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NOTICE. — Mr Ison (of Ison's Eye and Ear Dispensary, Ltd., Leeds) personally attends same hotels as for last twelve years. Sutties' Clarendon Hotel, Clayton Street, Newcastle, Monday, Jan. 22nd; Hours, 12 to 4·30. North-Eastern Hotel, Darlington, Monday, January 8th, Hours 11-30 to 5. Queen's Hotel, Sunderland, Thursday, January 11th, Hours 12-30 to 4.

The Consett Guardian

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No. 2055

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FOOTBALL.

MATCHES.

KIP HILL RED ROVERS v. TANTOBIE.

Played on Monday, and resulted in a win for the Rovers by three goals to nil.

CONSETT BAPTIST RESERVE v. BLACKHILL ALBION.

Played at Consett, and resulted in a win for the home team by 11 to 3; goals were scored by Hardy (4), Bell (1), Wilkinson (1), Ackerman (1), Bell (1), Wilson (1), Malpass (1), and Green (1).

NORTHERN ALLIANCE.

BIRTLEY v. WILLINGTON ATHLETIC.

These teams met at Birtley in an Alliance engagement on Saturday. The homesters won the toss, and set their opponents to defend the road goal. Mid-field exchanges were the order for a while, the defence of both teams being strong. The home team now began to be in evidence, and severely tested Robson. He was equal to the emergency, however, and the ... away, and for a time were dan- ... wing now broke away, ... on with a good shot, ... le. About twenty ... ngton scored. ... way to the Willing- ... scored

... sit ... ouse. ... "gate," ... ng there was ... ce. As usual the ... ir full team with them ... men, Scott and Bamborough. In ... se, so they started with nine men, Scott, however, turned up at half-time, and strengthened the forward rank. Stanley were fully represented. The teams were as follows—

Stanley—Goal, Spinks; backs, Saunders and Green; half-backs, Coates, Ellis, and Allison; forwards, Crute, Robson, O'Connor, Douglas, and Masterman.

Shankhouse—Goal, Wrightson; backs, Harrison and Smith; half-backs, Ord, Robinson, and Riteon; forwards, Knox, Todd, Henderson, and Scott.

Masterman lost the toss, and the homesters had to defend the entrance goal. O'Connor kicked off, and the ball went to the home right wing, and tracks were immediately made for the Shankhouse goal, where O'Connor was penalised for a breach of the off-side rules. The free kick was of no avail to Shankhouse, and Stanley were again in the vicinity of Wrightson's charge. After three minutes' play O'Connor got the ball and headed it into the net, but the whistle had previously sounded for off-side. Masterman was conspicuous for some brilliant sprints on the left wing, and once had very hard lines with a shot which grazed the upright and went out of play. Stanley had had most of the play, but now Shankhouse showed what sort of stuff they were made of, and Knox by dint of some splendid play got well down, but failed to pass the backs. After Henderson had sent past O'Connor took the ball right up the field and forced a corner, which was not improved upon, and play was again transferred to the other end, where Spinks made a rather lucky save from Todd, conceding a corner in doing so. The scene of play was quickly changed, and O'Connor forced another corner, which resulted in a hot attack upon the visitors goal. The attack was kept up for about five minutes, during which time Shankhouse played a magnificent defensive game. The struggle, however, ended in Douglas putting the ball into the net from among a crowd of players, the ball going along the ground and giving Wrightson no chance whatever. A few minutes later Peter O'Connor ran up the field, and although he fell when close to the goal, he managed to score the second goal for Stanley while lying on the ground. Stanley again got up, and after hitting the upright three times Masterman sent past. The pressure was kept up for some time, and once, when Robson was standing under the cross-bar, he hit the far upright, and the ball bounded out of goal. Shankhouse, who had been making several runs down the field, again got down and Knox brought Spinks to his knees with a grand shot. Todd met Spinks' return and had no difficulty in scoring for Shankhouse. Shortly after the whistle sounded for the interval, when the score stood—

