NORTH-WEST DURHAM EMIGRATION AGENCY.

PERSONS wishing to EMIGRATE can be Booked by the Best Lines to America, Australia, and all Parts of the World, at the LOWEST RATES, on application to ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett, the only authorised Agent for the Queensland Government in the District; or to Mr. JOHN CHAYTOR, Draper, West Stanley.

TO PARTIES REMOVING OR LEAVING THE COUNTRY AND OTHERS.

ADAM BRODIE (assisted by his son, ROBERT JOHN BRODIE), undertakes the SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION of Household Furniture, Farming Stock, Moveable Property, and other Effects, in the most approved manner, and on reasonable terms. Instructions by Post punctually attended to.

Note the Address:—Town Hall, Consett.

The Consett Guardian

DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER

AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM GAZETTE.

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

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

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

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

No. 1,328. | REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. | FRIDAY EVENING, January 15th, 1886. | PRICE ONE PENNY.

Contracts.

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

Lost.

LOST, on Saturday Afternoon, between Catchgate and Maiden Law, a PARCEL OF MUSIC, some of the pieces with the name, "Annie M. Humble," written thereon.—If returned to the King's Head, Lanchester, the finder will be rewarded. 577v

Wanted.

WANTED, a strong, active GIRL as General Servant.—Apply to *Guardian* Office.

WANTED, a strong, active Girl as GENERAL SERVANT.—Apply to Mrs. ... Dunston. 570v

WANTED, a TEACHER for the VIOLIN.—Apply, stating terms, &c., to X.Y., *Guardian* Office. 569v

AGENTS WANTED to push first-class Machinery Oils. Liberal Commission.—Box 31, Post Office, Liverpool. 542v

WANTED, a Man to deliver Goods and make himself generally useful; one with a knowledge of the trade preferred.—Apply by letter only, to Messrs. WILSON BROS., Shotley Bridge.

WANTED, Ladies' and Gentlemen's CAST-OFF CLOTHES, &c. Personal attendance in Town or Country. Letters of call immediately attended to.—Mrs. J. QUIGLEY, 5, Front Street, Consett. 396v

SERVANTS' REGISTRY OFFICE.

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

WANTED, AGENTS and Photographic Canvassers, Clerks, Foremen of Works, &c., to form Clubs, and to solicit orders for R. VON DIX'S "Excelsior" Portraits. The best and cheapest in England. By this means from £1 to £3 per week may be added to your income.—Apply personally to 10, Mount Pleasant, Consett. 575v

144, RYE HILL, NEWCASTLE.

MRS. STOCKS has VACANCIES for Two or Three BOARDERS who will receive her personal care and attention. Pupils prepared for the University Examinations. Healthy situation. Moderate terms. First-rate references.

To Let.

HOUSE TO LET, in Watling Street, Leadgate. Apply to Mr. T. D. DRYDEN, Leadgate. 474v

TO LET, a COTTAGE with Two Rooms and Garden, at Templetown.—Apply to SAMUEL TEMPERLEY, Delves Terrace. 547v

TO LET, a BUTCHER'S SHOP, at Kyo.—Apply to WILLIAM WILKINSON, Ironmonger, Catchgate. 368v

TO LET, a HOUSE and SHOP, No. 16, Front Street, Shotley Bridge.—For rent and particulars apply to HODGKIN, BARNETT, & Co., Bankers, Shotley Bridge. 353v

TO LET, a TWO-ROOMED HOUSE, situate in Watling Street, Leadgate. Rent, 2s. 9d. a week, including everything.—Apply, M. ROBSON, Builder, Leadgate. 556v

TO LET, on the Leases, Burnopfield, a HOUSE containing Eight Rooms, with a Large Garden attached. This House is suitable for either one tenant, or two tenants, each taking four rooms.—Apply to M. ADAMSON, Leases, via Lintz Green.

TO LET, at Shotley Bridge, ONE-HALF OF A SEMI-DETACHED COTTAGE RESIDENCE, containing Six Rooms and Kitchen, good Pantry, W.C., and necessary Conveniences, also a small Garden or Lawn on the South Side, with access from the Terrace.—Apply, T. B. SAWBRIDGE Guildhall Chambers, Newcastle. 54v

TO LET, from 13th May ensuing, by Lease or by Year, the HOUSE and PASTURE LAND, at Stoney Heap, now occupied by J. Foreman, together with about 25 ACRES OF ARABLE LAND adjacent to the same, and the EATAGE of about Eight Acres of Woodland, in all about 40 Acres.—Apply to J. DUNN, Esq., Little Shelford, Cambridgeshire, before the end of January. Mr. Gibson, of Copwell Cottage, will point out the Estate. 530v

TO LET, at Catchgate, a HOUSE and SHOP, lately in the occupation of Mr. J. W. Davison, Furniture Broker. These Premises were originally built for a first-class Butcher's Shop, having an excellent Slaughter House, fine dry Cellar (cemented, well-aired, and adapted to keep meat in warm weather. There is also a good Two-Stalled STABLE and all necessary Conveniences. The Shop is well situated, and suitable for any business. A Capital opening for a Pawnbroker or Auction Mart.—Apply to GEORGE HOBSON, Harperley Mills, Lintz Green.

TO MARKET GARDENERS, COW-KEEPERS, AND OTHERS.

TO LET, by Tender, at February or May Term (to suit a good Tenant), ROSE COTTAGE, Hare Law, containing Front and Back Kitchens, Sitting-room, 2 Bed-rooms, with Dairy, Stable, Coach-house, Cow Byre, Piggery, Hen Houses, &c. Also, a Large GARDEN well stocked with Fruit Trees, and a PIECE OF GRASS LAND.—For particulars apply to WM. WILKINSON, Ironmonger, Catchgate, via Lintz Green. 561v

For Sale.

WASTE PAPER FOR SALE, at 1d. per lb.—Apply at the *Guardian* Office, Consett.

INCALVING HEIFERS FOR SALE.—Apply to Mr. BULMAN, Woodlands, Consett. 404v

TURNIPS FOR SALE.—Apply to Mr. BULMAN, Woodlands, Consett.

BULL CALVES, by Pedigree Bull, FOR SALE.—Apply to Mr. BULMAN, Woodlands, Consett.

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

FOR SALE, a LITTER OF PIGS, 10 weeks old.—Apply to PHILIP TRAYNOR, Lizzie Colliery, Annfield Plain. 575v

FOR SALE, Privately, a convenient HOUSE with Four Rooms, site, and Large Garden.—Apply to G. ROBINSON, 10, Ledger Terrace, Blackhill.

FOR SALE, One of the following COWS:—A Young Cow, one week calved; or a well-bred Cow, five years old, not in calf, forward in condition.—Apply to THOMAS LONGSTAFF, Leadgate. 580v

HOUSE FOR SALE or TO LET, with immediate possession, situate at Iveston Bank.—For particulars apply to JOHN J. HETHERINGTON, 26, Market Place, Durham. 346v

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, a New, Well-built HOUSE, with W.C. and every Convenience. No. 14, Mount Pleasant, Consett.—Apply to Mr. WM. ELLIOTT, New Town Hall, Consett. 465v

FOR SALE, a 7-inch Centre LATHE, 7ft. bed of thick wood, iron faced, large fly-wheel, 42in. diameter, double throw crank, 5ft., hand rest, and 2 T.'s, 4 cog wheels for fixing back motion; useful for metal or wood turning; very cheap.—Apply, R. WALKER, General Dealer, West Stanley. 587v

FOR SALE, One WAGGONETTE, for single or double harness; One WHITECHAPEL; One DOG CART; One SPRING CART, suitable for Grocer or Wine Merchant. The above are all built by Messrs. Angus & Co., Newcastle, and are all in good condition. Also, DOUBLE and SINGLE SETS of HARNESS.—Apply to WILLIAM TURNER, Whitehall Lodge, Blackhill. 590v

For Sale.

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 (fifth edition), giving full details, *gratis and Post Free*.—Address, GEORGE EVANS & Co., Stockbrokers, Gresham House, London, E.C. 306v

Business Announcements.

MESSRS. G. T. TINN & SONS,
SURGEON DENTISTS,
42, NEW BRIDGE STREET,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH inserted on the latest and most improved system, without causing the slightest pain, of the Purest and Best Materials.

All operations performed with the greatest care, and on the most reasonable terms.

MINERAL TEETH FROM 5s. PER TOOTH.

UPPER OR LOWER SETS FROM £2 10s.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

DAWSON and CO.'S Old-established Pianoforte Business is REMOVED from 1 and 1A, Saville Row, to SPACIOUS PREMISES at
142, NORTHUMBERLAND STREET,
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Largest Stock in the North. Pianos from 16 Guineas, Violins, Brass, and all Small Instruments.

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

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

VALUATIONS made for Probate and Legacy Duties.
Agent for the SALE of BUILDING SITES at the following places:—Benfieldside Estate, Broomhill Estate, Ebchester, Low Finings Estate, Langley Park, Consett, Leadgate, and Blackhill.
All business properly and carefully attended to.

YOU ARE INVITED
TO
BUY YOUR BOOTS AND SHOES
AT
JOHN GIBSON'S NEW SHOP
CORNER OF
FOUNDRY ROW AND BESSEMER STREET,
BLACKHILL (near the Railway Station).
As they are unsurpassed for FITTING and DURABILITY.

A Well-selected Stock always on hand.

All Goods marked in plain figures, at LOWEST READY-MONEY PRICES.

BOOTS MADE TO MEASURE, AND REPAIRS OF ALL KINDS DONE AS USUAL. 539u

AUSTRIAN FLOUR.

UHL AND CO.'S VIENNA FLOUR.
PURVEYORS TO HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA.

THE BEST FLOUR FOR HOUSEHOLD USE
IS
UHL'S VIENNA FLOUR
NUTRITIOUS. DIGESTIVE. WARRANTED PURE.

Yielding an unusual quantity of Bread, and unequalled in quality by any other Flour known. Delivered to all parts of the United Kingdom, in 5 or 20 stone Bags.

For samples and quotations for single or more Bags, apply to
EDWARD FRYD, Sole Agent,
WHITE HART YARD,
(Entrance opposite North-Eastern Bank, Grey Street),
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
THE TRADE ALSO SUPPLIED.

UHL'S VIENNA FLOUR
NOW ALSO SOLD BY ALL LEADING GROCERS AND FLOUR DEALERS IN 6LB. COTTON BAGS.
Retailers not yet supplied, please apply to
EDWARD FRYD, SOLE AGENT,
WHITE HART YARD, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

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

CURRY'S Invaluable STOMACH AND LIVER PILLS.

CURRY'S TOOTHACHE DROPS.

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

TRUSSES OF ALL SIZES.

DR. SCOTT'S ELECTRIC APPLIANCES.

AGENTS FOR THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST OPTICAL ASSOCIATION.

SPECTACLES IN GREAT VARIETY.

OILS, PAINTS, COLOURS, AND VARNISHES.

HORSE AND CATTLE MEDICINES.

ALTERATIVE POWDER FOR HORSES

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

HUGHES & Co.,
54, FRONT STREET CONSETT

Business Announcements.

ORDER

NESTLE'S
SWISS MILK
TRADE MARK AND YOU WILL BE PLEASED WITH IT. 359v

SEND TO THE POST OFFICE

AND get an Order for One Pound, made Payable to WILLIAM STEWARD AND SON, and you will receive in return, Carriage Paid to any Railway Station or Carrier, 10lbs. of the Cheapest TEA in England, or 5lbs. of INDIAN TEA (the Finest Tea in the World). Should it be your pleasure, we can forward Half of each kind as you may direct.

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

W. T. SMITH,
SURGEON DENTIST,
OF 22, NEW BRIDGE STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,

WILL VISIT CONSETT EVERY MONDAY from 11 a.m. to 6.30 p.m., at No. 3, MOUNT PLEASANT, where he will be happy to see his old and new patients.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH inserted from 3s. 6d. per Tooth, with all the Latest and Best English and American Improvements.

No CHARGE until a PERFECT FIT IS MADE, and ENTIRE SATISFACTION GIVEN.

Mr. SMITH will, with pleasure, call at the Residence of Patients to suit their convenience.

REMEMBER THE HOUSE:—
No. 3, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT. 390v

MARBLE AND WOOD CHIMNEY PIECES.
KITCHEN RANGES
(Over 60 Set-up to Select from),
STOVES OF EVERY KIND.

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

BRICKS! SANITARY PIPES!

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

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

STOCK OF BRICKS, PIPES, &c., AT DELVES LANE DEPOT.
824t CEMENT, PLASTER, &c., AT WAREHOUSE, GIBSON STREET.

THE PEOPLE'S SHOPS!
9, 9A, AND 22, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

THE SALE OF SALVAGE GOODS FROM THE RECENT FIRE
IS NOW GOING ON.
ALL CLASSES OF GOODS AT SPECIALLY LOW PRICES.
COME AND JUDGE FOR YOURSELVES.

THOMAS H. BATCHELOR

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

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

HALL'S is the RIGHT SHOP for all who want a good Article combined with Cheapness, STARCHES, BLUES, PATENT MEDICINES, and all PACKETED GOODS 10 to 50 per cent Cheaper than the usual Price.

JOHN HALL, WHOLESALE GROCER,
ANNFIELD PLAIN 289t

Business Announcements.

HAVE YOU SEEN IT?
THE 2 W.'S PRIZE ALMANACK!
GIVEN AWAY
TO
EVERY PURCHASER OF OUR
HATS AND SHIRTS, FROM 2s. 6d. UPWARDS.
AT
THE 2 W.'S HAT SHOP,
NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT, AND NEWCASTLE. 449v

CHRISTMAS! CHRISTMAS!!

WILLIAM AYNSLEY,
MIDDLE ST., CONSETT, AND FRONT ST., LEADGATE,

WHO, after an experience of Twenty-three Years' Competition in the District, has been acknowledged, by his Annually-increasing Business, to have gained the high reputation of always keeping a very Superior Class of Goods (which are not generally kept in Stock), at prices which not only compare with any other House, but defy competition in the North of England, as he buys direct from the principal and best Markets for Cash; which places him in the position to make the above assertion.

LIST OF GOODS SUPPLIED FROM THE FLOUR DEPARTMENT.

Splendid Household, 1s. 4d. per st., or 25s. per Sack.	Crushed Oats and Beans, 12st. for 13s. 6d.
Superior Fines, } Patent Roller.	Indian Meal, 1s. per st., or 18s. per Sack of 20st.
Best Superfines, }	Hen Corn, Rough Barley, Maize.
Finest Hungarian Flour, 10st. Bags, 17s. 6d.	(All equally low in Price.)
Wheat Meal, Whole Meal, Granulated Meal, best Scotch Oatmeal, 2s. per st.	Boxings, 9s. 6d. per Bag of 12st.
	Bran, 5s. per Sack of 8st.

GOODS SUPPLIED FROM THE PROVISION DEPARTMENT.

Extra Choice Butter	1s. 4d. per lb.	Finest Hams	6d. per lb.
(This is the finest produced.)		Shoulders, Whole	3½d. and 4d. "
Choice Danish Butter	1s. 2d. "	Finest American Bacon	4d. and 4½d. "
Choice Irish Butter	1s. "	(Whole and Half-sides.)	
Finest Butterines	6d., 8d., and 10d. "	Finest American Cheese	4d. and 6d. "
Small Bladders Lard	5d. and 5½d. "	Good Cheese	3½d. "
Kit Lard	4d. "	Best Dutch Cheese	5d. "

LIST OF GOODS SUPPLIED FROM THE GROCERY DEPARTMENT.

Excellent Sugar	1½d. per lb.	Finest Patna Rice	2d. per lb.
First-class Sugar	2d. "	Large and Small Sago	3d. "
Granulated Sugar	2½d. "	USE SINCLAIR'S ROUGH-CUT SHAG.	
Crystalised Sugar	2½d. "	Matches (Bryant & Mays)	2d. per doz.
Finest Loaf Sugar	2½d. "	Square Blue	5d. per lb.
Raisins	5d. "	Corned Beef, best	7d. "
Splendid Currants	3d. "	Brawn	6d. "
Sultanas	4d. "	6d. Tins Mustard	3½d. each.
Lemon Peel	4½d. and 6d. "	Black Bullets	3d. per lb.
USE SINCLAIR'S BROWN TWIST.		USE COPE'S MIXTURE, 4D. PER OZ.	
Best Pale Soap (White Windsor	3d. "	Tea Biscuits	3d. per lb., or 10d. qr. st.
Best Grey Mottled Soap	3d. "	Mixed Biscuits	4d. per lb.
Brown Almond Soap	2d. "	Ginger Snaps	4d. "
Dry Soap	2d. "	Arrowroot	6d. "
Salmon	5½d. and 6d. per tin.	Toast	6d. "
USE SINCLAIR'S IRISH ROLL.		Huntley and Palmer's Biscuits of every description.	
Tapioca	2½d. per lb.	Best Coloured Sweets, all kinds (in Bottles)	4d. per lb.
Dip Candles	4d. per lb., or 3s. 6d. per doz. lbs.	Pure York Mixtures	5d. "
Wax Candles	3lb. packets, 1s. 3d.	BRISTOL BIRD'S EYE, 4D. PER OZ.	
2lb. Tins Roast Beef	9d. per tin.	A large Consignment of splendid Jam, which will be Sold at 3d. per lb.	
Tins Rabbit	1s. 1d. "	2lb. Bottles Plum Jam, 6d. each.	
Tins Milk	4½d. "	Vinegar, 3d. quart, or 10d. gallon.	
Tins Sardines	4½d. and 9d. "	Spiced Vinegar. Pure Cassia, 1d. per oz: Nutmegs, 2½d. oz. Pickles, Sauces, and all classes of Tinned Goods in great variety of Package, at a very small discount from cost price.	
Phillipe and Canand Sardines	1s. 2d. "		
Relish	2½d. per bottle.		
Ketchup	3½d. "		
Pickles and Onions	3½d. "		
Ground Rice	2d. per lb.	USE SINCLAIR'S SEALED SHAG.	
White Whole Rice	1½d. "	USE SINCLAIR'S TOBACCOS.	

TEA AND COFFEE DEPARTMENT.

Cheapest and Best Tea in the Market, 2s., 2s. 6d., and 3s.; very strong, 1s. 4d. and 1s. 8d. per lb. Mixture of Chicory and Coffee, 1s., 1s. 2d., and 1s. 4d. per lb. Franks' Coffee, in ¼lb and ½lb Tins, 4d. and 8d. French Coffee, in ½lb. Tins, 6d. Finest Plantation Coffee, Whole 1s. 8d., or Ground fresh.

LIEBIG'S EXTRACT OF BEEF.
HUNTLEY & PALMER'S FANCY BISCUITS OF ALL KINDS AND QUALITIES.
ALSO, A LARGE STOCK OF CHRISTMAS LOAVES, FROM ½LB. TO 4LB.
A SPLENDID STOCK OF CHEESE, INCLUDING ROCHEFORT, GORGONZOLA, STILTON, CHESHIRE, GLO'STER, DERBY, AMERICAN, AND EDAMS.
HOME-FED HAMS AND BACON, WILTSHIRE SMOKED HAM.

WILLIAM AYNSLEY, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,
AND FRONT STREET, LEADGATE. 447v

WINES & SPIRITS FOR THE PRESENT SEASON

Selected from W & A Gilbey's List of 255 varieties, representing the largest finest and best matured Stock in the world.

No better guarantee of QUALITY and VALUE can be given than the fact that about every eighteenth bottle of Wine, and every forty-fourth bottle of Spirits, consumed in the United Kingdom is supplied from W & A Gilbey's Stock. This statement is based upon the Government Returns.

WINES

	Bottle	Dozen
PORT Castle A *from Portugal* An excellent fruity Wine with good body and flavour	2/	24/
PORT Castle B *from Portugal* A very good full-flavoured fruity Wine, well matured	2/4	28/
PORT Castle D *from Portugal* An excellent dry Wine of choice character, thoroughly matured	2/10	34/
SPANISH PORT Castle 1 A fruity Wine from districts in the North-East of Spain	1/3	15/
SPANISH PORT Castle 4 *from Spain* The finest old Red Wine produced in the Tarragona district	1/10	22/
SHERRY Castle SPANISH *from Spain* A pure Spanish Sherry, suitable for luncheon or dinner	1/3	15/
SHERRY Castle 3A *Brown from Spain* A pure Spanish Wine of excellent character	1/6	18/
SHERRY Castle C *Pale from Spain* An excellent type of nutty Spanish Sherry, moderately dry	2/4	28/
MARSALA Castle VP *Pale from Sicily* A delicate-flavoured luncheon or dinner Wine	1/4	16/
MARSALA Castle AA *Gold from Sicily* A well-matured Wine of excellent quality	1/6	18/
MARSALA Castle C *Pale from Sicily* The finest Sicilian Wine imported, and of excellent value	1/8	20/
CLARET Castle A *from France* A pure light Wine, an excellent beverage at all meals	1/	12/
CLARET Castle C *from France* A well-matured Dinner Wine of excellent value, from the Médoc district	1/6	18/
CLARET Castle D *from France* A fine-flavoured, well-matured Médoc Wine, possessing bottle character	2/	24/
SAUMUR Castle *Silver Foil* A sparkling Saumur Champagne	2/1	25/
SAUMUR Castle *Gold Foil* A sparkling dry Saumur Champagne	2/6	30/
SAUMUR ACKERMAN-LAURANCE'S "Dry Royal"	3/	36/

SPIRITS

	Bottle	Dozen
GIN Castle UP malted corn. Distilled from the best un- 33 per cent. under proof	2/	24/
GIN Castle OE malted corn. Distilled from the best un- 17 per cent. under proof	2/5	29/
GIN Castle PROOF unmalted corn. Distilled from the best Proof strength	2/10	34/
IRISH WHISKY Castle HALF-PROOF Pure Dublin Whisky 50 per cent. under proof	1/8	20/
IRISH WHISKY Castle UV Pure Dublin Whisky 17 per cent. under proof	2/8	32/
IRISH WHISKY Castle GRAND Finest Dublin Whisky 10 per cent. under proof	3/6	42/
SCOTCH WHISKY Castle HALF-PROOF Pure Malt Whisky 50 per cent. under proof	1/8	20/
SCOTCH WHISKY Castle UV Pure Malt Whisky 17 per cent. under proof	2/8	32/
SCOTCH WHISKY Castle GRAND Finest Scotch Whisky 10 per cent. under proof	3/6	42/
BRANDY Castle UP For domestic use 33 per cent. under proof	2/6	30/
BRANDY Castle E Fine Brandy 17 per cent. under proof	4/	48/
BRANDY Castle GRAND Finest Champagne Brandy 10 per cent. under proof	5/3	63/
JAMAICA RUM Castle HALF-PROOF A well-matured Rum 50 per cent. under proof	1/8	20/
JAMAICA RUM Castle UV A well-matured Rum 17 per cent. under proof	2/8	32/
JAMAICA RUM Castle GRAND Finest Jamaica Rum 10 per cent. under proof	3/6	42/

All Bottles are charged 1d. each extra, which is allowed when returned.

AGENT—
W. AYNSLEY, *Grocer*, CONSETT & LEADGATE

ECONOMY IN ALES. OCTOBER BREWINGS.

NINE GALLON CASKS.—CASH PRICES.

	NINE GALLONS.		EIGHTEEN GALLONS.
Mild Ales	10s. 6d., 12s., 13s. 6d.	Indian Pale Ale	18 Gallons for 24s., 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. 6d.
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.
Fine Old Jamaica Rums	9s, 8s, 6s 9d	18s, 16s, 13s 6d	Brandies	From 6s. 9d.	From 13s. 6d.

BRITISH WINES.—PER BOTTLE.

Port Wine	1s. 2d.	Orange	1s. 2d.
Sherry	1s. 2d.	Raisin	1s. 2d
Tent	1s. 2d.	Raspberry	1s. 2d
Ginger	1s. 2d.		

GOODS DELIVERED DAILY TO ANY PART OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

WILLIAM AYNSLEY,
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT, AND FRONT STREET, LEADGATE.

The Consett Guardian

FRIDAY, January 15th, 1886.

THE QUEEN AND HER NEW PARLIAMENT.

Her Majesty has displayed her characteristic tact and appreciation of public feeling in deciding to open her present Parliament in person, and thus to give her sanction and adhesion to the new democratic departure in the government of the United Kingdom. Of course, if domestic affliction had not interrupted the normal custom of the Sovereign's attendance at Westminster to inaugurate every legislative session, there would have been little significance in the opening of the present Parliament by the Queen in person. The significance would then have been in an exceptional abstention, as it is now in an exceptional public appearance. What the monarch's welcome to her new Legislature may be considered to mean is full confidence in her own position and that of her dynasty under the extended constitution of the country; and it is well that expression should be prominently given to this royal feeling, lest ill-disposed persons should be tempted to suggest the incompatibility of monarchy with a democratic representative system, and to adduce the Queen's seclusion as indicating her own consciousness of the fact. Thus Her Majesty will not only gratify the loyal many, but abash the disaffected few, by re-appearing at this time in her old state at Westminster. It is doubtless a mere coincidence that the only similar appearance of the Sovereign since her great bereavement was during the tenure of office by a former Conservative Government. The last thing we should expect our sagacious Queen to do would be to exhibit political partiality. She has too well learned the art of reigning without governing—an art which is perhaps more adapted to feminine than to masculine capacity. At all events, Queen Victoria has during a long reign proved herself a model of what a constitutional monarch ought to be, neither openly nor secretly favouring one political party to the prejudice of the other. For nearly half a century now she has continued to fill with credit to herself and satisfaction to her people the position of fountain of honour and representative of national dignity. In this respect monarchical Britain has nothing to fear from comparison with republican America or France. But perhaps we ought also to speak of the Queen as representative of national authority as well as dignity—that is, of the authority which pertains to the constitution, the laws of the land, and treaties with foreign Powers. As the impersonment of authority as well the fountain of honour, the Queen appears at Westminster very appropriately just as Ireland has returned a large majority of representatives who are at least not ardent supporters of the royal authority in Ireland. When Her Majesty calmly confronts the throng of Irish Nationalists, we can well conceive that one of the loyal Irish representatives might feel inclined to use the words that Barney Maguire, in his humorous description of the royal coronation, puts in the mouth of the archbishop, when the latter "discoorsed the mating":—"Boys, here's your Queen! deny it who can. And if any bould traitor or inferior crater would dare to ill-trate her, it's meself 'ud like to see the man!" To those who even dream of an Irish Republic it must be a significant reminder of Ireland's actual position as an integral portion of the United Kingdom to find their Sovereign personally meeting them, and speaking as one having authority over the Emerald Isle, and not as a political leader seeking support or deprecating opposition. The use of a monarch will be shown in the fact of Her Majesty being able to make a calm and dignified but resolute assertion of authority which would seem out of place as falling from the lips of any elected chief of the State. If the Nationalist members are not impressed by the Sovereign's presence among them, they will probably find that the royal appearance at the inaugural ceremony will tend to give a decidedly constitutional tone to the discussion of the Irish question by English and Scottish Members. Indeed, it may well be assumed that the same effect will be produced with regard to a good many other questions that may be put forward by what are called advanced politicians. Some theorists must be reminded that monarchy in this country is a concrete substantiality and not a mere abstract conception. Such a reminder is requisite now and then, in spite of oaths of allegiance and formal reference to the Sovereign in many Parliamentary documents. "Here's your Queen!" is an *argumentum ad hominem* which cannot fail to have force with politicians who are too apt to forget that they owe allegiance to a personal monarch as well as duty to their country.

Parliamentary Summary.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

The preliminary business of the opening of Parliament was commenced on Tuesday. Members began to assemble at Westminster soon after ten o'clock, and shortly after 2 p.m. the Lord Chancellor, accompanied by the other Commissioners, made his appearance in the House of Lords, and directed the Usher of the Black Rod to summon the Commons. Many members of the Lower House obeyed the summons and the Commission was read, and the Commons were ordered to select a Speaker. Members of the House of Lords having taken the oath, the House adjourned.—In the Commons, on the return of members from the Lords, Sir J. Mowbray proposed, and Mr John Bright seconded the election of Mr A. Peel. Mr Justin McCarthy, on behalf of the Irish party, stated that although his friends did not think Mr Peel had acted impartially, they would not oppose him. Mr Peel having returned thanks for the honour was conducted to the chair, where he again addressed the members; and speeches from Sir M. Hicks-beach and Mr Gladstone concluded the proceedings.

WEDNESDAY.

In the House of Lords, the assent of the Queen to the election of Mr Arthur Peel as Speaker was given by commission. Mr Peel, who had been summoned from the Commons to hear the announcement, retired to the Lower Chamber, and, having informed members of what had taken place, took the oath and signed the roll. He then informed the House of certain communications which had been sent him by Sir M. Hicks-beach, Mr Raikes, and Sir Jno. Kennaway, respecting Mr Bradlaugh and the oath; and stated that he could not permit any member to intervene between Mr Bradlaugh and the taking of the oath. The present Parliament knew nothing of the Bradlaugh case, and had nothing to do with the procedure of the last House of Commons. Three hundred and sixty-two members then took the oath or affirmed, Mr Bradlaugh being of the number.

Among the local members who subscribed to the oath were Messrs L. A. Atherley-Jones, Jas. Joicey, John Wilson, J. M. Paulton, &c &c.

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

London, Wednesday Evening.

Lord Salisbury has showered honours on General Prendergast before he has done his work in Upper Burmah. People are asking why the substantial service of Colonel Sladen receives no official recognition. The new K.C.B. has yet to win his spurs and refresh his laurels, which are already somewhat faded. While the Commander-in-Chief has gone up to Bhamo to receive the submission of the chiefs on the Chinese frontier, the whole of Mandalay is in a blaze of insurrection behind him. We shall no doubt stamp it out in time; but there is no doubt that a mistake was made in disbanding the native army too soon, instead of taking it over into our pay. Mr Bernard is on the spot. He has begun to repair this error, and has turned some of these disbanded soldiers into police; and so we may hope that order will reign at last in Mandalay.

"Blizzards" and "cold waves," as they are called, succeed each other with tolerable regularity during a North American winter. What a "blizzard" is to a cold wave that the blinding confusion of the political world at present is to the dull torpor which set in soon after the elections. We now know that neither party is exactly prepared to take office, and it is a regular blizzard between Radicals funking and fudging from the responsibility of passing a Home Rule Bill and the rashness of the official Whigs, who think they can drive the Liberal coach with Gladstone on the box through anything. On the whole, the confusion is deplorable.

We are still in *unbibus* as to the intentions of the Government. According to the *Daily News*—an unsafe oracle on such a matter—they intend to throw up the sponge and leave Mr Gladstone to settle with Home Rule as he best may. But "the wish is here the father to the thought." The *Daily News* has latterly taken a line of its own very unlike Mr Chamberlain and Sir Charles Dilke, both of whom seem to prefer a waiting policy for the advanced Liberal party. The Conservatives in office and the Liberals in power—this is the line they take; and, in spite of Mr Gladstone and the official set of Whig hacks, this is the line the party must take.

