The Consett Chronicle

AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM ADVERTISER.

NO. 58. VOL. 2. [REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.] FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1897. PRICE. ONE PENNY WEEKLY.

Business Announcements.

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AT THE
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THE BEST OF WORKMANSHIP GUARANTEED. MODERATE CHARGES.

CONSETT CHRONICLE FOOTBALL COMPETITION.

TWO GUINEA PRIZE

CONSOLATION PRIZE FIVE SHILLINGS.

We offer a prize of TWO GUINEAS to the Competitor who gives the results of the whole of the undermentioned Five matches correctly. Should no one name the whole of the Five results correctly a CONSOLATION PRIZE of FIVE SHILLINGS will be given to the Competitor who gives the most correct results.

Cut out the Coupon, and write in the space left for the purpose the number of the Goals you expect to be scored by each Club. Write your Name and Address plainly at the foot, and send the Coupon not later than ONE o'clock on SATURDAY AFTERNOON in each week, to

COUPON EDITOR,
CONSETT CHRONICLE,
CONSETT.

COUPON.

(TO BE CUT OUT.)

SATURDAY, January 23rd, 1897.

CLUB.	Goals.		CLUB.	Goals.
LEADGATE PARK		v.	CROOK	
SHOTLEY		v.	ALLENDALE PARK	
CONSETT SWIFTS		v.	HEATON	
BIRTLEY		v.	STANLEY	
SOUTHWICK		v.	DIPTON	

On the ground of the first-named club.

NAME ....

ADDRESS ....

The name or names of the successful competitors will be announced in the *Consett Chronicle* every week.

The award of the Editor must be considered final.

Persons in the employ of the Editor are not eligible to take part in the competition.

The matches given in our last week's Coupon resulted as follows:—

HOBSON	4	DIPTON	0
TOW LAW	0	STANLEY	4
CROOK	4	LEADGATE PARK	1
AXWELL	3	ANNFIELD PLAIN	0
BURNOPFIELD ATHLETIC	1	TANTOBIE	4

CELEBRATED PRIZE FIGHTS

No 24.—BEN CAUNT AND NICK WARD.

[SPECIALLY WRITTEN FOR THE "CONSETT CHRONICLE."]

The second fight between these two men took place near Stratford-on-Avon, for £100 a side, and the Championship Belt.

ROUND 1. On being conducted to the scratch, the men displayed perfect good temper. The position of Ward was scientific and excellent; his left ready for a fly, and his right well poised, to guard his nob from a counter-hit. Caunt stood in an erect position, with his hands well up; and although his figure was rather ungainly, he yet was evidently prepared to hit or stop, as opportunity might offer. Ward, after a little hesitation, measuring his man, let fly with his left, but did not get home. Caunt also let go his left, but was stopped. He was more successful with his right, and caught Ward on the neck, and was prepared for further mischief, when Ward quickly slipped down on his knees.

2. The men resumed their former position, when, after a short pause, Ward popped in his left, and caught Caunt on the mouth. Caunt let fly left and right, rather wildly, catching Ward slightly with the former on the cheek, but his handiwork was again stopped by Ward slipping down on his knees. Caunt lifted both hands, and walked away.

3. Ward cautious. Caunt, anxious to be busy, let go left and right, which he planted slightly, and was rushing for a close, when Ward slipped down.

4. Caunt stopped Nick's left, and, after a short pause, rushed in left and right, catching Ward on the nose. Nick met him as he approached, but again went down on his knees, Caunt falling upon him. On getting up there was a tinge of claret from Nick's nose. First blood for Caunt.

5. The faces of both were flushed from slight taps, and Caunt, anxious to be at work, let fly right and left, again catching Nick on the nose, and increasing the appearance of claret. In the struggle which followed, Nick got down, Caunt falling over him.

6. Caunt tried his right, but was stopped. Counter-hitting with the left, when Caunt hit out with his left (which Nick cleverly avoided) and rushed to in-fighting. Nick, however, pursued his game of getting down, and Caunt fell heavily upon him. Although Caunt, up to this period, had not done much execution, yet it was clear he had improved in his style of hitting, substituting straight hits from the shoulder for the over-handed chops in which he formerly indulged.

7. Ward let fly his left, but was again short. He stopped Caunt's left-handed return, and, on the latter rushing in wildly for execution as before, he dropped on his knees. Caunt wisely restrained an intended hit, and shaking his finger at Ward as he knelt, walked from him to his corner.

8. Up to this period no material damage was done, the hits being scarcely more than skin deep. Ward still preserved his beautiful position, tried his left, but did not get home, and Caunt hit short at the body with his right. Nick now steadied himself for mischief, and, after a short pause, with the quickness of lightning let go his left, and caught Caunt over the left eyebrow, on which he cut a gaping gash, from which the blood flowed copiously. Caunt hit out left and right. Ward, retreating, fell on his knees, and Caunt tumbled over him.

9. Atkinson was busily engaged in stopping the flow of blood from Caunt's eyebrow, when "time" was called, and Caunt rose vigorously to continue the contest, anything but improved by the ruddy hue of his phiz. Ward waited for him, popped in his left on his cheek, thereby opening an ancient wound inflicted by Brassey, from whence the purple fluid also flowed. Caunt darted in left and right, but Ward pursued his dropping tactics, and was again on his knees, amidst strong expressions of distaste.

10. Ward was again successful in planting his left on Caunt's frontispiece, and after two slight returns, left and right, got down.

11. Caunt, nothing daunted, stopped Nick's left, and made a terrible rush, but Nick retreated, stopped left and right, and fell under the ropes, Caunt dropping on him amidst cries of dissatisfaction.

12. Ward stopped Caunt's left and right, and almost immediately dropped on his knees; and while in that position, instantly hit up left and right, delivering both blows heavily, that from his right on Caunt's ear, from whence blood was drawn, and the blow was evidently a stinger. Spring, who witnessed this, exclaimed against so cowardly a practice, and observed that the blows of Ward were obviously foul, inasmuch as Ward had no more right to hit when down on his knees than Caunt had a right to strike him in that position. The umpires, however, did not interfere, and the referee cautioned Ward to be more circumspect in his conduct.

13. Caunt, lively as a young buffalo out for a holiday, rushed to the scratch the moment time was called, and immediately made play. Nick, alarmed, retreated; when Caunt endeavoured to close, but Nick, in his usual cowardly way, dropped on both knees. Caunt's right hand was up, and he was unable to restrain the falling blow, but it fell lightly, and although "down," no claim was made. Spring and Atkinson both cautioned Caunt to be more careful; for, however unintentional, if he struck his opponent when down the consequences might be fatal.

14. Caunt led off, and caught Nick on the side of the head with his left, and repeated the dose on the opposite side of the head with his right. Nick popped in a touch with his left on Caunt's nasal promontory. Caunt missed a terrific hit with his right, and Nick went on his knees to avoid punishment.

15. Caunt—who was now evidently provoked by the cowardly game of Ward in getting down in every round—the moment he came to the scratch, rushed to him, and endeavoured to get him within his grasp in such a way as to be enabled to fall with and upon him. Unluckily, however, instead of catching him round the body he caught him round the neck, and in this manner, lifting him off the ground for a short time, held him suspended; he then let him go, and endeavoured to fall upon him, but did not succeed in giving him the heavy scrunch he contemplated. He, however, hit the back of his own head against the stakes, and incurred a dangerous concussion.

16. Caunt came up full of life and frolic, and was first at the scratch. Nick made play with his left, but Caunt stopped and got away. Caunt hit short with his right, and after a short pause, right-hand hits were exchanged—Nick at the head, Caunt at the body. Caunt immediately closed, and caught Nick's pimple under his arm, but Nick slipped down, and looked as if he expected to be hit.

17. Trifling exchanges, when Nick again provokingly slipped down on his knees.

18. Caunt led off, planted his left slightly, and Nick down on his knees. Caunt looked at him derisively, exclaiming, "It won't do to-day, Nick."

19. Caunt still fresh as a lion, and first to the scratch. Nick evidently fearful of approaching too near. Caunt made a feint with his left, and then delivered a tremendous round-hand blow on the base of Ward's ribs. The blow was too high, or it might have ended fearfully. Nick let go his left, and Caunt jumped back, but again coming to the charge, Ward retreated, Caunt following him up, again seizing him with an herculean grip round the neck, lifted him clean off the ground, threw, and then fell squash upon him.

20. Some tolerably good exchanges, in which Nick hit straightest, but immediately went down, Caunt pointing at him with contempt.

21. Nick tried his left and right, but missed, his timidity evidently preventing his getting sufficiently near to his man. Caunt again seized him, lifted him up, threw, and fell upon him, but lightly.

22. Caunt hit short at the body with his right, and tried his left, which was stopped. Counter-hits with the right; ditto with the left; when Nick went down.

23. Ward planted his left heavily on Caunt's mug, and opened his previous wounds; this he followed with a touch from his right on the ear. Caunt rushed wildly to the charge, but Nick, as usual, tumbled.

24. Caunt rushed forward, and delivered his left and right on Ward's nob, the first on his nose, the second on the side of the head. Ward's nose again trickled with the purple fluid. Nick went down on his knees, amidst shouts of disapprobation.

25. Caunt delivered his left on the head, and his right on the body, with stinging effect, and Nick went down.

26. Nick again had it on the nose from the left, and dropped on his knees. Caunt, who had his right up to deliver, withheld it, and walked away.

27. Nick slow in approaching to the scratch, and Caunt impatent to be at him. Holt cautioned Caunt not to cross the scratch till his man reached him. Caunt let fly with his right, and again caught Nick heavily on the body, following this up with a smart touch with his left on the mazzard. Nick again went down on one knee, and, while in that position, struck Caunt with his left. Caunt stooped, nodded, and laughed at him as he looked up in his face. Nick also nodded, and laughed. "We'll have fair fight to-day," cried Caunt.

28. Good counter-hits with the left; when Caunt once more grasped Ward, and held him up, but Ward slipped from his arms, and got down.

29. Ward slow; when Caunt planted two right-handed hits on Ward's jaw and neck. Ward slipped down on one knee, but Caunt refrained from striking him, although entitled to do so by the rules of the Ring.

30. Caunt lost no time in rushing to his man, and planted his right heavily on the side of his nut. Ward hit wildly left and right, and went down on his face.

31. Ward evidently began to lose his confidence, and fought extremely shy. Caunt rushed in, caught his head under his arm, and although he might have hit him with great severity, he restrained himself, and let him fall.

32. Ward came up evidently counter to his own inclinations, but was urged forward by his seconds and his brother. Caunt caught him left and right, and he fell to avoid further punishment.

33. Caunt gave a lunging slap with his right on Ward's pimple, when Ward dropped on both knees, and popped his head between Caunt's knees. He seemed disposed to poke it anywhere out of danger's way, and any odds were offered on Caunt.

34. Caunt rushed in to mill, but Ward had obviously made up his mind to be satisfied, and down he went without a blow.

35 and last. Ward was "kidded" up once more by his seconds, but it was clear that all the King's men could not draw him to the scratch with anything like a determination to protract the combat. Caunt let fly left and right at his mug, and down he went for the last time. His brother ran to him, but it was all up, and as the only excuse for such a termination to the battle, Nick pretended that his ribs were broken, from the heavy right-handed hits of Caunt, and that he was incapable of continuing the contest. Caunt was now proclaimed the conqueror, and the Champion of England, amidst a general cheer, and expressions of contempt towards Ward. The fight lasted forty-seven minutes.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

OUR COUPON COMPETITION.

A Consolation Prize of five shillings has this week been divided between Robert Wearmouth, No. 62, Oxhill, Stanley, R.S.O., and Thomas Heslop, Oakey's Cottages, West Stanley. The results on the whole were a trifle surprising. Leadgate Park, though assisted by Charley Crute, collapsed before Crook, and therefore still retain their position at the bottom of the Northern League ladder. Other surprises were the downfall of Annfield Plain Celtic before Axwell Rovers, and the large majority of goals obtained by Stanley over Tow Law. Hobson were generally anticipated to be too good for Dipton, and Tantobie only realised the confident predictions of their supporters by vanquishing Burnopfield.

DIPTON SEVERELY BEATEN.

The encounter between the old rivals at Dipton and the Hobson, came off on Saturday, on the ground of the latter, and resulted in the utter rout of the visitors by the significant final of four goals to nil. This result is indicative of two things. In the first place it shows that the Dipton team have seriously and lamentably declined, whilst it also proves that the Hobson are swiftly and surely advancing. Never for a moment could one have imagined that the defeat of Dipton would be so crushing, so terribly overwhelming, as it proved to be, and the result must have been a sore disappointment to the supporters of the conquered club.

Oh, mighty Dipton,
Has thou fall'n so low?
Are all thy conquests, glories, triumphs
Sunk to this little measure?

SPEN ALBION BEATEN.

Spen Albion did not reach Leadgate on Saturday until late. It seems that they had had a breakdown on the journey, and this, of course, accounted for the delay that occurred before the rival teams entered the field. The snow lay some inches thick upon the ground, and this rendered the shooting difficult and erratic. Still, the play throughout was good, and the few spectators who were in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the display. The weakness of Spen Albion is in the forward rank, for both their backs—two powerful players and grand kickers—and custodian formed an exceptionally strong defence.

THE LEADGATE TEAM.

The Leadgate boys were hard-working, energetic, and displayed superior judgment. A brief mention of individual performances will be found amongst the jottings, but I must emphasise what is there remarked concerning Dawson and Willis. Both these players are a treat, and thoroughly deserved the marks of favour which were bestowed upon them. Speaking generally, Leadgate Park have a reserve team of which they have every right to be proud.

Leadgate Park Reserve to their club are a credit,
Not I alone, but conquered Albion, said it.

STANLEY V. TOW LAW.

The encounter between the Whites and the county champions produced one of the pleasantest games that I have witnessed this season. Tow Law played two subs., Joe Allison, the Consett skipper, appearing in their ranks as a right wing forward, whilst Jake Dodds, of South Moor, the old Lilywhite, who, like Emmy Beckwith, spent his early years at Tow Low, played inside left. Owing to Jack Coyle's preference for his old sweetheart at the Plain, a vacancy was created on the home right wing, and this was filled—very creditably, too—by George Whitfield. A trial was also given to Teddy Buck, of Dipton, and a very satisfactory *debut* the old Wanderer made. Stanley had a good deal the best of matters, taking the game as a whole, and though four goals was a very substantial majority, they were fully entitled to it.

THE WINNERS.

Almost every man in the team did well, and even such an inveterate grumbler as "Crossbar" had to express himself as amply satisfied with the performance. A good many spectators were heard to express the wish—alas, it could not be gratified!—that the team had played a similar game against Jarrow on the previous Saturday. Had they done so, the probability is, that President Lee would still be looking forward with joyful anticipation to the Durham Cup final. The play of the forward rank was a source of delight to everybody—save their opponents. Their combination was of a very high order, and the clever manner in which they romped round the Tow Lawites, fully justified the remark of an ardent lady enthusiast, who said, "We're having a picnic to-day." Coming to the individual efforts, I find some difficulty in making the selection for premier honours. It lay between O'Connor and Jimmy Howe, both of whom were in great form. The centre-man has already established himself a strong favourite with the spectators, and I cannot refrain from expressing the opinion that in him, Stanley have got a centre-forward quite worthy of county honours. He is exceedingly tricky, and knows how to shoot, not forgetting to put plenty of boot behind the oval. He scored three goals on Saturday, the third, headed from a magnificent pass by Jimmy Howe, being one of the finest goals ever scored on the Stanley ground. Even Allison was utterly nonplussed with it. Jimmy Howe was also in rare form. He made several splendid sprints, and the manner in which he dodged round burly Temperley was quite enjoyable. Jimmy tried hard to score, but luck was dead against him in this respect. The work he did in the outfield, however, was enough to stamp him as a champion. Jimmy Masterman was of considerable service to his plucky little colleague, with whose play he seems to be quite at home. He also made a few speedy runs, and his centres were A 1. On the right wing, "Douce" Whitfield played a very good game for a reserve man. He found Watson a trifle heavy at times. Of course Thompson Robson played a satisfactory game. He never does anything else, or at any rate very seldom so. Thompson worked hard from start to finish. His passing was as judicious and unselfish as usual, and the shot he baffled Allison with, was a perfect gem. Tommy Fish was the best of a capital half-back line. He worked like a Trojan, and never made the slightest mistake. Heading, kicking, tackling, and dodging all came alike to Tommy. He was always on the job, and ever came off with flying colours, even if it was only his shirt flying above his blouse. Teddy Buck created a highly favourable impression in his first game. He is one of the smartest and trickiest of local halves, and his "placing" on Saturday, was just about as near perfection as anything could be. Jacky Milburn put in a lot of useful work, and in the second half, he quite bottled up his opponents. The backs were just about faultless. Laws seems to get better every week. His kicking is both powerful and reliable, and he has the coolness of an iceberg—a very useful quality. The committee made a good catch in the Gateshead "long un," though I disagreed with their choice at the time. Martin Joyce was—well, himself again; and when he is in form, there's not a full-back in all North-West Durham to beat the braw "Scotty." He was in his best trim on Saturday, and slips were few and far between. Morris got several "hot 'uns" to deal with during the game, Macintosh kindly providing him with a couple, which he might have been excused failing to stop. However, George was in his best form, and not a shot passed him. When Morris is "on," there aren't many custodians in the county who can beat him.

THE TOW LAW BOYS.

The Cupholders were, of course, weakened in playing with a couple of subs., but making every allowance for this, the team appear to me to have gone back materially since last season. They were fairly and squarely knocked out on Saturday. Of the players, the first whom I have to deal with is Allison, the custodian. He is a "good 'un," too, this "county man," and hero of a hundred fights, and he exhibited his defensive abilities to some effect on Saturday. It requires a good and combined effort to beat Allison, and that Stanley did the trick four times on Saturday, says a great deal for the work of their vanguard. Allison did his best, and, in the words of an old Scotch song, he could truthfully say—

A' was done that man could do,
And a' was done i' vain.

Temperley appeared to me to take things easy. His kicking was sound and reliable, but he is far too gentlemanly to make a good tackler. He has not a tinge of roughness about him. Jimmy Howe had plenty of tussles with the Tow Law skipper, and the latter often came off second best. Watson is a powerful kicker, but his judgment is sadly at fault. The half-backs were a fairly good trio, Bob Wilson carrying off the palm. Macintosh was the best of the forward rank, showing very clever outfield work, and shooting as "true as a die" whenever he got a chance. Joe Allison was, of course, playing out of his proper position, and this was easily apparent. Jake Dodds gave—or tried to give—glimpses of his old tricky form, but, as a rule, it did not come off. Coulson and Watson were a couple of speedy outside men, but they were too well watched to do much damage, and were also handicapped by the absence of their familiar partners.

TOW LAW RESERVE WIN.

At Tow Law, on Saturday, the home reserve eleven, after a capital exhibition of football, were able to pull off a victory over West Auckland, and will now enter into the second round of the Durham Junior Cup Competition. At the beginning of hostilities, the teams appeared most evenly balanced, and during the first half there was but little to pick between them. In the second forty-five, however, Tow Law quickened to life in a remarkable manner, and constantly besieged the visitors' citadel, but shoot as they would the forwards failed to hit the net. The two goals scored were obtained from scrimmages, in which class of play the home men excelled their opponents at every point.

THE HOME PLAYERS.

Of the home players, the half-backs were the shining lights. Walton, especially, played a remarkably good game, and during the ninety minutes he occupied the field, not one mistake could be urged against him. Bob Lawson and Finneran were hardly up to the same standard of excellence, but nevertheless, the two of them put in some very hard and useful work. In the goal, Donachy figured well, but his work was far from being heavy, since he had two very capable defenders in front of him, in the persons of Potts and Devine. The latter, at all times, was conspicuous with powerful kicking, and also exercised considerable judgment in despatching the leather. The old veteran, Tom Potts, was never at fault, and whenever he took the ball it was odds on him landing it well away down the field. The forwards were decidedly "off," and in the first half seemed all at sea. Dicky Richardson missed two grand clean shots at the goal in succession, and the forward players on several occasions were unable to gain any advantage from open scrimmages. In the second half, the combination was more perfect, the chief exponents of the passing being Tommy McGough and Dick Richardson. The former, after his absence from the team so long, did exceedingly well, and nothing would have pleased the spectators more than to have seen him score. The "Evergreen," as centre forward, did not maintain his reputation as a footballer, and Jos. Richardson also disappointed the spectators. Glenton, the Wednesday player, was given a trial, and judging from his play, only needs a little more practice to establish him as a permanent member of the Reserve eleven.

STANLEY WEDNESDAY AGAIN VICTORIOUS.

Stanley Wednesday players do not appear to have had their courage at all damped by their recent reverses at the feet of Stanley Athletic, and last Wednesday succeeded in adding one more to their list of victories. Langley Park Wednesday were the victims, but they did not accept their licking without a severe struggle. Playing with the wind behind them in the opening half, the homesters did most of the pressing, but were weak in front of goal, and lost innumerable opportunites of scoring. Indeed, the visitors were the first to draw blood, and continued to hold a single goal advantage till the homesters made matters even, about five minutes from the interval. Having once tasted blood, the Stanleyites quickly did the trick a second time, and when the interval arrived they were leading. The second half found the homesters battling in the teeth of a perfect snowstorm. For some minutes they maintained a sturdy defence, but at length changed the scene of operations, and Tom Masterman placed them two points ahead, with a pretty shot. From now to the finish, the battle was fought stubbornly. Langley got through once, but their subsequent efforts to equalise were of no avail, and the struggle ended in a win for Stanley by one goal.

THE PLAYERS.

The winners gave a good all-round exhibition of football, and quite deserved their victory. Lambton was in his usual clever trim between the goal-posts, and Bell and Whaley did yeoman service in the back division. The Captain played one of his finest games this season, his kicking being vigorous, sure, and well-judged, and, during the first half, he sent in two or three clinking long shots. Surtees, coming out of his shell, was the best of the halves, with "Benny" treading close on his heels. Paxton and Lewis worked cleverly together on the right wing, and I am pleased to chronicle the fact that the first-named has postponed his retirement for ten years. He quite enjoyed himself last week in diddling round the visitors. Mud-larking quite suits Bobby Lewis, and he came out with flying colours. Masterman and Joe Ritson got on well together on the left wing. In the centre, Bobby Whitfield came up to his usual excellent form, and more than once he had hard lines in not scoring. Langley Park were greatly indebted to their custodian for the small score made against them. Bidgood was the best of the full backs, his kicking and tackling alike being good. Shorten and Scott were the best of a capital quintette of forwards.

ALLENDALE PARK WIN EASILY.

Playing on their own ground, on Saturday, Allendale Park were able to claim a substantial victory over the Blackhill Rovers, which suffered defeat by five goals to nil. The visitors, from start to finish, seemed to be fighting a hopeless battle, and when Jos. Walton gave the Park the lead, immediately a start had been made, the result was a foregone conclusion. Nevertheless, although fighting against great odds, the old Rugby players of Blackhill fought with a steady determination to put themselves on as level terms as possible, and they are to be heartily congratulated on the fact that their defeat was no more severe. The homesters gave a more scientific exposition of the game than their opponents, and were more speedy and agile on their feet. The Rovers, at various times, showed their deficiency in the Association game, with which they do not seem to be as yet quite familiar.

"DEFEATED, BUT NOT DISGRACED."

Such was the remark of a spectator after the Axwell v. Celtic match on Saturday, when the Plainites were defeated. There is no little truth in the remark, as the fact that the Plainites played four reserves, speaks for itself. The game was very evenly contested, the defence of both teams being several times severely taxed. The teams met in the first round of the Durham Senior Cup, the Celts retiring victorious by 2 goals to nil. Axwell had been going strongly of late, whilst the Celts had also a good record. The absence of Neddy Lynap was greatly felt, and S. Forster of the Reserve had to be called upon to fill the vacancy. Jimmy McLatchie was also an absentee, Adam Bell having to partner Moore. Taylor and Allison were away from the half back line, their places being taken by Robinson Bell and Storey. The game was one of the roughest I have seen, both teams being in the fault. On the day's play, the best team won, and although the Plainites were beaten, there is no disgrace attached to the defeat.

THE CELTS.

S. Forster played a fair game between the sticks, and could not be blamed for the defeat of his team. He saved several good shots, and with a little practice, should make a fair custodian. The backs were a fair set. Bell, the Reserve man, being the better of the two. Adam kicks with judgment, and is also a good tackler. He, however, is lacking in weight. Bell should become one of the best backs in the district. The halves were a very moderate trio, Parker being the pick of them. "Walloper" is very tricky, and had several rare encounters with the ex-Diptonian, "Doctor" Harle. It is a pity that he was so unfortunate in being ordered off the field. Robinson Bell did not appear to advantage, and seldom gave glimpses of his old form. Bell is a forward, and this will probably account for his poor display. Storey is a promising youth, and has plenty of speed. Warne, the Axwell centre forward, seldom got the best of Ned. Storey deserved to score with the shot that struck the upright, as it was a fine screw one. Forster and Coyle were the best of the forwards, the Celtic right wing giving the Axwell defence endless trouble. Bobby was conspicuous by his runs, and accurate centres. Jack Coyle tricked his opponents frequently, but should pass the ball sooner. If he does this he will become one of the best forwards in the locality. Ellis did not play up to his usual form, whilst Lynap and Gillender were also a bit off. The whole team played a fair game, but were somewhat disheartened at having to take the field with four reserves.

AXWELL.

The visitors were very quick on the ball, and have a first class set of forwards. "Doctor" Harle played a clinking game, and his partner, Dixon, was very little behind him. Heppell was the best forward on the Axwell side, but his shooting was not very accurate. Warne and Quinn also did yeoman service. The halves are a grand lot, J. Bruce being the pick of the trio. He should, however, get rid of his shady tricks, as he was several times hooted for trying to foul Forster. Bob Bruce and Forsyth were little behind, and were ably supported by Murray and Hettick. The latter players are a couple of sterling backs, and it was mainly due to their efforts, that the Celts failed to score. Potts had very little to do, but when called upon saved in brilliant fashion. He should also play in a more gentlemanly manner.

TOW LAW WEDNESDAY.

On Wednesday in last week, the Tow Law Wednesday players retrieved the crushing defeat they sustained at Bishop Auckland earlier in the season, and claimed a victory over the "Bishops," by four goals to three. A result, all the more remarkable, when it is understood that Bishop Auckland in the previous encounter thoroughly thrashed the hill-top lads by ten goals to nothing. The Auckland team was identical with that which took part in the former match, but the home (Tow Law) ranks were strengthened very considerably by the inclusion of Tommy Hobson and Dick Richardson, both of whom played a sound game from start to finish. However, the home players did not start in any too promising fashion, for, at the interval, Auckland held the substantial lead of two goals, the score then reading Auckland 3 goals, Tow Law 1. In the second half, Tow Law played downhill, and at once made the best of this big advantage, and before the whistle sounded for the ceasing of hostilities, added three more goals to their score, whereas Auckland never chalked. The victory was thoroughly deserved, and proved a fitting termination to a grand exhibition of the association game, given by the home lads. Hildreth was the best between the sticks, whilst Donachy and Tewart guarded him jealously. Graham, Hall, and Geary made a capital half-back division, and the forwards, especially Hobson and Richardson, fought like heroes. Charlie Hall notched the first point, and Bob Wheatley added to his reputation by scoring two goals. The game throughout was pleasantly contested.

OUSTON AND PELTON FELL.

The Cup tie match between Ouston and Pelton Fell was played on Saturday, before upwards of 300 spetators. It was a meeting of old rivals. The ground was covered by a thin coating of snow, but the overhead conditions were everything that could be desired. As was anticipated, the game was one of great rivalry. Ouston team was in good form, and Pelton did well at the beginning of the game. If any judgment on my part were desired I should say that Ouston had slightly the better of matters, and it was very clear that had Pelton not had such a capable and energetic man in goal, they would certainly have had to suffer a much heavier defeat. The Ouston quintette of forwards did excellent service, the half-backs working splendidly. The full backs did full justice to the day's play. The Pelton forwards were reliable and strong, and the half-backs and full backs played in a prudent manner. Taken on a whole, the game was one of the hardest ever played, I daresay, in the annals of our local football. The game resulted in a victory for Ouston by three goals to two.

DERWENTWATER.

FOOTBALL.

DURHAM AMATEUR CUP.

FIRST ROUND.

ANNFIELD PLAIN CELTIC v. AXWELL ROVERS

[BY THE "BRADLEY BOY."]

These teams met at Annfield Plain on Saturday, before a moderate attendance. It was the second encounter between these teams this season, the Plainites emerging victorious on the first occasion by 2 goals to nil. Annfield Plain played four reserves, E. Lynap, McLatchie, Taylor, and Allison being absent. Punctually to time the teams took the field as under—

AXWELL		CELTIC
Potts	Goal	S. Forster
Murray	Right back	A. Bell
Hettick	Left back	Moore
Forsyth	Right half	Storey
R. Bruce	Centre half	Parker
J. Bruce	Left half	R. Bell
Harle	Right outside	R. Forster
Dixon	Right inside	Coyle
Warne	Centre	Ellis
Quinn	Left inside	Lynap
Heppell	Left outside	Gillender

Referee, Mr Bryant, Consett.

Annfield Plain won the toss, and naturally elected to play down the incline. Warne started towards the entrance goal, and Axwell at once got up. Dixon got possession, but was soon forced to surrender to "Walloper," who, however, kicked weakly, and Harle receiving, sent in a high shot which went wide. The goal kick placed the Celts in Axwell territory, and Forster was making great progress towards the goal when he was fouled by J. Bruce. A. Bell placed nicely, but the ball was got away, and Storey, with a swift shot, struck the upright. Coyle was soon upon the ball, but not being able to shoot, he passed back to Forster, who shot weakly. Heppell was enabled to race up the left, but, on approaching the Plain citadel, was fouled by Moore. The free kick came to nothing, and Coyle was seen to advantage by a tricky run, and finished up by giving a fine pass to Ellis. The Plain skipper missed, and R. Bruce easily cleared. Parker returned, but Warne got possession, and with a fast low shot,

SCORED FOR AXWELL,

Forster falling in attempting to save. On centring, Coyle broke away, and tricking R. Bruce, shot in, but Hettick easily cleared. Gillender received near the touch line, and centring grandly, Ellis sent in a high shot, which Murray promptly rejected. Forsyth got away, and gave to Heppell, who gave a fine pass to Warne, but the whistle sounded for offside. Dixon and Heppell got nicely away, but the latter's shot went wide. "Doctor" Harle travelled the field, but Parker was on the alert, and dispossessed the Rovers' right wing in fine style. Warne also tried to break through the Plain half back line, but found Storey a trifle too good for him. Harle broke away, and

LOOKED LIKE SCORING,

when he was fouled by Moore. Nothing came of the kick, and Lynap got away, but hands relieved the pressure against the Rovers. Hands again resulted, but R. Bruce ultimately shot past. A. Bell was conspicuous for his fine kicking, and Heppell again got into a grand position, but shot past. Gillender and Lynap got away on the left, and Jacky missed an easy chance. A corner resulted, and Storey placed magnificently. A faint cry of goal went up, but it proved a false alarm as Hettick headed out of danger. Lynap again got possession of the leather, and made a good attempt to score. Parker shot past, and a minute afterwards, Forster was fouled by J. Bruce. Harle got away, and lost to Bell, but Axwell returned in brilliant style, and

WARNE AGAIN SCORED.

Harle got away from the centre kick, only to shoot past. Coyle and Forster returned on the right, but their efforts to score ended fruitlessly owing to the ball going out of play. Quinn forced a corner, but Heppell shot past, and Gillender got away from a grand pass by Ellis. Bob shot into the hands of the Axwell custodian, who cleared in fine style. Coyle got down, and, after several attempts had been made to trip him, shot in, but Murray again returned. Forster sped away, and passed to Lynap, who transferred to Ellis. The latter, however, shot very wide. Heppell fouled Forster, and Parker was entrusted with the kick. Lynap received, and again made a good effort to score. Heppell forged his way to the other end, and forced a corner, which also proved abortive. A free kick followed to the Celts, who again looked like scoring, but the Axwell centre forward returned, and Harle shot past. Heppell put in a further shot, and Moore deliberately handling, a penalty kick was allowed. Heppell was entrusted with the kick, but shot over the bar, to the delight of the home supporters. The whistle sounded half time with the score—

Axwell	2 goals
Celtic	Nil

On resuming, Axwell, who were now playing with the incline, attacked vigorously, and were awarded a free kick through Bell fouling. Murray took the kick, but placed badly, and Bell speeding away, finished up by sending in a swift shot, which struck the outside of the net. Jacky Lynap also got up, but was pulled up by Forsyth, and Forster ran along the wing. Potts ran out, and fouled Forster, but the referee did not heed the appeal, and the spectators gave vent to their feelings by cheering the Celtic right winger. Warne relieved, and within five yards of the net, shot through

THE THIRD GOAL

for the visitors. The Celts claimed offside, but the referee pointed to the centre, amidst shouts of disapproval from the spectators. On centring, the Celts got up, but were beaten back, and Harle getting away, struck the crossbar, although the whistle had previously sounded for offside. The free kick placed the ball in the Axwell quarters, where Coyle received, and shot past, when in a good position. Dixon and Harle got down, and the latter tested the abilities of Forster with a high shot, which the Plain custodian threw away. A free kick fell to the Celts, but Axwell came away, and the Plain eleven were penalised for a foul. Hands followed in their favour, and Moore placed grandly. Forster getting possession gave to Lynap, who experienced hard lines in not scoring. Lynap again got into close proximity to the Rovers' goal, but shooting in, Murray had little difficulty in clearing. Hands fell to the Plain, and "Walloper" placed nicely. A free kick for a foul resulted, and Moore was this time entrusted with the kick. R. Bell handled, but the free kick came to nothing.

SOME ROUGH PLAY

on both sides ended in innumerable fouls being given. Harle and Parker had a rare struggle for supremacy on the right wing, and after the ball was got away, the referee ordered "Walloper," off the field, although the spectators were at a loss to know what reason he had for doing so. Annfield Plain were awarded a free kick, and Harle sprinted away, but missed a fine chance when only five yards off the goal. Forster had to save from Heppell, and Annfield Plain were penalised for a foul, Gillender being the offender. Harle was pulled up for offside, as was Quinn a minute later, and Forster had to save a hot shot from Warne. Lynap got away, but shot out of play, and Forster was in a good position, when he shot past. Axwell got down, and were awarded a foul off Ellis. Murray, who take the kick, shot past. Warne again shot wide, and play was hovering in the Plain territory when the whistle sounded with the score—

AXWELL	3 goals
CELTIC	Nil

HOBSON WANDERERS v. DIPTON WANDERERS.

This tie was played at Hobson Colliery, and there would be over 1000 onlookers around the ropes. A good deal of friendly rivalry has existed between these neighbouring clubs for some years past, more particularly when the Dipton men were in the ascendant. It seems, however, judging by the performances during the past season, that the Hobson is now the better team, and under the skilful guidance of Tommy Amos, ably seconded by the redoubtable efforts of J. L. Weedy, they are likely to maintain their superiority. Although these teams are located within easy distance of each other, they do not, apparently, arrange many friendly games, inasmuch as it is a couple of seasons since they faced each other in a Durham Senior Cup tie at Dipton, when the home men were victorious by two goals to one. Last Saturday, the Hobsonites reversed this defeat with a vengeance. Subjoined is the composition of the teams—

HOBSON.		DIPTON.
J. McNeil	Goal	Evans
M. McCue	Right back	Coates
W. H. Liddle	Left back	Thornton
J. Weedy	Right half	S. Evans
E. Henderson	Centre half	M. Cunningham
T. Heslin	Left half	J. T. Willey
J. M. Maddison	Right outside	John Burn
Lown	Right inside	M. Temple
E. Muirhead	Centre	W. Gray
J. T. Bell	Left inside	T. Walker
R. Hindhaugh	Left outside	H. Walker

Referee: Mr H. Mackin, Bill Quay.

Hobson won the toss, and the visitors set the leather in motion up the hill, there being a covering of snow upon the ground. The home men began to press forthwith, and playing with great determination and vigour, soon outclassed their opponents at all points, operations being almost exclusively confined during the first half in the visitors' quarters, and Evans being called upon repeatedly to save some well-directed shots at goal. However, after some 15 minutes' play, Bell worked his way through the Dipton stronghold, and registered the first point. This seemed to have the effect of causing the Hobson men to put on an extra spurt, for soon afterwards, Weedy threaded his way through the Dipton lines, and added a second goal. Lown displayed some fine work, whilst Evans, Coates, T. Walker, and M. Temple showed up best amongst the visitors, whose playing was only of a mediocre description. Just before the whistle blew, Maddison shot the third goal for Hobson amidst a tremendous outburst of cheering. Half-time—

Hobson	3 goals
Dipton	Nil

With three points to rub off, the Dipton men entered the arena for the second part of the fray under anything but encouraging circumstances, and it will readily be imagined that they appeared to be disheartened. Although they had the hill in their favour, they could not penetrate the formidable defence of the homesters. On the other hand, Hobson continued to play in a dashing manner, and assumed the aggressive almost from the moment the ball was restarted. Lown sent in a nice shot from the left, and Evans managed to save in the nick of time, but as the leather rolled off his hands, Hindhaugh seized the opportunity, and rushing in, banged it through the posts. This comprised the only point obtained in the concluding half. Final—

HOBSON	4 goals
DIPTON	Nil

TOW LAW RESERVE v. WEST AUCKLAND.

These teams encountered each other in the first round of the Durham Amateur Cup Competition, at Tow Law, on Saturday. The field was covered with snow to a depth of two inches, and the players were consequently handicapped in their movements. Both teams were representative, the players taking the field as follows—

TOW LAW.—Donachy, goal; Potts and Devine, backs; Walton, Lawson and Finneran, half-backs; Glenton, J Richardson, Geary, McGough, and R. Richardson, forwards.

