The Consett Guardian

AND DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER.

A NEWSPAPER and ADVERTISING MEDIUM for Blackhill, Consett, Lanchester, Leadgate, Shotley Bridge, and District.

No. 473. {REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.} CONSETT, SATURDAY, JANUARY 1st, 1870. PRICE ONE PENNY.

Wanted.

WANTED immediately, an apprentice to the DRESSMAKING.—Apply to Miss M. Paton, 2, Cornwall Terrace Benfieldside. 352a

For Sale.

FREEHOLD BUILDING SITES for SALE, at Dipton.—Apply to Mr. John Maddison. 167a

TO BE SOLD, at Burnhope Colliery a Desirable Property and Eight Acres of Land attached to it, on a Lease to be renewed every Twenty-one Years.—For further particulars apply to Mr. Wm. Mordew, the owner, on the premises. 317a

VALUABLE and DESIRABLE BUILDING SITES for SALE by PRIVATE CONTRACT, situate at Blackhill, Baxton Burn, Shotley Bridge, Leadgate, Medomsley Edge, and Consett.—Apply to Mr. Wm. Raw, Auctioneer, Valuer, Surveyor, and Commission Agent, Blackhill.

Sale Office, Blackhill, April 29th, 1868. 316

TO BE SOLD BY PRIVATE CONTRACT,

A PIECE of Freehold BUILDING GROUND, near Blackhill, in the County of Durham, containing Three Hundred and Seventy Square Yards or thereabouts.

The Ground is bounded on the West by a Road leading from the Consett Ironworks, on the East by an intended Street twenty feet wide, on the North by the Road to the Tin Works Colliery, and on the South by Premises now or late belonging to Mr. Robert Whitfield.

The Ground will be Sold subject to Ten Feet in Width being required for the intended New Street, and Five Feet in Width being required for the Tin Works Road.

Offers, in Writing, for the Ground above-mentioned to be sent to Messrs. J. & R. S. Watson, Solicitors, 101, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 269a

Public Notices.

TOWN HALL, SUNDAY FIRST.

Morning, 10·30: "Bible Lessons on Snow."
Evening, 6: "This year also."
Preacher—W. Middleton 381a

THE ANNUAL SHOW OF CANARIES will be held at the house of Mr. Thomas Brown, Mount Pleasant, Consett, on Saturday, January 1, 1870. Doors open at Twelve o'clock; admission Threepence each. 368a

EDUCATION.

MRS. E. NICHOLSON, Blackhill (near Mr. Raw's, Auctioneer). Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar, Needlework, and Pianoforte. 369a

NOTICE.

THE GAME on MAIDEN LAW, CHAPMAN'S WELL, and HOWDEN BANK FARMS, is strictly preserved. Any Person Trespassing will be Prosecuted. 380a

POPLAR COTTAGE, SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

THE next Quarter will Commence on Monday, January 17th. English, French, and Music. Application for Admission of Pupils to be made to Mrs. Burton. 382a

CONSETT PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.

ON NEW YEAR'S DAY, the ANNUAL TEA PARTY will be held—Tickets 1s. each. A Public Meeting after Tea.

On Sunday, Jan. 2nd, 1870, SERMONS will be preached by the Rev. T. GREENFIELD and Mr. T. ROBSON, of Darlington.

See Handbills. 379a

GRAND EVENING CONCERT.

ON MONDAY, January 3rd, 1870, a GRAND TONIC SOL-FA CONCERT will be given in the British School-room, Consett, by the Members of the CONSETT AND DISTRICT TONIC SOL-FA ASSOCIATION. Doors open at Seven o'clock, to commence at Eight.

Admission—Reserved Seats, 1s.; Unreserved, 6d.
See Programmes. 364a

LEADGATE WESLEYAN DAY-SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY.

ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, January 12, 1870, the Rev. THOS. VASEY will Preach in the Wesleyan Chapel, at Three o'clock.

In the Evening, a PUBLIC MEETING; addresses by the Revs. T. Vasey, R. Petch, T. W. Blanshard, T. Hind, and others. Chair to be taken by W. Jenkins, Esq., of Consett Hall.

Tea will be provided at 4·30 p.m. Collection in aid of the School Fund. 367a

TO LEND.

£300 AND £500 upon approved Security.—For particulars apply to Messrs. Scaife and Britton, No. 6, Medomsley Road, Consett. 278a

TO FARMERS AND GARDENERS.

THE Subscriber is now booking Orders for present and future delivery of his Wheat and other Manufactured MANURES. Prices on application. A Chemical Manure is manufactured especially for Gardeners, and sold in small bags. Prices on application.

WILLIAM MURRAY,
CHEMICAL MANURE MANUFACTURER,
LEADGATE.

P.S.—The Highest Prices given for Old Horses, and any number bought. 307a

PURSUANT to the Provisions of an Act of Parliament made and passed in the Thirty-first and Thirty-second Years of the Reign of Her present Majesty, Queen Victoria, entitled "The Telegraph Act, 1868:"

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Her Majesty's Postmaster-General having obtained the consent of the persons whose consent is required by the above Act, intends to construct a line of Telegraph along the road or highway leading from Shotley Bridge to Dipton, also a branch from the said road along the road from near Billingside to Annfield Plain and for that purpose to set up and erect poles and other apparatus connected therewith, by the side of the said road or highway, in accordance with the powers granted by the said Act. 347a

COFFEE BETTER THAN BEER.

JOSEPH SINTON begs to state that he has OPENED a TEMPERANCE EATING HOUSE in Front Street, Blackhill, (near to the Post-office), where Breakfasts, Dinners, and Suppers may be had at reasonable Prices. Tea or Coffee on the shortest notice. Accommodation for Travellers. 362a

NORTHERN COUNTIES' LOAN AND DISCOUNT COMPANY (LIMITED).

Head Offices—
106, CLAYTON STREET, NEWCASTLE.
Branch Offices—
SUNDERLAND AND SOUTH SHIELDS.

LOANS GRANTED on Approved Personal Security, Mortgages, Deeds, Shares, and every description of available Security.

TRADE BILLS DISCOUNTED.

Personal Inquiry will at all times facilitate Business. Prospectuses free at Head Office or Branches.
371a EDWIN OVENDEN, Manager.

To Let.

A HOUSE TO LET.—Apply to Geo. Hawdon, Grocer, Pont Terrace, Leadgate. 32a

TO LET, A HOUSE AND SHOP, situate in Victoria Street, Consett, suitable for any kind of business.—For particulars, apply to John Barron, Number One, Consett. 321a

TO BE LET, and entered upon immediately, a Water CORN-MILL, situate at Knitsley, with a Good DWELLING-HOUSE, and with or without 8 Acres of Good GRASS LAND; also, a COTTAGE with Two Rooms.—Apply on the premises. [illegible]

TO BE LET, with immediate possession, a First-class HOUSE and SHOP, containing Nine Good Rooms, Cellar, and Stable, large enclosed Yard, and other conveniences, situate at Blackhill.—Apply to Mr. W. Raw, Auctioneer and Commission Agent, Blackhill. 325a

EXCELLENT DAIRY FARM TO LET.

WEST LAW FARM, about one mile from Shotley Bridge, and within one mile of a Railway Station, containing about 180 acres, has been well drained and highly cultivated. Water power Thrashing Machine, and a Steam Engine for preparing Food for Feeding Stock. To be entered on at May-day, 1870.—Apply to E. O. Threlkeld.

Tenders to be delivered before the end of the year.
Dated, Derwent Hill, near Shotley Bridge,
16th of 12th month, 1869. 346a

TO BE LET,
And entered upon on 13th May next, 1870,
for a term of years,

ROWLEY FARM, now in the occupation of Mr. James Robinson, situate near Castleside, within 2 miles of Consett Ironworks, and a quarter mile from Rowley Station, on the Stockton and Darlington Railway, containing 90 Acres more or less, of which the greater portion is in Old Grass Land. Many improvements having been made upon the Farm by the Landlord it offers advantages to an industrious Farmer.—For conditions, &c., apply to Mr. W. J. Scott, Merchant, Consett, to whom also offers must be sent in on or before January 4th, 1870.

Consett, December 11th, 1869. 336a

Business Announcements.

ESTABLISHED 1740.

DICKINSON,
TOBACCO MANUFACTURER,
BIGG MARKET,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

CLARENDON SCHOOL, CONSETT.

JON. C. WYLIE, Master.

Day School, from 5s. 6d. per quarter (in advance only). Private Evening Class in Algebra, French, Latin, and Greek. Terms—One Guinea per Quarter.

FISH! FISH!! FRESH FISH!!!

J. MILLER & SON, Middle Street, Consett, the Largest and Best Fresh Fish, to be had at the above Address. During the Fresh Herring Season, a Large Supply of Kippered Herring and Bloaters—Wholesale and Retail—at the Cheap Fish Establishment for the Million, Middle Street, Consett. 992

LOOK HERE!

CASH Buyers would find it to their advantage to to call at the
NEWCASTLE READY-MONEY GROCERY AND PROVISION SHOP
(Next door to Mr. Brown's Auction Mart),
NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.
110a JAMES LAKE, Proprietor.

CHEAP GROCERIES.

GEORGE CAREY,
(Late Manager of the Grocery Department of the Co-operative Store, Consett),

BEGS to inform his Friends and the Public of Consett and neighbourhood, that he has OPENED that SHOP in Front Street, Consett, next door to Mr. John Parker, jeweller, with a choice Stock of Teas, Groceries, Provisions, &c., of the Best Quality, which he will sell at the lowest possible Price, for Ready-Money. 287a

NOT GUILTY

Is
the true Verdict of Thousands who last year pronounced
J. GREEN AND CO.'S
ROYAL MONSTER CAKE to be the best and cheapest ever offered to the British Public.

Green and Co. have again great pleasure in announcing to their Patrons that they have been successful in completing their wonderful Royal Monster Cake, which for quality and size never was before equalled in the North of England.

Tickets, 1s. each (now ready), will secure One Pound of this Rich Monster Cake, with a chance of a most magnificent Prize.

The Royal Monster Cake will be cut up on Friday, the 31st December.

As the number of Tickets is limited, an early application is requested.

To be had of J. Green and Co., 67, Clayton Street; 30, Quayside; and at the Turk's Head, Quayside. 329a

WILLIAM RAW,
AUCTIONEER, APPRAISER, AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT,
DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL, near SHOTLEY BRIDGE, via GATESHEAD.

VALUATIONS MADE FOR PROBATE AND LEGACY DUTIES.

Agent to the Liverpool, London, and Globe Fire and Life Insurance Company.

☞ All Orders attended to with care and punctuality

EMIGRATION AGENT. 27

MR. E. BURTON, Professor of Music, Organist of St. Cuthbert's Church, Benfieldside, TEACHER of the PIANOFORTE, ORGAN, HARMONIUM, &c. First-class References. Terms on application.

Poplar Cottage, Shotley Bridge. 25

WILLIAM FITZPATRICK,
TAILOR, &c.,
ANNFIELD PLAIN,

BEGS to intimate to his Customers and the Public in general, that he is prepared to execute orders for every description of Gentlemen's, Youths', or Boys' Clothing.

N.B.—Gentlemen's own Material made up on the shortest notice, at moderate Prices. 719

CHEAP COALS! CHEAP COALS!;

BROOM HILL COLLIERY, EBCHESTER.

HENRY RITSON,

BEGS to inform the public that he is prepared to supply good Unscreened Coals at the above Colliery, at the following prices, viz.:—

TUB OF 6cwt........1s.
LOAD OF 18cwt. 3s. 316a

Business Announcements.

DURING THE FESTIVE SEASON
STEWART, THE TEA DEALER,

WILL offer at his GRAINGER STREET ESTABLISHMENT, a Rare and Valuable Importation of CHINESE and JAPANESE CHINA WARE. Collectors will have a fine opportunity to add to their cabinets, or the man of taste to select a handsome present for home. The utilitarian class would do well to allow us to forward an original Package of TEA, as the best investment of the season. We express our willingness to forward, carriage paid, a ten-pound package for 20, 25, 30, or 33 shillings, and to return the money should the Tea not please.

The thousands of people who flock to our Tea Establishments in Newcastle and Sunderland will be glad to know that on the Christmas and New Year's Weeks we will be prepared to present to all who may honour us with a call, as a memorandum of the year, a beautiful PICTORIAL CALENDAR for 1870, a marvel of chromo-lithography. The Press with one consent admit it to be a gem of art, fitted for the palace of the rich or the cottage of the poor.

Post-Office Orders to be made payable to—
WILLIAM STEWART, THE TEA DEALER,
33, GRAINGER STREET, 33, SANDHILL, 32, MOSLEY STREET, NEWCASTLE;
or at the NEW BRANCH, CORNER OF FREDERICK ROAD, HIGH STREET, SUNDERLAND. 355a

WINES (Foreign) on which duty was paid in London by some of the principal firms during the year **1868**—(*Wine Trade Review, 15th Jan., 1869*)

	Gallons
W & A Gilbey	670,904
Sandeman, Sons & Co	154,622
R Hooper & Sons	139,633
Dingwall, Portal & Co	137,307
H R Williams & Co	130,616
F W Cosens	115,814
Boyes & Beckwith	113,476
Lightly & Simon	99,008
Cunliffe & Co	93,285
Tod-Heatley & Co	83,674
Litre Bottle Wine Co	82,551
J Allnutt & Co	82,264
Dent, Urwick & Co	78,884
Bond, Forbes & Co	77,277
D Taylor & Sons	71,943
Max Greger	71,475
Secretan, Campbell & Co	67,969
Beard & Son	67,587
Findlater & Co	66,243
Polak Bros & Co	66,074
Brooks & Oldham	63,849
C Kinloch & Co	60,683
Robertson Bros	59,347
Lemon Hart & Son	59,213
Domecq & Co	58,129

SPIRITS (Foreign) on which duty was paid in London by some of the principal firms during the year **1868**—(*Wine Trade Review, 15th Jan., 1869*)

	Gallons
Twiss & Brownings	242,436
W & A Gilbey	231,354
J & W Nicholson	163,605
D Taylor & Sons	144,608
Trower & Lawson	121,512
Dingwall, Portal & Co	110,263
R Hooper & Sons	106,643
Bond, Forbes & Co	95,835
Seager & Evans	87,328
Beard & Son	86,200
C Webb	73,947
Burnett & Co	64,616
E S Pick	60,253
Lemon Hart & Son	58,594
Bishop & Son	56,933
Bowerbank & Son	50,180
J Allnutt & Co	49,245
G Orme & Co	48,541
J & J Vickers & Co	48,157
Hills & Underwood	47,638
Marshall & Elvey	45,568
T H Furze	45,342
B Field & Sons	40,667
Osmond & Co	38,502
Pickford & Co	38,460

Gins and Whiskies (W & A Gilbey 279,682 gallons) are not included in the above returns.

Total quantity of Wines and Spirits paid Duty on by W & A Gilbey in the year 1868 ... 1,182,030

W & A GILBEY—WINES & SPIRITS Agent in CONSETT, from whom Single Bottles or larger quantities can be obtained:—

W AYNSLEY
Grocer,
CONSETT

The SHERRIES and the PORTS mentioned below have been selected by comparison entirely on their own merits, without the least prejudice or interest in favour of either estate, or grower. The consumer will be able by comparison to identify, with the gradual rise in price, the improvement in quality. For other Wines than those mentioned below, see Book of Prices sent on application

MARSALA SHERRIES *from Sicily*			Per Bottle	Per Doz.	For full description of each see Book of Prices Page
Castle VM	*Gold*	Marsala	1 4	16/	17
Castle A	*Pale*	Marsala	1 6	18/	17
Castle C	*Pale*	Marsala	1 8	20/	17
Castle D	*Gold*	Marsala	1 8	20/	17
Castle B	*Brown*	Marsala	1 8	20/	17
SHERRY *from Hambro'*					
Castle		Hambro' Sherry	1 3	15/	9
SHERRIES *from Spain*					
Castle 1A	*Pale*	Sherry	1 6	18/	11
Castle 2A	*Gold*	Sherry	1 6	18/	11
Castle 3A	*Brown*	Sherry	1 6	18/	11
Castle A	*Pale*	Sherry	1 10	22/	11
Castle AA	*Gold*	Sherry	1 10	22/	11
Castle B	*Brown*	Sherry	1 10	22/	11
Castle C	*Pale*	Sherry	2 4	28/	11
Castle CC	*Gold*	Sherry	2 4	28/	11
Castle D	*Brown*	Sherry	2 4	28/	11
Castle G	*Pale*	Sherry	2 10	34/	11
Castle E	*Gold*	Sherry	2 10	34/	11
Castle F	*Brown*	Sherry	2 10	34/	11
Castle I	*Pale*	Sherry	3 6	42/	12
Castle H	*Gold*	Sherry	3 6	42/	12
Castle J	*Brown*	Sherry	3 6	42/	12
PORTS *from Spain*					
Castle 1		Spanish Port	1 3	15/	13
Castle 2		Spanish Port	1 6	18/	13
Castle 3		Spanish Port	1 9	21/	13
PORTS *from Portugal*	*PORTS—OLD IN WOOD*				
Castle A	Port	*5 years in wood*	2 0	24/	14
Castle B	Port	*8 years in wood*	2 4	28/	14
Castle C	Port *Fruity*	*11 years in wood*	2 10	34/	14
Castle D	Port *Dry*	*11 years in wood*	2 10	34/	14
Castle E	Port *Fruity*	*15 years in wood*	3 4	40/	14
Castle F	Port *Dry*	*15 years in wood*	3 4	40/	14
Castle G	Port *Fruity*	*very old in wood*	4 0	48/	14
Castle H	Port *Dry*	*very old in wood*	4 0	48/	14
Castle 1867	Port	*for laying down*	2 10	34/	14

Bottles are charged 1d each, the same being allowed when returned

Each Cork will bear W & A Gilbey's patent Seal with the name and distinctive mark thus:—

The signature will also be on the side of each Cork thus:— W & A Gilbey

CONSETT STEAM PRINTING WORKS

ROBERT JACKSON,
PRINTER, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL STATIONER, LITHOGRAPHER, BOOKBINDER, &c.,
GUARDIAN OFFICE, FRONT STREET, CONSETT,
AND DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL.

EVERY description of LETTERPRESS PRINTING executed in the first style of typography, with accuracy and despatch, on the most reasonable terms.
SHOW CARDS, BUSINESS CARDS, CONTRIBUTION CARDS, and TICKETS of all kinds.
WEDDING CARDS, FUNERAL CARDS, and MOURNING CARDS.
PAMPHLETS, CLUB RULES, AUCTIONEERS' CATALOGUES, and REPORTS and RULES of Public Institutions and Societies.
PROGRAMMES, BOOKS OF WORDS, and CONCERT BILLS in the most approved styles.
BALANCE SHEETS, INVOICES, and DELIVERY NOTES.
HAND BILLS POSTING BILLS, PLACARDS, and WINDOW BILLS, of all sizes, in black and coloured inks, executed in a bold and effective style.
CIRCULARS, LETTER HEADINGS, and ORDER NOTES.
SERMONS, LECTURES, and all kinds of BOOK WORK neatly and quickly executed.
CHEQUE BOOKS of all descriptions made to order.
TEA PAPERS, TOBACCO PAPERS, and CLOTH and PARCHMENT TALLIES.
LITHOGRAPHING and ENGRAVING.
BRASS and ZINC WINDOW and DOOR PLATES.
BOOKBINDING in all its Branches.
A large Supply of LEDGERS, DAY BOOKS, MINUTE BOOKS, and every variety of STATIONERY

THE FOLLOWING ARE KEPT IN STOCK:—
OVERSEERS' COLLECTING AND DEPOSIT BOOKS.
HIGHWAY RATE BOOKS and HIGHWAY RATE RECEIPT BOOKS.
POOR RATE BOOKS and POOR RATE RECEIPT BOOKS.