The *Times* took the unusual course on Monday last of announcing with regret that the connection between the *Daily News* and Mr Frank Hill, who had been its editor for the past 16 years, has been somewhat abruptly severed. This is an open secret in the newspaper world; but it was at least unusual for the *Times* to introduce it with a paragraph headed "London Journalism." The sudden *volte face* of the *Daily News* on the question of Home Rule, in which Mr Justin Macarthy is said to have talked round his editorial chief, Mr Hill, has been the cause of this unhappy breakdown. In any case, the dissensions in the inner Cabinet of the *Daily News* should have been kept from the public.

So the Bradlaugh incident has ended as it ought to have done two years ago but for the unwise attempt of the Conservative party, backed up by the Irish Romanists, to turn an oath into a theological test such as it was never intended to be. It did not need the clear and incisive logic of the Bishop of Peterborough to blow to the winds this fallacy; but after his article in the *Contemporary*, whose conclusion amounts to this, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Quaker," it is difficult to see how the practice of oaths instead of affirmations can be kept up much longer.

The fashion of afternoon tea in place of wedding breakfasts is spreading, and Lady Millais last week took another departure in the same direction by scattering broadcast invitations to the church which did not extend to the "At-home" afterwards. There is something diverting in a lady of fashion converting for the nonce a great parish Church like St. Mary Abbot's into a domestic chapel. It was enough to strike horror into the Open Church Association to see a Church railed off like a concert room into first, second, and third-class compartments with a red cord drawn across the seats reserved for the *haute volee*. Pews roped off in this way are scarcely consistent with our ideas of a National Church, and if the practice continues to extend, marriage must be celebrated in the dead of the night, when the public are not supposed to require the use of a free and open Church.

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.)

THE TOW LAW INNKEEPERS AND PHILANTROPHY.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—A good deal of comment has been caused at Tow Law by the conduct of the publicans on New Year's Day. The Vigilance Band appealed with success on behalf of the poor to every class of people, with the exception of the publicans, every one of which refused to subscribe, save one man who gave sixpence. This sort of conduct, on the part of a class whom has done more to increase the poverty and misery of the country than almost any other cause, only serves as another proof to every thinking man, that the publican trade tends to harden the heart, and make a man utterly selfish. Every kind of crime and brawl has its origin in the public-house, but you may look in vain there, at any rate in Tow Law, to see a hand held out to help the poor and fatherless. People's eyes will get opened in time.—Yours, &c.,

A Resident.

A DANGEROUS FOOTBRIDGE NEAR STANLEY.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—Having occasion to use the footpath leading from Tanfield Lea to Stanley, I have noticed for a considerable time the wooden footbridge crossing the Houghill Burn has been in a very dangerous state, owing to the hand-rail having been removed. This footpath is regularly used by a large number of persons, including several children, attending the different Stanley schools, and the danger is considerably increased in stormy and frosty weather, such as we are having at present. I hope the authorities, whose duty it is to attend to the matter, may have the bridge made somewhat safe before a serious accident occurs. My apology for troubling you must be the importance of the question, which seems to have been overlooked. Thanking you in anticipation of your inserting the above in your next issue.—Yours, &c.,

A Workman.

Colliery Literary and Social Institute.—The fifth annual meeting of this institute was held on Wednesday week. Mr J. J. C. Allison, colliery manager, occupied the chair. Mr T. W. Hughes, secretary, read the report, which stated that the receipts at the commencement of the year amounted to £98 12s., and the expenditure to £82 7s. 10½d, leaving a balance in hand of £16 4s 1½d.

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

THE LOCAL DISTRESS

LINTZ COLLIERY.

Mr P. Carling, Lintz Colliery, writes as follows:—"Sir,—I should feel obliged if you would allow me a small space to make known the kind conduct of Mr McLean, the owner, and Mr Reed, the manager, of the Lintz and Friarside Collieries. These pits have been standing for some time, through depression of trade—the former since October, and the latter since the beginning of December. As a natural consequence, the people are in rather straitened circumstances, and ill-prepared for the Christmas and New Year's festivities. Their lot would have been worse but for the conduct of the gentlemen named. The people have been allowed to stay in the houses and coals have been supplied to them. During the Christmas week, Mr McLean visited the people, made inquiries into their cases, and gave them sums of money from 5s upwards. This kind act was ably supplemented by Mr Reed by deeds of a like kind. I would have commented upon this generosity, but not wishing to intrude upon your space, I leave these authentic deeds to speak for themselves, and hope others may imitate them, for there is plenty of room."

CROOK

The Relief Committee met on Monday afternoon (Rev J. King in the chair), and the sitting extended over six hours. The relief list has reached to 160 families, and about 1,300 dinners are being weekly distributed. This week the committee is giving between thirty and forty pairs of clogs, besides clothing, including shirts, &c., to the children of distressed families. To provide dinners for all cases each day, steps are being taken to get a larger boiler, as the present one only contains 30 gallons, considerably below the requirements. The weekly subscriptions raised in the district in money and kind amount to £3 5s. Among the recent subscriptions received are:—Mr Hedler, farmer, Hanwick, £1; Mr John Graham, Sunniside, a cart load of turnips; and Mr Wilson, two bullocks' heads. To show the distress in which Crook district must necessarily be, the fact that eight collieries have been laid up during the last two years should be sufficient, and the collieries closed are within an area of seven miles, with an estimated population formerly of nearly 20,000. The first year the following pits were laid in:—White Lee, Woodfield, Cold Knott, and Mossom; and last year, Old Hedleyhope, Roddymoor Drift, Roddymoor Pit, and Stanley Pit. Those now working are:—Wooley, Tow Beechburn, and Stanley Drift.

THE "NEW" PHRENOLOGY.

A lecture was given at Dipton last week by Mr W. Tate, of Sunderland, science teacher, on "The new phrenology," which is a product of his own imagination. There is another phrenology which claims the title of *new*; and Mr Tate will have to bestir himself, or else his offspring will lose its name, or claim to be *new*; for its rival is vigorous, and has many friends and supporters. It belongs to a new school of scientists, headed by Professor Ferrier. Besides, it has a solid anatomical and physiological basis. On the contrary, Mr Tate's system is built on a sandrift of speculative theory, and its only support is fancy. Therefore it cannot endure, except, it may be, in the heated brain of its parent, who, by-the-bye, is a plucky, well informed, self-confiding man, and he is not likely to desert his dearly beloved first-born. It is about sixteen years old, and has been nursed with great care, yet it is still a dwarfish, sickly thing, and seems to be, already, in the grip of death. With respect to its constitution, Mr Tate, in his lecture, gave a glowing account. Like other fond parents, love and hope have shut his eyes to the weakness of his child, and the fructifying seeds of mortality it bears.

The lecture, on the whole, was interesting. His style is easy and suasive. The subject, however, was overweighted with extraneous matter. In fact, more than three parts of it was introductory, and in the remaining and principal part, he appeared to be uneasy and anxious. Something evidently troubled him. He aimed at clearness and strength, but ideas somehow got mixed, and obtuseness obtruded itself.

Most of his introductory remarks were true, but not *new*, and not a little of what was really new was not true. For instance, he began at the beginning of all things. He described an atom, plunged into chaos, piled atom on atom, showed the affinity of certain kinds of particles of matter has for each other, explained the laws of attraction, cohesion, repulsion, etc., that operate in both inorganic and organic systems, and then declared everything is alive, and that the whole world is "a lump of life." This is certainly new, but it is as surely not true.

Force is not life, nor is its products—motion—life, nor is crystallisation, cohesion, disintegration, or recombination life. Living things propagate their kind. Inanimate things do not. The statue, as Addison remarks, is in the block of stone (we merely give the idea in our own words), but the artist has to clear away the superfluous rubbish. Statues do not, themselves, breed statues. The production of these requires living, active genius.

Mr Tate, in order that the auditors might understand the difficulties of his "New Phrenology," dived deep into the ocean of science and philosophy. Instead of borrowing light from common things, that everybody knows, to cast reflection on those which are not so easily seen, he in expaciating on living organisms, spoke of the reflex activities of the nervous system, of nervous ganglions, of the will, etc. Now, his audience, though small, consisted of a number of juveniles, and excepting a few, say half-a-dozen of the adults, knew no more of reflex action, of ganglions, or of the will, than the little boys and girls; yet the only explanation of these that he gave was to tell them a ganglion means a knot, which is no explanation at all.

He further spoke of the eyes of some animals, and of man, and of how the eye of each is adapted to its condition, and of the capacity of the eye to adjust itself to circumstances in order to see objects. This brought him to the skirt of his subject—"The new phrenology"—but here it became physiognomy. There is, said he, "character in the eye." This is true; but not new. It is as old almost as the hills. The "beautiful eye" and the "evil eye" has been proverbial since Solomon's day. As far as we could gather from Mr Tate's exposition, his system consists of a division of the brain into *four parts*—not in accordance with either anatomy or physiology, but contrariwise, these are directly opposed to the brain's structure and functions. He teaches that what we see is stored up in the front part of the head. What we hear goes to the middle part, and lodges there for future reference; that the cerebellum, or little brain, which is situated at the base of the back head; and which, in point of size, is, as compared with the cerebrum, as one to thirteen or fifteen. In this smaller part of the brain is, according to his doctrine, all voluntary power. Indeed, so important a part is this, that he said if a pin, or other small probe, was stuck into it all motion would be instantly suspended. This is absolutely false. It is contrary to the teachings of all scientific research, experiment, and experience. Moreover, he left no part of the brain for the knowledge we acquire through taste, smell, feeling, fatigue, freshness, hunger, thirst, the procreative powers, &c. The moral and religious faculties were also left out of reckoning, excepting as far as sight and hearing administered to them. In all of those particulars there is proof of *the new*; but quite as much of that which is *untrue*.

Mr Nicholas Morgan, the phrenologist, being present, as soon as Mr Tate sat down, Mr Morgan asked if he might put a question, and having done so, he announced that he would review Mr Tate's lecture in the same room the next night, and expressed a hope that he would be present, or if not, that he would appoint some reliable and worthy representative to hear what would be advanced, and to faithfully report it.

Mr Morgan commanded a large and attentive audience. He said Mr Tate and he are personal friends, and agreed to differ in opinion on the subject in question. He spoke courteously and favourably of Mr Tate's ability and industry, and of his success as a science teacher; but on phrenology they parted company. Space debars us from giving a summary of Mr Morgan's review, but we may do so in a future number of the *Guardian*.

LANCHESTER PETTY SESSIONS.

Thursday, Jan. 7th.—Before M. Kearney, Esq. (chairman), the Rev J. P. De Pledge, and Geo. G. Taylor Smith, Esq.

THE FESTIVE SEASON.

Thomas Carter pleaded guilty to being drunk at Craghead, on Dec. 12th, and was fined 5s and costs.—The Chairman said it was a matter of congratulation during the festive season that there was only one charge of drunkenness on the list. Such an instance of sobriety in that district had been unknown in his long experience.

WILFUL DAMAGE.

Christopher Anderson and *William Smith* (who did not appear) were found guilty of trespassing on land in the occupation of Mr Andrew Hall, at Langley Park, on the 22nd ult.—They were fined 1s and costs and 1d damage—6s 9d in all.

ASSAULT AT OXHILL.

William Sambells, a married man, was summoned for assaulting Elizabeth Hendra, at Oxhill, on the 26th ult.—Defendant had gone to complainant's house on the night in question, and on being ordered out, he refused to leave, but struck the woman a heavy blow on the temple, and otherwise ill-used her, besides indulging in offensive language.—Defendant, who alleged that the woman first attacked him, was found guilty, and ordered to pay a fine of £1 0s 6d, including costs.

EXTENSIVE THEFT OF GIN AT LANCHESTER.

Two miners, named *Peter Beestone* and *John Hobbles*, formerly working at Biggen Drift, but now at Burnhope Collieries, were charged with stealing a large stone bottle, containing six gallons of gin, valued at £4, from the premises of Mr Jas. Humble, landlord of the King's Head Inn, Lanchester, on the 12th Sept. last. The men had been drinking in the house on the night in question, and left between nine and ten o'clock. The bottle, which was safe at 7·30 p.m., was taken out of the coalhouse late the same night; but the police, although they had their suspicions aroused, failed to obtain any direct clue until Beestone, who was committed a fortnight ago for stealing a can of beef from a grocer's shop at Lanchester, voluntarily made a confession implicating himself and others. Hobbles was subsequently arrested by Inspector Davidson, and in a communication with his comrade he uttered statements in the presence of the police which fully justified them preferring the charge against him.—Both prisoners now pleaded guily, but affirmed that they were drunk at the time, a statement which was repudiated by the prosecutor.—The magistrates said the plea of drunkenness was of no avail, as the circumstances of the case led the Bench to believe that it was a premeditated act. They would visit the offence with a severe punishment—two months' hard labour for each prisoner.—Each man received the sentence with a smiling countenance, Hobbles exclaiming, on quitting the dock, "Aw wish aw had her full agyen" (referring to the bottle).

THE HEALTH OF TOW LAW.

The following is the report submitted by Dr Hood, at the meeting of the Tow Law Local Board, on the 5th inst:—

Tow Law, January 1st, 1886.

Gentlemen,—In the quarter ending the year we have had 17 deaths; these give us a death-rate of 13·84, births for the same period being 43.

I next proceed to make a report for the whole year.

THE YEARLY REPORT.

Estimated population, 4,912. The deaths during the year amount to 57; giving us a death-rate of 11·6; births 177, giving us a birth-rate of 36·03.

The following table gives the death-rates for the last nine years:—

DEATH RATES.

Year.	Per Thousand.
1877	14·4
1878	16·7
1879	19·7
1880	11·7
1881	13·5
1882	13·9
1883	18·5
1884	15·6
1885	11·6

BIRTH RATE.

Year.	Births.	Per Thousand.
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
1884	176	35·3
1885	177	36·03

From the above table you will see that our death-rate contrasts not only favourably as regards last year, but is, in fact, the lowest death-rate which has occurred for the last nine years.

The infant mortality is still considerable; no fewer than 20 deaths out of 57 occurring below five years of age. I will now give a short detailed account of the mortality for the year, taking the different headings of the Government schedule as a guide:—

Smallpox	nil
Measles	1
Scarlatina	nil
Diphtheria	,,
Croup	1
Whooping cough	nil
Fevers	,,
Diarrhœa	2
Cholera	nil
Rheumatic fever	,,
Erysipelas	,,
Pyæmia	,,
Puerperal fever	,,
Ague	,,
Phthisis	6
Bronchitis pneumonia and pleurisy	10
Heart disease	8
Injuries	3
All other diseases	26

I have little to say of the above list, except of a congratulatory nature. The absence from the list of all fever cases has unfortunately been very rare in our history. The number of deaths from phthisis is still below our average. Diseases of the respiratory organs are somewhat greater in number, but still below what was scheduled last year. Unfortunately, we have three accidental deaths, but none of them occurring as the result of mining injuries.

GENERAL INSPECTION.

During the past year your Sanitary Inspector and I have made two systematic inspections of the whole of your district. Besides these, on the visit of Dr Page, we made a thorough inspection, accompanying him through the town, and receiving instructions from him, which have already been laid before you.

THE JUNE INSPECTION.

This inspection may be briefly recapitulated here.

Visits to Dairies.—For the first time we visited all the dairies in the district, and found them, upon the whole, in a very fair condition, although we had occasion to find fault in a few instances, but all professed to keep no milk in store but sell it fresh from the cow. Defective drains and traps were found.

Ridley's Terrace was found to be drained in a wrong direction.

Black Prince Row.—The houses at the north end were reported as draining into pond.

Mechanics' Cottages were reported, at that date, to be unsatisfactory, but have since been properly attended to by the Weardale Iron Company.

St. Alban's Street.—The west-end yards were reported unsatisfactory.

The Barracks.—Here was found a drain in process of construction, which has been completed.

Wolsingham Road.—Here we complained of pigstyes.

North Cottages and Inkermann.—We found a great many hen-coops, rabbit-hutches, &c. These and other defects reported were taken into consideration by your Board, and the results will be given by me in second inspection (which took place in December). I will now lay before you an account of the

DECEMBER INSPECTION.

Bridge Street South.—At the Presbyterian Manse we found an open bare hole receiving the sewerage, which requires to be trapped. No more pigstyes should be built in this street without proper drainage.

Bridge Street North.—Satisfactory upon the whole. One or more traps need repairing.

Wolsingham Road.—The pigstyes are in better order. A drain has been cut in connection with the sewerage.

Harrison Street.—Two very dirty and untidy yards in this street.

Thornley Lane Ends.—Defective traps in back street. Gordon's yard littered with straw and foul ashes. Yard (behind Booth's) filthy and privy dirty.

Furnace Bank.—Ridley's houses all in good order.

Baring Street.—We found a very great improvement in this streett; the proposed alterations having been completed. Privies having been put back some yards, and ashpits covered in and well ventilated.

Tow Law Hotel.—Untidy yard.

High Street West.—Slaughter-houses here were in good order. The next yard, however, was in very bad order, the sewerage oozing from below the flags. This was reported at last inspection. Trap stopped behind Harle's yard—the midden full of cow manure. The Mile Stone Inn trap was stopped up.

FIRST BLOCK.

High Street East.—Water-closet pipe was found to be leaking at Black Horse Inn.

SECOND BLOCK.

Manure in hotel yard. Slaughter-house in good order. Manure accumulating in Hughes' garden, is said to give off a very offensive smell.

THIRD BLOCK.

Two yards very untidy and dirty near Local Board Office. Slaughter-houses in good order. Wesleyan Schoolyards in good order.

FOURTH BLOCK.

Trap at public-house in bad working order. East gutter (in High Street East) needs a grating in back street. Slaughter-house in good order.

St. Alban's Street.—As formerly reported two hen-coops very dirty, and one yard very unclean.

Campbell Street West.—We found an open grate here. Ashes need removing more frequently.

Campbell Street East.—Some traps require resetting.

Railway Street.—Trap defective.

Wesley Street.—At the back the gutter has fallen in.

DAN'S CASTLE.

Terrace Scott's Houses.—Defective traps and untidy yards. Public-house trap has been defective for some years.

North Cottages.—Both rows are in fair order, with the exception of a few dirty privies.

Inkermann.—In tolerable condition upon the whole, but all the water-closets need white-washing out.

Black House.—No spouting-roof; in bad repair.

Gate House.—Drain needs connecting with sewer.

Forge House.—Drain stopped, spouting down. Schoolyard in fair order.

Milk and Water Row.—Found a defective trap.

Houses to Co-operative Stores in fair order.

East Side of Dan's Castle from Scott's Houses.—Yard adjoining Primitive Chapel found full of poultry, and in very bad order. Slaughter-house in fair order. A grocer's yard immediately below was found blocked with rubbish, broken boxes, baskets, &c. Between here and the Catholic Church, with the exception of a few defective traps, no notes were taken.

Smith Street.—The channel needs repairing.

Brick Flats (No. 1.)—Spout down at back; the pond here has been thoroughly cleansed; pig-sty in its old position, draining into pond.

Black Prince Row.—In fair order. Of course the upper houses are still draining into the ponds. The Black Prince Pond has also been thoroughly cleansed.

Ridley's Terrace.—The sewerage here has been directed into the sewer, which makes a great improvement, although there was a little manure water running along the old channel. This may, I think, be altered with very little trouble.

Grove Road.—The water closets here need white-washing out. Three open gratings are still existing at the bottom of the row.

Ainsley's Stables.—The manure heap here requires removing.

Mr Vicker's House.—Two defective traps were found here.

Keiper's Row.—In good order; a few of the traps need looking after. The fence round the quarry is very unsafe.

The grip needs opening in front of the Parsonage.

Tow Law House.—Sewerage appears on both sides of wall in front of the house.

I think from the above report you will see, although we have not been able to carry out in full Dr Page's suggestions, that we have at least gone a good way in that direction, thus:—Baring Street has got good water-closets, covered-in ashpits with cemented floors. At Ridley's Terrace we have got the drain altered, and although a little sewerage still continues to flow into the ponds, yet from their thorough cleansing, the water being largely increased, the nuisance is no longer in such a glaring condition as formerly, although I hope a way may be found to alter even this degree of contamination.

The health of this district has been fairly good. We have had a few scarlet fever cases through the year, increasing a little last month, but not to any great extent.

Measles appeared with considerable violence last month, but as yet no fatal cases have been reported to me.

With a view to prevent the spread of these two diseases, at the suggestion of Dr Johnson, I have recommended the managers of the four schools to fumigate and otherwise purify said schools during the holidays. Mr Garraway has, I believe, carried this recommendation into effect.

George Hood, M.D., F.F.P.S.

Football.

Jan. 16.—Gosforth Rovers v. Shotley Bridge, at Shotley Spa.
,, 16.—Crookgate Rovers 1st v. Catchgate Red Stars 1st, at Crookgate.
,, 16.—Crookgate Rovers Juniors v. Tantobie Juniors, at Tantobie.
,, 16.—Beamish and District v. Birtley Athletic, at West Pelton.
,, 16.—Tantobie 2nd v. Rendel 2nd, at Tantobie.
,, 23.—Crookgate Rovers Juniors v. Medomsley 2nd, at Crookgate.
,, 23.—Consett 1st v. Bishop Auckland 1st, at Bishop Auckland.
,, 23.—Medomsley v. Newcastle Rangers, at Newcastle.
,, 23.—Beamish and District v. Hebburn, at Hebburn Quay.
,, 23.—Tantobie v. West End, at Tantobie.
,, 30.—Consett 2nd v. Benwell 2nd, at Newcastle.
,, 30.—Medomsley v. Tanfield Lea, at Medomsley.
,, 30.—Beamish and District v. Dudley Rovers, at West Pelton.
,, 30.—Crookgate Rovers 1st and Juniors v. South Moor 1st and Juniors, at Crookgate.
,, 30.—Castleside v. Shotley Bridge, at Castleside, Tanfield Lea.

Crookgate Juniors v. St. Cuthbert's Juniors.—Played at Crookgate on Saturday, and a pleasant game of two fifteens resulted in a draw, neither side scoring. It is only fair to state that the Saints were assisted by three or four of their first team.

Crookgate Rovers v. St Cuthbert's 1st.—Played at Crookgate on Saturday, and resulted in a victory for the home team by two goals to one. The goals were kicked by J. Nevill (1) and J. Brewis (1). Nevill played well on the left wing, while the visitors' full back also did good service.

Tantobie 2nd v. Beamish and District (a).—Played on the ground of the former on Saturday, in two thirties. After the ball was started, it was taken into the home quarter, and, after some give and take play, it was put between the posts. After the ball was centred and restarted, it was taken into the visitors' territory, and some fast playing was witnessed. At last a goal was got. A few minutes later, another was put through for Tantobie. At the call of time the scores were: Tantobie two goals to Beamish one goal. Beamish kicked off, but it was put back again into the visitors' quarter, and it remained there all the time, and Tantobie scored four goals in succession. The game stood at the finish, Tantobie six goals to Beamish one goal. For the home team, J. Weedy, J. Richardson, J. Stoker, and J. Newton, and for the visitors, W. McCrumb, G. Bell, and G. Piercy, all played well, especially the goal-keeper. Teams:—Tantobie—J. Lake, goal; W. Hodgson and B. Hannant, backs; G. Bell, G. Piercy, and G. Harrison, half-backs; W. McCrumb and J. Newton (right wing), J. Stoker (centre), J. Weedy and J. Richardson (left wing), forwards. Beamish—J. Wragham, goal; J. Thompson and M. Young, backs; T. Carr, Collins, and J. Scarr, half-backs; H. Taylor and W. Storey (left wing), T. Patterson (centre), D. Appleton and G. Theobald (right wing), forwards. —Mr Chas. Ritson, captain of Beamish F.C., West Pelton, writes:—"I notice in your issue a football report which is headed "Tantobie 2nd v. Beamish and District." As this is somewhat misleading, I should like to state that it was our 2nd team and not our 1st, as the report seems to convey. I might mention that our 1st team defeated Tantobie 1st on the only occasion we have met this season.

The Rev Samuel Adcock, Wesleyan minister, Crook, has received an invitation to the Durham Circuit at the ensuing Conference; and we understand he will accept the invitation.

Annfield Plain Cycling Club.—The members of the above club held their first annual supper, at the house of Mr W. Taylor, Queen's Head, the headquarters of the club. About 20 members sat down to a most excellent repast, which did credit to the caterer, the worthy host. After the cloth had been removed, Mr Fitzpatrick and Mr Strawbridge were unanimously voted to the chair and vice-chair respectively, both gentlemen being patrons of the club. Their remarks upon cycling were well received, especially the expression of a wish that the club would soon have a good track laid down, so that the members would have a better opportunity to practice and help them to fit themselves better for cycling in all its forms.—The various toasts, which were interspersed with songs, were responded to with enthusiasm, especially the toast of the evening, "Success to the Annfield Plain Amateur Cycling Club." A most enjoyable meeting, from beginning to end, was wound up by the company singing "Auld Lang Syne."

LADIES' COLUMN.

Santa Claus has paid us his annual visit, and peeped in, heavily gift-laden, to hundreds of happy English homes. What a fuss and stir there has been to make ready for our good visitor, fathers, mothers, and friends best know. After the bustle of the last fortnight the peace and rest of to-day is very pleasant when we can take breath and reckon up our treasures. Housekeepers have had hard times lately, cleaning, buying, cooking, thinking, writing, and running to and fro. I have a neighbour who did her house cleaning all before breakfast, and began to beat her carpets out in the back garden at 4 o'clock in the morning. The whacks of the sticks fell with due regularity upon the two sides of the carpets, and the voice of the mistress stimulated the zeal of her maids. But it would have been better for the work if a little daylight had dawned upon the labour, and infinitely better for the neighbours who were of necessity taken into confidence unduly early for five consecutive mornings.

Down in the narrow streets leading to Covent Garden the holly and ivy carts block the thoroughfare until the morning is far advanced. Holly is a troublesome load, for it takes up so much space, and does not shake down like laurels or laurestinas.

"A naw year, a braw year," says the old north country saying, and a very braw year has this been. "A naw year, a sna' year," says another reading, but the short frost of last year only threatened a spell of white weather and came to naught. It is evident that the weatherwise folk do not look for much snow, for amidst all the wealth of gifts exhibited in shops for choice by buyers, the skate might have been looked for in vain.

An American novelty, in the shape of a Christmas-tree stand, simplified the labours of many good women this year. We have all had our tribulations in securely planting a Christmas-tree. The large red flower pot has lured many decorators to ruin and loss. The tree unladen and the tree laden differ. In its natural state the pine or fir is easily made to stand erect, and seems as firm as a screw lighthouse on a rock. Then comes the hanging of the gifts, and of the lamps, and top heaviness sets in. Even though the substantial parcels are carefully built round the foot of the tree, and may be heavy enough to weight the pot, accidents happen, and the best regulated families are plunged into sudden grief and wild despair at sudden bonfires.

The tree stand is of japanned iron, a ring jointed to open, mounted upon a tripod stand. Though not by any means an elegant or artistic invention, the tripod is good enough to place upon a table. The circle at the top opens, the stem of the tree is inserted, and a screw tightens the whole thing firmly, be the tree stout or slight.

Looking round the bazaars this year, it is impossible not to be impressed with the improvement in the design and finish of the toys. For many years past all the low-priced toys were German, crude in conception, and rude in execution, common pine or fir wood, hacked rather than carved into shape, and daubed coarsely with colour. Animals, vehicles, dolls, puzzles, dolls' furniture, all were included under this head. Some bore but the most distant resemblance to the original model, and the name of cow, monkey, dog, horse, donkey, &c., was more a title of courtesy or bestowed to be distinctive. Now the treatment of the subject is more elaborate, care being taken to keep as close as possible to nature, and great attention paid to finishing. From the inventive side there is also a change; the mechanical toys are simpler, more natural, and in greater variety than in past years. These improved toys seem to be of French origin. The picturesque idea of the German toy villages, where all the inhabitants, men, women, and children, worked at toy making, had in it something very attractive. In a world where man is born to labour and his bread must be earned by the sweat of his brow, the Black Forest seems to be the nearest thing to Arcadia that the nineteenth century could produce. There might be but little piping upon flutes, and the sheep might be only made of wood or pasteboard, but still it must be an ideal existence.

In France things are a little better, but there no romantic surroundings had ever exalted toymaking to an ideal position. The Parisian toymaker was known to work hard and live poorly, and no better was expected of his conditions of life. Yet toymaking in France has some redeeming features. The factories are smaller, some of them merely suites of rooms, and the work done is of a better class, consequently better remunerated. There is greater encouragement given to new ideas, and more money spent in developing them. The dainty knick-knacks, especially those pocket books, workboxes, writing-cases in which plush and nickel silver are features, come from the French workshops. Germany also contributes articles of the same description, but not so artistically turned out. During the last few years several English houses have taken up the manufacture of these *articles de luxe*, but not yet so generally, nor so well done as to boycott the foreigner and keep the money spent in our own country. One of the most comical games of a low price sold this year is entitled "Hawarden." On a small square board is a picture of Hawarden Castle, a very large tree in front, and an axe lying at its foot. Right in the centre of the board is a round hole, out of which comes a long string with a ball at the end. The instructions desire you to apply for admission to the castle by shooting the ball at the hole. If you hit the mark and Mr. Gladstone comes up to welcome you, you count 10. If you miss it and the ex-Prime Minister makes no sign, five is cut off from your score. The contrivance is very simple, merely a head pasted on wood which is hinged on to the back, and on being struck rises up, and shows itself above the roof of Hawarden Castle.

Egypt has suggested a great many new forms of battle toys, and the Egyptian warriors are infinitely prettier than were the German which came into fashion at the time of the Franco-German war and have ever since held their own. The swarthy faces, turbaned heads, and loose garments of the camel leaders are more striking than the Prussian soldier, who, when in miniature, always looks over equipped. Some wonderful animals covered in buff leather and exceedingly well modelled have delighted many young folks this year. The natural colour of the leather lends itself to making cows, lions and lionesses, tigers, &c., and a judicious amount of mane can produce a lifelike appearance. With cows a pair of horns, good crumpled horns, too, go far towards giving a good likeness. What is the mechanical contrivance used to produce the sound inside must be the manufacturers' secret; but by moving the head in one direction the cow will move it to the other, uttering a "moo" which might be the summons to Dame Warden's maids to bring their milking-pails, or come and lead Crumbie home. The roar of the lion is managed on equally felicitous lines, and it was quite a study last week to stand in a shop and watch successive parties of little children snatching a fearful joy in pulling the chain concealed beneath the lion's mane, and hearing the terrific roar in response.