WEST AUCKLAND.—Gill, goal; T Hope and Plimmer, backs; Teasdale, Lamb, and J Hope, half-backs; Parker, Wilkinson, Reece, Hodgson, and Jackson, forwards.

The visitors had the best of the opening exchanges, and crossed the home goal several times to no purpose. A free kick to Tow Law gave them the advantage, Devine placing nicely into the goal mouth. Here a lively bit of heading took place, and in saving his charge Gill conceded a corner, which ended fruitlessly. Auckland got in from a free kick awarded against Lawson, for fouling, and the forwards worked through until repulsed by Potts, who cleared almost under the bar. Even play ensued, until Geary forced a second corner for the home team, but hands off J. Richardson let Auckland away, and Walton and Potts just managed to repulse the attack. Tow Law played up more gamely after this, and getting well in, Dicky Richardson had two excellent chances to score, but on each occasion kicked fearfully wide of the goal. Devine twice dispossessed the Auckland forwards, when in close proximity to the home goal, and McGough travelling up, put in a slow shot which went bye. Glenton got hold immediately after, and from the touch line, put in a grand shot which Gill failed to fist away. The ball fell into the centre of the goalmouth, but none of the home forwards were near enough to shove it through, and Auckland cleared at the expense of a corner, which was placed behind. Auckland came away from the goal kick, and Jackson with a clear field, miserably failed in his shot at goal. Dicky Richardson obtained a further corner for the home team, which he grandly placed. A desperate scrimmage ensued on the goal line, but after some stiff struggling, Auckland broke away. A free kick to Tow Law sent them back. The visitors' defence was fairly hemmed in, but before the interval arrived they transferred play to mid-field, and half-time was called with

NO SCORE.

Restarting, Tow Law at once gained a fruitless corner, and breaking away from the goal kick, Auckland got right up, till Devine relieved. The home forwards went away with a rush, but when Glenton received the ball on the goal line, he was declared offside. McGough and Dick Richardson by good combination got down the wing, and the latter sent in a low shot for Gill to deal with. He kicked away, but Finneran grandly returned a flying shot, which the custodian once again negotiated. Then a third attempt was essayed by McGough, but Tommy placed over the bar, and the pressure on the visitors' goal was relieved. Auckland assumed the aggressive, and once or twice came near scoring. Devine and Potts, however, played well, and in time Auckland had to retire. Potts placed the ball into the net from a free kick, but it was unplayed, and returning, Teasdale sent in a long low shot, which Donachy saved at the expense of a corner, which was placed behind. The goal kick set the Reserve away, but Geary fared badly in front of the goal, and lost two possible chances. McGough figured conspicuously in a run down the wing, and ended by putting in a good shot, which Plimmer cleared by giving a corner. Potts nicely placed a free kick awarded Tow Law, and after some hard and exciting play, Dick Richardson received a return from Walton, and rushed through the first goal for the home players. Tow Law came away from the centre kick, and Dick Richardson struck the cross-bar with a ringing shot. Glenton caught it on the rebound, and was taking a clear shot at goal, when Geary impeded him, and the custodian was able to clear. Geary made amends for his mistake a minute later, for receiving a grand flying shot from Dick Richardson, he headed the ball into the custodian's hands, and before the latter could recover himself, had rushed the goalkeeper and the ball through, and registered the second goal for the Reserve. The home lads bombarded their opponents' goal for the rest of the game, but no further score was made. Final—

TOW LAW RESERVE	2 goals
WEST AUCKLAND	Nil

ALLENDALE PARK v. BLACKHILL ROVERS.

[BY "UPRIGHT."]

This important fixture was brought off at Medomsley, before a good number of spectators. Snow covered the ground to a depth of a couple of inches. Mr Fletcher (Swalwell) brought the teams together as under—

ALLENDALE.		BLACKHILL.
Stokoe	Goal	Morgan
M. Walton	Right back	Carr
Charlton	Left back	Johnson
Forster	Right half	Lindsay
T. Walton	Centre half	Bell
Hedley	Left half	Routledge
Jos. Walton	Right outside	Johnson
Jno. Walton	Right inside	Butler
E. Houston	Centre	Smith
Robinson	Left inside	Chatt
Glasgow	Left outside	George

Referee: Mr A. Fletcher, Swalwell.

John Walton, starting well, set the home team into Blackhill quarters, and the forwards were not long in bombarding the Rovers' goal. Within a few minutes Jos. Walton scored. From the centre, the home men came away with a rush, till Carr cleared his charge with a huge kick. Smith received, and he with a neat pass put to George, but the latter sent into touch. The home right wing worked into the visitors' citadel, and were on the point of scoring, when Jno. Walton was pulled up for offside. This averted danger, and Carr put the kick well down the field. Butler catching the ball with his toe, gave it a slight impetus, which nearly resulted in a score being made. A smart exhibition of combined passing by the home men, enabled them to gain a footing in the Blackhill territory, and there, Jos. Robinson just

MISSED THE CROSS-BAR.

For the next ten minutes, play raged near the visitors' goal, but after a tough scrimmage, Glasgow was hauled up for offside. Carr took the kick, but Hedley, receiving, brought the leather right into the Blackhill goal again, and scored a beauty. This reverse roused the visitors up, but try as they would, they were utterly unable to score. Another series of raids was made on the Blackhill goal, and in one of these, Jno. Walton scored a third goal amidst great enthusiasm on the part of the spectators. Half-time score—

Allendale	3 goals
Blackhill	Nil

After a short interval, the game was re-commenced, the home team kicking down the hill. The ball was hardly in motion a minute, before Ted Houston had it in the Rovers' territory. Johnson sent the ball back, and George receiving, made away at top speed into the Park territory, but Stokoe was too vigilant for him, and cleared. The home forwards again dashed into the Rugbyites' quarters, and Morgan let a soft shot through from John Walton. The game afterwards became very exciting. The Rovers played up strongly, and made frequent breaks towards the home goal, but Charlton and Mat. Walton were always in the right place at the right moment, and the visitors found it impossible to evade them. The Park again assumed the aggressive, and had matters all their own way, and put in shot upon shot. The visitors got in a flying visit to the home goal, till Charlton repulsed them with a huge punt. Jos. Walton got possession on the right, and with a good shot, put the fifth goal through. The ball was in mid-field when the whistle sounded. Final score—

ALLENDALE	5 goals
BLACKHILL	Nil

DERWENT VALLEY LEAGUE.

LEADGATE PARK RESERVE v. SPEN ALBION.

[BY "CUSTOS."]

The ground was covered with a thick layer of snow on Saturday, when the above teams entered the Park enclosure to play a fixture in the Derwent Valley League. Both clubs were strongly represented, and a close and exciting game was anticipated. The number of spectators, however, was very small—a fact which was the more to be regretted since the encounter proved to be one of the best ever witnessed on the Park ground. Mr Brown, of Tantobie, was the referee, and some minutes after the advertised time for starting, the teams lined up in the following order:—

LEADGATE PARK.—Goal, J. Calvert; backs, G. Temple and A. Aitken; half-backs, T. Calvert, R. Forster, and T. Smith; forwards, W. Robson, R. Dawson, M. Willis, G. Forster, and J. Birtley.

SPEN ALBION.—Goal, R. Aymers; backs, J. Sowerby and J. Short; half-backs, R. Robson, W. Johnson, and W. Gibson; forwards, Urwin, Hogg, Carnaffen, Pearson, and Holden.

The visitors started the ball, and at once made a rush for the home goal, but met with a stubborn resistance. W. Robson obtained possession, and ran well up the field, the ball eventually going out of play. Hands was awarded against the Park, and Short took the kick, but the leather was returned with vigour. Some excellent combination on the part of the Park was witnessed, and Smith, receiving from R. Forster, put in a big kick. Sowerby returned in fine style, his effort being followed up by Carnaffen. Holden centred grandly, but the ball was sent bye. Gibson tried to reach the net with a huge shot, the ball going out of play. Willis now put in some excellent work, and was greeted on every side with loud cries of "Well done, Matt." Hands for the Spen raised a very dangerous siege, but soon afterwards the Park again attacked, and Willis had hard lines in failing to score. R. Forster headed the ball, but it was received by Short, who, with a magnificent kick, transferred play to the home quarters, where a corner fell to the Spen. From the kick, a bully took place in the Park goal mouth, and Calvert was compelled to throw away. Aitkin cleared beautifully, and again the battle raged in the Spen territory, where once more Willis made a futile attempt to reach the net. W. Robson also tried to register a point, but the globe hit the cross-bar—a close shave. Smith afterwards compelled Aymers to handle, after which Short changed the venue of play. A corner was conceded, but was not improved, and Aitken kicked the ball out of danger. R. Forster got possession, and made a run up the field. He was stopped however, and a hard struggle for possession took place. Birtley eventually got an opening, and shot for goal, the ball flying into the net, despite the efforts of an alert and active custodian. From the centre kick, Urwin got possession, and was making a rush for the home citadel when Temple met him, and returned into the Spen quarters. Sowerby cleared, and Hogg attempted some very tricky play. A corner ultimately fell to the Spen, but proved abortive.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3).

FOOTBALL.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2.)

Afterwards some good passing was exhibited by the home forwards, in which Dawson and G. Forster were specially conspicuous. Spen, anxious to equalise, made a determined rush, and forced J. Calvert to fist out. Willis soon afterwards obtained possession, and sent the leather up the field. R. Robson received, but kicked weakly, and again Wills got the ball, and tried to score when in a difficult position. He failed to do so, and Short sent the ball into the Park ground, with a big kick. It was soon returned, but Sowerby was not to be beaten, and returned the ball, which Willis received. The latter again attempted to score, but with no result, and shortly afterwards, when half-time arrived, the score stood :—

Leadgate Park .... 1 goal
Spen Albion..... .... Nil

On the resumption of play, the visitors began to attack, but met with a determined resistance, and W. Robson had rather hard lines in not registering another point for his club. Dawson next gave an excellent display, robbing an opponent in clever fashion. A chance afterwards fell to the Spen, but R. Forster defended capitally. Hands against the visitors relieved the pressure, and G. Forster, robbing Urwin, ran towards the Spen goal. Sowerby, however, cleared with a huge kick, and J. Calvert was called upon to save, which he did nicely. Play was again transferred, and Birtley centred beautifully, but no score resulted. Sowerby relieved with a big kick. Pearson robbed G. Forster, after which Willis, with three men on him, got possession. T. Calvert afterwards made a fine attempt, and was unfortunate in not scoring. A centre by the last-named player was well received by Birtley, who headed through. Shortly afterwards, Hogg sent into the net, thus opening the score for the visitors. The Park then pressed, and from a centre by G. Forster, Short put through, thus scoring the third and last point for the home team. When the whistle blew for the final, the score stood :—

LEADGATE PARK .... 3 goals
SPEN ALBION .... 1 goal

STANLEY v. TOW LAW.

[BY "CROSS-BAR."]

A friendly game between these teams was played on the Stanley ground, on Saturday, when a goodly company assembled to witness the first game of the season, between the Whites and the Senior cupholders. Neither team were fully represented, Muse and Butterfield being absent from the visiting ranks, and Coyle and Nicholson from the home team. Jake Dodds and Allison filled the vacancies in the cupholder's eleven, and "Douce" Whitfield and Tommy Fish for the homesters. The teams lined up in the following order :—

STANLEY.		TOW LAW.
Morris	Goal	Allison
Laws	Right back	Temperley
Joyce	Left back	Watson
Fish	Right half	T Wilson
Buck	Centre half	J R Wilson
Milburn	Left half	Gilroy
Whitfield	Right outside	Coulson
Robson	Right inside	J Allison
O'Connor	Centre	Macintosh
Howe	Left inside	Dodds
Masterman	Left outside	Watson

Referee—Mr E Gailes.

Stanley started strongly towards the entrance goal, and Howe soon had an opening, but put in weakly, and allowed Watson to relieve. Watson sprinted gaily along the visiting left, but found Tommy Fish one too many for him. Howe and Masterman broke away, but were promptly checked by Temperley and Tommy Wilson, and the Cup-holders' right wing rushed to the home goal. Joyce checked them, but Coulson returned, and

MORRIS GAVE A CORNER.

O'Connor relieved, but the visitors returned, and Laws effected a clever save. A free kick for Tow Law was despatched into the net by R. Wilson, and a roar of laughter went up as Coulson, who had made a frantic effort to head the ball, yelled, at the top of his voice,

"A GOAL, I TOUCHED IT!"

"No, no!" said the referee. Fish gave possession to Robson, and the latter made speedy tracks for the Tow Law goal, but Watson blocked his way. O'Connor then showed up finely, and, thanks to his clever play, Robson was given a nice chance. He sent in a scorcher, but Allison was on the alert, and saved brilliantly at the

EXPENSE OF A CORNER.

Masterman placed well, and Howe experienced hard lines in putting just over the bar. The Whites still pressed, and, after Allison had again saved brilliantly, another corner was forced. Jake Dodds relieved for the Cup-holders, but his progress was checked by Laws, who, playing

AS COOL AS A CUCUMBER,

banged the leather down the field. O'Connor received, and, after skilfully running round the Tow Law Captain,

BANGED A BEAUTY

past Allison, amidst a roar of delight. Restarting, Tow Law made a brief invasion of the home quarters, but were repelled by Martin Joyce, and a regular siege was now maintained on the visiting goal. Allison played like a hero, and was strongly supported by Temperley and Watson, and, after several minutes of defensive play, the visitors managed to break away, and a long shot from Gilroy, passed just above the cross-bar. From the goal-kick, Buck passed nicely on to Howe, who dribbled three-parts the length of the field, and then transferred to O'Connor, who

NOTCHED A SECOND POINT.

Tow Law got a look in from the centre, and for a few minutes held the upper hand. Joyce had to concede a corner, when sorely pressed. Masterman relieved, and O'Connor had a chance at the low end, but shot over the bar. Then Tow Law got to the high end, and

MORRIS FISTED AWAY,

with Watson and Dodds pressing hard on him. Thompson Robson ran the oval to the low end, but was dispossessed by Watson. Laws responded vigorously, and Howe passing to O'Connor, the latter neatly tricked Wilson, and passed on to Robson. He transferred to "Douce," who got past Watson, but missed the upright by a couple of feet. Macintosh was next conspicuous by

A CLINKING RUN

down the centre, which he finished by sending in a rattling low shot. Morris saved splendidly at the expense of a corner, and was deservedly applauded for so doing,

"PLAY UP TOW LAW, HINNIES"

cried the spectators, and the cupholders responded to the cry by forcing a second corner. O'Connor and Fish changed the venue of play, but Temperley saved his charge, and the scene of battle was again changed.

MORRIS PLAYED SPLENDIDLY,

and fisted out stinging shots from Macintosh and Tommy Wilson. Laws also rendered good service, and twice saved his colours from downfall in remarkable fashion. Stanley retaliated, and a fine screw shot from Masterman just missed, whilst immediately afterwards

ALLISON FISTED OUT

a capital overhead shot from Jacky Milburn. The Whites continued to press, and both Howe and O'Connor tried shots, which failed to take effect. After a flying visit to the home quarters, which was defeated by Joyce and Buck, Howe made a grand run down the left, and after eluding Temperley in brilliant style, Jimmy centred grandly to O'Connor, who

HEADED A BEAUTY

past Allison. Two minutes later, Howe sent the ball into the net, but the point was disallowed for "offside." Stanley now pressed severely, the whole of the forwards showing up brilliantly, and Allison and his backs had

A WARM TIME

of it for the next ten minutes. A corner came to nothing, but Howe was not long in again troubling the defence, and up to the interval, the cupholders' defenders had no peace. Half-time—

STANLEY .... 3 goals
TOW LAW .... Nil

Restarting, Stanley quickly invaded their opponents' territory, but were repulsed by powerful kicking on the part of Temperley. Joyce successfully resisted an incursion into the home quarters, and Howe speeding trickily along the left, gave a nice chance to Masterman, but the latter shot wide. Stanley pressed on severely, and a lady on the grandstand seemed to be summing up the situation accurately, when she exclaimed

"WE'RE HAVING A PICNIC TO-DAY."

After a few minutes of defensive work, Tow Law got down, and obtained a corner, which was met by Jimmy Masterman, who centred gaily to the high end, where, however, Watson proved an insurmountable obstacle. The visiting left-wingers gave the home backs a bit of work, but

LAWS AND JOYCE.

were equal to their responsibilities, and both of them showed up sturdily. Robson and O'Connor got well into the visiting quarters, but Tommy Wilson managed to relieve the home centre of the oval. Allison had to handle, and did so effectively. Just later, a rare set to, between O'Connor and Bob Wilson, ended to the advantage of the home player. Some mid-field play ensued, the homesters generally having the best of the exchanges. Masterman got in a low shot, which travelled wide. Laws defeated a spirited run by Macintosh, and a combined run between O'Connor and Howe ensued, the visiting goal having a very narrow escape from downfall. Still the Whites kept pegging away, and

A BONNY PIECE

of play on the part of Teddy Buck, enabled Howe to test Allison. The county custodian responded with his usual ability. A visit to the Stanley half ended in nothing, and an incursion on the part of O'Connor, Howe, and Masterman had a similar result, if we except the fact that Jimmy Howe

HAD A SHOWER BATH

in the snow, thanks to a charge from Tommy Wilson. Temperley headed away a stinging shot from Howe, and a return effort by Masterman sent the oval over the bar. Tow Law now spurted with desperate energy, and Macintosh and Joe Allison both sent in clever shots, which Morris successfully coped with. Then a great onslaught was started on the Tow Law citadel. Howe got away with one of his

CHARACTERISTIC RUSHES,

skilfully eluded Temperley and Gilroy, but fell before Watson, who came to the rescue in the nick of time. The ball was sent back, and after a hot scrimmage in the goal mouth, Stanley got a corner. Another followed within a minute, but again the visitors forced the ball out, though there were loud cries of

"A GOAL, A GOAL."

Macintosh broke away at a raking speed, but Joyce met him, and sent the ball on to Robson, who finished a fine run with

A MAGNIFICENT SHOT

into the net. Play now became faster than before. Joyce cleared more than one rush by the Tow Lawites, and at the other end Howe and O'Connor quite enjoyed themselves in running round the

GENIAL TOW LAW SKIPPER.

Howe tried a long shot, but Allison threw it away, and Macintosh got dangerously near the home goal, but found Tommy Fish too good for him. Tricky play by Buck received due appreciation at the hands of the spectators, and consequent on it, a corner was obtained.

WHITFIELD CENTRED SPLENDIDLY,

but Allison fisted away. Temperley now went centre forward to the delight of Emmy Beckwith, who publicly intimated that the visiting skipper would not score. A free kick to the Whites was beautifully placed by Laws, and Whitfield heading to O'Connor, the latter

JUST MISSED SCORING.

Coulson barely missed the home goal, and a corner to the Whites followed. Howe had a chance, but was dispossessed by Gilroy. Final :—

STANLEY.............................. 4 goals
TOW LAW.............................. Nil

JOTTINGS.

The game at Leadgate on Saturday was one of the most interesting ever played on that enclosure.

The attendance of spectators was very poor.

Query? Is it considered *infra dig* to witness a reserve match?

J. Calvert's goal-keeping was beyond criticism.

He was active, lynx-eyed and proved well-nigh invincible.

Aitken was the pick of the backs; though both worked well.

T. Calvert, A. Forster, and Smith all played resolutely.

W. Robson was a little selfish at times, and might have displayed a better passing game.

Ralph Dawson is a "tricky" player, and proved his worth.

But Matt Willis fairly took the bun.

J. Birtley made some clipping centres, whilst G. Forster was in champion form.

Three goals to one was the issue of a hotly-contested game.

The Spen backs are a pair of wonderful kickers.

Were they of opposite sex, they would excel at the can-can.

Did Sowerby once play for Mickley?

Urwin and Hogg were the best of the forwards, but all worked with determination.

The utmost good feeling prevailed between the rival teams.

Dipton were crushed, pounded, and pulverised on Saturday.

Wailes and Thornton could not drive back the fierce onslaughts of their old-time rivals.

Nor could Evans keep his charge intact.

McNeal was quite equal to his task, which was not exactly a hard one.

J. Weedy played a dashing game at right half.

Maddison and Lown made a capital left wing, and were the cream of the forward rank.

Why did the Swifts decline to meet the Exiles on the latter's ground?

This requires explanation, as the Leadgaters had gone to the expense of printing bills.

I hope the Consett boys will be able to satisfactorily account for the disappointment.

Burnhope cricketers have chosen Joe Robinson as their captain for next season. He is the right man for the job.

Stanley fairly bested the cupholders on Saturday.

O'Connor is a demon for goal-getting. He quite flabbergasted Allison.

Teddy Buck was a treat. He has a style distinct from any other half back in the district—a very neat and clever style it is.

Douse Whitfield is not done for yet. Ditto Jake Dodds. Jake is still good enough to deserve a position in the ranks of the cupholders.

Joe Allison, of Consett, is not a success as a forward. Neither is Captain Temperley.

Stanley have a champion full back division, and they have four half-backs good enough for any team.

The forwards were a treat on Saturday.

What has come over Stanley? Here we have Lintzford licking them at Stanley. "How are the mighty fallen!"

The A say that they had very bad luck to contend against, but even with the worst of the luck they should have taken two points from the Ford.

R. D. Grundy won the billiard handicap at St. Andrew's Institute, beating William Wood in the final.

"Cross Bar" again defeated Benfold on Saturday, after a rattling contest. Emmy Beckwith referred, and the beaten combatant threw up the sponge at the finish, and admitted that he had met his superior.

South Moor Albion were beaten by Low Fell on Saturday, by two goals to one.

Allendale easily disposed of Blackhill on Saturday.

Arthur Hedley was in fine trim, his tackling and dribbling being a treat.

Tom Forster was completely off.

Stoke, the custodian, was seldom troubled.

The Park full backs are a capital pair, especially Bob Charlton.

His big kicks and tackling were A 1.

The whole of the front rank did exceedingly well.

Tot Houston was in splendid form.

The left wing are a strong pair.

Glasgow did some good shooting and dribbling.

On the other wing, the two Waltons are very quick.

Nothing could stop them once they got away.

Jos. Walton had hard lines in not scoring.

Some shots just missed the uprights, and others scraped the cross bar.

Morgan shaped badly between the sticks for Blackhill.

The goals the home team got, were very soft indeed.

The full backs played a good strong game.

The halves did not shine so brightly, with the exception of Routledge.

He is a very strong little player.

The forwards are a poor passing combination.

The two best in the front were George and Smith.

George is a little player, but very sharp with the ball.

There was no holding him, once he got possession.

With the form Allendale played on Saturday, they should about beat Shotley by three goals.

Blackhill Rovers have improved greatly since they started Association.

If they kept going on as they are, they will soon be amongst the favourite teams in the district.

Tow Law Reserve executed a brilliant performance by defeating West Auckland on Saturday by two goals to nil.

Glenton, who made his first appearance in the Reserve ranks, managed to get through some very good work.

Geary, the irrepressible, who failed ignominiously as centre forward, only retrieved his exhibition by running through the second goal.

Tommy McGough clearly demonstrated that he has lost none of his skill since he was injured in the Escomb match.

Dicky Richardson, after failing completely with two clear shots at goal in the first half, made amends for his mistakes later, and put in some really brilliant centres.

Devine, reckless and unconcerned, will probably be getting a trial in Tow Law premier combination, as back.

Walton was the biggest success of Saturday, and his services were invaluable to the Reserve.

The custodian, as usual, had a fairly easy time of it. Tom Potts invariably looks to it, that the goalkeeper is not interfered with by his opponents. Thus Donachy escaped.

Bob Lawson makes a very useful centre half, and if a man passes him, does not, like many, stand half dazed, but rushes on to his prey in quick time.

Where the Reserve can be improved, is in the forward rank. No doubt, the "working man's candidate" will stand down. Likewise,——well you know!

The Chairman of the F.C. committee made a desperate attempt to win the "puppy stakes" trophy at billiards.

One regrets his failure, but still he has the satisfaction of knowing that he fell before a good man in Cracknell.

A supporter of the Stanley Wednesday Football Club has expressed his wish to stand four of the Wednesdayites to compete against any four players of equal weight belonging to any club within ten miles. Gold medals are the suggested trophies for the conquerors. Who'll be on?

What about Hobson Wanderers' chances for the Durham Junior Cup? They gave Dipton the go by in proper fashion.

Either Axwell have come on enormously, or Annfield Plain have deteriorated since the early part of the season.

Stanley Wednesdayites are now recognised as one of the finest mid-week elevens in the County of Durham.

Tantobie are going full speed ahead for the County Championship.

Annfield Plain lost to Axwell by three goals to nil.

The Celts played four reserve men, and this would probably account for their defeat by the Axwall lads.

Lynap, McLatchie, Taylor and Allison were all absent.

Forster could not be blamed for the defeat of his team.

The goals scored against him were from close quarters.

Bell was the best of the backs, Moore being a bit off.

Coyle and Forster both played grandly on Saturday.

Several attempts were made by the Axwell left back to trip the Celts' right outside.

Parker was ordered off the field on Saturday.

A sketch of Neddy Lynap appeared in the football edition of the *Evening Chronicle*.

Freddy Harle played a rare game against the Celts.

He is very tricky, and gave the home defence endless trouble.

The Celts supporters were dissatisfied with the referee's decisions.

Football is now extremely popular at Chester-le-Street.

The "Citizens" have got a capital team together.

Charley Crute played for the Park at Crook on Saturday.

The Leadgate lads were beaten by four goals to one.

Leadgate Exiles were again without a game on Saturday.

The Exiles are still favourites for the Amateur Cup.

Shotley and Allendale Park meet again on Saturday.

Speculation is rife at Medomsley over the result.

Consett Swifts Juniors beat Kyo by three goals to one.

Dipton are due to visit Southwick next Saturday.

They can hardly expect to obtain a couple of points.

Joe Robson has offered his services as trainer for the Stanley Wednesday team. The committee have accepted his terms.

Annfield Plain entertain the Boyal Artillery on Saturday.

The Sambottee cup tie between the Brooms and Monkwearmouth comes off on the Exiles' ground on Saturday.

NORTHERN ALLIANCE.

The results up to date are—

	W.	D.	L.	Goals For	Goals Agst	Pts
Newcastle United A...	10	2	2	45	16	22
Jarrow	9	2	3	35	11	20
Hebburn Argyle	8	3	1	35	11	19
Blyth	8	3	2	43	16	19
Gateshead N.E.R	8	2	4	42	22	18
Shankhouse	8	1	3	32	16	17
Stanley	7	0	6	24	26	14
Southwick	5	2	5	34	18	12
Rendel	3	2	8	17	32	8
Birtley	3	2	8	19	35	8
Willington Athletic	2	3	5	14	25	7
St. Peter's	3	0	10	16	48	6
Axwell Rovers	3	2	8	10	36	5
Dipton Wanderers	1	1	12	13	65	3

NORTHERN LEAGUE.

Appended are the results to date—

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals For	Goals Agst	Pts
South Bank	9	7	1	1	31	10	15
Stockton	8	6	1	1	31	7	13
Middlesbrough	8	6	2	1	19	11	13
Darlington	9	5	2	2	20	14	12
Tow Law	10	4	1	5	19	19	9
Saltburn Swifts	8	3	1	4	12	20	7
Bishop Auckland	10	2	2	6	13	23	6
*St. Augustine's	11	1	3	7	14	31	5
Crook	8	2	1	5	16	26	5
Leadgate Park	5	0	1	4	3	17	1

*Two points deducted for playing an unregistered player.

DERWENT VALLEY LEAGUE.

Summary up to date—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals For	Goals Agst	Pts
Shotley	9	8	1	0	32	9	16
Allendale	8	7	1	0	19	5	14
Lintzford	11	7	4	0	25	19	14
Byermoor	11	6	4	1	25	21	13
Blaydon	9	5	3	1	12	8	11
Stanley	10	5	5	0	22	21	10
Leadgate	8	3	3	2	24	21	8
Tantobie	10	3	6	1	15	24	7
Marley Hill	4	2	2	0	10	7	4
Hobson	9	2	7	0	8	22	4
Spen	8	1	6	1	10	17	3
Diptrn	9	1	8	0	10	35	2

WEST-DURHAM LEAGUE.

Results up to date—

	W.	L.	D.	Goals For	Goals Agst	Pts
Hedley Hill No 1	4	1	0	23	5	8
Cornsay Rising Rovers	3	2	1	21	11	7
Esh Excelsiors	3	1	0	10	10	6
Ushaw Moor	1	3	0	5	13	2
Esh United	0	0	1	3	3	1
Dearness District	0	2	0	5	14	0
Hedley Hill No 2	0	2	0	0	7	0

W. G. Pearce.

FIXTURES.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE v. ALLENDALE PARK.—At Shotley, when the Park team will be chosen from :—J Stokoe, M and A Hedley, R Charlton, M T Jno and Jos Walton, T Forster, T Houston, J Robinson, H. Glasgow, Gillender, and Milligan. Referee, Mr R Glass.

CONSETT PARK v. DERWENT EXCELSIORS.—On the Park ground, No. 1, on Saturday. The Park team will be as follows :—Goal, J Burnett; backs, A Atkinson and H Symington; half-backs, W Dawson, J Willis, and T Carr; forwards, J Barrow, J Maxwell, W Graham, E Shipley, and J Jones. Kick-off at 2.45.

CONSETT PARK RESERVE v. BLACKHILL CELTIC.—To be played on the Celtics' ground. The following will do duty for the visitors :—Goal, J Wilson; backs, J Emmerson and W Robson; half-backs, J Tindale, W Donnison, and A B Jackson; forwards, J Wilkinson, H Mace, H Holliday, S Stafford, and L Stephenson. Reserve, H Goudie. Kick-off at 2.30.

ANNFIELD PLAIN CELTIC v. NEWCASTLE ROYAL ARTILLERY.—At Annfield Plain; kick off at 2.15. The Celtic team will be chosen from the following—E Lynap, S Foster, L Coxon, A Moore, S Stones, A Bell, R Bell, W Parker, J Coyle, G Taylor, R Foster, W Ellis, J Dodds, J Lynap, R Gillender and E Storey. Referee, Mr T Temple.

STANLEY v. BIRTLEY.—The return Alliance fixture between these two teams is to be played at Birtley on Saturday, when a keen contest for supremacy is expected. The visitors will rely on the following eleven :—goal, G. Morris; backs, G. Laws and M. Joyce; half-backs, T. Fish, E. Buck, and J. Milburn; forwards, E. Nicholson, T. Robson, P. O'Connor, J. Howe, and J. Masterman.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE ROVERS v. ALLENDALE PARK.—To be played at Shotley Spa, on Saturday first The following will do duty for the Rovers :—Goal, Scott; backs, Oliver and Hobday; half-backs, Winter, Grey, and Robinson; forwards, Watson, Murray, Smith, Logan, and Johnson. Kick-off at 2·30 p.m. Referee, Mr Glass.

STANLEY WEDNESDAY v. TANTOBIE.—The return game between the above teams is to be played at Stanley next Wednesday, when the home team will be represented by :—Goal, C. Lambton; backs, J. Bell (capt.), and G. Whaley; half-backs, J. Surtees, B. Johnson, and J. Robinson; forwards, J. Paxton, R. Lewis, R. Whitfield, J. Ritson, and T. Masterman.

STANLEY A v. BIRTLEY RESERVE.—These teams meet at Stanley, on Saturday, when the homesters will be represented by :—Goal, S Body; backs, Chisholm and Watson; half-backs, Ryke, Aitchinson, and R Cunningham; forwards, G Whitfield, J Cunningham, W Purvis, R Henderson, and Watson.

CONSETT SWIFTS v. HEATON SCIENCE AND ART.—To be played on the Fell ground, Consett. The home team will be represented as follows—Goal, H. Highfield; backs, J McKie and Jas. Carruthers; half backs, J Rafferty, B McKie, and J Allison; forwards, J Little, R Harkness, J Dempsey, J Laidler, and J Turley. Linesman, Mr C Tennent. Referee, Mr A. Little (Leadgate). Meet at headquarters at 2 o'clock. Kick-off at 2·30.

CONSETT SWIFTS RESERVE v. BLAYDON UNITED RESERVE.—At Blaydon, on Saturday. The visiting team will consist of—Goal, J E Sisterton; full backs, G Wood and J Rafferty; half backs, A McDonald, R Bradley, and Theo. Ellis; forwards, J Nichol, A Roberts, J Hull, J Sheldon, and G Hamilton. Linesman, W Harris.

CONSETT SWIFTS JUNIORS v. LANGLEY PARK WANDERERS.—At Langley Park, when the following will do duty for Consett :—Goal, Thos. Edwards; backs, C. McNally and S. Gambles; half-backs, R. Moore, J. Finnighan, and W. Atkinson; forwards, W. Walton, A. Robinson, A. McAleer, E. Pratt, and B. Rafferty. Reserves, D. Marshall, and A. Reed.

TANFIELD SCHOOLS' LEAGUE v. GATESHEAD SCHOOLS' LEAGUE.—Teams representing these Leagues are to try conclusions on the Stanley ground. The local league will be represented by—Hallam (Pickering Nook), Milburn (Tanfield Lea), Elder (Leazes), Rowe (West Stanley), Davis (Leazes), Palmer (West Stanley), Whitfield (Tanfield Lea), Randall (Pickering Nook), Forster (Pickering Nook), Forster (West Stanley), Buglass (Pickering Nook). Reserves, Hetherington and Elliott (West Stanley), Huggins (Pickering Nook), Ridley, Patterson, and Nevins (Leazes). Referee, Mr T. Amos, Hobson. Kick-off at 12·30.

HOCKEY.

DERWENT VALLEY v. ST. GEORGE'S.—The Valley eleven travel to Newcastle on Saturday, to play at Jesmond Towers, and will be represented by the following.—T D Dales (capt), J E Parker, and J E Thorpe, backs; G G Robson, J W Nicholson, and H G Young, halves; F J Wiggins, J Spence, J O Todd, H H Wattsford, and C T Foreman, forwards. Bully off at 2·45.

LETTERS to the EDITOR.

As it is desired to make the *Consett Chronicle* a medium for intelligent discussion to its readers, Correspondence is invited from all who have useful information to communicate. But contributors must distinctly understand that all communications sent will be subject to the Editor's revision, and that all statements of a personal, offensive, or impolite character will be unhesitatingly expunged. Correspondents should always criticise the action or the practice complained of, and not the person whom they consider to be at fault. Communications from working men on matters of public interest are frequently the most valuable, and Correspondence of this class is especially invited. The Editor will most willingly revise the letters of those who favour him with their contributions.

The name and address of the writer must accompany all communications. These will not be given where the writer does not wish his identity to be known; nor will they, in any case, or under any circumstances whatever, be given to inquirers. Correspondents replying to letters which have appeared in the *Chronicle*, bearing the names and addresses of the writers, are expected to do so over their *bona-fide* names.

Letters ought to be forwarded as early in the week as possible. Communications of this description will be received up to nine o'clock on Wednesday morning, but on no account can they be inserted if sent after this hour.

JUSTICE.—Your letter is libellous, and publishing it in the *Chronicle* would be a contempt of court. The matter being *sub-judice*, we decline to offer any opinion. We entirely dissent from your opinion regarding the right of a private individual to act as an informant. In the interests of society, it is a man's duty to expose vice and immorality. The names of anonymous writers are kept inviolate, and on no account would they be divulged by the Editor. Although not by any means endorsing the opinions of correspondents, he accepts the entire responsibility of all that appears in the *Chronicle*. Two other correspondents will please accept this as a reply to their letters on the same subject.

MR. COHEN'S LECTURES AT STANLEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CONSETT CHRONICLE."

SIR,—"Andrew Fairfax's" last letter still exhibits the bad taste which has characterised them from the beginning. He, as a Christian, ought to set a better example, especially as he asserts that he is under Divine guidance. In his last letter, it appears that he finds it easier to evade than to answer my arguments. He has shown himself utterly unable to defend the position he had taken up. Nearly the whole of his last letter is occupied with an attempt to explain the Trinity and the Immaculate Conception. After straining his great intellectual powers at an explanation, he comes to the same conclusion as I do, namely, that he cannot understand them. Then he is on a par with me, but his letter is no reply to my arguments. If I had not introduced the Trinity and Immaculate Conception (to prove that Mr Cohen never left his subject), what would "Andrew Fairfax's" letter have consisted of? My arguments must have proved of some slight advantage; or he would never have wandered away from the former points of his subject. Another part of his letter is taken up with asking questions concerning material things. This is the usual way Christians have in explaining what they call spiritual things. They go floundering about, seizing at anything to help them out of their difficulties. Indolent and weak minds shrink from the toil of working out principles for themselves, from the materials which are placed before them. They long for the precious metal, but lothe the rude ore out of which it has to be extracted by laborious thought. A ready-made creed is the paradise of their lazy dreams. A string of dogmatic propositions comprises the whole mental wealth which they desire. The volume of history, the volume of life, the volume of nature, appal and terrify them. Such men are the material of which good Christians are made. They form the uninquiring flocks which rejoice the hearts of priests. Let such cling to the faith of their fathers if they can. A few lines of "Andrew Fairfax's" letter is taken up in reference to passages of Scripture which I quoted. But the passage given by Mr Cohen—which he was one time hungering after—he has dropped altogether. I think he must have got filled to the brim with it. To what depths Christians will sink when they are fairly cornered. In my last letter I distinctl, stated what I had taken exception to. Firstly, that "Andrew Fairfax" set out to correct false reports. Secondly, he was going to prove that Mr Cohen drifted from his subject. Thirdly, that Mr Simpson received interruptions as well as Mr Cohen. Now, what has he done towards proving these statements? Simply nothing. In his last letter, he has drifted from these points entirely. He has shown himself like the cuttle fish, which surrounds itself with an inky fluid to hide its whereabouts. A man that abandons all arguments used in his first letter, and takes refuge in other matters, is not worth wasting ink and paper over. The whole correspondence is in print, and those who care to do so, can judge for themselves what bearing the facts and arguments I have adduced have upon "Andrew Fairfax's" first letter.—I am, yours faithfully,

TRUTHSEEKER.

