The Consett Guardian

DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER

AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM GAZETTE.

1891. ALMANACK. 1891.

CONSETT LOCAL BOARD.

Meetings on the first Wednesday in each month, at 5 p.m.

Chairman, Ald. Wm. Jenkins, J.P.; Wm. Aynsley, Thomas Siddell, Richard Murray, J. W. Davison, J. Collinson, G. Ainsworth, Jos. Murray, J. Calvert, G. Wade, J. T. Potts, Jas. Daly, and Dr A. D. M MacIntyre. Clerk, T. W. Welford, jun., Solicitor. Surveyor, Inspector, and Collector, Mr Wm. Rippon; Medical officer, Dr Geo. Renton; Treasurer, Mr T. L. Gledstone, North-Eastern Bank; Clerk of Sewerage Works, Mr W. Westgarth; Engineer, Mr R. Robinson, C.E.

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Meetings on the second Wednesday in each month, at 3 p.m.

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Meetings on the second Friday in each month, at 3-30 p.m.

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Meetings on the 5th January, and every fourth Monday afterwards.

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Offices—North Road, Durham. Secretary—W. H. Patterson.

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ESTABLISHED 1860.

The Consett Guardian

Derwent Valley Advertiser & North-West Durham Gazette,

HAS NOW ATTAINED

A LARGE AND INCREASING CIRCULATION

AND MAINTAINS ITS POSITION AS

THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER.

Full and Impartial Reports of all Meetings in the District by our own Reporters.

The General News is carefully condensed, and

SPECIAL ATTENTION IS GIVEN TO LOCAL NEWS BY AGENTS OF KNOWN ABILITY AND CHARACTER.

The *Consett Guardian* has now been established upwards of Thirty years, and has gained an extensive circulation in Consett, Shotley Bridge, Blackhill, Leadgate, Lanchester, Annfield Plain, Medomsley, Ebchester, Castleside, Burnopfield, Dipton, Burnhope, South Moor, Stanley, Tanfield, Tanfield Lea, Tantobie, White-le-Head, Hobson, Pelton Fell, Birtley, Chester-le-Street, Tow Law, Wolsingham, Stanhope, Frosterley, Weardale, and the adjacent localities.

TO ADVERTISERS.

The large and increasing circulation of the *Consett Guardian* renders it invaluable as an Advertising medium, and current Advertisements are inserted in its columns at moderate charges.

ADVERTISEMENTS SHOULD REACH US NOT LATER THAN THURSDAY MORNING.

Published every Friday Morning at 59, Front Street, Consett.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths must be signed by the Newsagents in the locality.

Secretaries for Sports, Cricket, and Football Clubs will save 25 per cent. by patronising this Office.

THE "GUARDIAN" OFFICE FOR CHEAP GENERAL PRINTING.

JANUARY.—31 Days.		
1	Th	*Circumcision.*
2	F	Waskerley water to Durham., 1880
3	S	(2) Slaves in United States Freed, '63
4	S	*2nd Sunday after Christmas.*
5	M	Duke of York died, 1827.
6	Tu	*Epiphany.*
7	W	Durham Co. Rifle Asso. formed 1861.
8	Th	Prince Albert Victor born, 1864.
9	F	Napoleon III. died, 1873.
10	S	Penny Post introduced, 1840.
11	S	*1st Sunday after Epiphany.*
12	M	Dean Alford died, 1871.
13	Tu	Fire at N. E. Co. School, 1885.
14	W	Capt. Cook killed, 1779.
15	Th	Hartley Coll. accid., 1862 (201 killed)
16	F	Rev C. H. Ford died, 1888.
17	S	Col. F. Burnaby killed, 1885.
18	S	*2nd Sunday after Epiphany.*
19	M	Sir H. Bessemer born, 1813.
20	Tu	David Garrick died, 1779.
21	W	The Queen opened Parliament, 1886
22	Th	Battle of Rorke's Drift, 1879.
23	F	Duke of Edinburgh married, 1874.
24	S	1st Elec for Durham Co. Council, '89
25	S	*Septuages. Conversion of S. Paul.*
26	M	General Gordon killed, 1885.
27	Tu	Paris captured, 1871.
28	W	Capitulation of Paris, 1871.
29	Th	Town Hall, Durham, opened, 1851.
30	F	Duke of Albany at Durham, 1884
31	S	Launch of Great Eastern, 1858.

FEBRUARY.—28 days.		
1	S	*Sexagesima Sunday*
2	M	Zulu War began, 1879
3	Tu	Lord Salisbury born, 1830
4	W	Fair on the Thames, 1814
5	Th	Thomas Carlyle died, 1881
6	F	Printing by type invented, 1436
7	S	1st Meeting of Dur. Co. Council, '89
8	S	*Quinquagesima Sunday*
9	M	Mr J. Henderson 1st r. for Dur., '64
10	Tu	Shrove Tuesday
11	W	Ash Wednesday
12	Th	Sir A. Cooper died, 1847
13	F	Glencoe Massacre, 1695
14	S	Valentine's Day
15	S	*1st Sunday in Lent*
16	M	Trimdon Grange Col. Expl., 1882
17	Tu	Banquet to T. Milvain, M.P., 1886
18	W	Martin Luther died, 1546
19	Th	King of Holland born, 1817
20	F	New Model School opened, 1886
21	S	Battle of Alumbagh, 1858
22	S	*2nd Sunday in Lent*
23	M	(24) Handel born, 1684
24	Tu	*S. Matthias*
25	W	Sir Chris. Wren died, 1723
26	Th	John Philip Kemble died, 1823
27	F	Longfellow born, 1807
28	S	Corn Laws repealed, 1819

MARCH.—31 days.		
1	S	*3rd Sunday in Lent.*
2	M	Explosion at Usworth, 1885.
3	Tu	Violent gale of wind, 1820.
4	W	Bernard Gilpin died, 1583.
5	Th	Thames Tunnel opened, 1843.
6	F	Explosion at Coxlodge Colliery, '63.
7	S	Bible Society founded, 1804
8	S	*4th Sunday in Lent.*
9	M	Emperor Wm. of Germany d. '88
10	Tu	Prince of Wales married, 1863
11	W	Income Tax imposed, 1842
12	Th	Inundation at Sheffield, '64 (258 kld)
13	F	Emperor of Russia assass., 1881
14	S	King of Italy born, 1844
15	S	*5th Sunday in Lent.*
16	M	Prince Louis Napoleon born, 1856
17	Tu	St. Patrick's Day
18	W	Princess Louise born, 1848
19	Th	Lucknow taken, 1858
20	F	(22) Colors presented to N.D. Militia
21	S	by Lady Londonderry, 1855.
22	S	*Palm Sunday.*
23	M	National Gallery founded, 1824
24	Tu	Eurydice foundered, 1878
25	W	*Lady Day.*
26	Th	Duke of Cambridge born, 1819
27	F	*Good Friday.*
28	S	Duke of Albany died, 1884
29	S	*Easter Sunday.*
30	M	Bank Holiday.
31	Tu	Beethoven, musician, died 1827

APRIL.—30 days.		
1	W	Dur. Bp. Auck. Railway op., 1857
2	Th	Richard Cobden died, 1865
3	F	Census taken, 1881
4	S	Oliver Goldsmith died, 1774
5	S	*1st Sunday after Easter*
6	M	(5) Gt. Strike Durhm. Min 44 & '79
7	Tu	John Henderson died, 1884
8	W	Gladstone's H. Rule Bill intr. 1886
9	Th	Military Riot at Limerick, 1877
10	F	Prince Murat died, 1878
11	S	Rev. Rowland Hill died, 1833
12	S	*2nd Sunday after Easter*
13	M	Magdala bombarded, 1868
14	Tu	Dm. C.F.C. w. Rugby Ch. Cup, '88
15	W	Rt. Hon. J. R. Davison died, 1871
16	Th	Battle of Culloden, 1846
17	F	Benjamin Franklin died 1790
18	S	Tudhoe Colliery expl., 1882 (37 k.)
19	S	*3rd Sunday aft. Easter.* Primrose Day
20	M	Presentation to J. L. Wharton, '81
21	Tu	Baroness Burdett-Coutts born, 1814
22	W	Earthquake in England, 1884
23	Th	St. George's Day
24	F	Daniel Defoe died, 1731
25	S	*S. Mark.* Bp. Tucker conse. 1890.
26	S	*4th Sunday after Easter*
27	M	Bruce, African traveller, died, 1794
28	Tu	J. L. Wharton ret. for Durhm., 1871
29	W	General Boulanger born, 1837
30	Th	Carl Rosa died, 1889

MAY.—31 days.		
1	F	*SS. Philip and James.* Bp. Westcott consecrated, 1890
2	S	
3	S	*5th Sunday after Easter*
4	M	(3) Hetton Colliery inundated, 1815
5	Tu	Napoleon Bonaparte died, 1821
6	W	Hirings first held in Durham, 1682
7	Th	*Ascension Day*
8	F	Lady Barnard, Scotch poetess, d, '25
9	S	John Stuart Mill died 1873
10	S	*Sunday after Ascension*
11	M	Lord Granville born, 1815
12	Tu	Sale of French Crown Jewels, 1887
13	W	Pius IX born, 1792
14	Th	Vaccination discovered, 1796
15	F	Canon Evans died, 188[illegible]
16	S	Great Review at Durham, 1864
17	S	*Whit Sunday*
18	M	Bank Holiday
19	Tu	Plague in County of Durham, 1587
20	W	Great Fire at York Minster, 1840
21	Th	Elizabeth Fry born, 1780
22	F	James I of Scotland crowned, 1424
23	S	(24) 1st Encamp. Dm. Voluntrs, '90
24	S	*Trinity Sunday*
25	M	Durham Co. Sunday Closing Bill
26	Tu	rejected by the Lords, 1886
27	W	John Calvin died, 1564
28	Th	Earl Russell died, 1878
29	F	Restoration of Charles II, 1660
30	S	Gt. Westminster Clock set up, 1859
31	S	*1st Sunday after Trinity*

JUNE.—30 days.		
1	M	Prince Imperial killed, 1879
2	Tu	Garibaldi died, 1882
3	W	Miners' Hall, Durhm., opened 1875
4	Th	Anthony Wilkinson died, 1888
5	F	Great Fire at Copenhagen, 1795
6	S	Confirmation in St. Giles' Ch, 1887
7	S	*2nd Sunday after Trinity*
8	M	(7) Ald. Herbert Hobson died, 1883
9	Tu	Rev. Dr. Fletcher died, 1856
10	W	Crystal Palace opened, 1854
11	Th	*S. Barnabas*
12	F	Lord. A. Vane Tempest died, 1864
13	S	Malta taken, 1798
14	S	*3rd Sunday after Trinity*
15	M	First Dm. Miners' Demonstration, '72
16	Tu	Calamity at Sunderland, 1883, (182 children suffocated)
17	W	
18	Th	Battle of Waterloo, 1815
19	F	Rev. C. H. Spurgeon born, 1834
20	S	Queen's Accession, 1837
21	S	*4th Sunday after Trinity*
22	M	Brazilian Cable laid, 1874
23	Tu	Lord Campbell died, 1861
24	W	*S. John Baptist*
25	Th	Sir J. R. Mowbray ret. for Dm., '53
26	F	Admission of Jew to Parlmnt. 1858
27	S	Sir Adolphus Liddell died, 1885
28	S	*5th Sunday after Trinity*
29	M	*S. Peter*
30	Tu	Holloway Coll. opd. by Queen, '86

JULY.—31 days.		
1	W	Death of W. Crawford, M.P., 1890
2	Th	Sniperley Industrial Sch. opd. 1885
3	F	Durham University founded, 1832
4	S	Decl. of American Independ., 1776
5	S	*6th Sunday after Trinity*
6	M	2nd Election of Mr Milvain, '86
7	Tu	Sheridan died, 1816
8	W	Pope Gregory XV. died, 1623
9	Th	J. L. Wharton ret for Ripon, 1886
10	F	Hartlepool Harbour opened, 1835
11	S	Alexandria bombarded, 1882
12	S	*7th Sunday after Trinity*
13	M	Berlin Treaty, 1878
14	Tu	(13) N. Wood ret. for Houghton, '83
15	W	St Swithin
16	Th	(17) *Punch* first issued, 1841
17	F	Ballot Act passed, 1872
18	S	Dean Stanley died, 1881
19	S	*8th Sunday after Trinity*
20	M	Dean Waddington died, 1869
21	Tu	Death of Provost Consitt, 1887
22	W	Durham Water Bill rejected, 1878
23	Th	Marquis of Hartington born, 1833
24	F	Channel Fleet at Sunderland, 1863
25	S	*S. James*
26	S	*9th Sunday after Trinity*
27	M	Bank of England founded, 1694
28	Tu	1st Earl Durham died, 1810
29	W	Wm. Wilberforce died, 1833
30	Th	Expl. at Henderson's Factory, 1835
31	F	Colonial Bishops in Durham, 1888

AUGUST.—31 days.		
1	S	Lammas.
2	S	*10th Sunday after Trinity.*
3	M	Bank Holiday.
4	Tu	Canon Lowe died, 1887.
5	W	Unveiling in Durham Cathedral of
6	Th	Tablet to Durham Soldiers, 1888.
7	F	Dm. and Sund. Railway opd., 1836.
8	S	Bishop Villiers died, 1861.
9	S	*11th Sunday after Trinity.*
10	M	Rt. Hon. G. J. Goschen b., 1831.
11	Tu	Death of Cardinal Newman, 1890.
12	W	Grouse Shooting begins.
13	Th	Old Lammas Day.
14	F	Sir Walter Scott born, 1771.
15	S	Reform Bill passed, 1867.
16	S	*12th Sunday after Trinity.*
17	M	Frederick the Great died, 1786.
18	Tu	Battle of Gravelotte, 1870.
19	W	Robert Bloomfield, poet, died, 1823.
20	Th	Prince of Wales at Newcastle, 1884.
21	F	Brit. Archæol Soc. at Durham, 1865.
22	S	Framwellgate Bridge built, 1115.
23	S	*13th Sunday after Trinity.*
24	M	*S. Bartholomew.*
25	Tu	Herschell died, 1822.
26	W	Louis Philip died, 1850.
27	Th	St. Cuthbert's, Durham, cons., '63
28	F	Capture of Cetewayo, 1879.
29	S	General Napier died, 1853.
30	S	*14th Sunday after Trinity.*
31	M	John Bunyan died, 1688.

SEPTEMBER.—30 days.		
1	Tu	Partridge Shooting begins
2	W	Great Fire of London, 1666
3	Th	Princess Alice sunk, 1878 (600 lost)
4	F	French Republic declared, 1870
5	S	Count Borulaski died, aged 98, 1837
6	S	*15th Sunday after Trinity*
7	M	Durhm. Co. Agri. Soc. re-estab, 1842
8	Tu	Expl. at Seaham Col., 1880 (164 k)
9	W	Presentation in Durham Cathedral
10	Th	of 68th Regimental Colours, 1888
11	F	(10) Rev Dr Gilley died, 1855
12	S	Marshall Blucher died, 1819
13	S	*16th Sunday after Trinity*
14	M	Duke of Wellington died, 1852
15	Tu	Capture of Arabi Pasha, 1882
16	W	Rev Dr Pusey died, 1882
17	Th	W. H. Vane created marquess, 1827
18	F	State Entry of Lord Londonderry
19	S	into Dublin, 1886.
20	S	*17th Sunday after Trinity*
21	M	*S. Matthew*
22	Tu	Marshal Bazaine died, 1888
23	W	Battle of Assaye, 1803
24	Th	Kepier Mill, Drhm, burnt down, '70
25	F	Siege of Paris began, 1870
26	S	Cardinal Manning at N'castle, 1885
27	S	*18th Sunday after Trinity*
28	M	Explosion at Haswell, 1844 (95 k)
29	Tu	*S. Michael*
30	W	Durhm. Cathedral commenced, 1093

OCTOBER.—31 days.		
1	Th	Pheasant shooting begins
2	F	Installation of Dean Lake, 1869
3	S	Last Charter granted to Dur., 1780
4	S	*19th Sunday after Trinity*
5	M	First English Bible printed, 1536
6	Tu	Jenny Lind, vocalist, born, 1820
7	W	E. A. Poe, poet, died, 1849
8	Th	Fielding died, 1754
9	F	Battle of Flodden, 1513
10	S	Treaty of Vienna, 1866
11	S	*20th Sunday after Trinity*
12	M	Robert Stephenson died, 1859
13	Tu	Flood in the Wear, 1875
14	W	Sir Wm. V. Harcourt born, 1827
15	Th	Allan Ramsay, poet, born 1688
16	F	Mr G. Maw, Bp. Auckld., died, 1887
17	S	Battle of Neville's Cross, 1346
18	S	*21st Sunday after Trinity. S. Luke*
19	M	[18] Dur. Cathedral re-opened, 1876
20	Tu	Grace Darling died, 1842
21	W	John Fawcett died, 1883
22	Th	First British Parliament, 1707
23	F	Public Dinner to the Earl of Durham, 1833
24	S	
25	S	*22nd Sunday after Trinity*
26	M	Archd'cn Prest Gatesh'd died, 1882
27	Tu	Prince of Wales at Wynyard, 1890
28	W	*SS. Simon and Jude*
29	Th	John Leech died, 1864
30	F	Tower of London burnt, 1841
31	S	Hatfield Hall, Dur., opened, 1846

NOVEMBER.—30 days.		
1	S	*23rd Sun. after Trin. All Saints.*
2	M	(1) Review at Seaham by the Prince of Wales, 1890
3	Tu	
4	W	[3] Expl. at Rainton, 1823 [59 k]
5	Th	Gunpowder Plot 1605
6	F	[5] Marq. of Londonderry d 1884
7	S	Holborn Viaduct opened, 1869
8	S	*24th Sunday after Trinity.*
9	M	Great fire at Durham, '47
10	Tu	Oliver Goldsmith born, 1728
11	W	Martinmas Day
12	Th	Rising of Rebels at Durham, 1569
13	F	Gas in Wear, fired 1855
14	S	Mozart born, 1719
15	S	*25th Sunday after Trinity.*
16	M	John Bright born, 1811
17	Tu	Great Flood at Durham, 1771
18	W	Cardinal Pole died, 1558
19	Th	Cospatric burnt at sea, 1874 [474 lost]
20	F	Cape of Good Hope discovered 1497
21	S	Bishop Baring installed, 1861
22	S	*26th Sunday after Trinity.*
23	M	Rev. Dr. Townsend died, 1857
24	Tu	Election Riot at Durham, 1868
25	W	Mr Milvain 1st ret. for Durham 1885
26	Th	Princess Maud of Wales born 1869
27	F	Second Earl of Durham died, 1879
28	S	Washington Irving died, 1859
29	S	*1st Sunday in Advent.*
30	M	*S. Andrew.*

DECEMBER.—31 days.		
1	Tu	Princess of Wales born, 1844
2	W	St. Paul's Cathedral opened, 1697
3	Th	Resignation of Mr Disraeli, 1868
4	F	Sherburn Hosp. Church burnt, 1863
5	S	Ald. J. Ferens, Durham died, 1885
6	S	*2nd Sunday in Advent*
7	M	Swaithe Mn. Col. Expl '13 (100 k)
8	Tu	New Law Courts opened, 1882
9	W	Pius IV died, 1565
10	Th	Fall of Plevna, 1877
11	F	Pilgrim Fathers l in America, 1620
12	S	Oaks Colliery explo. 1866 [350 k]
13	S	*3rd Sunday in Advent*
14	M	Prince Consort died, 1861
15	Tu	Izaak Walton died, 1638
16	W	O. Cromwell became Protector, 1653
17	Th	Wreck of Courageux, 1796 [440 lost]
18	F	New Markets, Durham, opd, 1852
19	S	Frank Buckland died, 1880
20	S	*4th Sunday in Advent*
21	M	*S. Thomas.* Bp. Lightfoot died, '89
22	Tu	[21] St. Nicholas Ch. re-opd, 1858
23	W	Michael Drayton, poet, died, 1631
24	Th	Felling Colliery expl, 1813 [22 k]
25	F	*Christmas Day*
26	S	*S. Stephen.* Bank Holiday.
27	S	*1st Sun. aft Christmas. S. John*
28	M	*Holy Innocents.*
29	Tu	W. E. Gladstone born, 1809
30	W	Great Fire at the Crystal Palace, '66
31	Th	Earl of Beaconsfield born, 1805

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Judge—His Honour, E. J. Meynell.

Consett.—Wednesdays, Jan. 1st, Feb. 4th, March 4th, April 8th, May 9th, and June 10th, at 10 a.m. Registrar, Mr John Booth.

Wolsingham.—Saturday, Feb. 7th, April 11th, and June 13th—Registrar, Mr Dolphin.

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Benfieldside Division.—James Annandale, J.P., Shotley Bridge.

Leadgate Division.—George Nicholson, Leadgate.

Lanchester Division.—J. T. Forster, Burnhope Colliery.

Esh Division.—Lieut-Col. E. Leadbitter Smith, J.P., Flass Hall.

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Tanfield Division.—W. H. Patterson, Durham.

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LEADGATE—1st and 3rd Monday in each Month—9 to 10 a.m. at 119, Front Street.
MEDOMSLEY " " 11 to 12 noon, at Royal Oak Hotel.
WESTWOOD COLLIERY " " 12-30 to 1-30 p.m., at 43.
EBCHESTER HILL " " 2 to 3 p.m. at Station Hotel.
CASTLESIDE " Tuesday " 9-30 to 10-30 a.m., at Smelters' Arms.
CONSETT—Every Tuesday, from 6 to 8 p.m., at Local Board Offices.
Do. Every Friday, " 12-30 to 2-30 p.m.
BLACKHILL—Every Tuesday, from 12-30 to 2-30 p.m.
Do. Every Thursday, from 12-30 to 2-30 p.m. } Registrar's Office, 2, St. Aidan's Street, Blackhill.
Do. Every Friday, from 9-30 to 11-30 a.m.

PLACES AND TIMES IN LANCHESTER SUB-DISTRICT.

Mr. GEORGE BUCKHAM, Registrar. Office—Lanchester.

LANCHESTER—Every Monday, from 4 to 6 p.m., at Registrar's House, Lanchester.
Do. Every Wednesday, " " "
Do. Every Friday, from 5 to 7 p.m. " " "
LANGLEY PARK—1st and 3rd Monday in each Month, 8 to 9 a.m., at Reading Room.
HILL TOP—1st and 3rd Monday in each Month, 9-30 to 10-30 a.m., at Mr. Oiston's Shop.
QUEBEC—1st and 3rd Monday in each Month, 11-30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Hamsteels Col. Inn.
ANNFIELD PLAIN—1st and 3rd Wednesday in Month, 9-30 to 10-30 a.m., at Y. M. C. A.
SOUTH MOOR—1st and 3rd Wednesday in each Month, 11 to 12 noon, at Mrs. Gray's.
SATLEY—2nd Thursday in each Month, 9 to 10 a.m., at Mr. Buckham's, Satley.
EAST HEDLEYHOPE—2nd & 4th Thursday in Month, 11-30 to 1 p.m., Dearness V Hotel.
COWSLEY COTTAGES—2nd and 4th Thursday in Month, 2 to 3 p.m., Moor Cock Inn.

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Elected Guardians—Benfieldside—Richard Murray, Benfieldside House, and Joshua Lax, Shotley Bridge. Collierley and Pontop—J. A. Curry, Bradley Lodge, and William Rutherford, Catchgate. Conside and Knitsley—John Collinson, Consett, Wm. Aynsley, Consett, and J. Calvert, Consett. Cornsay—Rev. Charles Gillow, Ushaw College. Ebchester—C. D. W. Balleny, St. Ebba's, Ebchester. Esh—Rev. C. F. D. Hodge, Esh, and Rev. P. C. Fortin, St. Mary's, Newhouse, Waterhouses. Greencroft—R. Mitchinson, Catchgate. Healeyfield—T. J. Muse, Castleside. Hedleyhope—Thomas Taylor-Smith, 66, Grey Street, Newcastle. Iveston—T. S. Longstaff, Leadgate, and Luke Nicholson, Leadgate. Kyo—T. W. Asquith, Harperley, and G. Hobson, Harperley Mills. Lanchester—W. Gray, Burnhope, and John Wilkinson, New Acres. Langley—William Logan, Langley Park. Medomsley—Rev. W. Cockin, Medomsley, and W. H. Hedley, Manor House, Medomsley. Muggleswick—Robert Robson, Castleside. Satley—T. Nichol, Satley. Tanfield—J. Watson, Stanley, N. Clark, Beamish Park, Chester-le-Street, T. Pringle, Tanfield Lea, W. J. Handcock, Barcus Close.

Ex-Officio Guardians.—Rev. J. P. DePledge, Satley; W. Jenkins, Esq., Consett Hall; James Annandale, Esq., Shotley Bridge; Geo. G. Taylor-Smith, Esq., Colepike Hall; Lieut.-Col. Leadbitter-Smith, Flass Hall; U. A. Ritson, Esq., 15, Queen Street, Newcastle; W. B. Van Haansbergen, Esq., Woodlands Hall; H. W. Watson, Esq., Burnopfield; F. Priestman, Esq., Shotley Bridge.

Board Meetings will be held at Lanchester on every other Thursday, at eleven o'clock. Chairman—William Logan, Esq.; First Vice-Chairman, J. Wilkinson, Esq.; Second Vice-Chairman, George Hobson, Esq.

Relieving Officers.—Western District—John Moon, Cemetery Road, Blackhill. Stations for Paying and for Receiving Applications for Relief—Friday following the Guardians Meeting: Consett, 9-30 a.m.; Leadgate, 11 a.m.; Shotley Bridge, 1-30 p.m.; Blackhill, 4 p.m, Saturday following: Medomsley, 8-45 a.m.; Ebchester, 10 a.m.; Castleside, 12-30 p.m.

For Eastern and Southern Districts—Ralph Walton, Lanchester. Stations for Paying and for Receiving Applications for Relief—Thursday, Board Day: Lanchester, 4 p.m. Friday following: Burnhope Colliery, 11 a.m.; Stanley, 12-30 p.m.; Annfield Plain, 2-30 p.m. Monday following: Lintz Colliery, 1 p.m.; Tantobie, 2 p.m.; Dipton, 3 p.m. Tuesday following: Cornsay Colliery, 11 p.m.; Quebec, 12 noon; Hill Top, 1 p.m.; Langley Park, 1-30 p.m.

Officers.—Workhouse: Master, W. Brotherhood; Matron, M. Brotherhood; Nurse, E. Richardson; Medical Officer, J. Wilson; Chaplain, Rev. F. W. Glyn; Clerk, W. H. Ritson. Medical Officers—J. Wilson, Lanchester District; W. T. Bolton, Medomsley District; T. Benson, Tanfield District. Public Vaccinators—J. Wilson, Lanchester; W. T. Bolton, Medomsley; Geo. Renton, Benfieldside; T. Benson, Tanfield.

Rural Sanitary Authority.—All Justices of the Peace residing in the district of the Authority, and all elected Guardians, with the exception of those for the Parish of Iveston, are members of this Board.

Lanchester Joint Hospital Board.—Caretaker and Nurse: J. and Mrs Stephenson.

CHESTER-LE-STREET BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

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Chester-le-Street Rural Sanitary Authority.—Chairman, George Ridley; Vice-Chairman, John Kirkup and John Hodgson; with the remainder of the Guardians as Members. Clerk—Robert Dickinson. Medical Officer of Health—Dr. David Duncan. Sanitary Inspector—Thomas Barras. Meetings at the same place and on the same days as the Guardians' meeting.

WEARDALE BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

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HANDBILLS delivered at 2s 6d per 1,000; BILL-POSTING 1d per Sheet, kept good for One Month in the district, which comprises Lanchester, Burnhope, Craghead, Pit Hill, West Stanley, Tanfield, Burnopfield, Hobson, Tantobie, Catchgate, Dipton East Castle, &c.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE & CONSETT DISTRICT GAS COMPANY

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

N. ELSDON,

MANUFACTURER OF HIGH-CLASS MINERAL WATERS.
(SEE ANALYTICAL REPORT.)
BOTTLER OF DUBLIN STOUT & BASS'S PALE ALE, &c.
NOTE THE ADDRESS:
DELVES LANE, CONSETT.
ALL ORDERS PUNCTUALLY ATTENDED TO. 280c

OVERCOATINGS AND WINTER SUITINGS.

COMPLETE AND WELL SELECTED STOCK.

J. BRODIE,

FRONT STREET,
SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

A BIG DIVIDEND.

THE GREATEST DISPLAY OF TWEEDS & WORSTED PATTERNS in the North of England. See Windows.

OVERCOATS.
My Leading Overcoat, 35s. Scotch and Irish Tweed Suits, £2 5s., splendid value. Special Fancy Worsted Trousers, 12s. 6d., unequalled. Black Worsted Suits, £2 15s., at desperate prices.

3s 6d. IS SAVED IN THE POUND BY BUYING YOUR SUITS AT J. HUTCHINSON'S, FOR CASH ONLY.
London Fashions Weekly.

J. HUTCHINSON,

MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT.

DOBSON GRADON,

WATCH AND CLOCKMAKER,

JEWELLER, SILVERSMITH, & OPTICIAN.

HIGHEST QUALITY ENGLISH LEVER WATCHES, £3 6s. 0d.

OPTICS A SPECIALITY.—EVERY DEFECT OF VISION ACCURATELY TESTED AND CORRECTED.

WATCHMAKER TO THE TRADE.

165c WHOLESALE AND RETAIL

Business Announcements.

SEND TO THE POST OFFICE

AND buy an Order for One Pound, made Payable to WILLIAM STEWART AND SON, and you will receive in return, Carriage Paid to any Railway Station or Carrier, 10lbs. of the Cheapest TEA in England, or 5lbs. of INDIAN TEA, the Finest Tea in the World. Should it be your pleasure, we can forward Half of each kind as you may direct.

WILLIAM STEWART & SON,

32, GRAININGER STREET, AND SOUTHWOOD ROAD, NEWCASTLE; 8, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD; & CORNER OF FREDERICK ROAD, HIGH STREET, SUNDERLAND.

MARBLE AND WOOD CHIMNEY PIECES.

KITCHEN RANGES

(Over 40 Sizes up to Select from),
STOVES OF EVERY KIND.

DINNING AND COOKE,

HOT WATER ENGINEERS, IRONFOUNDERS, &c.,
PERCY IRONWORKS, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
SHOW ROOMS, 91, 93, AND 95, PERCY STREET.

CHRISTMAS, 1890.

GEORGE RICHARDSON

HAS much Pleasure in announcing that his STOCK is now replete with New FANCY GOODS suitable for CHRISTMAS PRESENTS, including Fancy Dress Aprons in French Voile, Washing Silks, and other New Materials, Silk Handkerchiefs and Neckerchiefs, Wool Squares and Evening Wraps, in New Shades. Great variety of Gloves in all makes for Winter wear, and Silks for Evening wear. Large Stocks of Flannels, Shirtings, and Dress Materials, together with a well-assorted Stock in all Departments.
DRESSMAKERS, MILLINERS, AND TAILORS KEPT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT.
INSPECTION RESPECTFULLY INVITED.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.
CHRISTMAS, 1890. 524d

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S SPECIALITIES.

ROBERT WILLEY,

MOUNT PLEASANT,
CONSETT

BEGS to inform the inhabitants of Consett and District that he has on hand a Large Quantity of Goods specially selected for the FESTIVE SEASON, including
DUTCH, EDAM, AMERICAN, CHESHIRE, GLOSTER, STILTON, & GORGONZOLA CHEESES, TINNED RABBIT, TONGUE, SALMON; MINCED COLLOPS, APRICOTS, TOMATOES, &c.
Also, a Fine Selection of TEAS, BISCUITS, BRITISH WINES. WINE ESSENCE—All kinds.
BOTTLED ALE and STOUT, 9 Gallon Casks.
MILD and BITTER ALE. Best Quality only.
COUNTRY ORDERS PUNCTUALLY ATTENDED TO.

NOTE THE ADDRESS:

R. WILLEY,

GROCER, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT.

XMAS.

T. D. DRYDEN & CO.

Call and see their STOCK OF WELL-SELECTED
FRUIT, BACON, FRUIT LOAVES.
CHEESE, HAMS, SEED LOAVES.
BISCUITS. TINNED GOODS. RICE LOAVES.
And a Splendid Selection of Fancy Goods for the Festive Season.

OUR WINES AND SPIRITS

Are the Finest Quality to be had, and the Prices defy competition. Price Lists on application. We buy direct, and bottle ourselves, therefore the Public can rely on receiving the BEST VALUE FOR THEIR MONEY.

NOTE THE ADDRESS—

T. D. DRYDEN & CO.,

WHOLESALE & RETAIL GROCERS and PROVISION DEALERS, AND WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH

AT HALF THE PRICE USUALLY CHARGED.

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND DENTAL CO.

ATTENDANCE EVERY MONDAY, FROM ONE TO SIX P.M.
CONSULTATIONS FREE,

13, FRONT STREET,
OVER J. COCKBURN'S, STATIONER,
CONSETT.

ALL OUR CELEBRATED TEAS REDUCED 2d. PER LB.
TEA. TEA. TEA. PHŒNIX BRAND.
ABSOLUTELY PURE COLONIAL TEA AS IMPORTED.

JOHN HUME & SON,

BAKERS AND MILLERS, TEA AND TOBACCO MERCHANTS,
8, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,

Having recently added the Tea Trade to their Business as Consett for the benefit of their numerous Customers, offer the above Brand—the best and Cheapest Tea in the Market—by it.
"SURE" CEYLON TEA, at 1s. 10d. per lb.
PHŒNIX "ABSOLUTELY PURE" BLENDED TEAS, at 2s. 4d. per lb.
GOLDEN TIP "PURE" INDIAN TEA, at 2s. 10d. per lb. Usually sold at 3s. 6d

TOBACCO.
ROBERT SINCLAIR'S GOLDEN TWIST AND ROUGH CUT, 2d. PER OZ.
Flour & Feeding Stuffs of every description delivered to any part of the District at the lowest possible prices.
Sole Makers of the Celebrated "Optimus" Home Mixture and "Germ Meal." 885b
ALL ORDERS PUNCTUALLY ATTENDED TO.

ESTABLISHED 1817

GEORGE HOBSON,

HARPERLEY & CATCHGATE STEAM & WATER CORN & SAW MILLS.
MILLER, CORN MERCHANT, AND SEEDSMAN.