Stanley .... Two goals
Shankhouse .... One goal

Charlie Crute was immediately prominent on the resumption for a nice run down the field, and after he had swung the ball across, Masterman forced a corner, which was without any definite result. Shankhouse got up and Spinks had to concede a corner, but the danger was averted, and coming down the field Douglas sent to Crute, who gave to Masterman, and the latter transferred to O'Connor, who scored the third goal. Just on the restart Scott arrived on the field, and took up his position at forward for Shankhouse. Stanley again took up the running, and Henderson handled within the penalty area, and the referee awarded Stanley a penalty kick. O'Connor took the kick, and, although Wrightson made a grand attempt to save, the ball went into the net and Stanley were four up. After this Stanley had nearly all the play. The visitors occasionally got up, but were never dangerous. The shooting was bad on both sides, Robson being the greatest sinner on the Stanley side, whilst Knox of the other team missed an open goal three times. Shortly before time Douglas scored the fifth and last goal, and the final arrived with the score—

Stanley .... Five goals
Shankhouse .... One goal

STANLEY v. SUNDERLAND A.

The visit of the reserve string of the great Wearside organisation attracted a very large attendance at Oakey's on New Year's Day. As Sunderland had succumbed to Newcastle on the previous Saturday at Roker Park and Stanley had played a draw with the Novocastrians, the odds seemed to be in favour of Stanley winning. Stanley again had the assistance of Liddle, and Sunderland had Bach, who played at right back. The teams lined up in the following order:—

Stanley—Goal, Spinks; backs, Saunders and Liddle; half-backs, Coates, Ellis, and Allison; forwards, Crute, Robson, O'Connor, Douglas, and Masterman.

Sunderland A—Goal, Naisby; backs, Bach and Pallister; half-backs, Fraser, Simpson, and Brand; forwards, Harley, Ormston, Craig, Prince, and Kirton.

Sunderland won the toss, and decided to defend the railway goal. Replying to O'Connor's kick-off Craig got possession and passed neatly to Kirton, but the latter failed to make any great headway, and the ball went to the opposite end, where Allison was conspicuous in making a good clearance. A free kick for hands against Stanley was the next item, and Bach placed placed the ball splendidly to Kirton, who almost scored, Spinks making a grand save. Saunders was next compelled to concede a corner, but the ball was got away. Sunderland pressed for a short period, but a free kick against them for off-side resulted in Masterman sprinting away up the field. He failed to pass Bach, who sent into touch. From the throw-in Masterman was again prominent, but he sent past. Sunderland got down, and the home goal had a narrow escape, Liddle heading the ball in the wrong direction and Spinks just getting it out in time, having to give a corner in doing so. The corner kick was cleared, and then Masterman made a grand run which resulted in Bach just clearing in time. Sunderland again got down and forced a couple of useless corners, and then Stanley again got up, and Naisby had to save from Douglas. This was followed by O'Connor eluding both backs, and when he had only Naisby in front, he slipped, and his final effort went wide. Masterman was prominent for some splendid play, and then, after Liddle had made a big punt, Stanley were awarded a free kick for hands. The ball was placed to Masterman, and he swung it into the Wearsiders' goal-mouth where Robson neatly tipped the leather to O'Connor, and in a moment the latter had banged it into the net amidst deafening applause. On the re-start Stanley quickly found their way into Sunderland territory, and Douglas got off-side, but a minute later, from a pass by O'Connor, he shot into Naisby's hands. Sunderland then went away with great dash, and in attempting to head away a shot from Prince, Saunders headed through his own goal, Spinks being out at the time. Shortly after the scores had been equalised Coates received an injury to the knee, but quickly resumed. Stanley got up and forced a corner off Pallister, but it was not improved upon, and then Naisby brought off a magnificent save from O'Connor. A free kick enabled Sunderland to get down, and during an attack upon his goal, Spinks ran out to clear, leaving an empty goal. The ball quickly went to the visitors' centre forward, and he was just about to put the ball through the vacant goal when Allison dashed up and kicked away. Masterman was given possession, and after passing Bach, Naisby stopped his final shot. Directly afterwards Coates' knee again gave way and he had to be assisted off the field. On the resumption Prince raced away with the ball, but he ran it past, and immediately after from a melee in front of the Stanley goal Craig put Sunderland ahead, Spinks falling in trying to save. Half-time arrived a little later with the score—

