appeared at the last court, and was bound over in his own recognisances for a period of six months, but as Ferry failed to respond to the summons, a warrant was issued against him. Prisoner was likewise bound over in the sum of £5 to keep the peace for six months, and defray the cost of expenses, 15s. 3d.

SWEETHEARTING UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

Charles Bowdon was charged with being drunk and refusing to quit the licensed premises of Richard Hodgson, innkeeper, of Annfield Plain, on December 22nd.—Prosecutor said that on the evening referred to, the defendant came to his house, and as the latter appeared to be very tipsy, he refused to admit him. Defendant persisted in entering the house, but prosecutor told him that he would not supply him with any drink. The man then commenced to indulge in some bad language, and witness fastened the door against him, this keeping him standing outside for a considerable time. As soon as the door was re-opened, however, the defendant rushed inside, and knocked a jug of ale out of the hands of one of his servants. He also threw off his coat, and dashed it at the landlord, but did not strike at him.—Defendant admitted that he was guilty to a certain extent. Heretofore, the landlord had always been willing to serve him with liquor, so long as he had any money in his pockets, even if he was intoxicated.—The Chairman said that from what had come under his personal knowledge, it was doubtless quite true what the defendant had said—that the publicans were in the habit of supplying drink to tipsy men so long as they possessed a few coppers; but the prosecutor asserted that what Bowden had said was nothing but a parcel of lies.—Defendant further stated that he was sweethearting Miss Hodgson (laughter) and neither the father or any other person had a right to separate them, and no one should ever part them. (Renewed laughter).—The Bench imposed a fine of 10 and the costs.

THE BANDSMEN AND THEIR CHRISTMAS BOXES: SEQUEL TO THE ABOVE CASE.

William Murray, a respectable-looking man, was charged with a like offence, committed on the 29th ult.—Mr Hodgson attested that between five and six o'clock p.m., the defendant entered the kitchen of his house when under the influence of liquor, and informed him that Matthew Atkinson, another publican in the town, had presented the local bandsmen with £2 and several bottles of whiskey for their Xmas box. He also inquired what he (Mr Hodgson) intended to give to the brass band, but his wife (who was sitting getting her tea) told the defendant that he had better go away, as it was of no consequence to her what other people had given as gratuities to the bandsmen, and that she would offer them what she had a mind. Defendant managed by some means or other to get a glass of beer in his house, but he refused to leave until he had obtained some more liquor. Murray likewise made some allusion to the case above-mentioned, when he (the landlord) told him it was not his business to interfere in such a matter. Eventually his son had to eject the man by force, and in endeavouring to put him outside, he kicked young Hodgson on the legs, bruising the skin.—By the defendant: He could name every person in the house at the time. Defendant offered to give anybody a shilling if they would only get him some drink.—The landlord's son adduced corroborative testimony, adding that when he was endeavouring to turn the defendant out of the house, he caught hold of the door utensil, and kicked him severely on the leg, knocking off the skin.—A witness named Atkinson spoke to the defendant being rather "fresh" when he visited the prosecutor's house, but he was not intoxicated.—Defendant explained that he entered the house about six o'clock, for the purpose of enjoying a quiet glass of ale. He went into the bar, but as there was rather a rough company in there, he looked into the [illegible], and saw a "mixed multitude," chiefly [illegible] working at the cinder ovens. As he desired [illegible] to be amongst a respectable company, he passed through into the kitchen where about half-a-dozen people had assembled. The Annfield Plain Brass Band was going about at the time, and soliciting subscriptions for the purchase of music and for repairing their instruments. He merely asked Mrs Atkinson what she intended to present to the band as a subscription, and a question afterwards arose concerning the young man Bowden, who was "going" with the landlord's daughter. Mrs Hodgson flew into a rage, and picking up a glass she threatened to split his face with it if he mentioned Bowden in connection with her daughter. He replied that he did not mean to give any offence, as he considered Bowden was quite as respectable as her daughter. The landlord's son then caught hold of him (defendant) and endeavoured to bundle him out of the house. He also kicked him on the legs, and his foot was so much swollen that he was unable to get his boot on for several days after the occurence. He had resided in Annfield Plain for 21 years, and had never been summoned for drunkeness or convicted of any misdemeanour whatever. He was only in feeble health, and had been under the doctor's charge for more than three years.—A witness named Thomas Dawson, was called to corrobate the defendant's statement.—The Chairman said there did not appear to be sufficient cause to drive the defendant out of the house, and the case was dismissed. The prosecutor being ordered to bear the costs.

ALLEGED THEFT FROM A BROTHER.