Established 51 Years.

JOHN WILSON AND SON,
WORSTED AND YARN MANUFACTURERS,
WHOLESALE HOSIERS, AND HABERDASHERS,
BLANKET AND FANNEL MERCHANTS,
35, DEAN STREET, AND
14 & 16, ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCHYARD,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne. 704

J. PARKER,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT:

CLOCKS and WATCHES of every description Cleaned and Repaired.

WORK WARRANTED.—NO SECOND CHARGE.

Club Open for Watches and Gold Chains, at 8s. per month. 292a

WILKINSON'S
IMPROVED
Concrete Flooring for Kitchens, Pantries and Passages.
" Flooring for Laundries and Wash Houses.
" Flooring for Schools and Yards.
" Flooring for Stables and Coach Houses.
" Flooring for Barns, Byers, and Maltings.
" Flooring for Workshops and Warehouses.
" Flooring for Cellars and Footpaths.

Was first extensively used at the Works of Sir W G. Armstrong & Co., in 1858, and has since been laid by the Advertisers at more than 2,000 Places in the Northern Counties, a List of which may be had on Application. It is not affected by Frost, Damp or Heat; has no Smell, and its Durability is guaranteed.

Town Price for 70 Square Yards and Upwards, 2s. per Yard. Country Prices and further Particulars on application to

W. B. WILKINSON & CO.,
PRUDHOE STREET, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE. 117a

EXTRACT FROM
PATTISON BROTHERS' PRICE LIST

BLACK TEAS. s. d.

No. 1.—BLACK TEA—Excellent Congou, strong, rough, and pungent; a very economical Tea for general family use.. 2 0

No. 2.—BLACK TEA—Superior Congou. We wish to draw special attention to this Tea for quality and price. It is strong, brisk, and lasting, even in second and third water, and must secure a large demand when more fully known. 2 8

No. 3.—BLACK TEA—Fine Kaisow and Moning Congou. Full, fragrant, ripe, and strong. It is equal to Teas sold at much higher prices, and will be fully appreciated by the connoisseur as high class Tea 3 0

No. 4.—BLACK TEA—A mixture of the finest Teas grown in India and China. It is of extremely fine quality, combining all the delicacy of flavour possessed in the finest Souchong, with the deep full colour and rich character of the high class Assam Teas.................. 3 6

No. 5.—BLACK TEA—This is also a mixture of the finest Teas grown in India and China. It is unrivalled in quality, possessing every character needed by the most fastidious, and it is offered to the connoisseur of this delicious beverage as the finest Tea procurable 3 8

No. 6.—BLACK TEA—Finest Assam Pekoe Souchong. This fine Tea possesses fine flavour and extraordinary strength 4 0

Either of the above Teas can be had in original pakages at the following reductions, viz.:—

Caddie boxes, containing 20lb., 1d. per lb. reduction on above prices.

Half Chests, containing 45lb., 1½d. per lb. reduction on above prices.

Chests, containing 90lb., 2d. per lb. reduction on above prices.

62, CLAYTON STREET, AND 11, SIDE, NEWCASTLE. 78

Business Announcements.

TO WOOLLEN CLOTH BUYERS.

ADAM BRODIE,
CLOTH AGENT,
NEW MARKET STREET, CONSETT,

RESPECTFULLY informs the Public that he has been appointed Resident Agent in this district for one of the largest Woollen Cloth Manufacturers in the Kingdom, and is at all times in a position to supply cut lengths of WOOLLEN CLOTHS of every description at makers' prices.

Observe the Address—
ADAM BRODIE,
CLOTH AGENT,
NEW MARKET STREET, CONSETT. 311a

MR. E. BURTON,
Dealer in PIANOFORTES and HARMONIUMS
PIANOFORTES
Direct from the best London and Parisian Makers.
PIANOFORTES, &c.,
Tuned, Repaired, or Taken in Exchange.
SHEET MUSIC, Newest at Half-price.
Residence:—Poplar Cottage, Shotley Bridge. 26

THERE ARE THREE QUALITIES
FOR WHICH
CARIS'S PATENT LEVER WATCHES
ARE JUSTLY CELEBRATED, VIZ:—
LOWNESS IN PRICE,
CORRECT TIMEKEEPING, while for
DURABILITY they excel all.

JOHN D. CARIS,
20, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD,
AND
1, BROAD CHARE, QUAYSIDE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. 235a

MONTGOMERY'S CONCRETE FLOORING laid complete in Newcastle or Gateshead at 1s. 10. per yard. Its durability guaranteed. References where laid.

JOHN MONTGOMERY & SON,
CONCRETE STONE WORKS,
LEAZES LANE, NEWCASTLE. 864

"REID'S CELEBRATED EIGHTPENNY MILD ALE ([illegible] Brewery) is the best sample of heavy-bodied Ale brewed in Newcastle, and is well-known for its fine flavour."—From "Innkeeper's Trade Circular," for Feb., 1866. 493

"MELVIN'S NOTED EDINBURGH MILD and BITTER ALES are as good Ales as can be purchased, . . . and we do not wonder at the immense sale of these Ales."—(See "Innkeeper's Trade Circular" for Feb., 1866.) 491

PICTURES FRAMED
In every Variety of Style
AT THE PRINTING OFFICES,
AND
WHOLESALE STATIONERY WAREHOUSE,
Derwent Street, Blackhill.

BLACKETT STREET TEA AND GROCERY WAREHOUSE.

JOHNSON (late Crosier), being determined to extend his business, is prepared to offer his Friends and the general Public, Teas, Coffees, Sugars, Spices, Soaps, and general Groceries, selected from the Best Markets, at the lowest possible Prices for Cash, feeling sure that one trial of his celebrated Teas from Two Shillings per pound, will ensure success. N.B.—A liberal allowance on Parcels of Ten Pounds upwards of these Teas.

Note the Address, 91 and 93, Blackett Street, Newcastle,
991 JAMES JOHNSON, Proprietor.

WILSON'S
CELEBRATED HATS,
38, *GREY STREET,*
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

WILSON'S New Improved, Easy-Fitting, FRENCH SILK HATS, cannot be surpassed for lightness, elegance, durability, and comfort. FELT HATS of every description. A large assortment of CAPS in the newest styles, Silk Umbrellas, &c. 738

WINES for CASH only. Town orders cash at the Counter. Country orders executed, on pre-payment. Bottles, 1s. per dozen.

Clarets	10s.	12s.	15s.	18s.	21s.	doz.
Port	15s.	18s.	21s.	24s.	27s.	"
Sherry	15s.	18s.	21s.	24s.	27s.	"
Champagne	21s.	24s.	36s.	48s.	56s.	"
Sauterne and Chablis	10s.	12s.	15s.	18s.	21s.	"

At R. WATSON'S,
GROCER AND ITALIAN WAREHOUSEMAN,
WINE AND BRANDY MERCHANT,
116, GREY STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. 165a

REID AND SONS,
GOLDSMITHS AND JEWELLERS TO THE QUEEN,
CHRONOMETER MAKERS TO THE ADMIRALTY.

SILVER TEA SERVICES, from	£20 to £40
SILVER COFFEE POTS, from	£11 to £20
SILVER SALVERS, from	£4 to £50
SILVER CAKE BASKETS, from	£10 to £35
SILVER INKSTANDS, from	£4 to £25
SILVER CLARET JUGS, from	£14 to £35
SILVER MUGS for CHILDREN, from	45s. to £6
SILVER KNIFE, FORK, & SPOON, in Case, from	21s. to £5
SILVER PORRINGERS and SPOONS, from	£5 to 8gs.
ELECTRO-PLATED CORNER DISHES, from 8gs. the Set of Four; the Handles remove, and Covers form four extra Dishes if required.	
ELECTRO-PLATED DISH COVERS, from	8gs. per Set
ELECTRO-PLATED TEA SERVICES, from	70s.
ELECTRO-PLATED DESSERT KNIVES and FORKS, 12 Pairs, in Case, from	63s.

REID AND SONS,
41, GREY STREET, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE. 950

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AT
WHOLESALE PRICES,
AT THE
WHOLESALE STATIONERY WAREHOUSE,
Derwent Street, Blackhill.

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CELEBRATED EDINBURGH ALES
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Are daily rising in public estimation.
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BOOKBINDING in every Variety of Style executed at the GENERAL PRINTING OFFICES, Derwent Street, Blackhill.

BORWICK'S BAKING POWDER. Gold Medal, Havre, 1868; Gold Medal, Paris Society of Arts, 1869; For its superiority over all other Baking Powders.

BORWICK'S BAKING POWDER For making delicious Bread without Yeast.

BORWICK'S BAKING POWDER makes Puddings, Pastry, and Pie Crusts with less butter and eggs.

BORWICK'S BAKING POWDER. Sold everywhere in 1d. and 2d. packets, and 6d. and 1s. patent boxes. 215a
Be sure to ask for and see that you get
BORWICK'S GOLD MEDAL BAKING POWDER.

Business Announcements.

HOUSE FURNISHING.

J. W. DAVISON,
CABINET-MAKER & FURNITURE BROKER
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

FEATHERS, FLOCKS, RABBIT DOWN.
IRON BEDSTEADS.
MATTRESSES.
HARDWARE GOODS.
PARAFFIN LAMPS and GLASSES.
PARAFFIN OIL and BENZOLINE OIL.
Furniture delivered free. 640

GEORGE HOBSON,
WHOLESALE & RETAIL FLOUR DEALER, GROCER, DRAPER, & PROVISION MERCHANT,
Harperley Steam & Water Corn Mill,
near Annfield Plain.

FINEST ENGLISH OILCAKE always on hand.

Now on Hand, a Large Quantity of Fine SEEDS, Peas, Tares, Barley, &c.

G. H.'s Mixture of Clover and Grass Seeds for permanent pasture has been tested and approved of by the leading Agriculturists in the district for the last twenty years. 206

CARRIAGE PAID TO CONSETT
and Neighbourhood—
CHEAP AND EXCELLENT
GROCERIES
From the Old Established
TEA AND GROCERY SHOP OF
THOMAS PUMPHREY,
48, CLOTH MARKET, NEWCASTLE. 174a

H. WHITFIELD,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL FURNITURE BROKER,
129, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD.

HAS a Large STOCK of Ancient and Modern HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, including IRON BEDSTEADS in great variety, CARPETS, DRUGGETS, HEARTH RUGS, and OIL CLOTHS, varying in design, quality, and price. Also a Large and Choice Selection of Hardware, etc. H. W. is prepared to Purchase or Exchange on the Shortest Notice. 43a

THE OLDEST ESTABLISHED HAT SHOP IN NEWCASTLE.

THOMAS COCHRANE is now selling the BEST SILK HAT in the Trade at 10s. 6d.

THOMAS COCHRANE,
19, GRAINGER STREET,
(CORNER OF NUNS' STREET)
115a NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

MEMORIAL CARDS
of the Choicest Designs are printed to order and supplied on the most reasonable terms, at the
GENERAL PRINTING OFFICES
AND
STATIONERY WAREHOUSE,
Derwent Street, Blackhill.

NEWGATE STREET TEA AND GROCERY WAREHOUSE.

ROBERT WHITE,

MANY Years with Mr. Greaves, 17, and 19, Nun Street, and Mr. Stewart, Tea Dealer, 32, Mosley Street, has Opened the Shop 38, NEWGATE STREET, next door to Phœnix Inn, where he intends to carry on the Grocery Business on the improved principle for Cash.

R. W. deems it unnecessary to adopt the old hackneyed style of quoting prices, but begs to say that his selection of TEAS, COFFEES, SPICES, SOAPS, &c., are bought from the best markets, and one trial will be sufficient to convince his friends that he is worthy of their support.

NOTE THE NUMBER:—
38, NEWGATE STREET, 112a
ROBERT WHITE, Proprietor.

SMART'S VICTORIA HOTEL.

G. H. SMART
(Late Station Master North-Eastern and Midland Railways),
NEVILLE STREET, Directly Opposite the Central Station.
WINES, SPIRITS, ALES, STOUT, and CIGARS of the best quality.
REFRESHMENTS on the Shortest Notice.
WELL AIRED BEDS. 990

SUPERIOR WATCHES, SHIP CHRONOMETERS, ENGLISH AND FRENCH CLOCKS.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Silver Patent Lever Watches	3	10	0	to	27	0	0
Gold Patent Lever Watches	10	10	0	to	40	0	0
Geneva Silver Watches	2	2	0	to	5	5	0
Geneva Gold Watches	5	5	0	to	30	0	0
Ship Chronometers	27	0	0	to	40	0	0

LISTER AND SONS,
WATCHMAKERS TO THE QUEEN,
CHRONOMETER MAKERS TO THE ADMIRALTY,
12, 14, & 16, MOSLEY STREET, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE. 334

NORTHUMBERLAND TURKISH BATHS (near the Cricket Grounds), Northumberland Street.

OPEN
Daily from 7 0 a.m., till 9 0 p.m.
Saturday ..7 0 a.m., till 10 0 p.m.
Sunday....7 0 a.m., till 10 0 a.m.

CHARGES.

First-class Bath	2s. 0d.	Do., with champooing.		2s. 6d.
Second do.	1s. 0d.	Do.,	do.	1s. 6d.
Third do.	0s. 6d.	Do.,	do.	1s. 0d.

Ladies—First-class only open on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 7 a.m., to 11 a.m.

Ladies'—Second-class open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1s. and 1s. 6d.; Ladies' and Gentlemen's Large Swimming Bath open Daily; also, Vapour and Warm Baths for Ladies' and Gentlemen. 17a

MEMORIAL CARDS FRAMED
at Moderate Rates at the
GENERAL PRINTING OFFICE,
AND
Wholesale Stationery Warehouse,
BLACKHILL.

EPPS'S COCOA.

Only in ¼ lb., ½ lb., and 1 lb. Packets—tin-lined and labelled.

Sold by the Trade in all Parts.
Prepared by James Epps and Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London. 692

GENERAL PRINTING OFFICE AND STATIONERY WAREHOUSE,
DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL.

ROBERT JACKSON

RESPECTFULLY announces that he has opened the above premises (formerly occupied by Mr. Porteous) for the convenience of his Friends and the public generally of Blackhill, Shotley Bridge, and adjacent villages, and hopes by strict attention to all orders entrusted to his care to merit their continued support.

Advertisements for the *Consett Guardian* received up to *Nine* o'clock on Friday Mornings. 931

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. John Jenkins.

TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION, the whole of the BAR UTENSILS, BAR, &c., belonging to Mr. Robinson, Miners' Arms Inn, Highgate, on Monday, January 3rd, 1870.

MR. JOHN JENKINS, Auctioneer.

Consisting of 1 excellent Bar and Fixtures, including Ale Pumps and Spirit Taps; Ale and Spirit Measures; Taps; Pots and Glasses; 8 Tables; 10 Forms; 1 large Dining Table, to dine 60 persons; Gas Brackets, Chandeliers, Piping, &c.; 1 large Safe; Passage Oil Cloth; Lemonade, Soda Water, and Porter Bottles in great variety.

Sale to commence at One o'clock. 383a

By Mr. Adam Brodie.

IMPORTANT Clearance SALE of DRAPERY, FURNITURE, and MISCELLANEOUS GOODS, at the New-market Sale Rooms, Consett, on Monday, January 3rd, 1870, and following days, until the whole is sold.

Sale hours from Two to Half-past Five, and from Half-past Six to Nine o'clock each day.

Particulars in Bills.

377a MR. ADAM BRODIE, Auctioneer.

IN the matter of William Shatler, of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, an Insolvent, Mr. ADAM BRODIE is instructed by the trustees of the above estate to SELL BY AUCTION the whole of the LINEN and WOOLEN DRAPERY, now remaining on the premises, No. 19, High Street, Stoke-on-Trent. Sale to commence on Saturday, January 8th, 1870, at Two o'clock, and continue until the whole is cleared out. 378a

By Mr. T. Wetherell.

FREEHOLD PROPERTY FOR SALE AT CONSETT.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION (under power of Sale contained in a Mortgage Deed, and subject to such conditions as will be then and there produced).

MR. THOS. WETHERELL, Auctioneer.

At the house of Mr. John Seymour, the Puddlers' Arms Inn, Consett, on Wednesday, 12th January, 1870, at Three for Four o'clock in the Afternoon, all that FREEHOLD MESSUAGE or DWELLING HOUSE, formerly used as a Beerhouse, situate in Sherburn Terrace, Consett, containing Six Rooms, Kitchen, and Pantry, together with a Bar and Cellar, and all other conveniences thereunto adjoining, formerly in the occupation of Mr. John Heads, Beerhouse-keeper, containing in the whole 190 square yards or thereabouts.

Further particulars may be obtained on application to the Auctioneer, 32, Claypath, Durham; or at the offices of

JOHN WATSON, Solicitor,
6, Sadler Street, Durham.

Durham, 23rd December, 1869. 376a

The Consett Guardian.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1869.

THE WELSH FASTING GIRL.

Between a desire to vindicate the truth of medical science and a wish to dispel an illusion of superstition, the life of a young girl has been cruelly, we may say deliberately sacrificed; and now that a coroner's jury have delivered a verdict of manslaughter against the father, who should have been the natural protector of his child, we shall not go beyond the bounds of legitimate criticism if we venture to make a few comments upon the case. In this enlightened age, when scientific men have so deeply investigated the laws of nature, it becomes the duty of science to root out from the popular mind any ideas which may savour of superstition; and when it was found that in a quiet district of Wales, bereft in a great measure of the blessings of education, an attempt was being made to persuade a simple population that the laws of nature were suspended in a particular case, and that a human being was existing in violation of all those conditions which render existence possible, it certainly became the duty of the medical faculty to prove by actual test and experiment that the alleged case of a girl living for above two years with scarcely a taste of food, was not only an error, but a cheat and imposture. We are not, therefore, in the least surprised that the authorities of Guy's Hospital should allow four of their most competent nurses to proceed to Wales, and take the alleged fasting child under their charge; but having taken so much upon themselves, it became them to take upon their shoulders the whole of the responsibility; and as a miracle was supposed to be in operation, they should, in the interests of science, have sent with the nurses one or two properly qualified men to see that everything was done to carry out the object they had in view without leading to so tragical a result. The plea put forth, that as there were medical men in the neighbourhood, there was no necessity to send any from London, is not a satisfactory one; for the same reasoning might have been applied in the case of the nurses. There were nurses in Wales; but they were deemed not to be so qualified as those attached to a London hospital; and when it was known that for a period of more than two years the local medical practitioners had been unable to detect the imposture that ought readily to have been exposed, and that some of them actually shared in common with the multitude the belief that Sarah Jacobs was existing by means of miraculous or supernatural agency, it would have been wise if the hospital authorities had despatched a competent medical man to instruct the nurses how to act, to watch the case in all its aspects, and to administer such nourishment or restoratives as they found necessary. The authorities of Guy's Hospital did not do this—indeed, they do not seem to have troubled about the recovery of the child from an abnormal, if not a diseased state. They seemed to be merely anxious that it should be shown that the child could not exist without nourishment—in a word, to vindicate the truth of medical science; and in order to do this they deliberately allowed the subject of their experiment to die. No doubt the father was very culpable, and will have much to answer for. In keeping up the fraud he might have been actuated by one of two motives. Knowing the girl's unusual powers of abstinence, but not knowing the limit of them, he might have thought it possible for her to survive the fortnight's watching, and then become more valuable than ever as an exhibition; or, if he were superstitious, he might have persuaded himself that his daughter really existed miraculously; and that any moderate supplies of food secretly furnished to her were unnecessary. In the former case, his punishment ought to be heavy; in the latter, he needs education more than punishment. But in any case we cannot excuse the medical men. They undertook the case without estimating or caring for the responsibilities, and have sacrificed a life that they ought to have saved. Had the girl been placed in any public hospital, her sinking state would soon have been noticed, and the proper restoratives would have been administered; but, as the evidence places the matter before us, the nurses saw her slowly die without an attempt to save her, and the medical men looked on approvingly at this barbarity.