NOTED
FOR THE BEST AND CLEANEST HORSE FEED.
WHOLE OATS, CRUSHED OATS, SPLIT BEANS, PEAS, AND MAIZE.
MIXED WITH OATS AS REQUIRED, OR SOLD SEPARATE. ALL THOROUGHLY CLEANED BY NEW & IMPROVED MACHINERY.
G. H. KEEPS A LARGE STOCK OF FLOUR.
ALL THE LEADING BRANDS OF FINES, SUPERFINES, EXTRA SUPERFINES, AND HUNGARIAN.
TRY G. H'S PURE WHITE WHEAT MEAL, MANUFACTURED BY HIMSELF, AND CANNOT BE EXCELLED.
LINSEED AND COTTON CAKES, BEST QUALITY, WHOLE AND BROKEN, FINEST.
LINSEED, &c.
Boxings, Sharps, Bran, and all Kinds of Feeding Stuffs at the Lowest Market Prices.
G. H.'S CALF MEAL IS NOW WELL-KNOWN—REARS CALVES WITHOUT MILK.

Dealer in Agricultural Implements of all Kinds, including the Special Mower and Reaper, Sole Agent of the North for the McCormick Self-Binding Reapers and Steel Mowers, the Bullard Tedder, Tiger Horse Rake, &c. The best and lightest Draught Machines in the Market. Broadcast-Hand Seed Sowers, &c.

NOTE ADDRESS:—GEORGE HOBSON, HARPERLEY MILLS, LOWN GREEN, R.S.O.

Business Announcements.

W. T. SMITH,

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

RESPECTFULLY begs to inform the inhabitants of Consett and surrounding District that he will be in Consett as usual at MR F. JUNES'S, No 1, MOUNT PLEASANT, every Monday, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., where he will be pleased to receive as many patients as can make it convenient.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH inserted with all the latest American inventions and improvements. They are retained in the mouth by suction (an American invention) without the aid of Springs, Wires, or Clasps of any description, which so often destroy the remaining natural teeth. The mouth is prepared to receive the Artificial Teeth on the American principle, absolutely different from the English, and no cause is permitted to remain which can in any way produce Neuralgia or affect the eye and ear. As diseased teeth and roots are the principal causes of the various ailments of these most valuable organs, the removal of all decaying matter in the mouth, as well as the absence of teeth, is more than half the cause of all the diseases that humanity is afflicted with. In America no Surgeon pretends to treat the eye or the ear without first having the patient's teeth examined by a dental Surgeon, and if any found decayed they are either stopped or extracted as found necessary. In almost every instance, where patients have very badly-decayed teeth, they suffer severely from Dyspepsia. When the mouth is thoroughly cleared of the poisonous matter (preparatory for an Artificial Set) many have been thoroughly cured of Dyspepsia and many other diseases even before receiving the Artificia Set. It is therefore easy to understand that the system of leaving all the roots in and placing an Artificial Set over them is very erroneous and injurious to the health. No one should permit the Self-styled Dentists to operate upon them that would give such advice, as that is sufficient evidence that he is not properly qualified for a Dental Surgeon, as the pain of cutting them off is far greater than extraction, as they can be taken out without the least pain by a new system, and without the loss of consciousness.

BRADY & MARTIN, Scientific Instrument Makers SPECTACLES.—Best Glass, from 2s. 6d.; Pebbles from 5s. 6d.
OPERA GLASSES, MICROSCOPES.
Price Lists on application.
27, 29, and 31, MOSLEY STREET, NEWCASTLE ON-TYNE. 141d

WM. RAW, AUCTIONEER & VALUER, Land, House, Insurance, and Emigration Agent, Share Broker, &c. Intending Emigrants can be Booked in the finest Ships to America and all our Colonies. Valuations and Auction Sales of Agricultural Stock, Contractors' Plant, Household Furniture, &c., will be conducted with ability and care on Reasonable Terms and prompt payments by
WM. RAW, AUCTIONEER, BLACKHILL.

JAMES PALLISER,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TEA DEALER.
GROCER AND PROVISION MERCHANT.
FOUNDRY ROW, BLACKHILL.
SPLENDID TEA 2s 8d, 1s 10d, 2s, AND 2s 4d.

MUSIC.

THE MISSES HARKER, BLACKHILL, TEACHERS of PIANOFORTE & VIOLIN. Pupils Trained for Theoretical and Practical Examinations. Violins, Violin Cases, Bows and Strings from Best Makers, on most Reasonable Terms.
TUTORS, SHEET MUSIC, &c., obtained on the Shortest Notice. 67c

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS NOTICE.

The Inhabitants of Blackhill, Shotley Bridge, Benfieldside, Ebchester, and surrounding Districts are respectfully informed that

WILLIAM AYNSLEY,

MIDDLE ST., CONSETT, FRONT ST., LEADGATE, WEST STANLEY, AND BLACKHILL,

THE LARGEST GROCER, PROVISION DEALER, WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT IN THE DISTRICT,

WILL OPEN HIS LARGE AND EXTENSIVE PREMISES AT BLACKHILL, ON DECEMBER 19th, 1890,

WITH A LARGE AND VERY SUPERIOR

STOCK OF GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS

Of his noted qualities, which he will sell at the lowest possible prices. Buying in great quantities, at the best markets, he can undertake to supply his Customers and the General Public with his New and Choice Assortment of Provisions of every description for the coming Festive Season.

All Orders by Post carefully attended to, and in buying your Groceries and Provisions at my Establishments, you may always rely upon being well served, and receiving the best value for your money.

My Price Lists, which can be had on application, should be kept by my Customers for reference, as by so doing I am confident they will often effect a great saving.

GOODS DELIVERED DAILY TO ANY PART OF THE DISTRICT.

LEADGATE BRANCH.

I have added another Shop (lately occupied by Mr. Davison) to this Branch, which is stocked with one of the Largest and Best Assortments of BOOTS and SHOES of every description in the District. A splendid supply of Boots, Slippers, Shoes, Ladies' and Children's Boots and Slippers, Fancy Slippers for the coming Season, Men's Work Boots, Pit Shoes; also, Leather and Nails of various kinds. A good supply of Hardware kept.

SPECIAL FEATURES.

Excellent Sugar.	Orange Peel	Metz Fruits
Finest Loaf Sugar	Very Large Nutmegs	Chocolate, in Boxes
Banquet Sugar	Pure Cassia	Do. Finest Quality
Splendid Currants	Mace	Peaches, Apricots, in Glass Bottles
Splendid Raisins	Cinnamon	and Tins.
Splendid Sultanas	Splendid Muscatels	Pine Apples
Lemon Peel	Almonds	C and B Soups
Citron Peel	Figs, Prunes	Hare, Ox Tail
Kidney, in Tins	Cocoas and Blackwell's Pickles	Sweets of all Kinds.

ROWNTLEES CHOCOLATES in Fancy Boxes of every description.
JAMS AND JELLIES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
Packets of Snow Flour, Sultanas, Cocoa Nut, Rice, Table Jellies, Custard Powders, Bottled Table Jellies.

TINNED MEATS.

Roast Beef.	Corned Beef.	Rabbit.	Chicken.	Ham and Tongue.	Sardines. Tomatoes.
			Lunch Tongue.	Salmon and Lobster.	

HUNTLEY AND PALMER'S BISCUITS & LOAVES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
Christmas Biscuits in Fancy Tins, from 6d.

CAKES! CAKES!! CAKES!!!
SPLENDID FRUIT LOAVES, ALMOND CAKES, ORNAMENTED BRISTOL CAKES, SNOW CAKES, RICE CAKES, AND ICED CAKES.
Also very Fine Cakes of all kinds from 6d. each. Plain Gingerbread Cakes from 3d. each.

JOHN STEPHENS AND SONS JAMS.

2lbs. Jars Raspberry	9d. each.	1lb. Jar Raspberry	5d. each.
2lbs. Jars Strawberry	9½d. "	1lb. Jar Strawberry	5½d "
2lbs. Black Currant	9d. "	1lb. Jar Black Currants	5d. "

THE MAZAWATTEE IS THE TEA OF THE DAY.
The rapid growth in the demand for these Mazawattee Blends is wholly without parallel in the History of the Tea Trade. Established rather more than three years, the outturn of these Teas is about 8 Million Packets. Yearly, which can be had of people to drink rubbish themselves, or to give their friends such a wretched apology for Tea. The two higher qualities, 2s 10d and 2s 4d, are composed entirely of Ceylon Tea. The 1s 10d is blended with Indian, which supply the briskness and pungency that are lacking in other Teas. Consequent on the Reduction of the Tea Duty, the above prices were Reduced 2d per lb, and are now 1s 10d, 2s 4d, 2s 10d.

WM. AYNSLEY'S OLD-FASHIONED BLEND OF TEA

The unparallelled success which this Tea has attained is now well-known, and the thorough appreciation in which it is held by all who have given it a trial, cannot fail to convince the greatest connoisseur of its worth and genuineness. Sold at 3s per lb.
A BLENDED TEA OF EXCELLENT QUALITY, 1s 8d, 1s 4d, or 1s per lb.

COFFEE AND COCOA.
Finest Plantation Coffee. Fresh Ground Coffee. Franks', in 2lb. and 1lb Tins. Sharp's French.
Symington's Bottled. Cocoas—Fry's, Epps', Cadbury's, Van Houten's, Cocoatina.

PROVISIONS.

Extra Choice Butter, finest produced	Finest Hams
Choice Danish Butter	Finest Ped Bacon
Finest Butterine	Irish Roll
Bladder Lard	American Roll
Kit Lard	American Shoulders
Cambridge Sausage	German Sausage

A SPLENDID STOCK OF CHEESE, INCLUDING GORGONZOLA, STILTON, CHESHIRE, GLOSTER, DERBY, AMERICAN, AND EDAM.

FLOUR.	FLOUR.
Finest Hungarian Flour	Crushed Oats and Beans
Extra Whites	Indian Meal
Superfine Fines	Rough Barley, Boxings
Wheat Meal, Whole Meal, Hindhaugh's	Bran

ALES AND STOUT.

For Invalids and others it is essential that Bottled Ales and Stout should be PURE, RIPE, and in good condition, we therefore guarantee the quality of all our Bottlings enumerated below—

ALE AND STOUT.			OUR OWN BOTTLING.		
Bass's Pale Ale—Gills	2s 6d per dozen		Nimmo's Ale—Gills		1s 10d per dozen
Pints	3s 6d	"	Pints	2s 10d	"
Guinness's Stout—Gills	2s 0d	"	Stout—Gills	2s 10d	"
Pints	3s 0d	"	Pints	3s 10d	"

MILD and BITTER ALE, 6 Gallon Casks, 7s 6d; 9 Gallons, 10s 6d, and 12s 6d.
BASS'S BURTON MILD, 18 Gallon Casks, 21s.
BRITISH WINES, 1s. per Bottle. GINGER PORT. RASPBERRY. ORANGE.

SPECIAL WINES FOR INVALIDS.

Invalid Port	2s 6d per bottle	Tintara	2s 1d per bottle
Castle J Port (40 years old)	4s 6d "	Pearson's Liebig's Beef Wine	2s 2d "
Castle I Sherry (11 years old	3s 6d "	Coleman's Liebig's Extract of Meats and Malt Wine	2s "
AUSTRALIAN WINES.		Rough Barley and Malt Wine	2s 3d "
Emu Brand Burgundy	2s 0d per bottle	Glendinning's Liebig's Extract of Beef and Malt Wine	2s 3d "
" " Flask	6d per flask	Tonic Port Wine—(Malt and Meat)—3s and 1s 6d per bottle.	

NOTE THE ADDRESS:—

WILLIAM AYNSLEY,

GROCER AND PROVISION DEALER, WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT,
CONSETT, LEADGATE, WEST STANLEY, AND BLACKHILL.

Correspondence.

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

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

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

BURNOPFIELD POLLING DISTRICT.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—Will your correspondent ("A Resident") kindly define as clearly as he can, through the *Consett Guardian*, what are the Liberal principles of which he speaks, and a possession of which by his neighbours is causing him some anxiety? He speaks of an opposite party without defining its principles, yet he seems to object to those principles receiving support at the poll. Will he give us a contrast of principles as a guide for thought and judgment?

The *Guardian* may be the medium of instruction on political principles referred to, and an explanation thereof reach more by writing than by public meetings. Nothing can be of more importance than to give extensive knowledge of the great principles which ought to govern the state of the United Kingdom. "A Resident" seems to desire an organisation purposely to bring pressure upon the electorate. This system of organisation is to much abused on all sides in the political world. It often leads to indirect coercion and prosecution, also a violation of the spirit of the Ballot Act, which is supposed to assure secret voting. I think it is criminal to leave voters in ignorance of the great principles which should underlie and secure the peace and prosperity of the state. The platform is a medium, but the press is the mighty engine issuing forth streams of useful knowledge which giveth breadth of mind, depth of patriotic and benevolent feeling, knits hearts together, and makes society and the world much better. I have read "A Resident's" letter with some interest, and hope to see more from his pen next week. Then, perhaps, I may be able to help him in giving assistance to those Liberals who are determined to uphold the union of the kingdoms and the prosperity of the British Empire, which is built upon the eternal Conservative principles of wisdom, truth, and justice.—Yours &c., JOHN PYLE.

Pelton Fell, Dec. 16th, 1890.

THE UNJUST ATTACK UPON THE CHURCH CONGRESS AND THE BISHOP OF DURHAM BY MR ATHERLEY-JONES, M.P.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—Your correspondent "Dissenter" has not read the letters under the above heading very carefully.

They did not contain one word against any Nonconformist denomination. It would have been more becoming for him to have expressed his regret for the unprovoked attack upon the Church of England calculated to do her much injury as a spiritual institution. I cannot understand the silence of the local Liberals about this matter. I do not see why your correspondent mentions my name in his letter, and as he does not give his own, it is not really necessary for me to notice his remarks, but as I was appointed seven years ago at the Rural Deanery Conference, held at Whickham, honorary secretary for Church Defence for the district. I may venture to state—

(1)—The Church of England is older than the Kingdom of England, and therefore it is more correct to say that the Church established the State than that the State established the Church.

(2)—That the bishops should have seats in the Parliament principally founded by them is not surprising. It may be considered a slight mark of gratitude for Magna Charta, the great Charter of our liberties, which we mainly owe to Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury.

(3)—It is the proud boast of Englishmen that in spite of the opposition of both Pope and King Magna Charta has never been repealed, and the first clause runs thus—"We have granted to God, and by this our present charter, have confirmed for us and our heirs for ever that the Church of England shall be free, and shall have her whole rights and liberties inviolable." An impartial witness, the well-known Wesleyan, Dr Rigg, states that the Church of England does not derive a farthing of revenue from public taxation. Any scheme of disendowment must therefore, it seems, involve the repeal of the first clause of the Great Charter.

(4)—It is true that at present all religious bodies are subject to Parliament. I am informed that it will probably be necessary to obtain an Act of Parliament to allow Wesleyan Methodist ministers to remain for more than three years in the same circuit, as it was some time ago necessary to obtain an Act of Parliament to allow the Irish Primitive Methodists to join the Wesleyans. Should a Wesleyan minister be at the same time a priest of the Church of England, he could, I am informed, remain all his life in the same circuit, according to an old rule of the Wesleyan Conference. If this be so, it is one of many evidences of the fact that the early Methodists had no idea of leaving the Church of their forefathers.

(5)—The Crown, through the Prime Minister, can only nominate a priest, over thirty years of age, and of a reputation for learning, and good character, to a vacant bishopric. The State cannot command a bishop to ordain any individual either as deacon or priest, and in appointing to a bishopric, several opportunities are given, at the election by the dean and chapter, the confirmation by the bishops of the province, and at the consecration by the archbishop and his suffragans, for calling in question the claims of the priest nominated. No Prime Minister would like to brave popular opinion by an unworthy appointment, and we have great reason to be proud of our bishops.

The church is quite strong enough to notice a change in this matter, but the present system has been in use for over six hundred years, and has worked well on the whole.

(6)—The State frequently calls Church of England places of worship chapels. Surely your correspondent must have heard of the chapels belonging the Queen, and of the numerous chapels at Oxford and Cambridge. Kings College chapel, at Cambridge, is one of the finest buildings belonging to the Church of England. Has he never heard of the Chapel of Ease?

(7)—If I lived in Spain, being unable to receive the Creed of Pope Pius the Fourth I should be a dissenter, and should not dream of thinking it a hardship to be so named, and should the Church of England ever receive that Creed, or the Westminster Confession, I suppose most churchmen would have to become dissenters in England.

My fellow churchmen in Scotland are reckoned as dissenters, although they belong to the ancient Church of Scotland; but I have never heard of any Scotch churchmen advocating the Disestablishment of the present Established Church on that ground, although it possesses the property which used until two hundred years ago to belong to the Episcopalian Church.—I remain, sir, yours truly,

GEO. H. ROSS-LEWIN.

Dec. 20th, 1890.

P.S.—Should your correspondent desire proof of the fact that no denomination which has a foot of land or a stone of a building can be really free from the control of parliament, let him read "The dead hand in the free churches of dissent," by Rev T. Moore (Walter Smith and Innes, London).

IN HUNGRIEST WEARDALE AND THE WAY TO THE LARDER.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—As a dalesman, I take a great interest in Weardale affairs, and feel shocked at the abject poverty which seems to prevail there at the present time. The idea of anyone living, or rather existing, on 30s per month and attempting to bring up a family upon it is almost incredible. The blackest Hottentot in this country would tilt up his nose in disdain at the bare offer of such wages. From my recollection of the dale there is no lack of sympathy and mutual help amongst the people of Weardale. There are sick clubs, burial clubs, and, if my memory does not play me false, I have even heard of a cow club. Now it is all very well to assist in "happing up" your friends and relations when they are dead, but to my mind the more practical method would be to assist them to live, and it is with this view that I venture to suggest to you a scheme, the adoption of which would tend to that effect. Let some of the leading dalesmen meet together, say at St. John's Chapel, and form an Emigration Club. A small sum could be deducted from each man's weekly wages, and richer men in the dale would, I am sure, gladly contribute larger sums to that same end. Taking in that part of the dale from Lanehead to Westgate, which is, if I recollect, the leadmining centre, this ought to bring up a respectable sum each year. A certain number of young men then having expressed a desire to emigrate could be ballotted for, and by this means twenty or thirty, or even fifty, young men could yearly be sent out to one of the colonies, where with the same amount of energy they could easily make more than 30s per month. Of course, the authorities of the club would put themselves in communication with the agents-general of the several colonies and endeavour to get the best terms they could as to passage money, apportionment of lands, &c., &c. The present owners of the lead-mines cannot any more than Mr Beaumont be expected to work mines on purely philanthropic principles, and should the limestone quarries lower down the dale ever show any signs of having to be worked at a loss, the owners of them, being business men, would very quickly close them up. It is idle to expect that a Weardale railway will ever resuscitate the trade of the dale when ten or twelve galloway carts can easily carry away daily all the lead and iron ore found there. Railway directors are business men, too. The attachment of the Weardalian to his native valley is very strong, and is worthy of all commendation; but when it only provides him with a starving instead of a living he may well begin to think that in spite of his beloved fogs and sleet, his grey stone walls and his miry roads, it may with advantage be exchanged for a land where there are sunshine and plenty, where he may earn a decent living by his labour, and where his children will have the opportunity of fitting themselves for any position in society to which their integrity and intelligence may fit them. The scheme I have drawn up is of course merely a rough draft, which could, I am certain, by energetic and intelligent handling, be worked out so as to effect great practical good. Not only would it benefit those who were lucky enough to be drawn as emigrants, but by relieving the congestion it would benefit those left behind, so that all could freely contribute towards it. Knowing the practical nature of the Weardalians, I confidently leave the scheme in their hands to be worked out to a successful issue.

SPES BONA.

Trade Notes.

PROSPECTIVE "HAPPY NEW YEAR" FOR THE DURHAM MINERS.

On Monday, the Durham miners, who commence their first pay of the New Year, will start work under more favourable and prosperous conditions than they have done for many years past. Not only do the new arrangements in connection with the ten hours' movement come into force, but the last advance of five per cent. in their wages would also take effect. This last advance brings up the total increase of wages granted to the men since trade revived to no less than 35 per cent., or 7s in the pound. Besides this substantial improvement in thier position, the new hours' arrangement will place all classes of colliery workmen on a uniform and better understanding, for, according to the circular on the hours' question, it is distinctly and positively understood that the standard wages will in the future be based on the ten hours award, and that there will be only one average regulating the wages of all men employed about a pit, instead of several, as hitherto. Taken altogether, it may be doubted whether the miners of Durham have ever before entered on a new year under more prosperous circumstances. What will be more interesting to the general public is the assurance we may safely venture to give that this happy condition of affairs is likely to be maintained for a time at least. Throughout the whole country there is no indication whatever of any further agitation for increased wages, and the miners are apparently content with their position. On the other hand, the market prices of coal remains stationary, and there is little fear of any reduction being claimed at present. That at Silksworth excepted, there is no dispute of any moment on the *tapis*, and there is reasonable ground for anticipating a continuance of the present steady condition of the main industry of Durham county. It is but fair to mention that both the important concessions lately granted to the Durham miners and referred to above have been obtained since Mr W. H. Patterson succeeded to the secretaryship of the Durham Miners Association, and are, in a very great measure, due to the excellent tact and management of that gentleman in conducting the affairs of the large and powerful organisation of which he is now the head.

DURHAM MINERS' HOURS.

AWARD OF THE UMPIRE.

By an agreement between the Durham Miners' Association and the Durham Coalowners' Association the question of whether the coal drawing hours of doubt-shift pits should be 19 or 20 hours per day was left to the decision of Mr J. R. D. Lynn, chairman of the Northumberland Joint Committee and coroner for South Northumberland. Mr Hall and Mr Parrington represented the owners, and Mr Foreman and Mr Patterson the men. The umpire has just published his award, which is as follows:—

DETAILS OF TEN HOURS' SETTLEMENT.

(*a*) That the change shall not take place till the first pay in January next, viz., Dec. 29th, 1890, and Jan. 5th, 1891.

(*b*) That in all cases in which the working hours are reduced, there shall be proportionate reduction of wages.

(*c*) That satisfactory arrangements shall be made between the committees of the two associations, each having full power to settle on the following points:—

DETAILS AT TO COAL-DRAWING TIME.

1.—In ten hours' pits:—

(*a*) Coal-drawing shall commence at such hour as may suit the arrangements at each colliery, and ten hours shall be reckoned from the time of the boys commencing to go down.

(*b*) On Saturdays the drawing hours shall be—Where the drawing hours are below nine, they shall remain as they are, but where they are nine or above, they shall be reduced on hour on each and every Saturday.

2.—In twenty hours' pits:—

(*a*) Coal-drawing shall commence at such hours as may suit the arrangements at each colliery, and shall continue for twenty hours, inclusive of changing the men and boys. The shifts shall be so arranged that the hewers' hours as agreed in No. 4 shall not be exceeded.

3.—Further provisions applying to all pits:—

The hours of all underground off-hand men and boys over 16 shall be ten down the pit, except on Saturdays, and those of rolleywaymen, onsetters, banksmen, screeners, and others directly employed in the output of coals shall be 10½ hours.

4.—Hewers' hours, &c.:—

The hewers to descend at such time not exceeding two hours before the commencement of coaldrawing, as may suit the circumstances of each colliery; and in the foreshift (and in the case of 20 hours' pits, the middle shift) to remain until changed by their marrows at the face, except in the case of flats a long distance in-bye, for which, and for all flats in the backshift (or in the case of 20 hours' pits, the last shift) a loosing time shall be fixed, which, allowing for travelling time at the rate of 25 minutes to the mile, will enable the last man to be at the shaft to ride in not exceeding seven hours from the time of the last man going down at the commencement of the shift.

It is understood that where hewers have height to make for the tub, the general practice shall be for this to be done at the beginning of the shift.

(*b*) Taking in Led Tubs—This to be left to each colliery to be arranged between the management and the workmen, or failing an agreement, to be left to the Joint Committee.

Deputies—That the deputies' hours to be 1½ from bank to bank, it being understood that, if required, they shall stay longer, and be paid an equivalent wage for overtime.

Generally—The customs and pratices at present existing other than the above, not to be interfered with in consequence of the agreement.

THE DURHAM COKEMEN IN COUNCIL.

The annual council meeting of the Durham County Cokemen's Association was held on Saturday in the Miners' Hall, Durham. Mr R. Hansom, of Crook, the president of the association, occupied the chair; and there was a full attendance of delegates, every lodge being represented.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The secretary (Mr Ernest Forster), in his report, congratulated the society on its prosperous condition. He referred to the satisfactory condition of trade, and went on to speak of the difficulty which had been encountered in settling a basis of work and wages with the owners. Alluding to the various conflicts which had occurred during the year between capital and labour, he instanced particularly that now in existence between the blastfurnacemen and ironmasters in Scotland, and showed the necessity of supporting the men, inasmuch as the two trades were closely allied, and the cause of the men was the cause of the cokemen.

Mr Forster was thanked for his report, which was adopted and ordered to be printed and circulated throughout the county.

SCOTCH BLASTFURNACEMEN.

The Council voted £50 from the general funds for the assistance of the Scotch blastfurnacemen, to be paid in fortnightly sums of £10 each.

WORK AND WAGES.

The recent vote on the basis of work and wages was considered, and, after a long and animated discussion, was referred to the executive committee.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers then took place, with the following results:—President, Mr R. Hansom, Crook (re-elected); secretary, Mr Ernest Forster, Durham (re-elected); treasurer, Mr David Mobbs, Durham (re-elected); committee, Messrs N. Long, Lambton; J. Pepper, Bearpark; J. McBride, Derwenthaugh; A. Bartlett, [illegible]; F. Robinson, Auckland Park; and T. Bovill, East Hedleyhope; auditors, Messrs J. Davison, Byers Green; and T. Duffy, Marley Hill.

THE FEDERATION BOARD.

The president, secretary, and treasurer were appointed to represent the association on the Federation Board.

ADDITIONAL TRUSTEES.

Two additional trustees, elected in accordance with the lately revised rules, are Messrs M. Fowler, Mayor of Durham, and Mr J. Hall, East Howle.

The remaining business was formal.

DURHAM COUNTY ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Durham County Colliery Engineers Association was held in the Shakespeare Hall, Durham, on Wednesday, Mr J. B. Charlton, of Brandon, occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance.

The CHAIRMAN said since the formation of the Association, 19 years ago, it had never been in such a good position, both as regard the number of members and financially.

Mr W. H. LAMBTON, the agent of the Society, then read the annual report, which stated that trade generally throughout the year had been of a satisfactory kind, and they were assured by the Press in their articles on trade that the present state of the coal, coke, and iron trades are very good, also the prospect for at least some months into 1891, except the iron trade, which is characterised as a little unsteady, and that prices may either rise or fall in the near future; experts in the trade are at variance on this point, and indicate the change in both directions. They thought the strike now pending in Scotland with the blastfurnacemen had something to do with the unsteady and uncertain state of the iron trade. They are nearing the periods when another 5 per cent. is to be added to their wages, viz., Dec. 29th and Jan. 3rd, 1891. Five per cent. may seem not to be much at first sight, but it represents a substantial addition to the wages in this county. It is usually stated that £80,000 is paid weekly for wages in the Durham coal trade, this being so, the five per cent. will again raise that amount by other £4,000, which must add to the existing comforts and requirements of our people. Before leaving this subject, we beg to state that this five per cent. was conceded by the owners, chiefly in recognition of the act that this was the first time the Board had met them with full powers to negotiate a settlement, and not because prices warranted the advance.—The report was agreed to unanimously.

The officers for the year were elected as follows:—President, Mr W. B. Charlton; treasurer, Mr J. Hindmarsh, Ouston; committee, Messrs William Brown, Bishop Auckland; and James Hutton, Willington; auditors, Messrs John Robson, Gateshead; and John Clayton, North Hetton.

A MODEL MINING VILLAGE—WATERHOUSES.

"If ever I was obliged to go back to work in the pits, I would choose Waterhouses. It's a paradise on earth compared to what the pit villiages were fifteen or twenty years ago." This high-sounding compliment, if verified, must needs throw some light on the question of miners' dwellings, which is at present attracting so much attention. The author of it is one of the large number of self educated Northern miners who have risen in life—a man who by industry and determination to succeed has obtained a responsible position in a large business concern in the district. In view of the agitation at present proceeding against the insanitary condition of some of the mining villages, a short description of the rise and progress of Waterhouses and Esh should be useful. If these villages are really so near perfection, the question will at once suggest itself, "Why is not Thornley or Haswell? Why are not all mining villages as good?" The details given at the mass meetings held at Wingate and Silkswork tell of a disgraceful state of things. Unfortunately the account is only too true. The condition of Waterhouses and Esh is

A PLEASING CONTRAST

to such a state of things. Waterhouses is situated about eight miles from Durham, and four from Crook in the Dearness Valley, a beautiful and well-wooded part of the county. It has a station on a branch line of the North-Eastern Railway, but at present only two trains run each way in the day. The inhabitants have, however, asked for more. Thirty years ago there was only one house on the spot, where now, including Esh, there is a population of about 9,000. The houses are nearly all built of white brick, and have a clean and substantial appearance. Some of them look more like villas than cottages. These are for the overmen and colliery officials, but though the outside is a little more imposing the internal accommodation is much the same. The wide area covered is especially noticeable, as the rows are placed at a considerable distance from one another, the intervening space being occupied by grassland and cultivated plots. Each cottage has a back and front door and contains four rooms, of which the kitchen (15ft by 12ft) is the largest, a pantry and coal-house, and has every other convenience. There is attached to it a garden 90ft by 15ft., with a henhouse and piggery, and each tenant has the right to an allotment about one-eighth of an acre in extent for growing potatoes, &c. Nearly all the occupants keep hens and a pig, and it used to be the fashion to keep a goat. "In fact," said one of the miners, "we'd have had

THREE ACRES AND A COW

if Chamberlain had only stuck to it." One naturally asks what is the rent for all this, and the answer is "Oh, we get it all for nothing, and coals are supplied free, too, except that we pay 6d a fortnight for 'leading.'" The water supply is good, and each house has a seperate tap. The Weardale and Shildon Water Board find the supply for Waterhouses and Esh, which is a mile further on, at a cost of 5d a fortnight. The system of draining, though simple, is satisfactory. A drain in the back lane, which is regularly flushed from hydrants or a pond close at hand, carries away the domestic refuse. There are three other points to be mentioned: one is that a considerable number of the houses in each village have seperate yards; the second, that where there are two-roomed houses the occupants are newly-married couples or old people; and the last, that they are, so far as can be judged, well furnished and extremely comfortable inside. The schools are commodious and well built, and will seat about 300 children, and each has a large field attached as a playground. They are British schools, being built by, and under the management of, the colliery owners. Plans have been passed for a new school at Esh to accommodate about 600 children, at a cost of £2,000. The weekly payments from each child is 3d, but where they are more than three in one family the fourth is admitted free. The teaching seems to be good, as the number of passes averages about 96 per cent. The Miners' Institutes are

A SPECIAL FEATURE.

On entering the building at Waterhouses the visitor finds himself in a spacious hall leading to the reading-room (nearly 40 feet long), class-room, and library. The library is evidently for use, and contains a permanent supply of books purchased from time to time by the committee, consisting of works on mining and scientific subjects, and the writings of such men as Hugh Miller, the learned mason, and Sir Walter Scott. Additional interest and variety are given by a number of books from the circulating library of the colliery owners. Very different this from the first miners' library so pathetically described at the presentation to Mr Weatherley, of Pelton Fell, at Newcastle, on Saturday last. In the night schools and science classes, which are well attended, instruction is giving on mining, mathematics, animal physiology, the steam engine, &c. The results of the teaching are very satisfactory, over £80 being obtained in Government grants at the two institutes during last year. The charge is 2s 6d for thirty lessons. There is a room for billiards, smoking, draughts, and other games, which must not be forgotten. It is large and comfortable, and well filled from morning to closing time, and is, if need be, an effective counter attraction to the public-house. It was remarked that as there is no need for public-houses, they do not exist, and this is almost literally true—a point worthy of the attention of social reformers. The management of the institute is vested in a committee, of which Mr J. G. Crofton, the general manager of the collieries, is president, and the charge per member is 2d a fortnight.

Messrs Pease and Partners, the owners of the Waterhouses and Esh collieries and villages, have by their farsightedness and generosity carried out a good work and set up a noble example.—*North-Eastern Daily Gazette.*

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

Football.

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

ASSOCIATION.

Sacriston beat Waldridge, at Sacriston, by five goals to one.

Newcastle St. Aidan's beat Mickley Juniors, at Mickley, by three goals to two.

West Wylam Harriers 2nd beat Whickham by five goals to two.

Mickley 2nd beat Newburn St. Michael's 2nd, at Newburn, by one goal to nil.

Consett Swifts and Consett White Stars played a draw of one goal each, on the former's ground, on Christmas Day.

Consett Fell Rangers defeated Blackhill St. Mary's Albion, on the ground of the former, by seven goals to none.

Allendale Cottages Juniors beat Derwent Cottages Ramblers' Juniors, at Medomsley, by seven goals to one.

TOW LAW V STANHOPE.—Played at Stanhope on Christmas Day, the visitors winning easily by nine goals to one.

TOW LAW V DARLINGTON N.E.R. ROVERS.—Played at Darlington, and ended in a victory for Tow Law by three goals to nil.

BLAYDON ALBION V NEWBURN ST. MICHAEL'S.—Played at Blaydon, and resulted in a win for Newburn by five goals to one.

ALLENDALE COTTAGES HEROES 2ND V BYER MOOR 2ND.—Played on the former's ground, and resulted in a draw.

CONSETT ALBION A V LEADGATE PARK RESERVE.—Played on the Park ground, and resulted in a victory for the Reserve by two goals to none.

BURNHOPE V STANLEY TEMPERANCE.—Played on the ground of the former, and after a good game resulted in a victory for the home team by four goals to one.

KIP HILL WANDERERS V WEST STANLEY ROVERS.—Played on the ground of the former, a capital game resulting in a victory for the home team by three goals to one.

DERWENT COTTAGES RAMBLERS V ALLENDALE COTTAGES HEROES 3RD.—Played on the ground of the former, and after a pleasant game the Ramblers were victorious by six goals to nil.

HELM PARK WANDERERS V BLACKHILL PARK.—Played on the ground of the latter, and after a good game the visitors won by three goals (two disputed) to nil.