Sunderland A .... Two goals
Stanley .... One goal

When the teams had lined up for the re-start it was seen that Coates had again come on the field, but had changed places with Crute, whilst shortly after the resumption Masterman went centre forward and O'Connor went outside left. Stanley at once took up the running, and Douglas sent past. O'Connor next compelled Bach to concede a useless corner. Naisby saved from Douglas and then the International back made a big punt, which enabled his forwards to make a brief incursion into the homesters quarters. However, it was of very brief duration, and another corner fell to Stanley from which Douglas had very hard lines with a shot which hit the inside of the upright. Naisby being exce... away. Naisby ... O'Connor, and ... Masterman receive... all the pressing, but this man ... be equal to a team himself and said hardly be beaten. When he was Naisby was always there. Sunderland got up and Craig scored an off-side goal. Naisby made some magnificent saves, although he was lucky on several occasions. Towards the finish the game became more even, but no further scoring took place, and the final score was—

Sunderland A .... Two goals
Stanley .... One goal

NORTH-WEST DURHAM ALLIANCE.

ALLENDALE PARK v. LEADGATE PARK.

These teams met for the first time at Medomsley on Saturday, under the auspices of the above Alliance. There was only a moderate attendance, and the ground was in a very bad condition. The home team were without Scott and Robinson, but had the assistance of J. Bailey (Mickley) and Jos. Walton (Hobson). Leadgate lacked the services of Grant, Forster, and Birtley, but T. Cartmell turned out for the first time since his injury in the re-played cup-tie at Stanley. Teams:—

Allendale—Goal, H. Hobday; backs, J. Bailey and M. Walton; half-backs, W. Hunter, T. Walton, and T. Taylor; forwards, Brown, Jos. Walton, J. Trueman, Yeats, and J. Lynop.

Leadgate—Goal, J. Crowther; backs, G. Temple and J. Wilson; half-backs, T. Cartmell, R. Wilson, and J. Bowes; forwards, B. Cook, D. Cartmell, W. Crowther, S. Thompson, and P. Daly.

Referee Mr H. Smith, Gateshead.

The visitors played down the incline at the outset, and pressed at the start, but the Allendale defence was all right, and successfully resisted all attacks. J. Walton put in a useful run, but Bowes returned, and W. Crowther tried a shot, but it went wide. Yeats, Lynop, and Trueman returned, and a corner was forced at the top end, which proved abortive. Cook had a single-handed run, but Taylor stopped him. However, Leadgate came again, and gained a couple of useless corners. During some hot work near the home goal a warm shot was fired at Hobday, which he did well to stop on the line and get away, a claim for a goal being disregarded. Trueman got off and put over to the left, who worked nicely up, and the ball coming to Yeats near the top goal, he promptly netted the leather to the accompaniment of cheers from the Allendale supporters. It was a well-worked for point. This served to make the home men work harder than ever, and it was chiefly due to the efforts of Tommy Wilson and Temple that Allendale were kept at bay. The Leadgate forwards seemed to play without any understanding whatever, and their efforts for the most part were ably dealt with by the home halves, who were in rattling form. It was given out that two forties were to be played, but the referee signalled the interval at the end of 35 minutes—

Allendale .... One goal
Leadgate .... Nil

The visitors resumed with great dash, the forwards at once getting well in, and Cook put on the equaliser ere many minutes had fled, whereat there was jubilation amongst the Leadgate supporters. However, this in no wise daunted the home men, who played up in fine fashion, Trueman leading several dangerous assaults, and the visitors' defence had all their work cut out, but managed to stave off disaster. Cook got away and put to Crowther, who ran up and placed to Daly, the latter missing a fine opening. Thompson Walton tried a long shot at the other end, but it went by. Taylor and M. Walton were here conspicuous for good work, and Temple checked Lynop, when he was becoming dangerous. Just after a regrettable incident took place. Cook was running up the wing when he came into collision with Lynop. The latter momentarily lost his temper and struck at the Leadgate right-winger, for which he had to retire. It was a pity that such should have happened, as Lynop was playing a clever game. Although short-handed the home team continued to hold their own, and often attacked, but J. Crowther was not often troubled. Towards the finish the visitors' left wing put in some useful work, but M. Walton and the halves remained very steady, the latter trio especially performing well, and the final solo found the score standing—

Allendale .... One goal
Leadgate .... One goal

CONSETT SWIFTS v. BIRTLEY.