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

At the moment I write Christmas amusement is the absorbing subject here; and roast beef and plum pudding, goose and mince pies, with the other delicacies of the season, having been duly disposed of, and the libations of the feast having been poured out (and drunk), people were on Monday getting cold-proof, and ready to enjoy the fine wintry weather. Of course, Monday was Boxing Day, though that unfortunate intervening Sunday stood a good chance of being treated in many respects as a kind of anticipatory Boxing Day, when it was not made a sort of recapitulatory Christmas Day. But as we luckily have not yet got to opening the Crystal Palace, the theatres, and the music-halls on Sunday, the real Boxing Day had to be postponed till Monday, which was kept almost generally as a holiday. Indeed, I saw nobody in particular at work, except shopkeepers, railway officials, and newspaper people, including in the latter category your humble servant. On the whole Christmas has been well and heartily kept here; but I abstain from entering into details, conscious that your readers may begin to weary of Christmas literature by the time this letter is in print. I will only notice one phase of Christmas-keeping here, and then "drop the subject." Have you noticed how demonstrative we are with our workhouse Christmas dinners. Lengthy and detailed accounts of the number of paupers in each workhouse, combined with other statistics, were published on Monday, and horribly statistical statements of the fare supplied. Awfully unpleasant and "awfully jolly" facts are these curiously jumbled up, and I suppose from this omnium-gatherum we ought to derive unbounded satisfaction. I fear, however, that although we are so ostentatiously charitable for one day in the year, this charity is made to cover a multitude of sins throughout the rest of the twelvemonth; and I fear that whatever jollity there may have been (parochial jollity!) in the workhouse on Christmas day there was an immense deal of misery outside; that, in fact, thousands of families were worse off—for this one day—outside of the workhouse than in it. I may be told that this is taking a jaundiced view of affairs, and that of course the paupers were all very happy and grateful. Just so; they were jolly, no doubt, in a Pecksniffian sense. "Let us be merry," said Mr. Pecksniff, taking an Abernethy biscuit.

Nothing, I believe, is yet known, even by journals of the highest position relative to the Irish Land Bill which ministers will probably in two months hence introduce into the House of Commons. There is reason to believe, however, that the leading features of the measure are entirely decided upon and that minor details have alone to be arranged. In reference to this subject, Mr. Bright's forthcoming speech may be anxiously looked for. He is to address his constituents in Birmingham during the second week in January; and it is probable enough that, as we shall then be less than a month from the meeting of Parliament, and as Mr. Bright is not at all reticent, we may get an inkling of what the Government measure may be like.

The Marquess of Bute has been one of the many strangers who have visited Rome during the sittings of the Œcumenical Council, and *on dit* that he is rather disgusted with some things that he has seen and heard there: that this has induced him to reflect on the important step he took some time ago, and that his return to the Church of England is not at all improbable. His lordship's immense wealth and the consequent natural desire of the Roman Catholic Church to retain him make the reported fact worth mentioning and worth watching.

It is well known that a favourite idea with the Emperor of the French, which was long ago printed in his "Idees Napoleoniennes," and has several times been broached since, is that there should be a European Congress, and that one of the results of this Congress should be a general disarmament or rather reduction of armaments to prescribed limits. There has been a great deal of discussion lately on a presumed proposition of this kind emanating from France, but it turns out that no such proposition was made. The latest explanation of the alleged rumour is that General Henry, the French Ambassador at St. Petersburg, had received secret instructions to endeavour to sow discord between the courts of St. Petersburg and Berlin; and if there did not seem any probability of that little project succeeding, to bring up the old idea of a European Congress. France, it would seem, is not yet by any means reconciled to Prussian aggrandisement and perhaps fears a too friendly feeling between Russia and Prussia: but as to "general disarmament" it unfortunately turns out, after more than a week's discussion of the alleged proposition to the different European courts, that no such proposal has been made.

Two other monster lists of bankrupts in the *Gazette*, and then we shall see a falling off. The first list in the new year will in all probability be in extraordinary contrast to the very lengthy lists we have now seen for some weeks past. This will act commercially somewhat as a thunder-storm and a heavy shower of rain act naturally: it will clear the commercial atmosphere. The new law, there is every reason to believe, will altogether act very beneficially in the interest of sound trading and commercial morality. The law which will cease to exist at the end of this year was grossly favourable to debtors and prejudicial to creditors; while that which comes into operation next year will be, on the whole, fair to both.

Another holocaust in one of our great London houses, with half a dozen families in it. A woman very recently confined, and five children burnt to death, much in the same way that many a family has been burnt to death before. We must be prepared, I suppose, for such statements as that, although the alarm of fire was given at 8·20 on Christmas evening the first engine did not arrive until 8·50, and then it did not get to work till 9 o'clock, six people being meanwhile suffocated and burnt to death. We cannot have engine-stations everywhere, and it would seem almost impossible under present arrangements, for fire-engines to arrive with sufficient rapidity to prevent people being burned or suffocated to death. But it is strange that there is no improvement in fire-engine management to meet the exigencies of the case; and strange, too, that surveyors should certify that a house is built properly when there is no trap-door in the roof, or no means of reaching such a way of escape. In the present case, had there been a trap-door and suitable steps, the mother and her suckling infant, with her two girls, and two other children who had come in to spend "a merry Christmas," need not have been burnt to death, and yet perhaps not one London house out of a dozen has such a means of escape from death by fire.

Local and District News.

Shotley Bridge County Court.—We are requested to announce that no money will be paid out or search made at the County Court, Shotley Bridge, from the 1st to the 8th of January, both days inclusive.

Stanley Penny Readings.—The usual fortnightly penny readings in connection with the Stanley reading-room took place on Wednesday evening last, in the infant school-room, Stanley. The vice-president occupied the chair. The day had been unusually wet and cold, yet there was a large attendance, the general high character of the entertainment provided proving so attractive as always to secure a good attendance. Mr. John Watkin played a variety of solos in excellent style and was loudly applauded. Mr. T. Ritson sung two good songs in his usual effective style, and two excellent trios by Miss Kenyon and Messrs. Armstrong and Ritson were well sung and warmly applauded. Mr. Thos. Armstrong roused the audience by one of his racy local songs, "The Bellman." Mr. Moles read "Grandfather's stick" in a highly effective manner. Mr. G. Gilchrist read "Mr. Tompkins Wattle," by Box, and Messrs. Moles and Armstrong read the quarrel of "Brutus and Cassius," in good taste. Mr. Moles read "Mickey Free's storming of Cuidad Rodrigo" in a very humorous style, followed by Mr. Gilchrist with "Trouble your head with your own affairs," by Eliza Cook. Votes of thanks to all taking part in the entertainment, and the singing of the National Anthem, brought a very pleasant evening to a close.

North of England Iron Trade—The Wages Question.—The question which is now occupying the attention of the trade is the advance of wages which the ironworkers are asking. It is hoped that this matter, which has always been so difficult to deal with, will be amicably settled by the Board of Arbitration. A meeting of the standing committee of the Board was held on Monday, and the question was discussed for several hours. The result of the meeting has been communicated as follows:—The advance of wages of 5 per cent., which took effect from May 1st, was to remain unchanged until the end of this year. Some time ago an application was made to the Board of Arbitration for an advance of wages equal to 1s. per ton for puddling, and 10 per cent. for millmen, to commence from January 1st. The employers expressed their willingness to give an advance of 5 per cent., making with what was given in May 10 per cent. The matter has been under the consideration of the standing committee, and several meetings have been held. The committee have taken steps to ascertain accurately the wages paid in other iron-making localities, for the leading departments of labour, and a meeting of the whole has been convened for Monday, to deal with the application for an advance. Of course, whatever may be the decision of the Board, or of any referee by whom the matter may be ultimately settled, it will take effect from to-day (Saturday).

On Wednesday morning a melancholy and fatal accident occurred at Wardley Colliery, near Pelaw railway station, by which a miner named R. Wilson, was instantly killed.

About seven o'clock on Wednesday morning a large boiler exploded with terrific force at Bewick Main Colliery, whereby two men lost their lives, and another received injuries of so serious a nature that his life is despaired of.

Early on Monday morning, Mr Charlton, of Pit Hill lost a useful horse by falling into a deep gutter by the side of the road. Help was obtained and the horse was got out alive, but died soon after. He had only had him a month.

Consett Primitive Methodist Chapel.—The annual tea party in connection with this place of worship is announced for New Year's Day. On Sunday, sermons will be preached by the Rev. T. Greenfield, and Mr. T. Robson, of Darlington, a gentleman highly respected.

The Brooms Concert.—One of the principal attractions of our New Year's festivities will be the concert at the Brooms on Monday evening. When we mention the names of Miss Emmeline Moore, Miss Annie Penman, and Mr. D. T. Halliday it will be a sufficient guarantee that the entertainment will rank first-class.

On Wednesday morning, Mr. Councillor Bird, of South Shields, was going round his place of business on the Half Moon Quay, Wapping Street, and was in the act of looking over a half-door in his sail loft when the door flew open and the unfortunate gentleman was thrown out on to the wherry below and killed.

Man Found Dead in the Snow at Spennymoor.—On Wednesday morning the dead body of a man, named Joseph Oats, was found in the snow at Tudhoe Grange. Deceased, who was 57 years of age, was a shoemaker, and lived at Spennymoor. He had been out at Tudhoe, and, as he was said to be of intemperate habits, he is supposed to have been intoxicated, and returning had at night fallen in the snow. Being unable either to assist himself up, or call for help, he had perished with the cold.

Appointment of Durham County Clerk.—The Durham County Magistrates, acting for the Petty Sessional District, have appointed Mr. John Watson as their clerk, in lieu of Mr. J. W. Hays, who recently resigned. The following magistrates were present:—H. J. B. Baker, Esq., Elemore Hall; J. Forg Elliot, Esq., Elcoat Hill; J. Henderson, Esq., M.P. Durham; M. C. Salvin, Esq., Burn Hall; Rev. A. Duncombe Shafto, Brancepeth; J. Leadbitter Smith, Esq., Flass Hall; A. Wilkinson, Esq., Durham; P. Wood, Esq., Conbee Hall. J. Fawcett, Esq., the chairman, was prevented attending by illness.

Introductory Services at the United Presbyterian Church, Blackhill.—On Sabbath day, the Rev. Alex. Baillie was introduced to his charge at Blackhill by the Rev. W. Fisken, of Stamfordham. Mr. Fisken preached in the morning from Isaiah lii. 6, earnestly and eloquently showing how the Gospel is to be proclaimed, afterwards in a very neat address he introduced Mr. Baillie to the congregation. In the afternoon Mr. Baillie preached a very earnest and impressive sermon from Jonah iii. 2, "Preach the preaching that I bid thee." In the evening the Rev. W. Fisken preached again from John vi. 14, the last clause of the verse. The attendance, notwithstanding the inclemency of the day, was good, especially in the afternoon and evening, and the collections were liberal.

Tonic Sol-fa Association.—On Monday first the members of the Consett and District Tonic Sol-fa Association will give their first public concert in the British Schools, Trafalgar Street, Consett. Under the able conductorship of Mr. C. Stephenson the members have acquired great proficiency, and, judging from report, a treat of no common order is in store for the lovers of sacred music. This being then so, we wish them a crowded house, which would not only be beneficial in a pecuniary sense, but would extend as a compliment to Mr. Stephenson, which his voluntary labours in the cause of music in this neighbourhood deserves. The programme is in every respect a first-class one. Some of the pieces, we understand, have been performed with great *eclat* at the Crystal Palace.

Melancholy Suicide of "Uncle" Hawks.—An inquest on the body of Edward Hawks, commonly known as "Uncle" Hawks, was held on Friday night at the Flying Horse Inn, Gateshead, before Mr. J. M. Favell and a jury. The deceased lodged with a Mrs. Clayton, at Garden Street, Gateshead, and for some time has been in a low state of mind. On Thursday morning last his landlady went out, leaving him alone in the house. On her return an hour afterwards she found him hanging by the neck with a piece of rope from a door in his bedroom. Dr. Douglas was called in, but the deceased was quite dead when that gentleman arrived. The jury, after hearing evidence to the above effect, returned a verdict that the deceased had committed suicide while in an unsound state of mind.

Daring Burglaries at Darlington.—On Christmas Day a robbery took place at Mr. Chilton's, who lives near Trinity Church, Darlington. The whole family had gone out for the day, and the house had been locked up. The thieves confined themselves to taking silver and gold articles. Amongst the property lost were a gold watch, three or four gold rings, silver spoons, &c., in the whole amounting to about £21 worth. Three men were noticed outside the house when Mr. Chilton's family left in the morning but no trace of the thieves has yet been found. Another burglary has been perpetrated at Darlington doubtless by the same persons who broke into Mr. Chilton's house on Christmas Day. The robbery took place at Mr Richardson's Cleveland House, and probably about the same time as the other. The family, however, left on Christmas Day, and did not return till Monday evening, and during the interval the house had been entered from behind and ransacked—chiffoniers, drawers, cupboards, &c., having been broken open and valuable articles stolen with £5 5s. in gold and silver. From the description given of the robbery at York on Sunday, it is believed by the police here to be the work of the same persons who are probably travelling thieves.

Discovery of a Gang of Juvenile Shoplifters at Bishop Auckland.—For some time a great many complaints have been lodged with the Bishop Auckland police relative to a gang of juvenile thieves who have infested the shops of various tradesmen, and stolen every description of articles upon which they could lay their hands. Two of the gang one a youth of about 15, named Ingram Topin, and another little hunchback named John Best, about 12, are now in custody. The younger lad had gone into the shop of Mr. J. J. Leigh, chemist, &c., on Wednesday night, and asked for two halfpence for a penny, and when Mr. Leigh's attention was diverted at a signal from his companion he snatched up a small toilet box and was walking coolly out; but a customer observed the trick, and he was taken into custody. On being searched a variety of toys, sweets, and, in fact, every description of articles were turned out of his pockets, and the other lad was afterwards apprehended; and it turned out that both of their mothers lived together in Fenkle Street, one of the back alleys of the town. Sergeant Harrison afterwards went to search the house, and found them burning wax candles, which it transpired were part of a box which had been stolen from the shop of Armstrong Brothers the previous night. Concealed in a box was also discovered a large quantity of goods, of all descriptions, including fancy pipes, toys, brooches, fancy soaps, and fancy goods innumerable. Topin was a year ago convicted and sentenced to one month to a prison and three years to a reformatory for sending his little sister to steal clothes from a hedge, but as there was not then a vacancy in the reformatory he was sent home. Several other lads are known to be in the same gang, but as yet there is no case against them.

The Reduction of Fares on the North-Eastern Railway.—Not a few of the shareholders took alarm at the late intimation by the Chairman of the intention of the Board to reduce the local fares over the whole extent of their system. It need not follow, however, that a reduction in the local fares must injuriously affect the general revenue. An examination of the station returns would decide whether or not such is likely to be the case; and we may be satisfied with the expressed intention of the Board before us—viz., that these fares are to be reduced on the 1st January—that the reduction must react profitably on itself. At all events, as the prevailing increase is derived from minerals and other long traffic, and as that traffic is more likely to be enhanced than depressed by encouragement to local passengers to make use of the line, we cannot be wrong in soliciting the attention of shareholders to the existing condition of the revenue. For the twenty-four weeks that have elapsed of the current half-year, the comparison with the corresponding period in 1868 stands out in this bold relief:—

	Miles	Receipts.	Per mile.	Per week.
1869..	1,274½..	£2,005,897..	£1,573 10 0..	£64 16 0
1868..	1,258½..	1,858,931..	1,477 2 0..	61 11 0
Increase....		£146,966	£96 8 0	£3 5 0

It is not surprising, under these circumstances, that North-Eastern securities continue to command attention in the public market, although little approval is bestowed upon them by the Stock Exchange agencies that are employed in writing up delusions of the day.—*Railway Times.*

Andrew Lynn, a hewer, and James Moody, a putter at West Cramlington Colliery, were killed by a fall of stone on Wednesday morning.

A concert in aid of the fund for the Irish political prisoners and their wives was held on Monday night in the New Town Hall, Newcastle. There was a very large attendance.

On Sunday afternoon, Sarah Hayes, an old woman, aged 74 residing in a back room at 21, Woodbine Street, Bishopwearmouth, was accidentally burnt to death.

At an early hour on Tuesday morning an old woman named Hannah Harrop, belonging to Middle Rainton, met her death from exposure to the excessive cold near Pittington.

At the Gateshead County Police Court, on Tuesday, John Smith, pitman, Usworth, an incorrigible poacher, was fined £2 and costs for trespass in pursuit of conies on a certain close of land in the occupation of Mr. Wm. Kidson, at Barmston.

Chester-le-Street Co-operative Society.—The large, commodious, and splendid buildings in connection with the Co-operative Society of Chester-le-Street, and which form quite a feature in the architecture of the town, were opened on Christmas Day with great *eclat*.

Christmas Strawberries.—A correspondent informs us that Mr. Joseph Henderson, gardener to Mr. J. B. Simpson, Hedgefield House, had a bed of strawberries on exhibition in full bloom and berry on Christmas Day in the open air.—*Newcastle Daily Chronicle.*

John Jackson *alias* "Skipper" Jackson, a well-known pugilist, was committed for trial at the Newcastle Police Court on Tuesday, for stealing from the person of Jane Tennent, a married woman, a purse containing 5s. 4½d., and a pawn ticket, on Monday night.

The Rev. Canon Greenwell, of Durham, and Mr. C. H. Cadogan, of Brinkburn Priory, have completed some highly interesting Northumbrian examinations of prehistoric burials, on Harbottle Peels, on the estate of Mr. P. F. Clennell, of Harbottle Castle.

On Tuesday morning, at the Gateshead County Police Court, a farmer of Washington, named Robert Snowdon, was fined £3 and costs for having had in his possession a cow affected with pleuro-pneumonia, and with not having notified the fact to the police with all practicable speed, as required by the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act of 1869.

Lost in the Snow.—An old woman, named Magaret Hopson, the wife of Ralph Hopson, pitman, living at Usworth Colliery, is missing, and it is supposed she has lost her way in the snow and died from exposure. At nine o'clock on Saturday night she left her husband at old Washington to proceed home, and has not been heard of since. She and her husband had been drinking at Old Washington all the day. Search parties were out in the neighbourhood on Sunday and Monday, but had not found her.

Holloway's Ointment and Pills.—Rheumatism, or Neuralgic Affections.—No diseases are more frequent, painful, or difficult to cure than these. From their attack no tissue of the human body is exempt, no age, sex, or calling secure. It is a blessing, however, to know that all these sufferings may be completely and expeditiously subdued by Holloway's remedies. The Pills much assist in banishing the tendency to Rheumatism and similar painful disorders; whilst the Ointment cures the local ailments, the Pills remove the constitutional disturbance and regulate the impaired function of every organ throughout the human body. The cure is neither temporary nor superficial, but permanent and complete, and the disease rarely recurs, so perfect has been the purification performed by these searching preparations.

