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Contracts.

TO CONTRACTORS.

THE Benfieldside Local Board invite TENDERS for about 360 YARDS OF 9-INCH MAIN SEWER.

The Contractor to find all Materials.

Plan and Specification, &c., may be seen at the Local Board Offices, Shotley Bridge, on and after the 30th January.

Tenders, Sealed and Endorsed Sewer, will be received by me up to the 11th day of February, 1892.

The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.

By Order of the Board.

553h JOHN DIXON, Surveyor.

Lost.

LOST, a PURSE, at Annfield Plain, on Saturday Night, January 23rd.—For particulars apply to Mrs SIDDLE, Allen's Yard, Annfield Plain. 589h

Wanted.

WANTED, a GENERAL SERVANT.—Apply, to Mrs J. COULTHARD, Dipton. 562h

WANTED, a Strong GIRL; good milker, about 17 years.—Apply, Guardian Office. 595h

WANTED, a good GENERAL SERVANT.—Apply, Golden Lion Inn, Leadgate. 593h

WANTED, for the Tantobie Sewerage Scheme a few good DRAINERS.—Apply, FOREMAN on the Works. 590h

COMFORTABLE LODGINGS in Blackhill for one or two Respectable Young Men; terms low.—Apply, Guardian Office. 601h

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Business Announcements.

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AMERICAN DENTAL SURGEON, OF 19, ELDON SQUARE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,

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

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

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Correspondence.

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

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

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

BAD ROADS.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—Please allow me a small space in your paper to draw the attention of the members of the Lanchester Highway Board to the state of the road through the village of Hill Top, Dipton. As a tradesman, I have to attend business there every week, and find it is very difficult to get in and out of the village. I am astonished to think that the ratepayers of that village are so neglected. Hoping this will meet the eyes of the Lanchester authorities, and thanking you for inserting this, I remain yours,

SADLY NEGLECTED.

Tantobie, January 22nd, 1892.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me space in your valuable paper to draw the attention of the Benfieldside Local Board to the wretched state of the road in front of Plantation Row, Blackhill, which has to answer both as cart-road and footpath. In wet weather it almost impossible to travel up the street without getting ankle deep in mud, owing to the water from the hillside running across the road before it reaches the drain. I think it is high time that something was done to make these back streets a little more comfortable than hitherto, and I trust that the authorities will speedily move in this matter. Thanking you in anticipation, I remain yours truly,

OCCUPIER.

Blackhill, January 27th, 1892.

STOCK AUCTION MARTS.

BENFIELDSIDE.—Mr Murray had forward on Monday, 10 fat cattle, 55 fat sheep, 10 cows, 4 pigs, 1 horse, 4 calves, a large number of poultry, harness, hams, hay, &c. Fat bullocks, to £22 17s 6d; heifers, to £21 10s; fat cows, to £21 10s; milch cows, to £17; sheep, to 46s 6d; pigs, to 89s; poultry, to 2s 4d; hay, £4 10s per ton. There was the usual good company of buyers present, and a good trade for all classes of stock, with the exception of cows, which were a very dull trade. Beef, 8s per stone; mutton, 7½d to 8½d per lb; pork, 6s 6d per stone.

TOW LAW.—Mr Vickers had forward on Monday, 27 dairy cows and heifers, 20 fat cattle, 10 calves, 226 fat sheep and hoggs. Cows made up to £20; fat cattle, to £18 10s; fat half-bred shearlings, up to 49s, top, Mr Crowe, Hedleyhope; fat hoggs, to 40s, top, Mr A. Henderson, Wolsingham; fat black-faced wethers, to 31s 6d, top, Messrs Morley, Eastgate; fat black-faced ewes, to 25s, top, Mr R. Thompson, Constantine Farm. Several consignments of cows could not get forward owing to the icy state of the turnpikes.

THE GREAT INFLUENZA REMEDY.

This disease only exists when the blood and body are much reduced. Handyside's blood purifier builds up the system and prevents and cures influenza and all other diseases. Influenza is a dreadful thing, and thousands of people have been thrown into consumption by it. It is given free, to all who are unable to pay for it at Handyside's Rooms, 126, King's Cross, London, also at Newcastle, Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow, and Carlisle. Anyone who has any doubt about it curing Cancer, Lupus, and all other diseases, can go to the rooms and see the patients cured before their eyes. If they cannot come to the rooms, they should get some of their friends to go and see, and report to them. Free medicine cannot be sent, but their friends can get it and send it to them and as much medicine will be given as they need, to effect a cure.

This is the medicine that has obtained the great name for the cure of Fits, Costiveness, Indigestion, Dizziness of the Head, Fainting Fits, Piles, Want of Blood, Loss of Appetite, Bronchitis, Asthma, Sleeplessness, and is the most marvellous thing for Change of Life. But for Cancer, Consumption, Lupus, and Skin Diseases, you require Handyside's Consumption Cure. It has never failed to cure Lupus and Cancer. If it cures those, it will cure Consumption, if the lungs are not eaten away. If they are it will only give ease and prolong life.

Seven thousand people have been rubbed for Sciatica and Rheumatism, and all have been cured some of fifty years' standing, and it has only come back in one in a hundred. But it can at any time be taken away in half an hour with Handyside's Liniment and Handyside's Blood Purifier. In slight cases the Liniment will take away the pain, but in bad cases Handyside's Blood Purifier should be taken to purge it out of the system.

Thousands of people wish to reform from the degrading influence of alcoholic drink. Handyside's Nerve Restorer is a perfect cure. It is no use anyone writing for it for another, for it will not disgust anyone against it, it will only destroy the desire. Anyone can get a dose free at Handyside's Rooms, or Carriages, and they can then feel what it does.

The Blood Food prepared by G. Handyside contains no medicine; it is simply a decoction of herbs, which a weak stomach can easily assimilate, and thereby build up the system. Those who wish to enjoy good health and a vigourous old age should all take it.

Those who take pills should take Handyside's pills. No. 1 are grand dinner pills—two or them will remove any bad effect from eating or drinking anything that has disagreed with the stomach; but to build up the system, No. 3 are the best pills, they will not purge and ruin the constitution like common pills. Those who notice the improvement of their health when they take them, will soon find out which pills are worth a guinea a box.

In order to give confidence when there is so much misrepresentation, the medicine is sent without the money with a note enclosed that if they think it does not do more good than any other medicine the money will not be required. All medicine sent from the manufactory, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Beware of vile imitations, hundreds have lost their lives by them.

The medicine will be given away every Saturday at Bentinck Crescent, Newcastle, to all who are unable to pay for it, between 2 and 4 o'clock.

"WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?"—Messrs. Elliman, of Slough, give this title to a unique little publication brought out for the purpose of advertising Elliman's Embrocation, but made generally attractive by its really exceptionally good illustrations. Mr. John Sturgess has drawn a number of striking pictures of hunting, coaching, polo, &c., and Mr. Sturgess, jun., has supplied episodes of athletics, &c., the whole covering a wide range of sport. The illustrations (19 of them) in a larger sizes are to be obtained separately from the former. They have the advantage that in this form their present commercial associations disappear, and they stand out as really capital pictures upon their own merits. "WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?" would be sent free for Twopence in stamps, and the 19 Sporting Prints for P.O. 2s. 6d. or stamps 2s. 6d. Sent abroad for P.O. 3s.6. Address—Elliman, Sons and Co., Slough. 809c

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

Football.

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

ASSOCIATION.

CONSETT Y.M.C.A. v CASTLESIDE ROVERS.—Three teams met at Castleside, the Consett men being victorious by six goals to three.

WALDRIDGE CHURCH 2ND v CHESTER SCHOOL.—Played at Waldridge, and resulted in a win for Waldridge by three goals to nil.

BYER MOOR 2ND v DIPTON RANGERS.—Played on the ground of the latter, and after a pleasant game resulted in a victory for the visitors by four goals to two.

LEADGATE EXILES 3RD v NEWCASTLE MARLBOROUGH.—Owing to the latter having to play a cup tie, their game with the Exiles was cancelled.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE v BURNOPFIELD.—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a victory for the home team by three goals to nil.

DIPTON RANGERS v CAUSEY STARS.—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in an easy victory for the home team by five goals to one.

ANNFIELD PLAIN JOLLY TARS JUNIORS v LANCHESTER WILD ROSES.—Played on the ground of the latter, and resulted in a win for the visitors by three goals to one.

ANNFIELD PLAIN JOLLY TARS v TANFIELD LEA STIFF 'UNS.—Played on the ground of the latter, and resulted in a very easy win for the Tars by 13 goals to nil.

INKERMANN RAMBLERS (Tow Law) v HELM PARK HEROES.—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in an easy victory for the Ramblers by seven goals to one.

CONSETT YOUNG SHAMROCKS v CONSETT SWIFTS.—Played on the ground of the former, and after a quarrelsome game resulted as follows:—Shamrocks, two goals; Swifts, one disputed goal.

BLACKHILL PARK v BLAYDON ALBION.—Played on the ground of the former, and after a hard game resulted in a victory for the home team by two goals to one.

CROOKHALL WANDERERS v. GREENCROFT BLACK WATCH.—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a win for the Wanderers by two goals to nothing.

ROBSON WANDERERS v ST. AUGUSTINE'S (Newcastle).—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a victory for the Wanderers by three goals to nil.

DERWENT VALLEY (Blackhall Mill) v SPEN WHITE LEGHORNS.—Played on the ground of the latter, and resulted in a victory for the Derwent Valley by six goals to nil.

CROOKHALL WANDERERS v CORNSAY TRUE PLEDGES.—Played on the ground of the former, a good game resulting in favour of the home team by one goal to none.

STANLEY HEDLEY HARRIERS v BURNHOPE ROVERS.—This match was played at Stanley before a fair number of spectators, but owing to the bad state of the field, good play was out of the question. The game ended in a draw, no goals being scored.

LANGLEY PARK EXCELSIORS v HEDLEY HILL TERRACE RANGERS.—Played on the former's ground, and after a very pleasant game resulted in a win for the home team by two goals to one. Thos. Lamb played a capital game for the winners.

MARLEY HILL ST. CUTHBERT'S v WHICKHAM.—Played on the ground of the former, for a supper, and after a well-contested game Marley Hill won by three goals to two, the game being played in a sportsmanlike manner. After the game, 40 sat down to supper, and a pleasant evening was spent.

WALDRIDGE CHURCH 2ND v. KIMBLESWORTH.—Played at Waldridge, and after a good game resulted in a win for Kimblesworth by three goals to one. It is only fair to state that Kimblesworth came to play Waldridge 1st (unknown to the latter), and allowed the home team to play 14 men.

ESH TRUE BLUES v CHESTER-LE-STREET.—Played on the ground of the latter. The visitors played a splendid passing game, and ran out easy winners by six goals to nil. The Esh team was:—Goal, R. Gill; backs, J. Rippon and J. Richardson; half-backs, R. Nichol, J. Trotter, and M. Davison; forwards, D. Trotter and S. Growcutt, right wing; S. Trotter, centre; A. Trotter and R. Davey, left wing.

TOW LAW RANGERS v TOW LAW CELTIC.—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a victory for the Rangers by three goals to one. H. Weatherall and J. Garraway played an excellent game for the winners. The following represented the Rangers:—Goal, S. Armstrong; backs, Rawes and J. Garraway; half-backs, Weatherall, Potts, and Temperley; forwards, H. Weatherall and Harroll, right wing; Slater, centre; Maughan and Gowland, left wing.

LEADGATE ST. IVES v SOUTH MEDOMSLEY HEROES.—Played on the ground of the former, and ended in a victory for the "Saints" by three goals to two. The Heroes played a very rough game. The following represented the winners:—Goal, G. Miller; backs, A. Johnson and S. Hudson; half-backs, M. Mawson, H. Foreman, and W. Johns; forwards, H. Devine and W. Crowther, right wing; G. Temple, centre; R. Iley and R. Chaytor, left wing.

MEDOMSLEY CHURCH CHOIR v FLINT HILL ALBION.—Played at Medomsley. Soon after the commencement the Choir scored, and then the Albion equalised. Goals for each side followed at intervals, and about three minutes from time the scores were level. The Choir then pressed and scored again, and won by six goals to five. R. Ramsey played splendidly at back for Flint Hill, while W. Veitch and I. Pearson were very conspicuous for Medomsley.

ANTWOOD ROVERS (Wolsingham) v KEPIER'S ROW HARRIERS (Tow Law).—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a victory for the Rovers by six goals to nil. March and Walker did some good passing for the home team. Leybourne in goal had very little to do, as the backs defended capitally. Watson played a good game for the visitors. Rovers' team—Goal, Leybourne; backs, Gordon and Turnbull; half-backs, Dobson, Johnson, and Wayper; forwards, Watson, Nesbitt, Walker, March, and Collingwood.

WALDRIDGE CHURCH JUNIORS v PELTON ST. ANDREW'S.—Played on the ground of the latter. The field was very wet, and play rather slow. Soon after starting, the Church kicked a goal. During the first half, falls were numerous, owing to the greasy condition of the ground. Half-time found the score standing—

Waldridge .... One goal
Pelton .... Nil

On resuming, the visitors pressed, and were very unlucky in not scoring. Ten minutes later, Pelton shot through from a free kick. This encouraged the home team, but they could not prevent Waldridge from putting on a second goal. Pelton now received a penalty kick, but the Church goalkeeper fisted out. Two minutes from time the visitors again scored, and the result was—

Waldridge .... Three goals
Pelton .... One goal

LINTZFORD v BYER MOOR.—Played at Lintzford in several inches of snow, and before a large concourse of spectators. The home team kicked off, and Byer Moor at once assumed the aggressive. T. Smith was called upon to save a stinger from Mulchy, which he cleared in splendid style. Play raged in midfield for a time, and then Lamb passed to Keefe. The latter centred beautifully, and the visitors scored from the foot of McWaters. Lintzford pressed, Abbott obtaining possession and passing to Swinburn, who shot, but Keefe was equal to the occasion. Brown, by a long kick, changed the venue. Play ruled very even till half-time, when the score stood—

Byer Moor .... One goal
Lintzford .... Nil

After the interval, Lintzford played up much better. The visitors ran up, and from some capital passing scored. The home team protested on the plea of off-side, but the point was allowed by the referee. The homesters now fairly settled down to their work, and Byer Moor had to defend their citadel on several occasions. After some good play by Abbott and Jas. Andrews, Lintzford scored, but the point was disallowed for off-side. The home forwards poured in a regular shower of shots, and Keefe was kept well employed. Smith scored No. 1, and soon after Swinburn equalised amidst ringing cheers. The game ended as follows—

Byer Moor .... Two goals
Lintzford .... Two goals

For the home team, Smith in goal played splendidly, and stopped shot after shot. Andrews (capt.), Jas. Andrews, Abbott, and Smith also showed up in good style. For the visitors, E. Keefe played a sterling game, and Lamb, Brown, and McWaters were likewise prominent.

GREENCROFT BLACK WATCH v OXHILL EXILES.—Played at Oxhill, the field being in a shocking bad condition. The visitors won the toss, and elected to defend the west goal, with the hill in their favour. The home team kicked off, and at once began to press, but were soon driven back. The game was about seven minutes old when Argyle scored for the Black Watch. About ten minutes later Gardiner scored a second goal. The visitors had much the best of the play, but owing to the ground being in such a slippery condition, the forwards could hardly stand on their feet. Score at half-time—

Greencroft .... Two goals
Exiles .... Nil

On re-starting, the visitors soon obtained the upper hand, and had matters all their own way. They bombarded the home goal, the forwards sending in shot after shot, but owing to the splendid defence of the backs and goalkeeper, they only managed to add two more goals to their total, one of them being declared off-side. Nothing further was scored, and a pleasant game ended as under—

Greencroft .... Three goals
Exiles .... Nil

The following represented the winners:—Goal, Wm. Magee; backs, G. Foester and Wm. Atkinson; half-backs, F. Tuck, W. Atkinson, and H. Lawson; forwards, J. Gardiner and J. Dunne, right wing; G. Fenwick, centre; forwards, J. Argyle and T. Bates, left wing.

LEADGATE PARK RESERVE v DERWENT COTTAGES RAMBLERS.—This return fixture was played at Leadgate before a fair assemblage. The first game, after a hard struggle, resulted in a victory for the Park by three goals to two. The Ramblers placed a strong team on the field, having the assistance of Hunter in goal. Stephenson won the toss, and decided to defend the entrance goal. The visitors commenced, and for a time play was very even, neither team appearing to have much advantage. Then Look and Makepeace got possession, and after a fine run the former centred, and Burnhope scored the first goal for the homesters. Haggerstone returned the kick-off, and the Park forwards made for the Ramblers' fortress. After some exciting play, Makepeace scored the second goal for Leadgate. This stirred the visitors up, and their forwards rushed down the field, but were checked by Foreman, who gave to Willey. The latter, dodging Wilson, scored the third goal for the Park. Before half-time, the Ramblers were awarded a penalty kick for hands off Brown. Wilson took the kick, and beat Crowther for the first time. The whistle sounded for half-time with the score—

Park .... Three goals
Ramblers .... One goal

After a short interval, the ball was set in motion once more, and the Ramblers forced their way into the home team's quarters, only to find the defence as good as ever. Brown returned to midfield, and a lot of give-and-take play followed, of which the Park had slightly the best, Crowther having very little to do. The Ramblers' defence could only be broken through once, although the home team had exceedingly hard lines in not scoring more often. The result was—

Park .... Four goals
Ramblers .... One goal

The Park team was:—Goal, Crowther; backs, F. Foreman and Brown; half-backs, Stephenson (capt.), Haggerstone (1), and T. Reed; forwards, G. Look and Makepeace, left wing; Burnhope, centre; Haggerstone (2) and Willey, right wing. Linesman, A. Graham. Referee, Mr W. Johns.

TOW LAW ST. JOSEPH'S v BROWNEY ALBION.—Played at Tow Law, on a very hard and slippery ground. The visitors kicked off, and for the first few minutes pressed. The home forwards then had a run to the other end, and play raged round the visitors' goal for a short while, but eventually the latter broke away. Hanlon at half-back placed the leather well up the field with a tall kick, which enabled Wilkinson to score an easy goal for the homesters. The visitors made a rush and scored, the point being disallowed for off-side. The Browney pressed for a long time, and had very hard lines in not scoring, the leather at one time just going by the post, and on another occasion bouncing right in front of goal and going over the bar. Half-time score—

Tow Law .... One goal
Browney .... Nil

In the second portion, the Browney was completely beaten, although the game was pretty open. After a few minutes' play, the home forwards shot through, and quickly added another, which was ruled off-side. The visitors were only about twice dangerous. No more scoring took place till close on time, when the "Saints" added their third point, and the game finally terminated as under—

Tow Law .... Three goals
Browney .... Nil

The following represented Tow Law—Goal, McGurk; backs, Quinn and McCabe; half backs, Morgan, Morgan, and Hanlon; forwards, Hanlon and Finneron, right wing; Wilkinson, centre; Burke and Donaghy, left wing.

DURHAM ASSOCIATION CUP.

FIRST ROUND.

LEADGATE EXILES v WEST HOUSE (Sunderland).—The above clubs met at Sunderland to play off their tie in the Durham Cup. The home captain won the toss, and choose to play up the incline, against a slight breeze, evidently depending upon his men's staying powers in the second half to win the match. C. Quinn, started, and play had not been in progress many minutes ere it was seen that the game would be a hard and fast one. The Exiles' forwards at once rushed off, and after a fine run McMahon struck the bottom of the upright, and the ball went outside the post, a performance which McGee followed up shortly after—cases of hard lines. The home team now had a look in, but McGee was in grand form, and play was transferred to the other end, where McMahon again shot just past. The game was even for a time, but the visitors once more surrounded the home fortress, and from a splendid pass by Monaghan, Haggan sent in a stinger, which the goalkeeper just saved and put past the post. The corner proved useless, and the home forwards came away and gave McGraham one to stop, but he kicked well into play again. McGee, Kelly, and Hughes brought the ball down the field through all opposition, and sent into goal, where it was rushed through, drawing first blood for the Exiles. Encouraged by their success, the visitors put more life into the game, but West House were equally determined, and made several vigorous attacks on the Leadgate citadel, but without any successful result, whilst the Exiles again had hard lines, the ball hitting the crossbar and rolling over. Half-time was called with the score—

Exiles .... One goal
West House .... Nil

The home team commenced the second half with hopes of putting on a good score. The first ten minutes was pretty even, but the frantic shouts of the homester's supporters encouraged them to play up, and the visitors were completely penned in for fully ten minutes. The Sunderland lads went about their work in a determined manner, and had the Leadgate defence showed the slightest weakness, there would have been a very different result; but McGee and Treaquare kept their heads cool. Doubtless it is much more pleasant to be defending with a goal the lead than a goal behind, and the Exiles played for all they were worth. When the pressure was eventually relieved, it proved the turning point of the game, for, after a fine run on the right, Kelly got possession, and eluding the backs, rushed up and shot a beautiful goal after a bit of the finest play anyone could wish to see. The home men were now done, and the visitors had much the best of the game to the close, the result being—

Exiles .... Two goals
West House .... Nil

The Exiles were represented by the appended team:—Goal, T. McGraham; backs, Wm. McGee (capt.) and W. Treaquare; half-backs, Jas. Monaghan, J. Haggan, and P. Hughes; forwards, T. Kelly and O. Hughes, right wing; C. Quinn, centre; Jas. McGee and J. McMahon, left wing. Referee, Mr J. R. Douglas, Gateshead.

MEDOMSLEY MEDAL COMPETITION.

FINAL TIE.

DIPTON WANDERERS v MEDOMSLEY.—These teams met at Dipton before a large assemblage to decide who should obtain possession of the above medals. After a capital game the Wanderers won by three goals to one.

RUGBY.

DURHAM COUNTY RUGBY UNION JUNIOR CUP.

FIRST ROUND.

BLACKHILL ROVERS v MOUNT PLEASANT (Gateshead).—Played at Gateshead before a large number of excited spectators. The Rovers won the toss, and elected to play with the wind in their favour. The home team kicked off, but the Rovers at once forced the play, and soon put on two minors. A splendid rush by the visitors' forwards enabled Brown to score for the Rovers. Askew took the place, which was a very difficult one, and made a grand attempt, but failed. The Rovers still kept up the pressure, but could not add to their score. Just before the interval, owing to some misunderstanding, the home team got over, and were awarded a try, but the kick failed, and at half-time the score was—

Rovers .... One try, five minors
Mount Pleasant .... One try, one minor

The Rovers started the second period, and very fast and exciting play followed, the game being very even. Good passing among the home backs gained ground, but Brown and Ward put in some capital work for the visitors. Mount Pleasant then came with a rush, and Martin scored the second try, Hayes failing to convert an easy place. The Rovers played up with any amount of pluck, but ill-luck always seemed to stop them from scoring. Shortly before time, Gateshead scored another unimproved try, and the final result was—

Mount Pleasant .... Three tries, three minors (six points)
Rovers .... One try, nine minors (two points)

FOOTBALL JOTTINGS.

[BY "OFF-SIDE."]

THE NEGRITIES GO DOWN.

Blackhill Rovers again journeyed to Gateshead on Saturday to play their cup-tie with Mount Pleasant, but had to return defeated, after a good game, by six points to two. This score does not at all represent the actual play, as the Rovers had a little the best of matters all through, but lacked scoring powers, and this is where the home team beat them. Several of those nine useless minors should certainly have been tries. The eight Blackhill forwards simply walked round the home nine. The ground, which was covered with about a foot of snow the previous Saturday, was on this occasion even worse than before, being ankle deep in clay.

As regards the players, J. Aitken at back played a splendid game for the visitors, and stopped several dangerous rushes. Brown worked hard and effectively at three quarters, while McElrue and Robson also showed up well. Ward was seen to advantage in the second half. The halves were very good, but had to face a superior couple. The forwards all played admirably, and to mention any specially I should name Sayers, Aitken, Askew, and Hewitson. Hayes at back for Mount Pleasant was not up to Aitken's form. The Martins were ever conspicuous at three-quarters, and Dixon was the best of two capital half-backs, although inclined to indulge in off-side tactics. Not much can be said in praise of the scrummagers, as they were easily beaten by the gallant eight of the Rovers. I must confess to a feeling of disappointment at the downfall of our local men, but I trust they will not let it dishearten them. They must stick together, and hope for better luck next season.

A SPLENDID VICTORY FOR THE EXILES.

Many as have been the excellent performances achieved by the Leadgate Exiles this season, it is doubtful if they have ever accomplished a more meritorious one than they did on Saturday last, when they travelled to Sunderland and defeated the strong West House team. The match was one of the ties in the first round of the Durham Cup competition proper, and was looked upon by the West House supporters as a fairly "good thing" for their pets, who possess a splendid reputation in the Sunderland district; but their hopes were rudely shattered on Saturday, and the Sunderland combination had to succumb to a superior team, although the victory was by no means easily secured.

The day was beautifully fine, and the ground in fairly good condition. Owing to the fact that there were two English Cup ties taking place in the town on the same afternoon, there was only a fair attendance, but those who were present did not forget to make their presence known. McGraham had very little to do in goal, as McGee and Treaquare were in splendid form, the genial captain especially playing a grand game. Haggan was always prominent, and was the best half on the field. The forwards were never in better trim, and worked together admirably. That run of little Kelly's by which he scored the second goal was worth going a long way to see. It was the best individual effort of the day.

I offer the Exiles my very hearty congratulations on their splendid victory, which should be the means of furnishing us with a grand display of football next Saturday, when the Exiles will oppose Dipton Wanderers, on the latter's ground, in the second round of the Senior Cup. Last season we had a team in the final of the Junior Cup, and there are many more things unlikely than that we shall this season provide one of the teams for the final of the Senior Cup. North-West Durham is going ahead, and don't you forget it.

DIPTON WIN THE MEDALS.

The final stage of the Medal Competition organised by the Medomsley club was satisfactorily decided on Saturday, at Dipton, before a large attendance, when the Wanderers defeated Medomsley after a capital struggle. I understand that the winners intend to present the medals to their reserve team, who represented the club in the first round of the competition. The latter, I am pleased to say, has been a financial success. I ought not to forget to accord a word of praise to Freek for his display on Saturday. This grand custodian can always be relied on to do his very best, and it would be hard indeed to properly estimate the value of Freek's services to the Wanderers.

The match was noteworthy for the re-appearance of A. Tuson after a lengthy period of enforced idleness. Needless to say he was warmly welcomed, and I hasten to express my pleasure at the fact that Tuson is once more able to resume his old position in the Wanderers' ranks, where he has been sadly missed. The game can ill spare such a brilliant exponent. That splendid forward, A. Hedley, also turned out for Medomsley again, but was palpably out of condition, and little wonder when we remember that he has not kicked a ball for about six weeks. I trust that he will get into trim as quickly as possible, and that we shall often have the pleasure of seeing him dashing down the left in the old sweet way.

A GOOD RESERVE TEAM.

There is no doubt that Leadgate Park possess one of the very best reserve teams in the neighbourhood. They played their return game with Derwent Cottages Ramblers on Saturday, and succeeded in achieving a much easier victory than on the first occasion of their meeting. The whole eleven were seen to the greatest advantage, and there are some young players amongst them who will ere long qualify for a place in the first team. The Reserve have experienced a most successful season, their record up to date being—Matches played, 15; won, 12; lost, 2; drawn, 1; scoring 48 goals against 21 registered by their opponents. They are drawn to meet Cornsay Rovers in the first round of the Junior Cup, and intend to do their utmost to pull off the game.

Apropos of the Park club, I may mention that the first team will don their new colours—red and white, vertical stripes—in the cup-tie against Leadgate Exiles Reserve to-morrow (Saturday). The above is a very pretty combination, and should look well. The Park Reserve are not going to be left behind, as they will also turn out in fresh colours—viz., maroon.

A GROWING EVIL.

I wish to call attention to a most undesirable practice that we have to deal with every week. It is becoming quite popular amongst some of the junior teams to send us two reports of each match—one from either of the competing clubs—and in nine cases out of ten the results are totally different. I trust that secretaries who indulge in this practice will take the hint, and for the future send us correct results of the various games played by their clubs. It is an unwritten law in the football world that the home secretary (not Mr W. H. Matthews) should send a report of the match.

THE LANGLEY PARK ROVERS' COMPLAINT.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to Mr Osman's reply to my complaint, I beg to endorse my former statements—viz.: That we did not get fairplay; that we got five corners in succession in the first half; that three of our men got over the centre line in the second half; that two of our men had to leave the field through getting lamed by the rough play of the Dipton team; and that only two of our men were asked to tea after the game. True, our team got a drop of hot tea at half-time, for which they were very thankful. As to Mr Osman saying my former remarks were false, I would say if he is not given to telling untruths, he is a stranger to the truth. As for bad language, there was not any used by our team, as they simply asked Mr Little for fairplay. As to Mr Little saying it must have been another game, it shows plainly he was asleep, or he could have seen the two men leave the field. One had to be taken to Mountsett, as he was too lame to come home.—I remain, yours, in truth and fairplay,

W. E. SHORTEN,
Hon. sec. Langley Park Rovers.

THE CUP-TIE AT CONSETT.

The cup-tie to be played at Consett to-morrow (Saturday) promises to be a very lively event, and the interest centred in the game seems to be accelerated by the fact that both the competing teams are purely local. The prevailing sickness will, no doubt, prevent some of the players on both sides from participating in the game, but both clubs will do their utmost to put the best team possible on the field. The "Young Men" have, I believe, selected what may be termed a very good eleven, and that they mean business may be gathered from the fact that they have been indulging in harriers' runs during the week. The Fell, by the way, seem very quiet over the affair, but no doubt they will be found quite ready for action when the time arrives. I trust that the game will be contested in the best possible spirit.

A CONTRADICTION.

DEAR SIR,—Would you allow me a small space to refer to the match between Castleside Rovers and Consett Swifts, as we saw in your football columns that the latter claimed a victory by three goals to two, which is untrue, as it was a drawn game of two goals each, Castleside having the best of the game right through. The Swifts claimed a goal when the leather went over the string, which was slack. The referee was one of their own men, and allowed everything they claimed. If that is the way they win all their matches, no wonder they have not lost a game this season. If they think they can beat us, we will play them for a new ball.—Yours, &c.,

J. RIPLEY,
Hon. sec. Castleside Rovers.

NORTH-WEST DURHAM ALLIANCE.