CORNSAY ROVERS V ST. MICHAEL'S.—Played on the ground of the former, and after a well-contested game resulted in a win for the visitors by two goals to one.

HELM PARK WANDERERS V TOW LAW BLUES.—Played on the ground of the latter on Christmas Day, and resulted in a victory for the Wanderers by five goals to nil.

STANLEY TEMPERANCE 2ND V KIP HILL WANDERERS.—Played on the ground of the former, and ended in a win for the visitors by two goals to one. Cleminson and Joyce played a splendid game for the winners.

ESH EXCELSIORS V TOW LAW ALBION.—Played on the ground of the former, the home team winning by three goals to nothing. R. Lock, N. Rippon, and Bottoms displayed good form for the Excelsiors, who played a capital game.

CONSETT LEAGUE JUNIORS B V DIPTON JUNIORS.—This return match was played on the League ground, and after a fast and exciting game resulted in a draw of two goals each.

TANTOBIE V BYER MOOR.—Played at Tantobie on Christmas Day, and resulted in a win for the home team by five goals to nil. The winners played a good game, Brown, Watson, Beck, and Hall being very conspicuous.

MEDOMSLEY CHURCH CHOIR V FLINT HILL JUNIORS.—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in an easy victory for the home team by five goals to nil. Wells in goal and Ramsey at full back played well for the losers. All the home team played splendidly. Medomsley team:—Goal, R. Calvert; backs, T. Calvert and W. Frost; half-backs, T. Bell, H. Walton, and W. Hunter; forwards, J. Campbell and W. Hunter, right wing; Jos. Walton (capt.), centre; J. Robinson and W. Veitch, left wing.

BEARPARK ALBION V LANGLEY PARK II.—This game was played at Bearpark in two thirties. The home team kicked off, and after two minutes play one of the visitors forwards shot, and owing to some misunderstanding the home goalkeeper stood and let the ball go through, thus making the first goal for the visitors. After this the home team began to press, and poured in shot after shot, but only managed to score twice in the first half. After resuming, play was pretty even, Bearpark finally winning by three goals to two.

DERWENT COTTAGES RAMBLERS V HAT AND FEATHER SWIFTS.—Played on the ground of the latter, before a good number of spectators. The Swifts kicked off, and play was even till about five minutes after the start, when Snowdon managed to put the ball through the sticks for the Ramblers. Soon after the visitors again attacked the Swifts' goal, and scored No. 2. When half-time arrived the Ramblers were leading by three goals to nil. In the second half the visitors again had the best of matters, and the game ended as follows:—Derwent Cottages, seven goals; Hat and Feather Swifts, nil.

HEDLEYHOPE HARRIERS V CORNSAY ROVERS 2ND.—This return match was played on the ground of the former. In the previous match the Harriers were victorious by two goals to nil, and they were successful again on Saturday, winning by six goals to none. The following comprised the Hedleyhope team:—Goal, B. Hind; backs, T. Morgan and J. Greathead; half-backs, S. Willis (capt.), Thos. College, and T. Elliott; forwards, T. White, W. Narons, J. Welsh, F. Colgan, and J. College.

LEADGATE PARK V BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN.—Played on the cricket ground, Bishop Auckland, in periods of two forties. During the first half each team scored once, Robson doing the needful for the Park and Pallister for the home team. Some exciting play was witnessed after the interval, both sides trying to put on the winning point. However, before the call of time the home team scored twice and the visitors once, Auckland thus winning a good game by three goals to two. The following team represented the Park:—Goal, G. Beadling; backs, T. Cairns and T. Hewitt; half-backs, G. Walton, R. Boustead, and C. Burnhope; forwards, B. Wattsford and J. Robson, right wing; A. Burnhope, centre; H. Wattsford and J. Hunter (capt.), left wing. Umpire, Mr Wm. Johns. Referee, Mr Smith (Auckland Church Institute).

ALLENDALE COTTAGES HEROES V BYER MOOR.—Played on the ground of the former, the field being in an unfavourable condition for play. Nevertheless, a fast and exciting game was witnessed. In the first half play was very even, and at half-time neither side had scored. About 15 minutes after re-commencing, the Heroes scored the only goal of the match, and were finally victorious by one goal to nothing. For the winners, the whole team played splendidly, and showed greatly improved form. The following represented the Heroes:—Goal, A. Hall; backs, Thos. Bailey and T. Walton; half-backs, T. Coates, Wm. Bailey, and J. Page; forwards, S. Ward (capt.) and W. Egglestone, right wing; H. Smith, centre; Jos. Hall and J. Hall, left wing.

MARLEY HILL ST. CUTHBERT'S V BEARPARK ALBION.—These teams met on the Albion's ground, the game being played in two "25's." The "Saints" won the toss, and elected to play up the hill. The visitors soon attacked the home goal, but had hard lines in not scoring several times. Eventually, after a piece of smart work by the forwards, Potts scored the first goal for Marley Hill. Soon after the visitors scored again. On changing ends, the "Saints" continued to press, but were unable to add anything further to their score, the final result being:—Marley Hill, two goals; Bearpark, nil. The following team represented Marley Hill:—Goal, P. Sharp; backs, Thos. McNeal and S. Briggs; half-backs, J. Lee, J. Charlton, and J. Gibbons; forwards W. Charlton and B. Porter, right wing; G. Potts, centre; J. Ringer and G. Grey, left wing.

MEDOMSLEY V CONSETT RUGBY.—These teams met at Medomsley, in two thirties. The game, which was played under Association rules, was most exciting throughout, and resulted in a victory for Consett by three goals to two. Todd, Smailes, Brown, and Stobbs played well for the winners, while Campbell, Hedley, Stewart, and R. Cant did good service for the home team. The following were the teams:—Medomsley—Goal, W. G. Thompson; backs, A. M. Hedley and M. Charlton (capt.); half-backs, Robt. Cant, Stewart, and G. Moon; forwards, J. Veitch and R. Campbell, right wing; J. E. Taylor, centre; W. Cant and R. Wilson, left wing. Consett—Goal, A. Struthers; backs, J. Aitken and J. G. Askew; half-backs, J. Anderson (capt.), R. Stobbs, and W. Brown; forwards, J. Todd and J. Brown, right wing; L. McTaggart, centre; G. Smailes and M. Williamson, left wing. Umpires, Messrs Lee (Medomsley) and Askew (Consett). Referee, Mr Milburn (Medomsley).

OAKEY'S LILYWHITES V KIP HILL WANDERERS.—Played on the Lilywhites' ground on Christmas Day, before a good number of spectators, though the weather was anything but pleasant. The game was very exciting during the first half. The Lilywhites scored first, but the point was disallowed for off-side. Soon after the Wanderers scored, and were leading at half-time by one goal to nil. On re-commencing, the Lilywhites had the best of the play, and put on four goals. When the whistle sounded the score was as follows:—Lilywhites, four goals; Wanderers, one goal. W. Lumley, G. Harrison, and W. Gibson played well for the winners.

LEADGATE EXILES V HEDLEY HARRIERS.—This match was played on the Exiles' ground on Christmas Day. The field was completely ice-bound, which rendered accurate play out of the question. McGee won the toss, and the visitors kicked off towards the entrance goal, but the leather was quickly returned to mid-field, where it was kept for some time. At length the home team broke away, but sent over the bar. The Exiles were now awarded a corner, which McGee headed over. The visitors' left wing got well up and sent across the goal-mouth, and a very easy chance was thrown away. Callaghan next got possession and ran well down, sending the ball into goal, when it was put through, making the first goal for the home team. The whistle sounded soon after for half-time, the score standing—

Exiles .... One goal
Harriers .... Nil

On re-starting the game, the Exiles soon settled down to some good play, and kept up a regular siege on the visitors' fortress, Smith sending in a beauty, but the point was disallowed on the ground of off-side. The home team, not to be denied, followed with another. Thompson put the ball through again, but the whistle went for hands and the ball was brought back. The Exiles still maintained the upper hand to the finish, and registered two more goals, the game ending as under—

Exiles .... Four goals
Harriers .... Nil

DIPTON MECHANICS V OFFICIALS.—Teams representing the above were chosen from the Delight Pit, Dipton, to play a friendly game, the Wanderers' field being kindly granted for the occasion. The weather was anything but favourable. The game was advertised to begin at two o'clock, and the teams faced each other and the ball was set in motion about 10 minutes after that time. The game was played in periods of 45 minutes each, and caused any amount of amusement to the spectators who assembled to witness the game, one after another getting a nasty fall amongst the wet snow. After about 20 minutes' play, Clark drew first blood for the officials. The play afterwards became very exciting, Ball for the officials playing a good forward game. As half-time the score stood as under—

Officials .... One goal
Mechanics .... Nil

Soon after the second half commenced, Sanderson for the mechanics scored a splendid goal. This roused the officials, and again they took the lead. After some fast play Sanderson again put the teams on a level footing. Each side now strove hard to gain the winning point, and close on time the officials again secured the lead, which they held to the finish, the final score being—

Officials .... Three goals
Mechanics .... Two goals

After the match, a supper was partaken of by both teams, and then songs filled up a very enjoyable evening.

LEADGATE EXILES V SUNDERLAND ALBION RESERVE.—Played at Leadgate in wintry weather. The game was played in two "35's." The visitors won the toss, and decided to defend the goal next the road. W. Costello kicked off for the home team, and play at once became of the fastest description. The Sunderland forwards were very fast on the ball, but the vigorous tackling of the Exiles' defenders kept them at bay for some time, Patrick Hughes and Callaghan being especially prominent; but the visitors were not to be denied, and eventually scored out of a scrimmage, the custodian having no chance with it. The home forwards showed some nice passing on several occasions, but were rather unsteady in front of goal. Then the Albion again attacked, and their centre-forward headed a neat goal. A third followed before half-time, when the score stood—

Albion .... Three goals
Exiles .... Nil

Immediately on re-commencing, the home team began to assert their superiority, and kept up a very warm attack on their opponents' goal. Quinn put in some dangerous runs on the right, and the Sunderland fortress narrowly missed being taken from some of his centres. Eventually, however, the Exiles came with an irresistible rush, and banged the leather through. Thus encouraged, the Leadgate men had all the best of the play, and showed marked improvement on their display in the first half. A second goal soon followed, and the home team had very hard lines in not drawing level, albeit the defence of the Albion could not have been improved. The visitors were seldom dangerous in this half, and a good game finally ended as follows—

Albion .... Three goals
Exiles .... Two goals

The Exiles were represented by the following team:—Goal, H. Callaghan; backs, Wm. McGee (capt.) and P. Hughes; half-backs, Peter Hughes, F. Thompson, and J. Monaghan; forwards, Jas. McGee and O. Hughes, left wing; Wm. Costello, centre; C. Quinn and W. McKie, right wing. Umpire, Mr John Costello. Referee, Mr J. Ross, jun. (Medomsley).

WEST STANLEY TEMPERANCE V KIP HILL BLACK WATCH.—The above friendly match was played on Christmas Day, on a neutral ground at East Stanley, before a good number of spectators. The match was arranged through the Black Watch challenging the Temperance through the papers for a supper. Kip Hill won the toss, and the Temperance kicked off with the hill and wind in their favour. Stanley at once began to press, which was kept up until they scored five minutes after the start. This roused the Black Watch, and the ball travelled from one end to the other in quick succession; but the Temperance were not to be shaken off, and after a piece of good passing they scored their second goal. From the kick-off the ball was carried down the field again, and an easy chance was missed by the Temperance, who were pressing when the whistle sounded. Half-time found the score standing—

Temperance .... Two goals
Black Watch .... Nil

The second half commenced very fast, and after some splendid passing by the Temperance left wing, goal No. 3 was scored by T. Masterman. The Temperance still continued to press, and added another goal soon after. From the kick-off Kip Hill carried the leather down and shot, this being the first ball the Stanley goalkeeper had handled, and he had no difficulty in getting it away, when it was carried to the other end, and T. Masterman had hard lines in not scoring, the ball striking the post and rebounding into play, the goalkeeper being down at the time. One of the backs kicked out and relieved, but the Temperance were not to be denied and still continued to press until the ball was put past the posts. The goal-kick was a good one, and the ball was carried down the field. T. Robson shot, but Grundy relieved at the expense of a corner, which Whaley relieved, and the ball was carried up the field by the right wing, some good passing being shown by Wilcock and Shield, who passed to the centre; the latter transferred the ball to the left wing, and J. Masterman shot and added No. 5. The Black Watch now seemed properly done up, and the Temperance men were still playing with spirit, and experienced hard lines on two or three occasions. From now to the finish Stanley continued to press, but were unable to score again, and the game finally ended as under—

Temperance .... Five goals
Black Watch .... Nil

Temperance team—Goal, J. Metcalf; backs, J. Wilcock and J. Grundy; half-backs, J. Knotts, W. Collins, and T. Shield; forwards, W. Wilcock and G. Shield, right wing; G. Whaley, centre; J. and T. Masterman, left wing.

MR F. McMURLEY'S COMPETITION.

The football contest organised by Mr F. McCurley, of Consett, for clubs in West Durham who are not members of the Durham County Association, was commenced on Christmas Day, in the Consett Rugby field at Benfieldside, in the presence of a large number of spectators. The prizes offered were eleven handsome silver medals. Results:—Consett Rugby 2nd beat Consett Wednesday by three goals to none; Dipton Strangers obtained a bye, the Lintzford team failing to put in an appearance. Referee, Mr Swan (Consett League of the Cross).

RUGBY.

HAMSTERLS V USHAW MOOR.—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a victory for the home team by three tries and three minors to two minors.

BLACKHILL VIOLETS V BENFIELDSIDE ROVERS.—Played at Blackhill, and after a most exciting game resulted in a draw. Score:—Benfieldside Rovers, four minors; Blackhill Violets, three minors. The Violets played without the assistance of six of their best men.

USHAW MOOR V FRAMWELLGATE MOOR.—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a victory for the home team by two goals, five tries, and eight minors to one minor. H. Mitchell scored four tries, and J. Fisher dropped a goal and secured a try, and G. Browning obtained a try. H. Hudson kicked a goal.

FOOTBALL JOTTINGS.

[BY "OFF-SIDE."]

A SPLENDID GAME AT LEADGATE.

The Exiles were fortunate enough to arrange for a visit from the clever Sunderland Albion Reserve on Saturday, and the game turned out one of the best and most exciting I have ever witnessed on the Exiles' ground. Owing to a rather heavy fall of snow, the going was somewhat difficult, but this did not seem to affect the players in the slightest, and play was of the fastest description throughout the whole seventy minutes. In the first "35" the visitors put on three goals, while the homesters failed to break the ice. The Exiles added two points in the concluding period of the game, and were thus defeated by three goals to two.

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Taking the game right through, I certainly think the home team were unfortunate in losing. A draw would have better represented the day's play. In the first half the Albion had rather the best of matters, and showed greater coolness in front of goal. Their three points were all the result of good work, and Callaghan had no chance with either of them. The Leadgate men, despite these reverses, played up vigorously, but their final efforts were wide of the mark. In the second half, however, they displayed something like their old form, and fairly overplayed the visitors. The Exiles first scored out of a loose scrimmage in front of goal, and then a good shot from the right wing made the total into two about five minutes before time. The excitement was now intense, as the Exiles were straining every nerve to draw level, and the Sunderland men were defending like Trojans. However, the end arrived without the score having been altered, the home team being thus somewhat unluckily beaten.

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Coming to the teams, that sterling custodian, Callaghan, kept goal splendidly for the losers. Some of his saves were brilliant, and he richly deserved the loud cheers of which he was frequently the recipient. McGee and Hughes both played well, the latter being rather the best back in my opinion. He always goes for the ball, and generally gets it. Monaghan displayed good form at half, and Thompson was not far behind. Of the forwards, C. Quinn was very conspicuous, and W. Costello never relaxed his efforts till the whistle sounded for time. J. McGee showed some nice play, but is rather inclined to be selfish. He seems to forget that he has a partner, and did not give the latter his fair share of the work. O. Hughes and McKie both showed promising form. Altogether, I was very favourably impressed with the play of the Exiles. The Sunderland men played a grand game. Their goalkeeper kept out some very warm shots, and the backs defended stubbornly, kicking and tackling in finished style. Their overhead kicks were especially good. The trio of halves were three of the best I have ever seen performing in this district, the captain (Plumpton) in particular playing a splendid game. The forwards treated us to some pretty passing and dodging, and they also know how to shoot. Millar was about the best. The game was pleasantly contested throughout, not a single foul being given during the afternoon. As usual, there was a good company present, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather.

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TWO PROMISING TEAMS.

Consett Albion and Leadgate Park Reserve, who met on the latter's ground on Saturday, are indeed two promising teams. Unfortunately, four of the Consett players did not turn up at the appointed meeting place, consequently the Albion arrived at Leadgate with four substitutes. An excellent game resulted, the home team adding another to their long list of successes, defeating the visitors by two goals to nil. Under the circumstances, the Consett team did exceedingly well to play the invincible Park Reserve such a good game, and with their full strength there would have been very little to choose between them. Bell and Harkness played a splendid game at back for the Albion.

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A SURPRISE AT BISHOP AUCKLAND.

Leadgate Park journeyed to Bishop Auckland on Saturday to antagonise the powerful Town team. The Park took a strong team, fully appreciating the task they hand on hand, and Auckland put about the best eleven they can command in the field. The play was very even and exciting throughout, and at the interval it was a case of level pegging—one goal each. On reversing ends, the home men had slightly the best of the exchanges, and scoring twice to the visitors' once, won by three goals to two.

—o—

The result of the game, I am informed, was a great surprise to the Aucklanders, as they expected to win by about ten goals; but the Park played up splendidly, and the Town had to put in all they knew to win. Beadling kept goal in fine style, and Cairns played a brilliant game at back. All the halves showed up well, and invariably stopped the rushes of the Auckland forwards. The Park front rank never played a better game, H. Wattsford, B. Wattsford (who played as a substitute for C. Foreman, the latter missing the train), and Hunter being always on the ball. A. Burnhope displayed great improvement in the centre, but Robson, although he shot the first goal, did not play up to his usual good form. Bousfield (the county back) played a magnificent game for the home team, who would have fared badly without him. Altogether, the Park are to be congratulated on an excellent performance, and one which should give them confidence for their forthcoming cup-tie on the 24th inst.

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MR FRANK MCCURLEY'S COMPETITION: AN UNBOUNDED SUCCESS.

A correspondent, who is an enthusiastic admirer of the winter pastime, writes as follows concerning the above contest:—"It is gratifying to know that some one has at last mustered courage to speculate with a view of bringing into prominence those clubs outside of the Durham Association, which are too frequently neglected. I had the pleasure of witnessing the 1st round on Xmas Day between Consett Wednesday and Consett Rugby 2nd, which was one of the most exciting tussles I have seen for a considerable time, as both players and partisans seemed equally sanguine of success. However, after a sharp and stubborn contest, the Rugbyites proved too many for the enterprising Wednesday team. R. Murray at full back played a sterling game for the defeated eleven, and if the goalkeeper had taken his hands out of his pockets, the result of the match might have been reversed. Brown played a splendid game for the winners, and it must be edifying for Mr Jameson to know that the 2nd string is making such rapid strides in the Association ranks. The only drawback was the non-appearance of Lintzford, as the Dipton team seemed eager for the fray, and to judge from the exhibition of the Dipton 1st and 2nd teams, they will be hard to beat."

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WHAT I HEAR.

That Consett Rugby 2nd can beat the 1st under Association rules.

That Consett League of the Cross will carry off Mr F. McCurley's medals. What price Consett Rugby 2nd?

That Lintzford turned up at Consett on Christmas Day to take part in the competition, but could not find the ground. They should have asked a policeman.

That but for slipping at a critical moment, Hunter would have equalised at Auckland on Saturday.

That the two Leadgate clubs possess the best custodians in the district. Both are champions, and distinguished themselves on Saturday.

That B. Wattsford, who assisted the Park against Bishop Auckland, and is a brother of the left-winger, is a most promising forward. He was on his wrong wing on Saturday.

That the Exiles will enter two teams for the Junior Cup.

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MATCHES WANTED.

Derwent Cottages Ramblers (A) have all dates vacant after Jan. 31st.—Apply to J. Wilson, High Pit, Medomsley, Lintz Green.

Birtley White Rose (A) would be glad to arrange matches with any junior teams. Ages, about 17 years. All dates vacant after Jan. 17th.—Address: F. J. Allison, 19, Swinburne Place, Birtley.

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

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

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

Christmastide.

Despite the recent frost and snow there was almost a green Christmas in Consett and district, and the change could not be considered satisfactory. Sleet and rain fell during the greater portion of the day, which rendered matters extremely unpleasant to holiday keepers. There was, however, a busy town, and the entertainments provided at the various places were largely attended. Great gatherings, too, were witnessed at the football matches, and other out-door events held in the district, and, the damp and unfavourable weather notwithstanding, the majority of the people seemed to have an enjoyable time. Many social and public gatherings were held during the day and evening in various parts of the district. Various parties of waits and carols singers perambulated the town during the early morning.

Blackhill United Methodist Free Church. —On Christmas Day, a service of song, entitled, "Little Maggie's mission," was rendered in this place of worship by the members of the Westwood United Methodist Free Church choir. There was a good company present. At the close, a ham and coffee supper was provided, and was well patronised.

Leadgate.—The sale of work in connection with the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Leadgate, was opened on the afternoon of Xmas day, by Coun. Nicholson, of Leadgate. There was a splendid display of goods on the stalls, which were presided over by Mrs Bell, Mrs Innis, Mrs Soulsby, Mrs Roster, Mrs Birkett, and Miss Waggott. The Sunday-school stall was attended to by Mr R. Job, Mr Marley, and Miss Coates. A neatly-arranged stall of confectionery and toys was managed by Mr and Mrs John Bunn. Mrs Rogerson, Mrs Whitfield, Miss Watson, Mrs Hetherington, and Mrs Iley arranged the tea, and Dr Allen's famous midgets were exhibited in the chapel, and certainly proved a great success.—On the previous Sunday special sermons were preached by Rev M. Johnson, of White-le-Head.

Weardale.—At Westgate the annual Christmas tree and *fete* of the Primitive Methodist Society afforded a largely patronised avenue of enjoyment, and the St. John's Wesleyans secured a very large attendance at the fruit banquet. The premier attractions westward was the Weardale Band bazaar in the Board School, Wearhead, opened by Mr Monkhouse, Cowshill, which was largely attended. The band played a special programme, and the well-laden stalls were presided over by the following ladies and gentlemen:—No. 1, Mrs Jos. English, Miss E. T. Phillipson, and Miss I. A. Featherstone; No. 2, Mrs W. English, Miss E. Peart, and Miss A. English; No. 3, Mrs Whitfield, Mrs T. V. Kidd, Mrs O. Monkhouse, and Miss E. H. Emmerson; No. 4, Mrs Watson, Miss M. Featherstone, and Miss M. English. Waiters —Ladies: Misses Emmerson, Vichers, Pattinson, English, Dargue, Peart, and Hackwood. Gentlemen: Messrs Dawson, Elliott, Hewitson, English, Humble, and Phillipson. Visitors were not nearly so numerous as of old, yet the dalesfolk seem to have made the best of the holiday in a quiet way.

Quebec.—At the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Quebec, on Christmas night, a splendid concert was given. The opening piece was a pianoforte duet by Mr E. C. Newton and Mr F. Wharton. Then came "Darby and Joan" by Miss Browell. "Anchored," by Mr R. Oliver, was well rendered. "When other lips," by Mr J. Oliver, Edinburgh, was exceedingly well done. A duet "What are the wild waves saying?" was efficiently rendered by Mr R. Oliver and Miss Browell. A song by Miss Thomas was well received, and the song, "The beautiful snow," though difficult, was remarkably well given by Miss Halkier. Miss Browell gave in a very tasteful and pleasing manner "Love's old sweet song." Mr R. Oliver sang "A Friar of Orders Grey," for which he received an *encore*, and Mr J. Oliver favoured with "My pretty Jane." A pianoforte solo by Mr F. Wharton was then performed, and another song by Miss Thomas, followed by a pianoforte duet, brought the concert to a close.

Supper at Allendale.—The members of the Allendale Cottages Wesleyan Society held a breakfast in the Reading room, on Christmas morning. On Saturday evening, they held a supper when a large number partook of the good things provided. The sum of £6 12s was realised.

Frosterley Primitive Methodist Bazaar.—The above bazaar opened out on Christmas day by J. V. Walton, Esq., Witton-le-Wear, was very successful. The proceeds, which included donations of £5 from J. V. Walton, Esq.; £5 from J. Walton, Esq., of Saltburn, and £1 from J. Walton, Esq., of Frosterley, besides the present of a calf, amounted to the handsome sum of £99.

Stanhope.—The local band enlivened the scene by parading the streets.—At the Workhouse, Mrs Livingstone treated the inmates to a knife-and-fork tea, which was heartily enjoyed. Mrs Livingstone and Councillor Livingstone were present. The Rev A. T. Finch also presented the inmates with tobacco to smokers and tea to non-smokers.—On Christmas morning, the Methodist Choirs gave the usual carols, and services were held at the places of worship.—The Workhouse inmates had their usual Christmas dinner, and Mr Geo. Curry presented them with a barrel of ale.—A football match took place between the Stanhope and Tow Law teams.

Tow Law.—Christmas Day was ushered in by bands of singers. In the morning and evening, services were held in the Parish Church, and a service was also held in the Wesleyan Chapel. The Wesleyan Vigilance Band held its annual tea in the School-room in the afternoon, and at night a public meeting and musical entertainment was held in the chapel.—A public meeting took place in the Primitive Chapel at night.—A Christmas tree, laden with useful and ornamental toys, &c., was a source of attraction at the Presbyterian place of worship.

Wolsingham.—On Christmas Eve, the brass band gave several selections of music.—A service was held in the Wesleyan vestry on Christmas Day, when the Rev J. R. Cleminson took for his subject, "Peace." A large congregation attended to hear the timely discourse.—Baptist Sunday-school anniversary services were continued on Christmas Day. A public tea was held in the school-room, and proved a great success. In the evening, the annual meeting was held in the chapel, when addresses were given by the Rev J. R. Cleminson (Wesleyan), the pastor, and others, and a collection was taken in aid of the Sabbath-school funds. Special hymns, sung by the choir, were a notable feature in the programme.

Dipton.—On Christmas Eve, a grand entertainment and fruit banquet was given in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Dipton, by the members of the Band of Hope. First on the programme was a recitation by Miss Ellen Birch, entitled "Poor Joe." Master Thomas Johnson sung a solo, "The light in the window." The next was a recitation by Miss E. Lawson, "Little Mike." Fruit was then served at the interval. A reading, by Master T. Williams, "Vat you please," was next given, being followed by a recitation by Miss E. Lawson, "The bridal wine cup." The dialogue, "Youth, manhood, and old age," by five characters, was very amusing and instructive. The following pieces were also gone through:—Solo, "Far away," Miss E. Lawson; recitation, "Black sinners," Miss E. Birch; duet, "Gentle stranger," Miss Lawson and Mr R. Batey; quartette, "Do as you can," Miss Lawson, Master Lawson, and Messrs Batey and Lawson. Mr W. Alderson presided at the organ, and Mr Wm. Pace acted as chairman. There was a good attendance, the proceeds being in aid of the band of hope fund. A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

Medomsley Wesleyan Monthly Foreign Missions.—The anniversary of above was celebrated on Christmas Day in the above chapel, when a grand fruit banquet was held in the evening. The meeting was presided over by Mr Thomas Simpson, High Bradley, who opened the proceedings by that grand old Methodist hymn, 699. His opening address was brief, pointed, and was evidently well relished by the audience. He is in himself a strong supporter of the mission cause. He next called upon Messrs Bowman and Graham to favour the audience with their musical strains. Fruit being served out, the chairman called upon Mr A. Seed, of Shotley Bridge, to address the meeting, and he gave a very powerful address on the gospel of Christ. A recitation was next given by two little girls, Eddis Calvert and Nellie Walton, which was well received by the company. Fruit being served out again, Miss M. Robinson and Master Jos. Robinson favoured the audience with their solos and duets, which they did in a masterley manner. The chairman next called upon Mr Jos. Taylor, of Bradley Cottages, to address the meeting, and he gave a very practical address on the duty of Christians. Fruit again being served, the chairman announced a silver collection to be made on behalf of the above funds. Vote of thanks brought a very successfully meeting to a close.

Medomsley Reading Room.—On Saturday evening, the members of the above held a social evening in the Medomsley National Schools (kindly granted by the managers for the occasion) Mr Robert Moffitt supplied an excellent knife-and-fork tea, to which about 70 members and friends did full justice. After the cloths had been removed, dancing was indulged in by the devotees of this exhilarating pastime, whilst various games were provided for those otherwise inclined. Messrs Charlton (Leadgate) and Wm Brown (Wood Houses) supplied the music. The arrangements of the undertaking were carried out by the reading-room committee, and Messrs G. E. Milburn, W. E. Charlton, and A. Little superintended the dancing part of the programme, and also acted as M.C.'s. The schools were beautifully decorated, and presented a most pleasing appearance, reflecting great credit on the committee. The company separated about eleven o'clock, after spending a thoroughly enjoyable evening. The affair was a great success, both financially and otherwise, and the committee are to be congratulated on the meritorious manner in which they provided such a pleasant night for the members and their friends.

Primitive Methodist Chapel.—On Christmas Day, at Allendale Cottages, a tree was opened for the sale of useful and ornamental articles in the school-room by Mr R. Hetherington, Medomsley. The Allendale Cottages String Band was in attendance, and discoursed some very excellent music. There was a good attendance, and the affair, on the whole, was very successful.

Cornsay Colliery.—On Christmas Eve, a free tea was given to the aged workmen exceeding 60 years in the British Schools, Cornsay Colliery, by Messrs Feren and Love. There was a good number present. After tea, the old folks were entertained by Mr W. Atchinson with his magic-lantern. At the close, a vote of thanks was accorded to all who had taken part in the welfare of the old people.

Concert at Elvaston Hall, Ryton.—Under the patronage of the Hon. C. A. and Mrs Parsons, of Elvaston Hall, Ryton, a vocal and instrumental concert was given the other evening at their residence. A large number of ladies and gentlemen attended the concert, which passed off very successfully. Songs were sung by Miss Widdrington of Newton Hall, Felton, and Miss Mimi Beers of Newcastle, who were in very good voice, and were *encored* for both of their songs.—Miss Widdrington accompanying herself on the guitar in two charming melodies which she sung as *encores*. The gentlemen singers were Mr Foster, Mr C. Bigge, and Rev J. F. Tarleton, the latter gentleman taking at the last moment the place of Mr E. Orde, who was unavoidably prevented from attending. Violin and piano duets by Hauptman and Raff were played by Mrs Nason, of Greenside (piano), and Mr Nichol (violin), and a selection of glees and part-songs was rendered by the choir, under the direction of the organist and choir-master (Mr Andrew Nichol). Miss Dixon-Brown, of Unthank Hall, acted as accompanist. The proceeds (about £12 10s) will be devoted towards defraying the cost of a hydraulic blowing apparatus for the Parish Church organ.

Consett Baptist Church.—On Christmas Day, a tree and stall were held and were well patronised, and in the evening a pie-supper was held to which a good number sat down. A supper was also held on Monday last.

Greencroft Primitive Methodist Choir.—On Christmas morning, this choir perambulated the village and rendered some of their well-known Christmas carols, anthems, &c. At 8 a.m., they held a public breakfast in the chapel, which was largely patronised.—On Saturday evening, an entertainment was held, when a good programme of music was rendered to a good company.

West Stanley Primitive Methodist Society.—The members of this society held a Christmas tree and public tea. The tree was opened by Mr E. Hawes before a large company, and the day's proceedings were a success.—On Sunday, two sermons were preached—afternoon and evening—by Mr H. C. Wood, of Burnopfield. The congregations were large, and collections were taken in aid of trust fund.—On New Year's Eve, a vocal and instrumental concert was given by the choir and string band. There was a capital company present. Mr R. W. Pearson conducted, while Mr H. Pearson presided over the harmonium. The chair was occupied by Mr Wm. Atkinson, of South Moor. At the close a ham and coffee supper was provided in the school-room, and was largely patronised.

Waskerley Primitive Methodist Chapel.—The members of this place of worship held a service in the afternoon of Christmas Day, which was conducted by Mr Ramsden, of Consett. At the close of the service a public tea was provided, and many availed themselves of the opportunity and partook of the good things provided. In the evening, Mr Ramsden delivered one of his interesting lectures, entitled, "How to be a man," to a capital company. At the close a coffee supper was provided, and was well patronised.

Catchgate United Methodist Free Church.—The members of this church had a beef, ham, and tongue supper in the Greencroft Board Schools on Christmas Eve. There was a good company present.—On Christmas Day, a service was held in the church in the morning. The preacher was the Rev. A. Bromley, Blackhill. In the afternoon, a Christmas tree and stalls for the sale of useful and ornamental goods, was opened by Mr W. Rutherford, Catchgate, in the Board Schools, before a large company. Refreshments were provided. At intervals during the afternoon, magic lantern entertainments were given. In the evening, a concert was given by Mr Ward Davision's choir from Blackhill, assisted by several friends. There was a capital company present, and the chair was occupied by Mr W. Rutherford. The proceeds were in aid of alterations to the church.

Catchgate Lay Church.—The members of this church held a Christmas tree on Christmas Day, and it was well patronised.

Annfield Plain Wesleyan Chapel.—On Christmas morning, a service was held in this place of worship, conducted by Mr B. Cawood, evangelist. There was a good congregation present. In the evening, Mr Cawood delivered his popular lecture on "Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress" to a good audience. The chair was taken by Mr C. F. Cooke, Annfield Plain. The lecture was illustrated by views.

Tantobie.—The Christmas tree and sale of work in connection with the New Wesleyan Chapel Scheme, was held in the Co-operative Hall, on Christmas Eve, and Saturday. On Wednesday, Rev F. R. Smith introduced Mrs Oliver, Stanley, to open the bazaar, who in a short speech declared the bazaar open. A string band was in attendance. The handsome sum of £43 was realized.

Tanfield Quadrille Party and Grand Ball.—The first ball of the season in connection with the above private assembly, was held on Friday evening in the National Schools, Tanfield. The room, which was very tastefully decorated for the occasion with plants, flowers, flags, mottoes, evergreens, &c., presented a very beautiful appearance, and the success of the ball was in a great measure due to the efforts of those ladies and gentlemen, who so kindly gave their services in decorating the room. The ball opened with "The Grand March" and "Keel Row" country dance, and the dancing continued until 2 o'clock on the following morning. The music was supplied by the Stanley String Band under the able leadership of Mr W. Atkinson, and gave every satisfaction, and the refreshments, supplied by Mr Murray, Dipton; it is almost needless to add, were served up in first-class style.