A Pest to the Police.—On Tuesday at the Chester-le-Street Police Office, William Coxon, a well-known character, was charged with committing an assault on P.C. Dobbie. The prisoner was apprehended on Friday night last for non-payment of a penalty that had been inflicted upon him, but he struck and kicked the officer most savagely. P.C. Pratt coming to the assistance of P.C. Dobbie, the prisoner was overpowered. On the way to the station his comrades attacked the policemen, at whom they threw stones, and the prisoner was with difficulty removed. Inspector Marley, in putting in nineteen convictions against Coxon, stated that he had many times resisted apprehension in a similar manner to the above when being taken into custody for non-payment of penalties. He was committed to prison for three months' hard labour, under the Habitual Criminals Act.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND BLACKHILL TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the members of the above association was held in the Temperance Hall, on Friday evening, in celebration of which a goodly number of members and friends partook of an excellent tea, the tables being gracefully presided over by Mesdames A. Lowes and E. Hall. After tea, the business meeting commenced—the Rev. J. Brooks, president, occupied the chair, and after expressing the pleasure he felt in meeting so many friends on another anniversary occasion, and congratulating them upon the great progress which the cause of temperance had made during the past year, called upon

Mr. Wm. Bell, the secretary, to read the report, which was as follows:—It is with feelings of thankfulness, and yet with sorrow, that your committee again present their report. Sorrow because of the loss of an earnest and valuable friend of the temperance cause since our last meeting. We allude to the late Mr. William Barkas. Feeling our utter inability to do justice to the memory of so good a man, we confess to feeling rather diffident in approaching this subject, and yet your committee feel they cannot but take this opportunity of recording their deep sense of the loss they, and all who have the well-being of their fellowmen at heart, have sustained through his death. In him the temperance cause had an enthusiastic and indefatigable supporter; ever ready to assist in any way that lay in his power, attending whenever he had an opportunity of doing so, every committee and public meeting held in connection with the association, of which he was a vice-president. But, although death has taken away our dear friend, let us not despond, but rather let it infuse fresh vigour into our efforts; let his life be an example to us, and let us throw renewed energy into our advocacy of a cause which had in him such a warm and consistent supporter. Your committee have cause for thankfulness in the rapid advance of the great movement in which they are engaged, and as we look at the many and important events that have occurred during the year, we cannot but come to the conclusion that it must rank as the most important in the past history of the temperance reformation. As our principles extend further than "moral suasion," we may, perhaps, be justified in noticing briefly a few of the events of the year. We will first glance, however, at our own district, and here we think we have cause for encouragement; proofs are manifest that the principles of—not only total abstinence, but prohibition—are fast gaining ground. During the early part of the year, the committee, though not taking action officially, were much engaged, individually, in working in the interests of the "Permissive Bill," therefore, their time being thus taken up, they could not devote themselves so much as they would otherwise have done to the holding of meetings, &c., in connection with the association. For the past year, twenty-five meetings were appointed by the committee, and generally have been very successful. The number of pledges taken are over 80, and the number of petitions sent from this district in favour of the Permissive Bill, so far as we have learned, we are glad to say, exceed 30; many of them being from large public meetings, others by a house-to-house canvass, and we cannot but mention that in performing this duty some of your committee witnessed scenes of utmost wretchedness and misery, and on inquiry, the answer was—"Drink, sir, drink has been our ruin." Many and bitter were the curses that were heaped upon the traffic by some of its victims. The report then went on to show the progress of the question generally, noticing the report of Convocation, the change in the Beerhouse Act, the increased Parliamentary support given to the Permissive Bill, the abandonment of prescribing liquor by many medical men, and concluding with expressing the most sanguine hopes for the future of their cause.

The Treasurer's report was as follows:—Cash in hand, £1 3s. 3½d.; receipts, £21 16s. 6½d.; total, £22 19s. 10d. Total expenditure, £19 2s.; balance, £3 17s. 10d.

Mr. H. Carss moved the adoption of the reports. He fully concurred in the statement in the report that the temperance cause had made immense progress during the past year. There might have been times of greater excitement, but he firmly believed that the principles of temperance and prohibition never had such a firm hold on the nation as now.

Mr. John Bushby seconded the motion, which was carried.

The following were then elected as officers for the ensuing year:—Rev. J. Brooks, president; Messrs. Charles Wilson, Frances Snaith, E. O. Tregelles, J. Bushby, H. Carss, George Lowes, and Geo. Farrage, vice-presidents; Mr. A. Lowes, treasurer; and Mr. W. Nicholson, secretary. The proceedings, which were of a very agreeable character, terminated after the usual votes of thanks.

SABBATH SCHOOL ANNIVERSARIES.

At the recent meeting of the Wesleyan Sunday School Union, which was reported in last week's *Guardian*, Mr. T. Fenwick, of East Castle Colliery, read the following paper on "What are the best means of conducting our Sunday School Anniversaries, and of maintaining the Funds:"—Allow me at the outset to briefly state the general arrangements, mode of procedure, and influence of those anniversaries as they are at present conducted in the North of England. A day is appointed, a preacher chosen, and what are termed "pieces" are given to the scholars that will accept them. Much time is spent while these scholars are being heard reciting their pieces week after week by the superintendent or those appointed for that purpose, until the day arrives. Parents, anxious that their children may appear to advantage before a public audience, often provide new clothing for the occasion, which not unfrequently involves needless expense, and keeps alive the spirit of rivalry and pride in which some thoughtless parents indulge. On the appointed day the preacher is often reminded that he must be as short as possible, for the children have much to say and the people have come to hear them. In many cases the hymns are selected and given to the preacher, and a chapter or chapters are repeated by way of lesson; then a short sermon, which is perhaps mutilated for the sake of brevity, followed by the recitation of dialogues, poetry, hymns, chapters, and catechism—not unfrequently without one or both of the latter. Perhaps it is not too much to say that in such a course there is much that is unspiritual and positively mischievous. Leaving out other points, the ordinary routine of the school is disturbed for perhaps two or three Sundays before; on the day divine service is to some extent set aside, excitement takes the place of edification, and persons who seldom attend God's house hear sometimes sensational dialogues instead of a gospel sermon. In the majority of dialogues children are made to repeat what is not true, and sometimes very unscriptural statements are made. The tendency and influence of all this is also entirely at variance with the great object of Sabbath school teaching, which is to give as much scriptural knowledge as possible in the short time the children are at school, and so lead them to Christ in early life, which will enable them to discharge life's duties in the fear of God, and to find their way to heaven. Hence, each anniversary or annual examination should be for the purpose of showing as concisely and clearly as possible what progress the scholars have made in the knowledge of those scriptures "which are able to make them wise unto salvation." With this professed object before us, it is clear that whatever mode be adopted it should be exclusively scriptural. As Wesleyan Methodists we take the Holy Bible as the rule of our faith and practice, and our catechisms being simply a definition of the doctrines set forth in the scriptures and held by us, we maintain that in these two should our children be taught, and on these alone should they be examined. There are two modes of doing this, which seem to me to be of a practical character and worthy of attention. The first is to instruct them fully on the ordinary lessons taught in the school on so many of the preceding Sundays as may be necessary, without committing to memory any chapters specially for the occasion, and then examine them thereon. But this, we think, is better adapted to day school work, where children are kept constantly to their work for at least five days in the week; but in our Sunday schools, having them only a small portion of one day in seven, it seems to me that the following method is better adapted to the end designed:—Select some portion of scripture history or gospel narrative, parable, or miracle, having some clear, definite truth or truths in it, which will at once interest, instruct, and profit the children in learning, the teachers in teaching, and the parents in hearing. Aim first to acquaint them with the facts, then the principle involved in the facts with the lessons they teach, the whole illustrated and confirmed with other passages of scripture. Thus, for example: All who are to take part in the examination, let them attend once-a-week on a week-night to be specially instructed on the subject, each bringing a Bible, and the teacher taking the subject in order. Question the whole of the scholars on the subjects until they are familiar with them; then divide them into classes, so many in each, taking care to make a good classification. Give to each class one of the subjects to commit to memory (after they have become acquainted with the whole), as much as they are capable of dealing with to advantage; thus each class becomes responsible for repeating their own portion of the subject, whilst all the classes can answer the questions on all the lessons repeated by the others. After committing their part to memory, give to each class whatever passages may be deemed useful for illustrating their subject—in the fulfilment of prophecy, or for bringing home to the conscience the lessons which their subject teaches,—and let them commit them to memory, and give them as answers to questions which the examiner may frame to meet them. Give to no class more than one subject. It is a serious mistake to overload and oppress the memory at the expense of the judgment, and to the neglect of the conscience. Let us use the memory for informing the judgment, and for quickening the conscience into higher life by that Word which God has given to be its light and guide. By this arrangement of subjects and classes the whole of the children get a much wider knowledge of Bible truth, with much less trouble, and each becoming acquainted with the different subjects, it has much less the appearance of task work and is calculated to give them a deeper interest in the whole. The plan of each class doing the same work and repeating the lesson together has many decided advantages over that of each scholar repeating separately a different subject.

1st. It saves time and toil in training and teaching where you have six or seven subjects all pointing to one object, instead of twenty or thirty that have no connection with each other. The few subjects are more easily mastered and much better understood.

2nd. It saves much time on the day of examination, and avoids the lengthy and sometimes wearisome service, of which many congregations complain, whilst it affords sufficient variety and freshness, interest and instruction, to make such services profitable to all.

3rd. The children standing up on the platform in classes prevents that unhealthy and improper rivalry (which sometimes prevails) of being seen and heard to the best advantage. One is anxious that the new dress should be seen, and another that their voice should be heard—it is so much better, and they can speak so much plainer than some others. And not a few parents indulge in these feelings, as well as the children; but this class arrangement hinders the opportunity and checks the evil.

Then, to the method of conducting the anniversary services. With this arrangement there is no need to interfere with, or to curtail, the regular ministry of the Word, which, we must admit, is a matter of the highest importance. People attend that day who are but seldom seen at chapel, and by all means let them hear a gospel sermon once a year. Nay, in no way need we interfere with the regular service. Let the preacher give out, and let the congregation sing, the regular hymns from our own incomparable hymn book; let him also read his own lessons so that the congregation may have, as usual, all the means of edification. It is much to be regretted that our hymns are at such times laid aside at some places, and others of an inferior character substituted. Now, the question will, of course, arise, How can all this be done without making the services too long? In general three services are held: suppose there be a sermon morning and evening, with, say one or two subjects, occupying fifteen minutes, at each of these services, and one or two of the children's hymns sung—this will be sufficient to give an interest to such as come to hear the children only, whilst they will hear the sermon to boot, and the regular hearers will get their ordinary service and the children extra. Give the whole of the afternoon to the children for examination and the singing of such hymns as may be selected for the occasion, opening and closing with the ordinary hymns. If time will allow—and judicious superintendents will take care that the examination be not too long to hinder it—let there be a short address to parents and teachers. To conclude, whatever plan be adopted let the subjects be scriptural, and the arrangements for the services such as will secure the good-will and interest of all who attend. Show in the examination what kind of instruction you give in the school, and then you can intelligently appeal to their liberality for the means of carrying on your work. We close our paper knowing no other means of improving our school anniversaries and keeping up the funds than by working harder and giving more, in both cases systematically and from christian principle.

It may be useful to remind our readers that the revised postal arrangement between this country and the United States comes into operation on the 1st of January. From that date the rate of postage to any part of the States will be reduced on prepaid letters to 3d per half ounce.

Strike by Children.—The *Echo du Nord* of Lille states that the children employed in the cotton and cloth mills of Verviers, in Belgium, to the number of from 500 to 600, struck a few days back, refusing to work any longer from five in the morning until ten at night. Their conditions were to commence at six and leave off at seven in the evening, thirteen hours in all, which is still enormous. The strike was accompanied with the usual proceedings, comprising processions headed by music, and a manifestation, with speeches delivered. At the end of four days the masters gave in.

Local Po[illegible] Courts.

LANCHESTER [illegible]

THURSDAY, Dec. [illegible]

and R. T. Sa[illegible]

WILFUL DA[illegible]

George West and *John West*, [illegible] by Messrs Laycock, of Lintz H[illegible] to plantations, their property. P.C. [illegible] on Saturday, the 11th ult., [illegible] range from 7 to 10 years. In the [illegible] younger brother, they were cutting [illegible] hockeysticks [illegible]. They were sentenced to [illegible] reprimanded.

BREACH OF THE PEACE.

John Nicholson and *Jos. Mason*, of Tantobie, were charged by P.C. Moreland with committing a [illegible] of the peace, on Friday evening, the 10th ult.—P[illegible] cutor said that he was on duty at Tantobie on [illegible] evening in question, and saw the defendants come out [illegible] a public-house where they had had some dispute and start to fight.—Defendants said that there was no bad feeling between them, and regretted that they were in their present position.—Fined 2s. 6d. and costs.

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY.

Isaac Rowles, of White-le-Head, miner, was charged with being drunk and disorderly at Tantobie, on the 12th ult.—P.C. Moreland stated that from complaints made to him of several annoyances at Tantobie, on Sundays, he proceeded to that place, and, hearing a noise, he went up and found defendant lying in a drunken state covered with mud.—Fined 2s. 6d. and costs.

BREACH OF THE EXCISE ACT.

Thomas Robson, of Medomsley, innkeeper, was charged by the Board of Inland Revenue with selling spirits without a license, on the 20th of October. Mr. Hopper, supervisor of Excise, prosecuted in this case. It appears that defendant is in the habit of supplying spirits and ale at the sales of cattle at Pontop, and for such purposes an occasional license is required. Previous to the sale defendant forwarded the cost of the license to Mr. Hopper, but as there was no form signed by the magistrate, as required by law, enclosed in his application, he did not forward the license, but wrote to him and sent him a proper form for the magistrates' signature. He had not attended to this, but had sold spirits and ale to several persons without the license.—Mr. Wilson stated that he was at Pontop, and saw defendant supply several persons on the day named.—Defendant pleaded ignorance of the law, and produced a form signed by a magistrate, but no date was on the certificate.—The full penalty was £50, but the bench reduced the fine to £12 10s. and expenses, and recommended the Excise to further diminish the fine.

BREACH OF THE REFRESHMENT ACT.

John Joseph Bolam, of Maiden Law, was charged by John Hunter, innkeeper, of the same place, with being drunk and disorderly, and refusing to leave his house on the evening of the 18th ult.—Prosecutor stated that on the evening in question Hunter was in his house, and, while drunk, threatened to strike his sister, and knock her nose off. He refused to leave the house for prosecutor, but continued to interrupt the servant while waiting on the company.—Mr. Dove, jun., of Newcastle, appeared for defendant, and elicited from prosecutor that he had two glasses or perhaps twenty-two glasses of either water or something else. The charge arose out of defendant sweethearting the servant in the kitchen, and in consequence of something said by prosecutor's sister, defendant threatened to break her nose.—The young women who was "sweethearting" with defendant in the kitchen gave evidence for defendant, and denied that Bolam was drunk. It was Hunter who was drunk. Defendant had only four glasses of ale in the house.—Case dismissed.

ASSAULT.

Robert Armstrong, carrier, of the Lintz, was charged by Ann Oswald, married women, of Lintz Colliery, with assaulting her on the 12th ult.—Prosecutrix stated that on that day she was at Newcastle, and came home in the waggon belonging to the defendant. She got out at Crookgate and had a cup of tea, and then got into the waggon again as it went near her house. She had not been long in the waggon when defendant began to take liberties with her. She shouted twice, and her husband came up jumped on the waggon, and thus prevented any outrage.—Mr. Patrick appeared for defendant, and elicited that prosecutrix and defendant breakfasted together, which prosecutrix accounted for by stating the other women had breakfasted before her. She was usually met by a nephew, or niece, or her husband, but on that evening she took her marketing further on as she was expecting her niece to meet her at Topgate Farm. She was not aware that her husband had passed the waggon twice that night. Her husband found defendant and her in an improper position, and after she got home he struck at her, and she left the house that night. She went to his brother's at an early hour on Sunday morning, and asked him to go to the house and endeavour to pacify her husband. She did not say what was the reason she had left her house, as he knew what had occurred before her arrival.—The husband of prosecutrix stated that on the evening in question he saw the carrier's waggon, and heard someone shout "Oh! dear me." He went up and found defendant and his wife in an improper position in the waggon; he then jumped on the waggon and kicked defendant well. He saw her in the waggon, and allowed the waggon to go on as it would save him carrying the groceries so far as he would otherwise have had to do. He walked on about one hundred yards, when he heard her shout, and then ran up to the waggon.—A witness for defendant said that he noticed several familiarities between defendant and prosecutrix while in the waggon on their way home.—Mr. Patrick, in addressing the bench, said he was not there to defend the morality of the persons in this case, but he came forward for the purpose of proving that this assault was really committed with the prosecutrix's consent and connivance. The whole of the evidence tended to that conclusion, and no evidence went further to prove that than the evidence of her own husband, who had turned her out of the house, implying by that that he considered her equally guilty.—The bench, after retiring for a few minutes, returned into court, and dismissed the case.

"PITCH AND TOSS."

Charles Robson, Thos. Robson, and *John Armstrong*, of Stanley, miners, were charged by P.C. Raine with playing at pitch and toss on a bridle road, at Stanley, on Sunday afternoon, the 19th ult.—P.C. Raine stated that from complaints made to him, he determined to do what he could to stop the nuisance. At one o'clock on the afternoon stated, he secreted himself until they came, which was about a quarter-past three. He saw them toss money several times, but he did not go to them, as he did not want them to see where he had hid himself. He expected to catch more, and that was the reason he did not wish them to see where he was.—Mr. Patrick, who appeared for the defendants, contended that they were only tossing for amusement, and not for wagering or gain, and he submitted that the case was not sufficiently made out to lead them to the conclusion that they were gaming.—The case was dismissed.

DRUNK AND RIOTOUS.

Matthew Richardson, of Stanley, miner, was charged by P.C. Raine with being drunk and riotous at that place on Sunday morning, the 10th ult.—Fined 6d. and costs, in all 9d.

ASSAULT.

Michael Carrol, of Quebec colliery, miner, was charged by Nicholas Hudson, coke-burner, of the same place, with assaulting him on the 22nd ult. Neither parties appeared, and summonses were directed to be issued against them.

Another dastardly attempt has been made to throw a train off the line, this time on the Thirsk and Malton branch of the North-Eastern Railway.

Two deaths from starvation have occurred at Orrell, near Wigan, and according to one of the jurymen called to investigate the matter, "there are other cases in the neighbourhood quite as bad if they were inquired into."

An important tenant-right conference took place on Monday, in the Town Hall, Ballymena, under the presidency of Sir Shafto Adair. Resolutions were passed in favour of tenant-right as in Ulster.

Female suffrage is at length legally enacted in one portion of the United State. The Legislature of the territory of Wyoming has passed an Act providing for female suffrage, and on December 10 it became a law by receiving the Governor's approval.

Terrible Disaster at Bristol.—A terrible disaster occurred at Bristol on Monday night in consequence of a panic at the New Theatre. There was a great crush to gain admission, and some one wantonly raised the cry of "fire." A panic ensued, and in the excitement to escape eighteen persons were crushed to death, and many more were injured.

Extraordinary Longevity.—The obituary of the *Times* of the 21st ult., contained some remarkable illustrations of prolonged existence in the case of four ladies and three gentlemen, whose united ages amounted to 596 years, giving an average of 85 years and rather more than one month to each of these seven persons. Of the ladies, the youngest was 80 years of age and the oldest had reached the great age of 90. Of the opposite sex the youngest was 85 and the eldest 88 years of age.

