The Consett Chronicle

AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM ADVERTISER.

NO. 59, VOL. 2. [REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.] FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1897. PRICE, ONE PENNY WEEKLY.

Business Announcements.

GREAT SLAUGHTER,
ROOT AND BRANCH.

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AT THE
BARGAIN HIVE.

REDUCTIONS IN MILLINERY.
REDUCTIONS IN JACKETS.
REDUCTIONS IN DRAPERY.
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THE STOCK-TAKING SALE
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BUT NO HOUSE ATTACHED, ON
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This Shop is specially adapted for a pork butchering business and restaurant combined, or a colonial meat store. None but good firms, who would be willing to take it upon a lease, need apply

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WILSON BROTHERS,
FAMILY GROCERS AND PROVISION MERCHANTS,
Have always on hand a Large and Varied Stock of the Finest
PROVISIONS, FLOUR, ITALIAN GOODS, &c., &c.

Cannot be Equalled in the District for
LOVELY BRIDESCAKES
At all prices. CAKES and CONFECTIONERY always Fresh, and made from the finest ingredients obtainable. A TRIAL WILL ENSURE THE GREATEST SATISFACTION.

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VIOLINS, VIOLIN CASES, BOWS, MUSIC STOOLS (66 different patterns), MUSIC CABINETS, METRONOMES, GLASS INSULATORS, METAL AND OTHER MUSIC STANDS, SCONCES, VIOLIN STRINGS, MUSIC WIRE, &c , &c.

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Witness, J. C. Browne. (Signed) A. ALLISON & Co.

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Ranges, Cooking, Heating, and Register Stoves, Baths, Marble, Slate, Metal [illegible] Wood Chimney Pieces, &c.

Business Announcement.

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SOLE AGENT FOR

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DELIVERED TO ANY PART OF THE DISTRICT.

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For TEAS AT ALL PRICES.
For COFFEE, FRESH ROASTED DAILY.
For PROVISIONS OF ALL KINDS.
For BREAD AND CAKES.
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For SOAP, AT MAKERS' PRICES.
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INVITE YOUR ATTENTION TO THEIR STOCK OF
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In this Department we have now every Requisite for the Trade:—

CHEESES of every Kind, Wensleydale, 8½d.; Cheshire, 8½d and 11d; Derby, 9½d; Gloucester, 10d; American (Finest), 7d.
CAKES, Agent for Hill's Rich Cakes, in Slabs, 5d, 7d, and 9d; Cherry Cakes, Almond Cakes, Cocoanut, Rice, Seed, Sultana, Fruit, every kind.
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TEA. We have now the biggest Stock of Tea we ever touched. Every kind, price 1s, 1s 4d, 1s 10d, 2s 4d, 2s 10d. "Hornimans" Agents, "Mazawattee" Teas. Prize Tea at 2s and 2s 6d. See the Prizes.
COFFEE, Choicest Plantation, 1s 8d lb, a very fine flavoured Berry.
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[ESTABLISHED 1817.]

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WHOLESALE AND RETAIL MILLER, CORN MERCHANT, SEEDSMAN, &c.,
HARPERLEY AND CATCHGATE CORN MILLS,
NEAR ANNFIELD PLAIN. POST—TANTOBIE, R.S.O.

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TEA! TEA! TEA!

We do not mean that wishy washy Tea, which is usually sold at 2s. 4d and 2s. 6d, but we mean our PREMIER PRIZE TEA, which is of great Strength and Flavour.

2s. 4d. PER LB., AND A PRIZE WITH EVERY LB.
GIVE IT A TRIAL.

TURNBULL BROS.,
GROCERS, ALE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS,
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AGENTS FOR WHITBREAD & CO'S ALES AND STOUT.

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ARTISTS' MATERIAL OF EVERY DESCRIPTION. PLAQUES, OPALS, DRAWING STUDIES, AND OTHER FANCY ARTICLES, &c., ALWAYS ON HAND.

PRIZE DAIRY DANISH BUTTER, 1s. 1d. per Pound.
NOTHING FINER MADE.
SELECTED DAIRY BUTTER, 11d. and 1s.

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ESTABLISHED 1845.

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WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,
NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT, AND ALSO BLACKHILL.

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N.B.—See that you get to the right shop, NEW TOWN HALL BUILDINGS.

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LESSONS ON THE PIANOFORTE AND ORGAN,
WITH MUSICAL THEORY.

Pupils prepared for Examinations, if required. Engagements taken for Concerts, Balls, Parties, &c.

TERMS MODERATE.

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WATCH AND CLOCKMAKER,
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MR. E. J. SLOANE, MUS. BAC.,
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TRY

TEASDALE & SON,
SADDLERS, WEST STANLEY & DIPTON.

For FOOTBALL, TENNIS, and ATHLETIC GOODS,
OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS.

AGENTS FOR WATERPROOFS. A SPECIALITY:—THE CALRUB FOOTBALL, Warranted Waterproof; Retains its Shape in Wet Weather; tried by all the famous Scotch Clubs.

COATS, APRONS, CART COVERS, QUARTER COVERS, made to Order.
REPAIRS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.
THE BEST OF WORKMANSHIP GUARANTEED. MODERATE CHARGES.

CONSETT CHRONICLE FOOTBALL COMPETITION.

TWO GUINEA PRIZE

CONSOLATION PRIZE FIVE SHILLINGS.

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

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

COUPON EDITOR,
CONSETT CHRONICLE,
CONSETT.

COUPON.

(TO BE CUT OUT.)

SATURDAY, January 30th, 1897.

CLUB.	Goals.		CLUB.	Goals.
LEADGATE PARK		v.	WHITBY	
STANLEY A		v.	ALLENDALE PARK	
ANNFIELD PLAIN		v.	HEATON	
UNITED A		v.	STANLEY	
BISHOP AUCKLAND		v.	TOW LAW	

On the ground of the first-named club.

NAME ....

ADDRESS ....

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

The award of the Editor must be considered final.

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

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

ALLENDALE	1	SHOTLEY	1
HEATON	0	CONSETT SWIFTS	1
DIPTON	1	SOUTHWICK	5
STANLEY	1	BIRTLEY	3
LEADGATE PARK	1	CROOK	0

CELEBRATED PRIZE FIGHTS

No 23.—BENDIGO AND CAUNT.

[SPECIALLY WRITTEN FOR THE "CONSETT CHRONICLE."]

This celebrated battle—the third between the two champions—was fought at Stony Stratford, on the 9th of September, 1845.

ROUND 1. The much-desired moment for the commencement of the mill at length arrived, preliminarised by a simultaneous cry of "Down, down; hats off," &c. Molineaux and Turner led their man to the scratch, while Nick Ward and Jack Hannan performed the like office for Bendigo. Hands having been crossed, the seconds retired to their corners, and business commenced. Caunt threw himself into attitude, erect and smiling, while Bendigo at once began to play around him dodging in his usual style. Caunt let fly his left, but missed. Bendigo, active on his pins, retreated, and *chasseed* left and right; at last he crept in closer, then out again, till, watching his opportunity, he got closer, and popped in a smack, with his left on Caunt's right eye. After a few lively capers, he succeeded in delivering another crack with his left on Caunt's cheek, opening the old scar left by Brassey, and drawing first blood, as well as producing an electric effect, on Caunts optic. Shouts unlimited from Bendigo's friends. Bendy got away laughing, and again played round his man. Caunt got closer, missed an intended slasher with his left, and closed for the fall. Bendy grappled with him, but could not escape, and Caunt by superior strength, forced him down in the corner.

2. Caunt up at the call of "time," his eye and cheek testifying the effects of the visitations in the last round; Bendigo dancing round him and waiting for an opening. Slight exchanges right and left, Caunt missing his opponent's head. Bendigo, in retreating to the ropes, slipped down, was up again in a moment, and dashed to his man. Wild exchanges, but no apparent execution. Caunt hit out viciously left and right, missed his kind intentions, and Bendy got down unscathed.

3. Caunt came up quick, and determined on annihilation. Bendy again played about him, but did not get near enough for execution. After some wild passes, Caunt missing, Bendigo on the retreat, was caught in the powerful grasp of Caunt, who threw him across the ropes and fell on him, but no mischief done.

4. Caunt came up blowing or whistling, when Bendigo, after a little dodging, popped in his left under his guard, and got away. Caunt, determined on mischief, followed his man, and at last getting to him, let go left and right, catching Bendigo with the left slightly on the mouth, but missing his right. Bendigo, finding himself in difficulty, got down, falling on the rope, and grinning facetiously at Goliah, the Second, who walked back to his corner.

5. Caunt, the first to lead off, drew on his man, but Bendigo retreated, Caunt after him, till he reached the ropes, when Caunt hit out left and right, his blows passing harmlessly over Bendy's head. There was a want of precision in Caunt's delivery not to be accounted for, with his supposed science. Bendigo, who stopped rather wildly, got down.

6. Caunt first to the call of time, waiting with his hands well up, but blowing as if from habit. Bendy manœuvred to the right and left. Caunt approached him, but he retreated. Caunt let fly left and right, but Bendy ducked his canister, and got down, with more of caution than gallantry.

7. Left-handed exchanges on the nobs, but of no moment. Caunt made some desperate lunges right and left, was too high, and Bendy slipped down.

8. Bendy, after a few dodges, got within Caunt's guard with his left, and gave him a pretty pop on the cheek. Caunt missed his return, but seizing Bendy in his grasp, flung him across the ropes. Here he hung heavily on him, till at last he overbalanced himself, and fell over on his own head, bringing Bendy with him, amidst loud shouts and abusive epithets from the Nottingham school.

9. Bendy came up full of glee, played round his man, watching for an opportunity to place his left; this at last offered, and catching Caunt on the old wound, he ducked his head to avoid the return, and dropped.

10. More sly manœuvring on the part of Bendy, who, after dancing about at arm's length, stole a march, and caught Caunt a stinging smack with his left on the right cheek, drawing more claret, and giving the big'un more of the tragedy hue. Caunt instantly closed, gave Bendy the Cornish hug, flung him by main strength, and fell on him.

11. Bendy pursued his eccentric gyrations around his man, when, with the swiftness of lightning, he popped in his left on the jaw, and his right on the body, and fell. Caunt, stung by these visitations, followed him, and dropped on his knees close to his man, but, luckily, did not touch him, and Bendy was picked up laughing and uninjured; in fact, up to this time he scarce showed the semblance of a hit, beyond a slight contusion on the lip, and on the left ear.

12. Bendigo retreated from Caunt's vigorous charge right and left, and slipped down, but instantly jumped up and renewed the round. After some wild fighting, bu tno execution worth recording, Bendy went down in his corner, amidst cries of "foul, unmanly," &c. &c.

13. Caunt, on coming to the scratch, let fly with his left, just grazing the top of Bendy's scalp. A sharp rally followed, and counter-hits with the left were exchanged, Bendy hitting Caunt with such terrific force on the old spot on the right cheek that he knocked him clean off his legs, thus gaining the first knock-down blow, amidst the deafening shouts of the Nottingham boys. Such was the force of Bendigo's blow that he actually rebounded back against the stakes, and Caunt was picked up almost stunned by the severity of the visitation.

14. Bendy, elated with his handiwork in the last round, again dashed in his left, but not being sufficiently quick in the retreat, Caunt caught him round the neck with his left, lifted him to the ropes, and there hung on him, till Bendigo, in trying to escape from his grasp, pulled him forward, threw, and fell heavily on him, amidst the indignant shouts of his opponents.

15. Bendy came up as lively as a kitten, while Caunt, undismayed, came smiling to the scratch. Caunt plunged in left and right, but missed; he then seized his man for the throw, but Bendy slipped round, and catching Caunt by the neck, pulled him down.

16. Bendy tried his left-handed dodge, but missed, and retreated. Caunt followed him to his corner, hitting out left and right, but throwing his hands too high. Caunt grappled for the fall, but Bendy got down, Caunt following suit, and, as he sat on the ground, beckoning Bendigo to come to him.

17. Bendy made himself up for mischief, and played round his man for a few seconds, when getting within distance, he delivered a terrific hit with his left on Caunt's mouth, and fell. Caunt's upper lip was completely split by this blow, and the blood flowed from the wound in torrents, while renewed cheers of exultation from the Nottingham division evinced their delight.

18. Bendy again came the artful dodge, put in his left on Caunt's mouth, and fell. Caunt pointed at him, but Bendy laughed and nodded.

19. Bendy, more cautious, kept out. Caunt rushed to him, hitting out left and right, but with little effect. Bendy retreated. Caunt caught him on the ropes, and hung on him till he fell. More shooting and screeching at Caunt.

20. Caunt, anxious to be at work, advanced, while Bendy retreated to the ropes, where he hit up with his left and dropped. Caunt was retiring, when Bendy jumped up and had another slap at him. Caunt turned round and caught him under his arm as he attempted to escape, lifted him to the ropes, and there held him till he fell, amidst the infuriated cries of Bendy's friends.

21. Caunt, prompt to the call of time, his hands well up, but Bendy again stole a march, popped in his left, and slipped down to avoid a return of the compliment. Indignant expressions at this unmanly way of terminating the rounds.

22. Bendy was still free from punishment, and looked as fresh as when he entered the ring, while Caunt, although firm and active on his pins, showed heavy marks of punishment on his frontispiece, his cheek with a gaping wound, his lip split, and his eye and nose evincing the consequences of Bendy's sly but stinging visitations. Caunt, impatient at Bendy's out-fighting, rushed to him left and right, but Bendy, unwilling to try the weight of superior metal, slipped down, and Caunt fell over him, but not on him, as his friends anticipated, and as perhaps, he intended.

23. Both fresh. After a little dodging, advancing, and retreating, Bendy again nailed Caunt with his left on his damaged kissing-trap. Caunt caught him a slight nobber on the head with his left, and Bendy got down.

24. Bendy again played round his man till within distance, when he popped in a heavy blow on the ribs with his left, and got down without a return. There was an immediate cry of "foul," and an appeal was made to the referee. He hesitated, amidst tumultuous cries of "fair, fair," and allusions to the size of Caunt. The uproar was terrific, and the inner circle was overwhelmed by the roughs from without rushing in to enforce their arguments in favour of Bendy. At last the referee decided "fair," and "time" was called.

25. Nick Ward was here so overcome with his exertions, that he was taken out of the ring, and his office was filled by Nobby Clark. The moment time was called, and Bendy reached the scratch, Caunt rushed to him left and right, and after slight and wild exchanges with the left, Bendy threw himself down—certainly in violation of the rules of fair fighting.

26. Bendy, after a little hankey-panky manœuvring, popped in his left on Caunt's mug, and retreated to the corner of the ring. Caunt followed him with so much impetuosity that he hit his hand against the stake. In the close, and scramble for the fall, Bendy succeeded in pulling Caunt down, falling with him.

27. Caunt on his guard, his hands well up, Bendy stepped in, delivered his left on the old spot, and dropped to avoid; Caunt shaking his finger at him as he retired to his corner.

28. Caunt attempted to lead off with his left, but Bendy retreated to the ropes, over which Caunt forced him, and as he lay upon him, both still hanging on the lower rope, Bendy hit up with his left. In this position they lay, half in and half out of the ring, till released by their seconds.

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.)

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

COUPON COMPETITION.

A consolation prize of five shillings has this week been awarded to Mr Minto, 8, Albert Road, Consett, who was the nearest correct competitor in his predictions regarding the results of the games on our coupon. Appended are Mr Minto's predictions:—

Leadgate	2	Crook	0
Shotley	1	Allendale	1
Consett	4	Heaton	0
Birtley	3	Stanley	1
Southwick	5	Dipton	0

THE MATCH AT BIRTLEY.

The "glorious uncertainty" of football was demonstrated in a marked degree, by the collapse of the Whites before the Birtley boys. Only the previous Saturday, Stanley had inflicted a severe whacking on the Durham cupholders, and their numerous supporters were confident of returning from Birtley with two more points to their credit in the Northern Alliance. Such, however, was not to be the case. The visiting skipper probably made a mistake in playing against the wind during the first half, after he had won the toss, and there were not wanting zealous supporters of the Whites, who ascribed the result to this beginning. But I scarcely think they were justified in holding this opinion, for as a matter of fact, the majority of the forwards were off to some extent, and it may be taken for granted that when the forwards are out of trim, a team cannot obtain many victories, whether they play with or against the wind. During the first forty-five minutes, Birtley had a good deal

THE BEST OF MATTERS,

and, had it not been for erratic shooting, would have held a good lead at the interval. As it was, "tea-time" arrived with the homesters having only one goal to their credit. In the second half, matters livened up considerably, and in the opening exchanges, the Stanleyites more than held their own. Then the clever left-wingers of the home team trotted gaily away, and after Gall had registered the second goal, the struggle waxed warmer till the visiting forwards gradually obtained the upper hand, and Robson finished one of the finest bits of play seen during the game, by banging the leather into the net. For some minutes after this, the fate of the game hung in the balance, but at length the homesters were let in through a mistake on the part of "Scotty," and the third goal was added. There was nothing more done in the scoring line, but Bell and Rowell distinguished themselves by the vigour—often quite unnecessary—of their punting into touch.

THE WINNERS.

On the day's play, Birtley were certainly the better team, and deserved the majority of goals which they obtained. Individually, they appeared a cleverer set than their opponents. Collins was very reliable in goal, and both Bell and Rowell did good service in the full back division. Both, however, were a trifle rough in their methods, Bell more so than his colleague, and their kicking out tactics, though undoubtedly useful, are scarcely commendable. To kick out when pressed is policy, to kick out unnecessarily, and then wave your cap as though over some great feat, is undignified. The half-backs are a very smart trio. Laws, the left winger, is a brother of George Laws, the Stanley full back, and a very capable player he is. Gateshead seems a capital place for the production of footballers. Rutherford played a fine game in the centre. He is only a junior, and has a chance of making his name known far beyond the limits of Birtley parish, or Durham county, if he keeps on as he has started. Dixon was a trifle behind his colleagues. The forwards are a very clever quintette. The Committee have made a good catch in Gall, the outside player. His shooting and corner kicking entitle him to a position in the team. Of course, "Pompey" Bolam was very much to the fore. The veteran seems as lively and tricky as ever. Roscamp worked hard, but his shooting was only moderate. Brown and Palmer worked cleverly together on the left wing, though they found their work cut out to deal with Tommy Fish and George Laws, both of whom were in great form.

THE WHITES.

Stanley played one of their poor games, and really almost deserved to drop a couple of points. The main cause of disaster lay in the moderate display of the forward rank, and this display was entirely traceable to the outside right player. Teddy Buck is a half-back, not a forward, and on Saturday he was obviously entirely out of his bearing. As a matter of fact, the team could have done better with ten men, for on Saturday, Robson time after time passed the ball to his colleague, only to have the mortification of seeing the latter either miss the ball altogether, or let Tom Rowell take it from him. I do not blame Buck at all. The fault was in playing him in a position to which he was unaccustomed. Might I suggest to the Committee, that, for the present at any rate, they might do much worse than place "Douse" Whitfield on the team again? He has played in two games this season for the first team, namely, against Tow Law and Hebburn Argyle, and, as a matter of fact, the Stanley forwards never played better than in these two matches. I do not say that this was attributable to the presence of "Douse" on the team, but I do think that he combined with Thompson Robson better than any of the others who have been tried as partners to the old Celtic player. The latter must have been utterly downhearted on Saturday, at the number of his passes which came to nought, through the absence of a suitable outside chum. O'Connor played a very clever and untiring game, but had none the best of luck. On the left wing, Howe and Masterman were scarcely as conspicuous as usual. The latter made a few brilliant centres, and Howe worked as energetically as he is wont to do, but the canters from one end of the field to the other—with which we are familiar—were conspicuously absent. The half-backs were the main strength of the Whites, and foremost amongst them—"bravest of the brave"—was Tommy Fish. The ex-Birtley lad was in great form, and was beyond question, the best man on the field. That "Fish was all ower," was the melancholy, and truthful, exclamation which came repeatedly from the lips of an ardent Birtleyite. Tommy had a couple of tartars to look after in Palmer and Brown, but he stuck in like a Trojan, and came out with flying colours in the majority of his encounters with the tricky Birtleyites. Jacky Milburn came next in the line of honour. He played a sound, hard, unflinching game throughout, and though "Pompey" occasionally got the better of him, the reverse was generally the case. Ned Nicholson scarcely came up to his usual form, but at the same time there was little fault to find with him. Laws was, undoubtedly, the best of the backs, his kicking and tackling alike being reliable. More than once he saved his colours in sensational fashion. Martin Joyce, on the other hand, was distinctly behind form. His kicking was very uncertain, and his tackling was much weaker than usual. The third goal was given away through a blunder on the part of the genial Scotchman in going for the man, instead of for the ball. Morris had very little chance with any of the goals scored against him, though some grumbled at him for allowing the first to pass him. He certainly effected some very good saves, and on the whole played a very fair game.

STANLEY'S DEFEAT.

Birtley's team trooped gaily upon their football ground,
Amidst the hearty plaudits of two thousand pressing round.
Quoth they, "Like heroes of the past, we'll do—or die,
Proud Stanley at our feet low in the dust shall lie."
"On to the combat, Whites," said Stanley's foremost man,
"Strive hard to vanquish Birtley, if you will, you can;
Each man in his position must strive with might and main,
For the honour of old Stanley, the victory to gain."
They entered on the combat, but ere the day was done
The valiant Whites were worsted by three good goals to one.

A COMPLAINT FROM STANLEY.

I have received the following letter, with a request to publish it:—

SIR,—Please allow me a little space in your paper to refer to last Saturday's game between Stanley and Birtley. Stanley won the toss, and their Captain chose to play against a very strong wind, a decision which, in my opinion, contributed largely to the result. I think that Stanley were unfairly treated by that grand, good, and learned referee from Southwick. Was it because the pit lads took four points out of Southwick? Referees ought to do their duty, and favour none.—

A TRUE LOVER OF FOOTBALL.
Shield Row.

TOW LAW RESERVE WIN.

At Tow Law, on Saturday, the home reserve eleven added another victory to their already excellent record, by defeating Stanley Albions by two goals to one. The game was pleasantly contested, fouls being at a discount. At the outset, the home lads worked as if intent upon winning, and their ranks being strengthened by the inclusion of Tommy Wilson and Gilroy, the two first team halves, they were enabled to attack at once. Geary was the first to win his spurs, for during the whole of the first half he played an astonishingly good game, his centring and passing generally being beyond all cavil. Unfortunately, his efforts were not backed up, and at least a couple of golden chances were lost by the other forwards, the judgment of whom was sadly at fault. Half-time arrived with no score, but no sooner had a recommencement been made, than Jacky Watson sent in a lightning shot, which nonplussed the visiting custodian, who was unable to recover before Fred Macintosh had swiped the ball past him. The home lads merrily returned to the attack, and before the spectators had recovered themselves, Fred Macintosh had received from Richardson, and headed

A SPLENDID GOAL

into the net, which the referee disallowed, but on what plea, it was impossible to tell. After the match, it was said that the point was disallowed owing to the custodian having been impeded, but, since Hansom handled the ball twice before it reached the net, this argument hardly holds good. Still, the only reason that can be assigned for the referee's action, is that he was under the impression that the goalkeeper had been interfered with before he touched the sphere. However, disappointment did not long trouble the home supporters, for the forwards again came away in gallant style, and for the third time within six minutes, Fred Macintosh sent the ball between the sticks. These successes were only obtained by hard work, the home forwards being for some time afterwards fairly run down. The visitors scored from a scrimmage right in the goal mouth, and nearly got through a second time. But in time they fell away, and the home forwards recovering themselves, returned to the attack, and for the rest of the time, incessantly besieged the visitors' goal, and were prevented only by sheer bad luck from adding to their score. Their victory was richly deserved, and every credit attaches to them for having overcome one of the most powerful combinations in the second division of the Wear Valley League.

THE PLAYERS.

The most conspicuous on the home side were the half-backs, the whole of whom played a safe game. Gilroy was undoubtedly the pick of them, his tackling, kicking, and judgment very rarely being at fault. Walton ran him close for first honours, Tommy Wilson playing a little too recklessly at times, and seemingly holding his opponents very cheaply. Of the backs, Devine was a bit off in his kicking, and Bob Lawson, although he invariably got the ball away out of danger, never transferred the sphere to any great distance, and the visitors rushing up, got closely in. Nevertheless, although they were within five or six yards of the goal on many occasions, the Stanley players troubled Donachy very slightly, and his time was mainly occupied in keeping himself warm by doing a short sprint from upright to upright. Fred. Macintosh, as centre forward, was a little slow at the set off, but when he once found his feet, he was simply unbeatable. Geary once again appeared in the front rank, and by his brilliant performances retrieved his failure of last week. Watson and McGough were again at home on the left wing, but on the right wing, Richardson was not up to the mark. With the team a little improved, Tow Law Reserve should give a good account of itself for the rest of the season.

CONSETT SWIFTS AT HOME.

The Swifts had an easy thing on, on Saturday, with Heaton Science and Art. From start to finish they had matters almost their own way, but it must be confessed that their goal-getting abilities are far from perfect, when they were only able to obtain a single goal after having at least four-fifths of the game to themselves. However, they accomplished a record performance for the Swifts' ground, by sending through three off-side goals. Of the players, Allison, Dempsey, Turley, Harkness, and Nicholl were the pick, the latter, seeing that he is a member of the Reserve eleven, playing a remarkably good game for his initial appearance. His passing was done with great judgment, and his kicking was not often at fault. Dempsey played soundly from beginning to end, and Turley sent in some amazing shots, but experienced the misfortune of being declared offside every time he beat the custodian. Allison was as safe as a house, and the two backs, with Highfield between the sticks, set up a capital defence. The Swifts only want to practice the art of goal-getting, and then victories when thoroughly earned will be obtained more decisively by them. I was rather taken in over the Science and Art team. I expected to see some really good football, but as a whole, their science was conspicuous by its absence. However, in the last few minutes of the game, they showed up pluckily, and the Swifts had to work hard to prevent them equalising.

DIPTON AGAIN DEFEATED.

I have the same old tale to tell once more. Dipton have again gone through the mill. They have risked another Alliance encounter, and have received another defeat. Five goals to one was the score at Southwick, on Saturday, and this brings the record of the Wanderers in the whole of their Alliance encounters to—goals for, 14; goals against, 70. Pity poor Dipton. The game was greatly interfered with by the strong wind which prevailed, but the score may be taken as a pretty correct representation of the merits of the teams. The Dipton forwards were a very poor lot, and could make no headway whatever. The halves did fairly well, and the full-back division was quite reliable. I hear that the Wanderers have received offers from two or three good players. By their victory, Southwick were enabled to take a step forward in the Alliance Competition, Stanley receiving the go-by.

ANOTHER WIN FOR SOUTH MOOR JUNIORS.

West Stanley Plungers visited South Moor, on Saturday, but found that, though weakly represented, the juniors were still good enough to beat them, with a couple of goals to spare. The South Moor lads have got a splendid goalkeeper in Cook, and I think that he is one of the cleverest juniors that I have ever seen. The backs were in good form, on Saturday, Wheatley having a slight pull over his colleague. The halves were weak, Lamb being the pick of the trio. Errington played a fine game as centre forward, but might with advantage feed both wings instead of one only. The Plungers' custodian played a splendid game, and the backs did remarkably well, considering that they are still schoolboys. Rose played a brilliant half-back game, rushing and tackling like a born footballer. Green was the best of the forwards, and I may here mention that the art of passing does not appear to have been extensively practiced by the Plungers.

NEWCASTLE ARTILLERY ROUTED.

A football battalion of the Newcastle Artillery marched on to the Annfield Plain football ground, on Saturday, but were repulsed with great slaughter. To put the same in football parlance, I may at once state that by five goals to nil, the Celtics defeated their opponents. From the first, the visitors were out-classed, and could do nothing before the vigorous attack of the Annfield Plain eleven. Generally, the game was not interesting—mainly owing to its one-sided character. Certain it is that the homesters did not exert themselves to the utmost. Some idea of the superiority of the Celts over their opponents may be gathered from the fact that E. Lynap—after vainly endeavouring to keep his blood in circulation by waltzing round the cold and cheerless posts—coolly took his place amongst the home forwards. Such a proceeding under ordinary circumstances would be utterly unwarrantable, but upon such a bitterly cold day, and with the victory assured, one cannot blame the Plain custodian for taking a little exercise. It is to be regretted that McGuire should have been injured. After his first fall, he seemed dazed, and certainly ought not to have been allowed to take any further part in the game. The second fall may be considered a consequence of the first. Well, five goals to nil is good work, and speaks volumes for the prowess and power of the Celtic team.

The soldiers marched upon the field,
In bold and strong array,
"The famous Celts," they loudly cried,
"Shall yield to us, to-day."
The soldiers marched with footsteps slow,
To catch the evening train,
And whisper sadly, as they go,
"We have not beat the Plain."

THE ALLIANCE CHAMPIONSHIP.

The last two weeks have witnessed a transformation of the Northern Alliance table, and from a good thing for Newcastle United A, the Championship has become wonderfully open. The two successive reverses of the leaders by Hebburn Argyle and Gateshead N.E.R., have put the Newcastle team on an equality of points with Jarrow, and they only retain their position by means of a fractional better goal average. But Hebburn Argyle occupies a relatively better position than either of the Clubs, and may yet supplant them both, while both Blyth and Shankhouse may also yet have to be seriously considered in the tussle for chief honours. Altogether, the tournament just at present is more interesting than it has been for a long time. The first half dozen clubs in the table have all shown marked improvement, and there can be no getting over the fact that the tournament has given the game a capital stimulus in the district.

THE INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES.

The individual performances on both sides were not exceptionally brilliant, though all the members of the home eleven did some good work. Both Dodds and Stone should prove acquisitions to the Club, the former kicking with ease, judgment and effect. Ellis and Foster both played a good passing game, but there is really no exceptional feat to record. For the visitors, McGuire and Burns did good service, and the retirement of the former player, undoubtedly, affected the result, so far as the number of goals registered against them is concerned.

DERWENT EXCELSIOR SUCCUMB.

The Consett Park men gave Derwent Excelsior a beating on Saturday last, at Number 1, not so much perhaps in the nature of goal-getting—although they won by two clear points—as in the general character and style of the game, the homesters outclassed their opponents in every respect. For the homesters, Burnett played exceedingly well, never allowing a single shot to pass him, which was not a phenomenal performance, considering that he never had one to stop. This fact alone declares the character of the game. Symington and Carr exhibited good form, the whole of the forwards showing improved form, and a better "attack" than usual. The visitors, on the other hand, played "trumps" in the back division, which fact accounts for the comparative smallness of the score, retaining in view the one-sided aspect of the game.

THE DERWENT LEAGUE PREMIERSHIP.

A rattling game was witnessed at Shotley Spa last Saturday, when the two leading League teams met to fight out their battle for supremacy. It was a great fight, and honours were even in more respects than one. Every man Jack of the Allendaleites played for all he was worth, but there were one or two frosts in the Rovers' eleven, and it was largely due to the magnificent play of the full backs that the Spa boys were able to snatch a single point. The lady supporters of the Shotley Club were present in strong force, and it was rather ungallant of the Allendaleites to mortify these fair "sports," by declining to lower their flag. Allendale were weakened by the absence of Morton Hedley.

THE PARK VICTORIOUS.

Saturday's return fixture between Leadgate Park and Crook, was not productive of particularly good play on either side, but was, nevertheless, very satisfactory to the Park supporters, inasmuch as their pets secured their first Northern League victory. Crowther kept up his reputation as an excellent custodian, and to him the Park are largely indebted for their victory. He effected several smart saves, one in particular, when surrounded by half-a-dozen opponents, being deserving of the hearty outburst of cheering which it received. Frank Foreman played a champion full-back game, but his colleague was very much off-colour. Bob Forster and Cartmell were the pick of the half-backs, and Thompson and Lock were very conspicuous in the forward rank. Graham played a rare game till injured, but Crute was of very little service. He mulled one grand chance, with only the custodian to overcome.

THE VISITORS.

Reed, the Crook custodian, is a very efficient player, and his team are materially indebted to him for keeping the score so low. Whitfield was distinctly the best of the full backs, and one can feel little wonder that Woolwich Arsenal have been anxious to secure his services. He is a player quite worthy of a position in a club of the calibre of the famous southern organisation. Raine was quite a frost, and it was entirely owing to a blunder on his part that Leadgate got their one ewe lamb. Clarkson and Chatt did good service in the half-back line. Nat Rippon, Wood, and McNeilly worked cleverly together in the forward rank.

CONSETT PARK GOALKEEPE[illegible]

The ball went to the left and rig[illegible]
Sometimes 'twas out of sight.
But not a shot passed him.
Shivering and cold was he,
A piteous sight to see,
Yet no one relieved him.
Someone cried, "See the ball,
Rolls towards the Consett go[illegible]
Poor Burnett believed it.
His face wore a ghastly smil[illegible]
Just for a little while,
Then quickly lengthened
Colder his fingers grew,
He had no work to do,
Poor Park custodian.
Long may the fact be told
How this goalkeeper, bol[illegible]
Let not a shot pass h[illegible]

WEDNESDAY FO[illegible]

Interest in mid-week [illegible] greatly on the increase in [illegible] and that interest will don[illegible] the generous offer of the S[illegible] to give a thirty guinea [illegible] Wednesday teams. The offer has been [illegible] appreciated by the Wednesday footballers Nor' West," and if properly worked [illegible] to lead to a material advancement in the [illegible] Wednesday footballers in the district.

THE STANLEY INVINCIBLES.

Of all the clubs in Stanley town,
Aspiring for a foremost place,
W[illegible], triumphant in the race,
Wednesday gain a grand renown.
[illegible] and Tantoble, the great,
And Langley Park of honoured name,
Retire before their spending fame,
And nought but beatings contemplate,
[illegible], lo! a champion is at hand,
Stanley Athletic waves her flag.
On, Wednesday on, and do not lag,
[illegible] the foeman take your stand;
Invincible, you yet shall hold
[illegible] against these warriors bold."

DERWENTWATER.

FOOTBALL.

NORTHERN LEAGUE.

LEADGATE PARK v. CROOK.

[BY THE "BRADLEY BOY."]

The above teams met in their return League encounter at Leadgate on Saturday. A week ago, the teams met at Crook, when the home lads ran out victorious by four goals to one. There was a moderate number of spectators present when the teams took the field as follows:—

PARK		CROOK
Crowther	Goal	Reed
Foreman	Right back	Whitfield
Bell	Left back	Raine
Cartmell	Right half	Chatt
Forster	Centre half	Clarkson
Snowdon	Left half	Hammill
Crute	Right outside	McNielly
Graham	Right inside	Collins
Thompson	Centre	Rippon
Wilson	Left inside	Cox
Lock	Left outside	Wood

Referee, Mr Bateman, Howdon.

The Park won the toss, and elected to play with the wind. Rippon started, and Wilson at once got down. He gave Lock a fine chance, but the latter failed to catch the ball, which went out. The Park again got down, and forced a corner, which was nicely placed by Lock. Graham received, but shot over, and Crook made a brief spurt to the high end. Cartmell frustrated all efforts to score, and Thompson, getting within shooting distance, forced

REED TO HANDLE.

The Crook custodian threw away, but the Park vanguard again came to the fore, and Wilson had a shy, but the ball went wide. Wood travelled the field, but on nearing the Park fortress, was fouled by Cartmell. Hands against Crook resulted, and Foreman placed nicely. Thompson received, and passed finely to Crute, who had a clear opening. Charley, however, sent over, when a goal for the Park seemed imminent. McNielly got up, but Snowdon responded with a punt into the goalmouth. Chatt fouled Wilson, but the free kick came to nothing. Collins broke away, but Bell returned, and Thompson again gave a fine pass to Crute. Charley transferred the ball to Wilson, who shot into Reed's hands. Hands relieved the pressure against Crook, but Lock sprinted away, and finished up with a swift shot which went wide. Wilson got in close proximity to the Crook goal, and gave Reed a rare handful, which the Crook custodian saved by conceding a corner. Hands off Clarkson resulted, and Foreman again took the kick. Crute had a fine chance a minute afterwards, but again shot past. Wilson sent in a high shot, which Chatt headed out, and Raine miskicking, let in Sammy Thompson, who

SCORED FOR THE PARK,

amidst cries of "Good old Park." On centring, Rippon and Wood got away, but Foreman repelled the attack, and Lock sent in a screw shot. The ball rolled across the goalmouth, an easy chance of scoring being missed. Wood got away and shot in. Crowther fell with the ball in his arms, and Rippon and Collins were soon upon him. He, however, managed to clear, amid expressions of delight from the home supporters. Crute and Wilson neared the Crook citadel, where the latter sent in a high shot, Reed letting the ball drop out of his hands. He, however, managed to reach the ball in time, and saved grandly. Crook got up and forced their first corner, Collins placing. Graham headed out, and Thompson raced to the other end, where the Park were penalised for a foul off Cartmell. A foul against Crook followed, and an exciting tussle took place near the visitors' goal. Crute headed in twice in succession, but Reed was equal to the occasion; and saved magnificently. Hands were given against Crook, but Wood and Cox again came away. Hands rewarded their efforts, but Hammill shot past. Graham got into close proximity to his opponent's goal, and just missed scoring. Raine again miskicked, and let in Crute, who forced a corner. The Park had now the best of matters, Reed having to fist away several shots. Wilson got into a grand position, and sent in a high shot, which also went over. Graham fouled Whitfield; and the latter took the kick. The ball quickly travelled back, and Graham was seen to fall. He had to be carried off the field, and the Park had to fight out the game with ten men. The whistle afterwards sounded half time with with the score—

Park	1 goal
Crook	Nil

On restarting, the Park at once got down, but Whitfield punted up the field. Collins got control over the leather, and shot into Crowther's hands. Wood and Cox were making tracks for the home goal, when the latter was pulled up for hands. Bell took the kick, but placed weakly, and Rippon spurted away. Forster dispossessed him, and sent in a grand shot, which went over. Cox carried play to the other end, where Bell had no difficulty in clearing. Lock responded with a tricky run up the left, where Whitfield was fouled. The free kick came to nothing, as Crute broke away, and after passing Hammill, shot past. The homesters were awarded hands off Hammill, and Foreman again took the kick. Crute headed in, but Raine returned, and Forster just missed

SCORING WITH A LOW SHOT.