Loafers' Treat at Annfield Plain.—On Christmas Day, the loafers who congregate about the coke-yards at Annfield Plain were entertained to a substantial tea and supper in Mr Thompson's long-room. In the evening, a meeting and magic lantern entertainment was held. The chair was occupied by Mr Humble, Annfield Plain. Addresses were given by Mr Patterson, Catchgate, and Mr Fisk, Annfield Plain. Solos were sung by Miss Martin, of The Cement Rows. The views that were shown upon the screen were taken from "Christy's old organ" and "The drunkard's progress." The connective readings were given by Mr Smith, South Pontop. The men were highly taken up with the rich treat that had been provided for them.

West Stanley.—The members of the West Stanley United Methodist Free Church held a supper on Christmas Day. The repast was partaken of by a large number of friends.

Kyo Wesleyan Mission.—The members of this mission held, in the Board Schools, a public meeting, which was followed by a supper, on Christmas Eve. The annual Christmas-tree was held on Christmas Day. During the afternoon and evening, entertainments were given at intervals. The gatherings were well patronised.

Tantobie New Wesleyan Chapel Scheme.—In connection with this scheme, a Christmas-tree and sale of work, consisting of useful and ornamental goods, was held in the Co-operative Hall, Tantobie, on Christmas Eve. The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs Olliver, of West Stanley. Tea was provided. During the day various entertainments were given. The sale of work was again re-opened on Saturday, and was largely attended.

Dipton Wesleyan Chapel.—In connection with this place of worship, there was an entertainment and coffee bar held in the school-room on Christmas Eve. The usual service was held in the chapel on the afternoon of Christmas Day. The preacher was Rev F. R. Smith. A public tea was also provided, and was largely patronised. In the evening, a concert of sacred music was given by the Tantobie Wesleyan choir. The chair was occupied by Rev F. R. Smith. Mr John Gedling conducted, whilst Mr Nicholas Smailes presided at the organ. —On Sunday, two sermons were preached by Rev Jas. Clegg, of Shotley Bridge, to good congregations.

Burnhope Colliery.—A bazaar was opened in connection with the Burnhope Primitive Methodist Society, on Christmas Day, by Mr W. Gray, of Burnhope, and will be continued after the New Year. Mr Gray, in his remarks, said he felt it a pleasure to assist in a work like that, as he thought it every man's duty to help each other. The day's programme was finished by singing the doxology. The proceeds amounted to about £22 10s.

Ball at Lintzford.—A ball was held on the evening of Christmas Day at Lintzford, in a room kindly granted by Mr W. M. Annandale. About 30 couples assembled to "trip the light fantastic." Dancing commenced at eight p.m., and continued till about four a.m. the next morning. The music, which was supplied by the Spen string band, was of the highest order. Mr J. W. Andrews was M.C., to whom (with Mr John Weightman) great credit is due for carrying out the arrangements so successfully.

Tow Law.—The Primitive Methodists of Tow Law are still holding their special services, conducted by Mr Hood.—On Christmas Day, the teachers' annual meeting was held, Rev M. Cuthbert in the chair. Mr James Vickers was re-elected superintendent, and Mr A. Shield assistant, treasurer, Mr J. Bell; secretaries, Mr G. Caine and Mr T. Parkinson. The school is in a very good condition, there being over forty young men and women in the two select classes, and more than a hundred children in the Infant School.—The members of the Salvation Army, at Tow Law, had a merry Christmas. On Christmas Eve, Mr Jonathan Southern paid them a visit, and delivered a lecture. There was a very fair attendance, and Mr James Vickers occupied the chair.

CONSETT WESLEYAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

Christmas Day was fully observed by the Wesleyans of Consett. In the morning, a service was held in the chapel, when an eloquent sermon was preached by the Rev J. H. Taylor, superintendent minister, Consett. There was a good congregation present. In the afternoon, the teachers of the Sabbath-school launched forth a new novelty in the shape of

A CHRISTMAS SHIP,

named "Glad Tidings," laden with a well-stocked cargo of toys and presents. At the time announced for the proceedings to be opened, the spacious building was crammed with old and young people in order that they might get to know what the Christmas ship really was. We might state that the idea was an excellent one, and was well taken with, being quite a change to what the people of Consett have been accustomed to. The proceedings were opened by hymn and prayer, after which Rev J. H. Taylor gave a

SHORT ADDRESS.

He said that many present no doubt had never seen a ship, but the one they had before them that day was a very good representation, and for their benefit he would tell them it was schooner rigged, and was laden with a very valuable cargo. He thought everyone present should avail themselves of the oppprtunity of purchasing an article from the vessel, which would be a momento of their visit to the first ship launch in Consett. The ship was accordingly launched amidst the

HEARTY CHEERS OF ALL.

Business then began in disposing of the ship's cargo, and continued with great briskness until nearly all the toys were sold. After the ship had been launched, a public tea was provided, and was partaken of by a large number of people. The ladies in attendance were Misses Watson, Wailes, Skelton, Bainbridge, E. Wailes, Stokoe, M. Lowrie, M. Carr, and others. In the evening, a

MISCELLANEOUS ENTERTAINMENT

was held in the large school. The building wa well filled with an appreciative audience, The chair was occupied by Mr E. Lamb, Consett. The programme opened with a part-song, "O, who will o'er the downs?" by the choir, and was given in capital style, the audience showing their appreciation of the piece by rounds of applause. Miss Harwood and Mr Stelling next gave the duet, "The sailor's sigh," and was loudly applauded. The action-song, given by a number of children from the infant department, caused a good

DEAL OF MERRIMENT,

an *encore* being the result. Master Thomas Dunn next gave the recitation, "My pocket," and acquitted himself in a creditable manner. Mr M. Fawell's string band were the recipients of loud and prolonged applause on making their appearance on the platform, and they executed a selection with good taste. The part-song, "The sands of Dee," by the choir, was followed by a humorous reading, entitled "Pandeen O'Rafferty's say-voyage," by Mr N. Fawell, caused a good deal of amusement. At the interval, Mr Edward Hobday made a few remarks with regard to the steps the teachers intend to take with regard to working the school in future.

PART II.

commenced with an action song from the children, and they received a well-merited *encore*. Mr Jos. Siddle next rendered "Fiddle and I," and was accompanied on the violin by Mr John Davison. Master John R. Davison's recitation, "Out in the snow," was well given. The selection by the string band was executed in grand style, and was followed by the choir, who brought the programme to a close with the part-song, "Joyous life," in a manner that won for them loud applause. Mr M. Fawell conducted, while Miss E. Fawell and Mr Stelling acted as accompanists. At the close of the entertainment, the ship was brilliantly illuminated, and was greatly admired by the large assemblage. The successful proceedings were brought to a close by a supper. The schools were artistically decorated for the occasion.

ANNFIELD PLAIN PRIMITIVE METHODIST SOCIETY.

On Christmas Day, a sale of work, consisting of useful and fancy goods, was held in the Board Schools, Annfield Plain. The opening ceremony was performed by Councillor J. A. Curry, Bradley Lodge, who was supported by Rev J. Magee, Messrs J. Sasbury, and P. Reay. In addressing those present, Coun. Curry said he was pleased to have the privilege of being in that position that day. He thought there was a better show of goods this year than there was two years ago. It was a credit to the ladies who had performed the work. The Primitive Methodists were a very earnest class of people, and had done very great service in the district. In conclusion, he wished the stall-holders every success, and hoped that a good sum would be raised towards the funds for a new chapel, which was much needed. He thereafter declared the sale open. (Applause).—A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr Curry.—The following ladies presided at the stalls:—Mesdames Bainbridge, Gair, Purvis, Mordue, R. Clish, M. J. Newton, Misses Carr, Purvis, Mordue, H. J. Reay, Pearson, and M. Harland. Refreshments were served up in good style by Miss M. Harland, Miss H. Charlton, Mrs J. Iceton, Mrs Parker, and Mrs Smith, while Messrs W. Parker and M. Douglas attended to boiling the water, and Mr E. Purvis acted as general helper. Great praise is due to these brethren. Half-hour entertainments were given in the evening by the Annfield Plain orchestral band and others, under the leadership of Mr A. Forster, which were well patronised. There was a good deal of amusement caused by the galvanic battery. The sale was again open on Saturday night. The total "takings," including proceeds of sewing meeting teas and suppers during the year, amounted to over £60. The gross proceeds of the sale of work was over £45 Miss Isabel Mason is secretary, and Miss H. J. Reay, treasurer.

BAPTIST CHURCH, BLACKHILL.

Church anniversary services were held in the above place of worship on Christmas Day and Sunday. On the former day, a public tea was provided in the school-room, which was an excellent one, and was served by Mesdames W. Mackey, J. Mackey, C. Watson, Misses Thompson, Routledge, Turner, Bradley, and Bell, Mesdames Stokoe, J. T. Watson, Bradley, and Bell making the provisions ready. A public meeting was afterwards held in the Church. After prayer and singing, Rev E. W. Jenkins referred very sympathetically to the absence of Rev T. J. Watson, who had lost his mother the preceding day. He then reviewed the work of the Church for the year, and said that they had not done all they should have done, but they were thankful for the work which God had enabled them to do. Mr Charles Peacock then gave a stimulating and encouraging address on Church work and Church life. The Baptist Church at Blackhill had made great progress since he was a scholar in its school, and a local preacher on its plan. Mr G. W. Bloomfield gave a capital address on Church work. The choir, under the leadership of Mr Robert Jones, rendered special music in a splendid manner. Mr J. E. Thompson presided at the organ. Afterwards, a substantial supper was provided in the school-room. Both tea and supper were given by members of the Church. On Saturday, Rev H. T. Betts, who was announced to preach on Sunday, was taken seriously ill, and his place was filled by Rev T. Elliott, who preached an exceedingly appropriate sermon in the morning, and Rev T. Durant conducted the evening service in a very efficient and suitable manner. All the services were very successful.

INTERESTING PRESENTATION AT BLACKHILL.

On Christmas eve the officials and collectors of the Pearl Life Insurance Company for this district assembled at the house of Mr Geo. Tennant, assistant superintendent for the company, Durham Road, Blackhill, for the purpose of presenting him with a testimonial in the shape of a splendid patent balance letter scales, on his leaving the district for Whitehaven, Cumberland, and also to present Mrs Tennant with a purse of money. Mr Tennant has had charge of this district for the past four years, and during that period he has made rapid progress on behalf of the company. When he first went into the employment of the company, he took a book as a collector, and by his own industry and zeal, he is now leaving the district for Whitehaven to undertake the duties of a superintendent for that district. There were present Mr B. Henderson, district superintendent for Durham; Mr G. Telford, assistant superintendent; Mr T. Siddle, Blackhill; Mr McElhone, Consett, and others. The chair was occupied by Mr Henderson, who spoke very highly of Mr Tennant, and said that during the time that he had been in this district as superintendent, he had found in Mr Tennant a man in whom he could place the highest confidence and one whom anyone could work with. (Applause.) He had to congratulate him on his promotion to superintendent, and trusted that his success would follow him. He hoped the collectors present would take a lesson from Mr Tennant, as they would see what success had done for him, and by his own integrity and zeal he had gained for himself an office which he need not be ashamed of. (Applause.)

Mr Telford made the presentation, and referred to the time that Mr Tennant had been in the district, and the progress that he had made. He was sorry in one sense, that Mr Tennant was leaving the neighbourhood, but yet he was glad to think he was receiving promotion, and he trusted that Mr Tennant would be successful in his new district, which he had been appointed to superintend. He had great pleasure in handing to Mr Tennant the present as a token of respect and esteem, in which he was held by them.

Mr Siddle next presented to Mrs Tennant the purse of money on behalf of the collectors of the district, and said that he hoped that Mr Tennant's success would follow him in his new district. They deeply regretted having to part with friends, but he thought it was no use being sorry when there was such a bright future before Mr Tennant. It was a lesson for them, as collectors, Mr Tennant's example, to attend to business, in order that the day might not be distant when they would receive promotion. (Applause).

Mr McElhone also spoke. He said if any man need reflect at Mr Tennant leaving the district, it was himself, as he was only a new man to the business until Mr Tennant took him in hands. He wished Mr Tennant every success.

Mr Tennant in acknowledging the presents, on behalf of himself and his wife, said that no words of his could express the gratitude he felt for the way they had rallied around him. He thanked them all for the kind presents, and said he was glad to think that the company had so far recognised his services in offering him promotion. He was sorry to have to part with his friends, and he knew the district had done well; but he did not take all the honour to himself, as everyone present had contributed largely to its success. He spoke of the encouragement he had always received from the general superintendent of the district, and said that his counsel had been of great benefit to him. Although he was leaving the district he trusted the same success would follow him in his new district. On behalf of his wife he might state that he thanked them all for their kindness, and said that she had always done all she could to encourage him in his labours. (Applause).

At the close of the presentation, Mr Siddle, on behalf of the collectors, said that the same loyalty they had exhibited to Mr Tennant would be shown to Mr Telford, when he took charge of the district.

Mr Telford thanked the collectors, and said that his success was the men's success, and the men's success was the district's, and hoped they would go on with their business, always doing well at the close. A splendid supper was provided, and was partaken of by all present.

LANCHESTER UNION WORKHOUSE.

The Christmas festival was observed at the above-named institution in the customary manner, the whole of the inmates, who represent numerically some 170 persons, being provided by the Guardians on Christmas Day with a splendid dinner of roast beef, plum pudding, &c., the substantial repast being followed by a plentiful dispensation of pipes and tobacco, nuts, oranges, sweets, and, other delicacies, besides Christmas cards, presents, and toys. We have often praised the superb decorations of the magnificent dining hall, each year the interior of the spacious structure being resplendent with garlands and bunches of evergreens, appropriate illustrated texts and mottoes, and other artistic devices, this work having been carried out under the supervision of Mr F. Blackman, the drill instructor. When lit up in the evening, the hall almost resembled an enchanted alcove in fairyland, so dazzling was its beauty and splendour. The feast was, it is superfluous to say, thoroughly enjoyed by both old and young. Judging by the amount of beef, potatoes, and pudding consumed in a very short interval. The huge joints of beef supplied by Mr John Parker, of Leadgate, were universally admired, and for its nutrition and quality could not have been surpassed. The eatables were roasted to perfection, thanks to the culinary resources of the establishment being in the hands of such a capable person as Mrs Brotherhood, who was ably assisted by Miss Brooks, assistant matron, Mrs Reed, and others. Amongst those who were present and assisted to feed the poor folks were:—Mr W. Logan (chairman of the Guardians) and Miss Logan, Mr Geo. G. Taylor-Smith, J.P., and Miss E. Taylor-Smith, Mr and Mrs Thomas Taylor-Smith, Rev F. W. Glyn and Mrs Glyn; Messrs John Parker, Leadgate; J. E. Parker, A. Edwards, T. Suddes, and J. Towns, Lanchester; R. Darling, Newcastle; T. and S. Wilson, W. Eales, Consett; Mrs and Miss Reed, Lanchester; Miss Scott, Hartlepool, &c. Two of the visitors present at last year's dinner—viz, Mr William Crawford, M.P., and Mr Jon. Wall—have since joined the great majority, while Rev J. P. De Pledge, J.P., who has regularly attended the festive occasion for many years, was also absent, probably in consequence of being indisposed. The inmates, at the close of the feast, tendered their thanks to the Guardians by lusty cheers.—Mr T. Taylor-Smith proposed the healths of Mr and Mrs Brotherhood, and referred to the excellent arrangements and admirable discipline in the well-managed institution.—Mr Brotherhood suitably acknowledged the compliment.—Mr Taylor-Smith also submitted the health of Rev W. Glyn (chaplain of the house) and Mrs Glyn, and Mr John Parker proposed the health of Mr Thomas Taylor-Smith, both gentlemen replying, after the sentiments had been enthusiastically pledged in appropriate terms.—The usual New Year's tea given by Mr Geo. G. Taylor-Smith, J.P., took place yesterday (Thursday), a report of the proceedings being reserved for next week.

NOTES FROM THE STEEPLE.

[By the "Old Crow."]

By the time these notes have passed through the mystic hands of the compositor as type the old year 1890 will probably have left us never to return. The past year has happily been one of great prosperity. It has run its course, and that has indeed been an eventful one. During its running there has been wars and rumours of wars; strikes and and rumours of strikes; much contention between capital and labour generally, and at this moment, as the year is about to close, a stiff and to all appearance resolute fight is in progress over the border. How it will end and who will be the victors in the fight is at present an indefinite quantity. Working men through their Unions are year by year showing greater and growing strength. The year on which we are just entering may not unlikely prove them to be still more powerful by virtue of organisation than ever they have previously shown themselves to be before its close. Indications undoubtedly point in that direction. It may be hoped, however, that by judicious guidance, clear headedness and moderation in their demands the present bright aspect of a prosperous year of trade before us will in no sense belie itself.

The rehearsals of the "Messiah" go on apace, I am glad to learn, but the attendance of singers might be much better. I must confess to a feeling of surprise that vocalists, numerous as they are, and good, in and around the town should require such a terrible amount of persuasion. It is possible that many singers are holding back for the time being, and intend later on, when rehearsals have got further advanced, to have a look in. Some of them probably feel that they are so well up in the work as to render regular attendance unnecessary. This from their point of view is entirely sound no doubt, and in a sense perhaps justifiable, but viewed as an "influence" and "incentive" to younger singers less proficient than themselves, the "abstention" cannot surely count for much. It is pleasant though to learn that fair progress is being made.

There was much music, and still more fun, at the entertainment on Wednesday evening in connection with St. Aidan's Church, Blackhill. Eating, I am told, formed a particularly attractive feature, and, if the advertisement which appeared in last week's *Guardian* counts for anything, I am not in the least surprised that the supper should have given such general and all-round satisfaction. Cobbett, if I remember rightly, was wont to boast that he never spent more than ten minutes in the despatching of any meal. What in the world would he have said of our friends of St. Aidan's sitting at supper from eight till 11·45 p.m.? Guess he would consider three and three quarter hours a trifle long—eh? But there, the entertainment was a thoroughly enjoyable one.

Isn't there just a little too much importance given to, and an over-reliance placed in, Board School returns? These, like every other form of Government statistics, are decidedly vague and unsatisfactory, and can, as a matter of fact, be manipulated in so many ways and represent such different results, according as the will of the manipulator directs, as to be quite incomprehensible to the uninitiated. This fact was very clearly set forth by "Vindex" in his letter of last week, a letter, by the way, to my mind powerfully convincing in its arguments. How very substantial in its grip of the matter is his paragraph No. 4. The parent who is wise will throw statistics to the winds, and decide upon the efficiency of the teaching staff of a school not upon Government returns, but on the self-evident progress or otherwise, of his children's education.

During the week, *A World of Pride* has been attracting fair audiences to the Theatre Royal, Consett, although business has so far been scarcely so good as could be wished. Next week, *Driven from Home*, a drama that should appeal to the sympathies of a good number of Mr Brodie's patrons will be staged.

When are we to hear the last of the Blackhall Mill Bridge question? Not, it is to be feared, for a long time to come. It would seem that the fault rests at present with the Blaydon Local Board. So far as the Lanchester Highway Board is concerned in the matter all obligations have been properly met and a road cut on the south side of river in strict conformity with stipulations laid down. Up to now nothing has been done by the Blaydon Local Board who undertook a similar responsibility with regard to the north side of the river. Until this is done it is quite certain the County Council will take no action whatever in the matter of the building of the much-needed bridge, and the inconvenienc suffered for so many years by the inhabitants of the locality will have still to be borne until such time as the Blaydon Board can be moved to act.

On Monday next, the children of St. Patrick's School, Consett, in conjunction with those of St. Mary's, Blackhill, will, by particular request make another public appearance in the New Town Hall, Consett, and go through their very attractive entertainment. If my memory serves me rightly each school has given its performance on two previous occasions if not more, and before large and highly pleased audiences on each of them. Probably Monday will be the last night on which the children will appear during the present season, for it should not be forgotten that there is a limit to be drawn even in childrens' efforts, and the thing should not be overdone. Those, therefore, who have not had an opportunity of seeing the children hitherto should really not miss being present on Monday night.

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NOTES FROM LINTZ GREEN.

Skating has been freely indulged in lately on the reservoirs, scores of people from the surrounding districts participating in the invigorating pastime.

The Lintz Colliery is now in full swing, and quite a change has come over the district during the year now closing. Last Christmas, the inhabitants might have had two houses each; now in many cases people cannot find a house when they bring their furniture. Even the schools are sometimes invaded, one family taking possession from the Friday till the Monday morning.

ORNITHOLOGY IN WEARDALE.

Fam Caprimuligidae, genus caprimulgus—European goatsucker.—This, like many other birds according to the locality where it dwells takes various names, for instance night jar, night hawk, tern owl, wheel bird, night churr, churn owl. Selby says, "Not uncommon in retired woody dells, moors, and commons abounding in fen beds.

IT MAKES NO NEST,

but lays two oblong eggs upon the bare ground, making its appearance in these districts about the middle of May, leaving the British Islands again in the middle of October." In Weardale this species is common, breeding in different places, tho' the heath and braken-clad summit of Crawley seems to be

A FAVOURITE NESTING LOCALITY,

as my brother and I have preserved different specimens. This bird greatly resembles the swift in its structure and habits. The greatest difference is that it is nocturnal, capturing its prey during the night, while the swift delights in the merry sunshine. The bill is short and weak, the gape is uncommon wide, surrounded with stiff barb-like bristles, which assist it in

CAPTURING ITS PREY,

which consist of moths and other nocturnal insects. As the most of its food is got during flight, the wings are large and pointed, the plumage is soft and downy, and as it wheels swiftly through the atmosphere it makes no noise. The eyes, like those of the strigidae, are large and beautiful, adapting it to skimming through woods and fern, braken and stunted thickets in the glooming. From dissection

THE GHOST SWIFT MOTH

seems to form the principal prey during the time they are on the wing. The legs and tarsi are short, and as it perches to rest the legs and feet are hid beneath the body, giving it an odd and crouching appearance. It cannot rise quickly from the ground, having to run a few paces, at the same time striking with its wings, until gaining an impetus it mounts quickly into the atmosphere and

DARTS AWAY WITH GREAT VELOCITY.

During the month of July and beginning of August, when the most of the larger lepidoptera are on the wing, the oak eggar, the emperor, gipsy, and tiger moths glide o'er flowering ling and heather, while waving meadows, as night deepens, literally swarm with legions of the ghost swift moth, hovering in eccentric circles, ever on the wing. At this season the

NIGHT JAR LIVES SUMPTUOUSLY.

At intervals may be heard during the stillness of night the peculiar sound it emits while on the wing, which is anything but pleasant. The noise may be compared to a jarring, or, as some naturalists affirm, like the noise caused by a spinning wheel when in motion. From this peculiarity in Germany and other parts of Europe, it is called

THE WHEEL BIRD.

The most ancient and universal name, dating back to historical Greece and Rome, is goatsucker, from the erroneous idea it sucked these domestic animals. All classes of birds are charged with some bad property, although their services cannot be dispensed with without making a serious void in the well-balanced scale of nature. It is a mere impossibility, from physical and organic arrangement, to

SUCK THE TEAT OF A GOAT.

People in earlier times in charge of flocks and herds, noticing these birds mingle and perch among them, no doubt being unable from lack of intelligence to grasp the truth, came to the foolish conclusion, which gave it the name of goatsucker. It is well-known to everyone wherever animals are gathered together in flocks and droves. The effluvia arising and tainting the air is partly kept in check by swarms of various insects. In search of these, the goatsucker and other insectiverous insects frequent

FEEDING GROUNDS,

keeping in check disease and establishing order and harmony, which, for the welfare of mankind, is so necessary when while we learn the beauty and goodness permeating the divine law. What persecution hath this harmless little animal the hedgehog not undergone from the supposition that it robbed the cow of its milk. The form of the mouth and other natural hindrances forbid harbouring such an opinion. Seen by

SIMPLE MILKMAIDS

running from the precincts of cattle enclosures, where it had been in search of food, its favourite, worms and beetles, which had been attracted from the soil by the heat and pressure of the animals. Instead of being tortured and kicked along the street without pity from anyone, it ought to be prized and preserved as much as possible as one of the

FARMERS' BEST FRIENDS.

In this enlightened age we are at a great discount in regard to the many Divine privileges that, in ignorance, we try to improve on, to a most serious disadvantage to mankind at large. The annual report of the North Northumberland Rook Controlling Association numbers among its victims the slaughter of 2,401 rooks and

3,808 WOOD PIGEONS,

and for the destruction of 1,188 sparrows' eggs, costing the association £100 sterling. When our most useful friends are exterminated, the agriculturist need not wonder if the wire-worm and Hessian fly make havoc and ruin. It is no wonder these insect pests are to be dreaded, when the equipoise of nature is disturbed, bringing, through thoughtlessness, a

TRAIN OF MISFORTUNES

in the rear that is pitiful to an extreme. The damage done by the bird race in the autumn is well repaid by the annihilation of insect *larvae* in the early spring. It hath been remarked many times, where sparrows and other small birds have been destroyed in certain localities, the fruit in orchards and gardens

HAVE SUFFERED TERRIBLY

from grubs and caterpillars.

The plumage of the night jar is dusky, being a mixture of grey, brown, and dark red, pencilled or streaked on the back and wings and underneath the body. The two outer tail feathers are tipped with white above an inch in length. This is a useful, pretty bird, and one of great interest to the naturalist, being

ONE OF THE FIRST MIGRATORY BIRDS

to arrive in the early spring. What lover of bird life in Stanhope, while strolling on the banks of the Wear in the gloaming, or wandering on the heather-crowned heights of Crawley, have not frequently heard the night jar's cry, or seen his dusky form cleave the air in quest of an evening meal? The sunny slopes of the Derwent are visited as a

BREEDING PLACE

by this very interesting species. The sun hath sunk behind yon distant mountains, the moon's bright disc (sweet herald of the night) is rising above the heathery horizon, the air is close and sultry, while myriads of insect forms infest and annoy both man and beast. Then let us see the goodness of the

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in providing the bat, the owl, and night jar, and other scavengers, to keep in subjection these prolific forms of life.

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NEWCASTLE.

AND BRANCHES THROUGHOUT GREAT BRITAIN AND THE COLONIES.

CHRISTMAS! CHRISTMAS!! CHRISTMAS!!!

JOSEPH MURRAY,

GROCER, FLOUR, AND PROVISION MERCHANT,

16 AND 20, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT, AND HIGH SPEN,

BEGS to call the Attention of the Public to his large and varied Assortment of Goods of every description for the Christmas Season, which for Quality and Price, will compare favourably with any Establishment in the District.

A Splendid Assortment of Huntley and Palmer's noted Cakes from 6d up to 5s each, and their High-class Fancy Tins of Biscuits from 1s upwards, suitable for Christmas Presents.

Cheese from the finest English Dairies in Cotherstone, Derby, Gloucester, Cheshire, and Splendid American, Gorgonzola, Roquefort, and Edmas.

Bacons, Hams, Shoulders, and Rolls of the Finest Brands. Smoked Wiltshire Hams and Bacon. Cumberland Bacon and Hams. Irish Rolls. A nice lot of Hams for Boiling, about 12lbs. weight, 5½d per lb. Daniah Butter 1s per lb. Margarine 6d per lb., good and sweet.

Very Finest Danish Butter 1s 2d per lb. Margarine 8d per lb., equal to Butter.

COUNTRY BUTTER AND EGGS FRESH EVERY WEEK.

Peek Frean's Globe Cakes, Madeira Cocoa Nut, Sultana and Currant, 5½d each.

Peek Frean's Quadrant Cake, City Fruit Cake, and Biscuits of every description.

Bottled Fruits, Tinned Fruits, Almonds, Muscatels, Sultana and Valencia Raisins, Figs, Metz Fruits and Prunes.

Currants, 3d and 4d per lb. Jams, Jellies, &c., of every sort in various descriptions of packages.

7lb Tins of Rasp and Apple, 1s 9d each. 2lb Jars of Pure Marmalade, 6d each. Glasses of Marmalade, 3½d each.

I have a well-chosen STOCK OF GROCERIES—finest quality guaranteed.

A good Sugar, 1½d per lb.	Good Clean Tea, 1s 4d per lb.
Demerara Sugar, 2½d per lb.	Very Strong Tea, 1s 8d per lb.
Crystal Sugar, 2d per lb.	Our Special Blend of Tea, 1s 10d per lb.
Castor and Icing Sugar, 3d per lb.	The Finest in the Market, 2s 10d per lb.
Finest Cut Loaf, 2½d per lb.	

THE NOTED TIGER BRAND OF CEYLON TEA, ONLY 2s. 6d.—PLEASES EVERYBODY.

A Really Good Mixture of Chicory and Coffee in ½lb., ¼lb., and 1lb. Tins, 1s per lb.

Whole Coffee, 1s 6d per lb. Finest Plantation Coffee, 1s 8d per lb.

☞ FRY'S, EPPS', CADBURY'S, AND VAN HOUTEN'S COCOAS AT USUAL PRICES.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF FRY'S FANCY BOXES OF CHOCOLATE FROM 1d TO 5s.

TINNED MEATS—Large and Small Lunch Tongues, Chicken and Tongue, Turkey and Tongue, Curried Fowl, Game, Jugged Hare, Rabbit, Salmon, Sardines, Corned and Roast Beef, in all sized Tins.

Robert Sinclair's Golden Twist, Black Twist, Nailrod, and Rough Cut Shag.

Nut Flake Tobacco, 4d per oz. Copes's Smoking Mixture, 4d per oz. Wills' Bird's Eye, 4½d per oz. Rifle Cake, 4½d per oz. Lambert and Butler's, 9d per packet. Cigars and Cigarettes.

IN THE FLOUR AND MEAL DEPARTMENT.

Good Flour, 1s 6d per stone, 1s 6d per 10 st.	Finest Superfines, 1s 8d per stone, 16s per 10 st.
Splendid Flour, 1s 7d ,, 1s 6d ,,	Wheat Meal, 1s 6d per stone.
Bran, Boxings, Maize, Indian Meal, Barley, Scotch and English Oatmeals, Horse Mixture, and Whole Oats, at Lowest Market Prices.	

If you want to BUY NICE PRESENTS IN JAPANESE GOODS, GLASS, CHINA, OR WARE, call at

JOS. MURRAY'S, 20, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

AT THE SPEN BRANCH,

A Large and Well-assorted Stock of Men's Work and Dress Boots and Shoes, Ladies' and Children's Leather and Kid Boots, Shoes, and Slippers of every description.

Orders by Post or otherwise carefully attended to, and Goods delivered punctually to any part of the District.

WEDDING RINGS! WEDDING RINGS!

WE continue to present a Half-Dozen best Nickel Silver TEASPOONS to each PURCHASER of our Standard GOLD WEDDING RINGS.

F. A. AND E. WELOH

WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,

ANNFIELD PLAIN. 920

J. R. BRODIE.

TAILOR, MEN'S MERCER AND HATTER.

NEW PATTERNS IN TROUSERINGS AND SUITINGS.

TROUSERS MADE TO MEASURE FROM 12s 6D TO 21s. SUITS FROM £2 5s.

Latest Styles in Hats and Caps. Hats from 1s 11d to 4s 11d; Caps from 6d to 1s 6d.

THE SHOP FOR SILK SCARFS, LINEN COLLARS AND CUFFS.

BOYS READY-MADE SUITS, IN THE NEWEST STYLES, ALWAYS IN HAND

J. R. BRODIE,

5, CHURCH STREET,

CONSETT. 897b

WEIR'S TONIC SALT.

HEALTHGIVING.

WEIR'S TONIC SALT.

STIMULATES DIGESTION.

WEIR'S TONIC SALT.

A GENTLE APERIENT.

WEIR'S TONIC SALT.

IS INVIGORATING.

WEIR'S TONIC SALT.

INVALUABLE TO TOURISTS.

WEIR'S TONIC SALT.

A BOON TO SAILORS.

WEIR'S TONIC SALT.

FOR USE IN ALL CLIMATES.

WEIR'S TONIC SALT.

INDISPENSIBLE IN EVERY HOUSEHOLD.

WEIR'S TONIC SALT.

Sold in

¼ LB. TINS 4d.

½ LB. TINS 8d.

BOTTLES 1s.

May be obtained of

ALL GROCERS AND CO-OPERATIVE STORES.

INMAN LINE ROYAL MAIL STEAMERS

INMAN & INTERNATIONAL STEAMSHIP CO., Ltd.

LIVERPOOL to NEW YORK, Every WEDNESDAY

Calling at Queenstown every Thursday.

Apply to RICHARDSON, SPENCE, and Co., Water Street, Liverpool; ADAM BRODIE, Auctioneer, Town Hall, Consett; EDWARD SUGARS, Post Office, Blackhill; ALFRED PHILLIPSON, Emigration Agent, Dipton; JOHN TULIP, Grocer, Cornsay, Colliery WILLIAM GRAY 5, North Road Durham; WILLIAM WILSON, Cocoa Room, Chester-le-Street; GEORGE HADDITTER, Accountant, Catchgate; ARTHUR F. FENTON, Front Street, Chester-le-Street; W. J. JOHNSON, 96, High Street, Gateshead-on-Tyne. 95r

FOR FIRST-CLASS CLOTHING

GET

S. SWALWELL,

TAILOR AND DRAPER, DIPTON

Who has a very

CHOICE SELECTION OF WOOLLEN CLOTHS, IN TWEEDS

LEADING STYLES for the Present SEASON.

☞ Great care given to the Cutting, Fitting, and Making-up of all Orders. 818b

WADDINGTON & SONS' "PERFECT" PIANOS, as recommended by Sir CHARLES HALLE—the highest authority on the Pianoforte in Great Britain—Iron Frame, Full Trichord, Seven Octaves, most Perfect Repeating Check Action, in magnificent Walnut or Rosewood Cases. This Piano is undoubtedly the "Very Best Value for Money," the Price being only £23 for Cash, or One Guinea per Month on the Hiring System for Three Years; is equal, if not superior, to any other Piano at double the price; is warranted for 10 years. Delivered Free WADDINGTON & SONS, PIANO MANUFACTURERS, YORK, and at 8 Mount Pleasant, Consett.