Visits paid to several collections of toys intended for distribution in children's hospitals suggested a good many sober reflections upon the wisdom, or the lack of it, displayed by some of the donors of these gifts. Flimsy toys, in which tissue paper and lace imitated in paper, made the ornamental part, are worse than useless. They fall to pieces and produce disappointment long before the pleasure of novelty has palled. Toys in which glass has any part are a plague to the nurses, if by an oversight they have been given. Accidents with broken glass are dangerous and catastrophes are merely matters of time.

Mechanical toys which are so costly that they may only be kept far out of reach are another great mistake, yet good people spend large sums of money upon what is merely a display of mechanical contrivance. The exceedingly large wax dolls are another blunder. They are only good to be gazed at, being too big, too costly, and too heavy for an hospital child; a very robust maiden is needed to drag about a well-stuffed doll of three or four feet long. Supposing, however, that these costly gifts are merely kept as wardroom ornaments, less pleasure is afforded to individuals than by the possession of a good sturdy, serviceable dolly, a little girl's very own, which she can hug, and shake, dress and undress at will.

Regarding picture scrap-books also, something might be said of a similar character. Some are too large, some too unwieldy, requiring a grown-up person to hold, turn the leaves, and keep in position. Small sized books of about 12in. by 6in. or 8in., with about a dozen leaves, are quite enough. The leaves should be of something endurable, glazed calico, or ordinary grey linen, and machine-stitched round the edges. A good tough brown paper makes one of the best scrap books possible, provided that the pictures be well pasted down and pressed under a heavy weight.

AURORA.

Original Poetry.

LIBERALS AND TORIES: A COMPARISON.

Success to Jones! and another cheer
We'll give; and to a Tory tar,
For when he comes again it'll appear
In our local *Guardian* so very clear,
That at Blatherley's meetings boys' votes
Went to swell the number of Jones's votes.

At Craghead too, they will be snubbed,
And then the "Reds" are sure to be dubbed;
For local men must never try
To introduce the "Smaller fry,"
To meetings graced with Tory faces,
The "smaller fry" must be disgraces.

Now a secret I'll tell, in this my rhyme,
That in the past, present, and future time
The reason why men and women are Tories—
Of boys I'll not speak, or else of stories
I'll not hear the end in many a week,
Nay in months or years correct to speak.

It's fashionable! there now you've got it,
And remember ye "Reds" ponder o'er it;
Search through your conscience and find
If I don't speak the truth—so unkind—
Exposing your thoughts you'll admit
By means of a very "unpalatable" hit.

For in our election, I did take heed,
In their committees who took the lead,
Not a single man of public note,
—But great possessors of bank notes,
Butchers, and owners of mills,
And other noted possessors of tills.

Of viewers of great and meanly fame,
I'll not take heed, or else I'll lame
My beautiful, "Oh," short piece of rhyme,
By uselessly wasting the reader's time,
Mentioning such a very obnoxious name,
To Liberals of public spirit and fame.

Compare with these my readers do,
The lowly wearers of the blue,
With good horn'd hands, and solid heads,
Know their feelings, friends, and instead
Of following the weary, sleepy Tories,
Who never look down from their "uppish stories."

But let the Tories, with all their graces,
Compare with honest toilers' faces;
And then the difference quickly note,
What procured the former his old vote,
And what the latter—pray take heed,
Of his ragged jacket composed of tweed.

Now, in conclusion, I must say to all,
Don't vote "but by conviction," or not at all;
Not because its fashionable, or high to wear
The red; but reverence your mind so dear,
And then, when the next election comes round,
The Liberals will increase at every bound.

A DEMOCRAT.

White-le-Head.

CHESTER-LE-STREET GUARDIANS AND SANITARY AUTHORITY.

The usual fortnightly meeting of this body was held in the Workhouse, Chester-le-Street, on Thursday se'nnight. There was a good attendance of Guardians. Mr Robson presided.

NEW YEAR'S CHEER.

It was unanimously agreed that the thanks of the Board be conveyed to Mrs Lindsay Wood and and those other ladies and gentlemen who had remembered the paupers on New Year's Day.

A SENSIBLE FELLOW.

A satisfactory ending had been given to one case in the Workhouse. A young woman who had become an inmate had been confined of an illegitimate child, and the putative father, hearing that steps were likely to be taken to enforce maintenance, had written to the Guardians saying that arrangements had been made for the girl's removal, and expressing his intention of marrying her within three weeks.

THE DRAINAGE OF CRAGHEAD AND WAGTAIL.

Sitting as the Rural Sanitary Authority, a letter was read from the Local Government Board in which it was strongly recommended that the Chester-le-Street Guardians should co-operate with the Lanchester Board with reference to the sewerage of Wagtail. The Local Government Board considered that sewerage should be provided for Craghead and Wagtail, and that it was desirable that a joint scheme should be carried out for both places, and advised the appointment of a committee to consider the matter.

A committee was appointed.

RATE COLLECTION.

The new collector at Washington reported that he had collected £111 11s 7d, since his appointment, and had placed that amount to the Board's credit in the bank.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

The question of the water supply to Findon Hall, Sacriston, and Nettlesworth, was re-opened. The offer of the Weardale Water Co., made in March last, was reconsidered. They offered to take the necessary obligations, provided the Sanitary Authority paid £1000 towards the cost, or £100 per annum for 20 years, or guarantee a total revenue of £500 per annum for 20 years.

It was decided that the clerk should ask the attendance of the Weardale Water Co.'s engineer, with a view to the consideration of the scheme the company might be prepared to lay before the Board.

There was no other business of importance.

BLAYDON LOCAL BOARD.

On Thursday afternoon in last week, the usual ordinary meeting of the Blaydon Local Board was held, under the presidency of Lieut.-Colonel J. A. Cowen.

FINANCIAL.

It was reported that the total amount collected for rates during the past year ended March, 1885, amounts to £2,047 16s 10d. For water rates the amount is £346 3s 6d, and the accounts ordered to be paid amount to £438 5s 10d.

THE SPEN WATER SUPPLY.

The question of the extension of the water supply for Howard Street and Glossop Street, Spen, was ordered to stand over until the next meeting in order that an estimate might be made of the cost of the proposed extension.

Several cases of sewerage improvements occupied the attention of the Board, and suggested alterations were decided to be carried out.

DOCTOR'S QUARTERLY REPORT.

The medical report showed that for the quarter ending Dec. 31st, 1885, the deaths are 70, equal to an average of 23 per 1,000. A favourable light is thrown upon this average from the fact that 15 of the deaths give an average of a trifle over 70 years each.

ADDITIONAL MAGISTRATES WANTED.

A few other matters of minor importance were brought under the notice of the Board; after which Col. Cowen retired from the meeting, and Mr W. Douglas was appointed to the chair. The question of the magistracy of the district was then brought forward. For many years past there have always been two county magistrates resident in the district, which comprises the townships of Winlaton, Stella, and Chopwell, and which is in the Gateshead District of the Petty Sessional Division of the East Chester Ward of the county, and has a population of 10,687. Since the decease of the late Mr Richard Laycock, J.P., there has ceased to be a county magistrate in the district—a fact which is said to cause considerable inconvenience to the Board and other public bodies.

On the motion of Mr JEFFREY, seconded by Mr J. DOUGLAS, it was unanimously resolved that a petition be sent to the Lord-Lieutenant of the county of Durham, the Earl of Durham, praying that one or two of the residents in the district might be nominated as justices of the peace, and suggesting Lieut.-Col. J. A. Cowen, of Blaydon Burn, as a suitable person for nomination, and one whose appointment would meet the approval of all classes in the district.

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

WARNING TO MINERS.—The following warning was issued on Wednesday evening:—A sudden and rapid fall of the barometer passed over the United Kingdom during Tuesday night. The disturbance is passing away, followed by a brisk increase of pressure. The changes are at present not sufficiently advanced to indicate whether more settled conditions are likely to prevail, although intelligence from America shows that very severe weather continues over the Atlantic. Under the circumstances, miners will do well to note atmospheric changes and the variations of the gas in the workings.

THE DISPUTE AT SOUTH MEDOMSLEY COLLIERIES.

A meeting in relation to the above was held in the Co-operative Hall, Tantobie, on Thursday se'nnight. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather there was a good attendance. Mr R. Symons, of Tanfield Lea, was in the chair, and briefly stated the object of the meeting.—Mr P. Carling (member of the Federation Board of the Miners' Association) in a vigerous speech condemned the action of the manager of the colliery in seeking to bring about the disorganisation of the men.—Mr J. Harrison (Tanfield Moor) also addressed the meeting.—A vote of thanks to the chairman brought the proceedings to a close.

MASS MEETING OF MINERS.

On Saturday afternoon, a mass meeting of miners interested in the wages' dispute at South Medomsley Colliery was held at Dipton. Previous to the gathering, the Dipton brass band paraded the various rows in the district and also the village of Leadgate, attended by a very large crowd. The band was headed by several men carrying the effigy of a man, and in front of these men another person walked dressed in white, after the manner of a priest, and carrying a book. As the procession proceeded through the village, to the solemn strains of the Dead March in "Saul," the effect was ludicrous, and the humour and interest of the proceedings were increased by the cheers, groans, and hearty laughter with which the processionists and their comical-looking companion were alternately hailed. At the mass meeting, which was held in the Co-operative Hall, about 800 persons were present, including miners from the Delight, East Castle, Hobson, South Derwent, and other adjoining collieries. Mr John Taylor, of Dipton, presided, and was accompanied on the platform by Mr Lancelot Trotter, secretary of the Durham Mechanics' Association, Mr W. H. Lambton, secretary, and Mr John Orr, president of the Durham Enginemen's Association, Mr H. Bloomfield, Mr T. Gatis, and others.

The CHAIRMAN, who was received with loud cheers, said he was glad to see such a number of men ready to shew disapproval of injustice and oppression when manifested. Judging from the facts of the case, as they presented themselves to his own mind, in connection with the South Medomsley dispute, there was an amount of injustice and oppression exercised on behalf of the owners, and he was proud that the men had so independently and honestly set themselves forth in array against it, and were determined to resist so far as lay in them. There were two or three characteristics in connection with the case that must strike the mind of every thoughtful man. One to his mind was that it appeared an unjust demand on the part of the employers to take from the earnings of the men 10 per cent., as the rate of wages paid at that colliery was already about 6 per cent. below the county average. It might be that they considered the county average too large, but, when the hazards and risk of a miner's life were remembered, who could say that a miner was overpaid at the rate of 4s 9d or 4s 10d per day. There was another point in connection with the dispute, and that was the willingness of the men to accept conciliatory measures. That ought not to be lost sight of. The men were willing, and they knew they were working below the county rate, to submit their case to an independent and disinterested party to judge upon the merits of the case; but arbitration had been refused on the part of the masters. Another characteristic was the stern refusal of the owners to accept any conciliatory measures. They wanted their own way, and if they could not get that, they would have no way at all. Now, he asked them was it fair, or reasonable, or just, that the case should be a one-sided one, and could they not endorse the action of the miners of South Medomsley in sternly refusing to comply with the demands of the masters. The men deserved their countenance and support in their struggle. (Applause.) The struggle would be difficult and continued, and meant hardship to a great number of men, and the success of that struggle very largely depended upon the amount of unity and concord that existed amongst the men. He would ask them to be united in their purpose, to be determined to win. They knew very well there would be anxiety, and care would hover round them in the midst of the struggle, but still, if they gave way it might lead to the establishment—he had no fear it would—but it was just possible it might lead to the establishment of a principle that would perhaps work injury to them as a body of men throughout the county. Let them fight earnestly, honestly, and fearlessly, and their conduct would command sympathy in the county at large. (Loud applause.)

Mr W. H. LAMBTON, of the Colliery Enginemen's Association, Durham, explained that the agents of the Miners' Association were absent not from any want of sympathy in their affairs, but that there was a council meeting at Durham, and that was the reason, and the sole reason, of their absence. He would try and review the reasons for the strike. In the first place, the masters said they could not work the colliery unless a substantial reduction took place in the workmen's wages. The manager told the deputation last Tuesday that the colliery had not a case for arbitration. They knew the present wages were something below the county average, and to go to arbitration with a case like that they felt would be going with no case at all. The question was then put: "If you have such a case as that, why pretend to fight for it?" His reply was: "We are forced by circumstances to ask this reduction at the hands of the men. Unless we can get relief in the working expenses, we shall be unable to carry the colliery on." ("Let her stand, then," laughter, and cheers.") He (the speaker) believed that the dispute had been brought about in consequence of there being much unemployed labour in the district. There was a certain disorganisation amongst the men in that neighbourhood, and it was this circumstance, he thought, that had so tempted the masters that they could not resist the idea of asking the men to submit to a reduction in their wages. He thought it was right to advance something in support of that statement. When the deputation met the manager last Tuesday he said, "If you men will get out of the road, stand to one side, there is plenty of unemployed labour in the neighbourhood offered by men able and willing, who will only be too glad to come and accept our terms." The speaker advised the men, if disorganisation existed amongst them, if want of unanimity existed amongst them, to try and get themselves of one mind. (Hear, hear.) If the reduction sought took place, it would give the South Medomsley owners an advantage over the owners of the Association; and the masters in the Association might reasonably back out from the position they were in and ask for a reduction throughout the county. The request was unjust to the associated masters of the county, and it was the duty of workmen, who were a party to the sliding scale, to protect not only their own position, but to protect the position of the associated masters; and he trusted the latter would give all the discountenance they could to the owners of the Medomsley Colliery. (cheers.) He begged the men to be true to themselves, to each other, to their families, and to show to the world they were true men. They would probably have to suffer; but for conscience sake, and for the sake of posterity, they should consider it their duty to suffer, and should be proud they were able do so. (Loud cheers.)

Mr JOHN ORR, said he thought so far they had done all that was possibly in their power to do in the crisis that they had now entered upon. The men of South Medomsley had also done as much as they could consistently with their own manhood to bring an end to that crisis, but it appeared that nothing they could do would be effectual in determining that unjust struggle. He had the pleasure or the displeasure of meeting their manager along with the deputation last Tuesday. He (the manager) asserted that he had positively nothing to do with the existing strike. Evidence since that, which had transpired as to the action taken by the manager, led him to a different conclusion. That strike had been set forth to the world as a stoppage of the colliery through depression of trade. Since the notice to the South Medomsley men that they could not get trade to carry the colliery on, the men had been told that they could be re-engaged at a reduction of 10 per cent., and were promised eleven days a fortnight work if they acceded to these regulations. Now, he did not say, in the first instance, that that gentleman, when he issued that notice, not only told a deliberate lie, but he did come to this conclusion, that the circumstances clearly showed that he was "wagging a pair of false jaws." (Laughter and applause.) There was one thing he should like to be clearly understood by the public, by the workmen, and by the employers in the county of Durham, that the workmen's representatives had done everything within the reach of their power, compatible with the principles that governs their trade in this county, to avert that strike, and that every concession offered had been sternly and persistently refused, and it appeared that nothing short of the full pound of flesh, which weighed 10 per cent., would satisfy the Shylock of South Medomsley. (Laughter and applause.) When they had gone as far as they possibly could, there must be a stopping point, and they must put their foot down somewhere. It was just possible to drive a person to the last extremity, and he believed that had been done in the South Medomsley case, and they had now taken up a position and they would fight it to the end on the point of principle. (Cheers.) It was necessary that it should be done. Because, as Mr Lambton put it strenuously before them, it was a violation of all the rules that governed the trade of the county. And it was right it should be so considering that the employers had issued regulations which had cost them (the men) years of toil and thousands of pounds to bring about—when they could in all reasonableness, in all firmness, and in all justice to capital and labour, meet their employers face to face on friendly terms to discuss that which was right and just to the capitalist as well as to the labourer. The owners of South Medomsley had tried persistently and forcibly to bring about a state of things which would unhinge the good feeling that now existed between workmen and masters in that county, and they, as an organised body of men, would resist it to the utmost of their ability, and if they could only keep unprincipled men from undermining their fellow-men, from going behind the South Medomsley men and accepting those contemptible offers that had been made by unprincipled employers; if they could get them to remain at home and leave the struggle to the South Medomsley men, they had plenty of ammunition in the four associations in the county of Durham to let South Medomsley stand. (Cheers.) They were determined that they would do it, and he asked them, by their combined action, by their conduct as peaceable citizens, to do nothing that would in any way bring about a change in their position. He believed there was a whole host of police officers brought into that locality for some purpose or other. He did not know that in his experience of ten years any extra police force was necessary to keep the inhabitants of Dipton quiet, and he trusted these gentlemen would not be required. An officer had been brought amongst them engaged for two years, and he heard also he was a very decent officer. One thing they could do, and that would be to make that officer's duty pleasant and light by their conduct, and no report of his, coming amongst them as a stranger, would in any way be detrimental to them. He also hoped the manager of the colliery would have no occasion to complain of their conduct as loyal subjects in that struggle. In the late struggle at Ushaw Moor, the manager their wrote to the superintendent of police almost every day complaining that the policemen were not doing their duty. The reason was that when he took up 20 yards of turnpike and ran against inoffensive men, the policemen did not take them by the neck. The policemen turned out to be the friends of the working men, because they protested before their superintendent that they could not do dirty work for anybody. He hoped they, by their conduct, would make friends both with the police and the magistrates. He hoped every man with a spark of manhood in him would keep away from South Medomsley, and would despise the despicable terms offered by these employers, and would assist the South Medomsley men in bringing about a settlement, and a good settlement, which meant nothing more than equal right and justice with the other men employed in the county. (Loud cheers.)

Mr LANCELOT TROTTER said in looking around that assembly he felt they were all fully alive to the responsibilities of the position in which they were placed by the conduct of their late employers. They saw in the newspapers paragraphs with reference to that affair headed "strike," but he hoped that in the future that would be altered, and that it would be stated it was a lock-out. He knew, however, they had under these painful circumstances room from gratitude. Query? Because in their position they had behind them both the help and influence, nay, the threefold, moral, physical, and monetary aid, of the whole of the men in the county of Durham. (Cheers.) Why had the employers of Medomsley Colliery desired to reduce their wages? Was it not a fact that they (the owners) were outside of the Owners' Association for a selfish purpose? By the basis and operation of the present sliding-scale the prices paid in the shape of wages were to be regulated by the prices got for the coal at the pit's mouth. But if the present action was allowed to become operative at South Medomsley it would spread, and the prices would be pulled down in other parts of the county; hence the aggregate on tonnage rates would be reduced. Consequently, the whole of the men in the county of Durham governed by that sliding-scale would have their wages reduced, and, let him add, the Federation Board had taken cognizance of that fact, and they now upheld the men and owners of the county in endeavouring to put a stop to the action of the owners of South Medomsley Colliery. The men had gone as far as they could compatibly with the interests of justice and fairplay. They had offered conciliation, they had offered arbitration, why on earth did the manager want them to go further than that? What was the manager doing? He felt he was powerless in the attempt, and he would get the county constabulary to help him. (Laughter.) Circumstances might transpire that might hurt their deepest manhood, and some of them might overstep the trammels. They must not do that, for that was what was wanted by the manager. At present the manager would have to buy the beef and the bread for the policemen, he would have to pay the cost of their being their; but if the men did anything of a riotous nature, he would come upon the county rates for the cost. He asked them, whatever there might be in the struggle to excite their manhood, that they would bridle their temper, and, if possible, take the advice of Mr Orr. Let them see that as men they could fight for their rights as such, that they could meet their manager if necessary on a platform of intelligence, and that they could walk alongside of him or the remainder of the employers on the path of right and duty. He asked them, in conclusion, to be united in their efforts, determined in the struggle, and to let their action be such as would call forth, as it did at present, the sympathy of their fellow-workmen in the county. He was glad to hear that day that certain of the collieries in close proximity with them had already forwarded them money to help them in the struggle. He trusted, however, that better judgment would prevail, and he hoped before the Sunday closed that a heavenly dream would pass over the manage. (Laughter.)

The following resolution was submitted to the meeting, and carried unanimously, with great cheering:—"That this meeting pledges itself to support the South Medomsley men in their struggle for liberty and principle, and will help them, by all legal means in their power, to obtain for them their just right against tyranny and oppression."

Votes of thanks were passed to the chairman, speakers, and the press, and the proceedings terminated, with cheers for the Medomsley men.

After the demonstration at Dipton the night passed off quietly. Some amusement was occasioned by the display of the effigy of Mr Tyzack, the manager, which was carried through the streets, a brass band playing the "Dead March in *Saul*." A mock burial service was afterwards performed over the effigy. The workmen will be ejected from their dwellings sometime this week, but they have prepared themselves in case of emergency. They have succeeded in renting (through the medium of the Durham Miners' Association) a number of empty houses belonging to the firm of Messrs R. Dickinson and Co., whose collieries were laid in last summer. If the magistrates' orders are obtained over 60 men and their families will be evicted, and it is expected the process will commence on Tuesday. The manager, it is stated, has already ordered the necessary provisions for the "candymen."

On Monday, affairs remained *in status quo* at the colliery. Contrary to general expectations, the "blacklegs" did not commence working the pit. The men are receiving the sympathy of all classes, assistance now flowing in from all directions. On Monday, the local lodge officials collected upwards of £20 from the residents of Dipton.

ATTEMPT TO EJECT THE MINERS. "CANDYMEN" ON STRIKE.

The relations between the masters and men in connection with the lock-out at the South Medomsley Colliery on Tuesday received a further strain, due preparations having been made for evicting about sixty workmen, with their wives and families, from the houses belonging to the owners of the colliery at High Stables, lying between Dipton and the pit itself. The process, however, resulted in a ludicrous *contretemps*. The fact that the men were to be turned out on Tuesday had been kept a profound secret, and only leaked out when a strong force of 32 policemen arrived from Consett, under the command of Supt. Oliver, early in the morning. Almost simultaneously a batch of between twenty and thirty "candymen" came per rail from Newcastle. The workmen, although they fully prepared themselves in case of emergency, declare that they have not received proper notices to quit the houses—the only documents forwarded to them being from Mr W. Tyzack, the manager, intimating that in case they did not resume work at the colliery on Saturday last steps would be taken to carry out the process of ejectment. On Tuesday morning the "candymen" were escorted to the rows of houses by the police, where a ring was formed, and the "candymen" were requested by the police to perform their disagreeable duties. The men, however, resolutely refused to enter the dwellings. A move was next made to the top of one of the rows of houses, and again the "candymen" were urged to fulfil the terms of their engagement by the police superintendent. This appeal was unavailing, and once more the men, with one accord, declined to invade the dwellings of the workmen, to the amusement of the crowds of people who had assembled from far and wide. The "candymen" affirm that they had been deceived, and relate various stories. Some say they were engaged to remove furniture from a gentleman's hall in the neighbourhood of Haltwhistle; others were employed for the purpose of shovelling snow off the roads, at the rate of 5s per day, with meat and lodgings. This unexpected termination afforded the greatest satisfaction, not only to the union men, but the miners and people in the village generally, as Tuesday was a wretched day to eject anyone from their houses, showers of snow and rain falling all through the afternoon. Soon after dinner, the members of the Durham Federation Board reached Dipton, having been informed per telegram what was transpiring. The "candymen" were interviewed by Mr Patrick Carling, of the Lintz. The brass band performed through the streets of the village, and the effigy of the colliery manager was again brought out. Considerable excitement prevailed in the village, and a vast crowd thronged the Black Bull Inn—the headquarters of the Miner's Lodge. The "candymen" departed from Lintz Green Station by the 4 p.m. train, being escorted from the village by the band, the populace sending up tremendous cheering. The major portion of the police were drafted away from the village between three and four o'clock; but a small force was left, under the command of Inspector Davidson, of Lanchester. The unionists, although somewhat elated at their success, conducted themselves throughout the day with the utmost quietude.

MEETING OF THE MEN.

During the afternoon, a hastily convened meeting of the men took place in the Co-operative Hall, at Dipton. Notwithstanding the inclement weather, and the excitement prevailing in the vicinity of the pit, there was a numerous attendance. Mr. W. H. Lambton (secretary of the Durham Colliery Mechanics' Association) was voted to the chair, and he was supported by Mr. L. Trotter (secretary of the Durham Colliery Enginemen's Association), Mr. P. Carling, Lintz (member of the Federation board), &c.

The CHAIRMAN, who was greeted with cheers, stated that the Federation Board held an important meeting at Durham that morning, to consider specially the position of the men at South Medomsley Colliery. They had not been sitting half-an-hour when a telegram came to hand saying that a large number of "candymen" and policemen had been imported into the village for the purpose of ejecting the men from their houses; also that the "candymen" had refused to act. (Laughter.) The position the men were in led the Board to arrive at the conclusion that the large section of workmen,—miners, enginemen, mechanics, and cokemen,—should be withdrawn from the colliery. (Hear, hear, and applause.)—[At this juncture the mechanics, cokemen, &c., were asked to retire to another building, where they were privately addressed by Messrs Lambton and Trotter.]

Mr H. BLOOMFIELD then took the chair, and expressed his gratification at the result of that day's proceedings, and trusted that the workmen would behave themselves in the future as they had done in the past.

Mr PATRICK CARLING, who was well received, thereupon delivered a vigorous address. He said that whilst the men of South Medomsley were literally starving, the "candymen" brought for the purpose of ejecting them refused to perfom their inhuman task. (Applause.) He deeply regretted the results which had led to the meeting that day. The Federation Board, he assured them, would use every legitimate means on behalf of the miners to facilitate a speedy and amicable settlement. The reason they had failed hitherto was because the masters—or rather the manager of the colliery was unreasonable in his demands, and consequently his claims could not be depended upon. On the other hand, the terms of the men were quite reasonable. (Cheers.) Prior to the present manager (Mr Tyzack) coming to South Medomsley Colliery each man had a bright prospect before him, and was properly remunerated for the labour he performed. Since the present manager arrived—he was speaking from practical experience—his conduct had been disgraceful; and he was neither reasonable nor consistent. (Loud applause, and a voice: "That's good.") His (Mr Carling's) reasons for having a practical knowledge was because once before, as a member of the Executive Committee, he was called upon, on their behalf, to investigate a ridiculous case, which was unreasonable in the extreme. He might as well let the world know the previous conduct and reputation of the manager. The latter wished to deprive upright and honest union men of their freedom and liberty, and replace them by men who had not the manliness to assert their independence and manhood, or to defend their character, all for the sake of a few pence. If it had not been for the tact displayed by the miners on that occasion there would have been a strike then. Concerning the present dispute, the Federation Board had taken the matter up, and were determined to spare neither time, money, nor labour to bring the case to a successful issue on their behalf. (Applause.) They had resolved that day to issue about 50,000 pamphlets, and distribute them throughout the country, faithfully describing the circumstances leading to the existing dispute, and advising miners to keep away from the district. (Renewed applause.) The Board had also agreed—whether the men were in the society or non-unionists—to counsel them to act as men, to behave loyally and truly to the interests of other people, and the Board would act loyally by them. He hoped they would endeavour to bring the brakesmen from their handles, the mechanics from their shops, and the hewers from the mine. (Loud cheers.) Their manager had asked them to sign a declaration to sever their connection from the rest of the working men, and thus become slaves to his will. He (Mr Carling) admitted there was depression in trade, but was it right that the men should suffer? The county average was 4s 8d, but if they were to work for 3s 9d he wanted to know if their labour was a profitable speculation when they were losing? Whilst men were working 6 and 10 per cent. under the county average they must be losing. The battle they were fighting was the cause of the miners in Durham and Northumberland. (Applause.) He firmly believed the present scheme was concocted for the purpose of undermining one of the grandest organisations in this country—the Durham Miners' Association. If the men of South Medomsley happened to lose this battle, other colliery owners in the country might adopt the same plan. Although the miners in that district might have small wages, large families, and empty larders, still he had every faith they would uphold their integrity and manhood, and come to the assistance of the men of South Medomsley Colliery—(applause)—and thus bring the battle to a successful issue. In the event of the men being hereafter ejected from their dwellings, the Federation Board had further decided to defray all expenses incurred in removing their goods and chattels to other quarters, or providing them with some sort of accommodation. (Applause.) He counselled the men to act upon the constitutional principle; to keep the peace, mind their own business, keep their eyes open on things around them; but whatever they did, they must not break the law. (Prolonged applause.)

The CHAIRMAN regarded the decision of the Federation Board as most satisfactory. He trusted the men would act upon the principles laid down by Mr Carling. (Cheers.)

A SOUTH MEDOMSLEY WORKMAN, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr Carling, remarked that although that gentleman advocated peaceable measures, the way he had been shoved about by the police that day would have turned him into a fighting man. (Laughter.)

Mr THOS. SPRING, miner, White-le-Head, who seconded the proposal, said that from the various opportunities he had of associating with the miners of different parts of the county, he learnt that they were all in favour of the men of South Medomsley, and he was assured that monetary support would flow in from all directions. (Loud cheers.)

The resolution having been carried by acclamation, Mr CARLING briefly replied by stating that his interests were identical with theirs, and they must stand or fall together.

Votes of thanks brought the enthusiastic proceedings to a close, and the miners quietly dispersed.

MEETING OF THE FEDERATION BOARD.

A meeting of the Durham Miners' Federation Board, consisting of representatives of the miners, cokemen's, mechanics, and enginemen's associations, was held on Tuesday, at the Miners' Hall, Durham. The dispute at South Medomsley was discussed, and it was agreed that a representative from each of the four sections of the Board should attend at South Medomsley and arrange for providing shelter for the men when evicted. It was understood that each association connected with the Board should withdraw its own men from the colliery, and it was decided that in order to prevent fresh men seeking employment there, advertisements should be inserted in the local press announcing that the strike was in progress, whilst to fully inform the public of all the facts connected with the dispute, circulars will be sent out and posters freely placarded about the county. While the Board were deliberating, a message was received from the South Medomsley Lodge secretary of the Durham Miners' Association, stating that a force of candymen had arrived there to eject the families of workmen. The men, however, so far as could be ascertained, had misunderstood the purpose for which they were engaged, and had not commenced operations, and it was believed that on the true position of affairs being ascertained, the men would leave. The workmen, therefore, requested that the officers of the Federation Board should be appointed to see what could be done. It was agreed that a member of each of the four associations should be at once despatched to South Medomsley to see the candymen if possible, and explain to them the true position of affairs. The question was also discussed by the Board as to what was to be done, when it was suggested that each association should withdraw its own workmen, and take care that none of them were entrapped into making engagements to start work on terms they would not be likely to stand by afterwards. It was believed by the workmen in the colliery that on the agents explaining the position of affairs the candymen would leave.

THE MEN EVICTED.