Extensive Robbery of Silver Plate at York.—On Sunday evening, between seven and eight o'clock, the house of Mr. J. Peark, situate on The Mount, was entered whilst the family were at Divine worship, and a large quantity of silver plate stolen, including table spoons, gravy spoons, tea spoons, salt spoons, dessert spoons, silver forks, gold lockets, gold rings, chains, and brooches, three watches, a purse containing £4, gold set brooches, and a variety of jewellery. No person was in the house at the time of the robbery, and an entrance was effected by a widow at the back of the premises.

Frightful Massacre at Fiji—253 Persons Drowned—Intelligence has been received (says the *Melbourne Argus*) of a horrible massacre at Fiji. A Mr. Lattin, who it is said, was formerly a store-dealer in Melbourne, had shipped about 280 natives on board the French barque Morea. Their ultimate destiny was it is believed Queensland; but it seems that the islanders rose *en masse* and mercilessly killed every white man on board with the exception of the mate. They then jumped overboard, with the intention of swimming on shore, but only about thirty reached the land, 253 having, it is supposed, been drowned.

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STER PETTY SESSIONS.
. 30, 186 —Before A. H. Talmadge
H E. T. Sm Esqrs.

WILFUL DA
d John West, were charged
, of Lintz Hall, with doing damage
r property.—P.C. Smith stated that
11th ult., he found defendants, who
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They were sentenced to pay costs and

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e defendants, contended that they
amusement, and not for wagering
ubmitted that the case was not
o lead them to the conclusion that
The case was dismissed.

NK AND RIOTOUS.
n, of Stanley, miner, was charged
being drunk and riotous at that
ning, the 10th ult.—Fined 6d. and

ASSAULT.
uebec colliery, miner, was charged
coke-burner, of the same place,
n the 22nd ult. Neither parties
nses were directed to be issued.

lly attempt has been made
he line, this time on the Thrisk
the North-Eastern Railway.

n starvation have occurred
, and according to one of the
estigate the matter, "there are
ghbourhood quite as bad if they

nant-right conference took
n the Town Hall, Ballymena,
of Sir Shafto Adair. Resolu-
favour of tenant-right as in

s at length legally enacted
United State. The Legislature
oming has passed an Act pro-
rage, and on December 10 it
ving the Governor's approval.

R AT BRISTOL.—A terrible
ristol on Monday night in con-
the New Theatre. There was
dmission, and some one wan-
"fire." A panic ensued, and
escape eighteen persons were
many more were injured.

LONGEVITY.—The obituary
t ult., contained some remark-
rolonged existence in the case
ree gentlemen, whose united
years, giving an average of 85
than one month to each, of
f the ladies, the youngest was
oldest had reached the great
site sex the youngest was 85
of age.

Y OF SILVER PLATE AT
vening, between seven and
of Mr. J. Peark, situate on
whilst the family were at
rge quantity of silver plate
spoons, gravy spoons, tea
rt spoons, silver forks, gold
ains, and brooches, three
ing £4, gold set brooches,
y. No person was in the
robbery, and an entrance
t the back of the premises.

E AT FIJI—253 PERSONS
has been received (says the
rible massacre at Fiji. A
was formerly a store-dealer
ed about 280 natives on
Morea. Their ultimate
Queensland; but it seems
sacre and mercilessly killed
with the exception of the
overboard, with the inten-
e, but only about thirty
ing, it is supposed, been

Christmas Festivities.

CONSETT.

"Merrie Christmas" is usually celebrated in the "caller North" with a joyousness that is not exceeded in any other part of the United Kingdom, and this year, the great national festival has been kept in a manner that will suffer little by comparison with any of its predecessors. Until Christmas Eve, it seemed as if the elements had entered into a conspiracy to make December the most miserable month in the whole year, for from the opening days of the month till Christmas Eve there was such a constant admixture of rain and fog as to produce an amount of external discomfort that is rarely exceeded in any other places than Leadgate, Consett, and Blackhill. But our discomforts are not so great as they were before the introduction of the Local Government Act into the townships of Iveston, Ebchester, Conside and Knitsley, and Benfieldside, and we expect that the improvements made by the Local Boards will soon be supplemented by others of a kindred character. On Friday morning, the ground in our neighbourhood was covered with a thin coating of snow, and throughout the day it fell at intervals. On Christmas Day, however, the storm increased in violence. The snow flakes fell thick and fast, and being borne along by the "rude Borean blast," formed huge wreathes here and there. Thus continued the state of affairs until Sunday night, when, to the downfall of snow, was added the unusual occurrence of a thunderstorm. About nine o'clock the inhabitants were startled by a heavy flash of lightning, which, owing to the pitchy darkness of the atmosphere, acquired a great degree of brilliancy, and which was accompanied with a loud peal of thunder and heavy showers of hail. The weather moderated on Monday morning, but the frost was intense. Notwithstanding the stormy weather, the festivities were not impeded, some of which are reported below.

According to annual custom, the Wesleyan and Primitive Methodist Choirs of this place paraded the streets on Christmas morning, commemorating the advent of our Lord by singing select and appropriate pieces of music. The stormy night would have damped the courage of older singers, but their ardour was proof against the blast. By the kindness of a number of the friends breakfast was provided for the Primitive choir at Mr. S. Turnbull's, Puddlers' Row. At six o'clock, the choir made its appearance at the appointed rendezvous, and appeared ready to do execution to whatever good things might be set before them. After having done ample justice to the excellent fare, a little harmless amusement was engaged in, and the gathering broke up about nine o'clock. Great praise is due to Mrs. Turnbull and also to Mesdames Smith and Hull for the manner in which everything was set upon the table, as it must have cost them a great deal of trouble. The same band of singers were also entertained at the house of Mr. R. Evens in the evening.

Christ Church was only slightly decorated this year, the edifice having only recently been beautifully adorned by the painters and decorators. The usual Christmas services were held, but they were sparsely attended.—Service was conducted in the Wesleyan chapel by the Rev. T. W. Blanshard, who delivered an able and appropriate discourse, which was listened to with great attention. The audience was only small.

Social Meeting.—A number of the members of Consett Primitive Methodist church, on the evening of Christmas-day spent a most agreeable time in the house of Mr. J. Hetherington, Victoria Street. A capital supper was provided, and after justice had been done to it, Messrs J. Brodie sen., and T. Carrick gave addresses. The remainder of the evening was filled up with exercises of a religious nature, and this re-union seems to us to be a revival of the fashion in which the old Primitives were wont to spend the festive seasons.

Wesleyan Sunday School.—On Christmas Eve, the teachers of the Consett Wesleyan Sunday School held their annual meeting, in the Wesleyan Chapel. As usual, tea was provided previous to the meeting, when about sixty persons sat down to an excellent repast. The tables were presided over by Misses Lowrey, Allison, Elliott, Routledge, Curry, and Proudlock. After the cloth was removed, the teachers commenced business—Mr H. Rodgers presiding. The school was reported to be in a favourable condition, and the officers were re-elected with the exception of the treasurer and one of the secretaries, Mr Curry was voted to the former and Mr. J. T. Little to the latter. A number of scholars of both sex were made teachers. The Sunday school library was reported to be in a good condition, and the officers were re-elected. After some other business had been disposed of, a vote of thanks was given to the ladies for providing the tea, and to Miss Lowrey for her past services, when the meeting broke up.

Pantomime at the Consett Theatre.—One of the largest audiences we recollect ever seeing at this place, assembled on Christmas Eve, to witness the first representation of the new pantomime, "Aladdin; or, the Wonderful Lamp." The burlesque is founded on one of the most popular stories in the Arabian Nights' Entertainments, and with the exception of a few digressions is adhered to. Considering the many disadvantages the lessees have to contend with, by reason of the unsuitability of the stage for pantomimic display, the burlesque was represented in a manner that has never been excelled in Consett. Yet, by the exercise of a little artistic skill, a further improvement might be effected by the substitution of one or two scenes in the place of those too-much worn specimens of the brush. The following are the characters: Mrs. G. Dunbar (Aladdin), Mrs. M. Harker (the Sultan), Mrs. J. R. Talfourd (Peko), Mr. J. Coles (the Vizier), Mr. C. O'Brien (the genius of the ring), Miss Mordon (Princess Badroulboudour), Mr. J. R. Talfourd (as Widow Twankey) reminded us of a late and noted Tyneside comic, Ned Corvan, whose drollery and humour kept many a Tyneside audience roaring with laughter from the commencement to the end of his performances; and if Mr. Talfourd had been possessed of the real vernacular his success as an imitator of Ned would have been complete. Two or three political hits have been introduced, which are received with marked approval. The comic business is well carried out, creating much hearty fun and amusement, Mr. Talfourd is clown; Mr. Chas. O'Brien, harlequin; Mr. Joe Coles, pantaloon; Mddle. Victoria makes an admirable columbine, and would be a valuable acquisition to an establishment of first-class pretensions. The pantomime still continues to draw good houses, and several new tricks are introduced every evening.

BLACKHILL.

St. Mary's Church.—On Christmas Day, the decorations in this church were not very profuse, owing to the fact, that the effect of a recent improvement would be marred by too great a profusion of evergrens; but the altar was regarded quite a gem, on account of the tasteful and chaste manner in which it was decorated, wreaths of evergreens blending in graceful harmony with flowers, and nearly one hundred wax tapers which had a most brilliant effect. Another object of interest was the representation of the crib at Bethlehem, forcibly remainding the Christian of the great "Mystery of man's redemption." The music was all that could be desired, the choir creditably acquitting themselves in the execution of the different pieces selected for the occasion. The Rev. T. Smith, in reminding his devoted congregation that this was the ninth Christmas he had spent among them, dwelt with pleasure on the progress that had been made in their sacrifices for the last few years in adorning the church, and on the fact that it was inferior to none in the diocese for beauty and tastefulness of decoration, paying a well merited tribute to his people for the improvements in which they had so great a share.

Fruit Banquet.—The annual banquet, in connection with the Primitive Methodist Church at Blackhill, came off, as usual, on the evening of Christmas-day. The weather did not prove any drawback to this social gathering in point of attendance as the company was as numerous as on previous occasions. The Rev T. Greenfield was voted to the chair, the duties of which he discharged in his usual able and genial manner. The speechifying was led off by Mr. J. Richardson, of Castleside, who threw out a few hints upon "Public Worship" which had been suggested to him while reading the late controversy in the Newcastle papers, and in the couse of which he pointed out the claims and advantages of attendance upon the ordinances of religion. Mr. T. Armstrong, of Consett, followed with on address upon "Church Work," which he showed to be the exhibition of the purity of the gospel by example, and the education and salvation of the world. "The elevating power of Christianity" was the inspiring theme upon which Mr. J. Wrightson, of Blackhill, dilated. It was not the Christianity of "Ecce Homo" nor of the Vatican that he predicated such glorious things of, but of the Book, which had shown itself a power in the world—individually, socially, and nationally. Mr. W. M. Patterson, of Consett, spoke upon "Diversity: an arrangement of God," illustrating it by the varied character of things animate and inanimate, and founding thereon a plea for diversity of opinion. Mr. J. Elliott, of Consett, was the last speaker, and his subject was "Priests, Altars, and Sacrifices of the Old and New Testaments," during the delivery of which he attacked Socinian and Papal error. Pieces suited to the season were performed by the choir during the evening. Miss Walton presiding at the harmonium. Fruit was served at intervals, and after the usual votes of thanks had been accorded, the meeting broke up.

United Presbyterian Sabbath School.—The anniversary of the above institution was held, as usual, on Christmas Day, in the School-room adjoining the church, kindly granted by the Rev. F. B. Thompson, vicar of Benfieldside. The children to about 100 were regaled with tea and cake in abundance, after which, 150 adults partook of an excellent tea. Great credit is due to the ladies—Mesdames Smart, Fadson, and Heslop—who superintended the tea-making department, and also to Misses E. Cole, M. Imrie, and J. Fadson, for the kind attentive manner in which they presided over the tables. The bread, &c., which was from the establishment of Mr. Imrie, Consett, was as usual unexceptionable. After tea, the company retired to the church to hear the children recite their pieces, and while they have always acquitted themselves creditably, we must say that they excelled themselves on this occasion, they never having performed their tasks with greater efficiency before. Very great thanks is due to Mr. Alexander Young, the superintendent, for the manner in which everything was conducted. The Rev. A. Baillie, the newly-ordained minister, occupied the chair, supported by the Rev. William Fisken, of Stamfordham, who both addressed the children and friends, expressing their gratification at being present at so harmonious a meeting, and their satisfaction with the conduct and proficiency of the children. Messrs. Paton, Imrie, and Young also addressed the meeting.—Mr. Paton, in the course of an eminently fitting address, said—In looking at our young friends before they commenced their exercises, I was very much struck with the hearing of the boys and girls, for over both there seemed to rest a halo of pure primeval innocence and peace. One sad thought, however, would intrude itself, viz., that these young ones could not always be young, that they might not always be so innocent and happy. Judging from their appearance, not a few of them before another Christmas comes round will have entered into the busy whirl of life. This, sir, I cannot help thinking is, at least from my own view point, a much more serious thing for a young person than even dying. When young persons die, a ray of hope, and a bright one too, is left behind, but it cannot be said of all who, pure and innocent, enter the battle field of life, that their virtue remains unsullied to the end. That being the case, I would like to say a few words on the materials for making a good character. The first of my divisions is obedience, and I would like to impress upon my young friends the necessity of cultivating the duty, the virtue, and the habit of obedience in early life. They will thus simplify the future action of it, and be the means of saving them from many a crushed and aching heart. My next division is truthfulness. Now, if my young friends wish to do well in this world they must be truthful even in the smallest things. Avoid little falsehoods, for no boy or girl can be happy when either contriving, or telling, or after telling a falsehood. Parents should be exceedingly watchful as to any symptoms of untruthfulness or even prevarication, which is indirect lying, in their children; the latter are very sharp in their perceptive faculties, and very soon discover just exactly how much to tell to keep themselves safe, and if parents are not exceedingly watchful against being satisfied with anything less than all the truth, they may live to lament their own neglect. My next division is honesty. Now, honesty has the same relation to our conduct as truthfulness has to our words. Now, my dear young friends, if you wish to be accounted good, and without goodness greatness is but an empty name, be honest; and you, parents, see that you inculcate honesty in your children. It is the great want of the age in which we live, and if you would lend your aid to redeem our own loved England from the infamy which now covers her, and the consciousness of which suffuses the cheek of honour with the flush of shame, train up your children in honesty. My young friends, ever bear in mind that dishonesty is villany wherever it is practised; it matters not whether it be in the gorgeous mansion of the millionaire, or in the slimy cellar of the petty pick pocket. Bear also in mind that a splendid generosity will never compensate for magnificent villany. To build churches and chapels, and to restore cathedrals with money swindled out of the widow and orphan will never atone for the dishonest act. Allied to honesty is candour; cultivate it and abjure all deception. My last division is industry. Be industrious in learning your lessons, whether at Sunday or day school. "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might." Allied to industry is perseverance, or a disposition not to be easily beaten in any attempt. One word in conclusion, it not unfrequently happens that both the truthful and the honest are at times discredited and blamed for what they are innocent of, and much suffering is endured from this cause; but a conscience of integrity will form an easy pillow on which to rest your aching heart. The various points of this address were happily illustrated.

LEADGATE.

The festival of Christmas was observed in Leadgate similarly to former years. Divine service was celebrated at an early hour in the manificent sanctuary at the Brooms, which was tastefully decorated. The Rev. Canon Kearney officiated, and several diets of worship were held during the day.—At St. Ives Church, the Rev. J. W. Mitchell conducted service as usual.

Concert of Sacred Music.—The Leadgate Wesleyan Chapel Choir, assisted by members of the Consett Wesleyan Choir, gave a concert of sacred music at Leadgate, on Christmas day. The chapel was filled with a numerous, respectable and, we might add critical, audience. With one exception the programme consisted entirely of Mozart's sublime Twelfth Mass. Mr. John Whitfield, sen., conducted. Credit is due to the conducter and the choir for their effort to produce the works of the great masters, but the task they had imposed upon themselves was a difficult one. The taste for compositions of this class is confined to few in this neighbourhood, and had the choir contented themselves with the works of minor authors a greater amount of success would have attended their labours. Without a rigid training of both vocalists and instrumentalists it is impossible to give truthfully the author's grand conceptions in the Mass. But it cannot be denied that the choir did their best to discharge their task and were frequently applauded by the audience. An *encore* was awarded for the execution of "Sing ye with joy for Christ has risen." for a piece omitted the choir substituted the "Hallelujah Chorus" Mr. J. W. Hedley presided at the harmonium in his usual able manner. The instrumentalists were—Messrs. Isaac Whitfield, J. Whitfield, and J. Davison. During the interval the chairman (Mr. Leybourne) addressed the audience.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

Baptist Chapel Highgate.—The anniversary services of the above place of worship were inaugurated by a public tea, on Christmas-day, when upwards of 100 persons partook of the cheering cup. The after-meeting was addressed by the following speakers, whose telling speeches were listened to with great interest:—Rev. J. Brooks, Pastor (in the chair), Messrs. Edwards, Carss, Turner, Sharpe, of NorthShields, and Middleton, of Consett. The choir sang well.—On Lord's day morning the Rev. T. Greenfield preached a thoughtful and instructive sermon. In the afternoon and evening, Mr. D. Sharpe was the preacher. In the afternoon the subject of discourse was Simeon's prayer on taking the infant Savour in his arms. In the evening, the "friend that sticketh closer than a brother" was solemnly and impressively illustrated.

Christmas Eve at Shotley Hall.—Among the many reunions of Christmastide, few we fancy would compare with the glad festivity of the household of the above mansion. True to the ancient spirit of "Merrie England," the "Squire" Wilson, and his warm-hearted lady, gave a Christmas Eve banquet to the servants and retainers of the hall. Tables were laid in the servants' hall, and laden with the ancestral fare of Christmas, from the savory goose to the marvellous plum pudding, presented a tempting spread to the forty or fifty there assembled. Zest was given to appetite by "nut brown" ale unlimited, and "all was merry as a marriage bell." Supper being ended, and the health of the "Squire" and his "fayre ladye" joyously drunk, the tables were speedily cleared away, and an orchestra improvised for the dance. Under the heel-inspiring music of Mr. Dickinson, the gamekeeper, and his son, the ball was opened by Mrs. Wylie, the housekeeper, and Mr. Whellans, gardener, to the old favourite—"The Keel Row." We need scarcely say that reel and polka, schottische and contra-dance, and Miss Dunbar's "Houlikin" found ready feet.

"They reeled, they set, they cross'd, they cleekit,
Till ilka carlin' swat and reekit."

In the intervals, under the gentle influence of the "bowl," lovingly laddled by Mr. Coulson, the butler, song and sentiment echoed through the hall, and without being invidious we may specialize the happy efforts of Mr. Perry, the footman, and a handsome "lassie" whose name we are unable to chronicle. When we left at ten o'clock they were in full swing with the "Triumph," a tune we thought aptly chosen, to close the festivity given by Squire Wilson and his lady. "May their shadows never grow less."

BRADLEY COTTAGES.