	Plyd.	Won	Lost	Drn	Goals For	Goals Ag.	Pts
Dipton Wanderers	8	6	2	0	28	11	12
Leadgate Exiles	6	5	1	0	28	6	10
Tanfield Lea	5	3	1	1	17	12	7
Cornsay Rovers	5	3	1	1	18	18	7
Medomsley	9	2	4	3	21	28	7
Langley Park R.	10	1	8	1	17	45	3
Hedley Harriers	5	0	3	2	11	21	2

MATCHES WANTED.

Dipton Rangers 2nd have several dates vacant, and would like to have them filled up with moderate 2nd teams. Address—John Fail, 44, New Rows, Dipton, Lintz Green.

Inkermann Ramblers would be pleased to arrange matches with junior teams. Ages, 14 to 16. Apply to Wm. Fell, jun., Tow Law.

Cricket.

TANFIELD C.C.—The members of this club held their annual meeting on Monday night, at the Peacock Inn, Tanfield, for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year. The following were chosen:—Patron, Mr T. D. Eden; president, Rev T. H. Archdall; vice-presidents, Messrs N. Clark, W. J. Handcock, R. Atkinson, W. Taylor, R. Agar, F. Dixon, J. Irwin, J. Robinson, F. Lowe, G. Watson, and Dr Benson; captain, Mr J. Laidler; vice-captain, Mr W. T. Brown; treasurer, Mr R. Johnson; secretary, Mr W. T. Brown; corresponding secretary, Mr W. G. Robinson, Tanfield, via Lintz Green; committee, Messrs Reay, Hetherington, Wilkinson, Robson, and Pattinson.

ESH CHURCH INSTITUTE C.C.—At the annual meeting of the members of this club, held at Waterhouse, the financial report read by the secretary showed a balance on the right side. The officers chosen for the ensuing year were:—President, Dr Hare; vice-presidents, Messrs G. French, J. Potts, J. Gray, J. Thompson, J. Stephenson, and Dr Mare; captain, Mr T. Batty; vice-captain, Mr E. Quinn; secretary and treasurer, Mr Rawsthorne; committee, Messrs J. Thompson, J. G. Rennicks, W. Adamson, C. Gallon, and J. Gray; scorers, Messrs R. Smith and R. Hopper; umpire, Mr J. Goldsborough. It was agreed that the club in future be called the "Esh Winning and District Cricket Club." It was announced that Dr Hare and Mr French would present a bat to be given to the highest scorer last season. The club will join the County Association, and play in the cup ties.

Sporting Items.

PIGEON SHOOTING AT BLACKHALL MILL.—A pigeon shooting handicap, promoted by Mr W. H. Stonehouse, of the Ship Inn, Blackhall Mill, who added £1 to an entrance of 2s 6d per lot, was decided in a field adjoining that hostelry, on Saturday afternoon. There was a capital entry and a large muster of spectators. Scores:—Wood, 18, 0; The Ship, 18, 1 0; Weston, 19, 1 1 0; High Burn, 19, 0; Nelson, 18, 1 1 0; Herdman, 23, 1 0; Woodland, 19, 0; Allen, 18, 1 1 1; Ward, 18, 1 1 0; Robinson, 18, 1 1 0; Leybourne, 20, 1 1 1; G Weston, 18, 1 1 0; Cousins, 19, 0; Greener, 18, 0; Anything, 19, 1 1 0; Ash Tree, 18, 1 0; Chris Little, 21, 0; Blackhall Mill, 21, 0; Bridge End, 22, 1 1 1; Luck's All, 21, 1 1 0; Fenwick, 22, 1 1 1; The Dodger, 19, 1 1 0; Tinker, 22, 1 1 1; McLure, 21, 1 1 0. Stake divided.—A second sweep was afterwards shot off, with the following result:—Allen, 18, 1 0; Robinson, 18, 0; Nelson, 18, 1 1 1 0 0; Leybourne, 20, 1 1 1 1; Bridge End, 22, 1 1 0; Bullerwell, 19, 1 0; Cousins, 19, 0; Tinker, 22, 0; The Ship, 19, 1 1 1 0 1; Woodlark, 19, 0; Anything, 19, 0. Henry Bates acted as handicapper and referee. £3 a-side has been posted in the hands of Mr R. Leybourne to bind a match at pigeons, 20 yards rise, 60 fall, 1¼oz of shot, the use of both barrels, between Sergt. Burrell and Isaac Herdman, two local shootists, for £10 a side, in a field near the Ship Inn, Blackhall Mill.

CONSETT UNITED TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

On Tuesday evening, the members of the above named Association held their yearly meeting in the Gibson Street Wesleyan Schools, Consett. There was a large attendance, and the chair was occupied by the president, Mr C. P. Douglas. The opening hymn, "Rescue the perishing," having been sung, Mr John Lowes engaged in prayer.

The CHAIRMAN, in commencing the proceedings, congratulated the organisation upon the good, useful, and noble work accomplished during the past year, and spoke very hopefully and encouragingly of the future prospects of the association in battling with the abominable drink traffic. The present year would doubtless prove of the utmost importance from the fact that a general election might ensue at any moment, and, besides, the County Council elections were pending. It therefore behoved all the members, as loyal temperance men, to throw their whole soul and energy into the work now looming before their eyes, and to do their utmost to return avowedly temperance reformers to places and positions of public weal. (Applause.)

The SECRETARY (Mr G. T. Egglestone), in his report, gave a concise *resume* of the past year's operations, and mentioned the progress effected, both financially and numerically. Their membership was increasing, and there was a substantial balance to be carried forward. (Applause.) The report also commented very favourably of the success which had so far attended the temperance musical services in the Co-operative Hall on Sunday evenings.

The report and balance-sheet were adopted, and the following office-bearers were chosen for the current year:—Mr C. P. Douglas was again unanimously re-elected president; Mr John Lowes, vice-president (in the room of Mr T. Foster); Mr G. T. Egglestone, secretary; Mr J. Ward, treasurer; Mr C. H. Allison, auditor; and a working committee of over 20 members in addition to the foregoing officers.

At the close of the meeting, several more members were enrolled.

Votes of thanks to the president and all the officers, and prayer by Rev T. Durant, concluded a successful gathering.

THE TEMPERANCE SERVICE.

The Co-operative Hall, Consett, was crowded to excess on Sunday night soon after the doors were opened for the weekly musical service, promoted by the Consett United Temperance Association, and scores of people were not able to gain admission. Mr J. Cockburn made an efficient chairman, and an excellent and high-class programme of vocal and instrumental music was rendered, and was thoroughly appreciated. The opening hymn was No. 37 (Sankey), "Rescue the perishing," and then Mr W. Grainger led in prayer. Miss A. Weaver introduced the programme by singing in her accomplished style "The better land." In the absence of Mr Unsworth, Miss Florry Egglestone—who seems to be always at hand to fall back upon in cases of emergency—favoured with a recitation, entitled, "The angel of the track," and sustained her part in a faultless manner. Mr Christopher Stelling very ably sang "When I survey the wondrous cross," and Mr J. Stephenson contributed a flute selection, being accompanied by Mr Stelling. The efforts of this clever performer were greatly admired. Mr T. Carey subsequently delivered a stirring address, pleading with Christians of all churches to put their hands to this great work and make one mighty effort to stem the torrent of misery in their midst caused by the drinking customs of their land. He hoped that the time would soon come when the churches would wake up from their slumbers and shake the dust from their feet and try to abolish these smell hells that were smouldering in their towns and villages, and bring about a more satisfactory state of things, as it was the duty of every Christian to put his shoulder to the wheel and help on this great and noble work of lifting mankind. He believed the time was not far distant when the churches would make it too hot for those who "take a little for their stomach's sake," and that nothing less than total abstinence would do for them. The speech was listened to with eager attention. Miss L. English very sweetly sang "The maiden's prayer." Mr T. Jones acted as pianist. The meeting was closed in the usual way.

[In last week's report, the name of Miss Hinkin was inadvertently printed Miss Harker.]

BAZAAR AT MICKLEY.

During the past year or two the Mickley Football Club has made rapid strides to the front rank of country clubs playing under Association rules, and have more than once proved themselves well ahead of anything in this western district. This season they have played even better than usual, and, though the season is not yet concluded, it is likely that at its close they will not be far from the top in the county. To keep pace with their reputation and to ensure the comfort of visiting clubs, the Mickley Club early last summer made various improvements to their ground, and erected a substantial club-house on it. This involved an outlay of over £100, and though the club is in a good financial position with regard to its ordinary expenditure, yet this outlay placed them in the position of having a balance on the wrong side. With the laudable intention of getting rid of this debt it was decided to have a bazaar, which was opened on Friday in the Mission Room at Mickley, kindly granted by Rev W. Jesson, vicar. The debt had up to then been reduced to £70, and it was with a view to clear this off, or substantially reduce it, that such a large and tempting array of articles were arranged for sale in the capacious mission room. Naturally, in such a district, the useful articles largely predominated over the fancy ones, but there was a fair show of the latter, nothing that we noticed being in any way of a useless nature. The display spoke volumes for the hard work that the ladies of the district have given to help the football club. The bazaar was formally opened at two o'clock by Mr T. Bates, manager of the colliery. He warmly congratulated the club on the very surprising and remarkable advance they had made, and mentioned the benefit in an athletic and general sense that the formation of the club had been to the youth of the neighbourhood. On the motion of Mr Weatherley, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr Bates. The ladies who attended to the stall were:—Confectionery stall, Mrs Middleton and Mrs Blackburn; general stall, Mrs Bailey, Mrs Scott, Mrs Davison, Mrs Angus, Mrs Bell, and Mrs Gair. Tea was provided, the ladies attending to the tables being Miss Paisley, Miss Pigg, Miss Slack, Miss Soulsby, and Miss Tulip. Mr Barmouth had charge of a stereoscope. Sales proceeded briskly, there being a capital attendance, especially in the evening. The bazaar was opened on Saturday, when Mr I. Baty, of Hexham, performed the inaugural ceremony.

ODDFELLOWSHIP AT DIPTON.

On Saturday, the members of the "Maid of Derwent" No. 685 of the National Independant Order of Oddfellows, Newcastle-on-Tyne District, held their 22nd annual festival at the house of Mr John Bennett, Fox Inn, Dipton, when about 60 members partook of a splendid supper, prepared by Mrs Bennett in a first-class and befitting manner. After the cloths were removed, the members, with their friends, held a social gathering, when Bro. Coun. J. A. Curry took the chair, and Bro. Walter Saunders the vice-chair. The chairman gave a very interesting address on the benefits derived from unity of oddfellowship and kindred societies, to which he gave his uttermost support. By glancing through the lodge report he found that for the year just ended there was a good surplus in hand, and he hoped the lodge would still continue to prosper and prove beneficial to the community. Bro. W. Sanders gave the auditor's report for the year, and thought the lodge was in a very successful condition, despite the fearful conflict they have had with the influenza. It must not be forgotten that the epidemic amongst the members had made a serious inroad on their funds.—The chairman read a letter of the non-attendance of our district officers, and the reason of their not being able to be present.—Bro. Geo. Eltringham (secretary) gave a very interesting report of the order at large and its workings, and number of members and friends accumulated for the year just passed. He also encouraged all members to attend the lodge meetings more regularly than what they had done in the past, so that it would give greater impetus to all officers, and to see for themselves the manner of dealing with all lodge funds. Attendance at all meetings would be to the education of all good oddfellows to be ready to take office when the old ones died out or were unable to attend to the work allotted to them. The word oddfellowship not only meant the payment of their contributions of 2s per month and receiving 10s per week in sickness. It was a society of friendship, love, and truth towards all men of unity and good work. Bro. Eltringham moved "that our best thanks be returned to Coun. Murray, Blackhill, and firm for their goodwill towards us, and that it be sent by writing, also the best thanks be given to Mr and Mrs Bennett for their able manner of supplying a most substantial supper, which has been Mrs Bennett's first supply to the gathering of oddfellows, and also for the manner we were attended to during the year." This was carried with a hearty cheer, and a vote of thanks to the chairman for his most interesting address and ability of conducting the lodge affairs, and also to Mrs Curry, was carried unanimously. The little meeting was afterwards brought to a close by Bros. Saunders, Harrison, Morpeth, Cook, Ledger, with their harmony of a few good songs suitable for the occasion.

CHURCH TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

CONSETT BRANCH.

On Thursday se'nnight, a public meeting and entertainment in connection with the above was given in the Science and Art Room of the Consett National Schools, West Victoria Street. There was a good attendance, and the chair was occupied by the vicar (Rev F. Steggall). A varied and excellent programme was given by Misses Steggall, Potts, Graham, M. Davison, Messrs Ormerod, Cant, and others. Suitable addresses were delivered by the chairman and Rev E. G. F. Macpherson, curate of Medomsley.

MARLEY HILL BRANCH.

PRESENTATION TO A CLERGYMAN.

The usual monthly meeting of the above was held in the school-room on Tuesday night—Rev S. White (vicar) in the chair. The room was crowded, and the presence of many unusual faces clearly showed that something special formed part of the programme. The first part consisted of a reading by Mr Dewhurst; songs by Rev E. E. Harrison and Mr Saunders, the former receiving a double *encore*; a couple of duets by Miss Dewhurst and Master W. Dewhurst, both of which were highly appreciated; also a recitation nicely rendered by Master Thomas Storey; and solos on the piano by Misses F. Bowman and Jane K. Lawson, of Gateshead, the latter showing wonderful ability for one so young, and was repeatedly *encored*. The most interesting part of the proceedings now took place. Rev E. E. Harrison, M.A., having recently accepted a curacy at St Cuthbert's, Bensham, the parishioners determined to seize the opportunity of showing the high esteem in which he was held by them during his stay of two-and-a-half years in their midst. A large number of subscriptions, confined to residents in the parish only, soon came in, and resulted in the purchase of a chaste and beautiful solid silver pocket communion service, a leather bag for surplice, and six volumes of the "Pulpit Commentary." Mr Gilchrist, in making the presentation, said that Mr Harrison had gained their affections by the excellent work he had done both in connection with the Church and also outside in encouraging manly sports and the objects of the C.E.T.S., and in other ways making himself thoroughly popular with all. Rev E. E. Harrison, who was received with loud cheers, in reply, mentioned that he had invariably received the greatest kindness from the Marley Hill people, and especially from Mr Gilchrist, and said that his stay there would always be a pleasant recollection. A nigger sketch by a dozen day scholars, in character, occupied the last part. Songs, choruses, a clog dance, and conundrums kept the audience in hilarity for nearly an hour. The meeting ended in the usual way.

"RUPTURES"!—WHITE'S MOC-MAIN LEVER TRUSS is the most effective invention for the treatment of Hernia. The use of a steel spring, so hurtful in its effects, is avoided a soft bandage being worn round the body, while the requisite resisting power is supplied by the Moc-Main Pad and Patent Lever, fitting with so much ease and closeness that it cannot be detected. Send for descriptive circular, with testimonials and prices, to J. WHITE AND CO. (Limited), Piccadilly London. Do not buy of Chemists, who often sell you IMITATION of our Moc-Main. J White and Co. have no tany Agents.

"HOW TO DEBATE."—This is a handy little work containing the rules of debate, hints on public speaking, and other useful information for members of debating societies. The work, which is published at the small price of sixpence, may be had at Robt. Jackson's bookseller, 9 and 10, Newmarket Street, Consett.

Original Poetry.

TO A STREET FIDDLER.*

Chords that vibrate sweetest pleasure
Thrill the deepest notes of woe.—*Burns.*

I.

Sing on sweet minstrel of the wandering train
 While round thee plays the summer evening breeze;
O! yet awhile prolong that tender strain
 That I may drink its sweetness to the lees,
Entranced in former joys beyond the seas;
Thou little know'st the wild delight I feel,
 The happy thrills that all my being seize,
The glad emotion words can ne'er reveal
As through my glowing heart thy melting measures steal.

II.

Here at the window of my dull sick-room,
 I've weary grazed the life-long afternoon;
But now, as if by magic, fleets my gloom
 Like ebon shadows before the rising moon
 Since thou struck up that well-known dulcet tune.
So David's harp rejoiced the heart of Saul
 E'en when all else had failed to make him boon.
Its voice, like balm divine, dispelled the gall
And crushed the demon back that held his peace in thrall.

III.

No thirsty night on sultry desert plain
 More joyful hailed the song of limpid spring
Than I salute the warblings of that soft refrain;
 Again, sweet bard, oh! change not yet the theme
 To wake me from this rapt delicious dream;
My inmost core responds with speechless joy
 To every quaver; and the same bright beam
That fired mine eye ere came the world's annoy,
Glows now as when I lived a merry thoughtless boy.

IV.

Yes; for the while, my every care is gone,
 And in that while I live my youth anew;
Again the olden faces, one by one,
 Come, as of yore, upon my ravished view
 With many a darling scene my childhood knew.
I see auld Caledonia's heather fell,
 Her fairy glens, her rugged mountains blue,
Her burns, her birken shores and broomy dells
Till all the spring of life within my bosom swells.

V.

Oh! witching music, soul-ennobling power!
 Sure the nameless voice of Heaven is thine,
Whether thou wing the lover's raptured hour,
 Or melt the soul in tenderness divine,
 Or through the dance ecstatic ardour shine,
Or conjure back the joys of auld lang syne;
 But earth-born words can ne'er thy charms proclaim,
Thine own sweet voice alone can sing thy matchless fame.

VI.

And thou whose skill creates this joy in me,
 Art thou made joyous by that same control?
Sure none could make this heaven-born melody
 Unless accompanied by a genial soul!
 Alas! thy careworn face and tattered stole
Show little signs of joy within thy breast;
 Perhaps since morn thou'st had a fruitless stroll
To gain as much as pay for this night's rest,
And penceless, hungry, weary now art sore distrest.

VII.

The glowing few who think it worth their while
 To form an audience 'mid the sweeping throng,
Seem quite amused with thy bewitching style,
 But little mind what cares to thee belong;
 There hast thou sweetly played song after song.
Yet all thy skill is proved a gratis play,
 For scare a soul thy auditors among
Have thought thy bright performance to repay:
They sip the cream, yet loath to give a cent away.

VIII.

And ye with wealth and pomp exceeding high,
 In vain to you he moves the trembling string,
On either hand ye pass him heedless by
 As if he were some worthless, tuneless thing;
 And, haply, even now ye're on the wing
With eager haste to reach the gay saloon,
 Where ye may hear some titled fiddler sing
With flaunting air and gaudy costume boon,
Less sweet, perchance, than he who wakes that dulcet tune.

IX.

So the bright author ‡ of that stirring song
 Thrilled a whole nation with his rustic lyre,
Yet had to trudge his weary course along,
 Neglected left in poverty and mire,
 Despite the glory of his brilliant fire;
And thus, too oft, the genuine lyric bard,
 Whose heartfelt strains the populace inspire
Unknown, unnoticed, meets with no regard,
While some prose-epic bard is crowned with high reward.

X.

Play on! sweet minstrel of the wandering train;
 My blessing on thy violin and thee!
Accept this simple tributary strain
 From one to whom thou'st winged a moment's glee—
 A wanderer, like thyself, on life's rough sea;
And now thy sweet, wild-warbling strains are o'er;
 But, ere we part, come thou shall share with me
What little clinks within my scanty score,
Then each take of his way, perhaps to meet no more.

* Written in Boston, Mass, U.S.A.
‡ Robert Burns.

PARAFFIN LAMP EXPLOSION AT ESH COLLIERY.

NARROW ESCAPE OF A FAMILY.

An alarming incident occurred on Sunday night at Esh, under somewhat singular circumstances. The scene of the alleged calamity was the house of John Bailey, deputy overman, whose wife died on Sunday morning at six o'clock, and who left a small family. Having been, during her illness, greatly fatigued and worn out, Bailey had retired to rest with the children, leaving a lamp burning upon the table. Unfortunately by some means the lamp exploded, blowing out several panes of glass from the window. The paraffin immediately ignited, and burned the table-cloth, likewise the canvas and paper upon the walls of the room, besides doing other damage. Eventually, two young men named Oliver just arrived from Crook, and seeing the flames, went to discover the cause, and finding no one in the kitchen—it being twelve o'clock at night—supposed the husband and children were in bed; they at once broke in the window to give them air, and aroused the inmates in the upper room. Mr Bailey and his family were all asleep at the time, and rose up greatly astonished to behold the kitchen full of "stife" and smoke, while his deceased wife's remains were in the adjacent room. Without doubt were it not for the opportune assistance of the young men the father and his children might have been suffocated—all of whom were tired out, and were sound asleep from recent fatigue. The sad occurrence has been a subject of comment in the village, and some allege it might have been upset by the cat in getting upon the table, or burning low and heating the vessel.

CONSETT READING & RECREATION ROOMS.

The annual general meeting of the members was held on Tuesday evening, in the New Town Hall Buildings, Consett, under the presidency of Mr W. Aynsley.—The Secretary (Mr A. Brodie) submitted the report for the half-year ending Dec. 31st:—

Your committee are glad to be able to report that your institution still continues to prosper, and that the membership is increasing, both the Reading and Recreation Rooms being well attended. The income for the half-year from all sources has been £67 6s 6d, which, with a balance from last half-year of £22 19s, makes a total of £90 5s 6d; whilst the expenditure has been £60 9s 9d, leaving a balance of £29 15s 9d to carry forward, and accounts outstanding of £12 8s 6d. The outstanding subscriptions on December 31st were £22 10s, off which there has been deducted in the balance-sheet the sum of £5 14s as irrecoverable, leaving £16 16s due against members, which is considered to be good.

The financial statement showed that the income from the billiard table for the past six months was £38 4s 9d.

On the proposal of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr JAS. KELLY, the report and balance-sheet were adopted.

The following officers were appointed for the current year:—President, Ald. Wm. Jenkins, J.P.; vice-president, Mr Wm. Aynsley; treasurer, Mr T. L. Gledstone; secretary, Mr A. Brodie; committee, Messrs R. Evans, G. Ainsworth, C. P. Douglas, J. Scott, G. T. Hyden, R. Park (nominated by the Consett Iron Company), also Messrs J. Petherick, J. Oliver, T. W. Walford, Wm. Eales, Jas. Kelly, J. Pescod, Geo. D. Powell, T. Milner, M. Brodie, C. Lumley, J. Askew, and Chas. Routledge; auditors, Messrs S. Brodie and W. Eales.

It was resolved to expend a further sum of £10 in acquiring new books, the Secretary and Messrs Kelly and Eales being appointed a sub-committee for that purpose.

NOTES FROM WEARDALE.

[BY "STANHOPE."]

Considerable speculation has hitherto attended the precise location of the soul in man. It seems, however, the mystery is now solved. Dr A. H. Stevens, of Philadelphia, has located it in the corpus callosum, a little spongy body situated at the base of the brain, which has defied the efforts of physicians in their endeavours to ascertain its uses in the human anatomy. The corpus callosum, says the doctor, is the seat of the imperishable mind, and is the great reservoir and storehouse of electricity which is abstracted from the blood in the arteries, and conveyed through the nerves, up the spinal chord to the corpus callosum.

The influenza is still raging in Weardale, especially the upper part of it. It began this winter at Wolsingham, and gradually worked up the dale. It has considerably abated at Wolsingham, Frosterley, and Stanhope, but is still very bad at Westgate, St. John's Chapel, Wearhead, and Cowshill. There are many cases, and there have been a few deaths. Dr Crerar, of Maryport, is said to have discovered a cure for it. It consists in the administration of a large and frequently repeated dose of bicarbonate of potassium, and has been tried with great success in Maryport and elsewhere. Doses spread over a period of nine hours are generally enough to destroy the disease, and no bad consequences appear to be left behind. Dr Crerar has received letters from some of the leading medical men bearing testimony to the value of the remedy.

Miss Wilson, evangelist, of Carlisle, has had a good revival at Wolsingham. The millennium cannot be far off now. It seldom happens that there is a revival at Wolsingham. The biggest guns the Wesleyan body possess cannot fill the chapel with natives, even the saintly and popular Charles Garrett has failed to do this. It is such a queer place. All creeds are represented there. There is all the more credit to the lady who has almost beaten the record in the old town.

Miss Smedley has been conducting special services at Frosterley, and getting large congregations at the Bridge End Chapel these last two weeks. Miss Bulmer has had a good revival at Alston, where she has been conducting a fortnight's special services. She has been accompanied by Miss Walton, of Newcastle, who sang solos every evening. They had about 30 converts.

The removal of the steam navvy, last week, out of the Newlandside limestone quarry to the top of the baring, caused a considerable amount of interest, as it was thought to be a most difficult task to perform—consequent upon the ponderous weight of the sections, and the difficult nature of the road up Softly Bank and along the quarry hill pastures. Some thought if it could be done, Mr Smurthwaite, the quarry manager, was the man to do it, and the fact that he accomplished the feat very successfully and landed the navvy at the very spot where it was wanted in the brief space of three days speaks well for their prophetic forecast, and also for the ingenuity of Mr Smurthwaite, who, with commendable pluck, set himself to accomplish the work. He took advantage of the frozen state of the ground, which was also covered with ice and snow. He got eleven splendid horses belonging the company, and a few excellent drivers from the neighbourhood of Grange Hill. He improvised a huge sledge made of heavy railway metals and thick heavy sleepers, and placed the cumbrous pieces of metal and iron—such as the boilers, the jib, the tower, and the frame—upon the sledge, and the horses dragged it splendidly up the steep gradients of Softly Lane, and along the fields past Newlandside Hall. The horsemanship was really splendid, and a better sample of horses have seldom been seen in Weardale. There were tailors by the dozen, quill drivers, gentlemen of the cloth, high church dignitaries, gardeners retired on their means, and gardeners in harness still, masons, publicans, coach proprietors, farmers, both of the working class and gentlemen farmers, and even ladies graced the performance with their presence, while counter-jumpers, sewing machine men, blue diamond smashers, hot pie husbands, pea soup vendors, bullock wallopers, shepherds, navvies, and men of nearly all trades, creeds, and persuasions were present, and the only tradesmen conspicuous by their absence were the barber, sweep, and saddler; these would have completed the circle, but a buxom landlady put in an appearance and made up for their absence; the hero of the Balaclava Charge, however, was disappointed in that he expected she would have stood the men at the steam navvy a bottle of Glenlivet to wash the cobwebs from their dusty throats. The only hitch of any importance that occurred was that of the tower toppling over and tumbling a summersault into the midden stead at Newlandside Hall, where it was thought a mere impossibility to get it out again. Here was all the fun of the fair. The eleven horses were yoked to a chain which was fastened to the toppinnacle tower at a considerable elevation. Some wood railings were in the way, so one of the horsemen, after the rails had been knocked of, yoked a horse to the stobs and broke them off by the ground; they snapped like icicles (ice shoggles as they say in Weardale). The road thus cleared, the horses tried in vain to right the "Great Eastern," but all to no purpose. Most men would have given up, but the plucky manager of Newlandside quarries gave orders right and left to his men to down with the old wall, and down it went, and the horses were then yoked to it again, and inch-by-inch the huge iron tower of the steam navvy was pulled out. The sight was not unlike that of a battle field where the artillery men and gunners were dragging a heavy cannon to the front, a constant cannonading being kept up by the blasting at the quarries, the shouts of the horsemen, the prancing of the steeds, and the smoke from the shot all resembled the battle field, except it was a bloodless warfare, as no cannon vomited its withering fire over heaps of dead and dying, and no blue smoke from cannons ascended in curling wreaths to the vault of heaven. The quarrymen in their corduroy and navvy boots gathered by the score to see the fun as inch-by-inch the tower was drawn up out of the hole. The horsemanship was splendid; but there was a great danger here that as soon as the tower was out of the hole in might slide on the ice and snow down the steep frozen bank side over the quarry face, and to all appearances such a thing was like to happen. It required great skill to manipulate the tower in order to avoid this, and the skill displayed by the manager and the managers of the horse drivers were equal to the occasion. After repeated efforts to drag it out, at last, amid deafening shouts of approval and cheers from both quarrymen and horsemen, out she came, and off went the gallant steeds with their load in a canter along the field. Had the quarry manager not been a plucky go-ahead fellow the steam navvy would never have been landed; but he seems one of the sort or men that never say die, and by dint of dogged perseverance overcomes difficulties and rises above circumstances, and successfully accomplishes purposes from which he never wavers.

Tobogganning slides on the public highway are frought with great danger both to the youths themselves and to the public as well. A case of this kind occurred in Stanhope Market Place the other day. Two youths on a sledge came sliding down the Church Lane on the ice at lightning-like speed. They could not see a horse and cart coming up the road on account of the Phenix Hotel, but one came up just as they landed at the foot of the lane by the Cross. They did not see it in time to stop but went like a bolt through under the horse's belly as it moved up the road with a loaden cart, and cleared at the other side as luck would have it. But how easy they might have been lamed or killed had they got under the wheels of the cart or among the horses' feet. The practice is highly dangerous not only to the youths themselves but to the public at large, as the Lane by this sort of thing is almost rendered impassible for ice. The thing should be discontinued before some accident does happen. If boys persist in sliding they should be compelled to go off from public paths or roads to slide and make slides.

A good story is told of a hero of the Crimean campaign, who, the other night, entered a barber's shop. The knight of the lather and brush lathered one side of his face and shaved it, just then his attention was called off to something else. Our hero who had imbibed a stronger stimulant than tea naturally thought he had finished his contract and skidaddled. Next day at work his comrades twitted him all the day about his half-finished contract, but at night he put in an appearance again and asked the worthy knight of the lather and brush to finish his contract.

NOTES FROM TOW LAW.

[BY "TOW LAWITE."]

FUNERALS.

Two very largely-attended funerals passed through the streets last Sunday. The first was a daughter of Mr Thomas Hildreth, who is an old standard in the town. The second was the wife of Mr Jonathan Vickers, one of the oldest standards; the latter was a member of the Primitive Methodist Society, but for many years was not able to leave her home owing to affliction. A very large number of members and friends, and the whole of the Salvation Army soldiers, headed by their brass band playing the tune, "Shall we gather at the river?" joined in the procession to the Primitive Methodist Chapel, where the service was conducted by Mr George Bell. The singing of the hymns, "There is a land of pure delight" and "Hiding in Thee," had a good effect on both companies, who were close together in the cemetery.

TOO MUCH HURRY.