The Leadgate lads were awarded hands ten yards off the goal, but Bell, who took the kick, shot over. Cartmell dispossessed Wood, and shot in, but Reed again saved grandly. McNielly got away, but shot past, as did Wood a minute later, Lock and Thompson carried the sphere into safer quarters, but Raine cleverly pulled up the Park centre forward. Wood again got away, but shot out, and Bell stopped a hot return from Clarkson. Thompson spurted into the Crook quarters, and tested Reed with a hot shot. The Crook custodian fumbled, but he managed to recover himself in time to save. A foul let in Crook, who had now the best of matters. Wood received near the home goal, and sent in a terrific shot, which struck

THE OUTSIDE OF THE NET.

Collins and Cox both fouled Cartmell, but no score resulted. The Park forced a corner, which was well placed by Lock. Wilson headed past. Reed again saved at the expense of a corner. Crute shot past, and Wood got away on the left, but followed the example of Crute. The Crook forwards were now playing better than at any previous stage of the game. Cox and Collins got possession, and forced a corner, which proved abortive. McNielly broke away, and centred grandly to Collins, who sent in a splendid shot, which Crowther negotiated. McNielly got away, and forced Crowther to his knees. The Crook lads were awarded a foul near the Park goal, Whitfield taking the kick. Forster headed out grandly, and McNielly forced a corner. Wood received, and compelled Crowther to handle. Hands relieved the pressure, and the ball was in Crook territory when the whistle sounded full time, with the score—

PARK	1 goal
CROOK	Nil

NORTHERN ALLIANCE.

BIRTLEY v. STANLEY.

[BY "CROSS-BAR."]

The return fixture between these teams was played at Birtley on Saturday. The game was looked upon as likely to produce a keen contest, for, though the "Whites" hold

A SUBSTANTIAL LEAD

in the Alliance Competition, the first meeting between the teams proved so even as to make the result of Saturday's game extremely doubtful. The teams lined up in the following order:—

STANLEY.		BIRTLEY.
Morris	Goal	Collins
Laws	Right back	Bell
Joyce	Left back	Rowell
Fish	Right half	Dixon
Nicholson	Centre half	Rutherford
Milburn	Left half	Laws
Buck	Right outside	Gale
Robson	Right inside	Bolam
O'Connor	Centre	Roscamp
Howe	Left inside	Palmer
Masterman	Left outside	Brown

Referee: Mr. J. Conqueror, of Sunderland.

Nicholson won the toss, and, rather unwisely, [illegible] to play against the wind. After a [illegible]ary rush by the home forwards, O'Connor [illegible] Stanleyites to the charge, but a clever [illegible] kick by Laws transferred the advantage [illegible] homesters. Another incursion by the [illegible]entre was defeated by Bob Bell, and [illegible] Rowell dispossessed Robson, when the [illegible] got into a threatening position. A [illegible] for Birtley was splendidly placed by [illegible]ell, but only a bye resulted. Roscamp [illegible] look in, but Laws tackled him, and [illegible]ll away. Birtley continued to press, [illegible]tempt to break away on the part of [illegible]k came to nothing. Brown centred [illegible] but

[illegible]OYCE CLEARED SPLENDIDLY,

[illegible] and Howe rallied into the home [illegible] O'Connor received a pass, and rushed past Bell, but the latter quickly recovered himself, and kicked into touch. Milburn landed forward to Robson, who eluded Rowell, and forced Collins to handle. This the home custodian did effectively, and, after further pretty play by both teams, the homesters secured a corner. Tommy Fish was to the fore in baffling good attempt by Gale, and Howe and O'Connor cleverly ran round Rutherford. The latter passed on to Robson, who dribbled into dangerous proximity to the home goal, but, on passing to Buck, that player allowed the ball to travel into touch. A mull by Palmer gave Howe an opening, but

ROWELL CAME TO THE RESCUE.

Brown received, and getting past Fish after a stiff bully, centred accurately, and Gale sent in a clinking shot, which Morris saved at the expense of a corner. A red-hot scrimmage ensued in the visiting goal mouth, but to the relief of the Stanley supporters, Roscamp finished the business by shooting skywards. Masterman then had a chance, but shot straight at Bell, and the latter promptly punted back again. Palmer missed a golden chance of scoring, but Brown compensated for his colleague's failure by banging in a rattling screw shot. Lawes cleared his lines in brilliant fashion. Stanley now forced the pace, and after some capital work on the part of Howe, Milburn, and Masterman, the latter centred neatly, but O'Connor headed over the bar. Joyce and Lawes cleared a rush by the home forwards, and Howe broke away, but was fouled by Bell when about mid-field. Rowell cleared from the free kick, and Pompey Bolam raced for the visiting citadel, and

SENT IN A SCORCHER,

which Morris fisted away. After further play in the vicinity of the Stanley goal, Roscamp was given a fine chance, but again he aimed at the moon, and the opportunity was lost. From a pass by Robson, O'Connor got well away, passed Tommy Rowell, and shot for home. Collins kicked away, and Nicholson and Laws had to work hard in defence. Ned gave a corner, which Laws got away, and, subsequently, both teams missed chances on account of infringing the off-side rule, Roscamp and Robson being the offenders. The visitors now roused themselves, and a fine screw shot by Masterman just missed the goal. The home vanguard retaliated by

A PIECE OF FINE PASSING,

and despite the spirited tackling of Fish and Milburn, Morris was called upon. He was not found wanting. Then the Whites got away, and Rowell gave a corner to stop a fine effort by Jimmy Masterman. Jimmy took the corner, and placed nicely to Howe, who headed smartly into the goal. Collins cleared, however, and Birtley getting away again,

ROSCAMP SCORED.

Restarting, Birtley pressed, and Rowell landed from a free kick plump into the goal mouth. Morris managed to clear by giving a corner, which Gale centred splendidly, but Fish got the ball away miraculously. A moment later, Tommy again cleared with the ball almost between the uprights. Birtley continued to hold the upper hand, and Brown gave a nice pass to Gale, but the latter bungled badly, and though the homesters pressed hard right up to the interval, they failed to increase their total, and at half-time the scores stood—

Birtley	1 goal
Stanley	Nil

From the centre-kick, the homesters were let in through misjudgment on the part of the visiting backs, but Roscamp shot wide—a very bad miss. Howe ran down the left, but was checked by Rutherford, who enabled Bolam and Palmer to get into the Stanley quarters. Howe passed to O'Connor, and the home centre racing merrily away, passed across to Masterman, who centred nicely. Buck appeared certain to score, but his shot struck Bell, and rebounded past the uprights. The corner was easily cleared, and subsequent shots by Howe and Nicholson went wide of the mark. Another fine centre by Masterman came to nothing, owing to O'Connor slipping when in the act of shooting. The Birtley forwards broke away, and after a grand exhibition of passing, Gale

SHOT INTO THE NET,

Morris having no chance to save. Stanley rushed away from the kick-off, and took the ball straight to the home goal, but the ball was sent a yard outside the post. A splendid kick by Joyce gave Masterman a chance, but Bolam came to the rescue of his team, and raced down to the centre. The visiting halves were playing a champion game, and thanks to their efforts, the ball was sent back, and Masterman shot in a daisycutter. Collins got to the ball, but ere he could manage to clear, Robson raced up and shot into the net. The Whites now played up desperately, and a grand combined effort by Masterman, O'Connor, and Robson compelled Rowell to give a corner. This was cleared, but after further play in the home territory

COLLINS GAVE ANOTHER CORNER

to save a capital shot from Nicholson. Nothing resulted from the corners, and subsequently Collins showed up brilliantly in defeating shots from Robson and O'Connor. Brown was responsible for the third point for Birtley, and though Stanley got through again, the point was disallowed for off-side. Final result—

BIRTLEY	3 goals
STANLEY	1 goal

CONSETT PARK v. DERWENT EXCELSIORS.

This fixture was brought off on the ground of the former, at Number One, on Saturday last. The weather was rough in the extreme, and the ground as hard as flint. The visitors won the toss, the home men setting the ball in motion by a straight visit into the visitors' territory, where Barrow essayed a shot at goal. The custodian, however, successfully rejected, and returning the sphere, the visitors had a look in briefly, but were soon dispossessed, and driven back on their defences. The rear division of the visitors, however, contributed an able exhibition of defensive play, and successfully circumvented all the attempts of the Park forwards to lower their colours, and the interval of play arrived without any score being opened by either side.

Resuming, the Park, with the aid of the wind, began to establish their presence, and pressed severely. Jones and Maxwell, on the right wing, put in some effective work, the latter eventually scoring from a centre by Barrow. The home men, inspirited by their partial success, came again, and were once more successful in effecting the downfall of the visitors' fortress. The Park maintained the pressure from now to the end of the match, but owing to the excellent defence opposed to them, were unable to increase their lead further, and time arrived with the score—

CONSETT PARK	2 goals
DERWENT EXCELSIOR	Nil

TANFIELD SCHOOL LEAGUE v. GATESHEAD SCHOOL LEAGUE.

Teams representing these Leagues, met at Stanley on Saturday morning, in cold and stormy weather. Gateshead winning the toss, elected to be benefited by the wind, Forster kicking off for Tanfield against the elements. Aided by the wind, the visitors got down, but the Tanfield forwards carried play to the other half. Snow began to fall, and ere long it was very severe. Gateshead scored their first point from Johnson. The local team at once made headway from the centre, and by good passing, Forster, in centre, was able to equalize amidst cheers. Coming away again Buglas put through, but was ruled off-side, which was very hard lines, seeing the ball was last played by an opponent. Gateshead now had the upper hand, and ere half-time arrived Coquet, James, and Johnson, had added points. The second half was all in favour of Tanfield boy's the onlyfault being that they could not find the goal often enough. Davis scored No. 2 from a free-kick, and Buglas No. 3, the game ending in a win for Gateshead, by 4 to 3.

BURNOPFIELD JUNIOR FOOTBALL LEAGUE.

Mr Press presided at the recent meeting of the above league, when representatives were present from Burnopfield, Hobson, Dipton, Whickham, High Row, and South Moor Juniors. The protest of Hobson against Marley Hill, on account of short time, was sustained, and the tie was ordered to be re-played on cup-tie terms. A similar decision was given on the appeal of Hobson against High Row, and the latter club was ordered to pay a fine of 2s 6d for playing illegible men. The Whickham v. Marley Hill game was ordered to be re-played. South Moor lost their protest against Burnopfield, and were ordered to forfeit the protest fee. Dipton protested against South Moor for playing a player over 18 years of age. The consideration of the protest was adjourned for the production of the birth certificate. Transfers from Byer Moor to High Row, and Burnopfield to Hobson were granted. Appended is a list of matches and referees for the ensuing month:—

Jan. 30th.—Dipton v Burnopfield, W Moody.
Feb. 6th.—High Row v South Moor, Mr Osman.
" 6th.—Craghead v Dipton, W Moody.
" 6th.—Burnopfield v Consett, J Lamb.
Feb. 13th.—South Moor v Hobson, G Press.
" 13th.—Dipton v Hobson, Gray.
" 13th.—Burnopfield v Marley Hill, W Moody.
" 20th.—Hobson v South Moor, G Press.
" 20th.—Whickham v High Row, J Robinson.
" 20th.—Dipton v Consett, D McGregor.
" 27th.—Marley Hill v High Row, J Osman.
" 27th.—Consett v Burnopfield, D McGregor.
" 27th.—South Moor v Whickham, G Middleton.

SAMBOTTEE CUP.

BROOMS v. MONKWEARMOUTH.—These teams met at Leadgate, in snowy weather. The Broom's lads played finely, and were able to run out victors by eight goals to nil. The goals were scored by Croney (2), Marren (3), McDonald (2), and Hughes (1). There was a fair attendance when play was started.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3).

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MURIEL'S FAITH

By CLARA MULHOLLAND,

Author of "John Lawson's Ward," "Two Against One," "A False Step," &c.

The great drawing-rooms were ablaze with lights. Ferns and palms stood in every corner, and wreaths of fragrant roses hung from the archway between the two rooms and round the high windows leading into the conservatory. These, together with the beautiful dresses and pretty, graceful figures of the dancers, made the scene one of dazzling brilliancy.

Mrs. Norton stood at the top of the stairs receiving her guests, and as they swept past her, matrons in satin and diamonds, youthful maidens in soft silk and pearls, accompanied by their husbands, fathers and brothers, she looked round her with pleasure. The *élite* of society had responded to her invitation. Her ball was a success.

"And where is Arthur?" she asked anxiously. "There is Miss Goodall. He must ask her to dance and pay her all the attention he can."

"The young fool!" her husband answered angrily. "He has not the sense to pay attention to a girl like that, but must needs waste his time with a little goose like Muriel Lee. I wish I had never seen her face."

Mrs. Norton sighed and looked at him reproachfully.

"It is too late now. You know I was always against bringing her here. Arthur and I had quite a quarrel to-day, because I would not allow her to come down to the ball. At seventeen, I think, especially in her position, a girl is best in the schoolroom. Ah! there he is at last."

Arthur Norton entered the room listlessly, and stood for a moment apart from the crowd. He was a tall, handsome young fellow of three-and-twenty, with a bright, frank face that usually wore an expression of happy content. But just then he looked somewhat depressed.

"Pray exert yourself, Arthur, and speak to your friends," said his mother. "This ball was given for your amusement. You might look a little pleased. Go and dance with Miss Goodall. The belle of the ball should not be neglected by the son of her host."

Arthur made no reply, but, turning away, went through the crowd towards a beautiful girl with a mass of auburn hair, and deep blue eyes with long dark lashes. She was richly dressed, and played coquettishly with her fan as she talked and laughed with her partner.

"Good evening, Miss Goodall," said Arthur, bowing. "I trust I am not too late? May I have the pleasure of the next waltz?"

"Certainly," she replied, and, allowing her lovely eyes to rest for an instant upon his face, she wondered silently why he looked so unhappy. "It is not natural to him. There must be something wrong."

Arthur met her earnest glance, and his colour deepened.

"They are just going to begin," he said, and, offering her his arm, he led her into the ballroom.

Two moments later Mrs. Norton beamed with satisfaction. Arthur was gliding swiftly round the room with beautiful Josephine Goodall, the greatest catch of the season.

Meanwhile, within a small upper chamber, furnished very sparingly as a school-room, sat Muriel Lee, her face wet with tears, a look of loneliness and longing in her eyes.

She was a pretty girl of seventeen, slight and childish, with hair of a golden hue that rippled in soft little curls round her forehead, and a complexion almost transparent in its fairness. She was dressed in a pink cotton frock, which, though somewhat crumpled and soiled, became her well.

With the door open she could just hear the sweet strains of the band, and her little feet beat time to the music as she sat close to the window, her cheek pressed against the pane, hoping to catch sight of some of the gay dresses as the guests alighted and took their departure. "She might have let me go down, if only for an hour. My white muslin would have done very well, and I would not have asked for even one partner," she said, sadly. "And if Arthur had wanted me to dance with him—I'd just have sent him away."

"What, sitting in the dark, little one?" said a voice that brought a smile to her lips and dried the tears upon her cheek. "This will never do, Muriel. I cannot allow you to mope."

"I am not moping. I am enjoying the fun—and—and you must go back, Arthur, to the ballroom; Mrs. Norton will be so angry."

"I don't care," he answered doggedly, as he struck a match and lit the gas. "It is a shame to keep you here alone. I have done my duty for to-night. I have danced with and made myself agreeable to the belle of the ball. Now I consider that I have earned a rest, and I intend, no matter what happens, to stay up here with you."

"How good of you! How delightful!" she cried, with a laugh that was the very essence of youthful happiness. "The sight of you has chased the cobwebs from my brain, and I now feel perfectly happy. I can even pity those poor things jumping and bumping about in the hot room."

As she spoke Arthur looked at her with love and admiration.

"Muriel"—he laid his hand upon her shoulder, and his voice trembled as he spoke—"dearest—will you love me? Will you be my wife?"

The girl started violently. Her face grew pale as death, her eyelids drooped, and she shrank away from him.

"Oh, Arthur, I dare not. I am afraid—I——"

"Of what, sweetheart? Of an angry father? Of an irate mother? But we must be brave and fear not; and very soon I shall win their consent. If you love me, we must conquer. Say, darling," drawing her towards him, "can you love me—care for me a little?"

His arms were round her, her golden head upon his breast, whilst in trembling accents she answered low:

"Yes, Arthur, I love you—oh, so dearly."

"Then I fear nothing, my darling—my wife!"

It was a moment of rapture to both. They forgot everything but their love, as they stood in silent ecstasy, oblivious of the passing time.

The sound of heavy footsteps on the stairs startled them.

"Someone is coming," said Muriel, the first to recover her presence of mind, and she returned to her seat by the window.

Then suddenly the door was flung open, and Mr. Norton, anger, indignation, annoyance, plainly visible in every feature of his rubicund countenance, strode up to his son.

"What do you mean by remaining up here," he asked in a loud voice, "losing the golden opportunities that your mother and I have placed at your disposal? Are you a fool, Arthur Norton, that you cannot see that the girl we have chosen to be your wife is not unwilling? And that it only requires you to be attentive and——"

"Hush, father, pray say no more. My wife," taking Muriel's hand and leading her forward, "is here."

The old man staggered back; his cheek paled visibly, his mouth grew very stern.

"With my permission you shall never marry her," he cried. "A girl received into my house out of charity—fed and clothed by me because of a boyish affection for her father, who, having gambled away his property, died leaving his child in poverty—to die, maybe, of starvation had I not taken pity upon her—a girl like that become my son's wife! Never!"

"But, father, all that was not Muriel's fault, and does not concern us now. We love each other. I will never marry anyone else."

"Then you may leave my house, and go where you please—Australia, America—and marry her when you are making an income with which to keep her. Not one penny of my money shall you receive to support you in your folly." And, turning his back upon them, he went out of the room and hurried downstairs.

"Oh, Arthur, leave me, dearest," cried Muriel, wringing her hands. "I would not ruin you—drag you from your home. Mr. Norton says truly—I am no fit wife for you."

"My darling"—he smoothed the fair hair from her brow, and, drawing the little head once more upon his shoulder, kissed the weeping girl tenderly—"of what use would wealth be to me without your love? I will go to Australia, Muriel, and prove myself a man. I have friends there, who will help me to find work. I shall get on—make money, and in a few years come home and claim my bride."

But the girl clung to him, weeping bitterly.

"Must you go? Must you go?"

"Yes, love, I must"—with emotion—"or give you up—and that I will never do. I know my father, Muriel. He has made up his mind—no prayers of ours will move him. And whilst I am gone, mine own, you must be firm. You must be true to me, no matter what is said or done. They will use every artifice to persuade you to renounce me, but you must pay no attention—you must remain firm."

"Yes," she cried, catching something of his fire. "Nothing will change me. I shall be firm as a rock."

Six weeks later Arthur Norton set sail for Australia; neither his father nor his mother tried to stop him. Absence, they argued, was the best cure for his folly. A small sum of money was sent on in his name to the agent in Melbourne, and thus his father resolved to send out every year, so that he should not want for the necessaries of life.

"It is very small compared with the allowance he had at home," said Mr. Norton to his wife, "and when my young gentleman finds out what a disagreeable thing poverty is, he will soon come round to our views. The idea of his preferring Muriel Lee to Josephine Goodall is too ridiculous. It is only a madness, and will not last. He'll be on his knees before long, I can tell you."

But the years passed on, and Arthur remained obdurate. The money remitted by his father through Messrs. Potts and Pritchard was always drawn by him as soon as it arrived; but he never asked for another half-penny, and wrote in excellent spirits to his mother and Muriel.

About nine months after his departure, Miss Goodall married a penniless peer, who, having mortgaged his estate to the last farthing, was glad to wed the handsome daughter of a wealthy merchant, who generously offered to liquidate his debts.

Mr. and Mrs. Norton were deeply grieved by this marriage, and felt very bitter towards Muriel, whom they looked upon as the cause of all their trouble. For had it not been for her, they told themselves, and her pretty baby face, their son would be living happily at home, the contented husband of a beautiful and wealthy bride.

Muriel bore their unkindness with angelic patience. They had good reason to dislike her, she would admit, with a sigh. She was not worthy of Arthur; and she had spoilt his career. She was sorry for them, and would gladly have done anything as an atonement for the past.

But there was only one thing asked of her; and this she would not, could not do. She had sworn to Arthur that she would be true, and, in spite of everything that was said or done, she would not give him up.

Although the Nortons were angry and disappointed, they never suggested that Muriel should leave their house. She had masters and governesses as before. She was free to stay in the schoolroom or go downstairs, as she chose. Everything was provided for her as in the old days. And yet she felt keenly a difference in their manner. They were cold and unfriendly, treating her distantly, unkindly even, in a way that she could not explain or define.

So, looking matters boldly in the face, she resolved to be dependent on their bounty no longer, but find some occupation by which she could earn her own bread. Teaching she felt sure would not suit her; and, after due deliberation, she determined to become a hospital nurse.

When the hour of separation arrived, Mrs. Norton was extremely sorry. She loved the girl better than she had supposed, and now felt grieved to let her go.

"You are undertaking a difficult and laborious life," she said. "And I am sure you will not like it. Why not give up such a foolish idea and agree to become Thomas Bertrand's wife? He is rich, and would, I am convinced, make you very happy. He is most anxious to marry you."

Muriel flushed, then, smiling sweetly, replied: "I do not love Mr. Bertrand. I could not be his wife."

"That is sentimental nonsense. Love comes after marriage, when one has everything one requires."

"I do not think so. And I would rather be a hard-working hospital nurse than the rich Mrs. Bertrand—a thousand times."

"Then," sighing, "there is no more to be said. If you are so obstinate you must go your own way."

"Yes," replied the girl, decidedly. "I intend to do so."

. . . .

Some six months later Muriel went to visit Mrs. Norton, and was shewn into that lady's boudoir. Here she found husband and wife closeted together in deep consultation.

"So, Miss Lee," said Mr. Norton, turning upon her fiercely as she entered, "you have come to gloat over us in our misery. You will, of course, say it is our fault, since we sent the boy away. But I tell you it is yours—because you led him on by your wiles and graces to disobey his parents; and so all this has come about."

Muriel gazed at him in astonishment. What did he mean? Had he gone suddenly mad? Or had some terrible misfortune fallen upon Arthur? Was he ill? Dead, perhaps?

Her colour faded and she sank into the nearest chair.

"Oh, John, do not blame her," cried Mrs. Norton. Looking up, Muriel saw that the poor woman was weeping bitterly. "In this, at least, she has had no part. My poor boy—who can say what temptations he may have suffered, how he struggled before he was led away?"

"Temptations? Arthur led away?" Muriel sprang to her feet, her blue eyes flashing indignantly. "Do not believe anyone who tells you he has done wrong. It is not true."

Mr. Norton looked at her sadly, and his face softened a little.

"I am glad you have such a high opinion of my unhappy son. But even you will be obliged to believe ill of him when you see this." And he laid an open cablegram before her. "There can be no two opinions about it, and it is signed 'Arthur Norton.'"

Muriel took the paper in her trembling fingers, and the following message met her astonished gaze: "Please send one thousand pounds at once. Have got into unpleasant scrape. If money is not here soon I shall be disgraced—my character ruined. Do not send through ordinary agents, but through Spiers and Giles.—Arthur Norton."

There was a long, almost breathless pause. From the girl's manner and look of horror, they thought she was convinced of the young man's guilt.

"You see," said Mr. Norton, sadly, "even you cannot doubt the truth of this. He is convicted—for he has confessed."

She raised her head and looked at him, her eyes full of a strong, undying faith.

"At first sight this message is misleading, but there is—there must be—a mistake, or the thing is a forgery. Arthur is incapable of doing anything disgraceful."

In a moment Mrs. Norton's arms were round her, and her lips were pressed against her cheek.

"God bless you, darling! Your words comfort me and give me hope. I believe now that you are right. But how—oh, how shall we ever prove it?"

Muriel did not reply—for a moment, but stood gazing at the unhappy mother with changing colour and beating heart.

"Alas," she said, presently, "that I cannot say! But pray, Mr. Norton, do not send the money."

"Of course, I'll send it," he answered, testily. "Why should I not? If it took my last pound to save my son from disgrace I'd send it. Arthur has been foolish—wicked, perhaps. But I must save him, save our name—so he shall have the money as soon as possible."

Muriel laid her hand upon his arm, and said imploringly:

"Then send it to Messrs. Potts and Pritchard, and cable to Arthur that you have done so."

"But why? He asks me expressly to send it to these new people."

"That is the reason I mistrust the message," she said earnestly. "I would not send the money till I communicated with Arthur. You might easily cable for particulars."

"And waste time. No, no, the money must go at once."

Mr. Norton strode rapidly up and down the room, his brows knit, his hands clenched.

"I do not like to send the money through the ordinary agents," he said presently. "I must do as he asked. It may be important," and he quitted the room abruptly.

. . . .

Days, weeks, months passed over, and nothing more was heard of Arthur Norton. He neither cabled nor wrote. Messrs. Spiers and Giles acknowledged the receipt of Mr. Norton's thousand pounds. And a little later a message came to say that it had been withdrawn by his son, who had joined an exploring party and had gone into the Bush.

The old man was deeply wounded. He became firmly convinced that Arthur was guilty, and that he had fled up country to escape the disgrace, which even the money had been powerless to avert.

But at last, after many months, he received a letter from his son.

"Dear father," he wrote, "your violent letter reached me yesterday only, as I have been wandering about through a wild part of the Bush for some time past. I cannot for the life of me understand what you mean. I never asked for a thousand pounds—never wanted it, and never got it. As for disgrace, that is nonsense, and I think you owe me an apology for believing a trumped up story, such as this must have been.—Arthur Norton."

"I wash my hands of him," cried Mr. Norton angrily. "He is a scamp and a liar. He takes his money, goes off to the Bush to escape from the penalty of his wicked folly, and tells lies to persuade me that he is innocent. He may remain in the Bush—or anywhere he likes. Not another penny of mine shall he receive."

"But you will surely not believe those agents before your own son?" cried Mrs. Norton in tones of anguish.

"I must. They have no motive for telling me lies; he has, I have done with him. I disown him!"

And he gave orders that his son's allowance should be stopped, and forbade anyone to mention his name in his presence.

Poor Mrs. Norton suffered terribly during this time. Her son did not write. He seemed to have forgotten them all. She was afraid he had been weak and foolish, but she would have forgiven all and implored him to come home, had it not been for her husband.

Muriel alone never faltered in her allegiance.

"He is noble and true," she would whisper to the unhappy mother, a faint flush tingeing her cheek. "Nothing will make me believe him capable of a dishonourable word or act. Some day we shall be able to prove his innocence." Her eyes flashed with a loyal light. She shut her lips firmly together, and a look of strong determination came into her sweet face. "Mr. Norton will live to believe in him as I do."

"God bless you! You are a good, kind little daughter. What should I do without you?" Mrs. Norton said one day. "But, my darling, you should not waste your life waiting for Arthur. Thomas Bertrand loves you. He is a good man and rich. Marry him and be happy."

The tears sprang to Muriel's eyes. She was only three-and-twenty, and her life was a hard one. But her belief in Arthur's innocence was great, her faith in his love firm and unfaltering.

"I have given my love; I cannot take it back," she said in a low voice. "Do not urge me to make a loveless marriage."

When she reached the hospital that evening, Thomas Bertrand was waiting to see her.

He was a dark, rather handsome man of thirty-five, a rich City merchant, possessing a fine house in town and a charming old place in Buckinghamshire. But Muriel had never cared for him, and lately she had begun to dislike him intensely.

"My dear Miss Lee," he said, coming forward with outstretched hands to meet her, "I have waited some time in the hope of seeing you."

"I am sorry you did so," she answered coldl… "It was a pity to waste your precious time in … a way. And now I have only a few moment… am due in the ward almost directly."

She sat down facing him, and in he… black dress, white apron and cap, she … … of Longfellow's Evangeline, so exqui… did she look in this severe and simple… "Happy was he," he murmured, "… touch her hand or the hem of her garmen…

Muriel glanced at her visitor. Why … dent? Usually he was a person of man…

"You wished to ask me something, I …" she said, breaking in on his reverie. "… hurry you, but my time is short. … smiling, "my own mistress now."

"No, and that is a shame," he cried. "That is what angers me. You who … queen! And it is all Arthur Norton'… engages himself to you, and then leav… races himelf, and does not write to fr… your promise. But since he has been …

[illegible] herself proudly erect, she looked at him, her dark eyes flashing ominously.

"Hush!" she commanded sternly. "Arthur Norton has done nothing that he need be ashamed of. His father would not allow him to marry me, and he was obliged to go away. That was his misfortune, not his fault."

"But his conduct in Australia, his confession of guilt? You cannot defend that?"

"I do not defend it. The cablegram was a forgery."

Thomas Bertrand gazed at her in amazement.

"Can you really believe such a thing? My dear Miss Lee—Muriel—do not, I implore, waste your life waiting for this man with such an idea as that."

"Till he is proved guilty I believe him innocent. I love him."

"But if he were proved beyond a doubt to have committed a wicked, a disgraceful action—would you still do so?"

She shivered slightly, and her face grew white as marble. But her eyes shone with a proud, defiant light.

"Nothing would ever make me believe him guilty of any dishonourable action."

"But if it were proved that he had fallen into evil ways—if you were convinced that he had disgraced himself, you would surely renounce all thoughts of marrying him?"

"Perhaps."

"And then you could not continue your life here. Oh, Muriel, I love you! Give up this man who has left you all these long years. Shake off his bondage and be my wife. I am rich—powerful. Dearest, you shall go where you please, do what you please. I place my life—my fortune in your hands. Only be my wife."

He spoke with intense passion, and Muriel could not but feel moved by his vehemence. Her eyes filled with tears and her sweet lips trembled. Seeing her thus overcome with emotion, Bertrand grew hopeful, and, approaching her side, tried to take her hand within his own. But she shrank from his touch with a cry. Her pale face flushed hotly, and her eyes blazed with indignation.

"I could never be your wife—never!" she cried. "Were Arthur ten times more guilty than you suppose, it would make no difference. But he is innocent—my faith in him is unshaken. Good evening. I must return to my duties." And, with a stiff bow, she opened a side door, and quickly disappeared.

After this Muriel's life was one of dreary, monotonous anxiety. No news came from Arthur; his name was not mentioned in his home, except in sad whisperings by his mother's couch. For the once proud and worldly-minded Mrs. Norton was now a confirmed invalid. Her son's absence, the cloud that hung over him and his persistent silence filled her with sorrow. And in all her trouble and affliction, Muriel was her only comfort, the one bright spot in her lonely existence. Her husband was not the man he used to be, he had grown morose and sour. Business was bad, and the work at the office absorbed him.

So into the desolate home the gentle hospital nurse, in her simple black gown, came like a ray of sunshine. Sorrow had strengthened and perfected Muriel's character, and though in the depths of her heart she still mourned the loss of her bright young lover, yet her sweet face ever wore a smile, and her lips were never without a kind word for those who needed consolation. She was a woman now, with a woman's thoughts and feelings, and although her life was at best a sad one, she never murmured, nor uttered a single word of reproach against anyone. Her love for Arthur Norton was strong as on that eventful evening when, as a maiden of seventeen, she had promised to become his wife.

And in the hospital, by the side of the weary patient suffering from some lingering disease, in the wards where men tossed to and fro in the feverish delirium brought on by accidents or operations, Muriel was reverenced and beloved. Her touch was the coolest, her hand the gentlest, and many were the dying sinners who, looking up into her face, thought she was some saint or angel sent by God to comfort and solace them in their last moments upon earth.

One evening, close and sultry, Muriel was summoned to the bedside of a man who had just been brought into the hospital. He had been knocked down by a 'bus in Northumberland Avenue. His head had come in contact with the kerbstone, and he was not expected to live. His ravings and screams were terrible to listen to as the doctors trepanned the wound upon his head. Then after a time his cries gradually subsided, and he lay in a stupor, unconscious of time or place.

"He cannot last long," said the doctor next day. "I wonder who he is, or if he has any friends, poor fellow. He has led a fast, dissipated life, I fancy."

And as Muriel sat by his bedside, through the long hours of the night, her soul was filled with pity for him, and she, too, wondered who his friends were. He was a young-looking man of perhaps five or six-and-twenty, with fair hair, handsome features, but a weak, coarse mouth and small, narrow jaw.

"He has a story," she thought sadly, "and, perhaps, his dear ones may be wondering where he is—wearing out their hearts in anguish at his sudden disappearance."

But there was nothing about the patient to say who he was or whence he came. His linen was white, and he had the air and appearance of a gentleman. But his clothes were poor and shabby, and the only article found in his pockets was a small leather purse, containing a few shillings, an old signet ring, and a piece of paper, upon which was written the name of a place in Australia.

For two whole days the young man lay motionless, senseless, dying. And then, as the morning of the third day dawned, he slowly opened his eyes, and muttered a few words in a feeble, indistinct voice.

Muriel raised his head, and moistened his feverish lips.

"I wish—to say—to confess," he stammered out at last. "I—injured a man—forged his name—to get—money."

Muriel started and the colour faded from her cheeks. She grew faint, and would have fallen, had she not clung to the rail of the bed for support.

"His name?" she gasped, a wild hope suddenly taking possession of her. "Oh, my God, if this should clear his name! If Arthur should be the man whose name—tell me, quick. Tell me his name."

"Arthur Norton."

The words were distinct and clear, but the moment he had uttered them the man sank into unconsciousness. The darkness of death seemed to envelope him.

"Arthur! Oh, my beloved! Are we to learn the truth at last?"

Then, throwing herself upon her knees, she prayed that more might be revealed, that this man should not die till he had told all there was to tell.

When the nurse who shared her watching came to release her, she rose up, and, without delay, hurried off to see Mr. Norton. With heightened colour and wildly beating heart, she related all that she had heard, and implored him to come back with her to the hospital.

Much agitated, the old man consented, and together they entered the ward, he leaning upon her, bent and broken down with sorrow, she proudly erect, a look of triumphant expectation in her sweet eyes.

As they approached, the nurse said to Muriel:

"He wanted to write a confession, but was too weak. I took down all that he said as well as I could."

The dying man opened his eyes.

"Sign—let me—sign."

Muriel raised him gently. The nurse placed the pen in his hand, and, in feeble, shaking characters, he wrote: 'Stephen Arnold.'

"It is all—over—now—I—die in peace."

"But," whispered Muriel, "where is Arthur Norton? Do you know?"

"Yes—his address—in the purse——" he gasped, and fell back unconscious on his pillow.

He never spoke again, and a few hours later his spirit passed away.

Thus was the mystery solved, and Arthur's name cleared from the shadow that hung over it so long.

Stephen Arnold, the son of a respectable merchant in Liverpool, had fallen into bad ways, and was shipped off to Australia by his father. Here he made the acquaintance of Arthur Norton, who did his best to make him lead an industrious, honest life. But Arnold was incorrigible, and only went from bad to worse. In desperate straits for money, he, one day, hit upon the plan of sending a cablegram in Arthur's name, asking for a thousand pounds to save him from some great disgrace. He knew that Mr. Norton was a wealthy man, and felt certain that he would at once comply with his son's request. To Potts and Pritchard he did not dare present himself, as Arthur was well known to them, so, at the risk of exciting suspicion, he begged that the money should be sent to a strange agent. Mr. Norton had fallen into the trap laid for him, and the wily thief made off with his spoil.

Mr. Norton was overcome with remorse on reading this man's extraordinary confession. The thought that he had wronged his son was anguish to him, and he felt humbled and ashamed that he had been so easily imposed upon. Had he taken Muriel's advice and made inquiries in Melbourne before sending the money, all would have been well, but, angry and indignant, he had refused to do this, and thus he himself had caused the sorrow and misery that had almost killed his wife, and had made him old before his time.

So, bitterly regretting his conduct, he wrote a full and ample apology, and, in the strongest language possible, implored Arthur to forgive and forget.

"Come home," he begged, "home to those who love … home and marry the sweetest, truest girl …ived, Muriel Lee. Do so, my son, and …art I will say, God bless you both."

…r, needless to say, did not require a …ing. As soon as steam and wind could …e came, happy to forgive, and willing …

…iel's troubles were at an end. Her love …survived all doubts, surmounted all …nd, with joy in her heart and "light …he became Arthur Norton's wife.

[The End.]

…LANCHESTER.