WADDINGTON & SONS' THREE Years System, introduced by them 20 years ago, has been embraced by 20,000 Customers, who testify that their Liberal Hire System offers GREATER ADVANTAGES to the Hirer than have ever been given by any other firm, and gives the HIRER the FULL BENEFIT of DISCOUNT FOR HIS MONEY. All intending purchasers will do well to NOTE THESE FACTS.

WADDINGTON & SONS' hold the HIGHEST TESTIMONIAL in the WORLD, given by the distinguished Pianist SIR CHARLES HALLE, and can give 20,000 references to purchasers of their Instruments.

WADDINGTON and SONS deliver all Pianos, Organs, and Harmoniums, Carriage Paid, any distance, send one of their Tuners to see the Instruments safely delivered, and guarantee satisfaction to all their Customers.

EVERY INSTRUMENT WARRANTED.

WADDINGTON and SONS being large Manufacturers give the Purchaser the BENEFIT of BUYING DIRECT from the producer. THUS SAVING the middleman's PROFIT.

WADDINGTON and SONS have received SEVENTEEN GOLD MEDALS, and other Awards as EXHIBITIONS for the EXCELLENCE and SUPERIORITY of their PIANOS.

THE OPINION OF "SIR CHARLES HALLE.

December 16th, 1885.

DEAR SIRS,—"I have great pleasure in expressing the great satisfaction which I have had in playing upon your NEW IRON PIANOS, which for quality, tone and perfection of touch, are all that can be desired.

"CHAS. HALLE."

Messrs WADDINGTON and SONS.

Write or send for Price Lists and Designs. Second-hand Pianos from £10.

PIANOS	From 10s. per Month.
AMERICAN ORGANS	From 7s. per Month.
HARMONIUMS	From 5s. per Month.

PIANOS TUNED BY PROFESSIONAL TUNERS, FROM 3s. 6d.

Contract Tuning (once per quarter) 12s. a-year.

WADDINGTONS' PIANO WAREHOUSE 5, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT.

MR. JAS. ERESMON, Manager.

Business Announcements.

JAMES FROSDICK is the only Billposter that has rented Stations within the three Local Board districts of Consett, Leadgate, and Benfieldside. Bills Posted and Distributed at the lowest rates. 508

JOHNSON HEDLEY,

MANUFACTURING and WHOLESALE CONFECTIONER, DRYSALTER, &c.

NORTHUMBERLAND CONFECTIONERY WORKS, ERICK STREET,

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

Superior Jams and Marmalades.

Biscuits of all kinds. 894

DEATH AND DISABLEMENT BY ACCIDENT.

THE

RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY,

ASSURES £1,000 AT DEATH AND FULL BENEFITS AT £6 PER ANNUM.

HON. EVELYN ASHLEY, Chairman

ANNUAL INCOME £250,000.

80,000 ANNUAL POLICYHOLDERS

INVESTED CAPITAL AND RESERVE FUND, £395,000.

COMPENSATION PAID, £2,750,000.

West End Office:—8, GRAND HOTEL BUILDINGS, W.C.

Head Office:—64, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.

W. D. MASSY, } Secretaries.
A. VIAN, }

Agents:—Mr. JOHN HARKER, Station Master, Blackhill; Mr. G. LEADBITTER, Catchgate; and Mr. J. HOOD, Railway Station, Lintz Green.

THE SUN FREEHOLD LAND SOCIETY (LIMITED), LONDON.

How to Purchase a House for 10s. 3d. per Month, value £150, and No Rent to Pay.

Withdrawable Shares issued payable by subscriptions of 2s. 6d., 5s., or 10s. per Month, to which 5 per cent. is added.—For particulars apply The Superintendent, 38, Durham Road, Blackhill.

Local Secretaries Wanted. 837b

£1 TO £10

MR. GEO. RICHARDSON, DENTAL SURGEON, 6, BLACKETT STREET, begs to call special attention to the Prices of his PRIZE MEDAL ARTIFICIAL TEETH, 2s 6d, 5s, 7s per Tooth, £1 to £10 per Set, being lower than what is usually charged for inferior workman ship and common material. EVERY TOOTH GUARANTEED. PLEASE NOTE THE ONLY ADDRESS. Country Patients calling in the Morning may be fitted with Sets or Parts in time to return same day. RAIL FARE ALLOWED.

£10

MANCHESTER CORPORATION CONCENTRATED MANURE,

MADE FROM HUMAN EXCREMENT.

BLOOD, BONES, FISH, &c.

ANALYSING ABOUT

38-66 per Cent.	of ORGANIC MATTER containing
3·60 ,,	of AMMONIA.
5·08 ,,	of ALKALINE SALTS containing
0·90 ,,	of POTASH.
8·57 ,,	of TRIBASIC PHOSPHATE.
2·56 ,,	of SULPHATE OF LIME.

Delivered in Bags at any Railway Station within 50 miles of Manchester in not less than Two Ton Lots, and within 150 miles in not less than Four Ton Lots.—Special quotation beyond 150 miles.

£3 PER TON.

Will be sold by Analysis if written application be made

HY. WHILEY, Superintendent,

Cleansing Department, Town Hall,

680d Manchester.

AMERICAN LINE.

UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMERS.

LIVERPOOL to PHILADELPHIA,

EVERY WEDNESDAY AND ALTERNATE SATURDAY.

First-class, full-powered Iron Steamships.

Accommodation for Passengers equal to any European Line.

Passengers and Goods landed at Philadelphia on the Wharf of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

The Shortest and Best Route to the West.

Apply to RICHARDSON, SPENCE & CO., 19 and 22, Water Street, Liverpool; ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett; E. SLOANE, Postmaster, Blackhill; G. LEADBITTER, Catchgate, *via* Lintz Green; A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Dipton; W. ANDERSON & Co., Shipping Agents, Tow Law J. JOHNSON, 96, High Street, Gateshead-on-Tyne; JAMES POTTS & SON, 26, Sandhill, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 21z

"A MINISTERING ANGEL."

When your liver ceases to discharge its proper functions the whole system goes wrong. Your appetite is bad; you have a bitter taste in the mouth, and your tongue is covered with a thick fur. You are troubled with wind, water-brash, heartburn, acidity, headache, giddiness, pains in the shoulders, aching pains in the limbs, and lassitude. These are all symptoms of a disordered Liver, and may result in total prostration. No one need suffer from such distressing ailments if they will only have recourse to the Sovereign Remedy, TODD'S PILLS, which have absolutely no equal in restoring a disordered Liver, and are altogether unrivalled as a safe, sure, and speedy means of curing a bad stomach. The first dose gives immediate relief. Manufactured only by JOB TODD, Chemist, Carlisle. Sold everywhere by Chemists and Patent Medicine Dealers in boxes 1s. 1½d., and 2s. 9d.

Always ask for

TODD'S PILLS.

PHOTOS.

VENICE DUNN,

PHOTO ARTIST,

15, MEDOMSLEY ROAD,

Is prepared to supply the Public of Consett and District with Beautiful

ENLARGED PHOTOS finished in OIL, WATER-COLOURS, or CRAYONS,

Framed complete, at Prices varying from 15s. to 35s., according to finish.

PERSONS wishing to join our CLUB will be supplied with Club Cards and all particulars on application. Subscriptions received according to wish of Customers.

Photos artistically finished in latest and most improved style, at following Low Prices—Cabinets from 10s. to 12s. per dozen; Carte-de-Visites from 5s. to 6s. per dozen. 599d

FEMALE DOMESTIC SERVANTS from 17 to 35 years of age obtain FREE PASSAGES BY STEAMER TO QUEENSLAND, where they are greatly in demand and receive high wages. Only payments required—£1 for ship kit, and fare to depôt in London.

ASSISTED PASSAGES are also granted to labourers whose labour is connected with the land, such as PLOUGHMEN, GARDENERS, MINERS, QUARRYMEN, &c., and to approved females such as DRESSMAKERS, TRAINED NURSES, &c.

An experienced Surgeon and Matron accompany each steamer, and on arrival passengers are received into the Government depôt free of charge.

Forms of application, rates of passage, handbooks, and all other information may be obtained on application to the Local Agent—

A. BRODIE,

TOWN HALL,

CONSETT.

All persons who pay their own passages to the Colony, should apply for LAND ORDER WARRANTS before embarking. Forms and particulars to be obtained from the Shipping Firms booking the passengers, or from the Agent-General for Queensland. Warrants will not be issued to persons applying after they have left England. 917b

Business Announcements.

NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

At the request of many Friends the Children of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic School, Consett, and the Children of St. Mary's Infants School, Blackhill, will unite in giving an

ENTERTAINMENT

ON MONDAY, JANUARY 5TH, 1891

Consisting of a Repetition of the

GRAND TAMBOURINE DRILL, &c.,

A REVIEW OF THE BLACKHILL INFANTRY,

THE INTERESTING OPERETTA—

"THE FLOWERS O' THE FOREST,"

TO CONCLUDE WITH GIPSIES SONG AND DANCE.

Doors open at 7 p.m., to commence at 7·30.

34 IS the WINNING NUMBER for HAM raffled at Cutlers' Hall, on Christmas Eve.

THE DUTIES of MISS TAIT'S SCHOOL will (D.V.) be resumed on January 6th, 1891.

MUSIC TRINITY COLLEGE, LONDON.

AT the above Examination held on December 16th, Miss MARIAN LUMLEY and Miss SARAH HARPER, Pupils at Miss TAIT'S SCHOOL, successfully passed in the Primary Division.

A MEETING of the Members of the Temperance Hall Look Shop, Mechanics, will be held on January 8th, 1891, in the above hall.

THEATRE ROYAL, CONSETT.

SOLE LESSEE & MANAGER - - R. J. BRODIE,
ACTING MANAGER - - - MR R. BROWN.

MONDAY, January 5th and during the Week.—First Production in Consett of the Realistic and Sensational Drama, "Driven from Home."

Tickets to secure seats may be had at Tyler's Boot Shop, Middle Street, Consett.

TEMPERANCE HALL, SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

ST. CUTHBERT'S, Benfieldside, CONCERT and ENTERTAINMENT, to conclude with a Short Sketch, entitled—"OUR VOLUNTEERS," on WEDNESDAY, January 7th. Admission—Front Seats, 1s.; Second Seats, 6d. Tickets may be obtained from Mr J. Lax, and at the Post Office, Shotley Bridge; and from Mr R. Lowes, 15, Durham Road, Blackhill. Doors open at 7·30; Concert as 8 p.m.

MUSIC LESSONS.

LESSONS in Pianoforte and Theory of Music at his own or pupils' homes given by J. SURTEES (Member of the National Society of Professional Musicians). Graduated Scale of Fees. Next term begins January 7th. Address—

2, CEMETERY ROAD, BLACKHILL. 617d

MRS. HETHERINGTON begs to draw the attention of the public to her Refreshment Rooms, Mount Pleasant, Consett, and begs to state that she is also prepared to undertake orders for Funerals, Weddings, &c., on the shortest notice. A large variety of Confectionery of the best kinds. Toys, Fancy Goods, Tobacco, &c. 630d

MR. ALLAN McPHERSON RUNS A BRAKE from TANTOBIE to CONSETT every Saturday and Monday; leaving Tantobie at One o'clock, and Dipton at Half-past One, Half-past Three and Seven on Saturdays; and leaving Tantobie at Nine o'clock, and Dipton at Half-past Nine and One o'clock on Mondays. The Brake leaves Consett at 2·30, 5, and 9 o'clock on Saturdays, and at 12 and 4 o'clock on Mondays. 438c

CONSETT UNITED TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

GREAT Annual PUBLIC MEETING and SOIREE in the Town Hall, Wednesday, January 7th, 1891. Speakers:—JOSEPH LEICESTER, Esq., Ex-M.P.; GUY HAYLOR, Esq., N.E.T.A., and Others. CHAIRMAN, C. ATHERLEY-JONES, Esq., M.P. Conference at 2·30; Public Meeting, 7 o'clock.

XMAS! XMAS!!

LOOK HERE.—If you want XMAS or NEW YEAR'S CARDS, FANCY & USEFUL PRESENTS, DOLLS, &c., VISIT THE

NEW BAZAAR, 7 & 8, FRONT STREET,

OPEN DAILY by the PROPRIETOR,

J. COCKBURN,

STATIONER, CONFECTIONER, &c.,

13, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

XMAS AND NEW YEAR.

IF YOU WANT GOOD VALUE IN BOOTS AND SHOES GO TO

NINIAN BELL'S

THE SHAKESPEARE BOOT SHOP,

MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

A Capital WINTER'S STOCK to select from. SPECIALITIES:—The Morton and Reliable Boots. Repairs done on the shortest notice, at moderate prices. 636d

NATHAN FAWELL, JUN.,

41, FRONT STREET, CONSETT,

STATIONER, NEWSAGENT, BOOKSELLER, FANCY GOODS DEALER, &c.

BIRTHDAY, CHRISTMAS, AND NEW YEAR CARDS AND BOOKLETS.

A GOOD SELECTION OF DOLLS AND TOYS.

☞ Weekly and Monthly Papers and Magazines.

TOBACCO, CIGARS, AND PIPES.

CONSETT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

THE QUARTERLY MEETING will be held on Saturday Evening, Jan. 3rd, 1891, in the Co-operative Hall. Chair to be taken at 6·30 p.m., when the following Business will be brought forward for consideration:—

1.—Minutes of last Quarterly Meeting.
2.—Minutes of Committee for past Quarter.
3.—Report and Balance Sheet.
4.—Election of Chairman.
5.—Election of Three Committee-men.
6.—Election of One with Beautiful
7.—Consideration of Building Scheme.
8.—Consideration of Committee's Fees.
9.—Consideration of a Reading Room at Blackhill Branch.
10.—Consideration of Subscription to the Rutherford Memorial College.
11.—Miscellaneous Business.

The EDUCATIONAL Quarterly Meeting will be held in the Reading Room on Monday, January 12th, 1891, at 7·30 p.m. 601d

Sales by Auction.

By Mr Joseph Oley.

MR. J. OLEY, instructed by Mr WILLIAM NAISBITT, who is giving up housekeeping, will SELL the whole of his household FURNITURE and EFFECTS, on Thursday, the 8th of January, 1891, Sale at 12·30 p.m. prompt.

☞ JOSEPH OLEY,

THE AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER AND VALUER,

10, WOOD STREET SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

By Mr. J. Vickers.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

MONDAY, JAN. 5TH, 1890.—60 to 70 Dairy Cows and Heifers; 8 Fat Cattle; 45 Fat Sheep and Hogs; 7 Store Cattle; 9 Finger Calves; 8 Pigs.

Entries to day of Sale.

Sale at 10·30 a.m.

J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.

688d

By Mr. John Lowes.

STANLEY AUCTION MART.

THIS MART will BE OPEN shortly for Fat and Store Stock.

743d JOHN LOWES, Auctioneer and Valuer.

JOHN LOWES,

AUCTIONEER & VALUER, STANLEY, R.S.O.

Auction Sales of every description undertaken on the most reasonable terms. Prompt settlement.

VALUATION EFFECTED FOR PROBATE, ETC.

Sales by Auction.

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

Important Notice. — Monday, January 5th, 1891. — Victoria Sale-Rooms, Consett. — Important Sale of Superior Mahogany and other Household Furniture and Effects, including 2 Chest of Mahogany Drawers, Mahogany Couch, in Hair, 12 Mahogany Chairs, in Hair-seating, Gentleman's Easy Chair, Mahogany Dining Table, 2 Feather Beds, 2 Brass-mounted Bedsteads Fenders and Fire Irons, Glass and China, Earthenware, and very Fine Iron Framed Cottage Pianoforte, in perfect order; Superior Perambulator, nearly new.

MESSRS. A. and R. J. BRODIE are instructed to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, in the Victoria Sale Rooms, Consett, on Monday, January 5th, 1891, the whole of the Superior HOUSE FURNISHING and Effects.

Also, the remainder of the Stock-in-Trade of a Tailor and Draper, including Woollen Cloths, Ready-made Clothing, Scarfs and Collars, &c.

Sale at Half-past One o'clock exact time.

FOR PRIVATE SALE, Cheap, Very Fine Iron Frame PIANOFORTE, Full Trichord, Brass Pin Plate, Check Repeater Action, Ivory Keys, Celest Pedal, Overstrung, a Splendid Instrument, Five Years' Warranty.—Apply, ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett.

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

By Mr. John Crawford.

Mr. John Crawford's Sale-Rooms, 25, Victoria Street, Consett.

MR. JOHN CRAWFORD, instructed by a Gentleman, will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the above Rooms, on Monday first, January 5th, 1891, a Large quantity of Valuable Mahogany Household FURNITURE, comprising—Fine Toned Pianoforte, Mahogany Drawers, Press, Hair-seated Chairs, Sofa, &c. Also, a first-class Spaniel Dog, 4 years old, been shot over.

Sale to commence at One o'clock.

Anyone disposing of their Furniture can have it sold on reasonable terms at any time.

Sale Office, Victoria Street, Consett.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

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

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

SPECIAL EMIGRATION OFFICE.

ASSISTED PASSAGES TO CANADA, Cheap Rates to America by the WHITE STAR, AMERICAN, and other popular Lines. Also Lowest Possible Fares to the AUSTRALIAN COLONIES, SOUTH AFRICA, and other parts of the World. Auction Sales carried on efficiently and upon the very Best Terms.

All Emigrants and Luggage taken to the Railway Station Free of Charge; and for the most useful and reliable information and assistance, apply at once to A. PHILIPSON Auctioneer and Emigration Agent, Dipton 486x

Business Announcements

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

E. BROOKS
THE
GENTLEMEN'S HATTER,
57, GREY STREET, NEWCASTLE.
"LATEST LONDON STYLES KEPT."

STRENGTHENING AND ENERGIZING
GLENDENNING'S LIEBIG'S
EXTRACT OF BEEF AND MALT WINE.

This valuable preparation is composed of Old Port Wine, Kepler's Extract of Malt, and the Liebig Company's Extract of Beef.

GLENDENNING'S LIEBIG'S EXTRACT OF BEEF AND MALT WINE is strengthening, flesh-forming, and nourishing.

GLENDENNING'S LIEBIG'S EXTRACT OF BEEF AND MALT WINE, in small quantities, is especially valuable for sick children

GLENDENNING'S LIEBIG'S EXTRACT OF BEEF AND MALT WINE being easily digested and readily assimilated, is "a tissue former," and "a force producer" of the utmost importance to those who require strength.

GLENDENNING'S LIEBIG'S EXTRACT OF BEEF AND MALT WINE is recommended by hundreds of medical men and hospital nurses to their patients, and the Proprietor holds a large number of testimonials in its favour.

PRICES: 3s 9d PER BOTTLE; 45s DOZ. BOTTLES 2s PER HALF-BOTTLE, 23s 6d DOZ. HALF-BOTTLES.

Prepared only by W. GLENDENNING, 9, Grainger Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

SOLE AGENTS:—
RICHARD MURRAY, WINE MERCHANT. BENFIELDSIDE.
MESSRS T. D. DRYDEN & Co., WINE MERCHANTS, &c., FRONT STREET, CONSETT.
THOMAS MILNER, CHEMIST, &c., SHAKESPEARE STREET, CONSETT.
ROBERT ARMSTRONG, WINE MERCHANT DIPTON.
WM. CHARLTON, STANLEY HOTEL, STANLEY.
WM. TAYLOR, RAILWAY HOTEL, ANN FIELD PLAIN.
RICHARD BROWELL, MINERS' ARMS, THE SPEN,
AND
WILLIAM STONES, BURTON HOUSE, BURNOPFIELD. 463c

MOST MONEY LENT
On Silver Plate, Watches, Jewellery, Diamonds, and other Precious Stones, Plated Goods Cutlery, Guns &c., &c., at
J. & E. WILSON'S.
The Oldest Established and Largest Pawnbroking Business in the North of England.
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12, PILGRIM STREET
FOUR DOORS BELOW BLACKETT STREET)
PRIVATE ENTRANCE: FIRST SIX DOORS IN HIGH FRIAR LANE
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
N.B.—A Large Stock of New and Second-hand WATCHES Gold & Silver GUARDS ALBERTS &c., on Sale at the Lowest Prices!
SEE THAT YOU GET TO THE RIGHT SHOP—No. 12.
OBSERVE PROJECTING ILLUMINATED CLOCK OVER WINDOW. 789y

ROUNDABOUT NOTES.

[BY "RAMBLER."]

Things must be brightening up at Lanchester in more senses than one. The people have obtained the services of a "practical optician" to attend to the cleaning and lighting of the street lamps, which have been re-furnished, not before time either.

The *Durham Chronicle*, commenting upon the death of Joseph Inship, in the Durham Workhouse the other day, relates the following story of Old Joe on his travels:—On one occasion, being near the village of Lanchester during a snowstorm, he took refuge with an old lady who happened to be very deaf. "For the love of heaven," said he, "give me something to warm me." "Where de ye come frae, canny man?" asked the old woman. "Newhaven," replied Joe, who, like the old bishop, thought that there was no harm in occasionally telling a white lie. "Heaven!" exclaimed the credulous old dame; "hev ye been there?" "Aye," answered the imperturbable visitor. "De yer knaw onybody up there—de ye ken Jack Sewell?" she inquired. "Aye, nicely," was the rejoinder. "Why, that was my husband," exclaimed the old woman with delight. "What is he deein' now?" asked she. "Leading water with a blind donkey," answered Joseph. "What!" exclaimed the old lady, "our Jack leeden' water wi' a blind donkey, and there's the awd gray mear in the steyble never deuyn a day's wark since he deed!"

There were three funerals at Wolsingham on Saturday, an unusual event.

The wife of a working man, named Thomas Redshaw, living at Consett, was delivered of three children, all boys, on Christmas Day. She had given birth to nine children before, all of whom, with the triplets are living. Some of the triplets have since died.

The death of Mrs Telford, of Berry Edge Farm in the space of a week after the demise of her husband, Mr Robt. Telford, is a melancholy occurrence, and everyone will heartily sympathise with the doubly afflicted family.

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

IRON AND STEELWORKERS' YEARLY SUPPER.—A supper was held by the members of this society at Mr A. Roberts, Royal Oak Hotel, Consett. About forty sat down to supper, each member receiving 16s. After the cloth was removed, a vote of thanks was given to the host and hostess, when songs were given by Messrs Savage, Maund, Cassidy, Roberts, Actaman, and Morgan, which brought the proceedings to a close.

TEMPERANCE.—We would direct the attention of readers to the advertisement in another column announcing that, under the auspices of the Consett United Temperance Association, the annual meeting, procession and conference, will take place in the New Town Hall Hall, on Wednesday next. Mr L. A. Atherley-Jones, M.P., is expected to attend, and several well-known temperance advocates will speak.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT.—On Friday, a boy called Samuel Elliot, employed at the Tinmill works, met with a serious accident. It appears that he was spragging some waggons, but being unable to find a wooden sprag he placed a bar of iron in the wheel, the iron springing up caught him under the chin breaking his jaw-blade. He was taken to the infirmary, where he now lies in a precarious condition.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Visit of Captain Morton, the æronaut.—At the Consett Theatre this week, Mr Gilbert Grey's Company have occupied the boards in the Irish drama, *A World of Pride*, which has been very cleverly performed each evening before good audiences. The piece is well worth seeing.—For next week, a novelty is promised. Although parachuting has been the rage since Professor Baldwin first introduced it into this country, it is a well-known fact that scientific ballooning by well skilled æronauts still holds the prominent position it has always held in the eyes of the public, and the ascent of a balloon in charge of one or other of our skilful English æronauts is witnessed with eager delight by the thousands who admire the science. Perhaps one of the best known of our popular æronauts is Captain Morton, whose name has been associated with nearly all the ascents made in this district during the past ten years, and who will never be forgotten in Wolverhampton if only for the courage and skill he displayed when poised over the furnaces at Smethwick, having for his companion Colonel Thorneycroft. The daring æronaut has had some strange adventures, and we could numerate instances of the many daring escapes he has had during his 300 voyages in the air. He appears next week at the Theatre Royal as "Walter Hasherleigh" and "Willie, the outcast," in the great drama, *Driven from Home*, a drama which enjoyed a successful run of four weeks at the Standard Theatre, London, prior to its provincial tour. Wednesday is to be a grand fashionable night, and we trust the Theatre will be well patronised by the local tradespeople during Capt. Morton's visit.

BLACKHILL.

SOCIAL DINNER.—On Saturday night, the boilersmiths, &c., in the employment of the Consett Iron Company, held their annual supper at the Commercial Inn, Blackhill, a capital repast being served up by the hostess (Mrs Jameson). A pleasant evening was spent.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

St. Cuthbert's, Renfieldside, concert and entertainment is arranged to take place in the Temperance Hall, Shotley Bridge, on Wednesday, Jan. 7th., when a very attractive programme will be gone through by well-known performers.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE WESLEYAN CHAPEL.—On Xmas Day, a Christmas-tree was opened by Mr George Richardson, who said he had been asked by the ladies to open out this tree. He was glad to do so, as the ladies of the congregation deserved every encouragement. They had been very industrious, and their sewing meetings every week had been of the pleasantest kind. The object of this sale of work was to clear debt, help the mission cause, and the remainder to form a nucleus to build a school, &c. He trusted they would have a great success, and that all the articles would be sold, and that they might spend a pleasant evening together. He then declared the tree open for sale. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr Lax, and seconded by Mr Geo. Robson, to Mr Richardson. The choir and string band gave great satisfaction to the company present. The proceeds amounted to £48. Too much praise cannot be given to the ladies for this great success.

TOW LAW.

On Wednesday se'nnight, a pleasant evening was spent at the "Beacon of Hope" Lodge of Good Templars, when Mr Guy Hayler, of Newcastle, was present. At the close of the meeting, a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr Hayler for his services.

On Thursday se'nnight, a meeting was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, Tow Law, when Rev J. R. Cleminson, of Wolsingham, delivered a lecture, and Mr Guy Hayler, of Newcastle, gave an address. The choir ably contributed to the harmony of the meeting.

ESH COLLIERY.

At Durham Bankruptcy Court on Tuesday, *Philip Wm. Bell*, farmer, of Witton Gilbert, came up for further examination; but not having complied with the orders of the Court in furnishing certain documents, the examination was again adjourned for a fortnight.—At the same court *Frederick Foster*, draper, of Esh Winning, was allowed to pass his public examination.

Late Advertisements.

WANTED, a Respectable WOMAN, as General Servant.—Apply, 2, East Parade, Delves Lane.

ALLENDALE COTTAGES—29, Dean Bank, on the 27th, aged 3 months, Horace Seymour, son of James and Adelaide Pattison.

116 IS the WINNING NUMBER of E. Arkless's BICYCLE, White-le-Head.

By Mr John S. Murray.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE

MONDAY, JANUARY 5TH, 1891.

5 Prime Fat Cattle.
65 Fat Sheep.
A number of Bacon, Dairy Fed Keeping Pork and Store Pigs.
A number Cows, Calves &c.
Poultry, Hay, Turnips, Onions.
Coup Cart, Harness, &c., &c.
Sale to commence at One o'clock.
J. S. MURRAY.

By Mr. William Nicholson

LANCHESTER AUCTION MART.

Wednesday, January 7th, 1891.

Present Entries:—
A number of Calving Cows.
Fat and Grazing Cattle.
Fat Sheep.
Pigs, Poultry, &c.
70 Good Larch Hurdles, 2 Posts, &c.
Entries to day of sale.
Sale at One o'clock.
WILLIAM NICHOLSON. Auctioneer.

WEARDALE.

Mr G. Phillipson, of Westgate, preached the anniversary sermons at the Wesleyan Chapel, Egglestone, on Sunday.

On Friday, the remains of Mrs Watson, of Irestone, Weardale, were interred with every visible token of sorrow and respect in St John's Churchyard. The Rev R. Shepherd conducted an impressive service in the church and at the graveside.

ACCIDENT.—On Wednesday week, Mr Thomas Carr, of Cowshill, a well-known Weardale tradesman, slipped on the ice just outside his house, dislocating his shoulder. Dr Hewitson attended the injured gentleman, and he is doing as well as can be expected.

SUDDEN DEATH.—Early on Wednesday morning week, Mrs Watson, Irestone, Weardale, expired very suddenly from apoplexy at the age of 66 years. The deceased lady had been in her usual health and spirits when seized with convulsions. Dr Hewitson, St. John's, was immediately summoned, but his efforts failed to restore consciousness, and she expired as above stated. Mrs Watson's demise severs one of the now few remaining links of those who have long fostered Wesleyanism in the district. The deceased lady and her late husband, Mr Ralph Watson, gave liberally towards all religious and benevolent objects. A native of Slaley, on Tyneside, and sister to the Master of Hexham Union, the deceased lady endeared herself to her tenantry, and the poor and needy have lost a quiet and pious friend. Much sympathy is felt for the deceased lady's family, which consists of one daughter and three sons, one of whom is the Rev T. J. Watson, Primitive Methodist minister, Consett, while another is in the colonies.

STANHOPE.

Mr W. Burns preached two excellent sermons in the High Street mission chapel, Stanhope, on Sunday, to appreciative audiences.

Mr Joseph Wearmouth, Stanhope, a well-known Weardale wrestler, led to the altar on Saturday last, Miss Lizzie Curry. The happy couple left the Wesleyan Chapel, amid showers of rice and good wishes for their future welfare.

SERIOUS ILLNESS OF THE WESLEYAN SCHOOLMASTER.—Mr Thomas Collingwood (son of Mr William Collingwood), Wesleyan Day-school master at Stanhope, is very seriously ill from brain fever. He is attended by Dr Livingstone, and is not considered out of danger.

PETTY SESSIONS.—An awkward mistake occurred in our last week's account of Stanhope Petty Sessions which we regret, and hasten to correct. In our report of an indecent assault, the name of John Jameson should have been inserted, and not William Jameson, of East Lane, Stanhope.

Mr Fred Vickers, Hartlepool, son of Mr James Vickers, Stanhope, led to the altar of hymen, on Saturday, in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Stanhope, Miss Annie Bainbridge, daughter of Mr Thomas Bainbridge, Rose Terrace, Stanhope. Amid showers of rice the happy couple left the place where the nuptial knot was tied.

CORNSAY.

A FEAT IN AMBULANCE WORK BY AN AMATEUR.—On Tuesday, a somewhat singular accident occurred at Cornsay. It appears that a butcher was engaged in killing a pig, and when in the act of dragging it from the sty, Mr Brown, who was rendering him assistance by holding the rope, it suddenly gave way, and the man's arm came in contact with the butcher's knife, inflicting a deep wound and severing a main artery. The doctor was immediately sent for, as blood flowed freely from the wound. Fortunately, P.C. Newton was near at hand, whose experience and familarity in ambulance work proved of service. He subsequently hurried to render the injured man assistance, and ere the medical officer had arrived he succeeded in stopping the bleeding. The doctor, on his arrival, accordingly commended the constable for his conduct, as the injuries of such a serious nature would have resulted fatally had no assistance been at hand.

FROSTERLEY.

FROSTERLEY POLYTECHNIC. — This exhibition is now closed having been on the whole very successful. The take has been upwards of £50. A little expense will have to come out of this sum which will still leave a very nice margin for the funds of the village band.

DIPTON.

COLLIERY ACCIDENT.—On Tuesday morning, an accident happened to a hewer named Archibald Temple, employed at East Pontop Colliery, near Dipton, by a quantity of coal falling upon his back. He was brought home to Dipton, and until the arrival of the doctor, his injuries were attenned to by P.C. Curtis, who holds a first-class certificate of the St. John Ambulance Association, and who has lately been stationed in the village.

ALLENDALE COTTAGES.

ALLENDALE READING ROOM AND INSTITUTE.—The annual supper in connection with the above flourishing institution was celebrated on Christmas Eve, when upwards of 100 members and friends sat down to a most substantial repast. The tables were presided over by Misses I. Davison, S. E. Moore, E. White, and E. H. Leighton. After supper, dancing was indulged in until a late hour, the music being contributed by Mr S. Mace, jun., Medomsley. A most enjoyable evening was spent by all present. The great success which attended the gathering was mainly due to the following members of the committee:—Messrs Wm. Edgar (secretary), R. Robson (treasurer), J. McCall, G. Craig, Alf. Milburn, and Wm. Grundy, who did their utmost to make everyone feel at home. The proceeds of the supper were in aid of the Reading Room funds.

DIPTON.

IRISH NATIONAL LEAGUE OF GREAT BRITAIN, WOLFE TONE BRANCH, FLINT HILL.—At the fortnightly meeting of the above Branch held on Monday night, there was a good attendance of members. Mr J. Cunningham presided. After the contributions were taken and other business transacted, it was moved by Mr Cunningham, seconded by Mr Duffin, that we send £1 to the Rev W. Conway, for the relief of the poor in Carraroe, County Galway, Ireland. It was afterwards proposed by Mr Burgess, and seconded by Mr Lennon, that a subscription list be opened towards which the sum of 10s was taken, the list to remain open for a fortnight.

THE following anecdote is extracted from a Belgian Journal:—"An individual at Antwerp lately gave a supper to forty poor hunchbacks! He awarded a premium of sixty florins to him whose hunch was the most prominent, and who was also proclaimed king of the feast. Carriages were sent to bring the guests from their residences, and to take them back again when the festivities were concluded. They enjoyed the dance till a late hour in the night, and returned home highly gratified with the kindness and generosity of their landlord."

TIT-BITS.

THE VENTRILOQUIST.

A circumstance, which powerfully excited the risible muscles of a number of the town's-people, once occurred in Grimsby. It happened that Mr. Love, the ventriloquist, had publicly announced his intention of performing in the Assembly Rooms. On the appointed evening, a tolerably numerous audience had assembled; but the performance had scarcely commenced, when it was suddenly interrupted by the most dismal yells and howlings from above. It appears that in that part of the entertainment, when, by means of his singular powers of vocal deception, he causes an invisible agent to be heard singing on the roof of a building many yards distant from that in which he exhibits, then gradually approaching, until it is finally heard in the act of descending the chimney attached to the Assembly Rooms. A native of an adjoining village, who had been induced to patronise the entertainment, and who, we presume, had never before witnessed a similar performance, and consequently was not aware of the extent of the illusion which an accomplished ventriloquist is capable of creating, felt convinced that a second person "had a finger in the pie," and being well acquainted with the house, slipped out, unperceived by the audience, and ascended by the back stairs in the dark to the roof of the building, with the firm determination of opening the eyes of the audience, and exposing the confederate of the performer. At this juncture, two other wiseacres in the company entertained exactly the same opinion, and, accordingly, followed the steps of him who had first made his exit from the apartment. Arrived at the summit of the garret stairs, they found the trap-door wide open—this they thought looked suspicious, but, on ascending to the tiles they discovered the first-mentioned Paul Pry in the act of reconnoitring, with his head placed close to the chimney pot. Doubt was now out of the question; they therefore commenced belabouring their unsuspecting victim with such vigour, that, had not his wailings brought mine host (who now began to suspect the devil was in the place in reality), and some of the people connected with the establishment, with lights, to his assistance, the consequence might perhaps have been rather serious. As it was, a mutual explanation speedily followed; and the ventriloquist, as might be expected, joined heartily in the covulsive roar of laughter which it occasioned, whilst the unlucky wights against whom it was directed were glad to make a precipitate retreat.