Speaking about the cemetery and the grave digger, I may say that a complaint was made last week, and a similar one comes this week also, about the very great hurry the gravedigger seems to be in to get the grave filled up at the close of the burial service. I don't know that there is any law to say how long he shall wait; but, while I would not pander to the whims of anybody, I think he might wait a few minutes to allow the friends their last look.

THE EDUCATION QUESTION.

I am sorry that a wrong impression is abroad in reference to my remarks on the education question. Some people think I am a Dissenter, and that I would keep the Wesleyan School, and do away with the others. Nothing of the kind. I would do away with all sectarian schools, unless they could be maintained by private subscriptions. I would have religion taught in the home, the Church, or Sunday-school, but not in the day school.

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

The County Council elections are close at hand. An effort is to be made all round to put good men into the places of the bad ones in this county at least. It is whispered that Tow Law will bring forward a working man to oppose the present member, Councillor Vickers. I wonder who he will be? Why he will be brought forward? and where the money will come from to pay his expenses, as I find we have very few rich working men here?

THE RAILWAY CROSSING.

I wonder when the bridge or the tunnel is to be made at the railway crossing? I believe our local authorities have done their best with the Railway Company to remedy this evil and danger. What a pity it will be if someone should be killed. There has been a narrow escape recently.

NOTES FROM THE STEEPLE.

[BY THE "OLD CROW."]

There is no doubt that in the north of England, at any rate, the Burns' anniversary is growing year by year in popularity, and ere long is not unlikely to rank amongst the most favourite of festivals with Scotchmen hereabouts. The reason is, of course, viewing the matter from the outer edge, not far to seek. Newcastle and the district for many miles around boasts of a very considerable Scottish population. Burns, again, is with our brothers across the borders what Shakespeare is to the average Englishman. It is not going too far, even, to admit that there is evidence going to show that Burns is more highly honoured by his countrymen than is Shakespeare by his. That may be, of course, largely due to the fact that his poetry appeals more readily to our sympathies by reason of its homeliness and simple beauty. There is in it nothing that is complex, and few thoughts are expressed, the meanings of which are not readily grasped. That it is different with Shakespeare the reader need not be reminded. But it was not to compare the two poets these remarks were opened. Of the life of the one very little is known—of that of the other, everything. Each had distinctive genius, as distinct—the one from the other, relatively, as anything could well be. There is not a doubt about it that Burns is much more frequently quoted by Englishmen, as a rule, than Shakespeare, except in the matter of the stereotype phrases, with which we have all of us been long familiar, and yet of which we never grow tired. I am half tempted to speak further on the subject of this paragraph, but must, of necessity, draw in here. I may have the opportunity on some future occasion. Meanwhile I notice with pleasure that my Scotch friends at Consett have not been unmindful of duty's call, and that last (Thursday) evening they celebrated in fitting style the Burns' anniversary.

I wonder if any of my readers have seen the "magnetic" lady! If not the opportunity presents itself this week. At one of the music halls in Newcastle, Miss Price Lee, a young lady described as the original magnetic lady, is proving magnesia in more respects than one, for she is drawing extraordinary audiences. Short in statue and slim in build, and anything but strong-looking, she is able to accomplish some astonishing feats, one of the most remarkable being the raising of a chair on which three heavy men are seated, by simply touching the hinder legs of the chair with the palms of her hands. Another astonishing feat is the forcing to the floor six strong men, who, between them, are asked to support a wooden rod about five or six feet in length. They range themselves three on each side, and hold as firmly as possible. The lady by simply working her thumbs at the extreme end of the rod for a second or two causes the six men to rock backwards and forwards, and then, without any apparent efforts on her part, they are forced from their position and fall powerless on to the stage. These are only two of many examples she gives of a power which, whether "electrical" or not, is at the present moment a mystery. At any rate the lady is the talk of the city, and likely to be as long as she remains.

In the matter of medical attendance at the fever hospital the Consett Local Board has taken the popular side undoubtedly, that of allowing any medical practitioner access to patients lying there instead of restricting such attendance to the medical officer of the Board as hitherto. On the face of it this looks to be a straightforward and commonsense view of the matter and one that meets the wishes of the majority. The fever hospital is a public institution and to be utilised in the interests of all classes of the community. If "A" is struck down with an infectious disease and removal to the hospital becomes necessary in the interests of the public health, it seems only reasonable that, since he has to pay for it, he should have a perfect right to select his own medical attendant. It seems hardly fair that he should be compelled to submit to the treatment of the medical officer against his will. It may be urged here that the patient has never been required to do so. But against this comes the stubborn fact that any medical gentleman other than the appointed officer could not hitherto look for payment of his services from the authority! That is to say that all patients admitted to the hospital on the authority of the medical officer were entitled to free benefit whilst those admitted through the instrumentality of other practitioners and attended by them had not the same advantages. It may be that in this respect there is even now no change. Everything indeed points to this conclusion. Such a condition looks reasonable enough when one comes to think of it, and those who feel the position to be an anomalous one would have a difficulty in shewing it to be one unfairly favourable to the medical officer. The only real change then is, that whereas private practitioners were not previously allowed to order patients to the hospital on their own authority they are now empowered to do so without reference to the medical officer. The move of the Local Board is a bold one perhaps, but it meets with general acceptance.

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

LANCHESTER JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

This body met at Lanchester on Thursday week, under the presidency of Mr Wm. Logan (chairman). Rev P. C. Fortin, Dr Macintyre, Messrs Collinson, Muse, L. Nicholson, and the Clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson) were likewise in attendance.

ENLARGEMENT OF THE HOSPITAL: SPECIAL PRECEPTS.

It was resolved to issue a special precept of one farthing in the pound upon the various contributary authorities, as under:—

	£	s	d
Lanchester Rural Sanitary Authority	219	0	0
Benfieldside Local Board	17	18	5
Consett Local Board	31	0	9
Leadgate Local Board	13	0	6

This was (the Clerk explained), together with the balance of £20 in hand, would raise the sum of £300 required to enlarge the Leadgate Infectious Hospital.

DR MACINTYRE AND THE FEVER HOSPITAL:

"MISUNDERSTOOD AND UNAPPRECIATED."

The Clerk announced that the Consett Local Board had passed a resolution on the motion of Dr Macintyre, and seconded by Mr Hyden, assenting to the alteration of Article 13 of the constitution of that Board, whereby private medical practitioners would be enabled to send fever patients to the Leadgate Infectious Hospital. The Leadgate Local Board, however, declined to sanction the suggested alteration, while the Benfieldside Board would not alter the decision already arrived at against the proposal. The Lanchester Sanitary Authority were agreeable to the change, if such was desired by the Local Boards, whose districts were more immediately affected by the contemplated alterations.

Dr MACINTYRE said that the members of the Local Boards who had refused to approve of the alteration had failed to understand the precise state of affairs. They did not seem to appreciate exactly what was asked for. For his own part, he could not conceive any real objection, as he was only asking for an extension of the custom which already existed, and the alteration ought, in his opinion, to have received the unanimous approval of the members of the Leadgate and Benfieldside Local Boards; but they seemed to have entirely misapprehended what was really wished for.

The CHAIRMAN asked if Dr Macintyre could advance anything which would have a tendency to induce the members of these two Boards to change their opinions? If not, it was no use discussing the matter further. The Lanchester Sanitary Authority was quiescent in the matter, being quite willing to sanction the alteration, providing the Local Boards were agreeable on the point. As two Local Boards dissented, and one only approved, it appeared totally unfair to force the alteration upon these members, who had an equal right to their opinions as well as Dr Macintyre.

Dr MACINTYRE replied that he had no fresh arguments to advance, and there seemed no possibility of prevailing upon the members of these two Boards giving their assent to the alteration. As far as he could see, the discussion actually resolved into personal matters rather than the consideration of the advantages on the public in allowing every medical gentleman in the district sending patients to a Hospital, which was maintained at the ratepayers' expense.

The CHAIRMAN again observed that it was not worth while debating the matter farther, as the Board could do nothing under the circumstances.

Dr MACINTYRE wished to point out that the Board had in contemplation the erection of smaller hospitals in other parts of their district, and the same difficulty would crop up at Esh and Tanfield. This could only be remedied under Article 11, by adding to the staffs of each hospital the names of the medical practitioners residing in different districts where such institutions were likely to be erected.

Father FORTIN: That would not meet the difficulty.

The CHAIRMAN stated that they were now glancing a good deal into the future, and it was not desirable to discuss that point just now. Take, for instance, the proposed hospital in the neighbourhood of Quebec, which was the first to be dealt with. The first obstacle was the water supply, the Sanitary Authority and the Consett Water Company not yet having come to terms. It might be some time before that question was solved, and if the money had to be borrowed for building the hospital, the Local Government Board would never sanction the placing of a Fever Hospital where there was practically no water supply.

Father FORTIN said that there were one or two tracts of ground in that part of the Union supplied with water: but

The CHAIRMAN regarded these places as unsuitable. Dr Macintyre's suggestion was not feasible, inasmuch as in the Tanfield district there were more than half-a-dozen fully qualified practitioners. If all these gentlemen were placed on the hospital staff, there would be "confusion worse than confounded."

Dr MACINTYRE explained that the circumstances were rather different in the Local Boards' area. There he was the only practitioner, independent of the firm of Renton and Richards, and the question raised naturally affected him to a much greater degree; because if the necessary sanction had been granted, he could have ordered his patients to the Hospital, and have attended to them therein. The primary object of the institution was the isolation of patients suffering from infectious disease, and if the people could be removed to the hospital the danger of spreading the epidemic was likely to be considered lessened. It had been said that this plan would involve complications and confusion, but he failed to see where these difficulties could arise. Dr Renton would continue to look after his patients, and he (Dr Macintre) would attend the hospital and prescribe for his own patients. It was all nonsense to talk about the Hospital Board being answerable for what happened within the hospital. He (Dr Macintyre), as a duly-qualified medical gentleman, would be solely responsible for his treatment of his own patients in the hospital, and if he failed in his duty he would be dealt with by the general medical council, who had complete control over every practitioner on the register. It was necessary to have a properly-appointed medical officer to send monthly reports to the Board, and to perform other clerical duties in connection with the hospital.

Mr MUSE: But you have not attended patients in the hospital?

Dr MACINTYRE replied that so far he had only had two patients in the hospital. It was a somewhat difficult matter, however, for him to get the patients into the institution, and besides Dr Renton took up the position that any other doctor had no right to enter the hospital. At that time he wrote to their Clerk, and received a reply to the effect that to some extent there had been a tacit understanding that a practitioner might treat his patients inside the private hospital, but as there was no special resolution to that purport on the books, and in the face of this unsatisfactory state of affairs, he had refrained from sending any of his patients to that institution.

Mr COLLINSON: And evidently will for some time to come.

Father FORTIN: Then if any medical man cannot send his patients into the hospital, he will try to prevent them going there. That is practically what Dr Macintyre says. If that was the case, they were destroying the object for which the hospital was established.

Dr MACINTYRE stated that there was no reason why he should press upon his patients to go into the Leadgate Infectious Hospital when they could not be attended by himself, but must be treated by another doctor.

Father FORTIN: You are thereby frustrating the very objects of the hospital if you prevent patients going in.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that Dr Macintyre qualified his statement in so far that he would not send them in if they could not be treated by himself.

Father FORTIN said there were patients kept at home who would doubtless be better and far more effectively treated inside the hospital.

Mr COLLINSON said that the patients might say: "I am willing to go to the hospital providing that I can be attended by my own doctor; but not otherwise."

The CHAIRMAN once more stated that it was useless carrying on this discussion any further.

The Clerk now read Dr G. Renton's report, which showed that no patients had been treated in the Leadgate Hospital during the month, and the place was still empty.

Father FORTIN enquired of Dr Macintyre if he had had any cases during the past month which would have been suitable to be removed to the Leadgate Hospital?

Dr MACINTYRE: Yes; there have been.

Father FORTIN: Then there is the reason the hospital is standing empty when it ought to have been in use. The question is: How are we to get over that difficulty?

Dr MACINTYRE remarked that the only way was to increase the staff by selecting three or four medical officers, under Article 11.

The CHAIRMAN asserted that they would prove even a difficulty in the Annfield Plain district where there were at least half-a-dozen medical practitioners.

Dr MACINTYRE said the operations of these gentlemen extended over a very wide area indeed. In Blackhill, Consett, and Leadgate, where there was a vast population, the area was somewhat circumscribed.

The CHAIRMAN said that if they appointed a number of medical officers, where were they going to stop.

Mr COLLINSON stated that the Board need not appoint all that applied.

Mr HOBSON: But all doctors have an equal right to be so appointed if they made application.

The CHAIRMAN: And we shall still have the same difficulty that we have to contend with now.

Mr COLLINSON could not understand why there should have been any opposition to Dr Macintyre. He did not charge the ratepayers anything, but would simply attend to his own patients. Here they had the hospital standing in a useless condition, whereas the ratepayers ought to be enabled to take every advantage of the institution.

The CHAIRMAN stated that they had no evidence that the patients declined to go into the hospital. All they had before them was a statement that Dr Macintyre would not let his patients go there. However, there was a possibility that the patients were willing to go to the hospital if their wishes were consulted. If it was better for any patient and those surrounding him, who were likely to catch the infection, it was Dr Macintyre's duty to send them there, irrespective of professional jealousy, or etiquette, or anything else.

Dr MACINTYRE: It is no part of my business to advise my patients to go into the hospital to be treated by someone else.

The CHAIRMAN: The obligation lies with you, as a medical man, when you see it is better for the patient that he should be isolated to take advantage of the hospital.

Dr MACINTYRE retorted that no special obligations rested with him. As the representative of 1,200 or 1,500 families in the neighbourhood, he considered that the privilege ought to be conferred upon him of sending patients to the hospital and treating them there, and instead of the place standing empty, it might be in use all the year round.

The CHAIRMAN: That is because you won't send your patients there.

Mr COLLINSON believed it was a great pity that Dr Macintyre's request had not been acceded to. The objections seemed to be of such a frivolous character. As matters now stood, the hospital was simply used for the private patients of Dr Renton.

The CHAIRMAN: That was not the object of the hospital.

Mr COLLINSON: I know it was not.

Dr MACINTYRE enquired if the Clerk could specify the number of cases which had been sent into the hospital, and were not the private patients of Dr Renton, but belonged to some other medical gentleman?

The Clerk stated that there were several patients from whom Dr Renton had not received any payment.

Dr MACINTYRE repeated his question, and the Clerk replied that there were several such instances, but the doctors themselves could best answer the question.

Mr COLLINSON remarked that hitherto Dr Renton had always been his medical adviser. It seemed ridiculous, however, that Dr Macintyre's patients could not be sent to the hospital.

The Clerk: If you were ill now, Mr Collinson, you have a greater choice of doctors, and might send for Dr Macintyre. (Laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN intimated that the speakers were begging the question at issue. Dr Macintyre's patients could be sent to the hospital if they so desired. However, nothing further could be done in the matter.

The discussion then ceased.

MIRACULOUS ESCAPE ON THE CONSETT RAILWAY.

On Friday afternoon, at four o'clock, there was a miraculous escape on the Consett Branch Railway. While the train from Newcastle to Durham, via Consett, was standing at Aldin Grange, a little girl ran over the crossing to catch it and a mineral train from Durham, dashing up at the moment, she was caught by the engine and hurled a considerable distance forward. Fortunately she fell in the six-foot way, and when picked up it was found, to the astonishment of everybody, that she was more stunned than hurt, her only injuries being bruises and a scratched face.

THE ALLEGED CONCEALMENT OF BIRTH AT ESH.

On Wednesday, at Durham Petty Sessions, *Annie Morland*, a single woman, 30 years of age, residing with her parents at Durham Road, Esh, was charged with the concealment of her illegitimate male child. Mr Isaacs prosecuted.—Defendant, who is of weak mind, had thrown the child, which had not had a separate existence, into the beck at Esh, and it had there been found by a girl named Eva Haigh on the 12th inst.—After hearing the evidence, the Bench committed defendant for trial at the next Assizes.

BLAYDON.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE.—An entertainment in connexion with the above was given in the Temperance Hall, Blaydon, on Saturday, to a large and appreciative audience. An excellent programme of songs, recitations, and dialogues was given by the Stargate Band of Hope. The chair was occupied by Mr Wm Maughan, of Stargate.

ESH COLLIERY.

ACCIDENT TO A BOY.—On Monday, a boy named Alfred Bowes, 14 years, engaged as a flater at the Esh Colliery (belonging to Messrs Pease and Partners), met with an accident while endeavouring to lower some tubs down an incline, when a full tub unobserved "joined" his arm, which fractured the bone in two places. He was at once conveyed home, and medical assistance procured to attend to his injuries.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT AND PILLS are the best, cheapest, and the most popular remedies at all seasons, and under all circumstances they may be used with safety and with the certainty of doing good. Eruptions, rashes, and all descriptions of skin diseases, sores, ulcerations and burns are presently benefitted and ultimately cured by these healing, soothing, and purifying medicaments. The Ointment rubbed upon the abdomen checks all tendency to irritation in the bowels, and averts diarrhœa and other disorders of the intestines frequently prevailing through the summer and fruit seasons. Heat lumps, blotches, pimples, inflammations of the skin, muscular pains, neuralgic affections, and enlarged glands can be effectively overcome by using Holloway's remedies according to the instructions accompanying every packet.

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

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

"ROUGH ON CORNS."—Ask Chemists, Perfumers, or Grocers for "Wells' Rough on Corns." Quick, complete permanent cure for hard or soft corns, warts, bunions 9½d. and 1s. bottles.

THE UNEMPLOYED IN EAST LONDON.—At a time when much thought is being given to this matter, a practical suggestion may be of service. Last year more than £300,000 worth of foreign matches were purchased by inconsiderate consumers in this country to the great injury of our own working people, so true is it that "evil is wrought by want of thought, as well as want of heart." If all consumers would purchase Bryant and May's matches, that firm would be enabled to pay £1,000 a week more in wages, and large numbers of the unemployed in East London would thus be provided with work, instead of swelling the ranks of pauperism. 755g

HEALTH RESTORED Remedy Free.—A late sufferer from Nervousness, Weakness, &c. having tried in vain every known remedy, has discovered a simple self-cure which he will send free to his fellow-sufferers. — Address, W. Fox, 1, York Street Southwark, London, S.E. 265a

MRS. S. A. ALLEN'S WORLD'S HAIR RESTORER never fails to restore grey hair to its youthful colour It acts directly upon the roots of the hair, invigorating them, cleanses the scalp, removing dandruff rendering the hair soft, silky, and glossy, and disposing it to remain in any desired position. Its hosts of admirers, male and female, young and old hold by Chemists and Perfumers. 875

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

THE SWALWELL MUSICIAN.

UNVEILING OF A SHIELD MEMORIAL IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

After an interval of 63 years, the grave of William Shield has just been covered by an appropriate slab of black marble. The tuneful author of "The Thorn"—as most north country people are aware—was born at Swalwell in 1748, and began life as a boatbuilder's apprentice on the Tyne. But, notwithstanding this prosaic start from a rural cottage, the young man eventually turned his attention to music, became famous as a composer, and was honoured with a grave in the national Valhalla. Few celebrities have better deserved the distinction. Shield was a lovable man, as well as an eminent musician; and, while master of the King's band, became such a great favourite with George IV. that he actually sent his finest instrument to that monarch "because he had aspired it." Still, though high in his profession and with plenty of friends, the last resting-place of the dead artiste seems to have been neglected. He was given a flattering place amongst the mighty geniuses of his race, but his fame was commemorated by no "storied urn or animated bust." Thanks to the generosity of his admirers on Tyneside this early omission has now been repaired. Having provided a handsome monument for the churchyard of his native village, they very thoughtfully decided to go a step farther and place a suitable slab on his grave. As the Abbey authorities were all ready to assist—the dean and his clergy being especially so—there was not the slightest obstacle in the way of the northern committee. They were ably represented by Mr John Robinson, of Newcastle, and in the hands of this gentleman the proposal has been carried to a most successful issue. There was little or no ceremony when the stone was uncovered on Monday afternoon. Dean Bradley was an absentee—having gone to Cairo for rest and change—but Archdeacon Farrar, the canon in residence, was good enough to attend, and with him was Dr Bridge, the Abbey organist. Mr Robinson had also travelled specially from the North, while Mr Hawkins and other friends were interested lookers on. Precisely at two o'clock Mr Wright, the Septuagenarian Clerk of Works, withdrew a cloth from the face of the memorial, and it was then seen to contain the simple inscription:—

WILLIAM SHIELD,
Musician and Composer.
Born March 5th, 1748.
Died January 25th, 1829.

It was noticed with much satisfaction that the formal ceremony had taken place on the anniversary of the composer's death. After Archdeacon Farrar had scanned the clearly cut words, he expressed the great pleasure he felt that a regrettable oversight had at last been remedied. Dr Bridge, who was similarly gratified, called attention to the fact that the 5th of March was also the birthday of his predecessor, Dr Turle, who had been organist of the Abbey for more than 50 years, and whose remains lay in the adjoining cloister. It was also the birthday of his own son. Before the company dispersed, Dr Bridge announced that he had found an elegy by Shield in the library of the Royal College of Music, and that he proposed to play it as a voluntary at the close of the afternoon service in the Abbey. This premise was duly fulfilled, and the congregation—without being aware of the circumstances that had elicited this special effort—stood in their places to hear the strains of a composition that was at once new and delightful. Many of the passages were strikingly soft and melodious, while others brought out the full power of the organ in many grandly swelling bursts of harmonious sound. It was a fitting finale to the little scene that had been enacted in the cloisters, and one that was creditable to composer and executant alike.

The operations carried out at the grave of Shield—which is at the west end of the south cloister—have enabled the authorities of Westminster Abbey to settle a point, about which there has been some perplexity. It was known that the Swalwell musician lay in the same line as his two friends John Peter Salomon and Muzio Clementi—but the exact positions were not clearly known. There is now an end to all doubt on the point. Mr Wright's workmen came upon the lead coffin of Shield not more than two feet from the surface, and discovered that it had been placed just above the body of Salomon, while Clementi lies alone on the northern side of his old associates. Though the breast-plate of Shield was fully exposed, it was so badly decayed that the "rubbing" taken from it resembled nothing so much as the hieroglyphics on a piece of papyrus. Notwithstanding its imperfections to a novice, however, the practised eye of the clerk of the works was able to trace a portion of the inscription, which, according to the Abbey records, sets forth that "William Shield, Esq., was master of His Majesty's band of musicians," the latter word being incorrectly spelt. As for the position of the coffin, Mr Wright thinks it was so placed because of the close friendship that existed between Shield and Salomon. They lived near neighbours in Berners Street, and were, no doubt, oft in consultation about the concerts which Salomon gave. This is the person, indeed, who persuaded Haydn to visit London, and for whose entertainments some of the "grand symphonies" were first produced. But whatever the reason for placing the professors in one grave, the find has paved the way for a valuable suggestion. "If," says Dr Bridge, "the Newcastle committee would allow their new slab to be utilised, the name of Salomon might be advantageously placed beneath that of his friend." There is an abundance of room, they occupy one grave, and they could both be honoured without loss or detriment to anybody. Under these circumstances the idea is one that deserves to be carefully and quickly considered.

Though there no other composers or instrumentalists in the south cloister, Dr Turle, Dr Cooke, and several choirmasters of the Chapel Royal are interred just round the turn into the west cloister. It was owing to this contiguity, no doubt, that Dean Stanley once referred to the spot as "the musician's corner." To some extent the phrase may be justifiable, but not sufficiently so. There are many notable members of the same craft lying in the north cloister—where Queen Anne's laundress also has an elaborate tombstone—and around them are actresses and dramatists like Mrs Bracegirdle and Aphra Ben. It is of the latter lady that the moralist says—

"Here lies a proof that wit can never be
Defence enough against mortality."

There is a similar mixing up of persons in the Abbey itself. Handel lies amongst the poets in the south transept. Purcell and Croft amongst the engineers and philanthrophists to the north of the choir. Near the same place, too, we have either the bodies or tablets of Balfe, Sir William Sterndale Bennett, Dr Blow, Dr Croft, Dr Samuel Arnold, Dr Charles Burney, and a number of similarly distinguished gentlemen. To some of the Abbey authorities it is already "the musician's aisle," and this priority of title will prove an effective bar to the claims of the south-west cloister.

With reference to the proceedings at the grave of Shield Mr Robinson has received several letters from public men. The Dean of Westminster could not be present on account of his departure from Cairo, but he was very glad to know that a memorial to the musician had been provided. Sir Augustus Harris was prevented from attending by a journey to the Continent, while Sir George Grove and Mr Henry Irving—though cordially approving the movement—had prior engagements that kept them away. Dr Bridge said, "I had always intended to make an effort to get an inscription on Shield's gravestone but you are doing better." Amongst others there were letters from Mr Wm. Smythe (on behalf of Sir Arthur Sullivan) and Mr Jos. Cowen.

QUEBEC.

DEATH OF AN OLD RESIDENT.—On Monday, the remains of W. Walter, aged 47 years, were interred at St. John's Church, Hamsteels. The funeral was exceedingly large, being attended by numerous friends and acquaintances from various parts of the district. The deceased was well-known and respected by all who knew him, having carried on business in the village for the last 20 years. He also held the position of postmaster for a lengthened period.

DIPTON.

WESLEYAN METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL.—The teachers and friends connected with the above Sunday-school at Dipton, having decided to commence a Band of Hope or Temperance Society to unite in trying to check the ravages of the insatiable demon drink, which is causing so much woe and desolation in this district, and to inculcate into the rising generation habits of sobriety, held their inaugural entertainment, the programme being rendered by the Leadgate Wesleyan Methodist Band of Hope, before a fair company considering the inclement weather. Mr J. Ballerwell, sen., Bradley Lodge, occupied the chair. The programme was refined and chaste, without anything to offend the most fastidious taste, and the rendition of each piece was excellent, calling forth outbursts of applause. The Leadgate friends are to be congratulated on their unique combination of talent, and their visit we trust will be an impetus to the members here to carry on the good work so auspiciously begun.

Business Announcements.

NINETEENTH YEAR OF ATTENDANCE.

MR. H. MARKHAM,

SURGEON DENTIST,

OF 50, NORTHUMBERLAND STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,

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THE LARGEST DISPLAY IN THE TOWN.

ALL THE LATEST NOVELTIES.

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Mr. CARSWELL takes this opportunity of stating that he has had 15 years' experience in Dentistry, and for the last 7 years has been partner with Dr. SQUIRE ALLEN (the celebrated American Dentist, of Edinburgh). He has thus thoroughly acquired the experience necessary for the skilful performance of all Classes of Dental Work.

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AT STANLEY EVERY TUESDAY FROM 11 a.m. TO 5 p.m. (At Mrs. ARCHER'S, 1, High Stanley).

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SPECIAL.—M. & SONS beg to announce that they intend Presenting to all Purchasers of one of their Ladies' or Gent's Silver Watches during the Months of December and January with a handsome GOLD PLATED ALBERT. Also, to all Purchasers of Goods to the value of 20s a suitable Present will be made.

A FINE ASSORTMENT OF JEWELLERY TO CHOOSE FROM.

OUR BEST WATCHES ARE WARRANTED FOR FIVE YEARS. 114h

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JAMES FROSDICK is the only Billposter that has rented Stations within the three Local Board districts of Consett, Leadgate, and Benfield side. Bills Posted and Distributed at the lowest rates. 598

STOBART'S SALVES may be had at North Eastern Hotel, Hexham; White Horse Inn, Groat Market, Newcastle; Wheat Sheaf Inn, Bigg Market, Newcastle; William Robinson's, Grocer and Draper, Medomsley; Railway Hotel, Consett; George Murray, Grocer and Druggist, Dipton; or by application to the Maker, GEO. R. STOBART, Broombill, Medomsley, R.S.O. 606e

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Public Notices.

95 IS the WINNING NUMBER of the Silver Watch, Raffled at Blackhall Mill. 584h

141 IS the WINNING NUMBER for the Screen, made by T. WHITFIELD, the Armless Youth, Consett.

LOOK OUT for FELLSIDE FLOWER SHOW to be held on Sept. 17th, 1892. Usual Leek and Dahlia Show Oct. 8th, and Special Leek Show, October 15th, 1892. J. CLARK, Secretary.

A BANK FOR ANNFIELD PLAIN.

MESSRS HODGKIN, BARNETT & CO. hereby give notice that their SUB-AGENCY at ANNFIELD PLAIN will be Opened, under the Management of Mr R. G. BARCLAY, of Shotley Bridge and Consett, on MONDAY next, 25th inst. Until further notice this Sub-agency will only be Open on Mondays, from 12 to 3 o'clock.
Newcastle-on-Tyne, 21st January, 1892. 558b

SHOTLEY BRIDGE INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETY, LIMITED.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Members of this Society will be held in the Reading Room, Temperance Hall, Shotley Bridge, at 7·30 p.m., on Saturday, January 30th, 1892, for the purpose of Electing two Auditors. 546b

NOTICE.

CONSETT QUADRILLE PARTY.

THE ASSEMBLY will meet on Thursday Evening, February 4th, instead of Tuesday, February 2nd.
624h ALFRED WILSON, WM. BRAND, } Hon. Secs.

Re THOMAS BRUCE, DECEASED.

ALL PERSONS having Claims against the Estate of THOMAS BRUCE, late of Shotley Bridge, in the County of Durham, Gas Manager, are requested to send particulars thereof to me, the undersigned, before the 29th day of February next.
Dated this 28th day of January, 1892.
THOMAS WM. WELFORD, Consett,
603h Solicitor to the Executrix.

CONSETT UNITED TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

IN connection with the above, a MUSICAL SERVICE will be held in the Co-operative Hall, Consett, on Sunday Night First, January 31st. To commence at 8 o'clock. Collection. Pledges. All seats free. 625h

SHOTLEY BRIDGE & CONSETT DISTRICT GAS COMPANY

ANY Person Removing, Altering or Tampering with any Meter, Pipe, or other Property of the above Gas Company, or Consuming Gas upon any Premises without first having obtained permission from the Secretary to the said Company will be prosecuted as the Law directs.—By order,
M. RICHLEY Secretary.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

EXCURSION TO NEWCASTLE.

