NOTICE.

...ROPRIETORSHIP IN THE ...SHED POSTING BUSINESS ...T BLACKHILL.

...ress: Postal Address: ...ckhill. GEO. J. CHRISTOPHER Blackhill.

...n over the above Business, which ...rried on successfully for this last ...y deceased Father and Brother ...hat it is my intention to carry ... ...herto at the old Address, and by ...rse and Conveyances hope to be ... confidence and patronage which ...y bestowed upon my predecessors. ...Touring Coaches, Carriages for ...Brakes and Waggonettes for ...d Posting in all its branches will ...t reasonable terms. ...will be in constant attendance ...a.m. until 9 p.m., where Orders shall have prompt attention. TERMS TO UNDERTAKERS.

GEO. J. CHRISTOPHER. ...4th, 1894.

...AT LANCHESTER ...ORKHOUSE.

...Coroner John Graham held an ...ster Workhouse, touching the ...ohnson, aged 65 years, who died ...on the 7th inst.—It seems that ...tted to the casual ward of the ...night of the 6th inst., and ap... ...ood health. He took his meals ...er complained of being unwell. ...ight he was served with his sup... ...the next morning, when the ...ward he found Johnson lying ...ock.—The Jury returned a ver... ...l resulted from natural causes.

...S MAZAWATTEE TEA. ...S MAZAWATTEE TEA. ...S MAZAWATTEE TEA. ...S MAZAWATTEE TEA. ...S MAZAWATTEE TEA. ...2/10, & 4/- ℔ lb. of leading grocers

...ARDS in all the Newest Patterns ...tly and expeditiously at the ...nsett. 534p

...AWES & CO ...ROPRIETORS AND ...RAL FURNISHERS. ...t and Cheapest HEARSES ...RNING COACHES. ...erms for Brakes for Trips ...he Summer Months. ...very necessary supplied on ...tice. The strictest regard ...ng specially observed.

...rriages, and Deaths

BIRTHS.

...side, on the 27th ult., the wife of ... of a daughter.

...RRIAGES.

...SON.—Lanchester Church, 2nd ... George Jepson, vicar, Jabez, ...Edward and Jane Battensby, to ...st daughter of William and Mary ...rse Inn, Try-em-All. ...nfieldside, St. Cuthbert's Church, ...by the Rev. G. H. Ross-Lewin, ...nes to Jane Ellen (Jennie) Lamb. ...—Consett Baptist Church, on the ...Rev. T. Durant, F. Wm. Reay, ...axwell, Templetown. 254q

...EATHS.

...n, 4th inst., aged 61 years, John ...dge Fell, 5th inst., aged 1 year ...liam, son of William and Dorothy ...khall, No. 2, Red Row, on the ...t, the beloved wife of John ...interred at Leadgate Cemetery ...eeply regretted. 284q ...yne, 5th inst., Ophelia Evans, ...Dr. Evans, of Sunderland, aged ...on the 4th inst., aged 61 years, ...of the late W. S. Harrison, ...on, 1st inst., aged 91, Thomas ...Urpeth. ...inst., aged 50, Rebecca, wife of ...on Nichol. ...5th inst., aged 47 years, Mary ...e, 3rd inst., aged 77 years, ...obinson, tailor. ...Cottages, on the 4th inst., aged ...lizabeth, daughter of John and ... 253q

...ohn Greener, who was acciden... ...eld Moor Colliery on January ... ...l by his wife, MARY GREENER. ...r dear mother and beloved wife ...chester, who died January 3rd, ...t not forgotten, ...to memory dear.' 270q ...rance of our dear friend, Mary ...ho died at Oxhill on January ...t not forgotten." 281q ...dear mother, Jane Charlton, ...l, January 7th, 1891. ...watched my dying bed, ...dropping tear, ...ckoned me away, ...from your care." ...red by all." 285q ...illiam Cannon, of Consett, who ...nuary 6th, 1892. ...nt, his heart is now cold, ...d his welcome did greet me of ...rn him in silence unseen, ...emory of days that have been." His loving niece, JENNIE. ...y dear father, John Greener, ...lly killed at White-le-Head on ...ged 54 years. ...orgotten, father dear, ...ilt thou be, ...and memory last, ...ber thee." A LOVING SON. ...r dear daughter, Ann Lennon, ...Died Jan. 7th, 1891. ..., her sufferings were great, ...ook of her innocent face, ...'s gone to her bright home ...ile we will meet herabove." HER PARENTS. ...n Ramsey, beloved daughter ...a Ramsey of Langley Moor ...January 12th, 1894. Aged 21 ...ll Saints Church, Lanchester. ...ld without a tear, ...riends I held so dear, ...sorrows, Lord descend, ...endless prove a friend. ...me my parents dear, ...but sleeping here, ...my grave you see, ...elves to follow me. ...orgotten, Nellie dear, ...t thou be, ...and memory last, ...mber thee." ...l was peace." ...ND MOTHER, BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

...E HOPE, ...ULPTOR IN MARBLE, ...D GRANITE, ...IELD, AND STANLEY ...ecuted in Town or Country ...stimates on application.

...TON & SONS ...ULPTORS IN STONE ...& GRANITE. ...GE, BENFIELDSIDE. ...nd Special Designs prepared. ...nt at moderate charges. ...N GOODS YARD, BLACKHILL.

...y ROBERT JACKSON at the ...g Works, 59, Front Street, ...an. 11th, 1895.

ROBERT JACKSON
CHEAP PRINTING & STATIONERY ESTABLISHMENTS
59, FRONT STREET, and 21, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.
AGENT FOR DIPTON:—MR. THOMAS CLARK South Medomsley Cottages.
AGENT FOR STANLEY:—MR. M. G. ARMSTRONG Newsagent, Havanna Post Office.

The Consett Guardian

DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER
AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM GAZETTE.

TO SECRETARIES OF FRIENDLY SOCIETIES AND OTHERS.
BALANCE SHEETS, CONTRIBUTION CARDS, &c.,
Printed neatly and expeditiously, by the most Improved Machinery, and at moderate charges,
AT THE "GUARDIAN" OFFICE, CONSETT.

No. 1,794. | REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. | FRIDAY EVENING, January 18th, 1895. | PRICE ONE PENNY.

Contracts.

TO BUILDERS.

WANTED, by the Tow Law and District Industrial and Provident Society, TENDERS for the ERECTION of TWO COTTAGES and WAREHOUSE at Wolsingham. To be sent to the Committee, endorsed "Tender," not later than Tuesday, January 22nd. Plans and Specifications may be seen at the Society's Office, Tow Law. 237q

TO BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS.

PERSONS desiring to TENDER for the whole of the WORKS required in the Erection of an HOTEL and STABLING at Chopwell, are requested to make application for quantities on or before Monday, January 21st, to the Consett Iron Co., Ltd., Blackhill, Co. Durham, who do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any Tender.

Plans and Specifications may be seen at the General Offices, Blackhill, on application to the Company's Architect. 298q

Wanted.

WANTED, a respectable Lad as APPRENTICE to the Printing Business.—Apply at *Guardian* Office, on Saturday, between 11 and 3 o'clock. 334q

SERVANTS requiring Situations or Ladies in want of Servants, apply at COCKBURN'S S.R.O., 13, Front Street, Consett. 330q

SITUATION wanted as HOUSEKEEPER by a middle-aged, trustworthy person. Good references. Apply to "D," *Guardian* Office. 316q

WANTED, at once, a good GENERAL SERVANT.—Apply, Mrs BREARS, National School, Leadgate. 296q

AGENTS WANTED to push first-class Machinery Oils; liberal commission.—Box 31, Post Office, Liverpool. 265q

WANTED, by the West Stanley Co-operative Society, Ltd., TWO APPRENTICES to the BUTCHERING, not to be under 14 years of age. Wage to commence, 7s per week.—To apply to the Committee on Monday Evening, January 21st, 1895, at 7-30 o'clock. Confined to Members.

THOS. W. W. RITSON,
306q Secretary.

TO DAIRYMEN AND FARM MANAGERS.

WANTED, by the Consett Co-operative Society, a MAN and WIFE to manage their No. 1 and Bunker Hill Farms. Written applications only received, stating ages of Man and Wife, number and ages of Family, wage expected; also, particulars of past experience and present employment, and copies of recent Testimonials and References as to character and ability. All applications to be delivered at the Society's Office, Market Street, Consett, on or before the 23rd inst. 318q

LANCHESTER UNION.

ASSISTANT NURSE.

THE Guardians of the Poor of the Lanchester Union require the services of an ASSISTANT FEMALE NURSE for the Infirmary at Lanchester Workhouse.

Applicants must have had at least two years' experience.

Salary, £20 per annum, with rations and residence.

Applications in own handwriting, with three testimonials, to be sent to me on or before the 12th day of February.

WM. H. RITSON,
Clerk to Guardians.
Lanchester, January 17th, 1895. 326q

AGENCY.—For good GENERAL SERVANTS apply at the SERVANTS' REGISTRY OFFICE, 13, Front Street, Consett. 29k

COLLIERY OFFICIALS and MINERS of all ranks and ages. Lessons by Post. The surest road to promotion. Send Penny Stamp for Syllabus. —T. A. SOUTHERN, M.E., late H.M. Inspector of Mines, the Universal Mining School, Derby. 184m

To Let.

TO LET, a FIVE-ROOMED HOUSE, situate in Ritson's Road.—Apply to Mr EGGLESTONE, 27, St. Cuthbert's Terrace, Blackhill. 329q

LOCK-UP SHOP TO LET, in Victoria Street, Consett.—Apply JOHN CRAWFORD, Auctioneer, Consett. 289q

TO LET, a SIX ROOMED HOUSE, No. 9, West View, Ritson's Road, Blackhill.—For particulars apply at 49, Cutlers' Hall Road. 206q

TO LET.—A Good HOUSE and SHOP, with cellar, situated in Derwent Street, Blackhill, and next door to Mr D. Gradon, Jeweller.—For particulars, apply to S. GRADON, Builder, Blackhill.

BUSINESS PREMISES TO LET.—Suitable for Joiner, Blacksmith, and Aerated Water Manufacturer. Good position and every convenience.—Terms, etc., apply THOMAS WESTON, Annfield Place, Annfield Plain, R.S.O. 319q

TO LET, TWO ROOMS on the Ground Floor of the Consett Local Board Offices.

Further particulars may be had, and the rooms may be seen, on application to the undersigned, or to Mr. Rippon, Palmerston Street.

Offers must be in writing and sent to the Consett Urban District Council, not later than 5th February next.

By order,
THOMAS W. WELFORD,
Parliament Street, Consett. Clerk.

For Sale.

FOR SALE, a STOVE, with Fittings; and a BRADBURY SEWING MACHINE.—Apply to JOHN MEWES, 29, Durham Road, Blackhill. 256q

COAL BORING MACHINES and PARTS FOR SALE. F. WELCH and Co., Annfield Plain and Stanley. 961p.

TO BE SOLD or LET, entry February 11th, DWELLING-HOUSE containing Seven Rooms, four of which have Bay Windows, situated in West View, Blackhill.—Apply to RICHARD MURRAY, Royal Hotel, Blackhill. 305q

UNREDEEMED PLEDGES.

HAND-QUILTED QUILTS FOR SALE, unsoiled, equal to new; Men's, Women's, and Children's CLOTHING at HEPTON'S, Old-established Pawnbrokers, Blackhill. Money Lent. 808p

FOR SALE, 1,000 Stable Sheets; Assortment of Waterproof Gig Aprons; White and Black Cart Covers; White and Black Loin Covers; Hay Twine, from 4d per lb.; Cart Harness; Gig and Spring Cart Harness; Large Assortment of Lamps; 50 Casks Petroleum Oil, 5½d. gallon, cask free to clear.—Apply THOMAS OWEN, Wholesale Saddler, Side, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 814p

BRICKS and DRAINAGE PIPES at DEARNESS BRICK and TILE WORKS, WATER HOUSES. 269k

JUDSON'S ENAMEL, all Colours, 6d per tin, —ROBERT JACKSON, *Guardian* Office, and 21, Newmarket Street, Consett. 427

TO INNKEEPERS, WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS, &c.—SPIRIT STOCK RECEIPT and DELIVERY BOOKS, with portions of the Act of Parliament affecting the same. Price 1s, or 1s 1d, post free from ROBERT JACKSON, Printer, Bookseller, and Wholesale Stationer *Guardian* Office, and 21, Newmarket Street, Consett.

TROTTING.—BAY FILLY, with black points, 2½ years. Sire, "Young Le Bon"; Dam, Mr Daglish's famous Trotting Pony, "Lily." COLLIES.—Red Sable BITCH; Sire, "Edgbaston Marvel," by "Barwell Lorna," winner v.h.c. Newcastle, reserve Durham, 2nd Castleside. The bluest blood you can buy. Her Sire sold for £500, and a litter brother for £300.—Further particulars, apply JOHN BELL, Crawley Hall, Stanhope, via Darlington. 308q

Business Announcements

FLORAL STUDIES, for Painting from, LET OUT ON HIRE, 3d per Week.—*Guardian* Office, Consett. 284a

BASIC SLAG.

THOMAS' PHOSPHATE POWDER, also ALBERT'S BASIC PHOSPHATE POWDER for Clovers, Meadows, Pastures. SOLE WHOLESALE AGENTS for Messrs Albert for our Northern Counties of England and Scottish Borders:—

LANGDALE BROTHERS,
46, Cloth Market, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Drills or sowing on Hire or for Sale. 893o

NEWBURN HILL SAND AND GRAVEL CO.
NEWBURN-ON-TYNE.

TO BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS.—BUILDING SAND FOR SALE of superior quality, entirely free from salt, either sharp or fine. Also, GRAVEL of various sizes for Concrete and Cementing purposes.—All Orders will have prompt attention.—Apply Offices, Newburn-on-Tyne.

IMPORTANT NOTICE to all who suffer from Weak or Inflamed Eyes, Impaired Vision, Specks, or Cataracts—Use Jeffrey's Patented Drops, Bottles, 2s 6d, carriage paid. A cure will soon be effected Thousands can testify to this It is unequalled and perfectly harmless JEFFREY, Castleside, by Blackhill. Sold by all Chemists and Patent Medicine Dealers. 384o

DENTISTRY.

J. M. VAN GELDEREN AND SON,
SURGEON DENTISTS,
17, ELDON SQUARE,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

JAMES PALLISER,
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TEA MERCHANT.
47 and 48, PARK ROAD, BLACKHILL.
For GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS, J.P.'s
Best Crystal Sugar 14lb.
Best Loaf Sugar 2dlb.
Prices and Quality are not to be surpassed.
J.P.'s TEAS at 1s 4d & 2s per lb., are specialities
PLEASE GIVE ONE TRIAL. 980p

WM. F. SMITH,
25, SHERBURN TERRACE CONSETT,
Begs to inform the Public generally that he has commenced business as
JOINER AND UNDERTAKER,
at the above Address.
All Orders promptly attended to. Estimates given.

MUSICAL TUITION.

MR. J. W. PEELE,
SOLO VIOLIN, &c.,
Visits Consett and District Weekly to give Lessons on the Violin.
May be engaged for Concerts, &c.
For Terms apply
123, JAMES STREET, BLAYDON-ON-TYNE.

MUSICAL TUITION.

GEORGE DRYDEN, A.L.C.M., SILVER MEDALLIST (Organist of Medomsley Church), gives LESSONS on the ORGAN, PIANOFORTE, HARMONIUM, and THEORY OF MUSIC.

G.D. devotes particular attention to the Preparation of Candidates for Examinations, his Pupils having gained over 50 Certificates, including THE SILVER MEDALLIST for 1890; also FIRST, SECOND, and THIRD-CLASS HONOURS IN EVERY GRADE.

TERMS ON APPLICATION.

ADDRESS:—No. 40, Sherburn Terrace, CONSETT

MR. JOHN USHER,
LATE
MR. GEO. RICHARDSON, DENTAL SURGEON, 6, BLACKETT STREET,
£1 TO £10
begs to call special attention to the Prices of his PRIZE MEDAL ARTIFICIAL TEETH, for first-class workmanship and best material, 2s 6d, 5s, 7s 6d per Tooth, £1 to £10 per Set, being lower than what is usually charged for inferior workmanship and common material. EVERY TOOTH GUARANTEED. PLEASE NOTE THE ONLY ADDRESS. 724b

Established 1833.

WILLIAM POTTS & SONS, CLOCK AND WATCH MANUFACTURERS, OF LEEDS.
Beg to announce that they have OPENED a BRANCH of their Business at 22, COLLINGWOOD STREET, NEWCASTLE-on-TYNE.
Now making the Great Clock and Electric Greenwich Time Signal for St. Nicholas' Cathedral. 62p

UNION BRICK WORKS, BIRTLEY, Co. DURHAM.

MANUFACTURERS of ORDINARY RED BRICKS, BULL NOSE, COPING, and SPECIALS of various Descriptions. For Prices apply to
TODD, BIRLESON, AND CO.,
UNION BRICK WORKS, BIRTLEY,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

THOMAS W. PESCOD,
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,
DEALER IN CHINA, EARTHENWARE AND GLASS.

LOCAL AGENTS FOR
COOPER'S
SAUSAGES, PORK PIES, WHITE PUDDINGS, AND BLACK PUDDINGS.

W. Moffitt, Cross Lane, Stanley; J. Hope, Craghead; C. F. Cooke, Annfield Plain; P. H. Kirkup, Stanley; A. Mallams, High Stanley; Walter Willson; Stanley; John Gilder, Chester-le-Street; Mrs Rutherford, Catchgate; John Watson, Hobson Colliery; Robert Wright, South Moor; W. Collins, Old South Moyr; Mr Weston, East Pontop; W. Rainbow, Shield Row; Thos. Davidson, Burnopfield; A. Cooper, Consett; J. Coltman, Dipton; J. Aitken, Dipton; Alex. Cumberledge, Stanley, John Chaytor, Stanley; Turnbull Bros., Leazes and Lintz Colliery; Forster Russell, Annfield Plain. More Agents required.—Apply,
COOPER, Pork Butcher and Pig Dealer, SOUTH MOOR. 478o

Business Announcements.

SEND TO THE POST OFFICE

AND get an Order for One Pound, made Payable to WILLIAM STEWART AND SON, and you will receive in return, Carriage Paid to any Railway Station or Carrier, 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,
33, GRAINGER STREET, AND SCOTSWOOD ROAD, NEWCASTLE; 3, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD & CORNER OF FREDERICK ROAD, HIGH STREET, SUNDERLAND.

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

LOOK TO YOUR TEETH

FOR HEALTH AND APPEARANCE.
FOR EATING AND SPEAKING.
THE BEST QUALITY AT THE LOWEST PRICE.
FIXED TO THE MOUTH WITHOUT PAIN.
COMFORT AND FIT GUARANTEED.

THE NORTH-EASTERN DENTAL CO.,
CONSETT BRANCH.
ATTENDANCE EVERY SATURDAY FROM 3 TO 5 P.M.
MR. COCKBURN'S, STATIONER, 13 AND 14, FRONT STREET.
(SIDE DOOR).

SHOTLEY BRIDGE,
AUTMMN, 1894.

GEORGE RICHARDSON & SON,

Beg to announce the arrival of NEW GOODS in all Departments, for Autumn and Winter Trade, including Latest Styles in Mantles, Capes, Jackets, and Waterproofs.
The Dress Department includes Newest Shades in Serges, Habit Cloths, Tweeds, &c. Specia Serge and Tweed Dresses complete, to order, at 26s.
Extensive Varieties in Scotch and West Tweed and Serge Suitings, and Overcoatings. Good fit and style guaranteed.
Special Value in Flannels, Flanelettes, and Wool Shirtings.
New Stock of Summer Finished Blankets at the lowest Prices on record.
The Millinery and Fancy Departments are replete with latest shapes and novelties for the Season.
Tailors, Dressmakers, and Milliners kept on the Establishment.
INSPECTION CORDIALLY INVITED.

JOHN HUME & SON,
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,
CORN MERCHANT S BREAD BAKERS, AND CONFECTIONERS.

TRY THEIR NEW PREPARATION
AVOLINA
FOR PUDDINGS, CUSTARDS BLANC MANGES, SCONES, CAKES, PORRIDGE, &c
ALL KINDS OF FEEDING STUFFS AT THE VERY LOWEST PRICES AND THE BEST QUALITY.
FRESH BREAD AND CONFECTIONERY DAILY.
OUSEBURN MILLS
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

S. A. FAIRLESS,
PLAIN AND FANCY BREAD BAKER AND CONFECTIONER
Committees of School Boards, Bands of Hope, Clubs, etc., should call for Estimates when arranging for Teas, Pic-Nics, Garden Parties, or Suppers.
BALLS SPECIALLY CATERED FOR. TENNIS PARTIES SUPPLIED.
FUNERALS SUPPLIED ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE.
Every Description of Plain and Ornamental Cakes. Brides' Cake, from 2s. 6d. made to order.
Try our Noted PIES, 2d. each. BOILERS, URNS, AND WARE ON HIRE.
NOTE THE ADDRESS:—
S. A. FAIRLESS, WEST DURHAM BAKERY, SPEN, LINTZ GREEN.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH.

S. H. HORSEY,
24, NUN STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
(THREE DOORS FROM GRAINGER STREET).

ATTENDANCE AT
CONSETT every Saturday, at Mr BROWN'S, 8, Newmarket Street, 1 till 5.
STANLEY every Monday, at Mr THOMAS ARMSTRONG'S, Front Street, 1 till 5.

The Best English and American ARTIFICIAL TEETH at moderate prices.
TEETH EXTRACTED BY A PAINLESS SYSTEM, 1s.

Train Fare allowed to all Patients requiring Artificial Teeth, at Newcastle (by appointment).
All operations will be painless, guaranteed, and any case not giving entire satisfaction will be immediately corrected, or an ENTIRE SET MADE FREE OF CHARGE. 132p

ESTABLISHED 1817.

GEORGE HOBSON,
MILLER, CORN MERCHANT, SEEDSMAN, &c.
HARPERLEY AND CATCHGATE STEAM AND WATER CORN MILLS,

NOTED
FOR THE BEST AND CLEANEST HORSE FEED.
WHOLE OATS, CRUSHED OATS, SPLIT BEANS, PEAS, AND MAIZE, MIXED WITH OATS AS REQUIRED, OR SOLD SEPARATE. ALL THOROUGHLY CLEANED BY NEW & IMPROVED MACHINERY.
G. H. KEEPS A LARGE STOCK OF FLOUR, ALL THE LEADING BRANDS OF FINES, SUPERFINES, EXTRA SUPERFINES AND HUNGARIAN.
TRY G. H'S PURE WHITE WHEAT MEAL, MANUFACTURED BY HIMSELF, AND CANNOT BE SURPASSED.
LINSEED AND COTTON CAKES, BEST QUALITY, WHOLE AND BROKEN, FINEST LINSEED, &c.
Boxings, Sharps, Bran, and all Kinds of Feeding Stuffs at the Lowest Market Prices.
G. H'S CALF MEAL IS NOW WELL KNOWN—REARS CALVES WITHOUT MILK.
Dealer in Agricultural Implements of all kinds, including the Special Mower and Reaper. Sole Agent of the North for the McCormick Self-Binding Reapers and Steel Mowers, the Bullard Tedder, Tiger Horse Rake, &c. The best and lightest Draught Machines in the Market. Broadcast Hand Seed Sowers, &c.
DEALER IN HAY, STRAW, AND MOSS LITTER.
NOTE THE ADDRESS:
GEORGE HOBSON, HARPERLEY MILLS, TANTOBIE, R.S.O., Co. DURHAM.

Business Announcements.

W. T. SMITH,
AMERICAN DENTAL SURGEON,
OF 19, ELDON SQUARE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE

RESPECTFULLY begs to inform the inhabitants of Consett, Stanley, and surrounding District that he visits as usual as MRS. JONES', 10, Mount Pleasant, Consett, every MONDAY, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and at MRS. SMITH'S, 48, Long Row, Stanley, every FRIDAY from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH

Made with all the Latest Improvements, at the Lowest Possible Price that Good Teeth can be made for with the Best Materials. Old Sets Re-made and Repaired on his own system, guaranteed to be as good and strong as new.

All Teeth Extracted Painlessly by his recent discovery, which is perfectly harmless, thus avoiding the danger of the old system by the use of Cocaine.

W. T. SMITH thoroughly guarantees all his work for 5 years, and a written guarantee will be given when required, and as he has now been practising in Newcastle and District for 15 years, it will be seen that he has a permanent Address at 19, Eldon Square, where he can always be found, as guarantees are of no value from others who have no permanent place, but simply visit the district for a time and leave no address. Train Fare will be allowed to all Patients desiring to come to Newcastle, where they can, at times, consult me personally.

REMEMBER THE ADDRESSES—
MRS. JONES'S, 10, Mount Pleasant, CONSETT, EVERY MONDAY from 11 to 5.
AND AT
MRS. SMITH'S, 48, Long Row, STANLEY, EVERY FRIDAY, from 11 to 5

J. SLATER & W. J. COSTELLOE,
OF NEWCASTLE AND GATESHEAD,
HAVE OPENED A BRANCH SHOP AT COOPER'S BUILDINGS,
WEST STANLEY,
LEND THE MOST MONEY ON
GOLD, SILVER, WATCHES, ALBERTS, GUARDS, RINGS, WEARING APPAREL, &c.
ALWAYS FOR SALE, A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF FORFEITED PLEDGES, CONSISTING OF THE ABOVE. 68q

MUSIC! MUSIC!! MUSIC!!!
THOMAS JONES,
DEALER IN ALL KINDS OF
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS,
Pianos, Organs, Harmoniums, &c., by the best English and Foreign Manufacturers; Newest Designs, and Latest Improvements, at the Lowest Possible Prices. Inspection Invited. Sole Agent for H. Matz and Co.'s Pianos, Berlin, and the Bell American Organs.
The Largest Stock of Music in the District
PUPILS PREPARED FOR THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS.
PIANOS, AMERICAN ORGANS, AND HARMONIUMS TUNED AND REPAIRED.
Note the Address—
MUSIC EMPORIUM, 5, CHURCH STREET, CONSETT,
(New Door to the Post Office). 123q

PRESENTS. PRESENTS.
MARSHALL AND SONS,
NEW TOWN HALL,
CONSETT AND BLACKHILL.
Are again offering Special Bargains in Watches and Jewellery for the present Season. We will again present to all Purchers of a Lady's or Gentleman's Silver Watch during this month, a handsome Gold-ated Guard or Albert.

	£	s	d
Lady's Silver Geneva Watches, from	1	0	0
„ Gold do do	2	10	0
Gent's Silver English Lever Watches (warranted), from	2	10	0
„ Gold do do do	8	8	0

P.S.—Any of the above Watches sent post free to any address, with written guarantee, on receipt of Post Office Order. 894p

PIANOS!!! ORGANS!!
WADDINGTON & SONS, 15, PARK ROAD, CONSETT.

Have received SEVENTEEN GOLD MEDALS and other AWARDS at EXHIBITIONS for the EXCELLENCE and SUPERIORITY of their PIANOS

Being large Manufacturers give the purchaser the BENEFIT of BUYING DIRECT from the producer, THUS SAVING he middleman's PROFIT.

We Hold the Highest TESTIMONIAL in the WORLD, given by the distinguished Pianist SIR CHARLES HALLE, and can give 20,000 references to purchasers of their Instruments.

PIANOS - - From 10s. per Month.
AMERICAN ORGANS From 7s. per Month.
Second-hand Pianos from £10.

Write or send for Price Lists and Designs.
WADDINGTON & SON MANUFACTORY, YORK, & AT PARK ROAD, CONSETT.
Manager, JAS. EMERSON

T. D. DRYDEN & CO.,
GROCERS AND PROVISION MERCHANTS, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS,

Wish to thank their Friends and Patrons for their large support during this last year, and we beg to state that it shall be our privilege to keep our qualities up to the perfection they have attained. We have just cleared from Bond, a few odd lots which we offer at Special Prices.

100 Gallons FINE MATURED SCOTCH WHISKEY, ...	16s. per Gallon.
60 Gallons VERY FINE PALE BRANDY ...	4s. per Bottle; 24s. per Gallon.
115 Gallons FINE VINTAGE-LIKE PORT ... 2s. per Bottle; or from the wood,	10s. per Gallon.
10 Cases SPARKLING MOSELLE.	
10 Cases PEIRIE ET CIE CHAMPAGNE	26s. per Case.
100 Bottles CLARET, 1891	1s. 3d. per Bottle.

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THE WEEK.

THE ARMENIAN ATROCITIES.

At last somebody has come forward to deny the Turkish atrocities in Armenia *in toto*, on the evidence of ocular demonstration. A Spanish gentleman named Ximenez, of whom we have never before heard, and who declares that he was in the Sassun district of Armenia at the time of the alleged outrages, tells us that nothing of the kind took place. Probably he is the same witness mentioned in a letter to the *St. James's Gazette* as "the only European—a scientific gentleman of much experience and ability—who was present in the district of Sassun during the months of August and September, when the alleged atrocities took place, and since that time." On the strength of this solitary testimony we are told that the atrocities are the "most gigantic frauds ever perpetrated on the British public." There was a little fighting between Armenians and Kurds; then the Turks appeared, and called on the Armenians to disperse. They "foolishly" resisted, and lost two hundred men. Five hundred prisoners were taken, but no women were maltreated, and there were no massacres. Señor Ximenez is curiously exact in his details. He knows the number of the dead and of the prisoners. In the course of his scientific studies, he investigated the entire proceedings of the Kurds and Armenians, and of the Turkish troops under Zekhi Pasha. There is a conscientiousness in all this which is most praiseworthy, though we should like to know whether this gentleman verified the facts for himself or took them from Zekhi Pasha. But it is somewhat odd that the Turkish Government, instead of citing Señor Ximenez, is doing all in its power to burke the official inquiry demanded by England, France, and Russia. If the proceedings at Sassun were as trivial as the Spanish man of science tells us, why are Armenians imprisoned wholesale? But we are further expected to believe that the Armenians are all liars together, and that even the consuls, whose reports have certainly inspired the Foreign Offices of three Powers to energetic action, have been grossly hoodwinked. It was distinctly asserted by the *Times* that its evidence of the outrages came not from Armenians alone, but from independent witnesses. We are afraid that just at present we cannot dismiss all the stories as mere fables at the bidding of Señor Ximenez. We remember there were European travellers in Bulgaria in 1876 who declared that the Batak massacre was a fraud, and that no Bulgarian ever spoke the truth. The Turks have always been able to find friends in need to give them an admirable character for tender humanity and unswerving truthfulness. But the world somehow remains sceptical.

JOHN BURNS IN AMERICA.

Mr. John Burns has returned from America much refreshed by his experiences, and in the best humour with himself and the American people. He has told with much relish the true version of the famous "pocket edition of hell" story. First he said that Chicago was "a pocket edition of hell," and on second thoughts he revised the statement, and said that hell was "a pocket edition of Chicago." This he repeated in that city to an audience of three thousand citizens, and they seemed to like it. There is in America a natural appreciation of candour, heightened in Mr. Burns's case by the breezy sincerity which is the chief characteristic of his public utterances. Had a sour British moralist made this *mot* about the "pocket edition" on a Chicago platform, he would probably have excited great indignation. But Mr. Burns has a captivating way of saying these pleasantries, and the American sense of humour was mightily tickled. We are not sure, however, that a future visit by Mr. Burns to the United States will be equally successful. Breezy candour is apt to pall like other good things, and a repetition of Mr. Burns's homilies may not find the American people quite so amiably disposed towards him. They have a rather strongly marked inclination to conduct their own affairs without foreign assistance, and the reappearance of an English guide, philosopher, and friend who tells them over again that their municipal life is corrupt, and their labour organisation lamentable, and that their cities are "pocket editions" of the Inferno, may be far from popular. Mr. Burns, we imagine, has enough to do on this side of the Atlantic. If the American organisation of industry is weak, there is something to be said about the rather extravagant versatility of Labour leaders in this country. The Socialists in the United States are not to Mr. Burns's liking, but if he must instruct somebody in practical politics the Independent Labour party offers ample opportunity for this educational philanthropy. It is pleasant to know, of course, on Mr. Burns's authority that England is far ahead of the American democracy in some essential conditions of political and social welfare; but, as we are not quite perfect in this island, there seems no reason why our reformers should spend their superfluous energies in trying to instruct other nations.

THE BLOOMER COSTUME.

Everyone who knows the work of John Leech will remember his caricatures of the once notorious Bloomer costume. Early in the fifties some ladies in London appeared in a dress consisting of a jacket and trousers, the trousers very full, but drawn tight round the ankles. Leech's pictures shew that the effect was hideous. The original idea was, of course, borrowed from the costume worn by Turkish ladies; but while that is graceful the Bloomer array was inexpressibly ugly. Why the lady who gave her name to this fleeting fantasy did not dress in the Turkish style remains a mystery, the only explanation being that the social condition of Oriental women was repellent to the American reformer. This may not seem strictly logical, but what logic is to be expected in these matters? Mrs. Bloomer has recently died at an advanced age, and the accounts of her career do not disclose a very fervent zeal in that crusade against convention which went by her name. She wore her "Bloomers" for a few years, became weary of her notoriety, and then returned to the uneventful life of petticoats. In the main, she appears to have been a very sensible, charitable woman, who was roused to revolt in the first instance by the absurd multiplicity of skirts which women were expected to wear nearly half a century ago. Of ornament in dress she appears to have had not even an elementary notion. Part of her work was in a post-office, and she found her trousers much more convenient than petticoats in that department of industry. Her "Bloomers" were laughed out of existence mainly because they were grotesque; but we wonder what the excellent lady would have thought of the bicycle costume which is worn by a girl in *Punch* this week. To the masculine eye, at all events, it is charming, and the girl who has donned it is delightful to look upon. The artist has actually contrasted her with a friend in skirts, and any [illegible] must admit that she holds her own in the inevitable competition. What does this portend? *Punch*, which used to laugh at trousers for women in Leech's day, employs its skill to make knickerbockers becoming to a girl's shapely figure. That indicates a remarkable change in opinion since "Bloomers" were the theme of universal ridicule. It may be a sign of decadence, but the bicycle costume for women is not interdicted by public opinion; and when a girl has the figure for it—*when* she has the figure—it supplies just that element of grace of which the worthy Mrs. Bloomer was quite unconscious.

LIVELY PROCEEDINGS AT A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

[By a Correspondent.]