…ccess.—At the examination …don International College, in …month. Miss Louisa Rowe …Urwin, Hollinside Hall, Lang…sfully passed in pianoforte …r division), and obtained 10… …miner was Dr E. M. Lott.

FOOTBALL.

(Continued from Page 2).

TYNESIDE LEAGUE.

CONSETT SWIFTS v. HEATON SCIENCE AND ART.

[By "Kangaroo."]

On Saturday afternoon last, at Consett, the Swifts met Heaton Science and Art in a Tyneside League fixture. Some alterations were made from the advertised team, Nicholl taking the place of Joe Little, Eustace playing outside left, and James Rafferty acting as substitute for his brother John. The ground on the whole was not, perhaps, conducive to good football, for at the respective goal mouths, huge lumps of frozen mud studded the ground. A few minutes after the advertised time for starting, the referee, Mr A. Little, of Leadgate, called upon the teams to line up, and they took the field as follows:—

Consett Swifts.—Goal, Highfield; backs, J. McKie and James Carruthers; half-backs, James Rafferty, B. McKie, and J. Allison; forwards, Nicholl, R. Harkness, J. Dempsey, M. Eustace, and J. Turley.

Heaton Science and Art.—Goal, Baker; backs, Dowling and Keegan; half-backs, Trowman, Holliday, and Mason; forwards, Shield, Price, Thompson, Brown, and Featherstone.

The Swifts won the toss, and Thompson started for Heaton. He placed nicely down, but Dempsey receiving, at once sent the leather into the visitors' domains. Allison received from Dempsey, and passing over to Harkness, the latter put into the net amid cheers, within two minutes of the start. The visitors' forwards rushed the sphere down from the centre, and a free kick against the Swifts resulted. Dempsey made a nice steady run a moment later, and got within easy reach of the goal, but the backs bothered him, and his shot went spinning past the post by a few inches. From the goal kick, the visitors got the leather well into the homesters' territory and a corner was forced, but to no purpose. Again Dempsey managed to get away, and cleverly eluding Featherstone and Brown passed over to Turley, who badly missed a fine chance at goal. The homesters continued their attack, and crowding round the Heaton citadel B. McKie forced Keegan to clear his lines. Some fairly good passing was seen on the part of the Heatonians, which, together with a series of small rushes, placed Highfield's goal in considerable danger. The Swifts again transferred play, and Nicholl centred nicely, but no one was up to take the pass, and a good chance was lost. Heaton went in for another small rush, which Allison neatly stopped by back-heeling, and Carruthers getting possession of the sphere, passed to Turley, who banged into the net, just as the referee's whistle blew for off-side, the point being necessarily disallowed. A free kick against the visitors in midfield let the homesters in, but Harkness, who had the goal at his mercy, shot past. Shortly after, Turley got another into the net, but again the off-side rule nullified his effort. The Swifts pressed determinedly, and Baker executed two or three good saves, and generally had a rather lively time of it. Four corners fell to the homesters, but all proved worthless, the Heaton defenders keeping their goal free in clever style. Nicholl placed over the bar, and a minute afterwards, Baker was called upon to fist out. Heaton were penalised for hands, and Allison placed well. Turley received, and for the third time banged into the net, but being off-side, his effort proved abortive. The homesters by a bit of bungling spoilt two or three good chances, the leather being more than once within a foot of goal. Heaton at last got away, and Featherstone tried a shot at goal, which went fearfully wide of the sticks. From the goal kick, Dempsey trundled the sphere nicely up the field, and Harkness put over the crossbar. Dempsey followed by shooting past, and with the homesters pressing in front of the Heaton goal, the whistle blew for half-time, the score then standing—

Swifts .... 1 goal
Heaton .... Nil

Changing ends, Turley receiving from Allison, shot past the goal immediately on the restart. The Heaton custodian fisted out a second dangerous shot from Turley, and a steady pressure was maintained by the Swifts, Baker being called upon to negotiate shots from Turley, Harkness, and Dempsey. Heaton secured a corner, by dint of rushing, but the home lads managed to clear easily. Coming up the field, the Swifts forward rank got into the Heaton lines. Here Eustace shot for goal, and just missed by half a yard. Dempsey lost a good chance at goal, and Heaton managed to get away, until Shield handling, spoiled their chance. Eustace received from the free kick, and passing over to Turley, the latter mulled his kick. Turley was conspicuous with a splendid run, but his effort, good as it appeared to be, ended fruitlessly. Once more Turley got away, and Harkness receiving, experienced hard lines in not scoring, his shot missing by a couple of inches. Nicholl broke away, and eluding Brown, sent to Dempsey, who, however, handled the ball. Baker saved a clinking ground shot from Dempsey soon after, and a moment later, Rafferty hit the cross-bar from a scrimmage in front of the Heaton citadel. Turley and Dempsey executed a fine bit of passing, and Baker was obliged to clear. Dempsey essayed another attack on the Heaton goal, and cleverly passed over to his partners, but Turley let the ball roll into touch. B. McKie followed with a good shot, and then play was transferred to the other end. Highfield fisted out neatly, but a corner ensued, and the visitors pressed rather heavily for the remaining moments of the game. When the whistle blew, the score stood—

Swifts .... 1 goal
Heaton .... Nil

WEAR VALLEY LEAGUE.

TOW LAW RESERVE v. STANLEY ALBIONS.

[By "Dan's Castle."]

The return match between these two clubs was played at Tow Law, on Saturday, in the presence of a good number of spectators. Mr E. Moore refereed, and the teams were called together, on the snow-covered field, as follows:—

Reserve.—Goal, Donachy; backs, Lawson and Devine; half-backs, Wilson, Walton, and Gilroy; forwards, Geary, Richardson, Macintosh, Watson, and McGough.

Albions.—Goal, Hansom; backs, Riley and Conlon; half-backs, Stobbart, Clark, and Toole; forwards, Gair, Stothard, Watson, Layland, and Hesletine.

The visitors got away from the centre, but Tow Law quickly returned, and Macintosh, receiving in the centre, sent in a slow shot, which the Albion custodian had to fist away. Stanley returned, and shot past, after which Watson made a fine run up the wing for Tow Law, and, centreing well, afforded Macintosh a golden chance in front of the goal. The home centre had the custodian only to beat, but he shot right across the goal mouth, and Geary got hold on the other side. The "Evergreen" struck the upright with a low shot, but on making a second attempt, sent over the bar, and Tow Law had to retire in consequence of the goal kick. Gilroy and Devine grandly repulsed two successive attacks, and at last the home forwards got up *en masse*. Richardson was dispossessed, but Geary was too quick for the Albion backs, and, running on to the touch line, he put in a very fine centre, which went right across the goal mouth. Although the whole of the home forwards were congregated in front of the goal, they failed to accept the pass, and the ball went out of play on the other side. Even play followed, each goal being visited in turn. Geary was again conspicuous with some neat play, and again he centred capitally, but again the other forwards failed to obtain any advantage from it. Watson placed past the goal, and, getting away from the goal kick, the Albion worked their way close in. To save matters, Wilson conceded a corner, but it proved fruitless, although, shortly after, Donachy had to fist away a shot from the visitors' right wing. Watson transferred play with a capitical sprint up the wing, but failing to put in the centre at the right moment, was dispossessed by the backs. A free kick to Tow Law ended fruitlessly, but following, Hansom just managed to save off Richardson. The visitors' backs had their work cut out for some time, to save their citadel, but in the end their forwards got away, and Layland tried the home custodian with a low shot, which Donachy kicked away. Geary changed the venue of play with a run along the wing, and ended by putting right into the goal. Still the others failed to accept, and the danger was averted. Midfield play ensued till a free kick set Tow Law in, and, receiving off Wilson, Watson just missed scoring. Half-time arrived with

No Score.

A free kick to the Albion set them right in on the restart. Devine saved, and Geary made away on the wing. He gave to Richardson, who eluded the halves and passed to Watson. The latter put in a clever shot which Hanson stopped, but the ball, falling on the line, was shot into the net by Macintosh, who scored the first goal for the Reserve five minutes after the recommencement. Tow Law attacked from the centre, and after a few minutes' play, Richardson sent in a low shot which Hanson mulled in kicking away. McGough sent the ball back, and Macintosh headed into the net, but for some reason or other, the referee disallowed the point amidst the derisive cries of the spectators. Two minutes later McGough sent a fine shot into the goal mouth, where Macintosh received and banged through the second points. Stanley pressed afterwards, and Gilroy just cleared a free kick under the cross bar. Watson and McGough travelled away from the goal kick, and the latter essayed a shot at the goal, but the ball missed the upright by two feet. Conlon headed away off Watson, and the Albion's broke away up the field. A scrimmage ensued in Tow Law goal, and after some lively play, Watson headed through the first goal for the visitors. Watson was getting away grandly for the homesters, when pulled up for hands, but Tow Law were not to be denied, and play centred in the visitors' quarters, until Gilroy was penalised for handling the ball. The free kick was placed outside, but Stanley returned, and Watson shooting in, saw the ball taken by Gair who put into the net, but the point was disallowed on an off side appeal. Gilroy repulsed a second attack, and Tow Law forwards were getting in very dangerously when Richardson was declared off-side. For the rest of the game the homesters had by far the best of matters, but all efforts to score, proved of no avail, and the game ended—

Tow Law Reserve .... 2 goals
Stanley Albions .... 1 goal

ANNFIELD PLAIN CELTIC v. NEWCASTLE ROYAL ARTILLERY.

[By "Custos."]

The above teams encountered each other in a friendly fixture, on Saturday, on the Annfield Plain ground, before a small number of spectators. Snow fell during the greater part of the game, and considerably discomfited the players. The teams lined up as follows:—

Annfield Plain.—Goal, E. Lynap; backs, A. Moore and S. Stone; half-backs, J. Graham, A. Coyle, and R. Bell; forwards, R. Foster, W. Ellis, J. Dodds, J. Lynap, and R. Gillender.

Newcastle Artillery.—Goal, S. Biggs; backs, R. Dawson and C. Booth; half-backs, C. Shackleton, A. Bilbo, and J. Garth; forwards, P. Thompson, W. Shell, H. Peacock, G. McGuire, and R. Burns.

Referee: Mr J. Bell, Annfield Plain.

Annfield Plain started play against the wind. Thompson and Shell got possession, and were carrying the leather towards the Celtic goal, when J. Lynap neatly robbed them, and sent across to Foster and Ellis. The last-named players then set off in the direction of the visitors' citadel, and were not checked until they had reached the full backs, when Dawson smartly returned. Gillender received, and passed across to Ellis, who tried for goal, but without success. Play was eventually transferred to midfield, and the Artillery then began to "bombard" the Plain citadel. Hands relieved the pressure. Foster and Ellis now gave an exceedingly pretty exhibition, robbing McGuire and Burns in tricky fashion. Garth, however, stopped their course, and returned the leather with vigour. Moore was subsequently called upon to save, and proved quite equal to the occasion. Coyle afterwards got possession, and passed to Gillender, who made a fruitless attempt to score, the ball just going by. Graham received from a huge punt by Booth, and passed to Ellis, who sent over to Lynap. Play now grew exciting, a bully taking place right in the goal mouth. The game at this point was stopped through McGuire being somewhat seriously injured by a fall. After a brief interval, however, he insisted upon returning on to the field, where the homesters continued to maintain the upper hand. Some splendid passing took place amongst the Plain forwards, terminating in a magnificent shot into the net by Dodds. After the kick off, the homesters still showed their superiority over their opponents, Foster, Ellis, and Dodds being particularly to the fore, but no further point was registered, and when half-time arrived, the score stood—

Annfield Plain .... 1 goal
Newcastle Artillery .... Nil

During the interval, McGuire, whilst practising, again fell, his left arm being so seriously injured that he was compelled to retire, and was escorted to Dr. Davis's surgery. The play was now altogether in favour of the Celts. R. Bell tried for goal, but the visiting custodian easily fisted out. Gillender also made a series of unsuccessful attempts, but the warfare still raged in the Artillery's quarters. From a shot by Booth, Ellis sent the leather right into the net. Subsequent attempts by Foster and Gillender were repulsed, but J. Lynap managed to lower the Newcastle colours yet again. Gillender now made a couple of excellent attempts—the hard and slippery state of the ground alone preventing him from reaching the goal. Graham likewise tried vainly to add to the homesters' total. Hands against the Plain temporarily relieved the pressure, but once more the homesters returned to the charge, and from a pass by Gillender, Lynap sent into the net. J. Dodds sent in a fine shot, which was only just stopped by the Newcastle custodian. By this time, E. Lynap, evidently tired of doing nothing, left his charge and played with the forwards. The Artillery then made a rush, and got past the forward and half-back lines, only to be met by Stone, who saved finely. Again play was carried into the visitors' quarters, where Foster put through. The final score stood—

Annfield Plain .... 5 goals
Newcastle Artillery .... Nil

South Moor Juniors v Stanley Plungers.—These teams met at South Moor, on Saturday, before a large gathering of spectators. The Juniors were weakly represented. Mr J. Taylor acted as referee. The Juniors started up the hill, and quickly pressed, Errington sending in a stinger. Williamson brought off a grand save, but a corner followed. Brown placed well, and Purvis made a smart attempt to head through, but sent the ball just over the bar. The Juniors still pressed, and Hodder shot in, Williamson again fisting out. Errington met the ball, and banged in a scorcher which the custodian had no chance to tackle. The Juniors now swarmed like busy bees round the Plungers' hive, and had it not been for the splendid defence of the goalkeeper and backs, several goals would certainly have been added. The Plungers broke away, but were pulled up by Wheatley. Brown missed a nice chance, and then the Plungers got off in a dashing style, and Duffy banged in a terrific shot, which Cook saved magnificently, amidst cries of "Good old Foz." The Juniors pressed, and got three corners, but nothing resulted. Errington then notched a second point. Wheatley repulsed a rush by the Plungers, and at half-time, the Juniors led by a couple of goals. During the second half, the game was hotly contested, each side scoring twice through Errington and Duffy. Result—Juniors, 4 goals; Plungers, 2 goals.

JOTTINGS.

Stanley Rangers Football Club has ceased to exist. The funeral took place last Thursday.

Stanley cut up badly against Birtley, and, to the surprise of their supporters, dropped a couple of points.

Teddy Buck is not a success as a forward.

Martin Joyce made several miskicks on Saturday.

A little more attention to training would prove an advantage to the Whites.

Congratulations to Stanley A. They have won another match.

Aitchinson and Miley Smith, erstwhile members of the Athletic team, were playing for the A. Does this account for the result?

I hear the Stanley Athletic are hoping to secure the vacancy on the Derwent Valley League.

Birtley backs are not shy about kicking into touch.

The Alliance championship is becoming much more open; United A having sustained a couple of defeats on successive Saturdays.

Stanley are intending to do the trick at St. James's Park on Saturday. Unfortunately, however, Ben Johnson and Sullivan are unable to play.

Jake Dodds was playing for the Celts against the Royal Artillery on Saturday.

Fickle Jacque, one week Tow Law; then Annfield Plain Celtic. Who is to be your next sweetheart?

Stanley footballers are looking forward with interest to their coming Social. Ned Nicholson and Thompson Robson are mentioned as the gentlemen likely to open the dancing.

I have not received the names of their partners.

It is not correct that the Stanley Wednesday trainer is on strike.

The Tanfield School Board includes some future County men, in the boys who attend at the Schools within its area.

They ran Gateshead a very close race on Saturday.

Southwick managed to turn the tables on Dipton Wanderers on Saturday. By the way, Dipton footballers are not very profound admirers of Mr John Conqueror, the Alliance Secretary.

Sunderland appear to have been unlucky in their return with Derby County.

Ned Nicholson, the Stanley Captain, was chosen to play forward on Saturday, but prefered to remain in his old position. A very wise decision, Neddy!

Bishop Auckland went down badly before Darlington. The Quakers are now showing excellent form.

Lintzford are making tracks in the right direction in the Derwent Valley competition.

The Bishop of Derby was a spectator at the League fixture between Sunderland and Derby County.

Burnhope can evidently raise a decent football team. They obtained a three goals majority over Swalwell United.

Leadgate Park managed a couple of Northern League points on Saturday.

Numerous matches—principally Rugby—were postponed last week, owing to the snowstorm.

Dipton footballers intend having a couple of wooden spoons at the termination of the season.

South Moor Albion are prepared to take up the challenge issued on behalf of the Stanley Wednesdayites.

But only on condition that Stephenson does not keep goal for the Wednesday.

Annfield Plain fairly romped round their opponents on Saturday.

The Artillery had to retire beaten by five goals to nil.

"How did we fare? Why, man alive!
We beat the soldiers, one by five."

E. Lynap had a cold time of it—especially during the second half.

He at length grew tired of waiting and longing, and left his post to play with the forwards.

Stones received a cheer from the six spectators present, when he marched proudly on to the field.

How did the mighty fall? McGuire sent him spinning with a delightful charge.

"What do you think of Moore?"

Inveterate punster: "Why, the Moore we have like him, the better."

R. Forster and Ellis on the right wing played well together.

Gillender made several excellent attempts to score.

J. Dodds, late of Stanley, put in his first appearance for the Celts.

He is a grand little player, and should prove an acquisition to the Plain.

Councillor W. Taylor and two ladies took shelter from the storm in the Press box.

Heaton were taught the "Science and Art" of football on Saturday.

Someone has declared that after the match, Mr Joe Hamilton burst into poetry.

Rumour declares that he danced and sang—

Science and Art are badly beaten,
We Swifts have rubbed it into Heaton

Leadgate Park won their match in the League on Saturday.

Crook, who beat the Park by 4 to 1, lost to them by a goal.

The Leadgate lads were lucky in emerging victorious, as the Crook eleven played finely in the last half.

Crowther effected a marvellous save on Saturday.

Frank Foreman again assisted his old club against Crook.

Bob Forster played a rare game as centre-half.

Charley did not shine on Saturday. His shooting was wretched.

Sammy Thompson was by far the best forward on the field.

Leadgate Exiles are drawn to meet Tantobie in the second round of the Amateur Cup.

The Leadgate lads should go a step higher in the competition.

The social held by the Leadgate Exiles was a great success.

I wonder why the Exiles are always refused admission to the Northern Alliance.

The Brooms scholars defeated Monkwearmouth by 8 goals to 1.

Mr W. Foreman willingly consented to act as referee when asked.

Annfield Plain Celtic entertain Heaton Science and Art on Saturday.

Another billiard handicap is in progress at the League Room.

Mr T. McGrachan and Mr M. Slane, are certain to be the finalists.

It has been whispered to me that there is a probability of Callaghan assisting the Exiles in their cup tie games.

Stanley visit Leadgate to play the Exiles on the 6th prox.

Shotley had a hard nut to crack on Saturday.

Allendale were in fine trim for the occasion.

This was due to Scott, their able trainer.

He is very hard-working in striving to get the team to perfection.

Shotley had a good many lady supporters on Saturday.

They did not forget to shout on this occasion.

I think the gate receipts would amount to a good sum.

The following are a few paragraphs on the players.

Stokoe had not much to do, but what he did, delighted his club supporters.

Mat Walton played one of his best games at back this season.

Bob Charlton did yeoman service for his team on Saturday.

His skyward kicking was a treat.

Shotley found it hard work to pass him.

Thompson Walton was about the best man on the field.

He was all over the shop with his feet, and perfect with his tackling.

Foster played a much better game than on the previous Saturday.

He may rapidly develop into a very useful player.

A. Hedley played a very admirable game.

He did some splendid sprints down the field with the leather.

What would the result have been if Arthur's brother had been playing. I know—

The tricky right of the Park made some very remarkable breaks on the home goal.

Jos. and Johnny play very well together.

Scott found it so, as also did the backs.

Houston was in the pink of condition, and was tricky with the ball.

Glasgow and Robinson did their share of work on the left.

Although the latter missed some good chances, he played remarkably well.

Mr Glass promptly stopped any attempts at rough play.

He is one of the best referees in the North of England.

Scott did very well in goal for Shotley. His charge had several narrow escapes.

Hobday and Oliver are a good pair of backs.

It was mainly due to their efforts that the Park did not win.

Tommy Robinson was completely off at half back.

The other two played a good game, especially Winter.

Johnson played a good game at the start, but fell off towards the finish.

Murray did not do much, he seemed to be frightened.

Tommy Winter played a rare game. He was always on the ball.

Allendale are now hot favourites for the Derwent Valley League.

On the day's play, Allendale were by far the best team.

Allendale meet Stanley A in the second round of the Amateur Cup.

The Park supporters seem pretty confident of victory.

Mr Thompson, the Park secretary, ought to be proud of his pets.

Tow Law Reserve added two more points to their credit on Saturday, by defeating Stanley Albions by 2 goals to one.

The latter lads have a free way of speaking their mind, their language being anything but the choicest.

The biggest surprise on the home side was the "working man's candidate." His exhibition excelled all this season.

Will anybody say who J. Lawson is?

His name is down for Tow Law Reserve at Byers Green, on Saturday.

What price the two Durham Cups coming to Tow Law?

There is many a thing more unlikely.

If the Reserve beat Byers Green, they will have a good look in for the Amateur.

Gilroy is one of the most promising of Tow Law players.

Since his inclusion in the first combination, he has improved tremendously.

Against Stanley Albion he was streets ahead of anything he had previously done for the Reserve.

Tommy Wilson was not so sure with the ball, probably because he took things too easy.

However, Tommy will come out of his shell against Auckland, on Saturday.

Temperley carried off the billiard trophy in grand style.

When he went to the board, he invariably got into the teens with his breaks.

His highest break was one of 25.

Macintosh and Temperley are reported to have received offers from Liverpool.

'Tis certain, that if either of the two desert Tow Law, they will find inclusion in some first League combination.

The great match will take place at Auckland on Saturday, when Tow Law mean to wrest the Amateur Cup from the present holders.

The way Auckland are going now speaks little for their chances of victory.

Nevertheless, they always manage to play the Hill-top lads a hard battle.

Geo Simpson has been laid up with a rheumatic attack, and Billy Simpson has been indisposed.

Both, however, have now about recovered, and the latter will probably figure on the team against Auckland.

The Wednesday players suffered a reverse at Willington.

The linesman blamed the players, the players the linesman.

The Wednesday have a habit of haggling about such matters.

The return match with the Stiff 'Uns is never mentioned now.

Has the Wednesday backed down?

Fred Macintosh won his spurs on Saturday. He is picked to play to-morrow.

Jake Dodds is a demon for goal-getting. He scored twice in his maiden game for the Celtic.

The Stanley Committee have selected "Douce" Whitfield to play against United A. Sammy Wood is also on the team. Masterman and Buck are off the team.

The Swifts beat Heaton Science and Art by 1 goal to nil, on the Fell, on Saturday.

Jack Rafferty was absent, likewise Joe Little.

Nichol, one of the reserve men, played a clinking game.

He is particularly good in centring, and is worth putting on the first team.

Dempsey, Harkness, Allison, and Turley, were the pick of the team.

One is apt to be mislead in the Heaton Science and Art team. I was looking to an aristocratic combination. Well, I was taken in.

HOCKEY.

Derwent Valley v. Stockton.—The Stockton eleven pay their first visit to Shotley Bridge, on Saturday, and will be opposed by the following, representing the Valley eleven:—T D Dales (capt.), goal; J E Parker and J E Thorpe, backs; G G Robson, J M Nicholson, and H G Young, half-backs; H H Wattsford, J Spencer, A V Stanley-Wells, C T Foreman, and T J Wiggins, forwards. Bully-off at 3-30.

NORTHERN ALLIANCE.

The results up to date are—

	W.	D.	L.	Goals For	Goals Agst	Pts
Newcastle United A...	10	2	3	46	18	22
Jarrow	10	2	3	38	11	22
Hebburn Argyle ...	9	3	1	37	11	21
Gateshead N.E.R ...	9	2	4	44	23	20
Blyth	8	3	2	43	16	19
Shankhouse	8	1	3	32	16	17
Stanley	7	0	7	25	26	14
Southwick	6	2	5	30	19	14
Birtley	4	2	8	22	38	10
Fendel	3	2	8	17	32	8
Willington Athletic...	2	3	5	14	25	7
St. Peter's	3	0	11	16	51	6
Axwell Rovers	3	2	9	10	33	8
Dipton Wanderers ...	1	1	13	15	70	3

Business Announcements.

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Get their bills put up on my stations.

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

TONGUES THAT DON'T SPEAK.
THOSE IN
KIRKUP'S

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

VICTORIA DAIRY, CONSETT.

FRESH MILK, TWICE DAILY.
FRESH CREAM AND BUTTER, ALWAYS ON HAND.
G. T. ROBSON,
PROPRIETOR.

T. MILNER, A.P.S.,
DISPENSING AND FAMILY CHEMIST,
AND
WINE MERCHANT, CONSETT,
FOR WINTER REMEDIES.

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

FOR
FIRST-CLASS GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS,
GO TO
GEO. J. ROBINSON,
TEA DEALER, GROCER, AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL.

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

WM. WHITFIELD
MAKES THE
BEST FURNITURE
In the District, at the Lowest Possible Prices.
TRY WHITFIELD'S BEFORE BUYING ELSEWHERE.
Note the Address:—
WHITFIELD'S,
STANLEY FURNITURE SHOP.

FINE ART GALLERY,
SADLER STREET, DURHAM.

T. RUSHWORTH & SON,
CARVERS AND GILDERS.

PICTURE FRAMES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION MADE TO ORDER.

ICTURES CLEANED, LINED AND RESTORED.

HUDSPITH'S PILE PILLS.

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

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

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

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

FOR Plain and Artistic PRINTING in all its Branches go to
B. RIDDELL AND SON,
THE WEST STANLEY PRINTING WORKS,
Under MR. RITSON'S Billiard Rooms, opposite the Board Schools, Front Street, West Stanley.

WEST STANLEY PEOPLE ARE CONTINUALLY ASKING, HOW CAN
KIRKUP
Afford to Sell his BOOTS AND SHOES so much Cheaper than others? Small profits and a big turn-over. That is the secret, my worthy friend.

Business Announcements.

THE
NEW
PHOTOGRAPHY
IS Fearfully and Wonderfully Searching in its Effect, still in Scrutinizing
J. W. WOOD'S
Warm and Well-made WINTER CLOTHING.
THE
RONTGEN
X RAYS
May be entirely dispensed with, as one glance is quite sufficient to convince any ordinary Person
THAT
BETTER
VALUE,
Fit, and Style is unobtainable in the Stanley District. Therefore give WOOD an early call, as by so doing your interests will be best served.
OPPOSITE ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL.

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

All orders punctually attended to.

J. H. COURTNEY,
CONSETT COCOA ROOMS,
HAVELOCK STREET.

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

ESTABLISHED 21 YEARS.

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

UMBRELLAS RE-COVERED & REPAIRED.

WHAT EVERY WORKING-MAN WANTS
for the Winter: A good, strong, comfortable Pair of BOOTS. And that's just what he gets; but he must be sure and buy them at
KIRKUP'S
(West Stanley), cheapest Shop in the town.

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

ROBERT MILBURN,
BUTCHER,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT,

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

QUEBEC.

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

WILLIAM HARRISON,
DRAPER, AND GENERAL DEALER.

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

NEWEST STYLES AND LATEST FASHIONS.

C. LUMLEY,
CLOTHIER AND DRAPER,
SHERBURN TERRACE,
CONSETT,

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

BLANKETS A SPECIALITY.

WHEN YOU ARE IN NEWCASTLE,
Call and see your old friend
T. HOFFMAN
(THE HUMORIST),
AT THE
THREE TUNS HOTEL,
NEWGATE STREET.

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

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

THE NOTED GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS STORES AND FLOUR WAREHOUSE.

THE LANCASHIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.
CAPITAL ... ... THREE MILLIONS.
Paid-up Capital and Funds, £1,454,358.

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

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

HEAD OFFICE:—EXCHANGE ST., MANCHESTER.

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

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

TOBACCO AND CIGARS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

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

SHAVING neatly and expeditiously performed.

Business Announcements.

R. R. WILSON, TAILOR,
CATCHGATE,

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

Good Material and First Rate Workmanship at Reasonable Prices.

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

---

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

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

BAKERY GOODS Made to Order.

Established 1854. Workshops—130 Haymarket.

PHRENOLOGY.
MR. N. MORGAN

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

TERMS MODERATE.

THOS. SWAINSTON,
Complete House Furnisher,

WISHES to Announce to all Furnishing or Replenishing their Homes for the Holidays, that he has a
LARGE STOCK
OF
SITTING ROOM SUITES
AND
BEDROOM FURNITURE,
Bedsteads, Mangles,
CARPETS,
HEARTHRUGS,
Oilcloths, Fenders,
BRASSES,
AND
General Furnishing Hardware,
At Lowest Prices and to suit all Classes.

ALL GOODS MARKED IN PLAIN FIGURES.
2s. in the Pound Discount for Cash.

An Early Call and Inspection is Cordially Invited.

SPECIALITIES FOR THE SEASON.

Best Value. Best Quality. Lowest Prices.

XMAS, 1896.
NEW YEAR, 1897.
JAMES DALY & CO.,
SHAKESPEARE STREET,
Are now offering Special Lines.

FLOUR.

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

You should try it to-day.

BACON.

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

CEYLON TEA.

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

Excelled by None. Best Value.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

The Favourite Brands are—

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

A TREAT FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

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

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

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

For all your Wants at Xmas and the New Year rouud,
For HAMS, CHEESE, BUTTER, TINNED GOODS of Every Description, CURRANTS, RAISINS, SPICES, ALMONDS, JAMS, &c., FRUIT LOAVES and BISCUITS of every Kind,
Go to
JAMES DALY & CO.,
2, SHAKESPEARE STREET,
ONSETT.

GOODS DELIVERED BY OUR OWN CARTS.

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

Business Announcements.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.
BIG BARGAINS! PHENOMENALLY LOW PRICES!!
JACQUES & BRIDDICK.
GENERAL DEALERS IN FANCY GOODS, AND HARDWARE OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,
Will Shortly OPEN their NEW and COMMODIOUS PREMISES IN
FRONT STREET, STANLEY
(Next Door to Mr Aynsley's), when
A GREAT CLEARANCE SALE
WILL BE HELD.
LOOK OUT FOR SOME UNPRECEDENTED BARGAINS!

DRINK
SWAINSTON'S 1s. 8d. TEA.
SWAINSTON'S 1s. 8d. TEA.
SWAINSTON'S 1s. 8d. TEA.

IF YOU WILL CALL AT
12, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,
YOU WILL BE SUPPLIED WITH
A FREE SAMPLE
OF
SWAINSTON'S 1s. 8d. TEA.

T. SWAINSTON,
12, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

Business Announcements.

F. H. REED,
GENERAL AND FANCY DRAPER,
POST OFFICE,
ANNFIELD PLAIN,

SOLE AGENT for the Celebrated "PLATINUM" ANTI-CORSET, and PULLARS' DYE WORKS.

LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S UNDERCLOTHING.

Extensive and Varied Stock to Select from.

DURHAM AUCTION MART, WESTERN HILL, DURHAM.

CHARLES TURNER,
AUCTIONEER AND VALUER.

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

JACKSON GREEN,
AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER, VALUER, AND COMMISSION AGENT,
SATLEY, TOW LAW.
FURNITURE, STOCK, AND ALL CLASSES OF SALES TAKEN.
PROMPT SETTLEMENTS.

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

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

SALES CONDUCTED ON THE MOST REASONABLE TERMS.

OFFICE:—DELVES LANE, CONSETT.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ESTABLISHED 18

FOR GOOD VALUE

HOME-MADE FURNITURE
FIELD CUTLERY, and SILV
GOODS, try
JOHN LOW
JOHN STREET SQUARE,
(Back of British School, Medo
The House for Musical Instru
Makers.
PIANOS BY PFEIFFER, STRA
AMERICAN ORGANS BY
MELODEONS from 4s.
A Large and Varied Stock of
Five Minutes Walk from

Business Announcements.

EXPIRATION OF LEASE.
REMOVING TO PARK ROAD ON JANUARY 30TH, 1897.
G. PARSONS,
DRAPER,
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,
IS SELLING OFF AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.
An Inspection of his Stock solicited.

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

Parties, Balls, &c., Catered for.

NOTICE TO THE INHABITANTS OF CONSETT AND DISTRICT.

THE SHOP, No. 1, CHURCH STREET, CONSETT, under the Management of
JOHN J. CRAWFORD,
Will be OPENED TO-DAY (FRIDAY), with a Choice Selection of
DAIRY-FED PORK, SAUSAGES, PIES and BOILED HAMS.
Which will be sold at Lowest Prices.

All are Invited to Call.

SENSATION AT DIPTON.

THE GREAT SALE OF THE SEASON NOW GOING ON.

SEIZE this Golden Opportunity, and pay a Visit to
THE NEWCASTLE DRAPERY AND CLOTHING STORES,
FRONT STREET, DIPTON.
Must be cleared prior to Stock-Taking.
STARTLING REDUCTIONS.
J. A. CASTLE, PROPRIETOR.

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

AND invites Attention to his First-Class Stock of
PRIME BEEF, MUTTON, PORK, &c.

All Orders promptly attended to.

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

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

C. F. COOKE,
DRAPER,
ANNFIELD PLAIN,

BEGS to intimate that he will shortly Open his NEW and COMMODIOUS PREMISES with a Complete Stock of
FANCY AND GENERAL DRAPERY.

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

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

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

Tuition.

SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, CONSETT.

PRINCIPAL, MISS TAIT.

New Term commences on 12th JANUARY, 1897.

THOROUGH modern education. Pupils prepared for the Oxford, Cambridge, College of eptors, and Music Examinations. A class awing and Painting (oils, water-colours, nochrome) is held on Saturday mornings, trained certificated mistress. Pupils for the South Kensington Examinations and, Model, Geometry, Perspective, etc. dies not attending the School may join Prospectus on application.

HOOL FOR GIRLS,
ON TERRACE ANNFIELD PLAIN.

PRINCIPAL, MISS GRAY.

may enter at any time. Classes for ng, Drawing, and Dancing. Music taught. Preparation for English and inations. TERMS MODERATE.

Tuition.

MUSICAL TUITION.

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

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

TERMS ON APPLICATION.

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

MISS JESSIE M. NEY
(Pupil of Mr. MCCONNELL WOOD),
NEWCASTLE,

GIVES LESSONS in VOICE PRODUCTION and SOLO SINGING, in CONSETT and BLACKHILL on FRIDAYS.

For Terms, apply to the *Consett Chronicle* Office.

MUSICAL TUITION.

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

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

Terms on application.
ROGER STREET, BLACKHILL.

ORGAN, PIANOFORTE, HARMONY.

LESSONS GIVEN IN THE ABOVE, BY
J. SURTEES,
Member of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, and Organist of Consett Parish Church, at his own or pupils' homes. If desired, pupils are prepared for examinations of good standard. Terms moderate. Address:—
2, CEMETERY ROAD, BLACKHILL.

Sales by Auction.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.
MONDAY, February 1, 1897.

15 to 20 FAT CATTLE.
100 FAT SHEEP, 7 Pure Border Ewe Hoggs.
Veal and Keeping CALVES, 1 extra grand Suckler.
POULTRY, RUGS, and other Miscellaneous Lots.

Sale to commence at One o'clock.
J. S. MURRAY, Auctioneer.

LANCHESTER.

SALE OF FURNITURE, SATURDAY, February 6th, at Greta Place. See next issue and bills.
J. S. MURRAY.

SALE OF PROPERTY will be held shortly at the Freemasons' Arms, Consett. Anyone having Property or Shares to dispose of can have them included.
J. S. MURRAY.

LANCHESTER STOCK MART COMPANY, LIMITED.
MR. JACKSON GREEN, Auctioneer.

NEXT SALE for DAIRY COWS, FAT CATTLE, and SHEEP, WEDNESDAY, February 10th, when PRIZES will be offered for Best Dairy Cows.
Early Entries to
JOHN GIBSON, SECRETARY.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.
MONDAY, February 1st, 1897.

40 to 60 DAIRY COWS and HEIFERS.
15 FAT CATTLE.
75 FAT SHEEP and HOGGS.
6 STORE CATTLE.
8 FINGER CALVES.
BAY HORSE, 16·2 h.h., BRAKE to carry 16, Double SET of B.M. HARNESS.
Entries to day of Sale. Sale at 10·30 a.m.
J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.

MR. JOHN CRAWFORD will Sell, by Public Auction, the HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c., belonging Mrs E. J. Brown, Golden Lion Inn, Leadgate. Date and full particulars next edition.

Excursions.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

TWO OR FOUR DAYS' EXCURSION TO LONDON.

ON MONDAY, the 8TH day of FEBRUARY, an Excursion Train will leave NEWCASTLE at 12·5 a.m. (with bookings from Blackhill, Blaydon, &c.), for LONDON, for Two and Four Days; passengers holding Two Days' Tickets return from St. Pancras Station, London, at 11·0 p.m. on Tuesday, February 9th, and those holding Four Days Tickets at 9·15 p.m., on Thursday, February 11th.

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

TRAIN ALTERATIONS FOR FEBRUARY.

An Additional Train will leave ANNFIELD PLAIN for NEWCASTLE, at 10·20 a.m., on SATURDAYS.

The 11·10 a.m. Train from BLACKHILL to NEWCASTLE, via Annfield Plain, will leave at 11·15 a.m., and run five minutes later throughout.