Stanley, Jan. 19th, 1897.

THE CHALLENGE TO SECULARISTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CONSETT CHRONICLE."

SIR,—Permit me to say a few words in reply to a challenge, that appeared in your last week's correspondence columns, to Mr Symes and Mr Johnston, by a "Lover of Fairplay." Int he first place, the writer says he is an outsider, belonging to no sect or party. I am very glad that he is not a representative of Christianity, or I should have been sorry for our cause, as the writer has not the common sense to know the great difference between Socialism and Secularism. When a man is so ignorant, I would not give much for his debating power. He says that the Socialists have now an ex-Wesleyan minister in their ranks who they may bring to champion their cause. I would like to remind the writer that Mr Symes was not a Socialist, but a strong Radical, and has been out of the country ten years, so there is no possibility of his appearing in the field so it is no use dealing further about Mr Symes. Now, in coming to deal with the challenge to Mr Johnston, I think either he, or any other common sense man, will be at a loss to understand such a challenge, for he restricts him to 18 months of life history. Does the writer think that Mr Johnston's life was too pure before that period to interefere with. If not, why not take the whole of it. Then, again, he says this challenge will prove whether Mr Johnston and company are desirous of universal good or not. I, on the contrary, think it will show what a small amount of intelligence the writer has, and I hope Mr Johnston will not regard all Christians as being as foolish as the one who give the challenge.—I remain, yours truly,

A CHRISTIAN.

Stanley R.S.O., Jany. 19th, 1897.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CONSETT CHRONICLE."

SIR,—In your issue of last week, I see that Balaam's ass has once more spoken to the world in the form of a challenge, and I am sorry that it has not had the reasoning power to discriminate between Secularism and Socialism. The challenger says the Socialists have now an ex-Wesleyan minister in their ranks, and if they wish to champion their cause they can bring forward Mr Symes. I think there is no need to bring Mr Symes all the way from Australia, seeing that he has been ten years there, and that the Secularist party have plenty of debaters waiting for any acknowledged representatives of Christianity to debate with them. After your correspondent has finished with Mr Symes, he says that Mr Johnston can be accommodated on the same terms. In the very next sentence he begins to draw new lines for Mr Johnston to follow, that is by restricting him to incidents of his life for the last 18 months. I must point out that there is a great difference between Divinity and humanity, and that Messrs Johnston and Company are not all Socialists, but they are Secularists, and that Mr Cohen has been lecturing on Secularism in Stanley, and showing to the people there that it is more reasonable and rational and better than Christianity. Before the challenge can be accepted, "Lover of Fairplay" can answer a question or two in your next week's issue, or privately to me.

In the first place, I should like to know who I have to debate with, and to be furnished with my challenger's name and address. In the second place, he must be an acknowledged representative of Christianity. In the third place, if he can get any Christian Society to put him forward as their representative, I think he will be accepted. In the fourth place, the subject for debate will be Secularism v. Christianity, and not Socialism.

At the same time, "Lover of Fairplay" can choose whether he will debate with Mr Cohen or myself. When these questions are answered, then we may have a chance as to whether we will accept the challenge or not, as there is no necessity for us to waste time and money over bogus men who represent no sect or party. Hoping you will insert this in your valuable paper.—I am, yours truly,

H. JOHNSTON.

23, Durham Road, Annfield Plain.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CONSETT CHRONICLE."

SIR,—Permit me, through the columns of your valuable paper, to thank "Ultra" for the very kind compliment he has paid me in his letter published in your last issue, for he has told the public something which they never knew before, namely, that I am a man who has gripped the spade of industry, and is digging in the fields of progress—rich and deep. But, Sir, the man who differs from another, and goes behind the hedge and shoots, instead of meeting him face to face, is a coward. So also is he who through the columns of your paper attempts to ridicule the personal character of a correspondent, and hides himself behind a *nom de plume*, instead of giving his name and address. Sir, if my adversary be a man, I challenge him to stand forth in his own name.—I am, yours, for truth and progress,

JOSEPH BECK.

East Stanley, 19th Jany., 1897.

MR GELLEY AND HIS CRITICS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CONSETT CHRONICLE."

SIR,—A few weeks ago, I ventured to lecture at Stanley, on the subject "Christianity the best Secularism, and something more." Many amongst the Secularists said some rather uncomplimentary things about my lack of courage and consistency in not accepting a public challenge to debate with Mr Cohen. I let them pass by for what they are worth. The Secularists, therefore, brought back Mr Cohen, who was announced to lecture on Saturday night on "The Philosophy of Secularism—a reply to the Rev. W. Gelley, and other critics." At great personal inconvenience, I attended to hear what I expected would be a most exhaustive criticism of the positions laid down in my lecture. Now, Sir, after lecturing for upwards of an hour, Mr Cohen did not attempt to refute one single fact, argument, or principle; nor did he in any way refer to my lecture except in the most general terms.

I rose to reply, and the Chairman informed me that I should have to answer Mr Cohen's lecture only, as that was the subject of the evening, but as Mr Cohen had not made one single reference to the lecture, I had simply to confine myself to reply to a few general platitudes about Secularism, with the usual brag and bluster game of free speech being the gift of infidelity.

An experience of forty-four years has confirmed me in the conviction that it is better to search for truth, than trifle with error, and after Saturday night's exhibition, I would say, leave the Secularists to their own small remnant, and let us apply ourselves to the great Christian-Secular duties of this life; for in deeds men find better arguments than in words! words!! words!!!—I am, yours truly,

W. GELLEY.

A SOCIALIST'S CHALLENGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CONSETT CHRONICLE."

SIR,—In your issue of last Friday, I notice a letter signed by "A Lover of Fairplay." Now, having read and re-read this puzzling epistle, I have come to the conclusion that our good friend has blundered, and, on the face of his communication, he does not appear to possess sufficient brains to discriminate between Socialism and Secularism.

I have read with much interest the controversy now running through the columns of your valuable paper, emenating from a lecture delivered by a Mr Cohen at Stanley. Secularism versus Christianity are the topics of the discussion, and not Socialism.

What makes me feel sure that "A Lover of Fairplay" has made a great mistake, is that he mentions Mr Johnston's name, and I notice Mr Johnston has often been mentioned during the discussion of Secularism versus Christianity. "A Lover of Fairplay" is not challenging Socialists to discuss Socialism, or any phase of Socialism. What he desires is simply to discuss with Mr Symes and Mr Johnston, and what does this "Lover of Fairplay" want to discuss? Socialism? Oh, no. Let me here quote this fairplayite. He says—"The subject shall be Mr Symes's own life, past and present, contrasted with that of Christ and his followers. Mr Johnston can be accommodated on the same terms, restricting the subject to incidents from the last eighteen months of his own life." Let me ask "A Lover of Fairplay" what has the life of any two men to do with the principles of Socialism? To clearly demonstrate my meaning, let me ask "A Lover of Fairplay" one question, namely, what has the last eighteen months of Mr Johnston's life to do with nationalising the land of this country? No, Sir. "A Lover of Fairplay" does not want, and I question very much his ability if he did want, to discuss great principles. His sole desire is not to arrive at truth, but to indulge in personalities. Allow me to point out to "A Lover of Fairplay," that abuse is not argument, and when it commences there is an end to logic. Then, in the Socialist movement, are there not men and women who are avowed Christians and Secularists, and amongst whom are some of its greatest and most bitter opponents? Charles Bradlaugh was an opponent of Socialism. George Jacob Holyoake, who is called the father of the Secularists, also opposes Socialism; so does the Right Hon. John Morley, another Secularist, and who, Mr Editor, would condemn co-operation, because George Jacob Holyoake is a Secularist. Who would condemn Liberalism owing to John Morley's views on religion? And what good Tory is going to leave his party, because the Duke of Norfolk is a Roman Catholic, and Lord Salisbury is a member of the English Church? Mr Balfour does not see eye to eye with his uncle, but they can agree in their politics. Mr Gladstone did not dispise or reject Mr John Morley. Oh, no, it is only we, of the working classes, who divide ourselves over religion, and other matters too numerous to mention here, I could give, if it were necessary, a long list of eminent clergy who are Socialists, and none the less Christian, and the same applies to Secularists. In conclusion, Mr Editor, let me inform "A Lover of Fairplay," if he desires to discuss Socialism—fairly and honestly—I shall only be too glad to meet him at any time and place, convenient to both. If he falls in with this suggestion, you can, Sir, give him my name and address, so that we can arrange matters.—I am, yours truly,

A SON OF THE FORGE.

Consett, January 20th, 1897.

ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A meeting of this Council was held on Tuesday evening, in the Hare Law Board Schools, Mr J. W. Taylor (Chairman) presided, and the other members present were—Messrs W. Fitzpatrick, S. Swalwell, T. Bowes, G. Wailes, W. Taylor, J. G. Taylor, W. Eltringham, J. Mason, W. Young, J. Storey, the Clerk (Mr T. L. Watchman), and the Surveyoo and Inspector (Mr T. J. Trowsdale).

FINANCE.

The Finance Committee recommended the payment of accounts amounting to £40 11s 7d. —The necessary cheques were ordered to be signed.

SURVEYOR'S REPORTS.

The Surveyor (Mr T. J. Trowsdale) reported that the work in connection with the repairing of the roads had been proceeded with as far as possible. Two cases of damage to roads, occasioned by pit-falls, had come under his observation. In one instance, he had communicated with the Colliery Manager, and received his assurance that the matter should receive attention. In the other case, he (the Surveyor) had not fully ascertained the extent of the damage. Eighty tons of limestone were required for two sections of the roads. In order to keep the footpaths in good condition in the populous districts, about 60 tons of slag screenings were required. In regard to the provision of working tools for the Council's workmen, he might point out that all tools, with the exception of shovels, were provided by the Rural District Councils.

The Surveyor was instructed to get the requisite 80 tons of unbroken limestone, and 60 tons of slag screenings.

On the motion of MR MASON, seconded by MR YOUNG, it was agreed that the Council should supply all necessary tools for the workmen.

Messrs BOWES and WAILES objected to the provision of shovels, but were not supported.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Nuisance Inspector reported that all nuisances that had come under his notice during the month had been attended to. There were four lodging-houses in the district, only one of which was registered in accordance with section 2 of the Public Health Act. He had made an inspection of each particular house, and in every case found them in a more or less foul and filthy condition, and in some instances, the arrangement of the premises was such as to render them totally unfit for the purpose for which they were used. He recommended that the Council should transfer the registered house to a new register, and require the occupiers of any other premises to make formal application to be registered.

MR STOREY moved, and MR W. TAYLOR seconded, that the Inspector should take the necessary steps to have the lodging-houses registered.—Agreed.

THE BURIAL BOARD.

The Clerk said that, according to instructions, he had written to Mr W. Spencer Telford for information in reference to the Burial Board, and in reply, Mr Telford had furnished him with a report of the work of the Burial Board, together with a financial statement. The report stated that the Burial Board was formed on November 8th, 1888, under the designation of the Burial Board for the parish of Collierley. It consisted of nine members. The sum of £4,600 was borrowed, bearing interest at £4 5s per cent. per annum, the sum to be repaid in sixteen annual instalments. Six hundred pounds had been paid off, and the next instalment was due May 19th, 1897. The balance in the Bank on September 30th, 1896, was £41 5s 8d, and on the day of the last special meeting, £18 0s 8d. Up to and inclusive of the 9th of January, 1897, the balance was £55 15s 8d. During the existence of the Board, there had been 115 interments. The payments due amounted to £18 1s 10d.

The CHAIRMAN asked what had to be done in regard to the Burial Board?

MR BOWES thought that a special meeting of the Council should be called to take up the duties of the Burial Board.

The CHAIRMAN said they ought to arrange a night on which they could meet as a Burial Board, and take over the work connected with it.

It was agreed that a special meeting of the members of the Council should be held on January 28th, for this purpose.

THE HEALTH REPORT.

The Medical Officer (Dr. T. Benson) reported that the infectious diseases prevalent during the month were enteric fever, measles, and whooping cough. Enteric fever occurred at Kyo and Dipton, but from what source it originated, was not evident. Measles invaded South Medomsley from the adjoining district, and spread unto Dipton, where, however, it never became epidemic, and had now practically ceased. An outbreak of whooping cough began about a month ago, and cases had continued to recur since, showing likelihood of an epidemic. At the time of the report, the disease was confined to the Dipton quarter, and he suggested that the closing of the schools during the holidays might probably be the means of arresting the progress of the disease. The mortality for the month of November was rather high. Eighteen deaths were registered, the death rate being equal to 18·5 per 1000. The cases of infectious disease reported to him during December, were four of measles and ten of whooping cough. As both outbreaks showed signs of decline, the condition of the district might be considered fairly satisfactory. The mortality for the month of December was slightly above the average, the deaths numbering 23, of which three were due to whooping cough, and two to measles.

The report was considered a very satisfactory one, and adopted unanimously.

ANNUAL OR TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS.

The following letter from Mr R. Simey, Clerk to the County Council, was read,

Durham, 14th Jany., 1897.

SIR,—I have received your letter of the 11th inst., and the Committee has made a pro-formal order for the retirement of the whole Council triennially, but the Council must elect and inform me at an early date, whether or not the first election of the whole Board is to be in the ensuing spring, or not until 1900, and in the latter case, please observe that the County Council has no power to continue the members of the existing Board in office until then, and there will have to be an election of one-third of the Board in the ensuing spring, one third next year, and the other third in 1899. The option seems to be between having one election this year of the whole of the Board, and three elections of one-third of the Board.—Yours faithfully,

RALPH SIMEY.

The CHAIRMAN: The question we have to determine is, firstly, the fixing of the date when we shall retire, and secondly, whether or not we shall all retire this year, or only one-third.

MR J. G. TAYLOR: I move we all retire this next spring.

MR SWALWELL said that it would be the best thing for the whole of them to retire this year, since they would get at once into the three years system, instead of having to decide it three years after this.

The CHAIRMAN said that if no one interfered, the Council, he believed, could sit until 1900, but if anyone did interfere then the members of the Council would have to go to the poll.

MR BOWES said that, seeing the election of the Council cost £56, he had pleasure in moving that the members sit till 1900.

The CHAIRMAN: That will not do at all. Mr Simey's letter implies that if the whole of the Council do not retire this year, there will have to be three elections of one-third of the Council before 1900, which is the next earliest date at which the Council can put itself into the position of sitting triennially.

MR SWALWELL understood the letter to imply that if the whole of the members retired this year, there would be no other election until three years after.

The CHAIRMAN: That really appears to be what the last paragraph of the letter means.

MR YOUNG thought it would be best to have one-third of the Council retire this year.

MR WAILES said he agreed with this.

MR YOUNG: I move that one-third of the Council retire in April.

MR BOWES seconded the resolution.

MR J. G. TAYLOR said he would withdraw his original motion, that the whole Council should retire in April.

MR W. TAYLOR: I make an amendment to Mr Young's motion, and it is that we all retire in April.

MR SWALWELL: I second it.

The amendment was put to the meeting first, and there voted for it, the Chairman, and Messrs W. Taylor, Fitzpatrick, Mason, and Swalwell.

For the motion, Messrs Bowes, Wailes, J. G. Taylor, Eltringham, Young, and Storey voted.

The CHAIRMAN therefore declared the motion carried by six votes to five.

ADOPTION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ACTS.

In moving that the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889, be adopted, the CHAIRMAN said there were only three or four districts in the county which had not adopted the Act.

MR STOREY seconded, and after the mover had given a short digest of the meaning and purpose of the Act, a vote was taken, when the motion was carried unanimously.

The next resolution, moved, by the CHAIRMAN was "That part three of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, be adopted, and come into operation in the Urban District of Annfield Plain, on and after the 23rd February, 1897." In speaking of this resolution, the Chairman said they all understood the meaning of the Act. It was passed for the extension of sanitary and other provisions. It gave power for, making alterations to sewers, to erect urinals, and make bye-laws for the punishment of people who created nuisances in the district, and for the regulation to prevent the sale of unwholesome and unsound food.

MR J. G. TAYLOR seconded the resolution, which was also unanimously agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN then moved that the Private Street Works' Act, 1892, be adopted, and come into operation on the 23rd February.

MR STOREY seconded.

MR WAILES said if the Council strictly enforced the Act, it would result in the stoppage of some of the collieries.

The CHAIRMAN assured them that such would not be the case.—The motion was eventually carried unanimously.

OTHER RESOLUTIONS.

MR DOWN, owing to illness, was unable to attend and speak to the resolutions which stood in his name, but had sent a note indicating his willingness to let the Council deal with them as it thought proper. The first resolution was that the Council obtain an awarded plan for the Annfield Plain Urban District as soon as possible.

The CHAIRMAN said a gentleman had told him that the cost of a plan would not be heavy.

MR J. G. TAYLOR seconded, and it was eventually decided that the Chairman and Surveyor should be deputed to obtain the plan at a reasonable cost.

MR DOWN'S second resolution was, "Seeing the County Council have surveyed and drawn up estimates for the making of conduit and widening the road from Pontop Rows to Jackson's Terrace, Annfield Plain, they be asked to complete the work."

The CHAIRMAN said the resolution was unnecessary, as Mr Crozier had promised him to send the plans and estimates before the end of March, so that the Council could be ready to advertise the contract. He would suggest that when Mr Crozier came to go over the roads, two councillors be appointed to accompany him, and call his attention to the kerbing of the footpath from Gate House, Hare Law, to Flint Hill.—This was unanimously agreed to.

The third resolution was "That the Council negotiate with Mr N. Clark, steward to Sir James Joicey, for the purchase of a piece of land in the field opposite Mr Handy's Inn, Catchgate, on which to erect Council offices, etc."

MR J. G. TAYLOR moved the resolution, and MR STOREY seconded.

The CHAIRMAN thought before they committed themselves to an expenditure of £500 they should do something for the people in the locality.

MR ELTRINGHAM moved as an amendment that the matter stand over.

For the amendment there voted Messrs Fitzpatrick, J. W. Taylor, Swalwell, Bowes, Wailes, Mason, Eltringham, Young, and W. Taylor.

For the motion Messrs J. G. Taylor and J. Storey. The amendment was carried, and after cheques had been signed the Council rose.

Business Announcements.

M. FAWELL,

GROCER, PROVISION MERCHANT, TEA DEALER, AND DRAPER,
FRONT STREET & DELVES LANE,
OPPOSITE THE "CONSETT CHRONICLE" OFFICE.

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We have Secured for the Festive Season a Special Consignment of

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And Offer Extraordinary Value, from 1/- to 3/4 per lb.

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People of all creeds and from all nations
Get their bills put up on my stations.

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IS the only BILLPOSTER that has rented Stations within the three districts of Consett, Leadgate, and Benfieldside. Bills posted and Distributed at the lowest rates.

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THOSE IN

KIRKUP'S

Stylish LADIES' BOOTS AND SHOES. If they did, they would proclaim this all important fact that better value for money is unobtainable in WEST STANLEY and surrounding district.

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FRESH MILK, TWICE DAILY.
FRESH CREAM AND BUTTER, ALWAYS ON HAND.

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DISPENSING AND FAMILY CHEMIST, AND WINE MERCHANT, CONSETT,
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MILNER'S RHEUMATIC EMBROCATION.
MILNER'S COUGH MIXTURE.
Tic and Neuralgia Mixture, 1s. per bottle.
Plasters in great variety.
Chest Protectors, Respirators.
Trusses and Surgical Appliances of every description.
Horse, Dog, and Cattle Medicines.
MILNER'S CONDITION POWDERS for Horses.
Agent for various kinds of Sheep Dips.
Oils, Paints, and Colours.
Avenue Liquid Gold for Decorations, 4½d. and 8d. per bottle.
Invalid Port and Sherry Wines in great variety.
MILNER'S EXTRACT OF BEEF AND MALT WINE.
MILNER'S COCOA WINE, 2s. and 3s. 6d. per bottle.
Bottled at 7, Shakespeare Street, Consett.
Postal Orders promptly attended to.

FOR FIRST-CLASS GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS, GO TO

GEO. J. ROBINSON,

TEA DEALER, GROCER, AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL.

A Large Assortment of CHEESE, BUTTER, BACON, LARD, &c., always on hand.

WM. WHITFIELD
MAKES THE
BEST FURNITURE
In the District, at the Lowest Possible Prices.

TRY WHITFIELD'S BEFORE BUYING ELSEWHERE.
Note the Address:—
WHITFIELD'S,
STANLEY FURNITURE SHOP.

FINE ART GALLERY,
SADLER STREET, DURHAM.

T. RUSHWORTH & SON,
CARVERS AND GILDERS.

PICTURE FRAMES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION MADE TO ORDER.

ICTURES CLEANED, LINED AND RESTORED.

HUDSPITH'S PILE PILLS.

HAVE no equal for PILES, ACHING KIDNEY and SCANTY high coloured URINE; weakness and pains in the BACK. Invaluable to Females and Miners. Absolutely free from Poison.

Supplied in Boxes at 1/1½ and 2/6 of most Chemists, Co-operative Stores, and Drug Store, or Post Free from T. HUDSPITH, Cert. Botanic and F.C. Sm. Lond., Botanist Dispensary, Langley Moor, Durham.

The above may be obtained of Mr. GEORGE PATRICK, 5, Front Street, Consett.

PRINTING!
PRINTING!!
PRINTING !!!
(ESTABLISHED 20 YEARS.)

FOR Plain and Artistic PRINTING in all its Branches go to

B. RIDDELL AND SON,
THE WEST STANLEY PRINTING WORKS,
Under MR. RITSON'S Billiard Rooms, opposite the Board Schools, Front Street, West Stanley.

WEST STANLEY PEOPLE ARE CONTINUALLY ASKING, HOW CAN

KIRKUP

Afford to Sell his BOOTS AND SHOES so much Cheaper than others? Small profits and a big turn-over. That is the secret, my worthy friend.

Business Announcements.

THE
NEW
PHOTOGRAPHY

IS Fearfully and Wonderfully Searching in its Effect, still in Scrutinizing

J. W. WOOD'S

Warm and Well-made WINTER CLOTHING.

THE
RONTGEN
X RAYS

May be entirely dispensed with, as one glance is quite sufficient to convince any ordinary Person

THAT
BETTER
VALUE,

Fit, and Style is unobtainable in the Stanley District. Therefore give WOOD an early call, as by so doing your interests will be best served.

OPPOSITE ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL.

P. & M. MATTHEWS,
REGISTERED CHIMNEY SWEEPS, BOILER AND FLUE CLEANERS, &c.,
5, GREEN STREET, CONSETT.

All orders punctually attended to.

J. H. COURTNEY,

CONSETT COCOA ROOMS,

HAVELOCK STREET.

DINNERS, from 12 p.m. every day.
BALLS, PARTIES, and all other Social Gatherings catered for at reasonable rates.
Tea Boiler, Ware, &c., on hire.

ESTABLISHED 21 YEARS.

MATTHEW KIRKLAND

(Successor to MR. THOMAS BARRY),
HAIRDRESSER,
VICTORIA STREET,
CONSETT.

UMBRELLAS RE-COVERED & REPAIRED.

WHAT EVERY WORKING-MAN WANTS

for the Winter: A good, strong, comfortable Pair of BOOTS. And that's just what he gets; but he must be sure and buy them at

KIRKUP'S

(West Stanley), cheapest Shop in the town.

MARTIN BECK.

BILLPOSTER,
21, RAMSEY STREET, STANLEY,
GOOD PRIVATE STATIONS.

ROBERT MILBURN,
BUTCHER,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT,

BEGS to inform his customers, and the public generally, that he is removing to newer and more commodious premises, adjoining Mrs. Christopher's Livery Stables, where he trusts to receive a continuation of the patronage which has been so liberally bestowed upon him in the past.

QUEBEC.

If you want hats and dresses without comparison,
Just leave your orders with Misses Harrison.

WILLIAM HARRISON,
DRAPER, AND GENERAL DEALER,

TENDERS his Thanks for past favours, and wishes all his Friends and Customers the Compliments of the Season. He begs to say that the *Millinery and Dressmaking Department* of his establishment is in the capable hands of his daughters, who also desire to thank their customers for their Patronage.

NEWEST STYLES AND LATEST FASHIONS.

C. LUMLEY,

CLOTHIER AND DRAPER,
SHERBURN TERRACE,
CONSETT,

Has just effected extensive alterations to his premises. An inspection of his large Winter Stock is requested.

BLANKETS A SPECIALITY.

WHEN YOU ARE IN NEWCASTLE,
Call and see your old friend

T. HOFFMAN

(THE HUMOURIST),
AT THE
THREE TUNS HOTEL,
NEWGATE STREET.

Ales and Wines of the Finest Quality.
Cigars of the Choicest Brands.

JAMES PALLISER,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
TEA MERCHANT,
47 & 48, PARK ROAD, BLACKHILL.

THE NOTED GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS STORES AND FLOUR WAREHOUSE.

THE LANCASHIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

CAPITAL ... ... THREE MILLIONS.

Paid-up Capital and Funds, £1,454,358.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.—Indisputable, World-wide Policies, No Restrictions. Moderate Rates, Interim Bonuses. Payment of Claims on Proof of Death and Title. Two Independent Valuations of Life Liabilities. Quotations of Life Rates to meet Special Contingencies. Immediate Provision for Payment of Death Duties.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.—Insurances granted at Home and Abroad at Equitable Rates.

HEAD OFFICE:—EXCHANGE ST., MANCHESTER.

Applications for Agencies should be made to the NORTH OF ENGLAND BRANCH OFFICE:—
40, MOSLEY STREET, NEWCASTLE.
E. P. LLOYD, Resident Secretary.

F. HODGSON,

HAIRDRESSER AND PERFUMER
STRAWBRIDGE'S NEW BUILDINGS,
ANNFIELD PLAIN, R.S.O.

TOBACCO AND CIGARS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

F. HODGSON, who for some time carried on a successful Business at Blackhill, requests the favour of a trial.

SHAVING neatly and expeditiously performed.

Business Announcements.

R. R. WILSON, TAILOR,
CATCHGATE,

THANKS his Customers for their kind Patronage during the past Seven years, and respectfully asks for a renewal of the same.

Good Material and First Rate Workmanship at Reasonable Prices.

R.R.W. has a splendid selection of Clothes for the coming season. Give him a Visit.

FRED CABLE,
NEWGATE STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
WHOLESALE
MANUFACTURING TINSMITH.

LARGE STOCK of DAIRY GOODS and MILK BOTTLES, from 1 Gill to 20 Gallons, and all kinds of KITCHEN UTENSILS kept or Made to Order.

BAKERY GOODS Made to Order.

Established 1854. Workshops—138 Haymarket.

PHRENOLOGY.

MR. N. MORGAN

IS RESIDING Now at 33, SHERBURN TERRACE, and may be Consulted Every Week Day.

TERMS MODERATE.

THOS. SWAINSTON,

Complete House Furnisher,

WISHES to Announce to all Furnishing or Replenishing their Homes for the Holidays, that he has a

LARGE STOCK
OF
SITTING ROOM SUITES
AND
BEDROOM FURNITURE,
Bedsteads, Mangles,
CARPETS,
HEARTHRUGS,
Oilcloths, Fenders,
BRASSES,
AND
General Furnishing Hardware,

At Lowest Prices and to suit all Classes.

ALL GOODS MARKED IN PLAIN FIGURES.

2s. in the Pound Discount for Cash.

An Early Call and Inspection is Cordially Invited.

SPECIALITIES FOR THE SEASON.

Best Value. Best Quality. Lowest Prices.

XMAS, 1896.
NEW YEAR, 1897.

JAMES DALY & CO.,

SHAKESPEARE STREET,

Are now offering Special Lines.

FLOUR.

The great success of our Celebrated Yorkshire Brand proves that it stands A1 in the Market, increasing Sales of *Tons* every Month, 1/2, 1/4, 1/6, and 1/8 per st.

You should try it to-day.

BACON.

Our Irish Roll, Kingan's Breakfast Bacon, &c., Mild and Sweet, at Extraordinarily Low Prices.

CEYLON TEA.

Pure, Rich, and Fragrant, our own Packing, 1/-, 1/4, 1/6, 1/8, 2/-, and 2/6 per lb.

Excelled by None. Best Value.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

The Favourite Brands are—

DREAMLAND, the Cream of Scotch Whisky.
FAIRYLAND, Irish Cream Whisky, as supplied to the House of Commons.
COLERAINE, Pure Malt Whisky.
GLENCADAM, Highland Whisky (Thompson's).
STRATHVEGAN, Highland Whisky (Robinson's).
Purest Malt Whiskies, as above (for Medical purposes), 3/4 per bottle. 18/- per Gallon.
Also Dunville's Royal, Thompson's Glenlivet, Roderick Dhu Whisky, &c., at 3/- per bottle.
Kirker, Greer, & Co.'s Old Irish Whisky, 2/6 and 2/9 per bottle.
RUM, 2/6 and 3/- per bottle.
FINEST GIN, 2/6 per bottle.
BRANDY, Pale, 4/6 to 5/- per bottle.
CHAMPAGNE, from 1/6 per half-bottle.
PORT, Spanish, 1/-, 1/3, and 1/6 per bottle.
INVALID PORT, 2/-, 2/6, and 3/- per bottle.
BURGUNDY, Flagon's, Emu Brand, 2/- per bottle.
Claret, St. Julien Sherry, Ginger, &c., from 1/- to 1/6 per bottle.

A TREAT FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

Is Thompson's OLD SCOTCH TODDY WHISKY, about Proof, 18/- per gallon, 3/4 per bottle; or our OLD IRISH WHISKY, at 2/3 a bottle, or 3/- quarts.

WHOLESALE AGENTS FOR VAUX'S ALES AND STOUT, Half-Pints, 1/9 per dozen; Large Pints, 2/9 per dozen. Good Value.

McEwan's and other Ales, on Draught and in Casks, from 9/- per quarter.

For all your Wants at Xmas and the New Year rouud,

For HAMS, CHEESE, BUTTER, TINNED GOODS of Every Description, CURRANTS, RAISINS, SPICES, ALMONDS, JAMS, &c., FRUIT LOAVES and BISCUITS of every Kind,

Go to

JAMES DALY & CO.,

2, SHAKESPEARE STREET,
ONSETT.

GOODS DELIVERED BY OUR OWN CARTS.

A CHALLENGE.

KIRKUP'S

Is open to leather any man, woman, and child in the town of WEST STANLEY. For proof, please inspect his splendid Stock of Men's Women's, and Children's BOOTS AND SHOES. Selling wonderfully cheap.

Business Announcements.

NATHAN ELSDON,

Ale, Porter, Wine, & Spirit Merchant,
ÆRATED WATER MANUFACTURER,
Delves Lane, Consett.

NATHAN ELSDON, in returning thanks to his many Friends and Customers for the rapidly increasing Trade he has been doing, wishes them all

A MERRY CHRISTMAS
And a Happy & Prosperous
NEW YEAR,

Desires it to be known that he has one of the LARGEST STOCK OF SUPERIOR

WHISKY, RUM & WINES,

In the District, also Superior

ALES AND PORTER,

In Bottle and in Cask, at the following Prices—
Whisky, Finest Irish, 2/9, 3/-, 3/6.
Scotch, the best 2/6, 3/-, 3/6.
Special quotation for cases of one dozen.

Gin, no better, 2/6, 3/, 3/6.
Hollands Gin, 3/- per bottle.
Port and Sherry Wine 1/6, 2/6, 3/-, 4/-, and 5/-.
Quarts of Scotch and Irish (33 up), 3/-.
Ginger Wine, 1s 6d. Hock, Buene Champagne, at Reasonable Prices.

Nine Gallon Casks of Ale, Mild or Bitter, at 9s.
Baxter's No. 5, very fine Ale, 9 gallons, 12s, also to be had in bottles, 3s per dozen pints.
Whisky and Rum from 12s per Gallon upwards.

Sole Agent for Haig & Haig's Whiskies; Lamb's and Robinson's always in Stock.

DURHAM AUCTION MART, WESTERN HILL, DURHAM.

CHARLES TURNER,
AUCTIONEER AND VALUER.

SALES CONDUCTED IN TOWN OR COUNTRY. PROMPT SETTLEMENTS.
Household Furniture in Great Variety, at 10, NORTH ROAD, DURHAM.
Dealer in Pianos and American Organs,
Wringing, Washing, and Sewing Machines.

JACKSON GREEN,
AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER, VALUER, AND COMMISSION AGENT,
SATLEY, TOW LAW.

FURNITURE, STOCK, AND ALL CLASSES OF SALES TAKEN.
PROMPT SETTLEMENTS.

NATHAN ELSDON,
MINERAL WATER MANUFACTURER, ALE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT, AND GENERAL AUCTIONEER,

THANKS his friends for past patronage, and, in soliciting a continuance of their confidence, assures them that it will always be his endeavour to give them the utmost satisfaction in all Branches of his Business.

SALES CONDUCTED ON THE MOST REASONABLE TERMS.

OFFICE:—DELVES LANE, CONSETT.

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

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

JOHN CRAWFORD,
AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER, VALUER, COMMISSION AND EMIGRATION AGENT,
AND HOUSE AGENT,
VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT.

ALL CLASSES OF SALES TAKEN.
PROMPT SETTLEMENTS.
BAILIFF under the Law of Distress Amendment Act.
Sale and Emigration Office, 25, Victoria Street, Consett.

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

Valuations effected for Probate. Auction Sales of every description undertaken on most reasonable Terms. RENTS AND DEBTS COLLECTED.

Agent to Castle Line Shipping Company, also North British and Mercantile Insurance Company for Fire and Life and Ocean Accident Company.

To post your bills
Just take the train,
See GEORGE McNEAL
At Annfield Plain.

GEORGE McNEAL,
BILLPOSTER,
ANNFIELD PLAIN AND WEST STANLEY, Co. DURHAM.
nd don't you forget it!

ESTABLISHED 1873.

FOR GOOD VALUE IN HOME-MADE FURNITURE BEST SHEFFIELD CUTLERY, and SILVER-PLATED GOODS, try

JOHN LOWES,

JOHN STREET SQUARE, CONSETT
(Back of British School, Medomsley Road).

The House for Musical Instruments by Best Makers.

PIANOS BY PFEIFFER, STRAUSS, LANGE, &c.
AMERICAN ORGANS BY STERLING.
MELODEONS from 4s. 6d. upwards.
A Large and Varied Stock of WALLPAPERS.

Five Minutes Walk from Consett Station.

W. LEE,

BUTCHER
(Late Manager to River Plate Co.),
Has commenced Business in
NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT
(Next Door to Mr. Simon Rowe's),

AND invites Attention to his First-Class Stock of

PRIME BEEF, MUTTON, PORK, &c.

All Orders promptly attended to.

MRS. CUNNINGHAM, CONFECTIONER, Stanley, thanks her Customers for past patronage, and heartily wishes them the Compliments of the Season. She has pleasure in inviting attention to her Grand Display of Christmas Cakes—the best in the district. Chocolate to suit all pockets—Boxes from a penny to fifteen shillings. When in Stanley visit Cunningham's Dining Rooms. Patronised by Football and Cricket Teams.

Business Announcements.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

C. F. COOKE,

DRAPER,
ANNFIELD PLAIN,

BEGS to intimate that he will shortly Open his NEW and COMMODIOUS PREMISES with a Complete Stock of

FANCY AND GENERAL DRAPERY.

EXPIRATION OF LEASE,
REMOVING TO PARK ROAD ON JANUARY 30TH, 1897.

G. PARSONS,

DRAPER,
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,
IS SELLING OFF AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

An Inspection of his Stock solicited.

HART'S DINING ROOMS,
12, RAGLAN STREET, CONSETT
(Opposite Salvation Army Barracks),
HOT DINNERS DAILY.
Refreshments at Moderate Charges.
Good Accommodation.
Parties, Balls, &c., Catered for.

NOTICE TO THE INHABITANTS OF CONSETT AND DISTRICT.

THE SHOP, No. 1, CHURCH STREET, CONSETT, under the Management of

JOHN J. CRAWFORD,

Will be OPENED TO-DAY (FRIDAY), with a Choice Selection of

DAIRY-FED PORK, SAUSAGES, PIES and BOILED HAMS,

Which will be sold at Lowest Prices.

All are Invited to Call.

SENSATION AT DIPTON.

THE GREAT SALE OF THE SEASON NOW GOING ON.

SEIZE this Golden Opportunity, and pay a Visit to

THE NEWCASTLE DRAPERY AND CLOTHING STORES,
FRONT STREET, DIPTON.

Must be cleared prior to Stock-Taking.

STARTLING REDUCTIONS.

J. A. CASTLE, PROPRIETOR.

Tuition.

SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, CONSETT.

PRINCIPAL, MISS TAIT.

New Term commences on 12th JANUARY, 1897.

THOROUGH modern education. Pupils prepared for the Oxford, Cambridge, College of Preceptors, and Music Examinations. A class for Drawing and Painting (oils, water-colours, and monochrome) is held on Saturday mornings, under a trained certificated mistress. Pupils prepared for the South Kensington Examinations in Freehand, Model, Geometry, Perspective, etc. Young ladies not attending the School may join this class. Prospectus on application.

SCHOOL FOR GIRLS,
4, JACKSON TERRACE, ANNFIELD PLAIN.

PRINCIPAL, MISS GRAY.

PUPILS may enter at any time. Classes for Painting, Drawing, and Dancing. Music and French taught. Preparation for English and Music examinations. TERMS MODERATE.

MUSICAL TUITION.

MISS F. L. STELLING, A.L.C.M.,

GIVES LESSONS on the Pianoforte and in Theory. Pupils prepared for Examinations.

Terms on application.

ROGER STREET, BLACKHILL.