The parish Council I am about to describe is composed of seven members, and the district the Council represents is situated in one of the remote colliery villages of North-West Durham. The names of the Councillors elected by the electors were:—Matthew Tab, Patrick Black, Fred. Cage, miners; John Number, checkweighman; William Ovens, cinder drawer; James Miller, tradesman; and Thomas Boss, colliery viewer. This important body held its first meeting the other night. The results of the poll having been declared by the presiding officer (Mr. Ballot), a general satisfaction was expressed by "the people" in having successfully returned a majority determined to raise the village to one of importance. The usual vote of thanks having been paid to the Presiding Officer by Matthew (now councillor) Tub, the latter gentleman anounced that the elected body would hold its first meting for general business the following night. The little school-house was dismally lighted with tallow candles, whilst one could scarcely see the further end of the room for dust—the old woman having barely finished "cleaning up" when the dignitaries entered. The honoured gentlemen, however, lost no time in placing themselves in position, when Mr. Black said:—"Well men," our first business is I take it to elect a chairman, and as our friend Tub headed the poll, I move that he presides over our meetings." This motion did not meet with the approval of certain of the Councillors, and an animated discussion followed. Eventually it was agreed to ask Mr. Boss to take the chair. Mr. Boss who all this time had been sitting quite unconcernedly thanked them, and pointed out that they had already selected their chairman, in Mr. Greece, the store-keeper. Oh, no, shouted Councillor Number; "he hes nee bisness here; we only gat hun for the parish meeting." Mr. Boss ventured to suggest the necessity of having a disinterested chairman who was not a councillor, although he should possess the necessary qualifications, and named the Parson as a highly qualified and business gentleman. The name of the Clerk in Holy Orders caused as much consternation as might be expected from the throwing of a bomb. "Nowt a tha kind Mr," said one, "tha people ah riprisent a been owr lang parsoned and viewered, and we mean noo ta help oursels." "Hear, hear," rejoined some of the villagers who had come in, "mak corkles roond 'im, Mat, shoo ken de it." Up jumped Mr. Miller and said:—"Gentlemen, it will never do for such scenes as these to get noised abroad. If I may recommend a way out of the difficulty, I would name Mr. Whisky, who has conducted the village pub for a number of years, and is a decent sort of chap, and at the same time I should like to point out how undesirable it is to have these people standing about." Mr. Ovens, instantly caught the idea and said:—"Noo foakes, ye'll aal ha te gan oot, and ye'll understan this in'nt a parish meeting but a Council assembled together to improve the place." This caused a general expression of opinion personal and otherwise, such as "Noo thou's a fine 'un to order ouybody oot! Thoo wadn't eh been in if it hedn't been for us," &c. Finally the room was cleared, and another attempt was made to proceed to business. Two Councillors decided to interview the landlord of the Commercial and returned with that gentleman in a short time. The landlord expressed his gratitude for the honour they had conferred upon him, and insisted upon each Councillor having a special brand cigar and just a toothful of "Glenlivet" from his pocket flask. He went on to say that he trusted they would all do their best for the parish, and carry on the meetings in the same quiet, and friendly manner that they would do at home. Councillor Cage here rose and said:—"Gentlemen, it has been remarked that a bad begining has a good ending, and this appears to be the case with our first meeting. However, all's well that ends well, and as a lot of time had already been wasted, he would at once proceed to put before them a scheme for the general good of the Parish. He had had the matter ventilated amongst a large number of the men and the chapel people and all agreed that our young people especially would be better. (Cries of "Get on with the skeem, man.") He would at once come to the point. What he wanted to propound and see carried into effect was a variegated (he meant corrugated) iron building. It would answer many purposes. There could be a false floor, underneath being from 2ft. gradually sloping to 6ft. deep, and cemented, and when filled with water would answer as a swimming bath during certain months in the year. At other periods the floor could be put over, and by means of partitions the place could be turned into a gymnasium and roller skating rink. In short, tht structure would be a miniature Olympia. Their chapel teas and bazaars could be held on a scale not previously attempted, and, of course, occasional concerts would be given, and the rents would go far to defray the cost of the building." Councillor Boss pointed out that the Parish rateable value was roughly £2,000, and asked what this would bring at the 3d. limit they could go to? Three or four pocket books were produced, and after much figuring and sharpening of pencils had been indulged in, Mr. Miller was appealed to, but he excused himself on the ground that he could'nt see to figure without his glasses. "Niver mind," answered Councillor Number, "it dis'nt matter whether it maks oot £100 or £200, the place 'ill hev to be paid for, but I think we need the gas before we start with 'gymnastics,' and I move that we gan in for the gas tive a man." Councillor Black asked the chairman if Councillor Number was in order. The chairman said he would look up the point when he got home; he thought, however, the two motions should go together, and make a good job when they were on. A vote was then taken, and the motion was carried by a majority of one. Councillor Boss declined to vote; and Councillor Miller thought the subject should be reconsidered. Whilst the Chairman said as the thing had been agreed to it was useless him voting one way or the other. Then followed some loud arguing, one member telling the Chairman he was no use for the job, whereupon that individual said that it was'nt the first time he had "chucked" Councillor ——— (Cries of "Order, order," and someone threw a pocket book, which caught the Chairman's nose and caused it to bleed. He started to mop it with his pocket handkerchief, and sat down. At this junteure Mr. Greece, who not long been informed that the meeting had been called, and a number of villagers entered the room. He told them that the proceeding was a farce, the meeting was informal and illegal, and that he alone was empowered to call the meeting, which required three days notice. Fired with the support of the mob, he waxed enthusiastically eloquent, but he was told to shut up, he'd been sacked. Things were looking rough. Councillor Boss quietly withdrew, and Councillor Whiskey was looking for his hat, which one of the members had converted into a spittoon. The three or four candles succumbed to a shower of well directed boys' caps, and the disorderly scene and scramble for the door that followed can be better imagined than described. Suffice it to say that the meeting will probably never be surpassed, if equalled, and will always be remembered as the most remarkable in the history of this colliery.

A novel, entitled "A Life Laid Bare: A Story of the Day," is now in the hands of the publishers, "Messrs Simpkin, Marshall, and Co." It is written in advocacy of the spirit of Progression in women. It is an attempt on the part of the author to show the inner working of the minds of women, that has of late developed into forward action, in the advance movement of the sex. The love theme pervading the tale, carries with it its general interest, and relieves a carefully thought-out work from any approach to heaviness. It is issued in single 6/- form, though designed for two volumes, and is tastefully bound in an expressly designed cover.

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Correspondence.

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

Correspondents are requested to enclose their names and addresses on a separate slip of paper.

Letters for insertion should reach us not later than Wednesday mornings.

THE PARISH COUNCIL, CONSETT.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—Kindly allow me to enquire if the above Council is liable for compensation in case of accident, caused by the dangerous state of the footpath in Park Road. I think, with many others, that the cleaning of this footpath should have been attended to by our Council in conjunction with the Blackhill Council some days since, seeing that it is so extensively used by the public. The immediate attention of the Council to this matter would be but a graceful acknowledgment in return for the votes which have put the honour of Councillor upon them.—I am, sir, yours &c.,

A Voter.

WALKING ON RAILWAY PATHS.

To the Editor of the "Consett Guardian."

Sir,—I would like to see ventilated through the medium of your paper, a question which is of very great interest to a large number of your readers. It is with regard to travelling on foot on the North-Eastern Railway between the level crossing at Oxhill and Annfield Plain, or rather the junction signal cabin at Annfield Plain. It is confidently asserted by some, that before the railway was made there existed a footpath between these two places, along which the public had a right to pass. Of course, if such was the case, the local authority at that time ought to have looked after another path being constructed in the place of the one taken by the railway, but I think it will be unnecessary to go into that, as for many years local authorities have been, perhaps not actually dead but sleeping. There are a large number of workmen living at Kyo and Annfield Plain, and working at Oxhill and Stanley, to whom the railway path was a great convenience, seeing that it is so much nearer than travelling by the main road. Now although as yet there have been no prosecutions for trespass, several people have been stopped or turned back by the inevitable man in blue. This is a great inconvenience, especially to those who may be in a hurry and have taken to the railway on that account. I am not in favour of people travelling on a railway and I don't think any sensible person is, but I think if the public have a right of way on this part of the N.E.R. our Parish Council ought as soon as possible to take the matter up, and see that a footpath is made which will serve the purpose to the satisfaction of all. After the publication of this letter, should the railway officials think it their duty to prosecute any person found travelling on the railway, I feel sure that, were a subscription made sufficient funds would be raised to properly defend the accused and to make the case a test, for the benefit of the public. Trusting you will insert this in your next issue.

I am, Yours, etc.,

PRO BONO PUBLICO.

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION MEASURES.

To the Editor of the "Consett Guardian."

Sir,—For some time past my reflective faculties have been disturbed by the slow and un[illegible] progress that is made in order to increase know[illegible] amongst co-operators. The educative measures in connection with this movement are in the background, and are too limited, and can never educate the masses. The present methods of investigation and discussion are mostly confined to Committees of management, who attend conferences at different societies within the Co-operative area. The subject matter under consideration rarely ever reaches beyond these circles. The delegates from these conferences merely report to their committees and thus the matter ends. Now in order for a society's members to benefit by these conferences, the report should go before a special members' meeting where all could participate in the conversation. Then some good might result from it.

I don't object to federation amongst Co-operative societies, as certain aims can be accomplished by this process. And as we gather knowledge by experience a contrast of views are highly necessary in all that pertains to Co-operative government. But this system has developed to the detriment of the majority. And all that the members partake of is the regular quarterly meetings of their own Societies. If Co-operation is to conquer all obstacles then members in general will have to awaken from their drowsiness and study the whole workings of their societies. I know many will not trouble themselves to find knowledge, I have conversed with several on this matter and their contention is that members will not on any account attend any special meetings for improvement. Now, I hope better things of this industry and I firmly believe that there never was a time in the world's history when knowledge was so earnestly sought after as to-day. Working men see that education brings them substantial remuneration, paves the way to success. In fact, it is the golden key which unlocks all doors. Then why not go in for home rule conferences, and restrict the present system.

I ask the question frankly, what material benefit has any of our societies derived by taking part in these conferences. Papers are read, talked about for an hour or so, then passed off into oblivion. I know I am laying myself open to keen criticism by these assertions. But I honestly confess that its after due consideration of the matter. There has certainly been some results from this source, but they are exceptional.

Now when we consider the amount of money spent in this direction, we can discern more effective ways whereby knowledge could be increased amongst a society's members. I have often seriously considered the slow progress that is made to educate co-operators. And surely the strength of the grand movement lies in wisdom. How would it do to engage the services of a talented lecturer for say a fortnight's mission once a year. And to allow him to speak in different portions of the district so that members could attend without having to travel long distances. Similar to political campaigns, and to arrange subjects which all members ought to be conversant with. I will name what to my mind would be required to benefit co-operators in general. 1. The duties of a committee of management. And the best methods of electing suitable persons to serve on the committee. 2. Can auditors be deceived by false bookkeeping. And how to avoid it. 3. Should a secretary who is responsible for a society's accounts have access to the money safe. And why not. 4. The constitution of a balance sheet, and how the various results are obtained. 5. The most rational reasons for the propaganda of "Co-operative production." 6. The reasons assigned for all members being loyal to their own societies. 7. The evils arising from a craving for exorbitant dividends. 8. A consistent ground work relative to labour, which includes the wages, hours, and allotments of work in connection with all employees, wage scales, piece work, etc. 9. The evils arising from over lapping. The great need for a maximum dividend. 10. "Share Capital," its use and abuse, and the best, safest, surest, methods of investments. 11. The advantages and disadvantages of having a general manager, or the most advanced stage of management generally. 12. The most efficient manner of carrying on successfully the educative department, viz., library, news room, science and art classes. 13. Why local societies should purchase all requirements at the Co-operative Wholesale Societies. The evil of disloyalty.

Now I have given a new subject for each night and moreover these are important items which all co-operators ought to be acquainted with. And I verily believe that the members would rally round such means of enlightenment. After the speaker was done, free debate could be allowed on the subjects which would arouse and increase the interest. For verily its a truth that gross ignorance prevails amongst the majority of co-operators on the above questions. Co-operation ought to embody intelligence, elevation, recreation, and genuine reform, and it is only fair to spend money in a way which will yield the best results. A fortnight's mission in each year with a change of subjects would prove an advantage to all and the cost would only be a fractional part of what is now paid for deputations. For its astonishing the amount of money which is paid in aid of exhibitions and for other similar purposes.

There is in all societies room for improvement, and we ought to begin at home first. It may suit certain persons to gather knowledge to the exclusion of others, and to seek to keep the majority in blank darkness, and even to obstruct the pathway which leads to light and fame. But their motive is transparent and contains a hide bound acquisitiveness. Self-protection, and personal gain, is a very prominent feature in many co-operators. Especially in those who hold certain offices. In conclusion, I admit that conferences do good to those who get the chance to attend them. And that certain results have been obtained from such. But I contend that they are too limited, and don't achieve the necessary results. I believe in educating the total membership in all that pertains to the co-operative movement, and especially in matters relating to their own society.

Yours &c.

WILLIAM SIMPSON.

Beamish Air Pit.

LORD COLERIDGE AND VIVISECTION.

To the Editor of the "Consett Guardian."

Sir,—In your excellent "Review of the Year" ("Consett Guardian" Jan. 4th) you [illegible] the death of Lord Coleridge. Comparatively [illegible] aware that the late Lord Chief [illegible] was [illegible] active opponent of all forms of cruelty, but [illegible] opposing fashionable crimes, he especially [illegible] vivisection, as being the most [illegible] cowardly, and the most cold-blooded of [illegible] conceivable. Early in life Lord Coleridge gave proof of his humanitarianism; until the end of his life his tendencies were all that way; and his zealous help and sympathy never failed the anti-vivisection, and other anti-cruelty societies.

Vivisection, is frequently asserted, is a "question of evidences." Then at this time there is no one in England whose opinion on this subject will be received with so much respect as Lord Coleridge's. The ensuing excerpt is taken from "The Nineteenth Century Defenders of Vivisection." It is a pamphlet published by the Victoria Street Society for the protection of Animals from Vivisection. In it Lord Coleridge advocates "the strongest law.... absolutely forbidding the practice." I quote:—"I must .... be permitted to say how loose and vague are some of th emotions of evidence which, so far as I know them, pervade the writings of men of science on this question .... No fair man, I think, can fail to be struck with the uncertainty—a different point from inutility—of the conclusions to which vivisection has conducted those who practice it. The conclusions are doubted, are disputed, are contradicted by the vivisectors themselves, so that it really is not experiment to verify or disprove theory, which one well conducted experiment might do, but experiment in vacuo, experiment on the chance, experiment in pursuit of nothing in particular, but of anything that may turn up in the course of a hundred thousand vivisections and during the course of a life devoted to them. This is the experiment for which liberty is claimed and the unfettered pursuit of which we are called very hard names objecting to.

Denying that the pursuit of knowledge is in itself always lawful; still more denying that the gaining of knowledge justifies all means of gaining it, Lord Coleridge's continues:—"Suppose it capable of proof that by putting to death with horrible torture 3,000 horses you could find out the real nature of some feverish symptoms, I should say without the least hesitation that it would be unlawful to torture the 3,000 horses. There is no proportion between the end and the means. Next, the moment you touch man, it is admitted the formula breaks down. No one doubts that to cut up a hundred men and women would enlarge the bounds of knowledge as to the human frame more speedily and far more widely than to torture a thousand dogs or ten thousand cats.... The moment you come to distinguish between animals and man you consent to limit the pursuit of knowledge by considerations, not scientific, but moral; and it is bad logic, and a mere petitio principii to assume (which is the very point at issue) that these considerations avail for man but not for animals."

As you do not give any reference to this important item of Lord Coleridge's distinguished career in your article, perhaps you will do me the honour of publishing this minute. It will, I think, prove both interesting and instructive to your readers who have perused the recent letters on vivisection which you have published; and I hope, too, that it will help on the good cause for which Lord Coleridge did so much when living.

I am, yours faithfully,

JOSEPH COLLINSON.

Front St., Wolsingham, Jan 6th, 1895.

DISAPPEARANCE OF A BUILDING SOCIETY OFFICIAL.

Panic Among the Members.

A Bishop Auckland correspondent states that a great sensation has been caused there by the reported disappearance of the secretary of a building society, which has something like twelve hundred members, and property representing £120,000. As the intelligence spread a great anxiety became manifest on the part of investors, who are situated in a large mining district, and are mostly of the working class. Large demands were made for withdrawals, and a state of affairs amounting to panic soon supervened. A considerable sum of money was paid on demand to small investors, but others were required to give the usual notice. It was at first surmised that, owing to the secretary having left £600 in the safe, the affairs of the society were unaffected by his absence. The audit, however, was proceeded with, and on Tuesday signs of serious discrepancies were forthcoming. The directors held a special meeting with the result that an official report was issued, stating that serious cases of misappropriation, representing close on £1,000, had been discovered, and instructions were given at the meeting for the usual steps to be taken for the arrest of the secretary. He has acted for ten years, and the society holds security for about £4,000 from his relatives. He is reported to have been last seen in London. The audit is not yet concluded.

Sporting Items.

SHOOTING.

Slaley.—On Saturday afternoon, though the weather was of a wintry description, there was a large gathering of sportsmen at the Rose and Crown Inn, Slaley, when the proprietor (Mr Robert Jewitt) held his annual pigeon shooting; giving the sum of £2, with a 3s sweepstake, to be shot for at pigeons; the shooting taking place on the adjoining ground. Conditions:—Handicapped according to merit from 18 to 22 yards rise, instant fall, double-barrelled breech and muzzle loaders allowed use of both barrels. On these terms there were 48 entries, and after a somewhat spirited competition, the pigeons being of good average quality, the sixth round settled the sport by a division of the total amount (£9 4s) amongst the following contestants:—Ridley Forster, Hexham, 22 yards, with two lots; W Glendinning, Traveller's Rest Inn, 19 yards, with two lots; and Messrs John Forster, Hexham, 21 yards; Thos Jewitt, Slaley, and Robert Wilson, Fotherley, 18 yards, with one shot each. A 3s sweep was next shot off, for which there were ten entries, and was won by Messrs R Forster and J Forster, of Hexham, who killed three birds each and divided the prize. Handicapper and referee, Mr John Ridley, Minsteracres; scorer, Mr Wm Dodd, Slaley; trappers, Messrs John Carr and Thomas Walker.

Cycling Notes.

PRUDHOE AND DISTRICT AMATEUR CYCLING CLUB.

The members of the Prudhoe and District Amateur Cycling Club held their fourth annual dinner at their headquarters, Mr Murray's Locomotive Inn, Prudhoe, when about 32 members and friends sat down to a spendid repast, which every one did ample justice to. After the cloths were removed a most enjoyable social was held. Mr R Wardle, vice president of the club, presided, and was supported by the hon. secretary, Mr W Taylor. The chairman, who is a hard working cyclist, complained about the poor attendance at club runs, and hoped that in the season of 1895 they would turn out better than they had done. Mr T Hedley, of the Newcastle Clarence C.C., presided at the piano. Songs were rendered by W Taylor, Hedley, Weatherspoon, E Robson, W Wilde, T Hedley, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

EPPS'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected COCOA, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavoured beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—"Civil Service Gazette."—Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold only in packets, by grocers, labelled—"JAMES EPPS & CO., Limited, Homœopathic Chemists, London."—Also makers of Epps's Cocoaine or Nib-Extract Tea-like. 442p.

CHESTER-LE-STREET AND DISTRICT NOTES.

["By Wearsider."]

The first meeting of that most august body the Chester-le-Street Rural District Council, was held on Thursday, in the Guardians' Room, forty of the forty-one elected members attending. A glance at the composition of the Council, showed that what had been so positively predicted, had not been brought about. We were told before the election that the days of the "viewer" were past, and that the mighty "We" would have the say on the new Boards. As a matter of fact the "viewer" is on the Board in stronger force than ever, backed up by landagents, and other nominees of capitalists, landowners, coalowners, and the like. Another element on the Council is the everlasting checkweighman. Agriculture is not largely represented, numerically; but what it lacks in numbers it is made up in ability, and solid good ability, [illegible] by vast experience. It is not intended here to show the "viewer" element should not be largely represented on the Board. On the contrary the ablest men on the Board belong to this class, and that, those who clamour, will find to their cost. What is meant, is that the result of the elections have falsified all previous prophecies; despised "viewers" in most places, where they contested, heading the poll.

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But to that meeting. The Council to its credit, at once and without any bother, unanimously elected Mr. George Ridley, lately chairman of the Guardians, but defeated at the poll by a set of voters who knew not his value, to the chair. His Worship took the chair amid great applause. Than Mr. Ridley the Council could have no better chairman. Mr. John Hodgson also well merited the honour of being placed in the vice-chair.

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Then followed another "viewer" episode. Some of the members desired an addition to the Council, by appointing some outsiders; others objected, on "principle." A vote was taken and resulted in the "principle" men recording 17, and the appointment people 19 votes. For the two seats there were three nominations. Mr. H. W. Kerrich-Walker, J.P., a most painstaking, regular attending ex-officio Guardian; vice-chairman, and Mr. John Kirkup, the oldest member of the old Board with the exception of Mr. John Crawford who has sat continuously since the formation; Mr. D. W. Robson a member and one of the ablest men on the old Board; but who did not go to the poll. In the end Mr. Kerrich-Walker and Mr. Robson was elected as members; thus adding another inconsistency to the already long list.

The appointment of the various committees was got through in an amicable manner; evidently to the satisfaction of most of those interested. Then the Council sat as the Board of Guardians; and again very wisely endorsed their previous good sense by electing Mr. Ridley to the chair, and Mr. John Hodgson to the vice-chair.

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The appointment of the various committees went all right until it came to the all important matter of the Assessment Committee. During the "electoral campaign" this committee had been especially selected as a fair mark for the shafts of malice hurled so freely, at everything of the olden style. This desperate band of conspirators was to be broken up, shattered, and scattered to the winds, and a new set of men, much better qualified, and of course possessed of a great deal more honour and honesty, put in their places. No more "viewers" on the Assessment Committee; "We" will manage all that, very differently.

* * * * *

Now to what happens? Of the forty-one Councillors, fifteen were members of the old Board, and fourteen of them were present; of the fourteen, five were members of the Assessment Committee. It was suggested, and the suggestion was accepted that the five should again be members, that the Guardians should select other seven to make up the necessary dozen. To this the members addressed themselves; and the outcome of the voting was that six out of the seven elected were members of the old Board: the "new men" only returning one to the Assessment Committee. This was as it ought to have been; but it was a terrible "knock out" blow to the platform promises. Then after an exhausting sitting of nearly five hours the Councillors rested from their labours.

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That frog-and-ox body the Chester-le-Street Parish Council, held its second meeting in the evening of the same day; Mr. H. Henderson, the popular chairman, presiding. A set of standing orders were adopted; but not before there was much talking got through. Then the sapient Councillors went to work with a will—that is to say they set out to talk a great deal about what they intend to do. It was extremely funny to hear the members address each other as "Councillor," and then forget every now and again and drop down to the prosaic and every day "Mister." Like the House of Lords in Iolanthe. The Council had nothing particular to do; and they did it very well. But their intentions! Notices of motions came in from all sides; almost like the time when "it snowed pamphlets." Here are a few of them: one was "an inquiry into all the charities, other than ecclesiastical." Another for "an inquiry into the lighting of the Townships;" and a desire to know whether we should be lighted by rushlights, or the electric light, or anything between these ancient and modern methods of artificial illumination. Another for acquiring all the powers of the Adoptive Acts. Then again "to call attention to the back streets and byeways in Chester-le-Street." Then a most comprehensive notice "to call a ratepayers meeting to consider the whole question." Another for "an inquiry into the state of the ancient footpaths in the Township:" with special reference to Pelton Fell. Then most of all the Mayor in a lengthy speech advocated on application for Urban powers. Still another notice and this for the adoption of the Public Libraries Act. At this stage the chairman very wisely said that if they dealt with all the notices of motion they had enough work for the next fifteen months, without touching anything else. Then the Witenagemote decided to assemble again that night three weeks, in the Guardians' Room, the use of which they are to have on payment of £1 a year.

* * * * *

According to the Workhouse Master, at last Thursday's meeting. Mr. Webbe of the Empire Theatre had invited the children in the House to an afternoon performance at his place of amusement on Saturday afternoon. This awful piece of news partly alarmed Mr. Peter Oswald; and its effect was not altogether lost upon the worthy vice-chairman. Both gentlemen contended that the children should not be allowed to accept the invitation until they (the Guardians) knew the nature and character of the performance. But curiously enough neither of the saintly objectors were willing to become arbitrators of what was, or was not conducive to the morals of workhouse children. But they would send the master, who probably never saw a play or a pantomime in his life, to become chief dramatic critic for the District Council! Major Humble very pithily replied that they, as the Guardians of these poor unfortunate bairns, should try to make their lives as bright and as joyous as they possibly could by providing all the enjoyment possible. He intended going to the theatre to-night, and hoped to enjoy himself, and he did not see why the poor bairns in the Workhouse should not have the same pleasure, and he hoped they would. Mr. Beadsite moved, and almost everybody else seconded, and it was agreed to, that the bairns go to the theatre. They went on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Webbe gave them a capital performance, one to which Mr. Oswald or Mr. Hodgson should not have objected; and Mrs. Webbe gave each of them an orange; the bairns being thoroughly delighted with everything.

* * * * *

The first meeting of the Council did not pass over without its joke. One of the members, a well-known out-and-out teetotaller, in the course of some remarks was describing how he had met somebody "in the Lambton Arms," whereat the members tittered; our teetotal friend however was equal to the occasion, and after a moments hesitation added the word "yard," which was the signal for a somewhat unseemly burst of laughter.

* * * * *

Mr. Webbe continues by putting good pieces on the stage, and by carefully rendering them, to attract good companies to his Empire Theatre.

Mr. J. G. Graves, of Sheffield, has sent me one of his two guinea silver watches. The watch is of noble proportions without being clumsy; and of elegant design, without being at all "flashy." It is highly finished, and, above all, possesses the first quality in a watch, it is a most excellent timekeeper. Just the sort of watch of which any man might be proud; and which maintains the reputation acquired for, and by Mr. Graves' productions.

An interesting ceremony will take place at Chester-le-Street, at an early date, not yet fixed. Mr. Chas. Hilton Joliffe, Goldicote, Worcester, is, besides being the Lord of the Manor of Chester Deanery, an extensive landowner in Durham County, and also in Cumberland. His chief agent is Mr. John Lyon R.N., and a few weeks ago that gentleman was the recipient of a handsome present from Mr. Joliffe, to commemorate the twenty-fifth year of his stewardship of the estates. That Mr. Joliffe's Durham tenantry have resolved to show their appreciation of their landlord's agent, by supplementing his gift, and a committee has been formed to give effect to this resolution. Mr. John Thompson, Mr. Joliffe's local agent, and Mr. Chas. R. Harvey are the joint hon. secretaries; and the affair promises to be quite as successful, as it is sure to be interesting. Mr. Lyon is one of the most genial, and hospitable of agents, and is a general favourite with the tenantry. It is understood that the Cumberland tenantry have a similar project inhand.

LETTER FROM REV. A. R. STEGGALL.

C. M. S. Station,
Mahoo, Taveta,
East Africa,
Nov. 30th, 1894.

Dear ——, I have very little time in which to write, but [illegible] what I can, the "latter rains" have begun, [illegible] is reviving, and a great deal of [illegible] has been done this week. We ourselves [illegible] about two acres and a half of maize [illegible] which we had got ready before the rains began. The banana plantations also are doing well. We counted 449 bunches hanging in various stages of development two days ago. The new irrigation canal is also getting towards completion, the water is now only about eighteen hours' distant and practically within reach of us to save our maize if the rains should suddenly cease.

You will be pleased to hear that the women's and men's classes which were started last month have been advancing in usefulness. There are now twelve women (all married) and six men who have joined the classes.

We have had two visitors this week, one is Mr. G. B. Niblock, the American naturalist who passed through Taveta in May, and is now returning to the coast, broken down, having been dangerously ill for two months in Chagga. The other is a Mr. Paisler of the Leipsig Mission Society, he was 19 years in India, but came to open up Mission work on Kilimanjaro. He is now returning to his former post. Both gentlemen left for Mombasa yesterday. I think Yohana has quite given up hopes of obtaining Ndewuliso, and getting her down from Chagga. Circumstances are against him, but he appears to take it all quite philosophically, as all Africans would, and before you can answer this letter may have made an engagement with someone else, so don't write to commiserate him. I think it may prove quite as well that he should have somebody else, not because there is anything against little Ndewuliso herself, but because her people might become a trouble to us. Lamp chimneys are a most urgent need, as our big lamp is now dependent upon the one in use, and the smaller lamp has only one to spare. Please send me half-a-dozen of each.

December 3. Mail is due in to morrow. November has been uneventful so I have not much to tell you. We have had showers about once a week, not enough for our crops unassisted by irrigation. The new canal is now completed, though we have had very hard work for about seventy hours, and a good deal of unforeseen trouble through the ground sometimes giving way, and the water finding its way into underground passages and holes. Its length is about two and a half miles. Last week the locusts appeared again. They were full grown and flying, and we kept them on the move, so they did little damage. In fact they did not seem to eat anything, and I remarked that I believed they were depositing their eggs. Two or three days after they were gone there appeared a large number of small black caterpillars. No other insect having been seen about in swarms it seems fair to conclude that the locusts are responsible for the caterpillars. We notice too that where the locusts settled undisturbed there are most caterpillars, and as far as we can see where the locusts did not settle there are none. These caterpillars are voraciously devouring our maize, now standing a foot high, but we are glad to notice that water does not agree with them, and as the rain is drenching everything as I write I hope it may destroy the whole brood. There was a big scare in Mahoo, on November 22nd. It was about eight o'clock in the morning, and we were all out digging the canal. I was about a mile up filling in some of the above mentioned holes, but most of the boys were working quite near our houses. Suddenly two little girls came running in from the plains crying piteously and saying that two others who were with them gathering fodder for the cattle at home had been seized and carried off by some Wakamba men (the Wakamba tribe live about a hundred miles north of us, and are not above kidnapping.) The two lost girls were of our scholars, one being from Yohana's village, named Nanka. Mr. McGregor and all the bigger boys rushed into the houses, and laid hold of every available weapon. Filipo ran to tell me, and I returned homewards, making plans on the way, how, and where to waylay the robbers on their way back to their own country. But just as I reached home I was met by the news that the alarm was false. The four girls were gathering grass which is long just now, when suddenly a number of Taita men rose up near them who had been crawling about on their hands and knees gathering locusts for food. Each girl ran her own way, and the two who reached home first of course reported that the others had been caught. I think they deserved a good whipping for the trouble they caused by giving way to their vivid imaginations.

December 5. Mail arrived yesterday bringing yours and my father's letters. The sad death of Mrs. N. neither Yohana nor I seem as yet able to realise. Yohana has gone up to Chagga to-day intending to return next week. It is Christmas holidays for the boys rather an odd time, but we want to have them all back here for Christmas to send the Chagga boys off three weeks beforehand. The Taveta, and Masai boys stay here, but have no work to do for a week.

December 12. A great misfortune! We have broken the last chimney of our big school lamp, and must now be in the dark for several months. The last of my table lamp chimneys is also in use, and may break at any time. I am glad to hear how well the Church Fund is getting on, and hope there may be no debt remaining by the time this reaches home. All are well here I am thankful to say, and I have had no attack of fever since the first of October. I count on this reaching Consett about January 12th, for which day kindest love and best wishes. Having been writing incessantly for four hours I am going to bed.

Love to all,

From your sleepy son,

ALBERT R. STEGGALL.

DEATH OF A DURHAM COLLIERY PROPRIETOR.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Thomas Wood, of Coxhoe Hall Durham. Deceased, who had reached the advanced age of 93 years, has lately resided at his south-country residence, Barrow Hedges, Carshalton, Surrey. He was the youngest son of Mr. John Wood. At the age of 27 years he married a daughter of Mr. G. Livingstone, who pre-deceased him in 1834. Deceased was a J.P. and a Deputy-Lieutenant for the county of Durham.

CRICKET AT THE CAPE.

A Chester-le-Street man distinguishes himself.—While Englishmen generally are following with the keenest interest and the most genuine pride the doings of Stoddert's men in Australia, rejoicing at their great and glorious victories as well as the individual prowess of their captain, who, by the way, is a native of South Shields, and therefore a Durham man, cricket lovers in "Chester" have also a more than passing interest in "Cricket at the Cape," seeing that James Middleton, who will be remembered as one of the successes of the South Africans' tour in the summer, and who is a native of Chester-le-street, and a member of the well-known cricketing family still identified with it, is worthily upholding his reputation there. The "Cape Times" gives particulars of a match played between Western Province and Cape Town, the two best clubs in the colony. Both teams were strong, the former in batting and the other in bowling. Davidson, the well-known Derbyshire "pro." was the highest scorer for the Province with 42, but the bowling of Mills, Middleton, and Rowe was too good, the innings closed for 104. All these bowlers will be remembered as being in England last summer. Towards the Cape Town innings of 161 Middleton contributed 25, an innings highly spoken of. In another big match, "Mother Country v. Colonies," Middleton played for the former, and was again on the winning side, and helped materially to gain the victory by taking five wickets for 35 runs.

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CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

MONDAY.—Jan. 14th.—Before Coun. Jas. Annandale, (chairman), J. W. Walton-Wilson, Esq., W. B. Van Haansbergen, Esq., F. Priestman, Esq., J. T. Potts, Esq., and E. W. E. Balleny, Esq.,

Drunkenness.

John Wilkinson, Blackhill, was charged by P.C. Ward, with being drunk and creating a disturbance, on the 24th Dec.—Fined 5/- and costs.

William Tweedy, Iveston, was charged by P.C. Dixon, with a similar offence. Defendant pleaded not guilty.—The officer deposed that on the 2nd Jan., about half-past six, he was on duty in Iveston, and saw Tweedy drunk. He had been fighting, and could hardly stand.—Defendant: Where did you see me drunk.—P.C. Dixon: In front of Clark's public house. He was in another part of the village during the time defendant was fighting. He did not remember anything about what a man named Ross said in his (the officer's) house. Tweedy was turned out of Mr. Thirlwell's house at Leadgate for being drunk and disorderly. He (Dixon) did not say that defendant had been "chucked out" of three or four houses.—Sergt. Nicholson stated that a messenger came to his house on the night in question for him to go to Iveston, as a man had got his head cut. It was about eight o'clock. He did not know who came, but it was a young man. When P.C. Crabb and himself got there they saw defendant who was in his own house drunk. The doctor (Dr. Graham, Leadgate,) landed just as they got there.—By Tweedy: He saw the cut on his nose, but did not notice any others.—P.C. Crabbe spoke to accompanying the previous witness to Iveston, where they saw defendant, who was very drunk and abusive.—By the Chairman: He was not drinking in his own house.—By Mr. Walton Wilson: He saw Tweedy's wounds.—Defendant affirmed that Joseph Wall and William Gray assaulted him in Clark's public house, and also outside.—The Chairman said there was no doubt that defendant was drunk, but as he appeared to have been badly used they would dismiss the case.

William Gray, Iveston, pleaded guilty to being drunk at the same time and place.—P.C. Dixon proved the case, and mentioned that this was the man the defendant in the last case accused of assaulting him.—Fined 5/- and costs.

John Law, Iveston, was accused by P.C. Dixon of a similar offence, at the same time and place.—The officer said this man had a knife out, but he did not use it.—Fined 5/- and costs.

Samuel Curley, Iveston, was proceeded against for a like offence.—P. C. Dixon said on the same day, about half-past eight, he saw defendant drunk. This case was also connected with the previous ones. All the defendants had been drinking in Clark's public house.—Defendant declared that he was not fighting.—Fined 5/- and costs.—Defendant applied for fourteen days to pay the money in which was allowed.