The 2·20 p.m. Train from NEWCASTLE to ANNFIELD PLAIN on Tuesdays and Saturdays, will be continued to CONSETT; and the 4·0 p.m. Train from ANNFIELD PLAIN to NEWCASTLE, will start from CONSETT at 3·45 p.m., and be re-timed.

For further alterations see the Company's Time Bills.

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

Public Announcements.

NEW THEATRE, CONSETT.

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

Last Three Nights of Mr. ARTHUR JEFFERSON'S Company in his Popular Drama,
"THE ORPHAN HEIRESS,"
With all its Magnificent Scenery and Effects.

MONDAY NEXT, February 1st, 1897,
Will be Produced Mr. LLOYD CLARANCE'S Grand New Year's Pantomime,
"ALADDIN,"
On a scale of Magnificence never before attempted in Consett.
Positively for Six Nights only.

Popular Prices of Admission—Private Boxes, £1 1s.; Single Seats, 3s.; Dress Circle, 2s.; Side Circle, 1s.; Pit, 6d.; Gallery, 4d.

Early Doors Open at 6·45, Usual Doors at 7·15; Commence at 7·30. Plan of the Theatre may be seen, and seats booked, at A. Ramsden's Piano Warehouse, by letter or telegram.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY.

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

SATURDAY, the Last Night of
"THE KING OF CRIME."

MONDAY, February 1st, and during the Week, the Successful Drama,
"A DAUGHTER OF ISHMAEL."

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH,
The Most Expensive Engagement ever attempted at the above, of
HORACE LINGARD'S COMIC OPERA COMPANY, in
"THE OLD GUARD,"
"PEPITA," "FALKA," &c.

Plan of Reserved Seats may now be seen at Mr. J. Robinson's, Chemist, and Seats Booked.

Reserved Circle, 2s.; Boxes, to hold Four Persons, 10s. 6d.; Single Seats, 3s. Time and other Prices as usual.

Public Announcements.

CONSETT WATERWORKS COMPANY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Consett Waterworks Company will be held at the Company's Offices, Consett, on WEDNESDAY, the 17th day of February, 1897, at One o'clock in the Afternoon, precisely, for the Transaction of General Business.

The Books for the Registration of the Transfer of Shares will be closed from Wednesday, the 3rd of February, to Wednesday, the 17th of February, both days inclusive.

Dated this 27th day of January, 1897.

(Signed), WILLIAM BOYD, *Chairman.*
ALEX. RUSSELL, *Secretary.*

AN
ENTERTAINMENT,
Consisting of
ACTION SONGS, RECITATIONS, DIALOGUES, DRILLS, &c.,

WILL be given by the Scholars of the Consett Wesleyan Day Schools, in the NEW CHURCH HALL, MIDDLE STREET, On THURSDAY EVENING, FEB. 4TH, 1897, To Commence at Seven o'clock.

Tickets, 1s. and 6d. each.

DERWENT VALLEY ENTIRE HORSE ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING will be held at Mr. WYLAM'S Freemasons' Arms, Consett, on MONDAY, February 1st, 1897, at 6 p.m.

R. MOFFITT, SECRETARY.

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

A GRAND SOCIAL

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

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

Tenders.

LANCHESTER PARISH COUNCIL.

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

By Order of the Council,
JOHN JAMES THOMPSON, CLERK.

For Sale by Private Trraty.

FOR SALE, Two Stacks of OLD LAND HAY.—Apply *Chronicle* Office.

Wanted.

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

WANTED, a Good, Strong GENERAL SERVANT.—Apply R. LUMLEY, Stag Inn, South Moor.

WANTED, a Respectable, Well-Educated YOUTH, as Apprentice.—Apply THOMAS MILNER, Chemist, Shakespeare Street, Consett.

WANTED, by the West Stanley Co-operative Society, Limited, a Sharp, Active YOUNG MAN, not under 20 years of age, as Greengrocery Cartman; accustomed to horses; wages, 22s. per week.—To apply to the Committee on Monday Evening, February 1st, 1897, at Quarter-past Seven o'clock.

Also, a Sharp, Active YOUTH, not under 14 years of age, as Apprentice to Sales in Boot and Shoe Department; wage to commence, 7s. per week.—To apply to the Committee on Monday Evening, February 1st, 1897, at Quarter to Eight o'clock. Both applications confined to Members.

THOS. W. W. RITSON, SECRETARY.

Legal.

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PRIVATE STREET WORKS ACT, 1892.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Urban District Council of Stanley, at a Meeting, held in the Council Chamber, on the 27th day of January, 1897, passed a Resolution in the following terms, viz.:—

"That the Specifications, Plans, Sections, Estimates, and Provisional Apportionments, prepared by the Surveyor to this Council, for Private Street Works in Thorneyholme Terrace, Lucy Street, Delacour Street, Clifford Road, and Mary Street, Stanley, and which are now submitted to this Council, be, and are hereby approved under the Common Seal of the Council.

Dated this 29th day of January, 1897."

JOHN GEO. RIDLEY,
Clerk to the said Council.

To Let.

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

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

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

EASTER CARNIVAL AND TRADES' EXHIBITION, 1897.

IN the New Town Hall, Consett, during the whole of Easter Week, April 19th to 24th, inclusive. STALL SPACES TO LET, Sizes and Prices by application to the SECRETARY, 42, Puddlers' Row, Consett.

FEBRUARY TERM.—A HOUSE TO LET in Bessemer Street.—Apply GEO. J. ROBINSON, Blackhill.

Business Announcements.

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

Dales' GOLD MEDAL Dubbin Makes Boots and Harness Waterproof as a Duck's Back and soft as velvet. Adds three times to the wear and allows polishing. 22 Exhibition Highest Awards. Tins 2d, 6d, 1/-, & 2/6 of all Bootmakers' Saddlers, &c.

GLENDENNING'S BEEF AND MALT WINE.

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

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

THE
Consett Chronicle
FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1897.

SECULARISM V. CHRISTIANITY.

THE warfare between Christianity and Secularism is still raging fiercely, and has attracted general attention. The offices of the *Consett Chronicle* have been inundated with letters on the subject, but hitherto no public debate has been arranged. A correspondent has favoured us with the following letter which contains a really excellent suggestion—

To the Editor of the *Consett Chronicle.*

DEAR SIR,—I have read with considerable interest the discussion on Secularism and Christianity now proceeding in your paper, and have been especially pleased with your leading article on the subject. All fair thinking people will appreciate your remarks. As the subject is of vast importance, and public discussions never convince either party, I would offer a suggestion for your consideration. Let the matter be fairly discussed by representatives from both sides, accepted by yourself. To avoid personalities, let the writers be known only by yourself, and not published, each writer to have three insertions. The following subjects might be taken — 1, Christianity, its principles as stated in the words of Christ, and Secularism, its principles as stated by the best representatives; 2, Christianity, its results, and Secularism, its results; 3, Christianity and Secularism contrasted. I think that the various statements made should be without any reference to each other's letters. You would then have a true exposition of the truth of each in theory and practice. I only suggest this, as it is truth, which we wish to see vindicated."

As our correspondent suggests, the writers might conceal their identity under a *nom-de-plume*. One letter from either side each week might appear three weeks in succession, after which the identity of the correspondents could, if they were willing, be disclosed. The idea is a good one, and would bring matters to a satisfactory issue. The first set of subjects might be dealt with first, the others following in due order. If the Secularists and Christians care to select thoroughly representative men to champion their cause, we should be pleased to be the medium of what would, undoubtedly, prove a fair and interesting discussion.

TOM PAINE AND SHELLEY.

A CORRESPONDENT, designating himself "Resurgem," has taken us to task for several of the allegations made in our leading article of last week, and states that we have made some very grave mistakes. We hasten, however, to assure him that the assertions we made were given on the very best authority, and were essentially correct. The first objection "Resurgem" makes is concerning Shelley's cowardice at sea. That statement was made on the the authority of a number of writers, the principal one being Dr. Blunt, Editor of the "Dictionary of Doctrinal and Historical Literature," and other well-known standard works. Captain TRELAWNY, despite our correspondent's confidence in his unimpeachable integrity, is not by any means a satisfactory authority. If we remember correctly, he it was who described Lord BYRON as having "a pair of horns, and a club foot." There can be no question as to Paine's atheism, and for evidence as to the blasphemous characrer of the "Age of Reason," one need only refer our readers to its pages. The closing scene of his life is thus described by his medical attendant, Dr. Manley:—"He would not be left alone night or day. If, as would sometimes unavoidably happen, he was left alone, he would scream and hollow. He would call out during his paroxysms of distress, without Intermission, 'Oh, Lord help me, God help me, Jesus Christ help me, Oh, Lord help me,' repeating the expressions in a tone of voice that alarmed the house." Our correspondent desired proof of our assertions, and we have given it. Our readers can judge whether it is satisfactory or otherwise.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

AN ADVENTURER IN CONSETT.

Some weeks ago, a stranger, well-dressed and of fascinating appearance—such as one reads of in penny novelettes—called at Mrs Christopher's, Railway Hotel, Blackhill. He had been an extensive traveller, he declared, having visited all the centres of gaiety and fashion, and had just returned from the Ottoman Empire. Weary of his voluntary exile from dear, old England, the stranger had determined to end his fitful wanderings by renting some convenient and commodious country residence. After making numerous enquiries, and personally inspecting several desirable mansions, he decided to take a ten years' lease of Townsville, at Allansford, which, on account of its proximity to a railway station, the general arrangement of its outhouses, and the excellence of its internal appointments, exactly coincided with his somewhat fastidious tastes. Whilst the necessary legal documents were being drawn up, he desired to take up his abode in Mrs Christopher's hospitable hostelry. Permission being granted, the distinguished stranger commenced operations on a somewhat extensive scale. He, of course, paid a visit to the present occupant of Townsville, and was handsomely entertained to lunch. He called upon Mr Scott, of the Sycamores, Rowley, and confidentially informed that gentleman of his intention to keep Jersey cows and some poultry. He was desirous of purchasing a nice, reliable cob, and requested Mr Scott to recommend him to a suitable market. Traps and servants were, of course, indispensable, and any information on the subject would be gratefully received. He did not, however, require a head gardener, as he intended fulfilling the duties connected with that office himself. Further than that, he intended to take an active interest in Church matters, and generally to act as a kind of Christian philanthropist. Mr Wallis, the vicar of Castleside, was to have the benefit of his purse and services. The wealthy stranger formed an acquaintance with some of the Consett tradesmen, whom he patronised by obtaining suits of clothes and complete outfits of under-linen, on the credit system. But, after a few days, the noble-hearted, kindly philanthropist, the rich and distinguished traveller, mysteriously disappeared, and to this hour, some of our local tradesmen are mourning the sudden and unexplained departure of an extensive purchaser, the good vicar of Castleside is left to lament over unfulfilled pledges, the residents of Castleside have lost a very-much-promising neighbour, and the owner of Townsville will have to look elsewhere for a tenant. "He was a stranger and took them in."

ANNFIELD PLAIN FOOTBALL CLUB'S CONCERT

The concert, promoted by the Annfield Plain Celtic Football Club, was a decided success. The audience was large and enthusiastic, the performers were of a high order of merit, and considerable interest was manifested in the welfare of the club. Mr Wood, the well-known referee, presided, and addressed some practical advice to the pla[illegible] He gave a brief *resumé* of the histo[illegible] football. "Formerly," he said, "the[illegible] was played in Sparta." The Spartan[illegible] were always proud of their Stoical dis[illegible] of pain, and were adepts at the art o[illegible] ing an injury. The spectators o[illegible] encounters in the football field mu[illegible] had a rare time of it.

A NEW YEAR'S GIFT FOR MEDOMS[illegible]

The ratepayers of Medomsley [illegible] Monday last, the recipients of an e[illegible] useful, if not ornamental, New Ye[illegible] From somewhere, and somehow, [illegible] new snow plough found its way [illegible] village, and is now an object of a[illegible] on the part of the residents, and o[illegible] those villages not blessed with a similar contrivance. It does, however, seem a little strange that the work of constructing the plough was not offered to any of the Medomsley ratepayers. Surely, those living in the immediate vicinity, who are in the business, might have had an opportunity of sending in a tender. Local work ought, whenever possible, to be given to local men.

LEADGATE EXILES' SOCIAL.

The members and supporters of the Leadgate Exiles' Football Club assembled on Monday evening last, in the Brooms' School, the occasion being the celebration of their annual social. Fun and frolic were the order of the evening, and not a dull moment was spent. The refreshments were of excellent quality, and thoroughly enjoyed. Altogether, the Committee, who were responsible for the arrangements, are to be congratulated upon the success which attended their efforts.

MR A. MACIVOR.

The departure of Mr MacIvor from Shotley Bridge will be greatly regretted by all who are acquainted with him, but more especially by the members of the Choir of St. Cuthbert's Church. It is now a little over seven years since he came to take up an appointment as chief engineer at Messrs Annandale's Paper Mills. His abilities, as a bass singer, were quickly recognised, and he was invited to enter the choir of the Benfieldside Parish Church. In this position, he has worked assiduously, being but rarely absent from the services. On Thursday in last week, Mr MacIvor and his wife were made the recipients of tangible expressions of the esteem in which they are held. Mr MacIvor is about to take up a similar position, in Lancashire, to the one he now holds.

CONSETT CO-OPERATIVE EMPLOYEES AT LEADGATE.

The employees of the Consett Co-operative Society held their first annual social on Tuesday evening, when a large company assembled, and thoroughly enjoyed the proceedings. But, by the way, how comes it that the Consett Co-operative Society has to requisition the services of a sister society's hall? Are the facilities at Leadgate better than those of Consett? Rumour has it that some indigation is felt, and has been freely expressed by some prominent Consett Co-operators.

CONSETT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The spirited efforts of Mr Ramsay, and his energetic coadjutors, to clear away the incumbrance incurred by the failure of the last show, promoted by the Beamish, Pontop, and Consett Agricultural Society, have been singularly successful, and it is anticipated that before the next general meeting of the Society, the whole of the deficiency will have disappeared. Concerning the advantages of the Society, there can be no question, and it is pleasing to know that the Committee's energetic action has been so intensely appreciated by the public at large.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE FLORAL SOCIETY.

Thanks to the kindly assistance rendered by Mr Faber, the Danish Vice-Consul, the Shotley Bridge Floral and Horticultural Society are now in a sound, financial position. The Cafe Chantant was a decided success, whilst subscriptions were liberally bestowed upon what must be universally regarded as a deserving cause. There is now a small balance in hand with which to enter upon the next festival.

SCOTCHMEN AT SUPPER.

A Burns Supper was held on Tuesday evening, at Mr Lamb's Crown and Thistle Inn, Catchgate. Despite the unfavourable condition of the weather, a large company assembled to show their admiration for the greatest of Scotch bards. In the course of an eloquent speech, Mr Mackay remarked that whilst they had plenty of men with genius enough to be great benefactors to their kind, they only had one man capable of uttering such magnificent thoughts in such magnificent language, as did Burns, whilst Mr Orr designated the Prince of Scottish Poets as the greatest man of the eighteenth century. Yet, Burns — like Shakespeare—had to die to win immortal fame.

NOTES FROM CASTLESIDE.

[BY "THE SNEAP."]

GOOD NEWS.

I am pleased to notice, that the appeal, recently made by the Healeyfield Parish Council, to the Lanchester District Council, regarding surface water finding its way from the highways into the houses of some of the inhabitants of the village has had some effect. In the report of the Lanchester Rural District Council's surveyor, I observe that he recommends the putting in of drains in front of the Board Schools and the Fleece Inn. From the fact of the Lanchester Authority having adopted his report generally, I think we may safely infer that something is to be done. This will be good news to those who have had just reason to complain of the nuisance. I am wondering if these two drains will suffice to remove the evil complained of. For my own part, I am very, very doubtful.

SOME SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS.

I am also very pleased to observe that the improvements to the footpaths in the district continues. The one from Castleside to Rowley is now having a supply of reliable metal laid on. I am sure that the inhabitants of the district, and visitors thereto will appreciate to the fullest extent this very desirable improvement. I sometimes think that the district is to some extent neglected by the local authorities. Castleside has become rather popular of recent years, inasmuch as various town families have spent their summer holidays with us. This, of course, adds importance to the place. Why not try to make it more popular by dressing up the village a little, and removing one or two obnoxious details just outside.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE GRAVEYARD SCHEME.

I understand that the social, recently held in the Board Schools, promoted by Messrs Potts, Davidson and Toward, was very successful, and that the gentlemen referred to contemplate handing over to the treasurer of the grave yard scheme, the very useful little sum of fifteen shillings, or thereabouts. This is really very commendable and pleasing to note. Certainly, the committee of management will value this gift very highly.

A DANGEROUS PRACTICE.

During the last few days, the keen frost has rendered the roads and pathways very slippery. This evil has been intensified by youths sliding, and there have been various falls occasioned by this very dangerous practice. Does it never occur to those who indulge and enjoy themselves in this way, that their pleasure might result in weeks of pain and misery to some one, who does not suspect that beneath a slight covering of snow, there lies the treacherous slide? I have heard of one gentleman, who had the misfortune to fall through this cause. Surely our youths might find some spot on which to slide, that is less likely to cause injury than the much used footpaths of the village.

STANLEY GOSSIP.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ANTI-INFIDEL LEAGUE.

I have been requested by several persons to suggest, through the columns of the *Chronicle*, the advisability of establishing a branch of the anti-Infidel League in Stanley, for the purpose of counter-acting the efforts of the local Secularist Society. Mr John W. Wood, of Front Street, is very anxious that such action should be taken, and as Christians generally may be depended upon to be favourable to the project, there should be little difficulty in establishing a very powerful organisation. Mr Wood ought to take the initiative steps, and call a public meeting to consider the matter. The time for action is now.

"SECULARISM EXPOSED."

[illegible] the title of Mr F. W. Birkett's [illegible]vered in the Co-operative Hall, [illegible] evening, and listening to it could [illegible] been a very pleasant task for the [illegible]ts of the Secularist creed. The [illegible] Bradlaugh appears to have [illegible] course of one of his numerous [illegible]at Atheism was the logical [illegible]ularism, but, according to the [illegible]arism, as propounded by its [illegible] quoted by Mr Birkett, on [illegible], the logical outcome of [illegible]ars to be general immor[illegible] We have heard Mr Cohen [illegible]," and Mr Birkett on [illegible], after hearing both sides, [illegible] that I cannot see that [illegible] to result from a discus[illegible] Mr Birkett, almost [illegible]ntence, referred to the Secularists as belonging to the "No-Sense Society." This may possibly be a correct definition of the party, but such language is scarcely the proper kind to secure converts from the darkness of Secularism to the light of Christianity. On the whole, I am inclined to think that a discussion between Mr Birkett and Mr Cohen might be productive of more abuse than argument, more harm than good.

GOOD TEMPLARS AND SECULARISTS.

I understand that the local branch of Good Templars are willing to provide a champion to contest Mr Cohen, on condition that each man pay his proportion of the expenses, the surplus to be devoted to the old people of Stanley.

PUBLIC SYMPATHY WITH MISSIONS.

The Rev. W. Gelley informs me that the missionary offertories from the Tanfield Lea Primitives is more than double the amount raised last year, whilst the Annfield Plain offertories also show a substantial increase. Has Mr Cohen's labour already borne fruit?

MULTUM IN PARVO.

It is a pity that the Church history lectures are so badly attended.

"The King of Crime" has drawn bumping houses at the Victoria this week.

Stanley Wednesday footballers are mostly adherents of Sir Wilfrid Lawson. They are already contemplating filling the Sambotee Cup with lemonade.

Their trainer suggests that something stronger would be preferable.

We have had some "weather" recently. We have not done with it yet.

The Stanley Poultry Show was a magnificent success.

Mr Thomas Bowes has a high opinion of the *Consett Chronicle*. At Monday's meeting of the Kyo School Board, whilst the members were discussing some legal point, Mr Robson suggested that the advice of the *School Board Chronicle* should be solicited. "You had better write to the *Consett Chronicle*," responded Mr Bowes.

"Rodneys" are having a warm time in the Stanley neighbourhood just now.

Mr Birkett, of Sunderland, is quite a "slogger." The Secularists did not thank him for his remarks last Sunday evening.

I have been asked to suggest through the *Chronicle* that a fund should be opened for the purpose of bringing a representative Christian debater to contend with Mr Cohen on the occasion of his next visit.

The Rev. Mr Harrison, Vicar of St. Thomas's, Newcastle, has been mentioned as a suitable man to tackle the Secularist champion. Mr Marchman has also been suggested.

The Catholic entertainment, on Saturday evening, was a brilliant success.

The Scotchmen of Annfield Plain revere the memory of Bobby Burns.

NOTES FROM LEADGATE.

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

The Brooms' scholars had a very easy victory over the Monkwearmouth boys, on Saturday last, in the Sambotee Competition. Apparently, the Sunderland lads had a good deal to learn about the game, as the homesters obtained eight goals to their opponents' one. Well done, the Brooms! Stick in, and bring the Sambo Cup to Leadgate!

Leadgate Park routed Crook team in the Northern League. Saturday must have been our day out.

The Leadgate Exiles A.F.C. brought off their annual supper and social, on Monday evening last, in the Brooms' Schoolroom. There was a large attendance, and everyone went home thoroughly satisfied with the evening's entertainment.

The members of the Leadgate Reading Room held their social on Monday evening last, in the Co-operative Hall. The event was well patronised, and dancing and games were indulged in. Such institutions are worthy of more support than they generally receive.

Poultry stealing is becoming very common in the Leadgate district. It is a great pity that the persons, who make this their trade, cannot be caught, as they are not very charming neighbours. I pity any lodgers, who may have the misfortune to live in the houses of the delinquents and board themselves. The cat will often be after their meat and other provisions.

OXHILL.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST SOCIAL.—On Monday night, thanks to the generosity of Mr and Mrs Alex. Ledger, of South Tanfield Colliery, a most enjoyable social, tea, and supper were held in the Primitive Methodist Chapel and Schoolroom. About 300 persons were present, including visitors from Stanley, South Moor, Tanfield, Tanfield Lea, Whitele-head, and Tantobie. The waiters at the tables included:—Mr and Mrs Ledger, Miss M. E. Ledger, Miss P. Ledger, Miss L. Ledger, Miss M. Thorne, Mr and Mrs Bruce (Tanfield Lea), Mr Bruce, jun., Mrs Siddle, and numerous other willing helpers. During the course of the evening, a very interesting programme was rendered, including a humorous dialogue by a few members of the Band of Hope. The piece was entitled, "Apartments to Let," and was productive of considerable amusement. Mr W. Collins, of East Stanley, sang "The pardon came too late," and other songs, his costume efforts being extremely laughable. Mr Ed. Reay, of Annfield Plain, sang, "The song that reached my heart," and Mr John Siddle gave a clarionet solo. Recitations were given by the Sisters Ellis, from Pit Hills, and numerous games were indulged in.—Mr McClennan proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr and Mrs Ledger, for their generosity in bearing the entire expense of the social. The social had been the greatest success of any that he had known in connection with the Church. They were particularly indebted to Mr Ledger, because he was a member of the Church of England, and was not connected with their Society. He was, however, "a born Primitive Methodist." (Laughter).—Mr Harris seconded the motion, which was heartily adopted.—Mr Ledger acknowledged the vote, and assured all present that it had given him and Mrs Ledger very great pleasure to arrange the social, and see the great success that it had been. The success was largely due to the efforts of the members of the Church—A vote of thanks was subsequently given to Mr and Mrs Bruce, of Tanfield Lea, Mrs Siddle, of Oxhill, and all who had assisted to make the proceedings so successful.—The receipts, which (including subscriptions) amounted to about £14, are to be devoted to the Sunday School Building Fund.

SOUTH MOOR.

OPENING OF A READING ROOM.—By the kindness of Mr Jas. Fairley, manager of the South Moor Colliery Company, the old Wesleyan Chapel at South Moor was opened on Monday last as a Reading and Recreation Room. The population of South Moor has grown rapidly during the last few years, and the need of an institution of the kind is greatly felt. A project is on foot to erect a Miners' Hall which will serve the purpose of an institute, but all the necessary arrangements have not yet been completed. To fill up the breach, meanwhile, this room has been kindly placed at the disposal of the men, and fitted with tables and seats by Mr Fairley, who is as much alive as anyone to the need and benefits of such places, where there is a large number of men and lads. Games and papers have been provided by the committee, and everything is now ready for use. After the opening on Monday, members were enrolled and rules passed. Mr Nathan Fawell is acting as secretary, and Mr Wm. Brass, as treasurer.

KYO.

PONTOP COLLIERY CHECKWEIGHMAN.—The members of the Pontop Lodge of the Durham Miners' Association, nominated four gentlemen for the post of checkweighman at Pontop Colliery, the gentlemen being Messrs Robt. Hall, J. B. Gowndry, Wm. Tennant, and Hy. Maude. The ballot taken, resulted as follows:—Hall 64, Gowndry 32, Tennant 6, Maude 1. Mr Hall, who resides at Greencroft Cottages, will commence his duties on the 1st prox.

SCHOOL BOARD.—The usual monthly meeting of this body was held at Annfield Plain, on Monday evening, Mr Robert Kay presiding. The other members present were Messrs Wm. Eltringham, Thomas Bowes, John W. Robson, and W. H. Ritson (Clerk).—Mr Stirling (Headmaster of Annfield Plain Mixed) reported that Mr George Hobson had presented 300 oranges, which were distributed amongst the children at Christmas.—Mrs Green (Headmistress of the infants' department at Harelaw School, reported that the prevalence of whooping cough had severely affected the attendance during the past month. The School floor was in a deplorable condition, the damp pervading the room, and rendering it very uncomfortable.—Miss Mackay wrote, resigning her position as Headmistress of the Annfield Plain Infants' School. The resignation was accepted.

MR. COHEN AND FOREIGN MISSIONS.

REPLY BY THE REV. W. GELLEY.

Preaching at the Tanfield Lea Primitive Methodist Chapel, on Sunday evening, the Rev. W. Gelley, in the course of his remarks, said that it seemed rather strange he should be called upon to preach upon the Home, Colonial, and Foreign Mission cause immediately after a most misleading and scurrilous attack had been made on the missionary cause by Mr Cohen, at West Stanley. The tirade of abuse, as reported in the *Consett Chronicle*, resolved itself into three heads, and if these three heads could be established, he did not see how he (Mr Gelley) could recommend Christian Missions for their sympathy and support. According to Mr Cohen, missionaries were generally a selfish and unworthy body of men, who won converts by bribery, degraded them by rum, and shot them down with bullets. In the second place, it was argued that the cost of missionary work showed the movement to be a huge failure—a work of no moral value, the converts being no better than were the pagans, and in the third place, the whole movement was kept up by the manufacture of bogus reports, which were sent out to "old women of both sexes." He would deal first with the character of the missionaries sent out by the Churches of this and other countries for the purpose of establishing the Christian Faith, and would at once make this frank admission to them, that in the missionary movement, as in all other movements, there were undesirable accretions which gathered around it. They could not possibly exclude from their ranks altogether characters which were unworthy of their confidence. But it was a gross and unjust proceeding to denounce a body of men because of the follies and delinquencies of two or three connected with the movement. There were thousands of Christian ministers in this country, and at times some of them came before courts of justice, but would it be reasonable, or fair, to hurl accusations of folly and immorality at the heads of the thousands of earnest ministers on that account? Certainly not. The general character of Christian missionaries was unimpeachable, and many of the things said by Mr Cohen were deliberately untrue. He (Mr Gelley) pointed to the noble army of men sent out to the mission fields. They should think of the martyr, Williams, of Bishop Patterson, of the holy and devoted Moffatt, of Dr. Livingstone, John Payton, Mackay, Carey, Morrison, and thousands like them, devoted to the work, and enduring untold privations for the purpose of carrying out their mission. Then they had Mr Cohen's slanderous assertion that these men were forced to go abroad, because they could not get a market at home. He knew men in their own Church who had refused repeated offers of Churches in England for the purpose of going to the mission field, and carrying out what they believed to be the will of God. Was it such a tempting thing this mission work? It was only twenty-seven years since the Primitive Methodist Missions were established in Africa, and during that time, three noble Christian men and four earnest women had fallen victims to the deadly clime, and their bodies were now lying on the shores of that distant land. Another charge was that wherever these missionaries went, the drink went too. He knew that drink was carried out by selfish white traders, but the missionary was lifting up both hands in protest. As at home, so abroad, Christian ministers and missionaries found drink their greatest foe, and they might as well accuse him of encouraging drink in Stanley, as accuse his brethren of the same thing in distant lands. Had the missionaries to be held responsible for the selfishness of the white traders? In the second place, according to Mr Cohen, the cost of the Missionary movement seemed to destroy the value of the movement itself. He could not understand why the cost of this movement should be mentioned, unless to prove that it possessed no moral value. If this were a true test of missionary work, it should also be applied to the Secular mission, but when asked last Sunday to give something like the cost per head of their converts, Mr Cohen refused to furnish them with a reply. It was difficult to find any figures on the subject, but he found that Miss Bradlaugh, daughter of the late Charles Bradlaugh, said that her father was president of the National Secular Society from 1866 to 1890, during which time he expended the sum of £3,000 to extend the work of the Society. What had the other Secularists—Mr Watts, Mrs Besant, Mr Foote, and Mr Cohen—spent, and what had the National Secular Society itself spent during that time? Surely Mr Bradlaugh was not the only self-sacrificing man in the Society, and, altogether, thousands must have been spent during that time. What returns had they obtained? In the debate between George Jacob Holyoake and Charles Bradlaugh, the former said that he had visited the Secularist branches at Glasgow, Huddersfield, and Manchester, and found no advance; and even in Northampton, he found that the Society held their meetings on the second floor of a public-house, having made no advancement during twenty-five years. "What have we been doing?" asked Mr Holyoake, and he went on to add that Ranters, Mormons, and all other religious sections had erected temples, whilst Mr Bradlaugh, with all his zeal, found that all London could do was to put up "this kind of place"—the Hall of Science, opposite to a lunatic asylum. He (Mr Gelley) thought that Christian missions would bear favourable comparison with such a state of things as that. The first stages of missionary work were generally slow. The foundations had to be laid, superstition and custom had to be swept away. Sometimes, as with Moffatt in America, ten years passed without a convert, but they were not to estimate the moral value of a movement by its cost. Miners sometimes paid thousands of pounds to secure an advance, or resist a reduction, but money was no consideration when human progress, human advancement, or human liberty were at stake. The missionary movement was no such huge failure as Mr Cohen made it out to be, and to judge the thing fairly they should look upon the results as a whole, not simply for a period of twelve months. During the 27 years, in which the Primitive Methodist Missions had been at work in Africa, they had established eight principal stations, with 20 out-stations. They had 9 European and 4 native ministers, 8 native teaching evangelists, 45 lay ministers, and 6 day schools, whilst the whole of the Secularists in the kingdom could not manage one. Their Church membership amounted to 1,186, being an increase of 146 during the past year. The missionary cause was educational, industrial, and religious. It covered a three-fold ground, and according to the last Inspector's report, it was evident that an excellent work was being done in the educational and industrial departments. Mr Gelley then went on to quote figures showing the startling advancement of Christianity through Missionary efforts in Japan, Samoa, Madagascar, Uganda, and other countaries. Mr Cohen had quoted authorities to show that the converts were of bad character. The late Charles Darwin was generally a great favourite with Infidel lecturers, who frequently quoted him when his remarks happened to be favourable to their views. Well, Charles Darwin, when off the coast of Patagonia, was once discussing Christianity with his daughter, and he then alluded to the Patagonians as hopelessly low, and beyond the possibility of reclamation. They were evangelised, and a report of the movement was sent to Mr Darwin. He wrote a letter, acknowledging his error, and enclosing a subscripton to the Missionary Society. The late Robert Louis Stevenson, the celebrated novelist, also said that missionary efforts had generally the most pleasing results on the natives of Samoa, and Lord Lawrence, Lord Northbrook, Sir Richard Temple and other eminent men had testified to the sincere and earnest life of the men engaged in mission work. He (Mr Gelley) did not think that all the subscribers were old women who read bogus reports manufactured to excite sympathy. In their own Church, and in other Churches, deputations were frequently sent out for the purpose of examining the work on the spot, and the reports of these deputations were generally of the most satisfactory character. Whilst some of Mr Cohen's remarks might be correct, he submitted that taken on the whole it was a misleading, unfair, and unscrupulous attack on Christian Missions. Therefore, he felt justified in asking them to continue to show their confidence in the work. As members of a Church, who believed in the integrity of the men they sent out to engage in missionary labours, he asked for their sympathy, and prayer that the work of righteousness should be continued.

BLACKHILL.

INCORPORATED SOCIETY OF MUSICIANS.—Miss Clara E. Hodgson, Durham Road, pupil of Mr J. L. Smith, A.R.C.O., 6, Tunstall Terrace, Sunderland, passed successfully in theory for the professional diploma, at the examination held in Newcastle, on November 30th, 1896. This is the first examination for the professional diploma, which has been held under the new and exacting regulations of the Society.

CONSETT.

NEW THEATRE.—"The Orphan Heiress," which is this week being represented at the New Theatre, is a drama, a comedy, and a tragedy—all in one. It contains many thrilling situations, and abounds with quite irresistible humour, for which Ginger, Jenkins, and Betsy Buggles are mainly responsible. Sardien Loski (Mr E. Ottley) looks an ideal circus proprietor, and the representation of his show, in which Messrs O'Connor and Traynor give an unique knock-about entertainment, is screamingly funny and original. Most of the other parts are well sustained, and the piece is well worthy of a visit. The pantomime "Aladdin" to be produced on Monday next, is one of the best productions now travelling. It has met with the greatest success in each town that it has visited. The scenery and accessories are most elaborate, and the company a strong one both in numbers and talent, includes Miss Emily Stevens, Miss Lily Howen, Mr Fred. Ferris, and Mr A E. Andrews. The pantomime has been produced under the direction of Mr Lloyd Clarance, and we advise our readers, especially those who enjoy a good laugh, to pay a visit to our handsome little Theatre on Monday night.

STANLEY.

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY.—Charles Routledge was charged before Mr George Ridley, on Monday, with being drunk and disorderly, on Saturday, and was fined 2s 6d and costs.—P.C. Stubbs proved the case.

VAGRANTS.—At Stanley Police Court, on Thursday, before Mr Geo. Ridley, seven vagrants, charged with sleeping at the Bankfoot and Bantling coke ovens, were sentenced to terms of seven and fourteen days imprisonment. P.C. Iceton prosecuted in the whole of the cases.

THE SCHOOLMASTER AND THE SCHOOL BOARD.—Mr Darney, of Stanley Central, was the schoolmaster who visited Lanchester for the purpose of inspecting the books of the Tanfield School Board. The visit, by arrangement with Mr Ritson, was made on July 4th, 1896.

POLICE COURT.—On Monday, before Mr Ridley, John Thornton, *alias* "Clubby," was sent to prison for fourteen days for sleeping at the Stanley Gas Works; and similiar sentences were imposed on Henry Sproates and James Tincan, for enjoying "Nature's sweet restorer" in the coke ovens, at Shield Row Colliery.—James Cowe and John Turner were sentenced to seven days' imprisonment each, for the same offence.—Thomas Murphy, who had been apprehended by Sergeant Wood, when under the influence of liquor, atoned for his offence by paying five shillings and costs.

BENEFIT CONCERT.—A most successful concert arranged by Captain Crossling, for the benefit of the widow and family of the late Private John Wilson, was held in the Co-operative Hall on Wednesday evening. The whole of the artistes gave their services free gratis, and as a result a sum of over £15 was realised, and will be handed over to Mrs Wilson. The musical programme included instrumental selections given by the Tanfield Lea Silver Model Prize Band, under the leadership of Mr Bannister; solos by Miss Kate Fairley, Craghead; Mr R. J. Crossling, Newcastle; Mr Geo. Stewart, Miss Swallow, Bushblades; Mr R. D. Grundy, Mr Tom Holland, Annfield Plain; violin pieces by the Misses Benson, and pianoforte solos by Miss Whittaker, Stanley. A sketch entitled "Who would be a bachelor?" was efficiently performed by Mr R. D. Grundy, Miss Whittaker, Miss Leake, and Messrs A. Simpson and A. Hutchinson.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden are well-known in the theatrical world, and their several companies are possessed of excellent and well-deserved reputations. During the week, their popular drama, "The king of crime," has been staged at the Victoria, and the exciting story of "Ronjarre's" double life, his good and evil deeds has been relished by immense audiences. Mr Samuel Livesey takes the part of the villain-hero with such consummate skill as to excite to a marked degree the sympathies of all. Mr Gus. Livesey gives a perfect impersonation of the old miser, Gandelin, and Mr. Sam. Roberts causes much enjoyment in the *role* of Professor Mick Maloney. The various feminine characters are all most worthily sustained. Indeed, the piece goes splendidly from the lifting of the curtain to the playing of the National Anthem. The scenery and effects are worthy of admiration. Next week's attraction is "A daughter of Ishmael"; and the week after, Mr Lindon gives his patrons a splendid treat by introducing to them Horace Lingard's famous Opera Company. This is the most expensive engagement ever attempted at the above theatre, and we trust that Mr Lindon's effort at attraction will be appreciated.