These teams met on the Vicarage Field on Monday afternoon, before a good attendance of spectators. Birtley were minus one of their backs, and therefore only played with ten men. When the whistle sounded the teams faced each other as under:—

Swifts—Goal, Graham; backs, Dempsey and Patterson; half-backs, Price, J. Rafferty, and McNally; forwards, Boyle, Little, J. Finnigan, B. Rafferty, and Armstrong.

Birtley—Goal, Biggars; back, Green; half-backs, Atteridge, Dover, and Pendleton; forwards, Doyle, Spence, Dixon, Palmer, and Carr.

Referee, Mr J. Minns, Gateshead.

The Swifts won the toss and elected to defend the entrance goal. Dixon set the ball on its journey, and the home lads were not long in taking up the attack, and not many minutes from the commencement the Swifts were awarded a corner, but it did not prove of any advantage, as it went wide of its mark. A good run on the part of the visitors' forwards carried play to the entrance goal, and the home backs were called upon to defend their charge, but a free kick in favour of the Swifts changed the venue, and once more play raged in the visitors' territory, Green and Biggars having a warm time of it for a while, but a fruitless corner in favour of the homesters relieved the pressure for a while. J. Rafferty now got hold and ran well down, and then put across to Little, who sent in a grand shot, just missing by inches. From the goal kick Birtley worked their way up the field, but could not penetrate the home defence. A bit of neat passing on the part of the home forwards again carried play into the visitors' half, where another corner fell to their lot; and after the ball had lingered about the goal for some time B. Rafferty had hard lines in not scoring, the leather striking the side of the net. Birtley now came away with a rush, and a corner fell to their lot, but it did not prove of any advantage. The Swifts were working their way down the field when the whistle sounded half-time—

Swifts .... Nil
Birtley .... Nil

On crossing over the homesters were the first to take up the attack, but Green relieved with a good kick. Birtley now got away in fine style, Palmer and Carr doing some good work, but they were neatly pulled up by Patterson, who gave to his forwards, who made another attack on the Birtley fortress, but without success. Midfield play was now indulged in for a while, until Boyle got hold and made a neat run up the field, and when in a prominent position he was robbed by Atteridge, who placed well down to his forwards, and Dixon made tracks for the low goal, and then gave to Carr, who was pulled up for off-side. From the free kick the home lads managed to reach the entrance goal, where Little and Boyle put in grand work, the ball at last finding touch. From the throw-in the visitors' right wing got away, and just as they were becoming prominent they were neatly pulled up by Price. Birtley again took up the attack, but try as they would they could not penetrate the defence opposed to them. A good kick by McNally put the visitors on the defensive, and the pressure was not relieved until the ball had gone harmlessly by. Shortly after the whistle sounded time with the score as under—

Swifts .... Nil
Birtley .... Nil

FOOTBALL JOTTINGS.

By "OFF-SIDE."

STANLEY BEAT SHANKHOUSE.

The match between Stanley and Shankhouse could by no means be called an attractive one, for the homesters had more than three fourths of the game, and, as the score of five to one denotes, were much the better team. The whole of the Stanley team played well, although Spinks made some very lucky clearances, and Saunders made one or two miskicks. Joe Allison shone most in the half-back line, while forward Masterman was decidedly the best man. In Wrightson, Shankhouse have a splendid goalkeeper, and he had no earthly chance with any of the shots which passed him. The three men who represented the Shankhouse forward line are a clever set, with Knox as the best. Had the latter had a partner of equal skill, Shankhouse would not have been beaten by such a big margin, for he played a magnificent game. The visitors were handicapped in commencing the game with only nine men, and still being one short in the second half. Under the circumstances they deserve credit for the show they made.

—o—

I regret to hear that this will probably be the last season Shankhouse will play in the Northern Alliance. Like a few other clubs they are feeling the pinch in a financial sense. Their home receipts are insufficient to meet their out expenses, which this year are heavier than ever, owing to the inclusion of Middlesbro' and Leadgate Park into the tournament. They have also lost some of their best men, who have been tempted away to more profitable fields. With such drawbacks the committee have reason to be disappointed and discouraged.