James McMaskie was similarly charged.—P.C. Dixon deposed to seeing defendant drunk at the Ship Inn, Blackhall Mill. He threatened to break in the door of the public house.—McNaskie who did not appear was fined 10/- and costs.

John O'Neil, Leadgate, was charged with a like offence.—Sergt. Nicholson deposed that on the 30th. of last month he saw defendant drunk and wanting to fight. O'Neil had not worked for some time, and would not work.—Fined 5/- and costs.—Defendant's mother appeared, and applied for seven days in which to pay, the application was granted.

James Snowden, Medomsley, was accused by P.C. Crabbe of being drunk on Dec. 28th.—The officer spoke to seeing Snowdon drunk in Watling Street, Leadgate, at ten minutes after eleven on the night in question. He wanted to fight.—Fined 5/. and costs.

Acting as Policeman.

John McGrachan, Leadgate, was also accused of being drunk and disorderly.—P.C. Crabbe said on Saturday night, Dec. 29th., he saw McGrachan who was drunk. Defendant had hold of another man by the collar, and was "acting as policeman." He afterwards wanted to fight.—Fined 5/ and costs.

Starting the Year Badly.

Hannah Sayers, Blackhill, was charged with being drunk.—Sergt Tones attested that on the 2nd of Jan, he saw Sayers in a drunken condition. She was trying to dance on the flags, but could not, as she was so drunk. There was a lot of people watching her.—Defendant admitted that she had had a "sup of drink," but she had her senses.—The Chairman said Sayers had been there several times last year, and had started the present year badly. They had generally let her off with a fine of 2/6 and costs, but she would have to pay 5/- and costs.

Using Obscene Language.

James Ward, Blackhill, was charged with using obscene language, contrary to the bye-laws of the Benfieldside Local Board.—P.C. Ward deposed that on the 24th. Dec. he went to defendant's house to serve a summons on his mother. On leaving he house defendant followed him up the street and called him all the bad words he could think of. He always received this treatment if he went to defendant's house.—Fined 2/6 and costs. Defendant applied for time in which to pay the money, and was allowed seven days. [During the hearing of this case the chairman (Mr. Annandale) retired, being a member of the Board.]

Bound Over.

Thomas Ferguson, Leadgate, was charged with being drunk and creating a breach of the peace in Front Street, Consett, on the 6th. Jan.—P.C. White deposed to seeing White fighting with another man on the date mentioned. Defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined 5/- and costs, and ordered to be bound over in his own recognisances of £5 to keep the peace for three months.

GROOMS "FALL OUT."

A LENIENT SENTENCE.

Thomas Robinson, a groom, in the employment of Mr Faber (Danish Consul), Shotley Park, Shotley Bridge, was accused of a breach of the peace by using threatening language towards Henry Wheeler, also a groom, employed by Mr Priestman, Derwent Lodge, Shotley Bridge, on the 7th January.

Mr T. W. Welford (Consett) appeared for plaintiff, and explained that on the day in question defendant, who was riding a horse, went to complainant's house, and used abusive language to Wheeler and his wife. He then went away, and afterwards came back on foot, and threw stones and snow at complainant's house, and threatened to "knock the face off him." Defendant then went to Mr Priestman's residence and hid himself in the shrubbery, where he was seen by the mill-boy.

Complainant then gave evidence bearing out counsel's opening statement. He added that defendant accused him of stealing a fox. He did not go out, but his wife went out and advised Robinson to go home. He took his horse home, and came back on foot, and threw stones and snow at the door. He then went to his (plaintiff's) stable yard, and hid himself in the shrubbery. He had done nothing to defendant. At one time defendant's brother-in-law had been under him (Wheeler), and he dismissed him.

The Chairman told defendant he could ask the witness any questions if he choose; and Robinson was proceeding to make a long statement to the effect that he had told complainant not to scandalize him as he had been doing to everyone, when the Chairman interposed, and said he could make a statement at a later stage of the case, but as present he must only ask questions.

Defendant: Did I say that I would knock your b—— face off?—Complainant: Yes.

Defendant: I did not. Did I not accuse you of scandalizing my name ever since I came to Shotley Bridge?—No.

Mr Van Haansbergen (to Wheeler): Have you been spreading reports about him?—Complainant: Never, your worship.

Defendant: About a month ago did I not see you in Shotley Bridge with some friends? You were intoxicated, and did you not use scandalous language to me?—No.

A witness named Addison deposed to seeing defendant near Wheeler's house. He heard an angry discussion going on, but he was walking quickly, and did not exactly hear what was said.

By the Bench: He could not say that defendant was intoxicated. He could not tell what language was used on both sides. It did not strike him that one was the aggressor and the other trying to soothe him down. He was walking very quickly, and did not rememb. r very much about it. He thought defendant invited the other man to come to the gate.

William Towns was next called. Witness is very deaf, and a friend accompanied him into the box to interpret the oath to him. After much difficulty in making him understand, witness said he saw defendant in amongst the bushes.

The Chairman said defendant had been in the wrong, and the magistrates suggested that they should make it up in a friendly way. It was a great pity that men living in the same neighbourhood could not agree—especially men in their positions. They made the suggestion that defendant should pay the costs, and agree to live with complainant in a friendly way afterwards.

Defendant seemed inclined to argue the point, when the Chairman told him that if he did not say at once whether he accepted the magistrates' suggestion, the case would have to go on.

Ultimately, Robinson decided to act upon the suggestion of the Bench.

TWO YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS:

THEY DESERVEDLY RECEIVE THE BIRCH ROD.

Two young lads named *Edward Johnson* (12), and *Richard Ellis* (11), Consett, were charged with stealing three handkerchiefs, the property of Bankruptcy Clothing Company, on Christmas Eve.

Ralph Crawford said he was an assistant to the Bankruptcy Clothing Company, Middle Street, Consett. He put out some handkerchiefs on Christmas Eve, and when he took the same in about eleven o'clock he found that three were missing. He identified the handkerchief produced in court as one of the missing ones.

By the Bench: He had the handkerchiefs hanging outside the door. He did not always do this, but it being Christmas Eve he thought they would sell well.

In answer to the Clerk, witness said the handkerchief produced was valued at 1s 3½d, and the three at 1s 0½d.

Mrs Ellis (mother of the boy Ellis) said her son never stole the handkerchiefs. On Christmas Eve the boy brought a handkerchief into the house and said it had been given to him.

Sergt. Minto said from information he received he saw Edward Johnson, and asked him where he got the handkerchief he had offered for sale. He replied, "I've sold mine at Blackhill." Witness asked if he could find the house, and he said "Yes, I'll take you to the house." He took witness to 22, Rose Mount, but the people denied ever buying anything off Johnson. He brought defendant to the police station, when the latter said, "I will tell you the truth; the handkerchief I got off Ellis is at home." He went to his home, and Johnson's mother said he brought it in on the Christmas Eve, and it was in a desk-bed, and produced it. He then brought Johnson back, and charged Ellis and Johnson jointly with stealing the handkerchiefs. Johnson replied, "Ellis took them off the nail, and gave me one, and he got two." Ellis answered, "I'll tell you the truth, and take you to where I sold mine at Blackhill." He went down to Blackhill with defendant, but the people denied ever buying the handkerchief off Ellis.

In answer to the Clerk, Mrs Ellis and Mrs Johnson said they desired to have the case tried by the magistrates, and not sent to the Assizes.

Defendants pleaded guilty.

Sergt. Minto, re-called, said, in answer to the Bench, that the handkerchiefs were stolen on the 24th Dec., and it was the 2nd Jan. when he went down to Blackhill. Although this woman (Johnson) had the handkerchief all that time she never brought it to the police station.

The Chairman said it was a disgraceful thing that this woman should have the handkerchief in the desk-bed all the time, and never say anything about it.

The Bench ordered the defendants to receive six strokes each with the birch rod, and said they would certainly have given Ellis more only he was too old enough.

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY.

William Richardson, Consett, pleaded guilty to being drunk and disorderly on Jan. 1st.—P.C. Mitchell proved the case, and defendant was fined 5s and costs.

Henry Johnson, Blackhill, was similarly charged.—P.C. Ward deposed that on January 12th he saw defendant drunk and creating a disturbance. He went into Ruddy's public house, and afterwards went to a public-house at Highgate, and made another disturbance.—Fined 5s and costs.

John F. Raine, Blackhill, was also charged with a like offence.—P.C. Wardell gave evidence of seeing Raine drunk and disorderly. He was in Ruddy's public-house, and then went to Highgate.—Defendant admitted being a little bit intoxicated, but said he was not disorderly.—In answer to the Bench the officer said Raine was fighting with the lads who were sledging up and down Blackhill bank. He was trying to take the sledges off them.—P.C. Ward stated that he was in company with P.C. Wardell when defendant was drunk and disorderly. He was wanting to fight the landlord of a public-house at Highgate.—Fined 5s and costs.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS ACT.

Joseph Bell, Blackhill, was charged with neglecting to comply with an order made on him in June last, to contribute 2s per week towards the maintenance of his son, now in the Earl's House Industrial School.—Supt. Benzies deposed that an order was made on defendant to contribute towards the maintenance of his son, which he had failed to do. There was now due £2 9s 6d. A statement of defendant's earnings was handed in.—Defendant's wife appeared, and said her husband sprained his ankle three weeks ago, and had not been able to work since, but he expected to commence that night.—Supt. Benzies said he applied for a distress warrant. The people would not pay—they were very bad payers.—The Bench made an order for defendant to pay 10s per week until the arrears were cleared off.

SLEEPING OUT AT BLACKHILL.

A youth named *William Kirsopp*, son of William Kirsopp, of Cutler's Hall, was brought up and charged with sleeping out at Shotley Bridge on the 14th inst. Defendant pleaded guilty.—Mr McKean, attendance officer for the Benfieldside School Board said he was instructed to take the present proceedings with a view of having the boy sent to an Industrial School. The boy was in the habit of sleeping out at nights in the fields and in boiler fire holes at the Paper Mills, Shotley Bridge. During the past twelve months the boy had been absent from school 99 times out of a possible 117. The boy was only in Standard III. He would not go to school, and he had seen him on the streets playing truant.—The father stated that he could not control his son. He had treated him with kindness, and done everything so as to get him to go to school, but it was no use. He could not even get the boy to come home at nights.—The Bench remanded the boy to Lanchester Workhouse, with a view of having him sent to an Industrial School.

ALLEGED THEFT OF A PRAYER BOOK.

A TRIVIAL CASE.

Mary Kelly, living at Walton's Row, Blackhill, was charged with stealing a prayer-book, the property of John Pollock, Blackhill. Mr McCartan (Consett and Durham) appeared for defendant.

Complainant said he was a puddler, living at 11, West Row, Blackhill. In November he missed a prayer-book, which he identified as the one produced. On the 16th December, in company with Sergeant Tones, he went to defendant's house, 22, Walton's Row, Blackhill, between five and six o'clock. He asked Mary Kelley for his prayer-book, and she admitted taking it, but offered him one which was not his. He told her he must have his own book, or else he would take her before the magistrates. She used a lot of impudence and abuse to him.

Cross-examined by Mr McCartan: The prayer-book had belonged to his wife. He did not use it, his wife and him being of different religions. She gave her mother the money to buy it with. His wife died on the 24th September last year. He was in the house when his wife died, as were also Mary Campbell (her mother), Jane Ann Campbell (sister), and Mary Kelly. Rose Ward was not in the house. Mary Kelly used to do some work in the house while defendant's wife was ill. His wife did not give the prayer-book to Mary Kelly on the day she died. She gave the book to him in the presence of the three persons named above, saying he had the most right to it. He admitted having said to Mary Campbell that he would burn the book before he would give it to Mary Kelly. He had not a strong objection to his wife's religion. Her mother put a cross on his wife's grave, and he took it off. She had no right whatever to put the cross on the grave.

By Mr Walton-Wilson: His wife was a Catholic, and he was a Presbyterian.

John Coyle said he was a puddler, living at West Row, Blackhill. He saw Mary Kelly in complainant's house, and saw her "lift" the book. She took it off a bracket. She said to witness, "Never let on."

By the Bench: She took it openly, and did not put it under her shawl. She left the house, and took the book with her. He informed John Pollock of what had taken place.

By Mr McCartan: The book was not on the mat before the fire. He would swear that.

Catherine Pollock said she was a widow, living with her son at 11, West Row, Blackhill. On Monday, 31st Dec., the Rev Father Kelly came into the house and put the prayer-book on the table, and then left the house.

By the Bench: She believed Father Kelly said, "There's John's book."

Sergt. Tones affirmed that about six o'clock p.m. on the 16th December last he was with John Pollock, and heard him ask Mary Kelly for the prayer-book she had taken. She admitted taking it, and handed him a book which he said was not his own. Pollock said he wanted his own book, or else he would take her before the Magistrates.

By the Bench: Defendant never suggested at any time that the book was given to her by the dying woman. She told her sister to hand the book to complainant. It was a similar book to the one produced.

In answer to the Clerk, defendant said she wished to be tried by the Magistrates, and pleaded not guilty.

Mr McCartan then addressed the Court on behalf of defendant. He remarked that complainant's wife died on the 24th September last. In addition to Pollock and his wife, there was also present Mary Campbell, Mary Ann Campbell, and Mary Kelly. The woman knew she was dying, and also knew that the book was no good to her husband, who was a Presbyterian, so she gave it to Mary Kelly, who was in the habit of doing work for her. Since the death of Mrs Pollock a great deal of bitterness had ensued between complainant and his wife's relatives. There was no doubt a considerable amount of spite—well, he would hardly say spite—but at any rate there were strained relations between them. He would call witnesses who would tell their Worships that complainant's wife said, in their presence, "Mary, I am going to give you my prayer-book," and handed it to her. Defendant afterwards placed the book on a basket, where it remained for a month. She still continued to go into complainant's house, and on this day found the book lying on the mat, and as Pollock had threatened—as he admitted—to burn it, she took it away. She had it five or six weeks before anything was said about it, and it was only after the affair about the cross that the matter was placed in the hands of the police.

Mary Campbell deposed that she was the mother of Mrs Pollock, and bought her the prayer book with her own money. She remembered the day her daughter died. Her other daughter and Mary Kelly and Pollock were in the house at the time. Pollock's wife had the prayer book in her hand, and said, "Mary Kelly, here's my book for you," and told her to read some prayers.

By Mr Walton-Wilson: The deceased thought a lot of the book.

By complainant: She (witness) did not promise to buy Mary Kelly a book in his promise.

Mary Ann Campbell said she was a sister of Pollock's wife, and corroborated the previous witness's statement as to the deceased woman handing the book to Kelly.

By complainant: She admitted going to complainant's house and wanting to settle the case, for fear Kelly should lose her work at the Paper Mill.

The Magistrates thought this had nothing to do with the case.

Rose Ward was next called; but at this point the Chairman said the Bench had come to the conclusion that the woman believed the book was *bona fide* hers, and dismissed the case.

MIRACLE AT A RECTORY.

Strange Occurrence in Suffolk.

Three or four months back we told (says the "Essex Telegraph") the story of the miraculous cure of a young woman of Great Bentley, whose friends had despaired of her life. A second case, which a representative of the "Essex Telegraph" investigated more recently, confirms what was reported on that occasion. A new and wonderfully simple every-day remedy has been found, different and apart from all other medicine, and remarkably efficacious in very diverse diseases. The "Telegraph" reporter called at Brantham Rectory, and saw Mrs. Emily Youngs, who at once confirmed certain rumours of her extraordinary recovery which had provoked the reporter's visit. "Thank God," said she, "I can work and sleep now, and if there are any who suffer as I did, I shall be only too glad to tell them how to get relief."

"In the beginning of 1894," Mrs. Youngs continued, "I was attacked with rheumatic pains in the arm, so severe that it became practically useless. I could not work; I could not sleep; I could not raise my hand to my head, and had to get assistance in dressing. I tried embrocations, but got no relief, and then I had the advantage of careful attention from a skilled doctor, and went to Ipswich for treatment, but came back no better, and feeling quite unable to carry out my housekeeping duties, I made arrangements to relinquish them. Just then I read in one of the local papers of a wonderful cure effected by the aid of Dr. Williams' Pills for Pale People, and resolved to give them a trial. After taking one box I was much better. I bought a second box, and by the time I had got half way through its contents I was quite well. My arm had completely recovered, and I was also feeling better in health generally than I had done for many months. The cure was complete, and I think Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are a splendid medicine. I am able now to work, and to carry out my house-keeping duties with pleasure. There are many poor suffering creatures who ought to know that they can find relief in Dr. Williams' Pink Pills."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are a perfect blood and nerve restorer, and an unfailing cure for rheumatism, sciatica, neuralgia, partial paralysis, locomotor ataxy, St. Vitus' dance, nervous headache, prostration, &c. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills restore pale and sallow complexions to the glow of health, and are specific for all the troubles peculiar to the female sex, while, in the case of men, they effect a radical cure in all cases arising from mental worry, overwork, or excesses of whatever nature.

The Pills are sold by all chemists, or may be had direct from the Dr Williams' Medicine Company, of 46, Holborn-viaduct, London, at 2/9 a box, or six boxes for 13/9. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are never sold loose; the wooden box must be in a pink wrapper bearing the full name, Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People.

DEATH OF MR. HENRY ARMSTRONG, LATE OF TOW LAW.

We regret this week to record the death and funeral of Mr. Henry Armstrong—son of the late Henry Armstrong, of Tow Law—who died at his residence, Ivy House, Cardiff. The deceased gentleman was a native of Tow Law, and his sudden death, after a few hours' illness, came as a great shock, not only to his relations, but to his many friends in Tow Law and neighbourhood, by whom he was much beloved and respected.

His successful career is but another instance of what integrity, push, and dogged perseverance may, and invariably does, accomplish. He commenced work as telegraph boy at the North-Eastern Railway Station, Tow Law. His next appointment was clerk at the Stanners Close Steelworks, Wolsingham, and shortly afterwards, through a recommendation from Sir Jos. Whit. Pease, he entered the Railway Clearance House, London, where his promotion was rapid. We next find him acting as head book-keeper to a large firm of merchants in the city, and it was with regret that his masters parted with him, in order to take the position of head traveller in the southern districts for the old established firm of Messrs Smith and Sons, steel and wire rope manufacturers, Newcastle-on-Tyne. From Newcastle he moved to Cardiff, and opened on his own account the Wales Colliery Supply Stores and Works. This undertaking proved most lucrative. He was also a member of the Wales Institute of Engineers. His musical abilities were of a very high order, and as an amateur vocalist his services were often requisitioned and freely given in the various towns in which he had resided. Many of his old musical friends will well remember his artistic rendering of "The birds will come again," "The Sexton," and his favourite song, "I heard a spirit sing."

The deceased was buried at the new cemetery, Cardiff. Previous to the burial the vicar, Rev. R. J. Ives, celebrated the Holy Communion, the service concluding with the beautiful hymn, "Peace, perfect peace." The burial service was conducted by the Rev. R. R. Needham, and the Rev. R. E. Taglis (brother-in-law). The sad scene was lit up by a faint wintry gleam of sunshine. The massive coffin bore on the top a fine brass cross, and was also hidden with crosses and wreaths of white exotics, the most beautiful of which was a cross given "from his wife and family." The mourners were:—his widow and her three sons, Mr. Henry, Mr. William, and Mr. Archer, Mr. John Armstrong, Canney Hill (cashier, Messrs Bolckow and Vaughan); Mrs. John Hughes, Tow Law; Miss Shaw, Cardiff; and the Rev. R. E. Taglis, Scotland.

The deceased gentleman was 46 years of age and leaves a widow and three sons. Mrs. Armstrong was a Miss Shaw, the eldest daughter of Mr. William Shaw, ironmaster, Middlesbrough.

"The World Went Very Well Then" is the title adopted by Mr. Walter Besant for one of his novels. Many people besides the famous English writer imagine that our vaunted progress is a mistake, and that the world went better before the days of railways and the electric telegraph. Young people nowadays are apt to despise the things which were formerly thought to be good; but, happily, in a few essential things we continue to profit by the experience and advice of our fathers. In sickness we turn gratefully, as they did, to Holloway's Pills and Ointment, knowing that no new-fangled methods can ever take the place of remedies which have stood the test of half-a-century.

"ROUGH ON RATS."—Ask Chemists, Grocers, or Oilmen for "Rough on Rats." It clears out rats, mice, beetles, fleas, bed-bugs, roaches, ants, insects, ground moles, &c. 1s. and 6½d. boxes.

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At 1/4, 1/6, 1/8 and 2/- per lb. Of Leading Grocers.

RYTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The first meeting of the Ryton Urban ... Council was held on Monday night, when M. B. Simpson was elected chairman, and Mr E. Forrest vice-chairman. The cost of the election, it was stated, was £52 12s.—The Medical Officer (Mr P. Brown) reported that the deaths during the past quarter numbered 24, equal to an annual mortality rate of 13.5 per 1,000. The births for that period were 46, or an annual rate of 29 per 1,000.—It was decided to refer the question of the amount to be charged to Blaydon District Council in connection with the water supply to the Water Committee, and it was further agreed that they should meet representatives of the Blaydon Council in a fortnight's time.

THE SEVERE WEATHER IN NORTH-WEST DURHAM.

Heavy Snowstorm.

Temporary Stoppage of the Consett Iron and Steel Works.

Another heavy snowstorm visited North-West Durham on Sunday, and was admittedly the most severe that has been experienced in the district for some years. During the whole of the day there was an exceptionally heavy fall of snow and sleet, which was driven about in all directions by a violent hurricane of wind. In some places snow had accumulated eight feet in height, and several persons, chiefly females, were embedded in high snowdrifts, and were only with difficulty rescued. An official intimation was given on Sunday afternoon to the work-people employed at the Consett Iron and Steel Works not to turn out on that particular night, as usual, to "charge" the furnaces, and get other preliminaries in readiness for the following (Monday) day's work. This course was rendered necessary by the fact that the Consett Iron Company's local railways were blocked with snow, and neither fuel nor material could be conveyed either to or from the works. The result was that on Monday morning, the whole of the works, with the exception of the Blastfurnaces were laid idle. During the day the outlying roads leading from Consett, became blocked. There were some tremendous drifts on Medomsley, Knitsley, and Castleside roads. On Monday morning the roads in the district were in an impassable condition. The several snow ploughs were brought into requisition, so as to open out the same. The Consett Urban District Surveyor engaged batches of men so as to cut away the huge snowdrifts, so as to open out communication with the outlying villages. Batches of workmen, with the assistance of some of the largest engines possessed by the Consett Iron Company, succeeded in reopening the railways, and by eleven o'clock in the forenoon the locomotive cranes, engines, and freights were enabled to enter the works. The steel-smelting department was accordingly restarted at five o'clock in the evening, while the plate mills, &c., were in full operation at the usual time on Tuesday morning. The North-Eastern Railway Company managed to keep open the line in the vicinity of Tow Law and Burnhill—which was blocked by snow last week—by having the steam plough from Waskerley constantly going on Sunday, and men engaged in cutting through the drifts, and the passenger service was on Monday run with tolerable regularity. During the day, a pronounced thaw set in, which was accompanied at intervals by heavy showers of snow and sleet.

TOW LAW.

A further heavy snowstorm commenced in the early hours of Sunday morning, and was accompanied by a strong east wind, which greatly drifted the snow in many places, and blocked up roads that had previously been opened out, as well as making locomotion in the streets very difficult and unpleasant. No letters reached the Post Office owing to the severity of the storm, but a despatch was got away during the afternoon. About three o'clock the drifting considerably lessened, and towards night the weather became settled. On the railway a special train with the engineer and other officials got through from Darlington about five o'clock and returned again at eight, a powerful snowplough driven by two engines having in the meantime opened the line from Consett to Tow Law. On the moorland, a few miles beyond here, some tremendous drifts blocked the line. On Monday snow kept falling at intervals, but not to any serious extent.

CHESTER-LE-STREET AND DISTRICT.

Roads Blocked: Mails Delayed.

In Chester-le-Street and immediate neighbourhood the thaw, or partial thaw, which set in on Saturday afternoon, had the effect of washing away a great quantity of snow and ice. But the sleety downfall of Sunday turned the roads and streets into rivers of slush. On the higher lands to the west, snow fell quite dry, and drifted in such a manner as to choke up the roads and stop all traffic. On Monday morning Mr. James Heppell, mail contractor, Chester-le-Street, experienced great difficulty in landing the mails at Stanley. After leaving Chester-le-Street he found the roads gradually worse as he proceeded westward; and when he had left Beamish the roads between that place and Stanley were completely blocked; many of the drifts being over six feet in height. He struggled on to No Place, after which he was compelled to abandon the road altogether and take to the fields, getting to his destination as best he could in a terribly exhausted state. In the last mile of his journey alone he lost half an hour. One of his men who takes the Craghead and South Moor journey also had a rough time. He stuck fast altogether, and could only proceed on his journey by leaving his cart in the snow drift, mounting his horse, and carrying the mail bags across country as best he could find his way clear of drift snow. Fortunately for both, the morning was not dark. Traffic generally was much impeded: and at some collieries delays occured, while others were "off" altogether.

WEARDALE.

Christmas was ushered into Weardale amid blooming flowers and song of birds, and soft warm breezes from the gulf stream. How vastly different the New Year, within one short week Weardale was in the grip of severe arctic wintry weather, a keen biting frost, and before the New Year was many days old an old-fashioned winter—avalanches of snow and ice-bound streams—more snow on the hills than has been known for years. Snow ploughs have been in great requisition in the Valley, to keep open the main roads, and the mineral railways from Waskerley to Park Head, and from Park Head to Rookhope and Westgate have been blocked and opened and blocked again. The quarries at Stanhope have been idle over half the time, and men have been out of work. The workmen on the new railway have also been off work since the commencement of the storm. There are huge wreaths on the moors many feet deep, also in the high and exposed lands of Weardale. The Wear was frozen over last week, and numbers availed themselves of the exhilirating sport of skating on the river, even up to a late hour each night, it being moonlight.

STOCK AUCTION MARTS.

Lanchester.—Messrs Green and Dowson held there usual fortnightly sale on Monday last, when on account of the roads being impassable there was only a small show of cattle, but a fair show of sheep. The prices realised were:—Cows to £15; fat cattle to £20 15s for a grand heifer from Manor House; shearling sheep to 51/-, hoggs to 42/6; hoggs to 34/9; black-faced ewes to 27/3; hogs 30/-; b.f. wethers, 20/6.

Benfieldside.—Mr. Murray had forward at this mart on Monday, only a limited supply of stock, on account of the extremely stormy morning. Many of the roads in the west being impassable a large number of both cattle and sheep entered were unable to get forward. Numbers forward:—20 fat cattle, 95 fat sheep, 4 calves, 6 cows, and a quantity of miscellaneous lots, for which there was a fairly good trade. Cattle making more money, and sheep extremely dear, most of them making close on 9d per lb. Prices:—Cows to £13 7s 6d. Fat Cattle: Derwent Flour Mill, £15 5s to £16 10s; John Pattinson, £14 5s to £15 15s; Messrs J. and A. Anderson, £19; W. Taylor, £16 to £16 15s; Mr. Wm. Potts, £16 10s to £18 15s; W. Johnson, £14 to £14 2s 6d; W. Brewis, Newlands Grange, £16 5s to £16 7s 6d; others, £13 to £16. Hoggs to 44/-. Derwent Flour Mill; 33/6, J. Pattinson; 37/-, Mr. W. Potts; 37/-, Messrs Anderson; 38/-, Mrs. Temperley; sheep to 50/6d, Mr. W. Potts: 56/-, Messrs Anderson: 52/-, Mr. Stokoe; Cheviot ewes to 34/-, Mr R. Dixon; Scotch wedders, 38/6 to 45/-, Messrs Leybourne and Angus, Healeyfield. A large company was present, and considering the stormy weather, trade was extremely good.

TRADE NOTES.

Weardale and Shildon District Water Works Company.—The directors of the above company on Monday decided to recommend the payment on February 6th next, of a dividend at the rate of five per cent. per annum in respect of the half-year ending December 31st. last. This makes, with the interim-dividend of 4½ per cent. paid on July 31st last a dividend of 4¾ per cent. for the year 1894.

CO-OPERATION IN THE COAL TRADE.

Interesting Experiment.

On Tuesday Mrs. Melrose, wife of the vicar of the parish, cut the first sod of the shaft of a new colliery at Dearham, which she christened Crosshow Colliery. Some months ago, when the Lonsdale Pit was closed, the people of the large and populous village of Dearham were left practically without work. The villagers attempted to float a company to continue to work the coal deposits, and being supported financially by some sympathising men of business in the district, were successful. The villagers invested their savings in the venture, and the local co-operative society advanced a large sum of money. As almost every worker at the pit will be a shareholder, it will be practically a co-operative colliery.

PARISH AND DISTRICT COUNCILS. CHESTER-LE-STREET.

The first meeting of this District Council was held on Thursday week in the Guardians' Room. Mr. John Hodgson, Edmondsley, was unanimously appointed chairman pro. tem. Mr. John Crawford, Lumley, proposed that the Council take advantage of the powers accorded them of going outside of the Council for the election of a chairman, and he moved that they appoint Mr. George Ridley, (the chairman of the late Board of Guardians.) Mr. Peter Oswald, Harraton, seconded, and Mr. H. Henderson, Pelton Fell, as a new member, supported. Mr. Ridley was thereupon elected unanimously, and having thanked the Council for the high honour conferred upon him, took the chair amid loud applause. Mr. John Hodgson, vice-chairman of the Board of Guardians, was unanimously appointed vice-chairman of the Council. After considerable discussion the various committees were appointed, the system adopted being that each of the parishes should be, as far as possible, represented on each of the committees.—Mr Henry Henderson, (chairman of the Chester-le-street Parish Council) said he was deputed to ask for the use of the Board Room for the Parish Council meetings. It was resolved to grant the use of the room to the Parish Council, on payment of a sovereign a year, to cover gas, cleaning, &c. The reports of the sanitary officers were received. Some discussion took place respecting a proposal to transfer a portion of Craghead to Lanchester; and a portion of Waldridge and Witton Gilbert township to Edmondsley township, and ultimately the matter was referred to the Parish Councils.

THE AUCTIONEERS' INSTITUTE.

A meeting of the Northumberland and Durham members of the Auctioneers' Institute of the United Kingdom was held on Friday evening at the County Hotel, Newcastle, when the following gentlemen were present:—Messrs J. M. Atkinson, Newcastle; Thomas Sarsfield, Durham; James Turnbull, Chester-le-Street; Ralph Appleton, Stockton; E. George, Newcastle; Thomas Burlinson, Sunderland; J. B. Garland, Newcastle; Henry B. Slee, Gateshead; C. Raymond Williams, Newcastle; and Robert Flowers, Newcastle. It was unanimously agreed that a branch of the Auctioneers' Institute be formed for the counties of Northumberland and Durham. The following officers were elected:—Mr. J. M. Atkinson, Newcastle, president; Mr. Ralph Appleton, Stockton, and Mr. James Turnbull, Chester-le-Street, vice-presidents. Messrs Robert Donkin, jun., Rothbury; Thomas Burlinson, Sunderland; Thomas Sarsfield, Durham; E. George, Newcastle; Henry B. Slee, Gateshead; R. C. Pearce, Darlington; and J. B. Garland, Newcastle, committee. Mr. C. Raymond Williams was elected hon. secretary and treasurer. It was announced that the next meeting be held at Newcastle at an early date. A dinner afterwards took place, at which in addition to those above named the following gentlemen were present:—Messrs J. G. Smith, Gateshead; R. Hindmarsh, Newcastle; W. Glover, South Shields; — Garrick, Sunderland; J. Lowes, Stanley; and — Gowland, Spennymoor.

A NONCONFORMIST COUNCIL FOR CONSETT AND DISTRICT.

One of the hopeful signs in the religious world at the present time is a growing desire for union and fellowship among the various Christian Churches. We are beginning to realise that while it may be necessary to maintain our own distinctive principles, we can, without violating or compromising those principles, unite with other Christian Churches in meeting the great social needs, and battling with the great social evils. The Grindelwald Conference, and the Free Church Congress have no doubt strengthened this desire for united action on the part of the Churches. One great evidence of this feeling for united effort is in the formation of Nonconformist Councils throughout the country. There are many towns now that can boast of such an institution, and the number is rapidly increasing. In most towns where such a council has been formed a visitation has been made which has resulted largely in deepening the spiritual life of the Churches, and arousing the masses from their religious indifference. The influence of this movement has been felt at Consett, and a great need is felt for united action in dealing with the great moral and social questions of the day.

Many nonconformists of the district will be pleased to learn that a Nonconformist Council has been formed. A preliminary meeting was held at the Methodist Free Church, Blackhill, on Nov. 23rd, 1894, presided over by the Rev. R. W. Butterworth, when a resolution was passed expressing the opinion that it was desirable to form such a Council and commending the matter to the consideration of the Churches to appoint representatives to meet in January. That meeting was held on Monday evening last in the Wesleyan Chapel, Consett. The attendance was not large on account of the unfavourable state of the weather. But there were representatives from the Baptists, Salvation Army, Methodist Free Church, Primitive Methodists, and Wesleyans. A resolution was unanimously carried to form a Council to be called "The Consett and District Nonconformist Council." Including Blackhill, Shotley Bridge, and Leadgate.

The following constitution was adopted:—(1). That the Council shall consist of ministers and four representatives from each Church, to be elected annually. (2). That the officers of the Council shall be, president, two vice-presidents, Treasurer, and two secretaries, to be elected annually. (3). That the executive committee shall consist of the officers of the Council, four ministers, and four laymen. (4). That the meetings of the Council shall be held quarterly in one of the chapels at Consett or Blackhill alternately. (5). That this being a non-political organisation all political questions of a party character shall be strictly excluded from the consideration of the Council. (6). That no question shall be discussed if objected to, unless it is supported by two-thirds of the members present. (7). That the Council shall exist for the purpose of binding more closely together the nonconformist churches of the district in order to carry on the work of God with greater efficiency and success, (a). by maintaining, defending, and extending the rights, privileges, and interests of nonconformity, (b). by seeking the social and moral elevation of the people through earnest and persistent efforts against the evils which are demoralizing them, such as intemperance, impurity, and gambling, (c). by using all possible influence to secure as our representatives on the various public bodies men of high moral character, (d). by systematic visitation, evangelistic services, conferences for the consideration of the best methods to secure the salvation of the people.

An adjourned meeting will be held at which the officers will be elected and the Council fairly started. If the hopes and anticipations of the promoters are realized the Council will be a great source of enrichment and enlargement to the Churches, and of permanent spiritual good to the town and neighbourhood. But its success will largely depend upon the spirit in which the Churches take it up. Important spheres of Christian service will be opened which we trust will be filled by earnest and willing workers.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

We regret to learn that the Rev. Canon Blunt has resigned the office of Rural Dean of the Chester-le-Street Rural Deanery, which he has held for the last thirteen years. Continued ill-health compells him to reserve all his strength for his parochial duties.

At the first meeting of the newly-elected Board of Guardians for the Chester-le-Street Union, held on Thursday week, Mr. George Ridley was elected chairman, and Mr. John Hodgson vice-chairman.