ON MONDAY, the 1st of February, an EXCURSION TRAIN will leave Consett and Blackhill, at 5·15 p.m. (with Bookings from Shotley Bridge, Ebchester, and Lintz Green) for NEWCASTLE.
See Bills.
Superintendent's Office, Newcastle. 577h

CONSETT & DISTRICT TRADES COUNCIL

A MEETING of the above will be held in the Co-operative Club Room, Consett, on Saturday, February 6th, at 7·30 p.m., when all Trades Unions are hereby desired to send Delegates.
Information can be had by applying to the Secretary,
JOHN WILDSMITH,
582h 42, Puddlers' Row, Consett.

THEATRE ROYAL, CONSETT.

THURSDAY, February 4th, 5th, and 6th.—Special Engagement for THREE NIGHTS ONLY of Mr. WYNN-MILLER'S London Company in the New Sensational Drama, "THE MOUTH OF THE PIT," with all the First-class Special Scenery and Effects.
Tickets at Tyler's Boot Shop, Middle Street, Consett. 617h

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION 1892.

COLLIERLEY DIVISION.

MR J. W. TAYLOR, Dipton, will ADDRESS the Electors and Non-Electors of the above Division, in the Co-operative Hall, Annfield Plain, on Tuesday Evening, February 2nd, 1892. Several local Gentlemen will also take part in the Meeting. Chair to be taken at 7·30, by Mr W. FRITZPATRICK, Annfield Plain. 609h

ANTHONY COOPER, DECEASED.

ALL Persons having any Claims against the Estate of ANTHONY COOPER, late of South Tanfield Colliery, Durham, Blacksmith (who died on October 15th, 1891), are requested to send forthwith full particulars thereof to Mr JOHN COOPER, of Dipton, Lintz Green.
Dated the 26th day of January, 1892.
T. MADDISON,
Sadler Street, Durham,
576h Solicitor to the Executors.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

JOSEPH IRWIN, Joiner, Cartwright, Undertaker, Horseshoer, and General Smith, begs most respectfully to inform his Customers and the Public at large that he will REMOVE in February to PREMISES lately occupied by the late Mr RALPH GRAY, at Oxhill, where he will carry on the above Business as usual. Traps, Carts, and Rollies Repaired and neatly done up. UNDERTAKING executed on the shortest notice. Orders left with Miss IRWIN, Catchgate, or JOHN IRWIN, Annfield Plain will have prompt attention. 521h

CONSETT WATERWORKS COMPANY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Half-yearly General Meeting of the Shareholders of the Consett Waterworks Company will be held at the Company's Offices, Consett, on Wednesday, the 17th day of February 1892, at One o'clock in the Afternoon, precisely, for the transaction of General Business.

And notice is hereby further given that the Meeting will be made Special for the purpose of sanctioning the Borrowing, on Mortgage, of the sum of £5,750 (in addition to the sums which the Directors are already authorised to borrow), pursuant to the 25th Section of the "Consett Waterworks Act," 1869.

The Books for the Registration of Transfer of Shares will be closed from Wednesday, the 3rd of February, to Wednesday, the 17th of February next, both days inclusive.
Dated this 27th day of January, 1892.
JOHN BURDON, Chairman.
600h WILLIAM WILKS, Secretary.

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Phillipson.

Freehold Cottage Property For Sale at Hill Top, Dipton.

MR A. PHILLIPSON is favoured with instructions to OFFER FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at Mr R. FREAK'S, Grey Horse Inn, Hill Top, Dipton, on Monday, February 8th, 1892, at Seven o'clock in the Evening, prompt, in one Lot, all those TWO Stone-built DWELLING-HOUSES of Four and Two Rooms each, with large Garden at back, and every Convenience, situate at Hill Top, Dipton, and now occupied by Mrs FORSTER and JOHNSON, respectively.
The Tenants will show the Property, and for other information apply to Messrs DEES and THOMPSON, Solicitors, Newcastle, or to the Auctioneer. 594h

SPECIAL EMIGRATION OFFICE, &c.

A. PHILLIPSON, Dipton, by Lintz Green Station. AUCTION SALES will be conducted in the best style, and upon most reasonable terms. LETTERS by Post will have prompt attention, and all Sorts of GOODS, FURNITURE &c., can be bought right out for Cash.

By Mr. Thomas Shadforth.

MR. THOS. SHADFORTH will SELL BY AUCTION (under a Writ of Fi. Fa.), on Saturday, January 30th, 1892, the STOCK-IN-TRADE of E. BECK, Fruiterer and Confectioner, Leadgate, consisting of Fruit, Vegetables, Confectionery, and part Household FURNITURE.
Sale at 11 o'clock. 592h

Sales by Auction.

By Messrs. A. & R. J. Brodie.

Monday, February 1st, 1892.—Victoria Sale-Rooms, Consett.—Sale of Superior Mahogany and other Household Furniture, including—Handsome Walnut Sideboard, Bridgport American Organ, Alexander Harmonium, Mahogany Easy and other Chairs, Fenders and Fire Irons, Feather and Down Beds, Carpet, Glass and China, Earthenware, & a great variety of Miscellaneous Effects. Also, 4 Striped Linen Blinds, 51in. by 37½in., with Rollers, Cord Racks, Cords, &c., complete, new, 2 Good Kitchen Presses, and Fine Toned Second-hand Pianoforte.

MESSRS. A. & R. J. BRODIE are instructed to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, in the Victoria Sale-Rooms Consett, on Monday, February 1st, 1892, the Superior House FURNISHINGS, removed for convenience of Sale.
Sale to commence at Half-past One o'clock. 618h

FOR SALE, by Private Treaty, TWO Superior Newly-built DWELLING-HOUSES of Four Rooms each, with every Convenience, situate in Park Street, Blackfine, Blackhill.—Apply to Mr GEORGE SMITH, Builder, Blackfine, or to Mr BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett. 6.9h

NOTICE.—The Two FREEHOLD COTTAGES, Numbered 53, John Street, and 24, ... Street, Consett, occupied by Messrs Malone and Lamb, at a gross Rental of £18 4s, not having been SOLD at the Auction, at the Railway Hotel, last (Thursday) Night, may be Treated for Privately, on application to Mr ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett. 620h

IMPORTANT NOTICE.—A. & R. J. BRODIE Auctioneers and Valuers, Town Hall Consett, undertake the SALE OF PROPERTY of every description either by PUBLIC AUCTION or otherwise, on reasonable terms. FORTNIGHTLY SALES held every Pay Monday, at the Victoria Sale-Rooms, in which Furniture or other Goods can be included, or if preferred, will be Purchased for Cash. Bailiffs under the Agricultural Holdings Act, and under the Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888.

ACCIDENT ASSURANCE. — Assurance against Accidents of every kind in the following Offices, noted for prompt settlement of claims—Scottish Accident Assurance Company, Imperial Union Accident Assurance Company.

By Mr John S. Murray.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1st, 1892.

11 Fat Cattle.
75 Fat Sheep.
Veal and Store Calves.
1 Young S.H. Bull.
Bacon, Pork and Store Pigs.
A number Dairy Cows, calved and to calve.
Geld Cows, Poultry.
New Coup Cart.
Hams, Harness.
Other Miscellaneous Lots.
Sale at One o'clock, prompt.
604h J. S. MURRAY.

To Farmers, Builders, and others.

MR. JOHN S. MURRAY, instructed by Mr. WILLIAM TURNER, will SELL BY AUCTION near the Station Hotel, Blackhill, on Wednesday, Feb. 3rd, 1892, the following Lots:—1 Large Metal Roller, nearly new; Horse Hay Rake; Liquid Manure Barrel; Chain Harrows; Scythe; Rakes and Forks; Trace Chains and Backband; 4 Ladders; Cow Bands; Barrel of Tar; Iron Gantry; a Number of Pannelled and other Doors; Door Frames; a quantity of Wainscot; annelling suitable for Partitions or Closets; Windows, with Casings; Shop or Bar Shelving; Counter; Staircase; Stone Flags; Lintels; Jambs; Heads and Sills, &c.; Cooking Range; 16 Gallon Galvanised Boiler, nearly new; 3 Sun Dials; a few lots of Timber; Metal Grates and Building Material; Straw Mattress; Umbrella Stand; Poss tub and Staff; a quantity of Wine Corks; 2 Water Butts to hold about 100 gallons each; Grindstone; Garden Tools; Gripes and Shovels; Wheel-barrow; a quantity of 3-inch Pipes; Chimney Tops; Pigeon Cote, and various other lots too numerous to particularise.
Sale at One o'clock prompt.
Royal Auction Mart Sale Office, Benfieldside. 605h

Gas, Shipping, and Town Hall Shares, Valuable Freehold Property, Blackhill and Consett.

MR JOHN S. MURRAY, from instructions received, will OFFER FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the Royal Hotel, Blackhill, on Thursday, February 4th, 1892, at 7·30 o'clock in the Evening, subject to the conditions to be then read, the following Valuable FREEHOLD PROPERTIES, GAS, SHIPPING, and TOWN HALL SHARES, viz:—

All that Splendid Block of Newly-built Property, THREE DWELLING-HOUSES, Three Rooms and Scullery, situate at the Top of Thomas Street, and One facing Queen Street, Blackhill, containing Four Rooms, with all necessary Conveniences. This Property has been built with due regard to comfort and convenience, well finished, and pleasantly situated, and open for inspection.

A HOUSE, situate and being No. 12, Thomas Street, Blackhill, containing 3 Rooms, Scullery, and all necessary Conveniences.

SIX Superior-Built DWELLING-HOUSES, of Three and Four Rooms each, situate in Market Street, Blackhill, all with Self-contained Yards and necessary Out-offices, and all Let to good Tenants.

DWELLING-HOUSE, of Five Rooms, large Yard, Out-Offices, and large Kitchen Garden, well-stocked with Fruit Bushes, Hot House, &c., being No. 3, Ledger Terrace, in the occupation of Mr N. MOSSALER.

TWO DWELLING-HOUSES, situate in Tinmill Place, Blackhill, in the occupation of Mr W. Turner, and Mrs Clements.

A DWELLING-HOUSE, situate at the Top of Park Road, Consett, occupied by Mr J. G. Murray, Solicitor, and the North-West Durham Conservative Club.

BLACKSMITH'S SHOP and DWELLING-HOUSE, situate in Front Street and Taylor Street, Consett, in the occupation of Mr Joseph Hall.

SHARES.

2 Shares in the South Shields Gas Company.
20 Shares in the Durham Steam Shipping Co.
20 Shares in the Consett New Town Hall Co.

For further particulars apply to the AUCTIONEER, Royal Auction Mart, Blackhill, or Mr J. G. MURRAY, Solicitor, Consett and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Commercial Hotel, West Stanley.—Sale of Property in Stanley and White-le-Head.

MR J. S. MURRAY will OFFER FOR PUBLIC COMPETITION, in the Long Room of the Commercial Hotel, on Tuesday, Feb. 16th, 1892, TWO SHOPS and DWELLING-HOUSES, situate in Stanley, and about 1½ ACRES of BUILDING GROUND, situate at White-le-Head.

Anyone having Property or Shares to dispose of, can have them included in this Sale by applying to the Auctioneer.
Royal Auction Mart Sale Office, Benfieldside. 607h

JOHN SWINBURN MURRAY,
AUCTIONEER,
AGRICULTURAL VALUER, AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT.
Appointed by His Honour JUDGE MEYNELL to Levy Distress for Rent, under the New Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888.
ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE

By Mr. John Crawford.

MR JOHN CRAWFORD is instructed to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION the Valuable FURNITURE belonging to Mr H. COURT, at No. 4, Johnson's Houses, Iveston, on Saturday, January 30th, 1892.
Sale to commence at Two o'clock.
Full particulars in Posters. 614h

John Crawford's Sale-Rooms, 6, 12, and 25, Victoria Street, Consett.

JOHN CRAWFORD will SELL at the above Rooms, on Monday, February 1st, 1892, a lot of Valuable Mahogany Household FURNITURE, &c.
Sale to commence at One o'clock. 613h

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

MR. JOHN CRAWFORD, AUCTIONEER, 25, Victoria Street, Consett, is prepared to execute all orders for the SALE of FARM STOCK, PROPERTY, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, STOCK-IN-TRADE, &c., in the best style, and on reasonable terms; immediate settlement. Mr. John Crawford is appointed by his Honour Judge Meynel, to act as Bailiff to levy Distress for Rent in England and Wales, under the New Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888. Mr. Crawford's Sale-Rooms are open daily to receive Furniture for Fortnightly Sales. People that are leaving the District can have their Furniture turned into Cash at once by applying to JOHN CRAWFORD, Auctioneer, 25 Victoria Street Consett. 903a

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

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. J. Vickers.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1st, 1892.—50 to 70 Dairy Cows and Heifers, 13 Fat Cattle, 225 Fat Sheep and Hoggs, 7 Store Cattle, 1 Roan S.H. Bull, 2½ years, 9 Finger Calves.

Also, a splendid Turn-out, in one Lot, comprising Handsome Brown Mare, 4 year-old, with good action; Set new Silver-mounted Harness, Whitechapel, in good order, with Lamps, Apron, &c., complete. This Lot will be sold at 11 o'clock. Several Sets of New and Second-hand Harness and other Saddlery Goods.
Entries to day of Sale. Sale at 10-30 a.m.
626h J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.

Business Announcements

THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT
BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY
TOWN HALL CONSETT.
SHARES MAY BE TAKEN ANY DAY
Advances made on Freehold or Copyhold Property Money received on Loan at 4½ Per Cent. In erest, repayable at Three Months' notice.
ADAM BRODIE, F.S.A., F.A.I., Actuary and Publ (Incorporated) Accountant, Secretary

GLENDENNING'S
BEEF & MALT WINE,

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

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

Prepared only by W. GLENDENNING, Newcastle.

LOCAL AGENTS:—
CONSETT. — RICHARD MURRAY, WINE MERCHANT. T. D. DRYDEN & Co., FRONT STREET. THOMAS MILNER, CHEMIST.
WITTON GILBERT.—J. HODGSON, STATION HOTEL.
MEDOMSLEY.—R. M. RUTHERFORD, ROYAL OAK HOTEL.
DIPTON. — ROBERT ARMSTRONG, WINE MERCHANT.
STANLEY.—WM. CHARLTON, STANLEY HOTEL.
ANNFIELD PLAIN.—WM. TAYLOR, RAILWAY HOTEL.
BURNOPFIELD.—WM. STONES, BURTON HOUSE.
TANFIELD.—JOHN IRWIN, PACK HORSE INN.
BLACKHALL MILL.—T. ARMSTRONG, WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT.
SOUTH MOOR.—R. DIXON, THE OAK INN.
TOW LAW.—J. MOSES, POST OFFICE, HIGH STREET. 585h

MOST MONEY LENT

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

J. & E. WILSON'S.

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

12, PILGRIM STREET

FOUR DOORS BELOW BLACKETT STREET.
PRIVATE ENTRANCE: FIRST SIX DOORS IN HIGH FRIAR LANE
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

N.B.—A Large Stock of New and Second-hand WATCHES Gold & Silver GUARDS ALBERTS &c., on Sale at the Lowest Prices

SEE THAT YOU GET TO THE RIGHT SHOP—No. 12.
OBSERVE PROJECTING ILLUMINATED CLOCK OVER WINDOW. 789

WEATHER CHART FOR JANUARY.

Mr B. G. Jenkins, F.R.A.S., London, gives the following as the probable weather for this month:—A cold and somewhat stormy month. High barometer about the 5th, for a week round the 19th, and at the close. Depressions round the 8th, 15th, 25th, and 31st. A good deal of snow during the month, especially about the 2nd, 8th, 10th, 15th, 25th, and 31st. Gales with snowstorms round the 8th, 15th, and 25th. Much fog accompanies the high barometric period round the 19th. Milder weather generally in North Britain. Great cold over France and the Continent generally. Temperature: The month opens cold. High about 4th; it falls off rapidly, introducing a cold spell, which—with a break about 11th—lasts till 18th, with very low readings round 14th. A week of milder weather follows, with a return to cold. Rain: About two inches; chiefly on the 2nd, 8th, 10th, 15th, and 25th. [Average rainfall: London, 2·1in.; Glasgow, 4·2 in.; British Isles, 4·1 in.] Prevailing winds: N.E., N.W., and S.E. Northerly winds predominate.

The Consett Guardian

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29TH, 1892.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

BURNS' ANNIVERSARY.

" Age on age shall roll away.
The seasons come by turns;
But when will Scotland see again
A second Robert Burns?"

So sings a modern bard, and the homage paid year after year to the memory of the great poet proves that Scotsmen are neither ashamed of their country nor their countymen. Burns was not only one of the greatest poets and the sweetest singers the world has ever seen; he was a patriot and reformer, and his "wood notes wild" breathe a spirit of manly independence characteristic of the hardy race from which he sprung. He introduces a question in one of his most powerful poems to the effect that if he was intended to be a haughty lordling's slave: "Why was an independent thought e'er planted upon my mind?" It is, I need hardly say, by this thought straining after realisation that freedom is cradled, the fetters of the slave broken and despots crushed in the dust. It was noble—even sublime— to sing as Burns sang of the ruin by his ploughshare of the nest of a field mouse, and the crushing of a mountain daisy, but it was nobler and sublimer for to sing of the dawn of a brighter and better day for struggling sons of men. No man born in the ranks of the people can listen to the soul inspiring song "A man's a man for a' that" without feeling that the singer had touched a chord deep down in the human breast, and awakened aspirations and impulses which, when well directed, invariably lead to concentrated effort and achievements, which although far below the prescribed ideal in point of completion, conduce at the same time to enrich the human family by clearing away the roots and briars, and thus widening the path of progress. Burns was master of the poet's art, and although his strong passions sometimes led him to turn aside from the path of rectitude, his would-be judges are

year after year becoming less severe in their criticism—as his immediate surroundings and the customs of the times in which he lived are taken into account. The world owes to Burns much, and the homage a nation can pay to the memory of a great man is annually paid not only in his native land, but in the distant isles of the sea, wherever in fact the English language is spoken. It is most important to note that intelligent Englishmen admire Burns quite as much as the most enthusiastic of his countrymen. I have met with numbers of Englishmen who knew more about the life and works of the poet than I do, and who had made journeys to the spot where his ashes rest. Scotland has given many worthy bards to the world; but James Montgomery, himself no mean poet, embodied the common verdict of the world in the lines:—

"In Scotia's choir
Of minstrels great and small,
He sprang, from his spontaneous fire,
The phœnix of them all."

IN WINTER QUARTERS.

The members of the Vale of Derwent Naturalists' Field Club have been for some time in winter quarters; but, unlike not a few of the representatives of the animal kingdom, who rest from their labours for a season by indulging in a comfortable nap until the flowers spring and the birds sing, the members of the club are quite as active as when the earth was clad with fruit and flowers. Their annual *conversazione* has been again held with very pleasing results, and when the shadows flee away and nature shall have again put on her summer robes, it may be assumed that the members of the club will buckle on their wallets and go forth in search of treasure. It would be a good thing for society and for the world as a whole were more of the people to seek recreation and pleasure by hedgerow and stream. Wordsworth said that nature never did betray the soul that loved her, and those who have sought enjoyment by reading the book of nature have learned to unbar the portals of one of the most delightful sources of pleasure under the sun.

LOOKING FORWARD.

It may be truly said that the object—the be-all and the end-all—of the great Liberal demonstration in the Town Hall, Consett, on Wednesday evening, was that the future should be scanned, and the clouds on the horizon duly measured. A general election may not be very far distant, and it is consequently time that adequate preparation should be made for the impending struggle. The best way to do is to look forward, for many a battle has been lost by the strongest side simply because, rejoicing in its strength, it held the opposing force too cheap.

A FAVOURED DISTRICT.

The medical reports submitted by Dr George Renton to the members of the Benfieldside Local Board at their last ordinary meeting indicates a very satisfactory state of things, a state of thing by the way, which forms a striking contrast to other districts. It appears that the influenza epidemic found no rest to the sole of its foot at Benfieldside, only two victims having fallen a prey to the disease. The result is alike satisfactory both to the worthy doctor and the members of the Board, because if the sanitary condition of the township had not been *par excellence*, the quarterly report would have told a less flattering tale.

SNOW AT CONSETT.

The "beautiful snow" lies longer at Consett than in any town and district in the "north countree." There is no doubt a method in it, and some advantage may peradventure accrue from the snowy covering. The town stands high, and the wintry winds rave in all their fury during the winter season, but the compensating influence is reaped in the summer months when the zephirs whisper in a more cooling breeze than down below in the winding valley, where the inhabitants are sweltering on the borders of suffocation, the good things of this world being better divided than does at first sight appear.

Local and District News

CONSETT.

MASONIC BALL.—We are requested to state that the ball in connection with the "Constance" Lodge of Freemasons has not been postponed, but will take place on the date fixed, Wednesday evening first.

MUSICAL INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE, LONDON.—The following pupils of Mr T. Jones, 5, Church Street, Consett, have passed successfully in the theoretical examination held in Newcastle on November 26th, 1891, Dr E. M. Lott, examiner:—Junior division with honours: Miss E Walton, Medomsley, and Miss E. R. Errington, Lin ford Farm; junior division: Master J. R. Foster, Leadgate, and Master T. Jackson, Pontop Row, Annfield Plain.

Y.M.C.A. DEBATING SOCIETY.—At the usual meeting of this society at Consett, on Friday night, the subject of "Dancing" was brought forward for discussion. Mr J. Roysten Booth led off in favour of dancing, the opposite view being taken up by Mr C. Cooke. An animated discussion followed, and ultimately, on the division being taken by ballot, the meeting decided in favour of dancing by 13 votes 11.

Pupils from Mrs Cleminson's school, Wear Terrace, Bishop Auckland, passed as follows in December:—College of Preceptors examination: Annie Bell, third class, first division. Trinity College of Music, London, junior division examination, honours: Maggie Blenkiron, Lillie Clark, Ada Cradock; intermediate division: Ada Laverick, Bertha Lee, Emma Maughan, Mary S. Hall.

THEATRE ROYAL.—In consequence of the death of the late Mr J. B. Ashley, who, with his company, was engaged to appear here, the theatre has been closed this week; but will re-open on Thursday night next with a new and realistic drama, entitled "The Mouth o' the Pit," by Wynn Miller's celebrated dramatic company. Local playgoers may therefore expect a genuine treat next week.

BAND OF HOPE ENTERTAINMENT.—Last (Thursday) night, a very large and influential company assembled in the Wesleyan Chapel, Consett, on the occasion of a public meeting and entertainment in aid of the Wesleyan Band of Hope funds. The chair was filled by Mr Wm. Whitehead, U.K.A. agent, of Heaton, who gave a most appropriate address on the temperance question. The chairman also favoured with some of his excellent recitations. Messrs Barker, Bailey, and Rogers, of the Central Hall, Hood Street, Newcastle, who are connected with the "Help Myself" Society, also sang a few capital songs, and made short speeches. Other music was rendered by the Band of Hope choir, with Mr W. Lowrie as conductor, and Mr C. Stelling as organist. A collection was taken at the close of the entertainment. The local Band of Hope is in a flourishing condition, and is doing a commendable work.

WESLEYAN IMPROVEMENT CLASS.—The subject for discussion by this class at Consett, on Wednesday se'nnight, was entitled "The succession of life geologically considered." An excellent paper was read by Mr Swindale, of Blackhill, who had also prepared a geological map shewing the various strata of the earth. The reader also illustrated his subject with diagrams of fossils, which had been found at different periods of the earth's history. A very interesting discussion took place, Mr Jackson putting some very pertinent questions as to the evolution of man. Mr Lamb referred to the difference between geologists and the sacred writings of the bible, representing the age of the earth. Mr G. Broadbent referred to the time occupied in creation. Mr Thos. Carey, pressed the essayist for his opinion as to the evolution of man from the lower orders of animals. A lady brought before the class the fact that species of animals were distinct in themselves, and therefore do not admit of evolution. Mr W. Swainston also took part in the discussion. Mr Collins broached a rather unique question as to man's prehistoric existence, expressing his opinion that such was the case. This theory, he believed, would reconcile geology with scripture in point of time. A lively discussion was entered into, and just when the members seemed to have got warmed to their work the secretary reminded them that the time had expired. The chairman then called upon Mr Swindale to reply, and in obedience thereto parried well with his opponents, skilfully answering all questions favourable to his paper.

BLACKHILL.

HIGHGATE BAPTIST SUNDAY-SCHOOL.—The usual Band of Hope meeting was held in the above chapel on Wednesday night, Mr Foster presiding. The programme consisted of a varied selection given by the Leadgate Wesleyan Band of Hope choir and friends, who rendered their parts in such a way as to elicit hearty applause from the large company present. A cordial vote of thanks to the performers, and the singing of the doxology, brought a most enjoyable meeting to a close. Three pledges were taken at the finish.

PRESBYTERIAN GUILD.—At the weekly meeting of the above guild, at Blackhill, on Wednesday week, the subject for discussion was "Are Trade Unions beneficial to the country." The positive side of the argument was ably debated by Mr R. McDonald, who, in a well thought-out paper, traced the growth of Trade Unions from their commencement, and enumerated the many benefits they had conferred on their members. Mr McDonald instanced many cases of non-unionists receiving less wages for their labour than were paid to unionists. The demands of a union for increase of wages were treated with more consideration by the employers than the request of a non-unionist, and Trade Unions had been the means of raising wages to their present standard, as well as gaining shorter hours of labour for the *employes*. The negative of the subject was eloquently handled by Mr W. T. Eltringham, who, in a cleverly written article, endeavoured to expose the fallacies of Trade Unions arguing that if wages had risen the prices of all classes of goods had advanced in a corresponding ratio. The exorbitant demands of Trade Unions had made it nearly impossible for this country to compete with foreign nations, and work had gone to the continent which would have greatly benefitted the workmen of this land. The unions had been the cause of many needless strikes, bringing hunger and distress into many a home, and had even resorted to that disgraceful act of rattening. One of their chief objects was to make Trade Unions as universal as possible, and various plans were resorted to by unionists to gain their decided end. Mr Eltringham, in conclusion, appealed to the audience on the grounds of freedom, asserting that Trade Unions deprived a person of that freedom of will which was the proud boast of every Briton. The *pros* and *cons* of the subject were then discussed by the members, and on a vote being taken it was found that the numbers on both sides were equal, the chairman refusing to give the casting vote. The meeting was then brought to a close in the usual manner.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

On Wednesday night, the members of Saint Cuthbert's (Benfieldside) Church choir and bellringers' society had their annual entertainment in the Temperance Hall, Shotley Bridge. There was a large and successful gathering.

SHOTLEY GROVE SCHOOL.—As the Education Department now pays a fee grant, the charges at this school are reduced by 2s 2d per quarter, or 8s 8d per year, in each class.

ESH WINNING.

LONDON COLLEGE OF MUSIC, BARNARD CASTLE CENTRE.—Examination in theorical and practical music, &c., Jno. Geo. Minto, student, has again been successful in passing two examinations, American organ junior section, and junior theory, on Dec. 30th, 1891. The public examiner was herr Geo. Asch, of London.

LANCHESTER.

HIGHWAY BOARD.—A finance committee meeting was held at Lanchester on Thursday se'nnight—Mr Wm. Logan presiding—when cheques were passed for payment of £580 17s 10d (£518 12s 10d being due to Messrs Ord and Maddison for road metal).

Middlewood Farm, near Lanchester, which was put under the hammer by Mr J. Vickers, of Tow Law, at the King's Head Hotel, on Monday se'nnight, was not sold, as the bidding did not reach the reserve price, but it is expected the property will be privately disposed of.

WATERHOUSES.

ODDFELLOWS' SUPPER.—The annual supper in connection with the "Flower of Quebec" Lodge (No. 684) of Bolton Unity of Oddfellows, was held at the Station Hotel, Waterhouses, on Saturday night, when about sixty members sat down. The chair was occupied by Mr R. T. Hardy, Langley Park, district treasurer, and Mr Ed. Chapman, Bearpark, district grand-master, was in the vice-chair.—The toast, "Success to the Lodge and the Unity," was enthusiastically honoured.—The Chairman presented the first prize to Mr Henry (secretary), a beautiful parlour timepiece; and to Mr J. Winter, the second prize, a cruet-stand, for their exertions in getting so many new members to join the club. The rest of the evening was spent in harmony and good-fellowship.—The balance-sheet shows that the income of the sick and funeral fund was £240 11s 1d, leaving a balance to the good of £92 8s 11d. The same was the case with the management fund, which shows an income of £44 7s 1d, and a balance on the right side of £28 18s 9d. The invested capital and money in the hands of treasurer amounts to £121 7s 8d, and the members are also entitled to the benefits of the district funeral fund, which amounts to £420. The number of members last year was 96, admitted during the year 33, left during the year 7, leaving a gain of 26 new members. The average age of the members is 27 years. There is a balance in hand of £18 12s from last year's sports. £84 10s 8d has been paid to sick members during the year, and £26 for death claims.

ALLANSFORD.

A magic lantern entertainment was given in the Allansford Primitive Methodist Chapel, on Saturday. The proceedings were interspersed with music and recitations.

On Monday and Tuesday, Mr Geo. Thompson, farmer, of Allansford, had a couple of sows which gave birth to 45 young pigs. One of the sows had 23 and the other one 22 little ones, all being alive.

TANFIELD LEA.

A concert and organ recital was given in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Tanfield Lea, on Saturday night, by the choir (conducted by Mr M. Forster), assisted by a few friends. Mr J Dunsdale, Whickham, occupied the chair, and Mr Jas. Preston, Jesmond, played the organ.

DEATH OF MR EDWARD FLETCHER.—Death is playing havoc all around, and Tanfield Lea is made no exception to the rule. On Sunday, Mr Edward Fletcher, an old inhabitant, was removed to his last resting-place. Mr Fletcher was a most quiet, inoffensive man, one who neither did ill or even thought ill of anyone, and was very much respected by all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. He was a member of the Primitive Methodist body, and he was unable for some months to follow his employment. His unassuming disposition won him a host of friends, who, very anxious to pay their last tribute of respect, met at 2 o'clock at his residence, numbering about 350. The foresters with regalia, and the prize band in uniform, preceded the funeral *cortege*, the band playing in the most solemn strains the "Dead march" in *Saul*, making a visible impression upon the mourners. His remains were interred in Tanfield Cemetery, it being the wish of all, that, after life's fitful fever, he may sleep well.

BEAMISH.