ORGAN, PIANOFORTE, HARMONY.

LESSONS GIVEN IN THE ABOVE, BY

J. SURTEES,

Member of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, and Organist of Consett Parish Church, at his own or pupils' homes. If desired, pupils are prepared for examinations of good standard. Terms moderate. Address:—

2, CEMETERY ROAD, BLACKHILL.

MUSICAL TUITION.

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

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

TERMS ON APPLICATION.

ADDRESS:—No. 40, Sherburn Terrace, Consett.

Sales by Auction.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY, January 25, 1897.

15 to 20 FAT CATTLE.
120 FAT SHEEP, including a Consignment of Prime North-Country Hoggs.
Veal and Keeping CALVES.
DAIRY COWS and HEIFERS, calved, and to calve.
1 Well-Bred BULL STIRK, 13 months old.
HORSES from the Consett Iron Company, 1 HORSE, 5 years old, 15-1 h.h., and 2 PONIES.
Half-Long CART, 7 TURKEYS, POULTRY, HARNESS, SADDLERY, &c.

Sale to commence at One o'clock.

J. S. MURRAY, Auctioneer.

IN the BILLIARD ROOM, of the ROYAL HOTEL, Benfieldside, on TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, and FRIDAY, January 26th, 27th, 28th, and 29th. Re A. Griffiths, Manufacturer, Alliance Plate Works, Sheffield, deceased.

J. S. MURRAY, Auctioneer.

IMPORTANT SALE by AUCTION of the whole of the STOCK-IN-TRADE of High-Class ELECTRO SILVER PLATE, Table and Dessert CUTLERY, Spoons, Forks, Dish Covers, Entree Dishes, Tea and Coffee Services, and Choice Assortments of Table Appointments, belonging the above Estate, sold by order of the Trustee, A. Edwards, Esq., 86, Brincliffe Edge Road, Sheffield.

Sale at Two and Seven O'clock.
On view mornings of Sale.

J. S. MURRAY, Auctioneer.

LANCHESTER STOCK MART COMPANY, LIMITED.

MR. JACKSON GREEN, Auctioneer.

WEDNESDAY, January 27th, at 1.30.
2 DAIRY COWS, due to calve.
2 FAT HEIFERS.
60 FAT SHEEP and HOGGS.
Fat Cattle and Sheep include consignments from U. A. Ritson, Esq., Burnhope, Manor House, Satley, Newbiggen, &c.
1 MARE DONKEY.

Entries to time of Sale to
JOHN GIBSON, Secretary.

NEXT SALE,

WEDNESDAY, January 27th, when Prizes will be offered for DAIRY COWS.

Early Entries invited to
JOHN GIBSON, Secretary.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

MONDAY, January 25th, 1897.

35 to 50 DAIRY COWS and HEIFERS.
14 FAT CATTLE.
15 FAT SHEEP and HOGGS.
10 STORE CATTLE.
9 FINGER CALVES.
Entries to day of Sale. Sale at 10-30 a.m.

Sales by Auction.

JOHN CRAWFORD'S SALE ROOMS,
VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT.

THERE will be Sold by Public Auction, at the above Rooms, on MONDAY FIRST, JANUARY 25TH, The Valuable FURNITURE and Effects, belonging to Mr. Robinson, consisting of Sideboard with Bevelled Plate Glass, Saddle Bag Suite, Centre Tables, all in walnut, together with the Contents of a Well-Furnished House.

Sale to commence at One o'clock.

SPORTSMAN'S ARMS, DIPTON.

MR. JOHN CRAWFORD is favoured with instructions from Mrs. C. Bragg, who is retiring from Business, to Sell by Public Auction, On WEDNESDAY FIRST, JANUARY 27TH, The Valuable HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and Effects, together with large Water Boiler, to hold 36 gallons, suitable for tea parties, Tea Urns, Tent Tables and Trestles. For full particulars see posters.

Sale to commence at One o'clock.

AT AN EARLY DATE.

THE Valuable HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c., belonging Mrs E. J. Brown, Golden Lion Inn, Leadgate.

THE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and Effects, belonging Mr. William Lumley (who is going abroad), Sportsman's Arms Inn, Leadgate.

SALE ROOMS, DELVES LANE, CONSETT.

MONDAY, JANUARY 25TH, 1897.

N. ELSDON is instructed to Remove and Sell on his own premises, as above, English-made PIANO, by Burnett, Samuel, and Son, London, with full check action, front escapement, full tricord in walnut case; Music Stool to match, Music Canterbury, Large Overmantle, Couch, Cane Chairs, Half-Tester, Brass-mounted Bedstead, Down Bed, Square Dining Table, Carpet, &c., &c., from Mr. L. Granham, Leadgate. Grandfather's Clock, Perambulator, Parrot Cage, Iron Bedstead, Flock Bed, Fender, Parlour Fender, 2 English Lever Watches, 3 Kitchen Tables, Kitchen Fender and Irons, and a lot of Useful Articles. No Reserve.

Sale at One o'clock.

Excursions.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

PANTOMIMES, &c., AT NEWCASTLE.

ON SATURDAY, the 30TH of JANUARY, an Excursion Train will leave BLACKHILL, at 2-25 p.m. (with bookings from Shotley Bridge), for NEWCASTLE, returning at 11-5 p.m. the same day.

For further particulars see Bills.

York, Jan., 1897. GEORGE S. GIBB, General Manager.

Public Announcements.

LOOK OUT FOR THE
CINEMATOGRAPHE,
AND
MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT,
IN THE
CO-OPERATIVE HALL, WEST STANLEY,
On MONDAY, January 25th, 1897.

Audiences go wild with delight over the Cinematographe. Don't miss it.

A Series of Fine LIME-LIGHT VIEWS will also be exhibited.

Refined and Amusing Entertainments.

SOLOISTS:

Miss Grainger, Soprano, Consett; Mr. R. Pearson, Bass, Consett; and Mr. L. Winstone, Humorist, South Shields.

Performance to Commence at 7.30 p.m.

Proceeds in aid of the Presbyterian Church Building Fund.

TANTOBIE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on SATURDAY, the 23rd day of January, 1897, commencing at 7 p.m. Business: Consideration of amendment of rules.

NEW THEATRE, CONSETT.

Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.
(Also of Royalty Theatre, Barrow-in-Furness, and Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne,
Acting Manager and Scenic Artist, Mr H. SHARPE

Last Nights of Mr. W. E. LANGLEY and COMPANY, in his Popular Drama,

"THE SCARLET BROTHERHOOD,"

With all its Magnificent Scenery and Mechanical Effects.

MONDAY NEXT, January 25th, 1897,
Mr ARTHUR JEFFERSON'S Sensational Drama,

"THE ORPHAN HEIRESS,"

One of the Greatest Productions of the Day.

LOOK OUT FOR
LLOYD CLARANCE GRAND'S New Year's Pantomime,

"ALADDIN,"

Produced on a scale of Magnificence never previously attempted in Consett.
Positively for Six Nights only.

Early Doors Open at 6-45, Usual Doors at 7-15.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY.

LESSEE AND MANAGER.........MARK H. LINDON.

MONDAY, JANUARY 25TH, and Five Following Evenings,

"THE KING OF CRIME."

Time and Prices as Usual.

THE DIRECTORS of the FIRST SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND DISTRICT 370th STARR BOWKETT BUILDING SOCIETY, are prepared to ADVANCE ON MORTGAGE, FOUR HUNDRED POUNDS, in One or more Parts, at 4½ Per Cent. per Annum, on Yearly Balances, whether Members or Non-Members without risk of membership. The principal to be re-paid in monthly or quarterly payments to suit the Borrowers, subject to the rules of the Society.

Applications to be sent in, on or before the 15th of February, 1897, to the Secretary, Shotley Bridge Station.

By Order of the Board of Management,
D. ORMEROD,
Chairman.

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, STANLEY.

ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 23RD, 1897, a Powerful Amateur Dramatic Club, from Stockton-on-Tees, will Perform the Celebrated Irish Drama,

"THE SHAUGHRAUN."

An Efficient BAND will be in attendance. Admission—Reserved Seats, 1s. 6d.; Front Seats, 1s.; Back Seats, 6d. Doors open at Seven o'clock, to commence at 7-30. Proceeds in aid of the New Church Fund.

V. R.

4TH V. B. D. LIGHT INFANTRY.
K COMPANY.

GRAND MILITARY

CONCERT

For the Benefit of the Widow and Six Children of the late Private John Wilson, in the
CO-OPERATIVE HALL, WEST STANLEY,
On WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27TH, 1897.

ARTISTES—

Miss KATE FAIRLEY (Medallist of R.A.M., London), Mr. R. J. Crossling (of Newcastle), Miss SWALLOW, Mr. R. D. GRUNDY, Mr. G. STEWART (of Stanley), Mr. TOM HOLLAND, Miss M. LEAK, and the Misses BENSON.

HUMOROUS SKETCH,
"WHO WOULD BE A BACHELOR?"

ALSO
THE TANFIELD LEA SILVER MODEL BAND.

Doors Open at 7 p.m., to Commence at 7-30 p.m.

ADMISSION: Reserved Seats, 2s.; Front Seats, 1s.; Back Seats, 6d.; Children (under 12 years), half-price.

☞ Tickets may be had from the C mpany

Public Announcements.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BENFIELDSIDE.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1896.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
Balance from last Audit	181	9	2
General District Rate	2,322	1	10
Private Improvement Works ...	336	19	7
County Council	863	12	11
From other Rents	1	6	0
Other Receipts	41	8	4
	£3,746	17	10

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Sewerage Works	23	8	3
Sewage Disposal Works	1,046	2	8
Street Improvements	75	1	2
Repairs of Main Roads	666	0	10
Improvements on ditto	63	10	4
Repairs of other Roads	405	18	4
Other Payments in respect of Roads	90	9	1
Public Lighting	231	16	2
Fire Brigade	11	19	7
Public Offices	25	2	1
Other Public Works or Purposes ...	11	8	9
Private Improvement Works ...	222	6	7
Salaries	298	4	4
Establishment Charges	49	11	11
Lanchester Joint Hospital Board ...	174	0	0
Other Payments	37	2	3
Balance in Treasurer's hands ...	292	8	8
Balance in hands of other Officers...	15	6	10
	£3,746	17	10
Deduct Contribution to Lanchester Joint Hospital Board	174	0	0

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that I have compared the Entries in the above Statement with the Vouchers and other Documents relating thereto, and that the regulations with respect to such Statement have been duly complied with. I HEREBY FURTHER CERTIFY, that I have ascertained by Audit the correctness of such Statement, and that the Expenditure of the District Council during the year ended 31st of March, 1896, included in such Statement and allowed by me at the Audit is £3,265 2s. 4d. As witness my hand this 27th November, 1896.
J. A. LAUDER, Assistant District Auditor.

Public Announcements.

LEEKS! LEEKS!! LEEKS!!!

THE GREAT HIGHGATE DERBY.

THE FIRST MEETING of the above Show will be held on
SATURDAY FIRST, JANUARY 23RD,
at 7-30 p.m., at the House of Mr. Thos. Gailes, Miners' Arms, Highgate, Blackhill.

OXHILL P.M. Sunday-School Building Fund. On MONDAY, Jan. 25th, 1897, a SOCIAL TEA and SUPPER will be given in the P.M. Schoolroom, Oxhill, by Mr and Mrs. Alex. Ledger, Oxhill. Tea from 4 to 8 p.m., Supper from 8 to 10.

CONSETT IRON COMPANY'S WORKMEN'S PRIZE BRASS BAND.

A GRAND SOCIAL

Will be held in
ST. AIDAN'S HALL, BLACKHILL,
On SATURDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 6TH,
To Commence at Six o'clock prompt.
Music by Mr. J. R. Wood and Party.
Splendid Programme.

ADMISSION: Lady and Gentleman, 1s 6d.! Single Tickets, 1s. Tickets may be had from the Members of the Band.

Legal.

ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, at a Meeting of the Annfield Plain Urban District Council, acting as the Urban Sanitary Authority for the said District, duly convened in conformity with the said Act, on the 19th day of January, 1897, a Resolution was passed, in pursuance of Section 5, adopting the said Act.

Also
THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS AMENDMENT ACT, 1890.

At the same Meeting, duly convened, a Resolution was passed, in pursuance of Section 3, adopting *Part Three* of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.

Also
THE PRIVATE STREET WORKS ACT, 1892.

At the same Meeting, duly convened, a Resolution was passed, in pursuance of Section 3, adopting the Private Street Works Act, 1892.

And NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN, that such Resolutions will come into operation on the 23rd day of February, 1897.
T. L. WATCHMAN,
CLERK.

Lost.

WILL the Gentleman, who took the Black Soft Felt HAT, by mistake, from the Gentlemen's Cloak Room at the Farmers' Ball, Consett, kindly return the same to Mr. F. A. COLTMAN'S, Wheat Sheaf Inn, Middle Street, Consett, where the Owner will have great pleasure in suitably rewarding him.

LOST, on the 5th of January, a Rough-Coated IRISH TERRIER, answers to the name of "Tim." Detainer prosecuted, finder rewarded.—Apply to G. R. AYNSLEY, Middle Street, Consett.

Tenders.

TO CONTRACTORS.

THE Tanfield Urban District Council invite TENDERS for the formation of New Roadway, Drainage, &c., at Red Row and Blanch Terrace, Tantobie.

Also Main Road Improvements at Bryan's Leap, Burnopfield, by widening roadway, taking down wall and re-building, erecting fence, kerbing, and forming footpath.

Plans, Specifications, and all information to be obtained on applying to the Surveyor on January 21st, 22nd, and 23th.

Tenders, sealed and endorsed "Roadway and Improvement," to be delivered on or before the 27th day of January.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any Tender.
R. HESLOP,
Burnopfield, R.S.O. SURVEYOR.

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TENDERS are invited for the Construction of about 400 Yards of 9in. Stoneware Pipe Sewer, together with Man-holes, Lamp-holes, &c., at Joicey's Square, Stanley.

Plans and Specifications may be seen, and quantities and other particulars obtained from Mr. Joseph Routledge, Surveyor, Stanley, on Monday, the 18th inst., and Friday, the 22nd inst., between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Sealed Tenders to be delivered to me, the undersigned, not later than One o'clock on Wednesday, the 27th instant.

The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted. Approved Security for the due fulfilment of the Contract will be required.
By Order,
JOHN GEO. RIDLEY,
Stanley, R.S.O., Clerk to the said Council.
12th January, 1897.

KYO SCHOOL BOARD.

NEW INFANTS' SCHOOL AT ANNFIELD PLAIN.

CONTRACTORS desirous of TENDERING for the above are requested to forward their Names and Addresses to GEO. THOS. WILSON, Architect, No. 121, Durham Road, Blackhill, on or before Wednesday next, January 27th, 1897, to whom quantities will be supplied on a deposit of 10s. 6d., which will be returned on receipt of a *bona-fide* Tender.
January 20th, 1897.

LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL.

WANTED TENDERS for the Finding, Carting, and Laying-on of Ballast at the North End of the Haughs' Footpath, Lanchester, distance about 250 yards. Tenders to be addressed to me, the undersigned, not later than 1st February, 1897.
By Order of the Council,
JOHN JAMES THOMPSON,
CLERK.

For Sale.

MAIDEN LAW, ANNFIELD PLAIN.

FOR SALE, Building Sites at Maiden Law, occupying a central and healthy position midway between Annfield Plain and Lanchester Stations, and about one mile distant therefrom. These sites are in a convenient situation for the several surrounding collieries.

Plans may be inspected, and particulars obtained, from Mr. JAMES STRAWBRIDGE, Annfield Plain, or Mr. SPENCE, Surveyor, Annfield Plain.

Situations Vacant, &c.

WANTED, at once, Nine Good GENERAL SERVANTS.—Apply Miss E. REED, Post Office, Annfield Plain.

REGISTRY for Servants now open. Apply, Miss E. Reed, Post Office, Annfield Plain.

WANTED, a SHOP, in Consett or Blackhill, Consett preferred. — Address *Consett Chronicle* Representative, Wesley Street, Tow Law.

STRAW WANTED.—Apply, stating price and particulars, to Mr. VAN HAANSBERGEN, Woodlands, Consett.

WANTED, by the West Stanley Co-operative Society, Limited, an IMPROVER to the Watch-making Department, to have been three years at the trade; wages, 18s. per week.—To apply to the Committee on Monday Evening, January 25th, 1897, at Seven o'clock.

Also a Young LAD, not under 14 years of age, to go with Cart and deliver milk.—To apply not later than Monday, January 25th, 1897, to FARM MANAGER, to state wages.
THOS. W. W. RITSON,
SECRETARY.

WANTED, a Well-Educated YOUTH, as Apprentice to the General Drapery Business.—Apply, on Saturdays only, to J. A. CASTLE, Dipton.

CONSETT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LIMITED.

WANTED, Dressmakers' APPRENTICES; premium £1, which will be returned at the expiration of the Apprenticeship, if served to the satisfaction of the Committee.—Applicants to meet the Committee on Monday Night, January 25th, at Seven o'clock.
ED. HUNTLEY,
SECRETARY.

To Let.

BRANDY INN, Blackhill, to Let. Apply, North Eastern Breweries, Ltd., Royal Hotel, Blackhill.

TO LET, by the Week, LARGE ROOM, suitable for Sales, Bazaars, &c.—Terms on application to JOHN LOWES, Auctioneer, West Stanley.

TO LET, LOW WOODSIDE FARM, near Knitsley Station, containing 216 Acres (more or less); 50 Acres in Tillage, and the remainder in Grass; to enter on the 13th day of May next.—Mr JOHN STAINSBY, Greencroft, Consett, will show the Farm, and receive offers up to February 1st, 1897.

Business Announcements.

PAINLESS DENTISTRY—Comfort and Fit Guaranteed — Prices Reasonable. Attendance every Saturday, 2 to 5-30. Mr. Townend, Dental Surgeon, at Cockburn's, Stationer, Front Street.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN,

BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT TO
THE QUEEN AND H.R.H. PRI[illegible]SS LOUISE.
SEND [illegible] TA[illegible]E.
ARCHIB[illegible]DEN
TOWN HA[illegible]
MIDDLE STREET, [illegible]ETT.

Also at London, Leeds, Bishop Auckland, Doncaster, Scarborough, Middlesbrough, West Hartlepool, Darlington, Gateshead, Jarrow, and Spennymoor.

Dales' GOLD MEDAL **Dubbin**

Makes Boots and Harness Waterproof as a Duck's Back and soft as velvet. Adds three times to the wear and allows polishing.

22 Exhibition Highest Awards.

Tins 2d, 6d, 1/-, & 2/6 of all Bootmakers' Saddlers, &c.

GLENDENNING'S BEEF AND MALT WINE.

3/9 per Bottle. *2/- per Half-Bottle.*

Wm. Aynsley, Grocer & Wine Merchant, Consett, Blackhill, Leadgate, and Stanley.
T. Milner, Chemist, Consett.
Jos. Murray, Grocer & Wine Merchant, Consett.
Geo. Pattrick, Chemist, Consett.
Dryden & Co., Grocers & Wine Merchants, Consett.
N. Elsdon, Wine Merchant, Consett.
Richard Murray, Wine Merchant, Blackhill.
J. Snaith, Blue Bell Inn, Lanchester.
Mrs. Glendinning, King's Head Inn, Shotley Bridge.
Mrs. Temperley, Commercial Hotel, Leadgate.
Mrs. Cawthorne, Colliery Hotel, Hobson Colliery.
J. Irwin, Pack Horse, Tanfield.
T. Lumley, Railway Inn, Annfield Plain.
G. R. Hobson, Wine Merchant, Catchgate.
T. Armstrong, Wine Merchant, Blackhall Mill.
Turnbull Bros., Grocers, Burnopfield.
W. Wright, Burton House, Burnopfield.
T. Calvert, Grocer, Medomsley.
W. Dixon, Oak Inn, South Moor.
J. Robinson, Chemist, Stanley & Annfield Plain.
R. Browell, Miner's Arms, Spen.
J. Moses, Post Office, Tow Law.
S. Leighton, Craghead Hotel, Craghead.
J. Whitfield, Forester's Arms, Frosterley.
W. Young, Red Lion Inn, Dipton.
J. Curry, Wine Merchant, Stanhope.
Dover & Co., Wine and Spirit Merchants, Belle Vue House, Dipton.
J. Gladders, Oak Tree Inn, Tantobie.
T. Gatiss, Earl Grey Inn, Kyo.
W. Oyston, Wine and Spirit Merchant, Esh.

DIPTON.

APPOINTMENT.—Mr J. A. Castle has b[illegible] appointed to represent Messrs Brown, S[illegible] & Co., of Glasgow, in the North-We[illegible] counties.

SCHOOL BOARD.—The usual monthly [illegible]ing of this body was held on Wed[illegible] Mr J. W. Taylor presiding. The [illegible]ances were reported as being low, o[illegible] the prevalence of whooping cou[illegible] measles.—The tender of Mr G. N[illegible] South Medomsley, for carting co[illegible] &c., was accepted. — The questio[illegible] establishment of a teaching centre [illegible] teachers was left over for future c[illegible]tion.—Some discussion took place w[illegible]ence to the letting of the schools f[illegible] and it was decided to draw up [illegible] charges for the guidance of t[illegible]

THE Consett Chronicle

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1897.

MAN WITHOUT GOD.

AGAIN and again has Infidelity—a relentless hatred of opposition to existing creeds—played a part in the history of humanity. Under innumerable names and professing various shades of thought, it has aimed at the entire destruction of all creeds which acknowledged the existence of a personal Deity. The Materialism, which owed its origin to the School of EPICURUS, the Naturalism of Spinoza, the Sensualism of Bossuet and Condorcet, the Pantheism of Payne, the Atheism of Voltaire, the Positivism of Comte, and the Secularism of many unbelievers of to-day, are in reality all one and the same thing. They are all equally vigorous in their denunciation of the supernatural, and their affirmation that the duties and interests connected with the world around them are the Alpha and Omega of their thought and actions. "God is not necessary," said Mr. COHEN in his lecture on Saturday, "to make life worth living." This is an emphatic repudiation of the existence of a spiritual nature in man. But it is something more. It denies the existence of an all-wise, benevolent Deity, "in whom we live and move and have our being." 'We are independent of God,' cries the lecturer, and he might add, "let us eat drink and be merry, for to-morrow we die." But to deny that man is something more than mortal, something higher than material, is to contend against the strongest instincts which human beings possess—instincts which cannot be altogether and utterly suppressed. To deny the existence of a Supreme Being is to attribute intelligence to that which, from its very nature, is inert and unresponsive to mental influences—is utterly incapable of thought or independent action. Both theories are alike improbable, and must, therefore, be rejected as such. There is within human nature a something, perhaps indefinable and inexplicable, which must find satisfaction in communion with the Infinite and Divine. Atheism cannot be long endured by the human spirit. Take for instance, the Reign of Atheism—which, it must not be forgotten, is only another and truer name for Secularism—that existed during the horrors of the French Revolution of 1790 to 1794. This Mr COHEN urges in support of his theory. How far that is favourable to his argument, our readers can judge for themselves. At this period in the history of the French Empire, religion was formally proscribed as the enemy of equality and liberty—a doctrine preached by Mr COHEN in his lecture at Stanley—and Atheism was openly proclaimed in the National Assembly. The Bible was publicly burned by the common hangman. The public Churches, notably the Cathedral of Notre Dame, were desecrated, and Christian sentiment was everywhere outraged and degraded, whilst over the entrance to each cemetery was inscribed the legend, "Death is an eternal sleep." But the banishment of God and religion from the French Empire—and Mr COHEN cannot deny it—resulted in indescribable chaos, open infamy and debauchery, and injustice and cruelty too terrible to contemplate. The Goddess of Reason, represented by a woman, the lowest of the law, was borne in triumph along the streets, and enthroned upon the high altar of the Cathedral, where hymns were chanted and insence burned in her honour. Unchecked, the angry wave of human passion swept on, and despite the loud shout that rent the air, proclaiming that now and henceforth intellect was sovereign lord,

Judgment had fled to brutish beasts,
And men had lost their reason.

But humanity was not to be satisfied with the reign of Reason, and of Terror, and Robespierre himself, his hands still red with the blood of his victims, constituted himself the Priest of Deism, and forthwith the National Assembly itself asserted a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being, and the immortality of the soul. This reaction—the outcome of a natural yearning after something higher than man, more infallible than human reason, more lasting than the brief duration of mortal life—was as complete as the decline had been. "God is not necessary," exclaims Mr COHEN. So said SHELLEY, in the early part of the present century, yet who has not heard of his cowardice in the storm at sea, and the still more dreadful moments when, at the close of his brief and eventful life, he struggled with the last enemy? So also declared VOLTAIRE, who, when dying terrified his nurse and doctor with his shrieks and curses, and so likewise boasted the author of the "Age of Reason," yet—deserted by God and man—he died with alternate prayer and blasphemy. Mr COHEN is accustomed to appeal to experience, and in referring to the French revolution, and the lives of PAYNE and other unbelievers, he only destroys his own arguments, and demonstrates the words of the Psalmist that "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God."

MR. COHEN'S REPLY TO THE "CONSETT CHRONICLE."

MR COHEN, in the course of his lecture on Saturday, referred to the criticism of his former address, which appeared in our columns, but his reply—if it were intended as such—was pitiably weak and inadequate. In our article on "Christanity a Failure!" we asked what would become of humanity if there had been no religion—no Sacred Writings? But to suit his own purpose, Mr COHEN states that we enquired what would be lost "If Biblical teaching were taken away from our Schools?" He then proceeds to single out a number of individual texts, and declares that these would be lost, as though the whole of the fabric of Christianity hung upon two or three single passages, torn from their connections, and dragged in to bolster up the speaker's opinions. This is no argument, and few really intelligent men will be misled by such unworthy tactics. Let Mr COHEN [illegible]ke the great principles embodied in the [illegible] Volume, and deal with them. [illegible] deny, if he can and dare, the [illegible] of Charity, and the nobility [illegible]entiment—taught negatively by [illegible], but affirmatively by CHRIST—[illegible]n the golden rule of "doing un[illegible] [illegible]hat you would have them do to [illegible] absurdity of a wild and indis[illegible] [illegible]ection of texts is sufficiently [illegible] 'And Judas hanged himself,' [illegible]d do likewise," are both in [illegible]t it would be manifestly un[illegible] [illegible]them in juxtaposition, and [illegible]at the Bible was in favour [illegible] With all his undoubted has been made vicious or immoral by studying the Scriptures. Nor has he yet demonstrated that Secularism has ever originated, or discovered, any particular moral law. All humanising movements have had their genesis, and owe their subsequent developments, to the Bible, and what is good in Secularism is merely a practical realisation of the doctrines taught by Jesus of Nazareth. Then, too, if MR COHEN'S contention, that the Bible is not Divine, be correct, can he explain how it is that the Book—in spite of reproach, calumny and virulent opposition—has lived and still lives? It is an acknowledged fact that the life of any work is largely dependent upon its inherent worth. "You will be read, Sir," exclaimed a sage to an aspiring poet, "when Shakespeare and Milton are forgotten." The really noble and great alone can survive in the keen struggle for existence, and the Bible survives, and will still survive, when modern Secularist literature has been consigned to oblivion. No book has so wide a circulation, so great an influence as this one. Surely, then, it cannot be the impotent and misleading thing, Mr COHEN suggests, and until its survival through the ages has been explained, he cannot claim to have disestablished the claims of those who regard it as Divine.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

A MURDERER AT BLACKHILL.

A remarkable story is now in circulation. Various versions are given, but the one generally accepted is to the effect that a member of the local police force visited a certain house in Blackhill, and there recognised a man who is "wanted" in Lancashire on a charge of murder. Not being perfectly certain that the case might not be one of mistaken identity, the officer requested the person referred to, to wait until he "fetched" his Sergeant. Unfortunately, however, the suspected person did not intend to be an accomplice in effecting his own arrest, and straightway disappeared. When the aforementioned P.C. and his Sergeant arrived on the scene, the bird had flown. What a sublime confidence in human nature must this confiding officer have had! Certainly, it was a chance lost—a chance of distinction and promotion such as may never again confront him.

BANDSMEN AT DINNER.

The members of the Westwood Colliery Prize Brass Band held their annual dinner on Saturday evening last, when they spent a really royal night. Isaak Walton, the famous exponent of the science of angling, has said that—

'Tis the company, and not the spread that makes the feast.

At the Ebchester Station Hotel, on the occasion referred to, there were both excellent company and attractive fare, so that a feast, rich and rare, was thoroughly enjoyed by the assembled guests. The dinner was given by Mrs Charlton, in fulfilment of a promise made by her late husband, whose decease robbed the Band of one of its most ardent supporters.

A WORTHY RECORD.

The catalogue of prizes carried off by the Westwood Band is exceptionally creditable to players and leader alike. Undoubtedly, the district should be, and probably is, proud in the possession of such a capital combination. Speaking generally, there can be no doubt but that the cultivation of music—at all times desirable—is especially to be commended and encouraged in connection with outlying colliery villages. Its magic wand is the "open-sesame" to a world full of beauty and delight, and at its bidding, sighing and sadness flee away. It relieves the monotony of daily life, and reminds one that there is a higher and Diviner side of human nature. The Westwood Band has a very exellent record, and is deserving of general sympathy and support.

THE LIBRARY AT DERWENT COTTAGES.

The residents of Derwent Cottages have every reason to congratulate themselves upon the compact, but useful, Institute which has been erected for their benefit. In it provision is made for healthy, harmless recreation, whilst an abundance of excellent literature has been obtained. Such an institution is certain to be highly prized. Its advantages are legion, and will, undoubtedly, be keenly appreciated. On Monday evening, Mr Palmer, who has taken an active part in the erection of the building, was made the recipient of an illuminated address, expressing the gratitude of the workmen of the district for the interest he has manifested in their welfare. The address has been richly merited, and speaks volumes for Mr Palmer's popularity. Concerning the Institution itself, we can only express the earnest hope that it may flourish exceedingly.

PASSING OF COUNTERFEIT COINS IN CONSETT.

An audacious, and ultimately successful, attempt has been made to pass a bad shilling at the Freemasons' Arms Hotel. Twice in one day did it make its appearance in Mr Wylam's till, and each time was the offender discovered, and the counterfeit coin promptly returned in exchange for one of the genuine metal. Yet, strange to say, when balancing his accounts at night, the worthy host of the Freemasons' Arms found, as he believes, the same identical shilling amongst his cash. It was promptly handed over to the police, who are endeavouring to trace the offender. Mr Wylam has himself informed us of the occurrence, for the purpose of warning the public against any attempts to pass counterfeit money. We gladly give publicity to the facts, as related by Mr Wylam, and trust this note will have the effect of putting people upon their guard.

YOUNG HELPERS' LEAGUE.

The efforts of the Consett branch of the Young Helpers' League are worthy of the highest commendation. The object in view—the endowment of a "Consett" cot in one of Dr Barnardo's homes—is one which is deserving of general support and sympathy. Although in Consett there is some poverty, this is not a tithe of the amount of wretchedness, squalor, and vice which is to be found in the slums of our large towns and cities. Any enterprise, which has for its object the amelioration of the little suffering ones, born and bred under such unfavourable conditions, must arouse the admiration and ensure the co-operation of all philanthropic men and women. That the entertainment given on Monday evening by the members of the Young Helpers' League, was fully appreciated by the public, is both creditable to the workers, and to Consett itself. Those who attended the concert were by no means disappointed. The performances of the talented amateurs were skilful, entertaining, and thoroughly enjoyed. Some there are who contend that "charity begins at home," but, unfortunately, these people generally allow it to end there, so far as they themselves are concerned. We must, however, congratulate Mrs Gledstone, Miss Tait, and their unselfish, youthful coadjutors, upon the efforts they are making on behalf of the waifs and strays of darkest England.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF PUBLIC BODIES.

Father Thompson is evidently exceedingly democratic, believing thoroughly in the elective principle, but it is surely carrying the matter a little too far to suggest that the chairmen and vice-chairmen of public bodies should not be *ex-officio* members of all committees. The gentlemen selected for the offices referred to, are usually elected on the ground of their being possessed of capabilities, special knowledge, and intelligence of a high order, and their election to positions of honour indicates that they have the confidence of their brother members. Then, moreover, in order to be fitted to preside over the meetings of public authorities, it is desirable that they should be intimately acquainted with the why and wherefore—the minutest details—of recommendations made by the various committees. This alone can ensure the conduct of public business with efficiency and despatch. A chairman and his vice should be in a position to clearly summarise all the leading arguments in favour of, or against, any proposed action, and to exclude them from committees would render this exceedingly difficult, if not altogether impossible. The Tanfield School Board have done well to continue in the old paths.

THE QUORUM AT TANFIELD SCHOOL BOARD.

prudent course. That the business of the whole Board should be transacted when only a third of the members are present is not quite carrying the principles of public representation into effect. Men are elected upon public bodies for the purpose of carrying the wishes of their constituents into effect, and this cannot be satisfactorily done when a large majority of the members are absent. Of course, there are occasions when the absence of individual members is perfectly legitimate and excusable, but as a rule, regular attendance ought to be encouraged, and, indeed, demanded. To lower the qualifying standard for the holding of the meetings of public bodies is to place a premium on spasmodic attendance. Public representatives owe a duty to those who honour them with their confidence—a duty that should, and generally is, conscientiously fulfilled.

THE RECORDS OF THE VOTING AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

At the last meeting of the Tanfield School Board, some discussion took place with regard to the record of the voting at Committee meetings, the Chairman and Mr Green both emphatically protesting against the practice hitherto in vogue. But, surely, these gentlemen cannot be serious in their objection to their actions, as representatives of the public, being fully recorded? The system adopted by the Clerk of the Tanfield School Board is the only satisfactory method that can be followed. The more complete the record of the doings of committees, the less likely are disputes and differences as to actual decisions to arise. As a general principle, public business should be carried on with the utmost publicity, and when any decision is arrived at, the voting ought to be fully recorded.

THE INSPECTION OF COMMITTEE'S MINUTE BOOKS.

Whatever may be thought of the taste displayed in the action of anyone in the employ of a public body searching the minute books of its committees, there can be no question as to the right of every ratepayer to inspect them, should he feel so disposed. Some members of the Tanfield School Board protested strongly against the action of one of their employees, who scrutinised the books for a record of the voting. The indignation expressed was not, under the circumstances, altogether surprising, but the members of the authority referred to should not lose sight of the fact that schoolmasters are not only the servants of the Board, but are also independent ratepayers, all of whom have every right to inspect the records of the doings of their repr[illegible]tives.

THE ELECTION OF ANNFIELD PLAIN COUNCILLORS.

At the last meeting of the Annfield Plain Council, the question of the retirement and election of councillors came up for consideration. After some discussion, it was ultimately decided that one-third of the members should retire in April of the present year. The alternative was the retirement of the whole of the members, this view being supported by the Chairman and Messrs W. Taylor, Fitzpatrick, Mason, and Swalwell. Had the alternative been adopted, there would have been no other election until 1899. As it is, an election of one third of the members will be necessary each year, before the Council can again decide whether the whole of the members shall sit for three years, or one-third retire annually. The four lowest on the poll at the last election will retire this year, and there will probably be a spirited contest.

THE POLLUTION OF RIVERS.

Mr Robinson, the County Inspector, has presented to the Lanchester District Council an elaborate report, dealing with the river Browney. From this it appears that the stream and its affluents are subject, more or less, to contamination throughout the whole of their course. At Malton Colliery and Quebec the pollution is said to be serious, but at the latter place it is at present receiving attention from the District Council. The climax seems to be attained at Langley Park Colliery, where the pollution is stated to be so gross, that an offensive smell arises from the stream. In a general statement, the Inspector holds the Council responsible for eighteen pollutions, and then proceeds to give a catalogue of the chief personal offenders. The report deals separately with the contamination of the water of the river Dearness. The stream rises near Tow Law, and for the greater part of its course, is declared to be subject to considerable pollution. From Tow Law to Hedley Hope Colliery, the river consists solely of surface drainage and sewage, and is in a very foul condition. At Leamington, Ushaw, and Broom Park, it is also very much fouled. Altogether, the condition of the streams referred to is serious, and demands immediate attention and prompt action. The effect of the pollution of rivers is severely felt by the farmers, through whose land the contaminated streams flow. Cattle drinking of the water, deteriorate in value, whilst the milk of cows grazing in proximity to such streams becomes poor. We trust that now their attention has been drawn to the matter, the Lanchester District Council will take prompt and decisive measures to abate the nuisances referred to in Mr Robinson's report.

DEFINITION OF SECULARISM.

There appears to be some doubt as to what Secularists really profess, and in some cases they have been confounded with Socialists, whose aims and objects are altogether distinct from those of Secularists. The creed of the latter is that their whole concern should be with the world around them. They strongly deny the Supernatural, and hold that "Nature" is the only God, whose existence can be at all demonstrated. They repudiate the facts and doctrines of Christianity and hold that morality is merely a question of utility and general good.

IMPORTANT PROPERTY SALE AT BLACKHILL.

The sale, conducted at the Royal Hotel on Wednesday, by Mr Murray, is one of the most important ever held in the district. The property offered was valuable, and exited considerable attention. "Mainsforth," near Rowley, was eventually sold to Mr Clark, acting on behalf of Messrs Bell and Sons, Hexham, for £1,210. Sunniside Farm was sold to Mr T Gibson, of Newbiggin, for £3,350. the auctioneer was afterwards warmly congratulated on the sale, every lot offered being disposed of.

NOTES FROM LEADGATE.

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

The new billiard table in the League rooms is kept well occupied at present. There are over one hundred members in the League, and the patronage the table is receiving shows that the members appreciate it.

The Rev. Father Magill intends shortly to commence a circulating library in connexion with the League of the Cross, but it will not be confined to members of the League only. It is to meet a much felt want for those who are not teetotallers, and, therefore, cannot frequent the League rooms.