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STANLEY.

Last week, Mr. Jonathan Green, J.P., chairman of the Urban District Council of Stanley, appeared on the Bench for the first time, at the Stanley Police Station, where a woman was charged with being drunk and disorderly. It is usual for new magistrates to dismiss the first case that comes before them, if the circumstances of the case will allow of that course. Mr. Green adopted this course and dismissed the woman with a strong reprimand.

Presbyterian Church Mission.—At the meeting of the Presbytery held at Newcastle on Thursday week, an application was received from the preaching station at Stanley, to be formed into a regular and fully organised congregation. The Rev. A. Baillie said the mission at Stanley had been very successful. It had only been nine months in existence, and there were now considerably over 40 members. The application was referred to the Church Extension Committee, to report to the Presbytery at its next meeting.

Beamish Burial Board.—The first meeting of this Board since its reorganisation was held on Monday week. The place of the old elected members is now taken by three members chosen by the Stanley District Council, three by the Kyo Parish Council, and three by the Tanfield Parish Council. There were present Rev. T. H. Archdall, Messrs. Green, Kay, Warwick, Bulmer, Smith, Armstrong, and Indian, together with Mr. Darney (Clerk), who acted as chairman pro. tem. Messrs. Green and Kay were nominated for the chairmanship, the former being elected, while Mr. Kay was elected vice-chairman. Mr. Darney was re-elected clerk, and Mr. Bell sexton on the old terms. The meeting was called by requisition signed by the only two old members, Messrs. Green and Kay.

BLAYDON.

A Blaydon Insurance Agent's Affairs.

At the Newcastle Bankruptcy Court, on Thursday week, an insurance agent, named John Robinson, of Garden Terrace, Blaydon, appeared for his first examination. He had been in the business for about 11 years, and his salary, prior to being out of employment, averaged £2 a week, with commission. His work was confined principally to small policies, and in addition he supervised the work of other collectors. He attributed his failure partly to being out of work for a considerable period, and the pressure of his creditors. His unsecured debts amounted to £123, and £24 was partly secured. To a large extent they consisted of money lent which he had borrowed to pay off older debts.—The examination was adjourned.

Death of a Local Football Player.—On Sunday afternoon the funeral took place of Mr. Wm. Tunstall, who died on Wednesday last. The deceased, who was for many years an active member of the Blaydon R.F.C., met with an accident whilst following his employment at the Addison Colliery. The result of the accident, which occurred in the middle part of the 1893-4 season was to break one of his legs besides inflicting other serious injuries upon him, and although he recovered sufficiently to be able to resume work of a light nature, he never completely recovered his health. He took ill about a fortnight ago, and although Dr. J. W. Smith, of Ryton, bestowed the best possible attention upon him, he got gradually worse, and died as stated. The news of his death was received with a general feeling of regret throughout the neighbourhood, and the sad event was greatly deplored by the members of the Blaydon R.F.C. The deceased was one of the most energetic forwards on the first team, and assisted the club in all its most important matches during a period of five years. There was a very large attendance at the funeral despite the inclemency of the weather. The Blaydon club was well represented, as also were the other clubs in the neighbourhood. The cortege left the residence of the deceased at Addison Colliery, and proceeded to Ryton Cemetery. The service at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. T. H. A. Morris. There were numerous floral tributes, including a beautiful wreath from the members of the Blaydon Club. The deceased was only 23 years of age.

COLLIERLEY.

At the first meeting of the Collierley Parish Council, held at Dipton, Mr. J. W. Taylor, Dipton, was appointed chairman; Mr. J. F. Elliott, Catchgate, vice-chairman; Mr. Wm. Wilkinson, assistant overseer, clerk; and Mr. R. G. Barclay, J.P., treasurer.—Precepts were ordered to be issued upon the overseers for £50 to meet current expenses, this being equivalent to a rate of 1d in the pound. It was decided to hold the meeting on the second Wednesday in each month.

TOW LAW.

On Tuesday evening, a concert was given by the Tow Law Primitive Methodist Sunday School String Band, under the leadership of Mr. John Willis, in the Primitive Chapel.

BEAMISH.

A New Organ.—A new organ was opened in the Wesleyan Chapel, Beamish, on Saturday evening by Mr. Charles F. Bowes, Mus. Bac., of Newcastle. The Rev. J. Woollerton presented a key to Miss Nicholson, who unlocked the instrument. The programme, consisting of a concert and organ recital, was well rendered, the soloists being Miss Harrison and Mr. J. B. Bowes, jun., also of Newcastle. The organ has been built by Mr. W. J. Nelson, of Durham, at a cost of £155, and the whole amount has been raised.

WHITTONSTALL.

Service of Song.—On Saturday night, despite the inclemency of the weather a fairly good audience assembled to hear the service of song, entitled, "True to his Pledge," which was rendered in the Whittonstall Wesleyan Chapel by the Derwent Cottage Choir. The choir was occupied by Mr. J. Watson. Solos were sung by Miss E. E. Edgar, Miss McGowan, Miss Turner, and Miss A. Edgar. Quartettes were sung by various members of the choir. The connective readings were given by Miss Leathard. Miss Shield of Allendale, presided at the organ, and Mr. J. Harbottle was the conductor of the choir. The proceeds were in aid of the Band of Hope. After the service, the Derwent Cottage Choir was entertained to supper by several Whittonstall friends.

STANHOPE.

Benefit Concert.—A concert was held in the Primitive Chapel school-room Stanhope, on Saturday evening in aid of a sick brother.

ROOKHOPE.

Concert.—A concert, under the auspices of the Workmen's Institute, was held at Rookhope on Saturday night. Mr J. Harrison presided. The artistes were Mr Tom Moore and Master Taylor, Eastgate; Misses Wall, Hogarth, Bell, and Mr Wm. Walters, schoolmaster, Rookhope. A very enjoyable evening was spent. Pianist, Mr Walton.

WEARDALE.

Mrs Walton, of the Phœnix Hotel, Stanhope, fell on the ice on Monday and broke her arm.

Archdeacon Barnsley, of Bradford, preached two excellent sermons in Stanhope Church on Sunday.

Dr. Craig, assistant to Dr. Livingstone, Stanhope, has left for Edinburgh Infirmary.

WOLSINGHAM.

Sudden Death.—John Gardner, moulder, of Wolsingham, died very suddenly last week, and he was interred at Wolsingham on Sunday last amid every token of respect. The funeral was an unusually large one. The Druids and Shepherds' Societies, and the moulders joined the *cortege*, besides a large number of townspeople. Deceased was well-known and highly respected.

WHITE-LE-HEAD.

A social supper and smoking concert of a pleasant nature was held at the old hostelry, Waggon Inn, on Saturday night, January 5th. Mrs Atkinson, the genial hostess, provided a bountiful supply of nature's gifts, which were thoroughly appreciated by the company. The tables being cleared, the programme announced Mr T. Gibbon as chairman, and Mr W. Holmes as vice-chairman. The chairman gave the usual loyal toasts, which were duly honoured. Mr Holmes next gave the "Army and Navy" in which he strongly supported the maintenance of a powerful fleet, and strong army. Mr McLaren then gave the song "The Death of Nelson," and Mr T. Morton "The Soldier's Tear." Mr T. Pringle, jun., next gave the "Health of the Parish Council and unsuccessful candidates," to which Mr Jos. Rodham replied in a handsome little speech. Mr G. Todd and J. Punton followed with songs, and Mr N. Wilkinson rose to propose the "Health of Mr Gladstone" the company rose to the occasion. As it was the eighty-fifth birthday of the veteran, the toast was rendered with musical honours. "Success to our Gathering" and the "Trade of the District" followed, also songs from Messrs Allan, Greener, and Curry. "The Hostess and Waiters" by Mr Harron, and supported by Mr Offord, with a song from Mr Baker, concluded the programme. The health of "Chairman and Vice-chairman," with musical accompaniment, brought a social meeting to a pleasant close.

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FINEST COD LIVER OIL AND EXTRACT OF MALT.

COD LIVER EMULSION.

PARRISH'S CHEMICAL FOOD.

EXTRACT OF MEAT INVALID REQUISITES.

CHEST AND LUNG PROTECTORS.

TRUSSES, BANDAGES, AND ELASTIC STOCKINGS.

AGENT FOR LAURANCE'S SPECTACLES AND EYE GLASSES. SEE LIST OF TESTIMONIALS.

MILNER'S HAIR RESTORER, 1s. per Bottle.

BLOOD PURIFIER, 1s, per Bottle.

BLAUD'S PILLS, 1s. per Gross Box.

HORSE, DOG, AND CATTLE MEDICINES.

SHEEP DIPS IN GREAT VARIETY.

SPECIAL FARM EMBROCATION, 1s. 3d. per Bottle.

OILS, PAINTS, AND COLOURS.

Agent for LIEBIG and GLENDINNING BEEF and MALT WINE

AT 7, SHAKESPEARE STREET. 608p

THOMAS ALLAN

BOOKSELLER, STATIONER, &c

COLLINGWOOD ST. & BLACKETT ST., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Books for Presents, in Elegant Bindings, all Prices.

Tennyson's Poetical Works, New and Complete Edition, just ready, cloth, 7s 6d; for 6s., and bound in Leather, Padded, from 10s 6d each.

A Handsome Present.

The Poetical Works of Longfellow, Milton, Scott, Burns, Wordsworth, Byron, Whittier, Moore, Shelley, and others. Bound in Leather, Gilt Edges, very neat, from 3s 6d each.

Bibles for the Pocket with Plain and Circuit Edges.

Prayers and Hymns in neat Leather Cases, and very suitable for presents; large choice from 2/6.

Prayers and Hymns in one Book; Full Leather, Gilt Edges, from 1s.

Birthday Text Books, Padded Leather, for Presents.

Photo Albums, New Designs, for the Season, Various Sizes, all prices, Handsome Presents.

Views of Jesmond Dene, High Level Bridge, St. Nicholas' Cathedral, &c., in Beautiful Plush Frames from 1/ to 7/6. They add a charm to every home, and are prized as presents.

Glass and Plush Frames for Midget, Carte, and Cabinet Photos. Great Assortment; New Patterns; all prices.

Purses for Ladies and Gentlemen; Large Stock.

Pocket Books, Letter Cases, Card Cases, Diary Cases, in Calf and Russian Leather.

Playing Cards; New Patterns for the Season; from 1s.

Merry Games—Snap, Happy Families, Halma, Ludo, Word Making, &c.; 1s. each.

T. ALLAN, BOOKSELLER, &c., COLLINGWOOD ST. & BLACKETT ST., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Business Announcements.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, AND H.R.H. PRINCESS LOUISE.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, LEEDS. PIANOS. An Immense Stock of AMERICAN ORGANS and HARMONIUMS by the Best Makers. Send for Catalogue.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, LEEDS. PIANOS. A Walnut American Organ, 7 Stops, Octave couplers; 8s 10d per month. Three Years' System, or £13 cash. Send for Catalogue.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, LEEDS. PIANOS. Is one of the LARGEST WHOLESALE DEALERS in the KINGDOM, and is able to offer exceptional advantages for cash or Three Years' System. Send for Catalogue.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, LEEDS. PIANOS. Only RELIABLE INSTRUMENTS are offered by ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN. Send for Catalogue.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, LEEDS. PIANOS. All Instruments are sent Carriage Paid and Tuned Twice Free All Instruments are Guaranteed and *EXCHANGED IF NOT FULLY APPROVED OF WITHIN ONE YEAR, FREE OF COST.* Send for Catalogue.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, LEEDS. PIANOS. Ramsden's Model Piano, in Beautiful Walnut Case, panel front, gilt incised, check action £19 10s cash, or 12s 9d per month. Guaranteed 10 years. Send for Catalogue.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, LEEDS. PIANOS. People's Model Pianoforte, with iron frame, full trichord, check action, handsome walnut case, bracket legs, at £23 cash, or 15s per month. A piano greatly admired by all customers guaranteed for ten years.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, LEEDS. PIANOS. Full toned Harmonium, in good walnut case, 7 stops, broad reeds, for 6s 6d per month.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, LEEDS. PIANOS. Drawing room Model Piano, elegant case, iron frame, check action, trichord, panel front, richly incised; 18s 4d per month; a marvellous instrument; guaranteed 10 years. Send for Catalogue.

SOLE IMPORTERS OF KNAUSS & SOHNE'S PIANOS.

SEE AND HEAR THEM.

FOR many years the KNAUSS PIANOFORTES have been known in this country, and have stood the trial of time. Year by Year they have attracted the attention of most esteemed musicians, and have advanced in public favour accordingly. The reputation of the house—long since attained in Germany—ratified as it is by the appointment of HERR KNAUSS as Maker to the Emperor of Germany, is a guarantee that the instruments are of a genuine trustworthy character.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN'S THREE YEARS' SYSTEM.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, hearing that some dealers exercise the power they possess in the hire system in an arbitrary manner, wishes it to be distinctly understood that in CASES OF EMERGENCY he is always desirous of dealing JUSTLY and FAIRLY with his Customers. He does not want both the Money and the Instrument. Send for Catalogue.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN, LIMITED

TOWN HALL BUILDINGS, CONSETT,

FRONT STREET, STANLEY.

NEWGATE STREET, BISHOP AUCKLAND,

47, NORTHGATE, DARLINGTON,

12, PARK ROW, LEEDS,

AND

103, NEW BOND STREET, LONDON.

THE 2 W'S, CONSETT, FOR XMAS PRESENTS.

SILK TIES. Latest London Shapes.

SILK HANDKERCHIEFS, SILK MUFFLERS, Newest Shades and Colours.

WINTER GLOVES!!!

Dent's Best Makes of Ladies and Gentlemen's Lined Kid, Astrachan, and Fur Top Gloves. A Speciality.

GENTLEMEN'S HATS AND CAPS In all the Latest Styles.

WHITE DRESS SHIRTS.

SILK AND KID GLOVES.

DRESS BOWS AND TIES.

The Largest and Choicest Stock at THE 2 W'S, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT, BYKER AND NEWCASTLE. 68b

THE NEW SHOP.

FOR OVERCOATS, SUITS,

LADIES' JACKETS & COSTUMES

J. L. BRODIE,

2, ST. AIDAN'S STREET,

BLACKHILL.

Public Notices.

BURNOPFIELD AND DISTRICT POULTRY, PIGEON, AND RABBIT SOCIETY.

THE FIRST ANNUAL SHOW of the above Society, will be held in the Temperance Hall, Leazes, Burnopfield, on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd, 1895. Open to a radius of 5 miles. Schedules, with entry forms, may be had on application to the Secretary, H. LAMB, Fellside, Swalwell, R.S.O.; or from R. APPLEBY, Temperance Hall, Burnopfield.

Observe: Entries close January 26th, 1895. 253q

MEDOMSLEY AND DISTRICT POULTRY, PIGEON, AND RABBIT SHOW.

THE FIRST ANNUAL SHOW will be held on FRIDAY and SATURDAY, MARCH 8th and 9th, 1895, in the Temperance Hall. Judge, Rev. W. F. LUMLEY, Newcastle. Entries close February 26th, 1895. Schedules ready.

W. E. CHARLTON, } Secretaries.
JOHN ENGLISH, }

Medomsley, R.S.O., Durham. 252q

MRS. CLEMINSON'S SCHOOL, BISHOP AUCKLAND. Examinations in Pianoforte Playing, December, 1894. Incorporated Society of Musicians: Preliminary Grade—Mary Boyd passed in Honours; Elementary Grade—Mary Dixon Harrison, passed; Margaret M. Campbell, passed. Trinity College of Music, London.—Examinations in Musical Knowledge: Junior pass—Edith Gibson, Harriet Harrison, Margaret M. Campbell, Ethel Bainbridge, Emilie Smith, passed in Honours; Mary Dixon Harrison passed in Honours. Music Teacher, Miss S. B. Cleminson. 254q

Public Notices.

40 IS the WINNING NUMBER of the Ham raffled for at Fgarside. 297o

22 IS the WINNING NUMBER of the Table, and 63 the Number of the Photo Frame, drawn for at Shotley Bridge, on January 12th. 331q

110 IS the WINNING NUMBER of the White Quilt drawn for at Shotley Bridge on Jan. 12th. 314q

CONSETT SCIENCE AND ART CLASSES.

EXHIBITION OF DRAWINGS—PRESENTATION of CERTIFICATES and PRIZES will be held in the Co-operative Hall, Consett, on Saturday, January 26th, 1895, at 4 p.m. The Public are respectfully invited to attend. See Bills. 313q

BLACKHILL WESLEYAN CHAPEL.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20TH.

Morning, 10-30, } MR. G. BUCKHAM.
Evening, 6. }

ALL SEATS FREE.

CONSETT WESLEYAN CHURCH.

ALL SEATS FREE.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20TH.

Morning 10-30 } REV. C. M. GREENWAY.
Evening 6 }

WEST STANLEY BAND CONTEST AND SPORTS.

THE above BAND CONTEST will be held on WHIT-MONDAY, June 3rd, 1895, when Cash Prizes to the value of £150 will be given to be competed for.

OPEN CONTEST.

Test Piece—"Great Britain."

LOCAL BANDS.

Quick March—Own Choice.

Any information required can be had by applying to the Secretary,

WM. INDIAN,

17, Douglass Street, Stanley, R.S.O., Co. Durham. 320q

A GRAND EVENING

ENTERTAINMENT

WILL BE HELD IN THE

CO-OPERATIVE HALL, CONSETT, ON WEDNESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 30TH, 1895,

When Popular Artists will appear. The second part of the Programme will include a LAUGHABLE SKETCH,

"A NIGGERS' PARLIAMENT."

Proceeds for the Building Fund of S. Aidan's New Parish Hall and Institute, Blackhill. 315q

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

EXCURSION TO LONDON FOR TWO AND FOUR DAYS.

ON MONDAY, the 21st of January, an EXCURSION TRAIN will leave NEWCASTLE at 12 5 a.m. (with bookings from Consett, Blaydon, &c.) for LONDON, for Two and Four Days. Passengers holding Two Days' Tickets will return from King's Cross Station at 11 p.m., on Tuesday, Jan. 22nd, and those holding Four Days' Tickets at 10-40 p.m. on Thursday, January 24th.

For further particulars see bills, copies of which may be obtained at the District Passenger Superintendent's Office, Central Station, Newcastle.

GEORGE S. GIBB,

York, January, 1895. General Manager.

PROPOSED ENTIRE HORSE ASSOCIATION

THE attendance of Farmers, Horse-owners, and others interested is desired at each or any of the following Meetings, for the purpose of organising an Entire Horse Association:—

Tuesday, January 22nd, at Whittonstall, 6 p.m.
Wednesday, " 23rd, at Manor House, 6 p.m.
Thursday, " 24th, at Ebchester, Mr Temperley's, 6 p.m.
Friday, January 25th, at Rowland's Gill, 6 p.m.
Saturday, " 26th, at Medomsley, Mr Rutherford's, 6 p.m.
Monday, January 28th, at Blackhill, Auction Mart, 4-30 p.m.
Tuesday, January 29th, at Hedley on the Hill, Mr Todd's, 6 p.m.

A GENERAL MEETING will be held at Mr G. MORGAN's, Shotley Bridge, on Wednesday, January 30th, 1895, at 5 p.m., to draw up the Rules, and form a Deputation to engage a Horse.

W. J. OSWELL,

300q Secretary *pro. tem.*

LOOK OUT.

NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

TWO GRAND

SACRED CONCERTS

Will be given in the above Hall,

ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 27th, at 2-30 and 8,

BY THE

CONSETT IRON CO.'S WORKMEN'S BAND.

Conductor, T. WOODS, Esq.

A SILVER COLLECTION will be taken in aid of the Band Funds. 249q

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Phillipson.

White-le-Head, Monday, January 21st, 1895.

MR A. PHILLIPSON, instructed by Mrs Grieves, who is declining housekeeping, will SELL at the above place and date, all her HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and Effects. Particulars in posters. ☞ Sale to begin at half-past One o'clock.

N.B.—The Goods are almost new, and in capital order. 241q

SPECIAL NOTICE.

A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Valuer, House, Land, and Emigration Agent, will undertake AUCTION SALES upon most reasonable terms, and conducted in the best style. LETTERS by Post will have prompt attention, and all Sorts of GOODS, FURNITURE, &c., bought right out for Cash. Appointed by His Honour Judge MEYNELL under the Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888. Office—Front Street, Dipton by Lintz Green Station

By Mr. John Crawford.

MR JOHN CRAWFORD will hold his Usual SALE of FURNITURE, at his Sale Rooms, on Monday, January 28th. Anyone wishing to dispose of their Furniture can have it sold at this sale, or bought outright for cash. 328q

JOHN CRAWFORD, AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER, VALUER, EMIGRATION and HOUSE AGENT. Also, appointed Bailiff by his Honour Judge MEYNELL to Levy Distress for Rent, under the Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888. Sale Office, 25, Victoria Street, Consett.

By Mr. John Pedley.

MR. JOHN PEDLEY'S Drapery, Clothing, and Boot Sale will CLOSE on Monday night, Jan. 28th. SPECIAL LINES are rapidly being cleared out. PRIVATE SALE all day, and AUCTION SALES each night, at 6 30, at Swainston's Auction Rooms, Front Street, Consett. 307q

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

T. D. DRYDEN, AUCTIONEER, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

Sales, Commissions, Valuations, and Auctioneering in all its Branches, at Moderate Charges, and Quick Settlements. T. D. D. has been commissioned by Judge MEYNELL to Levy Distress Warrants under the Agricultural Holdings' Act. Authorised Emigration Agent for the Allan, American, Guion, and Other Lines.

OFFICES—67, FRONT STREET, CONSETT (Next Door to North-Eastern Bank.)

WILLIAM ROBINSON, AUCTIONEER AND VALUER, AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT NEW FINES, MEDOMSLEY.

Sales conducted on the most reasonable terms.

lic Notices.

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...NING NUMBER of the Table, Number of the Photo Frame, Bridge, on January 15th. 331q

...WINNING NUMBER of the ...ll drawn for at Shotley Bridge, 314q

...NCE AND ART CLASSES.

...F DRAWINGS—PRESENT-...ERTIFICATES and PRIZES ... Co-operative Hall, Consett, on ...6th, 1895, at 4 p.m. The Public ...d to attend. See Bills. 318q

... WESLEYAN CHAPEL.

...Y, JANUARY 20th, ... MR. G. BUCKHAM.

... SEATS FREE.

...WESLEYAN CHURCH.

...SEATS FREE.

...Y, JANUARY 20th. ...REV. C. M. GREENWAY.

...EY BAND CONTEST AND SPORTS.

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...TIRE HORSE ASSOCIATION

...e of Farmers, Horse-owners, and ...sted is desired at each or any of ...ings, for the purpose of organising ...ssociation:— ...22nd, at Whittonstall, 6 p.m. ...23rd, at Manor House, 6 p.m. ...24th, at Ebchester, Mr Temper-... ...5th, at Rowland's Gill, 6 p.m. ...th, at Medomsley, Mr Ruther-... ...28th, at Blackhill, Auction Mart, ...29th, at Hedley on the Hill, Mr ... ...MEETING will be held at Mr G. ... Bridge, on Wednesday, January ..., to draw up the Rules, and form ...ge a Horse. ... W. J. OSWELL, Secretary pro. tem.

...OOK OUT.

...N HALL, CONSETT.

...WO GRAND ...D CONCERTS ...iven in the ...ove Hall, ...ANUARY 27th, at 2.30 and 8, ... BY THE ...CO.'S WORKMEN'S BAND. ...or, T. WOODS, Esq.

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... John Crawford.

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... John Pedley.

...DLEY'S Drapery, Clothing, ... will CLOSE on Monday night, ...L LINES are rapidly being ...TE SALE all day, and AUC-... night, at 6.30, at Swainston's ... Street, Consett. 307q

...TANT NOTICE. ...LYDEN, AUCTIONEER, ...FRONTSTREET, CONSETT. ... Valuations, and Auctioneering ... Moderate Charges, and Quick ... has been commissioned by ...evy Distress Warrants under ...ngs' Act. Authorised Emigra-... Allan, American, Guion, and

...ONT STREET, CONSETT ... North-Eastern Bank.)

...M ROBINSON, ...ND VALUER, AND ...OMMISSION AGENT ...S, MEDOMSLEY. ...he most reasonable terms.

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. Wm. Nicholson.

Colliery Inn, Burnhope.

MR. W. NICHOLSON, instructed by Mrs THOMASINA GREENER, who is declining Innkeeping, will SELL BY AUCTION, on Wednesday, Jan. 30th, 1895, the whole of the STOCK-IN-TRADE, and a Large Quantity of Valuable HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE. For particulars see Bills.

Sale at 12 o'clock prompt. 304q

By Mr John S. Murray.

SALE APPOINTMENTS BY J. S. MURRAY FOR 1895.

Burnopfield Gas Works—February 6th.

Billingside Farm Stock—late in April or beginning of May.

Elm Park Farm Stock—About Middle of April.

Others shortly, which will be in this paper weekly. 182q

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE

MONDAY, JANUARY 21st, 1895.

20 to 25 Prime Fat Cattle.

1 Extra Grand Young Fat Bull, heavy weight.

100 Prime Fat Sheep.

Veal and Keeping Calves.

Bacon, Pork, and a lot of useful Store Pigs.

Dairy Cows and Heifers.

3 Well-bred Short-horn Stirks.

Coup Cart, Endless Chain Blocks, Ladders, Riding Saddle, Halters, Poultry, &c.

Sale at 12 o'clock.

303q J. S. MURRAY

BURNOPFIELD GAS WORKS.

FEBRUARY 6th, 1895, FOR SALE BY AUCTION. These Works have been recently overhauled and improved, and the consumption nearly doubled, with an immediate prospect of a considerable further consumption. Further particulars later.

J. S. MURRAY, Auctioneer.

Royal Auction Mart Sale Office, Benfieldside. 491p

JOHN SWINBURN MURRAY, THE AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER, VALUER, AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT ROYAL AUCTION MART SALE OFFICE, BENFIELDSIDE.

Appointed by His Honour JUDGE MEYNELL to Levy Distress for Rent, under the New Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888.

Business Announcements.

THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT

BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY

W. AYNSLEY, Esq. }
JAMES OLIVER, Esq. } Trustees.
HEDLEY NICHOLSON, Esq. }

The next MEETING for receiving Subscriptions and Loans will be held in the Small Hall of the NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT, between 7 and 8 o'clock on MONDAY, 28th January, and every Fortnight afterwards at the same time and place.

Loans received at 4 Per Cent. Interest, Repayable on 14 Days' Notice.

GLENDENNING'S BEEF & MALT WINE

THE MOST RELIABLE WINE FOR INVALIDS.

Composed of Extract of Beef, Kepler's Malt Extract and old Port Wine. It forms a concentrated nutritive digestive food, blood-making, flesh-forming, and strengthening. Of the utmost value to children, invalids, and those who require strength.

PRICES: 3s. 9d. PER BOTTLE; 2s. PER HALF-BOTTLE.

Prepared only by W. GLENDENNING, Newcastle.

LOCAL AGENTS:—

ANNFIELD PLAIN.—J. LUMLEY, Railway Inn

BLACKHALL MILL.—T. ARMSTRONG, Wine and Spirit Merchant.

BLACKHILL.—R. MURRAY, Royal Hotel, W. W. AYNSLEY, Grocer.

BURNOPFIELD.—WM. STONES, Burton House.

CONSETT.—W. AYNSLEY, Grocer, &c; T. D. DRYDEN, Grocers, &c.; THOMAS MILNER Chemist; JOSEPH MURRAY, Grocer and Wine Merchant; GEORGE PATTRICK, Chemist and Druggist, 5, Front Street.

DIPTON.—R. ARMSTRONG, Wine and Spirit Merchant.

ESH.—WM. OYSTON, Wine and Spirit Merchant.

LEADGATE.—WM. AYNSLEY Grocer, &c.; JOHN SNAITH, Queen Victoria Hotel.

MEDOMSLEY.—R. RUTHERFORD, Royal Oak Hotel.

SOUTH MOOR.—M. DIXON, Oak Inn.

STANLEY.—WM. AYNSLEY, Grocer, &c.; T. FORSTER, Wine and Spirit Merchant; J. ROBINSON, Family Chemist.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.—M. ELSDON, Wheat Sheaf Inn.

SPEN.—R. BROWELL, Miners Arms.

TANFIELD.—JOHN IRWIN, Pack Horse Inn.

TOW LAW.—J. MOSES, Post Office.

CRAGHEAD.—S. LEIGHTON, Craghead Hotel. E. OXLEY, Punch Bowl Inn.

STANHOPE.—J. CURRY, Grocer and Wine Merchant.

Agents in every town and village.

Prepared only by W. GLENDENNING and SONS. Newcastle-on-Tyne.1275o

MOST MONEY LENT

On Silver Plate, Watches, Jewellery, Diamonds, and other Precious Stones, Plated Goods Cutlery, Gems &c., &c., at

J. & E. WILSON'S,

The Oldest Established and Largest Pawnbroking Business in the North of England. Established 1780

12, PILGRIM STREET (THREE DOORS BELOW BLACKETT ST)

PRIVATE ENTRANCE: FIRST SIX DOORS IN HIGH FRIAR LANE

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

CHEAP WATCHES.

GENUINE ENGLISH LEVERS £1 10s 0d

SILVER GENEVAS ....

SEE THAT YOU GET TO THE RIGHT SHOP—No. 12.

OBSERVE PROJECTING ILLUMINATED CLOCK OVER WINDOW

TO OUR READERS.

EVERY purchaser of the *Consett Guardian* this week is entitled to our sheet ALMANACK, which we trust will be found useful in every home in the district.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

JNO. THOMPSON.—No advantage can be gained by continuing this controversy, as we set the matter right in our previous issue. We do not think our correspondent charged anyone with uttering an untruth.

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18TH, 1895.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

(BY "INCOGO.")

THE STORM: MORE FAVOURS FOR THE CONSETT DISTRICT.

There is no disguising the fact that the denizens of North-West Durham live in a happy land, and if it does not flow with milk and honey, it certainly abounds with favours to which the inhabitants of some districts are strangers. Should any of my readers question the soundness of such an observation, let them ponder for a moment on the effects of the late storm, and the chances are that they will readily fall in with my way of thinking. It is true that the steel works at Consett were laid idle for a shift or two, but such a circumstance was as a mere drop in a bucket when contrasted with the stoppage of work in other districts. From Christmas until the morning of Tuesday last, there was scarcely a jot of work done in a shipyard on the North East Coast, the snow and ice having accumulated to such an extent that work was altogether out of the question. It will thus be seen that the good people in the neighbourhood of Consett have again had the best of it in point of favour when the storm king was out for a holiday, and—as the old folks were wont to tell the bairns when the snow flakes fell—the people in the far north were plucking their geese, and casting the feathers down to us. The blocking of the roads is but a mere passing inconvenience. It is the stopping of the wage supplies that causes the shoe to pinch, and stops the kettle from singing on the hob.

THE PRINCIPLE INVOLVED.

The last ordinary meeting of the members of the Greencroft School Board had an unhappy, if not a tragic ending. There is evidently a skeleton in one of the cabinets or drawers, and an unhealed wound inflicted months ago. I am sure, however, that the majority of my readers will agree with me that good seldom comes of nursing one's wrath to keep it warm. To give the rein to such a feeling, which is of the earth earthly, stirs up, and gives play to the lower instincts of our nature. It is nobler far to forgive, that we may in like manner be forgiven. I do not think that there is a single man or woman on the face of the earth at this moment who has not been unkindly dealt with, and misjudged—often by those of whom better things were expected—at more than one period of their lives. Life would, however, fall far short of its aim and object were men and women to brood over their injuries, whether supposed or real, of the buried past. When the storm is past the sun shines out with undiminished splendour, and the stars look down as clear as if no clouds had ever obscured their light, and so must it be with man himself—not to speak of the "gentler sister woman"—if the nobler impulses of the soul are to be encouraged. This lesson two or three members of the Greencroft School Board have yet to learn. At the witching time of night, little more than a fortnight ago, the bells from a thousand belfries rang out the old year and in the new, and muffled voices proclaimed "Peace on earth and good will to men." It is evident, however, that these kindly influences have not been wafted to that corner of the country known as Greencroft. I remember reading recently of an eminent statesman who justified the massacre of the Celtic bards, centuries ago, on the grounds that they were instrumental in keeping alive the rancour, and the memory of deeds which would otherwise have been forgotten, so that in their day there was veritably no pass. This was precisely the spirit shown at the last School Board meeting at Greencroft, and as the principle set forth by the incidents narrated is far from being commendable, it is to be hoped that after the special meeting the errors of the past will be buried in oblivion, and a reign of peace proclaimed.

THE PARISH AND DISTRICT COUNCILS: THE EVENING MEETINGS.

All public men, and notably the new element which the new Act has brought into the arena, are naturally anxious to see themselves in print, for what Byron said of a book is equally true of a speech—that is to say:

"It's pleasing to see oneself in print,
A book's a book although there's nothing in't."

But it never, I suppose, dawned in the unseasoned minds of those aspiring gentlemen that in clamouring for the advocacy of their own little interests, by holding the periodical meetings in the evenings, they were at the same time weaving a web to enshroud their sayings and doings. I refer to the reports of such meetings in the daily and evening newspapers published in the North. Under the old regime, the meetings of public bodies were held in the afternoons, and matters of broad general interest usually found more or less prominence, but in the outlying districts it is now late in the night before reports of meetings reach their destination, with the result that they are frequently crushed out, and by another day they are out of date—for editors insist that all matter supplied must be new. Viewed in this light, it will be seen that people cannot very well get all they would like in this world, and that by opening new paths to suit their own convenience, they sometimes block channels which but for their lack of knowledge would have remained open.

LOVE'S LABOUR AND MONEY LOST.

Except on the point of mere curiosity, no practical result is likely to accrue from the resolution passed at the last meeting of the Leadgate District Council, in reference to the taking of an inventory of the houses containing two rooms, peopled by more than five persons. The carrying out of the whim will entail the expenditure of money that might in these incontinent times be given to feed the hungry, and then when all is done and said in reference to the question at issue, the Leadgate District Council lack the power to add a single brick, or to take one away from the dwellings in that township. I do not think they have the power to evict, and even if they had, it is very unlikely that they would care to amuse themselves in that way, especially during the present inclement weather. The Leadgate Councillors will do well to walk warily on the path upon which they have so boldly entered, if they have much regard for their reputation they had better see to it that before creating a furore in the district, and make the homes of the people too hot for them, they might first give promise of a little forethought, and that done, sit down and count the cost, and balance the consequences. There are hundreds of workmen's dwellings at Leadgate, not one of which contains more than two rooms, and the people are just as healthy and comfortable as if they contained four. I know right well that the modern requirements in connection with sanitary concerns are being carried to a pretty pass in some districts, but there is virtually no need to apply the screw in a purely country place, and breezy town like Leadgate.

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

We are requested to state that the furniture sold at Mr Crawford's sale-room, Consett, last Monday, was from Partridge Close Mill, and not Colepike Mill, as advertised.