SUPPER.—On Saturday night, the members of the Beamish Lodge of the Durham Colliery Mechanic's Association partook of a splendid supper, served by Mr and Mrs Edgell, of the Shepherd and Shepherdess Inn, Beamish. After supper, Mr J. Lumley was voted to the chair, and Mr J. Snow to the vice-chair. The following toasts were given:—"Success to the Mechanics' Association," "Success to the coal trade," and "Our host and hostess." Songs were ably given by Messrs Taylor, Rule, Smith, and others. A very enjoyable evening was brought to a close by the whole company singing "Auld Lang Syne."

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

SUPPER.—On Saturday night, the third annual supper was held at the house of Mr Wm. Taylor, Annfield Plain. Thirty-five friends sat down to do justice to the good things provided and so very ably served out by the hostess and servants. After ample justice had been done, a very nice programme was provided for the night's harmony. Mr J. Stobbart was voted to the chair, and Mr R. Robson the vice-chair. After the usual toasts, Mr Robson gave "Success to the coal trade," which was received with musical honours. The following gentlemen contributed to the harmony of the evening:—Mr J. Day gave "I went with him," and in reply to an *encore*, the "Song of songs"; Mr J. Wilson rendered "Mr Dovasan," and "Scarlet fever Jane"; and Messrs Temperley, Stobbart, and others greatly contributed to the harmony. The treat of the evening, however, was Mr Coulson Healy, Earl Gray Inn, Newcastle, who sang "Honour where honour is due," and also furnished some very interesting patter and stories. A successful gathering was brought to a close by singing "Auld Lang Syne."

HAMSTERLEY COLLIERY.

TEA AND CONCERT.—On Monday se'nnight, a most successful tea and concert was held in Hamsterley Colliery School-room. It has long been felt that a new library for the Church Sunday-school would be a material benefit, as the books at present constituting the library were in a very delapidated condition, many of them being unreadable owing to torn pages, &c., so it was determined by the members of the congregation attending Hamsterley Mission Room that an effort should be made to raise funds to provide new books, with the result that £19 was realised. Tables were given by the Hon. Mrs Vereker, Hamsterley Hall; the Misses Watson, Burnopfield House; Mrs Chaytor and Mrs Whitfield, Cronwell; Mrs Marshall and Mrs J. J. Hedley; and Mrs Cockin, Medomsley. Over 300 partook of the tea. After tea, the concert began, and the singers were very much appreciated. Mr Allan, manager, proposed, and Mr R. Chaytor seconded, a vote of thanks to the ladies who had so kindly provided the tea tables. Mr Potts proposed, and Mr W. P. Morris seconded, a vote of thanks to those who had taken part in the concert. A similar vote to the chairman (Rev W. Cockin) closed the proceedings.

SPEN.

CHOPWELL SCHOOL BOARD.—A meeting of the members of this Board was held at Beda Lodge, Spen, on Thursday se'nnight—under the presidency of Mr R. Oliver, there being likewise present: Dr Colquhoun, Messrs Tucker, Franks, and the clerk (Mr J. R. Wilson).—The Board received plans from nine architects for the erection of new schools at The Spen, at an estimated cost of about £400. It was agreed to call in the services of an independent architect to advise the Board which was the best and most suitable design.

BAND OF HOPE SOCIETY.—An entertainment in connection with the above society was given in the Primitive Methodist School-room, Spen Colliery, on Monday night, to a large audience. An excellent programme was rendered by the following ladies and gentlemen—Recitation by Mr Gair, two solos by Mr G. Shotton, an excellent address was given by Mr Ramsey, of Newcastle, solo by Master Thomas Wishart, recitation by Mr Ramsey, recitation and solo by Miss Adamson. The chair was taken by Mr Robertson, who made a few remarks on temperance. A vote of thanks and prayer ended an enjoyable meeting.

WOLSINGHAM.

BAPTIST CHAPEL.—Owing to the indisposition of the pastor (Rev R. Scott) the services at Wolsingham last Sunday were conducted in the morning by Mr W. Steel, and in the evening by Miss Roche, late of the High Street (Stanhope) Mission.

LECTURE ON THE BIBLE.—Last Saturday evening, the second of a series of four lectures was delivered in the Town Hall, Wolsingham, by the Diocesan lecturer (Rev Canon Talbot). The pictures and diagrams were shewn by the aid of the magic-lantern. Rev Chancellor Espin presided.

PRIMITIVE METHODISM.—On Saturday night, Mr Jonathan Southron delivered his lecture on "Sammy Hick, the village blacksmith," in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Wolsingham, to a fairly good audience. Mr C. Skipsy occupied the chair. The proceeds were in aid of the trust funds.

FROSTERLEY.

OPENING OF A LIBRARY.—On Thursday sennight, a meeting of members and friends of Mr R. Moffat's Men's Bible class was held at Frosterley, to inaugurate a new library for the benefit of the members of the above-named class. The meeting was of a very enthusiastic order, and was presided over by Mr V. A. Rippon, J.P., of Rogerley Hall, who, by kind words of cheer, congratulated the members on their evident desire for information and instruction. The meeting was further addressed by Mr R. Chapman, who spoke on the aims of the Bible class, being essentially unsectarian, by Mr Squire, who discoursed wisely and well on "Books, their use and abuse," and by the Rev A. Dickinson, of Stanhope, who, in eloquent and choice language, spoke of literature as an essential and potent factor in the uplifting of the masses, quoting for examples such men as Southey, Wordsworth, and others. Miss Rippon gracefully unlocked the library, and displayed to public gaze a wonderful and choice collection of books, numbering some 150 volumes. At the same time, Miss Rippon made a capital speech, which went straight to the hearts of her hearers, and the way in which this young lady reasoned on God and goodness will not soon be forgotten. Votes of thanks to chairman and speakers concluded one of the most enjoyable meetings ever held in Frosterley.

LEADGATE.

WESLEYAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL BAND OF HOPE.—The fortnightly meeting in connection with the above was held on Saturday night, a large company being present. The chair was occupied by Mr N. Parker. Selections were rendered by the Band of Hope choir and a string band from Shotley Bridge, also recitations by Mr J. Nixon, Shotley Bridge. Mr J. Taylor, Bradley Cottages, made an earnest appeal on behalf of temperance, giving in the course of his address four reasons why people ought to avoid the drink altogether; firstly, danger of tampering with it; secondly, waste of money; thirdly, weakening of both mind and body; and lastly, the duty of Christians for the sake of example. The speaker also pointed out the very unequal division of capital and labour, of the immense monetary profits derived from the drink traffic. A dialogue, entitled "Drink's temptation," was admirably given, the different characters being faithfully represented by Messrs C. Parker, G. Williamson, E. B. Foster, G. W. Prector, R. Bartle, and the Misses Turner and J. Parker. A collection was made at the close.

BAND OF HOPE.—On Saturday night, the members of the Leadgate Primitive Methodist Band of Hope gave an entertainment in the school-room, when there was a very good attendance. Mr G. T. Egglestone (Consett) occupied the chair. The Knitsley Primitive Methodist Choir (conducted by Mr William Bird) a pleasing and attractive programme consisting of solos, duets, recitations, readings, and violin solos, by the Misses Hall, L. Turnbull, Daglish, F. E. Egglestone, Mrs W. Hall S. Bainbridge, W Bird, and the brothers Robson. Master J. W. Egglestone efficiently discharged the duty of harmoniumist. The various items in the programme were extremely well received, and provoked rounds of applause. Votes of thanks to the chairman, entertainers, &c., closed a most successful and enjoyable entertainment.—A supper was afterwards promoted for the artistes.

PRESENTATION TO THE NEW VICAR.—The Rev. Thos. Varley, vicar of Leadgate, was on Tuesday night presented with a testimonial by the parishioners of Stillington, near Stockton, on his leaving that parish to take up his new charge. Mr Varley was for some 17 years at Stillington, and when he went thither he found neither church, vicarage, mission-room, nor schools, the district having just been carved out of the ancient parish of Grindon. By dint of patient zeal and energy, Mr Varley established all these agencies, and met all the requirements of the parish; and this good work, combined with his own private worth, have greatly endeared him to the parishioners, who part with him with profound regret. The presentation meeting was presided over by Mr Thos. Kirk, managing director of the Carlton Ironworks, and the presentation was made by Mr Daniels. It consisted of an illuminated address and a purse of gold. Mr Varley made a very feeling response on receiving the testimonial.

BRADLEY COTTAGES.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST BAND OF HOPE.—On Saturday night, the first entertainment in connection with the above was held at Bradley Cottages, the programme being rendered by the Derwent Cottages Band of Hope Choir, under the leadership of Mr J. Harbottle. Mr Wm. Hardy occupied the chair, and Mr J. Stoddart gave a temperance address. There was a numerous attendance.

STANHOPE.

Canon Talbot preached again in the Stanhope Church, on Sunday evening, on "The Bible."

REMOVING A STEAM NAVVY.—The owners of the Newlandside limestone quarry, Stanhope, have recently purchased a steam navvy at the Manchester canal, which arrived by rail in the quarry the other day. It had to be got from the trucks up to the top of the quarry, some 70 or 80 feet high. The manager (Mr James Smurthwaite) ingeniously constructed a large sledge of railway metals and heavy sleepers, sufficiently strong to carry five or six tons weight at once. Taking advantage of the frost and snow of last week, he sent for 11 of the company's horses and drivers, and in three days successfully landed the unwieldy and cumbrous frame, tower, boiler, and jib to their destination, taking them around by Loftly Lane, where the gradients are excessively steep. The steam navvies in the Weardale limestone quarries are a thorough success, removing the earth and *debris*, known locally as baring, with a surprising rapidity, so that now quarries which were not workable twelve months ago, will be workable for 20 or 30 years to come.

Canon Talbot's lectures on the Bible at Stanhope Church have proved exceedingly interesting. The fourth was given on Sunday evening, the subject being the Revised Version. The early lecturers dealt with the Bible before printing, the history of the English Bible; its translation, its students, its martyrs, the Venerable Bede, the Normans and Saxons, Wycliffe, Tyndale, Coverdale, the Bishop's Bible.

The trustees of the Barrington Schools (Stanhope) are about to appoint two representatives of the parents of the children attending the schools, and a meeting of the parents is about to be held for this purpose. A suggestion for the establishing of a Penny Bank will be made at the meeting for the encouragement of thrift. The trustees hope to forward the schools under the new arrangement.

CHURCH SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEACHERS' TEA AND ENTERTAINMENT.—The teachers and friends of the Church of England Sunday-school, at Stanhope, gave a tea and entertainment in the New Bank Room, on Saturday evening, in connection with the ladies' sewing meeting teas. A good company was present, and the thing was a success.

The raising of funds for the Stanhope church improvements is going on apace. The last sewing meeting on Saturday night, and which was given by the boys' teachers of the Sunday-schools, realised £4 4s clear. Several other meetings are announced. The proposed improvements include a costly brass eagle lectern, the present of Dr Arnison; new system of lighting the church, improving the chancel seats, and removing back the front of the organ.

MECHANICS' LODGE.—The Independent United Order of Mechanics' Friendly Society, Wear Valley Lodge (Stanhope), shows in their balance-sheet for last year, that at the beginning of the year there were 215 members, and 13 have been admitted, whilst three deaths reduced the total to 222. The general balance shows the various departments collectively to amount to £792 9s 7d. Of balance funds, namely, sick fund, £721 2s 0½d; funeral fund, £38 6s 8½d; tribute fund, £5 19s 7½d; and management fund, £27 0s 3d. The year has been a heavy one, the amount of the sick fund at the beginning of the year being £777 13s 9½d. The other balances were much about the same.

OVER SIXTY YEARS OF MARRIED LIFE.—There died and was buried at Stanhope last week, an octogenarian, Mrs Elizabeth Gowland, the beloved wife of Mr Thomas Gowland. They had been married about 63 years, and had lived a very happy life together, were never known to quarrel, but lived in peace, harmony, and happiness over 60 long years. They had a family of 12, three of whom died. There are nine of them living, and their children and grandchildren number considerably over 50. The old man survives his beloved partner in life, and is the oldest man living in Stanhope to-day, being in his 91st year. Old George Raine in the Square is next him, being only five months younger. The happy old couple have celebrated both their silver wedding and their golden wedding. Marriage with them has been no failure, but one of the relics of Eden. Marriages are said to have been made in heaven. This one seems to have been. The parting was extremely affecting, a most touching scene. He was also ill, and when it was made known to him that she was dying, he exclaimed "And is my dear old wife going to leave me," and affectionately took his last kiss. The scene was touching in the extreme and brought to tears all who witnessed it. She had a well grounded hope in Christ, having been among the Primitives for a number of years. They fought life's battles together. Her end was peace.

WEST PELTON.

BAND SUPPER.—The members and friends of the West Pelton Band, held their annual supper at the house of Mr T. Robinson, Gingling Gate, on Saturday last, when between 30 and 40 sat down to a splendid supper, provided by the landlord, which ample justice was done to. After the tables and cloth had been cleared, Mr John Golding, Craghead, the chairman, commented upon the band's career in regard to social gatherings and band contests. In his remarks he alluded to the disadvantages the West Pelton Band had to contend against in regard to numbers, having to compete with 5 and 6 men short at contests, and at the same time being successful on several occasions. The business of the night was then gone into, which consisted of a presentation to their leader, Mr W Wishart, in the shape of a silver-mounted meerschaum pipe and case, also to Mr E Wishart, two silver medals, which he won for best euphonium playing, one at Mickley Contest, and the other at Blyth. After the presentations had been made, the following toasts were given—"Health to the Queen, Royal Family, army and navy," "Health to the host and hostess," "Success to the West Pelton Band," "Health to Mr Woods, bandmaster." The rest of the evening was spent in songs, &c., which terminated a very enjoyable evening.

BATCHELORS' PRIVATE ASSEMBLY.—On Tuesday night, this popular assembly was attended by about 60 gentlemen, and 70 ladies, many of them being from Newcastle-on-Tyne, Chester-le-Street, Stanley, Birtley, and the surrounding districts. Dancing commenced at 7 o'clock, and finished at 10. The officiating M.C's were Messrs P. McDonald, W. Allen, Dr Simpson, and J. Robson. It is needless to say that they gave every satisfaction. The music is supplied nightly by the "Victoria Orchestral Band," who delight their hearers with their splendid playing. The waltz's, "Queen of my love," "Ferryman John," "Eldorado," "Katie Connor," are rendered by the band in a faultless style. Through the kindness of the committee of the Co-operative Society, the refreshment rooms are open every dancing night, under the management of Miss Appleton, whose kindness and civility cannot be surpassed. The hall will accommodate about 200 couples, and there is every convenience both for ladies and gentlemen.

MARLEY HILL.

MARLEY HILL BAND.—ANNUAL MEETING AND SUPPER.—The members of the above band held their annual meeting and supper at the house of Mr Geo. Stott, Sunniside, who provided a really good repast, of which the members and their friends heartily partook. After the cloth had been withdrawn, Mr P. Sharp was voted to the chair, and Mr T. Murray to the vice-chair, both of whom kept the meeting in perfect good order. The chairman, after a somewhat lengthy speech, called upon the present bandmaster to make a presentation in the form of a violin and bow to their late conductor, Mr F. Gregory.—In returning thanks for the present, Mr Gregory said he regretted very much that he had to leave the band owing to his time having to be taken up in another direction, and he hoped the band would prosper under their new bandmaster, Mr J. Dodds. The company was further entertained with songs from Messrs Hearn, Mulcahy, and Murray, also solos from Messrs Gregory and Dodds, and pianoforte recitals from Master M. Mulcahy and Jefferson. A vote of thanks was carried for the host and hostess, also for the chairman and vice-chairman, which brought the meeting to a close.

TOW LAW.

The choir of the Tow Law Parish Church held a supper in the National Schools, on Wednesday evening, the supper being followed by a dance.

The Presbyterian congregational annual meeting was held in the Church, Tow Law, on Wednesday, the pastor (Rev H. Samuel) in the chair. Reports on the various agencies of the church work during the year were presented.

On Monday evening, Mr Thos. Nichol, of Satley, entertained his customers and friends to a substantial dinner, which was provided at Mr Wheatley's, Mart Hotel, Tow Law. There was a large social gathering.

Two very large funerals took place in the Tow Law Cemetery on Sunday afternoon. One—that of Mrs Jonathan Vickers—was preceded from her residence in Dans Castle to the Primitive Chapel by the Salvation Army Band. A service was held in the chapel, which was nearly filled. The second funeral was that of a young woman named Hildreth, who died at the early age of 22, of consumption.

REMARKABLE LONGEVITY.—There has just died at Tow Law, an old woman named Woodhall, the oldest of a family of whom there were five generations living. The deceased was considerably over 90 years of age, and her granddaughter was a grandmother.

TORY LECTURE.—A lecture on "Our Empire, and the British Workmen's share in it" was delivered in the Mechanics' Institute, Tow Law, by Mr John Young, on Friday. The lecture was illustrated by magic-lantern views. Mr W. Gowland presided. The Abergavenny Constitutional van was advertised to accompany the lecturer, but owing to a mishap to the van it did not arrive.

CORNSAY.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT.—Messrs Ferens and Love have put down an enlarged and extended installation at their colliery. They have erected a large dynamo, made by Messrs J. G. Statter and Co., of London, E.P.B. type, shunt wound, with an E.M.F. of 120 volts, running at a maximum speed of 1,000 revolutions per minute, and suitable for supplying current to 180 16 c.p. incandescent lamps. The dynamo is driven by a compact pair of short-coupled engines, with cylinders 18 inch diameter by 12 inch stroke, with secondary shafting and belts to dynamo, and which on a trial run of five hours were driven at a speed of 100 revolutions per minute without the slightest hitch. The installation comprises the lighting of pit-heap, screens, coal-cleaning tables, engine-houses, and mechanics' shop with 25 c.p. incandescent lamps, and pit-heap and cokeyard gangways with 200 c.p. sunbeam lamps.

WEARDALE.

REVIVAL SERVICES.—Revival services are now being held at the Westgate Primitive Methodist Chapel. The first services have been conducted by Rev R. Shields, of Shildon, and will also be conducted by Miss Bulmer, of Tanfield Lea.

The County Council elections are approaching. It is expected that Dr Livingstone, who now represents Weardale, will have a walk over, as the Weardale public have implicit confidence in him as their representative, and as yet no one is spoken of as his opponent.

The death of Mr Joseph Rutherford, a Weardale man, is announced at Stockton. He was well-known in Weardale, and was connected with the Primitive Society at St. John's Chapel.

The projected railway from Stanhope to Wearhead is the one all-absorbing topic in Weardale. It is generally believed that it will go up the dale. There is no opposition to it, and it is backed by many influential married men, several of whom have consented to become directors. The matter will come before the North-Eastern directorate shortly.

Mr Robert Baker, of No 4, Champion Terrace, Old Charlton, London, E.C., has presented to Rev. R. Shepard, M.A., vicar of St. John's-in-Weardale, for the church, two beautiful and artistic offertory bags, with elegant handles and steel stems for the same, of a peculiar make of his own invention. Mr Baker is a son of Mr John Baker, solicitor, who is promoting St John's Chapel proposed railway. It appears there are two bills now lodged in Parliament for a railway up the Wear Valley—one promoted by Sir Joseph Pease, the other by Mr Baker.

WEARDALE BOARD OF GUARDIANS.—The ordinary meeting of the Weardale Union Guardians was held on Friday, Dr. Livingstone presiding.—The number of inmates in the Workhouse was 37, against 41 in the corresponding week of last year.—The resolution from the Darlington Guardians that the Guardians press upon the Local Government Board the need for amending certain articles in the general orders relating to the tenure of the office and the salaries of Union officials in order that the Guardians may have independent power to regulate the remuneration, &c., of their officers, was adopted.

A COACHMAN'S CONSCIENCE.—The following curious missive handed to the coachman is generally regarded as one result of the evangelical mission at Wearhead:—"Dear Sir,—I wrode up with you 3 or 4 years since, & you gave me half-a-sovereign for a sixpence, which proved useful at the time, but it has boddered me ever since. I don't know whedder it's yours or your masters or somebody else's, but if it isn't, don't keep it, as it will be down against you at the last great Day of Judgment." No name was affixed, but a half-sovereign, carefully sewn between pasteboard, was enclosed.

BLAYDON.

HOME READING UNION—BLAYDON CIRCLE.—In connection with the above, Dr V. Rutherford delivered a lecture in the Mechanics' Institute, Blaydon. Rev D. Williams presided, and there was a fairly good attendance. The lecture was of an interesting and instructive character.

EDMONDBYERS.

A hen belonging to Mr John Carr, of Edmondbyers, hatched seven chickens the second week in January.

MISS LIGHTED—"I was very much admired at the wedding reception last night. I noticed one gentleman who never took his eyes off me the whole evening." Miss Sharpe—"Did the gentleman have a black moustache, waxed on the ends?" "Yes; do you know him?" "I know of him. He is a detective. He was there to watch the presents."

OLD LOVER—"I know I am old enough to be your grandfather, but, my darling, I have an immense fortune to bestow upon you." Young heart—"I hesitate to answer." Old lover—"Do not keep me in suspense. I have heart disease, and under excitement I am likely to die at any moment." Young heart—"Then I will be yours."

LORD NEWTON, one of the Scotch judges, was seen by a friend staggering homewards so early as nine o'clock on a fine summer evening in Edinburgh. "How now?" queried the individual. "You're early up from your dinner the day." "True enough," stuttered the Judge; "but, than, ye maun ken that we sat down yestreen."

BOBBY has been playing on the porch while his mother was calling within. She suddenly appears at door with hostess, ready to take her leave, when Bobby burst into tears and cries—"Mamma, ain't you going to stay to lunch?" "No, dear." "Boo-hoo—hoo—well, you said you would—boo—hoo—hoo." (Painful silence followed by rapid leave-taking).

A LATE judge, whose personal appearance was as unprepossessing as his legal knowledge was profound and his intellect keen, interrupted a female witness—"Humbugged you, my good woman. What do you mean by that?" he said, sternly. "I don't know how to explain it exactly; but if a girl called your Lordship a handsome man she would be humbugging you."

THROAT IRRITATION AND COUGH.—Soreness and dryness, tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use Epps's Glycerine Jujubes. In contact with the glands at the moment they are excited by the act of sucking, the Glycerine in these agreeable confections becomes actively healing. Sold only in boxes 7½d., tins 1s. 1½d., labelled "JAMES EPPS & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London." Dr. Moore, in his work on "Nose and Throat Diseases," says: "The Glycerine Jujubes prepared by James Epps and Co., are of undoubted service as a curative or palliative agent," while Dr Gordon Holmes, Senior Physician to the Municipal Throat and Ear Infirmary, writes: "After an extended trial, I have found your Glycerine Jujubes of considerable benefit in almost all forms of throat disease."

CONCERT AT RYTON.

The annual concert of the Ryton Parish Church choir was held on Wednesday night in the Congregational School-room, which was crowded with a fashionable audience—Canon Bailey presiding. The first part of the programme consisted of a sacred oratorio, "The Captivity of Babylon," which was well rendered. The singing of the choir was good, and reflected great credit on the conductor, Mr A. H. Nichol. The solo parts were taken by Misses Morris and Aydon, Rev T. Morris, Mr Guthrie, and Master Brunton. The second part of the programme was none the less successful, and consisted of a miscellaneous selection of vocal and instrumental music, recitations, &c.

LANCHESTER PETTY SESSIONS.

THURSDAY, JAN. 28th.—Before J. W. WALTON-WILSON, Esq. (presiding), W. B. VAN HAANSBERGEN, Esq., and Rev F. W. GLYN.

EDUCATION ACT.

John Williams, Esh, was proceeded against by Mr John Gibson, on behalf of the Lanchester Union School Attendance Committee, for neglecting to send his son to school.—Mrs Williams attended court, and said her son was suffering from the eyes. She produced a medical certificate, dated two days before Mr Gibson's last visit, certifying that the boy was not able to attend school. Mrs Williams acknowledged, however, that she had not this certificate when Mr Gibson called. Her son was now going to school.—Case dismissed with a caution.

REFUSING TO QUIT.

John Edward Bracken, miner, pleaded guilty to refusing to quit the licensed premises of John Dodd, at Annfield Plain, on the 9th inst.—Mr J. G. Murray (Consett) appeared on behalf of the Consett and District Licensed Victuallers Association.—A fine of 5s and costs was inflicted.

DESERTING HIS FAMILY.

John Agnew, an ironworker (who was arrested at Darlington), was charged with deserting his three children, who were in the Lanchester Workhouse.—It was explained that a couple of months ago defendant was prosecuted by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children for neglecting his three children, and causing them to beg. He was sent to gaol, and the lads were sent to the Workhouse. On coming out of prison, however, defendant absconded.—Agnew now said he was quite willing to take the children back again, and promised to treat them in a proper manner.—The Bench let the accused go, the Chairman saying: Now, you will have to take care of these children, or you will be getting into trouble again.

IN THE WRONG BOX.

Harris Cohen, a travelling Jew, was charged with committing an aggravated assault upon Eliza Jane Newton, aged 13 years, at Cornsay Colliery, on the previous day (Wednesday).—Complainant, who lives with her brother, P.C. Newton, said that the accused called at their house, and asked her to purchase a pair of slippers. The girl replied, "No, the master and mistress are out," adding "that if the mistress had been in, she might have bought me a pair." Cohen then urged upon the complainant to purchase a pair either for her mistress or herself, and as she declined, the defendant pushed himself further into the kitchen, and began to stroke the girl down the side of the face, remarking, "Thou's a nice lass." Defendant next enquired what size slippers she took," and she answered "Fours." He pulled a pair out of the bundle, and offered to give her them if "she had a mind not to say anything." Cohen next placed his arms around her waist, and touched her on the thighs outside the clothes. He left loose of the waist, and stooped down to pick up the slippers, and at the same time he got hold of the bottom of her skirt, and tried to pull up her clothes. Complainant resisted, and said, "Don't you know who lives here?" Defendant replied, "No," and the complainant told him that "The policeman lives here." Defendant exclaimed, "I didn't know that. I had better be off." She said, "Yes, you had better clear out, or you'll get wrong." Defendant at once picked up his bundle and went away, shouting, as he passed through the yard, to her not to say anything for fear he got wrong. She refused to take the man's slippers.—Other testimony having been given, defendant denied the charge, asserting that the principles of his religion prohibited him from molesting a Christian woman.—A fine of 10s and 13s 3d costs was imposed.

A ROW AT OXHILL.

"NO LAW FOR THE POOR."

John Elliott, a pitman, was charged by P.C. Lewis with being drunk and disorderly at Oxhill, on the 16th inst. Defendant created a terrible uproar for the space of ten minutes, and stood at the door of the Ox Inn and wanted to fight the officer.

Defendant denied the charge, and said the police aggravated him. He was perfectly sober, having only had five gills of beer in five hours, and was drinking a glass of rum when the policeman came in. There was a man named James Kay in the house. He was the worse for drink, and the cause of all the uproar.

The Bench: Have you any witnesses?—Defendant: No. I could have fetched several workmen as witnesses, but if they had come they would have received their notices at the colliery.

The Magistrates: How is that?—Defendant: Well, this Kay is a back-overman at the colliery. He was drunk inside the house at five o'clock, and slept in the kitchen. He eventually had to be taken out by the back way.

The Clerk (Mr Grainger): Was Kay drunk?—P.C. Lewis: He was not while I was in the house.

Defendant averred that Kay was "blackguarding" Smith, and because he merely took Smith's part, they had been fetched up.

The Clerk: You can call Smith as a witness if you like.

Defendant: How way Bill, and speak out. (Laughter.)

Smith reluctantly came forward, and said he knew nothing about defendant.

Defendant: Smith was in the house at the time when Kay was there, and the latter began quarrelling, and called Smith a "b—— sponge." It was Kay who ought to have been fetched up, as he caused him (defendant) to get drunk, or rather to be fetched up. (Laughter.) It was no laughing matter. (More laughter.) When he was fetched up for being drunk he was as sober as any man in that Court. (Renewed laughter.)

The Chairman considered that defendant's admission could not be got over, and fined defendant 5s and costs.

Defendant: How much do you say, Mister?—The police: 11s altogether.

William Smith, another miner, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises of John Errington, the Ox Inn, Oxhill, on the same date.

The landlord said that when he ordered defendant to quit, he refused to go, and called him a lot of very offensive names.

Defendant repudiated the offence, and averred that the man Kay was asleep in the house. He was roused up, and the moment that Kay saw him he shouted out, "Bill, you are a b—— sponge."

Robert Elliott gave evidence proving that Kay was the cause of all the disturbance. Kay had been drinking in the house all day every "pay" Saturday for the last few weeks. Nobody dare say anything about Kay or they would get the "sack" at the colliery. As soon as Kay saw witness, he styled him a "starched up b——."

The landlord, re-called, averred that there was not the slightest truth in the allegations that Kay had been drinking in his house every "pay" Saturday for some time past. He (Mr Errington) had kept a public-house for the past twenty-seven years, and never had any black mark registered against him.

The Clerk: Then there is no truth in the statement made respecting Kay?—Witness: No, sir.

Defendant was fined 5s and costs.

Smith (excitedly): I could bring one hundred witnesses to prove that Kay has been drinking in this public house all day for the past three "pay" Saturdays. There is no law for the poor man here. (Laughter.)

THE APPROACHING COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

NORTH-WEST DURHAM.

The term of office of the members of the existing County Council will soon expire. Rumours reach our ears that some of our local members will have to fight to retain their seats. It may be of importance to know that the day fixed for the triennial election of members of the Durham County Council is Tuesday, March 8th. Candidates' nomination papers must be delivered at the place mentioned in the public notice of election any day before five o'clock on Monday, February 29th. Forms may be obtained from the Clerk to the County Council, North Bailey, Durham, or from the returning officer for the electoral division. Mr T. W. Welford, solicitor, is the returning officer for the Consett and Leadgate divisions, and Mr J. McCartan, solicitor, acts in the same capacity for the Collierley and Tanfield divisions. Mr McCartan has fixed his office in Front Street, Stanley, as the place where nomination papers for both Collierley and Tanfield divisions must be handed in when filled up. The returning officers will supply forms of nomination papers to any elector, and will also, if required, fill up any nomination paper. It is well to note that a nomination paper when filled up can only be delivered at the place appointed by the candidate or his proposer or seconder.

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The fortnightly meeting took place on Thursday se'nnight, under the chairmanship of Mr W. Logan (chairman). Present: Mr W. B. Van Haansbergen, J.P., Revs P. C. Fortin and W. Cockin, Councillors J. A. Curry and R. Murray, Messrs T. J. Muse, W. Aynsley, J. Collinson, W. Gray, T. Longstaff, Geo. Hobson, C. D. W. Balleny, L. Nicholson, P. Kirkup, R. Robson, T. Nichol, and the clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson).