Ann Dodds, a married woman, was charged with stealing 3s in money, a cashmere dress piece a pair of boots, and other articles, the property of her brother, Hugh Mullen, on the 26th ult.—Prosecutor said he was a miner, residing at East Stanley. The prisoner was his sister, and on the 14th October last she came to his house and said she had been deserted by her husband, and he took her in and kept her. On the 26th December last she left his house early in the morning, and he then missed 3s in money, a dress piece, and a number of articles of wearing apparel, and he gave information to the police. The goods now produced were his.—The Chairman: Is she badly off?—Prosecutor: The fact is she is given to drink. It goes hard with me to prosecute my own sister, but I have tried her in every way I could. She spends everything she gets hold of for drink. I have spent nearly 50s in looking after her and her husband.—Ann Mullen, wife of the prosecutor, gave corroborative evidence.—In defence the prisoner said Mrs Mullen had given her the dress piece and the boots, and she ought to have had a great deal more for the work she had done for them.—Mary Ann Gilbertson, a pawnbroker at Sunderland, said that the prisoner pledged the dress piece at her establishment.—Sergeant Tranmer deposed to apprehending the prisoner at Washington, on Monday, the 6th inst., and on charging her with stealing the money and goods from the house of her brother, she replied that Mrs Mullen had given them to her.—The Chairman: Has the prisoner any home?—Sergeant Tranmer: No, sir. She had two children in Sunderland Workhouse but after she committed this offence she took them out, and went on to the road.—Mr Smith: Does she beg?—Prisoner: No sir; I work for my living.—The Chairman said the case was a very paltry one, and if it was true that Mrs Mullen had given the prisoner the shoes and dress piece, there was little else left.—The case was dismissed.

THEFT BY A GIRL AT BURNHOPE.

Elizabeth Thornton, a girl 13 years of age, was charged with stealing the sum of 3s in silver and a tin-can, the property of Thomas Gales, shopkeeper, of Burnhope Colliery, on the 31st of December.—The prisoner pleaded guilty.—Prosecutor's wife stated that she kept a small shop at Holmside. On the 31st ult. she left her shop for a short time, and on returning found that a tin and 3s in money had been taken from a shelf in the shop.—Mary Brown, a little girl, proved that the prisoner had been in the prosecutor's shop on the day named.—The Chairman severely reprimanded the prisoner for the theft, and stated that on account of her youth and the fact that this was her first offence, the Bench were disposed to be very lenient with her.—She was fined 5s and costs and ordered to refund the 3s to the prosecutor.

GATESHEAD COUNTY POLICE.

TUESDAY, Jan. 9th.—Before Earl RAVENSWORTH (chairman), R. O. LAMB, Esq., and J. M. REDMAYNE, Esq.

GAME TRESPASS.

John Rutherford, said to be an itinerant preacher at Washington, was fined £2 and costs for having been found in pursuit of game on land belonging to Mr Geo. Burnup, at Washington, on the 5th inst.

LARCENIES.

Matthew McPartland was sent to gaol for fourteen days for stealing 11lbs. of potted beef from the shop of Thomas Robinson, Usworth, on the 2nd inst.

Thomas Wood, a tramp, was sent to gaol for six months for petty larcenies at Felling and other places during the last few days.

ATTEMPTED RAPE AT CONSETT.

At the Lanchester Petty Sessions yesterday (Thursday), *John McDonald*, aged 17, an under-hand puddler, was put forward (on remand from Consett, charged with committing a rape on Catherine Collins, aged about 25 years, at Consett, on the 4th inst. Mr T. W. Welford (Consett) again appeared to prosecute; while Dr. Carr defended the prisoner.

Prosecutor said she was a single woman, and lived at 22, Queen Street, with her step-father. On Friday night last, about nine o'clock, she was standing at the New Inn, Consett, when the prisoner and Edward Keenan came up to her. She was then conversing with the prisoner's sister. In consequence of what was said, she accompanied McDonald for a walk down Delves Lane, the other young woman accompanying Keenan. They proceeded as far as the railway crossing and turned past the cabin, and afterwards travelled down the railway as far as the water tank. Keenan and McDonald's sister followed a short distance behind. Reaching this spot, the prisoner knocked her down, and ill-used her. It was exceedingly dark at the time. She shouted very loud, and then the prisoner put his hand into her mouth and threatened to choke her. After that he ran away. Subsequently Mr Collinson came up, and she informed him of prisoner's conduct. A signalman also appeared on the scene, carrying a lamp in his hand.—Cross-questioned by Dr. Carr: The prisoner had never "followed" her before in his life. She knew that Keenan was "going" with the other young woman, and the pair were only a short distance behind them. When McDonald saw the man with the lamp approaching, he told his sister to run away. Prisoner had his hand over her mouth when Batey came up with the lamp. She was then screaming, and he threatened to "choke her for a b—— if she did not shut up." She had never given the prisoner the slightest encouragement.

Mr John Collinson, shoemaker, living in Middle Street, Consett, adduced that on the Friday night in question, about ten o'clock, he was near the railway crossing in Knitsley Lane, when he heard a loud scream of a female, apparently in distress, which was repeated several times. A signalman named Geo. Batey, was standing at the door of his cabin, and he made a remark to the latter, asking him what had happened? Accordingly they both ran up to the spot from whence the cries proceeded, and on arriving at the water tank, situate on one side of the railway, he observed the prosecutor in a distressed condition. He inquired if anyone had interfered with her, and she replied "Yes," adding, in answer to a further interrogation that "she knew the man." She also told him that she had been ill-used. He then gave informaton to the police.—By Dr. Carr: She did not say who had ill-treated her.