PARLIAMENTARY SIMILES.

In one of the debates in the House of Commons towards the end of the American War, Mr. Fox, in reprobating the conduct of Lord Sandwich for neglecting to expedite the building of the ships of war, spoke of him allowing the ships "to rot in their cradles."

Sir George Saville, the leading country member in opposition to Lord North's ministry, in a debate on the 14th December, 1761, speaking of the address which is always understood to be a kind echo to the King's speech, observed—"This echo had always been, and this echo would perpetually continue, and in so ridiculous a degree, that were the speech from the throne a repetition of the line—

'What beauties does Flora disclose!'

the echo from that house would fill up the couplet, and reply,

'How sweet are her smiles upon Tweed!'

In fact, the crown and the two houses danced a minuet together to a tune of the minister's composing. The crown led off one way; the two houses, in a similar step to the opposite corner; then they joined hands, and at length finished just as the dance began."

In a debate on the 22nd February, 1782, Mr. Burke, speaking of Mr. Welbore Ellis, who, from the enjoyment of a lucrative sinecure, had been called to the active appointment of American secretary, as successor to Lord George Germaine, remarked, that "being of the caterpillar species, he had remained within the soft and silken folds of an extremely valuable employment, till, having burst his ligaments, he fluttered forth the minister of the day, an insect as to exteriors transformed, but inwardly and at heart the same."

PROGNOSTICS DRAWN FROM TERRESTRIAL BODIES.

1. If the flame of the lamp sparkles, or if it forms an excrescence, there will be, in that case, a strong probability of rain.

2. The same happens when the soot loosens and falls down the chimneys.

3. If the coals in the grate blaze more than usual, or flame with more activity, it is a sign of wind.

4. On the contrary, when the flame is steady and uniform, it is a sign of fair weather; when the flame is low and blue, it is a certain indication of frost.

5. If the sound of bells is heard from afar, it is a sign of wind, or a change of weather.

6. If pleasant or offensive smells are condensed, that is, become stronger, they indicate rain.

7. The frequent change of wind is the forerunner of a violent storm.

8. If salt, marble, iron, or glass, become moist—if the wood of doors and windows smells, and becomes distended—and if the corns on the feet become painful, these are symptoms of rain or a thaw.

9. Those winds that begin to blow in the day time, are always more violent, and last longer, than those that begin during the night.

10. The frost that begins with wind lasts longest.

11. If the wind does not change, the weather seldom changes.

12. If distant objects become more than usually distinct, and appear nearer than usual, it is a certain precursor of rain.

PROGNOSTICS OF THE WEATHER DRAWN FROM ANIMALS.

The following have, from long observation by several meteorologists, been found to afford pretty certain indications of atmospherical changes:—

1. When the bats appear more numerous than ordinary, and fly abroad longer than usual, they announce fine and warm weather on the following day. The contrary is the case when they are fewer than usual, and when they take refuge in houses and cry.

2. The owl, when it is heard crying in bad weather, is the forerunner of fine weather.

3. The croaking of ravens in the morning indicates the same.

4. It is a symptom of approaching rain and storms, when ducks and geese fly here and there in fine weather, and dive into the water.

5. When the bees make short excursions from their hives, it is a symptom of rain; and it is equally so when they come in swarms to the hive before night and without being completely laden.

6. If the pigeons return late to the pigeon-house, they announce rain for the following day.

7. It is a sign of bad weather, when the sparrows chirp frequently, and invite each other to flock together.

8. When the hens roll themselves in the dust more than usual, it is a symptom of coming rain; and it is an indication of the same when the cocks crow in the night at extraordinary hours.

9. It is a sign of bad weather when the swallows skim the surface of the water or the ground; and when they hawk very high in the atmosphere, it is a sure indication of continued drought.

10. A storm is approaching when the flies sting and become more troublesome than usual.

11. When the gnats assemble before sunset, and form a circling mass, they announce fine weather.

12. If the frogs croak more than usual, and if the toads come out in great numbers from their holes in the evening—if the worms appear on the surface of the soil—if the moles labour more than usual—and if the oxen and the turkeys collect together, these prognosticate almost evident certainty of rain.

13. When the cattle in the fields, especially the sheep, are sharper than usual after the grass, rain is not far distant.

14. When cats lick their paws frequently, and rub them over their faces, it is a sure indication of rain.

15. When cattle congregate, and remain in close masses, in an inactive state, it is an indication of the approach of thunder.

NOTES FROM CASTLESIDE.

[BY "CASTLESIDEITE."]

The Christmas gatherings passed off without harm befalling anyone. The customary practice of upsetting rain-barrels and unhinging gates has not been resorted to. The only little misdemeanour enacted was the shifting of a neighbour's barrow from one end of the village to the other, and running away with another's cart. The latter might have been attended with serious results, as I hear the revolver was brought into use; but only being charged with blank cartridges no damage was done.

The brass band men made their first appearance in the street on Christmas morning, and their first appeal for help, which was liberally responded to by those who had not gone to the land of nod, and also by those who were aroused from their slumbers by the strains of music from the new band, which we all, more or less, feel proud of.

The band is making rapid progress in many respects, having already got fourteen instruments and a large drum. They have also rented the old Primitive Methodist Chapel to practice in.

On Saturday night, the band men held their annual social gathering in the Castleside Board School, when an excellent supper was prepared by Mrs Dent. After the supper the band men treated their friends to music and dancing, and other amusing games were indulged in, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

On Christmas Eve, the young ladies connected with the Primitive Methodist Chapel gave a supper, the proceeds of which was to be devoted to the bazaar fund, and the sum of £3 3s was realised.

A very successful juvenile missionary meeting was held on Sunday afternoon, in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, the chair being occupied by Master G. T. Ripley. Addresses were given by Masters J. Hewitson, W. Dixon, W. Jewitt, J. W. Pattinson, R. Jewitt, and Misses E. Ripley, J. Thompson, and M. Pattinson, each rendering their part in an excellent manner. The sum of £3 6s was raised by cards and collection.

Our Baptist friends at Rowley] held a social gathering in the Board Schools, Castleside, on Christmas Eve. This gathering has become an established treat and is looked forward to with some degree of pleasure by both old and young.

Late Correspondence.

THE BENFIELDSIDE SCHOOL BOARD.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—I hasten with all possible promptitude to express regret to "Vindex," to Mr Lane, or to any other who may feel aggrieved at anything contained, or supposed to be contained, in a note of mine handed in at a recent meeting of our school managers. Of course, as "Vindex" intimates, that note was not intended to be blown through trumpets from the housetop, and I could wish my friends did not put it through that process either. Regard for what is due to fellow teachers precludes that I should take that course. But being made public, I accept the full responsibility and all the consequences fairly attachable to that note.

Apart from the summary of figures, which is not mine, considering its destination and looking at its object and intent, that note is as unassuming, as guarded, as colourless as it well could be, and certainly contains nothing, designedly or by implication, meant to wound, wrong, or injure school or individual. If it does so no one can regret it more than I do. Further, I cannot much blame any little heat and one or two trifling inaccuracies into which, under misapprehension, Mr Lane has fallen. I leave alone the side issues introduced. The inaccuracies are:—First, that I published the report; second, his application of the words "misleading" and "erroneous"—which referred not to report and accompanying list of figures, but to past and prospective statements respecting the Benfieldside Board Schools; and third, that I generously *classed* his school or *credited* it with certain grants. It is not my wish nor is it in my power either generously or ungenerously to credit any sums to any schools.

Though the last paragraph of my notes is somewhat transformed in print from the original, by omissions and substitutions, yet, viewed calmly and closely, the meaning of the whole seems clear enough. It casts no reflection, abstains from classing by desert, and keeps clear of comparing schools as good, "better," or best. It deals simply with "earnings" and what these earnings, rightly or wrongly, appear to "indicate." Indeed, all through, it leads to one conclusion, was meant to point one moral, and that the same so ably and so aptly enforced and illustrated by both Mr Lane and "Vindex," viz—*The unwisdom of basing comparison of school with school on meagre or insufficient data.* Carefully looked at, it will be seen too that such things as "accidents" and "infants," humours of children and vagaries of weather, &c., &c., were not lost sight of, and are all covered by the one phrase—*Necessary information and correcting evidence.*

As to the figures showing summary of grants and other particulars, my friends know very well I did not invent them. The "Consett Guardian" which characteristic alertness and due appreciation of its journalistic duties and functions, made them public property weeks ago. Do my friends quarrel with the "Guardian"? That list, entire, unabridged and unassorted was attached to my note. That list too, was stated to be an extract from "the latest published educational Blue Book." Do my friends quarrel with the Blue Book? The summaries then had been scattered broadcast long since—but not by me—and the working out of individual results was open to every reader of the "Guardian" or owner of the Blue Book. Further, I cannot be answerable for the way in which these details work out, one way or the other. And will my friends quarrel with the inexorable properties or propensities of numbers?

Let me here, as in my report, again join with the letters of Mr Lane and "Vindex," and in the most emphatic manner possible ask the public not to be guided or misguided, by any test so unreliable as figures taken alone, when applied as a measure of the worth or worthlessness of a school. In conclusion, I but express the sentiments of "Vindex," Mr Lane, and all my fellow teachers, in saying that our efforts to brighten and enable the prospects of the children entrusted to our care, are sufficiently absorbing to leave no time and no taste for puerile bickerings and unseemly wrangles, of no benefit to the public, and no credit to ourselves.—I remain, &c.,

P. TEARE.

December 29th, 1890.

P.S.—Since writing the above and as showing the misleading character and how unfair references drawn from *incomplete data* may be, I learn that considerable sums have been earned by several schools mentioned in the extract but not credited to them in the Blue Book. Consequently, the order of the schools given in that list does not indicate their true order even according to earnings.

P. T.

DINNER AND BALL AT RYTON HALL.—On Friday last, Mr and Mrs Lamb entertained their servants and friends to a dinner and ball. The hall was beautifully and tastefully decorated for the occasion, when upwards of 50 couples sat down to a sumptuous dinner, served up in grand style by Mrs Willis (housekeeper), and presided over by Mr Lundy (butler), who were assisted by Messrs Noble, Thompson, and Tweedy. The hall having been cleared, dancing commenced, and was led off by Mr Turnbull and Mrs Lamb to the well-known strains of "The Keel Row." Mr and Mrs Lamb, on leaving the ball-room, wished all a very happy new year, and hoped that everyone would heartily enjoy themselves until the early morn. Messrs Calder and Tait supplied the music. Songs were sung at intervals by Messrs Calder, Robson, and Noble, and Miss Blandford. Too much cannot be said for the kind manner in which the servants received their friends, and endeavoured to make the evening a pleasant one.

SAD FATALITY TO A FARMER AT EAST TANFIELD.

KILLED BY A FALL ON THE ICE.

On Friday, Mr Coroner Graham held an inquest at the Pack Horse Inn, Tanfield, touching the death of George Watson, farmer, East Tanfield, whose death resulted from falling on the ice on Tuesday week, deceased succumbing to his injuries on the following Friday. Mr Robt. Atkinson was appointed foreman of the jury, and Mr T. W. Welford (Consett and Stanley) appeared on behalf of the widow.

Joseph Watson, butcher and farmer, Stanley, identified the body of deceased as that of his brother, and said

HE WAS INSURED

in the Ocean, Railway, and Accidental Assurance Company.

Michael Ryan deposed that he lived at the Causey Arch, and was a coal-hewer. Deceased was at his house on the day previous to the accident, and stayed all night. They left his (Ryan's) house about ten minutes past twelve on the Tuesday morning, and walked to the Peacock Inn at Tanfield,

DECEASED WAS SOBER,

and so was he. They stayed there about half-an-hour. Deceased and himself had each one and-a-half glasses of whiskey and hot water, and they had no more drink of any kind. About one o'clock they left, and they were both sober. Deceased walked out about two yards in advance of him, and when he got outside he saw

DECEASED SLIP DOWN SUDDENLY.

Mr Watson's heels slipped from under him, and he fell heavily on the back of his head. The ground was hard and frozen, and covered with a sheet of ice. It was a very frosty morning. There had been a slight thaw during the early morning, and then a hard frost set in, making the ground dangerous to walk upon, and it was through deceased's heels slipping upon the frozen ground that he fell. Witness went to him as he lay on the ground, and found that he was

BLEEDING FROM A LARGE WOUND

on the back of his head. Witness (with the help of another man, who was passing at the time) assisted deceased to rise, and took him back to the Peacock Inn, and there left him in charge of Mrs Johnson, whilst he went to the farm for a conveyance to take him home. Witness could not obtain one, as none of the horses were sharped, and came back to the Peacock Inn with Mrs Errington. As a conveyance could not be got, a pair of stockings were put over deceased's boots to prevent him slipping, and Mrs Errington and himself assisted him home. Witness stayed with deceased during the afternoon, and left about nine o'clock. Mr Watson was

CONSCIOUS ALL THE TIME,

and complained of pains at the back of his head. Mrs Errington and witness bathed deceased's head with water, and the bleeding stopped about four or five o'clock, and then

BLEEDING AT THE NOSE

commenced, and continued at intervals until he left. Witness again saw deceased the following day about six p.m., and he sat up with him during the night. Witness left about six o'clock the next morning, and deceased was never conscious during the whole time he was present, and he never saw him again alive.

Cross-examined by Mr Welford: Witness stated that deceased went to bed on the Monday night about twelve o'clock, and rose at ten minutes to twelve the next day, and only had

ONE-AND-A-HALF GLASSES OF WHISKEY.

Deceased slept in the same room as himself, and was not out of his sight. Deceased had no drink of any kind in his house, or anywhere else before he went to the Peacock Inn. When witness went to deceased while he was lying on the ground he told him to get up. Deceased answered, "I am done." When witness went to sit up with deceased, his

EYES WERE SWOLLEN AND BLACK,

and this was not the case when he raised deceased from the ground at the Peacock Inn.

William Brabban testified that he was a farm labourer, and lived at Tanfield Grange. He saw deceased on the Tuesday about six a.m., and relieved Michael Ryan. Witness stayed till Mr Watson expired on the Friday morning, and he was never conscious.

DECEASED HAD SEVERAL FITS,

and they all seemed to be alike, continuing about half-an-hour. Deceased was silent in the fits, and struggled hard, and did not say anything except "Oh! dear me."

James Anderson deposed that he was a registered medical practitioner living at West Stanley. On the 24th December, about three p.m., he was called to see deceased, who was said to have had a fit. Upon his arrival witness was told that the deceased had

HAD A FALL THE PREVIOUS DAY.

On examination, witness found Mr Geo. Watson suffering from a contused and lacerated wound at the back of the head, with considerable swelling of the parts around. He could not detect any fracture of the skull, and both eyes were blackened, especially the right one, and there had been bleeding from the nose. Deceased was in a semi-conscious state, and opened his eyes when spoken to; but made no attempt to answer questions during witness's visit. Deceased had an epileptic fit. On his second visit later in the day, witness found Mr Watson very restless, and was informed that deceased had

HAD SEVERAL FITS.

Next day deceased was in much the same state, and had to be watched constantly to prevent him from getting out of bed. Deceased expired on the Friday morning. The cause of his death was epilepsey, the result, he (witness) believed, of

ALCOHOL AND THE INJURY COMBINED,

but a positive opinion could only be arrived at after an internal examination. Witness must add that a fall, such as deceased received, would cause severe concussion at the time of the accident.

Mary Alice Johnson gave evidence of deceased and witness, Ryan, coming into the Peacack Inn, and called for

GLASSES OF WHISKEY.

Deceased and Ryan drank the liquor, and called for two more; but she only brought one glass-and-a-half. Witness gave Ryan the glassful, and deceased the half-glass. They had no more spirit, and then left the house.

The jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict that deceased died from epilepsy, resulting from injury to the brain, caused by

AN ACCIDENTAL FALL

on the frozen surface of the ground.

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

ODDFELLOWS' MEETING.—The Durham District of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows held its half yearly meeting at Durham on Saturday. Bro. Robert Cole, of the St. Oswald Lodge, the G.M., presided, and there was a large attendance. The report of the auditors showed that during the past six months £300 had been paid in death allowances to members and members' wives. The management expenses had been £194 6s 5d, and the total income £600 15s 11d. The balance in hand was £35 19s. The total number of members in the district was 3,424. The report was agreed to. Bro. J. Wilson, Queen Bee Lodge, was elected Grand Master, and Bro. T. Wilkinson, Mills Lodge, Deputy Grand Master. Bro. R. Cole, the retiring G.M., was appointed to represent the District at the A. M. C. at Salisbury next year.

[NOW FIRST PUBLISHED.]

SLAVES OF FATE,

BY J. MONK FOSTER.

Author of "For Love of a Lancashire Lass, or, Queen of the Factory," "A Miner's Million," "A Pit Brow Lassie," "Passion's Aftermath," &c.

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PART II.—The Fulfilment.

CHAPTER VII.—Friends or Foes.

"Mr. Chester, permit me to introduce you to my chief, Cumberland Fell. Mr. Fell, this is the Mr. Frank Chester who has invested so largely with our company and has desired so much to meet you."

The introducer slipped away and the introduced faced each other. The face of the great capitalist was irradiated with a genial smile, and he stroked his long beard in a peculiarly caressing way; his eyes, however, lost not their keenness of observation. He was watching the other carefully, had noticed that he was recognised, and already half feared.

"I need not say, Mr. Chester, how glad I am to see you. It seems you invested in the company concerning which you wrote me despite my omitting to advise you to do so. Well, you are not likely to regret your investment."

Roger had held out his hand to Chester when they were introduced, and with considerable awkwardness and other signs of uneasiness the latter had taken it. The changes twenty years had wrought in his old master's son were not sufficient to hide his identity, and the moment Roger spoke all further doubts were set at rest.

Mr. Cumberland Fell and Roger Cumberland were one and the same. His amazement was simply inexpressible, and it was with some difficulty that he repressed an exclamation of surprise.

Mastering his agitation as best he could, Frank Chester dropped into a chair, and he heard Roger speaking without catching the purport of his words. He was wondering if the man before him had recognised him also; was asking himself whether it would be better to forget the past—at least so far as speaking of it went—or to tell his wife's cousin then and there who he was.

All these thoughts flashed through Chester's mind while Roger was uttering those few sentences already chronicled, and ultimately he decided to take the more manly course by acknowledging himself and telling the other that he knew him.

"Pardon me, Mr. Fell," Frank began, "but I think we have met before. I had no idea that such was the fact before we met, and probably you were in the same predicament. Of course, you will remember me?"

Frank spoke in a way that denoted both bitterness and spirit. He had still a vivid recollection of the part Roger had played all those years ago in Lancashire.

"You have the advantage of me, Mr. Chester," Roger responded, his gaze fixed fully upon the other, and his whole manner protesting against Chester's assumption of a previous acquaintance. "I really cannot call you to mind. You must be mistaken. Ha! By heaven, I have it now! Surely you are not the Frank Chester who married my cousin, Agnes Ellis?"

Roger had jumped to his feet and his countenance had assumed the aspect of a great surprise.

"The same. I thought you did not know me; and, yet, I knew you at a glance, although you are more altered than I am."

Mr. Cumberland Fell dropped back into his chair and his face was covered by his hands. Frank thought he understood what was in the mind of his old rival. He was ashamed of the past. Well, he was no worse for his early struggles, thank God! and if Roger was sorry he was ready to forgive him.

When Roger spoke his voice was husky.

"God knows, Chester, that I thought you were dead or at the other side of the world. But I am glad you are alive and well, for I should like to wipe out from your heart the bitter hatred you must necessarily cherish against me; and rightly cherish too. I was mad twenty years ago or I should have acted differently. I was cruel, unjust, blind to wrong and insult you as I did. But it is all past now. Can I hope that it is also forgiven?"

There were actually tears in the pleading eyes that were lifted to Chester, and he was touched to the heart at once by these signs of Roger's contrition.

"Forgiven, yes! With all my heart!" cried Frank, rising and crossing to where the other sate to hold out his hand impulsively, "I am not one to cherish animosity. Perhaps, in your place, I might have felt as strongly."

Roger took the outstretched palm and pressed it warmly, saying:—

"My former persecution of you, Chester, has troubled me very much of late years. Viewed in the cold light of reason, when the blaze of passion had died away, it seemed to me that I had acted like a mad fool, a vicious and an ungovernable wretch. But it is past now, and I may yet make some atonement to you for the wrongs and insults of twenty years ago."

"It is sufficient for me," Chester responded, "to know that I have succeeded at last in winning your respect and friendship. It was nothing, after all, or only good fortune in disguise. If I had remained at Hansford I should hardly have done so well."

"And my cousin, Agnes?"

"Is quite well, thank you. You must come and see us sometime at our little place in Wales. And your wife, Mrs. Fell? How comes it that you have changed your name? I was never more astonished in all my life than when I found that Cumberland Fell and Roger Cumberland were identical."

Into the details of the ensuing conversation in regard to their respective doings since the old days at Hansford it is not necessary to enter. Each explained to the other his past life and success, and an hour slipped by in pleasant and interesting talk.

Chester was somewhat amazed on learning the extent of Cumberland Fell's wealth, and the latter was delightfully surprised on discovering that Frank had invested all his fortune, with the exception of a thousand pounds, in the Lladyllan Copper Mining Company.

"And now," said Chester when the discussion of their domestic affairs was concluded, what about this new company? Have I been wise in risking the whole of my little fortune in it?"

"Perhaps the best answer I can make to your question, Chester," was Roger's reply, "will be to tell you what I have done in the matter. You have invested ten thousand pounds in the company, I understand. Now what do you think is my stake in this speculation?"

"I can't say, I am sure," the other remarked. "More than my own, perhaps?"

"Rather. My stake in this company is exactly thirty-five thousand pounds, and if I hadn't the highest possible expectations of its unprecedented success is it likely that I should involve myself to such an extent in it?"

"Hardly."

"Certainly not. And if I had any doubts concerning its future prospects shouldn't I sell out now when the shares are at a fair premium, and thus realise a nice little thing?"

"Of course you would."

"But I have no intention of parting with a single share I hold," said Roger decisively. "Why, you may ask? Well; because I feel absolutely certain that fortunes are going to be made out of that Welsh hillside."

"I think so too," Chester responded, catching a little of the other's enthusiasm. "And for both our sakes I trust our expectations will be more than fulfilled."

"No doubt of that. Everything augurs well for the company's prosperity. The directorate will be small—four only. Yourself and I, Sir Godfrey Sherstone and Mr. Evans Wynn, the lessor of the mine. We four, with the addition of the Secretary, Milwood Grant, shall have sole control. And it is only right that we should have the whole management in our hands, for we hold above eight tenths of the shares."

"Indeed. Is that really the case?" Chester asked, his faith in the company becoming greater than before.

"Yes. I hold, as I told you, thirty-five thousand pounds worth of shares, you hold ten thousand, Mr. Evans Wynn twenty-five thousand, Sir Godfrey Sherstone ten thousand, and our secretary two thousand five hundred. So that altogether the outside public only holds something under twenty thousand pounds of scrip. That accounts for the rapidity with which the shares were taken up, and explains also their rise in value."

Chester nodded assent. He did not quite follow the expert speculator in all he said, but he thought he understood the main points of his statements. He was not quite used to such large business, but he felt that it was all right; that co-directors would not risk their thousands unless they were certain of what they were about; and he thought that at length he saw how huge fortunes were made.

"Of course," Roger went on, "in an absolutely new concern like this company of ours, a considerable length of time must elapse, and a large amount of capital be expended before there is any return. We have to begin at the beginning and sink shafts, drive headings, erect all kinds of gearing, buildings, and machinery, and, as a consequence of all these things, a dividend may not be instantly forthcoming. But when it does come it will be something to talk of. Before that time arrives the shares may even fall, but take my advice, Chester, and stick to every share you possess like grim death."

"You may trust me," Frank answered with a laugh, "to do that. If I hadn't had the very best opinion of the company at the commencement I should hardly have invested the whole of my little fortune in it, and your statements only tend further to confirm that opinion."

"It was a lucky thing for Mr. Evans Wynn," Roger rejoined, "wasn't it, to find, or rather to have found for him, that lode of copper? Before that discovery he was a nobody, with a pittance of a few hundreds a year derived from the Lladyllan villagers, who are his tenants, I suppose."

"And now?" queried Chester, for the other had paused.

"Well, now he is rather a large personage in his own neighbourhood, and will probably be member for some of the Welsh counties at the next election. As lessor he is to receive ten thousand pounds down in hard cash and twenty-five thousand pounds' worth of shares. Of course, you would learn all this from the prospectus."

"Of course?" Chester assented.

"It seems a large sum to pay for the mere right of working the mine, but," and Roger smiled knowingly, "I knew what I was doing when I suggested that he should receive that amount. Why, Chester, the wealth that I expect to come out of that mine is simply incalculable."

In this strain Mr. Cumberland Fell and Frank Chester chatted on for some little while longer. The offices of the Lladyllan Copper Mining Company were situated in Water-street, Liverpool, and it was there that the meeting and conversation already chronicled took place.

Then the old foes, and apparently new friends, adjourned to a neighbouring restaurant to lunch, for it was noonday now, and the meeting of the directors and shareholders of the new company was to be held at two o'clock p.m.

A little later Frank Chester was introduced to his co-directors, Sir Godfrey Sherstone and Mr. Evans Wynn, and he found them very pleasant to get along with, and quite as sanguine as himself in regard to the brilliant prospects of the great venture in which they were all more or less involved.

Into the details of the meeting it is not necessary to enter.

Suffice it to say that every one present was in favour of active operations at Lladyllan being commenced forthwith, and thus it was agreed. Advertisements were sent to various newspapers inviting tenders for the erection of the requisite plant, and the meeting dissolved in the best of good spirits.

So elated was Mr. Cumberland Fell with the afternoon's work, that when the Curate of Cressingham St. Mary's called at the Park in the evening he gave him a cheque for a hundred pounds towards the restoration of the tower and windows of the venerable Church.

CHAPTER VIII.—Preparing the Way.

For once Sir Godfrey Sherstone was as good as his word. On the day following his success at Aintree, and his meeting, and deeply-interesting interview with Mr. Cumberland Fell there, he made his way to North Wales, reaching Towyn just as the long summer day was coming to a close.

Before Roger and the baronet parted on the racecourse the former had deemed it advisable to give the latter a few hints as to how he should carry himself on arriving in the neighbourhood.

"Of course, Sherstone," said Roger, "I need not tell you that our compact must be kept to ourselves. The faintest whisper of it must never reach Diana's ears, or she would set herself dead against our scheme. My idea in this matter is to lead and not to drive her. You understand?"

"Undoubtedly I do, Fell. I suppose she is a rather romantic girl, who thinks that love and love alone should be the motive force in all marriages, and a knowledge of our arrangements would set her against their completion."

"Exactly."

"Well, I think I know how to proceed in this matter. I shall go to-morrow afternoon to an old hostelry on the banks of the Dysynni, whither I have spent many a night long ago after a hard day's fishing or rambling. This inn—The Golden Lion—is only a mile or so from Powis Court, the Graham's place, you know, and residing there I am pretty certain to drop across some of the family."

"And if you meet your old friend the son—Dick you called him, didn't you?—you expect being asked to the house to spend the remainder of your stay in Wales?"

"Of course. That is why I am going. If Dick Graham only knew that I should be in Towyn to-morrow evening he would be there to welcome me. A good fellow Dick is—if rather stupid."

"And what excuse will you coin to account for your presence in Wales?" asked Roger.

"Oh, anything will do," Sherstone retorted with a laugh. "I can say that the late strain of my Parliamentary duties has been too heavy for me, and that I had come to Cardigan Bay to recuperate."

"Any excuse will be better than that, Sherstone; but of course I can trust you to find a suitable one. And I suppose you will let your friends know of your improved prospects—of your freedom from pecuniary difficulties I mean?"

"Is that necessary?"

"I think it is. The dislike which you imagined Diana conceived for you at your first meeting was probably due to the fact that she knew you were in straitened circumstances, involved in debt, and so forth—she would hear all that, Sherstone, for you know how people talk—and therefore she would set you down at once as a fortune-hunter."

"Well, there is something in that, certainly," Sir Godfrey replied slowly.

He was wondering if that was the real reason of Diana Fell's dislike for him when they met at Lady Sephtone's.

"To clear such an impression from Diana's mind would be a great point in your favour, and I think, Sir Godfrey, that you owe it to yourself to do it."

"You are probably right, Fell, and it shall be done. It will be an easy matter. A few words dropped into Dick Graham's ears will settle all that. But he has a habit of asking questions, and he will certainly want to know how I have been enabled to get rid of all my old difficulties. In that case, what had I better tell him?"

"Anything you like or your fancy suggests," was Roger's answer. "You might hint that a relative or friend had slipped off this mortal coil and left you something decent."

"All right. I'll do something. And, now, I must be off, for I've a lot to do if I'm to be in Wales to-morrow. I've several gentlemen to see in Liverpool to settle accounts over to-day's race."

So the great capitalist and the spendthrift baronet shook hands and parted.

In the little old-fashioned tavern which stands by the roadside that winds through the wild and romantically beautiful valley of the Dysynni, Sherstone found comfortable lodgings for the night.

Mine host of The Golden Lion was less taciturn than the general run of Welshmen, and in a little while Sir Godfrey had learned all that the other could tell him in regard to Powis Court and its inmates.

"Who lives at Powis Court now?" was the baronet's first question.

"Mr. Powell Graham and his family," Williams answered.

"They are at home, I suppose?"

"Oh, yes. I was in Towyn on Monday and I there saw Mr. and Mrs. Graham driving through the town."

"And the son, Dick? What's become of him now?"

"He's still at the Court, sir. He and Miss Nellie and another young lady were up the valley only yesterday, and they stayed here some time to refresh themselves."

"Indeed. The lady with Graham and his sister was a visitor I daresay?"

"Yes. Miss Fell they call her. She's a great heiress, so I heard. It's her father, so folks say, who's starting the copper mines at Lladyllan over there."

"And is Dick Graham still as fond of fishing as he used to be, Williams?"

"He is, sir. [illegible] and him down there on the bank of the river two or three mornings every week. You know the family at Powis Court, sir?" added the landlord of the inn, staring rather hard at Sherstone as he asked the question.

"A little. I and the son used to be rather friendly at one time."

"Ah, sir," the landlord cried smiling, "I thought I remembered you. You are the young gentleman who used to come fishing with Mr. Graham. I recollect now, you are Sir Godfrey Sherstone!"

"I thought you would have forgotten me, Williams, by this time," said the baronet with a smile. "Well, if Graham happens to come fishing while I am here, just tell me, will you?"

In the evening, just after sunset, Sir Godfrey went for a stroll, and taking the road down the valley soon came to the beach at Llwyngwril. He half hoped that the beauty of the gloamingtide which was just then falling over sea and shore, mountain and vale, might tempt some of the inmates of Powis Court forth.

But his walk along the darkening strand revealed no one he knew, and he met not more than a dozen people in his ramble. Naturally his thoughts dwelt upon his mission there, and of course he could not avoid speculating as to how Diana Fell would receive him.

Into the project of making Mr. Cumberland Fell's beautiful daughter his wife he had now entered heart and soul. The success or failure of the scheme meant far more to him than he had permitted her father to think.

On the occasion of his first meeting with Diana, Sir Godfrey had been greatly struck by the girl's loveliness, and had she proved more responsive to his attentions his incipient desire might have quickly taken upon itself the colouring of passion.

But she had received his addresses in such a way that he could not possibly misinterpret her manner, and he was forced to smother his feelings, swallow his regrets, and curse his past life of dissipation which had made him an object of aversion to all pure and honest women.

But now all had been suddenly changed. There was some hope of his winning what he had resigned as utterly unattainable. The father of Diana Fell had actually come to him with a proposal which had for its main object—or at least one of its main objects—his marriage with his daughter.

It seemed too good to be true, yet true it was. Of course Cumberland Fell desired something in return for all that he proposed to do, but with his own part of the bargain Sherstone had no fault to find.

To win Diana he was willing to sacrifice not only his seat for Macclesforth, but all political ambition also. And to stand there fearless of all duns was sweeter to him even than the applause of the House of Commons.

The more Sir Godfrey contemplated his compact with Fell the greater his infatuation for it became. The desire that the first glimpse of Diana's rare beauty had created in him was revived on the instant, and the faint passion was growing now as only passion can grow.

There, pacing the level sands, with the shadows thickening around him, the waves breaking musically on the shore a stone's throw away, and the lights of Towyn glimmering faintly to the south, he swore to himself that sweet Diana Fell should become his wife.

She might prove coy, show again her aversion to him, but he was resolved to let nothing daunt him in that which he had undertaken. When she knew him better her coyness might be conquered, her dislike changed to affection. If patience and endeavour could change her toward him she should be changed.

The stars were shining now in the unclouded summer heavens, and over the massive black crown of Plinlimmon a new moon was riding like a silver boat.

As he strode slowly along the dark bank of the Dysynni in the direction of his hostel he reflected that if he could but succeed in winning Diana Fell he might lead a fuller, nobler, and more useful life. Who could say what he might not become?

On the following morning, Sir Godfrey Sherstone was astir betimes, and after a hearty breakfast he sallied forth, armed with all the necessary tackle incidental to the angler's craft, and evidently intent on having a good day's sport in the river.

The baronet had a double motive for being out thus early. He was really fond of fishing, and expected to spend an agreeable hour or two in capturing the scaly denizens of the Dysynni; but apart from that he thought it probable that his old friend, Dick Graham, might be dropped upon in the vicinity of the stream.

It would look so much better renewing his acquaintance with Dick in that way. It would appear quite accidental, and that was just what Sherstone would want the other to think. That he would be asked to the Court was too certain to leave room for doubt in regard to that matter.