STANLEY HAVE HARD LINES.

In not at least dividing points with Sunderland, Stanley had very hard lines, for they had nearly all the play in the second half, and they practically only had ten men, for Coates was not able to do very much owing to an injury to his knee. Sunderland undoubtedly owed their victory to Phil Bach, for he worked like a nigger all through the game, and in the second half his display was nothing short of marvellous. On Monday's form he was good enough to take a place on the best team going. The one who should rank next to the International is Joe Allison, for he was the best man on the Stanley side. The rest of the players on each side showed their usual form excepting Douglass, who came out of his shell and played a much betttr game than he has been doing lately. If Stanley can keep up Monday's form they will take a lot of beating, and should certainly put more wins to their credit than losses.

THE TWO PARKS PLAY A DRAW.

It was unfortunate for Allendale that the weather conditions on Saturday were so uninviting, or else their North-West Durham Alliance game with Leadgate Park would probably have drawn a much larger gate. The air was very cold, whilst, to make matters worse, rain fell at intervals, and this no doubt affected the attendance. Then, as might only be expected, the ground was in a bad state, being heavy and greasy, and altogether against a scientific display. Be this as it may, the home men played a capital game on the treacherous turf, and their movements contrasted very favourably with those of the visitors. The Allendale forwards were much smarter than those on the other side, and they received every assistance from the halves. Certainly a great deal was not expected from the Leadgate front line, considering that Grant, Forster, and Birtley were off. Still for all this the quintette should have done better than was actually the case.

The result of the game was that each side secured a point, but no one could have grumbled if the home men had bagged both. The play of Allendale was much more taking to the eye than that of the visitors, who can not truthfully be complimented upon their display. I am willing to admit that the disorganised state of the forward rank may have had something to do with it, but then the defence was not altogether free from fault by a long way. It is some time since I have seen a game where the goalkeepers had had so little work to do. The greasy ball probably had something to do with this, and under the circumstances it was perhaps as well that the custodians were not too severely tested, as on the few occasions when they were called upon they did not handle the slippery piece of leather in too confident a fashion. Hobday made the best save of the match in stopping dead upon the line a very fast low shot that seemed certain to score. Had it managed to elude him no one could have blamed the goalkeeper, as it was perhaps about the best effort of the few really decent shots put in during the afternoon.

As I have endeavoured to show above, Allendale played a capital game, and if they can keep up this form they should win many games. I was not particularly impressed by Bailey, but Mat Walton played a good game, kicking a rare length on the greasy turf. The halves were in fine form, and repeatedly robbed the visiting forwards. Whilst genuinely admiring the hard work and splendid example set his men by Thompson Walton, I must not overlook Taylor, who is a really good half, and uses fine judgment. Willie Hunter completed a more than useful trio. The forwards were smart, and passed very neatly. I unhesitatingly award the palm to Trueman, who was in his best vein, and did some splendid work. Next to him I should place Yeats and Lynop. It is difficult to say much in praise of Leadgate, as they shaped only poorly. Joe Wilson was in nothing like his usual form, and had it not been for his loyalty to the club would have stood down, as he was in poor health during the whole week. Temple did very well, whilst Tommy Wilson was a glutton for work, and can always be put down as a trier. Amongst a moderate set of forwards Cook and Crowther perhaps did best, Dan Cartmell being altogether out of place on the right wing.

A LUCKY GET-OFF FOR THE PARK.

Most clubs know how difficult it is to keep their men right for holiday engagements, and the various committees have an anxious time of it. Of course, where men are paid it is possible to exercise some control over them, as suspension means loss of wages; but in the case of amateurs you can do nothing, as they will have their "little fling" at the New Year. The Park had a serious task on hand in tackling Middlesbrough, who brought a good team, and every man seemed fit and well. This was in striking contrast to the condition of the home men, some of whom bore evident signs of having indulged in that fascinating practice known as "first-footing." However, this notwithstanding they played anything but a bad game, and had hard lines on several occasions. The visitors put on a couple of goals previous to the interval, but the second one was of the soft order. The game continued to be pretty even on resuming, only good goalkeeping by Smith saving the Middlesbrough fortress. When about 15 or 16 minutes of the half had gone, a heavy fog settled over the ground. It was impossible to watch the movements of the players, so the referee stopped the game with nearly half-an-hour to go.