Another attempt was made on Wednesday morning to evict the miners locked out at the South Medomsley Collieries, near Dipton. In the present instance the process was carried out successfully by about a dozen "candymen" from Consett and Leadgate who worked along with the "captain" and "lieutenant" of the band of "candymen" who refused to commence operations on the preceding day. The evictions commenced about nine o'clock, and proceeded quietly throughout the day. Large crowds thronged the vicinity of the houses, but the utmost tranquility prevailed. Over 50 police officers and constables were present from Consett, Gateshead, and Durham County Divisions, protecting the "candymen" in the execution of their obnoxious task, the force being in charge of Superintendent Oliver (Consett) and Inspector Davidson (Lanchester). The Durham and Gateshead policemen remained at the colliery overnight on Tuesday, but the Consett men returned home. The "candymen" were under the direction of James Frosdick, a well-known bailiff from Consett, and every time he showed an appearance outside he was hooted and hissed at by the crowds assembled. The other "candymen" were likewise jeered at by the women and children, but they accepted the "chaffing" in good part. One pitman had scattered cayenne pepper over his furniture and upon the floor of his house, and the wind blew the pepper about in all directions, a quantity finding its way into the eyes of the "candymen," who shed tears, to the no little amusement of those who were let into the secret. Between twelve and one o'clock Messrs W. H. Patterson, W. H. Lambton, and Lancelot Trotter, the men's agents, arrived from Durham, and eventually all the "candymen" expressed their willingness to cease further operations except Frosdick, who succeeded in persuading his colleagues to start work again. As the afternoon advanced, the crowd increased, and the greatest excitement prevailed, the populace alternately cheering and hooting. The furniture was simply carried out by the "candymen" and placed in the yards connected with each dwelling, where the goods and chattels were immediately loaded upon vehicles of all descriptions, and conveyed to other houses in the vicinity not under the control of the owners of South Medomsley Colliery. The conveyances were gratuitously lent for the occasion by the residents, who heartily sympathise with the men in their unfortunate plight; whilst the Durham Miners' Association guarantees to defray the necessary expense in providing the requisite accommodation far the homeless men. The miners' agents conferred privately with the men at lodge room—the Sportsman's Arms—during the afternoon; and soon afterwards returned to Durham; no mass meeting being held. The enginemen, mechanics, &c., gave 24 hours' notice to the manager (Mr W. Tyzack) on Wednesday afternoon to cease working at the colliery; and it is understood the whole of the cokemen (who are non-unionists) are about to amalgamate themselves into a union.

As the "candymen" were being escorted by the police, about 4·30 p. m., to the colliery—about half-a-mile distant—they were followed by a tremendous crowd of spectators from all the surrounding villages, terrific yells and howls rending the air, and the constables were pelted with missiles *en route*, but nothing serious transpired. The police experienced considerable difficulty in keeping the road clear, and once or twice a charge was made upon the crowd, but without effectually dispersing them. The "candymen," after partaking of refreshments at the colliery, were conveyed to Consett, arriving there about 6·30, being accompanied by a body of police. A large force, however, was left at the colliery to preserve order, but happily their services were not called into requisition. The evicted men, on the whole, behaved themselves in the most peaceable manner. A few of the people residing in what is known as the "Dowlais Cottages," in the village of Dipton, still remain to be evicted. About thirty families were turned out on Wednesday. A number of the miners carried their own goods and chattels elsewhere; others obtained doctor's certificates, to be not disturbed; while one or two have already sold their goods and departed abroad, thus saving the "candymen" the performance of the obnoxious duty of evicting them. Superintendent Oliver, and his colleague, Inspector Davidson, displayed great tact and energy. The superintendent refused to allow the "candymen" whilst performing their task, to act beyond the limits prescribed by law, and ordered the "candymen," when handling the furniture somewhat roughly, not to damage in the slightest degree the effects of those poor people, who could ill afford to sustain any loss at the present juncture.

A telegram was received at Durham on Wednesday stating that the "Candymen difficulty" at South Medomsley Colliery has been got over, and evictions commenced that morning. Everything proceeded quietly, the men maintaining the peace, although a lot of badinage was being exchanged. A strong force of police is at the place to keep order. The men removed their effects to empty houses at Dipton and other places in the vicinity, which have been engaged for the purpose. Immediately on receiving the telegram, Messrs Lambton, Trotter, and Patterson, miners' agents, Durham, set out for the scene of the evictions.

THE "CANDYMEN" AND THE DISPUTE.

Joseph Cox and John McIntyre, two of the "candymen" taken out to South Medomsley on Tuesday state that, to the number of 25, they were engaged in a public-house in Newcastle, their understanding being that they were to receive 5s a day, with meat and lodgings, and that what they were wanted for was to clear away some snow at Haltwhistle. They positively affirm that, beyond this, they knew nothing whatever as to the object of the work which they were expected to perform, and when they found out the true nature of the employment before them, Cox and five of his companions made their escape, and walked back to Newcastle.

A NEW YEAR'S ADVENTURE.

[SPECIALLY WRITTEN FOR THE "GUARDIAN."]

I intended to have recorded a New Year incident of a local character, and which partook almost of the nature of an adventure; but as the Editor promised to favour his readers with a supply of holiday literature, I deferred my chapter from life till now.

It was New Year's Eve, just fifteen years ago, and the snow lay thicker on the ground than it has ever since lain in the neighbourhood of Consett and Shotley Bridge. I was a perfect stranger in the district, and having to put up with the discomforts of lodgings, I purposed spending the New Year elsewhere. Leaving Shotley about a quarter to nine o'clock in the evening, I sauntered slowly up the bank towards the Railway Station. The train by which I intended to journey was timed to arrive in Newcastle about ten o'clock; but before reaching my destination, some five miles beyond, I had no alternative but to traverse a lonely road which did not boast the passport of a very good name after nightfall, much less at the witching time of night. I never carry a walking stick, but under the circumstances, I thought it prudent to provide myself with the nearest possible approach to that luxury. I cut a fine specimen of a bludgeon in the woods between Shotley and the station. There was but little scope for selection under the cold light of the stars, and I can assure the reader that my home-made walking stick was anything but a beauty. It was big enough, and good enough for my purpose, especially after it was dressed, which process it underwent in the waiting-room at the Station, with a gully as large as a scalping knife. I toned it down and made it a sort of respectable in the interim before the train came up, much to the amusement of two or three fellow-travellers who also waited the coming of the "iron horse." I never learned why they looked at me so intently, first at the knife, then at myself, and finally at the bludgeon; but certain it is that when the train came up they were in no hurry to take their seats until I had first made my choice. They did not accompany me, but on alighting at Newcastle their interest was again renewed—at a distance. It was now late, of course, and crossing the High Level Bridge, I traversed the extreme length of Gateshead from the river to the tollgate. Near this point I diverged from the road and entered upon an old bridle path in use from time immemorial, as historians say, and which stretches for a distance of nearly three miles as the crow flies, in a south-easterly direction toward the collieries in the neighbourhood of Usworth and Washington. In most places there was a thick hedge on one side of the pathway, and the open fields on the other. Not a soul was abroad, and the hoarse panting of a pumping enging at one or other of the adjacent collieries were the only sounds that broke the stillness of the night. I had trudged along for about half-a-mile among the crisp frozen snow, my feet slipping about a foot backwards at every successive step, when I observed two men approaching from the opposite direction. It is never very dark when there is snow on the ground, hence, I had abundant opportunity of taking the measurement of the twain as they came towards me. The review was anything but flattering; but what I disliked most was the fact, that when within a few yards of me, instead of the one stepping behind the other to allow me room to pass, one kept the trodden footpath, and the other stepped about a yard to the field side, so that in passing I would require to go between them. I had no part in this arrangement, not having been taken into their confidence, and when within two yards of them, I stepped smartly from the path, and giving my bludgeon a flourish, passed on the outside of the gentlemen who trudged knee-deep among the snow. They both stood, and turning to me one of them shouted: "What o'clock is it mistor?" "Can't tell exactly," I responded as I again moved toward the bridle path. They had now turned and walked slowly after me. One of them bawled: "What didst thou leave the road for, thou bad b——?" "To accommodate you," I shouted in turn, making my Shotley bludgeon whistle round my head like an Indian on the war path, and assuming a show of bravado, that truth to tell I did not feel to be very easily borne. They stood and held a whispered confab, the purport of which was wafted toward me in a choice selection of muffled curses, against which my friendly cudgel was powerless to operate. I felt rather uneasy, but I pushed forward, scanning every bush and shadow. I had passed a place known as the Blue Quarries, and entered upon the most solitary part of the path, when I was startled by seeing the form of a man emerging from under the shadow of a high hedge and staggering toward me. I don't know how, but I experienced a feeling akin to anger, rather than fear. I thought the man meant mischief, and thinking the staggering gait might be assumed, I tightened the grasp on my cudgel and awaited his approach. "Can you show me the road to ——," were the words to which he first gave utterance "Yes," I responded, and seeing that I stood on the defensive and eyed him with suspicion, he continued: "Its all right, sir, I am a gentleman, a cashier at —— Colliery. I was in the town last night, and being New Year time I partook of too much drink. I have a deal of money on me, and when passing through Sheriff Hill I noticed that three or four fellows were watching me. They followed, but I dodged them by turning into a stable-yard, and thence wandered in these fields. Two of them passed me whilst lying under that edge not half-an-hour ago, and had they tackled me I would have dropped them, but I would rather not have been forced to that, you know," and he drew from his breast pocket a large revolver, the rays of the rising moon glistering on its burnished barrel." It was evident that the man had the bearing of a gentleman, and I saw no reason to doubt the truth of his story. We were both going in the same direction, and very soon were upon the best of terms. I showed him home, and at parting he deftly slipped something into my waistcoat pocket, to drink as he said, "Confusion to would-be knaves, and success to all good fellows."

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Business Announcements.

THIRTEENTH YEAR OF ATTENDING CONSETT.

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Wonderful Value in CHRISTMAS CARDS is to be obtained at

ROBERT JACKSON'S,

9 AND 10, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

The PENNY PACKET contains 6 Cards of Beautiful Design.
The TWOPENNY PACKET contains 9 Superior Cards.
The THREEPENNY PACKET contains 12 Assorted Cards of Excellent Quality.
The SIXPENNY PACKET contains 18 Choice Cards of Superior Quality.
The SHILLING PACKET contains 24 very Superior Cards, many of which are worth 3d. and 4d. each.

THE MONSTRE SHILLING PACKET!

Containing 50 Beautiful Cards, Post Free, for 1s. 3d.

SINGLE CARDS ... ... 1d., 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., and 1s. each.

☞ NOTE THE ADDRESS—
9 AND 10, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT. 453v

AT THE

"BON MARCHE"

GREAT SHOW

OF

DOLLS AND TOYS,

AND

OTHER NOVELTIES,

SUITABLE FOR

XMAS AND NEW YEAR PRESENTS.

DRESSED AND UNDRESSED DOLLS, FROM 1d. UP TO 7s. 6d. EACH.
HUNDREDS OF TOYS, FROM 1d. UP TO 15s. 6d. EACH.
GREAT BARGAINS IN PICTURE BOOKS, MOTTOES, HORSES, DONKEYS, BRACKETS, TRAYS, &c.

EVERYBODY SHOULD SEE OUR SUPERB STOCK OF

XMAS CARDS!

HIGHLY FINISHED BY THE LEADING ARTISTES OF THE DAY.
PACKETS CONTAINING 6 AND 7 CARDS, FROM 1d. EACH PACKET.
PACKETS CONTAINING 13, 15, 20, AND 36 CARDS, 2½d., 4½d., 6½d., TO 11½d. PER PACKET.
PACKETS OF FRINGED CARDS, WITH ENVELOPES TO MATCH, VERY CHEAP.

☞ BAZAARS, SHOPS, AND CHARITIES SUPPLIED.

D. BAIN & COMPANY,

THE CHEAP DRAPERS,
"BON MARCHE,"
4, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

JOSEPH MURRAY,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

GROCER, TEA DEALER, AND PROVISION MERCHANT,

16, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,

IS NOW SELLING A FEW CHEAP LINES.

GOOD SACK OF FLOUR at 26s. per 20 stones, or 1s. 4d. per stone.
(And all Finer Qualities at Low Prices.)

INDIAN MEAL	at 18s. per 20 stones, or 1s. per stone.
BARLEY MEAL	at 12s. per 12 stones.
BOXINGS	at 9s. 6d. per 12 stones, or 10d. per stone.
POTATOES	at 4s. 6d. per 10 stones, or 6d. per stone.
BRAN	at 5s. per 8 stones.

SHREDDED MAIZE for Puddings, and WHITE OATS for Porridge.

	Per lb.		Per lb.
Butterine	6d. and 9d.	Lard, Pure Pail	5d.
Butter	1s. and 1s. 3d.	Lard, Bladder	6d.
Hams	5d.	Cheese:—A fine assortment in Stilton, Cotherstone, Derby, Cheshire, Gouda, Edam, Wensleydale, and American, from 3d. per pound.	
Shoulders	3½d. and 4d.		
Bacon	4½d.		
" Fine Quality	5d.		
" Rolls	6d.		

	Per lb.		Per lb.
Sugar	1½d. and 2d.	Our Noted Tea	2s.
" Crystals 2½d. Lump	2½d.	Good Strong Tea	at 1s. 4d. and 1s. 8d.

FOR A TREAT TRY THE OLDEN TIME TEA.

	Per lb.		Per lb.
Coffee	at 1s.	Soap, Brown or Mottled	2d.
" Fine Whole	at 1s. 4d.	" Curd	4d.

TEMPERANCE FRUIT WINES—Ginger, Raspberry, Black Currant, Pine Apple, Orange, 10½d. per Bottle. Port and Sherry, 1s. per Bottle.

SPICE LOAVES about 2lb., 6d., and 4lb. 1s.

	Per lb.		Per lb.
Sultana Raisins	4d.	Splendid Currants	4d.

Valencia, Muscatels, Almonds, Figs, Prunes, Grapes, Lemon, Orange, and Citron Peel. Crystalised Fruits, 6d. and 1s. per Box.

YORKSHIRE AND WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE, ONLY 3d. per BOTTLE.

Milk, 4½d. Salmon, 5d. Brawn, 5d. Corned and Roast Beef, Rabbits, Sardines, Pine Apples, Apricots.

HUNTLEY & PALMER'S BISCUITS. CAKES AND FRUIT LOAVES. A LARGE ASSORTMENT TO CHOOSE FROM. ALL KINDS OF SINCLAIR'S TOBACCOS.

Orders carefully attended to, and delivered to all parts of the district.

OBSERVE THE ADDRESS:—

JOSEPH MURRAY, 16, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

Business Announcements.

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

GEORGE HOBSON,

WHOLESALE

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

HAS ALWAYS ON HAND A LARGE STOCK OF

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 or Black Leg.

G. H.'S MIXTURE OF

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

PRICE LISTS ON APPLICATION. 427v

EDUCATIONAL.

JON. C. WYLIE, PRIVATE TEACHER IN LANGUAGES AND MATHEMATICS.

☞ PUPILS ATTENDED AT THEIR OWN HOMES.

MISS E. A. SLOANE

(Organist of St. Mary's, Blackhill),

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

ADDRESS:—
POST OFFICE, BLACKHILL. 485v

MRS. CLEMINSON'S SCHOOL,
WEAR TERRACE, BISHOP AUCKLAND.

MANY PUPILS from this School have passed in Honours the Oxford, Cambridge, and Durham Local Examinations, Trinity College of Music, &c. Masters for Arithmetic, Drawing, and Painting; a French Governess Diplomee; Music—by a Pupil of the late Sir Sterndale Bennett. 4v

INDIA RUBBER STAMPS,

FOR Endorsing Envelopes, Cheques, and Postal Cards, Heading Notepaper, Marking Linen and Pigeons, Stamping Monograms, Crests, and facsimiles of Signature.

POCKET AND DATING STAMPS,
Price and Pattern Sheets Free on application.
WILLIAM COLDICOTT,
BRIDGEMAN STREET, WALSALL. 783s

AMERICAN LINE.
UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMERS

LIVERPOOL TO PHILADELPHIA,
EVERY WEDNESDAY AND ALTERNATE SATURDAY.

First-class, full-powered Iron Steamships.

Accommodation for passengers equal to any European Line.

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

THE SHORTEST AND BEST ROUTE TO THE WEST.

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

☞ GREAT BARGAINS!

AT

C. F. COOKE'S,

NOTED CHEAP SHOP,

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

ARRIVAL OF SPLENDID ASSORTMENT OF NEW GOODS FOR THE SEASON.

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

BLACK WORSTED SUITS, FROM 24s. 6d.

BOYS' SUITS, FROM 2s. 6d.

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

C. F. COOKE, ANNFIELD PLAIN.

SHEEP DIPS. SHEEP DIPS

THOMAS MILNER,

DISPENSING AND AGRICULTURAL CHEMIST,

☞ THE CENTRAL PHARMACY, CONSETT

Respectfully draws the attention of Farmers to the

TAR ELIXIR PRIZE MEDAL SHEEP DIP

Prepared by Messrs Ness & Co., Darlington, for which he is sole Agent.

PRICE 7s. 6d. PER 100 SHEEP.

Also, the THYMO CRESOL UNIVERSAL PURIFIER, most excellent as a Disinfectant and Wash for Cattle.

Price 6d. and 1s. per Bottle, or 2s. 6d. per Quart.

☞ T. M. is likewise Agent for BELL & RIDDLE'S, McDOUGALL'S, LITTLE, & CO.'S, JEYE'S, COOPER'S, and WILSON and KITCHEN'S Sheep Dips.

ALTERATIVE CONDITION POWDERS AND PURGING BALLS FOR HORSES.

FELLON AND CLEANSING DRINKS FOR CATTLE.

☞ HORSE AND CATTLE MEDICINES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

Milner's Dandelion and Podophyllyn Pills, excellent for the Stomach, and all diseases of the Liver. Sarsaparilla Blood Purifying Mixture.

HOP BARK AND TONIC BITTERS IN 6d. PACKETS.

FINEST COD LIVER OIL. TASTELESS ITALIAN CASTOR OIL.

ORANGE QUININE WINE. QUININE AND IRON TONIC, &c.

CHOLERA AND DIARRHŒA MIXTURE, 1s. per Bottle.

MILNER'S BLUE RIBBON WINE MIXTURE, 1s. PER BOTTLE.

BALSAMIC COUGH MIXTURE.

HAIR RESTORERS' PERFUMES, POMADES, TOILET REQUISITES IN GREAT VARIETY.

SPECTACLES TO SUIT ALL SIGHTS, TRUSSES OF ALL SIZES.

Agent for Mr LAMONT'S Magnetic Belts, Chest Protectors, Knee Caps, &c., &c.

OILS, PAINTS, COLOURS, VARNISHES, AND CLEANING REQUISITES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

MILNER, CHEMIST,
OPPOSITE THE POST-OFFICE CONSETT. 984u

XMAS! XMAS!! XMAS!!!

If you want good value in XMAS, NEW YEAR'S CARDS, and FANCY GOODS of every description, ACCOUNT BOOKS. DIARIES, 1886. Xmas *Graphic* and *Illustrated London News*. Order early,

TRY

J. COCKBURN,

STATIONER, NEWSAGENT, PRINTER, BOOKBINDER, &c. 13, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

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

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

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

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

QUEENSLAND.

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

☞ BY STEAMER FOR £7.

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

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

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

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

ADAM BRODIE,
529v Town Hall, Consett.

THOUSANDS OF SUFFERERS

Have been effectually

CURED

BY LAMONT'S SELF-CURATIVE

MAGNETIC BELTS

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

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

COLDS.—ALL PERSONS who are subject to COLDS BRONCHIAL, and LUNG COMPLAINTS should wear one of

LAMONT'S MAGNETIC LUNG INVIGORATORS.

They are now worn by thousands of persons in all parts of the country, and the testimony on all hands is that they are "WORTH THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD AS A PROTECTION FROM COLD and Bronchial Attacks during the winter season."

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

CURE OF BRONCHITIS.

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

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

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

Mr. D. Lamont. JOHN JEFFERSON.

CURE OF BRONCHITIS.

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

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

Mr D. Lamont. GEORGE PRINGLE.

"IT HAS COMPLETELY CURED ME."

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

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

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

Mr D. Lamont. C. W. MASON.

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

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

D. LAMONT'S MAGNETIC DEPOT,
(PERMANENT AND ONLY ADDRESS).
44A BLACKETT STREET NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
AGENT FOR CONSETT:—MR. THOMAS MILNER, Chemist.

Business Announcements

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

GREAT CLEARANCE SALE PRIOR TO STOCKTAKING, OF LAMPS, CHANDELIERS, GAS-FITTINGS, AND GENERAL HARDWARE, AT

SANDS AND DOYLE'S
(Late with J. C. HALLIDAY),
3, NUN STREET, NEWCASTLE.
PLEASE NOTE THE ADDRESS. 581v

WEDDING RINGS! WEDDING RINGS!

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

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

H. GUTTERIDGE,

SCALE, BEAM, AND WEIGHING MACHINE MANUFACTURER,
BUTCHERS' STEELYARDS, MINCING MACHINES, &c.

REPAIRS DONE ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE.

NOTE ADDRESS:—33, WESTGATE ROAD (near Central Railway Station), NEWCASTLE. 450v

SAVED! SAVED!! SAVED!!!
FROM
DIRT, DISEASE, AND HARD WORK, BY
HARRISON'S
MAGIC ARIZONIC SOAP.

☞ It washes black things white; and is noted for its Cures of Scurvy, Ringworm, Cuts, Sores, Corns, and Bad Feet. PRICE—3d. per lb.

SOLE AGENCY—
1A, RAGLAN STREET, CONSETT. 97v

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

ESTABLISHED 1852.

J. F. SWINBURN, PROPRIETOR.

AGRICULTURAL DRAIN PIPES of all sizes, and of the very best quality, delivered to any Railway Station at very low rates. Also, BRICKS, FLOWER POTS, and everything in the Trade.

SPECIAL QUOTATIONS FOR LARGE QUANTITIES.

Price Lists on Application. 517v

Public Notices.

93 IS the Winning Number for the WILD DUCKS, 15 the PRAIRIE HENS, and 315 the KINGFISHERS, Raffled at Ebchester. 586v

42 AND 50 are the Winning Numbers of the WATCH STAND and PINCUSHION, Raffled for at Mr. A. RAYNOR'S, White-le-Head.

76, 198, AND 11 are the Winning Numbers for the FLOUR, HAM, and POTATOES, Raffled by JOS. WARD, Consett. 592v

NOTICE.—THOMAS WILKINSON, Billposter, 11, Trafalgar Street, Consett, had no connection with the "Candymen." 579v

THE Members of the West Stanley Race Meeting will hold their ANNUAL TEA & SPORTS on Whit-Monday, 1886. 578v

BLACKHILL RELIEF FUND.

FURTHER SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED UP TO JANUARY 14TH, 1886.

	£	s.	d.
George Wilson, Esq.	2	2	0
Rev. D. Power	2	0	0
Mr. E. Sloane	0	5	0

576v JAS. PALLISER, Treasurer.

ALMANACK SHOW.

A GOLD MEDAL, Value £1 10s., will be given by W. J. CAWTHORN, Proprietor of the Black Horse Inn, Burnopfield, to the person who presents him with the Best Almanack for 1886. To be judged by a well-known Artist on January 30th, 1886. Entrance Free. 567v

MR. ALFRED A. HEMY, son of the Author of Hemy's Pianoforte Tutor, begs respectfully to announce that he is prepared to ATTEND PUPILS for PIANOFORTE and HARMONIUM, in Consett, Shotley Bridge, and District.

☞ For Terms, &c., address The Ferns, Eshe, Durham. 525v

YE QUEEN MARY

BOOK OF HOUSEHOLD RECEIPES, Containing Fifty Ancient and Valuable Receipes of our Ancestors (over Three Hundred Years old). Every Housekeeper in the United Kingdom should have a copy who believes in the good old Remedies of our ancestors. Post Free ONE SHILLING, direct from the Publisher and Proprietor, J. MAGUIRE, St. John's Cottage, Partridge Green, Sussex. 560v

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. 148v

INDEPENDENT UNITED ORDER OF MECHANICS.
Reg. No. 849. Blackhill District.

"BROTHERLY LOVE" LODGE, LEADGATE

NOTICE.—There will be a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Members of the above Lodge, on Saturday night, January 23rd, 1886, at Six o'clock in the Evening.

584v BY ORDER OF THE COMMITTEE.

NORTH WEST DURHAM LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the above Association will be held in the New Town Hall, Consett, on Saturday, January 23rd, 1885, as follows:—Meeting of the Council in the Smaller Hall, at 2·30 p.m.

Public Meeting in the Large Hall, at 6·30 p.m., to be Addressed by Messrs. L. A. ATHERLEY-JONES, M.P., J. PRIESTMAN, J.P., and other Gentlemen.

Mr. W. JENKINS, J.P., in the Chair.

ADAM BRODIE, F.S.A., Secretary.
Consett, January 8th, 1886. 568v

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Phillipson.

91, Lintz Colliery.—Monday, January 18th, 1886.

MR. A. PHILLIPSON, specially favoured by Mr. WILLIAM BRAIDFORD, who is leaving the neighbourhood, will SELL BY AUCTION, as above, a large portion of his Valuable Household FURNITURE and EFFECTS, comprising—Mahogany Drawers; Mahogany French Bed; Mattresses and Beds; Couch; Singers' Sewing Machine; Capital Harmonium, in Walnut; Carpets and Hearth-rugs; and numerous other lots. See Bills.

Sale to begin at Half-past Twelve o'clock. 550v

CHEAP EMIGRATION.

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

Liverpool to America, £3 15s. and £4, by the best Lines.

To Australian Colonies at the Lowest Rates.

For reliable information, apply to

269u A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Dipton.

JOHN CRAWFORD,
AGRICULTURAL VALUER & FURNITURE AUCTIONEER,
25, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT.

Business done promptly, and on reasonable terms.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

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

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Sales by Auction.

By Mr. J. Vickers.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

WEEKLY SALE, MONDAY, JANUARY 18th, 1886. Present Entries—

25 Dairy Cows and Heifers, mostly superior Short-horns from Weardale.
10 Prime Fat Cattle, from Pease and Partners, and other local feeders.
130 Fat Sheep and Hoggs, nearly all crack quality.
Also, a few Geld Cows and Store Cattle, Calves, Poultry, &c.
14 Tons of well-won Old-land Hay.
Very fast Pony, in Foal to "Cleveriegs." Also, Trap, Harness, Lamps, and Mats, all complete.

Entries to day of Sale.
Sale at 12·30.
Trucks at Station.

J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.
Grove Villa, Tow Law. 585v

By Messrs. Nicholson and Murray.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY, JANUARY 18th, 1886.

12 Fat Cattle.
120 Prime Fat Sheep.
10 Cows, calved and to calve.
Store Cattle, Calves, Pigs, Poultry, &c.
1 Four-wheel Trap.
1 New Whitechapel, Cart, Harness, &c.
5 Tons of Prime Swede Turnips.
2 Tons of Prime Old-land Hay.
A quantity of Bacon, Hams, &c.
Sale at One o'clock.
NICHOLSON & MURRAY, Auctioneers.

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

GEORGE R. HOBSON,
AUCTIONEER & VALUER.

OFFICES:—
CATCHGATE, VIA LINTZ GREEN. 220v

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

Postal address—ADAM BRODIE & ROBERT JOHN BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett.

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

Peel's Great Northern Horse Repository, Haymarket.
The Oldest Established in the City.

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

Entries respectfully Solicited.
A. T. CROW, Auctioneer.
JOHN PEEL, Proprietor.

Business Announcements.

SAFETY BICYCLES! SAFETY BICYCLES!

THE Latest Novelty in Safety Bicycles is the—"NORTHERN,"

Manufactured by the NORTH OF ENGLAND BICYCLE Co., 44, High Bridge, Newcastle. Send for Price List FREE. Second-hand Bicycles from £2 0s. 0d.

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

THE NEW
COAL & STONE BORING MACHINE
From 20s. and 25s. each, complete with Drills.
Also, BURY'S & HARDY'S PATENT STEEL PICKS and SHAFTS, DRILLS, JUMPERS, and STEMMING GEAR, Wholesale and Retail at

THOMAS BOSTON'S,

NUN STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT
BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY
TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

☞ SHARES MAY BE TAKEN ANY DAY.

Advances made on Freehold or Copyhold Property repayable as arranged, or for fixed periods.
428u ADAM BRODIE, F.S.A., Secretary.

GLENDENNING'S INVALID PORT

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

THE MOST SUITABLE WINE
FOR
SICK PERSONS AND INVALIDS.

☞ 36s. per Dozen; 3s. per Bottle. Carriage Paid on 6 Bottles and upwards.

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WINE MERCHANT,
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SURGEON DENTIST,

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NEWCASTLE.

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From 30s. to £4 10s.

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Business Announcements.

DRUGS AND PATENT MEDICINES AT STORE PRICES.

"ROBERTS,"

NEW BRIDGE STREET, AND

97, CLAYTON STREET,

NEWCASTLE.

DRUGS AND PATENT MEDICINES AT STORE PRICES. 375y

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15TH, 1886.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

"Every man to his trade," says the proverb; and so, doubtless, said the fitter to himself, when he successfully picked the lock and made his exit from the Lanchester lock-up. If the knave has any wisdom left in his noddle, he will keep clear of such quarters in future, but nothing will be a warning to some people. Lanchester is a clever spot for an escapade "beneath the glimpses of the moon," and between runaway lovers and escaped prisoners the quaint old place will soon become notorious.

Is it true that fruiters are in the habit of boiling oranges at this time of the year in order to increase their bulk, and thus facilitate the sale? The young people naturally select the big ones, and I hear them complaining that they might as well chew an indiarubber ball. There are so many tricks of trade now-a-days, one is almost prepared to hear anything. Some time ago, I had occasion to pass through the streets of Sunderland, and pausing in front of a fruiter's shop, I observed the shopman carefully coating a bunch of grapes with what seemed to be varnish of some sort. I was just as interested in the operation as he was, and not being in a particular hurry, I waited until they were hung up in the window. The cunning rogue should have been a painter, for the grapes shone as if they had been newly dipped in rosy wine.

It would seem as if there were troubles at sea just now as well as on shore. I had a chat with a mariner this week—not Coleridge's ancient one—and the conversation turning on Tyne-built steamers, the child of the ocean spoke in disparaging terms of some of the models designed by Tyneside firms. He had, he said, just returned from a long voyage, and during the whole cruise the vessel had rolled like a tub, the ship being as often on her beam ends as on her bottom. He relates that on one occasion they spoke to another steamer hailing from the Tyne, and having questioned the stranger whether the ship was going steady, the following reply was signalled: "No, she is rolling fearfully, every man on board wearing a life-belt," and having delivered himself thus, the stranger exchanged greeting, by enquiring how it fared with the questioner in that respect. "Badly," was the response, "She rolls till her rails are touching the water, and to keep the crew from tumbling overboard, every man-jack is lashed to the masts." I could hardly grasp the force of that statement, for a voyage made under such circumstances would be rather peculiar. The mariner set me right, however, by explaining that the phrase "lashed to the mast" did not necessarily mean that the men were tied closely to it. Each had a long rope round his waist, with one end attached to the mast, and if anybody topled overboard when the ship lurched, well then, his mates just hauled the castaway on board again. Tars do, of course, spin yarns; but if the tale be true, somebody ought to take out a patent for this novel method of minimising the dangers of the sea.