The sale of work which Father Magill intends to hold later on promises to be a great success, since the ladies, married and single, are plying their needles in real earnest.

The Brooms Scholars will break their long spell of rest, on Saturday first, by playing Monkwearmouth in the Sambotee Competition. I hope they will show us a bit of their old dash.

A good item of news in this district is to the effect that the miners are in for a ten per cent. advance of wages. There is every likelihood of their getting the greater part of it, as coals have advanced a good deal in price of late.

The Leadgate Exiles will hold their annual social on Monday evening next.

CASTLESIDE NOTES.

[BY "THE SNEAP."]

A wedding took place in the village, on Saturday, the parties chiefly interested being Miss H. J. Dent and Mr T. Bains. The ceremony was performed in the Wesleyan Chapel, by the Rev. J. Bacon, who was assisted by the Rev. A. Baillie. The bride looked very charming, and, as she is very popular in the neighbourhood, a large number of people went to witness the ceremony. My best wishes for your future, Mr and Mrs Bains.

I hear that the question of broken windows came up for consideration at the last meeting of the School Board. If rumour speak truly, one member suggested that the damage was done by some of the company who attended the socials that have recently been held in the Schoolroom. I myself am inclined to think that the delinquent was a

TANTOBIE.

SAD DEATH OF TWO CHILDREN.—Much sympathy is felt throughout the village, with Mr and Mrs Pirie, who have just sustained a severe bereavement by the deaths of their two children Thomas Lawson, aged 2 months, and Elizabeth Jane, aged 6 years. Both children died on Wednesday, the cause of death in each case being mennigitis. This disease is not considered infectious.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

ANOTHER ELECTION.—Owing to the desire of the Local Government Board that the election of District Councillors should run concurrently with the election of Guardians, it will be necessary that four members of the Annfield Plain District Council should retire in April next. The retiring members are Messrs S. Swalwell, W. Down, J. Mason, and W. Taylor.

BEAMISH.

LIBERALISM. — Sir James Joicey, Bart., M.P., has been elected president of the Pit Hill Liberal Association for the ensuing year.

CRICKET BAZAAR.—We understand that Sir James Joicey, M.P., has promised to open a bazaar in aid of the Cricket Club funds, sometime during the month of March.

FUNERAL OF MRS HARE.—On Friday afternoon, amidst many manifestations of sorrow, the remains of Mrs Hare, wife of Mr Hare, stationmaster, were removed to Hexham, and interred. Amongst the tradesmen accompanying the cortege to the station, were Mr Edgell, Mr English, and Mr Corker. Locally, the deepest sympathy is felt for Mr Hare in his bereavement.

BILLIARD HANDICAP.—An important billiard handicap has been concluded at Mr English's, Wheat Sheaf Inn, Kip Hill. The first prize was a handsome timepiece, and the other prizes included a silver albert, a ham, and a couple of valuable pipes. The games consisted of 120 points up. Appended is a full list of the results:—First round—Jos. Henderson (10) beat S. Kelly (owes 20), 107; G. Cruddas (10) beat R. Robson (owes 30), 117; D. Carr (25) beat Jos. Carr (45), 110; H. Coxon (65) beat E. Bainbridge (35), 108; John Dennison (scratch) beat D. Lumsden (45), 104; J. Sellers (15) beat J. Carr (scratch), 96; W. Rowell (10) beat A. Kennedy (20), 94; J. Corker (55) beat T. Morrow (80), 118; Tim. Forster (5) beat W. Kennedy (70), 118; J. Cummings (35) beat G. Sanderson (owes 5), 118; T. Edwards (50) beat T. White (30), 100; G. Edgell (35) beat Sergeant Pitt (45), 115; R. Lee (50) beat R. White (15), 110; James Wylam (65) beat L. Kay (50), 81; W. Stoddart (10) beat S. Mitford (scratch) 107; W. Witty (60) beat J. Cruddace (70), 114; R. Bird (10) beat G. Nicholson (35), 103; T. White (35) beat F. Craven (20), 103; J. Oliver (70) beat T. Potts (30), 69; T. Henderson (45) beat Joseph Kennedy (35), 99. Second round—Wylam beat White, J. Henderson beat Stoddart, Bird beat Edgell, Corker beat Witty, T. Henderson beat White, Dennison beat Oliver, Sellars beat Cruddace, Forster beat Coxon, Edwards beat Carr, and Rowell beat Cummings. Third round—Edwards beat Bird, J. Henderson beat Forster, Wylam beat Dennison, Corker beat Rowell, and T. Henderson beat W. Sellars. Fourth round—Edwards beat Henderson, and Rowell beat Wylam. Final—Rowell beat Edwards, and secured the first prize.

STANLEY.

BENEFIT CONCERT. — After paying the whole of the expenses, Mr Joseph Dixon expects to have about £8 to hand over to Mr Holland, as a result of Wednesday's concert.

VOLUNTEER PROMOTION.—We have great pleasure in intimating that Lieutenant Crossling, of the 4th Battallion D.L.I. (K Company), has been gazetted to the position of full Captain, an honour of which he is eminently deserving.

ARCHDEACON WATKINS. — Archdeacon Watkins, of Durham, visited Stanley on Wednesday, and delivered an interesting address to the members of the Girls' Friendly Society. In the evening, the Archdeacon preached at St. Andrew's Church.

CRICKET.—Among the fixtures arranged by the Secretary of the Stanley Club for next season are home and home matches with Elswick Works, Rockcliffe, Benwell Hill, Medomsley, and Ovingham. A game has also also been arranged with Wallsend. The second team fixtures include matches with Rockliffe 2nd, Craghead 2nd, Medomsley 2nd, Tanfield, and South Moor.

BILLIARD HANDICAP.—The billiard handicap, which has been in progress for some weeks at Ritson's saloon, concluded on Tuesday. Appended are the results of the concluding round:—Fourth round — Ralph Brown beat Thos. Wilson, 92; Wm. Gibson beat M. Shield, 82; R. Brown (2nd lot) beat Jos. Ritson, 84; R. Parkinson beat J. Makkinson, 80. Semi-final—Parkinson beat Gibson, 80. Final—Brown beat Parkinson, 90. The third and fourth prizes were divided between Brown and Gibson.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—During the present week, Mr F. S. Jenning's well-known company have performed "The hand of justice" nightly on the boards of the above Theatre. The audiences have been pretty good, and the piece, which is of a very exciting character, has been highly appreciated. The scenery, acting, and music alike have been excellent, the great furnace scene having proved an exceptional "draw." Next week "The King of Crime" ought to draw bumper houses, for Stanleyites always appreciate dramas of that nature.

LECTURE AND CONCERT. — On Saturday evening, the Rev. H. H. Shortt, of Durham University, lectured to an audience of 800 persons, on "Wealth, its use and abuse." Mr Wm. Hewison occupied the chair, and during the evening, songs were given by Miss Carroll, "Sweet Genievieve"; Miss C. Masterman, "Barney take me home again"; and Mr J. A. Jones, "Death of Nelson." The Masters Pearson gave a violin duet and selections on the piano, and Mr Jos. Robson, B.A., gave a violin solo, "The last Rose of Summer." Mr William Robson officiated at the piano with his accustomed ability.

BENEFIT ENTERTAINMENT. — As will be seen by a glance at our advertising columns, the members of the 4th Battalion D.L.I. K Company have arranged a grand concert to be held in the Co-operative Hall, next Wednesday evening for the benefit of the widow and six children of the late Private John Wilson. A number of high-class artistes will appear on the occasion, amongst whom may be mentioned Miss Kate Fairley, the clever daughter of Mr James Fairley, of Shafto House; Mr R. J. Crossling, of Newcastle; Miss Swallow, Miss Leak, Mr R. D. Grundy, Mr Tom Holland, Mr Geo. Stewart, and other local performers. The Tanfield Lea Silver Model Band will also be present. We trust that there will be a very large audience.

VAGRANTS.—At the Police Court, on Friday, before Mr George Ridley, sentences of seven days' imprisonment were imposed on James Maw, John Lowes, John Greenhowe, Henry Marshall, Charles Crossley, George Thompson, George Wilson, Robert Johnson, and George Shepherd, for sleeping in coke ovens, at Bankfoot Colliery. James Ward, Francis Conder, and Peter Moore, three old offenders, each got fourteen days' imprisonment for the same offence. The prosecuting officers were Sergeant Vickers, of Annfield Plain; P.C. Wall, of Oxhill; and P.C. Iceton, of East Stanley.—On Monday, before Mr J. Green, a further batch of vagrants were brought up, charged with sleeping in coke ovens, at East Pontop and Bankfoot Collieries. Patrick Kirk, John Milburn, John Bell, James Howard, John Cole, Owen Morton, John Calvert, and Jas. McGunnis were sentenced to fourteen days each, and John Taylor to seven days. Evidence was given by P.C's. Iceton, Johnson, and Dobinson.

COUNTY COUNCIL LECTURES. — In connection with the technical and manual instruction movement, inaugurated by the Durham County Council, Miss Maidment, one of the Council's lecturers, delivered the first of a series of six lectures on "Poultry farming" in St. Andrew's Church Institute, on Thursday evening. The Rev. D. W. James presided over a fair attendance, and in his opening remarks, expressed the opinion, verified by his own experience, that if properly managed, poultry-keeping could be made extremely profitable. There were between six and seven million pounds spent every year on foreign eggs, a thing that should not be, since England was capable of producing all the eggs she required, if the poultry-keeping industry was engaged in as extensively as it ought to be. Miss Maidment proceeded with her lecture, which had special reference to the methods of making poultry keeping a paying profession. A large number of slides were exhibited, showing specimens of various breeds of poultry, the lantern being skilfully manipulated by Mr

LANCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The monthly meeting of this authority was held on Thursday, Mr W. Logan, J.P., presiding. The other members present were Mr J. H. Morris, Mr Wm. Gray, Mr Hudspith, Mr T. Wilkinson, Mr R. Burleigh, Mr Collier, Mr Lowdon, Mr A. Watson, Mr Kirkup, Rev. P. C. Fortin, Mr W. H. Ritson (Clerk), and Mr J. E. Parker (Surveyor).

MEDICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS.

Dr Wilson (Lanchester) reported that 54 cases of infectious diseases had occurred in the district during the last four weeks, 46 of which were whooping cough. Dr Bolton (Ebchester) reported that ten cases of infectious diseases had been reported to him during the month. The Ebchester district, however, was now free from infectious disease.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

Mr Parker reported that the dwelling-house known as the Old Inn, now divided into tenements, and occupied by Messrs McGuinnes and Harrison, was damp, dilapidated, and unfit for habitation.—It was decided to give the necessary notice to the owner of the property to put it into proper condition.—The Surveyor further reported that the whole of the house drains at Quebec had been connected with the main sewers. In many parts of the district, the reprehensible practice existed of removing only a portion of the ashes and filth during the process of scavenging, and as a result there remained a foul residue in the out-offices, which became a serious nuisance, dangerous to health. These remarks applied more particularly to the villages of Langley Park (Quebec Street), Lanchester, Burnhope, Holmside, Medomsley, and Croniwell. In company with Dr Hill, he visited Langley Park and Lanchester, when it was found that several of the complaints recently reported had been attended to. The sewage disposal works at Craghead were not altogether satisfactory, and it was desirable that a committee of inspection should be appointed. With reference to the complaint by the Craghead Parish Council, he considered that it arose from water overflowing the road recently acquired by the Council. He had ordered that the complaint should be attended to. Several of the roads in the district were in very unsatisfactory condition, owing to the late unfavourable weather. He considered that it would be necessary to provide a more liberal quantity of surface material for another year. He had received permission from Mr W. Pierson to obtain the necessary freestone from quarries on Cornsay Common. He had received no communication from the Commonholders respecting the construction of the proposed road. The road from Waskerley Station to the filter beds of the Consett Waterworks remained in a very bad condition. With reference to the request of the Craghead Parish Council for footpaths from Wagtail Cottages to the Punch Bowl Inn, and from the Railway Bridge to Eastfield Cottages, he considered such footpaths to be necessary, but the present time was inopportune. He advised that drains should be laid opposite the Fleece Inn, and the Schools at Castleside, in order to take off the excess of water.—The report was adopted.

BURNHOPE SCAVENGING.

A letter was received from the manager of Burnhope Colliery, expressing the opinion that the Council were hardly reasonable in their requests, and should have made more allowance on account of the recent bad weather. If the Colliery Company could not satisfy the Council, they would be obliged to call upon the Council to do the work themselves.—The Chairman said that it was not the duty of the Colliery manager to call on the Council to do the work, but the duty of the Council to call on the manager. He suggested that the Clerk should inform him that he had put the cart before the horse. He seemed to hold the impression that he had only to call on the Council to do the work, and they would attend to it.

CRAGHEAD PARISH COUNCIL.

A complaint was received from the Craghead Parish Council, respecting the condition of roads at the village, the letter concluding with the intimation that unless the matter was promptly attended to, it would be brought before the attention of the Durham County Council.—The Clerk was instructed to acknowledge the receipt of the letter.

WASKERLEY ROAD.

The Muggleswick Parish Council complained of the condition of the road at Waskerley, and as their complaint was backed up by Mr Parker, instructions were given for the matter to be attended to.

THE CHAIRMAN AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

The Clerk stated that a letter had been received from the Cornsay Ratepayers' Association relative to the Hedley Fell Road.—The Chairman: What is the Cornsay Ratepayers' Association? We are not going to have our time wasted in reading letters from every little Association. What have we to do with the Ratepayers' Association? They have a Parish Council, and complaints must come from that body. Why not have a Tailors' Association, or a Shoemakers' Association? (Laughter). Let them complain to the Parish Council. We cannot have our time occupied by these Associations.—A Member suggested that the letter was probably a complaint regarding some action of the Parish Council.—Mr Kirkup thought that the Association might be requested to communicate with the Parish Council, otherwise they might continue writing letters.—The Chairman: Let them write as many letters as they choose. (Laughter).

POLLUTION OF THE BROWNEY.

COUNTY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Mr James Robinson, County Inspector of Health, reported that, in accordance with instructions received, he had made a complete survey of the River Browney and its principal tributaries. He submitted the following report:—

THE BROWNEY AND SMALLHOPE.—GENERAL REMARKS.

Smallhope Beck, a tributary of the Browney, rises near East Castle Colliery, and flows for about six miles before joining the Browney. It is much polluted by iron water from the East Castle Colliery, where it also receives some sewage, but, by the time it reaches the Browney, although it receives the sewage of Lanchester on its way, it has become fairly clear.

The Browney itself, above its confluence with Smallhope Beck, at the Ford, near Lanchester, is quite clear, and does not call for further observation. It is about ten miles in length from that point to its confluence with the Wear near Sunderland Bridge, and has an average fall of about 1 in 264. It is in several places very stagnant and dirty, and, like almost all streams in the county, contains the carcases of dead animals. The stagnation in places is caused by the bed of the stream being dished out or silted up from various causes, but chiefly by the presence on its course of several mill dams (some of which are old and disused, and might with advantage be removed), which hold the water back, in most instances for several hundred yards, thereby increasing its depth, and making a harbour for all kinds of filth and refuse.

At Malton Colliery, the Browney is much polluted by sewage and water of a very questionable character from the coke ovens, &c., but it soon loses all traces of impurity, and is a beautiful stream for about two miles further down, to near Langley Park Colliery, where, however, it is again grossly polluted, and never regains its fresh sparkling qualities during the whole of its course to the Wear. The following is a detailed statement of pollutions of these streams:—

(1). East Castle Colliery.—(1). Some of the sewage of this village passes into the Smallhope Beck, from an open ditch, into which it flows from a pipe sewer, but it soon loses itself, and creates no nuisance. (2). A large quantity of iron water is also discharged into the same stream, which, for about four miles, down to below Lanchester, is as yellow as a fox, and quite turbid.

(2). Lanchester.—The sewage of this village, which has a population of about 500 persons, also passes into the Smallhope Beck. The following outlets are occasionally offensive, but the nuisance in each case could be abated by extending the outlets beneath the flow of the stream:—(1). The sewer at the high end of the village; (2), the open channel emptying on the bank side of the Blue Bell Yard; (3), the house drain at the King's Head Hotel. On account of the stream being so highly discoloured, and the iron in the water acting as a precipitant, no sewage is discernible a few yards below the lowest sewer outlet.

(3). Malton Colliery.—This colliery lies about two miles below Lanchester, and has a population of about 200 persons, draining through a pipe sewer into a very foul open ditch, which discharges into the Browney, and causes gross pollution. A little way above the point of entry of the sewage, a large quantity of liquid of a polluting character is being continually discharged from the Colliery into the same stream, which it discolours for a considerable distance down. I called the manager's attention to this, and took a sample of the river water at the same time.

(4). Quebec.—The sewage of this village, which contains a population of about 1,200 persons, after passing along an open ditch for about half-a-mile, enters and pollutes a small stream which joins the Browney about a mile below Malton Colliery. I understand that the question of sewage disposal of this village is receiving the attention of the District Council.

Langley Park Colliery.—This village lies about four miles below Lanchester, and has a population of about 1,750 persons, draining direct into the Browney, and causing gross pollution. There is a most offensive smell from the stream, which is highly discoloured for a considerable distance below the point of entry of the sewage.

THE DEARNESS.—GENERAL REMARKS.

The river Dearness rises near Tow Law, and flows for ten miles with an average fall of about sixty feet per mile into the River Browney near to Langley Bridge. It has a mean width of about twelve feet, and above its confluence with the Priest Beck contains very little more water than that stream. For over three miles, down to near Hedley Hope Colliery, the stream consists solely of surface drainage and the sewage of Tow Law. It is in a very foul condition, and much sewage is lying in pools, either percolating into the subsoil, or evaporating in the sun. From Hedley Hope Colliery to Leamington, about two miles further down, the stream shows little evidence of pollution by sewage, although much enters it, but it is grossly polluted, and the whole of the bed is covered, in some places about a foot deep, with solid matter in the shape of waste coke breeze and general colliery refuse, much of which is tipped along its course and can be seen daily being carried down. At Leamington, Ushaw, Sleetburn, and Broom Park, the stream is very much fouled, but soon recovers itself, although its bed is very black and dirty down to its confluence with the Browney. The following is a detailed list of the pollutions of this stream:—

Tow Law.—A population of about 3,000 persons living here drains into the highest point of the Dearness, where it is little more than an open ditch, and in dry weather there is no flow of water other than sewage for about two miles down. At present, for about half-a-mile above Hedley Hope Colliery, the stream is quite dry.

Hedley Hope Colliery.—(1). Here the Dearness receives a large stream of clear water and a small stream of turbid, but apparently harmless water, from the Old Hedley Mine; (2), sewage of a population of nearly 600 persons, after passing through cesspools, enters the same stream, which shows no evidence of sewage pollution a short distance below the points of entry; (3), opposite to the Dearness Hotel, many tons of privy and ashpit refuse are tipped on the south side of the stream, and apparently much has been already carried away by it; (4), whilst on its north side, and directly opposite to the coke ovens, there is a large heap of waste coke breeze, much of which is carried away daily, in addition to large quatities of the same material got rid of constantly by tipping it into the flow of the stream.

Hedley Hill Colliery.—The sewage of a population of about 350 persons drains through cesspools into the Dearness, but at the time of inspection it showed little evidence of sewage pollution a short distance below the point of entry.

Flass Hall.—The drainage of this hall, cottages, and outbuildings, passes directly or indirectly into the Dearness. With the exception of a small quantity of black filth soaking through a wall into a small runner, apparently from a defective stone sewer, there is no nuisance.

Ushaw Collierly.—The following pollutions of the Dearness take place here:—1 The sewage of a population of about 570 persons enters the stream at the colliery; (2) quantities of coke breeze are being washed into the stream from time to time; (3) about a mile below the colliery, the sewage of a population of over 300 persons enters the stream through a foul open ditch, and grossly pollutes [illegible]

Priest's Bec[illegible]s stream, otherwise known as the Hedley Hope Burn, which is about five miles long, rises above Hedley Fell, and flows with a fall of about forty feet per mile into the Dearness near Esh Winning. It has a mean width of about nine feet, and at present contains only a small body of water. It is first polluted by sewage at Hedley Fell, but rapidly cleanses itself by throwing the suspended solid matter to the bottom, with which its bed is quite black, and by the time Cornsay is reached (a distance of nearly two miles), the stream has thrown off all traces of pollution, its waters being sparkling, and its bed is of a natural colour. Here, however, it is again grossly polluted by large deposits of colliery and privy ashpit refuse, which, with the sewage of the village, makes it very filthy, and, for about half a mile down its bed, is covered with a large quantity of putrifying organic matter. The stream, with apparently an entire absence of organic matter from its bed, it quite clear on reaching Hamsteels, where it undergoes further pollution with sewage and colliery drainage, but is not offensive at this point, although where it is very clear, lower down, residents complain of the stench given off from time to time. The stream is more or less turbid and dirty between here and its confluence with the Dearness, a distance of over a mile, and in an interval receives the sewage of seventeen houses, the drain from a colliery, and the effluent, at times somewhat impure, from the Esh Winning sewage garden. The following is a detailed list of pollutions of this stream.—

Hedley Fell.—There is a population of about 540 here draining into the Priest Beck, which is grossly polluted at, and for a considerable distance below, the point of entry. A quantity of water, some of which is very dirty, but apparently harmless, also enters the stream from the mine.

Cornsay Colliery.—(1) The sewage of this village, which has a population of about 1,300 persons, also enters the Priest Beck, and together with (2) a large quantity of general refuse from the colliery, and (3) privy-ashpit refuse from the colliery houses, deposited on the north and south side of the stream, grossly pollutes, and renders it most offensive for over half a mile down its course.

Hamsteels.—(1) Here the Priest Beck receives the sewage of a population of about 460 persons, and at one of the points of entry there is some sewage fungus which is rather offensive, but it soon clears itself. (2) At Railway Terrace, a little lower down, and on the south side of the stream, it receives the sewage of fifteen houses through two sewer outlets, which are very offensive. (3) At New House Farm the stream is again polluted with slop sewage from that house; and (4) at the Priest's house a little, further down, slop and w.c. sewerage is discharged into it, but no nuisance is created.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

From the foregoing report, it will be seen that the river Browney and its tributaries are grossly polluted by continually recurring influxes of sewage, colliery drainage, and solid matter.

(1.) Sewage.—From observation, I notice that when any of these streams receive sewage in a fresh condition, or when they receive it highly diluted, comparatively speaking, little evidence of pollution is to be seen; also, where the sewage of a large population enters a stream through several outlets at some distances apart, very little pollution is noticeable, compared with the condition of a similar stream where the same amount of sewage enters through one or two outlets or foul open ditches.

(2.) Colliery Drainage.—As the drainage of pit heaps and many hundred thousand gallons of water which have been used for coke-slaking purposes pass into these streams daily from various collieries situate on their banks, I would respectfully suggest that samples of these waters, and of any other suspicious liquid, entering any stream from any source whatever, be taken from time to time, and as often as may appear necessary, in order, as far as possible, to arrive at the true nature of these discharges and their influence on the streams.

(3.) Solid Refuse.—The deposit of solid refuse, in or by the sides of streams, although not injurious to health, are, to my mind, a most serious matter, as they gradually accumulate until the stream is in flood, and then it is washed onwards until it often forms an immovable mass, the streams having either to flow over it or around it, generally the latter, and by so doing, it carries away a portion of the bank side, where it happens to be of a soft, loose, or penetratable nature. This, to a small extent, can be seen on the Dearness, but it exists to a much greater extent on the Wear, where perhaps many thousands of tons of its banks are carried away annually.

In a final summary, Mr Robinson holds the Lanchester Rural Council responsible for eighteen pollutions, and amongst other offenders given are, Father Fortin, Colonel Leadbitter-Smith, Mr James Humble, Mr Francis Holmes, Sir B. Samuelson and Company, and the Owners of the East Castle, Ushaw, and Cornsay Collieries.

The Chairman said that he had previously had the pleasure of perusing the report, and he himself was slated as one of the offenders. (Laughter). He thought the Inspector had made a mistake in saying that the Smallhope Beck was six miles in length. Surely it was not that distance?

Mr Parker said that the stream was about four and a quarter miles in length.

The Chairman: It seems an extraordinary thing that after receiving the sewage at Lanchester, the stream has become pure when it reaches the Browney. This would lead people to believe that the sewage at Lanchester has a purifying effect. (Laughter).

Mr Kirkup: It is sure to have. (Renewed laughter).

Mr Lowdon: Have you tried it. (Laughter).

Mr Wilkinson: Langley Park is an awful termination. (More laughter).

The Chairman: It appears so; but I cannot understand how the Lanchester sewage purifies the water, and the Langley Park sewage pollutes it. (Laughter). The recommendation of the Inspector to provide outfall works at Langley Park is now receiving consideration. Surely the population of Lanchester is more than 500, as given by the Inspector?

The Clerk: We have 250 in the Workhouse.

The Chairman: Some years ago, the population (including the Workhouse) was estimated at 800.

Mr Wilkinson: It will be about 1,000 now.

The Chairman said he was under the impression that the Malton Colliery drainage had been attended to.

Mr Parker said that instructions had been given to that effect, but they had not been carried out.

Mr Kirkup asked what harm was done by coke breeze entering a stream. It was quite different to sewage.

Mr Parker pointed out that the breeze might stop the stream up.

Mr Burleigh said that the source of the Dearness was practically sewage itself. It was a great nuisance to the people residing at Hedley Hill. Tow Law drained into the high portion of the Dearness, and it was nothing more than a ditch for over two miles.

On the suggestion of the Chairman, the Clerk was instructed to reply to the Inspector's report by an intimation that the Council intended proceeding with the Disposal Works at Langley, and that the remainder of the matters complained of would receive due attention.

This concluded the business.

LEADGATE DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A meeting of this Council was held on Wednesday evening. Mr George Nicholson (Chairman) presided, and the other members present were—Messrs L. Nicholson, W. Whitfield, J. Costello, J. W. Winter, M. D. Greener, W. F. Lane, T. Foreman, W. McIvor, H. Cheesemond, T. Keenleyside, and the Clerk (Mr J. H. Coupland).

THE INQUIRY.

The Chairman said that no report had been received in reference to the Local Government Board inquiry into the proposed purchase of the Miners' Hall.

BOGGLE HOLE WATER SUPPLY.

The Clerk read a letter from the Consett Iron Company, which stated that they were advised by their Mining Engineer (Mr Palmer) that there was a plentiful supply of water, and it did not appear necessary for them to do anything in the matter.

The Chairman moved that the Clerk should write and inform the Company that there was no continuous supply of water there, and ask them to provide a reliable supply, or the Council would hold them responsible during the summer months.

Mr Keenleyside seconded, and the motion was carried.

REDWELL HILLS' FOOTPATH.

On the motion of Mr Keenleyside, seconded by Mr Cheesemond, it was agreed that the Clerk be instructed to write to the directors of the North-Eastern Railway Company in reference to the restoration of the footpath at Redwell Hills, as Mr Harrison, the Engineer, had informed the Council that the Company had never bound itself to provide such a footpath.

THE HEALTH REPORT.

The Medical Officer (Dr. George Renton) reported that no case of infectious disease had been notified to him during the month, a fact which spoke well for the sanitary condition of the district. The report of vital statistics for the quarter ending December 31st, must, from every point of view, be considered satisfactory. There were 37 births, representing an annual birth rate of 27·4 per 1,000, and 16 deaths, equal to an annual death rate of 13·7 per 1,000. The birth rate was fair, and the death rate low for the year. The zymotic death rate was practically nil, whilst the infantile mortality was much below the average.—The report was adopted.

PUBLIC LIGHTING AT CROOKHALL.

Some discussion took place as to the condition of the roads and the want of public lighting at Crookhall, and in the end, Mr McIvor moved that a deputation of the Council should be appointed to wait upon the directors of the Consett Iron Company, and urge upon them the necessity of providing better roads, sanitation, and lighting at Crookhall. He thought this would be the only way in which to get the existing state of things remedied.

Mr Keenleyside seconded the motion.

The Chairman suggested that it would be better if the Surveyor were instructed to make a report on the condition of the roads, so as to give the Council some data upon which to work. He would rather have Mr McIvor's motion withdrawn.

Mr McIvor said he was willing to do this, as it was hardly likely the Company would do anything to the roads at this time of the year.

Mr Keenleyside also agreed to withdraw the original motion, and it was then decided that the Surveyor should draw up a report on the roads at Crookhall, and submit it to the Council.

MR E. W. E. BALLENY'S COMPLAINT.

Mr Winter said that what Mr Belleny said at the Local Government inquiry, in regard to the condition of a burn upon his estate, was a most serious reflection upon the Council. The Inspector under the Rivers Pollution Act was already upon the track, and they might expect, unless they did something in the matter, to be severely handled about it. If Mr Balleny's statement, in regard to the water, was half correct, it was a serious reflection upon the local authority. He (Mr Winter) wished to know whether this state of affairs, if true, had ever been reported to the Council.

Mr Costello said that he thought they had never received any complaint from Mr Balleny, and until they had, he thought the Council had nothing to do with the matter.

The Surveyor said he had never heard of any serious pollution in the direction of the burn, and when he examined the place last Friday, he found the stream clear.

SURVEYOR'S AND INSPECTOR'S REPORTS.

Mr Longstaff, Surveyor and Nuisance Inspector, reported that the wage bill amounted to £14 7s 3d. The roads had been scraped, and generally attended to, and were in fairly good condition. During the month, he had collected £307 15s 8d.

FINANCE.

A letter from the North-Eastern Banking Company stated that the Council's money in hand at the year end totalled £225 10s 11d.—Accounts to the amount of £187 12s 10d were ordered to be signed, after which the Council rose.

TANFIELD SCHOOL BOARD.

The usual monthly meeting of the above Board was held at Tanfield, on Tuesday evening, Mr H. C. Wood presiding. The other members present were the Rev. T. H. Archdall, Rev. James Thompson, Mr W. Bulmer, Mr J. Green, Mr M. G. Armstrong, Mr G. Forster, Mr B. Mason, Mr W. Severs, Mr W. H. Ritson (clerk), and Mr W. Thompson (assistant clerk).

ATTENDANCE OFFICER'S REPORT.

Mr Seymour Meddick reported that during the month, he had made 23 visits to schools, 62 absentee visits, served 6 bye-law notices, one official notice, and reported 34 to other officers. The schools re-opened on the 11th, when there was a fair attendance, though at the Tanfield Lea Board and Flint Hill National Schools, whooping cough had affected the attendance in the lower classes. The district was not yet free from scarlatina.

SCHOOL EXTENSIONS AND CONTRACTS.

Messrs. Bendle and Davidson, Newcastle, submitted the specifications for the extensions to the West Stanley Schools, and the matter was referred to the Committee. Plans were also submitted for the alterations of the Tanfield Lea Schools, and they also were referred to the Committee. It was unanimously decided that several local builders should be invited to tender for the erection of a schoolmaster's house at Causey. Messrs. A. Routledge, Stanley; W. Johnson, Dipton; G. Manners, junr., Bolam, and Davison, Blaydon; A. and R. Davis, and Lodge, Chester-le-Street, were the builders mentioned, the lowest tender to secure the contract.

TEACHERS' RESIGNATIONS.

Miss Leake (Infant Mistress, East Stanley), Miss Plowman and Miss Livingstone (assistant teachers at East Stanley Mixed), wrote resigning their positions under the Board. No reasons were assigned for the resignations.

On the proposition of Mr Archdall, the resignations were accepted, the appointment of successors being deferred till the next meeting of the School Management Committee.

THE QUORUM QUESTION.

On the consideration of the standing orders, some discussion took place as to how many members should constitute a quorum.

The Chairman suggested that three were too small a number to form a quorum. It was scarcely proper for three members to do the business of the Board when six of them were absent. He proposed that five members should constitute a quorum.—Mr Severs seconded.

Mr Bulmer thought that the Chairman's observation was something in the shape of an insinuation. (Laughter).

The Chairman recollected only one meeting where three members had done the business of the Board, and certainly had not that meeting in his mind when he spoke. (Laughter).

Mr Green favoured four members as sufficient to constitute a quorum.

After three divisions, it was decided that the quorum should consist of four members.

Mr Armstrong: Mr Bulmer voted both ways. (Laughter).

Mr Bulmer: No, I didn't. I went for three first, and then I went for the next best. The Chairman did the same. He went for five, and then he went for four. (Laughter).

COMMITTEES.

Father Thompson proposed that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should not be *ex-officio* members of all Committees. The Committees ought to be elected.

Mr Armstrong expressed dissent, and

Mr Archdall said that the usual custom was for the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman to sit on the Committees.

The proposition was not seconded, and the standing orders were then adopted.

Mr Severs: And no smoking. (Laughter).

Mr Bulmer: Do they say so?

Mr Severs: No; they do not. If they did, the prohibition would not have been left on. (Laughter).

TEACHERS' AND THE MINUTE BOOKS.

The Committee appointed to consider the scale of salaries, recommended that the Headmasters at West Stanley, East Stanley, Leazes, Pickering Nook, Causey Row, Tanfield Lea, Tanfield, and Stanley Central receive £140 per year, an additional amount of £15 per year being allowed to Mr J. A. Hodgson, Causey, and Mr E. S. Dawson, Tanfield Lea, in lieu of house and coals. Certificated Masters to receive £80 per annum, rising by £5 to £90; Uncertificated Masters £60, rising to £70; Infant Mistresses £80 per annum, with a bonus of £10 for every 6s grant earned; Certificated Mistresses £60, rising by £2 10s to £65; Uncertified Mistresses £15, rising by £2 10s to £35; pupil teachers £10, rising by £1 10s to £16; Mr Bolam to remain as before.

The Clerk, in reading the minutes, gave the names of the movers and seconders of resolutions in Committee. The Chairman and other members required him to desist from so doing, and only give the decisions arrived at.

Mr Armstrong asked if any of the Masters or Mistresses took a journey to Lanchester, whether the Committees' books would be handed to them for inspection?

The Chairman: I should think not.

Mr Armstrong said that he had no fear of any vote which he had given becoming known, but he understood that some of the Masters made a practice of going down to Lanchester for the purpose of seeing how the members of the Board had voted.

The Chairman: Is that true?

The Clerk: No, sir.

Mr Green said that Mr Armstrong was putting the case on a wrong basis.

The Chairman: Is this an actual matter of fact?

Mr Armstrong: I am informed that it is so.

Mr Severs: I do not think that it makes much matter. I do not care who sees my votes.

The Chairman: It is news to me.

Father Thompson: Is it not a fact that the minute book has been inspected?

The Clerk: Yes, it is a fact. The minute book has been inspected by a master, but he only made one visit, and I do not think he will make another.

Mr Green said that it was both wrong and foolish of any schoolmaster to do that, but they had to deal with the question of whether, as a ratepayer, he had not the right to see the minute book.

The Clerk: He has the right.

Mr Armstrong: Has he the right to see the Committees' books?

The Chairman: No; he has not.

Mr Green said that only the decisions of Committees should be given in the books.

The Clerk: As it was a committee meeting of the full Board, I expected that you would want the record of it for future use.

The Chairman said that they did not want any more record than the decisions they arrived at, namely, the amounts they had fixed to pay as salaries. As to who voted one way or the other, it was a matter which should not have been entered in the report.

The Clerk said that it was a very easy thing to take it out of the minute book.

Mr Archdall: Is there a minute book specially devoted to Committees?

The Clerk: There is not.

Mr Archdall: I think there ought to be.

The Chairman: The Committees very often make their own reports. We only want the resolution which we carried, and not who voted one way or the other.

At the conclusion of the reading of the Committee's report,

Mr Archdall said that the matter had been thoroughly discussed in Committee, and everything had been most carefully gone through. Although he confessed that he disagreed with some of the recommendations arrived at, yet he bowed to the majority of the Board—every member of which was present at the committee meeting—and he therefore moved the adoption of the report.

Mr Severs said that if any member had any exception to take, now was the time for action. He must speak now.

Mr Bulmer: Or else for ever hold his peace. (Laughter).

The Chairman said that every member was entitled to oppose. They were, however, all, more or less, in the position of Mr Archdall.

Mr Archdall said that the whole of the members were present at the committee meeting, and it was only gracious to accept their decisions.

Mr Forster seconded, observing that there had been plenty of time spent over it before.—The motion was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman suggested that the new scale should come into operation at the beginning of the next school year, and this suggestion was agreed to.

Mr Archdall: When do the standing orders come into force?

Mr Bulmer: I expect that they come into use now, or at least as soon as little alterations have been effected.

Mr Archdall: Then I rise to a point of order. Mr Bulmer did not rise to address the chair. (Loud laughter).—This concluded the business.

STANLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A special meeting of the above Council was held on Wednesday evening. Mr J. Green presiding. There were also present Messrs J. Robinson, G. Forster, W. Indian, G. Ridley, J. Smith, M. G. Armstrong, J. G. Ridley (clerk), and J. Routledge (surveyor).

ROAD ACCOUNTS.

A letter was read from Mr Ralph Simey, clerk to the County Council, stating that there appeared to be £151 18s 8d due to the Stanley Urban District Council on account of the sum expended by the Lanchester Highway Board in improving the main roads in the area of the Stanley Council. The County Council had received a letter from the Lanchester Rural District Council, requesting that the money should be paid direct to the Lanchester Rural Council. If the Council approved of this being done, he (Mr Simey) requested them to pass a resolution to that effect, and forward a copy to him.—The Chairman explained that, along with Mr Forster, he had approached Mr Logan, chairman of the Council, and informed him that the letter had been received, and Mr Logan had expressed his willingness to meet the Council, and endeavour to come to an arrangement on the matter.—A Committee, consisting of Messrs Green, Forster, Smith, and the Clerk, was appointed to confer with Mr Logan at an early date.

ROAD IMPROVEMENT.