Selecting a spot beside a large wide limbed tree, whose branches threw a shade far out upon the stream, Sherstone made his first cast. Some years ago he and Graham had landed many a splendid fish at that very spot, and he had an idea that it might still be a favourite resort of his friend.

Presently Sir Godfrey became too absorbed in the sport to think of aught beside. The fish were biting freely, and already he had landed a pair of four pounders, which were lying on the grass near his feet, and was busy with another which he had just hooked when a loud familiar voice fell upon his ears.

"Good morning, sir. You're having fine sport I see."

Sherstone turned suddenly, his face wearing its most pleased and surprised aspect, as if he had never dreamt of meeting the other there.

"Hullo, Dick! That you? By Jove this is good! Just wait, old man, until I have landed this fellow, will you?"

The new comer watched the play with deep interest while uttering a word or two of piscatorial advice to his friend, and when at length the fish was floundering on the grass beside his captured kindred the two old chums gripped hands.

Dick Graham was a stoutly-built, swarthy little fellow of six or seven and twenty. He was a pleasant-looking chap with a hearty manner and cheery voice, which made him friends everywhere. For Sherstone he had a real affection, and that feeling was honestly reciprocated by the baronet, whose friendships were not always deep or lasting.

"Egad, Sherstone, this is a treat, isn't it?" Graham cried. "Who ever dreamt of seeing you here?"

"That is a remark that I might make, but I won't," said Sir Godfrey smiling.

"When did you come?"

"Yesterday afternoon."

"And why didn't you send me word of your coming?"

"Well, I didn't like troubling you, old fellow. I thought you would have forgotten me by this."

"Nonsense. Well, you're here, and intend to stay for a week or two I expect."

"Can't say yet. I may do, I daresay."

"You must! You're at the Golden Lion, I suppose, eh?"

"Yes."

"Well, we'll adjourn there if you please and have a drink. I could never talk, old boy, without something wet."

"Don't mind. Will you carry the fish?"

"And how's the world been using you, Sherstone, since we last met?" Dick asked as they set their faces toward the tavern.

"If you had asked me that question some weeks ago I should have said 'badly.' Now I can say 'very well.'"

"A change, eh?"

"Rather!"

"In what shape?—if it's not impertinent to ask, Sherstone."

"Not at all, Dick. Well, the change came in the form of a legacy from an old friend of the family. It was quite unexpected, and large enough to clear off all my debts."

"Glad to hear it. Why you look a different man already."

"I am a different man!" Sir Godfrey said decisively. "And henceforth I mean to lead a different life. I mean to devote myself seriously to politics now, Dick."

"And become Prime Minister, eh? Well, I always said, old fellow, that you were clever enough for anything if you only set your heart upon doing or getting it."

"I have set my heart upon one thing, Dick," Sir Godfrey rejoined with a low laugh, "and I mean to get it if I can."

Graham did not quite understand what his friend meant, and he might have questioned the other as to the object he had in view if the tavern had not been reached at that moment. They passed inside, and soon were sitting by the open window of the long low parlour and slaking their thirst with rich brown ale.

"And how are all the family?" Sherstone asked, presently.

"All right, thank you. Of course you're going back to the Court with me?"

"Well, I don't like refusing you, Dick; but I merely came down for a day or two's quiet sport. If it would not seem unfriendly I should say I'd prefer to remain at The Golden Lion. But if you will have me go, I must, I suppose."

"That's settled, then. And, oh, Sherstone, there's something I forgot to mention to you."

"What—is—it—Dick?" Sir Godfrey ejaculated between the puffs at the cigar he was just lighting.

"There's a visitor at the Court. A real beauty, too. One of Nellie's friends, and awfully rich, I suppose."

"Who is she?"

"Miss Diana Fell, of Cressingham Park, near Liverpool. I daresay you know her."

"We have met once, I think," Sherstone replied coldly.

(To be continued).

Cycling Notes.

Death of a Local Cyclist.—William C. Robinson, a member of the Prudhoe and District C.C., died very suddenly last week. He was buried on Sunday, and a beautiful wreath was sent by his fellow-clubmen, a large number of whom took part in the funeral procession.

Cricket.

Ryton Cricket Club.—The committee which was appointed to negotiate for the obtaining of a new field for play have, in a circular just issued to the members, intimated that they have been successful in securing the old cricket field, which is situated opposite the Thorpe Schools, Barmoor; and they further state that they will be able to commence play in the same at the beginning of next season. The new ground is pleasantly situated, and will require very little labour to make the pitch a really good one. The club committee have, it is understood, obtained a lease from Mrs Benson for a number of years.

Sporting Items

Shooting.—£2 a-side has been made good at the house of Thomas Hurst, Winlaton, in the hands of H. Ranson, to bind a shooting match between John Atkinson and William Atkinson, both of Winlaton, who are to shoot at 11 pigeons each, for £10 a-side. H. Ranson is to be final stakeholder.

Foxes at Wolsingham.—On Wednesday week, when Mr H. Brownless was attending to his sheep at Dodd Hill, his cur dog put out a fox from some whins. The dog speedily seized the fox by the back, and a fox terrier dog, owned by Mr Forster, Middlesbrough, then seized it by the throat, and after a fierce struggle Reynard was no more. One or two foxes have been seen about Thistlewood Farm recently, and poultry have been missed.

Quoit Handicap at Blaydon.—The open quoit handicap promoted by Mr J. Wood at the Pioneer Tavern, Blaydon Haughs, Blaydon, was resumed in the large and newly-formed ground adjoining the above house, before a large gathering of spectators, when the following well-contested heats were played:—W. Shannon, 10, beat R. Thoburn, 11, by 5; Wm. Shannon (2nd lot), 10, beat H. Dawson, 3, by 3; R. Hurst, 11, beat T. Hands, 10, by 7; M. Clark, 10, beat Lyle, 11, by 4. Mr Jefferson officiated as handicapper and referee. The handicap was brought to a conclusion on Saturday afternoon, when the following heats were played:—W. Shannon 10, beat M. Clark, 10, by 11; W. Shannon (2nd lot), 10, beat R. Hurst, 11, by 3. Shannon received first and second prizes. Mr Jeffersson was referee.

Quoiting at the Spen.—On Saturday, a good number of spectators assembled near the house of Mr R. Browell, Miners' Arms, Spen, for the purpose of witnessing a match at quoits, the contestants being J. Hood, Spen, and A. Spears, Spen, who played with 4½ lb. quoits, 2-inch pins, 61 points up, distance 10 yards on clay ends, for £10. Score:—Hood, 61; Spears, 35. Mr A. Emmerson officiated as referee and stakeholder.

Quoit Match at Barlow.—On Saturday afternoon, there was a good company present at Mr Wm. Clark's, Green Tree Inn, Barlow, to witness the match between Isaac Clark, Spen, and Edward Shotton, Rowland's Gill, who played 18 yards on the sward, 4 lb. quoits, 2-inch pins, 31 points up, for £30. Betting ruled at evens, and Shotton won a rather one-sided game by 15 points. Scores:—Shotton, 1 0 3 2 1 0 0 2 1 0 2 0 2 2 2 0 0 1 2 1 2 0 0 0 1 1 0 2 2 0 1—31; Clark, 0 2 0 0 0 2 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 0 0 1 2 1 0 0 2 0 0 1 0—16. John Wigham was referee, and John Fellowes was stakeholder.

Pigeon Shooting Handicap at Witton Gilbert.—The annual all-England pigeon shooting handicap, promoted by Mr Wm. Hunter, Three Tuns Hotel, Witton Gilbert, was commenced on Saturday afternoon, in a field near the house, which was kindly lent by Mr Turnbull. The conditions were 18 to 25 yards rise and 60 yards fall. The weather was unfavourable, but there was a good gathering of spectators, and some good shooting was witnessed. Scores:—Emma Hardy, 17, 0; Kidney, 23, 1 1 1; Hudson's Dry Soap, 19, 1 1 1; Findon Hill, 23, 1 1 1; Jake, 11, 1 1 1; Station Hotel, 19, 1 1 1; The Doctor, 10, 0; Our Louie, 23, 1 1 1; Our Joe, 19, 1 1 1; Robson 19, 1 1 1. Mr Wardle was trapper, and Mr Robson was scorekeeper.

Leadgate, near Greenside.—A fair number of spectators attended in a field near the Ash Tree Farm, on Saturday, to witness a small pigeon shooting sweep, a gun having been given in competition. The entries were not large, but the shooting was of good quality. Although the weather was unfavourable, the sport was enjoyed, and the sweep resulted in Ralph Herdman carrying off the gun. A small sweep followed at 1s 6d a lot which secured a fair entry, and resulted in John Anderson and Plunger dividing.

Greenside.—On Saturday afternoon, there was a large gathering of sportsmen in a field belonging to Mr Todd, and in close proximity to Mr John George Snowdon's Black Horse Inn, Greenside, to witness a match at sparrows for £20 between John Hall, Spen, and John Robinson, of the same place. The conditions of the match were 18 yards rise, 50 fall, 1oz of shot, 15 birds each. Scores:—Hall, 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 1 0 1 1 0 0—10; Robinson, 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 1 0 1 0—11. James Bell trapped for Robinson, and William Lawson acted in the capacity for Hall. Mr Cawthorn acted as referee.—On Saturday night £1 a-side was placed in the hands of Mr Cawthorn, at the house of Mr John George Snowdon, to between the men, for £20, on the same conditions, three weeks time at Greenside. The parties are to make a further deposite of £3 a-side at the above house a week come Saturday night. Mr Cawthorn has been appointed stakeholder.

Stella Staith, Blaydon.—On Saturday afternoon a number of spectators assembled in a field near to Mr Robert Dowson's, Stella Staith Inn, Blaydon, to witness the sparrow shooting sweepstakes, promoted by Mr Joseph Shippen at the above house, 10s having been added by the promoter to 1s 6d entrance. At the conclusion of the fourth round, the five left in divided. Joseph Shippen acted as referee, Edward Spoors trapper, and Joseph Aitchinson kept the book. Scores:—Robert Dowson, 17, 1 1 1 1; W. Ogle, 17, 0; Accidental, 17, 1 1 1 1; Fred Winter, 16, 1 0; St. Gatien, 16, 1 1 0; Tudor Chief, 17, 1 0; 2nd lot, 0; Boxwood, 17, 1 1 0; Picnic, 17, 0; St. Michael, 16, 0; Path Head, 17, 0; Thomas Bell, 17, 0; 2nd lot, 0; Little Winlock, 17, 0; Lance, 17, 0; Very Pretty, 17, 0; Bonny Swill, 17, 0; James Tilley, 18, 1 1 0; Never Can Tell, 18, 0; Bob, 18, 1 1 1 1; Collins, 18, 1 1 1 1; Peter, 18, 0; Nurse, 17, 0; Greener, 17, 1 1 1 0; Pioneer, 17, 0; Jack, 17, 0; Jimmy, 17, 1 1 1 1; Jacky, 17, 1 1 0; Stargate, 17, 1 1 0; Jumbo, 17, 0; T. Witty, 17, 1 1 0; R. Greener, 17, 1 1 0; Melton, 17, 0; Frost, 17, 0; Bridge End, 17, 1 1 1 0; Kit, 17, 1 0; Sloper, 17, 1 1 1 0; T. Bell, 17, 1 1 0; Tommy, 17, 1 1 1 0. A small sweepstakes followed on the same conditions. Scores:—Sailor, 1 1 1 1; Surprise, 0; Bob, 1 1 1 0; Funkey, 1 0; Tudor Chief, 0; Tommy, 0; Owt You Like, 0; A. Dowson, 1 1 1 0; Blaydon Bank, 1; Shamrock, 1 0.

Hymns for Sunday School Anniversaries, &c., printed on the shortest notice, and at the *cheapest* rates by Robert Jackson, Consett.

Floriline!—For the Teeth and Breath.—A few drops of the liquid 'Floriline' sprinkled on a wet tooth-brush produces a pleasant lather, which thoroughly cleanses the teeth from all parasites or impurities, hardens the gums, prevents tartar, stops decay, gives to the teeth a peculiar pearly-whiteness, and a delightful fragrance to the breath. It removes all unpleasant odour arising from decayed teeth or tobacco smoke, "The Fragrant Floriline," being composed in part of Honey and sweet herbs, is delicate to the taste, and the greatest toilet discovery of the age. Price 2s. 6d. of all Chemists and Perfumers. Wholesale depot removed to 33, Farringdon Road, London.

Human Life.—Fifty years' record of Facts, Principles, and Discoveries relating to the Origin and True Treatment of Disease, and the preservation of Human Life on Earth. By Dr. Samuel Birley, M.D., Ph.D.; author of "Patriarchal Longevity Reattainable," "Earth-Life," &c. &c. A series of most valuable articles in 52-paged books, containing Diet Rules—what to eat and what to avoid in various complaints, together with other useful and valuable information. Invaluable to every Sufferer. Sound and Practical. Write to-day for presentation copy from the publishers, Messrs Gordon, Murray, and Co., 48, Theobald's Road Holborn, London, W.C.

GREAT DECREASE OF DEATHS FROM CONSUMPTION.

The Government returns show a great decrease in this fatal malady since Handyside's Consumption Cure has been discovered, and anyone attending the meeting of Handyside's patients will not be surprised at the result. If Dr Koch surpasses this medicine it will be discontinued, but from appearances it will be as much wanted as ever to build up the constitution. Everyone should write for extracts from ten thousand testimonials.

Price 3s 10d per 2 bottles.

25, Tweed Street, Newcastle.

Mr G. Handyside,

I am glad to say my wife is now restored to health. She has been a sufferer from Rheumatism and Consumption for eight years. I have tried six doctors. She was ordered to the Convalescent Home, and went for three weeks, but it did her no good. Previous to taking your medicine she had been confined to child-bed for three weeks, and could not turn over in bed. The doctor attending to her confinement was very anxious about the state of her health, but could do nothing for her; but after taking your Consumption Cure for two days she was able to get out of bed and walk about, and in about eight days she felt herself well. I recommended it to my wife's sister, and it did her a great deal of good. I think it my duty to communicate to you, so that it may be widely known, as they are completely restored.

JOHN McQUINN.

[I was asked to see this lady, it was a serious case. She was labouring under nearly all diseases that flesh is heir to, and, in addition had recently been confined. I asked her husband to feel her pulse, and he was scarcely able. Her heart was nearly motionless. She had been a martyr to Sciatica, the worst form of Rheumatics, for years, and at the time I saw the lady she could not turn over in bed. She told me she had been treated for Consumption for eight years. The lady appears to be delighted at the change, and I am sure if anyone calls she will be glad for the sake of other sufferers, to relate to them the wonderful change.]

25, Tamworth Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
August 8th.

I hereby certify that I have been ill for a year-and-a-half, and have been under four doctors; but I gradually got worse and worse, and the last doctor told me he could do nothing further except order me change of air. I went to the country for three weeks, and came home worse than when I left. I took a vomiting of blood, and lost about three gills. Hearing of your medicine I got two bottles, which in six days did me a great deal of good; and in sixteen days I was quite well.

JANE SNOWDON.

No one believed consumption was curable, and in order to show it was I gave about 200 of my patients a trip from Newcastle to Hexham, so that people could see for themselves. This produced great excitement and two large trains accompanied them. All expected to see a lot of pale-faced consumptives, but were astonished to see them all blooming in health. I gave prizes for dancing and the above lady strongly competed for the second prize. The lady came home to Newcastle in a carriage that was occupied by the reporters, and she looked as blooming and healthy as anyone.

Middle Bridge, near Durham,
July 6th, 1890

Dear Sir,

We send you the following lines to inform you of a wonderful cure your medicine has done to our son. He took very ill and was given up by our doctor, as being in a deep consumption over his whole body, and there was no hope of his life being spared to us. But thanks be to God and your medicine he is getting better every day. We see it is through your medicine that God has given you the knowledge to bring forward for suffering humanity, and we will praise God for you ever before the public. We have had ten bottles of your medicine and our son is now going about and we trust in our heavenly Father that he will be right in a week or two. He has recovered to the astonishment of all around us. May God grant you long life and happiness to make use of your medicine, and we trust in our Lord for all the blessings we have received from His hand. We lost a son 9 years ago, on the 13th November, and we have another son, that received a misfortune in the pit five years ago. He is 22 years of age and they deprived him of his benefit, and we have nothing coming in to keep him. Our kind and loving neighbours have been very good to us, else we could not have got your medicine. But God is good to His own. We think one or two more of your bottles will restore him to his usual health, for the cough and spitting has gone altogether. He has a good appetite for the food such as we can get him. We know that he that giveth to the poor will be rewarded in Heaven, bless His holy name, and may God ever bless you for being the means of saving our son. So no more at present from your loving but humble servants,

WM. and MARGARET TOWART.

The Editor of the *Durham Chronicle* investigated the case, and found that he was now working. The doctor says he will fall away again as a great portion of his lungs are gone; if this is the case, the consumption cure must be more than a miracle to bring a man out of bed with his lungs far gone, and sustain him to work regularly.

23, Tweed Street, Bentinck,
December 19th, 1888.

G. Handyside.

Dear Sir,—I was unfortunate to be crushed between two waggons at Sir William Armstrong's works. I went under medical treatment for about ten months. I was reduced in weight one stone ten pounds: I was fading away. I had neither life nor spirits, and saw no hope of recovery. When I went to the water-closet the pain was dreadful, and I could get no passage without taking heavily of opening medicine, and the pain of passing anything was most severe. I was induced to try your "Blood Purifier," and the effect is most wonderful. I have taken it for six weeks; my bowels are pretty regular, the pain is nearly gone, and I have gained seven-and-a-half pounds in six weeks. I feel now cheerful and happy; the doctors said I would never be able to work any more.

JAMES McNAMARA.

December 11th, 1888.

Knowing Mr McNamara very well, and having attended him during his illness, I have great pleasure in testifying to the immense benefit that he has received from the new medicine that he has been using, and which was supplied by Mr Handyside of Bentick. It is a pity that this medicine has not obtained greater notoriety; it would be quite a boon to the public.

REV. FATHER DUNN,
St. Michael's Newcastle.

[After the testimony of the Rev. Father Dunn, I need say little; but it may arouse the curiosity of some to see how well a blood purifier could mend a great crush. It is simply the invigorating of the body by the purification of the blood. If a youth happens an accident, the vigour of his youthful blood brings him round; but if he is old, and his blood is poor he dies. Therefore, anything that will improve the blood, and thereby impart strength to the body, will assist greatly in the recovery as may be seen from the above. All delicate constitutions should take this medicine, it will invigorate the system.

146, Madeline Terrace, Newcastle,
December 10th, 1888.

Mr G. Handyside.

Dear Sir,—I have been for several months suffering from serious affection of the glands of the neck, and weakness of the eyes, for which I was under medical treatment, and also in the Infirmary, but without getting much relief. I at length tried Mr Handyside's medicines, and have found them of the greatest benefit. My eyesight is quite restored, the glandular swellings are much reduced in size, and have almost entirely ceased to give out discharges. I attribute the improvement in both cases to the medicines I got from Mr Handyside.

G. FAIRBAIRN.

54, Chaucer Street, Gateshead,
December 15th, 1888.

Mr G. Handyside,

Dear Sir,—Having been ailing for some time from weakness of the chest, I was induced by a friend to try your Blood Purifier. I am glad I did, for after taking the first two bottles I felt great benefit, and would advise all those who are suffering from the same to try it.

I am, sir, yours faithfully,
R. H. WARDLE.

1, Gladstone Terrace, Gateshead,
December 13th, 1888.

I have pleasure in certifying that the case of G. Fairbairn and R. H. Wardle referred to above, are well-known to me, and I can confirm both their statements as to the benefit received from Mr Handyside's medicines.

REV ROBERT STEWART,
Presbyterian Church, Gateshead.

[The above testimonials show what a wonderful blood purifier Handyside's Blood Purifier is. After the impure blood irritated the glands of the neck, the blood purifier put it into a proper state, and took away the irritating acidity that irritated them. They fell to their natural size and the discharge ceased, for the blood became so purified that there were no humours to pass away.] By purifying the blood it cures bronchitis, asthma, indigestion, costiveness, sleeplessness, general debility, a weak heart, fits, faintings, change of life, fevers, measles, smallpox, and all things arising from poor and impure blood. Price: 2s 6d per two bottles.

Handyside's Rheumatic Cures needs no testimonials, hundreds have presented themselves in treatment before large public audiences with only one failure. Poor people unable to work for their families, and who had tried all other remedies, I will be glad to pay a portion of their railway fare to Newcastle or London, and cure them free. The rubbing bottles at 1s will cure simple cases, but long standing cases require Handyside's Blood Purifier, price 2s 6d per two bottles.

Those who prefer to take Pills should take Handyside's No. 3 Pills which contain a great amount of Handyside's Blood Purifier. They do not purge the bowels and ruin the constitution like common pills. Anyone who has taken large quantities of purging and Mercurial Pills find to their sorrow that their constitution is gone and they will be compelled to take them as long as they live. They make people better for a short time, as all Mercurial Medicines do, then make them worse than ever. The victims then take more again, they find a temporary relief until their constitution is so much reduced they have to take them so long as they live. When we look at the construction of the stomach it cannot be otherwise. There are millions of small tubes in the stomach no larger than a fine hair to convey gastric juice amongst the food. Therefore, when the stomach is irritated by purging Mercurial Pills it has a tendency to close up these small tubes and prevent the natural flow of gastric juice into the stomach, which is the chief agent of digestion. Is it then surprising that those who have been great takers of purging pills should be troubled with broken constitutions? Handyside's No. 3 Pills will not purge or irritate the stomach, they increase the digestion, invigorate the system, and make people more happy and healthy. Those who take Handyside's No. 3 Pills will soon find out which pills are worth a guinea a box. If No. 3 Pills do not gently open the bowels once in three days, one of No. 1 Pills amongst No. 3 Pills should be taken, but should be discontinued as soon as No. 3 will do their work. They will give health even to those whose health has been ruined by taking purging pills.

Old people are often costive in the bowels. Three thousand boxes will be given away to them. Those who are able to purchase them should not write for them, as they are by so doing depriving old people out of a medicine that is much needed for reviving their strength. This is a grand female pill, and the best pill for clearing away all obstructions; price 1s per box. Handyside above twelve months ago deposited £1,000, and challenged Sequah and all the doctors in the world combined, and the challenge is still open.

Beware of imitations; none are genuine that has not "Handyside, Bentinck," on the Government stamp. Many lives have been lost by unprincipled chemists recommending their own preparations for the sake of extra profit. Those who have not faith that they are getting the genuine article should write to G. Handyside, Newcastle. It will be supplied at the regular price, carriage paid, with the following guarantee sent with each lot.

GUARANTEE.

So certain am I of the marvellous effect of "Handyside's Consumption Cure," and also his "Blood Purifier," and "Rheumatic Cure," that I hereby certify that if this medicine does not do them more good than any other medicine I agree to return the money. The money, if claimed, will be paid not later than nine days after the goods are sent. Ask any chemist to give you the same guarantee, and this will put a stop to imposition.

679d GEO. HANDYSIDE.

ACCIDENT AT SOUTH GARESFIELD COLLIERY.

FATAL FALL DOWN A PIT SHAFT.

On Friday Mr John Graham, coroner for Chester Ward, held an inquiry at the house of Mr N. Carrick, Traveller's Rest, Leazes, Burnopfield, touching the death of Thomas Kay, aged 16, who resided at Lintz Colliery, and who died on Tuesday week, from injuries received by falling down the shaft at South Garesfield Colliery.—From the evidence of William Pinkney and Thomas McGough it appears that deceased was employed as an onsetter in the three-quarter seam at the bottom of the drop staple. On this occasion, the deceased went to the top of the staple to assist the deputy-overman in setting some tubs down. After letting a tub down, deceased left the break, and went to get another tub. This he evidently set ready, forgetting that the cage was at the bottom of the shaft, and the tub fell into the shaft, dragging the unfortunate youth after it. Deceased lived eight hours after the accident.—The jury returned a verdict to the effect that death was caused by concussion of the brain, accelerated by falling down a staple or shaft at South Garesfield Colliery.

"How to Behave," price sixpence.—To be had of Robert Jackson, bookseller, 9 and 10 Newmarket Street, Consett.

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

Mrs. S. A. Allen's World's Hair Restorer never fails to restore grey hair to its youthful colour It acts directly upon the roots of the hair, invigorating them, cleanses the scalp, removing dandruff, rendering the hair soft, silky, and glossy, and disposing it to remain in any desired position. It has hosts of admirers, male and female, young and old. Sold by Chemists and Perfumers. 875

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

Dr Bardsley's Antibilious Pills.—For radicating all impurities of the blood from the system they have no equal. They have never failed to affect a cure, giving tone and strength to the system debilitated by disease.—Sold by all Chemists in Boxes at 1s 1½d and 2s 9d. Box sent post free on receipt of 15 or 35 stamps. Wm. Mather Wholesale Druggist, Manchester.

One Box of Clarke's B41 Pills is warranted to cure all discharges from the Urinary Organs, in either sex (acquired or constitutional, Gravel, and Pains in the Back. Guaranteed free from Mercury. Sold in Boxes, 4s. 6d. each, by all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors throughout the World; or sent to any address or sixty stamps by the Makers The Lincoln and Midland Counties Drug Company Lincoln

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

Man's Noblest Work.—This is an age of great and works wonderful inventions. Steam, electricity, water, air, all are made to serve man, but unquestionably the greatest inventions are those which preserve man's health and prolong his life, and among the greatest of these are Stanton's Cough Pills. There effects are truly wonderful and hundreds are happy to-day who once looked forward to an early grave. For Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Asthma Loss of Voice, Hay Fevers Hoarseness, Croup, or any Affection whatever of the Throat, Chest, or Lungs, Stanton's Cough Pill, will positively cure. We can cheerfully recommend them to all, and can unhesitatingly say they are the only sure cure for Throat and Lung Affections. Sold by all Chemists in Boxes at 1s 1½d, and 2s. 9d. Box sent post free on receipt of 15 or 36 stamps. Wm. Mather, Wholesale Druggists Manchester.

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

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

Catarrh of the Bladder.—Stinging, irritation inflammation, all kidney and kindred complaints, cured by "Buchu-paiba." At chemists. Newbery and Sons, Agents, King Edward Street, London, E.C.

Business Announcements.

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ART WALL PAPERS. Chas. Knowles & Co., Chelsea, London, S.W. Patterns on application.

NAUTILUS DRESS ADJUSTER. Essential and graceful. Of all Drapers. Sample, 1s., post free, from W. TOWNSEND, 5, Falcon Street, London, E.C.

"RELIEF AT LAST" to sufferers from Neuralgia, Nervous Headache, etc. TOWNSEND'S NEW GALVANIC BAND. Sample, 3s. 6d. free. 5, Falcon Street, London, E.C.

SAINT-RAPHAEL TANNIN-WINE. Strengthening, digestive, tonic; of excellent flavour, best adjuvant in the treatment of phthisis. Prescribed in stomachic exhaustion, chlorosis, anæmia, and during convalescence. Recommended by the Faculty for aged persons, young married women, and children. BEWARE OF COUNTERFEITS. To obtain the only genuine Saint-Raphaël Wine Apply to E. GALLAIS, 90, Piccadilly, W., London.

Business Announcements.

UNION LINE FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD FIELDS. The Royal Mail and Intermediate Steamers sail from Southampton every Friday, for Cape Ports, calling at Lisbon, Madeira, and Canary Islands. Apply to the UNION STEAM SHIP Co., LIMITED, Canute Road, Southampton, and South African House, 94 to 98, Bishopsgate Street, London.
WILLIAM ELLIOTT,
5, Mount Pleasant, Consett.

LUNG & THROAT AFFECTIONS INHALE "SANITAS OIL"
SEND FOR OUR PAMPHLET.
THE SANITAS Co., LIM., Bethnal Green, London, E.
Manufacturers of the "SANITAS" Disinfectants.

— DO YOU KNOW —

THAT the Kidneys are the only natural blood purifiers!

THAT all the blood must go through the Kidneys for purification, as it goes through the heart for oxidation!

THAT if they be full of poison, that poison must affect every organ!

THAT they are very likely to be filled with uric acid (Kidney poison) without your knowledge, because the Kidneys may be diseased and not give forth any pain!

THAT you cannot have good health and disordered Kidneys!

THAT the majority per cent. of all diseases are caused by unsuspected kidney-poisoned blood!

THAT Warner's SAFE Cure is the most wonderful and beneficial medicine ever given to mankind! It cures the Kidneys, and thus cures all the many disorders which kidney-poison creates. It is the only recognized specific. It is the world's supreme medical blessing. It has cured millions of those whom the doctors have given up to die. It will cure you if used as directed, faithfully, promptly, and in sufficient quantity. Do not delay; buy a bottle to-day. Of all Chemists and Medicine Vendors, or of H. H. Warner & Co., 86, Clerkenwell Road, London, E.C.

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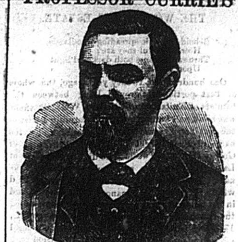
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Yours faithfully,
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Minister of the Presbyterian Church of England Wallsend-on-Tyne.

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P.S.—You can make use of my name as you like.

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One hundred and twenty years ago, the whole of that portion of ground lying between the hamlets of Knitsley and East and West Butsfield was bleak and barren moorland, forming a part of the extensive Lanchester Common, under the name of Knitchley Fell. In the 12th year of George III., it was decided to divide the whole of Lanchester Common and inclose certain of the moors, commons, fells, and tracts of waste land within the parish and manor of Lanchester, and in the following year an Act of Parliament, called the Lanchester Common Act of 13th George III., 1773, was passed, giving the Commissioners legal efficacy to do so. A great deal of discussion took place respecting the prudence of such a measure, for the lands to be divided amounted to no less an area than 20,000 acres, the whole of which was only of an inferior productive quality. Many considered the attempt as utterly hopeless, whilst others had opinions divided and many.

To enable the Commissioners to pay the expenses of making certain roads and other disbursements they were empowered to dispose of lands to the value of such amount, and accordingly sold 1,551 acres for the sum of £8,174, or thereabouts, or on an average of little more than five guineas per acre, and also set out 300 acres for raising money to compensate the owners of allotments, in such damages as they should sustain, by the Lord Bishop of Durham (the Lord of the Manor), or his lessees, by the winning of mines therein, and vested it in the justices of peace for the county; but this they afterwards considered and concluded that it would be more expedient for them to sell an allotment of 300 acres, subject to a rent charge of £30 a year, and they accordingly obtained an Act of Parliament to carry such sale into effect. These lands were sold in 1777, and Thomas White, Esq., of Retford, in the county of Nottingham, was the principal purchaser.

On obtaining possession Mr White set a praiseworthy example in the manner of improvements. He inclosed his grounds with stone fences, or walls, gathering the stones for such chiefly off the surface of the land. He next planted 211 acres with forest trees and 16 acres with fruit trees, which under the shelter of the rising plantation grew apace and fulfilled all Mr White's expectations. A short time afterwards he planted one-half of the allotment of 300 acres with other forest trees, and by the cultivation of a great portion of the remaining acres transformed in a short time, the once barren and apparently unfruitful district into one clothed with rising and thriving plantations, with fine woodland scenery, interbespangled with cornfields, meadows and pastures. William Hutchinson, one of our Durham historians, who travelled over the district in the summer of 1783, only seven years after Mr White had obtained the property, and ten after the division of the common, thus speaks of the locality:—"This vast tract of country, which was barren, desert, and dreary, where the perplexed traveller wandered in the ambiguous tracks with anxiety, is now inclosed, much of it cultivated, and intersected with direct roads, made in the turnpike manner, fit for the reception of any carriage; innumerable buildings are scattered over the prospect; merchandise has found an expeditious passage to the villages heretofore almost inaccessible, but in the very midst of summer; and the inhabitants greatly multiplied and cheerful and prosperous. In one farmhold, totally separated from all ancient inclosures, in the summer of 1783 we observed 34 stacks of corn in one yard, the produce of new cultivations. Many points lie very high, the prospect consequently extensive. At a point where the roads leading to Durham, Chester-le-Street, and Lanchester meet, the view is noble and commands a vast extent of country, even to the mouths of the rivers Tyne, Wear, and Tees beside a distant prospect to the West and North."

Mr White in the "Transactions of the Society of Arts," vol. v. page 10, thus describes our portion of the estate:—"The ground of this plot, whilst in a state of nature, was covered with ling, fern, broom and bad grass, and rushes in the wet places; the high parts of it very bad land, of a channelly quality and not many inches from a gritstone rock; lower down the hills the land is of a better quality affording a tolerable depth of soil, but was then (when he obtained the land) very cold and swampy for want of draining. The features of this enclosure are rather gentle than bold, inclining from the north and south down to a narrow valley in the middle, which continues from east to west through the adjacent country, over which a small but petulent trout stream wantonly meandered in so many ridiculous mazes as choked its own progress and rendered the whole of the valley, containing eleven acres of my best and most sheltered land, almost useless."

When Mr White by his spirited exertions transformed the estate from what it had been before he obtained possession to what it was in his time, or what he made it to be, it was naturally right that he should receive some acknowledgement for his actions, and according to the Transactions of the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, &c., &c., we learn that he received their gold medal no less than ten times, and their silver medal once, for improvements on the estate, which by the way he had named Woodlands—a name truly significant of and conversant with his worthy endeavours. The first gold medal was given to him for planting 10,000 elms on the estate adjoining Butsfield, the second for planting 37,230 elders and the third for planting 50,000 oaks all on the same estate.

Mr White soon after his purchase of the estate erected an excellent mansion house and laid out pleasant grounds and gardens, and removed from Retford to reside in the midst of his well-tended lands. At Woodlands he formed friends, several of whom he considered as friends of his house, welcome at all times to come and go. Amongst them were the Rev John Hodgson (afterwards the talented historian of Northumberland), who was schoolmaster at Lanchester, and curate of Esh and Satley from 1804 to 1806. Mr Hodgson was reckoned by Mr White and children as almost one of the family, and was made familiar with all their joys and sorrows, and when they were separated by the former leaving for Gateshead and Jarrow, distance made no interruption in their social connections and terms of friendship. Whilst at Lanchester, Mr Hodgson wrote several poems, which he published under the title "Poems written at Lanchester, by John Hodgson, clerk, London, 1807," and one of the subjects treated is Woodlands. As the poem is of no ordinary composition, and the book has now become very rare, it may be well to give a few brief extracts from it:—

"Now Flora, loveliest of the train of spring,
Her temples wreath'd with many a blushing flower,
And loose robe floating on the sunny light,
Calls out her children from the sleep of death.
The humble speedwells, with coerulean eye,
And deep tinged violet, with fragrant breath,
Adorn the shades; scattered o'er every mead,
The golden spangles of the pilewort glow;
And though the leafless woods the anemone
And fair oxalis, like yon world of stars
That crowd the galaxy, serenely smile.