The Newcastle "candymen" do not seem to be so depraved creatures as men who undertake such duties are usually supposed to be; but, as everybody knows, there are people to be found capable of doing anything under the sun; thus it is that if one objects another is ready to perform the task. There is said to be honour among thieves; but there is precious little of that virtue among characters who wilfully lend their labour to so questionable duties. Men with a vestige of soul in their bodies would shrink from such an act; but James Frosdick, "bum" and billposter, does not seem to be troubled with compunction on that score. He is said to be the leader of the Consett contingent of "candymen," and I am sure his presence will be quite an ornament to that distinguished body.

The circumstances which, rightly or wrongly, offer occasion for the exercise of measures of so stringent a character at the South Medomsley Collieries are to be deplored. That the colliery won't pay is a story just a shade too simple to command serious attention. But, granting it to be true, is there no antidote for the evil, no channel for reform, but what ought to be the last of all resources—that affecting the toiler's daily bread? If this is the turn affairs take in well-nigh the last decade of the 19th century, what boots all our boasted educational attainments? Turning a man to the door is not a civilised way of terminating a dispute. Any barbarian could do that; but the spirit of human brotherhood ought to devise a more commendable settlement.

There is little that is new to report on the aspect of the struggle now pending between capital and labour on the Tyne and Wear. The men complain that the employers, taking advantage of the recent drain upon the funds of the Boiler-Makers' Society, have made up their minds to smash the Union. This, the men are, of course, determined to resist; and on no previous occasion of a similar character have so much public sympathy been accorded to men under such circumstances. The men are not blameless in the matter, because they had an opportunity of remaining at work and trying the issues of another fortnight; but then on the other hand, the sweeping reduction asked for by the masters gave rise to a feeling of sudden determination. The society with which they are connected is one of the best conducted associations of the kind in the world. Its far-spreading branches extend to Russia, Turkey, India, and Australia, and in this country alone, upwards of 15,000 of its members are employed in industries unaffected by the present dispute. Apart from this aid, steps are being taken for the borrowing of money to tide over the present difficulty. It will thus be seen that preparations are being made for a desperate resistance; and as the leaders are men of exceptionable intelligence and ability, there will be no yielding till the bitter end. Let us hope, however, for the sake of suffering humanity, that the employers will be more reasonable in their demands, and if they have grievances—strive to redress them b shorter steps on speculation's slippery stair.

CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

MONDAY, Jan. 11th. — Before Jos. PRIESTMAN, Esq. (chairman), JAS. ANNANDALE, Esq., Col. A. B. WILBRAHAM, and J. W. WALTON-WILSON, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

Michael Welch, labourer, pleaded guilty to being drunk and disorderly at Tanfield, on the 19th ult.—P.C. Bain stated the facts, and defendant was fined 5s and costs.

John Robbs was charged with being drunk and wanting to fight at the same time and place as the last offender. P.C. Bain had to threaten to lock the man up several times before he would be quiet. He was indulging in abusive language. At length, some companions came up and took the defendant away.—Defendant was mulcted in a similar penalty.

Thomas Spence, groom, Shotley Bridge, pleaded guilty to a charge, preferred by P.C. Foster, of being drunk and creating a disturbance at that village, on the 24th ult.—Defendant, who expressed his sorrow at what had occurred, was fined 5s and costs.

Thomas Shields, of Shotley Bridge, was summoned by Sergt. Cruickshank for being guilty of drunkenness at Blackhill, on Dec. 30th, and was fined in a like amount.

An old woman, named *Kate Worrall*, a tramp (on bail), of Green's lodging-house, Consett, failed to respond to a charge of drunkenness.—P.C. Hall observed the woman in a very drunken state in Front Street, at 10 p.m. on New Year's Day, and as she would not go away he was obliged to lock up.—Supt. Oliver explained that the prisoner was admitted to bail, because she was unable to walk down to Shotley Bridge to appear before a magistrate, and he supposed she had left the district.—P.C. Hall stated that he met Worrall in Medomsley Road last Saturday night; accordingly, the Bench inflicted a fine of 2s 6d and costs; or seven days' in default.

Patrick McGlade, summoned by P.C. Martin for being drunk in Thomas Street, Consett, on the 2nd inst., was mulcted in 5s and expenses.

Peter McQuiggan, for drunkenness in West Victoria Street, Consett, on the previous Saturday night, was fined in the same penalty.—P.C. Martin preferred the charge.

William Rogan was likewise charged with being drunk at Consett last Saturday evening.—About 10 30 p.m., Sergt. Tate noticed the man in the act of being ejected from a public-house in Front Street for being intoxicated. After gaining the street, Rogan picked up a stone, with the intention of tossing it at the publican; but the sergeant frustrated his object, and took the man into custody.—Defendant pleaded guilty to the charge, and the Chairman pointed out that throwing stones was a very grave offence.—A fine of 5s, with the costs, was imposed.

A TOPER "NON EST."

P.C. Symon preferred a charge of drunkenness against *Peter McGrann*, the offence being committed at Leadgate, on Dec. 26th.—Defendant's mother appeared, and explained that the summons left at her house by P.C. Newton was not served upon the defendant, inasmuch as he had not been seen since. He was working at "The Sykes" (Burnhope Colliery), and came over to spend the Christmas with her. He became intoxicated one day, and soon after disappeared, and Mrs McGrann had not heard from him since.—In reply to the Chairman, she stated that her son had been away from home two months prior to coming to see her on Christmas Eve. He had served six years in the army, and he went away to Newcastle to draw three month's money on New Year's Day.—Supt. Oliver explained that the summons had been served at the defendant's last-known place of abode; but the Bench advised that a fresh summons should be served upon defendant when his whereabouts were ascertained.

SLIGHTLY MIXED.

James Brown, a young man, was brought up for being drunk and disorderly.—P.C. Hall adduced that about midnight on Saturday last, he found the defendant very drunk in Medomsley Road, Consett. He was swaggering about with a stick in his hand, and was "swearing vengence" upon the first person he happened to meet. The policeman took possession of the stick, and arrested the defendant.—Brown: This is not the officer that locked me up. It was P.C. Martin who arrested me. (Laughter.) (To P.C. Hall:) Whereabouts did you get hold of me?—Officer: In Medomsley Road.—Defendant: I beg your pardon. Yon is the man that got hold of me. (More laughter.) — P.C. Martin corroborated. — Defendant averred that he was proceeding quietly along the road. He had a sup of drink in him, but was not tight. There were men present in Court who could testify to his sobriety until closing time.—James Davison spoke to leaving the defendant at eleven p.m., and he appeared to be sober, although he had partaken of some liquor.—The Bench believed that Brown was inebriated, and fined him 10s 10d, including costs; with the alternative of seven days' imprisonment.

A PUGILISTIC BUTCHER AND HIS CUSTOMER.

Frederick Lockey and *Thomas Johnson*, young men, were summoned for committing a breach of the peace.—Sergt. Tate attested that at 11·30 on the preceding Saturday night, he found the defendants fighting in Church Street, Consett. They fought two or three rounds; and Lockey knocked the other man down, and whilst he was getting up, he ran into Mr Crawford's shop.—Johnson pleaded guilty, remarking that he was forced to fight.—Lockey denied the charge, and declared that he merely stood up in self-defence. Johnson came to Mr Crawford's shop drunk, for the purpose of buying some beef. Johnson stated that the piece handed to him was too large, and Lockey retorted that they could easily make it smaller. After that, a few words passed between them, and Johnson dealt him a blow. On emerging from the shop, Johnson struck him once more, and Lockey told him that if he hit him again he would knock him down. Johnson did so, and Lockey struck at him, the blow knocking him down.—The sergeant stated that Lockey was the worst of the pair.—Both defendants were bound over in the sum of £5 to keep the peace for six months, and defray 8s each as Court fees.

A FIGHT NEAR THE WORKS.

William Walton, a young man, was charged with assaulting David Carr, employed at the Consett Iron-works, on the 2nd of January. A large number of witnesses were called on each side.—It appears that about midnight on the date named, the parties, who were at work in the mills, quarrelled, and challenged one another to fight. They accordingly left the Works, and after proceeding a short distance on the road towards Consett, Walton struck at him and knocked him down. He repeated the operation several times, resulting in the complainant receiving a black eye.—On the other hand, defendant and his witnesses affirmed that Carr dragged Walton out of the Works and dealt him the first blow. A regular fight ensued, several rounds being fought. A large number of men employed soon appeared upon the scene, and "egged" on the combatants. Each party possessed his own champions, and when either the one or the other fell to the ground or was partially disabled, he was set on to his legs again, one of the witnesses (Terrance Connolly) professing a great desire to see "fair does" between them. The men were also "shoved" into each other's arms, thus recommencing hostilities. The affray lasted for a considerable time, but happily, except for black eyes and a few scratches, none of the combatants were much the worse for the encounter.—The magistrates retired to consider the evidence, and after being absent for about ten minutes, the Chairman said they had great doubts in the case, and dismissed the summons, also refusing to allow witnesses' costs on either side.

A LIVELY HOUSEKEEPER.

David Carr, the complainant in the foregoing case, was summoned for assaulting his housekeeper, Sarah Brown, a stylish-looking single woman, belonging to Dipton, on the 2nd inst.—Complainant who has only been in the defendant's service about three months, had occasion to chastise the children, when Carr, who was lying in bed at the time, got up and struck at the woman, inflicting a black eye. He likewise pushed her against the drawers, and she hurt herself. She went outside crying bitterly, and some of the neighbours came to her assistance. On the following (Sunday) night defendant turned complainant and her little girl out of the house, and she was obliged to seek the protection of the police. Since then she had been living in lodgings.—Defendant explained that in consequence of the housekeeper's ill-treatment of his family he had given her a fortnight's notice to leave. She was abusing the children on the 2nd inst., and called one of them a "little swine," which enraged him, consequently he jumped out of bed and remonstrated with her. In pushing her out of the house she stumbled against the drawers. He denied ever striking her or giving her a black eye. The reason he turned her out on the Sunday night was because she had been out of the house all day contrary to orders, and returned with a bottle of rum in her pocket.—Witnesses were called to prove that a Mrs Thompson administered the black eye to the complainant because she came to her house on New Year's morning and indulged in most disgusting language.—Mrs Thompson averred that she would have given the complainant a sound thrashing had it not been for the interference of her husband. (Laughter.)—A good deal of ill-feeling was shown in Court between the contending factions, several altercations arising between the complainant, the defendant, and the witness, which the magistrates were unable to suppress. Several females in the body of the building also interrupted the proceedings with sundry ejaculations, and refused to be silenced by the police, who threatened to turn them out of the Court.—The Bench decided that Carr had committed a slight assault upon his housekeeper, but in consideration of the fact that he had received great provocation, they dismissed the case on payment of 9s costs by the defendant.

Sporting Items.

SPARROW SHOOTING AT WHITTONSTALL.—A sparrow shooting handicap, promoted by Mr E. Lowes, Anchor Inn, Whittonstall, was commenced on Saturday, but on account of the want of birds, the event was adjourned. W. Craig trapped the birds, and T. Pigg was scorer.

POSTPONEMENT OF HEDLEY HILL COURSING MEETING.—A meeting was held on Monday, when it was agreed, in the state of the land, to adjourn the meeting until further notice, and Mr Newby Brownless, of Hedley Hill, the worthy hon. secretary, was instructed to notify the adjournment to the nominators, and also to Mr W. Goldsbrough, the judge, with as little delay as possible, in order that no one might sustain a bootless errand over the gathering.

RABBIT COURSING AT LEADGATE.—There was a good gathering here on Saturday, considering the hard frost, to witness a rabbit coursing. The field was a spledid one, over 20 acres in extent. Results:—Athey's King of Trumps, 17½, beat Hanson's Bella, 16; Robinson's Roy Lincoln, 17, beat Thorpe's Caller Herrin, 15; Brown's Dick Turpin, 17½, beat Athey's King of Trumps, 17½; Robinson's Roy Lincoln, 17, beat Curry's Rattlecap, 17; Carrick's Young Fox, 16½, beat Brown's Dick Turpin, 17½; Mayfield's Black Bess, 14½, beat Carrick's Young Fox, 16½. Second round—Roy Lincoln beat Black Bess; Roy Lincoln beat King of Trumps; Dick Turpin beat Young Fox. Third round—Roy Lincoln beat Dick Turpin, winning first and second prizes. Jos. Dodds was judge, and N. Lamb pistol-firer.

PIGEON SHOOTING HANDICAP AT QUEBEC.—The shooting for the great all-England handicap, promoted by Mr John Marley, Hamsteels New Inn, was commenced on Saturday. The weather being fine, there was a very large attendance. The promoter, Mr T. Marley, gave £3 to a sweepstakes of 5s each, the usual conditions as to charge, rise, and fall, and it was insisted on each marksman having his gun below the elbow until the bird was on the wing.—The second day's shooting took place on Monday afternoon. The weather was mild and most enjoyable, and a large number of people cast up from all parts of the district to witness the sport. The birds supplied were "nailers." Mr J. Bell was handicapper and referee, Mr Wm. Mann registrar, and Messrs J. Fairless and J. Anderson trappers. At the end of the seventh round, it was seen that further shooting was out of the question, and a division amongst those with all their birds down—W. Hunter, Church Bell, J. Cox, Green Tree, Old Calabar, T. Charlton, Bird of Freedom, Langley, Ridley, and Saw Rust—was agreed upon.

NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM HARRIERS AT TANFIELD.—These hounds met on New Year's Day at Tanfield, where, by the kind help of Col. Joicey, of Urpeth, and Mr Hancock, of Barkus Close, the game is always easily found. The Earl of Ravensworth and over 70 ladies and gentlemen were at the appointment. The morning was rather stormy, but fair. A hare was soon found, but owing to the large number of foot people "puss" was often headed, still the scent being good, a smart run of 15 minutes took place. A second hare was found at once, and one of the right sort that went strong and straight as the crow flies past Tanfield Village, Barkus Close, through Bentley Wood, past Burnopfield, over the Gibside pastures, the hounds keeping on the line as if glued to her; blowing her up in the open field before she got into Gibside Hall Woods, distance six miles from point to point; time, 40 minutes. Mr Fred Lamb is now doing his 50th season, having first entered for fox hunting with the late Mr Ralph Lambton in 1836.

PEDESTRIANISM AT HAMSTEELS.—A match for a stake of £10 took place between Joseph Bushby, of Quebec, and Wm. Morrallee, on Monday afternoon, at the ground near the New Inn, in which Mr Thos. Marley's pigeon shooting handicap was going on, the competitors contending over a distance of 100 yards. Mr E. Taylor was referee and stakeholder, and although the competitors are both "old 'uns" on the track, they had got themselves into the pink of condition. After some considerable finessing, betting settled down to 6 to 4 on Morallee, at which figure a large stake was invested. They got away to a capital start, and both put on the steam at high pressure. Shoulder to shoulder they contested for half the distance, when Bushby made a grand effort, and showed with half a yard the best of it. The favourite did all he knew, but being unable to rub off his antagonist's advantage, Bushby was hailed the winner by half a yard. Mr A. Dodds acted as pistol-firer.

WEST STANLEY CRICKET CLUB.—On Monday evening, the members of the above club held their annual supper at the Stanley Hotel, when a large company of members and friends sat down to an excellent repast, provided by the host and hostess, Mr and Miss Charlton. The chair was occupied by Mr Jos. Robinson, and the vice-chair by Mr John Chaytor. After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts had been duly honoured, the report of last year's matches and the balance sheet were read, which showed a most satisfactory state of affairs. The election of officers was then proceeded with, resulting as follows:—President, Dr Mantle, re-elected; vice-presidents, Messrs J. Robinson, J. Chaytor, T. Forster, W. Ridley, J. Wherley, and F. W. Dixon; captain, Mr J. G. Mann; vice-captain, Mr P. Harkness; secretary, Mr J. T. Dixon; treasurer, Mr W. Charlton; committee, Messrs Dunweedie, Gibson, Knox, Dodds, and Watkins. The prizes for last year were won by Mr P. Harkness, 1st batting; Mr J. Hunter, 2nd batting; Mr J. Harkness for bowling. Hearty votes of thanks were given to the various officers of last year, and to Dr Mantle, Mr J. Robinson, Mr J. Chaytor, and Mr J. G. Mann, for giving the prizes.—The remainder of the evening was spent in an enjoyable manner, with songs by Messrs Robinson, Benfold, Forster, Corran, Dunweedie, Chaytor, and Thompson.

COMING OF AGE FESTIVITY IN WEARDALE.—Friday being the twenty-first birthday of Mr John Edwin Rogerson, eldest son of Mr J. Rogerson, J. P., Croxdale Hall, the whole of the farmers holding sheep stints on Ireshope and Burnhope Meors, over which the last-named gentleman has the shooting right, together with the gamekeepers, beaters, messengers, and tardesmen connected with Weardale House, the shooting box of Mr Rogerson, were entertained to an excellent dinner at Mr R. Bright's, Cowshill Hotel.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS.—Diseases of the most formidable and chronic characters have been cured by Holloway's remedies. Ulcerations which have proved themselves incurable by any other known means have healed kindly under the purifying and regenerating influence of this excellent Ointment. Sprains, stiff joints, contracted muscles and glandular swellings can be most safely and effectually healed by Holloway's Ointment and Pills, which can do no harm under any circumstances. Neither of these medicaments has anything deleterious in its composition; both are essentially purifying and strengthening in their nature. The combined power of these noble remedies enables them successfully to cope with most descriptions of impurities, and to cure, or at least relieve, most varieties of diseases.

THE LATE MR BOWES'S WILL.—The will (dated June 1, 1878), with six codicils (dated July 17, 1880; May 20, 1881; May 27, 1882; January 22, 1884; and June 27 and September 25, 1885), of Mr John Bowes, late of Streatlam Castle, Durham, who died on October 9th last, was proved on Nov. 28th by Sir Henry Morgan Vane and Edward Young Western, two of the executors, the value of the personal estate amounting to upwards of £147,000. The testator bequeaths numerous legacies to relations, friends, dependants, and others, and also to the friends of his late wife, the Countess of Montalbo. A conditional legacy is given to be laid out in the purchase of land to go with the Bowes settled estates, and £5,000 is to be expended in planting the Wemmergill estate, part of the said settled estates. He gives £100,000 as an endowment fund for the museum and park founded by the will of the Countess of Montalbo. Certain articles, to be selected by his executors, are given to the museum; and other articles are settled to go as heirlooms with Streatlam Castle. All the general legacies are to be paid in full, in priority to the one to the museum; if his property shall prove sufficient, an additional legacy is to be paid to the museum; and one also as an endowment fund and to complete the Roman Catholic Chapel at Barnard Castle, founded by the testator. The ultimate residue is left to the Earl of Strathmore and the said museum.—*Illustrated London News.*

LEADGATE LOCAL BOARD.

On Wednesday, the monthly meeting of the Leadgate Local Board was held—Mr R. W. Shaw presiding. There were also present—Messrs W. H. Hedley, W. Brown, J. H. Hudson, M. Robson, T. Lammonby, E. Todd, G. Nicholson, L. Nicholson, and Mr M. Coupland (clerk).

FURNISHING THE NEW BOARD ROOM.

Tenders for office furniture for new Board-room were opened and considered, when it was agreed to accept that of Mr T. Raine, it being the lowest.

THE BOARD'S TREASURER.

Proposed by Mr BROWN, and seconded by Mr HEDLEY, that Mr T. L. Gledstone, treasurer to the Board, receive a salary of £5 per annum for his services, the same to date from September 29th, 1885.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The Surveyor (Mr Longstaff) submitted the subjoined report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Leadgate Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—The following manual and team labour has been done during the month of December, and accounts will be before you to-day for payment of the same:—

Durham Road.—About 30 tons of limestone laid on and 54 yards of slag broken, carted, and laid on; also part scraping and the same carried off; also ashes carted and laid on the footpath. There is blacksmith's bill for repairing workmen's tools.

Other Roads.—Redwell Hills Road—54 yards of slag carted and laid on, and the footpaths of both ends of the road have had a carting of ashes put on; also part scraping done and carted off. Annfield Lane—24 yards of slag broken, carted, and laid on, and part levelling and raking done in Pontop Pike Lane. A quantity of old bricks and ashes carted and spread on below the railway near the quarry, where the heavy rains in the summer did part damage. I have had some of the streets in Leadgate covered with ashes and small slag. Wm. Robinson, mason, has been repairing part channelling where the carts pass into the different squares with coals and ashes, as many places were below the level of the road, and the water standing. The accounts are larger than last month, owing to more slag having been broken, and more carting done.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Durham Main Road:		
Manual labour	7 18 0	
Team labour	3 18 9	
Trade account	0 9 8	
		12 6 5
Other Roads:		
Manual labour	12 7 10	
Team labour	8 2 0	
		20 9 10
Total		32 16 3

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
THOMAS LONGSTAFF.

Leadgate, January 13th, 1886.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Inspector submitted the following monthly report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Leadgate Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—During the last month, your Pont settling ponds have had a good deal of attention given to them in repairing ends, &c. Also, your workmen have been helping Mr White to fill the manure into his carts that has come out of the settling ponds during the last summer, and a lot of good stuff it was. The said settling ponds are in good working order. The water is now running into the pond very clean. The accounts will be before you for the above work, and the following bills also:—For painting your urinals three coats; water to urinals from Consett Water Company for one quarter; for repairing fire-plugs at Crookhall Hall; and from Mr J. B. Noble for a drain that leads up to Mr Chas. Clegg's new house. Mr C. Clegg's new house in St. Ives Road is finished, and built according to plans passed April 8th, 1885. It is now fit for habitation, and will require a building certificate. Accounts for your scavenger's quarter's salary will also be before you to-day. Gas burnt in December month—233 hours.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
THOMAS LONGSTAFF.

Leadgate, January 13th, 1886.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

Appended is the quarterly report presented by the Medical Officer (Dr Geo. Renton):—

The Leadgate Local Board of Health.

GENTLEMEN,—During the quarter ending December 31st, 1885, there were registered in your district 36 births and 20 deaths. This gives a death-rate equal to 16·9 per 1,000 per annum. Although this rate is nearly 3½ higher than that for the last quarter, it is in no way accounted for by any sanitary defect in the district, but rather from causes entirely without the control of the Board, as I find that no death has resulted from any of the zymotic diseases. Of these latter, the only representative that has come under observation is *measles*, of which disease 48 cases have been recorded. It is probable that a much larger number of cases have occurred, but the type has been throughout the epidemic of so harmless a character that many have neither sought nor required medical assistance.

Your Board will, I am sure, be glad to observe that both scarlet fever and enteric fever are conspicuous by their absence from the quarterly record.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
GEO. RENTON, M.D.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Leadgate, January 12th, 1886.

The above reports were agreed to.

THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST A BUTCHER.

There was some discussion respecting the lawsuit between the Board and Mr Stoner—who was charged with selling unsound meat—some of the members contending that the case was sufficiently clear to ensure a conviction.

There was no further business of importance.

NORTH-WEST DIVISION OF DURHAM.

A public meeting of the electors of the Leadgate Polling District was held in the Miners' Hall, Leadgate, on Wednesday night, under the presidency of Mr Geo. Walton.

After a few appropriate remarks from the CHAIRMAN, explanatory of the object of the meeting, he called upon

Mr D. REED, who congratulated the electors of the Leadgate Polling District for their loyalty to the Liberal cause in coming forward in such numbers to record their votes. Out of 722 electors on the register, it was estimated that 670 had voted, while of the remainder, 14 were duplicate voters, 7 were dead, 13 or 14 were removed, and the rest were believed to be Tories, and, of course, it was no part of the duty of Liberals to look after them. He believed in the three F's—Free Land, Free Education, and Free Trade. It was the strong powerful hand of the Land Laws that had driven the Irish emigrants to leave their native soil—which they loved so dear—to seek a living elsewhere. Education ought to be free, because it was compulsory. Mr Reed cited cases, illustrative of the hardships of the existing system. A poor woman was fined because her children had played the truant, while she herself was out washing in order to gain an honest livelihood for herself and her family. With regard to Free Trade, Mr Reed maintained that the only Fair Trade was Free Trade, and he felt satisfied that bad as trade had been and was at the present, under the system of Protection or Fair Tade, there would have been more distress than now existed.

The following officers were then chosen for the ensuing year:—Chairman, Mr D. Reed, Leadgate; vice-chairman, Mr Geo. Walton, Leadgate; secretary, Mr J. Hall, East Castle; committee, Messrs Thomas Barron, Wm. Pugsley, S. Kennedy, Leadgate; S. Nicholson, Redwell Hills; Henry Leithard, Henry Whitfield, E. Foster, Leadgate.—Four of the foregoing gentlemen, along with the Chairman, Vice-chairman, and Secretary, were selected to act on the Central Committee at Consett.

MR JONES'S ELECTION EXPENSES.

The total expenses incurred in the election by Mr Atherley-Jones, the successful Liberal candidate for North-West Durham, amounted to £804 19s, which are apportioned as follows:—Disbursements of agent for election expenses (including agent's fee), £450 4s 5d; returning officer's charges, £272 14s 7d; personal expenses of candidate, £82.

DON'T DIE IN THE HOUSE.—"Rough on Rats," clears out rats, mice, beetles, roaches, bed-bugs, flies, ants, moles, chipmunks, gophers. 7½d. and 1s. boxes at Chemists.

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

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

Market Reports.

NEWCASTLE FLOUR, Saturday.—Prices:—Hungarian 0s 0d; American, 1s 9d; No. 1 superfines, 1s 5d; superfines, 0s 0d; fines, 1s 6d; households, 1s 4d; seconds, 0s 0d; 1'rembal, 1s 6d; wheatmeal, 1s 6d. Oatmeals—English, 2s 2d; Scotch, 2s 0d per stone; 4lb. loaf, 6d.

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

NEWCASTLE MEAT AND POULTRY, Saturday—

	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
Prime large beef	0 9 to	0 11	Pigeons, pr couple	1 4 to	2 6
Prime mutton	0 11	1 0	Turkeys, per lb	1 2	0 6
Small Pork	0 9	0 11	Turkeys, pults	0 0	0 0
Veal	0 8	0 9	Partridge, brace	2 6	3 0
Lamb per lb	0 10	0 11	Pheasants	7 6	8 0
American beef	0 2½	0 6	Geese, per lb	0 10	0 6
" mutton	0 5	0 9	Goslings, each	0 0	0 0
" lamb	0 0	0 0	Hares, each	3 6	4 9
" veal	0 7	0 9½	Leverets	2 6	3 0
" pork	0 8	0 9	Rabbits, couple	2 6	3 0
Hens, each	1 0	1 9	Ptarmigan, couple	0 6	0 0
Ducks, per couple	6 0	7 0	Black Game, brce	5 0	6 6
Ducklings, per cp.	0 0	0 0	English fresh butter, per lb	1 3	1 6
Chickens	5 6	6 6			
Wild ducks, brace	0 0	0 0	Fresh eggs 12 for 1s		
Quails, per couple	0 0	0 0	Salmon, per lb	0 0	0 0
Grouse, per couple	6 0	7 0	Do. trout	0 0	0 0

DURHAM PROVISION, Saturday.—Beef, 6d to 8½d.; mutton, 6d to 8½d; veal, 6d to 8d; bacon, 3½d to 5d; ham, 6½d to 7d; cheese, 5d to 7d; lard, 5d to 6d per lb; Chickens, 2s 0d to 2s 6d; hens, 1s 0d to 2s 0d; ducks, 2s 6d to 3s; turkeys, 6s to 15s 0d; geese, 6s 0d to 16s 0d; hares, 3s to 4s each; pigeons, 1s 0d to 1s 3d per couple; rabbits, 2s 0d to 3s 6d per couple; butter, 1s 5d to 1s 8d; do. salt, 1s to 1s 2d; butterine, 9d to 10d per lb; eggs, 6 to 7 for 1s; grapes, foreign, 4d to 8d; pears, 2d to 0d; tomatoes, 9d to 1s per lb; figs, 4d to 6d; prunes, 4d per lb; pomegranets, 1s 6d to 2s; apples, 1s 6d to 2s; onions, 1s 6d to 1s 10d; potatoes, 6d to 10d per stone.

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

NEWCASTLE HAY AND STRAW, Tuesday.—Old land hay, £0 0s to £0 0s; this year's growth, £4 0s to £4 15s; new land hay, £0 0s to £0 0s; this year's growth, £4 0s to £5 15s per ton; clover hay, £0 0s to £0; wheat straw, 1s 11d to 2s 1d; barley straw, 1s 9d to 1s 10d; oat straw, 2s 2d to 2s 5d per thrave; carts of hay at market, 59; straw, 24.

NEWCASTLE CORN, Tuesday.—Arrivals into Newcastle, week ending December 28th, 1885:—Coast and rail—Wheat, 1,111; maize, —; barley, —; oats, 1,085; beans, —; peas, 60; flour, 1,319. Foreign—Wheat, —; maize, —; barley, 413; oats, 192; rye, —; flour, 1,319 qrs. The arrivals of wheat from the coast are fair, with nothing from abroad. At this day's market there was very little business doing owing to the holidays, and prices for all description of wheat were unchanged. Maize dull, with prices tending downwards. Scotch oats, with small supplies, were steady; foreign dull. Malting barley with hardly any inquiry. Beans and peas 3d cheaper. Feeding barley firm. Flour 6d per sack lower.

NEWCASTLE, Tuesday.—The arrivals from a distance consisted of 67 head of cattle and 209 pigs from Aberdeen and the North-East Coast of Scotland, 55 beasts from Ireland; 542 beasts, 20 calves, and 146 sheep from foreign countries.

Respecting quality, that of cattle was below a seasonable average, while that of sheep was middling.

The supply of beef comprised 1,618 head. The beef trade was slow and dull; the better class sold at about late rates, but the middling and inferior were a slow, sluggish trade. There were a few lots bought up for the South, and at the close a part was left over.

The number of sheep shown was 4,620. The mutton trade was steady, and all sold well up at the close.

Pigs: 739 were shown. There was a good demand for pork, and all changed hands.

PRICES FOR THIS DAY SINKING THE OFFAL.

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

Nos. shown:—Cattle, 1,618; sheep and lambs, 4,620; pigs, 739.

Railway Time Table.

CONSETT BRANCH.

WEEK DAYS.