—o—

It was undoubtedly hard lines for the visitors, who seemed pretty likely to win with a couple of goals in hand. However, there was no other alternative for Mr. Blackett but to stop the game. Smith kept goal finely for Middlesbrough, and he generally gives a good display at Leadgate. Higgins kicked strongly and cleanly at back, and he had a good partner in Clark. Redfearn showed up well at half, whilst Osborne and Murphy were about the best of the front rank. The Park did quite as well as their supporters expected under the circumstances, and they might easily capture the two points when the game is replayed. Crowther kept out some very dangerous shots, and altogether did extremely well. Temple and Joe Wilson were in capital trim, the former's kicking and his captain's heading being excellent. That ubiquitous half, Tommy Wilson, was always in the thick of it, and the more work he gets the better he seems to like it. He is a wonder. Daly and Calvert did fairly. Amongst the forwards Grant played a splendid game, and, as he was well assisted by Cook, the right wing was much superior to the left, Birtley missing one or two nice openings, but the condition of the ground no doubt had something to do with this. Billy Crowther played a fine, dashing game in the centre, pouncing on to the ball in very smart fashion, and he looks like developing into a clinker.

MEMS.

Stanley were on show against Shankhouse.

A few more such wins are required to remodel the goal average.

They had, however, a moderate team to face.

And one short of its complement.

Shankhouse are in a bad way.

They have lost their best men.

And income does not come up to expenditure.

There will probably be an Alliance vacancy to fill next season, vice Shankhouse.

There is no such thing as form.

We have said so before.

And say so again.

Just look at this.

Stanley 0, Newcastle United A 0.

Sunderland A 0, Newcastle A 1.

Stanley 1, Sunderland A 2.

To say nothing of Leadgate and Shields.

Sunderland were assisted by Phil Bach at Stanley.

Or rather Sunderland assisted Bach.

For he alone saved them from defeat.

And gained them two points.

Bobby Coates hurt his knee.

But couldn't stop off the field.

On Saturday the flag at Oakey's was half-mast.

In memory of the late Mr. E. Herdman.

Who was a prominent supporter of the Wednesday team.

Allendale surprised Leadgate on Saturday.

The home men played a very smart game.

And came very near annexing the two points.

The Allendale halves were in rare form.

Taylor (who formerly assisted Shotley Bridge) is a valuable acquisition.

He plays the proper half-back game, using excellent judgment.

Thompson Walton set his men a splendid example.

He never spared himself in the slightest.

And has plenty of football in him yet.

Willie Hunter (home from London) completed a formidable intermediate line.

Willie usually plays back, but did very well at half.

Mat Walton played a good game at back.

Trueman was the best forward on the field.

And did some very smart things.

Tommy Wilson was the best man on the visiting side.

And was a genuine trier all through.

As he always is.

The less said about some of the others the better.

They gave beautiful examples of how not to do it.

Tom Cartmell turned out for the first time since his injury at Stanley.

In the re-played cup-tie.

I was very sorry at Jacky Lynop being ordered off.

He undoubtedly forgot himself momentarily.

And the referee certainly had no other option but to mete out the severe penalty he did.

Incidents of this kind tend to cast a damper over the game.

Leadgate Park had a little bit of luck on Monday.

They appeared to be in for a beating when the fog fiend came to their assistance.

The game is pretty certain to have to be re-played.

It was hard lines upon Middlesbrough.

But it is all in the game.

The visitors played two first teamers.

Smith gave a very fine display in goal.

He got two or three shots away in marvellous fashion.

Higgins is a rattling good back.

And gives the ball plenty of toe.

Osborne was very speedy on the extreme right.

Grant came out in his old form for the Park.

That week's holiday has evidently done Jimmy good.

He certainly played a splendid game.

As Cook was also in trim, the right wing was very prominent.