. . . .

Spread like a mantle o'er yon slooping hills.
The forest now appears. It feels the vernal lymph
Ascending its innumerable veins,
And, pleased, it dappled livery reassumes
For commerce or for war, in future days
Of slow maturity, the sapling oak
Unfolds his princely honours; and the lime
Weds his young branches to the shady beech.
Clustering and dark, the Caledonian fir
Puts on a brighter hue. The lofty spruce

. . . .

Extends the branches of his gradual wheels,
And throws his length'ning spears into the sky,
The larch . . . .
like some beautious maid
At Hymen's altar, bends with graceful boughs
and trembling like a hart
Entangled in a hunter's toil, the poplar shakes
His hoary tresses o'er the murmuring brook;
Dark alders, too, the many leaved ash,
The supple osier, and the slender birch,
Put on the vesture of the youthful year."

Mr White died on the 27th of July, 1811, and was buried in Lanchester Churchyard, where a tombstone, on the north-west of the Church, erected within iron palings, to his memory bears:—

Near this place lie interred
THOMAS WHITE, Esq., of Woodlands, in this parish,
Who departed this life on the 27th
day of July, 1811. Aged 75 years.

Then follow the inscriptions of his son, daughter-in-law, and daughter. A newspaper of that period contains the following:—

"On July 27th, died T. White, Esq., of Woodlands, in the county of Durham, designer of grounds, noted for his taste and skill in his profession, and his beautiful residence, formed by his industrious hand from a bed of health, for the planting of which the Society of Arts presented him with nine (? ten) gold and two (? one) silver medals, and part of a larix (larch) tree, the produce of the sale thereof was, at his particular request, converted into his coffin."

Mr White was succeeded by his son, also named Thomas, who carried on many of the improvements begun by his father. He died September 7th, 1836, and was buried at Lanchester; his son a third Thomas succeding to the estate. The third Mr White entered holy orders, and was for some years curate-in-charge of one of the Weardale parishes, from which he was eventually promoted to the rectory of Cowthorpe, Yorkshire. From him Woodlands estate passed into other hands, being purchased by Jonathan Richardson, Esq., of Shotley Park. Much of the timber planted by the first Mr White having arrived at maturity, Mr Richardson had it cut down, and the land upon which it grew, having been greatly benefited by the improving process it had undergone, was broken out and devoted to pasturage and tillage. He also planted a large number of acres with larch, Scotch and spruce firs, as a recompense for the timber received (a noble action and one worthy of the imitation of other landed proprietors who too often cut all down and never plant). These are the new dark wide-spreading woods which beautify the vale of Knitsley, and afford a pleasing instance of the triumphs of art and industry over the most difficult and discouraging obstacles to general improvement. Mr Richardson died suddenly at Woodlands on Christmas Day, 1871, and the Woodlands estate again changed hands, becoming the property of W. B. Van Haansbergen, Esq., of Enfield Lodge, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, who, as well as the estate, received the previous owners' spirit of improvement, which has been annually carried out, and with great success, the land which is, or has been, under the plough, being worked to a high state of cultivation, and the meadow land affording a rich and nourishing pasturage.

J. W. FAWCETT.

The Grange, Satley.

COLLIERY FATILITY AT DUNSTON.

An inquest was held on Saturday at the Teams Police Station, before Mr Coroner Graham, on the body of Joseph Fenwick, 34 years of age, who met with his death at Dunston Colliery, on Wednesday week, under shocking circumstances. — After hearing evidence of identification of the body, the inquest was adjourned until the 6th of January.

LANCHESTER SCHOOL ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting took place on Wednesday week, Mr Wm. Logan presiding. The following reports were furnished by the schoolwardens:—

Eastern District.

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

GENTLEMEN,—On Saturday, the 6th inst., Mr Bernays, H.M.I. of Schools, held an examination at Benfieldside Board School for the purpose of granting labour certificates. Of the 29 children examined, 9 were from Consett National School; 3 from Consett British; 1 from Leadgate Wesleyan; 7 from Leadgate National; 2 from Hare Law Board; and 7 from Benfieldside Board, Mrs Clement's, and Mr Wylie's. One boy, 13 years of age, who had notice of the examination, failed to attend. Although employed at a colliery in the district, he holds not either a proficiency or attendance certificate.

I am constantly receiving complaints from teachers respecting a few boys who are regularly absent from school half-a-day in each week to assist their parents or others in their business. The lads are all in the upper standards, and generally make nine-tenths of the attendances. I would like to have your directions on these cases, and also on the case above referred to.

During the month, I have made 327 absentee visits in the parish of Conside-cum-Knitsley, 98 in Iveston, and 2 in Ebchester; total, 427.

Eleven notices to attend school have been served as under:—1 at Stoney Heap, 2 at Leadgate, 6 at Consett, 1 at Delves Lane, and 1 at Crookhall.

By your instructions, five cases were taken before the magistrates—3 under your bye-laws, and 2 under Sec. 11 of the Act of 1876—resulting in the full penalty being inflicted in each of the first three cases, and attendance orders being made in the other two.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

WM. WARD.

Iveston, Dec. 24th, 1890.

Southern District.

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

GENTLEMEN,—During the last month, I have made 115 absentee visits in the parish of Lanchester, 71 in Esh, 32 in Cornsay, and 35 in Hedleyhope; total, 253 visits, embracing 304 children. I have also made 26 visits to schools.

One official warning has been served at Quaking House Cottages, and one at Burnhope Colliery.

Seven bye-law notices have been served as under, viz.:—1 at Quaking House Cottages, 1 at Cornsay Colliery, 2 at Cowsley Cottages, 1 at East Hedleyhope, and 2 at Langley Park.

By your directions, the following parents have been summoned, with results as stated opposite each name:—John Plews, Victoria, Tow Law, on Dec. 4th, fined 5s; James Campion, Hedley Hill, same date, adjourned one month, age disputed; William Mains, Holmside, same date, fined 5s.

The inclemency of the weather has affected the attendance of young children, and those who reside at any considerable distance from school.

The annual examinations by H.M. Inspectors of Schools have been held at Hamsteels National, Esh National, and Esh Roman Catholic Schools, on the 8th, 15th, and 16th inst. respectively.

With one exception, the schools in this part of your district were closed on Thursday last for the Christmas holidays.

Twelve cases, dealing with 13 children, are entered in the report-book to be submitted to you to-day for your directions.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

J. GIBSON.

Lanchester, Dec. 24th, 1890.

CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

MONDAY, December 29th—Before J. W. WALTON-WILSON, Esq.

TRAVELLING WITHOUT A RAILWAY TICKET.

John Lee, living at Lintz Colliery, was brought up on a charge of travelling from Newcastle to Consett and Blackhill Railway Station without a ticket on Saturday night; also with being drunk and disorderly, and assaulting James Hugill, foreman porter at the station, at the same time and place. Prisoner was apprehended by the N.E.R. policeman (Mr Young) at the Consett and Blackhill Station, who gave evidence a to the conduct of the prisoner.—The Chairman remanded prisoner to Lanchester, on Thursday.

SEEKING LODGINGS.

James Curruthers, hailing from Scotland, was charged by Sergt. Tones with being drunk and disorderly at Consett, on Sunday night.—Defendant pleaded not guilty.—The sergeant stated that defendant was kicking at doors to gain admittance for a night's lodgings.—Defendant denied this, and said he was only tapping at the doors with his finger nails. (Laughter).—The case was dismissed.

STOCK AUCTION MARTS.

BENFIELDSIDE.—Mr J. S. Murray had forward on Monday 9 fat cattle, which sold up to £20 12s 6d, and 8 cows. 75 fat sheep realised up to 45s. Calves to 21s. Pigs: Pork to 80s; bacon pigs to £6 17s 6d. A large quantity of turkeys, geese, poultry, potatoes, onions, harness, and sundries of various sorts was disposed of. A good company was present, and a fair price was obtained for fat stock.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—Mr James Turnbull held his usual fortnightly sale on Monday. There was a large attendance of buyers, and trade for cattle was very keen throughout. The sheep trade was dull at market rates. Prices: Bullocks to £25 2s 6d, top, Mr Jackson, Hallgarth Farm, Durham; heifers to £20 15s, top, Mr H. Potts, Harbour House; cows to £25 2s 6d, top, Mr R. Darling, Plawsworth; calfs, 55s. Fat sheep: Shearlings to 49s, top, Mr R. Plawsworth; fat hoggs to 41s; fat ewes to 55s. Bacon pigs to £7; pork pigs to 67s; young bear, 60s; young pigs to 17s. Patent pulley blocks to 30s; spring cart, 1s. The sale concluded at 3·45 p.m.

NOTES FROM WEARDALE.

[BY "STANHOPE."]

Christmas came this year in strict conformity with the old orthodox fashion, with the traditional delights of frost and snow—a real old-fashioned Xmas as the most enthusiastic eulogist of the good old times could desire. The family gatherings and family re-unions, after long intervals of separation, have won for the great Christian festival a place in the hearts and sympathies of the human race which no other holiday can lay claim to all over the civilised world. Xmas and its associations are woven and interwoven into the fabric and texture of the lives of the English-speaking race the wide world over, and into none more so than the Weardale people, in whatever part of the globe they may be found.

While celebrating Christmas, we should never lose sight of the fact that we are commemorating one of the grandest events that ever transpired in the world's history—the birth of the Saviour of mankind, the story of whose life, work, character, and death is the story that so far has transformed the world. If the principles and example of the Galilean teacher were only practised in the everyday life of men, our social reformers would have nothing to do. It would make this world a terrestrial paradise—a veritable heaven on earth.

There are few clergymen who do so much to give others pleasure as the Vicar of Frosterley. He is ever and anon getting up some pleasurable entertainment to amuse and benefit the young folks, and his efforts to please ought to be well appreciated. He spares neither pains nor expense to make them succeed. His Church choir ranks among the first between Bishop Auckland and Killhope Head. It is thoroughly efficient—the envy and admiration of many of the others. Great credit is due to him for the interest he takes in them. Being an excellent musician himself, he keeps them well up both in practice and efficiency. The entertainment he gave on Christmas Eve at the Endowed School was a splendid one, and ought to be given at every place in the dale. The public have little idea of the high-class nature of the entertainment. It is seldom their privilege to be present at such a one. The May-pole dance is a veritable treat; so is the music and song throughout the whole performance. The manner in which his choir can perform the sacred cantata, "Bethlehem," reflects upon them and their tutor the highest possible credit.

Time was when the old clock in the Church tower at Stanhope used to be the town's clock. It used to strike, and people who were unable to see it could sometimes know what time it was by it. Now all is changed. The old clock has caught the spirit of the times, and, instead of striking as the hours come round, has actually gone on strike by not striking at all. A wag living close by has suggested arbitration.

The other morning a novel sight was witnessed at Frosterley, as the quarrymen were going to work. The roads were a complete sheet of ice, and it was with difficulty people could get along, especially down the hill beside the Bridge End, without falling. One ingenious fellow solved the problem by seating himself on his bait tin and sliding down. He went like an express, and, on being expostulated with at the bottom of the hill, by a brother chip, for using his bait tin so badly, declared he would rather break his bait tin than his neck.

"When the cat is away the mice do play." Just now, Frosterley, for some reason or other, is without a policeman, and on Christmas Eve the youths of the place enjoyed themselves to their hearts' content. Some old widows were surprised next morning to see that "Santa Claus" had paid them a visit, and brought them a few barrow loads of coals and laid them down at the door for them. This was very kind of him, but others found coals missing from their coal-houses next morning. They didn't blame "Santa Claus" for it. They thought the Socialists had arrived, and were going in for a levelling day. Their antics were similar to those who welcomed Christmas in Weardale 30 years ago, when they processioned the village with a blazing tar barrel on a pair of cart limmers, singing the old well-known refrain—

"Good King Arthur ruled this land,
He was a mighty king."

When the present century was young, a relieving officer used to go up into Upper Weardale to distribute parochial relief to the poor. He was somewhat crotchety and ill-natured with the poor. On a particular day he was unusually ill-natured with a poor woman, whose only crime was her poverty. Yet she was of a waggish turn, and she thought she would take him down a little. The room was full when she said to him: "Aw say, Mister, aw've had a vision since aw saw ye last." "And did ye see owt warse than yersel?" said he naggishly. Said she, "Aw dreamt aw was in the bottomless pit." "And what did ye see there?" said he. "Well," said she, "aw saw a glass chair standing, and aw says tiv old Satan, an' whee's that for?" "It's for a distinguished guest frae Wardle aw's expecting some of these days." "Div aw ken him?" said I. "Yes," said he, "it's old——, the relieving officer!". Imagination must pourtray the indignation of the irate relieving officer at Old Susie's graphic story of her vision of the infernal regions, and the company were convulsed with laughter, which, despite their best efforts, they could not suppress.

A marriage took place at the Registrar's Office, at Wolsingham, the other day, when the wrong woman was nearly married. The wedding party arrived in two traps, and one was a little behind the other. One of the witnesses, who arrived with the first lot, was almost spliced before the arrival of the bride with the next trap. But a miss is as good as a mile.

The noted Weardale athlete has managed the silver cup at last. Few wrestlers can do it so neatly as he. He displays the most science of any of the Weardale wrestlers. Few will grudge him the prize which this Christmas he has so cleverly won. It is his for life now.

Few places can vie with Castleside in getting up a successful concert. It is only a small place, yet they can take as far as £13 at the door. There have been two high-class concerts at Stanhope recently, both of which put together reached little more than £9.

Tow Law footballers beat Stanhope hollow on Christmas Day by nine goals to one. Certainly Stanhope had a bad chance. A few of their best men were wanting, and they lack practice. The Tow Law team had the knack of passing the ball from one to another, which Stanhope lacked. The Tow Law men were also better runners than the Stanhope quarrymen, more nimble on their pins, but when it came to charging the sturdy quarrymen could send the others flying in grand style.

A farmer, not 100 miles from Frosterley, had a wonderful crop of apples. Not knowing much about fruit, he thought he would store them in the same way he holed his potatoes. He did so. The results were disappointing in the extreme. When he opened the hole the apples were all rotten.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—With changing temperature the digestion becomes impaired, liver disordered, and mind despondent. The cause of these irregularities is easily removed by the use of Holloway's Ointment and Pills. They directly attack the source of the evil, remove all impurities from the circulation, restore the affected organs to their natural state, and correct all defective secretions. An easy means of restoring health and strength is supplied by Holloway's Pills and Ointment. These famous medicines are blood renovating remedies, whose influence reaches the great centres of the nervous system, purifies the circulation, induces a healthy state of the bodily powers, gives tone to the stomach and brain, producing a desire for food, and all the proper requirements for health and vigour,

DEATH OF MR J. C. WYLIE, OF BLACKHILL.

We regret to have to chronicle the fact that Mr Jonathan Claude Wylie, schoolmaster, of Blackhill, has gone over to the majority, and the announcement will doubtless come as a surprise to his numerous friends and acquaintances throughout North-West Durham. Mr Wylie has not been in the best of health and spirits for some time past, but he only

BECAME SERIOUSLY ILL

on Friday morning at nine o'clock. He was attended by Dr George Renton and his assistant (Dr Wynne), but death ensued at an early hour on Monday morning from convulsive fits. He remained a bachelor all his lifetime, his age being 63 years. An elder sister, residing at Alnwick is the

ONLY NEAR RELATIVE

that survives him. The deceased gentleman was undoubtedly one of the cleverest and most accomplished personages to be found in the Northern Counties, and few men have experienced more

EVENTFUL AND CHEQUERED LIVES.

Mr Wylie was born at Alnwick, the county town of Northumberland, and was in his youth in the service of His Grace the Duke of Northumberland. About 40 years ago he removed to Consett, therefore the major portion of his career has been spent in the immediate district. By trade he was

A JOURNEYMAN JOINER,

though when a young man he determined to study for the medical profession, but after qualifying himself for the matriculation examination, want of funds compelled him to abandon the idea. For some time he continued at his trade, and on his advent to West Durham he started to

WORK AT THE WAGGON SHOPS

of the Consett Iron Company. After remaining at this business for three or four years, he at length forsook his calling and turned his attention to teaching. He was master of the Shotley Grove School, and eventually commenced a

HIGHER GRADE SCHOOL FOR YOUTHS

both at Consett and Blackhill, and after removing backwards and forwards, he finally settled at Blackhill. Although he received but an ordinary elementary education—which in those days did not amount to very much—he was essentially

A SELF-TAUGHT MAN,

having acquired nearly all his knowledge after he had attained manhood's estate. He continued to conduct his school in Durham Road till about three weeks ago, when he

FELL DOWN ON THE SLIPPERY PAVEMENT

and injured his leg. Nothing serious was, however, anticipated till Friday morning, when his sister had to be hastily summoned to the residence of Mr A. Dowson in Derwent Staeet, where Mr Wylie has stayed for some years. He was a man of exceptional ability, and possessed a

MARVELLOUSLY RETENTIVE MEMORY,

besides exhibiting in his character a determination to succeed in and master everything he undertook. Mr Wylie was, perhaps, best known as a linguist, for he had an extensive knowledge, not only of the majority of European languages, but also Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and Arabic, all of which he had taught himself, as throughout the whole of his

STUDIES OF FOREIGN TONGUES

he only received one lesson from a teacher—that being a lesson in Latin. These languages he could speak and write with ease and fluency. In his early manhood his attention was attracted by the religious controversies which then stirred the minds of men. For some time he sympathised with the school of which Charles Southwell was the leader, but gradually he broke away from that party, and became an adherent of the

CHURCH OF ENGLAND,

remaining firmly to that faith till he was cut off by the relentless destroyer—death. The deceased gentleman was an ardent student of

SCRIPTURAL AND BIBLICAL HISTORY,

as well as being the most erudite scholar and profound thinker that ever settled in these parts. He was a frequent contributor to theological discussions, and his interest in matters pertaining to religion was sustained to the end. His

ABILITY AS A DEBATER

was generally acknowledged to be singularly exceptional, and his peculiar style of conversation, and the comparative easy way in which he disposed of his opponents, always told greatly in his favour. Many anecdotes are recorded as to how Mr Wylie

VANQUISHED ALL HIS ANTAGONISTS

in the stirring debates which erstwhile were regarded as one of the most prominent features of the Blackhill Mechanics' Institute. Probably his chief *forte* was centred in the studies of biblical history during the pre-Christian era; his researches being extensive and varied. He applied himself closely to studies, and drank to the very depths of the founts of knowledge. Mr Wylie frequently contributed

INTERESTING AND INSTRUCTIVE ARTICLES

on all manners of tropics to the *Consett Guardian*, and Newcastle daily press. Indeed, in this connection, we may remark that the departed gentleman was the

RESPONSIBLE EDITOR AND MANAGER

of the first paper ever issued in the immediate district. Some two or three years ago, Mr Wylie inaugurated a

SATURDAY EVENING CLASS

for the consideration and discussion of scriptural and historical topics; a short account of the debates appearing in this journal. As a striking indication of his ability, we may mention that some time ago Mr Wylie corrected a

MIS-STATEMENT MADE BY MR GLADSTONE

in his writings, and in reply the right hon. gentleman wrote an autograph letter kindly thanking Mr Wylie for pointing out the inaccuracy. Possibly, one of the deceased gentleman's

MOST FORMIDABLE OPPONENTS

in the debating line was the late Mr John Tait, schoolmaster, Consett, and their newspaper discussions on different questions were doubtless a source of amusement to many readers. Mr Wylie was a Conservative, but he took no part whatever either in

PUBLIC OR POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

The only movement which he inaugurated was a bachelors' pic-nic, which took place annually for some years at Howen's Gill. Some persons still living in Consett and neighbourhood yet look back to these

PLEASANT AND DELIGHTFUL RE-UNIONS

with feelings of sincere gratitude, for it was at this party that they first encountered their future wives; while a few others still remain adamant so far as the charms of the fair sex are concerned.

The remains of Mr Wylie were consigned to their last resting place

IN BENFIELDSIDE CEMETERY,

on Tuesday afternoon, when, despite the severity of the weather, a great many persons joined the *cortege*. The service was impressively read by the Rev T. J. Storey, M.A., Vicar of St. Aidan's parish, Blackhill.

"RUPTURES."—WHITE'S MOC-MAIN LEVER TRUSS is the most effective invention for the treatment of Hernia. The use of a steel spring, so hurtful in its effects, is avoided, a soft bandage being worn round the body, while the requisite resisting power is supplied by the Moc-Main Pad and Patent Lever, fitting with so much ease and closeness that it cannot be detected. Send for descriptive circular, with testimonials and prices, to J. WHITE AND CO. (Limited), Piccadilly London. Do not buy of Chemists, who often sell you IMITATION of our Moc-Main; J. White and Co. have not any Agents.

TRAIN ACCOMMODATION IN DEARNESS VALLEY.

We are glad to announce that the agitation for increased train accommodation on the Dearness branch of the North-Eastern Railway is about to be realised. We understand that an additional train will leave Durham at 1·40 p.m. on week days, except Saturday (the ordinary train still running on the Saturday in place of the regular train). The new train will leave Waterhouses for Durham at 2·20 p.m. An additional late train will also run on Saturday night, to leave Durham for Waterhouses at 9 p.m., and Waterhouses for Durham at 9·25, all with bookings to and from Ushaw Moor Station. These additional trains commence on January 1st.

LOCAL SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS.

In addition to the reports we published last week, the following came to hand too late for insertion:—

TOW LAW.

The children attending the Tow Law National Schools held their annual Christmas concert in the Mechanics' Hall. The spacious building was crowded by an enthusiastic audience, presided over by Mr J. W. Laverick, mining engineer. The programme consisted of songs, chorouses, recitations, &c., by the children; piano solos by Miss Laverick, Miss Warwick, and Rev T. E. Espin; and songs by Miss Brady, Miss Ellison, and Mr Hughes. The proceeds were to provide a treat for the children.

WOLSINGHAM.

A pleasant and amusing entertainment was given by the scholars of the Wolsingham Wesleyan Day-school, the programme consisting of songs, recitations, and musical drill. The proceedings were most enjoyable, and reflected great credit upon the teachers. There was a very select audience present, and their appreciation of the various performances was testified by frequent acclamations. The chair was occupied by Rev J. R. Cleminson. A collection was taken at the close in aid of the school improvement funds.

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE FROM ESH COLLIERY.

A very melancholy affair has occurred at Esh Colliery, a young man named George Dodds having mysteriously disappeared from his home. It transpires that the poor young fellow lost his mother a fortnight ago, and having had a strong affection for her had suffered from fits of melancholia ever since. He retired to bed as usual on Monday night week, and was followed by his brother Robert shortly after. It now appears that he had watched his brother to sleep, and then quietly dressed himself and rushed off between 11 and 12 a.m., at which hour he was missed. The unfortunate young fellow's age is twenty-five. He has dark hair and moustache, height 5ft. 5in. He wore black stockings, dark brown trousers, and striped shirt only; neither hat nor boots. It is surmised that he had thrown himself into one of the ponds, of which there are two, at Esh Colliery, and Mr Garthwate, of Ushaw Moor, together with other helpers, had the largest dragged on Christmas Day, but with out result. The other is to be dragged forthwith. Whilst suffering from the fits he had frequently spoken of going to his uncle's, a farmer, near Yarm. His disappearance is wrapped in mystery.

QUARRY ACCIDENT AT STANHOPE

On Tuesday, as a workwan named John Ridley, of The Square, Stanhope, was following his daily avocation at the Newlandside limestone quarry of Messrs Bo'ekow and Co., he was severely injured by a huge stone falling upon his foot, crushing it terribly. He was in the act of pinching the stone, when he slipped and fell, the stone falling heavily upon the top part of his foot. The poor fellow was conveyed home when the aid of Dr Robinson was summoned, who considered amputation necessary, and took of his foot about an inch above the ankle. Ridley has been singularly unfortunate; only about a year ago he was buried by a fall of earth in the Parson Byres quarry of Messrs Bell Bros., and had an arm broken, then besides being severely bruised and shaken, he had a miraculous escape at that time, being literally buried beneath the clay and stones, the workmen speedily extricating him before he was smothered.

FIREARM ACCIDENT AT TANFIED.

A SCHOOLMASTER AND HIS SON'S NARROW ESCAPE.

The other day as Mr Agar, the well-known and much-esteemed schoolmaster of Tanfield, was sitting by his own fireside, a revolver was fired through the window from the outside. The bullet struck Mr Agar's head, grazing the bone, and after passing within a few inches of the face of Mr Agar's son, it pierced a card-board on the opposite wall. At the moment Mr Agar was stooping a little, otherwise there might have been to record another sad fatality. It was the deed of a young lad, who without any ill design whatever, was simply discharging his revolver at a pigeon that was sitting on the garden wall in front of the window. We suppose that this youth, in accordwith the law, has a license to carry firearms. We are sure that, for his own peace of mind, he will never again fire at pigeons in front of people's windows.

PROPOSED HONOUR TO MR JAMES JOICEY, M.P.

Some time ago it was resolved by the committee of the Newcastle Liberal Club, in accordance with a custom of entertaining prominent Liberals to a house dinner in recognition of special services, to invite Mr James Joicey, M.P. for Chester-le-Street division, as the guest of the club. It was found, however, that a general idea prevailed in favour of making the compliment more representative, and it was consequently resolved that a committee should be formed of leading Liberals throughout the Northern counties for the purpose of devising some means to adequately convey to Mr Joicey their high appreciation of his services to the Liberal party in the North. Correspondence was entered into with well-known gentlemen in every centre of Liberalism throughout the district. The response was so prompt and hearty that in a very short time a large committee was formed.

The Right Hon. John Morley, M.P., warmly took the matter up as a most fitting and deserving proposal, and volunteered all the help and countenance he could possible give. The Right Hon. Sir G. O. Trevelyan, M.P., wrote saying that no proposal ever made to him had given him greater pleasure, and to none could he have had greater satisfaction in acceding to. Other members of Parliament who readily welcomed the proposal, and signified their intention to take part in any thing that might be arranged, were:—Mr James Craig, M.P., Mr Samuel Storey, M.P., Hon. Walter James, M.P., Mr Theodore Fry, M.P., Mr L. Atherley-Jones, M.P., Mr Miles MacInnes, M.P., Mr J. C. Stevenson, M.P., Mr Henry Fell Pease, M.P., Sir John Swinburne, Bart., M.P., Sir Horace Davey, M.P., Sir Edward Grey, Bart., M.P., Mr John Wilson, M.P., Mr Thomas Burt, M.P., Mr Charles Fenwick, M.P., Mr W. B. Beaumont, M.P.

Dr Spence Watson was appointed chairman of the committee, and as the result of a number of meetings it was resolved that the honour should take the form of a banquet to be given to Mr Joicey on the 14th January in the Grand Assembly Rooms, Barras Bridge. Mr John Morley has consented to preside. He will propose the toast of the guest of the evening, and after Mr Joicey's reply, Sir George Trevelyan is expected to give a toast dealing with Northern Liberalism, which will be responded to by several Northern members of Parliament. There will be orchestral music during the evening, and the gathering is expected to be interesting and unique of its kind. The honorary secretaries are Mr C. G. Binks and Mr A. Keith Durham, who are supplying tickets, which may also be had from any member of committee. The accommodation is necessarily limited, and the committee feel that it would be a convenience if those intending to be present would give early intimation of the fact. The tickets are available for ladies and gentlemen.

TO-MORROW'S FOOTBALL.

TO-MORROW'S FIXTURES (SATURDAY, JAN. 3RD).

Dipton Wanderers v Hedley Harriers, at Dipton.
Dipton Wanderers Reserve v Leadgate Exiles Reserve, at Leadgate.
Pelton Fell Harriers v Langley Park, at Pelton Fell.
Pelton Fell Harriers 2nd v Langley Park 2nd, at Pelton Fell.
Blaydon v Ryton, at Ryton.
Blaydon 2nd v Newcastle Rangers 3rd, at Blaydon.
Leadgate Park Reserve v Esh Albion 1st, at Leadgate.
Medomsley Church Choir v Flint Hill Albion, at Flint Hill.
Mickley v Newburn, at Mickley.

TO-DAY (FRIDAY).

Leadgate Exiles v Millfield Rovers, at Leadgate.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7TH.

Consett Wednesday v Victoria Stiff-'Uns, at Newcastle.

LEADGATE PARK RESERVE v ESH ALBION 1ST.—These teams will meet at Leadgate to-morrow (Saturday), when the home team will be represented by the following:—Goal, J. Day; backs, E. R. Walker and W. Foreman; half-backs, T. Kennedy, J. Gedling, and T. Reed; forwards, J. Cruddas and J. Snowdon, right wing; J. Haggerstone (3), centre; J. Brown and J. Haggerstone (2), left wing.

HEDLEY HARRIERS v DIPTON WANDERERS.—These teams will meet at Dipton to-morrow (Saturday) to play their return match, when a close game is anticipated. The following will represent the Harriers:—Goal, R. Potts; backs, Rowell and Theobald; halfbacks, Harrison, Hennessey, and Forster; forwards, Jas. Harrison and Brown, right wing; Johnson, centre; J. Jackson and H. Jackson, left wing.

BIRTLEY WHITE ROSE v BEWICK MAIN JUNIORS.—Played at Birtley, the home team winning by nine goals to nil.

SOCIAL TEAS.—The owners (Messrs Ferens and Love), of this Colliery, again showed the kindly interest which they take in the welfare of their workmen and their families by generously providing excellent teas for the children attending the schools, and also for the old folks over 60 years of age.—On Tuesday se'nnight the scholars, numbering about 450, assembled at 4 o'clock in the school-rooms, and were plentifully supplied by the teachers and a few friends with cakes, &c., and tea, which they thoroughly enjoyed, and later in the evening, they were suitably entertained by a magic lantern exhibition, and at its conclusion, they showed their appreciation of the kindness of the managers by giving loud and hearty cheers for Messrs Ferens and Love, and for Mr Kirkup the resident viewer.—On the following afternoon the class-room presented a bright and pleasing appearance, as the tables and windows were decorated with plants and flowers, kindly lent by Mr Kirkup. The old folks, numbering nearly 100, thoroughly enjoyed the abundant and substantial tea provided for them, and in the evening there was again a magic lantern exhibition by Mr W. Atchison. The Cornsay String Band was in attendance and performed several pieces of choice music. Mr Kirkup then addressed them, and said the owners had again provided the Christmas treat for them, and it gave him great pleasure to meet them once more, and hoped they would all live and assemble next year in the same manner. He then wished them a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Votes of thanks then terminated the proceedings.

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS

TEMPLETOWN—24th ult., the wife of R. K. Ornsby of a son.
CAUSEGATE—25th ult., the wife of Robert R. Wilson, of a daughter.
ALLENDALE COTTAGES—28th ult., the wife of Wm. Walton, of a daughter.
GREENSIDE—29th ult., the wife of Robert Bolam, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

CONSETT.—Christ Church, 23rd ult., by the Rev F. Steggall (vicar), Mr James Bell, Leadgate, to Miss Jane Ann Winter, of Puddler's Row, Consett.
LEADGATE—St. Ive's Church, 29th ult., by Rev J. W. Mitchell, M.A., vicar, Charles Bolam, of Leadgate, to Annie Mary, only daughter of W. and Ann Palmer, of Consett.
STANHOPE—Primitive Chapel, 27th ult., Frederick Vickers to Annie Bainbridge, both of Stanhope. Wesleyan Chapel, 27th ult., Joseph Wearmouth to Elizabeth Curry, both of Stanhope.
EIGHTON BANKS—Parish Church, 25th ult., by Rev S. Atkinson, M.A., assisted by Rev W. Bowker, M.A., Benjamin Grice, Gateshead, to Mary only daughter of James Green, of Wrekenton, late of Newcastle.

DEATHS.

CONSETT—14, Edith Street, 27th ult., aged 23, Thomas William Thompson.
Berry Edge Farm, 30th ult., aged 78, Margaret, widow of the late Robert Telford.
LEADGATE—Leadgate Farm, 24th ult., Isabella, wife of John Thompson.
Church Square, 29th ult., aged 64, Mary, beloved wife of Thomas Edgar. Deeply lamented.
TANFIELD LANE FARM—26th ult., aged 44, George, husband of Sarah Ann Watson.
BURNHOPE—27th ult., aged 70, Thomas, husband of Jane Kears.
BEAMISH—26th ult., aged 16 years and 4 months, Frances, daughter of John and Elizabeth Thompson.
BURNOPFIELD—29th ult., aged 17, Robert, son of Robert and Hannah Lamb.
Busty Bank, 29th ult., aged 71, Elizabeth Spinks.
SACRISTON—29th ult., aged 66, Ann, wife of James Strong.
TANFIELD—29th ult., aged 65, Richardson, husband of Barbara Smith.
CHESTER-LE-STREET — 28th ult., aged 81, Jane Carrenington, relict of the late Matthew Carrenington, of Pelton Fell.
WOLSINGHAM—23rd ult., aged 83, John Fergnson Landrethe, builder.
LOW PRUDHOE—26th ult., aged 54, John Forster.
WEARDALE—24th ult., aged 66, Elizabeth, widow of the late Ralph Watson.
RYTON—Stephen's Hall Farm, 24th ult., aged 40, Ellen, wife of John Swinburn.
WEST WYLAM—22nd ult., aged 22, Thomas, son of Aaron Purvis.
25th ult., aged 24, William Charles, youngest son of John Robinson.
GREENSIDE—25th ult., aged 9 years, Kate, daughter of William and Mary Cox.
WINLATON—North Street, 26th ult., aged 2 years and 5 months, Elizabeth, daughter of William Parker.
28th ult., aged 66, Jane, wife of John Bilcliff.
DUNSTON—26th ult., aged 47, Captain Thomas Baker.
BISHOP AUCKLAND—6, Waldron Street, 24th ult., Hannah Robinson, the dearly beloved wife of Donald Bain.

In loving memory of Jane, the beloved wife of Ambrose Grey, who died on January 2nd, 1890, in her 51st year.
"Gone, but not forgotten."

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Printed and Published by ROBERT JACKSON at the Atmospheric Printing Works 59 Front Street, Consett—Friday, Jan. 2nd, 1891.