"LIFE AT SEA."—On Saturday evening, the scholars attending the Consett Iron Company's British Schools gave a repetition of this operetta, in the New Town Hall, Consett. There was a large company present.

A Late Consett Police Constable's Adventure with a Dog.—A correspondent writes:—A young black retriever dog, named Help, which has forsaken its rightful owner, a blind man, at Seaham Harbour, and taken up fresh quarters at the police station, where he regularly undertakes night and day duty, as the case may be, did a remarkable performance on Saturday night last. The dog accompanied P.C. Humphrey late of Consett to Sunderland, riding in the guard's van. On returning the animal left the van with the guard at Ryhope, but failed to get in again. The train started without the dog, which, however, took up the running by the side of the carriages, keeping pace for three hundred yards, and then apparently dropped off. Humphrey and the guard concluded that Help had been outdone. Judge of the surprise of both when they saw the dog trot up to the van as the guard was stepping out on the platform at New Seaham Station. The dog wagged its tail, and showed other signs of delight as much as to say "I am here as soon as you, you see." From Ryhope to New Seaham is a little over two and half miles, and on the occasion referred to the run was made by the train in five minutes. Perhaps the dog took a short cut.

THE BOYS of H.M.S. "WELLESLEY," North Shields, will give TWO CONCERTS, in the Town Hall, Consett, on Wednesday, Feb. 6th

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

THE IRISH NATIONAL LEAGUE (Sexton Branch) was represented at the conference, on Saturday, by four of its members—Mr G. Campbell, president; Mr O. Trannar, secretary; Mr G. Thompson; and Coun. P. Reay, as delegates. The conference met at five, when the delegates handed in over £20 in contributions. Coun. Finn, of Gateshead, was elected treasurer. The conference was the largest ever held in the north of England. Coun. Reay, in response to the meeting, addressed the delegates on the wrongs of Ireland, and received a hearty vote of thanks for his speech.

PELTON.

A concert was given in the Co-operative Hall, Pelton Lane Ends, on Friday night, for the benefit of Thomas Potts and John Hutton, who have been unable to follow their employment through illness.

The members and patrons of the West Pelton Brass Band held their annual supper last Friday night, in the Miners' Hall, Hand-en-Hold, when between 40 and 50 sat down to a sumptuous supper, supplied by Mr John Cummings, of the Green Tree Inn. After the tables had been cleared, Mr J. W. Potts and Mr Wm. Wishart, sen., were selected as chairman and vice-chairman of the smoking concert, the band opening the proceeding with a selection, "Gems of Combria." "The success and progress of the band," coupled with the name of Mr T. Woods (conductor), was drank, after which duets were sung by Mrs Lumsden and Kirkup, and songs by Messrs Hanson, Taylor, C. Turnbull, and others, were given in a most creditable manner.—The Chairman then, in a most eloquent manner, presented Mr T. Wishart, secretary, with a meerschaum pipe in recognition of his past services to the band.—Mr Wishart responded with a few remarks on the progress and improvement of the band in past years.—After a little more harmony by Messrs Haswell, Hannah, and Young, votes of thanks were accorded to Messrs Cummings, Potts, and Wishart for the manner in which the arrangements for evening's enjoyment had been carried out. The playing of the "National Anthem" by the band brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

WESLEYAN SUNDAY SCHOOL.—The annual teachers' meeting in connection with the above school was held on Wednesday week, the Rev W. Beales presiding. The report of the year's work was read by the secretary (Mr J. H. Magee), which showed the school to be in a very steady and prosperous condition, the attendance of teachers and scholars being an increase on the previous year.—The superintendent (Mr J. Laidlaw) then presented the balance sheet, which had been duly audited, showing the expenditure and income of the school, which was also very satisfactory. After thanking the retiring officers for their services during the past year, the election for the ensuing year took place, when Mr J. Laidlaw was unanimously appointed superintendent; Mr J. B. Herring, assistant-superintendent; Mr J. H. Magee, secretary; Mrs Dixon, treasurer; and Mr A. Aikman, auditor.—The band of hope report was also read by the secretary (Mr Herring), and was very pleasing and satisfactory to the teachers, great credit being given to the officers for the persevering manner in which they have carried on the work. Miss Hillson and Mr J. Laidlaw were re-elected superintendents, and Mr Thos. Moffitt secretary for the ensuing year. In connection with the meeting, supper was provided, which was very acceptable, and proved an excellent addition to the annual meeting. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Rev W. Beales, which brought the meeting to a close.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

THE SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND BLACKHILL DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION has now began its useful work. The services of a well-trained and experienced nurse have been secured; she resides in Benfieldside Road, and from this central position can reach all parts of the district, and will attend (under a doctor) the sick poor in their own homes. It is hoped that those thus helped, will, if they can, contribute something towards the advancement of the Association, which works on entirely unsectarian lines and is managed by a committee. The hon. secretary, Miss Peile, and the hon. treasurer, Miss Cole, will be glad to receive any contributions.

BLACKHILL.

On Tuesday, the Rev Dinsdale T. Young, of Manchester, visited Blackhill, and preached and lectured in the Blackhill Wesleyan Church. Good companies were present.

CASTLESIDE.

PARISH CHURCH.—The Vicar entertained the members of the choir at supper, in the Vicarage, on Wednesday evening, when a very pleasant and agreeable evening was spent. At the close, a hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Mr Jos. Yates, and seconded by Mr Joseph Potts, was accorded to the Vicar for his kindness.

WEST PELTON.

CO-OPERATIVE EMPLOYEES SIXTH ANNUAL SUPPER.—The employees of the West Pelton Co-operative Society recently held their sixth annual supper, in the Co-operative Hall, Pelton Lane Ends. The supper was prepared by employees' wives and a few friends. After supper, the night was spent with vocal and instrumental music, the majority of the vocalists being employees of the society. The music was provided by the Pelton Lane Ends Orchestral Band, under the able leadership of Mr Robt. Green. The general manager of the society, Mr Lawson, occupied the chair, and the president of the society, Mr Richardson, was in the vice-chair. Both committee and employees associated together in a friendly way, and an enjoyable evening was spent.

EXTRAORDINARY FREAK OF NATURE.

On Wednesday afternoon, Mr H. Hunter, master butcher for the Chester-le-Street Co-operative Society, had a shorthorn bullock, about 60 stones weight, killed. On being dressed, the kidneys were found to be of extraordinary dimensions. One of them weighed 9st 4lbs, and the other about half that. The animal was in every way healthy, and the abnormally large organs especially so.

WEARDALE NOTES.

Snow fell heavily in Weardale on Thursday morning after a partial thaw for the preceding two days in the valley.

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The mineral line from Waskerley to Park Road has been opened and blocked and reopened two or three times

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Quarry work has been much impeded at Stanhope and Frosterley on account of the storm. The workmen have lost much time.

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The navvies on the new railway have had no work since the commencement of the New Year.

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Something should be done for the navvies thrown out of work by the weather, in the way of opening out a soup kitchen or helping them in some form or other. They spend their hard earned money in the dale, and the tradesmen and others should lend them a helping hand just now. Those who believe in the brotherhood of man and fatherhood of God, have now a chance of putting their theory into practical form.

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Stanhope has now a flourishing adult temperance society on a broad unsectarian basis which every village ought to posess.

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It is many years since there was as much snow in Weardale as there has been this storm. There has been a depth of some fourteen or fifteen inches of level snow in the valley but much more on the moors and the out side lands next the moors.

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Upper Weardale should have one magistrate for various reasons. Yet there is none higher up than Stanhope. Perhaps by the time another election comes around the working classes will have aroused up to the fact that the new Local Government Act has invested them with big powers which at present they seem slow to realise and take advantage of.

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Another benefit concert has been held at Stanhope on behalf of an afflicted workingman. Another should be made for T. Lanesdale who has a family and has been off work all the winter.

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The sudden death of John Gardner of Wolsingham caused universal regret in the old town. His funeral was an exceptionally large one, as he was well-known and respected.

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Mrs. Walton, of the Phoenix Inn, fell on the ice during the storm and broke her arm.

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Mr. G. Moffit, innkeeper, Westgate, a man well-known in Weardale, died on Sunday.

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The Wear was frozen at Briggen Winch, west of Stanhope, last week end and skaters had a rare time of it on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, even till late each night, it being moonlight.

THE BOYS of H.M.S. "WELLESLEY," North Shields, will give TWO CONCERTS, in the Town Hall, Consett, on Wednesday, Feb. 6th

GREENCROFT SCHOOL BOARD.

On Wednesday evening, a special meeting of this Board was held in the Catchgate Board Schools, Coun. Philip Reay presiding. The other members present were Messrs W. Rutherford and A. Brown. On the motion of Mr Brown, seconded by Mr Rutherford, it was resolved that in future the meetings of the Board should be held at six o'clock in the evening instead of three o'clock as at present, and that the meetings be held on Thursdays instead of Wednesdays.—It was further agreed, owing to the inability of the clerk to be in attendance at the present meeting, that the same should stand adjourned until Wednesday evening next.

THE RECENT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCILS ELECTIONS.

Some Incidents at one of the Polling Booths.

The recent elections for the new District Councils took place on a Monday. On the Saturday previous some eight of us assembled, according to instructions in the Board Room of one of the local authorities to be sworn in. We were informed that we were to act as presiding officers and polling clerks. After a section of the Ballot Act had been read to us, we all of us read together, and aloud, a solemn declaration of secrecy from a printed form which had been previously handed to us. To this declaration each of us affixed his signature, and had then handed to him a list of the duties he was expected to discharge duly and faithfully at the polling booth. We were enjoined to see that the secrecy of voting was strictly maintained, that unauthorised persons should not be allowed to enter the polling booths, to take care that no person interfered with the voter while he was giving his vote, and that no one carried a ballot paper out of the booth. We were instructed to order the arrest or removal of anyone infringing these provisions, and the returning officer wound up these initiatory proceedings by a few appropriate remarks on the desirability of each one of us doing his best to perform his task firmly, carefully, and impartially.

Our printed list of instructions told us to be at the polling station at twenty minutes before twelve (noon), on the day of the election. Punctually to the time appointed I entered the polling station. At one of the booths erected there I was to act as presiding officer. Four policemen besides some of my fellow election officials had already arrived. Entering the booth allotted to us my clerk and I proceeded to empty the ballot box of its contents These consisted of the ballot papers of another different colour to distinguish them from the ballot papers proper; lead pencils for the use of the voters a blue pencil for ourselves to tick off on the register the names of the voters as they came in; pens and ink to fill up the declarations of blind or illiterate voters; sealing wax, a seal and a box of matches for the purpose of securing the lid of the ballot box so that it shall be impossible to tamper with the contents; a small New Testament lest it should be necessary for a voter to swear that he is the particular Brown, Jones, or Robinson mentioned in the list of voters allotted to our booth; a lever stamped instrument for the purpose of impressing or, to be more specific, of punching the official mark on each ballot paper issued; three or four large-sized envelopes for sealing up at the close of the poll the unused ballot papers, the counterfoils of the used ballot papers, the declarations of blind and illiterate voters of their inability to read, tendered votes, the account of the number of ballot papers issued, unused, and spoiled, the marked copy of the register and so forth. Red tape and sealing wax are prominent in an election by ballot. Great pains are taken to ensure absolute secrecy, and the elector need have no fear of any exposure of his way of voting. All things being now out of the ballot box we exhibit its emptiness to the policeman on duty at the booth, lock and carefully seal it. We then make fast to the strings provided for them in the various compartments, the pencils for the use of the voters to mark their papers. We place our stamping instrument, register, book of ballot papers, pencils, pens, and ink on the table before us, the ballot box on the stand provided for it, and we are ready to begin. None too soon either By this time it is twelve o'clock, the doors are thrown open and in stalks an elector who has evidently been waiting outside, and who seems quite delighted to think that he is the first man to record his vote "on this momentous occasion." When he enters our booth we ask him his name and address, look it up on the register, and, being found, his number on the register is marked on the counterfoil of the ballot paper, his name ticked off to denote that he has voted, the ballot paper is torn off, stamped with the official mark, folded up and handed to him. He goes with it to one of the compartments, puts his cross on the right hand side of the names of the men of his choice, folds up his paper, and drops it into the ballot box through the slit in the lid. This latter process will, in these days of many election, be familiar enough to readers, and I would not have troubled to set it down here but for the thought that possibly in the far far future, When Macaulay's New Zealander wearied out with surveying the ruins of St. Paul's, has journeyed north-wards and visited North-West Durham, he may perchance discover in some unexpected corner of the town of Consett, a copy of this issue of the "Consett Guardian," and may have his interest aroused, and his curiosity to some extent satisfied by the brief statement of the process employed by the inhabitants of these islands of Great Britain for the choosing of a council of their "wisest and best." The voting at our booth went on quietly during the afternoon, and until five o'clock there had been a very small proportion of the electorate polled. A little after that hour however, the workmen began to drop in on their way home from their employment, and for the last two hours that the poll was open we were kept steadily going. And, of course, at our busiest time what illiterates there were, came to interrupt progress. Your illiterate voter is for the moment an important person. No other voter is admitted while his vote is recorded. He has the booth all to himself. The declaration of his inability to read is read over to him. To this he affixes his mark. Then one by one and not too rapidly the names of the candidates are told him, and the presiding officer marks those for whom the illiterate desires to vote. The ballot paper is given him to fold up and put in the box, and the stream of ordinary voters begins again to file in at one door as the illiterate walks out of the other. Amongst the new comers is John Smith, of 20 No-place. We look his name up, it is there right enough, but John Smith, of 20, No-place, has already voted. His name is ticked off on the register. He maintains that he has not voted, and that if the name is marked off it must have been some other John Smith that has voted. And now our blue coloured tendered ballot papers are called into requisition. The voter affirms, or takes an oath on the little New Testament we found in our ballot box this morning when we emptied it, that he and none but he is the identical John Smith, of 20 No-place whose name is here registered, and that he has not voted to-day at this or at any other polling station in the district. This duly and properly attested entitles him to a tendered ballot paper on which to record his vote. These tendered ballot papers are not put into the ballot box along with the others but are enclosed in an envelope specially provided for the purpose. So things go on until the clock strikes eight, then, punctual to the moment, the doors are closed, the final vote has been cast, and the fate of the high hopes and aspirations which candidates have cherished lies hidden under the carefully sealed up lids of the black japanned boxes which contain the recorded opinions of the electorate. Though the voting is done our work is not quite over. The slit in the ballot box lid is closed and our seal placed upon it. Then the various envelopes found when we were emptying our ballot box prior to making a start, receive their contents, tendered ballot papers in one envelope, declarations of illiterates in another, and so on until all that can by any possible chance divulge a secret is sealed up safe and sure. As rapidly as possible the remainder of our belongings are parcelled up for removal. A cab is waiting outside for us. With our ballot boxes and parcels we are squeezed into it, and are whirled away to our local Public Buildings, where the boxes are deposited in a large safe, the door of which is locked and then sealed (sealing wax again) and we are free to proceed to our homes after being confined eight hours in a polling booth, satisfied that we have done a very arduous day's work.

LOW WASKERLEY.

EARLY LAMBING.—At the Co-operative Farm, Low Waskerley (manager, Mr W. J. Oswell), some lambs may be seen in fine condition, which is very remarkable for the inclement season, being about six weeks in advance of the usual time.

PRESENTATION AT MEDOMSLEY.

On Wednesday evening, a "smoking concert" was held at the house of Mr Robt. M. Rutherford, Royal Oak Hotel, Medomsley, for the purpose of presenting Mr William Elder (of the Northern and Ebchester Rowing Clubs) with a handsome silver watch, in commemoration of the grand form he displayed in the recent Christmas Open Boat Handicap on the Tyne. Mr Geo. J. Perkins (of embrocation fame), Newcastle, ex-champion sculler of England, occupied the chair, while Mr J. Cairns, Allendale Cottages, filled the vice-chair. The company present numbered about 50, and included representatives from all parts of the district.

The CHAIRMAN gave the usual loyal and patriotic toasts, which were duly honoured.

In making the presentation, the CHAIRMAN returned thanks for the honour they had done him in placing him in the chair. No doubt the majority of them knew him by repute, and there were also several there who knew him personally. (Cheers.) He had taken a great interest in the Ebchester Rowing Club, having given prizes, &c., and he hoped and trusted that that club would come to the front. (Cheers.) They had a nice piece of water for men to learn to row on, but it was hardly long enough. The duty he had to perform that evening was to present a very nice silver watch to Mr Elder—(cheers)—who was one of his clubmates in the Northern Rowing Club, Newcastle. Mr Elder was in his (the chairman's) crew when they won at the Tyne Regatta last season from scratch. (Cheers.) They beat Jarrow, Walker, and another crew from their own club. Referring to his earlier days, Mr Perkins said when he went to the post he had always been a trier, and would never patronise any club or man who did otherwise. (Loud cheers.) He thought that people who got a man to do wrong once would not believe in him themselves afterwards. A man who did wrong once could never be trusted again, and did not deserve to be. (Cheers.) He had been 20 years before the public, and had been to Africa, America, and Australia. He beat Beach at a place called Grafton, and then learnt the latter to row a skiff properly. Beach afterwards became champion of the world. The second time he went to Australia he coached Stansbury, who also became champion. He believed this little present to Mr Elder was subscribed for by his supporters and friends, and he was certain Mr Elder was a genuine trier in the Christmas Boat Handicap. (Loud cheers.) He rowed his best, and it took the absolute winner to beat him. He thought, as did the majority of the public, that if Elder had won the toss for sides he would have won the handicap. (Cheers.) On the last day, considering the tide and state of the weather, winning the toss gave a great advantage to the man rowing on the north side. To prove their respect for Mr Elder his supporters had determined to present him with that watch, and he hoped that he would always row straight. (Cheers.) The watch bore the following inscription:—"Presented to William Elder by his supporters in commemoration of his rowing in the semi finals of the Christmas Boat Handicap, 1894." On behalf of his supporters and friends, he (the chairman) had much pleasure in handing the watch to Mr Elder. (Loud cheers.)

Mr ELDER, in replying, said he thought it a great honour to receive that watch. He had done his best, and though beaten was not disgraced. (Cheers.) He hoped in the next handicap to do credit to himself and good to his supporters. (Loud cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN proposed "The Host," and remarked that Mr Rutherford was the principal supporter of Elder. He had always found their host to be a thoroughly good and straightforward sportsman. (Cheers.)

The toast was musically honoured.

Mr RUTHERFORD returned thanks, and said when he supported Elder he knew he was supporting a good honest trier. (Cheers.) It had always been his ambition to do the thing that was right, and he would continue to do so. (Cheers.) The next man he supported would row the same way, as straightforwardness always paid best in the long run. (Loud cheers.)

Mr CHARLTON (Ebchester Rowing Club) said his club intended to place a contract in a boat builder's hands to fix their boats with the latest improvements. They had men in their club able to hold their own with anybody if they were properly trained and looked after. (Cheers.)

The CHAIRMAN, in flattering terms, proposed "The Press," and said without the Press they would know nothing. (Cheers.)

The toast was drank with musical honours; and Messrs W. EALES and J. ROSS, jun., acknowledged the compliment.

"The Musicians" was given from the chair, and Mr S. MACE, jun., replied in neat terms.

Mr MACE proposed "The Chairman," and referred to the admirable manner in which Mr Perkins had carried out his duties. (Cheers.)

The toast having been musically honoured, the CHAIRMAN responded, expressing a hope that although that was the first time he had been with them it would not be the last. (Cheers.)

Mr RUTHERFORD proffered "The Vice-Chairman"; and in replying, Mr Cairns hoped that all their future meetings would pass off as satisfactorily as that night's proceedings. (Cheers.)

During the evening, excellent songs were contributed by Messrs Fairlamb, Charlton, Robson, J. McKenna, R. M. Rutherford, M. McKenna, J. Ross, jun., the accompaniments being played in splendid style by Messrs S. Mace, jun. (piano) and R. Brown (violin.) The company dispersed highly delighted with the very enjoyable evening they had spent.

MEDOMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL.

The first business meeting of the above Council was held on Wednesday evening, in the School Board Room, Medomsley. The chairman (Coun. W. H. Hedley) presided, and there were likewise present—Councillors T. Milligan, S. J. George, T. Pearson, J. Harrison, J. H. Morris, Jos. Armstrong, J. Crawford, T. J. Storey, W. R. Cooke, W. Fenwick, Wm. Robinson, and J. Brown; and the Clerk (Mr M. T. Milburn.)

THE PRECEPT.

Coun. MORRIS reported that the overseers had paid a precept of £30 into the bank at Shotley Bridge, and he had received a pass-book and acknowledgment from Mr Lax. The latter gentlemen (as representing the North-Eastern Banking Company) also thanked the Board for appointing him as treasurer.

Lighting and Watching Act.

Coun. Morris said the inspectors appointed three years ago to see to the lighting of the village had been superseded by the Parish Council. He thought a committee of six members of the Council would be sufficient to carry out the duties of the Council under the Lighting and Watching Act. It was necessary to call a parish meeting to sanction the estimate of the Lighting Committee.

After some desultory discussion,

Coun. Milligan moved that the parish meeting be held on the 30th January for the purpose of confirming the estimate of the committee for lighting next year.

Coun. Cooke seconded, and the motion was carried.

Coun. Armstrong said there was another matter that might be brought before the parish meeting, and that was the Adoptive Acts.

Coun. Morris thought this could only be done at an annual meeting.

Coun. Robinson said there must be fourteen days' notice.

Coun. Brown was of opinion that a special meeting would have to be called for the purpose.

The Chairman said on that night they could only have a special subject discussed. They could not discuss other matters if they wished to.

Coun. Crawford enquired if the extension of the Lighting Act could come up at the parish meeting?

The Chairman thought that that was a matter that came within the province of the Parish Council.

Coun. George said they should choose a place large enough for the parish meeting to hold the people that wished to come. He thought it should be as central as possible. They should not tie themselves to a small place, so that anyone who wished to come might do so. He moved that the meeting be held in the Board School, Westwood.

Coun. Storey seconded, and thought that people would now take more interest in their doings.

Coun. Cooke thought the schoolroom at Allendale Cottages more suitable.

Coun. George expressed his willingness to make his motion Allendale Cottages.

Coun. Morris: Would they give us permission to hold a meeting there?

Coun. George: If we pay.

Coun. Morris: Is there any likelihood of a large attendance?

Coun. George said a lot of the inhabitants had been grumbling for a long time about not having sufficient light.

Coun. Milligan failed to see where was the necessity for holding this meeting.

The Chairman said it was laid down in the Act that there should be a parish meeting every year to sanction this estimate. It would be the duty of the committee to prepare the estimate before the parish meeting.

Coun. Morris said this was merely a formal business. On former occasions there had only been about a dozen present.

Coun. Armstrong: You have fallen amongst different brethren now. (Laughter.)

Coun. Crawford thought there was no need to go to any expense on this question.

Ultimately, Coun. George withdrew his motion, and it was agreed to hold the meeting in the School Board room.

Lighting Committee.

Coun. Morris said two present members of the Council were on the Board of Inspection before. They should have about four more.

Coun. Brown asked if the whole Board could not form the committee?

The Chairman thought it was not advisable to have a large committee.

The following gentlemen were eventually appointed as the Lighting Committee:—Councillors Morris, Moffit, Brown, Harrison, Crawford, and Armstrong; Coun. Morris to act as convener.

The Chairman in answer to Mr. Robinson, said the committee would be to form again in April.

Iron Chest, Books, &c.

Coun. Morris said the Parish Council became the custodians of all agreements relating to the compounding of all rates which were formerly held by the overseers.

Coun. Brown enquired if there had not been an iron chest in the vestry?

Coun. Morris replied that that belonged to the rector, and was used for holding copies of baptisms, etc.

The Chairman suggested that they appoint a committee to take into consideration the purchase of a safe or chest for holding deeds, &c., and report to the next meeting.

Coun. Brown proposed that the Chairman and Mr. Robinson be empowered to purchase a safe or chest for the use of the Council.

Coun. Storey seconded the proposition which was carried.

The clerk was authorised to obtain the necessary forms and stationery for carrying out the work of the Council.

On the motion of Coun. Fenwick, seconded by Coun. Storey, it was resolved that the Clerk obtain an Ordnance map for Medomsley parish, and also a copy of Hadden's Local Government Act.

Finance Committee.

On the motion of Coun. Brown, seconded by Coun. Harrison, the following were elected as the Finance Committee:—Councillors Cooke, Robinson, Morris, Pearson, and George.

Declined with Thanks.

Coun. Morris explained that the following letter had been forwarded to him:—

Leadgate Urban District Council.
15th January, 1895.

Dear Sirs,—I am directed by this Council to ask you to extend the lighting of the road from Redwell ... Colliery to the Brooms Road end.

Yours faithfully,
J. Hedworth Coupland, Clerk.

Coun. Morris thought the Leadgate Council were going to help them manage their own affairs. (Laughter.)

Coun. Milligan moved that the matter lie in abeyance.

Coun. George seconded.

Coun. Fenwick moved that it be swept off altogether.

Coun. Morris, in answer to Coun. George thought their rateable value was only about £300.

The Chairman suggested that they simply acknowledge the receipt of the letter in a courteous manner. He thought this application ought to have some direct instead of through the Leadgate Urban Council.

Coun. Crawford said if this was done it would be the Leadgate people that would get the advantage.

The Chairman's suggestion was adopted.

The Agenda.

Coun. Storey enquired if all the business to be dealt with by the Parish Council should appear on the agenda?

The Chairman thought so, and said three days' notice had to be given to the members of the meeting and business.

It was decided that any member wishing to bring anything forward should give notice to the Clerk of the same not less than a week previous to the date of the meeting.

A Bad Road.

Coun. Brown called attention to the bad piece of road at Hamsterley; and it was agreed to deal with the matter at the next meeting.

Notice of Motion.

Coun. Storey gave notice of motion to be brought forward at the next meeting to the effect that a clause be inserted in the Standing Orders binding the Council to insist on the trades union rate of wages being paid and hours observed in all contracts issued by the Council.

The Next Meeting.

It was resolved that the next meeting of the Council should be held on the first Wednesday in March.

The meeting then adjourned.

The meeting then adjourned.

Although Mr. S. R. Crockett has resolved to abandon his pastoral charge at Penicuik in order to give himself entirely to literature, he has no intention of coming to London, the Mecca of most *littérateurs*. He loves his native heath too well to leave it for the crowded pavements of the metropolis of the Southrons.

Mr. Justin McCarthy is the object of some embarrassing attentions from a lady in America. She is constantly sending him cable messages, costing at least two pounds each, to the effect that she is the lawful Queen of Ireland, and that she does not expect to have any difficulty with the *de facto* Sovereign of that kingdom. Further, Mr. McCarthy is assured that he shall be the first Irish Prime Minister when his true Queen comes by her own. These messages are signed "Mary."

Sir William Broadbent is a strong believer in the contention of the *British Medical Journal* that oyster-eating is responsible for the prevalence of typhoid fever among the wealthier classes in London. In an article which is published to-day this distinguished medico gives particulars of a number of cases which have led him to the opinion that the disease was derived from the consumption of oysters. To cope with the evil which undoubtedly exists, the organ of the medical profession suggests that oysters should be cooked before eating—advice which I am afraid will not be acted upon by the man of epicurean tastes who looks upon the succulent native as the greatest delicacy of the table. At the best, however, the cooking of oysters can be regarded as simply a temporary expedient. The only effective remedy is to prevent the oysters being contaminated by sewage during the "fattening" process. So says the *British Medical Journal*, and it adds that an investigation carefully conducted by competent pathologists, with the co-operation of those engaged in the culture of the oyster, would speedily result in the discovery of simple precautions which would render infection from this source impossible in future. The scare is having a serious effect on the returns of the oyster merchants in the West End. One man declares he is taking £100 less per week than usual, which he attributes entirely to the action taken by the doctors.

Mr. W. T. Stead, with his usual candour, has dubbed the committee of the Lord's Day Observance Society a "pack of idiots" because they refused to give any information to a lady interviewer as to the reasons the society is opposed to the publication of Sunday papers. Mr. Stead is a strong opponent to Sunday papers, and wrote in most vigorous terms denouncing Mr. James Gordon Bennett for issuing a London edition of the *New York Herald* seven days a week. He, however, declined to grant an interview on the subject, but gave the journalist who applied to him a letter of introduction to the secretary of the above society, with the result stated. There is a great diversity of opinion on the Sunday paper question, but as a matter of fact, so far as the printers are concerned, the Monday paper involves infinitely more Sunday work than the former.

TO-MORROW'S FOOTBALL.

TYNESIDE LEAGUE.

Leadgate Park v Wallsend Celtic, at Leadgate.

DURHAM JUNIOR CUP.

Esh Tree Blues v Dipton Wanderers Reserve, at Esh.
Consett v Leadgate Exiles Reserve, at Consett.

DURHAM RUGBY JUNIOR CUP.

Blackhill Rovers v Langley Moor, at Langley Moor.

SHOTLEY SPA CUP.

Consett Swifts v High Row United, at Marley Hill.

ORDINARY FIXTURES.

Blackhill Rovers 2nd v Sleetburn 2nd, at Sleetburn.
Shotley Bridge Rovers v Langley Park Albion, at Langley Park.
Lintzford v Stanley Albion, at Stanley.
Lintzford Juniors v Whickham, at Whickham.

TYNESIDE LEAGUE.

LEADGATE PARK v WALLSEND CELTIC.

This return fixture takes place on the Park ground to-morrow. Park team :—Goal, J. Crowther; backs, W. J. Foreman (capt.) and F. Foreman; half-backs, T. Cartmell, R. Wilson, and T. Snowdon; forwards, J. Wilson and Bell, left wing; A. J. Burnhope, centre; C. T. Foreman and R. Graham, right wing. Linesman, J. Haggerstone. Referee, Mr T. Amos, Hobson.

SHOTLEY SPA CUP COMPETITION.

HIGH ROW UNITED v CONSETT TOWN SWIFTS (HOLDERS.)

The following team will journey to Marley Hill to-morrow to represent the Swifts in the above game :—Goal, D Elliot; backs, Geo Eustace and J Finnigan; half-backs, J McKie, T Winter, and J Allison; forwards, J Rafferty and B McKie, right wing; F Bradley, centre; R Russell and A Daly, left wing. Reserve, J Little. Linesman, J Borrow. Referee, Mr W. Oliver, Shotley Bridge.

DURHAM JUNIOR CUP.

FIRST ROUND.

ESH TREE BLUES v DIPTON WANDERERS RESERVE.

The following team will represent the Blues :—Goal, R Dunlop; backs, R Pearson and J Trotter; half-backs, E Hull, J Dorkin, and W Boughy; forwards, R Nichol and T Bottoms, left wing; W Bottoms, centre; A Chamberlain and R Hetherington, right wing. Reserves, W Pearce and J Wilkinson. Dipton team—Goal, Walker; backs, Anderson and Turpin; half-backs, Barrow, Parker, and Anderson; forwards, Brown, Teasdale, Leadbitter, Crozier, and Brown. Reserve, Evans.

CONSETT v LEADGATE EXILES RESERVE.

These teams having been drawn together in the first round of the Durham Junior Cup Competition, will try conclusions on the Consett ground to-morrow. Both teams being well represented a close and exciting game is sure to result. The following team will represent Consett :—Goal, J Winter; backs, T Skelton and Wm Graham; half-backs, R Wake, J Carruthers, and J Simpson; forwards, J Blackwell and J Adams, right wing; T Simpson, centre; T Dunn and R Harkness, left wing. Reserves, A Frosdick and Geo Hamilton. Linesman, A E Kempster. Referee, Mr A J Smith, Tanfield Lea. Kick-off at 2-15 prompt.

DURHAM RUGBY JUNIOR CUP.

FIRST ROUND.

BLACKHILL ROVERS v LANGLEY MOOR.

This the first round of the Junior Cup, which was postponed from last Saturday on account of the weather, will be played off at Langley Moor, to-morrow, when the following team will represent the Rovers :—Full-back, T Elliott; three-quarter backs, J Moore, A N Other, J Brown, and J Askew; half-backs, R Bromley and J Anderson; forwards, Geo Sayers, A Taylor, G Hewitson, G Aitken, W Brown, G Dawson, E Gibson, and G Smailes. Reserve, G Davison. Kick-off at 2-30.

CONSETT TOWN SWIFTS 2ND v AXWELL ROVERS B.—The following team will represent the Swifts :—Goal, A McDonald; backs, Joe Walton (capt.) and A Aitken; half-backs, R Bradley, J Topham, and G Wood; forwards, P McKie and T Ellis, right wing; T Sanderson, centre; T Wood and G Turley, left wing. Linesman, J N Charlton.

MINERS AND THE HOURS OF POLLING.

On Monday, at the meeting of the Houghton-le-Spring Rural District Council, the Clerk read a letter from the Clerk of the Hetton-le-Hole Parish Council stating that that Council wished to petition the Durham County Council that the hours of polling in local governments elections be from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., on the ground that a certain class of men went to work at noon, and were unable to record their votes.—Mr Cochrane moved that the County Council be petitioned accordingly.—Mr Urwin seconded.—Mr Lishman moved as an amendment that the Council do not accede to the request.—After discussion, the motion to accede to the request of the Hetton Parish Council was carried.

HOME MARKETS.

CORN.

Newcastle, Tuesday.—Market thinly attended. Wheat firmly held for the full prices of Saturday, but the demand is more limited. Maize still tends to buyers' favour. Oats, beans, and peas without material change. Flour slow.

HAY AND STRAW.

Newcastle, Tuesday.—Old land hay, £2 10s to £3 10s; new land hay, £3 15s to £4 10s per ton; wheat straw, £1 4s to £1 10s; oat straw, £1 to £1 8s per load. At market—87 carts of hay, and 26 carts of straw.

CATTLE.

Newcastle, Tuesday.—The number of cattle penned showed an increase of 559 on last week's numbers, and quality and condition were good. The cattle trade was dull in tone at the opening, and continued so throughout, and the tendency of prices was absolutely in favour of the buyers. A clearance was scarcely effected at closing time. The display of sheep showed a decrease of 671 head. Owing to the rain during the night and the recent severe storm, sheep showed drenched and badly, consequently business commenced slowly, but late rates were well maintained, south country buyers purchasing fair sized lots, and a fair good clearance was the result. Calves a moderate show; prime quality in good demand at fully late rates. Pigs shown were about last week's numbers. The larger sorts were in better demand, and realised a shade more money; business for other sorts was somewhat limited to previous markets. The arrivals from a distance since Tuesday last consisted of 250 cattle and 310 pigs from Aberdeen and district, 269 cattle and 659 pigs from Ireland. Total number shown—Cattle, 1,998; sheep, 4,885; pigs, 1,033; and calves, 66.

WHOLESALE FRUIT AND POTATOES.

Newcastle, Tuesday.—There was an improved attendance of buyers in the Green Market, and upon some lines business ruled brisker. From Rotterdam the John Ormston landed 364 barrels of apples, 818 bags of onions, 153 bags of carrots, 50 bags of cabbages, and 36 bags of beet root. In the apple line stocks on hand are beginning to get well cleared up, both cooking sorts and Americans, and with light supplies values ought to improve accordingly. Oranges show little or no improvement, sales being slow, with a scarcity of really sound parcels. There is plenty of poor and common stock upon the market, for which low prices are accepted in order to effect clearances. Good bold, sound fruit, however, commands attention, and fair prices are obtained for parcels of this description. Valencia onions rose in price, and it is hardly likely that prices will be any easier as they are about finished for the season.