The Chairman stated that, along with Mr Ridley and Mr Smith, he had recently met Mr William Rutherford with regard to the condition of the West Shield Row Road, and Mr Rutherford had made, what he (the Chairman) considered a very reasonable proposal. He had offered to deal with the piece affected by the pitfalls by making a regular gradient, and widening the road, the metal to be supplied by the Council.—Mr Smith thought that the proposal was very reasonable.—Mr Forster: Who will maintain the road?—The Chairman: The Council, of course.—Mr Ridley thought the proposal was very reasonable. If they got the road widened by Mr Rutherford, it would be a great advantage.—Mr Armstrong proposed, and Mr Robinson seconded, a motion accepting the offer, which was adopted.

LIGHTING OF PRIVATE STREETS.

A letter was read from Mr Asquith, agent of Messrs. Joicey and Company, expressing the willingness of Messrs Joicey to erect the lamps in Joicey Square on condition that the Council maintained the lighting.—Mr Indian expressed the opinion that the coal-owners of the district were determined to compel the Council to maintain the lighting of the streets.—On the proposition of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Indian, it was decided that Messrs. Burns, Asquith, and Rutherford should be communicated with, to the effect that unless the companies they represented were prepared to pay half the cost of maintaining the lighting of the private streets, the Council would be compelled to have the streets lighted according to the powers contained in the Private Streets Act of 1892.

TANFIELD CHARITIES.

Mr Ridley drew attention to the recent distribution of the Tanfield charities, which, he stated, really belonged to the old parish, which included Stanley and Burnopfield. The amount was only about £22 a year, but they were entitled to their share. He proposed that the clerk be instructed to communicate with the clerk of the Tanfield Council, enquiring whether the Stanley Council were not entitled to representation on the board of trustees.—Mr Green seconded, and the motion was carried.—The meeting then terminated.

YOUNG HELPERS' LEAGUE CONCERT.

A large assembly met together in the Co-operative Hall, Consett, on Monday last, on the occasion of a further concert by the Young Helpers' League, with a view to the endowment of a "Consett Cot" in Dr. Barnardo's Children's Hospital. The programme, in the main, was carried out by the members of the Consett Habitation of the above League, and the Hon. Sec., Mrs Gledstone, Miss Tait (Assistant Hon. Sec.), Mrs Godfrey, and other ladies, who took a major part in the conduct of the concert, will no doubt find a just return for their labours in the gratifying audience which assembled to show their appreciation of their work, on Monday evening last. Space forbids individualising such a large and representative company as bestowed their patronage and presence on the occasion, many ladies and gentlemen of the district being present. The decorations and drapings were again superb, representing a large amount of labour and taste. The platform was bisected, the one half being utilised as a stage for the tableaux, and the other half for the piano and general artistes. The Consett Amateur Orchestra, under the conductorship of their indefatigable leader, Mr Williams, were again in attendance, and discoursed sweet strains of music throughout. After the opening prelude by the band, the programme was proceeded with forthwith, when the members of the Y.H.L., in their fleecy white costumes, rendered a chorus, entitled, "The Bells," in admirable style, exhibiting careful and finished training on the part of the instructress; an unfeminine voice, in the background, contributing a sepulchral metallic tone to [illegible] part singing of the young ladies and [illegible] whole forming a pleasing rep[illegible] "sweet chiming bells." Followi[illegible] pianoforte trio by the Misses Ho[illegible] ("The Bohemian Girl"). The [illegible] general performance of all thr[illegible] creditable, and greatly appre[illegible] entitled, "Darkness and Light[illegible] Powell, was very efficiently i[illegible] young lady, the descriptive fe[illegible] tion being further amplified [illegible] tableaux. Then we had a [illegible] Misses Edith Powell and Ber[illegible] came in for its merited s[illegible] "Sleigh Bells" was the title [illegible] passing thought of the pre[illegible] tions rendered it a thorough[illegible] Miss Powell rattled her bell[illegible] to the next item, we climb[illegible] the ladder from the sen[illegible] humorous, in which con[illegible] Eggleston treated us to [illegible] standing, entitled, "Bu[illegible] the audience in the int[illegible] with the audacity of a "professional" hawker. She did not receive any custom in the literalness of the words of the song, but the audience bestowed more than their charity by an encore, in response to which the singer sang part of the song again, with good effect. Miss Balleny's "Good Bye" was well received, and equally well rendered, but partly spoiled by juvenile restlessness in the rear of the building. A pianoforte solo by Miss Ainsworth (Balmoral) was the concluding item to the first portion of the programme, and was listened to with rapt attention. The selection includes many well-known airs, and the whole rendition was particularly enlivening and inspiriting, to such a degree, indeed, as to demand a well-merited encore, the same being readily responded to by Miss Ainsworth. After the interval, tableau was again the order of agenda, and we were treated to an exhibition of the "Old woman that lived in a shoe." The effect was equally conspicuous and realistic with the preceding exhibitions, and met with a round of applause. The shoe was exceedingly large, of course, to hold such a number of children, and Mr Imeson (Messrs. Tyler's new manager, who ably accompanied the orchestra on the piano), was seen to glance at it with a kind of wondering awe. Following the Old Woman in the Shoe, we listen to a delightfully simple and sweet little chorus entitled "What would you take for me?" the subject being expressive of childlike innocence and curiosity as to the extent and limit of parental love. "What would you take for me, Daddy?" was perhaps the best item in the evening's programme, and as such received an undeniable encore, the rendition being repeated right through. Miss Edith Wilson rendered a choice violin solo, "The rose of Allendale." Miss Foreman's two songs "Light in darkness" and "Dream voices" were received with merited favour and applause, the latter one being a really pretty piece, and as sweetly rendered, the result being a well-earned encore. Miss Edith Powell's recitation, "The road to Heaven," although slightly worn threadbare, was none the less ably interpreted, the elocution and dramatic illustration being forcefully portrayed. Miss Kate Powell's contribution of "Rory Darlin" was a song of material worth, and sung in a bold, full-toned voice, and the subject typically expressed in the true Irish peasant simplicity. Another pianoforte trio, by three young ladies (Misses Ida Scott and Pem and Essie Lee), represented both capacity and careful training received by these juvenile artistes. The concluding tabaleaux (Cinderella), in three scenes, was very beautiful, and the whole series of tableaux reflects great credit upon the skill and energy of Mrs Godfrey, and those assisting her in the undertaking. The evening's entertainment concluded about half-past nine, with the singing of the "National Anthem."

TOW LAW MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

The annual general meeting of this Institution was held on Monday evening, Mr A. W. Emerson presiding over a capital attendance.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Mr T. Sherwood (treasurer), submitted his financial report for the year 1896. Starting with a balance of £44 5s 4d., the total sum which had been placed at the disposal of the committee during the past year was £147 6s 8d. The renting of the hall had produced £48 3s 9d, the billiard table £29 19s 9d, member's subscriptions £22 4s 0d, and sale of papers £2 12s 4d. The expenditure for the same period amounted to £103 18s 9d, leaving a balance in hand of £13 7s 11d. The principal item in the expenditure was a sum of £29 16s 5d spent in remodelling the billiard table. Papers had cost £24 10s 6½d, salaries amounted to £22 16s 1d, and the gas bill totalled £19 10s 10d.

The Chairman said it would be useful to make a comparison between the financial reports for the years ending 1895 and 1896. In 1896 the income from rent of the hall amounted to £48 3s 9d, as compared with £43 10s in 1895. The billiard table had produced £29 19s 9d as compared with £31, and members' subscriptions amounted to £22 4s as against £22 8s in 1895. There had been a considerable falling off in the revenue from sale of old newspapers, £2 12s 4d having only been realised as against £4 15s 3d in the previous year. An exceptional item of expenditure was the sum spent on the improvement of the billiard table, and he (the speaker) thought that taking everything into consideration, they could heartily congratulate their treasurer upon having such a substantial balance in hand. (Applause).—The report was adopted unanimously.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

The Chairman said that the election of president had always been done by the general vote of the members of the Institution, and if it were agreeable to them, the same method of election would be pursued that night. It was open for all to make nominations.

Mr E. Richardson: I move Mr John Graham.

Mr Graham: No. Mr Laverick.

Mr J. Dodd: There is no intimation that Mr Laverick will take the post.

Mr Graham: Neither is there any intimation that he will refuse it.

Mr Dodd: I met Mr Laverick last week, and asked him whether we should elect him president, and he replied in the negative.

Mr Emerson said he had no information to give to the meeting, nor had he had any conversation with Mr Laverick upon the subject; but it did seem to him, from many considerations, desirable that Mr Laverick should accept the position, since he was the principal agent of the Weardale Iron Company, the owners of the Institute. If he were willing to accept the post, he (the speaker) would certainly—without at all anticipating the opinion of the meeting on the subject—say it was desirable that Mr Laverick should continue in the position of president. (Applause).

Mr Graham said he would prefer Mr Laverick's election, and not his own. (Hear, hear).

The Ch[illegible] in your hands, gentlemen. I[illegible] not [illegible] Mr Laverick nominated definit[illegible] Mr[illegible] pose that Mr Laverick be e[illegible] it. [illegible] l, and Mr W. Potts s[illegible] Emerson as president. [illegible] would like to see unani[illegible] ject. He certainly should not [illegible] to be submitted under any circums[illegible] nd would object to dividing the vote, if M[illegible] Laverick's name were submitted independently. (Hear, hear).

The nomination was withdrawn, and on being put to the meeting, the election of Mr Laverick was carried unanimously.

THE COMMITTEE.

The Chairman stated that a committee of ten, including the President, required electing for the year. Of this number, it was necessary that six should be in the service of the Weardale Iron Company. The other four could be chosen from outside.

The Company's representatives were elected first, the vote being taken by ballot. Messrs F. Macintosh and H. Hodgson were appointed scrutineers, the result being as follows:—Elected—T. Sherwood, 29; T. H. Potts, 24; A. W. Emerson, 23; F. Graham, 22; and W. Richardson, 19. Not elected—W. Coulthard, 17; and P. Rock, 7. The ballot for the members of the townspeople's committee resulted as below:—Elected, J. W. Temperley, 28; J. Graham, 23, and T. Blenkiron, 21. Not elected, T. Parkinson, 13; T. Wilson, 10; R. Rawes, 8; and C. W. Hall, 6. The hon. sec. (Mr J. Dodd) is a member of the committee by virtue of his office.

ELECTION OF OTHER OFFICERS.

On the motion of Mr W. Atkinson, seconded by Mr J. Graham, Mr Dodd was unanimously re-elected hon. secretary to the Institute. Mr T. Sherwood was also unanimously re-elected treasurer, on the motion of Mr T. Parkinson, seconded by Mr J. Graham.

The Chairman said they were deeply thankful for the many services rendered by Messrs Dodd and Sherwood during the past year, and it was only fitting that the meeting should accord them a hearty vote of thanks at the beginning of the New Year. (Applause).

Mr Dodd, in responding, said he looked upon his re-election as a great compliment, since he had been so long connected with the Institute. He remembered the time when the Institute was managed by Wm. Elliott, John Thompson, and himself, in the days long ago, when it was not in its present flourishing condition. There was a great deal of labour attached to the Secretary's duties, but he always looked upon it with pleasure, and could again heartily thank them for his re-election. (Applause).

Mr Sherwood also briefly responded.

On the motion of Mr Blenkiron, seconded by Mr Temperley, Mr Emerson was chosen vice-president, in place of Mr W. Atkinson, who resigned.

The Chairman, in returning thanks for his election, said that last year there was a movement made for the enlargement of the lecture hall and recreation room. He did not think anything definite had been done, and was afraid that it was not within the power of the Institution to undertake any scheme of the kind suggested, although they had a great deal more funds in hand than at the time the scheme was mooted. (Applause). He trusted the Institute would go on progressing as it had done in the past few years, and had again the pleasure of thanking them for his election as vice-president. (Applause).

[illegible]RESENTATION TO DR. HENLEY.

[illegible]llowing upon the complimentary dinner to [illegible] Henley, of Leadgate (whose departure from [illegible]istrict is deeply regretted by a large num[illegible] friends), a presentation of a purse of gold [illegible] gold dress ring, suitably inscribed, was [illegible] at a smoking concert, held at the house of [illegible] Collingwood, Queen Victoria Hotel, Leadgate, on Thursday evening in last week. A [illegible]ous company assembled, presided over by [illegible]lliam Brears, with Dr. Bratton as Vice-[illegible]an. There were also present—Dr. Henley, [illegible]lliam Whitfield, Mr M. D. Greener, Dr. [illegible], Mr M. Robson, Mr W. J. Foreman, Mr A. [illegible], Mr J. Graham, Mr E. Turnbull, Mr C. T. [illegible], Mr E. J. Sloane, Mr M. Keenleyside, Mr S. Aynsley, Mr H. Wood, Mr V. Thirlw[illegible] (Shotley Bridge), Mr Jno. Winter, Mr Jno. Burnhope, Mr H. Rawes, Mr J. R. Wood, Mr W. Redshaw, Mr J. E. Kinleside, Mr J. Kershaw, Mr George Walton, Mr A. Burnhope, Mr J. O. Todd, Mr W. Kerr, Mr H. Wanless, Mr J. B. Robson, Mr M. Speeding, Mr R. Forster, Mr J. Bedford, Mr J. Thompson, Mr R. McCabe, Mr R. Richardson, Mr E. Ridley, Mr A. Blench, Mr J. Teasdale, Mr F. Collingwood, Mr A. Dover, Mr J. Ross, jun., and others. The efforts of the Committee were liberally responded to, and a hearty vote of thanks is certainly due to those gentlemen for the admirable manner in which they did their duty. The Committee comprised—Messrs J. E. Kinleside, G. Walton, F. M. Foreman, F. Collingwood (Treasurer), A. Ramsay, J. Harper, and J. Ross, jun. (Honorary Secretary). Pipes were laid for the whole of the gentlemen present, and the supply of tobacco proved abundant. The greater part of the evening was devoted to singing, the gentlemen doing duty in this respect being—Dr. Bratton, Messrs Robson, W. Foreman, H. Wood, Redshaw, Speeding, Kinleside, Forster, and Thirlwell. Mr J. Bedford obliged the company with a capital recitation, and the musical accompaniments were very efficiently played by Messrs E. J. Sloane and J. R. Wood.

Mr Greener proposed "The Trade of the District." He said trade was, at the present, good, and so long as the Consett Iron Company got orders, trade was sure to remain good in the Leadgate district. (Applause).

Mr Robson, in responding to the toast, said he was glad that trade was prosperous at the present time, and, from all appearances, it was likely to continue for some years. (Applause).

The Chairman, speaking of the chief business of the evening—the presentation to Dr. Henley—said that it was a great pleasure to him to take the chair at that gathering, called together to speed the parting guest. They were heartily sorry that Dr. Henley was leaving, but if he should better himself, they would be all pleased to hear of it. (Applause). During the time Dr. Henley had been at Leadgate, he had made himself amiable and pleasant with everyone, rich and poor, and all would miss his presence very much indeed. (Applause). He (the speaker) would not encroach upon the preserves of the other speakers, and would at once call upon Mr Whitfield to make the presentation. (Applause).

Mr Whitfield said he was sure all would agree with him when he said it was a pity that they were losing the services of such an accomplished and experienced medical man as Dr. Henley. (Applause). His services had been valuable in the past, and would be still more valuable in the future. He was a man with ambition, and they all knew his ability—(hear, hear)—and were quite sure that he would make his mark in any district which he might enter. (Applause). Of all professions, he (Mr Whitfield) did not think there was one more beneficial to them than the medical profession, especially so, when there were such skilled practitioners in it as Dr. Henley. (Applause). He had had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Henley at various socials in Leadgate, and could safely say that his sociable qualities were exceedingly well developed, and their meeting that night showed the respect in which he was held by the people. (Applause). A small token of their esteem was shown in the valuable and handsome ring and purse of gold which he had now the pleasure of presenting to Dr. Henley as a small expression of the regard and respect the people had for him. (Applause). He hoped that Dr. Henley would be long spared to do good, and that the small present made that night would recall to him many pleasant recollections of the friends he was leaving at Leadgate. (Loud applause).

Dr. Bratton said it was not very long since he had first met with Dr. Henley, but from what he had heard and seen of him, he knew Dr. Henley to be a capable and efficient medical practicioner, who would be able to take charge of any district to which he might go. (Applause). He (Dr Bratton) had had the pleasure of being called in by Dr Henley to attend to cases, and he must say that Dr Henley was skilled in the profession, and well qualified to look after any district. They had had many bad cases of disease in Leadgate during Dr Henley's residence there, and he was certain that the Leadgate people were thoroughly well satisfied with Dr. Henley's treatment of these cases, and were showing their appreciation of his services, by making that presentation that night. (Applause). There was not the slightest doubt that Dr Henley, wherever he went, was bound to get on. He was sorry Dr. Henley was leaving them, for not only was he one of the professional men one liked to meet, but consultation with him was a pleasure. (Applause). He was certain the Leadgate people were heartily sorry at losing a medical man of the capabilities of Dr Henley, and a man who had always proved himself a good friend to them. He had great pleasure in wishing Dr. Henley "God-speed." (Applause).

Mr M. Robson said he did not think he could add much more to what had already been said, but as the occasion presented itself, and he had been a patient under Dr. Henley, he took the opportunity of saying that he had not the least doubt—and he was sure the people of Leadgate and the surrounding district would agree with him—that Dr. Henley would make a name for himself wherever he went. (Applause). He had had diseases of every discription to contend with, and the experience he had gained in Leadgate would, undoubtedly, be to his advantage in the future. When he should leave Leadgate, he would leave with the wishes of the people for his future good, and he (the speaker) trusted that the little insignificant present they had made Dr. Henley that night, would live long in his recollections and remind him of the short time he was in Leadgate, and of the people amongst whom he enjoyed himself. (Applause).

Dr. Henley, in responding, said he could not express his gratitude to them that night for the splendid testimonial they had presented to him. (Applause). He must thank them for the kind words said of him, and the compliments paid him, but he thought they had paid him a still greater compliment by the presentation they had made. It was very easy to give to a testimonial, but often difficult to be at the presentation, therefore, he thanked all for their attendance that night. He was very glad, indeed, when he heard that Mr Brears was to be Chairman, for he was the first Yorkshireman he (Dr. Henley) met in Leadgate. They all knew that Yorkshiremen were more or less clannish, and were of opinion that there were none like Yorkshiremen. (Laughter). Still, he thought that the people who ran them closest were the people of Durham. (Hear, hear). A doctor's position, wherever it was, was not of the easiest, and in Leadgate they had to put up with their difficulties as well as their pleasures. (Hear, hear). Since he had been in Leadgate, he had made more friends than anywhere else—(hear, hear)—and under the circumstances he was leaving them, he was sure to remember them in the future. However, he could assure them that in Dr. Wilsden they had got a good man to follow him, and he was sure that when they got to know Dr. Wilsden, they would generally appreciate his worth. (Applause). Dr. Wilsden had come with a good reputation, and he (Dr. Henley) was certain he would live up to it, and if they only appreciated Dr. Wilsden as they had done him, they would do the former a great deal of good. (Applause). Dr. Henley again thanked those present for the testimonial given him.

Mr H. Wood, in a brief speech, welcomed Dr. Wilsden to Leadgate.

Dr. Wilsden, in reply, said he had not been in Leadgate very long, but since he had been there, he had been shown every kindness. (Applause).

Mr W. Foreman toasted "The Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, and Mr Whitfield," with the drinking of which the smoking concert concluded.

SOUTH MOOR.

Correction.—In our report of Lanchester Petty Sessions, which appeared in last week's issue, the name of Thomas Shield was erroneously given as having been convicted of drunkenness. The person so convicted was Thomas Shevels.

WASKERLEY.

Accident to a Labourer.—At the Waskerley Waterworks, where at the present time Mr Scott, of Cotherstone, is carrying out extensive alterations in the making of new reservoirs for the Consett Waterworks Company, a labourer, whose name is unknown, met with a very serious accident, on Saturday. The man, who was employed on the works, was engaged at the time on the railway. A "sprag," which was holding a waggon to the lines, gave way, and the truck running down the incline, knocked the man down, and severely injured three of his ribs. He was afterwards attended to by Dr. Macintyre, of Consett.

OXHILL.

Primitive Methodism.—The Rev. A. T. Guttery, of Newcastle, preached in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, on Saturday afternoon, and lectured in the evening on "Queer folks, a character study." Dr. Morison, of Catchgate, presided over the evening's proceedings, at which the attendance was exceedingly large. During the interval, between the sermon and the lecture, a public tea was held, at which the tables were presided over by the Misses Watt, Ledger, Palmer, and Tiplady. The proceeds, amounting to about £5, are to be devoted to the Sunday School funds. It may be mentioned that four years ago, the Sunday School was erected at a cost of about £300, there being then only £40 in hand. The debt on the building has now been reduced to £15, which is extremely creditable to the working classes who form the greater portion of the congregation. The school has accommodation for 180 scholars. The church members propose shortly to have a heating apparatus put in at an expense of between £30 and £40. Mr James Joicey has recently contributed £1 1s towards the chapel funds, this being by no means the first occasion on which he has assisted the congregation.

SECULARISM v. CHRISTIANITY.

MR. COHEN AND THE "CONSETT CHRONICLE."

PUBLIC DEBATE.

The return visit of Mr Charles Cohen to Stanley, had been looked forward to with considerable interest, due to a great extent to the controversy which has recently been waged in the *Consett Chronicle* columns, and on Saturday evening the Albert Hall was crowded, about 2,000 being present to hear him lecture on "The Philosophy of Secularism, a reply to the Rev. W. Gelley, and other critics." Mr Gelley was a conspicuous figure on the front seats.

Mr Hall Nicholson presided, and in the course of his opening remarks, stated that a considerable amount of attention and discussion had been aroused by Mr. Cohen's last series of lectures. That was as it ought to be, for it was only by careful study, and by the clashing of men in public debate, that people could arrive at the truth. They (the Secularists) had always held that it was a great thing to have public discussion, and at the conclusion of Mr Cohen's lectures they would allow questions to be asked. After the questions had been answered, any gentleman was at liberty to speak for ten minutes, when Mr Cohen would be allowed the same time in which to make his reply. A second ten minutes would be given to each of the disputants if necessary. Having appealed to the audience to preserve good order, the Chairman called upon the lecturer.

Mr Cohen, who was applauded on rising, said that when last at Stanley, he ventured to appear in the character of a prophet—a character which he did not often assume, for he was a believer in the American humorist, who said, "Never prophesy unless you know." (Laughter). On that occasion, however, he ventured to prophesy that there would be a great many people answering him after he had left, who were not quite so ready to criticise him when he was in Stanley. (Hear, hear). The prophesy turned out accurate, and that night he hoped and expected that having had so much discussion in the district recently, they would have an intelligent discussion after the lecture was ended. Coming to the subject, Mr Cohen declared that a man must either be wilfully blind, or strangely unobservant, who failed to see the weakening of Christian feelings, and the transference of those feelings from man to God, all round. Indeed, the most popular preachers of to-day, usually impressed upon people that the great advantage of Christianity was that it made men happier, better, and more loveable whilst in this world; that the great benefit of believing in God was, that it made men better. Now, that was an entirely new note in Christian thought. Their forefathers did not pride themselves on that matter, and the older generation of Baptists and Methodists hated all that was worldly, and did not believe in what they termed "the pleasures of the flesh." Christ declared himself, that His kingdom was not of this world, and the leaders of Christian thought who followed immediately after the disciples, all struck the same note, namely, that this life was a life of preparation for one beyond the grave. That state of things continued for many generations, but it was now broken down, and there sprang up the present habit of looking at Christianity from a partly Secularist view. The Secularist assumed a life based on this life alone, and obviously this was sufficient, or it was not sufficient. If it was not sufficient, the Christian ought to prove that life could not be made livable and loveable without another world being dragged in. The Secularists held that it could, and that feeling was growing all over the civilised world. Where kings previously held their position by Divine right, they now held it because of the benefits supposed to be conferred on the people. To-day, even the clergy were telling them that they ought to do right because it was right. They repeated the old phrases, but they had no reality. They were only weary ghosts haunting the scenes of their former life. One critic of his (Mr Cohen's) former lecture—which he never heard—thought it absurd to come to the conclusion that if a man's belief in God was genuine, he ought to sit by his fireside and let God do what he would. That was quite his position. If God was all-powerful and all-wise, and created the world, he knew the effect of its forces, and it was a piece of impertinence on the part of anybody, who believed in God, to profess to help an Omnipotent God to manage a world of his own creation. The Bible told the Christian that prayer and faith cured the sick, but no Christians except the Peculiar People believed in prayer when they imagined that any doctor could benefit them. (Laughter). Christians never believed in God until they had exhausted every other channel of assistance. When quite sure that he could get no further help from himself or his neighbours, the Christian said that he was in God's hands, and when he said that, he was generally in a very desperate state. (Laughter). Christians believed in their religion at the Sunday-School. When they came out to do business, they applied substantially the same tests as the Secularists. They said that they had a Secularism, but this was something quite new for Christians to pride themselves upon possessing. If Secularism were bad, it meant that Christians were even worse than Secularists. If Secularism was good, why on earth were people continually complaining about the degrading effects of it? (Hear, hear). Intellectual development was due to two causes, the first being the scientific development of the last 300 years. The earlier Christians believed—and the belief was held to within the last 200 years—that heaven was a place above where stars were placed as lights. Below that came the earth, and below that were the infernal regions, where numbers of people were sent to meditate upon the goodness of God. That belief had been destroyed, and when it was destroyed, Christianity was destroyed also. Scientific development had provided better means of communication. People mixed more freely with their own people, and people of other countries, and this was the means of doing away with a large amount of superstition. After demonstrating the reasons why isolated people were more superstitious than those with greater means of communication, Mr Cohen stated that one of the results of this better communication was that man was growing more and more Secular everyday. There was a large number of men to whom the view of life held by the Christian was absolutely essential, and Secularism provided that necessary philosophy. They did not think that they were infallible. They claimed that their philosophy was freer from errors than most philosophies. It was based upon human experience, and was subject to those errors which human wisdom was subject to, but which they hoped would be corrected as man grew wiser, and the world grew better. Secularists did not pretend to explain everything. It was only the religious man who could do that. The man who had adopted the Methodist or Baptist creed, could explain everything in five minutes. (Laughter). What Secularists claimed as their first principle was freedom of speech and freedom of thought. Each man should be allowed to act as he pleased, provided that he did not interefere with the liberty of someone else. They believed in the absolute freedom of everybody to express their opinions so long as they did it in decent language. They believed that the duty of thinking was not worth having unless it was accompanied by the opportunity of speaking. Secularism was as wide as the world, and as free as the air. Their platform was not even closed to clergymen who could come to their halls, and deliver a lecture on the sole condition that they granted the same freedom as the Secularists allowed, namely, to permit discussion at the finish. As a rule, those who did come had a warm time of it. (Laughter). They had no ritual for people to learn and repeat like parrots. They had had nobody excommunicated for heresy. They had secured part freedom of speech, though there were places where halls were closed to them, by the laws of England, which were passed by Christians, and maintained by Christians. Where halls were open, they were often refused to them in a manner which was all the more despicable because it was done by people who had not the courage to do it openly, but who did it with a hypocritical smile on their faces, and who professed a belief in freedom of speech. Secularism recognised their duties to their fellows on purely human grounds, and without any consideration of a future life. The man who gave a crust of bread to another, because he was hungry, was doing good from a secular stand point. The man who did it because God told him to do so was not a Secularist. He was doing it because God had promised to reward him a hundred fold. They did not claim a monopoly of goodness, though some of his critics seemed to think that he had made such an absurd statement. There were many good people who considered themselves Christians. Whenever a man did anything good from a purely human good motive, he became a Secularist, let him call himself what he liked. What were feeding the hungry, attending to the sick, and comforting the fatherless, but actions based upon purely worldly considerations? They were actions concerned with his life, and thereby became part and parcel of the Secularist philosophy. As the whole history of the world showed Christianity was taking from society a large amount of mental and moral energy, which might be applied more profitably than at present. There were 40,000 clergymen in Great Britain, and if they spent their time in the consideration of mental and moral problems, instead of praying, what amount of energy they would let loose upon society! The Church of England alone absorbed twenty millions a year, which if taken from the Church and spent on Social measures, would solve all the problems which would confront them during the next twenty-five years. Wherever they had a priesthood, they had a people oppressed. There never was a priesthood in the whole world which did not live by the sucking of the blood of labour year after year, and that was why people—the moneyed classes particularly—dreaded Secularism. They did not fear a movement like Christian Socialism. They knew that would not do them much harm, but they did dread a movement which aimed at liberating the mind, because they knew that if the mind were liberated, it would not be long before the body was free also. The people of the world had been kept back by mental tyranny. The power of the priesthood had worked together with the sweater. "Blessed be ye poor," the priest had said, and the sweater had kept them poor. (Hear, hear). Secularists believed that they were striking at the root of the matter in going to work in the manner in which they were. They believed, with the Christian, in a city made for righteousness, but they believed in having it here, and they believed that it should be dug out of the mines of human industry and perseverance, and from the intelect of man. People had trusted too much to God. They had prayed to Him whilst their children died. Men had prayed to Him when they were starving by hundreds, and had cried for assistance as they went down in the angry waves. Their prayers were not answered. Men and women had progressed through the development of human intellect, and if any Christian knew of some other cause responsible for this progress, he should be glad to hear of it. No one could deny that their material, national, and individual prosperity depended upon their knowledge of nature. Whether there was a God or not, all things with which they were concerned was to understand the forces of nature, and the idea of a God, or the teachings of Jesus Christ, never had helped them to do that. They recognised that the duties to themselves, their fellows, their wives, and families were just the same, whether there existed one God or half-a-dozen gods. They had just the same desires and needs, whether they believed that they ended in the grave or existed beyond it. Happiness was their end, not the mere pleasure of the moment, but happiness in its widest sense. Christians always told them that happiness was not the end, but they always acted as if it were. (Laughter). They judged the motive of an action by the result of that action. Those actions which produced happiness to their friends and families, they styled "good." The idea of God was not safe enough. People had burned witches, Jews, and heretics, out of a conscientious conviction that God wanted them to do so. Revelation was no real guide, for Christians were continually quarrelling amongst themselves as to what God meant when he gave it. They could only fall back upon Secularism, which taught them to promote a happier and better life here, independent of what was to come hereafter.

The Editor of the "Consett Chronicle" asked what they would lose if they took away Biblical teaching from their schools. He would tell them what they would lose. They would lose the text which told them "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live." They would lose the text which told them to "Purchase slaves of the heathen that are around you." They would lose the text in Deuteronomy which told them "And thou shalt stone him with stones that he die." They would lose the text, "Women submit to your husbands." They would lose the doctrines of passive obedience and of eternal damnation, and they would be all the better for having lost them. (Hear, hear). Instead, they would retain all the good which Christianity contained. The doctrine which said, "Speak truthfully and act honestly," was a good doctrine, no matter who taught it, and it was a piece of impertinence for the Christian to imply that teachings inculcated by every other creed, and taught by every race of men, was a Christian teaching. These virtues sprang out of humanity, were rooted in humanity, and had no meaning outside of humanity. How in the name of all that was sensible, could Secularism make life worse? Their lives might be short and narrow, but at least, whilst they were here they were men and women, not vanishing somethings, and they could write their lives in letters of stone, and if they did this, they would earn the only immortality a good man ever fought for—that they lived their lives here so as to do good to their fellows. (Applause). He laid down three points, and he hoped that his critics would keep to them. His main position was that God was not necessary to make life worth living. Secularists claimed freedom of thought and speech, and he wanted to know what Christian objected to that? They claimed that man's social progress had been worked out by our own intellectual development. He wanted to know at what time Jesus Christ helped to solve one of the social problems by which they were surrounded? After further remarks, the lecturer went on to say that

Roman Catholicism and Free Thought were the two great extremes. The Protestants were a declining quantity, and had been so ever since the 17th century. The two forces which were growing were Atheism and Roman Catholicism, and between these two extremes there was no halting place. Every man must choose between one and the other, and between these two great forces the fight had yet to come. They had only had a few skirmishes so far. They could depend upon it that the Catholic Church would not give up its position. He said to all of them that night that here were the two extremes, and they must choose whom they would serve—God or man. Whether they would follow the teaching of a semi-barbarous Bible, or they would follow science, which taught them that it was more important to understand this life than the life beyond, if there were any. The laws of nature could be harmonised by science, and made softer in their working by human sympathy. There were large numbers of men who were spending their lives in thrashing out problems which could not have any appreciable effect on their lives. As Col. Ingersol had said, "Let us have one world at a time; the time to be happy is now, and the place is here." (Cheers). In his concluding remarks, Mr Cohen urged that morality was distinct from Christianity.

The Chairman having invited questions, a Gentleman in the audience asked Mr Cohen to supply statistics proving the accuracy of his statement regarding the alleged decline of Protestantism.

Mr Cohen replied that he could not supply figures off-hand, but he could inform his questioner that on the continent there were countries formerly entirely Protestant, which had now large Roman Catholic bodies. Nobody could look at the North of England and fail to see the growth of Catholic Churches. Some time last year the *Newcastle Chronicle* or the *Leader* took a cens[illegible] of Churchgoers, when, with the exceptio[illegible] a single Church, the Protestant chu[illegible] showed a marked decrease, and the Cath[illegible] Churches showed a corresponding incr[illegible] Froude, the historian, told them that [illegible] testantism reached its full stature with[illegible] years of its birth, and since then it h[illegible] held its own. Of course there were [illegible] Protestants now than there were 10[illegible] ago, but not in proportion to the popu[illegible] Dissenters to-day were lamenting the [illegible] tendency of the English Church.

A question regarding the indestruc[illegible] of matter having been dealt with,

Mr Charlton rose, and asked: Is [illegible] fact that the worst foes a man has i[illegible] proceed from within, and not from [illegible] Mr Charlton then went on to say th[illegible] Christ had the power to make a m[illegible] and more honourable. (Loud chee[illegible]

The Chairman rose to request the speaker to confine himself to his question, and was greeted with a storm of hisses, and cries of "Let the man speak" and "Sit down." The Chairman emphatically intimated that if the audience hissed till midnight he would not sit down. They would tire of hissing before he tired of standing. The questioner was making a speech, and if he was to do that, he was at liberty to come upon the platform and talk for ten minutes. Silence having been restored,

Mr Cohen rose, and said that the platform was open to any man who wanted to speak. It was contemptible cowardice to shout "Let the man speak," when they knew that no one would prevent him from doing so. The question was one of those platform or pulpit plattiudes, used to blind people. Motives came from within, but they were brought there from without. There was more crime from bad social surroundings that people dwelt amongst than anything else.

The Rev. W. Gelley now ascended the platform, amid a perfect tempest of applause, but before he proceeded with his remarks, the Chairman invited further questions, and Mr Cohen was asked to tell the audience of any practicable service rendered by the Secularists to the people of the country.

Mr Cohen replied: "You ought to know that George Jacob Holyoake is the father of Co-operation in England; that Robert Owen is one of the founders of Socialism; and that Thomas Payne did more to found Democracy in England than any other man. Charles Bradlaugh did away with the Truck Act, and worked hard to win the Franchise, and." Mr Cohen added, "a man in the county of Durham asked me that question." (Cheers).

Mr Stephen Nicholson, of Annfield Plain, suggested that the Chairman should allow an extension of time to Mr Gelley, seeing that the lecturer had spoken for nearly an hour, but the Chairman declared his intention of sticking to the conditions originally laid down.

Mr Gelley then rose, amidst very hearty cheering, and said he had understood from the placard that he should be the subject of fair, honest, and legitimate criticism, and he was present that night to deal with Mr Cohen only so far as any challenge was laid down to his public utterances on "The religion of Jesus Christ, the best Secularism, and something more." There was an authorised version of that lecture in his possession, and there was an unauthorised version, which had appeared in the columns of the *Consett Chronicle*. Mr Cohen had commenced his lecture by telling them that he was a prophet, and that his prophesies had come true, and that the clergy, who were generally in those cowards' castles, which he called pulpits, had been pretty free in criticising him after he had gone away. He (Mr Gelley) rather took an objection to that remark, which was an insinuation that the clergy were cowards, and said things in Mr Cohen's absence which they did not dare to say in his presence. Clergymen had engagements of their own to attend to, which were probably of more importance to them than debating with Mr Cohen. Surely the gentleman did not limit freedom of speech to himself. If he (Mr Cohen) were at liberty to lecture as he liked, was not he (Mr Gelley) quite at liberty to do the same? He could please himself what he lectured upon, or whether he lectured at all. Was he to seek the consent of Mr Cohen? He had anticipated that Mr Cohen would have demonstrated that there were distinctive Secularist principles, which belonged to that class as distinctly separate from any other class, and of which no other community were privileged to reap the benefits, but he had not even attempted to do so. He had admitted that many Christians were good men, and that they had done good from pure motives. Nobody ever suspected that such was not the case. He wanted to know what great Secular duty Christianity had ever prohibited? The Christianity in which he believed had a distinctive Secular as well as Christian side, and had a religion for this life and for the life to come, and he believed that the life to come was largely determined by the life lived on this earth. Mr Cohen had tried to point out that the Secular side of Christianity was of very recent origin, but in his recent lecture, he (Mr Gelley) laid down the two great fundamental principles that man must serve God and love his neighbour as himself; and St. John told him that if a man pretended to love God, and did not love his fellow man, his profession was an utter mockery and sham. Jesus Christ told them that when men appeared before His tribunal they would have to answer for the deeds done in this life, and the man who had fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and visited the sick, should be the man who would receive his approbation, and enter into life eternal. A man who was cruel, and did nothing to lessen the woes of mankind, received his condemnation. His love to man and to God had to show itself in this life. Mr Cohen said that Secularism brought three great benefits. Freedom of speech, he said, was no use without the freedom of thought, and he added that certain laws in the Statute Book of England had prohibited freedom of speech, but the laws of England did not all harmonise with the teachings of Jesus Christ—would to God that they did—and whilst they affected Secularists, they probably affected others. Would Mr Cohen prove to them that Christianity prohibited free speech? Had he distinctly shown that there was any distinctive Secularist virtue which was confined to those of his faith? He talked of Christians giving things from motives of reward, but if happiness were the reward of giving, and Secularists were made happy through giving, were they not selfish in their giving? To love the right and obey God were not distinct. God was right, and loved right, and when a man did right, he did what God wanted him to do. (Cheers).