Good judges entertain a high opinion of Billy Crowther.

He is undoubtedly a most promising forward.

Billy is wonderfully sharp on the ball, and is not easily brushed aside.

Much depended upon the game between Hamsterley and Burnhope.

Hamsterley were somewhat confident of winning.

But had to bow the knee to the home lads.

The winners were in better trim than they were at the Lintz.

And pulled through by four goals to two.

The Burnhope halves were in fine trim.

R. Wallace managed a couple of goals. Well done, "Ramp"!

The Rovers' skipper, to the delight of his side, also accounted for a brace of goals.

Laycock was all right between the sticks.

Burnhope are a dangerous lot at home.

But, like a lot more teams, they do not often shine away.

Hamsterley were not beaten without making a gallant struggle.

The losers still hold a good position in the league.

And are not without hopes of finishing at the top.

It is rumoured that Thompson Walton will shortly join the matrimonial ranks.

The Allendale boys intend to have a real old "beano" when the event comes off.

A man that faced an elephant single-handed ought not to be frightened of taking the plunge.

Here's luck to you, Thompson.

And also to the bride.

I am told that it is not true that George Forster is leaving the Park.

George intends to stick to his old club as long as his playing days last.

Forster is a very clever forward.

And at the same time one of the most decent young fellows that you could well meet.

Stockton have decided to come to Leadgate this week-end.

Having made arrangements with Stanley Bank re Cleveland Cup-tie.

Which was also fixed to take place on Saturday first.

It seems ridiculous that these competitions should clash in this manner.

Milburn Hunter (the old Allendale player) is playing a fine game for Langley Park at half.

He will also probably be found a place in the cricket team.

I return my sincere thanks to the several correspondents who have wished me a happy new year.

And can assure them that I heartily reciprocate their good wishes.

What was the matter with Blaydon on Saturday?

They failed to turn up at Consett.

And, I am told, sent no intimation to the effect that they were not coming.

Bad conduct this.

A local referee writes to ask why so many referees for the Amateur Cup-ties are selected from the Chester-le-Street district.

I should advise him to drop a card to Mr. R. Bland.

Birtley only turned up with 10 men at Consett on Monday.

But managed to play a draw with the Swifts.

The home men had rather the best of the exchanges.

But score they could not.

Biggars disposed of everything that came his way.

It is said that [illegible] have their eye upon Ned Cullen, the old [illegible].

Cullen was always looked upon as a player above the average.

He has done good work for Jarrow this season.

NORTHERN ALLIANCE.

REFEREES FOR JANUARY.

January 6th.

Middlesbro' A v. South Shields—J. Wardropper.

January 13th.

Leadgate Park v. Gateshead N.E.R.—A. E. White.

South Shields v Hebburn Argyle—J. Mitchison.

Stanley v. Willington Athletic—W. H. Bewley.

Sunderland A v. Jarrow—A. H. Smith.

Wallsend Park Villa v. Birtley (re-play)—B. Douglass.

January 20th.

Birtley v. Sunderland A—B. Glass.

Hebburn Argyle v. Stanley—J. B. Douglass.

Jarrow v. Wallsend Park Villa—W. H. Bewley.

St. Peter's Albion v. Leadgate Park—J. J. Anderson.

January 27th.

Jarrow v. South Shields—B. Glass.

Leadgate Park v. Sunderland A—A. Jane.

Middlesbro' A v. Shankhouse—H. Boldison.

St. Peter's Albion v. Hebburn Argyle—T. O.

Wallsend Park Villa v. Gateshead N.E.R.—E. Mackin.

Willington Athletic v. Birtley—J. B. Douglas.

MATCHES WANTED.

Consett Young Swifts have a few vacant dates—ages 13 to 15.—Apply Owen McKie, No. Alexandra Street, Consett.

Hamsterley Lilywhites are willing to play Allendale Putters on neutral ground for a football. Meet at Trainer's Public House.

Westwood Rovers are in want of matches—ages 13 to 15—Apply Wm. Rowland, 64, Allendale Cottages, Medomsley, R.S.O.

Consett Baptist Reserve would like to arrange matches with junior teams; ages 13 to 15 years.—Apply, George Oliver, 3, Steel Street, Consett.