George Batey, cabin keeper, employed by the Consett Iron Company, stated that on the night in question he was standing at the door of his cabin, when the previous witness came up, and spoke to him. Hearing the screams of a female in distress, they both proceeded towards the water tank, about one hundred yards away from his cabin. He there saw the prosecutrix in a confused state; her hair was hanging down, and several patches of dirt were visible on her face. He looked round to see if he could discover anybody, but no one was astir, except three young lads walking in the direction of Templetown. The young men spoke to him, and then resumed their journey.

Mr D. Donald, assistant to Dr W. Renton, said he examined both the prosecutrix and the prisoner, on the night in question, and he described in detail the results of his investigations. His testimony shewed that a rape had been committed.

P.C. William Campbell deposed that he apprehended the prisoner at eleven o'clock on the evening of the 4th inst., and charged him with committing a rape on Catherine Collins, but he made no reply whatever.

Dr Carr submitted there was only a very weak case against his client, and considering the previous good character borne by the prisoner, and the suspicious conduct of the young woman, the case ought to be dismissed. He could shew that the prosecutrix was quite agreeable to the prisoner taking liberties with her, until three or four more youths, who were "touting," made their appearance on the spot, and then the young woman objected to these having anything to do with her, consequently when she began to scream out, McDonald foolishly ran away.

The witness Edward Keenan was examined, and, eventually, on the application of the learned doctor, the case was further adjourned until Monday next, in order that additional witnesses for the prosecution and defence might be subpœned.

The Chairman observed that as matters stood at present the prisoner would undoubtedly have been committed for trial.

CONSETT COUNTY COURT.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 9th—Before E. J. MEYNELL, Esq., Judge.

A LAW CLERK'S BILL OF COSTS.