PRESBYTERIAN ENTERTAINMENT.—A grand Cinematographe exhibition and musical entertainment was given in the Co-operative Hall, on Monday evening, the proceeds being in aid of the Presbyterian Church Building Fund. The whole of the arrangements in connection with the affair, were carried out by a committee, consisting of Messrs J. T. Castle, G. Logan, J. Littleton, W. Nattrass, Rainey, R. Wood, and Knox, with Messrs Laws, and R. Eltringham, as secretaries. The two last named gentlemen, it may be mentioned, were financially responsible for the performance, and for their sakes, as well as that of the Church, we are pleased to chronicle the fact that the attendance was extremely large, and that the financial success of the venture exceeded the highest anticipations of its promoters. The Cinematographe attracted a great deal of attention, and was the cause of delight to old and young alike. Mr Robert Eltringham presided over the entertainment, and amongst the *artistes* were Mr Robert Pearson, of Consett (bass); Miss Grainger, of Consett (soprano); and Mr L. Winstone, of South Shields (comic). Mr Pearson sang the "The storm fiend," and later obliged with "The wolf," for which he enthusiastically encored. Miss Grainger sang "Ye wild wind blow," and "Another day," her second attempt being encored. Mr Winstone's comic singing fairly brought down the house. "He was a peculiar man," received an encore, and "A sketch after dinner," was also so irresistibly attractive that another encore had to be rendered. An exhibition of miscellaneous lantern slides also added to the harmony of the evening.

TEMPERANCE SOCIAL.—The Beacon tent, in connection with the Independent Order of Reckabites Friendly Society, held their annual Temperance social in the United Methodist Schoolroom, last Saturday. Bro. Gally, of Houghton-le-Spring, presided, and after a few introductory remarks, he installed the elected officers as follows—Chief Ruler, Brother J. P. Elliott; Deputy Ruler, Brother E. J. Pope; Treasurer, Brother J. Langsdale; Secretary, Brother John Carr; Levite, Brother James Pickard; Guardian, Brother R. Brown; Book Steward, Brother James Elliott; Cash Steward, Brother D. Rodham; Assistant Secretary, Brother T. L. Chambers; Past Chief Ruler, Brother E. Saunders. The ceremony was of a very impressive nature. Subsequently, a very pleasing programme was performed, amongst the items being an organ selection, "We never shall bow down," by Master John Vine, and a recitation, "He did it all for love," by Mr G. Potter. Mr John Carr sang "The drunken wife," in capital style, and a humorous reading by the same gentleman was greatly appreciated. Mr Langsdale favoured the company by singing "The Stowaway," and Mr Henry Curry sang "The handwriting on the wall," very acceptably. Mr Tom Holland was encored for singing "The orphan boy," and responded by singing "Mrs Hooligan's Christmas Cake," in a manner which fairly brought down the house. A substantial supper was afterwards partaken of, the tables being presided over by Mesdames Dixon, Rodham, Langsdale, and Miss Turner. Mrs Curry attended to the tea, and Mesdames Thompson and Hodge to the cutting of the bread. Messrs John Williamson, John Knott, and George Williams also assisted. Brother John Carr then gave a magic lantern exhibition, and this terminated a very enjoyable evening.

LETTERS to the EDITOR.

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

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

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

CHRISTIANITY AND SECULARISM.

To the Editor of the "Consett Chronicle."

Sir,—You deserve the thanks of all Christians for the able manner in which you have dealt with the Upas tree of Secularism. I felt proud of the *Chronicle* last week, and I feel certain that every honest, religious-minded man and woman, who read your able reply to Mr Cohen's blasphemous attack on the Word of God, will endorse my opening sentences. I thank you personally, Sir, for the stand you have taken. With a paper like the *Chronicle* to champion their cause, the religious sects in the neighbourhood have little to fear from Secularism. As you remarked in your paper a short time ago, what would become of us if we had no Bible, and if our only faith sprang from the teachings of Secularism or Atheism? Aye, what indeed would man be without God? In Him man finds a Being whose character is inexhaustible, who, after ages shall have rolled their course, will still be still incomprehensible. He is, indeed, the "Great, the Holy, and the High." Well might Cowper exclaim—

> Thou art the source, and centre of all minds,
> Their only point of rest, Eternal Word!
> From Thee departing, they are lost, and rove
> At random, without honour, hope, or peace.

It is this God who, in order to encourage children to obey His laws, has promised a present, as well as a future, reward to a good life. He has so interwoven our duty here, and life hereafter together, that, whilst we are discharging our obligations, we are at the same time making provision for "the life that is to come." What, I repeat, would become of a fallen world without a Bible? In it Christians read of their heavenly Father's love, and of their dying Saviour's precious legacies. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth for its matter—all honest, all sincere. It is a revelation from heaven, designed for man's instruction, comfort, and salvation. The Christian is comforted by belief in a wise, all-ruling Father, whose presence fills the vast unknown with light and order; but to the Atheist—the man who has dethroned God—the spirit-land is, indeed, "a place of darkness, and the shadow of death."

> Atheist, use thine eyes,
> And, having viewed the order of the skies,
> Think, if thou canst, how matter blindly hurl'd,
> Without a guide, could form this wondrous world.

—I am, yours truly, BELIEVER.

Castleside, Jan. 26th, 1897.

To the Editor of the "Consett Chronicle."

Sir,—I desire, through the medium of your broad-minded and liberal paper, to make a few remarks bearing on the lecture on "Secularism," delivered at Stanley, on Saturday night. I desire to give fairplay, and to do justice to every man, no matter what his belief may be. By a misunderstanding on my part, I was the means of causing some commotion and bad feeling. I distinctly heard the rules of the meeting, as spoken by the Chairman, but afterwards I understood Mr Cohen to say we could speak from where we were sitting, but it seems I was wrong, as it was only for questions that could be asked. When the shouting commenced, I thought it was to me the audience referred to, so I came to the conclusion that if that were the kind of attention a man would get, I had better go, and accordingly I left the Hall. Mr Nicholson did his duty as Chairman, and I am quite aware that public meetings, to have order, must have rules, which must be obeyed. I am not ashamed to declare my principles on any platform, or in any place, or under whatever circumstances. I see, in your report of the lecture, Mr Cohen has said, in answer to the few words I uttered, that my remark was one of those platform, or pulpit, platitudes used to blind people. Sir, it is so much of a blind that he cannot answer it from the Secularist point of view. He further says motives come from within, but they are made from without. Then, I ask, who created these social surroundings? Do they come by chance, or are they the result of man's selfishness, and his greed for gain? Drunkenness, vice, and laziness are the result of man's inhumanity to man. The passions, which enslave us, are results that spring from our thoughts and feelings, and, before they can be done away with, we must have a new direction to our faculties. We must have a different view of life. We must have a higher standard of life and its responsibilities than any man-made standards. In short, man must have the Divine stamp of a new nature. Sir, Jesus Christ is the only standard of true virtue this world has ever seen. Not from amongst learned or unlearned men, either of the past or present, can a perfect example of virtue be proved. Christ is the only true Reformer, because he begins with the soul—the mainspring of all our actions. The religion of Christ accords with the old proverb, "If every man swept his own door step, every street would be clean." They claim for Secularism a great deal more than it is entitled to. The liberty we enjoy and the knowledge we have acquired are the legacies left to us by generations of men that existed before us—men who fought and died for liberty of conscience and freedom of thought hundred of years before, yes, thousands before the Secularist party was ever heard of, and they were Christians, not Secularists. They, the Secularists, are narrow-minded, when they would print such a picture of Heaven as is represented in the "Rogues' Refuge" on the cards distributed in Stanley. They claim to be liberal and broad-minded. Are we to come to the conclusion that all men in Stanley who have set their faces heavenwards are rogues, and the only honest men are Secularists? They are ingenious at twisting the legitimate meaning of words in their tracts. They ought to have taken the 23rd Psalm, and proved from it that God had a walking-stick and an oil can. If we made play with words in our newspapers and periodicals, and our daily conversation in this manner, what a mass of ridiculous nonsense would appear! The Secularist says this life is sufficient, without another world being dragged in. I say it is not. Man is taxed ten times more by his own follies than by those of others, and, unless a man has the help of God, he cannot control his passions or his feelings. Here is the proof. In the shelters, which the Salvation Army has got in this and other countries, there have been thousands of men that have passed through them who have fallen in the battle of life, who had amongst them both learned and illiterate, some who have spent forty years in prison, and whom the authorities could make nothing of, who, when touched by the loving hand and awakened by kindness, and who have given up wrong, and become followers of Jesus Christ, law-abiding citizens and useful members of Society. The great Lord Bacon, one of England's greatest thinkers, did not find either the light or the law of nature a sufficient guide for his conduct. He stooped to perform a petty theft, and some of our greatest poets and writers have lost control of themselves under the power of their own passions and feelings. Yes, Sir, the world is full of proof of what I say. Along the dusty highways of life, men and women are falling by thousands. Cohen wants to know when Jesus Christ helped to solve one of the social problems? I answer, here and now, in this year 1897. The Army and other Christian bodies have women, some of whom have been raised in homes of affluence and refinement, and who go at all hours to the homes of the degraded and suffering and perform practical benefactions. They roll up their sleeves and scrub the dirt out, wash clothes, beg for food, supply medicine and clothing, give the poor work, persuade them to give up wrong, and take Christ for their helper. They have no time to formulate beautiful theories concerning right and wrong, the origin of the species, &c., &c. It may be remarked that we only touch the fringe of the evil; then I answer, "Go thou and do likewise." Secularists spend their time in finding fault. They exist to fight Christianity and nothing else. The lecturer said Christianity was destroyed when certain ideas of the universe had been done away with, and yet it existed on the 16th January, 1897, for him to attack—two very contradictory statements. If they could eliminate God and the Bible out of the universe, they would destroy man's responsibility. They sometimes ask, what has Christianity done for the world during its 1800 years? It found the world in a state of barbarism. It has made England the freest and most civilised nation on the face of God's earth. The railway, the steamship, the printing press, our educational facilities for learning our code of morals, and our laws, are the direct result of its benign influences; and lastly, it has made me a man, where before I was only a thing, tossed about by every whim and caprice of my passions. Drink was my master, and held me in chains that I could not break. But, "the Lion of Judah has broken every chain." Studying the Anarchist, the Communionistic, the Socialistic, and the Secularists' idea of life landed me in a fog, made me cynical, destroyed hope, and plunged me in despair. Unbelief closed my eyes. Faith has opened them, and taught me that truth is a thing to be, not only to know. I learned it amongst a people who have been subjected to much persecution, misunderstanding, and vile assertions in the past and present, namely, the Salvation Army. I have learned from its great leader to read my Bible diligently, and with prayer.—I am, yours truly,

THOMAS CHARLTON.

20, High Street, West Stanley,
Jany. 25th, 1896.

To the Editor of the "Consett Chronicle."

Sir,—In your last week's issue of the *Consett Chronicle*, there appeared in the editorial column an article, under the heading "Man without God." Permit me, through the columns of your valuable paper, to try to correct some very grave mistakes. The story of Shelley's cowardice at sea in 1820—two years before Shelley's death—was at one time attributed to Volney, and, after a lapse of seventy-five years after Volney's death, the story is made to do justice to Shelley by the Editor of the *Consett Chronicle*, in the western vicinity of Durham. I wish that amidst all our boasted education, Christians would cease prevaricating for the glory of God.

A clergyman once wrote in the visitors' book at the Mer de Glace, Chamounix, "No one can view this sublime scene and deny the existence of God." Under this Shelley, using a Greek phrase, wrote: "P. B. Shelley, Atheist," thereby showing to the world his consistency, and Trelawny, who was a great authority, says that he was an Atheist to the last.

I see in your paper you have designated the author of the "Age of Reason" a Panthlist. I beg leave to remind you that Thomas Paine styled himself a Deist in the "Age of Reason," in which he plainly stated that he worshipped God. I am very sorry to have to play the *role* of instructor to so able an Editor, as the Editor of the *Consett Chronicle* most assuredly is, but I think even a good Christian editor will not deny me the right of correction, as it is in harmony with the Gospel according to St. Luke, Chapter 1, "For as much as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us, even as they delivered them unto us which from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the Word. It seemed good to me also having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first to write unto thee in order most excellent (Editor) Theophilus, that thou mightest know the certainty of those things wherein thou hast been instructed." You say that Paine boasted that God was not necessary. I say there is absolutely nothing in the writings of Thomas Paine to warrant your statements. Again, you say he died with alternate prayer and blasphemy. Where is the blasphemy which occurs in the "Age of Reason?" "Any system of religion which shocks the mind of a child," says Paine, "cannot be a true system. The world is my country, to do good is my religion." Now where is your authority for your statements in connection with the death of Thomas Paine?—Yours truly,

RESURGEM.

Oxhill, Stanley, R. S. O., Jan. 23, 1897.

To the Editor of the "Consett Chronicle."

Sir,—I see that Mr Johnston finished his epistle with three steps and a shuffle off. Why should I undertake to prove more than I knew, and if eighteen months of a man's life will not bear investigation, why cover any wider area? How is it that, when I undertake to pay my own expenses, and allow the proceeds to go to some good institution, Mr Johnston wishes to lay down a new code of regulations? I gather that he does not care to bear his share of the cost of the debate. I am content to be designated Balaam's ass, so long as I can retaliate by assuring Mr Johnston that if he be Balaam, I am perfectly willing to bring him to his senses.

"A Stanley Christian," I notice, regrets that I do not know the difference between Secularism and Socialism. Did not the heading to my letter say, "Challenge to Secularists," and if I did make a slip, it was surely pardonable. My intention was, like David of old, to challenge these boasting Secularists, despite their scorn and contempt. It is not correct, by the way, that Mr Howard vanquished Mr Symes at Crook and other towns around Bishop Auckland. Perhaps "Christian," being aware of my intentions, will furnish your readers with the un-Christian thoughts, words, or actions of which I intended to accuse Mr Johnston? But my intentions will only be revealed in public debate.—I am, yours truly,

A LOVER OF FAIRPLAY.

January 26th, 1897.

To the Editor of the "Consett Chronicle."

Sir,—An important Reformer once said, "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you." A controversy with an intelligent person becomes a matter of interest and profit. But where absolute ignorance prevails, coupled with a bigoted presumption, then the discussion is a definite failure. If it were not for the public good, I would not on any account waste my precious time in dealing with this false termed "Truthseeker." I stated clearly the cause of complaint in my first letter, concerning Mr Cohen's rambling remarks and false position, relative to his advertised lecture, "What think ye of Christ?" and I affirm strongly that he never conscientiously dealt with the subject, but merely took a few incidental items to suit his base purpose in order to undermine a perfect life, and to sneer at Christ's followers, ascribing to them hypocritial motives. The Messaianic Office, and Redemptive Scheme, also the miracles, death, resurrection, and ascension were entirely omitted. In the true sense of the term, he never touched his subject. I proved that any person was justified in reminding the lecturer of his unmanly action. This, of course, brought in the term interruption. I contrasted suitable and unsuitable interruptions, showing their extreme gladness at applause, and their disgust at the reverse. I also reminded them that others were subject to similar experiences, and quoted instances where shouting was indulged in by them. I was told by "Truthseeker" that a stoppage alone constituted an interruption. Now, any ordinary person knows that this word implies interposition, to hinder the process of anything by breaking in upon it, that is by causing obstruction. Now, a person was busy talking on their platform, and one shouted "Amen," another, "Who was Adam's grandfather?" another, "Keep to the point." These are outside the area of "Truthseeker's" rendering of this word. Such hair-splitting is transparent to all diligent readers. He also intruded into his letters, the Trinity, the Incarnation, and his love for material things, sneering at Christians by means of wilful misquotations of certain passages of Scripture. I dealt with these, giving him a material Trinity to explain; also reminding him that the Atheistic Evolution Theory was certainly more difficult to comprehend than the Incarnation of Christ. I also demonstrated, by practical illustrations, that with regard to certain facts concerning material things, he was in greater difficulties than the believer in spiritual things. Yet he has never attempted a reply to any part of them, but keeps on trifling with his nonsensical twaddle concerning false reports, &c. I have made repeated statements which I saw with my own eyes, and heard with my own ears, and understood with my own brain, and I can vouch for their accuracy. I have reluctantly made this review of the correspondence to check "Truthseeker's" assertions.

It is an acknowledged fact that Secularists' love of error deters them from the honest investigation of truth; that they shun the evidences of Christianity; that they will not examine them; that they are totally unacquainted with the doctrines and facts which they reject. Notwithstanding all their boast of possessing free and independent thought, there are few men who think less, or rely with a more tame, implicit, and unthinking confidence on the opinions of others. The instance is probably yet to be found of a Sceptic who has soberly, carefully, and candidly examined both sides; who has studied the history, and design, and evidence and exposition of the Bible. I do not believe a well authenticated instance can be found of a Sceptic who was a good Biblical scholar, and who had studied the Bible and its evidences, and remained a Sceptic. If any Sceptic should doubt the truth of this, I challenge him to refute it by personal experiment. Infidelity inclines us towards pride, pleasure-seeking, dissipation, whilst these foster infidelity. Like two ponderous metallic globes, hung together on the side of a declivity, they mutually assist each other down the steep, and the further they proceed, the greater is their momentum. John Newton's well-known history is an instance of this, and so, too, is Dr. Nelson's. Memory sat like a nightmare upon his conscience. Peace forsook his bosom. He knew too much to close his eyes against all evidence. Some love of truth for its own sake also seemed to remain with him—a rare virtue in an avowed infidel. He, therefore, wished to prove the truth of infidelity. But his own arguments, boldly put forth before others, failed to satisfy his own mind. He looked for help. He called to his aid the most celebrated infidel authorities. He pored over the pages of Rousseau, Voltaire, and Volney. He invoked Hume, Gibbon, and Paine to confirm and strengthen him in his adopted creed, but they failed. He had read history as well as they. He was amazed at their temerity in distorting plain matter of fact. He reasoned with himself that the temple of truth, which he was earnestly and honestly seeking, could not be built upon palpable falsehood, nor could it need perversion of facts to prop it up. The discovery of the manifest love of falsehood in the acknowledged champions of infidelity, compelled him to discard them as his leaders, and to cast from him a creed of which only the Father of Lies could be the author. Thus the apostles of infidelity were made, through the over-ruling Providence of God, the unlooked-for means and instruments of converting him to Christianity. As my time, like your space, is valuable, I must forego important references in connection with Mr Cohen's recent visit, which prove in a definite manner my prior claim in dealing with advertised subjects.—I am, yours truthfully,

ANDREW FAIRFAX.

Stanley, R.S.O., Jan. 25, 1897.

To the Editor of the "Consett Chronicle."

Sir,—I see in your last issue a short letter by Mr Joseph Beck, of East Stanley, in which he acknowledges himself to be the person I inquired after a fortnight ago. His admission will, no doubt, have a definite warning to the public on all matters incident with and pertaining to religious beliefs. For it is extremely useless to be influenced by the life and letters of a person who lacks concentrativeness. Feathers and straw, blown about by every wind, are a striking indication of weakness. We want, in these critical times, something solid and substantial, which will defy storm and tempest—principles of granite and consistency, worthy of admiration. It is pleasing to note that Mr Beck makes no attempt to exempt himself from any of the questions which appeared concerning him. Moreover, he expresses gratitude to me for exposing him. I may say that I do not require any compliment for my action, so long as he admits I have done good public and private service. But notice his assumption, for his closing sentences give the lie to his first statement. He demands the name of the person who has questioned him. If I have done Mr Beck good service, as he admits, then why request my identity to be revealed? I am not a woman of flying colours who cares to see my name in print, but in my humble walk in life I do admire a gentleman of stability. Just imagine a man arrayed in the garb of a Salvation Army captain and parading the public thoroughfares, telling the public of his conversion, and of the great and marvellous things the Lord had done for him, exhorting them to read the Bible—the grand heaven-born Word of God, a Book suited to old and young, rich and poor, learned or illiterate, a guide for the young, and a staff for the aged—also setting forth the Redemptive Work of Christ, as suitable to all men of every clime and nation. Contrast that conduct with the same person some time after, writing to the *Consett Chronicle* a letter, in which he sets forth the teachings of Christ as being unsuitable for this age. The letter can be read by any who care to do so. It is full of mockery at the very things which the same person once extolled. The question arises, was he acting the hypocrite before, or now? There cannot possibly be harmony in such extreme conduct. Moreover, this is only a fragmentary portion of the doings of this person. I hope the Lord will have mercy on him for his serious offences, and that he may return to the God he has maligned, and truly confess his faults. There are many people so weak and easily led that they follow anything that turns up. They run with the multitude, if they are only received with favour, and are called upon to act as chairman, or some kindred office. No decision of character is visible. In religious matters a person requires stability and strict decorum; then his profession means something. Actions speak louder than words. Flexibility is a symbol of weakness, and a man may boast of what he has been, as he likes. But what has he accomplished by a fly-about method? No reliance is placed upon him, and he becomes a byword and a laughing stock to society. True nobility is visible in concentrated effort. Let a man act for the public good, and his reward is sure; but if he acts from impulse only, and obeys every inclination to suit all parties, then he has entered on a risky course, which yields little satisfaction to himself, and less to others. I leave this matter to the consideration of your readers, and I may say that if Mr Beck persists in his publication of letters which he may think proper to do, I shall deem it my duty, for the private and public good of the community, to give a series of other questions, which are held in reserve. A certain person, who is innocent, is suspected of writing these letters. The riddle may be solved by a study of my *nom-de-plume*.

ULTRA.

East Stanley, Jan. 25, 1897.

"CLERICAL POOH-POOH RHETORIC."

To the Editor of the "Consett Chronicle."

Sir,—When Freethought and Science first began to take the ramparts of the Christian citadel, the paid defenders of the faith did make strenuous efforts to ward off the destroyer. In ancient times by murder, torture, and other gentle Christian forms of argument; in modern times by bravely fighting for their cause in the press, on the platform, and by books. But as they were continuously defeated, a new tactics had to be adopted. One amongst the many was the pooh, pooh rhetorical dodge, which is very prevalent even to-day, but it will also disappear before the advancing tide of education, science, and freethought.

The clerical party when properly cornered, instead of honourably admitting their defeat, try to throw dust in the eyes of the people by this pooh, pooh dodge. The contemptuous sophistry only needs exposure to merit condemnation. I am heartily sorry that Mr Gelley has condescended to use this worn-out battle-cry, as I am sure it does not express the honourable, fighting characteristics of his radical nature. The few following examples will show how this clerical pooh pooh dodge has been used.

When David Hume (1750) published his "Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding," the clergy did try to reply to him, for he says "Answers by reverends and right reverends came out two or three in a year and I found by Dr. Warburton's railing, the books were beginning to be esteemed in good company." This was decent on the part of the clergy. But when Dr Strauss published his "Life of Christ," the clergy could only exclaim "Down right blasphemy—shocking, horrible, and use their pooh, pooh rhetoric again.

"Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation" appeared in 1844. Again the clergy were utterly unable to produce any counterblast to this damaging impeachment of holy writ, only hysterically condemning it as a book of infamy and blasphemy. This is the contemptible form of the pooh-pooh dodge. In 1860, "Essays and Reviews" underwent the same ordeal, and before its influence had subsided, Dr. Colenso (1862) published the first volume of one of the best freethought works I have had the pleasure to add to my library, "The Pentateuch and Book of Joshua Critically Examined."

All the interjections in our language could not adequately express the consternation amongst the black-coated gentry. The simple little country curates and their pastors began to bark, and call upon the high and learned dignataries to come forth and refute this terrific denial of God's Word, and the result was that the fathers met in Westminster Abbey to refute Dr. Colenso. The provincial clergy, not being able to answer, began to use the pooh-pooh dodge. They went around exclaiming, "Pooh, pooh!" to the militant bishop, and this piece of impertinent sophistry has again and again been used by the advocates of Christianity since then. But the schoolmaster has been abroad in the world, and people can no longer be gulled by this empty trick. I have enumerated sufficient instances to enable the reader to detect this priestly pooh-pooh rhetoric, and the reader will see it in the concluding paragraph of Mr Gelley's letter in your last issue. We all know him to be a thorough old Liberal in politics, always eager to mount the platform, and speak out fearlessly against Conservatism as the foe of the workman. To be consistent, Mr Gelley ought to use this pooh-pooh rhetoric against Conservatism, and advise the people not to discuss politics with the Conservative. If not, why this inconsistency? No! Mr Gelley, this pooh-pooh dodge will not stand in your service at this day. It has been exposed, and the sooner you know this, the better for your dying creed.

You speak of my faith as one of words. Fie! Stay, look around you and reflect. It is this new age of man's reason demanding the new religion of Secularism—the religion of deeds, and it is but the expression of the inherent disgust of the people at the lip practice of your impossible creed, which is bringing them in crowds to hear the glorious truths of Secularism. Taught by professional sky-pilots, the people have too long kept their eyes gazing upwards towards an unknown world, whilst they have been bled and robbed of their very birthrights in this. Bishops with their palaces, state clergymen with their vicarages, Wesleyan and Methodist ministers with their palatial residences, are a bitter and sarcastic commentary upon Christianity as a religion of deeds—bitter pills to swallow to a man who believes in practising what he preaches.—I am, yours truly,

ICONOCLAST.

Shield Row, R.S.O., Jan. 26th, 1897.

To the Editor of the "Consett Chronicle."

Sir,—In the *Consett Chronicle* of January 15th, "Ultra's" catalogue of curiosities regarding the antics and antecedents of Mr Joseph Beck is surprisingly correct, and I am glad that he has enumerated them. Comment thereon would be a waste of time and good sense.—I am, yours truly,

OLIVER TWIST.

Twizel, January 25th, 1897.

MR COHEN AND FOREIGN MISSIONS.

A REPLY.

To the Editor of the "Consett Chronicle."

Sir,—Will you kindly permit me through your columns to say something in reply to Mr Cohen's lecture at Stanley on Foreign Missions? It is not my intention to enter into the controversy which has been raging since Mr Cohen's last visit to this neighbourhood, respecting the merits of Christianity and Secularism.

I do not think the Christian religion has much to fear from the onslaughts of this modern "Goliath." One would imagine, to hear our Secularist friends talk, that Secularism was one of the products of the scientific development of the last 300 years, and was a new evangel inspired by reason destined in the very near future to bring to the ground the Upas tree called Christianity; whereas, it is well-known to readers of ancient history that Secularism is older by some centuries than the system it seeks to supersede. The truth is that Christianity was planted as a tender sapling in an atmosphere of Atheism, superstition and Jewish bigotry, and yet it throve amidst such uncongenial elements. If, then, the young tree weathered the blasts of an Atheistic and nationalistic Roman aristocracy, powerful and supreme; of a superstitious populace, violent and fanatical, and of a Jewish nation, blinded with national and religious prejudices, why need the friends of Christianity fear, now that it has grown—according to the prediction of its founder—to a tree, seasoned by stress of storm and age, whose branches extend from one quarter of the earth to another, and beneath whose shade the Kingdoms of the world take shelter? But, whilst I am not concerned to defend the Christian religion against its would-be destroyers, I do feel a little concerned in the case of an attack on "Foreign Missions," and for this reason—a great many of even earnest Christians are totally indifferent to the claims of the heathen on the Christian Church. It is difficult to arouse their interest in people away in China and the heart of Africa. They see the needs of our people at home, and acting on the motto that "Charity begins at home," they forget that it does not end there. They support, in a fair way perhaps, the work of the Church at home, but button up their pockets to every appeal in aid of the work of the Church abroad, and should it happen that by any means their consciences are wounded, it acts as a balm, if they can find some statement of somebody—it does not matter whom—prejudical to mission work and missionaries. It is to them, especially, my words are addressed, and my earnest hope is that they at least will give them their thoughtful consideration in connection with anything they may have heard or read of the dicta of Mr Cohen.

I have no hope of convincing any of this latter gentleman's followers. None is so blind as he who will not see, and it is quite evident that both he and they have convinced themselves—by what means I do not know—that Foreign Missions are a huge sham and failure, and I am afraid that no amount of testimony to the contrary would change their opinions.

Now, I am sorry to say I had not the advantage of hearing Mr Cohen on this subject. This was the only lecture of his in which I felt any special interest, but I was hindered from being present when it was delivered; accordingly I have only your report to rely on. Another thing I must say. I am not in a position to deal with Mr Cohen's statements, respecting any of the Missionary Societies, except the Church Missionary Society. I do not know anything of the working of any other Society, and I have none of their reports by me, but if I can show that his assertions are misleading with regard to one, people cannot be blamed if they hesitate to accept them with regard to the others.

Now, the question at issue is, "Are Foreign Missions a huge imposture and failure?" Mr Cohen confidently affirms that they are both. We will take the charges separately.

The charge of imposture is a strong one. It implies either that the funds of the Societies are fraudulently obtained, or misapplied. Did Mr Cohen adduce any proof of either one or the other? Your paper does not show that he did. If he can bring any proof to bear out his statement, I, as a supporter of the Church Missionary Society, will be glad to have it, as I do not wish [illegible] to fall into the hands of impost[illegible] speedily stop, or divert, my mo[illegible] tion; but of course I require pro[illegible] our miners would require proo[illegible] members of the Masters' Assoc[illegible] that the Miners' Union wa[illegible] posture, or, as our Secularis[illegible] require, proof if I were to [illegible] Secularist Society was a h[illegible] kept going for the pur[illegible] lecturers, such as Mr Cohen[illegible] easy for A to call B a rog[illegible] people will require proof [illegible] apparently honest life amo[illegible] they have the greatest [illegible] knowledge, judgment, an[illegible] will receive his assert[illegible] amount of incredulity. [illegible] known in Stanley that [illegible] confidence in his judg[illegible] accept his bare word? But perhaps he thought another statement he made was sufficient for his audience. He said, "Bogus reports are cooked, and sent round to old ladies of both sexes." But of this, again we need proof. Has any such "bogus report" fallen into the hands of Mr Cohen? If so, why has he not proved it to be a bogus report, and pilloried the bogus manufacturer? Assertion, even that of Mr Cohen, is not proof. The Church Missionary Society publish a yearly report. Does he mean that that is bogus? Then let him formulate a charge of issuing a bogus report against the secretary, and let him be prepared to prove it. The statistical aspect of the report apparently does not wear a very cheerful look, which a bogus report would be expected to do, when in the hands of Mr Cohen it can be quoted to an audience who know little or nothing about missionary affairs, against the Society issuing it. Surely, if it were bogus, all that would tell against the Society would be suppressed. The truth is that what seems to tell against mission work—its disappointments and failures—are as faithfully told as its successes, which would not be the case if the report was "cooked." But we are further told, on the same authority, that "The whole secret of it lay in the fact that the clerical market was over-crowded, and so these Societies were started." Here, I join issue with the lecturer. The clerical market, at least so far as that in the Church of England goes, is not over-crowded, but, even if it were, that had, and has, nothing to do with the starting of these Societies. The Church Missionary Society is nearly one hundred years old, and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel very much older. How can the glut in the clerical market to-day have anything to do with the starting of a Society, which sprang into being a century ago? But, supposing it had, and supposing these Societies were kept going to relieve the clerical market of surplusage, we should then expect either that the suitable clergy would be compelled to go out under their auspices, or that such advantages would be offered, as would induce men to readily volunteer to go out to the foreign field. I cannot say what is the case under other Societies, but I know that under the Church Missionary Society no such advantages are offered. The majority of men must place themselves entirely in the Committee's hands, to be sent whither they choose. The fact is, missionary work offers so few inducements that it is only the most devoted who offer themselves for it. Again, if these Societies are started for the purposes named, how is it that out of 6,382 workers under the Church Missionary Society, only 364 are European clergy, and many of these working at their own charges? How is it that nearly all the local and district Secretaries receive no remuneration? And how is it that many of the Missions have been founded by laymen in the service of the Government, such as Sir Robert Montgomery, Sir John Lawrence, Major Martin, Sir H. Edwardes, and others, whilst the laymen, William Wilberforce, Samuel Thornton, and Charles Grant helped to found the Church Missionary Society itself?

Then, with regard to Mr Cohen's statement that £31,014 was spent on "administering the funds" of the Church Missionary Society, I find from their general account that £12,592 was the amount spent in administering the funds, and not the sum mentioned by Mr Cohen. He has, however, I see, included under the same head £18,422 spent on "Collection of funds." The two things are slightly different. I do not profess to know enough of the working of the Society to say how much of this goes in expenses unconnected with salaries, but I venture to assert that if enquiry were made, it would be found that of all the amount, which Mr Cohen states is for the benefit of the clergy, not more goes to the share of anyone than is a fair remuneration for his labour, whilst the rest goes in other expenses, and even Mr Cohen will not be bold enough to assert, I suppose, that "the labourer is not worthy of his hire."

Of this I am sure, that if clergymen could live on air some who now receive salaries from the Church Missionary Society would sacrifice it for the good of the cause. His sneer with regard to the way the money is obtained, is on a par with some other of his expressions whilst in this neighbourhood, and seems to be one of his stock phrases. It does credit to his wit, if not to his good taste. But, after all, Mr Editor, we have been dealing only with Mr Cohen's individual opinion. How he has arrived at it, I cannot say. Perhaps he has been playing "Paul Pry." Perhaps he has taken the Church Missionary report, learned two or three facts, jumped to the conclusion that it was "cooked," and voted the whole thing an imposture, and then, instead of going manfully to the parties concerned, and telling them they were humbugs, he has come away here, to the far North, to expose them, where they are not very likely to hear what he says. In any case, he does not seem to have formed his opinion on investigation, otherwise he would have some proofs to offer that the whole affair is an imposture, got up and worked for the benefit of the clergy; and, in conclusion of this part of my letter, let me tell him that when he can adduce such proof as shall satisfy me and the other supporters of the Church Missionary Society, that the thing is as he states, we will see at once if we cannot clear out the whole administration, put the management on a new basis, with Mr Cohen at the head, if he likes, to keep things straight, and see that no funds go for the benefit of the clergy, save such as they honestly earn, and pay him a good salary for his pains.