Chrismas Day was a great event among the Primitive Methodists of Bradley Cottages. A tea party was held in their preaching-room, which was numerously attended, there being upwards of 100 that partook of the dainties. The wants of the company were attended to by Misses Brown (2), Elsdon, and Mrs. Foster. A crowded public meeting was afterwards held in the same place, which was presided over by Mr. Geo. Hawdon, who appropriately held up the career of George Stephenson as an incentive to young men. Mr. Thos. Lammonby addressed the meeting on "Christian life;" Mr. Thos Wilson on "A Dream;" Mr. Wm. Richardson, on "Divinity;" and the Rev. J. Nicholls wound up with a few enlivening remarks. The proceeds of the meeting will be devoted to the establishment of a Sabbath School at these Cottages, towards which Dr. G. Renton has subscribed the handsome sum of £1 1s. Cordial votes of thanks were passed to E. T. Boyd, Esq., Mr. W. D. Hedley, and Mr. Walton, for procuring the society a place to worship in, and to other friends who had interested themselves in their welfare.

CASTLESIDE.

Early on the morning of Christmas Day, the inhabitants of Castleside were awakened from their slumbers by the singing of the Primitive Methodist Choir. After having sung some select pieces of music in the village, they were entertained to breakfast at Mr. Robson's. In the afternoon, through the liberality of the teachers, the Sabbath scholars were regaled with tea, after which, the members of the society held their annual social tea. Tea being over, Mr. George Stephenson was called to the chair, and several of the brethren gave short addresses. A pleasant evening was spent, the choir enlivening the proceedings by their singing. In the course of the evening, Mr. Thos. Raine was presented with a purse containing a handsome sum of money, in recognition of his gratuitous services for the last seven years as harmoniumist. Mr. Matthew Lee, on behalf of the society, made the presentation, and Mr. Raine very appropriately replied.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

Wesleyan Sunday School.—On Christmas-day the usual services in connection with the Annfield Plain Wesleyan Sunday School were held (through the kindness of the trustees) in the Primitive Methodist Chapel. A sermon was preached in the afternoon by Mr. Jonathan Wardle, of Witton Gilbert, after which tea was partaken of by about 100 persons whose wants were liberally responded to by Misses Gibson, Simpson, Reed, Welsh, Spark, and Dawson. After tea a public meeting was held under the presidency of the Rev. R. Petch, when suitable addresses were delivered by Mr. R. Taylor, of Collierley Dykes, and Mr. J. Wardle.

STANLEY.

Primitive Methodist Chapel.—The anniversary services of this place of worship commenced on the morning of Christmas-day with a public breakfast, which was held in the School-room. The provisions, which for the most part, were given gratis to the trustees, were of a high order, to which a great number of visitors did full justice. In the afternoon, Mr. T. Robson, of Darlington, preached in the chapel from "The sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow" to a large audience. At the conclusion of the service, tea was served in the school-room, with which at least 300 persons was regaled. The evening meeting was crowded, and was presided over by Mr. J. Scott. Racey and instructive speeches were given by the Rev. A. Lattimer, Messrs T. Robson, T. Harrison, T. Fenwick, and J. Johnson. Mr. M. Richardson read the report of the chapel funds, which showed them to be in an improved condition. The Christmas sevices realised £12 13s. 7d.—The Rev. A. Lattimer and Mr. T. Robson preached on Sunday.

BURNOPFIELD.

The Wesleyan Methodists of this place held a social tea meeting on Christmas Day, when about 80 persons sat down to a substantial tea. A sermon of great power was afterwards preached by Mr. R. Davidson, Tantobie.

EDMONDBYERS.

Wesleyan Methodist Chapel.—A coffee supper was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, on the evening of Christmas Day, which was attended by upwards of 100 persons. This was an excellent company considering the unusual severity of the weather. The following ladies did the honours of the tables: Misses Lowden (2), Davison, and Erwin. At the after meeting, Mr. J. Proud, of Kiln-pit-hill, was called to the chair, and addresses were given by Messrs. W. Heppell, of Espershiels, and Geo. Dawson, of Blackhill. A pleasant and profitable evening was spent.

Correspondence.

[We are not responsible for the opinions expressed by our contributors.]

THE EDUCATIONAL MOVEMENT.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—I have been frequently asked if we are not going to have a meeting at Consett on the great question of education. Little as I am accustomed to public speaking, I am prepared (D.V.) at any time to give what little information I possess. I am of opinion that it is not the duty of the people of this country to amend the existing system of popular education, but to institute a very different one in its place. It is amazing how little people generally know about the "New Code." I should be glad to denounce it and denominationalism from the platform.

Yours truly,
John Tait.

December 23rd, 1869.

THE LANDS OF THE HOUSE OF RADCLIFFE, AND THEIR PRESENT HOLDERS.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—It is now becoming pretty well understood that the freehold estates of James, third Earl of Derwentwater, were never confiscated by the Crown, inasmuch as the marriage settlement of Francis, first Earl of Derwentwater, made in 1691, and that of the said James made in 1712, debarred the right of the Crown to interfere with the entailed freehold property of the Radcliffes. When the noble-hearted James was impeached of high treason and forfeited his head on the block, the life-interest of the said James in the entailed estates of the House of Radcliffe could only become forfeit to the Crown. It is well-known that an attempt was made, shortly after the decapitation of James by the Commissioners under George I., to confiscate the freehold estates of the Radcliffes, but this attempt failed through the appeal made by Anna Maria, Countess of Derwentwater, on behalf of her infant son, John, fourth Earl of Derwentwater, to the Lords Delegates against the decision of the aforesaid Commissioners. The Lords Delegates by virtue of this appeal, and by the provisions of the said marriage settlement, allowed in 1718 the claim of the infant, John, to be valid.

During sixteen years, the said John held the vast domains of the Radcliffes, and it was only after he had to flee from the assassin's knife, and after his falsely reported death, in 1731, that England's Crown took a permanent hold of the Derwentwater's land. Now, sir, we have it from unimpeachable testimony that the Government of England were duly apprised of the fact of John, long after his reported death, being placed under the protection of Charles VI., of Germany; and it is also well-known that the said John never took any part in the rebellion of 1745, consequently we are at a loss to know on what grounds the present Government of England can attempt to withhold the freehold estates of the Radcliffes as lawful possessors, seeing that a decendent of the said John is now pressing her claims on a British public. If the claims of the present presumptive heiress be legal and just, never let it be said of England that she with pilfering hands defrauded this noble House of its rights. All the confiscated lands of the Earls who took part in the rebellion of 1715 and 1745, have been restored to the lawful inheritors, why does our gracious Queen deny a similar act of grace to Amelia, Countess of Derwentwater? It might, at the time the Government of England contemplated the making of a gift of the annual proceeds of the Derwentwater estates to the Greenwich Hospital, serve as a quictus to the outraged conscience of the English nation, to thus dispose of the annual income of the property, but at the present time when the public conscience has taken its stand on a nobler basis of right and justice, and when there no longer exists a Corporation of Greenwich Hospital, it is to be hoped that England will pause before she attempts to commit an act that will for ever stand out as one of the foulest blots in the annals of the nation. Let us hope that the honour and justice of a British Government will keep pace with those of their subjects, for it is certain that the sense of the nation is on the side of justice.

John Parker.

Consett.

THE COUNTESS OF DARWENTWATER.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—As the public press of England is the time-honoured guardian of the people's rights, I beg leave, with all courtesy, to ask for a small space in your columns. The allegations which have been urged by my enemies against my late proceeding at Haydon Bridge, on the 17th ultimo are entirely without foundation, which compel me to take the side of defence. I am suffering, and seriously injured by their savage attack on my defenceless person, and it is an extension of cruelty on their part to molest me further.

The facts are the following:—My claim has been for the last twelve years before the Crown. I have during that time acted strictly in accordance with the law of England and the peculiar circumstances of my claim, which gives me a right to act as I have done, under the marriage settlement of Francis, first Earl of Derwentwater, dated 24th March, 1691, made for the space of 500 years, to remain without impeachment or waste to the heirs of his body for ever. I can prove the said marriage settlement is the law of England, and in full force to the heirs of his body at this moment, and it will be found upon the strength of the law that George II. had no prerogative to convey the freehold hereditary estates of my grandfather, John, fourth Earl of Darwentwater to the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital, either by letters patent, the public seal of the King, or any other way, and thus we see that His Majesty could not give a valid title to the Act 22 George II., neither could His Majesty on the binding deed of the said marriage settlement of Francis, first Earl of Darwentwater, give his royal assent to an Act so truly unjust, and the aforesaid Act did not divest, and therefore cannot be an Act of Parliament. Moreover, the said marriage settlement makes all Acts of Parliament, conveyances, letters patent, the public seal of the crown, or any other form null and void. In pursuance of the said marriage settlement, and, under the instruction of my legal advisers, I sent the annexed "Notice to the tenants" in 1868 which never was contradicted and has now become a "legal proclamation and the law of England even as though the Queen had made it with the consent of her peers."* And upon the validity of the law of the land I asserted my right, which was treated by Her Majesty's servants contentiously, when I appeared before my tenants on the rent day appointed. I have broken no law, I went to fulfil the law, and, without provocation, I was seized by five ruffians. I forbear to say hear how they seized me, but their murderous marks on my person show that they had no other intention than to kill me. I am charged in the public papers with folly, for interfering with the Lords of the Admiralty and their agents. But the aforesaid marriage settlement of Francis, first Earl of Darwentwater, clearly proves quite the reverse, and shows that my birth-right has been usurped by agents under the crown, who have committed nothing short of felony and a savage outrage on myself and mute attendants. I ask publicly every honest Englishmen, if such an outrage is constitutional or the law of the kingdom, if not, why tolerate it? I was attended by brave and principled men, all descended from the good old yeomanry of England. 1st. Mr. John Hunter, farmer and bailiff, aged 70, born at West End Farm, Old Wittonstall or Quittinstall. Mr. Hunter's grandfather is well known in the historic pages of Darwentwater. 2nd. Mr. Henry Nicholson, born at Lazenby, Cumberland, aged 62. 3rd. Mr. John Drummond, of Gray Mare Hill Colliery. He was cited to appear at Haydon Bridge because he had paid his rent to me, and as soon as Mr. Drummond presented himself in my suite, Her Majesty's receiver took him by the neck and said "go out," and other two men made a violent attack and turned him to the door. Mr. John Nicholson son of the aforesaid Mr. Nicholson, born on Dilston domain, and my coachman Nesbitt, a farmer's son, born in the precincts of Dilston domain, were both maltreated, simply because they were in my service. It was exceedingly moving to see the venerable Hunter with his hoary head dragged out and thrown down stairs with his stick in his hand by Her Majesty's receiver. The honest Hunter was doing what was the duty of every peer of the realm. Alas! alas! England has been a cruel mother to Darwentwater's children. Ah, yes, and still continues to inflict and create the briny tears. This outrageous conduct is treated as sport by the sporting receiver, bearing the Admiralty shield in his scrolls. But the Baroness of Langley does not make sport at crime and outrage, and will not submit to have herself and retainers battered like serfs upon her own land. There is a law which was made for the men of England in the year 1680, which made provision against might and oppression; and as Her Majesty the Queen is the executrix of the law of England, and also in trust of my hereditary freehold estates of the Barony of Langley and Dilston domain, I claim from Her Majesty for myself and my mute unoffending attendants the redress the aforesaid law allows for such an outrage on our lives at Haydon Bridge. If Her Majesty and ministers had asked the meaning of Mr. Grey's barbarous conduct while on Her Majesty's service at Haydon Bridge, it would have put an end to selfcudal outrages on the Darwentwater estates. After waiting twelve long years for Her Majesty to wind up her royal trust of my freehold estates, I took possession of the castle of my grandfather, John, fourth Earl of Darwentwater, on the 29th September, 1868. I found no hearts there to greet me, and nothing alive save a few pigeons half wild. No one had lived in the castle since my grandfather left it. My attendants and myself lived within the confines for three days, but Her Majesty's sporting agents who live in royal ease, locked the gates to the castle, cut off all resources and made me at once a prisoner on my own ground. I did not make this a misfortune I succeeded in keeping the castle three days, and had personal possession of my real estate. I was then by Her Majesty's agents dragged out of my grandfather's home by brutal force and placed on the carriage road and made a spectacle of barbarity. All this was done without the mandate of Her Majesty, and I ask why this rule was deparied from? and I allow myself to give a plain answer—from the fact that Her Majesty is the trustee of the freehold hereditaments of my grandfather, John, fourth Earl of the elder lineage of the Earls of Darwentwater, and Her Majesty, therefore, could not send a mandate to drag the heiress by blood and inheritance from her own castle gates. This could not operate in sound law. What more do sinecure agents on the Darwentwater land require? My title to the freehold hereditary estates of my father is acknowledged by Her Majesty, and is it not strange the property real is withheld. The marriage settlement of Francis, first Earl of Darwentwater, distinctly wills that the hereditary estates are to remain without impeachment or waste to the heirs of his body for ever. Alas! alas! this sacred marriage deed has been lamentably desecrated by foul and unholy custodians. Let this be told throughout England and published in the streets of Ireland that it is not the men called Fenians who have violated the marriage settlement of the Earls of Darwentwater and denied their children bread. The tenure of the said marriage settlement makes the poor, the widows, and apprentice boys fellow-heirs with Darwentwater's children paid at Christmas and Easter out of Dilston domain and barony of Langley to generations unborn both in Corbridge, Hexham, and Keswick. But how painful to relate that a member of Parliament has been allowed to traffic and sell every poor man, widow, and apprentice boy's inheritance out of the freehold estates of Darwentwater. What I shall contend for is, that the poor of Corbridge, Hexham, and Keswick shall be fellow-heirs on the freehold hereditary estates of Darwentwater for ever, without impeachment or waste, in accordance to the command and power of the said marriage settlement of Francis, first Earl of Darwentwater. I am sorry I have the painful duty to vindicate, but the law has been broken by the men who are the trustees of it.

I am, sir, yours respectfully,
Amelia of Darwentwater.

Dilston domain, 14th December, 1869.

* "Notice.—This is again to renew and repeat my orders to all the tenants living on the estates of John, the fourth Earl of Darwentwater, not to pay any monies or rents to the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital, or to whomsoever is appointed by them, but to pay such monies or rents into any of the provincial banks. Witness my hand this 13th day of October, Amelia, Countess of Darwentwater."

It is estimated that the *fetes* at the opening of the Suez Canal have cost the Khedive £1,320,000.

A letter has been addressed by the King of Saxony to his daughter, the Duchess of Genoa urging her not to allow the young Duke of Genoa to accept the Crown of Spain.

Dr. Temple was on Wednesday enthroned as Bishop of Exeter. There was a very large congregation at the cathedral, and the right rev. prelate preached an eloquent extemporaneous sermon.

The Fenians in America have issued an address, congratulating the Brotherhood across the Atlantic on the steady advanchment of the cause of Irish nationalty.

A disastrous fire occurred on the morning of Christmas Day at the mill of the Patent Felting Company, in Camp Road, Leeds, and the damage, which has been estimated at £2,500, is covered by insurance.

An old woman, who had been in receipt of parish relief for twelve or thirteen years, died the other day at a village near Matlock, Derbyshire. On searching the premises, more than 300 sovereigns were found tied up in an old bag.

A Story of Rats.—The *Liberal* of Hanover gives an account of singular depredations, of which the Sisters of charity of that town have been the victims. In that establishment from three to four hundred persons are cared for, and, in order to procure milk cheap, twenty cows are kept there. For some time back the quantity obtained from them having been quite insignificant, a watch was set, and the thieves turned out to be rats; which, coming from the Sambre and the sewers, assembled in great numbers in the stables, and took their turn in sucking the teats of the cows. The *Liberal* guarantees the exactitude of this statement.

Story of a Hymn.—A hymn, almost as well known as "Rock of Ages," is "Come, Thou fount of every blessing." It was written by Robt. Robinson in his early and best days. He was but a lad when he strolled one Sunday into the Tabernacle to hear Whitfield preach. He was startled and arrested, and determined then and there to give his life to God. Gifted with extraordinary talents he entered the ministry, and in the Tabernacle moved his audience to enthusiasm with his powerful preaching. But, unstable as water, and as a wave of the sea driven of the wind and tossed, he went from one thing to another—now turning Calvinistic Methodist, now Independent, now Baptist, until at last he became an avowed Socinian. No man can be brought into contact with his former self without emotion. We cannot recall the memories of a love which we have lost, or of hopes which were once the strength of our life but have passed away, without feeling the undying influence of impressions which have been made upon our hearts. It was so with Robinson. In the darkness which encompassed him, sometimes a ray of light of former years would fall across his path, and then would flash upon him the "blessedness he knew when first he saw the Lord." One day he was travelling by a coach, when a lady, a stranger, who had been reading his hymn "Come, Thou fount of every blessing," turned to him, asked if he knew it, and telling him of the comfort and happiness it had been to her. He tried to parry her question, but she returned to it again and again, until at last, bursting into a flood of tears, he exclaimed passionately, "Madam, I am the poor unhappy man who composed that hymn many years ago; and I would give a thousand worlds, if I had them, to enjoy the feelings I had then!"—*From the Hymns of England, in the Quiver.*

Foreign and Colonial Intelligence.

FRANCE.

Paris, December 28.—The resignation of the French Ministry is at last officially announced, and the Emperor has addressed a letter to M. Ollivier requesting him to designate the persons who can, in conjunction with himself, form a homogeneous Cabinet faithfully representing the majority of the Legislative Body, and resolved to carry out, in the letter as well as in the spirit, the *Senatus Consultum* of the 8th September. His Majesty adds that he relies upon the devotion of the Legislative Body to the great interests of the country, to aid him in bringing into regular working a Constitutional system. Most of the Paris papers regard the letter as opening an era of Parliamentary regime. The *Temps* (Independent Liberal) says it is the abdication of personal power.

THE PANTIN MURDERS.

Paris, December 28.—The trial of Traupman, for the murder of the Kinck family, commenced this morning. An immense crowd assembled at the Court. The bill of indictment was read. There are 62 witnesses to be examined.

The prisoner listened almost with indifference while the bill of indictment was being read over. However, when the indictment recited the plots laid to inveigle the Kinck family to Paris, he became evidently agitated and very pale. When that part of the indictment ging the detailed account of the murder was read, he exhibited no signs of emotion.

Traupmann, on being interrogated, persisted in asserting that Kinck, sen., was concerned with him in the forgery affair, and that Jean Kinck was poisoned by one of his accomplices. In fact he persisted in his defence throughout.

Paris, Dec. 29.—M. Emile Ollivier has offered to MM. Buffet and Jules Bramo, through Count Daru, to enter the new Cabinet, but this proposal has, up to the present time, been refused, and the negociations are still proceeding.

The trial of Traupmann was resumed this morning. Traupmann stated that Gustow Kinck was killed by his accomplice, and that he was not the murderer. No fresh evidence has transpired.

Paris, Dec. 29, evening.—The gendarmes Ferrand, Calfal, Haguel, and other witnesses were examined this afternoon. The President praised the conduct of Ferrand and Haguel, and his remarks were greatly applauded. Dr. Bergerome gave evidence to the effect that one man would be capable of accomplishing the murders of which Traupmann is accused, and similar evidence was given by Dr. Tardien. Traupmann objected to these statements, and said he was not a Hercules, but Dr. Bergerone, who has examined the accused, declared that he has acquired a certain strength and agility from the exercise of his profession of engineer.

THE ŒCUMENICAL COUNCIL.

Rome, December 24.—Cardinal Neisach, one of the five Presidents of the Council, died on the 23rd inst.

The committee of Council appointed to consider matters of ecclesiastical discipline is composed of two Spanish bishops and six Italian, two Austrian, one Bavarian, two English, and five American, viz., the Bishops of New York, Mexico, Quebec, Bolivia, and Peru.