JACKSON *v.* ALDERSON.—In this case, Robert Jackson, law clerk, Leadgate, sued the defendant, Arthur Alderson, grocer, of Trafalgar Street, Consett, for £7 7s 6d for work and labour done in connection with the settlement and winding up of the defendant's affairs with his creditors. The action, it may be remembered, was before the court about three weeks ago, when Mr Barnes, on behalf of the defendant, explained that on the 5th Novr. last, he (plaintiff) sent in a bill charging £6 17s 7d for performing this work; and subsequently on the 23rd of the same month forwarded another account to the defendant for £7 17s 6d, for doing exactly the same work. The suit was then adjourned for the plaintiff to furnish His Honour with full particulars in respect to his claim.—The plaintiff stated that when the defendant launched himself into difficulties and liquidated his estate among his creditors, he (plaintiff) was personally requested by Mr Alderson to perform the work specified in the bill of particulars; to write and copy certain documents, to undertake several journeys to Newcastle (on many occasions being accompanied by the defendant, who paid his railway fare and other expenses) for the purpose of conferring with Mr Harle, solicitor; to negociate for several loans on behalf of the defendant; to check off the goods and chattels and stock-in-trade disposed of during the two days of the defendant's sale, and to execute other work in connection with the liquidation proceedings.—The different items in the bill of particulars were challenged in *seriatim* by Mr Barnes, who cross-examined the plaintiff on every point. The latter declared that he never sent in an account to the trustee of the estate—Mr Pybus, accountant, of Stockton-on-Tees. On the 18th September, he (plaintiff) received 10s from Mr Harle as a present.—His Honour: What for?—Plaintiff: For doing something for him.—His Honour: I should think he did not give it to you for doing nothing. What was the 10s for?—Mr Barnes: Was it not for preparing a second list of the creditors at Mr Harle's request?—Plaintiff: It was for to send a list of the creditors to Mr Pybus, as the trustee and receiver of the estate.—His Honour: How may copies did you make?—Plaintiff: Two, sir, for the meetings of creditors on the 29th and 30th September.—Mr Barnes pointed out that there were several items in the second bill of particulars that were not to be found in the original bill. How was that discrepency accounted for?—Plaintiff replied that he must not have been very particu'ar in going through his diary when preparing the first bill.—Mr Barnes observed that the plaintiff expected he had not charged sufficient in the original bill, and as he did not suppose his account would be contested in any way, he had cooked a second bill, where he was charging £1 more for his services.—His Honour struck out all the items enumerated in the second account and not appearing in the original bill of particulars.—No witnesses were called by the plaintiff, and the defendant, on being sworn, admitted that in August last he went to Mr Jackson and conferred with him about filing his petition and calling a meeting of his creditors. Plaintiff visited him on the following morning, according to promise, and Mr Jackson agreed to place the matter in the hands of Messrs Harle, solicitors, of Newcastle, adding that their charges were rather low, and that they generally allowed him (plaintiff) a commission for every case he procured for them. He (defendant) accompanied Mr Jackson to Newcastle, the latter stating he desired to see Mr Harle on some particular business. On the 27th August, plaintiff came to his house to copy extracts from his statements of liabilities, &c., and was engaged in this work until nearly five o'clock at night. He (Mr Alderson) also journied to Newcastle on the 28th, and the plaintiff (who again remarked that he had some business to transact with Mr Harle) likewise went with him. Mr Jackson was engaged for him that day about a quarter-of-an-hour. As he was travelling to Newcastle on the 3rd September, he again met the plaintiff, who said he would accompany him, but he (defendant) did not desire him to do so. Plaintiff was present at the meeting of creditors, not, however, at his request. He gave Mr Jackson a copy of the writ to convey to Mr Harle. Defendant said he had an old account standing against the plaintiff, and he supposed the small portion of work done at his request was merely to go towards wiping off this debt.—By the plaintiff: He (defendant) never asked him to accompany him to Newcastle every time he went to see Mr Harle. Never paid his railway fare except on one occasion. Plaintiff once asked him for the loan of 2s to get some refreshments with. He had two accounts in his books standing against the plaintiff.—His Honour: Did you ever ask the plaintiff to repay these debts?—Defendant: He promised to repay me in this way; he volunteered his services to me in order to effect a settlement of the accounts I had against him.—In further cross-examination, the defendant said he could not remember paying him 2s on the 8th October—the first day of the sale; nor did he on the following day give him 1s 6d. A messenger was not subsequently dispatched to Mr Harle, at Chester-le-Street, for £10 or £12, in payment for some cattle spice (although the plaintiff handed a letter to His Honour written by the defendant to Mr Harle to that effect), nor did the messenger return back without being able to see Mr Harle. He (plaintiff) was not instructed, on the 10th of the same month, to make application to several parties in Consett for a loan on his behalf, and he was never authorised to procure a sum of £12 from a lady in Consett for the use of the defendant. Plaintiff was, however, present when he obtained a loan of £12 from a Consett lady.—His Honour: How did the plaintiff know that you were going to borrow a sum of money from this person, if you did not authorise him to negociate for the same?—Defendant: He was so particularly inquisitive regarding my business affairs that I had considerable difficulty in getting rid of him. He knew beforehand that I was about to borrow some money from this particular lady, as he was in the habit of frequenting her house.—By the plaintiff: In consequence of being unable to get this cheque for £12 cashed, he (Mr Jackson) was not asked to negociate for another loan of £7 for him.—Mr Barnes pleaded a set off, and submitted that his client expected that the services proferred him by the plaintiff were in settlement of the old-standing account.—His Honour: Well, your client must have been very green, if he expected that Mr Jackson was going to do all this work, and undertake several journeys to Newcastle, without any payment.—Mr Barnes: I think my client was very green in having anything to do with Mr Jackson.—His Honour: I have nothing to say on that point. Of course, the plaintiff is entitled to reasonable payment for the amount of work he had performed.—Judgment was accordingly given in favour of the plaintiff for £4 2s 0d, in two payments.

CHEAP LODGINGS.

WILSON *v.* DONNOLLY.—Matthew Wilson, shoemaker, sued James Donnolly, coal hewer, for £2 10s., for lodgings.—Plaintiff explained that the defendant, together with his wife and three children, came to reside with him on the 23rd February last, and they lodged with him until the 23rd of the following August. Defendant agreed to pay 2s. a week, but during that period he gave him nothing, inasmuch he said he only got his money every three months, and he left his house before the end of the second quarter.—Defendant asserted that no bargain was made between the plaintiff and himself, and he expected that he was living rent free. As he worked at the colliery, he was entitled to a load of coals every fortnight, and the larger portion of the fuel was used by the plaintiff.—Mr Wilson admitted that this was correct, but alleged that the defendant agreed to pay him 2s. a week in addition to allowing him the privilege of using his coals.—His Honour found for the plaintiff for £1 18s., payable at 4s. per month.

A FARMER'S TRANSACTION.

BATES *v.* RAINBOW.—Mr T. W. Welford (Consett) appeared for the plaintiff, Wm. Bates, farmer, who sued another farmer named Thos. Rainbow, for £2—£1 10s for half-year's rent of a small grass close and 10s. for four weeks' eatage for a horse.—Plaintiff let the grass close to the defendant in the month of April, 1883, at £3 a year, the rent to be paid half-yearly. Moreover the defendant pastured a horse in another of his fields for a month, for which he charged him 2s. 6d. a week.—Defendant contended that the terms agreed upon were that the rent should be paid annually, consequently it was not due until April next. He admitted the claim of 10s with respect to pasturage, and his Honour gave judgement for payment of this sum in 28 days.—Defendant pleaded a set-off, but was advised to bring a counter claim against the plaintiff.

A DISPUTED ACCOUNT.