Mr Cohen said that Mr Gelley had not touched upon the three main points of his lecture. Morality was quite independent of religion, and their social life could be made worth living independent of religion. All that made life bright and beautiful was separate from religion. Mr Gelley would have done well to have gone to the root of the matter. What was the distinctive feature between Christianity and Secularism? It was this, that either religion was necessary or not. If it were necessary, Mr Gelley was right, if it were not, he (Mr Cohen) was right. Mr Gelley could settle the question. Mr Gelley began by saying that he had expected from the posters that he would be the subject of the lecture, and that the report of his lecture, which appeared in the *Consett Chronicle*, would be dealt with. He (Mr Cohen) dealt with that and other criticism in a general manner, considering that to be preferable to taking out little statements here and there. He repeated what he had said about clergy and their cowards' castle. Mr Gelley had redeemed himself from the charge, and, as he had come on to the platform, he (Mr Cohen) could not say of him what he had said of other ministers. But he could say that anyone who could not find time to speak of a man when he was present, ought not to criticise him when he was away. (Cheers). The pulpit was a coward's castle. Clergymen preached from the pulpits, and told men that Secularism was bad, and they gave no opportunity for reply. If no opportunity of defence were afforded to the Secularists who might be amongst the congregation, it was unfair to make the statements. He had never said that there were Christians who were good Secularists. He said that many who called themselves Christians were good Secularists. There were many who called themselves Christians, but who conducted themselves in practical life as though there were no such thing as Christianity in existence, and when they did good they did it from purely human motives. When Jesus Christ caused devils to come out of people who never had them, and who were simply suffering from epileptic seizures, as any doctor would tell them, he laid the foun- [illegible]ars of torture. For instance, the [illegible] death of witches, or persons [illegible] be witches, for such a thing [illegible]d. He challenged Mr Gelley to [illegible]e New Testament a single text [illegible]ed liberty of speech, but he [illegible]ning through the whole of it, [illegible]he reverse direction. Jesus [illegible] shall be forgiven to man [illegible]y against the Holy Ghost." [illegible]o "Believe, and ye shall be [illegible]s their faith, not their works, [illegible]hem. Mr Gelley told them [illegible] to John, every man should [illegible]ur as himself, but Jesus [illegible] the very opposite. Jesus [illegible] a man's condition in the [illegible]cided by his conduct in the [illegible] state of a man's here- [illegible] by his life here, what [illegible]y of the redemption through the blood of Christ, and what of the story of the thief on the cross at Calvary? They could not have the doctrine of atonement, and the doctrine of life here deciding the hereafter. The two were incompatible. In assuming that a man acted selfishly in doing good from any motive, Mr Gelley showed that he possessed the usual inaccurate opinion of the meaning of the word. The happiness which followed the performance of a good action was the only and infallible result of that action. (Cheers).

Mr Gelley said that Mr Cohen had said much but proved little, and he would like him to prove his statements. He had referred to witchcraft and other things, but he had not stated where the statements could be found in the New Testament. He (Mr Gelley) had proved what he said, that the man who professed to love his God was bound by that very act to love his fellow man, and if he did not love his fellow man, the Bible said that he was a "liar." Some of those who ventured to disagree with Mr Cohen were very disrespectfully treated, and, because a gentleman happened to shake his head at some statement, he was told that there was nothing in his head.

Mr Cohen: I never told Mr Gelley that.

A great uproar here ensued, and, after the Chairman had restored a semblance of order,

Mr Cohen said that he had not been guilty of impertinence to Mr Gelley, and that gentleman was not justified in saying that when anyone differed from him he treated them with impertinence.

The Chairman said that Mr Cohen had not insulted Mr Gelley. What he did on some other occasion to another person they had nothing to do with.

Mr Gelley: He never said it about me. He knows better, but he said it about a working-man who could not defend himself—Mr Simpson, of No Place. Resuming his address, Mr Gelley said that, for thirty-four years, Christians had been combating with Secularists on the public platform, during which time they had had about forty-four debates, of four, six, or ten days' each, and still, because they could not leave their important duties to debate with Mr Cohen, they were called cowards. Of course, he himself had now been exempted from that noble body. Mr Cohen had asked him to find a text stating that there was liberty of speech taught in the New Testament. Where could he (Mr Cohen) find a text which condemned the right of speech? Jesus Christ laid down the great principle of human brotherhood, and the common brotherhood carried with it the right to think and the right to speak. Mr Cohen talked about the dying thief. What would he have done with the dying thief? Jesus told him, "To-day thou shalt feast with Me in Paradise." Of course, Secularists had no paradise, but Christians had. (Hear, hear). Mr Cohen had spoken of the work done by Mr Bradlaugh and others. Well, he (Mr Gelley) had stood with Mr Bradlaugh on a platform in that very county, advocating the right of working-men to obtain the franchise. Mr Cohen had not shown that great reforms were distinctly due to the Secularists. Christianity had the better of Secularism, inasmuch as they not only had the best in this world, but they also had another to look forward to. Mr Gelley then went on to quote the names of Elliott, Hampden, Pym, Wilberforce, John Bright, Florence Nightingale, Sister Dora, Fox, Howard, Booth, Chalmers, Gladstone, and others, as showing that no great reform had ever been effected solely through the efforts of Secularists. Where had the Secularists an orphanage, or a school? The fact was that Christians did the work, whilst Secularists were doing the talking. (Loud cheers).

A tremendous hubbub now arose, owing to some people at the rear of the hall claiming that Mr Gelley had not had his ten minutes. However, the rev. gentlemen himself expressed the opinion that he had had full time, and

Mr Cohen then rose for the last time. He again reminded his hearers that Mr Gelley had not touched his position. Morality was independent of religion, and Mr Gelley had not shown that this was not so. He hoped that Mr Gelley did not fancy that reading off a number of names was any argument, but it he did, he (Mr Cohen) could mention the names of such men as Garabaldi, who died for Italy, and such movements as the French Revolution. The two greatest men of the century, Herbert Spencer and Charles Darwin, were Atheists. Mr Gelley said that he (Mr Cohen) knew better than to say that there was nothing in Mr Gelley's head. If he had reason to do so, he would not hesitate to do it. He had dealt with much abler men than Mr Gelley. He said that Mr Simpson's head was empty, and Mr Gelley had said that he (Mr Simpson) could not defend himself, which was practically the same thing. Mr Gelley ought not to be impertinent to Mr Simpson in his absence. The text about the witches, which Mr Gelley had enquired about, was not in the New Testament at all. It was in the Old. Would any Christian throw over the old Bible? Did not Christ believe it? Did he not believe that men and women were possessed by devils? Mr Gelley dare not go into his pulpit and deny the old Bible. He had not said anything about that.

Mr Gelley rose to a point of order, but

The Chairman said that Mr Cohen was quite in order. The Old Testament was part of the Bible.

Mr Cohen said that the imputation of Mr Gelley's question concerning the witches, was that the Old Testament was not part of the Bible. He contended that it was, and it was unfair of Mr Gelley to throw over more than half of the Christian religion in order to score a point. The New Testament doctrine was that "he that believeth not shall be damned," yet Mr Gelley said that a man's position in the future was determined by his action in this. He urged that the story of the Thief on the Cross gave the lie to that statement. Mr Gelley had asked what he would do with the thief, but that was no argument. Mr Gelley was trying to run two different things together. He had simply avoided the question by telling them that Jesus commanded them to love their fellows. What did Christ say to the woman? "Is it not meet to cast bread to the dogs?" and St. Paul said——

At this point a terrible uproar commenced, drowning the remainder of the sentence.

Mr Cohen exclaimed: I am glad you see that Mr Gelley is beaten.

Although the lecturer had not quite completed his ten minutes, he was compelled to resume his seat, and the proceedings were terminated by a vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr Gelley, and seconded by Mr Cohen.

On Sunday afternoon, Mr Cohen addressed a fair audience on the subject of Evolution. Mr Johnson, of Annfield Plain, presided. There were no questions or discussion, though both were invited.

MISSIONARY SOCIETIES.

REMARKABLE STATEMENTS.

THE CHALLENGE TO SECULARISTS.

MR COHEN'S TERMS.

Mr John White presided on Sunday evening, when Mr Cohen lectured to a crowded audience, on Foreign Missions. In the course of his remarks, he stated that fifteen millions of natives were put to death in the conquest and Christianising of South America. It was true that modern Protestant missions did not adopt the deliberate slaughtering of the earlier Romish missions, but the result was the same. Wherever the white men went, the black man disappeared, India alone being excepted. The blacks were made fit for heaven, and sent there as quickly as possible. In New Zealand, for instance, in 1770, there was a native population of 100,000, and in 1890, it had dwindled down to 36,000. In face of that fact was it not utter hypocrisy to say that they were going to these countries for the good of the poor natives? Lord Stanmore, who was Governor of Fiji for many years, had spoken strongly of the ridiculous appearance presented by the natives when wearing English costumes. The missionaries had made it punishable by fine and imprisonment to wear native clothes, and to drink the native drink, but they had not done the same in the case of English rum and whisky. Women had been whipped by order of the missionaries for the crime of bathing on Sundays. The Church Missionary Society's report, for 1896, stated that in parts of Africa rum was drunk by the natives to an incredible degree. He submitted that if any religion was doing good in Africa, it was that of Mahomedanism, which prohibited the use of strong drink. Slavery itself was introduced into Africa by a white Christian. How many converts were made, and were those they did get worth the having? Speaking of Liberia, Professor Cooke told them that missionaries bought converts at three dollars ahead. Mr Cohen then quoted numerous instances in which the representatives of the various Churches made charges and counter-charges against each other of taking—chiefly by bribery—the converts from one Church to another. Touching on the results, Mr Cohen said the North African Mission spent £5,297 in 1891, and £7,544 15s 5d in 1896. Fifteen missionaries reported that the natives of Tangiers were very thankful for the material assistance. So also would natives be in this country. (Laughter). Altogether, about 74 missionaries converted "none for certain," but at Tunis, 13 missionaries made three converts, two of whom were "very ignorant," and the other mad. (Laughter). The Church Missionary Society spent £300,000 every year, and as specimens of their success he quoted that in Palestine last year, 151 missionaries made two converts. In Persia, 50 missionaries did not make a single convert; but in Bagdad, the same number of missionaries made five converts. In the whole of India, 3,293 missionaries made 2,013 converts, and spent £23,000 in doing it. In Ceylon, 630 missionaries made 139 converts. £31,014 was spent on "administering" the funds of this Society. It was money for the benefit of clergymen who had procured it from little children by telling them not to spend their money on sweets, but to give it to the missionaries. It was money too contemptibly obtained for anyone but a clergyman to dirty his fingers with. The Baptists reported that they had made 4,116 converts, and lost 3,229 during the year, leaving a net gain of 880 by 450 missionaries. The London Missionary Society spent over £150,000, and reported that they had now more schools, but less scholars—(laughter)—than last year. At Quamba, five converts had been expelled for immorality. In India, 52 missionaries converted nine Hindoos; and in China, 15 missionaries made one convert, and spent £3,000 over him. (Laughter). The majority of the converts, as stated by such a man as Sir H. H. Johnson, consul in the Cameroons, were bad men, addicted to drunkenness and debauchery. Canon Isaac Taylor wrote to the *Times*, challenging contradiction of Sir H. H. Johnson's statement, and not a single missionary in Great Britain dared to take it up. In Cape Town to-day, when the dealers wanted a Kaffir boy, they hung up a notice "no converted boy need apply," this being because the converts were notorious for their thievish habits. After quoting a characteristic poem from Mr Labouchere, relating to missionary enterprise, the lecturer informed his audience that the Society for the conversion of the Jews had last year spent £35,000 in making a single convert. Jews were much dearer than Chinamen. (Laughter). If all the reports were true—which they were not—and all the clergy well-meaning—which they were not—if the converts were good people instead of the scum, what was the result? After 100 years work in India, they had got 2½ millions of Christians, and within the last ten years, the population of that country had increased by 22 millions. For every one convert there were 182 foreign non-Christians. A curious fact in connection with the work was that where the land was rich, there the missionaries were found in great numbers; but where the lands were poor, there were few missionaries. The whole history of Christian Missions was Bible and bullets from beginning to end. The whole secret of it lay in the fact that the clerical market was overcrowded, and so these societies were started. Bogus reports were cooked, and sent round to old ladies of both sexes. It was about time that this huge imposture was stopped, and people found something better to do with their money. There were more savages in the British Isles than they could possibly convert in the next 100 years, and after converting the savages at home, they would have plenty of time to convert those at home. (Applause).

The first question asked was, "Does the Secularist Society publish statistics, showing the converts that they make yearly? If so, let us have them to compare with those of the Missionary Society."

Mr Cohen declined to answer the question, as it had no connection with the lecture. The number of converts made to Secularism had nothing to do with the waste of money by Missionary Societies. Later in the evening, Mr Cohen stated that it was impossible for the Secularists to publish an account, giving the number of their converts, as they made numerous converts who did not join the Society. He himself made 100 converts in the East End of London in a single year.

A Gentleman asked Mr Cohen to produce last year's balance-sheet.

Mr Cohen said that he had not got one with him.

The Gentleman: Send for one.

Mr Cohen retorted that he could not possibly get one from London by the following night.

Another Gentleman asked, "Are you prepared to say, by sound and honest statement, that the missionaries have been the actual persons that have taken spirits and acoholic drinks amongst the people they went to convert?"

Mr Cohen replied that he had never said that the missionaries took the drink themselves, but the trader and the missionary went hand in hand. It looked suspicious that in the Fiji Islands, the missionaries prohibited the use of the native drink, and not of the English spirits.—Another question having been answered, Mr Cohen drew attention to the *Consett Chronicle*, contents bill. He said he saw on a placard of the *Consett Chronicle*, "A challenge to Secularists." He had not read the present number of the *Chronicle*, but he would state the terms on which he was prepared to discuss the question of Secularism v. Christianity. Every clergyman was regarded as a representative man, in so far as he was a clergyman, and if any clergyman in Stanley or neighbourhood were anxious to debate on any subject in dispute, he would discuss with him. Failing a clergyman, he would debate with any representative man. He was not in the habit of taking on every Tom, Dick, and Harry, who happened to challenge him to debate. If any body of Christians selected any man as their representative, he would debate with him. They understood his terms. He was Vice-President of the National Secularist Society, and he asked that the man he opposed should also be representative. (Cheers).

The meeting terminated with the usual votes of thanks.

TREATMENT OF SECULARISTS.

On Monday evening, Mr Cohen spoke to an audience of about 1,500 persons, on "Christianity and Women." Mr Johnston, of Annfield Plain, presided, and the general tenor of the lecturer's remarks was to the effect that Christianity had always striven to keep woman in subjection to man, and prevent her from being on "an equality with the lords of creation." No questions were asked, and Mr Cohen subsequently addressed a few observations to the audience regarding the harsh treatment of the Secularist Society. He pointed out that the laws of England did not recognise the right of the Society to exist, and that it was illegal for them to hold a meeting. He was subject to three years' imprisonment for every speech he gave, and he had given 280 lectures last year. (Hear, hear). For every meeting he held on a Sunday, where he charged for admission, he was subject to a fine of £400, and the Chairman and doorkeeper were liable to fines of £200 each. The Secular Society held no property, and if a man in his will left any money to the Society, the next of kin could step in, and put the will aside. In that manner, the Society had been robbed of sums ranging from £500 to £11,000, and Mr George Jacob Holyoake estimated that altogether the Society had been robbed of half a million sterling in that manner. ("Shame.") And then they were told that they did not build orphanages. Christians robbed them of the money, and then asked, "What have you done with your money?" Mr Cohen concluded by intimating his intention of revisiting Stanley in a couple of months.

WESTWOOD COLLIERY BAND.

When the Westwood Colliery Brass Band returned from winning the silver cup at Tow Law, the late Mr Charlton, of Ebchester, generously promised to give the Band a dinner. His decease—lamented not only by the members of the Band, but by all who knew him—prevented a personal fulfilment of that pledge. Mrs Charlton, however, generously decided to carry out her late husband's wishes, and, ably assisted by her son and daughter, gave the Band a dinner on Saturday evening last. Amongst those present were:—Messrs G. G. Robson, colliery manager; W. Simpson (Messrs Tucker), Gainsborough; W. R. Cooke, R. Campbell, R. Milburn, J. Allison, L. Harker, A. McKinney, R. Bell, W. McKinney, Henry, T. Stephenson, J. Milburn, C. Stephenson, T. Laidler, G. Proudlock, H. Stewart, J. Fletcher, W. McColvin, Westwood; J. Wallace, H. Nicholson, W. Walton, Milkwell Burn; J. Bell, G. Bell, Broomhill; R. Ramsay, A. Shearer, Allendale Cottages; D. Howard, and J. Dawson, Howlett Hall; A. Wade, Ebchester; T. D. Dales, Robson, J. W. Jamieson, J. Robinson, and S. Mace, Medomsley; J. Swallow, Scotswood; Nutt, J. Askew, and T. Longworth, Consett; and G. Spoors, Leamington. The dinner was heartily enjoyed, after which the tables were cleared, and Mr G. G. Robson was elected to the chair, and Mr Simpson to the vice-chair. After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts had been duly honoured,

Mr W. R. Cooke proposed the toast of "The Westwood Brass Band." In doing so, he referred to the success which had attended them during the past twelve months. Their record was one of which they had every reason to be proud. (Applause). On August 12th, at Mickley, they carried off the first prize, one guinea, for the quick-step contest. On September 5th, they went to Haydon Bridge, and won two first prizes; one consisting of a trombone, valued at £12, and £8 in money, and the other, the quick-step competition, of £1 5s in cash. Seven days later, they entered the lists at Ryton, and bore off the second prize in the quick-step competition, value 10s. Again, a week afterwards, they went off to Tow Law, and returned with a trombone of the value of seven guineas, £5 in money, and the silver cup, which they saw in the room that evening. (Applause). On October 8th, they entered the contest at the Olympia, at Newcastle, and won a special prize, consisting of a trombone, costing seven guineas, £3 in money, and a conductor's baton. (Applause). Well, that was a catalogue of which they could all speak with feelings of pride. It was an honour, not only to the Band, but to Westwood, and was deserving of every commendation. (Applause). He trusted that they would march on to still greater and more glorious conquests, and that the present year would prove much more rich in spoils than any of its predecessors. Referring to the immediate cause of their gathering that night, Mr Cooke remarked that all united with him in regretting that death had claimed one of their most loyal and liberal supporters. He referred, as they all knew, to the late Mr Charlton. When they won the Tow Law cup, that gentleman promised them a dinner, and also gave them £1 towards the expenses of the journey to the Olympia. They all knew why the fulfilment of that promise had been delayed. Mrs Charlton and her son, however, had determined to carry out the late Mr Charlton's wishes, and it was to their generosity that they owed that dinner, the proceeds of which would be entirely devoted to the Band's funds. (Applause).

The toast having been enthusiastically drunk, Mr Harker, the leader, responded, and referred to the interest which the late Mr Charlton had taken in the Band.

Mr Simpson next proposed "The Trade and District," and expressed the hope that it would, eventually, still further develope. Undoubtedly, the place was a growing one, and had a great future before it. Touching on the Band, he remarked that they were a combination of which the district might well be proud. (Applause).

The toast was cordially received, and responded to by Mr Jamieson.

Mr Dales then proposed the health of the Chairman, who, he said, was universally esteemed as an energetic and capable manager. Since he had come amongst them, Mr Robson had made himself generally respected, and his promotion spoke volumes for his enterprise and ability. (Applause).

The toast was drunk with musical honours, after which,

The Chairman thanked them all for the great honour they had done him. He might say that he regarded the achievements of the Band as something in which they could all rejoice. He was glad to notice that the members prided themselves in their art. They practised assiduously, gladly giving time and energy to their task. Undoubtedly, the Band was a great boon to the district. (Applause). It relieved the monotony of colliery village life, provided healthy recreation for the men, and was a source of satisfaction and enjoyment to all residents in the locality. (Applause). It would always be his aim to encourage the efforts of the Bandsmen. (Applause). — Other toasts were afterwards honoured, the remainder of the evening, which was very pleasant throughout, being taken up with harmony. Mr S. Mace, A.L.C.M., presided at the piano with his customary ability.

PRESENTATION AT DERWENT COTTAGES.

On Monday evening, the members of the Derwent Cottages New Reading Room, assembled therein to present Mr H. Palmer, of Manor House, Medomsley, with a handsomely-framed, and artistically-designed illuminated address, containing the following inscription:—

"To Henry Palmer, Esq.

We the undersigned, being the Committee, *pro tem*, of the Derwent Cottages Reading and Recreation Room, desire, on behalf of ourselves, and the members of the said Reading Room, to express to you our hearty thanks for the active part you have taken in providing a building, and for the interest you have shown towards the establishment and welfare of the afore-mentioned Institution. We trust you may long continue to reside in this neighbourhood, and to show the same interest in the welfare of the workmen of this district, as you have hitherto done, and for which interest we are exceedingly grateful. Signed,—Thomas Hill, vice-president; John Surtees, treasurer; Robert Henry Maughan, secretary; William Barrow, William Smith, and William Glasgow, committee."

The Rev. R. H. Jecks occupied the chair, and amongst those present were the Rev. W. Cockin, Messrs. H. Palmer, T. Hill, W. Barrow, J. Surtees, J. McTaggart, J. Bell, and R. H. Maughan.

Mr Jecks, in opening the proceedings, stated that the Institute was now in a very flourishing condition. They had over a hundred hard-working members. (Applause). More than £10 had been subscribed, in addition to a very large number of books. The names of the donors were Sir David Dale, Mr T. Spencer, Mr H. Palmer, Canon Ross-Lewin, the Rev. H. R. Jecks, the Rev. W. Cockin, Mr J. Annandale, Mr J. W. Davison, Miss Surtees, Miss Gibson, Mr G. Piele, Mr J. T. Potts, Mr F. Priestman, Miss Watson, Mrs Steggall, and the Consett Co-operative Society. These generous donations had enabled them to form a very good library. (Applause). He was sure they were all grateful to the subscribers for the very handsome present they had so freely given. (Applause). They had met that night to recognise in some small way the interest which had been shown in the welfare of the residents of the district by Mr Palmer. It was mainly through that gentleman's influence and generous service that the Institute was now an accomplished fact—(applause)—and he had very great pleasure in handing him the address, which had been subscribed for by the members of the Institute. (Applause).

Mr Palmer, in returning thanks for the address, said that it was not entirely through his influence that the building had been erected, but it was largely due to the energy of their worthy president (Mr Jecks), and the liberality of the Consett Iron Company. The structure which had been built was not a large one, but if it proved unequal to the requirements of the people, he thought the Consett Iron Company would at once enlarge it. (Applause). Well, personally, he could only thank them for the great honour they had done him, and assure them that he would at all times strive to promote their interests and welfare. (Applause).

Mr Hill moved, and Mr Stephenson seconded, a vote of thanks to the subscribers, which was carried by acclamation.—The meeting then terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman, moved by Mr Cockin, and seconded by Mr Surtees.

TANFIELD LEA.

Supper and Concert.—The members of the Wesleyan Church held a successful concert and bachelors' supper on Saturday evening. Mr Grainger, of Consett, presided, and the musical programme included solos by Miss Grainger, Consett, Mr Greener, Miss Greener, and members of the choir. The supper was provided by Messrs Wm. Armstrong, John Greener, John Bulmer, John Edgar, William Keskeys, Fred. Saunders, and Thomas Thompson, all of whom performed their duties in a satisfactory manner. The attendance was very large.

CASTLESIDE.

Healeyfield and Rowley School Board.—The ordinary monthly meeting of this Board took place on Monday evening, the Chairman, Mr T. J. Muse, presiding. There were also present:—Messrs W. Pattinson, J. W. Golightly, and the Clerk (Mr J. Proud).—The Attendance Officer (Mr Walton) reported that the attendance since the reopening had not been very good, a number of children having been prevented from attending through sickness.—The Headmaster (Mr T. Duckworth) reported that he was pleased to state the epidemic of measles was over. Still there was some illness in the district. There were twenty-eight children who did not put in an appearance during the first week, and fourteen during last week. On the re-opening of the Schools, all the teachers were in their places, save Mrs Lee, who returned on Tuesday. A desk and window were broken during the vacation. There were 198 children on the roll. The average attendance was 167, and the percentage 84.—The reports were adopted.—Cheques amounting to £48 18s 8d were ordered for signature.—The Chairman expressed the hope that the new Education Bill, which was to be introduced into Parliament, would bring some relief to rural districts like their own.—The meeting then terminated.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SCHOLARS AND SCAVENGING.

To the Editor of the "Consett Chronicle."

Sir, — The managers of the Tow Law National School met on the 18th inst., to investigate the complaint of the Medical Officer of the Tow Law Urban Council, and are thoroughly satisfied that the statement as regards the boy Oliver is unfounded. Further, we recommend that the Medical Officer, in future, should be more careful in inserting such paragraphs in his report without thorough investigation.

(Signed) T. E. ESPIN, Chairman.
W. H. TELFORD.
W. ATKINSON.

Tow Law, Jan. 20th, 1897.

BENFIELDSIDE DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A meeting of this Council was held at Shotley Bridge, on Wednesday evening. Mr J. Lax presided, and the other members present were—Messrs E. Sloane, J. Heymer, G. J. Robinson, Wm. Annandale, J. Annandale, F. Priestman, R. Eccles, W. Telford, J. Eltringham, and Geo. Eltringham. Mr E. H. Hayward (the Clerk) and Mr Jno. Dixon (the Surveyor) were also present.

PLANTATION STREET.

A petition from the residents in Plantation Street, complaining of the absence of lighting, and of the wretched and dirty condition of the street, and the entrance to it, was read.

Mr Eccles said the petition contained a great deal of truth.

It was decided, on the motion of Mr J. Annandale, that the owners should be written to, and that the question of the lighting should be referred to the Lighting Committee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Finance Committee reported that the vouchers for last month's accounts had been examined, and found to be correct. The accounts for the current month totalled £65 15s, and the Commiteee recommended that these should be paid.

BUILDING COMMITTEE.

The Building Committee recommended that the Surveyor should be provided with a counterfoil book, so that he may be able to keep a handy account of the plans deposited with the Council. The Committee duly considered the report made by the County Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Hill), and were now awaiting the report of their own Medical Officer.—The report was adopted.

THE PRIVATE STREET WORKS' ACT.

Mr J. Eltringham, in accordance with his notice of motion, seconded by Mr G. J. Robinson, moved, "That this Council proceed to the adoption of the Private Street Works' Act, 1892, and that the Clerk be instructed to advertise the same." The advantages of the Act, he said, were many, and he was perfectly satisfied that the members of the Council, in their inspection of the district, had seen the need for greater powers in connection with the making of the streets. By the Act, they would be able to save a great deal of trouble when the time came to apportion the cost of the construction of the streets. It also enabled them to distribute the cost to other owners, whose property, whilst not directly abutting upon the streets which were being made, would benefit by it. The new Act, further, corrected many omissions in the former Street Works' Act. Again, it would be possible, under the Act, to have the streets made all at once, and thus secure at once both economy and uniformity. Railway companies could also be exempted from several unjust charges which it was now possible to charge them with, to such an extent as the Council judged fit. Opposition to the adoption of the Act, he thought, might be expected from private property owners.

Mr George Eltringham said that a great many of the present streets had been made satisfactory.

The Chairman said that this had not been the experience of the Council generally.

Mr J. Eltringham said that Stokoe Street, Thomas Street, and the street leading into the cricket field, were dismal failures.

Mr Eccles suggested that copies of the Act should be given to the members, so that they might study it before adopting it.

The Chairman said that it would hardly be practicable to give each member of the Board a copy. Where it had been adopted, the Act had worked well.—On the motion being put to the meeting, it wts carried unanimously.

FOOTPATH IMPROVEMENTS.

Mr J. Eltringham moved, and Mr Robinson seconded, that the Surveyor should be instructed to make all footpaths in a proper manner, by cementing and channelling them.

The motion was carried unanimously.

STONE'S WELL.

A letter from the Consett Iron Company, stating that an analysis had been made of the water in the well on Mr Stone's farm, was read. The analyst's report was enclosed in the letter, and it stated that in the opinion of the analyst, the water was not seyage polluted, but was somewhat contaminated.

Mr J. Eltringham said he did not wonder that the Consett Iron Company objected to do anything more to the well. Dr. Hill had previously made a report, and the Company did what was required. But if a man came round the country, and did not know what he wanted, it was not to be wondered at, if the Company objected. If the Company made more improvements, Dr. Hill might come round, and either order the well to be closed, or else want the new improvements pulling down. (Laughter).

RAILWAY FACILITIES.

The Clerk read the following letter from the North-Eastern Railway Company:—"I am in receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, asking for the continuing of the late train to Blackhill and Shotley Bridge, and also making Blackhill a free parcels delivery station, which shall receive attention."

Mr J. Annandale suggested that it would be best for them to continue the minute in regard to the matter.—This was agreed to.

INSPECTOR'S AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

Mr Jno. Dixon, Inspector and Surveyor, reported that the contractor had completed the laying down of Stokoe Street drain; and also that he had collected £87 0s 4d on account of the general district rate. Mr Armstrong had removed the encroaching palisading at Summerhill during the month.

The reports were adopted, and the meeting then concluded.

FARMERS' BALL AT STANLEY.

One of the most numerously attended and most successful balls ever held in Stanley, took place in the Co-operative Hall, on Monday evening, the proceeds being for the purpose of diminishing, or if possible extinguishing, the debt existing on the Beamish, Pontop, and Consett Agricultural Society, arising from the failure of last year's show. The hall presented a very pleasing appearance, the decorations, as effected by Mr W. Bell, of the Co-operative Store, being exceedingly picturesque. Mr J. A. Hodgson, of Stanley, officiated as secretary, and in response to his widely scattered invitations, nearly 200 couples availed themselves of the privilege of attending. The M's.C. were Messrs William Welsh, Holly Terrace; R. Forster, William Aynsley, and A. H. Swinburn. The music was provided by a capable string band, under the superintendence of Mr Ratcliffe, of Beamish. Mr A. Atkinson, of Causey, the genial secretary to the Agricultural Society, attended to the treasurer's duties, and one can imagine, though not describe, his pleasure at the huge attendance present. The whole of the proceedings passed off in a most enjoyable manner, largely due to the exertions of the stewards—Messrs A. H. Swinburn, Geo. Watson, Jas. Green, A. Watson, Ed. Wylam, J. Wilkinson, Alex. Atkinson, W. Aynsley, W. Bell, W. Welsh, J. Lowes, R. Dixon, R. W. Little, and Jos. Robinson, junr., and of a committee of management, consisting of the whole of the stewards, and Messrs Jos. Watson, J. E. Nicholson, R. Johnson, Tanfield; Ed. Wilkinson, W. H. Ritson, Lanchester; W. Young, Dipton; H. Richards, M. Coates, Dr. Simpson, T. Howden, J. G. Ridley, T. Robinson, T. H. Smith, Tanfield; William Gray, Burnhope; T. Wilkinson, J. B. Turnbull, E. Smith, G. Cawthorne, J. Storey, M. Hobson, G. R. Hobson, Catchgate; W. Taylor, R. Abbott, R. Forster, Wm. Thompson, R. Walton, Jas. Humble, J. Snaith, W. Brotherhood, Lanchester; and Wm. Hogarth. The patrons included Dr. Benson, Dr. Charles, Dr. Dewer, Mr N. Clark, Beamish; Mr T. Forster, Mr E. Hedley, of Burnopside Hall; Mr Robert Kay, Oxhill; Major Ridley, Mr T. S. Parker, Dr. Ingram Johnson, Mr M. H. Lindon, Mr Joseph Robinson, and Mr P. Taylor-Smith, of Colepike Hall. The ladies presiding over the refreshment tables were Mrs A. H. Swinburn, Mrs T. Swinburn, Mrs M. Coates, Mrs R. Anderson, Mrs T. Armstrong, Mrs G. Armstrong, Miss E. Atkinson, Miss Simpson, Miss Welsh, and Miss Elliott. It may be mentioned that the whole of the refreshments were given for the occasion, handsome donations being sent by Mr Piercy-Taylor-Smith, of Colepike Hall, Councillor John Storey, of Catchgate, and Mr M. Johnson, of Causey. The fancycakes &c., were prepared by Mrs Watson, Miss Welsh, Mrs Coates, Mrs Swinburn, and Mrs Hodgson. Amongst those who assisted by generous gifts in kind were Mr Wm. Aynsley, Mr G. Watson, Mr J. Henderson, Mr J. E. Nicholson, Mr E. Wylam, Mr J. Wilkinson, Mr Mark Coates, Mr William Welsh, Mr R. W. Little, Mr T. Armstrong, Mr J. Ramshaw, Mr T. Scott, Mr R. Dixon, Mr Jos. Robinson, Mr Robt. Eltringham, Mr John Chaytor, Mr W. Bell, Mr John Lowes, Mr E. Wilkinson, Mr William Young, Dipton; Mr W. H. Ritson, Lanchester; Mrs H. Armstrong, Miss Ashburn, Mrs Cunningham, and Miss Stacey. The dancing was led off by Mr Jno. Watson senr. and Miss Wilkinson, of New Acres; followed by Mr A. H. Swinburn, and Miss Watson. During the course of the evening, songs by Mr Chas. Atkinson, of Newcastle, (comic), and Miss Kay of Stanley added to the enjoyment of the proceedings. Amongst those present were Mr A. Atkinson and Miss Atkinson, Causey; Mr and Mrs. R. W. Little, Stanley; Mr Jos. Watson, Miss H. Watson, Miss Watson, Mr Geo Watson, Mr Jos. Watson, junr., W. Watson, and Mr Ernest Watson, Stanley; Miss Porter, Dr and Mrs Ingram Johnson, Miss Johnson, Mr Agar, Miss Dixon, Mr R. Dixon, Miss Maddison, Mr Smith, Miss M. Smith, Mr Ernest Smith, Miss Smith, Mr Oxley, Miss Oxley, South Moor; Mr and Mrs J. Dixon, Catchgate; Mr J. Wilkinson, the Misses Wilkinson, Mr T. Wilkinson, Mrs W. Wilkinson, New Acres; Mr Wylam, Shield Row; Mr and Mrs. A. H. Swinburn, Mr and Mrs J. G. Ridley, Mr and Mrs T. S. Parker, Mr and Mrs Green, Mr and Mrs Bell, Mr Joseph Robinson, jun., the Misses Robinson, Mr J. T. Castle, Mr and Mrs F. Dixon, Stanley; Mr J. MacGregor, Louisa Terrace; Mr William Welsh, Mr Thos. Welsh, and the Misses Welsh, Holly Terrace; Mr and Mrs Turnbull, and Miss Turnbull, Stanley; Mr and Mrs Moore; Mr T. Armstrong, and Mrs Armstrong, and Mr Ralph Walton, Lanchester; Miss Darney, Stanley; Mr Bolam, Tantobie; and the Misses Shield; Mr Cawthorne, and Miss Hardy, Hobson; Mr and Mrs Charlton; Mr Lumley, Annfield Plain; Mr Simpson, Annfield Plain; and Miss Weson, Mr and Mrs Dale, Stanley; Mr and the Misses Irwin; Mr and Mrs Robinson, and Miss Cuthbertson; Mr Thos. Forster, Mr Wm. Forster, Stanley; Mr and Mrs Sterling, Annfield Plain; Dr James Charles, Mr and Mrs Alex. Cumberledge, Stanley; Mr H. Ridley, and Miss Chaytor; Mr R. Robinson, and Miss Armstrong; Mr Leighton and Miss Storey; the Misses Osborne, Mr and Mrs Robert Pearson, Stanley; Mr Jewitt, and Miss Wake; Mr and Mrs Armstrong; Mr J. Coyle, East Stanley, and Miss Orr; Mr Wood, Mr Richard Aynsley, Consett; and Miss Cawthorne; Mr Ernest Crosting, and Miss Leake, Stanley; Dr Simpson, Mr Mole, Mr James L. Weedy and Mrs Weedy, Pickering Nook; Mr Harry Teasdale, and Miss Teasdale, Dipton; Mr George Murray, and Miss Murray, Dipton; Mr Thos. Roxby, Stanley; and Miss J. Wylam, Shield Row; Mr W. Weston, and Miss D. Weston; Mr J. Coxon and Miss E. Atkinson; Mr T. Simpson, Mr C. W. Atkinson, and Miss E. Oates, Pickering Nook; Mr C. H. Brown, and Miss J. Atkinson; Mr W. Cutbertson, Crookgate; Mr E. Brown and Miss L. Shipley; Mr Robert Kerr, Mr J. Ramshaw, Stanley; Mr Alfred Cook, Stanley; and Miss E. Wylam, Shield Row; Mr M. Cheeseman and Miss E. Robinson; Mr N. Robinson and Mrs Robinson; Mr R. Forster and Miss Charlton; Mr J. Wilson and Miss Swinburn; Mr Joseph Swinburn and Miss R. Carr; Mr G. Swinburn, and Miss Pattinson; Mr Campbell and Miss Whitfield; Mr Wm. White, the Misses Weatherall, Miss Larkman, Mr R. Cunningham, Mr H. Armstrong, Mr Charles Jacques, Mr and Mrs Briddick, East Stanley; Mr Robert Henderson, Mr Charles Lambton, the Misses Hall, Mr and Mrs Ben-Johnson, Stanley; Mr and Mrs M. H. Lindon, Mr and Mrs Wm. Young, Dipton; Mr Young, Pockerley; Mr Smith, Low Fell; Mr and Mrs Richards, Beamish; Mr and Mrs G. R. Hobson, Mr and Mrs M. Hobson, Mr Minto, Mr and Mrs Elliott, Mr R. D. Grundy, Mr Charles Brown, Newcastle; Miss Lambert, Stanley; Mr Wm. Turner and Mrs Turner; Mr C. W. Atkinson, Newcastle; Mr T. C. Rawes, Consett; Mr and Mrs M. Coates, Stanley; Miss Southeran, Miss A. Forster, Mr Ralph Johnson, Tanfield; Miss Pringle, Tanfield Lea; Mr Joseph Fairley, Craghead; Miss Arkless Mr G. Teasdale, Consett; Mr John Parker, Leadgate; Miss Smith, Esh; Miss Waugh, Esh; The Misses Shipley, Malton Colliery; Mr and Miss Aynsley, Malton; Mr Nicholson, Manor House; the Misses Wake, Maiden Law; Miss Brookes, Lanchester; Mr and Mrs Robinson Smaile, Mr and Mrs J. A. Hodgson, the Misses Kay, and others.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB.