Rome, December 27.—To-day being the *fete* day of the Pope, the officers of the pontifical army presented their congratulations to his holiness and expressed their fidelity and devotion to his person. The Pope in reply to an address of General Konglire, expressed his confidence that the Œcumenical Council would dissipate darkness, and give to the world peace and prosperity. He refuted the argument of those who maintained that the Pope should have no army because Christ had none.

Rome, Dec. 28.—The General Council held to-day has named the members elected to examine the questions connected with religious orders. The discussion relative to matters of faith afterwards commenced, and the Archbishops of Vienna, San Sirigi, Sorrento, Misibi, Smyrna, Malta, and Halifax, made speeches.

THE INSURRECTION IN DALMATIA.

Cattaro, December 24.—A numerous deputation from Zuppa arrived here yesterday, and waited on General Anersperg to tender him a petition to the Emperor, throwing themselves upon His Majesty's clemency. The deputation declared their willingness to submit to the Landwehr law, and any other orders emanating from the Government, and they announced that the inhabitants of Zuppa had all returned to their homes. Maina, it is expected, will follow Zuppa's example in a few days.

Vienna, December 28.—Advices have been received here from Cattaro stating that the insurgents of the district of Bracina gave up their arms to the authorities and swore allegiance and loyalty to the Emperor. The meeting with the disaffected of the Krioscini district which was to have been held at Greben for the purpose of negociating terms of submission could not take place on account of the inclemency of the weather, only twelve persons being present, and General Anersperg postponed the meeting till another time.

AMERICA.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Ex-Secretary Stanton died here this morning.

Washington, December 28.—Secretary Fish has, by direction of the President, sent a circular to the Ministers accredited to Maritime Powers instructing them to propose the participation of those Powers in a convention in the form of a treaty relative to ocean cables. He suggests as bases reciprocity of concessions, protection of cables during war, and immunity of despatches from Government espionage.

Advices mention that discoveries have been made of New York State Bonds in circulation, the amounts of which have been fraudulently altered from 1,000 to 10,000 dols. The total thus far detected is 210,000 dols., and analogous frauds seem to be apprehended.

THE RED RIVER INSURRECTION.

Ottawa, December 25.—The Government of the Dominion, in consequence of the resistance encountered in taking possession of the Hudson's Bay territory, will not pay the purchase money until next spring.

The insurgents of the Red River have issued a declaration of independence, in which they protest against their transfer to Canada without their consent. They further declare that they will resist it, and assert that the Provincial Government is the only lawful authority in the territory. In conclusion they state that they are willing to negociate with Canada to secure a good Government, and assure the prosperity of the people.

CHINA.

Hong-Kong, November 19.—A new treaty has been signed between the English and Chinese Governments, but it will not come into operation until the other Governments having dealings with China accept its provisions. The treaty guarantees a modification of the transit dues, the opening of two new ports, the working of coal mines by English appliances, a reduction of duties, the right of navigation on inland waters, and the right of foreigners to temporary residence in any part of the country.

An English barrister will be employed to frame a code of mercantile regulations under this treaty, the draft of which Sir Rutherford Alcock is about to take with him to England.

The Duke of Edinburgh has been splendidly entertained at Hong Kong.

JAPAN.

Yokohama, Dec. 2.—The English Ambassador has been informed of the existence of a plot to assassinate him.

The captain of the Runnymede has been drowned.

The Austrian Envoy has quitted the country, the Austrian subjects being left under the protection of the British Minister.

Yokohama, Dec. 2.—The Mikado as granted a full pardon to the Tycoon and Prince Aidio.

The Japanese Government has ratified a treaty with the representatives of the foreign powers prohibiting strangers from trading in the unopened ports.

The plot to assassinate the British minister has been frustrated.

Destruction of a Town by an Earthquake.—The *Temps* publishes a despatch stating that the town of Santa Maria (Ionian Isles) was totally destroyed by an earthquake on the 28th ult., Many of the inhabitants perished,

Serious Collision on the North British Railway.—On Sunday morning, two goods trains left Glasgow by way of Edinburgh, the one leaving a considerable time before the other. On reaching Longtown Station, about nine miles north of Carlisle, the first train pulled up to shunt and take on additional waggons, and in the meantime the second train came up at the ordinary speed. Before reaching Longtown there is a bend in the line, and the driver could not see what was before him until it was too late. The signals also had got wrong, and the second train came into collision with the other with terrific force, which knocked laden waggons one over the other, and strewed their contents about the line. The guards and drivers on both trains escaped comparatively unhurt; but a fitter, named Sewell, belonging to Carlisle, received such injuries as caused his death. The damage to goods and rolling-stock is roughly estimated at £2,000.

The consumption of horseflesh continues to increase throughout Europe.

Immigration at the port of New York has greatly increased this year over last.

A few years ago an ingenious gentleman managed to get drunk free of expense almost daily in the streets of London by falling down in a fit, with a small placard on his breast, "Don't bleed me, but give me a glass of hot brandy and water."

A correspondent of a well-informed journal (says the *Bombay Gazette*) estimates the deaths from want of food in all Rajpootana at not less than half a million; and, besides, pestilence has, as usual, followed famine.

A critic makes mention of a class of Americans in this wise: "They all belong to that keen, nervous, sallow-faced breed of mankind who are qualified at a moment's notice to keep a school or edit a newspaper."

Literary Advice.—In reply to a young writer who wished to know which magazine would give him the highest position quickest, a contemporary advised "powder magazine, if you contribute a fiery article.

"The Murder Out."—A gentleman who had carefully trained his servant sent him with a box-ticket for the theatre to a young lady. The servant returned when the gentleman and his wife were at dinner. He had been told in giving answers to certain questions to substitute the masculine for the feminine pronoun. "Did you see *him*?" said the gentleman, giving him the cue. "Yes, sir, *he* said he'd wait for you." "What was he doing?" asked his wife carelessly. "He was putting up *his* back hair," was the reply.

Markets.

THE CORN TRADE.

The *Mark Lane Express*, in its review of the corn trade, thinks that as the shortened home supplies settles the question as to the ability of farmers to meet the Christmas claims, foreign importers are equally on the look out for something to make up the recent heavy losses. Markets may further harden as the New Year breaks upon us. Foreign markets show little change in the value of wheat. In many of our counties the floods have reached alarming dimensions, and much of the young wheat will doubtless have to be sown again.

CORN MARKETS.

Newcastle Corn Market, Tuesday.—At this day's market there was a small show of wheat from the farmers. The foreign and coasting arrivals are also moderate, and the whole met a fair inquiry, fine samples in some instances bringing 6d to 1s per qr. advance on last week's prices. Barley without improvement in value or demand. For oats trade ruled firm at full prices. In other grain or flour there is no material change.

Durham Corn and Provision Market, Saturday.—The following were the prices current at our market this day:—Wheat 0s 0d to 0s 0d, barley 7s 0d to 7s 6d per qr; oats, 6s 0d to 7s 0d per boll. Beef, 8d to 9½d; mutton, 8d to 9d; veal, 9d to 9½d; pork, 0d to 10d per lb. Chickens, 1s 6d to 2s 3d; ducks, 2s 0d to 2s 6d; hens, 1s 0d to 1s 6d; geese 6s 0d to 1s 00d; guinea fowl 0s 0d to 0s 0d; hares 3s 0d to 3s 6d; turkeys 6s 0d to 11s 0d each; Rabbits, 2s 3d to 2s 6d; pigeons, 1s 0d to 1s 3d per couple. Pheasants, 0s 0d to 0s 0d; partridges, 0s 0d to 0s 0d per brace. Butter, 1s 7d to 1s 8d per lb; eggs 6 to 7 for 1s. Gooseberries, 0d to 0d; plums, 0d to 0d; red currants 0d per quart. Cherries 0d to 0d per lb. Green peas 0s 0d to 0s 0d; onions 1s 4d to 2s 6d; apples 2s 0d to 3s 0d; pears 0s 0d to 0s 0d per peck. Potatoes 6d to 0d per stone.

Darlington Corn Market, Monday.—New red wheat sold from 11s 3d to 11s 9d per boll of two bushels; white ditto, 11s 9d to 12s 9d; old red wheat, —s 0d to —s 0d; white ditto, —s 0d to —s 0d; barley, 8s 0d to 9s 0d per boll; long oats, 2s 6d to 3s 0d; short ditto, 3s 6d to 3s 9d per bushel; beans, 12s to 13s 6d per boll.

Hexham Corn Market, Tuesday.—White wheat 44s to 45s; red do., 36s to 46s; barley, 18s 6d to 20s 6d per Hexham boll; oats, 12s 6d to 18s 6d per ditto. There was a small supply of all kinds of grain, and for each variety a brisker demand with a slight advance upon late rates.

London Corn Market, Wednesday.—With the exception of foreign oats, of which we have a liberal supply, the arrivals of all kinds of grain, both English and foreign, are small. There was a fair attendance at this morning's market, and the business done was most extensive at Monday's prices. Oats again rather dearer. The floating trade shows increased firmness. Since Monday two cargoes of Berdianski wheat have sold at 41s 6d, one of American red winter at 43s 6d, one of Nicolaieff Ghirka at 41s 3d, and one of Saratoff at 40s, all per 492lbs. Maize tends up, 29s refused for 480lbs.

GENERAL CORN AVERAGES.

The following were the averages for the week ending Saturday last:—

	Qrs.	s.	d.
Wheat	49,921	at 43	5
Barley	74,415	at 36	11
Oats	3,946	at 21	6

CATTLE MARKETS.

Newcastle Cattle Market, Tuesday.—The show of cattle was about an average in point of numbers, but, generally speaking, were of a very inferior quality for a holiday market, and at no former corresponding period did they vary so much as between last Tuesday and to-day—fully one-third of those shown were more suitable for wintering than a fat market, while sheep were only middling. The supply of beef comprised 838 head. The beef trade was in a tolerably active state, and better qualities moved freely off at prices ranging from 9s to 9s 3d per stone; in exceptional cases 9s 6d would be obtained, but the general top figure was 9s 3d per imperial stone. There was a good attendance of buyers, and at the close of business very few remained unsold. The number of sheep was 4,386. The mutton trade ruled flat, yet the quotations stand the same as last Tuesday, and part were left over. Pigs—346 were shown. Notwithstanding the small number on sale, the pork trade was less active than last week. There were a pen or two of Cumberland squeakers, but dealers are getting tired of giving 11s and 12s per stone of 14lbs. for that class of stock, and business, in all probability, will close with the year.

Prices:—Beasts; prime heifer, 9s 0d to 9s 3d; secondary sorts, 8s 0d to 8s 6d; inferior sorts, 6s 0d to 7s 6d; first-class oxen, 8s 9d to 9s 0d; middling, 7s 6d to 8s 3d; cows, 6s 0d to 7s 3d; pork, 6s 3d to 8s 3d; small dairy-fed, 9s 0d to 9s 6d per stone of 14 lbs. Sheep; good vendable mutton, 8½d to 9d; middling, 7½d to 7¾d; tups, ewes, and inferior, 6d to 7½d; lamb, 0d to 0d per lb., sinking offal.

Wakefield Cattle Market, Wednesday.—There was only a very limited supply of stock offered for sale to-day; and, there being a good attendance of buyers, all were readily cleared off, sellers having the advantage in prices. The following were the rates:—Beef 8s 3d to 9s per stone of 14lbs.; mutton 8d to 8½d, small sheep 9d per lb.

MISCELLANEOUS MARKETS.

Newcastle Hay and Straw Market, Tuesday.—There were 96 carts of hay, and 9 carts of straw in the market.

Prices: old land Hay, £7 10s 0d to £0 0s 0d; this year's growth, £4 16s 0d to £6 0s 0d; new land Hay, £0 0s 0d to £0 0s 0d; this year's growth, £5 0s 0d to £6 10s 0d; clover hay, £4 0s 0d to £4 10s 0d per ton. Wheat straw, 2s 6d to 2s 9d; barley straw, 0s 0d to 0s 0d; and oat straw, 2s 6d to 3s 0d per thrave.

Middlesborough Iron Market, Tuesday.—The holidays are interfering to some extent with business, besides which there is very little expected to be done so close on stock-taking. The market to-day was only a nominal one, and the attendance scanty. The prices of pig iron remain firm at 53s 6d for No. 1, 50s 6d for No. 3, 49s 6d for No. 4, delivered on trucks at makers' works, or f. o. b. There is also a comparative lull at present in the finished iron trade, which will, it is anticipated, be succeeded by more activity when the new year sets in.

London Coal Market, Wednesday.—Hetton 21s 6d, Haswell 21s, Tees 20s 9d, South Hartlepool 19s 3d, Eden Main 19s, Tunstall 19s, Cowpen 16s. Ships at market 54½, sold 45.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

[The insertion of anything beyond the simple announcement of Births, Marriages, or Deaths, will be charged as Advertisements.]

BIRTHS.

Consett—At Front Street, on the 20th ult., the wife of Mr. R. Murray, of a daughter.

At 336, Consett Terrace, on the 27th ult., the wife of Mr. A. Russell, of a daughter.

Blackhill—At 51, on the 18th ult., Mrs. Riddington, of a son.

On the 20th ult., Mrs. Jackson of a daughter.

On the 22nd ult., Mrs. Cleghorn, of a daughter.

Shotley Bridge—On the 17th ult., Mrs. Lister, of a son.

At Cutler's Hall, on the 18th ult., Mrs. Johnson, of a daughter.

Castleside—On the 20th ult., Mrs. E. Harrison, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

Consett—At Christ Church, on the 30th ult., Mr. John Tait, of Bishop Auckland, to Miss Margt. Elizabeth Lowrey, of Consett.

DEATHS.

Leadgate—At the School-house, on the 20th ult., aged 78, Priscilla Shanks.

Poetry: Original and Select.

AN ACTOR'S MUSINGS ON THE EVE OF A NEW YEAR.

(By the late G. Huie.)

ANOTHER year has o'er us sped,
Hours—days—weeks—months have quickly fled;
A new one dawns—say will it be
A year of joy, of peace, to me;
Or will my fate be still to roam,
Throughout this world without a home:
Shall my career soon reach a close,
Shall I at length taste sweet repose;
Or, must I wander sadly on,
Without one spot to call my own?
But little joy is his on earth,
Whose biding-place—the stranger's hearth.
Is there no star to shine for me,
To light my gloomy destiny?
Are youthful hopes that bright did beam,
No more than fancy's fevered dream?
From which I wake, to hope in vain—
To pass thro' life in woe and pain.
Ah! little can the stranger tell
How throbs my heart—what feelings swell
Within my breast—though smiles appear,
They little deem a canker's there!
Though to the world I'm decked in smiles—
Though many's care my art beguiles,
How strange a fate to still live on,
To lighten all hearts—save my own;
Still, if my fate be heaven's design,
'Tis vain as sinful to repine.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

MAY our follies and faults with our dark hours of sorrow
With yesterday die—for they're foes of our cheer,
And the banners of Love, Hope, and Truth, wave to-morrow,
To deck with their presence—A Happy New Year.

Then call forth not the deeds that are darkness forboding,
From the record reposed in eternity's care,
But the lights of the great let us welcome, devoting
Their radiance to brighten—A Happy New Year.

Sleep! Ignorance sleep on thy pillow of ages,
Give Vice, Hate, and Misery a part of thy bier,
Wrap profoundly, Oblivion, the Rapine which rages,
And exit, O! Strife from—Our Happy New Year.

If thy soul has been shocked by the death of a father,
A mother, a brother, or sister once dear,
May thy duty to bear di[illegible] sorrows that gather,
But leave thee the joys for—A Happy New Year.

With the sins of a leper thy heart may be seered,
Nor caring Religion's soft laurels to wear,
Sure thy breast's not so dark that light never appeared,
O! cherish its rays in—The Happy New Year.

If a slave 'neath the lash of stern tyranny bending,
By cruelty crushed—pain afflicted severe;
May pity return all thy slavery ending,
And liberty smile on—Thy Happy New Year.

If enthralled to the vengeance and frenzy of battle,
With thought all devoted thy foemen to tear;
May peace be exchanged for the cannon's deep rattle,
Making genial thy home in—The Happy New Year.

If Intemperance, her of inglorious calling,
Has hurled thee to madness, and gloom, and despair,
Bid a lasting adieu to her horrors appalling,
And pleasure will smile on—Thy Happy New Year.

Wherever the home of thy bosom's devotion,
Thy creed, or thy colour, the lot thou may'st share,
Britons reposed on their rock of the ocean,
Hail thee and wish thee—A Happy New Year.

J.L.

Shotley Bridge.

Varieties.

A crusty old bachelor says he thinks it is woman, and not her wrongs, that ought to be re-dressed.—*American Paper.*

The following is a drunken man's idea of a thunderstorm:—He came into the room where were his wife and daughters, and tumbled over the cradle and fell heavily to the floor. After a while, he arose and asked, "Wife, are you hurt?" "No." "Girls, are you hurt?" "No." "Terrible clap, wasn't it?"

Extracts from PUNCH.

THE DEMOCRATIC RAILROADS.—An old Tory, hearing of what had been done to Mont Cenis, and that it was also proposed to tunnel St. Gothard, remarked that it was indeed a levelling age.

GOOD OLD SOUL.—Mrs. Malaprop's feeling heart is full of pity this Christmas for those poor "suffering" bishops she hears people talking about. She is knitting them some warm socks.

DEFLOWERING THE PARKS.—Ayrton is going to root-up the park flower-beds. Suppose he kept the nations flowers of rhododendron in the park, and relieved us, instead, of his own flowers of rhetoric in Parliament.

SEASONABLE.—If any one read a statement of intended "City Ward Changes" on the 21st of December, and noticed the announcement that "Mr. Midwinter retires," did it occur to him as rather a remarkable fact that midwinter should retire on the shortest day?

EXPERIENTIA DOCET.—*Master George* (whispering from his crib): "I say! Kitty! has mamma been telling you she'd give you 'a lovely spoonful of delicious currant jelly, O so nice, so *very* nice!'" *Miss Kitty:* "Ess! Cullen' Jelly! O so ni', so welly ni'!" *Master George:* "Then don't take it!"

SAYINGS ADAPTED TO THE SEASON.

Every one for his neighbour, and heaven over all for himself.

Other people's preservation is the first law of nature.

First always take care of number two.
I will want ere thou shalt want.
Fast and let feast.
One good turn deserves a million.
A penny given is a penny got.
Be generous before you are careful.
Fork out and fear not.

Those who ask shall have some, and those who don't ask shall be pressed to take some.

Extracts from JUDY.

"The art of dying made easy"—Go to St. Pancras Workhouse.

A query for Irish almanac makers—When does the season for shooting landlords terminate?

MATHEMATICAL.—If a man were to break his neighbour's windows, what would he make?—An improper fraction.

If a girl were to fall into the water, and were unable to sink why would she partly change her sex?—Because she would be a boy and (buoyant) girl.

FRESH FROM SCHOOL.—*Emily* (little sister): What a large family the Spinsters must be! I hear in church every Sunday that some of them are going to be married! *Frances* (elder sister): Oh, you stupid! Don't you know what spinsters are?—Bachelor ladies, of course.

ALL THE SAME IN THE LONG RUN.—*Benign Ecclesiastic:* What can I do for you, Master Daniel O'Rooney? *Master O'R.:* Av yer honour had an ould post letther ye'd quite done wid, for sure it's a chance I've got of writing to me mother in England, an' av ye could spare me something ye had by ye that had been used before, an' ye didn't mind partin' wid I might send it to her instead.

A NEW APPOINTMENT.—The newspapers inform us that O'Donovan Rossa, the member for Tipperary, is employed in the Chatham prison in darning stockings for his fellow convicts. Might he not on taking his seat in the House of Commons, be promoted to the Treasury Bench, and occupy himself in darning the holes in the reputations of its present occupants? This would certainly be no light work for a single pair of hands, but time and patience will do wonders.