SMITH *v.* WINSHIP.—In this action a joiner named Smith sought to recover £1 from Sarah Winship, balance of account owing.—Some years ago, the plaintiff made some shutters for the defendant, and charged £6 for the same. The latter paid £5 on account, and he was now claiming the balance.—Defendant stated that her brother-in-law (Mr Turnbull) instructed the plaintiff to make the shutters for her, and it was agreed that the costs thereof should not exceed £5. Smith, however, sent in a bill for £6, but she objected to the charge at the time. She gave him £5, and the plaintiff settled the bill, adding that she would hear nothing further respecting the other £1.—Thomas Turnbull, labourer, having corroborated the previous witness, His Honour decided in the defendant's favour, and allowed her costs.

THE FORTHCOMING ROYAL VISIT TO DURHAM.—Mr Alderman Richardson, of Durham, on Wednesday received a telegram from Mr Hudson, Provincial Grand Secretary of Freemasons, as follows:—"Duke of Albany is coming to visit Provincial Lodge at Castle Hall, Durham, at 11·30 a.m., on Wednesday, January 30th, and there will be a special service in the Cathedral at 12 30 p.m." This telegram was supplemented by a letter, in which Mr Hudson goes on to say "Our masonic arrangements are almost complete and the programme and order of procession will be issued on Friday. We expect a brilliant assembly, and provision will be made in the Castle Hall for 750 of our members. The Ven. Archdeacon Watkins, Canons Tristram and Robertson, and Professor Plummer, are all co-operating most heartily with us. Our brethern will go in procession from the Castle Hall to the Cathedral and return there. The Duke will also join us in the procession, and will come by train to Durham, along with the Marquis of Londonderry and a distinguished company from Wynyard."

THE EARLY CLOSING ASSOCIATION.—The Annual Report of the Early Closing Association, 100, Fleet Street, London, E.C., has just been issued. It contains copious information concerning the progress of the Early Closing movement in London and the principal towns. A letter issued therewith states that the Saturday half-holiday has made great progress in the metropolis during the year, and that it is in some measure due to the principal tradesmen electing to make Saturday the early closing day, that the mid-week early closing has, in some districts, been abandoned. The latter arrangement has, however, been adopted with marked success in some suburban districts and in a large number of country towns. The report contains a list shewing the market days and early closing days in the principal towns of England and Wales, and abundant statistics of the hours of closing on Saturdays and other days of the principal London houses. It also contains a pithy letter on the movement from the Rev C. H. Spurgeon, and extracts from speeches of Mr Foster, Mr Goschen, and Mr Joseph Cowen. It is stated that the Board of Management have striven hard to rouse a determined antagonism against excessive overwork amongst all classes of tradesmen and assistants, and have incurred great pecuniary responsibility by holding numerous public meetings, and carrying on a large distribution of pamphlets, placards, handbills, &c., &c. They have also placed every inducement before others to form Local Committees and Associations, and lastly they have spared no effort to rouse the public conscience against the baneful results of late shopping.

OPENING OF A MISSION ROOM AT CRAGHEAD.

The village of Craghead is situated about four miles to the west of Chester-le-Street, and contains a population of about 700 people. It lies on the eastern edge of the parish of Holmside, formed a few years ago out of the parishes of Lanchester and Chester-le-Street, the Rev Earle McGowan being the first vicar. This district, like many others in the county, has of late years vastly increased in population, owing to the extension of the coal trade. The church at Holmside provides for the central part of the parish. Craghead lies two and a half miles distant; and up till Sunday last possessed no accommodation for worship, according to the rites of the English Church. Before entering on a description of the interesting proceedings in connection with the opening of the mission room, it may not be out of place to say something of the associations which cling around the village and immediate neighbourhood. Mr William Hedley, "the inventor of the locomotive on the present principle," towards the latter part of an arduous and successful life, settled at Burnopside Hall, having secured one of the most extensive coal royalties in the country. In the colliery office at Craghead is an interesting document, which possesses more than a local interest, which contains Mr Hedley's original model, by which he reduced the practicability of making railway engines with smooth wheels on smooth rails. There are now six collieries, viz., Craghead, Holmside, and Holmside New Winning, of which Mr Wm. Hedley, Beechgrove, is the managing partner, with Mr Edward Wardle underground manager; South Moor, Louisa, and Morrison, of which Mr George Hedley, of Burnopside Hall, is managing partner, and Mr Gray underground manager; Mr James Fairley, of Craghead, viewer, having charge over all. In order to meet the spiritual wants of the parish, the Bishop of Durham readily assented to the appointment of a curate. Mr Wm. Hedley, of Beechgrove, has converted a couple of offices into a neat and commodious Mission Room, capable of seating 100 people. The room contains a reading-desk of pitch pine, open seats of the same material, and a handsome harmonium in walnut, supplied by Mr Hare, of Newcastle, the total expense being defrayed by Mr William Hedley. The walls are relieved by ornamental texts, the gift of Miss Fairley, the daughter of the respected viewer. The opening services on Sunday were conducted by the Rev R. Brent, vicar, who preached an appropriate sermon from the words, "From this day will I bless thee." After commenting on the special day appointed at the creation and the giving of the law on Sinai, he hoped that the opening of the Mission Room would be a special day in Craghead, and after referring to the facilities of worship provided by a neighbour, he spoke of the method of conducting the services, which required (1), Regularity; (2), Prayful spirit; (3), A hopeful spirit. The chants and hymns were sung in a highly creditable manner by the new choir, which has been taught by Miss Fairley, who presided at the harmonium. The movement has been cordially supported by Miss Singleton, of Beechgrove, and Mr J. Fairley, of Craghead. The Rev P. Cameron, curate, preached in the evening.