But we come to the more serious question, as to whether Foreign Missions are a failure. If they are, then the expenditure on them ought to be stopped, or the causes of failure removed. If they are not, then it is the duty of the Christian Church to carry them on. There is a saying which runs, "They who pay the piper have a right to choose the tune." With that I suppose Mr Cohen will agree. Then I submit to him with all due deference the question, "Is it not fair that they who support Christian Missions should be the judges as to their success or failure, and not Mr Cohen?" But this is by the way. Mr Cohen says that Foreign Missions are a failure, and in all seriousness I am going to examine the evidence which he brings forward, and also to put witnesses into the box on the other side. One other remark, however, I should like to make before I proceed to deal with his evidence. Mr Cohen is a "truth-seeker." "We seek truth," blazed forth on the bills which announced his first series of lectures. "Truth seekers" are presumably "truth speakers." Now, when a man is in search of truth on any subject, he will, I suppose, examine and weigh *all* the available evidence on the subject. He will look at both sides of the question, and not at one only. He will, moreover, take into account all circumstances which affect the subject, so far as they come within his knowledge. That I take it, is the "scientific method" with which Mr Cohen is in love, and if he wants to convince an audience, the "Truth speaker" will bring to their notice *all* the evidences which bear on the question from both sides, and not from one side only. The evidence he gives "will be truth, all the truth—and not a part—and nothing but the truth." Now, judged by this criterion, which I hope Mr Cohen will think a fair one, let me see whether his methods are consistent with that of a "Truth seeker" and "Truth speaker." How does Mr Cohen proceed to set forth the "truth" respecting Foreign Missions? First, he makes certain statements, which may or may not be true—I will examine them presently—which he conceives are damaging to Mission work, puts into the box certain more or less hostile witnesses, without a word of explanation, that there may be equally strong or stronger evidence on the other side from independent sources, leaving his audience—of whom 99 out of every 100 probably knew nothing at all of the subject—to infer that there was no such evidence; and then he takes the Missionary Societies' reports, which he afterwards alleges, without a particle of proof, are "cooked," and reads [illegible] om them the items least favourable to the [illegible] ties, and omits the most favourable. I [illegible] you, Mr Editor, and every impartial and [illegible] d reader, if these are the methods of [illegible] truth seeker," or the methods of the [illegible] l pleader who has come into court with [illegible] press purpose of gaining a conviction [illegible] cost, even at the expense of the [illegible] " he professes to seek? If he wanted [illegible] uct the people in the "truth" respect-[illegible] oreign Missions, why, in all fairness, [illegible] not put the whole "truth" before [illegible] Why did he not tell them that for [illegible] ness, competent to give evidence, [illegible] e quoted *against*, twenty might be [illegible] *or*, the success and beneficent results [illegible] on work—and they not Missionaries [illegible] nd amongst them Charles Darwin, **Atheist and Secularist, who spoke from what he saw, and not from hearsay, as Mr Cohen seems to do? Why did he not give his hearers a hint that he was reading the most unfavourable items of the reports which the Missionary Societies themselves were not afraid or ashamed to publish for the instruction of their contributors? Was it because such a course was not conducive to the elucidation of the truth? or was it because it did not suit his purpose, which seems to have been to show that Foreign Missions are a "sham and a failure," whether they are or not? Will it be news to him to learn that Missionary Societies court investigation, and that they are not afraid of the whole truth, but only of half the truth, being told?**

So much for Mr Cohen's methods. Let me turn to his evidence. His first statement which your report gives is that 15,000,000 of natives were put to death in the Conquest and Christianising of South America. Unfortunately, I know very little of the history of South America, and I do not possess a history of that country, so that I cannot test his figures. But, assuming they are correct, will he tell us how many natives were put to death in the Conquest and in the Christianising respectively? The Mission Societies were not responsible for the Conquest, though they were for the Christianising. They ought not, therefore, to be saddled with the lives sacrificed in the Conquest, and even allowing that the number of lives sacrificed in the Christianising was large, will he tell us how the guilt of that can be laid at the door of the Protestant Missionary Societies, which were not in existence at the time, and which have always abhorred the methods of the earlier Romish Mission, which they consider to be anti-Scriptural and anti-Christian? "Any stick," we know, "is good enough to beat a dog with," but surely it is unfair to reproach Protestant Missions with what took place before they came into existence, and which all Protestants condemn as strongly as Mr Cohen. It is true that immediately afterwards he tells his audience that "modern Protestant Missions did not adopt the deliberate slaughtering of the earlier Romish Missions, but," he adds, "the result was the same," and then, a little later, he says, "the blacks were made fit for Heaven, and sent there as quickly as possible," the inference, of course, being that in some way the deaths of the natives were due to missionary effort. In connection with this statement, I will take two or three others, which mean the same thing. He says, "In New Zealand, for instance, in 1770, there was a native population of 100,000, and in 1890, it had dwindled down to 30,000." Later, he says, "The whole history of Christian Missions was Bible and bullets from beginning to end," and then he tries to fix the blame of the drink traffic and its evils amongst the natives on the Mission by asserting that "the missionary and the trader go hand in hand." This is the chief calumny in which the opponents of Foreign Missions always take refuge when pressed into a corner. I see Mr Cohen was not bold enough to assert that missionaries took drink amongst the natives. Will he be bold enough to assert that they take bullets? Or to say that either directly or indirectly missions have been the cause of the decrease in native populations when brought into contact with white men? He wishes people to infer this from what he says, but let him say it straight out, and bring some proof of it. It is simply untrue to say that the Missionary and trader go hand in hand. For instance, the trader was in India years before a Protestant missionary was permitted by the English Government to preach in the country. It is true that in a great many cases the missionary, who has gone with his life in his hand, has been followed by the trader, but is that the missionary's fault, and if evils follow the advent of the trader are they to be laid at the door of the missionary, who probably never sees the trader and never has anything to do with him? It is too true, alas! that wherever the white man goes the native seems destined to disappear from the face of the earth, except where they are in very large numbers, but that is not the missionaries' fault. It is in spite of him and his teaching. Has Mr Cohen never read of the labours of Bishop Lugwell against the importation of drink on the west coast of Africa? Or did he not read of the visit of King Khama to this country? If he wants an object lesson in the way in which native populations are reduced by the white man, he has only to look at what is taking place in Matabeleland, Mashonaland, and on the Niger. Are the missionaries to blame for that? And yet, doubtless, in ten years' time some opponents of Foreign Missions will quote the decrease of natives in those parts as the result of mission work. If he thinks the policy there being pursued a wicked one, let him get on to some political platform and denounce it, but do not let him try to put the blame on Missions, and do not let him saddle missions with the responsibilities of similar policies in the past. No, Sir, the extermination or diminution of native races by white men is the result of a *Secularist*, and not a *Christian*, or religious policy, according to the definition of a Secularist given by Mr Cohen himself. Mr Cohen, in his lecture on the philosophy of Secularism, said "Whenever a man did anything good from a purely human good motive, he became a Secularist, let him call himself what he liked." Very well, then logically it follows "That whenever a man does anything *bad* from a purely human *bad* motive he becomes a Secularist, let him call himself what he likes," because it is the human element in the motive which makes him a Secularist, and it would be scarcely fair to let Mr Cohen claim all the good without taking over the bad, and naturally also it follows that all thieves, rogues, and vagabonds are Secularists, as it will hardly be contended that a man thieves and defrauds from "Fear of the Lord," or "Hope of gain in Heaven," which are the only motives that actuate Christian and religious people, according to Mr Cohen; and, moreover, it must follow that the traders who take the rum and gin to the natives, and the colonists who take the bullets—which are the means of the extermination of the unhappy people—are Secularists, for they act from the very human and Secularist motive of making the most of this world, even at the risk of losing the next. Therefore, let not Mr Cohen lay the blame of extermination, or of the bullets or rum by which it is accomplished, on the missionaries who take the Bible only, but on those Secularists at heart, nominally Christian, who, actuated by Secularist motives, use these very Secular means for the most Secular purpose of enriching themselves here, for, as I said before, it will scarcely be contended that they pursue this policy from "Fear of the Lord," or "Hope of gain in Heaven," or because it is enjoined on them by the Scriptures. I am afraid, Sir, that either Mr Cohen is lacking in this power of discrimination, or else he has ignorantly, or wilfully, attributed certain effects to causes with which they are in no way connected, for the purpose of damaging the cause of missions in the eyes of a too confiding British public. Surely, he knows that a *post hoc* does not necessarily involve a *propter hoc*. But I trust, Sir, that your readers will use a little more discrimination, and I have no fear that on weighing the evidence pro and con, they will come to the conclusion that Foreign Missions are not the imposture and failure Mr Cohen tries to make them out to be.

I find, Sir, that my letter has run to a much greater length than I anticipated, and yet I have much to say, but, for the sake of your space and your readers, I will postpone the remainder till next week, when, with your permission, I will take up the other points in Mr Cohen's lecture, and then put a few witnesses into the box in favour of Foreign Missions.—Hoping you will be able to insert this, and with thanks in anticipation, I beg to remain, yours truly,

A FRIEND OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

South Moor, Jan. 25th, 1897.

OXHILL

South Tanfield Cricket Club.—At the annual meeting of this Club, held in the Colliery Reading Room, under the presidency of Mr David Ledger, the following officers were appointed for next season:—President, Mr Robert Kay; vice-presidents, Messrs D. Ledger, J. F. Smith, A. Ledger, Wm. Black, N. Raw, G. Collins, J. Curry, J. Robinson, R. Kay, junr., [illegible] Dixon, M. H. Lindon, W. West, J. [illegible] and J. F. Walker. Committee, Messrs D. Ledger, J. Curry, N. Clark, G. Collins, senr., and D. Stokoe. Captain (1st team), W. Raine; vice-captain, J. E. Smith; captain (2nd team), Jas. Benfold; vice-captain, W. Thorne; Treasurer, Mr Robert [illegible]; Secretary, Mr Richard Palmer. Groundsmen, Messrs J. Middlemast and R. [illegible] son.

LANCHESTER PETTY SESSIONS

THURSDAY, Jan. 21st,—Before COL. LEADBITTER-SMITH (chairman), W. B. VAN HAANSBERGEN, Esq., E. W. E. BALLENY, Esq., J. GREEN, Esq., and the REV. T. J. L. WAINEFORD.

CHARGE AGAINST A DURHAM TRADESMAN.

W. H. Wood, mineral water manufacturer, Durham, was charged with allowing a horse to be used when in an unfit state.—Mr Oliver appeared on behalf of the defendant.—P.C. Robinson said that about 8 o'clock on the previous Friday night, he saw a man, named Snowball, drunk, and in charge of a mare and cart belonging to the defendant. The horse flinched, as though in pain, as it was being driven through Lanchester. When outside the village, witness took the driver into custody, when the mare gibbed and nearly fell into the hedge. Witness put the mare and cart in at the Queen's Head, and examined the animal, which he found to be suffering from two wounds on the right shoulder, and another on the left.—Mr Thomas Wilkinson, veterinary surgeon, stated that he examined the mare about half-past ten on Saturday morning, and found a very large wound about half way up the near side of the shoulder, and at the top of the whithers there was another wound about the size of an egg. There were two further wounds on the off-side of the shoulder. The mare was in very poor condition, and was certainly unfit for work.—Cross-examined by Mr Oliver: The wounds were not new, but looked as though they had broken out from old sores which could not have been perfectly healed. They were all underneath the neck-collar.—Mr Oliver said that his client was charged with procuring the horse to be used, and in order to convict it was necessary to prove previous knowledge on his part. The defendant did not even know that the mare was out. It was seen out by the head horseman, a man named Glover. A week previously, the horse was found to have a sore on the shoulders through wearing a collar which did not fit, and it had not been worked for a week. On the morning in question, the head horseman having to send a light load to Consett, considered that the mare had recovered sufficiently to undertake the journey. Unfortunately, the young man who was in charge of the mare, got too much drink, and was unable to control the animal properly. The wounds were skinned over, and had the man been sober, the horse would most probably have managed the journey all right. The head horseman had probably committed an error of judgment in sending the horse out, but Mr Wood was certainly not responsible.—Robert Glover deposed that he was responsible for the mare being sent out. The load consisted of 20 dozen of bottles, whilst the usual load was 60 dozen.—The case was dismissed.

A STANLEY TRESPASS CASE.

John Pattison, of East Stanley, was charged with trespassing in search of conies on property belonging to Mr John Bates.—P.C. Iceton stated that at about 8 o'clock on the morning of the 10th inst., he found the defendant ranging the fields near Dene Wood. He had two greyhounds with him, one being in a leader, and the other running loose.—Defender admitted that he was trespassing, but not in search of conies. There were no rabbits about the place.—Mr John Bates said that there were very few rabbits about the place, but there was a lot of trespassing which required stopping.—The Chairman: There are no rabbits there?—Witness: There are rabbits occasionally.—The Chairman (to P.C. Iceton): Did you see any rabbits?—P.C. Iceton: There was snow on the ground, and I could see the tracks of rabbits in the snow.—The Chairman said the case was not of a very serious nature. Defendant would be fined 2s 6d and costs.

ASSAULT ON THE POLICE.

John Snowball, of Durham, was charged with being drunk in charge of a horse, and also with assaulting P.C. Robinson, at Lanchester, on the 15th inst.—P.C. Robinson stated that he saw the defendant on the day in question, driving a mare attached to a mineral water cart. He was quite drunk, and witness had to get a man to take charge of the horse. He took the defendant into custody, when the latter resisted violently, and kicked witness about the body. Defendant was fined 7s 6d and costs for the first offence, and 10s and costs for the assault.

ALLEGED LARCENY.

James Lishman was charged with stealing £2 10s 1½d, the monies of Thomas Smith, miner, of 67, Thomas Street, Craghead. — Complainant deposed that on October 16th, 1896, he and the defendant were marrows at Craghead Colliery, Lishman working on the first shift. They had been working together for about a month. Defendant drew the pay note at the office, and took it away with him. The pay note was for £5 0s 3d, and £2 10s 1½d of that belonged to witness. Defendant, however, went away with the money, and witness never saw him again till that morning. He had received no money. — Nicholas Musgrove said that his duty was to cash the pay notes on production. On October 16th, 1896, between the hours of 3.30 and 5 o'clock, Lishman presented a pay note for £5 0s 3d (copy produced), in the names of Thomas Smith and David Lishman. Witness cashed the note. Defendant never returned to the Colliery after receiving the pay.—P.C. Ferguson deposed that from inquiries made, he proceeded to Southwick on the 18th inst., and there apprehended the defendant on a warrant taken out by Thomas Smith. He read the warrant over to the defendant after bringing him to Stanley Police Station. Prisoner replied, "I went into the public-house, and forgot all about it."—Defendant said that he was extremely sorry for the inconvenience he had caused. He was guilty of the offence with which he was charged. Had it not been for his visit to the public-house, this would not have occurred.—Lishman was committed to take his trial at the forthcoming Assizes.

REFUSING TO QUIT.

Michael Brannon, of Stanley, was charged with refusing to quit the licensed premises known as the Stanley Inn, on the 9th inst.—Mr Joseph Peanan, the manager of the house, deposed that defendant came into the bar about 10 o'clock, on the evening of the 9th inst. He was very drunk, and was at once requested to leave. He refused, became abusive and threatening, intimating his intention of smashing both the house and the manager. He had to be ejected.—Sergeant Wood deposed that the defendant was ordered out of the Stanley Inn, and then commenced to be very disorderly. He was locked up, and kicked violently all the way to the Police Station. He was very drunk at the time, and had previously been refused drink at the Commercial Hotel.—A fine of 10s and costs was imposed.

ASSAULT AT BURNHOPE.

John McKie was charged with assaulting Isabella Draper, at Burnhope, on the 9th inst.—Mr Welford defended.—Complainant stated that about 7 o'clock, on the evening of the 9th inst., she was in the pantry, when there was a rap at the door. She sent her daughter to the door, and she returned, saying that a man wanted to see her. She went to see him, and the defendant accused her of telling stories about his wife. He eventually seized hold of her, and struck her, and tore her jacket. She estimated the value of the jacket at five shillings.—Cross-examined by Mr Welford: She had never intimated her intention of going round and pulling defendant's wife's eyes out. It was true that defendant was asked to come into the house, though she did not know who the man was at the time. Her husband was asleep at the time. She took the poker up to defendant, but it was in self defence. She put it down herself, but did not pick up a pint pot.—Mr Welford: Is the jacket worth five shillings?—Witness: Well, it is worth that to me, sir.—Mr Welford: Will it not mend?—Witness: No, I won't try to mend it.—Mr Welford: There is only a tear in the arm.—Isabella Draper, daughter of complainant, gave corroborative evidence.—Mr Welford said that the complainant had been calling defendant's wife, and he went to the house to get an explanation. Complainant grew angry, and seized a poker, which defendant took from her, her jacket being accidently torn in the scrimmage.—A fine of 1s and costs, with 1s damages, was imposed.

A THOROUGH LITTLE RIP.

James Ward, of Middlesbro', was summoned for allowing his son to become chargeable to the Lanchester Union.—Mr Brotherhood said that defendant's son, a boy of fifteen, was sent to the Workhouse on October 26th, by the Consett Magistrates, he having been found sleeping out in the Ironworks. Witness had made repeated applications to defendant to take charge of the boy, but he took no notice of the letters, and the Guardians had ordered witness to take out a summons.—The Chairman stated that he had received a communication from the Catholic priest at Middlesbro' to the effect that the defendant was in very poor circumstances, and had recently had sickness in the family. The letter also referred in uncomplimentary terms to the general behaviour of the lad.—Mr Brotherhood: He is a very bad lad, a thorough little rip. (Laughter).—The Chairman: His father seems to recognise that fact.—After some consultation, the Chairman said that the Bench felt inclined to dismiss the case, but perhaps it would be better to adjourn it for a month. The man was evidently unable to pay.—Mr Brotherhood: We do not want him to pay. The boy belongs Middlesbro' Union, and we want his parents to take him there.—The Chairman: Cannot the Guardians get the boy transfered to Middlesbro'?—Mr Brotherhood: No, sir.—The magistrates decided to dismiss the case, leaving the Guardians to take what action they thought fit.

GOING BEYOND BOUNDS.

John Rodham pleaded guilty to committing a breach of the special rules of South Moor Colliery by going beyond certain fences in the pit. Mr Parkinson, undermanager of the Colliery, said that there was no danger in going where the defendant had gone.—A fine of 5s and costs was imposed.

AN INTERESTING EXPERIMENT.

George Trueman was charged with committing a breach of rule 192 of the South Tanfield Colliery.—Mr Oliver appeared for Messrs Joicey and Co., and stated in his opening remarks, that this was the first case of the kind brought before the Lanchester Bench. The rule stated that any person in charge of a safety lamp should take it himself to the meeting station, and in the event of the lamp being injured, he was to take it to the deputy. The defendant's lamp had been injured, but neither the prosecutors nor the defendant could account for it. It was possible that the accident might have occurred without the defendant becoming aware of it. Since the accident happened an experiment had been made, and it had been discovered that even if the oil vessel were emptied, the wick would continue to burn for a considerable time.—Defendant said that he had no knowledge whatever of the accident.—Mr Oliver said that judging from the nature of the injury, the lamp must have been hit with a pick or some similar instrument. It was the first case of its kind, and the Company did not seek for a severe penalty, but the case had to be brought before the Bench, even though it were of so trivial a nature.—One of the lampmen employed at the colliery deposed that he handed the lamp to defendant in good condition. He had since made an experiment, and found that even with no oil in the vessel, the wick would burn for an hour and a quarter.—The Bench considered that the defendant was not aware of the dangerous condition of his lamp, and dismissed the case.

PONY RIDING IN A PIT.

William Raine was charged with riding a pony without permission in the Ann Pit, South Tanfield. He pleaded guilty.—Mr Oliver, who prosecuted, stated that defendant was caught by the overman in the main waggon way, riding a pony. It was a very dangerous practice, and several accidents had occurred through it. In this instance, the boy's cap was found some fifty or sixty yards further in-bye than the place where he dismounted from the pony.—Mr J. Dixon gave corroborative evidence, and defendant was fined 5s and costs.

HE WANTED STOCKINGS AND TOOK THEM.

Henry Cox was charged with stealing three pairs of stockings, the property of Mr Brodie, Church Street, Consett.—P.C. Carruthers stated that, acting upon information received, on Jan. 16th, he went into Victoria Street, Consett, where he found the prisoner trying to sell some stockings. Witness searched him, and found on him the three pair of stockings produced. Witness took him to the Police Station, and there charged him with stealing the stockings from Mr Brodie's shop. He replied, "Yes, I stole them. I wanted a pair of stockings, and I thought I would take them."—Mr Brodie valued the stockings at 2s 6d.—Prisoner pleaded guilty. He said that he was employed at the reservoir, and came up to Consett to buy a pair of boots. He bought the boots, and subsequently got some drink, and took the stockings unintentionally.—Prisoner was fined £1, with the option of one months' imprisonment.

FENCE BREAKING.

Wm. English was charged with stealing a quantity of palings belonging to the North-Eastern Railway Company.—P.C. Iceton said that on Sunday morning, January 3rd, he saw the defendant coming from the railway at Bankhead carrying a number of rails. Witness asked him, where he had obtained the rails, and he replied that they were lying on the railway, and he did not see any harm in taking them away. The following morning witness found the place from which the rails had been taken. Subsequently defendant told him that he wanted the rails to make a wicket gate. Altogether there were nine rails missing, and they corresponded with those which the defendant had with him. The damage was estimated at three shillings.—Defendant said that he picked the railings up as he was travelling along the railway. He knew that they were not his, but he did not see any harm in taking them home.—The Chairman said that a great amount of damage was being done all over the country, and especially in the county of Durham, by people breaking down fences. Defendant would have to pay a fine of 10s and costs, and 3s damage.

SECOND COURT.

Before W. B. VAN HAANSBERGEN, Esq., and J. GREEN, Esq.

The following cases were disposed of:—Stanley—Thomas Swinburn, charged with threatening Hannah Swinburn, was bound over to keep the peace. James Butchart and John Jameson, for fighting together, were also bound over. Penalties ranging from 2s 6d to 10s and costs were imposed on James Crain, James Butchart, Peter Atkinson, Hugh Dockerty, James Dixon, and Michael Brannen for drunkenness.——Satley—James Mason, for being drunk was fined 7s 6d and costs.——Craghead—James Crossman had to pay 2s 6d and costs for drunkenness.—Annfield Plain—Walter Thompson was fined 10s, John Martin and Thomas Wright 5s each, with costs, for drunkenness.——Quebec—David Cheek was fined 2s 6d and costs for drunkenness. Edward Parson and Thomas Dillon, for sleeping out, were sentenced to seven days' imprisonment.

CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

Before J. ANNANDALE, Esq. (Chairman), F. PRIESTMAN, Esq., and J. W. TAYLOR, Esq.

EXTENSIONS.

Robert Armstrong, landlord of the Blackhill Mill Inn, Blackhall Mill, applied for an extension of one hour for his licensed premises, on the occasion of the holding of the Mechanics' Club supper at his house on Saturday first.—The application was granted.—George Morgan, landlord of the Cross Swords Inn, Shotley Bridge, was granted an hour's extension to his licensed premises, for Thursday, the 28th inst., when the annual dinner of Shotley Bridge Cricket Club will be held at his house.

THE INEBRIATES.

John Moulden was fined 5s and costs for being drunk at Leadgate on the 5th inst.—Mary Ann Anderson was fined 2s 6d and costs for being drunk and disorderly in Middle Street, Consett, on the 9th inst.—Patrick Smith, for a similar offence at Blackhill on the 9th inst., was fined 5s and costs; as was also Robert McGee, who was discovered in a drunken and disorderly state at the same time and place.—Patrick Doran suffered a penalty of 5s and costs for drunkenness at Blackhill on the 9th inst.; and John White, who made no appearance, was fined 10s and costs for being drunk in Derwent Street, Blackhill, on the same night.—George Craig and Emerson Ashman, who were both found in a drunken condition near Castleside Schools, on the 16th inst., were fined 5s and costs each.—George Davidson was fined 5s and costs for drunkenness at Dipton, on the 9th instant.—Richard Winter, who was drunk in Church Street, Consett, on Sunday night, the 24th inst., was fined 5s and costs.

BREACH OF THE PEACE.

Arthur McAleer, a young fellow, was, at the instance of P.C. Curtis, charged with committing a breach of the peace at Consett on the 9th inst.—P.C. Curtis stated that he found McAleer, who had previously been bound over to keep the peace, fighting with a man named Peter Boyle in Trafalgar Street, Consett, on the night in question. Defendant was at the time in a drunken state.—He was bound over in the sum of £5 to keep the peace for three months, and ordered to pay the costs.

BEGGING.

John Fagan, an elderly man, was, at the instance of P.C. Carruthers, charged with begging at Consett on Saturday night last, the 23rd inst.—The police officer stated that he found the defendant going from shop to shop on Saturday night, begging from tradesmen, and, previous to that, had seen him standing near a chipped potato van, of the owner of which he begged a handful of "chips." Witness followed the defendant, and saw him enter various public-houses.—Defendant: I came to Consett to seek work, but, on account of the weather, I could get none, and my money was all done. I used no bad language to anybody, and, if you let me off, I will leave the town.—The Chairman: We are going to send you from the town—for fourteen days' hard labour. (Laughter).

SLEEPING OUT.

Thomas Williamson, an old man, of no stated abode, pleaded guilty to sleeping out in the "chequers" at the Consett Steelworks, on Sunday night, the 25th inst.—It was stated that the defendant had been told over and over again to stop sleeping in the place stated, but he always persisted in going there—a very dangerous practice.—Defendant: I won't go any more.—The Chairman: You seem to have been going about quietly lately, but you have had a bad record from your youth. You will have to go to prison for fourteen days.

ASSAULT AT BURNOPFIELD.

John Irwin, of Burnopfield, was charged with assaulting Elizabeth Jane Carrick, who is the daughter of Mr Nicholas Carrick, landlord of the Travellers' Rest Inn, Burnopfield, and also with refusing to quit the same licensed premises on Saturday, the 16th inst. Defendant pleaded guilty.—Complainant stated that on the Saturday night in question, defendant, who was tipsy, came into the house and asked for a drink. This she refused to fill him, and also ordered him to go out of the house, as he was drunk. He thereupon struck her in the face with his fist, and blacked her eyes.—The Chairman (to defendant): Have you anything to ask her?—Defendant: I have nothing to say, except that I was drunk.—The father of the complainant stat[illegible] that when Irwin was ordered out of the ho[illegible] he (witness) went to him, and asked him [illegible] away quietly. He said he would no[illegible] witness or for anybody else. Witness h[illegible] away to fill some glasses at the time, an[illegible] dant then went into the tap-room, an[illegible] drinking out of the half-filled glasses [illegible] about. It was here that the assault too[illegible] The Chairman (to defendant): Were [illegible] fined for an assault last December?—D[illegible] Yes.—The Chairman: Fining you does[illegible] to do you any good, and you will find [illegible] gaol without the option of a fine if [illegible] mend your ways. You had better ma[illegible] mind to reform your character. W[illegible] you 5s and costs for refusing to quit, [illegible] the assault, or in default two months' [illegible]

THE COMPLAINANT MISSING.

Thos. Lowther, of Broomhill Cottages, Ebchester, appeared to answer a charge of desertion preferred against him by his wife, Frances Lowther. Mr T. W. Welford (Consett), who appeared for the defendant, said he understood the complainant had gone back to the same man with whom she was previously living.—Complainant failed to put in an appearance, and consequently the case fell through.

ALLEGED WIFE DESERTION.—A SAD CASE.

Under the Married Woman's Summary Jurisdiction Act, Mary Young of Low Friarside, sought to obtain a separation order from her husband, Joseph Young; also a maintenance order for her two children, Jane Ann and Edward.—Complainant stated that twelve months ago her husband bundled his clothes up, went away, and was away for 23 weeks, during which time she never received a penny from him. He was at Friarside lodging with his son. She knew where he was, as he returned at the week ends, but he never left any money for the children or herself. On New Year's Eve he came into the house in a drunken condition, made a disturbance, and on New Year's Day threatened to take the furniture from the house. Nine weeks since she received some money from him, but never a penny since. Her children were aged 12 and 5 years respectively. She and her husband were married 25 years ago at Sacriston.—The Chairman (to defendant): Is this your wife?—Defendant: Yes; it's my wife. Continuing, defendant said that his wife was quite aware that during the nine weeks of which she had spoken as to receiving nothing, he was absolutely unable to earn anything. Two years ago, he was admitted to Newcastle Infirmary, where an operation was performed upon him, but it did not prove successful. He left the Infirmary, but once again returned, and left it for the second time on June 15th, 1895.—Complainant: He returned and got work at the Derwent Colliery, but said it was too hard for him.—Defendant: When I went from Burnopfield to Friarside was there not one Friday night that I came to meet you at Ebchester, and asked you distinctly what you wanted, and you replied, "I want nothing more to do with you."—Complainant: You were drunk that night, and I said that I wanted nothing to do with you whilst you were drunk.—Jane Ann Young, the daughter, was called. She said that her father had been home the whole of last week, and no doctor had attended him, although he had complained of being ill. He had been up every day, rising about ten o'clock, but had done no work.—Defendant said he gave his wife 22s 1d out of 25s 2d he received nine weeks since. An arrangement had existed between him and his son to keep the house together, one paying one part of the tradesmens' bills and the other paying the other half.—Complainant said she never knew of such an arrangement existing. Continuing, she said that she had never had her clothes off her back during her husband's residence in the house, as he had threatened her.—Defendant: I wonder the Lord does not strike you down where you stand.—The Chairman asked the complainant whether she had any witnesses to call, in order to speak to any ill-treatment.—Complainant said there were neighbours of hers in the Court who could do so.—She then called upon one of the neighbours, and asked her if she would give evidence, but the latter replied that she "wanted nothing to do with the case."—Defendant, in defence, said he had been ailing for the last twenty years. In 1895, on returning from the Newcastle Infirmary, he was set to work at South Medomsley by Mr Morris, but, finding it rather hard, was obliged to give it up. His wife was always growling about him being lazy, whereas his son had never said a word about it. A fortnight ago, he was working at South Garesfield, when he broke down, and had to be carried from the pit. He was no use at present, and would have been at Newcastle that day had he not had to be present at the Court. If they believed him, his wife had been nothing but a burden to him.—Complainant: I have worked to keep you a long time, but I cannot work any longer.—Defendant handed in various medical certificates respecting his condition.—Complainant said defendant was a good eater, and she thought her husband was making himself out to be more ill than he really was.—The Chairman: These certificates, nevertheless, show him to be in only a poor way. The Bench have come to the conclusion that there is no proof of legal desertion, and the case will be dismissed. But when you (speaking to the defendant) are able to support your wife, that is if you live, we shall expect you to do so.—Defendant: That I shall do always.—The Chairman (speaking to complainant) said he was sorry for her, but still, taking into consideration the circumstances, there was no reason for her to have brought this case to Court. She was liable to pay the costs of the case, but it was the intention of the Bench to remit the costs, and thus she would have nothing to pay, seeing the case was so hard for her and her family.

THEFT OF A HAM AT CONSETT.

Chas. Grant, labourer, Consett, was proceeded against on a charge of having stolen a ham, valued 7s 6d, the property of Mr Wm. Aynsley, grocer and provision merchant, Consett, on Saturday night, the 23rd inst.—Thos. Lee, grocers' assistant, deposed that from information received, he went outside Mr Aynsley's shop, on Saturday night, and made an examination of the hams hanging in front of the door. There was one missing, but he could not identify the one produced as it, although he expected it was of the same brand. He had never seen the prisoner in the shop, as his wife generally came to purchase the groceries.—P.C. Carruthers said that from what he heard, he proceeded to the house of the prisoner, in William Street, Consett, and on the table, wrapped up in a dirty piece of paper, found the ham (produced). When charged with having stolen the article, prisoner said the ham had been bought at Mr Murray's shop, but afterwards contradicted that statement, and said his wife bought it. Witness asked the wife if this was true, and she in reply stated that she had bought no ham that night. Witness then took the prisoner into custody, and at the Police Station, the latter said, "If you want to know how I got the ham, I'll tell you. I bought the ham at Mr Aynsley's shop for 1s 1d."—Prisoner, at the Court, made a long statement to the effect that he had bought the ham at Mr Aynsley's for 2s 9d. However, for the sake of his wife and children, he would plead "guilty."—The Chairman: The Bench will give you another chance, and impose a penalty of 20s, including costs.

STANLEY AND DISTRICT POULTRY SHOW.

The fourth annual exhibition of poultry, pigeons, rabbits, and canaries, held in connection with the Stanley and District Poultry Society, took place last Friday and Saturday, in the Albert Hall, when, despite the inclement weather, the show met with a fair amount of patronage. The entries numbered 614, as against 535 in 1895, 632 in 1895, and slightly over 700 in 1894. The entries were made up as follows:—Poultry 329, pigeons 150, rabbits 87, canaries 47, and taken altogether, the exhibition may reasonably be described as the finest ever held in Stanley. The judges were:—Poultry, Mr Geo. Hall, Sunderland; pigeons, the Rev. J. Lumley, Low Fell; rabbits, Mr Robt. Coxon, Fence Houses; canaries, Mr William Brown, Annfield Plain. The Committee of Management consisted of Messrs A. H. Swinburn, John Lowes, Geo. Davison, John Metcalfe, John Curry, John Walker, William T. Brown, Matthew Masterman, John Pascoe, John Rose, Robert Robinson, George Potts, John Glendenning, Gilbert Whaley, and J. Corker, with Mr George Cain as Treasurer, and Mr Geo. Lee as Secretary. The other officials of the Society included Mr Wm. Indian (President), Mr Thomas Davison (Vice-President), Mrs Scott (Patroness), and the following Patrons:—Sir Jas. Joicey, Bart., M.P., Rev. D. W. James, Messrs R. Murray, J. Green, G. Ridley, J. Robinson, M. G. Armstrong, Robert Kay, Dr. Thos. Benson, Dr. Dewar, Dr. Anderson, the Rev. T. H. Archdall, and Messrs F. Burns, J. S. Wilson, T. Wright, G. Bullerwell, T. Forster, W. Whitfield, J. T. Castle, R. Pearson, T. S. Parker, H. Smith, R. Edwards, T. C. Frater, T. Armstrong, J. Watson, W. Ainsley, B. Tiplady, D. Ledger, J. Curry, W. Simpson, T. Ridley, A. Atkinson, R. T. Witty, T. Darney, J. Errington, W. Black, E. Wylam, T. Wadge, F. W. Dixon, W. Taylor, J. Hunter, J. Storey, P. Wilson, A. Beattie, W. Hogarth, J. Anderson, G. Forster, M. Wilson, J. Urwin, H. Pringle, T. Ford, J. G. Ridley, T. W. Witton, W. Bell, J. Henderson, A. Cumberledge, G. Grundy, J. Bates, M. H. Lindon, C. Walker, G. Kent, J. Chaytor, Swinburn & Co., and A. Swinburn. The quality of the exhibits was of the very highest. The Brahma cocks, though few in number, were very large, and the hens were a pretty good lot. Plymouth Rock cocks were a pretty numerous class, and many expressed the opinion that it was the finest class in the show. The hens were almost equally good. There were a large number of entries for the Minorca classes, and the first prize in the male class was pulled off by the splendid bird which earned premier honours at Blackhill. Leghorns were fairly good, and Hamburgh cocks were of fine quality, though the number of entries was but small. There were thirteen entries in the Hamburgh hen section, and a keen contest was witnessed for supremacy. The modern game cocks and hens w[illegible]both capital classes, and the same appl[illegible]e old English spangled classes, the [illegible] a long time in making his selec[illegible]atter. The game old English hens [illegible] up to the average, but the winner [illegible]as a magnificent bird. Wyandottes [illegible]an in previous years—the hens [illegible]rly so—and Lang-hans were also [illegible]ge. Some very fair birds were [illegible] selling classes. Bantams were [illegible]g force, and so equal were they [illegible]the judge was kept busy for a [illegible]e ere he had made his selections. [illegible]e bantam cock class was a splendid [illegible]ured the prize for the best bantam [illegible] pigeon classes were of excep[illegible] the judge had no enviable [illegible] his decisions. Rabbits also [illegible]ge, and the canaries were a [illegible]gh it seems rather strange [illegible]ew entries from Stanley. [illegible] their duties in good fashion, and the decisions gave the highest satisfaction. Amongst the gentlemen who offered special prizes were Messrs W. Rowe, Robt. Pearson, Matt. G. Armstrong, Henry Smith, Fred W. Dixon, John W. Wood, R. Scott and Son, J. Wilson, P. H. Kirkup, Davison, W. Welsh, and J. Chaytor. Appended is a list of the awards—

POULTRY.

Cochin or Brahma Cock—Appleton and Hooper, Stockton-on-Tees, 1; R Shield and Son, Swalwell, 3.

Cochin or Brahma Hen—R Shield and Son, 1; M Masterman, Stanley, 2; Appleton and Hooper, 3.

Plymouth Rock Cock—Appleton and Hooper, 1; William Gowling, Middleton, 2; B. Robinson, Stanley, 3.

Plymouth Rock Hen—Appleton and Hooper, 1 and special; J Glendinning, Kettledrum Pit, Stanley, 2; T Milburn, Gatehouse, Langley, 3.

Minorca Cock—A P Stokoe, Birtley, 1; H E. Eltringham, Blackhill, 2; H Pratt, Crook, 3.

Minorca Hen—A P Stokoe, 1; A Thompson, South Shields, 2; H E Eltringham, v h c; W Ridley, Tanfield, v h c.

Leghorn Cock—Dover and Son, Esh New Winning, 1; H P Douglas, Crook, 2; R Stuart, Blackhill, 3.

Leghorn Hen—William Levitt, Newfield, 1; Dover and Sons, 2; E S Bell, Blackhill, 3; Thomas Moralee, Langley Park, h c.

Hamburgh Cock, gold or silver spangled or pencilled—R T Burdon, Tantobie, 1 and special; George Biggs, South Moor, Chester-le-Street, 2; James Burrow, Monkwearmouth, 3.

Hamburgh Hen—Gold or silver spangled or pencilled—Joseph Milburn, Tanfield Lea, 1; Henry Fawcett, Bishop Auckland, 2; John Bell, Cockfield, 3; H E Eltringham, v h c.

Modern Game Cock—J T Currah, Frosterley, 1 and 3; John Metcalf, Catchgate, 2; M Huddleston, Herrington, h c.

Modern Game Hen—J T Currah, 1; John Wilkinson, Ryhope, 2; John Metcalfe, 3.

Game Old English Spangled Cock—Thomas Newall, Blyth, 1 and special; Gill Whaley, Towneley Street, Stanley, 2 and special; William Young, Hetton, 3; William Burnip, Hobson, h c.

Game Old English Spangled Hen—Joseph Denning, Prudhoe, 1; R D Marshall, Houghton-le-Spring, 2; J W Chambers, Kibblesworth, 3; James Walton, Leadgate, v h c.

Game Old English Hen any variety—Thomas Newall, 1; R Shield and Son, Swalwell, 2; A Hewitson, Kibblesworth, 3.

Game Old English Cock or Cockeral not to exceed 5½lbs—John Gailes, Tanfield Lea, 1; Thos Newall, 2; William Phipps, Throckley, 3; R T Burdon, Tantobie, v h c.

Wyandotte Cock—J W Anderson, Newfield, 1; Armstrong and Paull, Leadgate, 2; J R Briggs, Browney, 3.

Wyandotte Hen—Thomas Atkinson, Ryton, 1; John Ringer, Marley Hill, 2; Smith and Walton, Jarrow, 3.

Orpington or Langshan Cock—Thomas Wallace, Durham, 1; J M Carr, East Castle, 2; William Davison, Marley Hill, 3.

Orpington or Langshan Hen—A Davison, Shiney Row, 1; C Brannen, Prudhoe, 2; J M Carr, 3.

Any Variety Cock—J T Currah, 1, 3, and special; George Greener, Tanfield Lea, 2; W J E Carr, Ryton, v h c.

Any Variety Hen—J T Currah, 1; Thomas Routledge, Gilsland, 2.

Selling Class Cock or Hen—Emmerson and Wilkinson, Stanley, 1; Marshall and Bros., Ashington, 2; A P Stokoe, Birtley, 3.

Selling Class Cock or Hen—R Shield and Son, Swalwell, 1; Joseph Milburn, Tanfield Lea, 2; George Dawson, Langley Park, 3; M Appleby, v h c.

Game Bantam Hen, black or brown red—West Edmunds, Joicey's Square, Stanley, 1; James Siddle, Consett, 2; Marshall and Son, High Hold, 3rd and v h c.