We have pleasure in publishing the fixtures for season 1897 of the above Club, as arranged by the hon. sec. (Mr W. Ramsay), at meetings held last week, at Durham and Newcastle.

FIRST TEAM.

April 24 ... Mr T. Lambert's XI at Blackhill
May 1 Chester-le-Street, at Chester-le-Street.
May 8 .. Bishop Auckland, at Blackhill.
May 15 .. Tudhoe, at Blackhill.
May 22 ... Wallsend at Wallsend.
May 29 .. Tudhoe, at Tudhoe.
June 5 ... North Durham, at Blackhill.
June 12 Bishop Auckland, at Bishop Auckland.
June 19 South Northumberland, at Blackhill.
June 26 ... South Shields, at South Shields.
July 3 .. Chester-le-Street, at Blackhill.
July 10 ... Wallsend, at Blackhill.
July 17 ... North Durham, at Gateshead.
July 24 ... Medomsley, at Medomsley.
July 31 ... South Shields, at Blackhill.
August 7 South Northumberland, at Gosforth.
August 14 ... Medomsley, at Blackhill.
August 21 .. Craghead, at Craghead.
August 28 ... Sunderland, at Blackhill.
Sept. 4 ... Craghead, at Blackhill.
Sept. 11 ... Sunderland, at Sunderland.

WEDNESDAY TEAM.

May 12 ... Wallsend, at Wallsend.
May 26 ... Burnmoor, at Burnmoor.
June 2 ... Craghead, at Blackhill.
June 9 ... Wallsend, at Blackhill.
June 16 ... Birtley, at Blackhill.
June 23 ... Rockcliffe, at Whitley.
June 30 ... Craghead, at Craghead.
July 7 .. Burnmoor, at Blackhill.
July 14 ... Harrogate, at Harrogate.
July 18 ... Stanley, at Stanley.
August 14 ... Birtley, at Birtley.
August 11 ... Stanley, at Consett.

The second team engagements will be published later, as the fixtures for the Durham County Challenge Cup Competition have not been arranged.

PROPERTY SALE AT BLACKHILL.

On Wednesday afternoon, a very important property sale was conducted in the billiard room of the Royal Hotel, Blackhill, by Mr J. S. Murray. The room was crowded, and from first to last the proceedings were of a very spirited character. The first property offered consisted of two freehold cottages and gardens, at Rowley, at present tenanted by Mr H. Golightly and another, and likewise a freehold field adjoining, and embracing four acres, one rood, 29 poles. Mr E. Wylam started operations with a bid of £200. It then rose by £10 gradations to £320, when £5 increases were offered, until £300 was bid, at which price the lot was withdrawn. The second lot included the freehold farm house and buildings called "Mainsforth," at Rowley, together with six closes or parcels of land, containing nearly 23 acres. Bidding commenced at £800, and rose rapidly to £1020. When £10 more had been offered, the sale was declared open. Up to £1045, Messrs Craggs & Kirton were the bidders, but after that Messrs Leybourne & Clark entered into a spirited competition. The bidding rose by £5 and £10 leaps until £1210 was reached, when Mr Clark, of Haltwhistle, became the purchaser. The next lot consisted of four closes or parcels of freehold allotment land (formerly part of Lanchester Common), situated near Rowley, containing nearly 23 acres. Mr Craggs (Satley) started the bidding at £300. Mr Kirton (Lyredean) entered into competition, and at £600, the sale was declared open. The bidding proceeded in a spirited fashion, Mr Clark bidding £625. He eventually became the purchaser, at £655. As the prices obtained for lots 1 and 2 were so exceptionally good, Mr Clark was awarded lot 1 at £360. Mr Clark was the representative of Messrs Bell and Sons, Hexham. The next lot offered was Sunniside Farm, Knitsley, together with the farmhouse, and buildings thereon, and land of nearly 122 acres, at present occupied by Messrs Hardy and Thompson at £120 annual rental. Mr E. Wylam started the bidding at £2,500. Mr H. Oliver then advanced £500. Mr M Gibson, Newbiggin, now came in and, after some spirited competition with Mr Oliver, was declared the buyer at £3,350. 190 £1 shares of the Consett Town Hall Company were then put up, the vendor being Mr Taylor, late owner of Sunniside Farm. Bidding commenced at 17s 6d per share, Mr Walker, Consett, being eventually given as the purchaser of twenty shares at £1 6s 6d per share. Mr George Hardy, Knitsley, bought 100 shares at £1 1s a share, and 70 shares at £1 0s 6d each. 50 shares in the Consett Waterworks Company were next put up, and were disposed of at £9 2s 6d per share as follows:—Mr T. W. Welford, Consett, 10 shares; Mr G. Turnbull, Kilnpit Hill, 26 shares. Mr G. Harrison, Consett, 7 shares and Mr G. Hardy, Consett, 7 shares. Mr Maddison, of Durham, represented the vendors of properties, and Mr J. G. Murray, of Consett, represented the Consett Town Hall and Water Companies. The sale was most successful, all the property being disposed of at good prices.

LANCHESTER.

Rural District Council.—After careful consideration, the Lanchester Rural District Council have decided, in Committee, to separate the offices, hitherto held by Mr J. E. Parker, of Sanitary Inspector and Highways Surveyor. Mr Parker will retain the Inspectorship at the old salary, and Mr Wm. Cumming, late Assistant-Surveyor, has been appointed Surveyor at a salary of £200 per annum.

Treat to the Workhouse Inmates.—On Thursday last, the members of the Consett Amateur Orchestra, under the leadership of Mr George A. Williams, gave an entertainment to the inmates of the Workhouse. The Rev. Father Fortin, Chairman of the House Committee; Mr Logan, Chairman of the Board of Guardians; and Mr and Mrs Piercy-Taylor-Smith, were in attendance, and at the close of the proceedings, which were greatly enjoyed, Father Fortin called upon the inmates to give three cheers for the entertainers. These were heartily given, and in replying on behalf of the Orchestra, Mr Heslop expressed the pleasure it had given them to provide an evening's recreation, which he was glad the audience had appreciated so keenly.

CATCHGATE.

Social.—The bachelors connected with the Annfield Plain Tennis Club gave a social in the Greencroft Board School, Catchgate, on Wednesday evening. The attendance was very large, and everything passed off well.

TOW LAW.

Accident to a Youth.—On Monday afternoon, a youth of the name of James Gowland, employed by Mr T. H. Kellet, chemist and druggist, was making his way down Grove Road, when he fell, owing to the slippery state of the road, and dropping on his left hand, sustained a very severe fracture of the wrist.

A Small-Runner Injured.—An elderly man, named Jos. Lambert, residing in Wolsingham Road, whilst following his employment, as a small-runner, at the Black Prince Colliery, met with a serious accident on Saturday morning, through his truck leaving the rails and falling upon him. His body was severely bruised, and it was found necessary to convey him home on a stretcher.

Christmas Billiard Handicap.—Christmas billiard handicap at the Mechanics' Institute was brought to a conclusion this week, when J. W. Temperley, who owed 30 points in games of 150, ran out winner after playing brilliantly throughout the whole tournament. The following are the final results:—Fifth round; J. Temperley, 151, beat H. Allison, 133, W. French, 150, beat J. Teasdale, 147. Final: Temperley, 152, beat French, 83, and won.

Farmers' Club.—At the farmers' dinner, held in the Mart Hotel, on Monday, Mr Robert Crowe suggested that a Farmers' Club should be formed in the Tow Law district, having for its object the venting of farmers' grievances and the furthering of their interests.—Mr Jos. Vickers supported the suggestion, which was at once adopted, and thirteen of the gentlemen present sent in their names as members of a Club, to be called the "Tow Law and District Farmers' Club."

Miners' Permanent Relief Fund.—At the annual meeting of the members of the Black Prince Lodge of the Durham Miners' Permanent Relief Fund, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—Mr W. H. Chubb, president; Mr Wm. Lose, treasurer; Mr Robt. Dodds, delegate; Mr Jas. Oliver, secretary, and Messrs John Nattrass, Matthew Hall, James Lose, and Mark Teasdale, committee.—The financial report for the past year, submitted by Mr Jas. Oliver, showed that the members' contributions totalled £351 3s 5d, and the expenditure amounted to £321 11s 2d, leaving a balance in hand of £29 12s 3d. Eleven aged members received £112 15s 4d as relief money, disabled members £92 8s 8d, and minor accidents required an outlay of £64 13s.

The Billiard Handicap. — The "puppy stakes" billiard handicap, open to the unsuccessful cueists who took part in the first round of the Christmas billiard handicap, at the Mechanics' Institute, has just concluded. The results of the various rounds are given below:—First round—J Robson beat W H Telford by 17, W Cracknell beat G Richardson by 33, E Richardson beat S Davison by 15, J Moralee beat F Graham by 55, T Parkinson beat J Christison by 23, F McIntosh beat A Dover by 8, and J Hall, T H Kellet, T Atkinson, T Sherwood, junr., H Hodgson, C W Hall, F Hunter, J J Hildreth, and S Gilroy, byes.—Second round. Cracknell beat Moralee by 27, C Hall beat Hildreth by 37, Robson beat Atkinson by 21, Kellet beat Parkinson by 8, Sherwood beat McIntosh by 86, Hodgson beat Gilroy by 1, J Hall beat Richardson by 22, F Hunter a bye.—Third round. Sherwood beat C Hall by 52, Cracknell beat Hodgson by 9, Robson beat Kellet by 39, Hunter scratched to J Hall.—Fourth round. Cracknell beat Robson by 8, J Hall beat Sherwood by 4.—Final. Cracknell beat J Hall by 15.

Scientific Lectures for Farmers.—Speaking at the Farmers' Dinner, held in the Mart Hotel, on Monday, Mr Joseph Vickers said that arrangements had been made with the Newcastle College of Science for a series of lectures on manurial subjects, to be delivered at Tow Law, by Professor Solomon. In other years, Mr Vickers said, they had been somewhat disappointed with their lecturers, who, being young men from the College, were unable to reduce their scientific language to the understandings of the ordinary farmer. Professor Solomon, however, was one of the most eminent men of the day, who explained his subjects in the most simple language, and he (Mr Vickers) had pleasure in announcing that Professor Solomon would deliver a course of four lectures, commencing in February, at Tow Law. As the Mart was found somewhat cold last year for the holding of the meetings, he (Mr Vickers) was glad to state that Mr R. Wheatley had granted the use of the large room in his hotel, for the purposes of the meetings. He hoped that the farmers would make the best of the opportunities afforded them, for Professor Solomon was a long way ahead of any gentleman they had yet heard lecture. Wherever Professor Solomon had lectured his audiences had increased each successive week, and he (Mr Vickers) hoped that the same would be the case at Tow Law. (Applause).

Ploughing Association. — At the farmers' dinner, held on Monday, Mr Jos. Vickers said that as a member of the Wear Valley and Tow Law Ploughing Association, he might say that the Society found itself in something like financial difficulties, to the extent that the Society would have no true surplus left after its debts were paid. Last year, they had something like £7 in hand, but this year found, unfortunately, that there was going to be but little left, and therefore they had a gloomy outlook before them. It had been suggested that they should have a social or concert, by which they might realise, he thought, about £10. (Applause).—Mr R. Wheatley spoke in support of the Association, saying that every Ploughing Association was in many ways beneficial to farmers.—Mr J. H. Atkinson (Treasurer to the Association) said that since their last competition he had received several subscriptions in aid of the Society, and he believed, when all debts were paid, the Committee would still have a few shillings in hand. Still, it was not a satisfactory position for the Association to be in, and should be altered. He thought that a society like their's ought to be able tot meet all liabilities, and to remedy the present existing state of things, he thought entertainments might be arranged at Wolsingham at Tow Law. If the local farmers only supported these entertainments, he had no doubt but that they would prove successful. (Applause).

Farmers' Dinner.—The annual dinner to farmers, provided by Mr Nichol, West Shield, agent for Messrs Fell and Co, seedsmen, Hexham, and the Blaydon Manure Oompany, was held in Mr Wheatley's, Mart Hotel, on Monday afternoon, when a large number of local farmers sat down to a substantial and appetising dinner, the preparation of which reflected the greatest credit upon the culinary department of the Mart Hotel. Ample justice was done to the good things on the tables, and at the conclusion of the dinner felicitous speeches on agricultural prospects were delivered by the Chairman (Mr Fell, Hexham) and the vice-chairman (Mr J. Wilson, Blaydon). These gentlemen were obliged to leave by an early train, and the chair and vice chair in their absence were occupied respectively by Mr T. Nichol, and Mr Geo. Crowe, Hedley Hope, whilst later in the evening, Mr Jos. Vickers, Elm Park, acted as chairman, and Mr J. H. Atkinson, Greenwell, as vice-chairman. Amongst others who were present and took part in the proceedings were—Messrs R. Crowe, Hedley Hope; J. T. Morton, R. Wheatley, T. Hall, and J. Hall, Tow Law; J. Hall, Harperley; J. Angus, White Lea; J. Spedding, Bradley; R. Lowes, Greenwell Hill; J. Disberry and N. Walker, Satley; J. Harrison, Stobby Lea; M. Pattinson, Thornley; T. Wilson, Biggin; J. Jackson, Bowlees; J. Willis, Stonechester; W. Angus, Shipley; Johnson, Farm Lees; Dobson, Sunniside; G. Bainbridge and Miss Bainbridge, Stanhope; Parker and Suddes, Butsfield; Messrs Allinson, Bitchburn; T. Simpson, Tudhoe; G. Durns, Crook; T. Hardy, Delphi; J. Nichol, West Shield; T. Wilson, Frosterley; Applegarth, Snowdon, Harrison, and Robinson, West Auckland; W. Vickers, Eastgate; Pickering, Newlands; Pickering, Riding House; Wilson, Biggin, and others. The company sat until a late hour, the greater part of the evening being devoted to discussion of farmers' wants, aims and objects. Interspersed with the speeches, however, were several songs, the gentlemen entertaining the gathering in this respect being Messrs Vickers, Elliott, R. Crowe, G. Crowe, Pattison, Harrison and Hodgson. The dinner, although always a success, surpassed any previous effort on the part of Mr Nichol, who is so deservedly popular amongst the local farmers.

STANLEY GOSSIP.

(By Our Own Correspondent.)

MILITANT SECULARISM.

The Securalists of Stanley and neighbourhood are an energetic body of men, and if they fail in their efforts it will not be through lack of enterprise. The reports and correspondence, which have appeared in the columns of the *Consett Chronicle*, have attracted the attention of thousands of people scattered over a wide area, and doubtless this was to some extent responsible for the large assembly at the Albert Hall, last Saturday evening, when Mr Charles Cohen, of London, "The Securlarist Goliath"—as "A Lover of Fairplay" termed him—lectured on the "Philosophy of Secularism, a reply to the Rev. W. Gelley, and other critics."

MR. COHEN'S REPLY.

Leaders of Secularism and leading lights of Christianity were present in strong force. Mr Gelley himself, "the victim that was to be," occupied a seat on the front bench, and if he expected a severe castigation, he did not seem at all afraid of receiving it. Mr Cohen spoke for fifty-five minutes, and spoke, too, with an energy and eloquence which was appreciated by even his strongest opponents. Whatever else he may be, the Secularist champion is a man of conspicuous ability, and, so far as oratory went, he fairly excelled himself on Saturday. But did he reply to Mr Gelley? Anyone who read the *Consett Chronicle* report of that gentleman's address on "Christianity, the best Secularism, and something more," could not fail to notice that there were several important points which Mr Cohen never faced. Mr Gelley said that the Secularist propaganda of the last thirty-six years was a huge failure, and to day the movement was weaker than in the days of George Jacob Holycake and Charles Bradlaugh. Mr Cohen did not even attempt to controvert this assertion. Mr Gelley quoted Charles Bradlaugh to prove that Atheism was the logical outcome of Secularism. Atheism was mere negation, and could have no positive principles of truth and morality. Mr Cohen did not particularise this damaging remark, though it may be that he thought his expression of general Secularist duties was in itself a sufficient reply. Still it might have been better to have come right to the mark. Mr Gelley stated that the Secularists had been rebuked by Mr Foote himself for their want of liberality. Mr Cohen made no reference to this. Taken on the whole, though, undoubtedly a very able lecture, it cannot be said that it was anything like complete, as a reply to Mr Gelley.

DISCUSSION.

The subsequent discussion between Mr Gelley and Mr Cohen, could scarcely result in many converts either way. Mr Cohen claimed that all actions based upon human motives were the actions of secularists, and that every man was a secularist—matterless of what creed he professed—who did good from purely human motives. Mr Gelley urged that the doctrine of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, embraced within its arms all such generous actions. Mr Cohen pointed out that a man's future existence was not determined—according to the teaching of Christ—by his life on earth, but by the fact that he was a believer in Christianity, and quoted, to support his assertion, "All things shall be forgiven, save blasphemy against the Holy Ghost." Mr Gelley retorted that a man could not be a Christian, could not love God, without at the same time loving his fellow man. Mr Cohen asked Mr Gelley to supply a text from the New Testament favourable to liberty of speech. Mr Gelley responded by challenging Mr Cohen to find a text prohibiting that liberty, and pointed out that in the common brotherhood of man it was only natural that all men should be equal, and that therefore each and all had liberty of speech. The "Coward's Castle" was dragged in, and Mr Gelley was duly exempted from the title of "coward," for having dared to beard the lion in his den. Of course, each gentleman gave and received a few smart raps, and each bore himself with perfect composure and good humour. On the whole, the local gentleman came out of the ordeal with considerable credit.

THE UNAUTHORISED REPORT.

I was slightly surprised at the remark of Mr Gelley regarding what he termed "an unauthorised report' of his lecture, which appeared in the columns of the *Consett Chronicle*. Mr Gelley stated that "there were some inaccuracies in the report which need refutation." It is quite possible that some of the reverend gentleman's hearers may have gone away with the idea that the *Chronicle* report of Mr Gelley's lecture was misleading. This is not the case. I called on the rev. gentleman on Monday morning, and was greeted with extreme cordiality. The inaccuracies of which Mr Gelley complains are very trifling. Here they are—(1), Dr. Setton was given as a convert from Secularism to Christianity. The name should have been Dr. Sexton, and the error was on the part of the printer. (2). A quotation given as from St. Paul should have been from St. Mark. There was nothing wrong in the wording of the quotation. (3). The word "hospital" was given instead of "orphanage." The errors are very trifling, and Mr Gelley expressed himself highly satisfied with the general accuracy of the report.

A TEXT FOR MR. GELLEY.

How would Galatians', chapter 5, verse 1, have suited as a reply to Mr Cohen's query for a text favourable to liberty of speech?—"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and be not entangled with the yoke of bondage." Surely the liberty here spoken of, evidently advising freedom of action, also includes freedom of speech.

DISCREDITABLE INTERRUPTIONS.

I cannot compliment the whole of the Anti-Secularists present on their conduct. To hoot and hiss at a chairman, or a lecturer, is scarcely in accordance with the principles of Christianity, or indeed with the common courtesy which every man has a right to give and to except. These insulting and disgraceful exhibitions were especially unwarranted on Saturday night, for Mr Hall Nicholson was perfectly fair in his treatment of Mr Gelley and Mr Cohen, and indeed of all questioners. A better or more impartial chairman could not have been chosen, and it is a pity that so many interruptions occurred.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Mr Cohen's remarks on Sunday evening were of a highly humorous nature, but, as the chairman pointed out, they also have a very serious aspect. Mr Cohen admits that there are well-meaning men engaged in Missionary work, and no one can doubt that this is the case, but he also makes the charge that many of them are not well-meaning, and, to sum up the whole business, are making an easy and dishonest living out of it. The figures which he quoted from Missionary Society reports do not prove this to be the case, but they do show Missionary enterprise to be one of large outlay, and small returns. I understand that the Rev. W. Gelley addressed a note requesting Mr Cohen to furnish the average amount spent on making a Secularist convert. Mr Cohen did not supply the information.

THE TRILBY DINNER.

The first annual dinner of the "Trilby" Club was a splendid success in every respect. The attendance was large, and thoroughly representative of the varied interests which unite towards securing the prosperity of the district. The dinner was well prepared and well served, and the subsequent proceedings were of the most enjoyable character. Mr M. H. Lindon proved an ideal Chairman, and under his skilful management, all went "merry as a marriage bell" from the commencement of the festivity till the arrival of the inevitable "closing time." Mr John Chaytor was also present, and kept the audience full of merriment. It was [illegible]tunate that he had neglected to br[illegible] music with him, for the Trilbyites we[illegible] robbed of an exceptional treat. H[illegible] this was the only drawback to on[illegible] most enjoyable festivities ever held [illegible]ley. The Club officials are deservin[illegible] gratulation for the successful m[illegible] which they carried out the arra[illegible] and Mrs Coates achieved a distinct [illegible] in her catering. As proving the re[illegible]tive character of the "Trilby" Clu[illegible] be mentioned that amongst the [illegible] and other friends present were—[illegible]don, Mr J. Chaytor, Mr Mark [illegible] Larkman, Mr Matt. Coates, Mr [illegible] Wm. Welsh (Holly Terrace), [illegible] Nevens, and Mr William [illegible] tinued prosperity to the "Tr[illegible] all connected with it!

MR BULMER AND T[illegible]

Mr William Bulmer con[illegible] his laurels, and has now earned a high reputation as a mouse catcher. At a recent meeting of the School Board, Mr Bulmer was authorised to attend to the mice, which favour Tanfield Lea Schools with their presence, and he at once proceeded to secure the expulsion of these undesirable visitors. He went to work in a practical manner, and already the mice have hailed him as their conqueror, many of them having bade an eternal farewell to the school, thanks to Mr Bulmer's promptitude in securing a quantity of penny traps. Mr Bulmer's method has proved both cheap and effective.

CONSETT ECLIPSED.

"Local agriculturalists are as proud as peacocks over the magnificent success of Monday evening's ball. Consett made a great effort the previous week, but the Stanley venture completely eclipsed it.

STANLEY PRESBYTERIANSM.

The Stanley Presbyterians are working energetically towards obtaining a chapel of their own, and next Monday evening, a grand musical performance is to be given in the Co-operative Hall for the purpose of raising £ s. d. towards that object. Several eminent singers have been engaged, and a special attraction will be found in the cinematographe, that wonderful instrument which has come to the fore so recently. Owing to the unusual pressure of space this week, I can say no more, but all who attend, may depend upon obtaining a genuine treat. Success to your efforts, Mr Eltringham.

CRAGHEAD.

Serious Charge.—David Lishman, miner, was charged before Mr George Ridley, at Stanley, on Tuesday, with stealing £2 10s 1½d, the moneys of Thomas Smith, miner, of Craghead. — Prosecutor deposed that the prisoner was entrusted to draw the money on his behalf from the Craghead Colliery pay office, on October 16th, 1896. He absconded with the money, and was apprehended at Monkwearmouth, on Saturday night.—Prisoner was remanded to the Lanchester Petty Sessions.

CASTLESIDE.

Wedding.—On Saturday morning last, at the Wesleyan Church, the wedding took place of Miss Hannah Jane Dent to Mr Thos. Bains. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. J. Bacon, assisted by the Rev. A. Baillie. The bride was given away by her brother. The bridesmaids were Miss I. Dent and Miss Bains, Mr E. Bains being the best man. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the happy pair took the train to Middlesborough, where the honeymoon is to be spent.

WHITE-LE-HEAD.

Social.—A successful social was held at the residence of Mr Gedling, sen., on Monday evening, the proceeds, which amounted to £5, being devoted to the fund for the provision of a new organ for the Tantobie Wesleyan Chapel.

Gas Explosion.—Last Wednesday, as a man, named Joseph Bowes, was engaged in stoneworking at the White-le-Head Colliery, an explosion of gas occurred, by which he was severely burnt about the face and hands. Bowes walked home to Tantobie, where he now lies in a very serious condition.

CONSETT.

New Town Hall Company, Limited.—The directors of the Consett New Town Hall Company, Limited, have recommended the payment of a 4 per cent. dividend for the past twelve months.

Police Change. — P.C. Wardell, now, stationed at Consett, will shortly be removed to Gateshead. During his twelve months' residence in the town, P.C. Wardell has gained a host of friends, and his departure will be universally regretted.

Visit of Rev. T. Waugh.—On Wednesday afternoon, the Rev. T. Waugh preached in the Wesleyan Church, and in the evening, delivered a lecture on "The greatest need of the present day." There were large audiences, and the reverend gentleman's visit was much appreciated.

Burglary.—On Saturday night, an entry into the New Theatre was effected, the burglars evidently being under the impression that the takings of the previous night had not been removed. Fortunately, this was not the case, and, consequently, the object of the thieves was frustrated.

Vagrants. — At the Police Court, on Tuesday, before Mr J. W. Davison, Thomas and Mary Barrett, husband and wife, were charged with sleeping out on Monday night, near the Delves Lane Saint Pit, and were committed for seven days.——John Dixon and Alexander Thompson, charged with begging alms from door to door, on Monday afternoon, were similarly dealt with.

Musical Successes.—At the examination held recently in Newcastle by the Incorporated Society of Musicians, Mr James H. Cockburn, of Consett, successfully passed in the fourth grade (advanced) pianoforte playing, thereby gaining the highest certificate but one awarded by the Society. The examiners were Mr S. Myerscough, Mus. Bac., F.R.C.O., of Manchester, and Mr W. Hately, of Edinburgh. Mr Cockburn was prepared for the examination by Mr J. Surtees, Blackhill.

Free Church Council.—On Tuesday evening a meeting of this Council took place in the Primitive Methodist Church Schoolroom. In the absence, through indisposition, of Mr J. G. Robinson, the Mr Wm. Palliser presided. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. W. Glover, of Heaton Road Congregational Church, Newcastle, and the Rev. A. Graham-Barton, Crook. Solos were sung by the Misses Williams and Mr A. S. Coates. Mr T. Elsdon presided at the organ.

Tradesmen's Association. — Under the auspices of this Association, a dinner and social gathering will be held in the New Town Hall, on Wednesday, February 3rd. The committee are desirous that every member of the Association, and all tradesmen in the district, should attend, and with this end in view, have made arrangements for a capital evening's entertainment. Invitations are already being accepted in large numbers, and those who have been inadvertently omitted in the list of invites, should at once apply to Mr Jos. E. English, the hon. secretary.

New Theatre.—"The Scarlet Brotherhood," a stirring and sensational drama, is the bill of fare provided during the present week at the New Theatre. The plot is intensely dramatic, and abounds with thrilling situations. The acting is excellent, Nebby Isaacstein (Mr E. Carter Livesey), Harry Tressider (Mr J. F. Quin), Irine Palitzin (Miss Beryl Montague), and Marie Mazaroff (Miss Amy B. Ellis, being exceptionally good, though all take their parts with considerable power and effect. Next week, "The Orphan-Heiress" will be presented by a really capable company, whilst the week following, pantomime will again occupy the boards.

Alleged Theft.—At the Police Court, on Monday, before Messrs J. T. Potts and J. W. Davison, Henry Cox, a navvy, of no fixed place of abode, was, at the instance of P.C. Carruthers, charged with stealing three pairs of woollen stockings from the business premises of Mr J. R. Brodie, mercer and hosier, Church Street, on Saturday night last.—P.C. Carruthers stated that from information received, he went to Victoria Street, and there found the prisoner trying to dispose of the stolen goods. Witness apprehended Cox, and on bringing him to the Police Station, asked him how he had come into possession of the stockings. Prisoner replied, "I stole them. I wanted a pair of stockings, and how else could I get them?"—Prisoner was remanded for eight days.

Independent Order of Rechabites.—On Saturday, the members of the "Endeavour tent" of the Independent Order of Reehabites, held their first annual social at Mr Courtney's Cocoa Rooms, where a capital repast was partaken of by the members and [illegible]riends. After the removal of the [illegible] exceptionally good programme of [illegible]citations, &c., was given by Miss [illegible]d Messrs. Turnbull, Allison, Hall, [illegible] and Warhurst. Short addresses [illegible]ered by Messrs. Wright and [illegible] The chair was occupied by Mr [illegible] Templetown, who in a few open[illegible] said the I.O.R. was not only a [illegible]iety, but had for its object the [illegible] man from his fallen state, and [illegible] him more fit to fulfil the duties [illegible]r "tent" was just in its infancy, [illegible] glad to say it had made good [illegible]e membership of the Order was [illegible] quarter of a million, and the [illegible]ed to £800,000 as compared with [illegible] when there were 30,000 mem[illegible] [illegible]000 in hand. The proceedings [illegible] throughout, every credit [illegible] Mr Courtney for the excellent [illegible] made.

LEADGATE.

Pigeon Shooting. — A pigeon shooting contest was arranged to come off at Leadgate, on Wednesday, when a large number of people turned up to witness it. Mr A. Fewster, farmer, Low Bradley, had to kill twelve pigeons out of twenty, with one ounce shot, use of both barrels, twenty yards rise, and gun down, but the above gentleman failing to turn up to compete, the forfeit was handed over to Mr W. Lumley.

AUCTION MARTS.

Tow Law, January 18.—Mr Vickers had forward 30 dairy cows and heifers, 14 fat cattle, 8 calves, 110 fat sheep and hoggs. Cows made up to £18; fat cattle £15 10s; calves to 18s; fat hoggs, to 41s 6d, top Messrs Pease and Partners, North Roddymoor Farms; to 34s, from Mr B. Hodgson, Etherley; fat black-faced wethers, to 36s 6d, top Mr J. Emerson, Willow Green; fat black-faced ewes, to 27s, top Mr W. Vickers, Eastgate.

Benfieldside, January 18.—There was again a useful lot of stock at this mart, for which trade was fairly good, everything making satisfactory prices. The numbers were:—17 fat cattle, 3 fat bulls, 103 fat sheep, 2 calves, 3 cows, a quantity of poultry, and other lots. Fat cattle, £13 to £16 15s; bulls, £9 17s 6d to £16; cows, £14 2s 6d; sheep, to 45s 6d, from Derwent Flour Mill; Scotch wedders, to 30s, from Mr Newton; do., 31s, T Copeland; 33s, Mr Heppell; hoggs, 39s 6d to 42s each; calves, 18s to 19s 6d; cows, to £13.

IN MEMORIAM NOTICES.

The charge for Inserting an "In Memoriam" Notice in the *Consett Chronicle*, with one verse of poetry, is 1s. When there are two verses, the charge is 1s. 6d.

MEMORIAL CARDS.

GEORGE NEASHAM
Printer, New Station Road, Consett,
Begs to Inform Parent and others that he has on hand a very
large and artistic assortment of
MEMORIAL CARDS,
And that all Orders sent to him,
by Post or otherwise, will receive the most
Careful and Prompt Attention.

An inspection of Cards is respectfully invited.

Two-fold Black-Bordered Silver Card, with Chastely-Designed Front Page, bearing the words "In Memoriam," or "In Loving Memory," and Poetry on the inside of Front Page, Price for the 1st Dozen, 2s. 6d. Each Succeeding Dozen, 1s. 6d. Relatives living at a distance may rely on having their Orders executed by Return of Post.

Relatives ordering Memorial Cards, are requested to send the Name of the Deceased, date of Death, &c. Wives who have been bereft of their husbands, husbands who have lost their wives, parents their children, children their father or mother, and relatives their friends, will find at the *Chronicle* Office, a large number of suitable verses to select from. A Printed Copy of these will be sent on application, Post Free.

MOURNING ENVELOPES.

Best Quality, 4d per Packet of 25.

TO THE BEREAVED.
T. C. RAWES & CO.
Beg to say that they have made special arrangements and can now supply Oak, Elm, and Pitch-pine Polished Coffins, at the most reasonable rates, all guaranteed the Best Workmanship and Quality.
CABS, COACHES, &c.
A Stock always in hand, which can be finished at a few hours' notice. Attendance Day and Night.
Shrouds, Wreaths, &c.
Funeral Furnishers, Consett.

Births, Marriages, & Deaths.

Marriages.

BLACK and MAUND.—At the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Consett, on the 13th inst., by the Rev. R. B. Hanley, A. E. Black to M. Maund of Consett.

SMITH and ARTHUR.—At the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Lanchester, on the 16th inst., by the Rev. J. A. Dixon, J. Smith of Stanley, to E. Arthur of Kyo.

GARR and BRENNAN.—At Newhouse R.C. Church, on the 16th inst., by the Rev. P. C. Fortin, J. G. Garr to M. Brennan, of Esh Winning.

DENSHAM and HOUGHTON.—At the Register Office, on the 16th inst., A. J. N. Densham to H. Houghton, White-le-Head.

PATTINSON and SIMPSON.—At the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Shotley Bridge, on the 16th inst., by the Rev R. B. Hanley, J. Pattinson to J. Simpson, of Allendale Cottages.

BAIN and DENT.—At the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Castleside, on the 16th inst., by the Rev. Joseph Bacon, assisted by the Rev. A. Baillie, Mr J. T. Bain to H. J. Dent, of Castleside.

FORSTER and PERRY.—At Christ Church, Consett, on the 11th inst., by the Rev. C. F. Wilson, Thomas Forster of Consett, to Mrs Perry of Jarrow.

KELLY and GALLAGHER.—At St. Cuthberts Chapel, the Brooms, on the 18th inst., by the Rev. A. Magill, John Kelley, of White-le-Head, to Mary Gallagher, of Flint Hill.

WILKINSON and DICKINSON.—At the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Stanley, on the 20th inst., by the Rev. W. Gelley, Henry Wilkinson of Hobson Colliery, to Jane Dickinson.

Deaths.

Mrs. Brown and family desire to return thanks for the many sincere expressions of sympathy they have received in their recent bereavement.

At Lanchester, on the 13th inst., aged 35 years, Betsy, wife of William Swinburn.

At Hedley Hope, on the 5th inst., John, infant son of James Blakelock.

At the Workhouse, Lanchester, on the 12th inst., aged 69 years, Ellen Maughan.

At Langley Park, on the 15th inst., Mary, infant daughter of John Moralee.

At Hedley Hope, on the 14th inst., James and George, infant sons of John Bramah.

At South Moor, on the 16th inst., aged 1 year, Lilian, daughter of Wm. Brown.

At Holmside, on the 18th inst., aged 44 years, Annie, wife of Mathew Humes.

At Burnhope, on the 16th inst., John, infant son of Ralph Battensby.

At Langley Park, on the 19th inst., aged 2 years, Sarah, daughter, of William Raper.

At the Station Hotel, Blackhill, on the 13th inst., aged 22 years, Susannah, daughter of Hugh Rogers.

At Grange Terrace, Medomsley, on the 17th inst., aged 1 month, Eliza Emma, daughter of Samuel James George.

At 15, Queen Street, Consett, on the 16th inst., aged 20 months, William Allen, son of Joseph Charlton.

At 23, Consett Terrace, Consett, on the 17th inst., aged 4 months, William, son of William Quinn.

At 514, Tin Street, Leadgate, on the 19th inst., aged 32 years, Thomas John Stirrup.

At Consett Terrace, Consett, on the 18th inst., aged 12 months, Mary Ann, daughter of Jeremiah Sullivan.

At 53, Allendale Cottages, on the 18th inst., aged 2 years, Margaret Ada, daughter of James Bainbridge.

At Oakeys' Houses, Stanley, on the 13th inst., aged 53 years, Elizabeth Ann, wife of John Collins.

At Catherine Terrace, Kyo, on the 14th inst., Thomas, infant son of Thomas Oxley.

At 18, Evelyn Terrace, Stanley, on the 13th inst., aged 62 years, Miles Barron.

At Leazes, on the 13th inst., aged 11 months, Richard, son of Richard Ferguson.

At Townley Street, Stanley, on the 15th inst., aged 13 days, Silvanus Dingwall.

At Delight Bank, Collierley, on the 15th inst., aged 1 month, Henry, son of Robert Jardine.

At Catchgate, on the 17th inst., aged 1 month, John Harvey, son of John Green, Grocer.

At Dipton, on the 17th inst., aged 7 years, Jane, daughter of William Todd.

At Collierley, on the 19th inst., aged 3 months, William Ernest, son of Oliver Taylor.

IN MEMORIAM.

In loving memory of HENRY BRAGG, who departed this life, at Dipton, January 23rd, 1893.

Gone, but not forgotten by his Wife and Family.

In Affectionate Remembrance of DORA E. Beloved Daughter of Andrew and Sarah H. Maddison, of Langley Park, who departed this life, January 26th, 1896, aged 5 years and 4 months.

No one knows how much we miss her,
None but aching hearts can tell;
We have lost her, Heaven has gained her.
Jesus hath done all things well.

Gone, but not forgotten,
by her Father and Mother,
Andrew Maddison.

JAMES HOPE,
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DURHAM ROAD, BLACKFINE.
Special Designs and Estimates on Application.

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