THE LATE MR J. WILKINSON.

A letter was read from Mrs Wilkinson, New Acres, thanking the Board for the resolution of condolence passed at the last meeting of the Guardians.

THE MILK CONTRACT.

The Master (Mr W. Brotherhood) again reported that the contractor was still irregular in supplying milk to the Workhouse, the quantity sent short averaging between 50 and 60 quarts per week.

It was agreed to enter into other arrangements, if possible, for an adequate supply of milk till the contracts were re-let in March.

INMATES OF THE HOUSE.

Present No. of inmates	173
Corresponding period last year	164
Vagrants relieved during past fortnight	23
Corresponding period last year	22

OUT-DOOR RELIEF.

Mr R. Walton, relieving officer, eastern district, reported:—

Adults, not able-bodied—Males	68
Females	122
Able-bodied (temporarily disabled)	4
Females (in health)	34
Temporarily disabled	8
Children under sixteen years	150
Total	379

Amount of relief in money, £61 13s.

Mr John Moon, relieving officer, western district, also reported:—

Adults, not able-bodied—Males	44
Females	88
Able-bodied—Males	8
Females (in health)	76
Temporarily disabled	0
Children under sixteen years	284
Total	494

Amount of relief in money, £73 15s.

TOTALS.

Adults, not able-bodied	314
Able-bodied	122
Children	443
Total	879

Amount of relief, £135 8s.

Figures for the corresponding period of last year:—

Adults, not able-bodied	365
Able-bodied	161
Children	408
Total	864

Amount of relief, £132 6s.

This comprised all the business.

LANCHESTER SCHOOL ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE.

The regular meeting was held at Lanchester on Thursday morning week, under the chairmanship of Rev P. C. Fortin.

SCHOOLWARDENS' REPORTS.

The following reports were received from the schoolwardens:—

Eastern District.

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Union School Attendance Committee.

Gentlemen,—The schools in this division were re-opened after the Christmas holidays as follows:—Iveston British, 4th January; Leadgate National, Leadgate Infant, Consett British, Consett St. Patrick's, and Consett Wesleyan, 11th January; Leadgate Wesleyan and Consett National, 12th January; Ebchester National, 14th January; and Broom St. Mary's, 18th January.

Partially owing to the continued sickness and the bad weather the attendance is only moderate.

There are several parents who won't understand that your bye-laws prescribe the time during which every child shall attend school to be the *whole time* for which the school selected shall be open unless there be a reasonable excuse for non-attendance, and that for every absence without such excuse (as set forth in the bye-laws) a penalty may follow. At a future meeting, it may be my duty to particularise these cases, although some of the parents do apparently consider themselves exempt from the compulsory clauses of the Act.

Two absentees have been visited in Ebchester parish; 68 in Iveston; and 190 in Conside and Knitsley—total, 260.

Two bye-law notices were served at Leadgate; 1 at Crookhall; and 3 at Consett.

On the 4th inst., the full penalty was inflicted in each of the two cases reported last month to have been adjourned.

Seven cases are entered in the report-book to be submitted to you.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
Wm. Ward.

Iveston, January 21st, 1892.

Southern District.

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Union School Attendance Committee.

Gentlemen,—With one exception, the schools in this part of your district were closed a fortnight for the Christmas holidays. Four re-opened on the 4th, and 14 on the 11th of January.

The inclement state of the weather has naturally made against the attendance, but in some cases undue advantage has been taken, and children within easy distance of the schools have been unnecessarily absent.

During the last month, I have made 179 visits to parents in the parish of Esh; 88 in Lanchester; 15 in Cornsay; and 5 in Langley respectively—total, 276 visits, dealing with 325 children.

I have also made 14 visits to schools.

The annual inspection by H.M. Inspector of Schools was held at Langley Park British Schools on January 18th, and the boys at Lanchester National School were examined in drawing on the same day.

I have entered in the report-book, to be submitted to you to-day, 12 cases embracing 12 children.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
J. Gibson.

Lanchester, January 21st, 1892.

The Committee particularly wished to call the attention of parents to the paragraph in Mr Ward's report impressing the importance of sending their children to school every time the doors were opened

inflammation, all kidney and kindred complaints, cured by "Buchu-paiba." At chemists. Newbery and Sons, Agents, King Edward Street, London, E.C.

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

EDDA'S BIRTHRIGHT.

By Mrs. Harriet Lewis,

Author of "Her Double Life," "Old Life's Shadows," "Lady Kildare," etc.

Chapter III.

A RESOLUTE ADVANCE.

Mr. Nisbit was quite right in his conclusions. Edda Brend had indeed taken her leave of him and of Racket Hall, and was on her way to London. Born and bred upon that lonely Yorkshire moor, from which she had never strayed further than Moor End, the nearest hamlet, five miles distant, knowing nothing of the world and its lurking perils, utterly friendless and alone, bent upon a mission whose result was to influence her whole future life, determined to solve the mystery of her existence, one would have expected Edda to show a spirit of shrinking, of timidity, and of depressing anxiety and fears.

But, to the contrary, the girl was as gay and bright as a bird just escaped from its cage. The June morning was delightful. There was a breeze upon the broad sweep of moorland. Edda felt a delicious sense of lightness and buoyancy as she walked onward. She had longed for months to leave the desolate seclusion of her home, and to see something of life, and now her opportunity had come. She had started out to seek her fortune. What was that fortune to be? In her new-found freedom Edda did not trouble herself with unpleasant anticipations.

Her five-mile walk over the moor was easily accomplished, and long before noon Edda entered the small hamlet with a springing step, and made her way to the only inn Moor End afforded.

It was an old-fashioned little country inn, of a type now nearly extinct. It was known as The Moor Hen, and its swinging, creaking sign-board exhibited a faded picture of a weather-beaten fowl of forlorn aspect. The inn itself was dingy and weather-worn, but overflowed with bustling country life. Chickens, ducks and geese, many of them of almost infinitesimal proportions, abounded in the vicinity of the watering troughs. The landlady's voice could be heard through the open windows apostrophising her maids. The landlord was alone in the bar, smoking his pipe. Business was slack at The Moor Hen at this hour of the day, but in the evening the farm-labourers were wont to congregate in the snug bar or on the porch and smoke their pipes and enjoy a social glass, while they discussed such political questions as penetrated from the busy outside world to their secluded Yorkshire homes.

Edda was well known at The Moor Hen. She was accustomed to visit the inn once a week, when at Moor End, for the single newspaper patronised by Mr. Nisbit. She stepped into the bar now, her bundle on her arm, and demanded, with quite a travelled air, for a carriage to convey her to Hebden Bridge.

The worthy landlord stared at her in an open-mouthed amazement. That "Miss Edda, of Racket Hall," should be leaving home, was something so utterly unprecedented that he could scarcely believe that he had heard her right.

"This is just one of your pranks, Miss Edda," he said, at length. "You were always that full of spirit that I could not understand you."

"Well, you can understand a plain order, can't you?" asked the girl, coolly. "I am going to Hebden Bridge. Will you send me in your musty old chaise with your ponies, or shall I walk?"

"Massy bless my soul," said the old landlord. "If you're bound to go, go it is; but when Mr. Nisbit hears of my abetting of you're going off, he'll be worse nor a nest of yaller hornets in my ears."

"Mr. Nisbit knows I'm going," said Edda. "The truth is, uncle owes two years' rent, and our landlord, the rich Earl of Charlewick, or his agent, has put in an execution, and we are to be turned out. So my going is all right. I want to catch the evening train for London—so be lively."

The saucy little face was yet so earnest and cool and self possessed, that the landlord could not refuse to yield obedience to Edda's demands. He replied that his equipage would be ready for the journey in half an hour and Edda went into the little inn parlour and made herself comfortable during the interval of waiting.

The gossiping landlady paid the young traveller a call or two, but Edda, while courteous and pleasant, was not in the least degree communicative, and the good woman's curiosity was doomed to remain unsatisfied.

The rickety inn-chaise was at the door at the time specified by the landlord, and a superannuated driver was upon the front seat holding the reins. Edda clambered into her place, bundle and all, and drove away from the scenes of her young life without a shadow of regret.

She reached Hebden Bridge in due season, and waited at the station until the arrival of the evening express. She had never seen a railway in her life, but she was by no means dismayed at the sight of the fiery-eyed engine as it steamed into the station like some horrible monster breathing destruction. She had read a great deal, Mr. Nisbit having an extensive but dilapidated and rather miscellaneous library, a remnant of better days; and besides the knowledge thus imbibed, Edda had a very cool head upon her young shoulders, and was not one to be easily frightened.

She made the necessary changes of coach, reaching Sheffield safely, and hastened on to London by the late night-train, arriving at the London terminus in the early morning.

She alighted from her coach, somewhat travel-stained, a trifle bewildered, but just as resolute and self-possessed as she had been on her native moor. She crossed the platform and took a cab, still clutching her bundle as if it had contained priceless jewels, rather than very ordinary articles of attire.

"What address?" asked the cabman, closing the door.

Edda hesitated an instant. She wore already her best dress, a plainly made scanty black silk suit, and a little black straw sailor hat, with a scared-looking brim in full retreat, was perched upon the back of her head, leaving visible her plentiful crop of jetty curls. She looked piquant, lovely, with a fresh, bewitching beauty, and no arts of the toilet could improve her. This thought, however, was very far from entering Edda's head. She had not a shadow of vanity in her whole-souled and generous nature.

"I suppose it's too early for a fashionable lady to be up," she thought. "I don't know any hotel, and I'm not going to one until I have seen Miss Powys. Where am I to spend the next hour or two?"

Her decision was promptly made.

"I don't want to go to a hotel," she said, frankly, "and I'm afraid the lady I'm going to see isn't up yet. I suppose I might wait in some park, might I not?"

"Lawks, yes, Miss," replied the cabman, rather more familiarly than he would have done had not his fare carried so plebeian a bundle, and been without other luggage. "But if I might be so bold, I should say, Miss, as how a pastry cook's shop, where you might get a cup of corphy and a hot roll, would be more agreeable like."

"Very well," said Edda. "Take me to a respectable pastry-cook's. And mind, cabby," she continued, with a stern glance from her keen, bright eyes, "if you turn into any dingy streets I shall call the police. I've read about London ways, and I'm prepared for them."

"Well, I never!" muttered the cabman, as he climbed up to his box and drove out of the station. "She's a rare un, she is. Does she think her pitiful little bundle is going to tempt people to murder and rob her? She'll take care of herself, she will, and no mistake. And she's a regular little beauty of the Belgravey sort, but her ma' needn't worry about her, she needn't, not any."

The drive to the pastry-cook's was so long that Edda's ready suspicions were all alive, and she was looking out of the cab window, half inclined to make her escape, when at last the cab halted before a pastry-cook's shop in Oxford-street, and the cabman sprang down and opened the door for her to alight.

A glance at the street and the establishment assured the young traveller that all was right. She sprang out lightly, disdaining assistance, and went into the pastry-cook's with an assured air.

The hour was too early for fashionable customers and the tables were unoccupied. The shopwomen were gossipping together and paid little heed to the early and rather odd looking customer. Edda seated herself at one of the tables which commanded a view of the cab in which she had left her worldly effects, and rapped smartly upon the marble, summoning a shopwoman to wait upon her.

"A cup of hot coffee and some buns," said Edda, with a glance at the well-laden counter.

The attendant flitted away upon her errand. The refreshments were brought, and Edda partook of them very leisurely. Other early and unfashionable customers appeared, consumed coffee and rolls, and went out. Edda regarded them all with grave scrutiny, lingering over her repast nearly an hour. At last she arose, paid her bill, and returned to her cab.

"Cavendish-square," she directed. "Drive slowly."

It was nearly ten o'clock when the cab rolled into Cavendish-square and Edda alighted at the house of the wealthy banker, Mr. Sebastian Powys. She paid and dismissed the cabman, declining his further services, and mounted the stone steps and sounded the polished knocker quite peremptorily.

A footman in dark-green and amber, with a pair of legs whose calves were doubtless the envy of every Jeames in the square, appeared, opening the door, and eyeing the girl outside with a supercilious stare. Her plebeian bundle told against her here also.

"The area door, Miss," said the footman, patronisingly. "You've made a mistake."

He was about to close the door, but Edda, her eyes flashing, a haughty anger in her young face, quietly stepped upon the threshold, and glided past him into the hall.

"I wish to see Miss Powys," she said, in an imperious manner that might have befitted a queen, and which did not fail to impress the bewildered lackey. "Say to her that a young lady wishes to see her."

"But—ah—it's impossible," stammered the footman. "Miss Powys has not yet risen."

"Then I'll wait until she does rise," said Edda, coolly. "I'm in no hurry."

She looked about her. The grand hall, with marble floor and imposing staircase, with statues in niches, mirrors, couches, and tall carved chairs, was in the centre of the house, with rooms opening off both sides of it. An open door on the left permitted a glimpse of the state drawing room, which extended along one entire side of the dwelling. Edda quietly turned into this apartment, bundle in hand, to the great horror of the lackey, who essayed in vain to arrest her progress.

"Deliver my message to Miss Powys at once," commanded Edda, haughtily.

"What name shall I say, miss?" asked the footman in a subdued manner.

"No name."

Edda sank down into a luxurious fauteuil with easy self possession. The footman hesitated, but another glance from the dusky eyes of the intruder compelled his obedience. He went out into the hall and summoned a fellow-servant. The two whispered together, looking in upon the singular visitor through the open door, and the second servant then glided noiselessly up stairs to the apartments of Miss Powys, while the footman remained on guard in the hall, keeping an eye upon Edda.

That young lady, who, as is seen, had no meekness and but little humility in her nature, was not at all discomposed by this surveillance. She had the air of being at home. She surveyed the drawing room as if used to such apartments, whereas in reality she had known all her life only the common-place, dingy rooms at Racket Hall, and this room quite surpassed her wildest dreams of grandeur.

It was about sixty feet in length and proportionately high. The walls were panelled with flutings of pale-green satin. A thick piled carpet of shaded green covered the floor, and was bordered with green and gold. The gilded chairs and furniture were upholstered in pale green satin, exquisitely embroidered by hand in pale gold. The curtains of green satin over lace were looped with bands of exquisite embroidery. There were windows at each end of the room, those in front looking out upon the square, and those in the rear looking into a conservatory. The frescoed ceiling, the two carved marble mantel pieces, the productions of a famous sculptor, the glittering gasaliers, the pictures, the statuary, the bronzes, all were regarded by the composed young visitor without a shadow of surprise or apparent admiration. One would have believed that she had been used to even an erior magnificence all her life.

It is scarcely to be supposed that Edda stood upon the threshold of the expected solution of the mystery of her life without experiencing a quicker beating of her heart. In truth, she was actually nervous for the first time in her life. What the result of her interview with Miss Powys was to be she could not imagine. Was Miss Powys her mother? What would Miss Powys say to her? These questions thrilled her with strange and uneasy sensations. But she felt no sentiment of yearning toward the lady she had come to see, whatever the relationship between them might prove to be. She looked at the hard facts in the case, and was resolved to demand justice, and justice alone. She was as proud as she was generous, as determined as she was wilful.

Presently the servant who had gone upstairs returned, spoke in a whisper to his fellow, and disappeared in the direction of the servants' hall.

A minute later, a woman's step was heard on the marble staircase, the rustling of a dress reached Edda's ears, and its wearer entered the drawing-room.

Edda made a movement to rise, but after a glance at the new comer sank back in her seat in graceful indolence.

The woman, she had divined instinctively, was not Miss Powys.

She was an elderly person, robust and rotund, with a plain, common-place sort of face, shaded by iron-grey hair, combed smoothly back under a matronly cap. She was attired respectably in black silk, and looked like a confidential upper servant or lady's maid. That any confidence reposed in her would be held absolutely sacred, one could not doubt after one look into her honest, reticent eyes, and at her closely compressed mouth.

"Miss Powys desires to be excused from seeing you," said the woman, regarding the visitor narrowly. "The servant brought up no name, and Miss Powys does not see strangers. If you want assistance in money or sewing, you can state your wants to me. I am Miss Powys's own maid."

"Oh, indeed," said Edda. "Then you are 'Mrs. Catharine,' I suppose?"

"I am Mrs. Catharine Priggs," said the woman, stiffly. "I am always called Mrs. Priggs."

"Yes? When you are not at Yorkshire, perhaps."

Mrs. Priggs started.

"I don't understand you, Miss," she exclaimed. "What do you mean? And what do you want here?"

"My business is with your mistress, my good Mrs. Catharine," said Edda, with inimitable nonchalance. "I do not deal with servants when important private matters with their superiors are under consideration. Be good enough to say to Miss Powys that I came here to see her, and that I intend to see her before I depart."

"You must be mad to send such a message as that to Miss Powys," said Mrs. Priggs, unable to restrain her anger, and beginning to exhibit a change of countenance indicative of fear. "At a word from me you will be expelled from the house. Who are you?"

"You can answer that question better, perhaps, than I," said Edda, quite unmoved. "I am known—if not to fame—then, at least, in the neighbourhood of Racket Hall, in Yorkshire, as Edda Brend!"

Mrs. Priggs became pallid to ghastliness. Her lips parted as if to speak, but closed again tremulously. She stared at the beautiful girl as if Edda wore a Gorgon's head.

"You seem surprised to see me here, Mrs. Catharine—Priggs," said Edda easily. "I suppose you thought me buried for life on that dreary Yorkshire moor? I thought so myself, yesterday, but things never turn out as we want them to in this world, you see."

"What brought you here," asked the woman, huskily.

"The railway train, aided and abetted by a cab."

"I—I mean how came you here—at this house? How did you learn Miss Powys's name? What do you want of her?"

"Three questions all in a row. To answer you categorically, I came here in quest of certain information," said Edda, with a half stern inflection in her fresh young voice. "I learned Miss Powys's name through our mutual friend Mr. Nisbit, who tracked you home from Racket Hall and Hebden Bridge, just seven years ago. What I want of Miss Powys I will say to her, not to you."

For some moments Miss Powys's confidential attendant was dumb and motionless, but her livid countenance and staring eyes declared that she was suffering some deep and terrible emotion. She stared at the young girl as if fascinated, studying her face with hungry glances, as if to seek a resemblance to some one she had known, or to some preconceived idea of her. Then, beginning to recover herself, she glanced toward the door. It was shut, and the conversation could not therefore have been heard by any one without.

"I don't wonder you didn't recognise me at once, Mrs. Catharine—Priggs," said Edda, uttering the latter name as if it were an afterthought; "seeing me only in my sleep and so long ago, you know, you could have no idea how I would look with my eyes open and my countenance animated with its usual beaming expression. Besides, I am told that I have changed much in the past year or two."

Mrs. Priggs evidently could not understand the half-mocking humour of the audacious visitor. She continued to stare at her as a condemned man might stare at the waiting executioner. At last she arose and said:

"I will tell my mistress. I will come back to you immediately."

She went out of the room with a reluctant step and ascended the broad stair.

The minutes passed slowly until half an hour had gone. Edda was growing impatient—patience like meekness was not among her virtues—when Mrs. Priggs re-appeared, with a firmer step and a calm, unruffled visage.

"Miss Powys will see you, Miss Brend," she said, in a hard, business voice. "Be so good as to follow me to Miss Powys's boudoir."

Depositing her despised little bundle in the fauteuil she had occupied, Edda, with quickening pulse, followed the maid up the marble stair.

Chapter IV.

TERRIBLE QUESTIONS ARISING.

The returned heir of Charlewick did not delay an instant in assuming and asserting his new honours. No sense of decency, nor shadow of regret or affection for his noble father, occurred to restrain him. As the earl fell back upon his pillow dead, with a look of horror frozen upon his white face and staring from his eyes, Lord Odo Charlton strode to the bedside, felt his father's wrist, and said in his hard, cold voice, which rang out exultantly:

"He's dead. And I am Earl of Charlewick. I have come home to my very own, it seems."

He turned his gaze upon Lord Ronald and Miss Hellene in a manner at once triumphant and defiant. They shrank away from him, Hellene in horror, Ronald in disgust.

"Go to your own room, Hellene," said her lover, gently. "This is no place for you now."

He led her with tender courtesy to the door, and she went away weeping to her own chamber.

Then Lord Ronald, with a stern, set face, commanded the servant who waited in the corridor to summon Sir Henry Dawlish, the London physician. While this order was being obeyed, Lord Ronald re-entered the death-chamber and rang the bell loudly. The nurse and housekeeper and a few of the upper servants came hurrying in. Sir Henry Dawlish soon appeared. The room was speedily alive with subdued movements, soft whisperings, and the painful thrill of low sobbings.

Lord Odo Charlton remained standing at one side of the bed, his arms folded across his chest, his swarthy face wearing an inscrutable expression, his Spanish eyes of gloom shot with light so strange, so exultant, that those looking at him feared him. He watched every movement transpiring around him. He knew that his identity was as yet unsuspected by the London physician and by the household, and that he was looked upon as an intruder whose purpose was unknown.

"You had better retire, sir," said Sir Henry Dawlish. "This is no place for strangers."

The returned heir smiled grimly.

"No?" he said. "Well, I'm no stranger. I am the Earl of Charlewick!"

"You! Impossible!" cried Sir Henry, starting, believing the stranger demented. "Lord Ronald Charlton is now the earl in his grandfather's stead."

"So that young fellow is Ronald, Ernest's son?" said the new earl, with a glance at the pale, stern face of his nephew. "I heard to-day that Ernest died years ago, and that the old earl was ill unto death. I arrived in England to-day, and made all haste to return to Charlewick-le-Grand. How you stare! Can you not guess who I am? I was Lord Odo Charlton, the elder son of this dead earl. And by reason of his death I am the present earl."

Sir Henry Dawlish was dumb with amazement. Like others, he had accepted the theory that Lord Odo Charlton had been murdered twenty years before. His return was as a return from the dead. He disliked the new-comer at first sight, and he felt a quick sentiment of pity and sympathy for Lord Ronald, who had been so long known as his grandfather's heir.

The new earl read his heart like an open book.

"See here," said his lordship, roughly. "This is to be no Tichborne case—mind that. I'm Odo Charlton, and I can prove it. There are Mrs. Partlet, the old housekeeper, Mr. Graham, the land steward, and Mr. Delaney, the butler, yonder by the door. They'll all remember me well enough. I'm not a man to be easily forgotten."

The sunset had faded, and the room was filling with shadows. Some one dropped the curtains over the windows, and lit the wax candles in their clustering sconces on the mantel-piece. The new earl stepped out of the light gloom in the shadow of the bed-drapery, and approached the little group of weeping servitors near the door, addressing each by name.

They stared at him in terror, the housekeeper believing that she beheld a ghost. A few words from the new earl assured the trio that it was the lost Odo Charlton who stood before them in the flesh. The recognition brought more of sorrow than rejoicing. The land-steward and the butler looked at Lord Ronald in dismay, while the housekeeper wept and moaned in bitter grief.

"Come, come, Mrs. Partlet," said the new earl, impatiently, with a black scowl which she well remembered. "If you want to remain at Charlewick, you'd better be doing something to propitiate me. I want you to prepare for my use the best rooms in the house. I'm dead tired."

Mrs. Partlet hurried out of the room.

"Here, Graham," said the new earl, "come with me to the corner yonder, where we can be a little secluded. I've a few questions to ask you."

The land-steward slowly and heavily followed Lord Charlewick to the corner designated. It was a small recess beside the chimney. The earl flung himself into an easy-chair; Graham remained standing.

"You don't seem glad to see me, Graham," said his lordship. "I suppose you looked upon Lord Ronald as the future earl? What sort of fellow is he?"

The steward's glances wandered to the noble figure of Lord Ronald, as he stood by the bedside in consultation with Sir Henry Dawlish. There was no lavish display of grief in the face or manner of our hero, but he looked like one upon whom a great blow has fallen. He had loved his grandfather with the tenderest filial affection, and his very soul mourned for him, yet his face was calm and tearless.

"Lord Ronald is one of the noblest men in the world," replied the land-steward, huskily. "Every one who knows him loves him"

"A milksop, eh?"

"A braver man than Lord Ronald Charlton does not live, sir."

"Ah, you are his champion? Very good. Who was the girl he sent out of the room?"

"She was Miss Hellene Clair, the only child of Lord Clair, who lives abroad. She is motherless, and a great heiress in her own right. She is Lord Ronald's betrothed wife."

"Pity to disappoint her hopes of becoming a countess," muttered the earl. "I admire that style of woman myself. Is the Charlewick estate in a prosperous condition?"

"Never more so, my lord; but excuse, me, sir, is this a time to discuss questions like these? The earl is not yet cold—"

The steward paused as the new peer favoured him with a black scowl, like that which had frightened the housekeeper. That scowl seemed to transform the swarthy face into a demon's, and Mr. Graham recoiled in terror.

"I believe I am master here," said the earl, "and I certainly do not intend to hire my land-steward to give me lessons in propriety. Whatever I do you are to consider right and proper. The man who criticises me leaves my service and incurs my enmity. 'A word to the wise is sufficient.'"

The worthy Mr. Graham suppressed his indignation. Before he could speak, the chamber door opened, and the late earl's lawyer, Mr. Hartson, came quietly into the room.

He had been on his way to Charlewick-le-Grand and had encountered the earl's messenger when nearing his—the lawyer's—destination. He had learned, since his arrival in the house, that the earl had died, and the astounding news of Lord Odo's return had also been communicated to him.

He approached the bedside with a troubled, sorrowful visage, and looked upon the face of the dead. Then he exchanged a few words with Lord Ronald Charlton and Sir Henry Dawlish, the former communicating to him the last intentions of the dead earl.

"It's too late, now," said the lawyer, in a subdued tone. "If we could have foreseen the possibility of Lord Odo's return, I should have advised the earl to make a will, providing for you, Lord Ronald. But we had no reason to doubt that he had been murdered, and we had every reason to believe that he was dead. Where has he been all these twenty years? What is the mystery of his absence?"

"I do not know," said Lord Ronald. "There has been no time for explanations. I have not even spoken to him yet."

"The fellow may be an impostor," said the lawyer, suspiciously. "This Tichborne business may have put it into the head of some rascal to personate the lost Odo, and thus step into one of the grandest estates and positions in the kingdom. I should know the real Lord Odo anywhere, after any number of years. Come with me. I will speak to him, my lord."

Lord Ronald and the lawyer walked toward the new comer. He arose to receive them, smiling strangely.

"Hartson, as I live," said the new earl, holding out his right hand. "You haven't changed much in twenty years, Hartson, any more than I have done."

The lawyer, a keen-eyed, grizzled man, of unusual shrewdness and sagacity, and of proved integrity and devotion to the house of Charlewick, as his father had been before him, bent a close, searching scrutiny upon the dark Spanish face of the stranger. The sinister eyes met his with a mocking expression, yet with the old familiar glance he remembered. There was no room for the smallest possible doubt. This man was the missing elder son of the earl, come back after a mysterious absence of twenty years. The lawyer sighed heavily and did not refuse his hand in greeting to the returned heir.

"It is really Lord Odo Charlton," he said in a depressed voice. "Why did you never write to your noble father during all these years? Where have you been?"

"I am no witness at the bar to be cross-questioned, Hartson," said the new earl, with a shade of haughtiness. "Nor have I chosen you to be my father-confessor. And yet," he added, "I may as well tell you that I have spent the last twenty years in South America. I saw in an English paper now three months old, a notice of my father's serious illness. I concluded to return to England to look after my rights. I did not care to come before, for my father had cast me off, refusing even to see me, or communicate with me. What then should I have gained by an earlier return to England?"

"But you went so suddenly, my lord," said Hartson. "Your clothes, your dressing-case, your chambers, all seemed to show that your departure was not intended."

"That was well planned by me," said the new earl, with a dark smile. "My father had chosen to cast me off, and I desired him to think I had been murdered, until such time as I might choose to return and reveal myself. The explanation of the mystery is simple, is it not?"

It was the lawyer's private opinion that the mystery had not been fully explained, and that the last twenty years of Lord Odo Charlton's life held secrets which might never be revealed, but these did not concern him or Lord Ronald, and the identity of the returned heir could not be doubted. He was the earl in his father's stead, and Lord Ronald was still Lord Ronald Charlton, nothing more.

Mrs. Partlet appeared at the door to announce that the earl's rooms were ready. The still atmosphere of the chamber, the presence of death there, were not pleasant to the new Lord Charlewick. He went away to the rooms prepared for him.

He was astir early upon the following morning, going over the house and grounds before breakfast. After breakfast he ordered a horse, and rode over the home estate. He superintended the preparations for the funeral. He ordered Graham, the land-steward, to bring over his books for his—the earl's—perusal. He openly exulted in his new dignities, and made not the faintest pretence of regret for the death of his father, or show of respect for his memory. He openly declared that there had been no love lost between him and his parent, and that he should not become a hypocrite, and pretend to an affection he did not feel.

The body of the venerable earl lay in state at Charlewick le-Grand during the six days that followed his death. During that period Lord Ronald and the new earl met frequently, but they did not become friends. The new peer regarded his nephew with aversion from the very first, and before the week had ended he had grown to hate him. And hatred with Odo, Earl of Charlewick, was not merely intensified dislike, that contents itself with scowling looks and unpleasant words—it was with him a living passion, a volcano within his breast that seethed and burned until it should overflow in a terrible destruction.

During these six days Miss Hellene had kept her own rooms and the new earl had scarcely seen her. Lord Ronald spent hours with her daily in her boudoir, and their love strengthened in this dark hour of their mutual grief, becoming a strong and vital principle, which could die only with life itself.

During this week, also, the story of the earl's return had become bruited about England. The London newspapers rehearsed the tale of his disappearance, the theories concerning it, the supposition that he had been murdered, and the honours and wealth to which he had succeeded. He was likely to become a lion in the social world. Curious neighbours called upon him. Old friends of the family sought him out, welcoming him back with unaffected kindness, seeking to forget his early faults and errors.

He received them all in an overbearing, supercilious manner, stating that he had been in South America during the years of his mysterious absence, and openly evincing his satisfaction in his newly-acquired honours, exhibiting no show of respect whatever for the late earl's memory. He found a few to flatter and fawn upon him, but the friends of the family and most of the county families were disgusted with his conduct, and exceedingly cautious about forming an intimacy with him.