STATIONS.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
NWCASTLE Dep.	6·10	9·40	11·0	12·20	2·30	5·25	7·30
Scotswood	6·17	9·47	11·7	12·27	2·37	5·27	7·37
Swalwell	6·24	9·54	11·14	12·34	2·43	5·32	7·41
Rowlands Gill	6·34	10·4	11·24	12·44	2·53	5·49	7·54
Lints Green	6·40	10·10	11·30	12·50	2·59	5·55	8·0
Ebchester	6·53	10·20	11·40	1·0	3·12	6·5	8·13
Shotley Bridge	6·59	10·24	11·44	1·4	3·18	6·9	8·19
CONSETT Arr.	7·5	10·30	11·50	1·10	3·23	6·15	8·25
CONSETT Dep.	7·10	10·32	...	1·12	3·25	...	6·33
Knitsley	7·21	10·43	...	1·23	3·36	...	6·44
Lanchester	7·30	10·53	...	1·32	3·45	...	6·53
Witton Gilbert	7·38	11·1	...	1·40	3·53	...	7·1
Aldin Grange	7·45	11·9	...	1·47	4·0	...	7·9
DURHAM Arr.	7·50	11·15	...	1·52	4·5	...	7·15
DURHAM Dep.	7·25	...	11·45	2·35	...	5·25	8·10
Aldin Grange	7·32	...	11·52	2·41	...	5·32	8·17
Witton Gilbert	7·40	...	12·0	2·48	...	5·40	8·25
Lanchester	7·50	...	12·10	2·58	...	5·50	8·35
Knitsley	8·2	...	12·20	3·8	...	6·0	8·45
CONSETT Arr.	8·12	...	12·30	3·18	...	6·10	8·55
CONSETT Dep.	8·15	9·10	12·33	3·25	...	6·15	9·2
Shotley Bridge	8·20	9·15	12·38	3·30	...	6·20	9·7
Ebchester	8·24	9·19	12·42	3·34	...	6·24	9·12
Lints Green	8·34	9·29	12·50	3·44	...	6·33	9·22
Rowlands Gill	8·39	9·34	12·55	3·50	...	6·39	9·28
Swalwell	8·47	9·42	1·3	3·57	...	6·48	9·36
Scotswood	8·54	9·49	1·9	4·4	...	6·53	9·43
NEWCASTLE Ar	9·5	10·0	1·20	4·15	...	7·0	9·53

SUNDAYS.

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

MARKET TRAINS ON SATURDAYS.

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

	A.M.	P.M.		A.M.
NEWCASTLE	7·10	4·15	DURHAM ...dep.	7·55
Scotswood	7·17	4·22	Aldin Grange	8·1
Swalwell	7·24	4·30	Witton Gilbert	8·9
Rowlands Gill	7·34	4·40	Lanchester	8·20
Lints Green	7·40	4·46	Knitsley	8·32
Ebchester	7·53	4·59	CONSETT and BLACKHILL a	8·45
Shotley Bridge	7·59	5·5	CONSETT and BLACKHILL d	8·50
CONSETT and BLACKHILL a	8·5	5·12	Shotley Bridge	8·55
CONSETT and BLACKHILL d	9·20	...	Ebchester	8·59
Knitsley	9·32	...	Lints Green	9·9
Lanchester	9·41	...	Rowlands Gill	9·15
Witton Gilbert	9·50	...	Swalwell	9·22
Aldin Grange	9.59	...	Scotswood	9·29
DURHAM ...arr	10·5	...	NEWCASTLE dp	9·40

SALTBURN, STOCKTON, & DARLINGTON BRANCH

WEEK DAYS.

STATIONS.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
NEWCASLE dep.	...	6.10	...	11·0	12·20	...	5·30
CONSETT	...	8·20	...	12·10	2·0	...	6·20
Rowley	...	8·30	...	12·20	2·10	...	6·29
Burnhill	...	8·40	...	12·30	2·20	...	6·38
Tow Law	7.20	8·53	...	12·30	2·33	...	6·51
CROOK ...arr.	7·22	9·5	...	1.2	2·45	...	7·3
" dep.	7·35	9·7	11·23	1·5	2·52	5·30	7·8
Bishop Auckland	8·0	9·31	11·43	1·29	3·12	6·3	7·32
Darlington	8·30	10·0	12·10	2·0	3·50	6·45	8·10
Stockton	8·56	10·31	12·40	2·18	4·18	7·16	8·37
Middlesbro'	9·5	10·41	12·50	2·27	4·27	7·31	8·51
SALTBURN	10·10	11·15	1·25	3·1	5·2	8·5	9·24

WEEK DAYS.

STATIONS.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
SALTBURN dp.	5·50	8·5	9·52	...	1·40	3·45	5·55
Middlesbro'	6·27	8·40	10·25	12·50	2·13	4·20	6·28
Stockton	6·37	8.48	10·32	12·57	2·21	4·28	6·36
Darlington	7·20	9·29	10·55	1·20	3·0	5·5	7·20
Bishop Aukland	7·49	9·48	11·21	1·56	3·26	5·33	7·48
CROOK ...arr.	8·10	10·6	11·42	2·16	3·47	5·55	8·10
" ...dep.	8·13	...	11·49	2·20	...	6·0	...
Tow Law	8·25	...	12·1	2·32	...	6·15	...
Burnhill	8·40	...	12·13	2·45	...	6·30	...
Rowley	8·50	...	12·22	2·55	...	6·40	...
CONSETT ...arr.	9·0	...	12·31	3·5	...	6·50	...
N'WCASTLE	10·0	...	1·20	4·15	...	9.53	...

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

THE FRENCH BEAU OF 1800.—His pantaloons of a beau went up to his arm pits; to get into them was a morning's work, and, when in, to sit down was impossible. His hat was too small to contain his handkerchief and was not expected to stay on his head. His hair was brushed from the crown of his head towards his forehead and looked, as a satirist of that day truly said, as if he had been fighting an old-fashioned hurricane backward. About his neck was a spotted linen neckerchief; the skirts of his green coat were cut away to a mathematical point behind; his favorite drink was brandy and his favourite talk of the last French play.

VARIETY IN VACATIONS.—When a man has an opportunity to take a vacation, he should try to make it as different as possible from the life he ordinarily leads. Only in this way can he get the most good out of it. To live in the same manner as he lives at home amounts merely to a change of scene and a cessation of work; but something more than this is necessary for the best results. With the change of scene and the cessation of work should come some new occupation involving novelty. Rowing, fishing, hunting, sailing, bicycling, and even simple walking may be chosen; but, whatever the choice, it should be in a direction to lead one's thoughts away from the routine of one's usual toil, and thus freshen the mind while it strengthens the body.

A KING'S BODYGUARD.—The royal guard of the King of Dahomey consists of six thousand women. They have each the title of Queen; from their infancy they are trained to corporeal exercise and gymnastics. They are superior in strength and courage to the native male warriors; they have the exclusive duty of defending the king, their husband and master. They dance skilfully, and perform at every *fete* and state ceremony. Dr. Zœller declares that the battalion of negress warriors is a most picturesque sight. They are tall and thin, dressed in a short grey or yellow petticoat, with a red tunic, the neck and feet bare; a leathern bodice encircles their waist, a gilt belt carries their sword and cartouch box; the officers wear scarves of different colours. The oldest amazon is twenty-five, and the youngest eighteen. They live with their families, not in barracks, and assemble to reviews and military manœuvres. They accompany the king on all his expeditions, but active fighting is done by the male soldiers, thirty in number.

AFGHAN MARRIAGES.—Sometimes, when two Afghan families are about to negotiate a marriage between the son of the one and the daughter of the other, an omen is consulted in the following manner. Several slips of paper are cut up, and on the half of them is written "To be," and on the other half "Not to be." These pieces of paper are then placed under a praying carpet, and after the liturgical form of prayer is over, the anxious father devoutly raises his hands in prayer to God for guidance, and and expresses his submission to the all-wise decree of the Almighty in the matter of his son's or daughter's marriage. Then, putting his hand under the carpet, he draws out a paper. If on it should be written "To be" he thinks the marriage is ordained of God: if "Not to be" no overture or negotiation will be listened to. Sometimes, however, the interests of State, or the value of the dowry, or the termination of a longstanding blood feud will induce the pious chieftain to put aside the omen as having been influenced by the powers of darkness.

AN HISTORIC HOME.—Ankerwyke House, Buckinghamshire, the ancient home of the Harcourt family, including "Magna Charta Island," on or near which King John signed the "bulwark of British liberty," in 1215, is announced for sale early next month. The estate comprises nearly 700 acres, with a rental of a little over £2,000 a year. Ankerwyke is in the parish of Wraysbury, between Staines and Datchet, and is celebrated for the picturesque beauty of its trees, which form a conspicuous feature when seen from the riverside. Ankerwyke was once a Benedictine Priory, founded in honour of St. Mary Magdalen by Sir Gibert Montfichet in the reign of Henry II. It was afterwards given by Edward VI. to Sir Thomas Smith, who resided there. Of the monastic buildings, according to Murray, only the hall remains. In the grounds is an immense yew tree, beneath which, according to local tradition, Henry VIII., made an appointment with Anne Boleyn.

SILVER-SMELTING IN NEW SOUTH WALES.—The work of utilizing the many rich silver mines in New South Wales has been seriously impeded by the absence of facilities for treating the ore, which is generally of a most refractory description, and consequently has to be sent to America or Germany to be smelted. Recently some smelting-works were erected at Sunny Corner, and the success of these has led to the erection of another at Clyde, some few miles distant from Sidney, the first ore smelting being from the Silver King mine at Sunny Corner, taken from a large body of stone, the width of which has never been tested, but which has been sunk to a depth of about 50 feet, all in ore that has assayed from 40 oz. to 190 oz. of silver per ton. The furnace was constructed under the personal supervision of Mr. J. B. Gafford, who has patented this particular class of furnace in all the Australian Colonies. Before coming to New South Wales Mr. Gafford was connected with milling and smelting in America, from the year 1868 till his departure, having been engaged in assisting to get into operation the United States Mint at Denolaga, Georgia, in constructing the Swansea and Denver Valley smelting and reducing works, and in constructing furnaces and milling plant in California, Arizona, Detroit, and other places.

THE RUSSIAN PEASANT AND HIS ICONS.—The worship of sacred pictures of "Icon" is the strangest of all the Russian peasant's superstitions. These pictures are worshipped not on account of the holy personages they are supposed to represent, but because they are believed to be personally capable of conferring temporal benefits, of curing illness or warding off evils. They are usually found by priests buried in some neglected spot. Their existence is revealed in a vision, a pilgrimage is formed to discover them, and when found they are carried in triumph to the places they are intended to adorn. Groups of pilgrims may be seem in all parts of Russia searching for icons or fulfilling some vow made to them. Whenever I ring for my waiter, his first act after opening the door of any room is to bow to the icon over the window. When I open a shop door a bell rings and a little icon pops out, to whom the shopkeeper first does homage before he waits on me. In the streets there are chimes with icon in them, the churches are full of them, and one hangs over the archway that leads into the Kremlin, to whom the Emperor himself must doff his hat. When the French entered Moscow a company of Napoleon's Grenadiers in vain endeavoured to dislodge this icon. It resisted their utmost efforts. Even cannon had no effect upon it, and it hangs there still. Such is the mujik account of it.

WOMEN ON WHEELS.—Four years ago, a woman on wheels was a rare and conspicuous sight; but to-day there are few parts of England—perhaps I may say of the United Kingdom—where a tricycling maid or matron excites any wonder in the mind of the spectator. Certainly no more delightful means of locomotion was ever placed within my sex's reach. "Women are seldom good walkers; their duties and pursuits confine them far more within doors than do those of men, and even those who are most ardent over tennis or archery, think, as a rule, that they have rather achieved a deed of prowess when they have taken a ten-mile walk. But the tricycle gives them at once a means of wandering far afield; of exploring forest glades and heatherly moorlands; of finding close to their own familiar haunts beauties hitherto undreamed of, which, without such aid, they would never have been able to discover. We have slowly grown to realise that, in these days of over brain work and over civilisation, no medicine but fresh air can calm the restless pulse, and soothe the fevered mind, and the tricycle offers to women that panacea for overwrought nerves and tried tempers. "Why not ride instead?" asks some one. Certainly almost all that can be said in favour of the tricycle applies equally to the horse; but while thousands may enjoy the former, the latter is within the reach of the rich alone. And it is particularly to the women of the middle class that I wish to recommend the use of the tricycle; that class which suffers most from what we have grown to call "the little health of women;" the class whose lives are the busiest, and whose minds the most heavily taxed, and who need, just in proportion to that taxation and that business, some relaxation which shall offer them the most complete change and rest from their ordinary occupations.—*A Lady Cyclist, in Cassell's Family Magazine.*

THE ANGEL CHIMES:
A CHRISTMAS STORY.

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CHAPTER I.
JUNE LINSTICE.

Arkminster was a quaint little village somewhere in England. It was very still, for few vehicles seemed to pass through its long High-street, where the grass grew in neat green tufts between the old paving. Very quiet, for the inhabitants seemed to live very much in their homes, and the gentle gossip that went on between the women, old and young, generally took place within doors. There was a little old-fashioned inn, with its swinging sign of a "White Goat," and in the bow window generally were seen flowers and ferns kept in great order by the innkeeper's daughter. The "White Goat" was at one end of the village, and at the other the green, just off the churchyard.

Arkminster was some miles from a railway station, and the tourists who invaded its sleepy quietness were few and far between. Some, however, came and strolled leisurely through the place, inspected the church, with its old monuments, admired the angels, with grave faces carven in the stone, that seem to guard the chancel. Then the old white-haired verger told them that the church was called Angel Church, whether dedicated to the angels, or called so because of the old carvings, no one knew. Then the tourists generally went to the inn, and when regaled with some country fare, they inquired about the place, and the more facetiously inclined quizzed the tall old man—Master Linstice, as he liked to be called—about the name of the village. They asked why it was called Arkminster, and if the reason was that everything being so behindhand in civilisation, the time of the flood suggested the name?

Years ago (it does not matter how many), June Linstice was sitting in the back parlour window of the "White Goat," one autumn day. June was nineteen, small and fragile, with little white hands, small feet, and the loveliest tawny hair imaginable, wound closely round her head. Wind it as she might, however, she could not keep it straight, and it would go off into little curling rings and soft fluffy waves over her white forehead. The face was rather a child's than a woman's face, with its sweet expression and delicate complexion, and altogether her queer name, given as a fancy of her father's because she was born on the first of June, seemed to suit her. The day that June came to this world her mother, the first love of the grave old Master Linstice, left it. Now, as it had been from that day, his June was all his care. On her he lavished much tender affection, shown in his own peculiar way. In her life his own was bound up. She was well educated, and refined far more than would be expected of a country innkeeper's daughter. But the truth was, June Linstice was one of Nature's gentlewomen, and a dusty weary traveller who came in to rest that autumn afternoon quickly decided that she was that every inch.

Generally June's little parlour was never invaded, but that afternoon there had been the Michaelmas fair, and the common room was full of farmers, who sat over their supper, discussing in high tones, and talking more loudly than an outsider would care to have the benefit of. So when Mr. Durefoy had arrived, with his knapsack on his back, and said as well as looked that he was weary, Mr. Linstice had told Sam, the lame boy and general *factotum* of the "White Goat," to show him into the back parlour. Mr. Linstice thought June was out, but even had he been aware that she was there he would not have made any difference.

"I beg your pardon—I hope I am not disturbing you," said Mr. Durefoy, raising his hat as he entered, and June rose, standing in the window with the crimson creeper forming the background to a face he thought worthy of one of Fra Angelico's angels.

"Not at all," said June, quietly, stooping to pick up her work, which had dropped when she got up. "I hope, sir, you have asked for all you want?"

"I have," said Mr. Durefoy; and Sam disappeared while Mr. Durefoy took the large arm-chair that stood near the centre table, and then proceeded to unfasten his knapsack. As he did so he glanced round the room. It was a queer mixture in every way.

The walls were painted pale grey, and facing the window were the two inevitable pictures so closely associated with English inns and lodging houses, of Vesuvius—Vesuvius on an ordinary day and Vesuvius in a state of eruption. These were framed in black, and beneath them, in refreshing contrast, were hung little brown pots filled with delicate ferns and wild flowers. There were flowers all over the room, and many a little dainty device in the way of brackets and needlework well arranged. All this was June's taste; the rest, the horsehair sofa, the tray on the sideboard with the green peacock with a red tail, the frightful china ornaments, were the master's household vanities, and he never let them be touched.

There was in those ugly pieces of furniture, in those awkward looking chairs and hideous ornaments, a sacredness in the master's eyes. They had been his wife's, his little Dorothea's own possessions, brought from the old Lincolnshire farm-house where he had found her, and having fallen in love with her and she with him, he had married her. She had been fond of them, and he associated her with them, and in his eyes they had a loveliness that nothing else could so well have supplied.

June went on with her work quietly, and not seeming in the least discomposed by the presence of the stranger. Suddenly, however, she raised her eyes, and saw that Mr. Durefoy was looking at her, and, slightly flushed, she fixed her attention on her work. But Mr. Durefoy, an artist, who loved beauty most passionately, had a longing to see those lovely eyes again, so he began a conversation when the refreshments that Sam brought him in were disposed of.

"Quiet little place this," said Mr. Durefoy, pushing back his chair from the table.

"Do you think so?" asked June, looking up with a twinkle in her pretty mouth; for at that moment a loud "haw haw" laugh from the noisy common room resounded more noisily than before.

"Well, I meant Arch—Ark—what is the name of the place?"

"Arkminster," said June.

"I have been wandering about all day in the neighbourhood, sketching, and certainly when I came to Arkminster I thought it——" "the most dead-and-alive place I ever saw," he was going to say, but politeness induced him to substitute the words "quiet place I was ever in."

"Did you see the church?" asked June.

"Yes, but it looked nothing very particular, so I did not trouble to go in. I am tired of churches," said Mr. Durefoy, "and I can't fancy any special attraction in that one."

"It's lovely," said June, enthusiastically; and Mr. Durefoy, to draw her out, said, "What other churches have you ever seen?"

"Not many, it is true," said June; "but if I saw all the churches in the world—even St. Peter's, which I long to see—I should still say the Arkminster church was lovely."

"I declare I think I will go and see it," said Mr. Durefoy. "Where can I get the keys?"

"I have one key of it," said June. "Mrs. Brague, the sexton's wife, sometimes is busy, and so I go and show people the church if they care to."

"Would it trouble you to show it to me?" asked Mr. Durefoy.

June answered by reaching down a large rusty key, and putting on a big hat that hung just over her chair.

"We need not go out through the front, as there is a path through the garden that leads to the churchyard," said June; and Mr. Durefoy followed her.

He was a tall man, of about thirty. He had been a farmer's son, but had worked his way up, and having had an excellent education, could hold his own amongst men of nobler birth. He was thoroughly a gentleman, though no blue blood ran through his veins, and he had sufficient income to enable him to live the life he pleased of wandering about and painting. He thought himself a genius, but he was just moderately endowed with talent—that was all. He was a good man, earnest and God-fearing. He had one great fault—and that was his pride.

But I have digressed, and we must follow him and June through the old-fashioned garden, till they come to a wicket-gate leading to the churchyard.

CHAPTER II.
THE OLD, OLD STORY.

Mr. Durefoy walked on. The evening sun cast its slanting rays across his brown face. He had thin lips, half hidden by a thick brown moustache and beard, and deep grey eyes. He looked much more than his age, and he was not strikingly handsome. Still there was a charm about him that made June, as she stepped along a path went through the graves, wonder if he was like Sir Galahad, or which of her favourite heroes. It was utterly unlike any one she had ever seen before, and the refinement of manner, the low modulated voice, the very accent of pure English seemed to refresh her when contrasted with the few men she knew, rough farmers, whose ways, spite of their undoubted excellence of character, jarred much upon her. Her father was the exception; he, in his own way, was a gentleman, and June and he were like in many things.

"Let me unlock the gate for you," said Mr. Durefoy, as June pushed the key into the lock of the porch gate.

"Thank you, but I understand it, I think, better than you can. It is not an easy key," said June. Then they went into the church. It was old, full of high horse-box pews; the paving was of old grave-stones, and the pillars were quaintly carved. But the chancel was lovely; and though Mr. Durefoy had travelled much, and seen all kinds of churches, he had to confess that June was right.

They stood at the low chancel gate, and looked up to the great window now in shadow. Behind them, through the west rose windows, a flood of light came pouring down, the setting sun lighting up the old monuments, and casting on the old grave-stones many hues.

Up above the chancel was the Angel Choir—angels carved by hands now lying in the dust, unknown workers who had spent their best in making that chancel beautiful. Their names were unrecorded, but their work remained; and on the angels, some with folded, some with outstretched hands and grave faces, they seemed to have put their best work.

"The bells are called the Angel Chimes," whispered June softly, as Mr. Durefoy looked and admired.

"Why?"

"Because the bells—the chimes, I mean—seem always to say, 'Peace on earth—good will to men.' I like the idea."

"So do I," said Mr. Durefoy; and just then the clock began.

"Don't they chime now?"

"Oh, no; the Angel Chimes are only rung at Christmas," said June. "But come, you must see the old knight's monument here." And June turned to the left. As she did so, her foot slipped, and she fell.

"What is the matter?" said Mr. Durefoy, seeing her fall and bending over her.

June did not answer, and stooping down he saw she had fainted.

"Here's a predicament!" said Mr. Durefoy to himself. "What am I to do?"

In another moment June awoke, but the pain in her foot was so severe—for she had sprained it—that she seemed inclined to faint again.

Mr. Durefoy was not one to linger long in hesitation, so he carried her back to the "White Goat" and bandaged her foot for her. He had, as he informed the anxious father, been studying medicine once, and so knew enough about doctoring to be of some use.

He begged to stay at the "White Goat" for some little time, to sketch, as he said.

He did sketch, certainly, but not landscapes. When June was well enough to come into the parlour, and lie on the sofa, and asked to see his sketches, he had not many to show her. Only the Angel Choir. He had drawn that; but he did not tell her that up in his room were sheets on which were the same face—sketched from memory or when she was not looking—June's face.

It was the old, old story; for ever old, for ever new. He fell in love with her, she fell in love with him; and those days in the common little parlour, with the frightful pictures, and hideous china, were the happiest in Eric Durefoy's life.

He found out what a pure lovely mind she had; how deeply religious she was; how all her heart was given to God, and how she tried to do His work, and serve Him in all things. He found her tastes æsthetic, like his own, only she did not know many technical terms about art, and was simply an artist without knowing it. She loved him—he was her knight, her ideal of all that was good—and the happiest moment, happier than all that had gone before of June's young life, was when he told her of his love for her. Perfect trust on both sides; perfect faith in each other. Tastes sufficiently congenial to be harmonious, while still not monotonous. Each in love for the first time—it all seemed like a too happy time to come on this earth. They were perfectly and entirely happy, and the old man, Master Linstice, was happy too, in seeing his June's lovely face brighter than ever.

"You have never cared for any one before, darling, have you?" said Eric one day, as June, who was quite well now, was stitching at some homely work for her father.

"Never," said June; "why do you ask?"

"Because, I want all your love, pet; I don't want to think any has been given to any one else."

"It never has," said June, quietly. "You believe me, Eric, don't you? You are my first and only love."

"Yes, I do," said Eric. "I have perfect faith in you, dearest, and——"

"There's a tallygram come for ye, sir," said Sam, coming in hastily, "and there's five shillings to pay."

June turned white, for she was unaccustomed to telegrams, and the yellow envelope, so familiar now to us, sent a thrill of terror through her heart.

"My father is very ill. I must go to him," said Eric, hastily. And then he explained that his father, an old man, and his only surviving relative, was very ill, and he was summoned to go to him at once. He was now in Jersey, where he had some friends.

June looked very pale, as she helped him to get ready, and then came the parting, so sweet and sad, and poor June felt that all the sunshine had gone from her life.

The winter sunshine came in through the latticed window as the two stood there silently.

Eric's eyes had a world of love in them, as he stooped from his tall height and held his little June to him, looking into her sweet face, and thinking how very lovely it was, how dear she was to him. They had gone on day after day, never thinking that the time so like an idyll might come to an end. They had been busy, too, talking of Easter, when June and Eric were to be married, and of the pretty home they would have, within reach of Master Linstice. That was to be when they settled down after their travels. For Eric used to talk of taking June to Switzerland and Italy, and shewing her all the lovely places he was so familiar with. It would be delightful to go there with her, to show it all to her.

But this news seemed to cast a shadow deeper than a parting for a short time would have been supposed to do. They were certainly very unhappy, both of them, and the tears would dim June's blue eyes as she looked up at the dear face, and her quivering lips were met by his.

"We shall soon meet again, darling. My father may get better, and if he does I shall bring him here to see my June. Come, brighten up," said Eric, making an attempt at cheering June.

June could only shake her head, and then they parted, and June watched him drive away to the station.

The golden days of happiness seemed passed away; and yet June felt that she was foolish, for she had only lost him for a little while. And June turned back to her home duties, and the monotony of daily cares, glad in her heart of hearts for the rich gift of earthly love her Heavenly Father had sent her, and feeling that she was not worthy of such joy.

CHAPTER III.
HOPE DEFERRED.

Towards the end of the week, June's face began to brighten, and Master Linstice, as he passed through the house, used to hear June's clear voice singing. Her heart was light, for she expected a letter from Eric now. Already, in imagination, she had opened it, and was reading words she felt sure would be there—words of endearment so sweet and dear to hear.

"Father, God has been very good to me," said June that evening, as she sat by the little fireplace, and leant her head on her father's broad shoulder.

"Ay, ay, lassie; He's good to us all," said Master Linstice, stroking the soft golden hair, and thinking how like her mother in some things little June was. For she was "little June" to him still.

"Can you always feel God is good?" asked June, after a pause.

"Yes, child, always," said Master Linstice, without hesitation.

"Even—even when He took mother away?"

"Even then I was sure, lass, He was doing right."

"I could not feel that if He took Eric from me, father," said June.

"Why think of it, lass? It ain't likely," said the master, who never wasted his strength of mind in bearing troubles in advance.

"No, I hope not," said June, brightly, and then she soon went up to her little white room, hung round with photographs of the famous pictures Eric was to show her some day, and she was soon asleep.

Next day June went to meet the old postman, who looked at her knowingly, and yet he had to confess he had no letter for her.

The next day it was the same. June imagined all kinds of things, and thought he must be ill—that perhaps the ship had gone down. She knew that the coast of Jersey was dangerous, and that vessels had been lost in the passage thither from England, and she walked every day to a man who got a daily paper to scan the columns in dread of seeing the report of some accident. None, however, met her eye, and no letter came. One day, in the list of deaths, she caught the name Durefoy. It was a strange name; some of their ancestors had been French; and poor June's heart sank as she looked at it, and rose again when she saw it was the death of Eric's father. He had died in Jersey a week after Eric had left.

Poor June! She wrote to Jersey; but no answer came, and then her letters were returned from the Dead Letter Office.

So on the days died away, and Master Linstice, as he greeted his daughter on Christmas morning, saw how white her cheek was, how dark were the rings round her eyes. Still, she tried to look bright, and there were tokens of her thought for her father in the slippers she had worked him, and the big silk handkerchiefs she had marked in a fanciful little monogram. She resolutely tried to put her own bitter sorrow in the background, and fought hard to work away, day after day, the same as usual.

Often and often she told herself that she could bear it better if it were a more definite trial. If, for instance, she knew why Eric had left her thus; but the suspense, the waiting, the anxiety. Ah, none but those who have passed through a trial of the kind can know how sore it is; how it wears and frets out the very heart-strings of life; how it shadows over the brightest days, and dims the clearest horizon. Still, June never lost faith in him. She rose every morning hoping for a letter, and feeling light-hearted at the thought that that day might end her suspense. She would grow quite nervous about the post hour, and be counting the minutes to the time. She told herself she was not expecting—that Eric was waiting for some good reason; but when the post passed and no letter came, she knew how much she had counted on it.

But "hope deferred maketh the heart sick,' and as June knelt by her father's side on Christmas Day, it was with a very sad heart. The night before, the lovely chimes had fallen on her ear, just as of old—as she used to hear them, as a child, they had rung on. "Peace on earth, goodwill to men," they seemed to say, and sweet words they were to the sorrowful girl. Yes, though earthly joy was gone, there was a joy in the blessed old Christmas story that nothing could take away.

Spring came, and with it no new life for June. The sorrow of Eric's treatment of her—his neglect—she never got over. She never lost trust in him, but still she fretted so that it just wore her away. One day Master Linstice took her to London to see a famous doctor.

The old countryman, with his rough coat and hardy features, in such marked contrast to the little white girl at his side, sat in the big dreary room, round which were leather-covered chairs, and they tried vainly to interest themselves in the papers on the table. Then June went in, and saw the great man, who was kind and gentle to her, and then asked to see her father alone.

"What do you think of my girl, eh, sir?" asked Master Linstice, his voice sounding harsh and loud in the large consulting-room.

The great man paused. Used as he was to scenes of sadness, he had not had the heart to tell June the truth, nor had she asked it; and now it was harder still to tell it to this old man, whose lips quivered, and whose love for his child was not to be hidden.

"She's not very bad, eh, sir?" repeated Master Linstice.

"Take her home, my good man. You will take care of her, I know; but there's no hope. She may live through the summer, but——"

Master Linstice stood for a moment, hearing no more of what the doctor said as he spoke on learnedly of technical terms, and Latin names, none of which reached his hearer. Still, his old courtly manner did not desert him, and Master Linstice bowed silently to the doctor, and went back to where June sat quietly watching the passers-by in the gloomy street, feeling an older man by many years.

June asked no questions. She knew the truth, though the doctor fancied she did not. Life cannot be ebbing slowly away and the owner of it not know it, and June felt it in every pulse and breath, that this was the last year she had upon this earth.

She had every care, and all the love and affection her father could show her. As he kissed her, tenderly as a woman, many a bitter thought came to him of angry resentment against the man who had caused this. June had no idea of it. She did not know how her father felt, and she did not inquire.

Only one summer evening, just at the end of August, as she lay spent with the exertion of having talked to one of her Sunday-school children, who came every day to see her, she said to her father—

"If ever you see him—I forgive——"

Her father made no reply, but in his heart he felt *he* could not forgive Eric.

September came, and one morning when he went to her, he found the blue eyes closed, but in the sleep of death, the small hands clasped, but never to unclasp again, the sweet mouth set in a lovely smile that would go with her to the grave. And Master Linstice, kneeling by the bed, and holding the cold hand in his, looking at the marble-like face with its soft framing of golden hair, felt that he could not forgive him who had done all this, who had quenched the young life that was so much to him.

They laid her under the east window of the old churchyard, and every day Master Linstice went to the grave. Every day the step grew feebler, and in the bent aged man that walked slowly through the path among the graves, one would scarcely have recognised the Master Linstice who bid Eric Durefoy welcome that soft September day.

CHAPTER IV.
THE CHIMES.

Christmas Eve came, and Master Linstice sat in the little back parlour where June used to be. All her little things were there, just as she had left them, even the faded geraniums and roses in the brown pots she had arranged the last day she had been in the room.