PROVISIONS.

Hexham, Tuesday.—Hares, 3s to 4s 6d; rabbits, 1s 4d; chickens, 2s 3d to 3s; ducklings, 2s 3d to 2s 9d; hens, 1s 3d to 2s each; turkeys, 11d to 1s; geese, 8½d to 9d per lb; partridge, 3s 6d; pheasants, 6s per brace; potatoes, 8d; onions, 1s 2d to 1s 6d per stone; Brussels sprouts, 3d; fresh butter, 1s 1d to 1s 2d per lb; eggs, 8 to 9 for 1s.

FISH.

North Shields, Tuesday.—There was a small supply of fish at this market, seven boats having arrived. Prices :—Large haddocks, 4s 6d to 7s 3d per basket; plaice, 16s to 18s 6d do; lemon soles, 23s to 26s do; real soles, 1s 2d to 1s 4d per lb; halibut, 6s to 7s per stone; turbot, 1s to 1s 2d per lb; brill, 4d to 6d do; ling, 2s to 4s each; skate, 2s 6d to 4s 3d do.

DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEA.
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEA.
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEA.
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REMINISCENCE OF A MEETING HOUSE IN A MINING VILLAGE.

Before the Methodists came the village had no religious record. Parliament might cover the English counties with Churches and agents; but these provisions did not in any true sense meet the spiritual needs of the village communities. The earliest appointment of a Curate to the parish of which there is any account was in 1409. There were I daresay, entries of baptisms and burials made in the books during the dreary centuries before the Methodists came. But of any man in the village, it was not said "he was born in Zion." No, we were children of Philistia, and Zion was a barren mother. It was not before the time of our grandfathers that the day dawned. Will the Lord of all the earth overlook the ignorance of these generations, as he overlooked it in pre-gospel times. O, God of our fathers, our only refuge. unknown to us, by hope, thine infinite mercy is

But let us leave these reflections not so bright in themselves, and proceed to the considerations of the preachers and their work. They came in plain garb, and had on a coat with single collar. The women who laboured in the ministry, wore bonnets of the quaker fashion, which protruded largely in the front, and when they "spake face to face," it required some adjustment of position by the ladies. Both sexes wore the hair straight down the brow, being cropped, so as to cover half or more of the forehead. The brothers were clean shaven, neither beard, nor moustache were allowed. Indeed for either travelling or local preacher to have affected such worldly guise, would only have served to make trouble for the Connexional Courts. And when in process of time, our hearts hardened, and views got lax, when such innovations as wearing the beard had to be tolerated, it was the occasion of complaint and grief to the old members that had stood fast in the old paths. When liberty was sought to wear the beard, the question had to be put cautiously at the quarterly meeting. The reason most frequently given, was that the doctor had advised that the beard would protect the tonsils, and especially the part so important to the voice called "Adam's apple." The beard is an adjunct to the Connexion from the medical faculty, and it may be as useful as wine, or tobacco, which are both freely recommended by the same authority as that for the beard.

Still these things were only the accidents, not the essentials, with the first preachers. They could invariably speak fluently. There were none tongue-tacked, or none with impediments in speech. We had no stammerers. In relation to the subject matter, of their message, they did not come to us to say something, but because they had something to say. The desire for our redemption, moved their hearts as the souls of the prophets of old were moved. They possessed individuality, and consequently variety. They did not visit as priests, but as saved men, filled with Christ's love. They did not recommend as a beginning in religion that we should first descend into the moving sands of absolute doubt. Their rule was "We also believe, and therefore also we speak." They were humble men, such as those as pride themselves in nothing, no not even on being humble. It was a real enthusiasm, born of the love of God; not the artificial enthusiasm, that brings with it blessing. Besides they had great endurance under their many difficulties. They redeemed the time, rising early, and giving themselves to the word and prayer.

The village green was the place where the first preachers took their stand. There was no doubt a good deal of the sensational, mixed with the work at the beginning. The earliest visits of the missionaries were heralded by strange rumours. Men were coming, we were told, whose work it was "to turn the world upside down."

The coming of the Methodists was one epoch for the village. It was a season, a time, such as it had never been visited with before. Its new dispensation which brought words of life. Many were saved, who lived and died in the gospel.

At the start a neighbour of the name of Anderson, opened her house for the services. A kind service rendered to the cause, both opportune and acceptable. This example of our friend was after the example of Aquilla, and Priscilla, and Philemon, and others who lodged the church in their house. In this case, as in the case of Obed-edom, the entertainer of the ark, it brought blessing to the family.

Having spoke of the entrance of the gospel among us, let us now glance at its developement. During the first years of the operations of the church there was not only good work done but good fruit reaped. and it may be of interest here to view a few of its members, that formed the society at its meeting house fifty years ago. Only a few of those that consituted the church at this period, remain in the militant list. The majority have fought the fight and obtained the prize.

The class-leader then was a man over middle age, he was not so strong in faith and ardent in zeal, as some of his juniors, yet he had more information to impart than any other man in the village, his knowledge had not been obtained so much by the organ of thought, as by a powerful memory. He was a great teller of anecdotes, he was wont to relate more than one about the clergy of the parish, the intent of which went to show up the foibles and pretensions of the minister. He had many reminiscences of the talented preachers amongst the Wesleyans who had been called to fill the pulpits in Newcastle-on-Tyne. As a preacher his sermons were short, and sensible. "He was easy to be entreated, his failing was perhaps that he treated matters eternal too easily. Historically he was our Methuselah. None brought to us so much of the past, and in his order he served the Lord as his generation.

The next was a young man, we will call him Origin. He was the leading singer in the Meeting House. He was also a great stumper. Like Pascal he felt himself placed between two infinities, or eternities. In reference to the Divine attributes, Omniscience, Omnipresence, and Omnipotence, he would say these are but the abstract terms but what may the concrete be? God alone could give the answer, but the highest of creatures could not receive it. We cannot find out the Almighty to perfection. His discourses were thoughtful, and rich, with the truth and spirit of the Gospel. Alas! he too has been taken from us.

Another before the throne now, but still remembered for zeal, and simple piety, by his company left on the field of battle, demands notice.

Ithiel was "a brand plucked from the burning." Several others passed through the throes, and raptures, of the new spiritual birth, at the same time. But the dividing between the old, and the new, was the sharper, and clearer, in the case of Ithiel, than what it was in many others. See the latter part of the fifth chapter, of the epistle to the Galatians, for an illustration of the old self, and the new self. The old with the works of the flesh, the new self, under the reign of the Spirit. If consciousness makes every one, to be what he calls self. In the conversion of our brother the old consciousness passed out, a new consciousness was obtained through mercy. The desire for the conversion of others after obtaining peace with God was a continual passion. A compassion which from the hour, in which he obtained justification, and renewal, knew no abatement until the race with him was run. It was nothing strange in his work, to influence grey headed men that had never prayed before, and perhaps had never entered a house of prayer in all their life. Ithiel brought the kingdom of God on many. He had individuality in a striking manner. He seemed stamped all over with simplicity. There was nothing about him, mentally or morally, that was assumed. His presence with us today would still be a continual rebuke to the conventionality which prevails both in the spirit and practice of religion. At present, he was certainly no mannerist, mannerism is the bane of the churches at present. With Methodists today, in too many instances, and almost the entire preaching and praying of some of the circuits is ruled by mannerism. We are uniformly long, uniformly dry, in many places uniformly loud; these states and habits have deprived us of originality. A living, growing Christian is always original. We don't remember any explicit statements, that he ever made in regard to the higher life, or Sanctification. Yet his was a daily consecration to Christ. He was a holy man. He was always a living miracle of the Grace of God. Trials he had too, but his religion was an abiding joy. He passed over the Jordan, that divides the glorified, from us, a few years ago. There would be a goodly number, to welcome him, who had often worshipped with him in the humble Meeting House. And if he speaks the Tyneside dialect, in heaven, he has met several of his company with the greeting, "Welcome hinny to eternal life."

T. B., whose career terminated while quite a youth. His life, was short but most devoted, and the end triumphant.

There were honourable women who were lights in their households, and to their neighbours also. These people lived so as to make a moral and religious atmosphere in the village. These are some of the best Christians we have known.

Let us now look at the teachers whose work it was, to build up the church. On the foundation laid by the first labourers. One Mr. Batty, among others, was a pioneer, a good man whose ministry profited the people much. At a much later date, or about the year 1849, we had as itinerant, one Jair, an original preacher. We are born originals but far the most die copies. Jair had not been put under the leveling machine, hence his originality had been preserved. Jair could draw from the treasures of the Word, and give it to us in a way that both edified, and pleased. Jair had for a colleague a young man eloquent in speech, and otherwise endowed in gifts. Another pair of itenerants, the senior of these was an eminent preacher, of the higher life. The junior, was characterised by a ripe intelligence. He was also "the fiery preacher," he would sweat as if his duties had to be performed in the face of a blast furnace. Another of Saul type, in stature, yet quiet in spirit, and demeanor, taught us the doctrine of respect, he was the first as far as we can recollect, that ever used the term "Sir," when addressing us individually, or as a friend. There was bro. Ulai, who was always a puzzle preacher, perhaps he might preach with the understanding, yet the understanding of the congregation must stand still while Ulai speaks, there was no communion of reason, between Ulai and his congregation. And we are not sure that he never hugged home, on the pay Saturday, both Tillotson, and Chillingwoth, obtained at the Newcastle-on-Tyne second hand bookstalls. But these authors did but little to keep him, to either clearness in language, or in the matter of correct reasoning, he put lucidity at the end of the earth. The long string of words with confusion, confused, no mortal could follow. Or if we attempted to do so, it was like going in the track of a friend in a dense fog, on a strange road, expecting every minute to land at no-place. Some of the learned called the performance, a conglomeration. Whatever that may mean to the learned, it in no wise explained the preacher. Some of the more charitable amongst the hearers were kind enough, to admit, that if they could but understand him, the matter would be good enough. But to understand Ulai was what was amongst the things unattainable. What was thought to be ideas, something born of his intellect, flew off into the region of nonentity. The minds of the hearers could not lay hold of the impalpable, and the swallows of the church generally are not so swift on the wings of the mind as the swallows of the air. But a kind farewell to the prince of tantalisers. We shall never meet such a master of the incongruous again.

We must close here, and it is with pleasure and thankfulness to have the assurance that the good work at the Meeting House, has not only continued, but largely increased the chapel accommodation, the large Sabbath school, with a large membership, and the church full of Christians to-day actively. It has had its days of trial, yet it remains a city set on a hill. The church has lived for seventy years in the village. It has created and sustained a religious atmosphere until this day. It was the origin, the birth period, of our redemption, was the coming of the Methodists. These village societies have sent hundreds of men forth as local preachers, and scores to the ministry. From these Meeting Houses come the leaders in the Union, who fought the battles of the labour question, amongst the miners fifty years ago. It started us in books, or literature. All our springs are in Christ's Gospel.

AN ADVENTURE.

There are a few of us, perhaps, who cannot cast a retrospective glance through the vista of the past to some epoch which the cares of this life has not clouded nor the march of time bedimmed.

One beautiful evening in summer when the last rays of the setting sun had faded, and the tenants of the woods had piped their last lay, and quietly gone to rest, I was seated near the summit of a hill in Aberdeenshire. Around me were many cairns or heaps of stone which mark the graves of some rude Caledonians who fell in battle, and were buried where their blood dyed the heather. But neither the associations nor the surroundings of the place affected me very much, although they were such as might have worked the poet's thoughts into melody.

The mellow light of the summer eve, the balmy breath of the heather bell, the rugged forms of the everlasting hills towering against the northern sky, while the shrill cry of the curlew and the wail of the plover gave a weird aspect to the scene. Indeed my thoughts were so concentrated on the theme that all others paled before it. Reader, I was in love. No evanescent shadow gliding athwart the horizon of life, but love such as the poet depicts

> "A love that shall for ever burn
> And smile over nature's closing urn,
> And mix its beams in cloudless day,
> When sun and stars have passed away."

My soul being laden with love, I sat musing until night had unfurled her sable tapestry. I then decended the hill, and after many zigzag windings I reached the plain. The night had now changed considerably; ominous clouds floated over head, through which the moon peered now and anon like some pale spectre. A dirge like sound issued from the forests, as if the winds were loath to leave the cave of their slumbers. A storm was imminent, the knight of the weather was evidently marshalling his aerial artillery for the onset, I hastened onward. About half-a-mile to the west was a homestead. This was the abode of my charmer, I said the abode; for, mark you, she was a farmer's daughter. I determined to see her that night. True it was not our usual trysting night, but what of that, had she not often told me that I could never come wrong? Actuated by this hint I left the pathway and struck across the fields in the direction of her dwelling. Confound those "pee weeps," how they sweep around me, shrieking like as many demons, alarming half the parish with their outcry. Woe betide the unlucky wight who calculating on secrecy crosses field or moorland where those birds are located, he will be treated to a serenade he will not soon forget.

It was a relief when I reached the farm. The watch dog, aroused by the clamouring of the pee weeps, hailed me with open mouth. I retreated into a cart shed until the chagrin of my canine friend would subside, and then stole gently to the back window of the kitchen and peered within. The turf fire smouldered on the hearth; a hugh grimalkin held undisputed sway of the ingle. The bed where my angel reclined was not perceivable from my point of view. This was of no moment however, for, bless you, a whisper from me would woo her from the arms of Morpheus. I gave a peculiar tap on the window and waited breathlessly the result. A rustle within and in another moment her shadow passed the front window. She had recognised my signal and was coming direct to me. What an age of suspense, the palpitation of my heart was so audible I scarcely heard the sound of her airy feet as she tripped round the gable of the house. I stepped softly up to the corner to take her by surprise, and no sooner were the skirts of dress perceptible than, with a bound, I clasped her in my arms. Oh, horrors! a figure twice the circumference of my darling was firmly locked in my embrace! I had kissed her mother! The shock was so poignant that I sprung backward before I had quitted hold of my supposed lover. This movement was too much for the old woman's equilibrium, the issue was, we both went sprawling in the court-yard. I leapt on my feet with the agility of a roe and dashed off in the darkness; the howls of the watch dog, and the laughter of the old wife giving impetus to my flight.

Before I reached home a dreadful storm broke over the district drenching me to the skin. I was completely crestfallen, my love had ebbed many degrees, another such a tempest would have sunk it below zero. What if it should be known through the length and breadth of the parish that I had kissed an old woman. I dare not look a maiden in the face again. My fears on that point were partly assuaged by a missive which came to hand on the following day.

Spurtledriftie Farm
August 14th, 18—

Dear A——

Words cannot convey to you the regret which I felt about what transpired last night. I was on a visit to B——, lost the train, and consequently had to stay all night. On my arrival to-day I learned the state of affairs. Mother knew you, but with her the secret is safe. Indeed she is very loud in her laudations of you! Last night she had a severe toothache which robbed her of her nocturnal rest; Hearing a knock at the window she went to see who paid us a visit at so untimely an hour. You know the rest! what followed was so sudden that it gave quite a shock to mother's system; but happily with very beneficial results, as her toothache vanished that moment, she is therefore very loud in her laudations of you? Kissing my mother! "Tell it not in Gath," What would the maids of Philistia say? If you are still in the body, meet me tonight at the old thorn tree, an hour before sunset, I trust you will not disappoint me.

Well did I go?——Gentle reader, I must now drop my pen, for at this juncture I am reminded of the lines of the poet.—

> "Aye free aff nan' your story tell,
> When wi a bosom crony;
> But still keep something to yoursel
> Ye so reely tell to ony."

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VALE OF DERWENT NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB.

The members and friends of the above club held their annual supper and conversazione in the Temperance Hall, Burnopfield, on Saturday evening. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, there was a good attendance. After supper, which had been prepared by Mr. Appleby of the Temperance Hotel, the party was entertained with various pianoforte solos by Mr. Walker, organist of Trinity Church, Gateshead, and with songs by Mr. Taylor of Barcus Close and Mr. Clough of Ashington. After the music the new limelight lantern belonging to the society was brought into use, and worked by Mr. J. G. Ramsay, of Ashington Schools. A series of slides illustrating the Highland home of the Queen, together with views of the surrounding scenery, was shown. A number of local scenes, some which had been prepared by members of the club, were also exhibited, as well as portraits of some of the members. A lantern view of part of the late exhibition was thrown on the screen, and a considerable amount of interest and applause were produced thereby. A large number of coloured slides of an amusing character were also exhibited. A series of slides illustrative of entomology, owing to want of time, had to be too hurriedly gone through to be examined with the interest they deserved. This was also the case with some very excellent geological slides which have been presented to the club by Mr. Thomas Henderson, of Dunston. It is intended to exhibit these slides some evening, with a short lecture on geology. Several new members of the club were elected, after which the company separated, having spent an instructive and pleasant evening.

A £1,000 CHALLENGE LIKELY TO BE ACCEPTED BY A DOCTOR-EDITOR.

When G. Handyside introduced to the public this marvellous remedy, he deposited £1,000 in the hands of Messrs Watson and Dendy, solicitors, Newcastle. It lay there for three months, and when no one came forward it was withdrawn. Two persons have accepted the challenge, but they dared not proceed. Now a gentleman of high standing has come forward—both a doctor and an editor. I hope he will have more courage. It will be a great boon to sufferers who are unable to work, and their families starving to know whether vegetable extract, or drastic purgatives and poisons are the best for building up the constitution, and restoring the afflicted of all diseases to health and strength. Until the contest is settled everyone should go and hear at Handyside's places of business what this Consumption Cure is doing for Consumption, Cancer, Tumours, and all eruptions of the skin. They will find thousands of people have been cured, and now working for their families, whom the doctors had given up. The terms of the contest that I propose are as follows:—that the doctor and one of my assistants visit the principle towns of the kingdom every fortnight, for twelve months. Those who prefer Handyside's Consumption Cure to get it, and those who desire doctors' medicine to get it, and all the patients to assemble in the different towns at the end of twelve months and vote as to whether the unrefined vegetable extract prepared by G. Handyside, or the doctors' drastic medicines are the best, and the winner to hand over the £1,000 to a charitable institution.

HANDYSIDE'S RHEUMATIC CURE does not fail once in a hundred cases, when it is applied according to the directions. 30,000 people have been rubbed at Handyside's Rooms, and 99 out of every hundred have been cured, but a good many who rub themselves have failed, because they did not go by the directions. Whenever it fails they should communicate with Mr. Handyside.

THE BLOOD FOOD prepared by G. Handyside from its nutritive properties, builds up the body, and a healthy body has neither Indigestion, Sleeplessness, Costiveness, Languidness, nor any other diseases.

Those who dislike to take unpalatable medicine should take the PILLS prepared by G. Handyside. None of his preparations contain any medicine, therefore cannot ruin the constitution as most doctors' medicine do. You have never seen great takers of doctors' medicine but who have their teeth discoloured and rotted away. If it will rot and destroy ivory teeth it is no wonder it destroys the stomach, and when the stomach is destroyed the body and heart are weakened, and Languidness, Sleeplessness, Eruptions of the Skin, Loss of Memory, Lowness of Spirits, and all other diseases consequently arise. They are sent out in two boxes. The small box contains medicine, and should not be taken if the large box will gently move the bowels. After medicines do good for a short time they then make you worse than ever, until they injure the stomach so much that you are bound to continue taking them, making you better when you first take them and worse after, until you sink into a lingering death. Not so with the PILLS prepared by G. Handyside. They do the good by building up the body and improving the constitution. Some people are surprised that the large box does not purge. That is their great value. They improve the digestion, and put your bowels into a natural state. Some people are surprised to feel so much benefit from two or three small pills but if it contains what the body needs the good is often astonishing. I knew a person who went to Mr. Wright, a Presbyterian Minister, near Berwick-on-Tweed, after the best doctors in the kingdom had failed to do good, and he laughed heartily when Mr. Wright gave him three small bottles. He had to take three drops out of one in the morning; three drops of another one before dinner; and three drops out of another before going to bed, and in twenty-four hours he was as well as he could wish to be. Everyone should go and hear what the people say about these preparations where G. Handyside has a place of business, but to those who cannot go I append a testimonial from a person who has received enormous benefit from these PILLS:—

29, Callerton Place, Newcastle.

MR. G. HANDYSIDE,

Dear Sir,—I have taken doctors' pills for 3 years for Costiveness and Indigestion, and Severe Headaches. Two pills at first would move my bowels, "but after taking them for some time I was forced to take eight pills before they were effective." I took your MILD PILLS and they have perfectly cured me of Costiveness and Indigestion. It is about three years since I took your PILLS, and I got quite well. I take them occasionally when out of order, but six or eight months will elapse before I need them. I have got half of the box of PILLS that I got from you three years ago left yet.— Yours truly, T. EASTEN.

The above gentleman had naturally a robust constitution, but the continual taking of doctors' pills was beginning to ruin it. Two medical pills moved his bowels when he first commenced to take them, but they destroyed his digestion so much that he required to take eight pills before they would move him. He is now cured of Indigestion and Costiveness, and in robust health. It is marvellous the good that all these medicines do. The reason is they contain no medicine. They are simply a highly concentrated vegetable extract, and they build up the body by their nutritive properties, and a strong body has the power to throw off all diseases. One out of every four physicians' prescriptions contain poison; and the doctors in the next generation will condemn poisons as much as the present doctors condemn bleeding, which was freely practiced twenty years ago. A novel idea for strengthening the body by taking away that which is necessary to life and to build it up. Price, 1/- for two boxes. If your chemist is out of stock, Write to G. Handyside, 12, Bentinck Crescent, Newcastle. They will be sent, carriage paid, with a note enclosed, stating that if you consider they have not done you more good than all the medicine you have taken, the money will be returned.

DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEA.
DELICIOUS MAZAWATTEE TEA.
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At 1/4, 1/6, 1/8 and 2/- per lb. Of Leading Grocers.

MRS. S. A. ALLEN'S WORLD'S HAIR RESTORER never fails to restore grey hair to its youthful colour. It acts directly upon the roots of the hair, invigorating them, cleanses the scalp, removing dandruff, rendering the hair soft, silky, and glossy, and disposing it to remain in any desired position. It has hosts of admirers, male and female, young and old. Sold by Chemists and Perfumers.

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

A NARROW ESCAPE.

By AUSTYN GRAHAM,

Author of "A Terrible Woman," "Only John," "Vicar's Daughter," "Nobody's Darling," &c.

CHAPTER II.

"Well, uncle, you do not seem overwhelmed with joy at seeing me again," said Humphrey Fielding, with a slight sneer, as he seated himself in the dining-room at Heron's Dyke the following morning.

Wine and dessert stood on the table. His aunt was lazily consuming a slice of hot-house pine; his uncle, who faced her, was confining his attention to the decanter that stood opposite him. Their shock of surprise at the safe return of Dorothy's undesirable lover had passed off, but its traces remained in their countenances.

"My dear boy," protested Mrs. Kennard, "how can you say such a thing? You——"

"Hold your tongue, Maria," interrupted her husband, testily; "and as for our satisfaction at your return, Master Humphrey, "that will depend on your behaviour. I do not forget the circumstances that occurred before your departure, and if you hav'n't got over you're mad fancy, but are coming to upset our daughter, we can't welcome you as you expect. Now, you know my feelings. Draw up you'r chair to the table, and help yourself," added his uncle, pushing the decanter impatiently towards Captain Fielding.

But Humphrey took no notice of that grudging signal of amity: he looked moody and thoughtful. Presently he roused himself. "I can't think how Dorothy can have forgotten me so easily," he answered, sadly. "I know the attachment was chiefly on my side, and that you set your face against it; but I did not think she would have filled my place quite so soon."

Mr. Kennard laughed. "You've a better opinion of the fidelity of women-kind than I have, then, my lad. What could you offer in comparison to all Sir Maurice Ellicombe can give her? I don't say she didn't care about you, and grieved over your supposed death."

"For how long?" murmured Captain Fielding.

"But," his uncle went on, "she is no sickly sentimental girl, and was willing to 'take the goods the gods provided,' when they fell in her way."

"And is she happy, sir?" asked his nephew, anxiously. "Does she looked contented and bright? Is her husband kind to her?"

Mr. Kennard became irritated. "My good Humphrey!" he answered. "You sailors are the veriest schoolboys. Do you expect Dollie and Sir Maurice to behave like lovers now they're married? Fashionable life forbids silly exhibitions of attachment."

"I did not mean that, sir," began Captain Fielding. "I meant——"

"Never mind what you meant. I never forced my daughter to accept the baronet, so let's drop the subject, and fill your glass."

"Pray do, my dear," entreated his aunt. "What is done cannot be undone. You must 'forget and forgive' our poor Dollie." Mrs. Kennard was a kind stepmother.

Captain Fielding, though sturdy and strong in his attachment, had all a sailor's honest-hearted warmth and generosity, so when Mrs. Kennard proceeded to question him about his mother (her sister) he found himself answering her inquiries with cordiality, and with his legs beneath his uncle's mahogany quietly sipping his excellent port with placid enjoyment. Truly in this nineteenth century the forsaken lover who quenches his wrath with powder and shot is a thing of the past.

When Captain Fielding left Heron's Dyke that evening, for he insisted on returning to the hotel at D——, he braved the November mists, to stroll round by Court Lees and gaze aimlessly at the casket that contained his jewel. "I know I'm a fool, but I can't help it," he murmured, sardonically, as he tramped through the park, through a small unlatched gate, that he might obtain a nearer view of the mansion, which he could only discern by a twinkling light in one or two of the upper windows.

"They are early people at Court Lees," he said, trying to discuss the time on his watch by the aid of a fusee. "Not quite ten o'clock. By Jove! They can't be gone to bed," and mechanically he pushed on across the park, till he stood beneath the ivy-grown grey walls of the old mansion. "It's to be hoped there are no bloodhounds or mastiffs unloosed on these hospitable premises," he murmured, satirically. "Poor Dollie! I wonder if she's really contented and I'm clean forgotten? I fancy, by my uncle's reticence, there's a screw loose somewhere."

At this moment a door opened near him. Yes; it was the great front-door, and a man's figure stepped out on to the terrace, followed by a little dog gambolling in front of him.

"I'm a lost man," thought the captain, "that little pup will be down on me in a twinkling." But he was mistaken. Lady Ellicombe's little pet would have "given tongue" sharply enough had the visitor in hiding been roughly attired, like the ordinary tramp; but the little chap, after a short bark, wagged his tail at the sailor in ambush, and timidly retreated to his master's side again.

"Call this little brute in, my lady. He'll get lost in the fog, as I'm going for a stroll."

Then Captain Fielding heard the tones of his lost darling, and could distinguish the outline of her figure as she stood in the dimly-lighted hall door. Once again he listened to that sweet voice, which had rung in his ears since their last parting. But how different was the tone!

"Here, Fussy, come in. What a night to go out!" and there was a shiver.

"You will not expect me to remain up, Maurice, of course?" and there was a timid hauteur in the query.

"Please yourself!" was the rude response, then he turned abruptly, and caught his wife by the wrist. "It would not trouble you if I were lost in the fog, I know. I'm not the man who should have been your husband, eh? as you said in one of your tantrums! I'll have his cursed name out of you yet, my lady."

She uttered a faint cry, which nearly brought Captain Fielding from his hiding-place, but he restrained himself, and then the door was shut—the baronet on the outside, his lady within.

"There'll be a confounded row if he spots me" thought the captain, shrinking more into the shadow of a very lonely bush, but fortune favoured him with the gathering darkness, and Sir Maurice walked on, his footsteps growing fainter in the distance.

Humphrey restrained his strong inclination to knock at the Hall door, and obtain admittance to his Cousin. "No" he thought; "I'll do nothing to injure her fair name or risk her safety with that jealous brute who had evidently heard of our attachment. Oh! my poor Dollie! my dear lost love! To think that I must leave you to your sorrow to the cruel tyranny of such a husband! How can I do it? Good Heavens!" and he strode off in the direction of the town, musing upon his discovery, and resolving finally, that, as he could take no immediate step, he would remain for awhile in the neighbourhood, and cautiously ascertain for himself whether it was a mere jealous exhibition on the part of Sir Maurice, or whether he was in the constant habit of bullying and brow-beating his wife for the unfortunate discovery that a rival had preceded him in her affections.

CHAPTER III.

"Now, my lady, I know the truth! I've found out your secret," cried Sir Maurice, vindictively. "That curly-wigged Jack Tar of a cousin—pah!—is the fellow you 'ought to have married,'" and he burst into a series of oaths. "Bah! No 'cousinship' at all! Only a cloak for familiarity,"

The contemptuous tone in which her husband spoke roused Dorothy's anger. The colour mounted to her cheeks, and with flashing eyes she looked up at him.

"Then, if you've found out everything so satisfactorily for yourself, you do not need any explanation or confession from me," she retorted, boldly.

Although they were walking through the shrubbery, and Sir Maurice was returning to luncheon with his gun on his shoulder, the sun was shining brightly, and Dorothy felt no fear, although he had, latterly, terrified her by occasional fits of violent temper. The keeper had turned off towards the back precincts with the game bag. At his wife's incautious and provoking speech, the baronet looked as if he would have felled her to the ground. He stopped abruptly and began to load his fowling-piece. As she watched him her blood curdled in her veins.

"Maurice! What are you doing?" she said, with chattering teeth.

"I'm going to send a false wife to answer for her sins in another world!" he hissed, through clenched teeth. "Now, set off and run! I'd rather have a shot at you from a distance than blow you to atoms at my side."

"Sir Maurice! Are you mad? I think they will hang you! Mercy! Mercy!"

"Do you hear me? Off with you!" roared the baronet; "or, by Heavens, I'll put a charge into your heart as you stand."

Casting her eyes wildly around her, with a piteous cry that was echoed from woods and hills around, Lady Ellicombe sped away like a deer, but ere she had ran far her strength failed her, and she fell to the ground, hearing, as she did so, the sharp report of a gun and the shot rattling among the leaves around her. The sudden fall had saved her from instantaneous death.

Almost immediately as she lay semi-conscious, there followed another explosion. Then opening her eyes from a sense of acute pain, she saw the sight of blood all around her; the whole air seemed full of the scarlet stain, and amidst the murmuring of many voices, Dorothy knew and felt no more.

"Is she dead? Oh, my poor lady!" cried a young keeper.

"Fetch two hurdles and bind 'em, and carry her ladyship to the house," said an older retainer, grimly. "And you, Tom," addressing a stable-boy, "saddle Bess, and galop off for the doctor, sharp."

Then Captain Fielding, who had been startled by the strange shots in that locality, pushed his way through a narrow, torturous path, and joined the group. In one keen glance he took in the whole scene. With trembling hand, in spite of his assumed firmness, he knelt down beside the unconscious victim, and tied his handkerchief firmly round the arm from which the blood was slowly welling.

"Lady Ellicombe is wounded, but not dangerously, I hope," he said, as he moistened her white lips with brandy from his flask. "Take that gate off its hinges without delay, and carry her ladyship on it to Court Lees. You've sent for the doctor? Then leave me to deal with the would-be murderer," and he strode away.

Not more than fifty feet from the spot Humphrey came upon Sir Maurice Ellicombe's figure prone on the earth, his gun beside him. The open, sightless eyes were gazing skyward. No dogs watched beside the prostrate form. Released from the heel of a tyrannical master they had gladly joined their poor mistress, as she was carried to the house.

"So!" murmured Captain Fielding, and even though his angry gaze fell on a corpse, he could not control it. "You've escaped me, you villain! Well, thank Heaven, you have, or I should have hanged for you, I know. I've seen through all your sly brutality to my darling," and he raised his foot as though to kick the motionless form. Then, he restrained himself. "Nay" he added, a softened, more gentle expression stealing round his mouth. "He's gone where man's judgment, for good or ill, is worthless. 'Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord.' If Dorothy lives I'll try and forgive him. The toughest piece of work fate ever set me!" added Captain Fielding, with a grim smile as he went towards Court Lees, the bearer of still more awful news to its household, whom he found full of speculation as to how my lady met with her accident.

"It must ha' been a stray shot o' the masters" surmised the head keeper "he's al'lays darned careless a poppin' about right and left."

And if this suggestion were doubted by some of the household, who had overheard sharp words from the baronet to his wife, it was accepted silently. Retainers in ancient houses do not care to bring shame on the old name. To this belief Captain Fielding's intelligence arrived as a thunder-bolt.

And only to think as findin' out what had been and done; the barronite should ha' gone and shot hissel' too?" cried the old butler.

Solution accepted, not only by the servants, but the public at large, and at the Coroner's inquest that followed—"Verdict suicide from temporary insanity."

If Lady Ellicombe knew to the contrary, she kept the secret, it would not have been at all desirable that Captain Fielding's name should be associated with hers by her husband's mad jealousy. Finally, she taught herself to forgive Sir Maurice his conduct towards her, and to attribute it to the hereditary insanity traced by research, to the mother's side of his family. He had been generous in his marriage settlements, and although the estate, for want of a male heir, passed to another branch of the Ellicombe family, yet Dorothy was a rich widow, and, as such, had many offers.

But her heart returned to its first love, and after two years probation Captain Fielding was rewarded by her hand. His voyages to other lands ceased, and blest by wife and children, his home was bright and happy; and Christmas bells rung every year over a united and increasing family circle.

So, though the first part of their lives had been stormy, rest and peace came at last; and for Humphrey and Dorothy—

> "With secret course, which no loud storms annoy,
> Glides the smooth current of domestic joy."

A NEW STORY, entitled, "THE BOLTON SQUARE TRAGEDY," by John H. Leys, will be commenced in next week's "Guardian."

SAD DEATH OF A NEWCASTLE TRAVELLER.

An inquest concerning the death of Mr. John Henry Cornforth, 45 years of age, a commercial traveller in the employ of Messrs Harvey and Davy, tobacconists, Newcastle, was held at the Durham County Hospital on Monday, before Coroner Graham. The deceased gentleman died at the hospital on Sunday morning from injuries he received through a fall just outside Durham Railway Station on Thursday week.—Dr. Bryant, house surgeon at the hospital, gave evidence to the effect that Mr. Cornforth was admitted to the institution about eleven o'clock on Thursday night suffering from a simple fracture of the right leg. He died on Sunday morning from failure of the heart's action due to the injury he had received by the fall.—The jury returned a verdict that deceased had died from failure of the heart's action brought about by the fracture of his leg, acidently caused by falling.—The deceased was well-known and highly respected in the Consett district.

SHOOTING.

West Kyo.—A pigeon shooting match, the best at 17 birds, came off on Saturday afternoon, in a field not far from the house of Mr. Thomas Gatiss, Earl Grey Inn, West Kyo, between A. Jewitt, of Burnhope Colliery, and J. Forster, of Annfield Plain, for £10 a-side. Over 200 people were present, in spite of the wintry weather, and betting ruled at 30 to 20 in favour of Jewitt, who ultimately won. Scores:—Jewitt, 11111 0111—9; Forster, 10111 0010—6. Mr. Samuel Dart, of Kyo, officiated as referee, while J. Jewitt, Burnhope, trapped for his brother, Thos. Hunter, Annfield Plain, performing the same office for Forster.