The earl was buried in state at the parish church, and the funeral was attended by a large concourse of friends.

After the last ceremonies, when the body had been consigned to the tomb, the new earl returned to Charlewick-le-Grand alone in his carriage. Lord Ronald Charlton, attended by Mr. Hartson, followed in the second carriage. They drove up to the grand old mansion a little later than the earl, and were met at the door by the hall porter, who said:

"My lord has given orders that you are to go to the library, Lord Ronald. His lordship will see you and Mr. Hartson immediately."

Lord Ronald led the way to the library.

It was a lofty apartment of great length, with three gigantic bay windows, one at each end and one at the side. The immense line of books reached nearly to the ceiling along nearly one entire side. There were long tables laden with maps, charts, atlasses and globes. There were writing-desks and writing-tables, easy chairs and swing chairs, couches and cushions—everything to tempt a student to its quiet recesses. The colours of the carpet and upholstery were dark, rich, and quiet, and a peaceful, restful atmosphere pervaded the place.

The late earl had been in the habit of spending most of his time here among his books. With a sudden emotion, as memories of hours spent here with his grandfather smote upon him, Lord Ronald Charlton went to one of the windows with a quivering lip.

Mr. Hartson sat down at one of the tables.

"I forgot to tell you, Lord Ronald," he said, "but all the servants in a body have given warning. The new earl discharged the housekeeper and butler this morning, and the under-servants refuse to stay. The new earl begins his reign at Charlewick-le-Grand after a stormy fashion."

"It will be hard for Mrs. Partlet and Delany, the butler," said Lord Ronald, not looking around. "They were born on the estate, the parents of both of them having been confidential upper-servants here before them. I know they suffer at the prospect of leaving the dear old house. They came to me last evening, Hartson, but I could not comfort them. I shall have a little home of my own somewhere and at some time, I daresay, and then I may be able to take them into my service. I suppose my dismissal from Charlewick is coming now."

Hartson's face flushed.

"Nonsense!" he exclaimed. "The earl will never turn you out of the place that you've been taught to believe would be your own. Why, you were looked upon as the future earl. He cannot outrage decency so far as to send you away from your rightful home."

"You know better than that, Hartson," said Lord Ronald, quietly. "You know that Odo, Earl of Charlewick, is likely to scruple at nothing."

"Yes, I know it," sighed the lawyer. "Speak to him gently, Lord Ronald, when he comes. His enmity to you would be deadly. Besides, your presence here is essential to Miss Clair. What will become of her in his house without a friend?"

"I have thought of that. She must go to her father."

"Her father is a villain," said the lawyer emphatically. "He is poor; she is rich. I know that Lord Clair will not permit his daughter to marry you in your changed circumstances. And I know also that the earl has fallen in love with Miss Clair."

Lord Ronald turned around with a start.

"Impossible, Hartson!" he exclaimed. "She has remained in her rooms ever since he came."

"Nevertheless, he loves her. He encountered her in the upper hall this morning, and I chanced to witness the encounter. She passed him with a bow only, and he turned and looked after her with an expression of admiration—more, with a determination to possess her. I read his resolution in his eyes. And he never set his heart on anything but that he got what he desired, by fair means or foul."

"He won't win Miss Clair."

"Her father will sell her to him. Lord Ronald, this return of your uncle is a most unhappy piece of business. Poor Miss Clair! Her father will prove her worst enemy while pretending to be her best friend. She will have no one to protect her or watch over her but you. Her mother was the rich Miss Vavasour, who was brought up by her great-grandmother, the great-great-grandmother of Miss Clair, and this aged lady must be nearly a hundred years old. This old Mrs. Vavasour never liked Lord Clair, and would never see young Miss Clair, your betrothed wife, and she hates his lordship as she might hate poison. I do not believe that old Mrs. Vavasour, if she has the mental and physical strength, would do aught to befriend Miss Clair in any strait, and I presume the venerable lady is in a complete dotage."

Before Lord Ronald could reply, Odo, Earl of Charlewick, entered the room.

He was dressed in mourning, but his face was wreathed in sinister smiles, and there was a deep glow in his eyes that told of inward satisfaction. He bowed to Hartson, and bestowed a supercilious nod upon Lord Ronald.

"Did my father leave a will, Hartson?" asked the earl abruptly. "I can find no document answering such description among his private papers and yet he possessed immense freehold estates."

"He made no will, my lord. On that last day, at a late hour, he reflected upon the possibility of your return, and sent a messenger to urge me to hasten to him. He wanted me to make a will bequeathing his freehold estates to his grandson, Lord Ronald Charlton."

"Indeed! If he desired to provide for his grandson, he should have done so at an earlier period. But on whose authority do you state this intention of my late father? He did not tell his messenger what he wanted of you. I presume your informant was Lord Ronald himself; and as he is the one who would have been benefited by such a will, his testimony is valueless. I cannot believe this late-told tale."

Lord Ronald restrained the answer that rose to his lips.

"Your nephew is the soul of truth and honour, my lord," said Hartson, "and Miss Clair can corroborate his testimony. Does it seem reasonable that the earl should leave his beloved grandson a beggar, or that after the idea came to him of your possible return that he should not make provision for his future? Pardon me, but I trust that your lordship will carry out the wishes of the late earl, and provide for your nephew."

"If my father, who knew him so well, did not provide for him, you need not expect me to do so," said the earl brusquely. "I believe the youth has some five hundred pounds a year which he receives through his mother. Why, that ought to be a fortune to him. He can marry some nice girl, and settle down upon a country place in virtue and happiness."

"My lord," said Lord Ronald, "you know that I am to marry Miss Clair. Be good enough, therefore, not to lose sight of that fact in planning my future."

Lord Charlewick's face darkened.

"You can't marry Miss Clair now that you are poor," he observed harshly. "If you did not release her of your own will, her father would not permit her to give herself to a fortune hunter. Yes, that is it. In continuing your suit to her, you stigmatise yourself as a fortune hunter. Let me tell you, young man, the day of your glory is over! Miss Clair will be Countess of Charlewick, but not as your wife. Understand."

"I do understand, but you will find yourself mistaken."

"We'll see about that. Miss Clair's father likes me, and I prefer his friendship even to hers, since he is now her legal guardian. I have written to him inviting him to come here. In fact, I wrote the day after my arrival, and he will be here to-day. I shall pay his debts and he will give me his daughter to wife. What have you to say to that?"

"That you will scheme in vain. Miss Clair will be true to me."

"We'll see," said the earl with an evil glance. "You do not know the pressure that will be brought to bear on your lady-love. But why do I waste speech upon you? I have only to say that I desire you to take your departure from Charlewick within the hour. This house has ceased to be your home."

"My lord—"

"Not a word, Hartson, or you cease to be my solicitor," said the earl.

"I have served your father long and faithfully, my lord," said Hartson, turning pale, "but I cannot serve you. I beg you to bestow your business upon some one else."

"Then begone with your noble protege!" exclaimed the earl, furiously. "If you are in this house till evening, or if you attempt to see Miss Clair, Lord Ronald Charlton, I'll have you expelled from the place by one of the footmen. Go!"

Lord Ronald bowed calmly, and moved toward the door. Although commanding his own spirit so nobly, it must not be supposed that he was insensible to the insults that had been heaped upon him. He was angry, but he would not allow his enemy to see his anger.

Hartson arose to follow the young lord.

They passed into the hall in silence, and in time to witness an important arrival. A carriage had drawn up at the door, and a gentleman had alighted from it, and was ascending the house steps to the open doors.

"It's Lord Clair," said Hartson. "Your misfortunes have all come at once, Lord Ronald. Your enemies will combine against you and Miss Clair. And you are helpless!"

(To be continued).

The most wholesome and nutritious of confection is far less consumed than it would be were it not for the greatly adulterated articles sold under the name of chocolate. Every cake of chocolate bearing the name of Cadbury is guaranteed to consist solely of pure Cocoa and white sugar, and may therefore be given to children with perfect safety. Chocolate makers by special appointment to the Queen.

Trade Notes.

CONSETT NEW TOWN HALL COMPANY.

It was announced on Saturday, that the directors of the Consett New Town Hall Co., Limited, had resolved to recommend the payment to the shareholders of a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. upon the past year's operations.

HAMSTEELS COLLIERIES COKE OVENS.

All the coke ovens at Hamsteels Colliery were put out on Saturday owing to the depression in the iron trade, and the consequent poor demand for coke. This will throw a large number of men out of employment.

ESH WINNING COLLIERY.

On Saturday, a number of workmen received notice to leave leave their employment at Esh Colliery, belonging to Messrs Pease and Partners. The cause is alleged want of pit-room.

THE CONSETT WATER COMPANY.

At a meeting of the directors of the Consett Waterworks Company held at Durham, on Wednesday afternoon, it was resolved to recommend the payment of a dividend of 7 per cent. per annum for the past half-year; thus being at the same rate as the dividends paid in the two preceding half-years.

THE STOPPAGE OF IVESTON COLLIERY.

The notices tendered to all the hands employed at the Iveston Colliery, belonging to the Consett Iron Company, lapsed on Friday, and on Saturday the pit was laid idle and seems likely to remain so for some time to come. Between 200 and 300 men and boys are affected and some have already gone in search of fresh situations. The Newcastle *Journal* says:—It is an ominous sign when the Consett Iron Company, which converts its surplus coal into coke and sends it to the market, talks of restricting the output. The affairs of the company are managed so economically—we once heard of the cashier refusing to settle an account for £565 17s, because the cheque forwarded in payment thereof did not include the odd shillings—and every penny that can be made is extracted from all departments of the huge concern, that trade must be in a bad way indeed when coal or coke can no longer be sold at a profit. This may be taken as a sign that the tide of prosperity in the coal trade is already ebbing, and it is an early fulfilment of the warning which was sounded before the end of the year by one of the largest employers on Tyneside.

PRESENTATION TO A WORKMENS' DELEGATE AT CONSETT.

On Saturday night, the members of No. 13 Lodge of the Amalgamated Society of Enginemen, Cranemen, Boilermen, and Firemen held their annual dinner at Messrs L. W. Rowe and Co's. Cocoa Rooms, Middle Street, Consett. Upwards of forty members partook of the repast, which reflected the highest credit upon the caterers. The cloths were removed, and Mr W. Hutchinson, Consett, was voted to the chair, and was supported by Mr J. Summerbell, Consett, Mr Carr, (district secretary), Stockton, Mr W. Charlton, Consett, and others.

The CHAIRMAN said they were met together to do honour to a gentleman. (Applause.) Since the formation of the society Mr Summerbell had acted as their representative, and to show their respect and esteem for his services in the past, they were about, they had determined, to hand over to him a small memento in the shape of a portrait of the recipient in a massive gilt frame, executed most artistically by Mr Venice Dunn, photographer, Consett. They would all agree with him that Mr Summerbell fully deserved the present for the able manner in which he had worked for the society and their interests. (Applause.) The testimonial had been loyally subscribed to by the members, and he hoped Mr Summerbell would value the same.

Mr CARR made the presentation. He said he was glad to be present that evening, as it was many years since first he stood up amongst the people of Consett. He was then a very little boy, when at the Consett Wesleyan Sunday School anniversary he recited a piece. Since that time he had seen many changes. They were met on a joyful occasion that night. When asked to make the presentation, he answered, "Yes, gladly," knowing quite well that the gentleman they were about to do honour to fully deserved it. He did not know at that moment when he made the promise how he would be circumstanced; but he was determined that the members of this society should have his presence. (Cheers.) They were all aware that his time was not his own. The duties connected with the office were great, and Mr Summerbell knew exceedingly well what it all meant. They were not like other trades where they fixed a maximum and minimum with regard to their wages. Going through the country, he found that the districts had different modes and times of labour. They were met together for a two-fold object. One was to build each other up in trades unionism, and the other was to present Mr Summerbell with a small memento for services rendered. This was the object of the gathering. The question was after asked why had they such a society? Why were they not content to be booked on to the other societies? Simply because they found out that it would not do, and they could not get their rights. They fought better as they were at present. Two years ago they established the society. Some said that they were always in dispute and trouble. Yes, they were; but they were only fighting for their rights and privileges. During the two years of that existence they had accomplished a great deal, and would compare favourable with any other society. They were not satisfied with what had been accomplished, but they were going to do more. (Cheers.) The number of members in the Consett lodge was not sufficient. They ought to be able to muster between 200 and 300 members out of this district. If they wished to be successful they must have the majority. At Hull, they had secured for their members an advance of 15 per cent with a reduction of working hours to the extent of six hours per week (Cheers.) Now, this was a practical work. Each member ought to work shoulder to shoulder and persuade his fellow-men to join the society. After pointing out when it was most opportune to attempt to gain concessions from their employers, the speaker went on to say that they ought to try and raise themselves up in the social and moral scale. With regard to the presentation he was pleased to think that such a pleasant feeling existed amongst them. It showed the absence of jealousy and the generosity of the members. (Applause.) They often heard people say "what a splendid fellow he was," after an individual was dead and gone. He believed a man, if he was diligent in his duty, ought to receive the recognition that he deserved whilst he was alive. (Cheers.) He had watched Mr Summerbell, and his tenacity of purpose he admired. (Cheers.) He stood to his fort, and his aim was to achieve that which was right. He was manly and upright, and stood by his principles, and fought bravely for his fellow-men. (Cheers.) They had a sound representative in Mr Summerbell. He had seen many portraits, but he thought that he never saw one so much like the original, and it was faithfully pourtrayed. (Cheers.) He asked Mr Summerbell, on behalf of the members, to accept the gift. He had no doubt but what he would treasure the same, and that it would grace the walls of his house for years to come. The gift no doubt would encourage him to go forth as their representative, and the duties devolving upon him would be discharged faithfully. (Cheers.)

Mr SUMMERBELL, on rising to acknowledge the gift, received quite an ovation. He observed that he often got into a fix, and it was queer getting out sometimes. When he worked for a fortnight's money, he went and received the cash most cheerfully, because he was entitled to it. It was quite different on that occasion. There had been a great deal said by the last speaker about how he had done his duty as their representative, and how he had merited the portrait they had presented to him. Be that as it may, he could only say that he had attempted to do his duty whilst holding the position they had placed him in. (Applause.) He thanked them for the testimonial, and the same would be treasured by him. The present was for work done. He had often felt grieved because he had not done really what he would have liked. Mr Carr told them that he (the speaker) showed a great deal of spirit. There was no doubt but what Mr Carr did see his spirit when they were at Hartlepool. (Laughter.) He could only say that the party who caused the mischief that day did not get as much as they deserved. (Hear.) He commenced work when he was ten years old, and he had seen many changes in connection with their work since that time. They had had some stiff fighting in the past, but it had done them good. When he first took upon himself to be their representative he felt a little nervous, but that had disappeared now. It was now 27 years since he came to the district. For a long time there was only one or two amonght them that had the courage to take up their grievances. The two principals were W. Bainbridge and the late W. Gladders, and they used to go with their rights to the employers. The first move for the payment of overtime was made by himself and another young man in 1865. Their traffic manager at that time was Mr Charlton, and he informed the deputation that after the men had worked 10 hours per day he would pay them overtime. Since that time they had made progress slowly, and they had gained the position they held at present. When the society came into the district, he thought it the very thing for them. He told his comrades if they established the society they would have to prepare themselves for some fighting. They had found his words were true. The other trades societies fought against them till they saw it was no use; but he was glad to say that they were once more holding out the right hand of fellowship. He had allowed himself to be placed in a position compared to a leader of an army. As long as they stood man to man he thought they would succeed in gaining their rights. (Applause.) It was said that enginemen were the most envious men living. He did not believe such was the case. Bad spirits did rise sometimes, but not to the extent tha they used to do in previous years. The man who carried an envious spirit within his heart would suffer the most. The society had done a great deal of good; but there was another step they should take. They ought to form a benefit society amongst themselves, and do away with the "gatherings." Some of them were well prepared in case of sickness; but there were others who were not, and he thought they ought to have a society from whence they could accrue some benefit during sickness. The gift presented to him would be taken care of, and one which he would value for years to come. (Applause.) If the gift had been in money he would have refused it. It was there for a future memento, and if had satisfied them in the past, it was still his intention to do his duty whilst he acted as their representative. (Cheers.)

The remainder of the evening was spent in harmony. Songs, &c., were rendered by Messrs Pearson, Bainbridge, and Thompson, Consett. Mr Wilson, Leadgate, acted as accompanist.

After votes of thanks, the proceedings were closed by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

CONSERVATISM AT MEDOMSLEY.

On Monday night, the annual meeting of the Medomsley Polling Districts Conservative Association was held in the Temperance Hall, Mr G. Hunter presiding over a very large muster of members, including Messrs R. Moffat, R. Calvert, G. Lane, Thos. Hunter, Fletcher, J. Ross, sen., Boyd, Westwood; Winter, Allendale Cottages; Glasgow, Derwent Cottages; J. Leath, secretary; J. G. Murray, J. Royston Booth, Unionist agent, and others.—The statement of accounts presented by Mr Leath was considered satisfactory, there being a balance to carry forward.—The election of officers resulted as below:—President, Mr G. Hunter; vice-president, Mr G. Lane; secretary, Mr J. Leath; treasurer, Mr R. Calvert; delegates to the Central Council, Messrs R. Moffatt, J. Ross, sen., R. Campbell, T. Hunter.—A representative committee was likewise chosen.—Arrangements were made for carrying on the Unionist campaign pending the general election.

On Saturday afternoon, in connection with the Medomsley Lodge of the Loyal Orange Institution of England, a tea was provided in the club room of the Royal Oak Hotel, Medomsley. About 100 persons sat down to the repast. Afterwards, Dr Mann, Allendale Cottages, was called to the chair, and Mr J. Royston Booth, of Consett (Unionist agent for North-West Durham) filled the vice-chair. Speeches were delivered by the chairman and vice-chairman, and songs were sung during the evening by Messrs Greer, Wallace, McKinnell, Kerr, Mann, Booth, and others. Messrs J. K. Wood, Consett, and S. Mace, jun., Medomsley, played the accompaniments.

MR JOHN WILSON, M.P., AT WATERHOUSES.

On Monday night, Mr John Wilson, M.P., gave a lecture in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Waterhouses, entitled, "Labour: Its situations, aspirations, and powers," to an attentive audience. The chair was occupied by Rev P. Macphail, Waterhouses.

Mr WILSON, in referring to labour, said that it was founded on capital, resulting in labour as a mere exchange; as wages were paid from capital and only increased in proportion. Wages were not paid in advance, but simply in accordance with the profits that were accruing from the amount of labour done. They ought not to look upon capitalists as all round enemies. Business men looked upon each other as their equal, and watched keenly any display of avarice on the part of the other for his own interest. At the present day, the old trades unionists were looked upon by the new as only fit to be kept as a treasure. They were anxious to change the constitution, while the old trades unionists were wont to be like armies, once securing a possession then march on to another. He deemed miners' aspirations lay, not in the number of shillings or pounds obtained at the colliery office, but they should consider the best and most economical way of spending their wages. In reverting to the Irish question, as it relates to wages, not only would it give satisfaction to the Irish people, so as to procure better landlords, but make labour in such a condition that they would stop at home. (Applause.) Wages in a great degree were regulated by the amount of labour in the market. In consequence, they wanted shorter hours in order to disburse those classes of labour. (Hear.) Having recently visited the county of Northumberland, he had been informed of their intention to shorten the hours of the operators of co-operative stores to 48 hours per week. He (the speaker) could not see any reason why they should not try and introduce that system in the county of Durham. In speaking of the Eight Hours Bill, Mr Wilson deemed a universal eight hours unfair to labour. There was no comparison between a man exposed to the obnoxious gases, impure air, dangerous and excessive toil in a mine with that of a man engaged in an office, nor with a man who works in a field to a man working at a furnace. At Newcastle, Mr Gladstone referred to the power of the people, who ought to make proper use of their suffrage. They could not add to morality but to the lump.

Votes of thanks brought the meeting to a close. The proceeds were for the school fund.

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NORTH-WEST DURHAM WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AT CONSETT.

SPEECH BY SIR E. GREY, M.P.

The members of the North-Western Durham Women's Liberal Association had their annual festival on Wednesday. In the afternoon, a good number of ladies partook of tea in the New Town Hall, Consett. Afterwards, a business meeting was held, when the annual report and balance-sheet were adopted, and the following officers appointed for the coming season:—President, Mrs Atherley-Jones; vice-president, Mrs Pumphrey, Elm Park; secretary, Miss R. M. Gibson, Snow's Green House; treasurer, Mrs Rounthwaite, Benfieldside. A great many ladies were nominated for the committee, and the subjoined were elected:—Mrs Peile, Mrs A. Brodie, Mrs Davey, Miss Orr, Mrs Eltringham, Mrs Barclay, Mrs Cooke, Mrs Brown, Mrs Douglas, Mrs Wheatley, and Miss Forster.

In the evening, a great public meeting took place, when the spacious hall was well filled by members of both sexes. The chair was taken by Mrs J. Pumphrey, and she was supported on the platform by Sir Edward Grey, M.P.; Messrs Percy Corder, Liberal agent, Tyneside Division; John Orr, Annfield Plain; Adam Brodie, Liberal agent, Consett; James Palliser, Blackhill; J. Pumphrey, Elm Park; Hy. Caras, Shotley Bridge; Mrs Peile, Greenwood; Miss Gibson; Mrs and Miss Brodie, Consett; Miss Orr, Annfield Plain; Mrs J. Eltringham and others.

The CHAIRWOMAN, at the outset, read a telegram from Mr W. Logan, President of the North-West Durham Liberal Association, stating that he was exceedingly sorry that he could not attend. They had invited Mrs Spence-Watson to preside over the gathering; but owing to the illness of one of her daughters she had been obliged to go abroad. This was a great disappointment, as they all knew that Mrs Spence-Watson was an ardent and distinguished Liberal, who could not easily be replaced, and she was the founder of the present association. (Cheers.) They often heard it asked what did women want with such an association? Their object and purpose was to educate and encourage women to take an interest in public affairs. (Applause.) She believed women ought to have a voice in these matters. (Hear.) Some people contended that they ought to be silent with regard to politics, but she thought otherwise. Women's interests were not always the same as men's. They believed it was very unjust to women if men had to make all the laws, and they to have no voice in the matter whatever. Their motive was good, and they wished to secure equal rights for women. They wanted, if possible, to bring some pressure to bear upon the hon. member for the division (Mr Atherley-Jones), so that he would vote for Women's Suffrage. (Cheers.) People who had no votes gained no interest whatever at the hands of public men. The women had not a vote, and she thought they had been neglected by the House of Commons. (Applause.) A woman might live in a house for sixty years, and yet never have a political vote, and this was a thing that ought to be eradicated. (Applause.) She once remembered the time when many working-men had not a vote, but this matter had been remedied. Why should not women's rights be gone into the same way. (Applause.) English people were very found of having fairplay, but she considered it very unfair that women should have no voice in the country. She appealed to those present, and said if they could help them in any way to do so. She wished them to bring pressure to bear upon Mr Atherley-Jones at his next meeting, so that they could be able to get his promise that he would vote in favour of them securing their rights. (Cheers.)

Miss GIBSON read the annual report, which was as follows:—

The North-West Durham Women's Liberal Association has now completed its second year of existence.

We held our annual meeting on the 18th of Dec., 1890, in the Temperance Hall, Blackhill, beginning with a tea, which was well attended. Miss Fothergill, from the Central National Society for Women's Suffrage, spoke on "Women's Suffrage." The Blackhill Mission Band very kindly came and played for us, and we had some other music and speeches.

A drawing-room meeting was held in Christmas week at Mrs Pumphrey's house, to consider General Booth's "Darkest England" scheme.

A drawing-room meeting was held somewhat later at Miss Gibson's house, to consider the licensing laws, and the discussion was lively and interesting.

Our summer meeting in 1891 was a public tea, followed by a meeting, at Shotley Spa, on the 26th of August. The meeting was addressed by Mr Orr, vice-president of the North-West Durham Liberal Association; by Mr Nesbitt and Mr Beckingham, of Ryton; by Miss Gibson and Mrs Pumphrey.

Miss Gibson and Mrs Stanbury, of London, went over to Annfield Plain in the autumn, and held a meeting at Mr Orr's house.

Five committee meetings have been held during the past year.

The work of our association is twofold, our aim being not only to promote sound Liberal principles, and to spread political knowledge in our own division, but also to do what in us lies to influence the great Women's Liberal Federation in what we consider the path of true Liberalism. In that Federation there are two parties. One party, at present the majority, believes that the Women's Federation should take no independent political line of its own, but should merely back up the official policy of the Liberal party; the minority, commonly called the "Progressive" party, thinks that a political society of women ought, with a united voice, to demand of the great Liberal party equal political rights for women. If the Women's Federation don't do this, who will?

Our own association is, we believe, of one mind in supporting this "Progressive" party, thinking, as we do, that the abolition of privilege is of the very essence of Liberalism.

Miss Gibson and Mrs Eltringham attended the annual council meeting of the Federation in London, last May, as delegates from this association, and gave all the support they could to the "Progressive" party. The "Progressive" party was beaten, but we shall try again next year; and if our own association can increase its numbers, it will become entitled to fuller representation on the council.

That ardent Radical, Lady Carlisle, is the leader of the "Progressive" party in the Federation. Miss Gibson represented our own association at a meeting called by Lady Carlisle at Naworth Castle, to form a union of all the "Progressive" Associations in the North of England, and she undertook to help Lady Carlisle in founding new associations in neighbouring divisions. Associations are being formed in the Houghton-le-Spring division.

We propose to affiliate our own association to this Northern Union.

Miss Gibson and Mrs Adam Brodie represented our association also at a conference of Women's Liberal Associations, which met in Newcastle on the 1st of November, in connection with the general Liberal Federation.

Miss GIBSON stated that the balance-sheet was satisfactory, which was more than could be said with regard to some political associations. (Applause.) She had the honour of moving the following resolution:—

"That this meeting desires to express its confidence in Mr Gladstone, and pledges itself to support the Liberal policy; and believing that the Liberal party exists to make war against privilege, hopes to see the admission of women to political rights placed forthwith upon the Liberal programme." (Cheers).

She, as a woman, expressed her full approval of what the previous speaker had said. (Hear.) They were trying to act upon the old proverb in order to help themselves in this question. (Applause.) They found that if they wished the thing to be done, they must do it themselves. If they went on striving, in the course of time the men would be sorry for them, and would hold out their hands to help them. (Laughter and applause.) What they wanted for themselves was political rights. When they asked for this, they were told that they were asking for something they knew nothing about. This was wrong, and a mistake, and men were coming to see that it was delusion. There were still some men who sneered at the idea of women having a vote, but there were others who failed to see why they should not have one. (Applause.) If this was right, then there was no reason that they should not have one. (Applause.) They had been told that Englishmen loved fairplay, and she considered they ought to have fairplay in this matter. On the Labour Commission they were asked to place one woman upon the same to represent their class, but they were refused. She asked if this was fairplay? (A voice: "No.") They had an idea that women were represented by their husbands, but she would say that they were only represented indirectly. (Applause.) In conclusion, she advised those present to try the chairwoman's plan, and ask Mr Atherley-Jones to give a promise not to vote against their Bill. (Applause.) For her own part she had tried him by conversation and letter, and she could say that he would not vote it. If they succeeded in getting his promise, they would be helping forward their cause. (Applause.)

Mr ORR (President of the Durham County Mechanics' Association) seconded the resolution. He thought that sufficient had been said to convince the ladies that they ought to have some voice in the construction of the laws of this country. For a long time he had been in favour of the thing, but he was aware of the fact that there were some who thought if such was the case it would be very dangerous. He was pleased that the ladies had been so fortunate in securing the services of Mr Grey. The resolution was with reference to a vote of confidence in Mr Gladstone. They knew that the majority of the electors of North-West Durham were strong adherents to Mr Gladstone's principles—(cheers)—and Mr Dunville, the Unionist candidate, was beginning to realise that such was the case. (Laughter.) The speaker next made reference to the cruelties and hardships endured by women workers in the nail-making industry and certain fertile trades, which, he said, were a disgrace to the country, and required some alteration. This was a matter, along with other things, which ought to be taken up by the ladies. He considered women ought to be raised to such a position as to be able to raise their voices in the affairs of the nation in order to help these people. He trusted that the ladies would take the hint and bring pressure to bear on their hon. member, and make him vote for women's suffrage. (Applause.)