The room was full of memories to the old man as he sat over the fire, looking into it wistfully, as if he would see in the red flames and burning coals pictures of the past. Then he would look round the room, his eyes following each little picture and ornament, everything that spoke of his lost ones, and his eyes dim as they seemed sometimes, lighted up, and with a fire of resentment nothing could quench.

Only He who reads the hearts of all, and knows every thought and feeling, knew how hard was the struggle with the old man to put away all thoughts of bitterness of Eric Durefoy. He could not forgive him, and he felt he never could. As he sat there, he heard the sound of wheels, and he dreamily wondered who it was. Then the door opened, and in the tall man who came forward, Master Linstice recognised Eric Durefoy.

The old man rose and confronted his visitor, and in that brief glance Eric saw how he was aged, how he stooped, and how white his thick hair was.

"I have come back to her. My pride has broken down at last," said Eric, hoarsely, seating himself uninvited. The old man did not speak.

"It nearly killed me to find that she had not been true to me——"

"True to you, sir? what do you mean?" asked Master Linstice, his eyes flashing.

"Have patience."

"Explain yourself this moment," said Master Linstice, in a voice that even he, proud Eric Durefoy, felt he dared not disobey.

"Where is she—take me to her—I will tell her——" said Eric, looking round the little familiar room.

"Explain yourself to me at once" repeated Master Linstice, his voice trembling.

"Then listen. I went to Jersey, and amongst my writing materials, June had helped me to put them by, I found this letter," and Eric took out a letter from his pocket-book and handed it to Master Linstice.

The latter opened it, and read a letter commencing, "My darling Jane," and going on with many professions of endearment and affection, referring to an engagement, mutual love, and much of the same kind, and signed "John Harvey."

"Well?" said Master Linstice.

"*Well!*" said Eric. "When June had pledged her word to me that I was her first love—that she had cared for no one else——"

"Why did you not ask an explanation?" asked Master Linstice, still holding the letter in his hand.

"Because I was too proud," said Eric, humbly enough now. "I would not ask it; I was so angry at being deceived. But I can live without her no longer. I have come to ask her to forgive me—to take me again, and God knows I will do all I can to make her happy. I will forgive if——"

"You have nothing to forgive," said Master Linstice. "The letter was not to——"

"Not to June!"

"No—it is *Jane*. It was a letter I suppose her cousin Jane left behind her three years ago, when she was staying here. She was engaged then to a Mr. Harvey, and is married now to him," said Master Linstice, wearily.

Eric snatched the letter. Yes! He had made a mistake; in his anger he had mistaken Jane for June. Oh, the anguish of that moment!

"Take me to her!—take me to her, my darling that I doubted!" said Eric, bowing his head on his hands.

"I can't, sir," said Master Linstice, simply, "for my little June is dead."

One look, and Eric saw in the old man's face that it was true, and, overcome, he was speechless.

"When?"

"Last September. She fretted so—my sweet lassie, she was so sore-hearted at your leaving her, she died. She had the best advice—she had all, but nothing did her good."

For a long time the two men sat silently, and that time was one never forgotten by either.

A storm of resentment and anger swept over Master Linstice's loyal old heart as he saw the man who had so wronged his June. He could have murdered him almost then. He was silent, but the storm raged fiercely.

And Eric! This was what his pride had brought him to. He had found the letter, read it before he knew what he was doing—and he was too proud to ask any explanation. The terrible suffering concentrated in that time was so great he felt that indeed it was a hard punishment. Then at last Master Linstice spoke, and told him of June's message of forgiveness.

"Where is she laid?" asked Eric, presently.

The old man then took him across the path to the churchyard.

As they went, Eric thought of the day when June had taken him to show him the old church she was so proud of. He remembered how she looked then on that sweet September day, and how pretty the place had seemed, with the Virginia creeper and then the flowers in the garden—the very smell came back to him, and the picture of June more vividly than anything. Again he saw her sweet blue eyes, her soft yellow hair, and heard her clear young voice.

Now all was changed.

On this Christmas Eve it was bright moonlight over the snow, and the church looked weird in the white light.

It was so bright a moonlight that as he came to the little white headstone at the head of a snow-covered mound he could read the words quite plainly—

JUNE.
Aged 20 Years.
"Peace."

That was all.

Then at her grave old Master Linstice spoke. He said no angry words, but he told Eric of her last days, and when he ceased Eric paused. He longed to ask the old man to forgive him, and again breaking down his pride, he asked.

Master Linstice lifted his eyes to the moonlit sky.

The cold air played on his forehead, but it did not seem to cool the burning passion of anger. He was not a man of many words, but he could be very stern.

Shaking his head, he knelt down by the white stone, and said he could not forgive, and Eric walked away. The old man knelt there unheeding the cold, and presently the chimes began—the Angel Chimes, which seemed to say, "Peace on earth—goodwill to men."

Often as Master Linstice had heard them, they had never before sounded so sweet, and yet—they did not seem to touch him. The old Christmas message of Peace he could not receive, for he had that in his heart which barred the way to its entrance. So long as he kept those feelings of resentment, and could not forgive, so long must he remain untouched by the message from the King of Peace Himself, whose forgiveness he might not claim so long as he refused to pardon others.

Rising, he went after Eric, and found him; and ere the chimes had ceased and the great festival was many minutes old, they were reconciled. How much it cost him none knew.

* * * *

The days went on, and Eric Durefoy devoted himself to June's father. They lived together; and though the old man had lost his daughter, he was not quite lonely, for he had in Eric all that a son could be.

And so, in that household there was peace, and the evening-time of Master Linstice's life was light.

* * * *

Now, over the world the bells are chiming in the Christmas festival. Years and years ago, the angels told the message to the wondering shepherds, and it is echoed still—the same old message every Christmas Day—Goodwill and Peace. The Angel Chimes ring on, and all may receive that message, all may partake of its joy, saving those who shut their hearts to the Saviour who comes as a Christ-child amongst men—saving those who let bitterness and anger and all that is unlike their Lord bar the way to peace and joy.

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GAMES FOR WINTER EVENINGS.

PASS THE RING.

This is a game called by the Germans "Ringlein," or "little ring," and is very similar to "Hunt the Slipper." One player stands in the middle, and the others draw up their chairs and sit round him. An endless string on which a ring has been threaded is taken into the circle, and each player takes hold of a part of it, not tightly, but in such a manner that it can easily run through the fingers. The ring which is covered by one of the hands in the circle, is shewn for an instant to the hunter. He turns his face in an opposite direction for a moment. Immediately he does so the players commence to hum a lively air, every one keeping time to the music by alternately bringing his or her hands together and then separating them and touching those of the player on each side. This plan enables the ring to pass unseen and with great rapidity round the circle. If, for instance, it be under the right hand of one of the party he can either, as he separates his hands, convey it into the possession of his neighbour on the right, or, as he brings his hands together, he can pass it from his right hand to his left, and thence to his friend on that side. Meanwhile the hunter watches closely for any sign of the whereabouts of the "ringlein." If he touches any hands in the circle the owner of that hand must at once lift it to shew whether the object sought for be beneath it or not. If it be, then the hunter takes his place, and he becomes hunter in turn.

Another game, very like this, is called

PERPETUAL MOTION.

The players sit in a circle, drawing quite close to each other. Each is then ordered to clasp lightly with the fingers of the left hand round the right wrist of the comrade sitting on his left side. When these links are complete a ring will be formed, and each player is expected to preserve the perpetual motion by pretending to take something with his own right hand from the right hand of his neighbour. In the midst of the ring stands the leader, who holds a penknife, thimble, key, or some other small and convenient object. This he places in the hands of one of the members of the ring, and then shutting his eyes, counts ten with great rapidity. When this is accomplished he proceeds to seek for the article, which has been meanwhile sped along the chain from hand to hand. The player in whose possession the article is found changes places with the leader.

THE BALL OF WOOL.

This is a very simple game of German origin. The party are seated round a table, from which the cloth must be drawn. A little wool is rolled up into the form of a ball, and placed in the middle of the table. The company then commence to blow upon it, each one trying to drive it way from his own direction, and the object of all being to blow it off, so that the person by whose right side it falls may pay a forfeit. The longer the ball is kept on the table by the opposing puffs of the surrounding party the more amusing the game becomes, as the distended cheeks and zealous exertions of the players afford mirth to onlookers as well as to themselves. Similar to this is a game called "Blowing the Feather," in which a small feather set floating in the air answers the same purpose as the ball upon the table. The forfeit is paid by the individual whose puff is ineffectual in keeping the feather afloat, or suffers it to drop when it reaches him.

A MAGICAL SQUARE.

Any young reader who would like to be able to play the part of an oracle and give learned advice suited to every circumstance and condition of life can do so by means of the following magic square, called "Egyptian Zairgeth":—

D	W	W	A	W	O	H	A	B	H
I	O	I	S	O	T	D	T	T	W
W	O	A	A	A	I	E	N	I	I
T	S	D	N	T	H	I	A	A	E
O	T	T	N	T	U	W	T	D	H
T	I	A	E	S	F	L	I	N	U
E	L	N	J	C	A	D	T	O	C
R	O	H	Y	E	O	W	Y	P	E
F	R	W	E	D	I	O	I	A	E
L	N	S	C	T	L	G	H	E	H

Divide a square of pasteboard into one hundred smaller squares, lettering them as above. (It will save you trouble to cut the above diagram and paste it to a card.) Then ask some person to express secretly in writing a wish, to be answered by the Zairgeth. Let him select any letter on the Zairgeth. This you write down, and, proceeding horizontally from left to right, as in reading, write down every fifth letter from that chosen, taking each line consecutively until the letter first selected is reached, which is not again to be used. Put a little mark over the first letter you use from the top line. When all the letters have been written begin to form the sentence from the jumble of letters by starting with the letter that has the mark above it; write the sentence and pass it to the wisher, who must at the same time pass you the paper containing his wish. For example, suppose the wish expressed to be, "I would like to travel in foreign countries," and the letter selected from the Zairgeth is "A" (third letter from the left on the sixth line). You write down that letter and every fifth letter from it, with this result:—

AINTHYWISHWAITANDATT

As the letter "W" is the first one taken from the top line, commence the sentence with it and it reads thus:—

"WAIT AND ATTAIN THY WISH."

WORK AND PLAY.

"In work and play we pass the day," but work, you know, should always come first. Then let us do it with all our might.

Now's the time to study hard—
Work will bring its own reward.
Then work! work! work!
We must spell and we must read,
Nothing but our lessons heed.
Sure and steady must succeed.
Then work! work! work!

Would you like an empty purse?
An empty brain would be still worse,
Then work! work! work!
With a will the task begin,
Now's the time the prize to win.
Pour the golden knowledge in,
And work! work! work!

When our work is ended then we can go in for some fun.

Now's the time for merry play—
No more lessons for to-day.
Then play! play! play!
Duty has been bravely done;
Knowledge has been wisely won.
Now for frolic and for fun,
Then play! play! play!

Join we in a cheerful ring,
Lightly laugh and gaily sing.
Then play! play! play!
Industry can frolic earn—
Ready was the head to learn,
Now the feet must have their turn.
Then play! play! play!

NUTS TO CRACK.

1.—Thirteen letters. My 7, 8, 4, 5 a character in the Cock Robin drama; my 1, 9, 3, 12, 2 what is meant by my *whole*; my 11, 6 a clergyman; my 10, 12, 13 a great statesman; and my *whole* the nation.

2.—To three-eighths of a farthing, add one-half of a cent, and three-eighths of a sovereign, and find a mere trifle.

3.—Reverse my *first* and you will see
To plunder I shall surely be;
Reverse my *next*, and you will find
A colour of a darkish kind;
My *whole* is very often found
To beautify your garden ground.

4.—My *first* is a bird; my *second* is what my *whole* is; my *second* is eaten by my *first*, and my *first*, *second*, and *whole*, are eaten by man,

5.—Square Words.—A quadruped; instead; a part of the globe; a quantity of paper.

6.—A biped; temper; an ugly creature; a plant.

7.—A gentleman's title
My *first* will be found;
Absent my *second* will be.
My *third* then comes down
From the clouds to the ground,
An animal my *fourth* you will see.

LAST WEEK'S KERNELS.

1. Butter Scotch. 2. Librarians. 3. Ant-rim. 4. On-i-on. 5. The Duchess. 6. We-b, sin-g, tin-y, sam-e, rag-e, pin-t.

(7)	(8)	(9)
LEAR	BOSH	FLEA
EMMA	OBOE	LOLL
AMOS	SODA	ELKS
RASH	HEAD	ALSO

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.

A GREAT SUCCESS.

FACTS AND EVIDENCE v. ASSERTION.

THE business commenced with a capital [illegible]. The writer had been previously living in Vienna, and had there acquired the knowledge of an article now universally known in Great Britain and Ireland, and such strong proof was there afforded to him of its great merits that he became enthusiastic in its favour, and ultimately threw up the business in which he was then engaged, and came right home at once solely for the purpose of making known this then unknown article, in association with a partner. And looking back the writer is astonished at his temerity, for it was started to do with £2,000 that which it is variously estimated by experts requires from £25,000 to £50,000 of capital to accomplish. It is true that capital was borrowed, and that a Limited Company was formed to complete the development of "Gordon's Extract," which is the business to which allusion is made; yet none the less the purpose originally held in view has become an accomplished fact, and in less than three years this remedy has grown from utter insignificance to be one of the largest-sold proprietary medicines in the Kingdom, at a capital expenditure of certainly less than one-third of the sum it has taken to establish any other proprietary medicine, despite of very largely-increased competition, and in the face of the gigantic advertising of some of its contemporaries. Truth is mighty and must prevail. There is an intangible something in a straightforward statement of facts, such as has always marked the advertisements of "Gordon's Extract," and upon which no man can lay his finger and say "That is it" that impels conviction of its truth, even when the language is bald and the comparisons threadbare, and hence the reason of the enormous success attendant upon the introduction of "Gordon's Extract." The proof afforded by the 54,000 test bottles sent out for gratuitous trial has been so vast and overwhelmingly irresistible in favour of the medicine, that commendatory letters of the very highest character and from the most unimpeachable sources have flowed in in the past, and stream in in the present, so freely, that every theory of disease that has been broached, every statement of fact, and every assertion that has been made, has received corroboration from the evidence, very often from clergymen, that we have been enabled to print from among the stores of testimonials, some thousands in number, that have been received. It cannot be said that the "Gordon's Extract" success is owing to advertising, for while the expenditure of the business for advertisements has been nearly £2,000 less for the eight months of 1885 ending August 31st than for the same period in 1884, yet on the other hand the actual sales of "Gordon's Extract" have in eight months of 1885 exceeded those of the same dates in 1884 by no less than £1,623 10s. 9d. This fact of increased business, despite decreased advertising, is extraordinary and altogether unique in the annals of a proprietary medicine, for less advertising with other remedies is universally known to be accompanied by a dwindling business, whereas with "Gordon's Extract" just the opposite has taken place. It is, therefore, quite certain that the growth of the "Gordon's Extract" business is owing to the plain straightforwardness and honesty of the claims made about this remedy, impelling faith and belief in it, and because the merits of the remedy are manifestly of a high curative order, so as to secure for it the energetic and impromptu recommendation of those who use it. This is proven by the reports on its merits, sent post free on application.

The great success of "Gordon's Extract" is in large measure owing to

THE NOVEL METHOD OF INTRODUCTION.

THE firm of GORDON & CO. established themselves at 11, Long Lane, E.C., in November, 1883, for the purpose of making "Gordon's Extract" known. Severe and searching tests had proved the Extract to be a remedy possessed of very great efficaciousness. The owners were at first sorely perplexed as to the manner by which they might make the medicine known, for so many worthless remedies had been imposed upon the public that the greatest scepticism was known to exist as to the merits of anything new. It at length occurred to the proprietors that the introduction would be greatly facilitated if unlimited and unimpeachable proof of the merits of "Gordon's Extract" was forthcoming from a class on whose word all men might rely. And, therefore, from two to six bottles of the medicine were offered gratis to clergymen of all denominations for gift and test among the sick poor. And 1,500 of the clergy, recognising that the only benefit Gordon & Co. could derive from this method of free distribution must arise from the merits of the medicine, applied for free bottles of "Gordon's Extract," and to them, on the aggregate, were sent 10,000 bottles of medicine. But, in addition, Gordon & Co. were overwhelmed with applications from poor sick people, without the intervention of clergymen, and so it came about that no less than 54,000 bottles of "Gordon's Extract" were in 1883-4 given free of all cost—the carriage even being paid to the most remote places—for the purpose of a widespread test being made of the remedy. Never before has a medicine been proved to be possessed of great merit at so little cost to the consumer, several thousand pounds sterling of capital having been sunk in this one purpose alone. And now the knowledge of the efficacy of "Gordon's Extract" has spread, and its merits have become known to a million of people. The persons who have used "Gordon's Extract" have had reason to bless it, and have shown their appreciation by their recommendation, and hence it is that the medicine has a very large, and fast, and ever-multiplying sale. "Gordon's Extract" was freely tested both by the clergy and the public at large, because people believed it to possess almost marvellous qualities to justify the faith of the owners in submitting "Gordon's Extract" to a test so stern and severe. Seven thousand written testimonials have been received; very many have been published in this paper during the past 14 months. Two hundred reports from clergymen may be had on application, proving "Gordon's Extract" beyond the shadow of a doubt to be a great and merciful curative medicine. These 200 ministers have tested "Gordon's Extract," roundly speaking, among a thousand cases; and that they are able to bear strong witness in favour of the medicine in itself proves that the remedy possesses curative efficacy of the highest character. Those who suffer from sick-headache, biliousness, or mysterious aches and pains, may rely upon "Gordon's Extract" destroying the roots of the disease that afflicts them, thereby dispersing the painful symptoms. And if a dose of "Gordon's Extract" is taken instantly after each meal, they who have until now suffered from pain and distension of the stomach after food, or have been afflicted with offensive breath, nausea, or miseries, agonies, or discomfort after meals, or while eating, may take great comfort, for "Gordon's Extract" mixes with and converts food in the stomach into a form easy of digestion, and of affording nourishment, thereby absolutely preventing the recurrence of discomfort. Neither Bad Digestion, Acidity, Heartburn, Flatulence, Costiveness, nor the languor, melancholia, or enervation caused by an inactive liver can exist in a man's body if he take "Gordon's Extract," and if it be that you suffer already from any of these or kindred symptoms, you may gain speedy relief and ultimate cure by the use of "Gordon's Extract," for the merits of which so very many clergymen are able to vouch.

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Read the following proofs, and you will be convinced of what we say:—

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Myra's Journal, August, 1885, one of the very best Ladies' Fashion Journals, says:—"'Gordon's Extract' has been highly commended to me by a friend who appears to have derived great benefit from it, and also, having arrived at the last stage of despair of ever curing a long course of Sick-Headache, took the 'Extract' without any faith in its efficacy at first. At present my friend cannot speak too highly of the excellence of 'Gordon's Extract' in curing Sick-Headache and Biliousness. It also appears to be beneficial for many of the complaints to which flesh is heir, but which are not so serious as to need a doctor's aid."—The Silkworm.

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Local and District News.

CONSETT.

Errata.—For "as one to thirteen or fifteen" in article on "The New Phrenology"—read "as one to seven or eight."

Last (Thursday) night, the Consett Church choir, together with a few friends, were provided with their annual supper, &c., in the National Schools.

A report having been circulated throughout the district that Thomas Rowe, of Consett, was one of the "candymen" at Dipton on Wednesday, he asks us to state that it is not true, he only being assisting in supplying the police with refreshments.

We beg to remind our readers that the annual meeting of the Liberal Association will take place on Saturday, 23rd inst., in the New Town Hall, Consett; to be followed by a public meeting addressed by Mr Atherley-Jones, M.P., and the leading Liberals of the town and district.

Who will Help?—The great distress prevalent in Consett and district consequent on the scarcity of employment, and as a necessary consequence of the means to purchase the bare necessities of life, has during the last few weeks been greatly intensified by the want of fuel felt by many of our neighbours who are unable to purchase coal, and who have in consequence have had to endure great suffering from the cold weather. In many towns colliery owners have, by their generosity, enabled the poor to put up with their lot with greater cheerfulness. We trust that some of our coal-owners will, on reading this, determine to do a generous and kindly act by the presentation of coal.

Church Bell fund.—A meeting of the subscribers and collectors for the Consett bell fund, was held in the Consett National Schools on Wednesday evening. In order to pay the bill due to Messrs Taylor, the bell founders, it was resolved to collect all outstanding subscriptions at once. Considering the slackness of trade, and the consequent dearth of wages, the financial statement was considered to be highly satisfactory, although about £100 has still to be raised. The necessary alterations in the tower, by the provision of a second floor to deaden the sound, as also the alteration of the roof in order to allow the sound to escape, have also involved a considerable outlay; and it was decided to make special efforts that the whole cost of the peal of bells, and the necessary accessories, may be defrayed during the present year.

Recognition of the New Baptist Minister.—An interesting recognition service was held in the Baptist Chapel, Consett, on Monday evening, on the settlement of the Rev T. Durant to be the pastor of the church. On the previous day, the Rev Mr Betts, of Rye Hill Chapel, Newcastle, preached morning and evening to good audiences. On Monday evening the meeting, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, was fairly attended. The chair was taken by Mr Alex. Watson, of Ryton.—Mr W. Dodds gave a short account of the proceedings of the church, and the causes which led to the call made to Mr Durant.—Mr Durant followed with an earnest address as to the aims he set before himself in accepting the call, and entering upon the ministry in Consett.—Addresses were then delivered by the Rev J. Hanson, South Shields; Rev J. M. Stephens, Newcastle; Rev E. Riley, Gateshead; Rev E. W. Jenkins, Blackhill; Rev Alex. Baillie (Presbyterian), and Rogers (Primitive), Shotley Bridge.

A Novel Procession.—Yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, a procession of between two and three hundred persons, accompanied by a band, made its appearance in Consett. The procession was headed by a person with a long stick in his hand, who marshalled the forces, and he was followed by a few women who endeavoured to "trip the light fantastic toe" as they walked before the band. Next followed a person with a signboard attached to a long pole, on which was printed

South Medomsley Lodge.

Posstick's
Consett Candymen
turned us out.

Immediately afterwards came the rank and file who we suppose represented the miners and their families recently evicted at South Medomsley Colliery. The procession went along Middle Street, and proceeded to the house of Frosdick, the notorious "candyman," when the band stopped and played several airs, the crowds meanwhile cheering and hooting. On the return of the procession, a halt was made opposite the Fountain, in Front Street, where a "jig" was performed by some of the ladies of the company, after which the procession again re-formed, and continued its march towards Dipton.

The Affairs of Messrs Donald Bain and Co.—At the Newcastle Bankruptcy Court yesterday (Thursday), before Mr Daggett, registrar, Donald Bain, draper, Consett, formerly of Westgate Road, Newcastle, came up for his first examination. From his statement it appeared that he commenced business in 1873 with a capital of £200, of which £50 was borrowed money. His liabilities amounted to £1,478 7s 11d, whilst his free assets were £320 10s 10d, leaving a deficiency of £1,157 17s 1d. His total assets were worth £345, but there were preferential claims for £24 9s 2d. Last May debtor sold his Spen and Ryton book debts, amounting to £194 16s for 10s in the £. He did so because he wanted to get clear of the Spen and Ryton journey. At this time he was worth £300. In the following June, he sold his Consett and Ebchester book debts, and lost £128 11s 1d by the sale. He also lost a law suit.—The Official Receiver pointed out that only £594 7s 1d had been accounted for, whereas the deficiency was £1,157 17s 1d.—The debtor said he assigned the whole of his book debts to two Scotch firms to let him continue business, and to renew bills due for their current account. He made another assignment in March, 1883.—The Official Receiver asked debtor if he did not think he acted unfairly to his other creditors when he signed these assignments.—The debtor said he had then £600 worth of stock; this would perhaps be worth £300 to his creditors.—The Official Receiver: Then after these assignments you continued to trade, and had no capital? How soon after March, 1883, when you were in difficulties in Newcastle, did you consider yourself in a state of solvency?—The debtor: A couple of months. His life was insured for £400, but the insurance company held the policy as security for a loan of £70, which he got in March, 1883. On many occasions his stock was worth £1,270. He became insolvent in August, 1885.—The Official Reciever: You have contracted several liabilities since that time?—The debtor: Very few.—The Official Receiver: What hope had you of being able to pay them?—Debtor: I expected, if business increased and the times did not get any worse, to have paid them.—The Official Receiver: What was your income during the last three years?—Debtor: In June, 1883, it was not much.—The Official Receiver: In 1885 your income was £1,900 to £2,000. What was it in 1884?—Debtor: It would not be much more than half. He drew about £2 a week for household and personal expenses; no more. He had never been a bankrupt before 1883, when he made an assignment in favour of his creditors.—The Official Receiver: Are you going to make any offer?—Debtor: 5s.—The Official Receiver: In what way?—Debtor: Two, four, six, and eight months.—The Official Receiver: Secured or unsecured?—Debtor: Unsecured.—The further hearing of the case was then adjourned for a week.

BLACKHILL.

A successful representation of the pieces, "The Family Circle" and the farce, "The Day after the Wedding," was given by St. Mary's Amateur Dramatic Company in the Agricultural Hall, Blackhill, on Monday evening. There was a large audience present.

Blackhill and District Ornithological Society.—This society held their first yearly meeting at the Royal Hotel, Blackhill, on Saturday, for the purpose of settling accounts and paying prize money to the successful exhibitors at the show held on New Year's Day. The meeting closed with hearty thanks to the committee men and secretary.

Fire. — About eleven o'clock on Thursday se'nnight, a fire broke out in the greenhouse attached to the Presbytery of St. Mary's Church, Blackhill, owing to the flues being overheated. The gale soon had the place in flames, and had it not been for the prompt assistance of Sergeant Cruickshank, P.C. Watson, and a band of willing workers, the place would have been burnt down. As it was, the fire was extinguished before £5 worth of damage was done.

Benfieldside Stock Auction Mart.—Messrs Nicholson and Murray had forward on Monday, 23 cattle, including two extraordinary bullocks, upwards of 90 stone each, from the Earl of Durham, the best of which fell to Mr J. Parker, at £39 10s; the other to Mr Geo. Harrison, Consett Co-operative Store, Consett, at £34 10s. 113 fat sheep, which sold at fairly satisfactory prices; hoggs and small shearlings making fully 8½d per lb., and a good demand was experienced throughout. Only 4 cows turned up, on account of the slippery and dangerous state of the roads. A quantity of horse clothing, conveyances, bacon, hams, poultry, &c., were also disposed of at satisfactory prices, according to the times.

Wesleyan Sunday-School.—The teachers of this schools held their annual meeting on New Year's Day—Mr William Strachan in the chair. The following gentlemen were appointed to the principal offices for the ensuing year:—Superintendents, Messrs William Strachan and Thomas Shotton; secretaries, Messrs John Moon and J. Thos. Gradon; treasurer, Mr Wm. Palliser; librarian, Mr A. Dickenson; library secretary, Mr P. Walton; book steward, Mr W. Bailey; harmoniumist, Mr W. Walton.—In the evening, a public meeting was held in the chapel, under the presidency of Mr Thos. Shotton. The statistical report for the past year was read by Mr Stobart Gradon, and was as follows:—Teachers: male, 36; female, 17; total, 53. Scholars: male, 98; females, 107; total, 205; decrease, 26; average attendance: morning, 50; and afternoon, 165. Eloquent addresses were delivered by Messrs M. Noble and Jas. Palliser, Blackhill, and W. Hogg, Westwood. The scholars, assisted by the choir, sang select pieces of music. At the close of the meeting, a coffee supper was provided in the school-room, which was beautifully decorated with evergreens and mottoes. Upwards of 200 partook of the good things provided.

United Methodist Free Church.—On Sunday, two sermons were preached in the above place of worship at Blackhill, by Mr W. Harkinson, of Catchgate. In the evening, there was a fair congregation, who listened with marked attention, many expressing a strong desire to hear Mr Harkinson again.—On Monday evening, an excellent entertainment was also given, although the attendance was not so large as expected, the audience was an appreciative one. After a suitable hymn had been sung and prayer offered, Mr H. Carss (chairman) opened by marshalling his force of artistes to the front, remarking, as he did so, that a general liked to have his staff beside him, so that he could give his orders more freely. The Chairman then called upon Mr J. L. King to give a reading, entitled "The starless crown," which was well received, after which Mr P. Surtees sang "The little hero" in his usual style, and was accorded a good reception. Mr Joshua Lax, in a masterly way, recited Tom Hood's "Bridge of sighs," followed by a piece from the choir. Master J. L. King—a veritable wonder of nine years — recited "Thanksgiving," to whom an *encore* was given. Mrs McPherson next sang "Father, pray with me to-night," and was well received. The Chairman's address coming next, Mr Carss said he would not, on account of the lengthy programme, give an address, but would give short speeches between pieces. The choir afterwards sung a piece, and Mr T. Rothwell gave a reading, "The man that has seen better days," in good style, being awarded an *encore*. Mr Rothwell gave "The councillor and the farmer." Miss H. Lord's solo, "Beautiful dreamer," was given very sweetly. Master King recited "The half-worn shoe," and again received a re-demand. Mr Surtees favoured with "The pilot," and was accorded a hearty reception. Mr Lax recited "The lady who had nothing to wear," likewise meriting an *encore*. Mr H. Carss interspersed the proceedings with humourous anecdotes and sound advice.—Votes of thanks to performers and Chairman being moved and carried, brought a pleasant evening to a close.

CASTLESIDE.

Entertainment. — On Saturday evening, an entertainment, promoted by the Primitive Methodist Sunday-School Band of Hope, was held in the school-room adjoining the new chapel. The place was filled. In the absence of Mr Jones (Consett) and others, the programme underwent a partial re-construction. Mr Ripley was voted to the chair, and amply justified the judgment of the audience. Recitations were nicely given by two of the Sunday scholars—Ellen Jewitt and Maggie Harker. The temperance address was delivered by Mr Mitchell, of Leadgate, and was heartily applauded. A like tribute of praise was meted to his rendering of a song. Very fine and sweet was the singing of the chapel choir, and a dashing song by the Band of Hope choir received the merited compliment of a recall. After the usual votes of thanks, Mr Wm. Pattinson proposed, and Mr J. Proud seconded, that a collection be made for the relief of a case of distress in the village. The proposal was supported by the company to the extent of 11s—a fair sum all things considered. This ended the proceedings.