Medomsley.—On Saturday afternoon, a sparrow shooting sweepstake of 2/- per lot, was decided in a field adjoining the Royal Oak Hotel, Medomsley, the promoter being Mr. R. M. Rutherford, the landlord. Owing to the severe weather, neither the attendance nor the entries were so large as might have been anticipated. Scores:—Royal Hotel, 16, 0; Royal Oak, 18, 1111111; Fat Hand, 18, 0; (2nd lot), 0; J. Anderson, 16, 10; Broomhill, 18, 1110; J. Robson, 16, 0; Clifton, 16, 1110; Smith, 18, 110; (2nd lot), 110; Hornsby, 18, 1110; Richard, 18, 10; (2nd lot), 0; Annfield Plain, 17, 0; (2nd lot), 110; Holt, 17, 0; Peter, 17, 1111111; W. Elder, 18, 1111111; J. Murray, 18, 110. Referee and handicapper, Mr. Sept. Burrell, Broomhill; scorekeeper, Mr. R. M. Rutherford; trappers, W and J. Edgar, Bradley Cottages. It is intended to have another sweep a fortnight hence.

HUNTING.

Wear Valley Hunt Ball.—The annual ball in connection with this hunt was held on Wednesday night, in the British Schools, Tow Law. The schools had been prettily decorated by local ladies and gentlemen, and upwards of 60 couples were present, the proceedings being of the most successful character. The M.C.s were Messrs J. Deyey (Wolsingham), Robert Crowe, (Hedleyhope), and J. E. Nicholson, (Lanchester. Mr. John Hughes, of Tow Law, supplied the music, while the refreshments were catered by Mr. Hodgson, of Crook. Dancing was kept up till four o'clock the following morning.

Football

. Secretaries of football clubs would greatly oblige us by despatching their reports so that they may reach our office not later than *Tuesday* morning.

ASSOCIATION

Craghead Rangers beat Rainton Gate Albions by one goal to nil.

Gateshead St. Cuthbert's defeated Whickham by three goals to none.

West Stanley Blue Stars 2nd beat Craghead Rangers by six goals to five, on the Craghead ground.

PELTON FELL v HEWORTH.—Played a Pelton Fell, a good game resulting in a win for Pelton Fell by four goals to one.

LANGLEY PARK v OUSTON INSTITUTE.—Played at Langley Park, and resulted in a win for the visitors by four goals to one.

CONSETT TOWN SWIFTS 2ND v BLAYDON ALBION.—Played on the Fell ground, Consett, the Swifts winning by five goals to one.

KYO v STANLEY ATHLETIC.—Played at Stanley in about a foot of snow, a one sided game ending thus—Kyo, nine goals; Stanley, nil.

WITTON GILBERT EXCELSIORS 2ND v USHAW MOOR RED STARS.—Played on the ground of the latter, and resulted in a draw of two goals each.

KIP HILL WANDERERS v STANLEY BLUE STARS.—Played at Stanley, and ended in an easy victory for Kip Hill by eight goals to one.

DERWENT VALLEY LEAGUE.
LINTZ ROVERS v LEADGATE PARK RESERVE.

This game was played on the Lintz ground, before a fair number of spectators. The Rovers winning the toss, elected to play with the sun behind them, and from the kick-off took the play into Leadgate quarters, where, after a few smart exchanges, McGurk scored the first goal for the home team. Leadgate now broke away, and from a clever pass by Lock, Mansell equalised. Play was very fast, the ball travelling from end to end, and both sets of backs being kept busy. However, A. Hughes and W. Humble got possession, and fairly beat R. Foreman, Humble scoring No. 2 for the Lintz with a good shot. Soon after McCluskey got his knee wrenched and had to leave the field, Humble soon after following, thus leaving the game to be played with ten men on each side. Just before half-time the Park had hard lines, the ball going just past. They claimed a goal, but it was not allowed, and at half-time the score stood—

Lintz ....Two goals
Leadgate ....One goal

On restarting, the game became as fast as ever, and after about ten minutes' play the Lintz scored their third goal. The state of the ground began to tell its tale, both sides being thoroughly done up. The Park stuck manfully in, and shortly before time added another goal, and seemed like scoring again, but the whistle sounding the game ended as under—

Lintz ....Three goals
Leadgate ....Two goals

Referee, Mr Ridley, Spen.

DURHAM SENIOR CUP.

COMPETITION PROPER—FIRST ROUND.

DIPTON WANDERERS v HEBBURN ARGYLE.

These teams met at Dipton to decide their tie in the above competition, before about 1,000 spectators. The ground was covered with snow to the depth of something like twelve inches. Dipton protested against the ground, and the referee acknowledged that it was not fit for a cup-tie. Hebburn, however, declined to protest, and a start was effected a quarter-of-an-hour behind time, the opening being rather sensational. Wood passed to Crooks, who scored for Dipton in two minutes. After some amusing scrimmages, Crooks got possession, and gave to Ellis, who registered a second point. Wedderburn, the Hebburn centre forward, was now injured, which necessitated his leaving the field. A few minutes later, from a run by Ellis, who passed to Walker, the latter ran in and scored. Hebburn began to press, and secured two corners, the first by Gillespie and the second by Stewart, who placed the ball beautifully, but Rowell saved in grand style. Another corner fell to the visitors, but it was cleared. Dipton pressed, and just before the whistle blew Wood added another goal. Half-time—

Dipton ....Four goals
Hebburn ....Nil

In the second half the Argyle showed much better form, but the home team were the first to press, and from a rush Wood put the ball through, but was ruled off-side. A free kick to Dipton followed, the ball passing between the posts without touching anyone, and of course no goal ensued. The Hebburn forwards made a nice run, McShane centreing well, and from a scrimmage Bell opened the visitors' account. Not long afterwards Stewart added a second point. The home team notched another goal in this half, while a further point from the foot of Crooks was disallowed on a plea of off-side. Finally the Wanderers won a splendid victory as under—

Dipton ....Five goals
Hebburn ....Two goals

Teams:—Hebburn Argyle—Goal, Glover; backs, T Laverick and J Robson; half-backs, P Inglis, J Bell, and N Errington; forwards, G McShane, W Stewart, J Weatherburn, Bell, and T Gillespie. Dipton Wanderers—Goal, Robt Freek; backs, R Coates and T Rowell; half-backs, E Beckwith, E Buck, and J Milburn; forwards, T Crooks, W Ellis, S Wood, J Cant, and T Walker.

Referee, Mr P. Gibbon, Gateshead.

DARLINGTON v TOW LAW.

At Feethams, Darlington, before a fair company. Tow Law protested owing to the snowy ground. Play rather favoured Darlington until Callighan was foully charged and incapacitated, then Lumsden put in one from the left, and the Darlington custodian handled. Coulson returned, scoring the first for the visitors. End to end play followed. A strong attack on the Tow Law goal resulted in Allison, the goalkeeper, being hurt, but he continued to play. Half-time—

Tow Law ....One goal
Darlington ....Nil

On resuming, the homesters increased the pace. A capital attempt from the centre missed, but Bowes meeting the kick-out equalised by a lightning shot. Darlington unsuccessfully renewed the assault and fast play followed. The succeeding play rather favoured the homesters, until Campbell, passing to Bowes, gave that player a chance, he putting on the winning point. Final—

Darlington ....Two goals
Tow Law ....One goal

Tow Law—Goal, Allison; backs, Temperley and Thompson; half-backs, W Waites, T Waites, and Simpson; forwards, Coulson, Rippon, Wilson, Hobson, and Lumsden.

Referee, Mr Dennis, Middlesbrough.

LEADGATE PARK v LEADGATE EXILES.

This match was played on the Park ground in the presence of about 800 spectators. The ground was covered with snow and very slippery, so the teams agreed to play only a "friendly." The Exiles defended the entrance goal in the first half. Soon after the kick-off the Exiles pressed, but neither team gained much advantage for a time, the defence being too good to allow of any liberties being taken with it. After the Park had gained a corner, which was well cleared, the Exiles attacked determinedly, and the ball was sent through to the accompaniment of loud cheers from the supporters of the "greens." Encouraged by this success, the Exiles again pressed severely, and once more beat Crowther, only to have the point disallowed for off-side. The Park now had a look in, and Burnhope got past the backs and had a grand chance, but Callaghan saved in clever style. After Callaghan had thrown away again, the ball came across from the right, and Wilson had no difficulty in equalising the scores, only having the goalkeeper to face. The home men attacked again, and Wilson put through after a scrimmage, but the whistle had previously gone for off-side. The Exiles now rushed down the field, but the brothers Foreman defended stubbornly, and would not be beaten again. Even play ensued till the interval, which found the score reading—

Exiles ....One goal
Park ....One goal

Immediately after resuming, the Park took up the attack, and maintained it for some time, but the defence of the Exiles was strong enough to resist all attacks, and Callaghan was not often troubled. The home forwards were now showing good form, but generally failed when the final pinch came. The Exiles were far more dangerous when they got within the vicinity of the opposite goal than their opponents, and Wilson and the backs had several times to be very smart to keep the "greens" from scoring. Hill forced a corner, which was well placed, but F. Foreman cleared, and the Park forwards, well backed up by Bob Wilson, again attacked, but they could not get one past Callaghan. About three minutes before the finish McMahon and Daley broke away, and gained a corner. This was beautifully put in, and McGee headed the winning point in fine style. Nothing further resulted, and a hard and fast game ended as under—

Exiles ....Two goals
Park ....One goal

Teams:—Park—Goal, J Crowther; backs, W J Foreman and F Foreman; half-backs, T Cartmell, R Wilson, and T Snowdon; forwards, J Wilson, W Bell, A J Burnhope, R Graham, and J B Robson. Exiles—Goal, H Callaghan; backs, W McGee and J Haggon; half-backs, J Monaghan, T McGrachan, and B Rogers; forwards, J Hill, J McMahon, J Daley, J McGee, and Newbiggen.

CROOK AND STANLEY DISTRICT LEAGUE.

Shildon R. defeated Willington by four goals to two in the above league.

HEDLEY HILL TERRACE RANGERS v STANLEY UNITED.

Played at Hedley Hill. The visitors, losing the toss, started the leather, and from a piece of good combination, Horsefield scored for Stanley ten minutes from the start. After this reverse, the Rangers made matters warm for United, and M. Dawson equalised with a grand shot. Play now became very fast and exciting, the homesters having slightly the best of the play, Hudson landing No. 2 after some pretty passing. At half-time the score read—

Rangers ....Two goals
United ....One goal

On resuming, the United forced the leather into the Rangers' quarters, but met with a stubborn defence, the back division and Walker (in goal) being in the pink of condition. The home team once more asserted their superiority, and getting well in, M. Walker scored No. 3. Try as they would United could not add to their score, and a fast and excited game ending as follows—

Rangers ....Three goals
United ....One goal

RUGBY.

DURHAM RUGBY JUNIOR CUP.

FIRST ROUND.

BLACKHILL ROVERS v LANGLEY MOOR.

The match between the above clubs was postponed on Saturday, owing to the frost-bound condition of the ground.

FOOTBALL JOTTINGS.

[By "OFF SIDE."]

THE GREAT FIGHT AT LEADGATE.

For some years the two premier Leadgate clubs—the Park and Exiles—have been drawn together in the Durham Cup competition, and this year proved no exception to the rule, as the draw decreed that they should meet last Saturday in the first round of the Durham Cup Competition proper. As may naturally be imagined, the utmost excitement prevailed since the draw became known, and the eventful day was eagerly looked forward to. The Park have had a wonderfully successful season, while, on the other hand, the Exiles have scarcely shown up so prominently as they did last season, therefore little surprise need be expressed at the Park being warm favourites for the event, although not a few pinned their faith to the "greens."

—o—

Unfortunately, the weather last week was of a very severe description, and during the week the Park ground was covered to a depth of something like twelve inches. The Park executive made strenuous efforts to get the ground cleared, removing a large quantity of snow, and it must be admitted that the enclosure was not nearly so bad as one might have anticipated, and was, I should say, much better than any other ground in the district. However, the teams evidently thought it unfit for a cup-tie, and, I understand, subject to the approval of the Durham Association, agreed to play only a "friendly." There was a big attendance, and the excitement and enthusiasm was kept up right through the game. I should mention that both clubs placed their full strength in the field.

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Considering the weather and other conditions, the game was a really good one, and both teams played every whit as hard as if the match had been a cup-tie. There was little to choose between them in the first half, each side registering a point, and also having one disallowed. The Park undoubtedly did the most pressing after the interval, but the Exiles maintained a grand defence, which the home team, try as they might could not penetrate. Of course, the Exiles often broke away, and when they did so were generally dangerous. A few minutes before the close the Exiles' forwards ran up and forced a corner, which was neatly placed, and Jimmy McGee (I think it was) got his cranium to it and scored the winning point for the "greens" amid tremendous cheering. This seemed to take all the go out of the Park men, and the Exiles came again but shot by. This concluded the scoring, and, contrary to expectation, the "greens" were hailed victorious by two goals to one.

—o—

The winners have undoubtedly to thank their back division for their success. The defence all round was grand, and equal to all the calls made upon it. Callaghan kept goal in splendid fashion, and had no chance with the point which scored, as it was shot from close range. He was very cool—in more senses than one—all through, and invariably got the ball well away. The veteran captain (W. McGee) played one of his best games, and did a great amount of work. He was continually conspicuous for some fine tackling and kicking, especially in the second half, when his side was being severely pressed. Haggan proved a worthy partner for his captain. The halves played a rattling game, McGrachan seeming to be in his element on the heavy ground, and he was for ever in the thick of the fray. Monaghan played his usual effective game, while Rogers seems likely to develope into as good a half as the Exiles have had for some time. The forwards lacked combination, and have been seen to greater advantage. McMahon was about the pick, although McGee was little—if any—behind him. Hill did fairly well, but Daley and Newbiggen (the latter especially) were out of it.

—o—

The Park goalkeeper (Crowther) had not a great deal of work, but suffered by comparison with his vis-a-vis. The most prominent man on the Park team was the centre half (Bob Wilson), who played a really grand game, and appeared to be always where the ball was knocking about. It is doubtful if ever the Park had such a splendid centre half as young Wilson. No fault could be found with the brothers Foreman at back, their kicking being especially good and accurate on the slippery ground. They also tackled in commendable fashion. Neither Cartmell or Snowdon struck me as being in their best vein. The forwards played a capital game, and were superior to the quintette on the other side. For a wonder, the left wing was better than the right, Bell playing a much improved game, albeit his shooting was execrable. Joe Wilson and Robson put in some excellent work, but Graham was hardly as effective as usual. Burnhope worked hard, but seemed rather wild. I understand that the tie will be played a week to-morrow (Saturday), when it is to be hoped that the ground will be in decent order, so as to give the players a fair chance. The game should be worth seeing.

—o—

TOW LAW JUST LOSE.

A Darlington contemporary comments as follows on the above game:—At Feethams the meeting of Darlington and Tow Law was not accorded anything like the amount of public support that would have attended a Durham Cup tie under ordinary circumstances. Though not particularly bad, the field of play was covered with snow, beneath which was an icy sheet that made the movements of the players full of difficulty, and the surprise is that under such conditions the performances were so good. Both teams protested against the game being considered a cup tie, and the question will have to be settled by the Durham Association. The game was a good one, though all through the Darlington team had the upper hand, notwithstanding the fact that Tow Law led by a goal at the interval. Before the game had been in progress ten minutes Callighan was disabled by a charge from an opponent, and the game had practically to be played with ten men on the home side. The play of the Tow Law forwards was very smart, and the half-backs also played a sterling game, whilst the goalkeeping was splendid. Both sides had very hard lines in not scoring more goals. On the home side Turton deserves special credit for his performance at half-back, and Norris and M'Gregor were both up to the mark. Henderson kept goal exceedingly well, and Oliver was about the best of the forward rank.

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A LUCKY VICTORY FOR THE LINTZ.

The Derwent Valley League fixture at the Lintz on Saturday, between the Rovers and Leadgate Park Reserve, was one of the fastest, considering the state of the ground, that has been played on the Rovers' enclosure this season. The home goalkeeper (Hayes) saved some very hot shots, while the backs were always "on the job." At half Johnson played a grand game throughout, and his kicking and tackling had a lot to do in saving his side from defeat. Heslin and Sinclair also did well. Hughes was perhaps the pick of the forwards, although Temple and McGurk ran him very close.

—o—

The Park goalkeeper did some capital work, but the shining light of the team was H. Foreman at back, his kicking and tackling being a treat. Willey was the best of the halves, and, as usual, seemed to be always on the ball. The forwards did not combine so well as they might have done, Lock on the left wing being the pick of the five, although the inside right got in some useful work. The game was pleasantly contested all through, and a draw would perhaps have been a more fitting result on the day's play than a win for the Rovers by three goals to two.

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HEDLEY HILL RANGERS IN FORM.

It is doubtful if ever the Rangers played a better game than they did last Saturday when they entertained Stanley United, and defeated them in handsome fashion. At the close the winners were highly complimented by their enthusiastic supporters upon their splendid display, and well they deserved it. I notice that the Rangers are drawn to play Hobson Wanderers in the first round of the Junior Cup, and judging from the form they have been showing lately the Hobson may have a harder nut to crack than they reckon upon. At any rate, the game should by no means be a run-away affair.

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BRAVO, DIPTON!

There is no doubt that the result of the cup-tie at Dipton was a really genuine surprise, as almost everybody had booked it as a "good thing" for Hebburn. However, like many another "good thing," it did not come off. The ground was inches deep in snow, and therefore the home team took the precaution to protest. Not so, Hebburn, however. They had an easy job, bless you, and they were not going to protest—not they. I think the "after proceedings" would be a rude shock to them. Right from the start the Wanderers played a winning game, and after Crooks had scored in the first two minutes, there was no holding them. They out-played the Argyle at every point, and at the interval had a comfortable lead of four goals. Of course, with so much in hand, they could afford to take things a trifle easy after changing ends, and as a consequence Hebburn showed to more advantage than they had done previously. Still, Dipton fully held their own and ultimately gained a brilliant victory by five goals to two. In addition, the home team had three or four points struck off for various infringements.

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The winners fairly surprised their supporters—and also their opponents—by the dash they showed on the heavy ground. H. Walker was unable, through illness, to take his place between the sticks, but the veteran Freek proved a very capable substitute. Coates was in wonderful form, and fairly seemed to revel in the heavy going. He was easily the best back on the field, and his efforts were most ably seconded by Rowell. The halves always had the measure of the Hebburn forwards, and held them well in check. Buck played brilliantly, while the work of the other two left nothing to be desired. It was amongst the forwards, however, that the greatest improvement was noticeable. Their passing, combination, and shooting were alike good. Crooks made a welcome re-appearance, and again proved his value to the team. I should certainly say that Ellis played the best game on Saturday that he has ever done, while "Tucker" was the "Tucker" of old, and delighted the onlookers with his dodging and tricky play. He received valuable assistance from Cant. Wood filled the difficult centre forward position in worthy style, and kept his wings nicely together. If Dipton can only "keep it up" they will give Gateshead N.E.R. something to do in the next round. I heartily congratulate the Wanderers on their brilliant performance.

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It goes without saying that Hebburn were considerably disappointed at their defeat. They had beaten Dipton on the same ground not many weeks since, and therefore they felt confident of doing it again. Whether it was the heavy ground, or whether it was due to the great improvement in the home ranks, I cannot say, but the fact remains that the visitors were completely overplayed from start to finish. With about two exceptions, they had their strongest eleven doing duty, and therefore cannot excuse their defeat on the ground of weak representation.

—o—

TYNESIDE LEAGUE.

A meeting of the above League was held at Newcastle last week, there being a good attendance of representatives. Mr W. Fletcher (Axwell Rovers) presided, and several important items were disposed of. Jarrow Presbyterians claimed two points and expenses from Mickley for non-fulfilment of the fixture at Jarrow. After the case had been carefully considered, the match was ordered to be re-played, at Jarrow, the Mickley club to pay 15s as indemnity.—Axwell Rovers v. Gateshead.—This was a like claim by the first-named club, but as it was proved that the non-appearance of Gateshead was due to a misunderstanding, the match was ordered to be re-played at Swalwell. The expenses of the non-played game to be paid half by each club.—Hobson Wanderers protested against the decision of the referee in the match v. Axwell Rovers, at Swalwell, but after considerable discussion the protest was withdrawn.—The selection of referees concluded the business.

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DERWENT VALLEY LEAGUE.

The monthly meeting of the above League was held on Saturday, at the headquarters, Rowland's Gill. All the clubs were represented with the exception of Leadgate and Burnopfield Temperance. Mr W. Fletcher (Swalwell) president, occupied the chair. The following games were ordered to be replayed:—Hobson Reserve v. Lintzford; Byermoor v. Axwell Reserve; annd Leadgate Park Reserve v. Axwell. Lintzford were ordered to pay expenses to Hobson, and Swalwell to pay expenses to Byermoor and Leadgate. A "friendly" having been played by Lintzford and Hobson on January 5th, owing to the state of the ground, and also Lintz Rovers against Spen. The visiting teams were awarded half gate when the games are replayed. The referee in Lintzford v. Burnopfield Temperance League game, on Jan. 1st, reported R. Hogg, for misconduct, and the same was ordered to be referred to the Durham Association. Referees for February were appointed, and the meeting adjourned.

Feb. 2—Byermoor v. Hobson—G. H. Hedley.
Feb. 9—Lintzford v. Leadgate—J. Cairns.
Feb. 9—Marley Hill v. Axwell—R. Abbott.
Feb. 16—Spen v. Lintzford—J. Ross, jun.
Feb. 16—Hobson v. Marley Hill—A. Fletcher.
Feb. 23—Spen v. Leadgate—G. Grey.

—o—

DERWENT VALLEY LEAGUE.

The following table shows the position of the clubs forming the above league up to date:—

Club	P	W	L	D	Goals For	Goals Agst	Pts
Marley Hill St Cuthberts	9	8	1	0	39	12	16
Lintz Rovers	10	6	4	0	25	14	12
Hobson Wanderers R	8	5	3	0	21	15	10
Lintzford	7	4	3	0	16	13	8
Leadgate Park R	6	4	2	0	16	17	8
Spen Albion	6	3	3	0	10	8	6
Axwell Rovers R	8	2	6	0	13	25	4
*Burnopfield Temperance	8	1	5	2	13	27	2
Byer Moor	8	0	6	2	15	33	2

*Burnopfield Temperance had two points deducted for playing an unqualified man.

—o—

TYNESIDE LEAGUE.

Appended is the table of results to date in this competition:—

Club	P	W	D	L	Goals For	Goals Agst	Pts
Hobson Wanderers	11	9	1	1	37	10	19
Axwell Rovers	10	7	0	3	36	23	14
Mickley	9	5	1	3	23	14	11
Jarrow Presbyterians	10	4	1	5	19	33	9
Leadgate Park	5	4	0	1	17	6	8
Wallsend Celtic	13	3	2	8	20	34	8
Godfrey	10	3	1	6	20	30	7
Heaton Rovers	12	2	3	7	17	30	7
Hexham Excelsior	6	2	1	3	11	11	5
Gateshead	6	2	0	4	6	15	4

—o—

NORTHERN ALLIANCE.

The following are the results of the Northern Alliance Competition up to Saturday:—

Club	P	W	D	L	Goals For	Goals Agst	Pts
Blyth	14	11	1	2	46	22	23
Shankhouse	15	9	1	5	31	21	19
‡Willington Althletic	12	8	2	2	38	12	18
Trafalgar	14	7	0	7	21	24	14
Jarrow	10	4	3	3	19	24	11
*Hebburn Argyle	14	5	3	5	18	27	11
Gateshead N.E.R.	11	4	2	5	[illegible]	16	10
Sunderland A.	9	4	2	3	15	11	10
*Rendel	14	4	3	7	22	28	9
†Newcastle United A	15	3	4	8	24	33	6
Dipton Wanderers	10	2	1	7	14	34	5
Southwick	7	0	0	7	5	32	0

*Two points, † four points deducted for playing ineligible men, ‡ two points allowed on Sunderland A failing to turn out.

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MEMS.

That popular forward, Joe Robson, of the Leadgate Park club, has departed this week for a two years' course of instruction at a Training College for schoolmasters.

Both on and off the field, Joe was a general favourite, by reason of his gentlemanly demeanour, and his departure will be much regretted. I cordially wish him the greatest success in his studies.

The Park has also sustained another severe loss, owing to McCluskey being unfortunately injured at the Lintz on Saturday, while playing for the Reserve in a Derwent Valley League fixture.

I understand that McCluskey (who is a splendid back) has sustained such a severe injury to his knee as is likely to keep him off the field for several weeks to come.

The first round of the Junior Cup comes off to-morrow and there will likely be more than the usual amount of excitement knocking around the district.

The "gate" at the cup-tie at Leadgate on Saturday last amounted to over £11, which must be considered really good on such a day.

Axwell Rovers had an easy journey on Saturday against Wallsend Celtic, romping round the latter to the tune of six goals to one. Roscamp and Ouston were particularly prominent for the Rovers.

Dipton Wanderers and Newcastle United A had arranged to play a match at Dipton on Saturday for the benefit of the Northern Alliance. However, the Dipton secretary (Mr Jos. Burton) informs me that United are unable to come to Dipton to-morrow, so that the match has had to be postponed.

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MATCHES WANTED.

West Stanley Blue Star 2nd would like to arrange matches with junior teams. Ages 13 to 16.—Thomas Bolam, 2, Peel Street, West Stanley, R.S.O.

Kyo Schoolboys have all dates vacant, and would like them filled up as soon as possible. Ages, 9 to 13 years. —Apply to Septimus Walker, 17, Robert Street, West Kyo.

Consett United have all dates vacant, and would like them filled up as soon as possible. Ages, 18 to 18.—Apply, George Lewis, 34, Edith Street, Consett.

TOWLE'S PENNYROYAL & STEEL PILLS FOR FEMALES, quickly correct all irregularities remove all obstructions, 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. Beware of imitations.

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"HOW TO DEBATE."—This is a handy little work containing the rules of debate, hints on public speaking, and other useful information for members of debating societies. The work, which is published at the small price of sixpence, may be had at Robert Jackson's, bookseller, Front Street, and 20, Newmarket Street, Consett.

A Mass of Valuable Information for every Home is to be found in the "Family Doctor" for this week. Special Articles by Physicians and Surgeons bearing on Health, Food, and Hygiene of the greatest importance to every Reader. It is stored with Useful and Practical Hints for the preservation of Health. Ask your Newsagent to supply you weekly with the "Family Doctor." It costs only One Penny and will save you Many Pounds Yearly. Send for a copy at once:—Advt.

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SCRAPS.

Mr. Norris: "Here; I've brought you Boodle's Magazine, my dear."

Mrs. Norris (petulantly): "I don't care for it; I've seen Hoodle's, and the advertisements are just the same."

Brown: "Jones is a queer fellow. His wife gave him a letter to post the other day, and what do you suppose he did with it?"
Smith: "I can't imagine."
"Brown: "Why, posted it, of course."

Judge: "What sort of a man, now, was it you saw commit the assault?"
Patrick: "Sure, your Honour, he was a small, insignificant man—about your size, your Honour."

His Mother: "What are you moping about the house for, Tommy? Why don't you go over and play with Charley Pinafore?"
Tommy: "'Cause I played with Charley yesterday, and I don't s'pose he's well enough yet."

"Your coat is inside out," remarked the absolute idiot.
"Thank you," rejoined the towering genius, as he hastily rectified the error.
"Don't speak of it," said the idiot; "I am troubled with absence of mind myself."

He: "I assure you I would never dare to rob those sweet lips of a kiss."
She: You hypocrite! Didn't you attempt it last night?"
He: "Never! Far from intending to rob you of a kiss, I was trying to give you one.

"I hope you will be lenient with me, your lordship," said the thief, as he stood up to be sentenced, "I have a good many dependent on me for their support."
"Children?" asked the judge.
"No. Police detectives."

"Yes, madam, I remember very well you buying a stamp."
"Well, I put it on a very important letter, and posted it. It has not been recieved. I want you to understand that I shall buy my stamps elsewhere if this occurs again."

Subnubs: "I am at a loss to know the cause of poor Henpeck's sudden attack of insanity."
Warrington: "So was I until I leaned that his wife has taken it into her head to wash and iron his collars to save expense."

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HENRY BIRD Esq., M.D.
High Street, Chelmsford, writes:—"I beg to express my great satisfaction with Your Spectacles which are so admirably adapted to my sight. I could not have believed it possible that my vision could have been so much improved and relieved at my age, 82."

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Books for Boys by Ballantyne, Kingston, Henty, Talbot Reed, &c., at Reduced Prices.

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DRUNKENNESS CURED.—A Wealthy American Lady whose only son for years was a slave to Intemperance, Nervous Depression, and Exhausted Vitality after seeking in vain for a cure, and trying all known remedies, at last found a simple means that cured and saved him from a drunkard's grave. Anyone suffering or desiring to help others in this worthy cause, by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Mr James Holland, 25, Hart Street, High Holborn, London, will receive all information free of charge. Mention this paper.

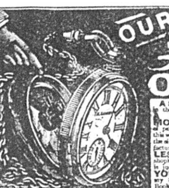
THE UNEMPLOYED IN EAST LONDON.—At a time when much thought is being given to this matter, a practical suggestion may be of service. Last year, more than £300,000 worth of foreign matches were purchased by inconsiderate consumers in this country to the great injury of our own working people, so true is it that "evil is wrought by want of thought, as well as want of heart." If all consumers would purchase Bryant and May's matches that firm would be enabled to pay £1,000 a week more in wages, and large numbers of the unemployed in East London would thus be provided with work, instead of swelling the ranks of pauperism. 306i

A CARD.—AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY is announced in the "Paris Figaro," of a valuable remedy for nervous debility, physical exhaustion, kidney diseases, and kindred complaints. The discovery was made by a missionary in Old Mexico. The Rev. Joseph Holmes, Bloomsbury Mansions, Bloomsbury Square, London W.C., will send the description free of charge, on receipt of a self-addressed stamped envelope. Mention this paper.

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"JESSIE SMITH,
"24, Jane Street, Hetton Downs,
"County of Durham, Jan. 16th, 1894."

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CHESTER-LE-STREET BURIAL BOARD.

A meeting of this Board was held in the Church Institute on Tuesday night, Mr H. Henderson presiding over a full Board.

Cheques for £2,070 8s 10d, balance of purchase money for site of burial ground, were signed.

Messrs Cowe, architects, attended, and explained plans for two flushing tanks. Mr R. M. Hudson's tender for £80 for the construction of same was accepted.

It was resolved that the Board make a road down the Ropery Lane, beginning where the township road ends, eastward to the boundary of the burial ground, and that there be a cement footpath laid to the entrance gates. Mr Hudson's tender of £150 for this work was accepted.

The Board also resolved to build a mortuary in the burial ground, Messrs Kell and Groves' tender of £79 5s being accepted.

There were over 150 applications for the post of caretaker, and a committee of three was appointed to select ten from the number, and report to the Board.

CHESTER-LE-STREET PETTY SESSIONS.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 16th.—Before Messrs W. W. Kerick-Walker, (chairman), and Chas. R. Barrett.

Christmas Holly.

James Wallace, William Dobson, and William Eltringham were charged with damaging holly to the amount of 1d. the property of the Earl of Ravensworth, on the 16th ult. P.C. Brown said he saw the defendants in the Wishing Well Woods gathering holly. There were other boys present. Fined 1/- each and costs, and ordered to pay the damage.

Pitch and Toss.

William Reay, Robert Davison, George Owens, John Young, and Robert Wilkinson played at pitch and toss at Waldridge on the 29th Dec. P.C. Lambert proved the case and said he saw the defendants with others he did not know, playing at the game. Fined 2/6 each and costs.

Drunken Drivers.

Ambrose Burnside, a hawker, was charged at the instance of P.C. Johnson with being drunk while in charge of a horse and cart at Chester-le-Street on the 31st ult. The officer proved the case, and said the defendant was very insolent when spoken to. Fined 20/- and costs.

Thomas Howe was charged with being drunk while in charge of a horse at Birtley on the 29th, ult. P.C. Flegg and Sergt. Hutchinson deposed to seeing defendant very much the worse for drink. The constable had to take possession of the horse and cart and lock up the defendant. Fined 10/- and costs.

Coal Stealing.

William Winder was charged with stealing 6 cwt. of coal from Messrs Bowes and Partners' waggonway at Birtley on the 26th Dec. Sergt. Hutchinson deposed to seeing defendant taking the coal from the waggonway.—Ed. Hutchinson, an official of the company said the coal was worth 2/-; defendant had no authority to take the coal. Defendant said he was hard up at that time, but he would not do so again. Fined 20/- and costs.

He Struck the Police and Ran Away.

Robert George was charged with assaulting P.C. Flegg at Birtley on the 29th ult. P.C. Flegg said defendant and other men were making a disturbance While witness was taking a man named Howe into custody defendant came behind him, struck him on the head and ran away. Fined 10/- and costs.

Poaching.

James Clarke was charged with poaching on Lord Durham's land at Harraton on the 31st ult. Ed. Harle, a game-watcher, said he saw defendant standing behind a hedge, and a dog ranging the field. Another game-watcher corroborated. Defendant pleaded guilty and was fined 2/6 and costs.

In His Mother's House.

John Vasey was charged with being drunk at the Black Bull Inn, Nettlesworth, on the 28th ult. P.C. Scott said defendant was the son of the landlady, and when witness visited the house he found defendant very drunk. Joseph Vasey brother of defendant said he knew his brother was to go through an operation for something on his brain, and was subject to fits of violence. The Bench dismissed the case.

Drunk on Licensed Premises.

James Hilliard and John Greiveson were charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of Ann Vasey, Black Bull, Nettlesworth, on the 28th Dec. P.C. Scott said he found the defendants in the Black Bull Inn, very drunk and wanting to fight. Both defendants pleaded guilty; and Hillard was fined 7/5 and costs; Grieveson, 2/6 and costs.

PUBLICANS IN TROUBLE.

A Wholesale Raid.