RATHER TOO GOOD A JOKE.—An amusing story is related of a contemporary, which is rather given to "sensational" lines on its posters as a means of attracting purchasers. A certain noble lord having in the course of a recent speech, remarked that the conduct of the Bishop of Oxford in regard to some public question "was not decent," a poster, issued with an edition of the newspaper referred to, bore, in prominent letters, this inscription: "Charge of Indecency against the Bishop of Oxford!!"

Extracts from FUN.

NOT FOR THE BETTER.—We regret to see the Irish peasantry departing from their old traditions and abandoning their national "bull" for their blunder-bus.

CAPITAL!—A yankee paper says—"The wives of Brigham Young consolidated weigh 5,000lbs." We should fancy they are a sort of "consols" that the British stockbroker would be chary of investing any large amount of capital in!

JUSTICE UPSET.—The other day they lynched a man in Iowa for murdering one Johnson. Johnson turned up afterwards, but it was too late for the other fellow to turn up again too. Clearly the lynch-pin was out of the wheels of the car of justice.

EVIDENTLY.—*Nimrod:* "Isn't there a village called Mundiford about here, somewhere?" *Native:* "Ees." *Nimrod:* "Can I find my way to it across the moor?" *Native:* "Now that a good deal depen'th sir." *Nimrod:* "Depen'th! depen'th upon what?" *Native:* "Depen'th upon whe'r you loss yerself or no."

PROXIMUS ARDET.—Statisticians state that Paris devours one thousand horses per annum. They won't publish the numbers consumed in London for fear of a panic. There are a great many people who would have good ground for alarm, if the consumption were so great as to threaten an immediate onslaught on the donkeys.

LITERARY SELECTIONS.

e ought no more to despise a man for the misfortune of the mind, than for that of the body, when it is such as he cannot help. Were this thoroughly considered, we should no more laugh at one for having his brains cracked than for having his head broken.

AFFECTION OF BIRDS.—A gentleman in Scotland had a golden pheasant sent him, and he confined it in a pen with a solitary chicken which he happened to have. The birds formed a great affection for each other, which they evinced in a variety of ways. The pheasant, however, died, and was immediately stuffed, and the chicken again turned loose. It appeared, however, to be miserable after the death of its companion, and, happening to see it after the pheasant had been stuffed, it drooped its wings after having attempted to get at it, kept its eyes fixed on it, and died in this attitude.—*Once a Week.*

AT THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO.—The sun rose beautiful on the 18th. We could see the French on a rising bit of ground—a wonderful number of 'em. I heard one of our captains say, "There's a precious lot of 'em; but I feel sure we shall beat 'em." He didn't get hurt; but his cap was riddled through and through before night. Our rifles formed the outpost nearest to the French. Part of us were cooking in a garden. We emptied our salt beef and things, and were obliged to go and join. Our provisions had been taken from us the day before, and we had only one biscuit and half rations of grog in consequence. We had orders to quit ourselves like men, and then marched up into the field. Our brigade was ordered to be at the foot of a copse. The French were expected to make a push down there. I saw Boney on a white horse. The French didn't come that way, however, and we were called away, after the action had begun, to extend in skirmishing order to protect the squares. Lord Hill led the Light Brigade up three times within pistol-shot of Boney's platform, from which he gave signals by telegraph. The aide-de-camp came to us with orders to take a piece of artillery from the French which had done great damage. "Move on, men," he said. We took it; but they gave us a shower of grape, and many of our men were killed. All our officers were wounded, and we were obliged to *borrow one* to lead us out of the field. But, thank God, I escaped. The French went to the right about. We could see the enemy plain as plain. Stout chaps they were. We could see their knapsacks, and then we knew that they were routed. The Prussians fired two pieces of cannon, and came and formed two ranks. General Blucher said, "Brave Englishmen!" and the band played "God Save the King."—*All the Year Round.*

AN UNEXPECTED FEMALE.—"We returned to Oil City, where we spent the night, and on the following morning took the train for Pittsburg. Arriving at the station in good time, we got possession of seats, always considered the more desirable, which commanded the windows. Not long had we been seated, however, before there came up a woman, who quickly said to my friend, 'I'll thank you to let me have that seat,' a command which he instantly obeyed. 'Well,' thought I, 'I have read of women doing such things in America, but I never witnessed such a cool proceeding before!' The new comer, however, seemed lively and good-natured, and presently entered into conversation, giving us an account of a scene she had witnessed in the cars on the day before, when a passenger had beaten one of the little news-boys on account of some dispute he had about a paper. 'And didn't I wish,' she said 'that I had been a man for the occasion.' 'Well,' I thought 'modesty may not be one of her strong points, but there is evidently some good about her after all.' Presently I overheard a friend of hers in the seat behind ask her in a whisper if she couldn't get that gentleman beside her to change places, so that the two friends might sit both together. 'Why,' she whispered in reply, 'I have just made him give up his place once, and I really haven't face to ask him again.' So then I perceived that even of modesty she was not utterly bereft. My friend, however, guessing the object of the conversation, volunteered to give her his seat, and came and sat beside me, the two women having opposite seats. Presently the comer produced some apples, and offered one to her companion. 'Ah!' said the other, 'these are not to compare with English apples.' My curiosity was roused. 'Why?' I said, 'are you so fond of English apples?' 'Why?' she said, 'because I am English.' So I thus learned another lesson against forming hasty conclusions."—*America during and after the War, by Robert Ferguson.*

LAKE DWELLINGS.—The light which these primitive relics were expected to shed upon the origin and history of the earlier, if not the earliest, race by which the island was peopled incited the antiquaries and ethnologists of other countries to fresh investigations. In Scotland a great number of the remains of the lake dwellings were discovered; the enthusiasm spread to the Continent, and in all parts of France and Germany relics of similar dwellings were found, but especially in Switzerland and the lake districts of the Alps. Nay, it was placed beyond doubt that the aboriginal population of Mexico and of the South American lagoons had recourse to a similar kind of beaver architecture, and the chief towns were built upon piles driven into the soil at the bottom of the lakes, a memorial of which remains to us at Venezeula, or Little Venice. Our antiquaries have exhausted conjectures as to the purpose of such singular dwellings. Were they erected for defence? and if so, against what kind of enemies? against wild beasts, or against that fiercer creature, savage man? By what race were they erected, the primitive dolichocephalic race, whose fossil remains Colonel Forbes has discovered in the shell mounds of Scotland and the kiojekmoddings of Denmark, or by the later celtic race by whom the long headed people were dispossessed? The only method by which these problems can be solved is a careful comparison of the remains found in different parts of the world one with another, and the deduction from this comparison of habits, manners, and customs of the people of whom they are the memorials. From this a fresh departure may be taken, and an attempt made to identify the ancient tribes with some existent races. We must confess that up to the present but little has been done to settle these questions in a satisfactory manner, but an immense amount of material has been collected in the shape of authentic facts already to the hand of the successful generaliser who is to rear from them the scientific evidence.—*Daily News.*

THE APPROACH OF A STORM.—Gilliat ascended to the summit of the great Douvre. From hence he could see around the horizon. The western side was appalling. A wall of cloud spread across it, barring the wide expanse from side to side, and ascending slowly from the horizon towards the zenith. This wall, straight lined, vertical, without a crevice in its height, without a rent in its structure, seemed built by the square, and measured by the plumb-line. It was a cloud in the likeness of granite. Its escarpment, completely perpendicular at the southern extremity, curved a little towards the north, like a bent sheet of iron, presenting the slippery face of an inclined plane. The dark wall enlarged and grew; but its entablature never ceased for a moment to be parallel with the horizon line, which was almost indistinguishable in the gathering darkness. Silently, and as if altogether, the airy battlements ascended. No undulation, no wrinkle, no projection changed its shape or moved its place. The aspect of its immobility in movement was impressive. The sun, pale in the midst of a strange transparency, lighted up this outline of the Apocalypse. Already the cloudy bank had blotted out one half space of the sky, shelving like the fearful talus of the abyss. It was the uprising of a dark mountain between earth and heaven. It was night falling suddenly upon mid-day. There was heat in the air as from an oven, coming from that mysterious mass on mass. The sky, which from blue had become white, was now turning from white to a slaty grey. The sea beneath was leaden-hued and dull. There was no breath, no wave, no noise. Far as eye could reach was the desert ocean. No sail was visible on any side. The birds had disappeared. Some monstrous treason seemed abroad. The wall of cloud grew visibly larger. This moving mountain of vapours, which was approaching the Douvres, was one of those clouds which might be called the clouds of battle. Sinister appearances; some strange furtive glance, seemed cast upon the beholder through that obscure mass up-piled. The approach was terrible.—*Toilers of the Sea, by Victor Hugo.*

THE MOORHEN.—"If surprised in a small pool where there is little cover, the moorhen, instead of taking wing, dives, and coming towards the surface in the vicinity of some water plant, remains entirely submerged, with the exception of the bill, which it just protudes above the surface to enable it to breathe. From what I have observed, I believe that a moorhen, cannot remain in this position without some assistance from a reed, water lily, or other plant. In other words, it brings itself to an anchor by means of its long toes, with which it grasps the stalk of a plant, and thus keeps its body below the surface while its bill only is above. Sometimes, in shallow water, the feet touched the ground, and the toes are then inserted in the mud or gravel. On one occasion, while walking along the Brent, I surprised a moorhen in a shallow. The bird must have seen me before I observed it; for I first became aware of its presence by noticing the bright red forehead on the surface of the water. As the brook at that particular spot was too shallow to admit of the bird's diving, and as there was no friendly cover near at hand, it continued submerged for several minutes, until I threw in a stone, when, with one motion, it rose from the water into the air and flew. While it remained in the water I was not more than three yards from it, and was easily able to see that it touched the bottom of the shallow. On another occasion I suddenly disturbed a moorhen in a small isolated pond with plenty of cover at a short distance from the brink, but none near enough to reach quickly without flying. An elm-tree had fallen half-way across the pond, and at several feet from the bank it over-hung the water for some distance without touching it. The moorhen first dived and reappeared two or three times, and then, as if inspired with a sudden thought, dived again and came up under the fallen tree, but showing only the head, and keeping the rest of the body entirely submerged. All my efforts to drive it from thence were unavailing, and it then occurred to me that, by crawling out along the tree, I might possibly be able to seize the bird unawares. Accordingly, handing my coat to a friend who stood on the bank to tell me when I should be directly over the spot, I crawled on hands and knees along the tree, until, at my friend's signal, I knew that I was immediately above the moorhen. I then quietly put my hand in the water, about two feet behind it, and groped gently along until I could feel the legs. There were several small branches growing laterally from the tree, and many of these were under water. I soon discovered that the moorhen's feet passed round and under one of these, and that by this means the body was kept submerged. I had little time then for reflection, fearing lest the bird might escape; so, seizing the legs, I drew it out of the water and brought it safe to land."—*The Birds of Middlesex.*

CHARACTERISTICS OF GREATNESS.—A great man is affable in his conversation, generous in his temper, and immovable in what he has maturely resolved upon. And as prosperity does not make him haughty and imperious, so neither does adversity sink him into meanness and dejection; for if ever he shows more spirit than ordinary, it is when he is ill-used, and the world is frowning upon him. In short, he is equally removed from the extremes of servility and pride, and scorns either to trample on a worm, or to cringe to an emperor.

Miscellaneous Intelligence.

At three o'clock in the afternoon of the 16th inst., several shocks of earthquake were felt at Darmstadt.

The Right Rev. James Prince Lee, D.D., first Bishop of Manchester, died at his seat, Mauldeth Hall, near Manchester, on Christmas Eve, aged 65 years.

THE JEWS IN ROUMANIA.—M. M. Condrescu and Voynoff, two Radical members of the Roumanian Chamber, have given notice of an interpellation to the Ministry in regard to the assurance given by M. Beeresco to Lord Clarendon, that the Jews will be given civic rights. The Radical Press violently attacks the Government for its conduct in this matter.

A correspondent of the *Oldham Chronicle* writes:—On Sunday the congregation of one of the Established churches in Oldham was edified by the preaching of a curate who held forth that the working classes had no business to be educated. If they could read the Bible sufficiently to follow their clergymen it was enough; to dive into the higher branches of knowledge was positively hurtful to them.

THE POLISH CLERGY AND THE COUNCIL.—The Polish clergy have addressed a letter to the representative of the Russian-Polish clergy at the Œcumenical Council, protesting against certain acts of Papal policy. Their strictures are directed, amongst other matters, against the doctrine of the Pope's infallibility, the union of temporal and spiritual power, against injudicious education of the clergy, and the existing organisation of the college of cardinals—the present system almost entirely excluding foreigners.

MURDER IN LEEDS.—A brutal murder was committed in a public-house in Leeds, on Monday. During the day a plasterer, named Murgatroyd, came from Bradford to Leeds, accompanied by a fellow-workmen, in search of employment. They entered the Brougham Arms, Kirkgate, where, because Murgatroyd refused to contribute towards rewarding a fiddler who had been performing, he was attacked by two men, named Francis Tighe and Thomas Doherty, the former of whom hammered his head upon the stone floor, and the latter kicked him in the face. He was taken up quite dead. Tighe and Doherty were apprehended immediately. A third man, named John Tighe, was taken into custody on suspicion of having abetted the other prisoners.

FEARFUL TRAGEDY ON THE CONTINENT.—The journals of Milan publish accounts of a fearful crime at Ballabia. A resident named Santino Gorretti was seated at home one evening last week with his sister Maddalena and his niece Carolina, when five or six individuals rushed into the house, poignarded the man, who fell dead at their feet, and wounded the young girl—the woman Maddalena was spared on promising secrecy. The murderers then ransacked the house, and carried off a sum of about 7,000 francs. Six men, of whom three are brothers, have been arrested on suspicion of being implicated in this tragedy; the others are a peasant and his son, in whose possession has been found a considerable sum of money, for which they cannot give a satisfactory account.

DREADFUL OUTRAGES IN AMERICA.—The proprietor of a store in San Joaquin County, Cal., and four men were murdered by robbers on the 9th inst., and their bodies left bound and gagged. A few nights before, in the same locality, a store was robbed and burned, and the bodies of two men found in the ruins. A southern paper gives the following specimen of Georgian conviviality:—A drinking party was sitting in front of a store, when one of them arose, drew out a pistol, and said, "Hide out, I'm going to shoot." The party scattered in different directions, when he called to one to stop or he would shoot him. Another of the party then insisted that he should cease, as he might hurt some one, when the drunken ruffian turned and shot him through the heart, asking, as the deceased fell, "Are you hurt, Joe?"

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Railway Time Tables.

NOTE.—*These Tables are compiled from the best authorities, but we do not hold ourselves responsible for any errors they may contain.*

STOCKTON AND DARLINGTON RAILWAY

GOING EAST.—WEEK DAYS ONLY.

STATIONS.		A.M. 1, 2, 3.	P.M. 1, 2,	P.M. 1, 2, 3
Benfieldside	dep.	6·55	3·30	....
Cold Rowley	„	7·3	3·40	....
Burnhill Junction	„	7·12	3·50	....
Tow Law	„	7·24	4·3	....
Crook	arr.	7·35	4·15	....
	dep.	7·40	5·20	....
Bishop Auckland	„	8·5	5·50	....
Darlington	„	9·0	6·40	....
Stockton	„	9·30	7·10	....
Middlesbro'	„	9·42	7·22	....

GOING WEST.—WEEK DAYS ONLY.

STATIONS.		A.M. 1, 2, 3.	P.M. 1 & 2.	P.M. 1, 2, 3.
Middlesbro'	dep.	6·22	2·20	....
Stockton	„	6·34	2·28	....
Darlington	„	7·20	3·10	....
Bishop Auckland	„	7·50	3·40	....
Crook	arr.	8·10	4·10	....
	dep.	8·13	4·30	....
Tow Law	„	8·23	4·40	....
Burnhill Junction	„	8·35	4·53	....
Cold Rowley	„	8·45	5·3	....
Benfieldside	arr.	8·58	5·15	....

CONSETT BRANCH.

UP TRAINS.—WEEK DAYS.

STATIONS.		1, 2, G. A.M.	1 & 2. A.M.	1 & 2. P.M.	1, 2, G. P.M.
Newcastle	dep.	5·55	10·0	2·5	5·20
Scotswood	„	6·2	10·7	2·12	5·27
Swalwell	„	6·9	10·14	2·19	5·34
Rowland's Gill	„	6·19	10·24	2·29	5·44
Lintz Green	„	6·25	10·30	2·35	5·50
Ebchester	„	6·38	10·43	2·48	6·3
Shotley Bridge	„	6·44	10·49	2·54	6·9
Benfieldside (Consett & Blackhill)	„	6·50	10·55	3·0	6·15
Knitsley	„	7·4	11·9	....	6·29
Lanchester	„	7·13	11·18	....	6·38
Witton Gilbert	„	7·20	11·27	....	6·47
Durham	arr.	7·35	11·40	....	7·0

DOWN TRAINS.—WEEK DAYS.

STATIONS.		1, 2, G. A.M.	1 & 2. P.M.	1 & 2. P.M.	1, 2, G. P.M.
Durham	dep.	8·10	12·0	....	7·40
Witton Gilbert	„	8·25	12·14	....	7·54
Lanchester	„	8·36	12·25	....	8·5
Knitsley	„	8·47	12·36	....	8·16
Benfieldside (Consett & Blackhill)	„	9·2	12·50	3·25	8·28
Shotley Bridge	„	9·7	12·55	3·30	8·33
Ebchester	„	9·10	12·59	3·34	8·37
Lintz Green	„	9·20	1·9	3·44	8·48
Rowland's Gill	„	9·25	1·14	3·49	8·53
Swalwell	„	9·34	1·23	4·1	9·2
Scotswood	„	9·40	1·29	4·8	9·9
Newcastle	arr.	9·50	1·40	4·20	9·20

MARKET TRAINS ON SATURDAYS.

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

UP TRAINS.

STATIONS.		GO. A.M.	RETURN. P.M.
Newcastle	dep.	8·0	4·0
Scotswood	„	8·7	4·9
Swalwell	„	8·13	4·15
Rowland's Gill	„	8·21	4·23
Lintz Green	„	8·27	4·29
Ebchester	„	8·40	4·42
Shotley Bridge	„	8·45	4·47
Benfieldside (for Consett and Blackhill)	arr.	8·55	4·56
	dep.	9·10	5·5
Knitsley	„	9·21	5·16
Lanchester	„	9·34	5·29
Witton Gilbert	„	9·46	5·41
Durham	arr.	10·0	5·55

DOWN TRAINS.

STATIONS.		GO. A.M.	RETURN. P.M.
Durham	dep.	....	4·0
Witton Gilbert	„	8·3	4·13
Lanchester	„	8·15	4·25
Knitsley	„	8·28	4·38
Benfieldside (for Consett and Blackhill)	arr.	8·40	4·50
	dep.	9·30	6·16
Shotley Bridge	„	9·35	6·21
Ebchester	„	9·40	6·26
Lintz Green	„	9·49	6·35
Rowland's Gill	„	9·56	6·42
Swalwell	„	10·7	6·53
Scotswood	„	10·13	6·59
Newcastle	arr.	10·25	7·11

Business Announcements.

IMPORTANT TO OVERSEERS AND OTHERS.

FORMS for LISTS, &c., required by "The Poor Rate Assessment and Collection Act, 1869," together with Balance Sheet and other Poor Rate Forms, are obtainable at the *Guardian* Office, Consett.

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