Bazaar.—A grand bazaar was opened in the Board Schools, Castleside, on New Year's Day, on behalf of the Primitive Methodist New Chapel Fund. Devotional exercises were performed by the Rev T. Elliott, superintendent, after which Mr R. Johnson (Iveston), a well-known and much respected gentlemen, in opening the bazaar, said it afforded him much pleasure to be with them that day, and take part in the opening of their bazaar, which he (Mr Johnson) trusted would be a success. Referring to his long and intimate acquaintance with the society at Castleside, he attributed his present position in life to the good he received some 30 years ago in the old chapel, when he with many others found "peace through believing in Christ." In looking round that audience, he could not recognise many old faces. Time had altered faces, and seats were occupied by others—strangers to him—. A vote of thanks, moved by Mr M. Lee, seconded by Mr J. Ripley, and supported by Mr W. Pattinson, was accorded to Mr Johnson for his services that day.—Mr Johnson, responding, declared the bazaar open. The ladies who have worked with untiring zeal during the year commenced their work in earnest, as results will testify. The principle stall-holders were Mrs J. Storey, Mrs T. Raine, Mrs J. Ripley, Mrs R. Jewitt, Mrs J. Carruthers, Miss Leybourne, and Miss Foster. The confectionery stall was attended by Miss Davison, Miss Metcalf, and Miss A. Robson. Refreshment stall: Misses Proud, Brinskill, Bainbridge, Harker, Cherry, and Ripley; also Mesdames Pattinson, Davison, and Lister superintending. The bazaar opened at 3 p.m. on the Saturday afternoon, and at 7 p.m. the Shotley Bridge Primitive Methodist choir, under the care of Mr L. Urwin, gave an entertainment. Miss Muse, in her song, entitled "We'd better bide a wee," merited a hearty *encore*, as did her song, "Home again." The total proceeds were £64 14s 2½d.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

A Carrier's Rolley on Fire.—At a late hour on Thursday se'nnight, as Mr Bullerwell, of Shotley Bridge, a carrier travelling between that place and Newcastle, was returning home from the city, shortly after emerging from a public-house at Rowlands Gill, *en route* to Hamsterley Colliery, by some means or other his lorry ignited and caught fire. The night was exceedingly stormy, and the wind fanned the conflagration into a brilliant blaze, soon enveloping the heavily-ladened rolley in flames. The fire occurred at the back part of the waggon, and it was a considerable time before Bullerwell was aware of his mishap. The man's clothing also caught fire, and being almost terrified to death at the prospect before him he immediately loosed the horse out of the conveyance, and galloped to the nearest farmhouse in the neighbourhood of Lintz for assistance, lustily calling out "Fire!" Bullerwell's clothes were burnt off his back, and his flesh was severely scorched before the flames were extinguished—in fact, he is so severely injured that he is now bedfast. An alarm was at once raised; and meanwhile the fire was raging with great fury on the waggon. Upon returning to the spot, it was discovered that the conveyance had been entirely demolished, only the tires of the wheels (which were red hot) and the iron work was left lying on the road. The cargo, which represented a value of about £70, was entirely destroyed, and the remains were smouldering on the highway. Bullerwell is in poor circumstances, and it is difficult to ascertain how he will meet the heavy loss he has sustained by this unfortunate circumstance.

WEST STANLEY

Primitive Methodist.—On New Year's Day, the teachers of the Primitive Methodist Sunday-school, West Stanley, unanimously passed the following resolution:—"That we commence a Band of Hope to be called the Primitive Methodist Band of Hope."—Officers:—President, Jas. Bainbrough; conductor, John Batey; secretary, Wm. Johnson; treasurer, John Shield. A committee comprised of fourteen person—male and female—with power to add to their number was elected.—On Saturday evening last, the above institution gave their first entertainment in the school-room—Mr J. Bainbrough in the chair. The programme was admirably gone through as follows:—Solo, Miss Eliza A. Bailey; recitation, "Temperance alphabet," Master Geo. Harvey; recitation, "The drunkard's looking-glass," Miss M. A. Carroll; duet, "All's well," Messrs Pearson and Shepherd; drama, "Reaping the fruits," Misses Summerbell, Handy, Dawson, Coxon, and Messrs Batey, and Dixon. This excited much amusement. Recitation, "The pawned clock," Miss A. Ridley; quartett, Miss Summerbell, and Messrs Batey, Dixon and Dixon; recitation, "People will talk," Miss Watkin; drama, "Deaf as a post," Messrs Batey, Wilson, Johnson, Kendrick, and Misses York, Watkin, and Coxon; duet, "Minute gun at sea," Messrs Pearson and Shepherd; recitation, "The market basket," Miss J. A. Stephenson. The success which attended the evening's proceedings argues well for the future of the institution. The committee anticipates being able to carry on the entertainments every fortnight or every month during the winter season.

C.E.T.S.—Entertainment and Presentation.—On Monday evening, 4th inst., the Beamish branch held their usual fortnightly meeting, when a deviation was made from the usual procedure. Instead of readings, speeches, and songs, the choir gave the service of song based on "The Pilgrim's Progress," the reading being done by the curate. During a break in the service, a presentation was made to Mr E. W. Robson. Mr Robson was appointed choirmaster of the society at its formation, and continued to hold the office until last August, when he left the neighbourhood. His name, having frequently appeared in our columns, will doubtless be familiar to many readers. Mr Robson was most energetic, indefatigable, and successful in the way he discharged his duties; and it was decided to do something in recognition of his services. The testimonial took the form of a purse of gold and a valuable copy of the Holy Bible, with the authorised and revised versions in parallel columns. A number of friends in Stanley, although not themselves members of the society, have expressed their kindly feelings for Mr Robson by adding their contributions. The inscription in the bible was as follows:—"Presented to Mr E. W. Robson, with a purse of gold, by friends at Stanley, in recognition of services rendered by him to the Beamish Branch of the Church of England Temperance Society. Rev John Chennell, president. 4th January, 1886."—The presentation was made by the curate (Rev L. M. Chesters), and Mr Robson, who was deeply moved, acknowledged the same in a speech describing the success with which he, by the help of some friends, has been enabled to organise a branch of the Church of England Temperance Society in Barnoldswick, Yorks, his new sphere of work. That success will be evident from the fact that, although formed but a few weeks ago, their society already numbered 105 members, all total abstainers. Mr Robson, who is only at Stanley on a short holiday, concluded with a few words of exhortation to the Stanley society, repeating his thanks for their kindness, and wishing them all a hearty good-bye.—The meeting then proceeded with the service of song, which was evidently enjoyed by those present. At the conclusion, five pledges were taken.

STANHOPE.

A sitting of the Durham Bankruptcy Court was fixed for on Tuesday afternoon, when the public examination of Wm. Roddam, inkeeper and cattle dealer, Half-Moon Inn, Westgate, was to have taken place. The registrar (Mr W. Marshall), and chief bailiff (Mr R. Kirkley), were present. The debtor did not appear, and the registrar adjourned the examination *sine die*.

Wesleyanism.—The Wesleyan ladies' sewing meetings at Stanhope were very successful in 1885, realising the handsome sum of £30 17s 6d, made up as follows:—Mrs Walton's, Stanhope House, £8; Mrs Ward's, Front Street, £6 10s; Mrs Driver's, The Station, £3 15s 6d; Mrs Ridley's, Crowley, £3 15s; Mrs Turnbull's, Martin Street, £3 12s; Mrs Whitfield's, The Parsonage, £3; Mrs Livingstone's, Town Foot, £2 5s.

WEARDALE.

Mr W. Greggs, gamekeeper to Mr Rogerson, has shot on Burnhope, Weardale, a bird which appears to be a fine specimen of the great or solitary snipe. The bird weighs over 8oz.

The annual meeting of the St John's Church Institute and Reading-room was held on Saturday evening—the vicar (Rev R. Shepherd) in the chair. —The following were elected the acting committee for the ensuing year:—Messrs T. Vickers (treasurer and secretary), J. Peadon, J. Harrison, Sergeant Hann, Messrs F. W. Shepherd, and J. E. Blenkiron.

Serious Affair.—A serious affair has taken place at Nenthead, a mining village adjacent to Weardale, on the other side of Killhope. Two boys had been breaking stones, and quarrelled over some trivial matter, when the elder of the two thrashed his companion, the father of whom repaired to the house of the former. There the mother, named Hinds, is alleged to have seized the coalrake and struck him on the head, felling him, and while he was on the floor, repeating the blow until he was unconscious. He was conveyed to his home and attended by a doctor, who deemed it so serious as to have the man's depositions taken.

The Weardale Mines.—The "bargains" in connection with these extensive mines were concluded with general satisfaction on Friday at Newhouse offices. The directors were not present, the contracts being entrusted to the managing agents, Messrs Jas. Blenkiron, S. Watson, J. Thompson and Geo. Philipson. We are informed the basis of wages is still small.

The Iron Trade.—The condition of the iron trade in Weardale is anything but cheering, as the men employed under the Weardale Iron and Coal Company in this dale are under notice, which terminates on the 25th inst. The men employed number about 300, and about 50 or 60 horses are required in the transit of the stone from the ironstone quarries of Wearhead, &c., to the Westgate railway depots. The Weardale ironstone is of excellent quality, and is quarried from the great limestone in the run of the metalliferous veins which intersect the valley. The annual output is about 80,000 tons of spathoes iron, which is sent to the company's furnaces at Tow Law and Tudhoe. The cause of this evident stoppage is want of orders and over stock. The stoppage will come at a bad time, as labour in Weardale is limited, and the duration of the stoppage will no doubt be ruled by the condition of trade.

MARLEY HILL.

Church Sunday School. — On Thursday se'nnight a tea and entertainment were given to the scholars and teachers by Mr James Gilchrist and Mrs Gildhrist, of Longfield House. About 300 sat down to an excellent tea; after which a magic lantern entertainment, supplied by Messrs Mawson, Swan, and Morgan, Newcastle, delighted both old and young. Among the numerous slides were a number illustrating the story, read by the schoolmaster, of "The Pied Piper of Hamelin." The instrument was handled in an able manner by the gentleman sent to manipulate it. After this, nearly 150 book prizes were given away by Miss Mathwin, West Pelton, to the scholars for Scripture knowledge, good conduct, and attendance at the Sunday school. The proceedings, which had been thoroughly enjoyed by all, were brought to a close about 10 p.m. Rev S. White (Vicar), proposed a vote of thanks to their esteemed friends, Mr and Mrs Gilchrist, for their kindness in providing this entertainment year after year for the young folks.

ESH COLLIERY.

A Child Scalded to Death.—On Wednesday, Mr Coroner Graham held an inquest at the Reading Room, Esh, on the body of a child, John Geo. Hunter, aged 1 year and 3 months, son of George Hunter. At 7 p.m. last Saturday, the mother placed a bath of hot water on the floor, and the child was walking backwards and stumbled into the boiling fluid, being shockingly scalded, but lingered until 9.30 on the following day (Sunday). —Verdict of "Accidental death" returned.

DURHAM.

Removing Swine without a Licence.—John Whittaker was on Wednesday charged at the Durham County Police Court, under a provision of the C.D. (Animals) Act, with removing a pig from Durham to Bearpark, without the necessary licence. Defendant, who had bought the pig in the Durham Market, pleaded that he was ignorant of the illegality of his act. He was ordered to pay 1s., which included costs.

Theft of Wearing Apparel at Auton Style.—At Durham on Wednesday, Annie Foy was charged with stealing a brown-checked lady's ulster, a cashmere dress, two children's dresses, one sheet, one imitation gold bracelet, a silk handkerchief, and other articles, the property of Thos. R. Holmes, butcher, of Auton Style, Durham, on Dec. 1st, 1885. —The prisoner was a servant with the prosecuter, and when she left all these articles were missed. Their total value was between £8 and £9. It was found that several of the goods had been pawned in Bishop Auckland and Spennymoor. Prisoner was apprehended at Haydock, in Lancashire, by Seargeant Burrell. She was, when arrested, wearing part of the stolen property.—Prisoner now pleaded guilty, and was sent to prison for three months hard labour.

STOCKSFIELD.

Death of an Old Tyneside Farmer.—As recorded in our obituary column, on the 11th inst. a well-known agriculturist and noted shorthorn breeder was lost to Tyneside in the person of Mr John Atkinson, of Hall Moor, Stocksfield, who died in the 84th year of his age. The deceased gentleman was the eldest son of the late Mr Matthew Atkinson, of Peepy, near Stocksfield, where he was brought up. In early life he entered upon the Short Flat Farm, near Capheaton, and also Marlish Farm. After an interval of two years he returned to Peepy and joined his father and his brother George, but shortly afterward Mr Atkinson, sen., resigned the management of the farm into the hands of his sons, Messrs John and George Atkinson. The occupation of the farm by the two latter continued up to the year 1841, when Mr George Atkinson took Seaham Hall Farm, though they were each interested in both farms. Occupying Seaham Hall Farm, Messrs Atkinson were awarded Lord Londonderry's cup for the best managed farm upon his lordship's estates by the judges, but having won so many cups, Lord Londonderry intervened, and preferred to see this cup go to a man who might need it more. In 1856 they won the cup given by the Marchioness of Londonderry to the tenant upon her estates in Durham, possessing the best breed of cattle for general purposes. In 1862 they were awarded a challenge cup for the best farm stock, given by Lord Adolphus Vane Tempest, M.P., at the Castle Eden Agricultural Show. In 1972 Messrs Atkinson finally won the Challenge cup of the Durham County Agricultural Society at Durham by the aid of the shorthorn cow, St. Crispin 2nd. This cup they secured seven times. In 1870, their two bay mares, Damsel and Dinah, were shown eight times and never suffered a defeat. Damsel was sold for 145 guineas, a three-year-old filly from her brought 225 guineas, and Dinah made 180 guineas. In 1884, the Peepy bred red shorthorn bull Recruit won the Agricultural Challenge Cup at Belfast, and also carried off the champion cups of the Royal Agricultural Society of England and the Highland Society of Scotland, enjoying the distinction of being the first animal to win the three national champion prizes. Ringlet III. was one of their most noted shorthorns. Perhaps the shrewdness and judgment of Messrs Atkinson were never more prominently shown than when they purchased from Colonel Towneley's herd of shorthorns the yearling heifer, O. B.'s Justitia, for 160 guineas, which, when sold at Peepy auction sale in April, 1875, realised 550 guineas. In 1876 Messrs Atkinson retired from Seaham Hall Farm, and Mr George Atkinson took the management of Peepy Farm. At this time Mr John. Atkitson removed to Hall Moore, where he has resided up to the time of his death. He was twice married, his first wife being Miss Walker, of Corbridge, sister of the late Mr Bartholemew Walker. He leaves no issue.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

A commencement has been made to lay the Consett water pipes to Chester Moor Colliery.

Chester-le-Street Divison: Gathering of Mr Joicey's Supporters.—On Tuesday night, the committee and friends of Mr James Joicey, the Liberal member for the Chester-le-Street Division, held a social gathering in the Committee Rooms, Blaydon. About 80 gentlemen sat down to an excellent repast, the chair being occupied by Mr W. Paxton, president of the Blaydon branch of the Liberal Association.—After the tables were cleared, the Chairman gave the loyal and patriotic toasts, which were duly honoured. The Chairman then gave the toast of "Mr Joicey, the Liberal member for Chester-le-Street," which was received with the greatest enthusiasm. He referred in fitting terms to the great victory for Liberal unity that had been achieved in the Chester-le-Street contest. The toast was coupled with the name of Mr T. Robinson, who responded in an appropriate speech.—Mr Ramsay next gave the toast of "The Liberal cause," which was supported by Mr W. Plender and Mr H. Atkinson, and duly honoured; Mr T. Lumsden, secretary of the Chester-le-Street Liberal Association, responding. Other toasts were given, and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was spent, songs, duets, glees, and readings, given by the various guests, contributing to the harmony of the proceedings.

The Office Breaking at Birtley Railway Station.—On Wednesday, before the Chester-le-Bench, *Richard James Render*, a youth residing with his parents at Birtley, was charged with entering and stealing £5 4s from the booking-office of the Birtley Railway Station, between the 31st December and the 1st January.—John Smith Johnstone, station-master, stated that he locked up the office at 11·30 on the 31st December, and on going to the office at 6 a.m. on the 1st January he found that the window had been cut open and an entry to the cash drawer had been made, and a sum amounting to £5 4s had been stolen. He gave information to the police. — Sergeant Christie stated that he was on the platform about 11·20 on the 1st inst., just before the train left for Newcastle. He noticed the suspicious movements of the prisoner, and got into the train, and proceeded to Newcastle. When the prisoner got out, witness asked him to go with him to the superintendent's office, and on searching him he found £4 11s in his right pocket, 8s 11½d in copper in a pocket handkerchief in his left pocket, and about 4s in threepenny pieces, and also a diamond. He charged him with entering Birtley Station booking-office and stealing over £5. He replied, "I did it." —Prisoner pleaded guilty, and was committed to take his trial at the Durham Assizes.

Police Items.—On Wednesday, before the Chester-le-Street Magistrates, a batch of men from Waldridge Fell were brought up charged with playing at pitch and toss, and were fined from 1s to 2s 6d each.—James Trip, fish hawker, of Newcastle, was charged with furious driving near Sunnyside. The Earl of Ravensworth said he saw the man driving, with two women in his cart, up an unfrequented lane. Witness went up a burn to the head of the lane, and while there the defendant drove furiously past him with his head covered up. Witness with his men then went down the lane, and found the two women lying helplessly drunk on the snow, where the defendant had left them The Bench considered it a very bad case, and fined accused 40s and costs.—W. Houston was charged with neglecting to maintain his wife and allowing her to become chargeable to the Chester-le-Street Union to the amount of £2 9s. His wife gave him a bad character, and said he had deserted her entirely. He was ordered to pay £2 9s or one month.

DIPTON.

St. John the Evangelist.—The annual tea of the congregation of St. John's Church, Dipton, was held on Tuesday week, under somewhat unfavourable circumstances, and consequently there was not so numerous a muster as on former occasions. The following ladies attended at the tables:— Mrs Turnbull, the Misses Turnbull, Bowes, Cooper, Thirlwell, Hancock, Compton, Mrs Maude, and Mrs Curtis. About 70 sat down to a substantial tea, after which a lecture was given by Mr W. Tate, science teacher, Sunderland, on the "New style of phrenology." The lecture was highly instructive, and was much appreciated by the numerous audience.

WOLSINGHAM.

Polytechnical Exhibition.—On Monday an excellent polytechnic exhibition was opened by Mr W. Shaw at the Town Hall, Wolsingham, in aid of the Mechanics' Institute. The exhibition as a whole is a most creditable one, and points to an efficient committee of management. The exhibition was further enhanced by a selection of music by the Misses Shaw and the Wolsingham String Band. Preparations were made for having the hall brilliantly illuminated by the electric light of the Brush "arc" and "incandescent" lamps, and a bazaar was also opened in connection with the proceedings. At two o'clock the exhibition was opened by Mr W. Shaw, manager of the Steel Works, who pointed out that the Steel Works of Wolsingham employed nearly 500 men and boys, and if the Steel Works had rendered the town more prosperous these works were due to the intelligence and genius of the late Charles Attwood. Chancellor Espin, rector of Wolsingham, and president of the Wolsingham Mechanics Institute, supported Mr Shaw, and spoke highly of the necessity of education in its widest sense for the purpose of bringing out the intellect and genius of the English artisan. After a vote of thanks was accorded to the committee for the excellent result of their labours the exhibition was declared open. The exhibition and bazaar will continue for some days.

TOW LAW.

A hawker, named John Fox, died suddenly at Sunniside, he having been out with his cart a day or two previous to his death.

The annual meeting of the Tow Law Wesleyan Schools was held on Monday night. A committee was elected, and other business transacted.

Measles and scarlatina are still very prevalent at Tow Law, and some of the schools are still closed in consequence. Several infants and young children have succumbed to measles.

Sudden Death.—Mrs Hodgson, the wife of Mr Hodgson, miner, of Prince Row, Tow Law, died very suddenly on Tuesday morning. Deceased, who had just got out bed, dropped down and expired almost instantly. The cause is supposed to be heart disease.

BEAMISH.

Colliery Reading Room.—The annual general meeting of the above institute was held on Tuesday night, when a large and most enthusiastic number of the members were present to choose the officers, &c., for the present year. Mr R. J. English occupied the chair. The following are the office-bearers for 1886, viz:—President, Rev J. Mathwin; treasurer, Mr R. J. English; secretary, Mr J. Waistell; committee, J. Henderson, R. Radcliffe, W. Armstrong, J. Ranson, J. Craig, and Thos. Wrangham.—The usual quarterly sale of papers realised a higher figure than on any previous occasion.—It was agreed by the bulk of the members to commence a library forthwith.

BURNHOPE.

C.E.T.S. — Band of Hope.—An interesting address to parents and children was given on Monday evening last, in the School-room at Burnhope, by the Rev T. Callinan, vicar of Bearpark, to inaugurate a Band of Hope in connection with the Church of England Temperance Society for the Holmside Parish Church Sunday-school. Mr Smith and Mr Patterson, of Burnhope, have been elected secretary and treasurer of the Society.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

The North-Eastern Railway Extension.—In consulting true records respecting the Stanhope and Tyne Railway, the Stanhope line was commenced in the year 1832, and not 1831 as stated in last week's *Guardian*. In the year 1834, May 15th, the first traffic—viz., lime—came from Stanhope to Annfield West Bank Foot. Peter Mosley was the first brakesman that worked at the Carrhouse standing engine on the same line, and T. Robson was the first brakesman at the Annfield standing engine. When this Railway was made and opened out between Stanhope and Shields, there were ten halting or stationary engines. The Annfield engine was completed on the last day of the old year, and the new railway was opened between Annfield Plain to the west side of the Loud Hill on the 1st January, 1886, and not on the 4th January as stated last week. There are but two hauling engines on this railway now, nearly the whole of the line being worked by locomotive power. There is the Stanley Bank, Eden Hill Bank, and Pelton Fell Bank; but the traffic is worked on these three hills by a wheel and the rope, called self-acting brakes. As a rule all three banks are extremely steep gradient, and very remarkable to say not very often is there any mishaps with the waggons on these inclines. The first coals were despatched on this railway from Pontop South Pit in the month of September, 1834, to South Shields Drops. Remarkable to say that there is one well-known servant under the North-Eastern Railway Company, named Nicholas Wilkinson, living at Annfield Cottages, who has been in their employment since the Stanhope and Tyne Railway was first constructed. He is and has been for some years stationed in the telegraph office at Annfield Bank Foot, and is hearty and hall, and very active for a man so far advanced in years, and is a most trustworthy servant under the Company at the present time.

Wesleyan Chapel.—On Sunday night, Mr John Humble preached the funeral sermon of the late Mr William Harris, of West Kyo, in the Wesleyan Chapel, Annfield Plain. Mr Humble took for his text Hebrews iv. 9—"There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God." The preacher pointed out the Christian soldier's warfare in this life—the enemies he had to strive with and overcome in the Name of his Divine Master Jesus Christ. He also plainly described the rest that awaited the righteous at the end of a life well spent in the cause of God, and which more than recompensed the redeemed ones when far from a world of grief and sin and suffering. The subject of this sketch (he went on to state) was born in a village in Cornwall of humble parentage, and when very young was taken to a Sabbath school, where he received his first good impressions. At the age of 14 years he was converted to God, and when he attained 18 years he left Cornwall and came into Cumberland, but he only stayed a short time there until he removed into the county of Durham. At a proper time in life he married and settled down at Oxhill, and from the period of his conversion to his death he was a consistent member of the Wesleyan Methodist Connexion, and was a total abstainer from ardent spirits. Mr Harris was an upright and conscientious Christian. He was very sincere, and entertained humble views regarding himself, and never boasted of what he achieved. Deceased was known to be most patient and always willing to suffer the will of God under all circumstances in life, although he had to endure a good deal of trouble, privation, and sickness in his life time. He was somewhat noted for his sympathy to others, and in his conversation would never utter anything harsh or offensive respecting the brethren. He strove to be a living example of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He experienced great power, and was exceedingly useful as a sick visitor and Sabbath school teacher. As a class leader, he exhibited a great deal of tact and skill, and as a local preacher, he was full of energy and zeal for the conversion of others. He had a most acceptable way of performing his work, and was always willing at all times to take any duties or do anything in the service of God. Being a delicate man, consumption set in and wasted his constitution. He endured a long, lingering sickness, but felt God was with him, and was quite ready, like St. Paul, to be offered up, and expressed a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better; and when his time came he passed peacefully away from this vale of tears to that land where sickness, sorrow, pain, and death are felt and feared no more. He expired on November 11th, 1885, and was interred at St. St. Thomas's Church, Hare Law, on the Sunday following. He leaves a wife and family to mourn his loss.

HAMSTERLEY COLLIERY.

Presentation. — The annual meeting of the officers and deputies of the B.O. Wylam-on-Tyne District of Oddfellows was held in the School-room at Hamsterley Colliery. The Grand Master of the District (Mr T. B. Ord, of Greenside) was presented with a golden star, in a few complimentary remarks, by the Vice-Grand (Mr J. Wishart, of Spen Colliery) who succeeds him in office. This year the business was entered into with spirit. The funds have been largely drawn upon during the past year in consequence of sickness and death.

LANCHESTER.

[illegible] Lanchester, may be seen primroses and polyanthuses in full bloom.

The Low Bridge.—At the Quarterly meeting of the county Justices at Durham—Mr J. L. Wharton presiding—the County Surveyor (Mr W. Crozier, M.I.C.E.) reported that a new drain had been laid at Lanchester Low Bridge West approach road, jointly by the County and the Lanchester Highway Board.—The report was adopted.

An Earthly Paradise. — The *Newcastle Chronicle* comments as follows:—"Lanchester is at it again—getting rid of everything that is bad. It has been our agreeable duty to point out more than once of late how that favoured place has got rid of the bulk of its paupers and a great many vagabonds. On Thursday we had to notify how it got rid of a thief, who had just been helping the people hard by to get rid of their clothes. To-day we have to tell that Lanchester has got rid of drunken folk—all but one. That was announced at the Police Court on Thursday, by Mr M. Kearney, the chairman."

WITTON GILBERT.

Churchyard Depredators.—On Wednesday, at the Durham County Police Court, three men, *George Henry Walker*, *William Hall*, and *George Ward*, were fined 1s each and costs for doing wilful damage to gravestones in the Witton Gilbert Churchyard on New Year's Day.

TREAT TO OLD FOLKS AT ANNFIELD PLAIN.

On Saturday, the fourth annual treat to the aged and infirm people of Annfield Plain and district, was given in the Greencroft Board Schools (kindly lent by permission of the Board). The following gentlemen form the committee for carrying out this act of kindness:—Rev J. Gornall (vicar of the parish), president; Mr Wm. Rutherford, treasurer; Mr W. Wilkinson, secretary; and Messrs G. Armstrong, W. Bell, T. Collinson, P. Reay, A. Brown, J. Orr and T. Ord. It is a source of great pleasure to these gentlemen to be able to announce—as it must be to our readers to hear—of the well-deserved success of this annual gathering, and certainly the committee, with all those who assist by giving in money and kind, as well as those who are fortunate enough to be present at the treat, to witness the joy and pleasure of the "old folks" at this happy season of the year. At six o'clock, the time appointed for tea, there were over 100 of the aged guests—varying from 40 to 86 years of age—supplied with a hearty meal, the tables being presided over by Mesdames Ord, Armstrong, Southern, Newton, Hetherington, Cranston, Wilkinson, and Smith, assisted by Mr T. F. Dodd. To make the proceedings more complete, a company of musicians (under Mr J. Cassell) supplied some capital music at intervals. Afterwards the smokers adjourned into another room to enjoy the pound of of tobacco generously supplied by Mr W. H. Ritson. Shortly after seven o'clock, a public meeting was held, and in the absence of the president, Mr J. Orr occupied the chair, supported by Messrs W. Rutherford, R. Johnson, R. Taylor, J. Humble, P. Reay, and W. Harkinson. The report and balance-sheet was read by Mr Rutherford, showing the balance in the hands of the treasurer at the beginning of the year to be £3 17s 1d; also the following had been received: Goods from the Co-operative Society, Annfield Plain, value £2 2s; Mr G. Hobson, 10st. flour. There were some good speeches by the gentlemen on the platform, giving suitable advice to all present pertaining to their moral and spiritual welfare, the addresses being interspersed by some splendid music by Mr Cassell and his friends. Hearty votes of thanks were given to Mesdames Wilkinson, Smith, Collinson, and Miss Cleghorn, for baking the bread, the members of the Greencroft School Board for the school, to the musicians, Chairman, and others who addressed the meeting, and all who had contributed to the comfort and enjoyment of the aged people, who each (to the number of 104) as they left the room, received ¼lb. of tea and bread to the value of 1s 3d. Thus finished one of the most successful of these praiseworthy entertainments to those who are unable to obtain for themselves Christmas cheer The committee tender their thanks to the public and all who have assisted in the good work.

TWO THOUSAND YEARS OLD.

Wheat has been grown from the seeds found in the coffin of an Egyptian mummy, where they had been hidden from light and air for two thousand years. The following story shews that an equal tenacity of life is the characteristic of a dahlia root:—

Lord Lindsay states that in the course of his wanderings amid the pyramids of Egypt he stumbled on a mummy, which proved by its hieroglyphics to be at least two thousand years old. In examining it after it was unwrapped, he found in one of its closed hands a tuberous or bulbous root.

He was interested in the question of how long vegetable life could last, and took the root from the mummy's hand and planted it in a sunny soil, allowing the rains and dews of heaven to descend upon it, and in the course of a few weeks the root burst forth and at length bloomed into a most beautiful dahlia.

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

Hearses and Mourning Coaches for Hire.

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

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

Ryton.—Greenfield Place, 13th inst., the wife of Jos. Sewell, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

Consett.—Wesleyan Chapel, Thos. Reed, Leadgate, to Sarah Lee, third daughter of Henry Lee, grocer, Leadgate.

DEATHS.

Blackhill.—13, Derwent Street, 10th inst., aged 19 years and 11 months, Joseph, beloved son of Martha and the late George Sanderson.

Quarry House, 15th inst., aged 67, Hannah, the beloved wife of John Heslop. Interment at Blackhill Cemetery, on Sunday, 17th inst., at 3 p.m. Friends, please accept this intimation.

West Stanley. — 13th inst., Rachel Elizabeth, daughter of Thos. Coulson, aged 13 months.

Tanfield.—9th inst., aged 28, Eleanor Dunn, daughter of the late M. R. Watson.

South Moor.—10th inst., aged 72, William Daglish.

Esh Winning.—6th inst., Jane, wife of Thos. Gregg, greengrocer, aged 50.

Swalwell.—Aged 69, suddenly, Matthew Brown.

Hall Moor, Stocksfield.—11th inst., in his 84th year, John Atkinson, formerly of Peepy.

Ryton.—Barmoor, 8th inst., aged 43, Anne, wife of J. M. Wright.

Newburn-on-Tyne. — 12th inst., aged 29, Mary, daughter of Robert Balmbra.

Lemington-on-Tyne.—3, Lovan Terrace, aged 19, Eleanor, daughter of George Urwin, late of Victoria Garesfield.

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