LOCAL HUNTING APPOINTMENTS.—Braes of Derwent Foxhounds: Saturday, January 12th, Coalburns, at 10·30. North Durham: Monday, Jan. 14th, Lumley Castle; Wednesday, 16th, Burn Hall (by request); Friday, 18th, Witton Gilbert for Langley, at 10·45.

Market Reports.

NEWCASTLE FRUIT AND POTATO, Saturday.—Scotch potatoes, 8d; onions, 1s to 1s 4d per stone; figs, 5d to 10d per lb; apples, 1s to 1s 6d per stone; pears, 1d to 2d per lb; grapes, 4d to 6d per lb; cauliflowers, 2d to 3d each; oranges, 4d to 6d per dozen; cabbages, roots, and other classes at late rates.

NEWCASTLE FLOUR, Saturday.—Hungarian, 3s 0d; American, 2s 2d; No. 1 superfine, 2s 2d; superfines, 2s 0d, fines, 1s 10d; households, 1s 8d; seconds, 1s 8d; ryemeal, 2s 0d; wheatmeal, 1s 10d; oatmeals, English, 2s 4d; Scotch, 2s 2d per stone; 4lb loaf, 7d.

NEWCASTLE MEAT AND POULTRY, Saturday.—

	s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.		s.	d.
Prime large beef	0	9	to	1	0	Pigeons, per couple	1	6	to	1	9
Prime mutton	0	11		1	0	Turkeys, per lb	1	0		1	3
Small Pork	0	0		0	11	Turkeys, pults	0	0		0	0
Veal	0	8		0	11	Partridge, brace	0	0		0	0
Lamb per qr.	11	0		14	0	Pheasants	7	6		8	6
American beef	0	2½		0	8	Geese, per lb	0	10		0	11
" mutton	0	5		0	9	Goslings, each	0	0		0	0
" lamb	0	0		0	0	Hares, each	5	6		0	0
" veal	0	7		0	9½	Leverets	0	0		0	0
" pork	0	8		0	9	Rabbits, couple	2	9		3	3
Hens, each	1	0		1	9	Ptarmigan, cuple	2	6		3	0
Ducks, each	5	0		6	0	Egyptian quail	0	0		0	0
Ducklings, per cp.	0	0		0	0	English fresh butter, per lb	1	5		1	6
Spring Chickens	5	0		6	6	Fresh eggs 6 for 1s					
Wild ducks, brace	0	0		0	0	Salmon, per lb	0	0		0	0
Quails, per couple	0	0		0	0	Do. trout	0	0		0	0
Grouse, per couple	0	0		0	0						

HEXHAM PROVISION, Tuesday.—Butter, 1s 6d to 1s 7d per lb; eggs, 9 to 11 for 1s; black game, 0s 0d to 0s 0d per brace; grouse, 5s 6d to 6s 6d. hares, 4s 0d to 5s; rabbits, 3s 0d to 0s 0d per couple; chickens, 2s 9d to 3s 0d; ducks, 2s 9d to 3s 0d; potatoes, 8d per stone; apples, 1s 0d to 1s 6d per stone; onions, 1s 2d to 2s; carrots, 8d per stone; geese, 9d to 10d per lb; pears, 2d per lb; damsons, 1s per quart; cucumbers, 4d to 1s; lemons, cabbages, 1d to 2d each; flour, extra superfines, 2s 2d; superfines, 2s 0d; fines, 1s 10d; maslin, 1s 8d; oatmeal, 2s 4d per stone.

DURHAM PROVISION, Saturday.—Beef, 8½d to 10½d; mutton, 8½d to 10½d; veal, 9d to 11d; pork, 9d to 10d; bacon, 4½d to 6½d; ham, 7d to 8d; cheese, 6d to 8d; lard, 8d per lb; chickens, 2s 0d to 3s 0d; ducks, 2s 6d to 3s 0d; hens, 1s 6d to 2s 0d; hares, 4s 0d to 4s 6d each; pigeons, 1s 3d to 1s 4d per couple; rabbits, 3s 0d to 4s 0d; per couple; butter, 1s 7d to 1 9d; do. salt, 1s 0d to 1s 2d per lb; eggs, 6 to for 7 1s; apples, 1s 0d to 1s 9d; onions 1s 6d to 2s 0d per peck; potatoes, 8d per stone.