Benjamen Dickenson, landlord of the Plough Inn, High Flatts, Chester-le-Street, was charged with permitting drunkeness at his house on the 15th ult. Mr. John Turnbull, defended. Sergt. Urwin said he visited the house; he went into the parlour and saw a man named Smith in a very drunken condition. He drew the attention of the landlord and left the house. While outside he saw Smith led out of the house; and after staggering about, he tried to walk through a brick wall ten feet high. He was fined at the last court. The landlord came to witness and said, "mind the man has not got all his drink here; he came from Fawell's an hour since, and has only had four or five glasses of beer here."—Cross-examined:-When he spoke to Smith, Smith did not say "I am all right."—P.C.Hird said he saw Smith sitting in the house very drunk, the Sergt. drew the attention of the landlord to him; and they then left the house. They afterwards saw Smith leave the house, and stagger about.—Cross-examined:—Witness did not hear Smith say "I am all right," when the Sergt. spoke to him. Defendant on being sworn said he had kept the house for fourteen years and no complaint had been made against him in that time. Smith was sober when he came to the Plough and sober when he left. He was not led out of the house, and did not try to walk through a ten feet brick wall; there was not such a wall about the place. Cross-examined by Sergt. Urwin:—Witness was quite sober that night. He remembered all the circumstances very well. When Smith came out of the house, he put up his coat collar, walked straight across towards the Sergt. bade him good-night, and went on his way home.—Robert Smith said he was fined at the last court for being drunk at the Plough Inn. Witness was sober when he went into the house, and sober when he left. He only had four glasses of beer in the house; and three small bottles of stout during the day. He never tried to walk through a brick wall ten feet high. When the Sergt. went into Dickenson's witness was sitting studying. There had been some discussion about a book he had been reading. Twenty four gills of beer would not make him drunk. (Laughter). Nicholas Urwin also swore that Smith was sober. Witness was quite ober; he had only had one glass of beer, and half of it was standing. P. C. Cameron said that in company with P. C. Cowan he met Smith going in the direction of Pelton. Smith complained to them that the Sergt. had been very sharp with him. When he met the Sergt. beside Dickenson's the officer asked if they had met a man witness said they had. The Sergt. said the man was very drunk. Witness replied then he must have changed greatly, he walks all right now. Cross-examined:—The conversation at the door was commenced by Dickenson asking the Sergt. to go in and have a drink. The officer said "no." He then asked the three constables in; and they said "No."—At this stage the Bench considered that there was a doubt in the case and defendant would receive the benefit; the case would be dismissed.

Robert White Colliery Inn, West Pelton, was similarly charged in respect of an alleged offence on the 29th ult. Mr. Turnbull again defended; and at his request the case was adjourned.

James Lumsden, Crown Inn, Pelton, was similarly charged with permitting drunkenness on the 15th ult. Sergt. Urwin gave evidence and said he saw several men in the bar very drunk. One of them tried to leave the house, and could not because he was so drunk. P.C. Hird corroborated. Defendant said the men were not drunk. The man complained of was drinking soda water; not whiskey. Mary Ann Dixon, serving maid, said she supplied the man Pearson with soda water. He had no whiskey. Miss Lumsden was not in the bar at the time; witness was in the bar. Thomas Jamieson, said he was in Lumsden's house, and saw Pearson served with soda water; he had no whiskey.—The Bench considered there was no doubt about the case, and the defendant would be fined 20/- and costs; but the license would not be endorsed.

More Drunkenness in Public Houses.

Thomas Hall was charged with being drunk in Robert White's, Colliery Inn, West Pelton, on the 29th ult. P.C. McGee said he saw the defendant in the public house very drunk.—Defendant denied that he was drunk, and called John Gardiner who said the man was sober at four o'clock in the afternoon.—Fined 2/6 and costs.

George Young admitted through his son, who appeared for him, that he was drunk at the same time and place.—Fined 2/6 and costs.

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BENFIELDSIDE DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The ordinary meeting of this Council was held on Wednesday evening at the Public Offices, Bank Buildings, Shotley Bridge, Coun. J. Lax (chairman) presiding. The other members present were: Councillors J. Annandale, J.P., F. Priestman, J.P., Ed. Sloane, R. Eccles, Wm. Telford, C. Parnaby, W. M. Annandale, G. N. Robinson, Wm. Wheatley, Jos. Eltringham, the Clerk (Mr J. Booth), and the Surveyor (Mr J. Dixon.)

THE CHAIRMAN.

Coun. J. ANNANDALE: Are we to understand that our chairman is elected to hold office till April 15th, 1896?

The Clerk: I think not. You will have to elect another chairman after April 15th of this year.

Coun. SLOANE: I think the Act provides for the same.

Coun. ELTRINGHAM: I have seen nothing yet in the Act that shows the chairman will have to be re-elected in April next.

The Clerk: I may say, taking it from good authority, there will have to be a fresh election for chairmanship in April next.

Coun. ELTRINGHAM stated that one section of the Act said that there had to be no retirement of chairman or members till the year 1896.

Coun. PARNABY: If there is anything in the Act with respect to the election of chairman, it can soon be looked up.

Coun. ELTRINGHAM: I think we might leave the same with the Clerk for him to look up the point.

This was agreed to.

THE MAINTENANCE OF THE BLUE BRIDGE:

A DIVERSITY OF OPINION.

Coun. WHEATLEY said there was a gentleman from the Shotley Low Quarter waiting outside desirous of interviewing the Council respecting the maintenance of the Blue Bridge, which crosses the river Derwent near the Shotley Bridge Paper Mills. At present the bridge required certain repairs, and the Shotley Low Quarter Parish Council has offered to defray one half the cost, providing the present Council would do the same.

The Clerk gave a brief *resumé* of the history of the bridge, showing how it came to be erected, and who had maintained it up to the present time. He also referred to the action that was taken in 1889 to find out who was the responsible party that should erect the bridge as that time, when it was in a dilapidated condition. This action went to the Quarter Sessions, but there was no ultimate termination in law, owing to the bridge being repaired in the meantime, thus making it safe for the public to pass over. Now the question comes before them again, owing to the bridge requiring certain repairs, and the deputation was present to see what could be done respecting the maintenance of the bridge in the future. The middle of the bridge was the boundary between the two parishes. He did not know what side of the bridge required repairing, and it was for the Council to decide what they were prepared to do in the matter.

Coun. TELFORD: Did he understand the Clerk to say that the ratepayers of the Shotley Low Quarter defrayed the cost of the erection of this bridge?

The Clerk: Well, the bridge was repaired either by the parish or by Mr J. W. Walton-Wilson. Mr Bean, the surveyor, will very likely tell you who defrayed the cost.

Coun. WHEATLEY: It does not matter who built or repaired the bridge. This question has been a burning one, and one that they had spent a great deal of "wind" over, and at the present time they were no nearer. They must likewise understand that it was a question they had spent a considerable amount of money over. The question they must now solve was whether the Council was liable to defray half the cost of repairing this bridge or not? Mr Walton-Wilson erected the bridge at his own cost, and it is time something was done in the matter.

Coun. PARNABY: If the line of the boundary dividing the two parishes is in the centre of the bridge how does that effect the Council?

The Clerk: Well, it was the diversion of the road that caused the bridge to be erected.

Mr Bean, the deputation, was called into the room, who explained that the Parish Council representing the Shotley Low Quarter had agreed to defray half the cost of repairing the bridge, providing the Council would do likewise.

Coun. TELFORD: Have the ratepayers of the Shotley Low Quarter ever paid anything towards the bridge?

Mr Bean: No.

Coun. J. ANNANDALE: Who erected the bridge?

Mr Bean: Mr Walton-Wilson.

Coun. ELTRINGHAM said it appeared that Mr Walton-Wilson had always kept the bridge in repair. The question arose why did he not do so now?

Coun. ECCLES: On what portion of the bridge are the repairs required?

Mr Bean: In the middle. We, the parishioners of Shotley Low Quarter, have agreed to take Mr Walton-Wilson's responsibilities, providing the Council will keep in repairs one-half of the bridge on this side of the water.

Coun. ELTRINGHAM stated if that was so, the Shotley Parish Council had taking the responsibility of providing the road from their boundary into the Benfieldside district.

Coun. WHEATLEY: Let us settle the question without any further trouble.

After Mr Bean had retired, the CHAIRMAN said they had heard the history of the bridge, and without going further into the matter, he would suggest that they divide in the cost of repairing the bridge.

Coun. SLOANE: Suppose the bridge was washed away, who would be responsible to restore the same?

The CHAIRMAN: If we take the responsibility upon our shoulders we would have to defray one-half of the erection of the same.

Coun. ECCLES: Has there been any money paid by the late Board towards the maintenance of this bridge?

The CHAIRMAN: No.

Coun. ECCLES: Well, I think it is a question that needs serious consideration before we take upon ourselves any responsibility.

The CHAIRMAN said the bridge would be kept in repair for more than a century for less than one-half the cost of a law suit.

Coun. ECCLES: What about the principle?

The CHAIRMAN: I think we need not trouble ourselves about the principle in the present instance.

The Clerk again pointed out that when the last action was taken it had to cost something like £60 to erect the bridge. Before the Board would pay that sum, it was deemed wisdom to take action to see who was liable for the bridge. Now, things were different, and the only liability was the repairs the bridge required in the future. He thought they should adopt the chairman's suggestion, which was a wise one.

Coun. TELFORD: Up to the present time no public authority has ever repaired the bridge.

The CHAIRMAN: That is so.

Coun. TELFORD: Well, are we to understand that the Parish Council for the Shotley Low Quarter offers to pay half the cost of repairing this bridge, providing the Council takes the responsibility of keeping in repair the portion this side of our boundary?

The CHAIRMAN: That is so.

Coun. ECCLES: I think there is a principle involved in this question, and it should be thrashed out.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, there might be a principle involved, but I don't think there will be a ratepayer that will grumble at the expenditure in keeping this bridge in repair.

Coun. ECCLES: If this question has been thrashed out previously, why has the decision not been acted upon?

The CHAIRMAN: It has been done.

Coun. ECCLES: I think not. The old Board has done nothing towards the bridge. Why should this Council be called upon now to defray half the cost.

Coun. ELTRINGHAM stated that it was unnecessary to ask this Board to do anything after the bridge was put up. Neither the parishioners of the Shotley Low Quarter or the Board had been called or even asked to do anything to the bridge from that time. If some wilful person or persons had not pulled down some railings they would not have heard anything about the bridge now. If there should be an accident, owing to the dangerous condition of the bridge, in the future the question would then arise who was responsible for the bridge. He thought, seeing that the question had cropped up, it should be decided now.

Coun. TELFORD said there was an impression at the time that this bridge should always be kept in repair by Mr Walton-Wilson for the privileges that were given, so as to allow the estate to be more private.

Coun. ECCLES: I will move that the question stand over.

Coun. PARNABY: I hold if we take the responsibility we take over all continued liabilities.

The CHAIRMAN: Quite so.

The Clerk again gave his opinion as to what was best to be done in the matter.

Coun. ECCLES: Let us postpone the question.

Coun. ELTRINGHAM: We are going to gain nothing by postponing the question.

Coun. ECCLES: I gather from what has transpired we do not know exactly our position, and therefore it would be wisdom to postpone the question so as to allow time for further consideration.

The CHAIRMAN: We will be in no different position at our next meeting. We have already heard the opinion of our clerk upon the matter.

After further discussion, the following motion was carried:—

"Having heard the Clerk's account of the result of the proceedings taken in 1889, *re* Blue Bridge, the Council agrees with the offer made by the Parish Council for the Shotley Low Quarter, to share the expense of repairing the bridge on this occasion, without prejudice to liability for future maintenance and repairs."

THE FENCE IN ST. MARY'S STREET.

The Surveyor reported that nothing had been done by the Consett Iron Company to remove the fence at the bottom of St. Mary's Street.

The question was allowed to stand over.

A ROAD THROUGH A COMMON QUARRY.

The Highway Committee reported as follows:—

"Your committee had a letter before them from Mr J. W. Walton-Wilson, dated 15th November, 1894, with a plan asking the Board to grant him leave to put a road through a common quarry, now disused, and in the possession of the Board, near the top of the Church Bank, with a view of erecting some cottage and villa properties on his land to the west of same. The committee, in the interests of the township, recommend the Council to grant the request."

Coun. WHEATLEY stated that there was a pantry connected with the old property belonging to Mr J. W. Walton-Wilson, which projected on to the footpath, and was considered an obstruction. If the Council granted Mr Wilson this request, he should remove the pantry.

Coun. ROBINSON said that Mr J. W. Walton-Wilson was asking leave to make a road through public property. This was a common quarry over which they had jurisdiction. He for one could not vote for such a request.

The CHAIRMAN: Mr Walton-Wilson must have a road, and to put a block in the way so as to stop building property would be a great mistake.

Coun. ROBINSON: We have nothing to show that he is going to build property.

Coun. SLOANE said that he would have supported Mr Robinson if the quarry had been of any earthly use; but he was told it was not. He failed to see why they should not allow the land to be opened out for building purposes.

Eventually, Coun. JAMES ANNANDALE moved that Mr Walton-Wilson's request to make a road through the disused common quarry be agreed to on the understanding that the road be placed in a position, and made in a manner to be approved of by the Council.

This was seconded by Coun. ELTRINGHAM.

Agreed to.

FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The following accounts were recommended to be paid:—

	£	s	d
Surveyor's Monthly Paybill ...	44	8	7
Mr J. Mewes...	1	6	0
Mr R. Summerson	41	2	10
" "	41	4	9
Shotley Bridge and District Gas Company	119	0	9
Messrs E. and J. R. Taylor ...	81	0	0
Mr Geo. Christopher	20	3	0
Mr A. Stephenson	50	0	0
Messrs Shaw and Sons	0	3	3
Mr W. T. Eltringham	3	0	0
" "	3	3	5
Messrs Hadden, Best, and Co ...	0	11	3
Messrs Knights and Co	5	15	3
Consett Iron Company	3	19	6
Mr J. W. Forster	3	3	0
Mr A. McKean	0	5	0
Total	£418	6	7

The Clerk pointed out that there was not sufficient money in the treasurer's hands at present to pay all the accounts.

Coun. PARNABY: I am afraid we have taken over a bankrupt concern. (Laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN: Oh no. We have the rateable value behind us.

It was resolved, on the motion of Coun. J. ANNANDALE, seconded by Coun. SLOANE, that a cheque for the Surveyor's monthly paybill should only be signed at present.

A NEW RATE.

The Clerk reported that the new rate of 1s 6d in the £ on houses, and 4½d on land, was now prepared and ready for the seal of the Council.

Coun. ELTRINGHAM: How long will that money last?

The CHAIRMAN: I think till the end of April.

Coun. TELFORD: May I ask how much money is due from the Durham County Council.

The CHAIRMAN: There will be due in March some £700 from the Council.

Coun. TELFORD: Is there any chance of getting this money sooner?

Coun. ELTRINGHAM: I think not. We have had to wait for it in the past, and we will think ourselves lucky if we should get this money by July next.

The Surveyor: There is also between £300 and £400 lying out for street improvements.

Coun. PARNABY: Is there any special reason why we should require this 1s 6d rate to be made.

The CHAIRMAN: It is owing to the estimate being a heavy one. There is £500 specified for the highways.

Coun. ELTRINGHAM also pointed out that the estimate was a heavy one, owing to the 1s 2d rate in the past not being sufficient to meet the demands. The roads were in an unsatisfactory condition, and it was now decided to have them put right.

Coun. ECCLES: Has the sewerage scheme anything to do with making the rate a heavy one?

Coun. ELTRINGHAM: No. There was a 6d rate made for that purpose.

The Clerk: The 6d rate was made for the general purposes of the Board, and spent for that purpose.

Coun. ELTRINGHAM: I understood the rate was for the sewerage scheme. If the money has been used it will have to be refunded.

Coun. PARNABY: If the rate was collected for that purpose, it should have been applied to such.

The Clerk: You cannot do so. When a rate is collected, it is placed into one general fund, and then used in defraying the expenditure incurred by the Board. We have only one set of books for this.

Coun. PARNABY: I contend that the money collected should have gone to the sewerage works.

The CHAIRMAN: Such has not been done.

Coun. TELFORD: The Local Government Board does not require such to be done?

The Clerk: No.

Coun. J. ANNANDALE moved that the new rate receive the seal of the Council.

This was seconded by Coun. ECCLES.

CLERK OF THE WORKS.

The Clerk reported that Mr Gibson had accepted the position as Clerk of the Works for the new sewerage scheme.

A DEPLORABLE ROAD.

A letter was read from the Rev. E. W. Jenkins, pastor of the Highgate Baptist Curch, respecting the condition of the road opposite his church, and suggested that after the traffic, on a Saturday afternoon, was finished, a certain portion of the road should be scraped so as to make the same in a passable condition for people to pass over.

Coun. PARNABY said the road was really in a deplorable condition, and required attention.

The CHAIRMAN stated the condition of the road was caused through the heavy traffic.

On the proposition of Coun. ELTRINGHAM, seconded by Coun. PARNABY, the letter was referred to the Highway Committee.

GREEN STREET.

The Highway Committee reported as follows:—The Committee recommend the Board to improve the road at the low end of Green Street, Shotley Bridge, by continuing the kerb a few yards on the west side past the timber yard, making the footpath here, and putting a few loads of metal on the road as soon as the weather would permit.

Coun. TELFORD moved that the recommendation be carried out.

This was seconded by Coun. ROBINSON.

Carried.

MR JOHNSON'S ACCOUNT.

The account from Mr Johnson, engineer, Bishop Auckland, for work rendered in connection with the Baxton Burn Sewerage Scheme was referred to the Finance Committee.

THE BAXTON BURN SEWERAGE SCHEME.

WILL IT BE A NUISANCE OR NOT?

The following letter was read:—

Cutler's Hall Road,
Benfieldside.

I beg to draw your attention to a building in course of erection directly opposite my property. I am given to understand that it has to be used for mixing the sewerage with chemicals before going to the filtration tanks. I am very much surprised at the members of the late Board allowing such a place to be erected so close to the public footpath, and right opposite my property, as I consider it will be not only a great eyesore, but an intolerable nuisance, and will greatly depreciate my property in value. I would like to ask the chairman and members of the late Board how they would like to have a filthy place of this description placed opposite their dwellings. I should fancy they would be the first to object. I hope you will give this matter your attention, and hope you will see your way clear to have this unsightly building removed further away from where it is.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET MARSHALL.

The CHAIRMAN: Is that building erected by the contractors as specified on the plans.

Coun. ELTRINGHAM: The position of the site for the building was changed.

Coun. TELFORD: I think the house should be placed in a better position.

Coun. SLOANE: We were told at the last meeting the house was for the purpose of mixing the chemicals. Now we find that there will be an open sewer running into the house, and such will be a nuisance, and also injurious to the inhabitants of the place.

The CHAIRMAN: It is a pity the house was ever erected there.

Coun. TELFORD: I think the house could have been placed at a greater distance from the road.

Coun. PARNABY: Are we to understand that there will be an open discharge of sewer into the house?

The CHAIRMAN: The house is where the chemicals will be mixed.

Coun. ELTRINGHAM said the sewerage would run into the house, but no nuisance would arise from the same.

Couns. TELFORD and SLOANE argued otherwise.

Coun. WHEATLEY: If I was in Mrs Marshall's position, I would give the house some gunpowder. (Laughter.)

Coun. ECCLES: Had the committee any idea that the house was going to be erected in such a position?

The CHAIRMAN: Personally, I was not aware that the house had to be erected in that position. If the contractors had not put the house where it was intended, it should be removed to more convenient place.

Coun. ELTRINGHAM was rather surprised to see that certain gentlemen had turned round, and now denounced what the Building Committee had done. The ground was examined by the engineer, and the latter got his instructions. The engineer told the Committee that there would be nothing injurious or obnoxious to the inhabitants.

Coun. ECCLES considered there had been a little looseness in this business.

The CHAIRMAN: Nothing of the kind.

Coun. PARNABY: Who was supervising the erection of the works?

Coun. ELTRINGHAM: The Clerk of the Works and their Inspector.

Coun. PARNABY: I don't agree with the method of leaving the carrying out of the works to these two men. Where is the Sanitary Committee?

The CHAIRMAN: After passing the plans, we leave our officers to see that the work is carried out. Nothing has been done detrimental to the late Board.

Coun. SLOANE: There is a strong feeling against this sewerage scheme.

The CHAIRMAN: That might be. We have reports submitted to us of what work is done. The Sanitary Committee are still held intact to this scheme.

Coun. PARNABY: We are standing in a loose position. The Sanitary Committee have nothing to do with it.

Coun. ELTRINGHAM: As convener of the Sanitary Committee, I have got no instructions to call the Committee, so as to go and inspect these works.

Coun. SLOANE: We are drifting from the point at issue. I think the house should be removed. I will move that the question be referred to the Sanitary Committee.

Coun. ECCLES seconded.

Coun. PARNABY: If you do that it will be too late. The contractors, in the meantime, will still proceed with the work.

Coun. JAS. ANNANDALE: If the house is removed, there will be a great deal of additional expense incurred.

Coun. SLOANE: The expense is nothing if it will remove a nuisance from the inhabitants.

Coun. JAS. ANNANDALE: You must understand that there are more ratepayers besides you.

Coun. SLOANE: Quite so.

Coun. ELTRINGHAM: The question is to be proved yet whether there will be a nuisance or not. I have got the opinion of the engineer.

The motion was carried.

Coun. PARNABY proposed that the Sanitary Committee be instructed to have supervision over the sewerage works till completion, and report from time to time on the same.

This was seconded by Coun. ELTRINGHAM.

Agreed to.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Coun. PARNABY moved the following motion:—

"That a sum equal to the amount realised by the 6d rate be set apart out of the rate now being made, as a separate item until the completion of the present contract, when any balance remaining be paid into the general fund."

The Clerk objected to the motion on the ground simply because it would be ineffective. There was only one general district fund.

After a considerable amount of discussion, the Clerk promised to see what he could do in the matter.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

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

To the Chairman and Members of the Benfieldside District Council.

GENTLEMEN,—During the past month your workmen have been employed on the several highways and streets in your district laying on materials, and a great amount of scraping has been done on account of the soft state of the roads. Since the snowstorm came they have been clearing away and cutting open roads where required. The snowplough for roads has not been required, but the plough for footpaths has been used. During the month I have posted the notice in the high part of Ritson Street, declaring the street a public one.

Nothing has been done towards the removal of the rail fencing at the bottom of St. Mary Street yet.

The plan required by the County Council for proposed crossing in Durham Road, with specification and cost, has been sent to the Surveyor to the Council. No reply has been received yet.

As requested I wrote to the Shotley Bridge Gas Company to alter the lamp in Durham Road near blacksmith's shop at Blackhill.

Nothing has been done to the making of Back Durham Street, during the month, with the exception of some stones having been laid down.

The making of Ritson's Road is in progress.

Several lamps have been broken wilfully during the month along the Paper Mill Lane. I have reported this to the police.

During the month I have collected and paid to the treasurer the following sum:—

	£	s	d
General District Rate..................	113	4	7

I am, gentleman, your obedient servant,
J. DIXON.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Inspector (Mr J. Dixon) submitted the following report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Benfieldside District Council.

GENTLEMEN,—I have inspected a portion of your district during the month, and find it, on the whole, in fair condition. There are several places which require cleaning out. These, I expect, will be put in order shortly. I have received 5 cwt of disinfectant powder, and this has been freely used during the month.

During the month your main drain leading from West Row to Durham Road was blocked up, I got your workmen to open out the same.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
J. DIXON.

The reports were adopted.

THE LIGHTING OF STREETS.

The question of the lighting of Dale Street, Prospect Terrace, Dixon Street, and St. Mary's Church clock was referred to the Lighting Committee.

THE STANDING ORDERS.

On the motion of Coun. PARNABY, seconded by Coun. TELFORD, it was agreed that the Chairman, Coun. J. Annandale, and the Clerk should be the committee to prepare the Standing Orders.

THE BURIAL BOARD.

It was resolved that the Rev G. H. Ross-Lewin, Coun. E. Sloane, and Mr Wm. Ramsay should be the representatives on the Burial Board.

Coun. Heymer was accordingly appointed one of the auditors.

THE CLEANING OF ASHPITS.

Coun. ECCLES drew attention to the necessity of the Council taking the cleaning out of all the ashpits into their own hands, and the question was referred to the Sanitary Committee.

This was all the business of importance.

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COLLIERLEY SCHOOL BOARD.

The usual meeting of this Board was held in the Dipton Board Schools, on Wednesday afternoon, presided over by Mr J. W. Taylor (chairman). Also present—Messrs Wm. Young, T. Clark, R. Swalwell, W. Eltringham, and the Clerk (Mr D. Mole.)

TEACHERS' REPORTS.

BOYS' DEPARTMENT.

No. on books, 227; average attendance, 185·5; average attendance last month, 199·9.

GENTLEMEN.—The Christmas vacation commenced on 14th Dec., and ended Jan. 5th, according to instructions.

I regret that my report for last month was, though written, by a misunderstanding at home not delivered. It contained two matters of importance—

(1) Are we to give rewards this year? And if so, upon what basis?

(2) Does the Board consent to our opening a school Bank? And if so, will two members sign an indemnity for a credit stock of stamps?

I am sorry that any inadvertence should have postponed the consideration of these matters. The attendance to-day has been the lowest since my appointment, owing to the severe weather. There were 106 absent this morning, and 82 this afternoon out of a total of 227.

I observe that at your last meeting the Clerk stated that all important communications from the Board to the head teachers had always been made in writing. This may be the case, but, in fairness to myself, should any misunderstanding arise, I must point out that up to that meeting I had received two written communications only from the Board—

(1) Respecting corporal punishment by assistants and P.T.'s.

(2) Respecting instruction to P.T.'s.

I regret that a very severe cold and neuralgia attack prevented me from giving the P.T. his usual instruction last week. For the same reason Mr G. Murray represented me at the audit.

The partition is now finished and is a very great improvement. Our workshop oilstone costs about 3s per week. Can we improve upon this in any way? Some of the repairs have been completed, but not all. One of the house chimney-pots is very unsafe, and the kitchen window has been blown in during the recent storm.

I am, gentlemen, yours respectfully,
A. E. HAYES.

GIRLS' DEPARTMENT.

No. on books, 216; average attendance, 167; average last month, 180.

GENTLEMEN,—School re-opened on Monday, Jan. 7th. Owing to the stormy weather, the attendance for the week was not good. On Monday last we kept open the school with only 102 girls present, while we have 216 on the register. This, as you will know, is a great drawback to all concerned; it is now impossible to keep the average attendance up to that of previous years. Such a case has not been my experience before. Will the Board kindly give me their advice on the subject for future guidance?

We wish to open a savings bank in connection with our schools. Will this meet with your approval?

The water pipes in the lavatory needs immediate attention.

Evening classes—The attendance on Mondays is very irregular, but the classes for the elementary subjects on Thursday evenings contine small.—Yours respectfully,

S. E. HINDSON.

INFANTS' DEPARTMENT.

No. on books, 224; average attendance, 108·5; average last month, 140.

GENTLEMEN,—The attendance in this department since the holidays has been very bad indeed, owing principally to the severity of the weather. Last Tuesday morning there were only 88 children present, the school being closed for the rest of the week.

The average attendance for the first half of this week is only 69. On Monday there were only 28 children present in the morning, and 43 in the afternoon.

I wish to ask your approval of a savings bank in connection with this school.

The stock and sales books were audited at Lanchester last Thursday.—Yours respectfully,

M. CASS.

PUPIL TEACHERS' INSTRUCTION.

Mr SWALWELL enquired, with regard to the above, if the master could not arrange with the other teachers to give the instruction?

The CHAIRMAN said that on this occasion the master was ill and could not attend to his duties. They might ask him, it at any time he should be ill, to depute some other teacher to give the instruction.

This was agreed to.

THE MISSING REPORT.

The CHAIRMAN said that last month's report had apparently been written, but not sent in.

Mr SWALWELL thought it was excusable under the circumstances; and, on the motion of Mr ELTRINGHAM, seconded by Mr SWALWELL, the master's explanation was accepted.

PRIZES FOR THE SCHOLARS.

With regard to the above question, Mr ELTRINGHAM thought they should give prizes for the best attendance.

The CHAIRMAN said they could only give rewards for merit.

Mr SWALWELL thought they should give attendance rewards.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the prizes given could be based on the attendance, but really they could only give rewards for merit.

The Clerk said they could give prizes for merit, but not for attendance. The question was raised at the audit last week, and the auditor stated that the Department would not sanction prizes for attendance. If they wished to give rewards for merit they could do so.

Mr CLARK thought these prizes would be an encouragement to the children.

The CHAIRMAN said they did miss one year, and there was a lot of talk about it. In giving prizes by merit it was more difficult than for attendance, as they had to leave the matter in the hands of the teachers, and this laid the latter open to charges of favouritism.

Mr YOUNG moved that the children be given merit prizes as heretofore.

Mr CLARK seconded; and the motion was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN thought it would be advisable to appoint two or three members to consult with the head teachers as to fixing a basis.

Mr CLARK moved that the whole Board meet the head teachers in all departments to devise a basis upon which to award the prizes.

This was seconded by Mr YOUNG, and carried.

A SCHOOL BANK.

The CHAIRMAN said a large amount of money had been saved by children in other districts through these penny banks.

Mr CLARK proposed that a Penny Savings Bank be opened in connection with the school.

The CHAIRMAN seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Messrs Taylor and Clark agreed to sign the indemnity.

REPAIRS.

On the motion of Mr CLARK, seconded by Mr ELTRINGHAM, it was decided that the necessary repairs should be attended to.

THE ATTENDANCE.

The CHAIRMAN said the low attendance in the girls' school was serious.

The Clerk thought the attendance could be worked up. It meant a lot of work, but he thought it could be done.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the only thing was to give them liberty to close the school when the attendance was so bad, and that was a very dangerous thing. The infants were worse than this.

Mr ELTRINGHAM thought in a case like this it would be best to close the schools.

Mr CLARK said they should take a certain attendance before doing this—say one half.

The Clerk said he had seen nearly all the parents, and they said that the infants' school was closed on Tuesday last, and yet they were kept open this week when the weather was worse.

Mr CLARK thought the fact of the children sitting in school with wet feet and clothes was very detrimental to their health.

The CHAIRMAN was of opinion that the School Attendance Committee ought to take this matter into consideration, and ought to have absolute power to say when the schools should be open or not.

Mr YOUNG thought that they could not close the schools seeing the number of attendances yet to be made in order to earn the grant. It would be best to keep them open and run the risk. They might request the attendance officer to use his best endeavours to keep up the attendance.

It was agreed to adopt this course.

THE COMMITTEES.

In accordance with notice of motion, Mr ELTRINGHAM moved that the various committees be composed of the whole of the members of the Board. He thought in a small Board like theirs that that would be the best course.

Mr CLARK said this question was considered at time the committees were appointed, and they thought they could get through the business a good deal better on the present system.

The CHAIRMAN thought Mr Eltringham rather misunderstood the matter. No committee had absolute power to do anything without the approval of the full Board.

After some further discussion, Mr Eltringham withdrew his motion.

LOAN OF SCHOOLS: WAXING THE FLOOR.

An application was read from the Dipton Primitive Methodist Society asking for the loan of the school on Wednesday, Feb. 6th, for the purpose of holding their annual supper.

On the motion of Mr SWALWELL, seconded by Mr CLARK, the application was acceded to.

The CHAIRMAN said he wished to say a few words with regard to lending the schools. He thought when they granted the loan of the schools that the conditions should be faithfully adhered to. He referred to the waxing of the floor, and wanted to stop it. He believed that they passed a resolution before to this effect, and it made it dangerous for the children to walk on. Let them dance away, but if they waxed the floor they should take it off. Personally, he was rather against lending the schools for dancing at all.

Mr ELTRINGHAM thought this was only a social party, with a little dance afterwards.

Mr YOUNG remarked that he went into the school on the Tuesday after the floor had been waxed last time, and thought it was very nice.

Mr CLARK agreed with the Chairman, that if anyone waxed the floor they should remove it.

The Clerk said the application on the last occasion was for a concert and tea, and nothing was said about a dance.

The CHAIRMAN thought they ought to insist that if anyone waxed the floor it should be made safe for the children.

This was agreed to.

THE CHORAL SOCIETY.

An application was read from the Choral Society enquiring upon what terms they could have the school and use of the piano to hold a social to wind up the session.

Mr CLARK moved that the Society have the school upon the same conditions as formerly, and be charged 10s 6d for the piano.

Mr ELTRINGHAM seconded.

Mr SWALWELL proposed as an amendment that they be charged 5s for the piano, as it was only a social, and it was not intended to make any money.

The CHAIRMAN seconded.

Mr CLARK thought as they had a uniform price they should not deviate from it.

Mr CLARK's motion was carried.

This concluded the business.

NOTICE.

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GEO. J. CHRISTOPHER.

Blackhill, April 14th, 1891.

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

CUTHBERTSON.—At 5, Consett Terrace, 12th inst., wife of Thomas Cuthbertson, of a daughter. 312q

WILSON.—Blackhill, 121, Durham Road, on the 16th inst., the wife of Geo. Thos. Wilson, of a son. 311q

DEATHS.

AYRE.—Wolsingham, aged 62, Thomas Ayre, saddler, late Durham and Bishop Auckland.

BROWN.—Newcastle Infirmary, 13th inst., aged 53, David, beloved husband of Lucy Brown, of Consett. Much lamented. R.I.P. 310q

DIXON.—Catchgate, on the 17th inst., aged 10½ months, Isabel, beloved daughter of Joseph and Mary Dixon. Interred on Saturday at Hare Law at 4 p.m. Friends please accept this intimation. 332q

FAIRS.—Pelton Fell, No. 1, Stella Terrace, 13th inst., aged 62, Ellen Fairs.

FORSTER.—Tantobie, 11th inst., aged 1 year and 7 months, Margaret, daughter of Joseph and Annie Forster.

GARDNER.—At Wolsingham, on the 10th inst., John Gardner, moulder.

MINNIKIN.—Chester-le-Street, 15th inst., aged 34, John, only son of George Minnikin, butcher.

MILBURN.—Australia, Nov. 20th, 1894, Annie, dearly beloved wife of Ralph Milburn, and youngest daughter of Mrs Robson, Derwentcote Gate. 333q

MOFFATT.—At Westgate, on the 13th inst., George Moffatt, innkeeper.

NEWBIGGING.—Glasgow, Albert Drive, Queen's Park, on the 8th inst., aged 23, John Dundas, only son of John Newbigging, formerly of Consett.

ROBSON.—Gympie, Queensland, Australia, Nov. 16th, 1894, aged 42, William Dodd Robson, husband of Sarah J. Robson, late of West Stanley, and eldest son of Robert and Isabella Robson. Much respected by all who knew him. 321q

RUTTER.—Swalwell, Whickham Road, aged 5 years and 11 months, Mary Brown, daughter of Mary Elizabeth, and the late Cuthbert Davidson Brown.

SANDERSON.—Seghill Village, on the 13th inst., aged 77 years, Joseph Sanderson, late of Lead Mill. Was interred on Wednesday, 16th inst., at Seghill.

SHARP.—Black Horse, Waterhouses, 14th inst., Ann Sharp, aged 75 years, widow of the late James Sharp, Tow Law.

WISEMAN.—Leadgate, Ann Price, wife of James Wiseman.

In loving memory of Florence Wharton, who died on December 31st, 1889; also Alfred Wharton, who died on January 16th, 1890.

"Gone, but not forgotten" 309q

In loving memory of John Parker, the beloved son of Wm. and Sarah Parker, of Annfield Plain. Died January 20th, 1894.

"No need thy grave should marked be,
By poetic or masonic art,
For from our heart's deep memory
Thou never, never, canst depart." 329q

In loving memory of Thomas William, the dearly beloved son of William and Hannah Shield, of Leadgate, who was accidentally killed on the Consett Branch Railway, Jan. 13th, 1892. Aged 17½ years.

"Had we asked, well we know,
We should cry, oh, spare this blow,
Yes, with streaming tears should pray,
Lord, we love him, let him stay." 324q

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