Sir E. GREY, M.P., who was accorded a hearty reception, congratulated the people of Consett upon having such a strong Women's Liberal Association in that division, and remarked that wherever there was a strong Women's Association they generally found a strong Men's Liberal Association as well. (Applause.) He felt convinced that at the next general election they would make sure of the return to Parliament of Mr Atherley-Jones—(applause)—who had proved himself a conspicuously active and independent member of the Liberal party, and supported the same. (Cheers.) He wished to say a word or two in reference to the influence of women upon politics. It was rather late in the day to discuss the question as to whether women ought to take up political work. Had not the Primrose League been at it for a long time, and more recently a Women's Liberal Unionist Association had been established to carry out political work. The other day, Mr Chamberlain addressed the women Unionists, and encouraged them to take active part in political work, and asked them to get votes for the Liberal Unionist party. (Laughter.) A somewhat difficult task had been imposed upon them. (Laughter.) It seemed rather hard to start a new association to perform such a gigantic task as that. (Renewed laughter.) Mr Chamberlain further went on to tell the women Unionists that they must on no account question the policy of the party, or hope to direct or inspire its policy. (Laughter.) He thought that if a man asked women to take up such work he ought to take up the question and say what their rights were in the matter. (Applause.) They must have public opinion before they could do anything. They ought to be careful so as to get public opinion on the right side. It was the basis on which all political work was built. It should be their aim to get it as broad as possible. It follows sooner or later that men would come to the conclusion that to withhold votes from women was neither reason nor logical. (Applause.) He hoped they would succeed in getting Mr Atherley-Jones on their side. (Cheers.) Having described the object of politics, the speaker went on to say that the next general election would soon be upon them, and would be fought on strictly party lines, and he wished to speak upon some of the questions they would be fighting upon. (Applause.) There could be no doubt as to the issue of that election. Rossendale had done something, and had shown them a splendid example—(cheers)—and what Rossendale could do would be accomplished in other parts of the country. He thought it needed very little imagination to conceive what was possible for the constituencies to do at the coming election. The Rossendale victory had inflicted a great blow, not only upon the Unionist party, but the Liberal Unionist party as well. He (Sir Edward) believed that they had something to do with the Unionist party in North-West Durham. That party was at the present time in very great distress. It had lately been changing its leadership in the House of Commons. He had read that the Liberal Unionists would have given a good deal if it had only been Mr Chamberlain instead of Lord Hartington who had been elevated to the House of Lords. (Laughter.) Never was a leader put into office in such an atmosphere as Mr Chamberlain had been. (Laughter.) He was told that he was only a leader who must obey his chief in the House of Lords. (Laughter.) He thought that when Parliament next met there should be a special vote for the construction of a telephone from the House of Commons to the House of Lords, with the Duke of Devonshire's mouth at one end of the telephone, and Mr Chamberlain continually at the other end. (Loud laughter.) The Liberal Unionists were the recipients of some hard things said against them, which was not fair. (Laughter.) They were sometimes called turncoats. The Home Rule party called them, but that was hardly correct. They were not exactly turncoats, but the coats they insisted upon wearing were very old and threadbare. (Laughter.) The Liberal Unionist comment on the Rossendale election was to the effect that the Gladstonians had not won the seat fairly, inasmuch as they had talked too little upon Ireland, and too much on home affairs. (Laughter.) He would now leave this matter, and turn their attention to the Newcastle programme. He (the speaker) stated that it covered a great deal both of home affairs and Irish affairs. (Applause). It was argued that the Liberal party was not sincere about the proposals embodied therein, but that the measures were merely put forward for the simple purpose of getting into office. "The vote was at the bottom of it." Well, he admitted that this was so, and was not ashamed to say so. It was not a programme unless it appealed to the voters for their votes. (Applause). It was only by means of disclosing a certain programme, and thereby appealing to the wishes of the electors, that a party could expect to obtain votes. Prior to 1880, the Tories represented county constituencies; now they had Liberals sitting for county divisions. Some people did not treat the Liberal party fairly. They were informed that they had no business men amongst them; but his version of the thing was quite different. He was very much struck with the remark made by the Liberal Unionist candidate for Gateshead, which was to the effect that they had to take everything second-hand from Mr Gladstone. This was not true. The Liberal party did not owe to Gladstone the convictions of their opinions which they expressed from time to time. (Cheers). Dealing with the Irish question, Sir Edward said that although the country did not decide for Home Rule at the 1885 election, it did not decide against the scheme. The fact was that in 1886 the country did not decide against Home Rule, but gave a definite opinion against coercion; and, as far as Home Rule was concerned, the constituencies asked for time to consider the proposal. This the electors had done since 1886, and nothing had transpired since that time to induce the people to vote against Home Rule, but rather to favour it. (Applause). It was true that the National party were split into two different sections, but the wish of these two parties was still in favour of the scheme. (Applause). The speaker quite agreed with the force of the statements of Mr Asquith and other members of the Liberal party that before the next election there should be some further disclosure as to the principles of Home Rule, and doubtless this information would be forthcoming. (Applause). What was the plea put forward by the Unionist party for the production of the terms of the Bill? They simply wanted the plan of Home Rule so that they could pull the thing to pieces. If they could not do so justly, they would do so unjustly. In 1886, the Government promised an Irish Local Government Bill, but the measure was overdue, and had not been disclosed. The country had now become alive to the manner in which Ireland had been treated in the past, and it was still a blot on the Government of the present day, in spite of all that Mr Balfour and his friends might say. (Applause). The Liberal party had not changed its mind with regard to the Liberal policy. They had gone in for Home Rule, and if it was right or wrong, they did not mean to back out of it now. (Loud cheers). There was some talk of starting a separate Labour party in the country. As long as the Liberal party remained a progressive party, then they ought to receive the support of the labouring classes. If the Liberal party ceased to move forward—became dead or stagnant—then he could understand the trades unions advocating Labour representatives in Parliament, but there was sufficient embodied in the Liberal programme at the present time to enlist the sympathy and approbation of the most advanced members of the Liberal party. Sir Edward, however, recommended that the Liberal party should show their sincerity by supporting labour candidates wherever expedient, and removing the disabilities which prevented labour candidates getting into Parliament. (Cheers.) Therefore, he thought the two sections ought to work together—for the present at least. (Applause.) The speaker concluded by adversely criticising the Birmingham programme, and declared there was "nothing in it." He said the present party could not do better than say amen and dissolve, and he urged upon all present to see that they got the right man to represent them at the next general election. (Applause.)

Mr P. CORDER also supported the resolution, and pointed out why they should extend the suffrage to women. Adverting to Ireland, the speaker said they were asked by the Unionist party for the plan, which he considered was a very unfair question. It had been pointed out by the party that they had satisfied Ireland. When asked to prove it they would say that they had satisfied the aspirations of the people. (A voice: "Never.") If that was the case, he would ask the Unionist party why had they not won bye-elections in the country. (Cheers.) This, he thought, was sufficient proof in itself that they had not satisfied the aspirations of the people. The Liberal party were abreast with the times and were doing all in their power in furtherance of the interests of the working-classes. He had no hesitation in saying that when the time came the electors of this country would send back to Westminster Mr Gladstone and his party to take the reins of office. (Cheers.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mrs BRODIE, seconded by Mrs J. ELTRINGHAM, a vote of thanks was passed to Sir Edward Grey and Mr Corder, and these gentleman having replied, the proceedings terminated.

THE PROPOSED LOCAL BOARD FOR ANNFIELD PLAIN.

At the last quarterly meeting of the Durham Council, on Wednesday afternoon—Mr J. Lloyd Wharton presiding—The Clerk (Mr Simey) read a memorial from 472 ratepayers applying for the formation of a Local Government Board district at Annfield Plain.—Councillor Curry moved:—"That, in the opinion of this Council, a *prima facie* case has been made out for a proposal for the conversion into an urban district of a part of the rural sanitary district of Lanchester, including:—(1) A part of the township of Greencroft lying north of Tower Lane and Hanging Stone Lane. (2) That part of the township of Collierley lying east of Pontop Pike Lane and south of Fondley Sett Lane. (3) That part of the township of Langley lying north of a road running south of Langley Moor Farm until it joins the Local Government district for Stanley, as shewn on the plan, and coloured red.—After a short discussion, the Chairman suggested, as a new Council would shortly be elected, that the matter be left over to the next meeting.—This was agreed to.

LOCAL GOSSIP.

We are glad to learn that Supt. Oliver, of Consett, has so far recovered that he was enabled to take a short walk on Tuesday. His familiar figure was speedily recognised, and many were the very hearty congratulations he received from his friends and the general public. Thanks to the energy and skill of Dr Geo. Renton, his assistants, and the excellent nurse who attended him during his severe illness.

—:o:—

The medical men of this district will not be sorry that the influenza epidemic is almost stamped out. According to reports from the medical officer (Dr George Renton), we have the satisfaction of knowing that the district has once more returned to its normal condition.

—:o:—

The members of the Consett Wesleyan Band of Hope have held their annual meeting. Mr Ed. Hobday was re-elected president; Mr T. Foster, secretary; whilst Mr John Moon was appointed editor of the *Banner of Hope*. This enterprising body of workers contemplate having a vigorous series of entertainments, of which the first was held in the Wesleyan Chapel last (Thursday) night, and there was a good attendance.

—:o:—

The members of the Consett Y.M.C.A. Debating Society have once more taking a vote upon a very important subject—one which is affecting the minds of the young people at the preset time. The subject for discussion at their usual meeting was "Dancing," and when the vote was taken the majority were in favour of the same. How are the mighty fallen!

—:o:—

The women's Liberal meeting in the New Town Hall, Consett, on Wednesday night, in connection with the North-West Durham Women's Liberal Association, was qui[illegible] success, and augurs well for the prosperity of [illegible] association.

—:o:—

The want of mo[illegible] enthusiasm thrown into electoral campaigns is much needed at the present time. The reign of that constitutional body—the Durham County Council—is drawing to a close. The time is fast approaching when candidates will have to be elected, and for the electors to say who shall represent them on the Council. The present members for the different divisions in North-West Durham are very quiet, and we do not as yet hear any tidings of them coming forward to give an account of their stewardship.

—:o:—

The present members for this division—I mean Consett—have done their duty well, and have carried out, as far as it lay in their power, what they pledged they would do when elected. Taking this to be the case, there is probably no need of a contest in this division.

—:o:—

The letter from Mr Robert Eccles, checkweighman, last week, calling the attention of the inhabitants of Leadgate to the action of the members of this Board, would come as a surprise to many, and needs very little comment. Sufficient it is for the ratepayers to know that they have one of the best constituted Boards, composed of men who do *look* after their interests. The business is done in a straightforward manner, and what is known on some Boards as the "hole-and-corner" business is never dreamt of. The members have a perfect right to the expression of their opinions. The selection of "Geology" as the subject for a course of lectures to be delivered in the village, at the expense of the Durham County Council, was a capital one, and was really the best of the whole of the subjects, and more in keeping with a mining population. It is a subject that every miner should be well versed in, and there is no doubt but what the history of coal will be treated upon, because it is one of the most useful of all the productions of the [illegible]th which it has pl[illegible]sed the Almighty [illegible] for the use of man.

RATEPAYERS' MEETING AT CONSETT.

Yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, a meeting of the rated inhabitants in the township of Conside and Knitsley, was held at the Local Board offices, Consett, under the presidency of Mr C. P. Douglas (one of the overseers), to consider the question of removing the township offices. There was only a poor attendance, only Messrs T. Milner, T. Barry, Geo. Wade, M. McNally, W. Rippon, J. Frosdick, Ed. Wylam, T. W. Welford, and Wm. Elliott (assistant overseer) being present.—It was resolved, on the motion of Mr Wylam, seconded by Mr Frosdick, that application be made to the Local Government Board for sanction to take the Local Board offices at a rental of £4 per annum till the 25th March next, and after that period to rent the smaller hall of the New Town Hall, at £5 per annum.—Mr McNally urged that the time had arrived when the ratepayers ought to take into consideration the question of erecting a building which could be utilised for township purposes.—Mr Welford explained that this subject was not included in the notice convening the meeting, and therefore could not be dealt with.

TO-MORROW'S FOOTBALL.

TO-MORROW'S FIXTURES (SATURDAY, JAN. 30TH).

Consett Y.M.C.A. v Consett Fell, on the League ground (Junior Cup tie).

Leadgate Park v Leadgate Exiles Reserve, on the former's ground (Junior Cup tie).

Blackhill Rovers v Blaydon, at Blaydon.

Tanfield Lea v Byer Moor, at Tanfield Lea (Junior Cup tie).

Esh True Blues v Medomsley Reserve, at Esh (Junior Cup tie).

Derwent Cottages Ramblers v Esh Excelsiors, at Esh.

Tow Law Athletic v Castleside Rovers, at Tow Law.

Dipton Wanderers Reserve v Medomsley, at Dipton (Junior Cup tie).

Langley Park Rovers v Stanley Hedley Harriers, at Langley Park (Junior Cup tie).

Leadgate Park Reserve v Cornsay Rovers, at Leadgate (Junior Cup tie).

Blaydon 2nd v Northbourne, at Northbourne.

Consett Swifts v Leadgate St. Ive's, at Leadgate.

Consett Young Shamrocks v Annfield Plain Jolly Tars, at Annfield Plain.

Pelton Fell Harriers v Hobson Wanderers, at Pelton Fell (Junior Cup tie).

Tow Law v Wheatbottom Rangers, at Wheatbottom (Junior Cup tie).

Burnhope Rovers v South Moor Rovers, at Burnhope.

Blackhill Park v Oakey's Lilywhites, at Blackhill.

DERWENT COTTAGES RAMBLERS v ESH EXCELSIORS. To be played at Esh. The Ramblers' team will be—Goal, D. Harris; backs, J. Wilson and T. Snowdon; half-backs, H. Marrs, J. Pattinson, and J. Blacklock; forwards, R. Graham and R. Wilson (capt.), right wing; Wm. Davidson, centre; G. Milburn and H. Glasgow, left wing.

CONSETT SWIFTS v LEADGATE ST. IVES.—At Leadgate. The Swifts' team will be:—Goal, G. Eustace; backs, R. Wake and A. N. Other; half-backs, J. Allison, J. Pescod (capt.), and J. Wake; forwards, G. Forster and T. Winter, right wing; R. Barron and B. McKie, left wing; J. McGuckian, centre.

DURHAM JUNIOR CUP.

FIRST ROUND.

The first round of the above cup falls due to be played to-morrow (Saturday). The kick-off at each of the ties in this district except one—Leadgate Park Reserve v Cornsay Rovers—will take place at three o'clock punctually. We have received the following teams:—

LANGLEY PARK ROVERS v STANLEY HEDLEY HARRIERS.—This tie will be played at Langley Park, and should result in a close and exciting encounter. The teams will be as follows:—Langley Park—Goal, T. Newton; backs, R. Rutter and J. Pickering; half-backs, J. Moss, J. Agar, and G. Ibbinson; forwards, C. Jackson, T. Dixon, H. Mounsey, R. Shorten, and J. Gott (capt.) Reserves, F. Moss and J. Robinson. Hedley Harriers (selected from)—Wallace, Benson, Harrison, Forster, Brydon, Theobald, Coxon, Bolam, Charlton, Armstrong, Atkinson, and Morton. Linesman, W. Brydon. Referee, Mr Wm. Brears, Leadgate.

LEADGATE PARK v LEADGATE EXILES RESERVE.—These teams will play their tie on the Park ground at Leadgate. The following will represent the Park:—Goal, F. Jackson; backs, T. Hewitt and R. Bowstead; half-backs, G. Walton, J. Wilson (capt.), and C. Burnhope; forwards, J. Robson and C. Foreman, right wing; J. Haggerstone (3), centre; H. Wattsford and J. Hunter, left wing. The Exiles will be selected from—P. Hughes, B. Rogers, P. Croney, O. Slane, Costello, J. O'Neil, J. Hill, P. McGeary, M. Day, P. Quinn, M. Haggan, G. Hewitson. Referee, Mr J. Ross, jun., Medomsley.

LEADGATE PARK RESERVE v CORNSAY ROVERS.—This tie will take place at Leadgate. The Park team will be as follows:—Goal, Noble; backs, Crowther and Foreman; half-backs, Stephenson (capt.), Brown, and Haggerstone (1); forwards, Haggerstone (2) and Willey, right wing; Burnhope, centre; Makepeace and Lock, left wing. Kick-off at 2 prompt. Referee, Mr Hogarth, Burnopfield.

CONSETT FELL v CONSETT Y.M.C.A.—The above tie will be played on the League ground at Consett. The Fell will be represented by the following team:—Goal, G. Williamson; backs, W. Bell (capt.) and T. Skelton; half-backs, C. Ternent, W. Oliver, and J. Carruthers; forwards, T. Dunn and M. Eustace, left wing; R. Harkness, centre; T. Watson and Wm. Wake, right wing. Reserves, W. Atkinson, A. Eustace, and A. Stafford.

TANFIELD LEA v BYER MOOR.—These teams will meet in the above competition at Tanfield Lea, when the home team will turn out in the new colours they have adopted—viz., red, white, and blue shirts, vertical stripes. The following will compose the Tanfield Lea team:—Goal, J. Brown; backs, Jos. Gailes and T. Christopher; half-backs, J. McDonald, W. Christopher, and J. Milburn; forwards, J. Smith and W. Hall, right wing; R. Holmes, centre; E. Gailes and T. McNeil, left wing. Linesman, W. Pace. Referee, Mr Middleton, Ebchester.

ESH TRUE BLUES v MEDOMSLEY RESERVE.—This tie will be brought off at Esh. The subjoined eleven will represent the home club:—Goal, R. Gill; backs, J. Rippon and J. Richardson; half-backs, R. Nichol, J. Trotter, and M. Davison; forwards, R. Davey and A. Trotter, right wing; S. Trotter, centre; D. Trotter and S. Growcutt, left wing.

ANNFIELD PLAIN AND DISTRICT NOTES.

[BY "ANNFIELDITE."]

MINING DEVELOPMENT

In the Annfield Plain district still continues to go forward—notably, the South Moor Coal Company, under the able management of Mr James Fairley, Shafto House, Craghead, and his efficient staff of under-managers and officials. At their Morrison Colliery, near Annfield Plain, there is a large output of the best coal, and the coke-ovens are being lighted up, and all the latest improvement are being fitted up for the purpose of making coke, and they have got a locomotive to run the small tubs on the top of the ovens.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION.

The near approach of the County Council contest seems to be like a magnetic influence touching and moving every district, and there seems to be no lack of candidates coming forward to do battle. Let us hope that the men most suitable for this position will be elected. It might reasonably be asked what has the Council done? What is its record?

A TREAT.

A few months ago, an application was made to the members of the Greencroft School Board by the United Kingdom Band of Hope, asking if the Board would allow one of their agents to deliver a temperance lecture to the upper standards. The request was granted, and on Tuesday afternoon their agent (Mr Allison, of York) attended. The lecture was of a most interesting and profitable nature.

GREENCROFT SCHOOL BOARD.

The meeting of the above Board was held on Wednesday, and there were present: Messrs H. Greener (in the chair), A. Brown, and P. Reay. The Clerk (Mr Wilson) being ill with influenza, his assistant was present.—The Master reported that the number of children on the books was 450, and the average attendance was 316.—The Board confirmed the appointment of Mr J. T. Gardner as assistant Ex-P.T., at a salary of £50.—The request of the Board to the Educational Department to change the date of the examination was granted, and in future the examination will be held in April instead of September. Material required by the master for school use was ordered to be purchased.

ANNFIELD PLAIN P.M. CHAPEL.

On Sunday, the above church was favoured with the services of Mr T. Mackey, Shotley Bridge, who preached two useful and able sermons to good congregations. The spiritual state of this church is very good, but they are pressed for better accommodation for their services.

YEARLY MEETING.

The annual trustee and chapel committee meeting has just been held in connection with the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Annfield Plain. The accounts showed that there had been an income of £60, and an expenditure of £50 8s. The renovating and painting of the chapel cost over £31. It was agreed to purchase a new organ for the chapel. The usual grant of 5s to the worn-out ministers' fund was made. The election of officers resulted in the re-election of all the old officials. Rev A. McKeckney, of Normanton, was engaged for the anniversary. The accounts were signed, and the meeting closed.

Y.M.C.A.

The Y.M.C.A. at Annfield Plain is very much improving. The attendance is much better, and the number of members increases.

A LOCAL MINING MANAGER.

Mr J. Bainbridge, of Catchgate, the first pupil of Mr F. Davison, who passed his examination at Darlington for an under-manager, has, I am informed, obtained the management of the new company at North Walbottle, which has a large royalty.

BURNS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT CONSETT.

Last (Thursday) evening, the first celebration of the anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns, the national poet of Scotland, ever witnessed (we believe) in Consett, took place in the Co-operative Hall, when a grand Scotch concert was given before a fairly large and highly respectable audience. The following well-known professional artistes appeared:—Miss Jane K. Ford, soprano, of the Glasgow and Edinburgh concerts; Miss Cecilia Armitage, vocalist, solo pianist, and accompanist, of the Glasgow and Edinburgh concerts; Mr S. Heenan, tenor, of the Edinburgh and Newcastle concerts; Mr D. R. Cross, tenor, Glasgow; and Mr Richie Thom, the popular Scotch entertainer, of the Edinburgh and Glasgow concerts. Mr Cross attended as a substitute for Mr Jas. Houston, who has unfortunately died somewhat suddenly since the announcements were first issued. Miss Armitage, who has appeared in Consett on previous occasions, played her selections on the pianoforte in a most skilful and accomplished manner, and elicited the hearty encomiums of all present. Miss Ford was extremely happy in the selection of "The brier bush," "The banks o' Loch Lomon," and "Last May a braw wooe'r" as her songs, which she rendered in a charming and attractive manner, her efforts being greeted with enthusiasm. Mr Heenan, who was in capital voice, favoured with excellent interpretations of "Mary of Argyle," "McGregor's gathering," and "Annie Laurie." Mr Cross also made a good impression in his popular songs, while Mr Richie Thom was in his native element while illustrating his sketches from the drama, &c., and the song, "The mate fell doon the funnel," which caused incessant merriment. This exhausted the first part of the programme, and the second portion was devoted to the representation of the celebrated sketch of "Tam o' Shanter and Souter Johnny," Mr Cross sustaining the character of "Tam o' Shanter," and Mr Thom "Souter Johnny." Subjoined are the various items in this excruciating funny sketch:—Introduction; remarks on Burns, Tam and Souter; song, "Rantin Robin," Tam; Tam and Souter on Scotland's great men; song, "Duncan Gray," Souter; Tam and Souter on courtship; song, "Scots wha hae," Mr Heenan; story by the Souter; song, "My Nannie's awa," Miss Ford; Souter on appetite; Tam and Souter gi'en guesses; song, "Up in the morning early," Miss Ford; song, "A man's a man for a' that," Mr Heenan. As a final selection, the company sang "Auld Lang Syne," and indulged in a Scotch reel. The audience were provided with one of the best entertainments that has ever been offered to the public of this town.

CONSERVATIVE MEETING AT WITTON GILBERT.

A meeting of the electors of the Witton Gilbert district of the Mid Durham Division was held on Wednesday night, in the National School-room, Witton Gilbert, to bear an address from Mr C. E. Hunter, the Liberal Unionist candidate for the Mid-Durham Division at the coming General Election. The chair was occupied by the Rev J. Bentley, of Sacriston, who was supported on the platform by Mr Hunter, Mr W. C. Blackett (Kimblesworth), Mr Prest, Mr W. J. Goodenough, Mr McMorrin, Mr Turnbull, Mr J. H. Price (assistant agent), and others.

Mr HUNTER, on rising, had a cordial reception. Having referred to the successful meeting which he addressed at Kimblesworth on the previous evening, he went on to refer to the series of bye-elections since 1886, from which he said it had been attempted to be proved by the late Prime Minister that the country seemed determined to make a change. Mr Gladstone had even gone so far as to say that they knew to a nicety how many seats they were going to secure at the next General Election. (Laughter). Figures, he thought, pointed otherwise. Taking, for example, all the bye-elections together in 1891, there were absolutely more votes cast on the Unionist side than on the Gladstonian side. (Applause). The Rossendale election was certainly a severe defeat, but it was not incapable of explanation. He repeated that the Conservatives, by the measures they had passed, had earned the gratitude and deserved the confidence of the electorate again. (Applause). He also mentioned that in the mining industry last year there was paid in England no less than sixteen million pounds more than was paid in 1885. That represented to his mind an immense improvement in the social comfort and enjoyment of that large and industrial class. (Applause). After referring to several other matters which which he had previously dealt, Mr Hunter resumed his seat.

A cordial vote of thanks for his address was passed, and the meeting shortly afterwards terminated.

DEATH OF MR JOSEPH FEATHERSTONE.—The death is just announced of Mr Joseph Featherstone, draper and grocer, Wearhead, which occurred on Saturday, at the age of 65 years. The deceased was well known and highly esteemed throughout the dale, having occupied many public offices and positions of trust and responsibility. He was for a number of years a member of the Board of Guardians, and also the School Board, and chairman of the Liberal Council in Upper Weardale. He took a very active part in all political, social, and religious movements in the dale, and was ever ready to help the suffering and needy. For the long period of fifty years he was a member of the Primitive Methodist Society, Wearhead, and for over forty years fulfilled the functions of local preacher and class-leader. He was also for a number of years superintendent of the Sunday school. On several occasions he represented his circuit at the District Meeting, and the district at the Conference, and by his death the Primitive Methodists have lost an able and indefatigable worker. On Monday, the remains of Mr Featherstone were interred with every remark of respect. It will be remembered he was stricken with paralysis in the pulpit a year or two ago. To "do good by stealth" was the predominant feature of a devoutly Christian life, and Methodism has lost a useful member through the death of Mr Featherstone, while the public generally have to mourn the death of an upright and conscientious public servant. Much sympathy is expressed for the widow and family in their bereavement.

"A NICHT WI' BURNS."

Wednesday night last was chosen by the Blackhill Presbyterian Guild to commemorate the 133rd anniversary of the birth of Robbie Burns, by a suitable entertainment, and there was a large attendance of lovers of Burns's poems. The meeting was ably presided over by the pastor of the church, the Rev A. Baillie, who in his opening remarks spoke of the trials the poet was subjected to during his lifetime. The poetry of Burns, the speaker said, went direct to the heart, and would endure as long as the productions of Shakespeare and Milton. The programme was opened with the song, "Duncan Grey," sung by Mr Wallace in his well-known and pleasing style; Miss Barkitt, in the reading of "Mary Stuart's lament," did full justice to that beautiful poem; Miss McDonald was loudly applauded for her rendering of "Ye banks and braes o' Bonnie Doon," and Mr W. T. Wilson was vociferously cheered for his excellent singing of "Afton Water." "The epistle to a young friend," considered by many as one of the finest of Burns's serious poems, was recited by Mr Jas. Eltringham, and who, in addition, gave "Highland Mary." Miss Struthers sang "The lass o' Ballachmyle" in a manner very pleasing to those assembled; and the reading of "Man was made to mourn," by Mr J. T. Bain, evidently delighted the audience. The duet, "Oh wert thou in the cauld blast," had full justice done to it by Messrs Wallace and Russell. Miss Matheson made her first appearance at the Guild as a singer, and greatly surprised and delighted the company with her talented delineation of "John Anderson, my Jo," and in response to a loud and prolonged *encore*, sang "A man's a man for a' that"; the song, "My Nannie O," by Mr Russell, received rapturous applause, as also did the description of the scene at the poet's birth, entitled "There was a lad was born in Kyle," by Mr Wallace, who, in answer to a re-call, gave that pathetic piece, "Mary Morrison." The song of the evening, however, was that immortal poem, "Scots wha hae wi' Wallace bled," sung in a splendid bass voice by Mr Mathieson. Speaking of this song, Professor Blackie truly remarked that it was "the national song which stirs the hearts of all true sons of Caledonia from utmost east to utmost west, as strongly as the memory of Marathon did the Greeks, stands to this day, and will continue to stand while Scotland holds its place among the nations." An *encore* to this patriotic song was demanded by all present, and Mr Mathieson favoured with "Green grow the rashes O," everyone joining heartily in the chorus. A trio, "My love is like a red, red rose," was sung by Messrs Wallace, Russell, and Mathieson in their usual pleasing style. The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" by the audience, and the benediction, pronounced by the chairman, brought one of the most enjoyable evenings of the Presbyterian Guild to a close.

THE DEATH RATE AND INFLUENZA.—In the St. John's (Weardale) District, during the months of December, 1891, and January, 1892, the deaths have been more than at any other month during the past year. During these two fatal months the deaths have exceeded the births. This is mostly owing, no doubt, on account of the prevalence of the influenza.

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS

CASTLESIDE—23rd inst., the wife of J. Proud, of a son (still-born).

27th inst., the wife of J. W. Golightly, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

CONSETT—Christ Church, by Rev F. Steggall (by license), Mr J. J. Dent to Miss M. A. Bates both of Consett. 580h

WHITE-LE-HEAD—Primitive Methodist Chapel, 23rd inst., by Rev M. Johnson, Joseph Jackson, of White-le-Head, to Ada Ann Humphrey, daughter of J. Humphrey, farmer, late of Harperley.

WEST PELTON—St Paul's, 18th inst., by the Rev J. Mathwin, Thomas, son of William and Ann Wishart, to Mary Ann, daughter of Joseph and Catherine Hall, West Pelton.

DEATHS.

CONSETT—18, Buddle Street, 28th inst., aged 78, Samuel Needham. To be interred at Benfieldside Cemetery, on Saturday, 30th inst., at Two o'clock. Friends, please accept this intimation. 616h

BLACKHILL—Murray Street, 25th inst., aged 40, Mary, wife of John Robson.

TANTOBIE—25th inst., aged 45, John Burns.

STANHOPE—20th inst., aged 41, Mary Hannah, wife of William Collingwood.

CATCHGATE—26th inst., aged 72, Hannah Elizabeth, the dearly beloved wife of R. W. Pearson. Interment at Hare Law Cemetery, on Saturday, 30th inst., at Three o'clock. All friends kindly invited. 611h

TANFIELD LEA—William Street, 21st inst., aged 51, Edward, husband of the late Frances Fletcher.

QUEBEC—21st inst., aged 55, George Waite, grocer, and late postmaster.

SOUTH MOOR—20th inst., aged 3 years and 11 months, suddenly, Richard, son of Richard and Mary Lumley.

26th inst., aged 22, Richard Marshall.

WEARHEAD—23rd inst., Joseph, husband of Ann Featherstone.

VALE PIT—21st inst., aged 87, Joseph, husband of Mary Dodds.

WHICKHAM—20th inst., aged 68, Isabella Mowbray.

RYTON—Tweedy's Buildings, 21st inst., aged 46, Mary, wife of the late Isaac Clark.

Woodside, 25th inst., aged 59, John, husband of Bridget Malloy.

ADDISON COLLIERY—23nd inst., aged 57, Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Clark.

STREETGATE—21st inst., aged 87, Margaret Gladders.

PRUDHOE—21st inst., aged 78, Chambers, husband of Jane Moorhead.

BLAYDON—Mary Street, 25th inst., aged [illegible], Sarah, widow of the late Joseph Lowden.

COLLINGS GREEN FARM—25th inst., aged 83, Joseph H. Turnbull.

WINLATON—Caledonia, 26th inst., aged 74, Wm. Parker.

PELTON FELL—Grange Terrace, 24th inst., aged 72, Elizabeth Widdrington, relict of the late Ralph Widdrington.

LONDON—Peckham Rye, 26th inst., aged 37, Dorothy Ann, beloved wife of John Sprott, and third daughter of the late Thomas Muse, Shotley Bridge. 610h

In loving memory of Mary Errington, beloved daughter of John and Hannah Errington, who died at Blackhill, on 26th January, 1891, aged 18 years and 6 months.

"We miss thee when the morning shines,
We miss thee when the night returns,
We miss thee here, we miss thee there,
Dear daughter, we miss thee everywhere."

In loving remembrance of my dear mother, Dorothy Carr, of Iveston Red House, widow of the late Thomas Carr, Bingfield, who departed this life January 30th, 1890, aged 75 years.

"Oh, yes, it is hard at the last separation
To part with the mother that loved us so true,
The home and the heart feels a wide desolation,
At bidding my dear loved mother adieu."

ELIZA.

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