NEWCASTLE CORN, Saturday.—At this day's market wheat a dull trade at rather lower prices Old Scotch oats are rather dearer; the same remark applies to ordinary kinds of new; fine qualities are firm; foreign lower to sell. Barley unchanged Maize in large supply and 6d lower Beans and peas quiet. Flour slow.

BRITISH.			FOREIGN.		
Wheat, Red 504lbs	39s to	44s	American, 504lbs	44 to	46s
Do. White do.	44s	50s	Californian do.	45s	46s
Barley, malting. 448lbs	32s	36s	Baltic do.	45s	47s
Do. Grinding. 448lbs	[illegible]s	28s	Barley, malting 448lbs	31s	37s
Oats, Scotch Potato, 336lbs	24s	30s	Do. grinding. 448lbs	25s	30s
Do. Common do	22s	27s	Oats, 336lbs	20s	23s
Beans, 504lbs	34s	42s	Beans, 504lbs	34s	36s
Peas, do.	35s	38s	Peas, do.	36s	4[illegible]s
Oatmeal Sch, 280lbs	35s	36s	Maize, 480lbs	27s	28-0d
Flour, 280lbs	31s	34s	Flour, 280lbs	34s	37s

HEXHAM, Tuesday.—An average supply of barley at our market to-day, but very few buyers present, and little or no business transacted. A small show of both wheat and oats.

NEWCASTLE HAY AND STRAW, Tuesday.—Old land hay, £3 10s to £5 0s; this year's growth, £0 0s 0d to £0 0s 0d; new land hay, £3 16s to £5 10s; this year's growth, £0 0s to £0 0s; clover hay, £3 10s to £4 0s per ton; wheat straw, 1s 10d to 2s 4d; barley straw, 1s 7d to 1s 10d; oat straw, 1s 9d to 2s 3d per thrave; carts of hay at market, 103; carts of straw, 40

NEWCASTLE CATTLE, Tuesday.—The arrivals from a distance consisted of 85 head of cattle, 30 sheep, and 351 pigs from Aberdeen and the districts in the North-East coast of Scotland; 1,170 beasts and 200 sheep from foreign countries.

Respecting quality, everything was a good seasonable average.

231 head of Cattle were despatched to Manchester yesterday.

The supply of beef comprised 1,711 head. The beef trade ruled dull, but a good clearance effected.

The number of sheep shown was 3,430. The mutton trade was slow, with a bad finish.

Pigs: 705 were shown. The pork trade was slow, at lower rates, and a part left over.

PRICES FOR THIS DAY SINKING THE OFFAL:

Beef, prime heifers, per stone	10s	0d	to	10s	3d
Secondary sorts	9s	3d	..	9s	6d
First-class oxen	9s	6d	..	10s	0d
Middling	9s	0d	..	9s	3d
Cows and inferior	6s	9d	..	8s	0d
Pigs	6s	0d	..	9s	0d
Sheep, small, per lb		10d	to		10½d
" large fat, per lb.		8d	to		9½d
Lambs, per lb		0d	to		0d

Nos. shown:—1,711; sheep 3 430; pigs, 705.

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

Original Poetry.

WHERE IS LITTLE NELLIE?

Where is little Nellie? Sitting
In the leafy arbour there,
And the birds and bees are flitting
Round her in the summer air.
And she bends above the holy
Book that rests upon her knee,
Pausing oft to whisper, lowly,
"Jesus died, and died for me."

Where is little Nellie? Straying
By the river, up the wood,
Walking gently, never playing
As a child like Nellie should.
Now her cheek is paler, thinner,
Clearer than it used to be;
And her spirit breathes within her,
"Jesus, come and live in me."

Where is little Nellie? Lying
Weak and broken—ah! they say,
She is lying there and dying,
And she cannot pass to-day.
And her mother, ever near her,
As a mother loves to be,
Often in the hush can hear her:
"Thou art come, and come for me."

Where is little Nellie? Sleeping
Where the sleepers ever sleep;
Far beneath the voice of weeping,
In those chambers still and deep.
Where is little Nellie? Singing
Where the singers ever sing:
And the holy harps are ringing
In the presence af the King.

Consett, Dec. 28th, 1883. RICHARD DODD.

NEW MUSIC.

MESSRS WILLEY AND CO.—We have four songs before us, published by Willey and Co. of Great Marlborough Street, London, composed by the popular composer, C. E. Kettle. The first one called "Peace in Heaven," is a fine sacred song for soprano, the compass ranging from E flat up to F, and is set in the key of A flat major. The second called "Per Mane, per Terram," is a bold song, in the key of F, written for the Royal Marines. It is composed for a baritone voice, and its compass is from C up to C. There is a chorus arranged for four voices to it, which makes the song very effective. The third is entitled "Saturday night at sea," a bold sea song: it is composed in the key of D for baritone, or in E flat to suit higher voices. The fourth is a capital song, called "Ben Brace," composed also for a baritone. It is written in the key of E minor, the second part of the song ending in the major. This song cannot fail to please; it is rather comic, and tells of a sailor who jumped into the sea to save the captain's daughter, who had accidentally fallen overboard, and was just in the act of being swallowed by a shark, when the sailor, to save the girl, lost one of his legs by the shark. Ben desires no praise for his act of bravery, and closes the song in these words:—

"I've only done my duty Miss,
And that's enough for me;
For a British tar, in peace or war,
Will risk his life for a she."