Game Bantam Cock, any other colour—Mrs Spoors, Whickham, 1st and special; Marshall and Son, High Hold, 2; J and T Currah, Blyth, 3.

Game Bantam Hen, any other colour—Messrs Foster and Shield, Stanley, 1; W Bell, Blackhill, 2; J and T Currah, Frosterley, 3.

Bantam Cock, rose comb, black or white—George Brabban, Prudhoe, 1; J Hardy, Birtley, 2; J and T Currah, Frosterley, 3.

Bantam Hen, rose comb black or white—James Jarvis, Blaydon, 1; R Coxon, Fence Houses, 2; G Davison, Cement Houses, 3.

Bantam Cock, any other variety, not game—T O Kirkup, Crook, 1; Mrs E Elliott, Whickham, 2; W Charlton, Stanley, 3; George Davison, Cement Houses, reserve; W T Hardy, Fence Houses, v h c.

Bantam Hen, any other variety, not game—R Coxon, 1; Foster and Collingwood, Wellington, 2; J Hogg, Grange Villa, 3; W Charlton, Stanley, v h c.

Selling Class, Cock or Hen, price not to exceed 10s—M Clark, Ryton, 1; George Davison, Cement Houses, 2; J Rainer, Leeds, 3.

PIGEONS.

Dragon Cock—Lishman and Anderson, Blaydon, 1st and special; W T Brown, Tanfield Lea, 2nd and v h c.; R D Marshall, 3; George Lamb, Towneley Street, Stanley, reserve; R Hodgson, h c.

Dragon Hen—W T Brown, Tanfield Lea, 1 and 3; M Dixon, East Stanley, 2; A Robinson, Blackhill, h c.

Antwerp Cock or Hen—J Walker 1 and 2, J R Curry, East Stanley, 3.

Homer Cock—Lishman & Anderson, Blaydon, 1; James Boyd, Winlaton, 2; W T Brown 3, James March, Annfield Plain, v h c.

Homer Hen—James Boyd 1, J R Curry 2, S Proud, Annfield Plain, 3; John March, Lanchester, v h c.

Homer, bred in 1896, must wear conference ring—J Boyd 1, W J Walker, Blackhill, 2; G Lamb, Stanley, 3; R Robson, Willington, v h c.

Likeliest Pigeon for Flying Purposes (show homers excluded)—Thomas Davison 1, Ramsey & Little, Lanchester, and Robert Paterson, Joicey Square, Stanley, 2; W Wilson, Kyo Lane, Stanley, 3; G Cadwallador, Annfield Plain, 4; J March, v h c.

Tumbler—Fawdy & Son, Sutton Goldfield, 1; M Rutherford, Gateshead, 2; W T Brown 3, J R Curry reserve.

Tumbler, long-faced almond—M Rutherford 1 and special, J Brown & Son, Gateshead, 2; J Robson, Elswick, 3; Fawdry Bros., Sutton Goldfields, h c.

Tumbler, long-faced almond, bred in 1896, must wear conference ring—John Brown & Son 1 and 2; Brack & Simpson, South Byker, 3; W T Brown 4.

Owl Cock or Hen—James Boyd 1, T Pattinson, Stanley, 2; J Morton 3, George Cadwallador 4.

Cock or Hen, any variety—James Oliver, Blackhill, 1; Thomas Parkinson 2; Curry & Riddle, Murray Street, Stanley, 3 and 4; Beavley Bros., Bedlington, h c.

Selling Class, cock or hen, price not to exceed 10s—M J Dixon, Stanley, 1; Harvey and Brothers, East Stanley, 2; John Robson, Elswick, 3; Lishman and Anderson, 4.

Selling Class, cock or hen, price not to exceed 5s—J Richardson, Stanley, 1; Fawdry Brothers, Sutton Goldfields, 2; George Cadwallador, Annfield Plain, 3; Robt. Robinson, Stanley, 4; Jas. Boyd, Winlaton, v h c.

RABBITS.

Angora Buck or Doe—E D Turnbull, Blackhill, 1; F L Spreckley, Darlington, 2; J R Foster, Shield Row, 3; E Corfield, Fence Houses, v h c.

Belgian Hare—T Wallace, Durham, 1; H Young, Boyne, 2; J Henderson, Whickham, v h c.

Dutch, any colour—R J Jennings, 1; Hall and Whitfield, Durham, 2; E Corfield, 3; Price and Son, Gateshead, v h c.

Silver Grey, any shade, Buck or Doe—H Fenwick, Houghton, 1; T K Mole, Heaton, 2 and 3.

Silver Cream, Fan or Brown Buck or Doe—W Foster, Howden, 1; Thos Harker, Blackhill, 2; T Masterman, Stanley, 3; J Corker, Stanley, v h c.

Buck or Doe, any variety not mentioned—T Wallace, 1; F L Spreckly, 2; J Henderson, 3; I Davies, Blackhill, v h c.

English, any variety Buck or Doe—W Mitchell, 1; Hall and Whitfield, 3; T Wallace, v h c.

English, any variety under six months, Buck or Doe—J Corker, 1; J W Shepherd, Neville's Cross, 2; R Davison, 3; W Mitchell, h c.

Selling Class, Buck or Doe, price not to exceed 7s 6d—E D Turnbull, 1 and 3; R Harrison, Coxhoe, 2; Wilde and Hindmarch, Waldridge Fell, h c.

Selling Class, Buck or Doe, price not to exceed 5s—J R Foster, 1; E D Turnbull, 2 and 3; J Corker, h c.

CANARIES.

Clear Yellow, ticked or unevenly marked—Stanger and Herdman, Pelton Fell, 1; R S Bewick, Newfield, 2; R Humphrey, Annfield Plain, 2 and v h c.

Clear Buff, ticked or unevenly marked Norwich—R S Bewick, 1 and 2; Stanger and Herdman, 3; R Humphrey, v h c.

Crist, any variety—Stanger and Herdman, 1 and 2; W Hanson, Craghead, 3.

Any variety not mentioned—Stanger and Herdman, 1 and 3; R S Bewick, 2 and special.

Selling Class, price not to exceed 7s 6d—Stanger and Herdman, 1 and 2; R Humphrey, 3.

MEDOMSLEY SCHOOL BOARD.

The usual monthly meeting of the above Board took place on Thursday evening in last week, the Chairman (Mr J. H. Morris) presiding. There were also present—The Rev. W. Cockin, Messrs W. Allan, W. Robinson, W. R. Cooke, M. T. Milburn (Attendance Officer), and J. H. Coupland (Clerk).

ATTENDANCE OFFICER'S REPORT.

The Attendance Officer reported that since the Schools had been re-opened, he had given attention to the attendance, and had to report that in the Mixed Department it was highly satisfactory, but in the Infants', only moderate. Most of the absence was due to sickness, the causes being whooping cough and measles.—Mr Cooke inquired if there were many cases of measles, and was informed that there were a few fresh cases, mostly in the neighbourhood of Allendale Cottages.—The Chairman: The Schools were closed on account of the epidemic of measles, but everything seems to be going on in the usual way.

AMBULANCE CLASSES.

The Chairman said that he believed the Ambulance Classes had been taken up by Dr. Marshall, and were progressing favourably.

TEACHERS' REPORTS.

The Headmaster of the Westwood Board School (Mr J. W. Daniels) reported that there were 328 children on the registers; two new scholars had been admitted, whilst twenty-five had left; the average attendance was 308·6, and the percentage 94; the Schools re-opened on January 11, and for the first week the attendance was very good, though it went down a little the following week; the Schools had been thoroughly fumigated; Miss P. J. Elliott was still attending; and, as the books used by the teachers were the property of the Board, he awaited instructions concerning both.—In a further report, Mr Daniels submitted the names for the candidates for the two vacancies of monitresses. They were as follows—Miss Sarah Coxford, Miss Hannah Armstrong, Miss Ethel Fletcher, Miss Eleanor Twentyman, Miss Emma Wilkinson, Miss Frances Henderson, and Miss Isabella Gibson.—The Headmistress of the Infants' School (Miss M. J. Watson) reported that when the School re-opened, there were 99 children present; the Attendance Officer took the names of the absentees; the number of scholars on the registers was 147, the average attendance 101·8, and the percentage 72·7.

MISS ELLIOTT'S POSITION.

Mr Cockin said that it seemed that Miss Elliott had been staying at the School without consulting the managers—a very unwarrantable proceeding.—The Chairman: We cannot extend the School staff without any proper justification for doing so. It is a pity that the teacher should have continued at the Schools without definite instructions, but we cannot be considered responsible for it.—Mr Cockin remarked that he did not see how they could retain her services. There was a great scarcity of female teachers, and he did not think Miss Elliott would have much difficulty in obtaining another appointment.—It was ultimately decided to inform Miss Elliott that the Board would not require her services any longer.—It was resolved that Mr Daniels be informed that all books, which were the property of the Board, should be retained by him on their behalf.—The appointment of two monitresses was left in the hands of the School Management Committee.—The reports were adopted.

THE SUPPLY OF COALS.

Mr Robinson drew attention to the quality of the coals that were being supplied to the Schools. He understood that they were very poor.—Mr Cooke: If that be so, information ought to have been given to the caretaker, but Mr Daniels appeared to be quite satisfied with them. If the Clerk will instruct the caretaker to make complaint about them to me, without making the matter public, I will see that the quality supplied is satisfactory.—It was ultimately resolved that this course should be adopted.

COMING EVENTS.

An application was read from Mr J. Crawford, on behalf of the Primitive Methodists of Allendale Cottages, for the use of the Board's Schools at Westwood for the holding of a three days' bazaar.—A similar request was received from the young men of the United Methodist Free Church, the school being wanted for a coffee supper, for one night only.—Both applications were granted, subject to the terms offered being accepted.—The Board then rose.

CHRISTIANITY V. SECULARISM

DEBATE PROBABLE.

Under the auspices of the local branch of Good Templars, Mr F. W. Birkett, of the Sunderland Branch of the Anti-Infidel League, lectured in the Co-operative Hall, West Stanley, on Sunday evening, his subject being "Secularism impeached and exposed." Mr Gally presided, and there was a very large attendance, including several well-known Secularists.

Mr BIRKETT, in the course of his remarks, observed that he understood that Mr Cohen, a celebrated member of the No-sense Society, had been troubling and perverting the minds of the people of Stanley by lecturing against Christianity. What he (Mr Birkett) said, was that Christianity would stand the strictest investigation. The more they investigated the religion of Jesus Christ, the more it shone. He had heard Mr Cohen in other places, uttering his tirade against Christianity, trying to rob them of all that was noblest, trying to degrade Jesus Christ, the greatest factor in human life. A long palaver had been uttered against Christian missions, but this could be said on behalf of Christian missions, that they were efforts to bless and elevate those who were sunk down in the depths of sin. What was the African continent like till Livingstone crossed it, and by the truths of the gospel struck the death blow at slavery? And to-day slavery did not exist. Touching the subject of his lecture, Mr Birkett observed that the generality of Secularists were very fond of puzzling young Christians by asking, "Do you believe such and such a story which is in the Bible?" If the reply were "Yes," the Secularist said that it was against science—a thing often quoted, but seldom understood by Secularists. The story of Jonah and the whale was quite a favourite with Secularists, but it was so no longer; for in the year 1891, some of the crew of a whaling boat fell overboard, and one of them was swept into the ponderous jaws of a whale. Subsequently, the fish was captured by the crew, and on cutting up the body, the man was found inside alive. They had thus positive proof that it was possible for a whale to swallow a man, and this was attested to by one of the greatest scientists in Europe. Thus the Bible always came off victorious. Secularism, as a system, was originated by George Jacob Holyoake in 1851, when there were debates between that gentleman and Mr Bradlaugh, the representative of Atheism, and in the course of those debates, Mr Bradlaugh observed that a Secularist was bound to become an infidel, if he had brains to understand. Where did they find Secularism to-day? Generally meeting in some bar room, sometimes above a bar, the Devil being then downstairs, and his children upstairs. (Laughter). Since 1851, the Secularists had not been able to build a home for destitute dogs. They could not do it. (Laughter). They railed at some of the clergy who might be receiving £150 a year, for which they had to preach thrice a week, and go visiting, but G. W. Foote, himself the leader of Secularism, was receiving £500 a year for editing the *Freethinker*. (Hear, hear). What were the teachings of Secularists? They had never been able to define logically their own position. Mr Charles Watts said, "I am a Secularist, because I can think, and Atheism is the result of my thinking." Mr Bradlaugh said "Every child born into the world is an Atheist." Now, a newly-born child could not think. Which of these two statements were they to believe? Voltaire declared that a child born into the world was neither a believer nor an unbeliever. He (Mr Birkett) would like to know what it was, then. (Laughter). He challenged Mr Cohen to show that the Atheistic party had ever been able to show what they did believe in, and what they agreed upon. He was prepared to meet Mr Cohen at some future time on his own platform, and show him what Secularism was. Mrs Besant, when a leading Secularist, declared "that conscience was no guide at all." Then they had nothing to guide them, and were worse off than the heathen. They said that they wished to educate humanity. How did they wish to do it? By the publishing of filthy books? If they wanted to know what Christianity was, they went to Jesus Christ its head. If they wanted to know what Secularism was, they went to a foot (Foote). (Laughter). Mr Foote, in his "Philosophy of Secularism," observed that "we want to make a clean sweep of all that is regarded by Christians as significant and precious." They regarded the chastity of their homes as precious. Mr Foote would make a clean sweep of that, and open their homes to all that was immoral and degrading. Mr Foote, in a lecture at Sunderland, proved to his own satisfaction that Jesus never lived. The same gentleman had published a pamphlet to prove that Jesus was insane. (Laughter). The only outcome of such teaching was to degrade people, and bring them down to the lowest abyss of disgrace. This was the teaching of Secularism. Did they want it in Stanley? No, they wanted no such system of filth and immorality. He was prepared to stand upon the Bible, and declare and prove, and teach, that it was the inspired Word of God. (Applause). The Scripture would stand the strictest investigation. They should judge a tree by its fruits. They should accept Christianity as sent by God, and if they did, they would find to their own satisfaction that it was the only religion which would save them. Jesus stood foremost in the world's Reformers, and the greatest intellects bowed before the Christ who invited all men to come unto Him. He asked them in the name of God to accept this Christ, and to take no notice of what Secularists said. If they tried Christianity, they would find that it was the best religion that this world had ever seen or was likely to see. He was willing to meet any Secularists, and show them that Jesus was the fairest amongst ten thousand, the altogether lovely. (Loud applause).

QUESTIONS.

Questions being invited, Mr JOHNSTON, of Annfield Plain, enquired whether it was a fact that Mr W. R. Bradlaugh, Editor of the *Anti-Infidel*, copies of which had been distributed among the audience, had been recently fined £50 for libelling Mr R. O. Smith, a well-known Secularist, and part proprietor of the Hall of Science.

Mr BIRKETT replied that the question had nothing whatever to do with the lecture. Therefore he must decline to answer it. The lecturer went on to say that he was prepared to come back to Stanley, and discuss the question of Secularism, though he had no time for discussion on the present occasion. (Cheers).

A second question had reference to a statement that Mr Birkett was acquainted with a Secularist, who carried the principles of Secularism into full effect, and lived an immoral life.

The LECTURER promptly supplied the name and other particulars.

Mr JOHNSTON further enquired whether Mr Birkett could give any occasion on which Mr Bradlaugh made the remark, regarding Atheism being the logical outcome of Secularism, during his debate with Dr. McCann.

Mr BIRKETT: He made the remark in a discussion against George Jacob Holyoake, in 1870. (Cheers).

Another Gentleman asked for the name and address of a murderer, who had attributed his downfall to the teachings of Secularism.

Mr BIRKETT: His name was Edward Bailey. His address is in Kingdom Come. (Laughter). Previous to the execution, he lived in Gloucester.

Another Gentleman enquired whether any leading Secularist in England had repudiated the abominable doctrines quoted by Mr Birkett.

Mr BIRKETT replied that an Agnostic, Mr Stewart Ross, had said that he would not touch Secular society with a pitch fork. (Laughter). That man had repudiated some of the dreadful orgies carried on at Leeds, under the auspices of Secularism.

The QUESTIONER: Is it true that the leading lights of Secularism never repudiated the abmonable orgies at Leeds?

Mr BIRKETT replied that they had done so, but they continued to recommend books of which such orgies were the outcome.

The QUESTIONER: Are these pamphlets, published by Mr Foote, supposed to be the ordinary literature of Secularists in Great Britain?

Mr BIRKETT: They are. (Cheers).

Another Gentleman enquired Mr Birkett's authority for stating that Mr Foote received a salary of £500 a year.

Mr BIRKETT: The *Secular Review*, November, 1886. (Loud cheers).

Another Gentleman enquired whether it was true, as stated by Mr Chas. Watts, on his last visit to Stanley, that Joseph Cooke was lodged in an asylum.

Mr BIRKETT: He was, but he is now out, and lecturing against the principles of Secularism.

The QUESTIONER: Is it true that Annie Besant is now a worshipper of the Ganges?

Mr BIRKETT replied that he did not know that Mrs Besant had left the Secularists, and was now a Theosophist.

Mr JOHNSTON enquired what was the fruit which our first parents ate? and the LECTURER replied by inviting Mr Johnston to read the Bible, or ask God, and perhaps he would then get to know.

Mr JOHNSTON replied that he had read the Bible, and asked God, and now he asked one of His servants, but he did not know.

Another Gentleman asked for the authority of the Lecturer for stating that a man had been taken alive from the whale's body.

Mr BIRKETT: M. D. Parvell, Editor of the *Journal Débats*, published in New York, April 12th, 1893.

Another Gentleman enquired if there was any argument in the filthy personalities used by the lecturer.

Mr BIRKETT said that he did not come to argue, but to show what Secularism was, and from his friend's statement, he appeared to have been very successful.

Mr JOHNSTON asked leave to read a list of "The principles of Secularism," but the CHAIRMAN replied that they had came to hear Mr Birkett. Mr Johnson could ask questions, but he could not allow him to read anything.

Mr JOHNSTON then asked if any Christian body in Stanley would take Mr Birkett as their champion to debate with Mr Cohen.

Mr BIRKETT replied that there was a Christian body in Stanley, which would put him forward as their representative against Mr Cohen. (Loud cheers).

Subsequently, an exciting discussion transpired outside the hall, and the probability is that a debate between the respective champions of Christianity and Secularism will shortly be arranged.

BURNS SUPPER AT CATCHGATE.

The lovers of Bobby Burns—Englishmen as well as Scotch—in the Catchgate neighbourhood celebrated the anniversary of the birth of Scotland's great poet, by holding a Burns supper at the Crown and Thistle Inn, Catchgate, on Monday evening, when a sumptuous repast was served for the occasion by the host and hostess, Mr and Mrs Lamb. Amongst the company present were Mr W. A. Mackay, Mr John Orr, Dr Morison, Mr Browell, Mr Smith (station master, Annfield Plain), Dr Gordon, Mr Geo. R. Hobson, Mr George Arkless, Mr Rose, Mr Lamb, Mr James Strawbridge, Mr Simpson, Mr Robinson, Mr Cunningham, Mr Collinson, Mr Bert Smith, and others. After the tables had been cleared, Mr W. A. Mackay took the chair, and called upon Mr Rose to give a selection of Scotch airs on the violin. These were well rendered, and created considerable enthusiasm. Mr Mackay then rose, and said that all present were doubtless acquainted with the purpose of their gathering. Music was preferable to speech making, but it was necessary that he should make a few introductory remarks. They were gathered together on the anniversary of Bobby Burns' birth, which occurred in the year 1759. These gatherings, doubtless, were that night being held in Africa, Canada, Australia, each and all of our colonies, and every important town in Scotland and England. What was the cause of this? Undoubtedly, it could only be attributable to the greatness of Scotland's chief poet, Bobby Burns. (Cheers). It would be utterly impossible to estimate the good that had been produced in the world by Scotch songs, and that they would find when they remembered how deeply they entered into the life even of English people, and how they assisted in the moulding of Scotch and English character. (Cheers). The chief of these Scotch singers was, undoubtedly, Bobby Burns. Burns was acknowledged to be the greatest man of his century, and it was probable that when all other singers of the century were forgotten, Burns would remain green in the memory of the English and Scottish peoples. He remembered discussing the question of which Scotsman had been the greatest benefactor to his time. Some of them who read little of poetry were apt to say, "What has this poetry done for the world?" and then they went on to say "Look what Watts has done, and see how the introduction of steam has added to the happiness of the world." At the first glance, they would say that Watts was the greatest benefactor, but they must take into consideration that, whilst the world only produced one Bobby Burns during the last century, it produced many men like Watts. Whilst they found plenty of men with genius enough to be great benefactors to their kind, they only had one man capable of uttering such magnificent thoughts in such magnificent language. (Cheers). They could fairly congratulate themselves that they had acknowledged this fact in Annfield Plain and Catchgate, and though this was the first gathering of the kind, he felt certain that it would not be the last. Many things had conspired against them. The stormy weather kept many away, and there were other attractions in the village that night. He thought, however, that that would not prevent them from enjoying themselves. He submitted the toast of "The Queen and Royal family." The toast was heartily honoured, and Mr Rose then sang "Castles in the air" very finely. Dr. Gordon sang "John Anderson," and Mr John Orr then gave the toast of the evening, "The Immortal Memory of Robert Burns." Mr Orr said that he had studied Burns, and in asking them to honour the toast, he might tell them that he considered him to be one of the greatest men that lived in the 18th century. He did more to reform a bad state of society, more to bridge the gulf which lay between the classes which ruled society at that day, than any other man. The lot of the labourer was a hard one in those days, and even the middle classes were entirely excluded from the upper classes, and Burns did a great deal to break down the barrier which existed between man and man. In his first poem, "The Twa Dogs," he brought before them very vividly the difference between the life of the peer and the peasant; and in his following piece, "The Cottar's Saturday Night"—often called his masterpiece—nothing could be a more graphic description of the peace and happiness which prevailed amongst the well-to-do Scotch people. He was a preacher, teaching Scotch fathers their duties, as fathers, Scotsmen, and patriots. After allusions to "Scots Wha Hae" and "Auld Lang Syne," Mr Orr submitted the toast, which was enthusiastically honoured, to the singing of "Auld Lang Syne." The other toasts were—"The Professions," proposed by Mr Smith, and responded to by Dr. Morison; "Kindred spirits, the world o'er," submitted by Mr Collinson, and acknowledged by Dr. Gordon; "The Urban District Council," and "The Chairman." Songs were rendered during the evening by Dr. Gordon, Mr Arkless, Mr Ritchie, Mr Strawbridge, and Mr Rose. The proceedings were of a most enjoyable character throughout. It may be mentioned that Mr Bert. Smith officiated as secretary, and that the committee of management consisted of Messrs J. Orr, W. Eltringham, W. A. Mackay, Browell, Thomas Bowes, Smith, Telford, Taylor, Dr. Morison, and Dr. Gordon.

SOUTH MOOR.

SLIDING ACCIDENT.—A boy named Thos. Rutter (9), son of Mr George Rutter, of the Barracks, was sliding on Saturday morning, when he fell and sustained a severe fracture to one of his arms. Dr. Johnson attended to the injury.

CRICKET FIXTURES.—Mr Thomas Welsh, the secretary of the South Moor Cricket Club, has arranged home and home games for next season against, Stanley 2nd, Craghead 2nd, Consett 2nd, Birtley, and Tanfield. Newcastle Victoria are engaged to play a match on the South Moor ground.

DEATH OF MRS WADGE.—We regret to have to announce the death of Mrs Wadge, wife of Mr W. Wadge, of Greenland, which event took place last Friday. The deceased lady was 49 years of age, and was held in high esteem, especially in Wesleyan circles, having been an earnest worker in the Church. The funeral took place on Sunday, at the Stanley New Cemetery, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. C. M. Greenway, of Shotley Bridge. The hearse was followed by an enormous concourse of sorrowing relatives and friends. A funeral service was conducted in the Wesleyan Chapel, Stanley, the building being thronged to its utmost extent. Mr John Carr (organist) played the Dead March in Saul, and an appropriate voluntary as the congregation departed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MR LOGAN AND RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CONSETT CHRONICLE."

SIR,—Having read the report of the Lanchester District Council in your last week's issue, I observe there was some difficulty in understanding the meaning and objects of the "Cornsay Ratepayers' Association," and very little respect given to them by the Council—judging from the uncourteous remarks made by the Chairman. Therefore I am bound, in justice to our Ratepayers' Association, of which I am Secretary, to make a few explanations on the subject.

Our Association is an organisation of direct ratepayers, who have joined themselves in union to protect all interests in the parish wherein they reside, and where they are called upon to pay rates; likewise to see that their representatives on the different Councils do their duty, appertaining to parochial matters generally, in a fair and just manner to the ratepayers. I may also state that our Association is composed of gentlemen of different creeds and political opinions. The members comprise freeholders, commonholders, householders, and gentlemen of all professions and trades—including the trades mentioned in the remarks of the Chairman, which is carried out in quite as just a manner as the Chairman's private profession, or his public profession as Chairman of the Lanchester District Council.

The letter from our Association to the District Council, which was so discourteously received, and forbidden to be read by the Chairman, was concerning the proposed road on Cornsay Common, in the parish of Cornsay, and drew the Council's attention to the unfairness of such a scheme, namely, that the ratepayers of the Lanchester Rural district should be saddled with the whole cost of forming and making the road, and suggesting that the first cost should be at the expense of the party or parties, who have caused the necessity for a road. This practice was adopted by the late Highway Board, where new roads were considered necessary. Therefore, our Association thought it only just that the Council's attention should be drawn to so important a matter.

A like protest would have gone through the Parish Council, but as their meeting was a week after the District Council's meeting, it was deemed prudent to petition the superior bodies. However, we find the ratepayers have no right to dictate this "august body," who by the way, are the servants of the ratepayers, and must be allowed to go right and left into the ratepayers' pockets, without asking leave. The ratepayers are already unmercifully burdened with excessive rates, in consequence of high and unequal assessments, reckless orders made on the ratepayers, useless water and sewerage schemes, unwarrantable outlay of public money on officers' salaries — through searching for scientific, rather than practical officers—where more practice, less science, more supervision, and less salaries, would meet the necessities of the Union, and give more satisfaction to the ratepayers generally, than the present expensive system of administration.

I hear there are other Ratepayers' Associations about to be formed, and we trust that every parish in Lanchester Union will follow the example of the Cornsay Ratepayers' Association, and see that they are not imposed upon by expensive representatives.

I think the glaring inequalities and unfairness connected with the new assessment—made by the overseers, and approved of by the Assessment Committee of the Lanchester Union—are quite sufficient grounds for the ratepayers protesting against the judgment of the present existing representatives on the Assessment Committee, who have caused no end of trouble and expense to almost every ratepayer in the Union, and who have drifted the rateable hereditaments into more inequality than ever.

Therefore, ratepayers of Lanchester Union, have fair, just, and equal rates laid to your charge before opening your purse strings.—I am, yours faithfully,

THOS. GILHESPY, JUN.,
Secretary to the C.R.A.

20th January, 1897.

SCHOLARS AND SCAVENGING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CONSETT CHRONICLE."

SIR,—As father of the boy, Oliver, whom you referred to in last week's correspondence, I am in a dilemma to know how the gentlemen who sign their names as managers of the National Schools, Tow Law, have investigated the complaint made by the Medical Officer of the Tow Law Urban Council in his report. They seem to have met on the 18th inst. to investigate the statement, and they are thoroughly satisfied that, as regards the boy Oliver, it is unfounded; further, they recommend that the Medical Officer in future should be more careful in inserting such paragraphs in his report, without thorough investigation. But, Sir, whilst I admit that the Medical Officer should take the advice given, I also think that the managers would have done well had they waited and digested the precept themselves. If the managers were justified in sending you such a statement for insertion, last week, surely, Sir, as gentlemen, they cannot blame the Medical Officer when he inserted such paragraphs in his report to the Council. If the Medical Officers's statements are unfounded, as regards the boy Oliver, I, as the boy's father, am at a loss to know how they can consider their own statement to stand on any better ground, for if the managers have investigated the case, I must admit they are gentlemen endowed with most wonderful ability, as they seem to have regarded only one side of the question, and yet to have arrived at a correct decision. This, to my mind, is nothing short of a farce, for instead of the managers trying to remedy the complaint, and allowing the matter to drop, they seem to have rushed headlong into it, and never thought of questioning the boy that the Medical Officer named in his report. I know nothing of any investigations which have been made. But, Sir, when gentlemen sign their names to such statements, in all fairness should they not have been in a better position to vouch for the correctness of their assertions? I have no wish to continue this subject any further if the managers are prepared to remedy the complaint, but I cannot allow their statement to go unchallenged when I know that the scholars have done such work. I should not be worthy of being called an Englishman were I to do so. Surely, Sir, the managers cnnnot deny that some of the work, discussed by the Council, has been done by the scholars. I would not have the managers misconstrue my statement to mean that I am complaining about the Master. I have no complaint against him, for my children have done well under his teaching. It is the work that I object to, and the statement made to the public, for, surely, cleaning sinks and urinals is not fit work for children to do. If the managers, when investigating complaints in future, would take a pitman's advice, and question the complaining party before they send to the public such statements, they would be better able to arrive at a true decision. Two wrongs will never make one right, and I consider that if a board of managers can investigate a grievance without first questioning the complaining party, it is manifestly unfair. Hoping the managers have remedied the complaint.—I am, yours truly,

JAMES OLIVER.

Keeper's Row, Tow Law, Jan. 26th, 1897.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CONSETT CHRONICLE."

SIR,—Would you allow me space in your valuable paper to reply to the letter on "Scholars as Scavengers," which appeared in your last issue? I should, no doubt, after finding the boy Oliver suffering from bad smells, and being informed that his illness was supposed to be due to such, while attending school, have enquired which school the boy attended, but, rightly or wrongly, I did not. I should, however, have thought that when the managers were making their enquiry, they would have deemed it necessary to have asked the boy, Oliver, if he had, or had not, performed the duties mentioned in my report, more especially when he was present in school at the time of the enquiry. Lastly, is it not a fact that there is a "fight" amongst the boys in the morning as to who shall have a pail, in order to wash out the urinal?—I am, yours truly,

J. WILD, S.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.

BURNOPFIELD.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—On Tuesday night, whilst working in Messrs Bowes and Parker's Colliery, at Hobson, a stoneman, named John Batey (50), was accidentally killed by a fall of stone.

CONSETT.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—At a meeting of the local committee of the Beamish, Pontop, and Consett Agricultural Society, held on Tuesday evening, in Mr Edward Wylam's Freemason's Arms Hotel, Mr W. Ramsay, the energetic secretary, announced that the proceeds of the farmers' ball, held recently at Consett, after paying all expenses, amounted to £12 2s 7d.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—The Rev. F. Steggall, vicar of Consett, presided over the annual meeting of the Consett branch of the Church Missionary Society, which was held on Tuesday evening in the Art Room, adjoining to the National School. Amongst those present were Miss Steggall, the Rev. G. S. Thompson, of Barnard Castle, Rev. C. S. Wilson, Rev. H. R. Jecks, of Medomsley, Rev. A. Shrewsbury, of Leadgate, and Mr T. L. Gledstone.—The Chairman, in the course of his remarks, said that the annual report had not been completed, owing to some of the missionary boxes not having been sent in. Nine of these boxes had been received, containing subscriptions to the amount of £3 5s 10d. During the past week, the *Church Missionary Intelligencer* of January, had come into his hands, and in it, he found a very interesting article by General Hutchinson, who had lived in India for many years. From that article he learned that they had Christian work in India as early as the 16th century. In Edward VI's lamentably short reign, there was much intercourse between England and India, chiefly through merchants, and some years later, the East India Company was established in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. It was only, however, during the last 150 or 200 years that they took India as a whole, and it became part of the British Empire. Alas, it was only within the last fifty years that they had responded to the cry of heathen India to "Come over and help us." If they had been more faithful to their responsibilities, there would have been no Indian Mutiny. That mutiny originated in Muhrat, and in that place, the British officers drove a young Hindoo out of the army, because he had adopted the faith of Jesus Christ. They thought that the fact of the Hindoo having become a Christian would stir the public mind. It did stir the native mind, but in another manner than was expected, and the expulsion of that young Christian Hindoo did something to fan the flame of the Indian Mutiny.—The Rev. G. S. Thompson, who has been a missionary in India for 17 years, then addressed the meeting, giving numerous interesting particulars regarding the Byils, a race of Hindoos amongst whom he had laboured.—Votes of thanks to the Chairman and Mr Thompson closed the proceedings.

CASTLESIDE.

DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN FARMER.—We deeply regret to announce the death of Mr James Hunter, one of the best known farmers in North-West Durham, which took place at Whitehall Farm, near Castleside, early on Monday morning. Deceased, who was the son of Mr Robert Hunter, farmer, of Bradley, was born at Bradley in 1818, and at the time of his decease, was in his seventy-eighth year. He commenced farming under his father, and at an early age removed to Newlands, thence to Rye Hill, and from the latter place to Redwell Hall Farm, where he resided for fifty-six years. Here he took a good deal of interest in local affairs, and for some time acted as overseer in the Edmundbyers district. He was married twice, in the first instance to Jane Barron, of Cartaway Heads, by whom he had a son, who died when a youth. Some considerable time after the decease of his first wife, Mr Hunter married Mary Emerson, also of Cartaway Heads, and she resided with him at Redwell Hall until her death took place some six years since. Four years ago, he sold the whole of his stock at Redwell Hall Farm, and abandoning the farming business, lived in retirement at Eddis Bridge until about eight weeks ago, when he went to live with Mr F. Barron and Mr M. Anderson, at Whitehall Farm, where he died, as already stated, on Monday morning. He was attended by Dr Allen, of Shotley Bridge. The last solemn rites in connection with the burial of his remains were performed at the St. John's Churchyard, Shotley Bridge, on Wednesday afternoon, by the Rev. R. Wilson. The coffin was borne on the shoulders of Messrs W. Forrest (Shiney Hall), George Bewick (Oliver Ford), W. Archer (Eddis Bridge), and J. Angus (Healeyfield). Amongst those who paid their last respects to the deceased by attendance at the funeral were — Mr M. Hunter (only brother of deceased), New Shildon; Mr and Mrs Brown, Mrs Dent, Blackhill; Messrs. M. Angus and F. Barron, Whitehall Farm; and Messrs. R. Emerson, Corbridge; T. Heron, Felling; H. Ellison, Witton Gilbert; John Thompson, Waskerley; Thos. Hunter, Medomsley; J. Anderson, Black Hedley; R. Anderson, Mosswood; Geo. Heppell, Newfield; Thomas Richardson, Cronkley; Geo. Taylor, Durham Field; W. Taylor, Summerfield; W. Archer, and Mrs Archer, Crooked Oak; T. Makepiece, H. Surtees, and Miss Surtees, and T. Dodd, Edmundbyers; John Turnbull, Kilpit Hill; R. Johnson, Unthank; J. Dinning, Barley Hill; R. Bean, North Sneads; R. Bell, Mosswood; John Hall, Greenhead; John Lough, Bernard Laws, and Mrs Bell, Cartaway Heads; George Angus, Redwell Hall; R. Irwin, Muggleswick; Thos. Raw, Middleheads; John Errington, Rowley; Geo. Hall, Castleside; Chas. Elliott, Dean Howle; R. Wheatley, Tow Law; W. Anderson, Tow Law; Mrs Storey, Muggleswick; Miss Coulson, Mrs Atkinson, and Mrs Wheatley, Shotley Bridge; Mrs Thompson, Allansford; Geo. Hunter, Medomsley; John Hunter, The Grange; John Liddle, Greenhead; Geo. Harrison and R. Walker, Consett; Mrs Hedley, Greenhead, and others.

DRAMATIC PERFORMANCE AT STANLEY.

A grand dramatic performance was given in St. Joseph's School, on Saturday evening in aid of the fund for the erection of a Roman Catholic Church, in Stanley. The Rev. James Thompson presided over a crowded attendance, and the performers were members of the well known Catholic Dramatic Club of Stockton-on-Tees. The drama was the ever popular "Shaughraun," and the *dramatis Personæ* were as follows:—Captain Molineaux, Mr T. Carlin; Robert Ffolliott, Mr C. Scullion; Father Dolan, Mr W. P. Lyth; Corry Kinchela, Mr J. Marshall; Harry Duff, Mr J. Flynn; Conn, the Shaughraun, Mr J. McNamee; Sergeant Jones, Mr J. O'Donnell; Sullivan, Mr G. Roe; Rielly, Mr H. Howe; Arte O'Neale, Miss F. McLaughlin; Claire Ffolliott, Miss M. Gibbon; Mrs O'Kelley, Mrs J. Marshall; Moya, with songs, Miss Kate Laughlin; Bridget Madigan, Miss Kate Durkin; Nancy Malone, Miss Ada Claremont. Previous to the rising of the curtain, Father Thompson addressed a few words of welcome to the distinguished troupe from Stockton-on-Tees, and introduced them to their fellow Catholics of Stanley, feeling sure that their efforts to aid "The New Church Fund" would be keenly appreciated. The drama was well received, and remarkably well performed. Renewed outbursts of approval greeted the efforts of the performers, notably the gallies of wit and humour from Conn, the Shaughraun. All the characters were well sustained, the costumes being neat, effective, and characteristic, the elocution and delivery clear, affording proofs of good steady training. The staging was everything that could be desired, and the interest in the piece was unflagging throughout. Special praise is due to Captain Molineux, Corry Kinchela, Harvey Duff, Conn, Sergeant Jones, Moya, and Mrs O'Kelley. At its conclusion, Rev J. Thompson thanked the performers for this graceful tribute of service in aiding him, to lay the foundation on the corner stone of a Catholic Church in Stanley. He congratulated them on the success of their efforts, and pointed out that they were the first to celebrate the "Silver Jubilee" of the foundation of this mission. A cordial vote of thanks and God speed was accorded by rounds of applause. Mr T. Carlin, in a few graceful words expressed the pleasure his troupe had derived from their visit to Stanley, and the feeling of pride they had in being able to assist their fellow Catholics to raise funds for the erection of a new church. Mr Middlemast acted as stage manager very efficiently, and received material assistance from Mr H. Fullerton. Mr W. Rowell presided at the piano. Tho receipts amounted to nearly £11.