We prophecy a long run for this song. Willey and Co, have also issued a song called "At the Stile," composed by Frank Swift, a man who has gained a pretty fair reputation, not only as a composer, but as a song writer, and also as a singer. This song is a fine melody in the minor, which exactly speaks the subject of it, *i.e.* a broken-hearted lover, mourning the loss of one he knows he will see at that stile no more. The public need not be afraid of singing any of these songs anywhere, as they can do so without asking anyone, or without paying any fee.

MESSRS. W. MARSHALL AND CO.—Three songs also have been added to the list of those published by W. Marshall and Co., of Princess Street, Oxford Circus, London, composed by W. M. Hutchison. First, "Mine again;" a love song. This is a pretty song, set in the key of F major, its commencement is much like the old song "Isle of Beauty." It is easy to sing, and may be had also for tenor in B flat; or baritone in G. Second, "Pierrot." A good, plaintive Ballad. The words are a fine little poem, written by F. E. Weatherby. The subject is this:—Pierrot is a soldier and is called to the war; Babette, his beloved one, pines away in sorrow and grief. The war terminates favourably for Pierrot, who returns to claim his love, but finds her resting below "a little cross where lilies blow." Third is a merry comic piece, called "The little Mandin." It is written and composed to make a laugh, and we think it will not fail to do so.

MR F. PITMAN.—We have before us the third No. of a new musical magazine, issued by F. Pitman of 20 and 21, Paternoster Row, Rondon It is published once a month. The No. for December 1st, contains 15 pages of music of excellent quality, both old notation, and tonic sol-fa. It also gives a graphic account of musical meetings and concerts held every month in England. Its advertising columns are excellent. It reviews new music with masterley skill. It is printed in beautiful new type and excellent paper, and it contains articles on music of the highest order. In short, for the small sum charged for this publication, it is the best and cheapest that has yet appeared. We hope for it a large circulation, and an enduring fame.

An address subscribed for by 100 members of the Bristol Elementary Teachers' Association, has been presented to Mr E. Ensor, B.A., her Majesty's Sub Inspector of Schools, on his leaving the Bristol district for Durham.

THE NORTH DURHAM MILITIA.—On Wednesday night the officers of the 4th Durham (Durham City) Rifle Volunteers entertained a party of the staff of the 2nd Durham Light Infantry to dinner at the Half Moon Hotel, Durham. Quartermaster-Sergeant Davison occupied the chair, and a most pleasant evening was spent.

THOMAS O. MOIR,
(Late MURRAY'S),
LIVERY STABLES, CONSETT.
CONVEYANCES of all descriptions on hire. Hearse, Mourning Coaches, and Mourning supplied on the shortest Notice.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

LANGLEY MOOR.—On the 6th inst., Mrs Thomas W. Vasey, of a daughter.

PRUDHOE.—At Orchard House, on the 3rd inst., the wife of Mr J. B. Laws, of a son.

DEATHS.

LEADGATE.—369, North Cross Street, on the 6th inst., aged 5 years and 6 months, Isabella, beloved daughter of William and Isabella Southern.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.—On the 9th inst., aged 50 years Ann Grace, wife of George Watson.

EBCHESTER.—Blackhall Mill, on the 5th inst., aged 54 years, George Harrison, late of Derwentcote, husband of Annie Harrison.

PERKINS VILLA.—On the 5th inst., aged 82 years, John Ritson.

SPEN.—On the 8th inst., aged 22 years and 8 months, Joseph, third son of Alexander and Mary Spears.

CRAGHEAD.—On the 8th inst., accidentally drowned at Holmside Colliery, John Jaques.

SOUTH PONTOP.—On the 4th inst., aged 24 years, after a few days illness, John Thomas, son of the late Thompson Robson.

SWALWELL.—On the 3rd inst., aged 67 years, Alice, relict of the late Reuben Bennett.

On the 5th inst., in his 72nd year, Thomas Robson.

LANGLEY MOOR.—On the 7th inst., Frank, infant son of Mr Bernard Bradey, labourer.

WEST STANLEY.—On the 9th inst., aged 61 years, Isabella Hunter, widow the late James Hunter, East Tanfield Colliery.

WATERHOUSES.—On the 6th inst., Daniel, infant son of Mr George Atkinson, miner.

ESH WINNING.—On the 3rd inst., Thomas and Robert, infant sons of Mr James Vickers, labourer.

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