FOOTBALL CLUB SOCIAL AT LEADGATE.

The members of the Leadgate Exiles Football Club held their annual supper and entertainment in the Brooms' School, Leadgate, on Monday evening. The room was beautifully decorated for the occasion, with curtains, drapings, etc., hung and arranged in the most artistic manner; and by the efforts of the committee, a very comfortable appearance had been lent to the large and lofty hall. The social has long been one of the chief events in Leadgate, and as usual a good company assembled to take part in what proved to be a very pleasant evening's entertainment. Amongst those present were:—Rev. A. Magill, Rev. D. O'Kelly, Mr E. Batey (secretary), Mr and Mrs J. Costello, Mr and Mrs Jas. Haggan, Mr and Mrs J. McGrachan, Miss M. E. Murphy, Mr and Mrs P. McGrachan, Mr and Mrs M. McCabe, Mr and Mrs R. Kelly, Mrs Batey, Miss E. Batey, Miss Mary Donaghy, Miss J. Murphy, Miss C. Quinn, Miss A. Donaghy, Miss M. A. McCurly, Miss M. E. Cheesemond, Mr R. Cheesemond, Miss M. Quinn, Mr T. McGrachan, and Miss Emerson, Blackhill; Mr W. McGee, and Miss Jones, Hamsterley; Mr M. Slane and Miss K. Small, Mr Dunn and Miss M. A. Small, Mr and Mrs P. Hughes, Mr J. Hill and Miss Robson, Mr P. Corr and Miss J. Murphy, Mr P. Cain and Miss Brown, Mr E. Marren, Mrs O. Marren, and Mr J. Marren, Mr F. Foreman and Miss Clare, Mr J. Clare, Mr P. Haley, Miss McCafferty, Mr J. Monaghan, Mr J. Robinson, Mr R. McClean, Miss E. Marren, Mr J. Arthurs, Mr J. Matthews, Miss Mary McCurley, Mr O. Hughes, Mr F. McCurley, Miss L. McCurley, Mr J. Brannan, Mr P. Hagan, Mr J. Docherty, Miss W. Dogherty, Mr H. Callaghan, Miss McGee, Mr G. Foreman, Mr T. McAloon, Mr M. Sloane, Mr G. McGee, Mr P. Murray, Greencroft; Mr W. Hogan, Miss S. Corr, Miss T. Hughes, Miss J. Hughes, Miss Jane Hughes, Mrs E. McAloon, Miss Quinn, Consett; Mr C. McAloon, Mrs Eccles, Miss Mary Matthews, Mr J. Quinn, Mr J. Daly, Miss M. Muldowney, Miss B. Lynch, Miss C. Lynch, Miss Stoner, Miss McGuire, Miss Sloane, Miss E. Pearson, Stoney Heap; Mr James Hughes, Mr M. Lague, Blackhill; Miss A. Cassidy, Consett. A substantial supper, the provision of which reflected the greatest credit upon the culinary skill of Mesdames Batey, Costello, and Hogan, the three ladies responsible for its preparation, was served at seven o'clock. Ample justice was done to it, the wants of the company being well attended to by the presiding geniuses at the table, viz.:—Mesdames Batey, Costello, and Hughes, and Misses C. Small, M. A. Small, N. Foreman, M. Foreman, M. J. McGee, M. Doolan, B. Reachel, M. Murphy, and S. McVeigh. When the tables had been cleared, a programme of vocal music was opened by Mr J. Robinson, who sang sweetly and pathetically "Round the old camp fire." Mr J. Brannen followed with one in a similar vein, namely, "The soldier's dream of home," a song that was rendered amidst the hearty plaudits of the gathering. Mr E. Batey changed the trend of the vocal efforts from the sentimental to the comic, with a smart rendition of the rollicking verses of "They made me one of the family," given with much vigour, and received with hearty laughter by the audience. "I'm a gentleman, still," was the title of a song given by Mr M. Clare, who met with a hearty reception from his colleagues. Miss A. Clare ably acquitted herself in the tuneful Irish air, "I'll take thee home again, Kathleen," a song that appealed to the sympathies of the audience, and was warmly received. The proceedings were next varied by Mr J. McGee, who took the company by storm with a capitally executed step dance. Mr J. Brannen returned to the vocal music with "When other lips." The ever-popular operatic air he sang in very fine style, the words being followed with close attention on the part of the company. Mr E. Batey supplied the concluding item of the programme, by singing another comic song, entitled, "More work for the undertaker." The accompaniments were played on the piano by Miss E. Batey, who was ably assisted by Mr George Richardson, violinist. The entertainment was in every way worthy of the support accorded it, and for its success the Club members are indebted to the energetic secretary, Mr E. Batey, and the members of the committee.

MASONIC BALL AT CONSETT

On Wednesday evening, a grand "At Home" and ball, under the auspices of the Constance Lodge of Freemasons, was held in the New Town Hall, Consett. Extensive preparations had been made, the room being very tastefully decorated. The M's.C. were Bros. T. D. Dryden, W.M., J. Coulthard, I.P.M., and G. Hyden, P.M. In the course of the evening, songs were sung by Madame Bellas-Dryden, Miss Coulthard, Miss M. Matthews, Miss Grainger, Mr Davis, Mr Pallister, Mr T. D. Dryden, Mr C. Stephenson, and Mr G. T. Hyden. Amongst those present were—

Aitchison, Mr, Mrs, and Miss, Annfield Plain.
Aynsley Miss, Lanchester.
Armstrong, Miss, Blackhall Mill.
Best, Bro., and Mrs, Consett.
Burnhope, Mr, Mr C., and Miss, Leadgate.
Benzies, Mrs, Consett.
Coulthard, Bro. John, I.P.M., Miss and Miss E., Dipton.
Cuthbertson, Miss, Catchgate.
Cuthbertson, Bro., W.M., and Miss, Chester-le-Street.
Cook, Mrs, Lingdale.
Charlton, Miss, Fellside.
Cheesmond, Mr, Gibside.
Cannon, Mrs, Consett.
Coltman, Bro., F.A., Mrs, and Miss E. M., Consett.
Christopher, Bro G. J., Blackhill.
Cawthorn, Mr, Mrs, and Misses E. and A., Hobson.
Castle, Bro. J. A., and Mrs, Dipton.
Curry, Mr, Blackhall Mill.
Charlton, Mr and Mrs, Whickham.
Davis, Mr James, Dipton.
Daly, Bro. Inspector, P.M., P.P.G., Swd. B., Lanchester.
Davis, Dr, Annfield Plain.
Dryden, Bro. T. D., W. M., and Mrs, Bro. G. Dryden, Sen., Tyler, and Bro. G. jun., organist, Consett.
Daniels, Bro. J. W., S. S., Westwood.
Davison, Miss, Annfield Plain.
Edwardes, Bro., Staffordshire.
Fairley, Mr, Shafto House.
Forster, Mr, Fellside.
Gordon, Dr, Annfield Plain.
Green, Bro. and Mrs., Blackhill.
Garson, Dr and Miss, Sacriston.
Harrison, Miss, Templetown.
Hyden, Bro., P.M., and Mrs, Blackfine House.
Hardy, Bro., J. W., and Mrs., Templetown.
Hobday, Bro., S. D., and Mrs., Blackhill.
Harvey, Mr and Mrs., Consett.
Hobson, Mr and Mrs M., Catchgate.
Imeson, Mrs, Blanchland.
Johnson, Bro., Shildon.
Jenkins, Mr Wm., Consett.
Jameson, Miss, Blanchland.
Lowe, Miss, Annfield Plain.
Lockey, Mr and Mrs, Consett.
Lamb, Miss, Chester-le-Street.
Mathieson, Mr and Mrs, Benfieldside.
Morris, Mr, Chester-le-Street.
Marshall, Bro., Blackhill.
Matthews, Bro., Mrs, and the Misses, Blackhill.
Mackay, Bro. P. M., P. G., Std. B., Mrs and Miss, Catchgate.
Morris, Mr W. and Miss Ethel, Medomsley.
Mackenzie, Miss, Dipton.
Mace, Mr, Medomsley.
Murray, Bro G., P.P., G.S., and Bro G. junr., secretary, Dipton.
Nicholson, Bro J. E., and Miss, Manor House, Lanchester.
Neasham, Bro., Miss and Miss Ruth, Lanchester Lodge.
Orr, Miss, Catchgate.
Parker, Mr and Miss, Leadgate.
Pearson, Miss, Newcastle.
Prior, Mr, Consett.
Reed, Miss, Lanchester.
Rutherford, Mr and Mrs, The Rosery, Whickham.
Rutherford, Mr and Miss, Catchgate.
Robinson, Miss, Gibside.
Robson, Bro. I. G., and Mrs, Blackhill.
Robinson, Mr G., Blackhill.
Redshaw, Miss, Consett.
Rawes, Bro., T. C., and Mr W., Consett.
Simpson, Bro. T., Catchgate.
Stephenson, Bro. Charles, S. W., Blackhill.
Storey, Miss, Medomsley.
Suddes, Miss, Iveston.
Taylor, Mr and Mrs, Annfield Plain.
Thompson, Miss, Catchgate.
Thompson, Dr, Dipton.
Taylor, Bro. W. and Miss, Consett.
Turnbull, Mr James, Burnopfield.
Thirlway, Miss, Whickham.
Towns, Mr, Consett.
Watchman, Mr T. L., Annfield Plain.
Walton, Bro. R. and Miss, Lanchester.
Williamson, Mr and Miss, Consett.
Watson, Mr R., Hobson.
Wade, Mr, Consett.
Wood Mr J. and Miss, Consett.
Walker, Mr R., Consett.
Weston, Mr, Annfield Plain.
Wilson, Miss, Chester-le-Street.
Young, Bro., and Mrs., Dipton.

FOOTBALL CONCERT AT ANNFIELD PLAIN.

A grand concert, organised by Messrs John Bell, Jos. Bell, F. Armour, G. Joblin, and H. Maude, took place on Monday evening last, in the Annfield Plain Co-operative Hall. There was a very large and enthusiastic audience, presided over by Mr Wood, of Jarrow, who was supported on the platform by Councillor W. Taylor. The programme was an excellent one, and the various items were greatly appreciated by all present. The chief entertainer was Mr Thomas Hoffman, of Newcastle. This ever popular humorist was received with rounds of applause, his various efforts being hugely enjoyed. From Jarrow, came a party, under the direction of Mr Paul, whose various character sketches elicited rounds of cheers. Particular mention must be made of "Little Dot," who, though only four years of age, has a marvellous power of facial contortion. This talented little artiste danced, sang, and mimicked in truly phenomenal fashion. As "Napoleon Crossing the Alps," she quite convulsed the audience, her imperious gait, heavy scowl, and resolute attitude being strongly indicative of the manner associated with the Conqueror of Europe. Miss Fiddas sang, in a rich, contralto voice, while Miss Prinn gave "Loch Lomond," and the other performers included Misses Flynn (Oxhill), Wheatley (Stanley), Paul (Jarrow), Robson (Spen), and Messrs J. Wood (Catchgate), Gates (Tantobie), Ashmore (Jarrow), R. Cooper (Annfield Plain), R. Rose (Catchgate), and W. Johnson (Annfield Plain). Mr Hepburn, of Jarrow, efficiently acted as accompanist. During the interval, the Chairman made a short speech, in the course of which he expressed the pleasure it gave him to preside over that gathering. He had been searching into the history of football, and could assure them that it was a game of great antiquity. In the year 404 B.C., it was played by the Spartans, in the town of Sparta (Athens). The game in England was originally associated with Shrove Tuesday, on which day it was for a long time played in Derby. Touching on the advantages of the game, Mr Wood remarked that it sharpened the faculties, gave confidence to the judgment, strengthened the physique, and improved the morals of the player. (Applause). He well remembered coming to referee for the first time at Annfield Plain. (Applause). He had officiated there two or three times, and was not dead yet. (Laughter). Well, the first time, a man at the low end of the field called out, "Was not that a goal?" He (Mr Wood) inquired who the speaker was, and met with the reply, "I be 'Walloper,' I be." (Loud laughter). He could never forget "Walloper" as long as he lived. (Renewed laughter). He urged the members of the Club to win the Tyneside League Championship. (Applause). They had the men and the money, too. If they only got to the top of the League, he would promise that they would be in the Alliance next year. (Loud applause). He might say that they missed getting into it this year by a couple of votes given in mistake. However, they should do their level best to make their election certain next year, by getting to the top of the League. (Applause). —The gathering terminated with the usual votes of thanks

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The usual monthly meeting of the above body was held on Wednesday, Mr J. Green presiding. There were also present, Messrs M. G. Armstrong, T. W. W. Ritson, W. Indian, G. Forster, J. Smith, R. Kay, J. G. Ridley (Clerk), and J. Routledge (Surveyor).—Dr. Benson reported that the health of the district was extremely satifactory, the month's death rate being only at the rate of 14 per 1000 per annum.—The Surveyor reported that the following houses required habitation certificates—One in Lucy Street, for Mr Clough; one in Lucy Street, for Mr G. Stewart; and five in Joicey Square, for the West Stanley Co-operative Society. He had interviewed the agent of the Towneley estate, in reference to the dilapidated wall from High Stanley to Hill Top Farm, and he proposed to erect a strong, wooden fence, to be set back forty feet, if the Council would undertake to macadamise a good road up to the fence. Several complaints had been received of the dangerous state of the grating in front of the Victoria Theatre during frosty weather.—The offer of the agent of the Towneley estate was accepted, and the report was then adopted.—The tender of Mr J. Lyons, Consett, for improvements in Joicey Square, was accepted, the amount being £101 6s 8d.—The Building Committee recommended that the following plans be passed—Plan of house in Standish Street, South Moor, for Mr Crossman, subject to a sewer drain being provided by the estate owners; house in South Moor Lane, for Mr Clough, subject to the same condition; plan of outhouses, for Messrs Anderson & Watson; plan of w.c. and coalhouse, in Back Anthony Street, Stanley, for Mr J. Lowes, subject to the provision of extra banisters; plan of wood erection, in Front Street, subject to outhouses being provided to the satisfaction of the Inspector. The following plans were rejected—Plan of wood erection in Front Street, for Mr J. Larkman; plan of billiard room, &c., in Front Street, for Mr T. Parker.—It was decided to inform the railway authorities that unless something were done in the matter of the Oxhill Railway Crossing, legal proceedings would be taken against the Railway Company.—The Council then rose.

CONSETT.

WATER COMPANY.—The directors of the Consett Water Company have declared a dividend of six and a half per cent. for the half year ending December 31st, 1896.

AN EXCELLENT BEVERAGE.—We have had the pleasure of tasting a sample of Mr Swainston's 1s 8d tea. It is a really excellent beverage, being refreshing, invigorating, and grateful. Our readers would do well to try it for themselves. A sample can be obtained free of charge.

CHRIST CHURCH BELL RINGERS.—On Monday evening last, the bell ringers connected with Christ Church were entertained to supper, by the Rev. C. S. Wilson at his residence in Delves Lane. Mr Wilson extended a cordial welcome to his guests, who spent a thoroughly enjoyable evening. We are glad that the important service performed by the bell ringers at Christ Church, has not been overlooked.

CO-OPERATIVE EMPLOYEES SOCIAL.—The first annual social of the Consett Co-operative social took place, on Tuesday evening, in the Leadgate Co-operative Hall. The Committee, in whose hands the arrangements were placed, included Messrs G. Bell, T. Dawson, Hewitt, Charlton, and Anderson. The M.'sC. were Messrs G. Stokoe and W. Harrison. Mr Frank Barron, of Shotley Bridge, supplied the music. Amongst those present were—Mr and Mrs Huntley, Mr and Mrs Dawson, Mr and Mrs Surtees, Mr and Mrs G. Teasdale, Mr and Mrs T. Charlton, Mr and Mrs T. Stokoe, Mr Holliday, Mr J. Batey, Miss Glendinning, Mr J. and the Misses Ayton, Mr J. Hull, Miss Siddle, Mr M. Charlton, Misses Johnson, Wharton, Green, Hamilton, Tones, Harrison, Atkinson, Robson, Walton, Pratt, Cockburn, Ramsay, Kelley, Wood, Shipley, Charlton, Little, Hutchinson, Williamson, Heslop, McKean, and Messrs Lowdon, Gibb, G. Brown, W. Jenkins, R. Wild, J. Robinson, J. and T. Crawford, and T. Whitfield.

LEAZES.

NATURALISTS' FIELD CLUB.—The annual conversatione of this Club was held in the Leazes' Temperance Hall, on Saturday. The large room was tastefully decorated for the occasion with evergreens, pictures, mottos, &c., and presented a gay and festive appearance. About fifty members and friends sat down to an excellent supper, provided by the hostess, Mrs Johnson, of the Temperance Hall. After supper, a free and easy was held, and several local ladies and gentlemen entertained the company with songs, instrumental pieces, &c. Mr R. Frankland, of Dipton, gave two songs in his usual fine style, and Miss Burnop, of Burnopfield, and Miss Summers, of Gateshead, sang several songs and a duet with marked ability. An old friend, Mr Walker, organist of Gateshead, presided at the piano with his usual ability. Messrs Allan and Ramsay also entertained the visitors with some fine pieces, arranged for violin and piano. Mr Shade had charge of the microscopes, and a series of minute objects were exhibited and explained by that gentleman. One object particularly, elicited general admiration, namely, the circulation of the blood seen in a frog's foot. A pretty perfume fountain was playing, and proved an attractive feature in another part of the room. The Edison Phonograph proved another interesting item. During the evening, a handsome gold watch was presented to Mr Wm. Johnson, of Byermoor, who has for many years been secretary to the Society. We are glad to know that this Club is in such a flourishing condition, many new members having been enrolled during the year, some of whom have promised papers to be read at future meetings. The conversatione, on Saturday evening, was one of the most successful the Club has ever held.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

MISSIONARY MEETING.—The Rev. W. Gelley, of Stanley, and the Rev. J. J. Buck, of Chester-le-Street, addressed the annual Primitive Methodist missionary meeting, on Monday evening. In the course of his address, Mr Gelley referred to, and condemned, some of the recent utterances of Mr Chas. Cohen. The same gentleman spoke at Tanfield Lea on Tuesday night, and at Oxhill on Wednesday.

TEACHERS' SOCIAL.—A teachers' social was held in the Annfield Plain Board School, on Friday evening, the music being supplied by Mr T. Simpson, of Catchgate. The M's.C. were Mr Sterling and Mr H. Sterling, jun. Songs were given by Mr J. E. Davis, Mr Grice, Miss M. Welsh, Miss Lilian Welsh, and Miss Kellett. The refreshments, which were of an excellent character, were prepared by Mrs and Miss Sterling. This was one of the best socials ever held in the district. Amongst those present were:—Mr and Mrs Sterling, Mr H. and Miss Sterling, Mr Jos. Sterling, Mr and Mrs Moor, Mr and Mrs McKay, Miss McKay, Mr and Mrs Low, Dr. Davis, Dr. Thompson, Mr Thompson, Mr and Mrs Dixon, Mr Grice, Mr and the Misses Welsh, Mr Tom Welsh, Mr and the [illegible] Wilkinson, Miss Dixon, Mr Ernes[illegible] Mr Ed. Smith, Mr T. Gibbon, Mr J. [illegible] Mr Joseph Robinson, Miss Robi[illegible] Pringle, Mrs and Miss Green, M[illegible] Orr, Miss Burdon, Miss Cranston, [illegible] Mr Cuthbertson, Mr Leighton, [illegible] Mr Little, Miss Storey, Mr R. M[illegible] Martin, Miss Cordner, Miss [illegible] Teasdale, Miss Jobson, Mr and M[illegible] Mr Castle, Mr M. Dodds, Miss M[illegible] and Mrs Hobson, Mr G. Agar, [illegible] son, Mr Bolam, Mr Jackson, M[illegible] Fitzpatrick, Mr Hodgson, and [illegible] and Mrs Sterling led off the [illegible] Circassion Circle. At the [illegible] hearty vote of thanks was [illegible] teachers, on the propositi[illegible] Welsh, of Holly Terrace[illegible]

FOOTBALL.

DERWENT VALLEY LEAGUE.

ALLENDALE PARK v. SHOTLEY BRIDGE ROVERS.

[BY "UPRIGHT."]

The meeting of these two teams caused a great amount of stir and excitement in football circles, as it was generally believed that the result would practically settle the championship of the Derwent Valley League. Many hundreds of persons lined the ropes, when, unpunctual to time, Mr Glass, the referee, brought the teams into the field as under:—

ALLENDALE		SHOTLEY
Stokoe	Goal	Scott
M. Walton	Right back	Oliver
Charlton	Left back	Hobday
Forster	Right half	Robinson
T. Walton	Centre half	Gray
A. Hedley	Left half	Winter
J. Walton	Right outside	Logan
Jno. Walton	Right inside	Johnson
T. Houston	Centre forward	Smith
Robinson	Left inside	Murray
Glasgow	Left outside	Watson

The spin of the coin was in favour of Allendale, who elected to play towards the entrance goal. Shotley started the ball and attacked with might and main. Directly afterwards Glasgow raced away into Shotley territory, but he was repulsed by a steady shot from Hobday. Gray being on the alert, succeeded in obtaining the ball, but he had not had it long before Thompson Walton robbed him, that player kicking well down the right. Midfield play followed, and a good display of passing and heading was given by the Parkites. The excitement was now growing intense on both sides. Shotley right broke away, and before they could be checked they put through the

FIRST FOR SHOTLEY,

amidst the thundering cheers of the spectators, the demonstration lasting for a few minutes. This seemed to arouse Allendale, for they at once attacked in a very admirable fashion, and were not long in forcing a corner off Scott. Jos. Walton took the kick, and placed nicely in, but Robinson failed to take the opportunity, the ball going past. Things looked very even at this point of the game. A foul off Hedley prevented the Park from getting in close to the Shotley goal. From the free-kick, Logan had a slice of ill-luck in not scoring. The venue was now changed, and with a lightning shot Jno. Walton

SCORED FOR ALLENDALE.

From the centre kick some hard and fast play ensued for the mastery, but neither side was able to pass the backs of both batches. Charlton was doing some splendid work at back with his big kicks, as well as did his patner, Mat. Walton. Hands off Robinson, near the Shotley goal, spoiled a very good chance for the Park. By some tricky play from the home backs, they were enabled to reach the visitors' quarters, but

STOKOE FISTED OUT

in splendid fashion, and Charlton helped on the leather with another big kick. Try as they might, Shotley could not score. About fifty fouls and free kicks had been given already, Mr Glass watching keenly for any infringements of the rules. This was proved by the great number of free kicks given on both sides. Hands off Winter proved of great benefit to the Allendale team, as they were given when near the visitors' goal mouth. Mat. Walton took the free kick, and A. Hedley receiving, raced at top speed to the home goal, but Oliver sent back with a good shot. Soon after, half-time arrived with the score—

Allendale .... 1 goal
Shotley .... 1 goal

After a short interval of rest and refreshment, the teams lined up again. The ball was started, and it travelled from end to end for the next five minutes. Hands off Shotley improved the visitors' chance, but it was spoiled by a foul off T. Walton. Oliver placed the ball well, and Charlton had to kick out to save. The ball was again sent into the home quarters, but Hobday relieved with a splendid kick down the wing. Allendale again carried operations into the vicinity of the home goal, and this time

ROBINSON SHOT OVER THE CROSS-BAR.

Allendale held all the play for a time, but they were eventually driven back by a stubborn defence. The excitement still continued, and cheers were now and again raised by the supporters of the respective teams. The game at this point was stopped through Stokoe, the Park custodian, being slightly injured. He recovered, however, and the game was again resumed. A good run by the visitors' right was next witnessed, and Jos. Walton, passing to Glasgow, that player mis-kicked, and lost a fine chance. Each side still continued to fight hard for supremacy. Allendale were far oftener in possession of the ball, and they made a great many attacks on Shotley Bridge quarters. Hands off T. Robinson, near the home goal, gave the Park an excellent chance. Charlton took the kick, which he placed nicely, and a tough scrimmage ensued, which resulted in Scott giving a corner when he was trying to save. Another scrimmage ensued from a corner, but the Shotley defence was

AS SOUND AS A BELL.

The game was again temporarily abandoned, owing to A. Hedley receiving an injury. This, however, did not prove to be serious, and the game was soon re-started. T. Winter put in

A GOOD LONG SHOT

from the centre, but Stokoe easily disposed of it. By sheer hard work and good passing, Allendale once more reached the other end, but the ball rolled into touch. Murray tried hard to score from a good position, but Mat Walton checked the ball before it got very far. Mr Glass eventually gave the signal for hostilities to cease, and a very exciting and well-contested game ended, neither side being placed any higher in the League table. Final—

ALLENDALE PARK .... 1 goal
SHOTLEY BRIDGE ROVERS ...... 1 goal

CEMENT ROVERS v. STANLEY BLUE STARS.—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a win for the homesters by five goals to nil.

FIXTURES.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE ROVERS v. LEADGATE PARK RESERVE.—To be played at Shotley Spa, on Saturday first, when the following will do duty for the Rovers:—goal, Scott; backs, Oliver and Hobday; half-backs, Winter, Gray, and Robinson; forwards, Watson, Tindle, Murray, Logan, and Watson. Reserves, Johnson and Robson. Kick-off 2·15 p.m.

STANLEY v. NEWCASTLE UNITED A.—The Whites play their return fixture with the Alliance leaders at Newcastle, on Saturday, and will rely upon the following team:—Goal, G. Morris; back, G. Laws and M. Joyce; half-backs, T. Fish, E. Nicholson, and J. Milburn; forwards, G. Whitfield, T. Robson, P. O'Connor, S. Ward, and J. Howe. Linesman, J. Beckwith.

SOUTH MOOR JUNIORS v. CONSETT TOWN JUNIORS.—These teams meet in a Burnopfield and District Junior League game at South Moor, on Saturday, when the home team will be represented by:—Goal, Purdy; backs, Race and Wheatley; half-backs, Walles, Lamb, and Proudlock; forwards, Hodder, McGregor, Errington, Brown and Purvis. Linesman—G. Taylor. Referee, Mr T. Carr, Craghead.

CONSETT PARK v. BYER MOOR.—At Byer Moor. Park team—J Burnett, A Atkinson, H Symington, T C Carr, J Willis, W Dawson, E Shipley, H Mace, W Graham, J Maxwell, J Jones. Brake leaves headquarters at 2·30.

CONSETT PARK RESERVE v. MEDOMSLEY ROVERS.—At Consett. Park team—J Wilson, W Robson (Captain), J Emmerson, J Tindle, W Donnison, A B Jackson, R Tindle, T Young, J Wilkinson, S Stafford, and L Stephenson. Reserve—H Holliday. Kick off at 2·30, on the Park ground.

TANTOBIE CO-OPERATORS' team—J Brown, T Hanover, T A Ridley, J Richardson, T Atthey, R Atkinson, G Agar, W Hall, M Burns, and J Gladders.

JOICEY SQUARE ROVERS are wanting dates as soon as possible; ages 10 to 13. Apply Robert Robson, 49, Joicey Square, West Stanley.

STANLEY A v. ALLENDALE PARK.—In this cup tie, at Stanley, on Saturday first, the A will be represented by—J Brydon, S Chisholm, J Shield, J Harrison, G Shield, J Gailes (Captain), J Cunningham, W Southeran, W Gibson, W Ridley, and W Brydon.

ANNFIELD PLAIN CELTIC v. HEATON SCIENCE AND ART.—At Annfield Plain. This Tyneside League fixture is down for decision at Annfield Plain, on Saturday first. The visitors last Saturday run the Consett team to a goal, on the Fell enclosure, which shows that they are a team to be reckoned with. The Celtic, however, are determined to add other two points to their credit, and will rely on the following team—E Lynap, A Moore, P Coates, J Coyle, R Bell, W Parker, R Foster, W Ellis, J Lynap, J Dodds, R Gillender. Linesman, H Maude; Referee, A P Little. Kick off at 2·15.

TOW LAW.

INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETY, LIMITED.—The half-yearly report of the Tow [illegible]aw and District Industrial and Provident [illegible]iety, Limited, for the half-year ending [illegible] 15th, 1896, shows that the progress of [illegible]iety has been as steady as ever, and [illegible] sales and membership have in[illegible] The number of members in the [illegible]ear was 835, as compared with 844 [illegible]ent. There had been admitted to [illegible] 43, and 34 had withdrawn. The [illegible] past six months totalled £12,301 [illegible] as follows:—Grocery, £7,683 8s [illegible]y, £1,111 13s 2d; boot and shoes, [illegible] furnishing, £414 18s 6d; and the [illegible] branch, £2,480 10s 2½d. The [illegible] for the same period was £2,316 [illegible]hich £1,952 4s 2d will be used for [illegible] of a dividend of 2s 4d in the £

DIPTON.

GIRL BURIED IN A SNOW DRIFT.—On Monday night, at about 12 p.m., when on duty near Upper Lintz, P.C. Curtis heard someone crying in a faint voice, "Help, help." He at once went to the spot from which the sound proceeded, and there found a girl, named Mary Ann Slater (14), buried in a huge snow drift. After repeated efforts he succeeded in extricating her from her perilous position, but she was so benumbed with the cold, and exhausted by her attempts to get out of the drift, that it was with the greatest difficulty the officer succeeded in reviving her. She was then conveyed to Flint Hill, where she resides with her mother, who is a widow. She informed the officer that she had left Dipton, where she had been selling matches, at 6 p.m. There is little doubt but that had P.C. Curtis been a few minutes later, the unfortunate child would have lost her life.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

PRESENTATION TO MR A. MCIVOR.—On Thursday in last week, the clergy, churchwardens, and choir members of the St. Cuthbert's Church, together with other friends, met in the St. Cuthbert's Schoolroom, Benfieldside, to make a presentation to Mr McIvor, who has been chief engineer at the Shotley Bridge Paper Mills for the past seven years, and is now leaving the district to take up an important post in Lancashire. Canon Ross-Lewin very ably presided over the gathering, which included Mr F. Priestman, Mr J. V. Faber, of Derwent Dene, Misses Ross-Lewin, Misses Wheldon, Mrs Richardson, Mrs Barclay, and others. Mr F. Priestman made the presentation, which consisted of a very handsome dining-room clock, and a gold bangle for Mrs McIvor.—Both the Chairman and Mr Priestman spoke at great length upon the services rendered by Mr McIvor in connection with the Church Choir, and the interest he had taken in all matters that affected the parish. —The organist and choirmaster, Mr G. P. Stephenson, and one of the eldest members of the St. Cuthbert's Choir, Mr J. Sheffield, both bore testimony to the enthusiasm and willingness with which Mr McIvor undertook any work, that had for its object the furthering of Church interests.—Mr McIvor suitably responded on behalf of his wife and himself.—During the evening, glees were sung by the choir, and the following gentlemen contributed to the harmony of the proceedings with the singing of solos:—Messrs Brown, Marshall, Glendenning, McIvor, Surtees, Heymer, Herbert, Matthieson, and Sheffield. Refreshments were kindly provided for the evening by the lady members of the congregation.

AUCTION MART SALES.

LANCHESTER STOCK MART CO., LTD.—On Wednesday, Jan. 27th, Mr Jackson Green had forward 3 dairy cows and heifers, 1 fat heifer, 2 bull stirks, 2 heifer, stirks, and 30 fat sheep. Mr Jos. Parker, Hagg House, was awarded first honours for dairy cow, which was sold to Mr John Hedley for £18 7s 6d, fat heifers to £13 17s 6d, bull stirks to £10. Heifer stirks to £7 17s 6d. Fat hoggs sold well at the following prices, from Manor House to 42s, from Satley to 34s. There was a good attendance.

TOW LAW.—On Monday, Mr Vickers had forward 38 dairy cows and heifers, 21 fat cattle, store cattle, 6 calves, and 68 fat sheep and hoggs. The attendance of buyers was small owing to the stormy weather, but prices ruled at current rates. Cows made up to £20; fat cattle to £15; store cattle to £8; calves to 31s. Fat hoggs made up to 40s, top—Mr G. I. L. Blenkinsopp, Hoppyland Park; fat black-faced ewes to 30s, top—Mr W. Vickers, Eastgate; fat black-faced wethers to 41s, top—Mr J. Emerson, Willow Green, Frosterley.

BENFIELDSIDE, Jan. 15.—There was a fair supply of stock at this mart to-day, viz., 19 fat cattle, 4 geld cows, 156 fat sheep, 4 cows, 1 bull, 2 horses, 2 ponies, and some turkeys and poultry. Fat bull, £19, from Mr Potts, Shotley; fat heifers, £14 5s to £18 12s 6d, from Mr M. Anderson, White Hall; do, £9 12 6d to £10 5s; bullocks, £14 to £15 5s, from Messrs Whitfield, Dyke Nook. Sheep, 42s to 48s, Mr T. Richardson, Cronkley; 37s to 41s 6d, Mr Teasdale, The Riding; 36s to 38s 6d, Mr S. Brewis; 32s to 39s 6d, Mr W. Taylor; hoggs, 28s to 41s each. Horses, 4gs to 23gs; ponies, 2gs to 7gs. Turkeys to 5s 3d each; poultry at usual prices.

IN MEMORIAM NOTICES.

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

MEMORIAL CARDS.

GEORGE NEASHAM
PRINTER, NEW STATION ROAD, CONSETT,
Begs to Inform Parent and others that he has on hand a very
LARGE AND ARTISTIC ASSORTMENT OF
MEMORIAL CARDS,
And that all Orders sent to him, by Post or otherwise, will receive the most CAREFUL AND PROMPT ATTENTION.

An inspection of Cards is respectfully invited.

Two-fold Black-Bordered SILVER CARD, with Chastely-Designed Front Page, bearing the words "In Memoriam," or "In Loving Memory," and Poetry on the inside of Front Page, Price for the 1ST DOZEN, 2s. 6D. EACH SUCCEEDING DOZEN, 1s. 6D. Relatives living at a distance may rely on having their Orders executed by Return of Post.

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

MOURNING ENVELOPES.

BEST QUALITY, 4D PER PACKET OF 25.

TO THE BEREAVED.

T. C. RAWES & CO.

BEG to say that they have made special arrangements and can now supply OAK, ELM, and PITCH-PINE POLISHED COFFINS, at the most reasonable rates, all guaranteed the Best Workmanship and Quality.

CABS, COACHES, &c.

A Stock always in hand, which can be finished at a few hours' notice. Attendance Day and Night.

Shrouds, Wreaths, &c.

FUNERAL FURNISHERS, CONSETT.

Births, Marriages, & Deaths.

Deaths.

At 7, Ridley Street, Blackhill, on the 20th inst., aged 1 year, William Graham, son of William Hall.

At 2, West Street, Blackhill, on the 24th inst., aged 6 months, Joseph, son of Cornelius O'Niell.

At 16, Allendale Cottages, on the 23rd inst., aged 6 months, Elizabeth, daughter of William Gordon.

At 5, Bath Street, Consett, on the 25th inst., aged 40 years, Mary Ann, wife of Michael Rafferty.

At 19, Bottle Bank, Blackhill, on the 21st inst., Patrick, infant son of Bernard Ward.

At White Hall Farm, Rowley, on the 25th inst., aged 78 years, James Hunter.

At 3, East Stanley, on the 21st inst., aged 82 years, Michael Hobson Coxon.

At Greenland, Stanley, on the 21st inst., aged 49 years, Emma, wife of Richard Wadge.

At 42, South Medomsley Colliery, aged 36 years, Joseph Plumpton.

At Dipton, on the 24th inst., aged 7 months, James, son of James Fox.

At Syke Lane, Tanfield, on the 20th inst., aged 2 years, Elizabeth, daughter of John Lammonby.

At Esh Laude, on the 22nd inst., Edmund, infant son of John Marley.

At Lanchester, on the 22nd inst., aged 77 years, Henry Vaux.

At Langley Park, on the 22nd inst., John Edward, infant son of Joseph Cruddas.

At Burnhope, on the 23rd inst., aged 1 year, William, son of William Connelly.

At Esh Winning, on the 22nd inst., aged 1 year, John, son of Charles Mutter.

At Stanley, on the 22nd inst., Lena, infant daughter of Thomas Pearson.

At Langley Park, on the 23rd inst., Mary infant daughter of Joseph Cruddas.

At Quebec, on the 22nd inst., Elizabeth, infant daughter of Edward Rogers.

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