Kyo United would like to play Kip Hill Wanderers or Stanley Heroes for a set of medals.—Apply, John Clarkson, 23, Jubilee Terrace, near Annfield Plain.

HILL TOP.

MARRIAGE OF MISS I ALLAN.—On Christmas Day an interesting wedding was celebrated at St. James' Church, Burnopfield. The contracting parties were Miss I Allan, second daughter of the late Mr. George Allan, of Hill Top, Dipton, and Mr. J. Robertson, eldest son of Mr. George Robertson, of Lanchester. The bride looked charming in a heliotrope silk dress, trimmed with white flowered satin, and wore a French picture hat trimmed with blue silk and orange blossoms, and light fern gloves. The bridesmaids, Miss G. Allan and Miss W. Allan, sisters of the bride, looked pretty in navy blue, dresses, trimmed with white silk, and wore black velvet hats. Mr. A. Wilkinson acted as "best man," and Mr. P. Graham as groomsman. The bride was given away by her brother-in-law, Mr. R. Crozier. After the ceremony a reception was held at the home of the bride's mother, where a very large number of friends assembled to enjoy the marriage feast. The presents were both costly and numerous.

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A HERO IN HUMBLE LIFE.

By GEORGE MANVILLE FENN.

I WOULD not wish for a better specimen of faith and confidence than was shown by one of my patients, Edward Brown, a stoker, whose little narrative I relate.

"Ah! doctor," he said one day, "I wish you had had to do with me when I came back from the East."

"Why?" I said, and went on dressing a very serious injury he had received to one hand, caused by his crushing it between a large piece of coal and the edge of the furnace door.

"Because I should have got better much quicker if I had known you."

"Perhaps not," I said, "your own medical man may have done his best."

"Perhaps he did," was the reply. "But, lor! hard down I was just then. I brings it all up again—those words."

"What words?" I said. "There, don't let that bandage be touched by anyone."

"'In the midst of life we are in death.'"

"Why, Brown!" I exclaimed.

"Yes sir, those were the words—'In the midst of life we are in death.' And they sounded so quiet and solemn, that Mary and I stopped short close to the old-fashioned gate at the little churchyard; and then, as if we moved and thought together, we went in softly to the funeral, and stood at a little distance, me with my hat off and Mary with her head bent down, till the service was over.

"There it all is again as I'm telling it to you, come back as fresh and clear as if I was looking at it now: a nice little old-fashioned church, with a stone wall round the yard, where the graves lay pretty thick and close, but all looking green and flowery and old, a great clump of the biggest and oldest yew-trees I ever saw, and a tall thick hedge separating the churchyard from the clergyman's house. The sun was shining brightly, turning the moss-covered roofs of the church and vicarage into gold; from the town close by came the faint twittering of birds, and away past the village houses bathed in the bright afternoon sunshine there were the fields of crimson clover, and the banks full of golden broom and gorse. Over all was a sense of such peace and silence that it seemed as if there was nothing terrible, only a quiet sadness in the funeral, with its few mourners round the open grave, and the grey-haired clergyman standing by; and last of all, when Mary and I went up and looked into the grave, and read on the coffin-plate, 'Aged 77,' one couldn't help feeling that the poor soul had only gone to sleep tired with a long life.

"It was my fancy, perhaps, but as we strolled round that churchyard, and read a tombstone here and a board there, it seemed as if no sooner had the parson gone in to take off his surplice, and the mourners left the churchyard, than the whole place woke up again into busy life. A chaffinch came and jerked out its bit of a song in one of the yews, the guinea-fowls in a farm close by set up their loud crying, the geese shrieked on the green, and creaking, and rattling and bumping, there came along a high-filled waggon of the sweetest hay that ever was, caught in loose handfuls by the boughs of the trees, and then fell softly back into the road.

"We were very quiet, Mary and I, as we strolled out of the churchyard, down one of the lanes; and then crossing a stile, we went through a couple of fields, and sat down on another stile, with the high hedge on one side of us and the meadow, that they were beginning to mow at the other end, one glorious bed of flowers and soft feathery grass.

"'Polly,' I says at last, breaking the silence, 'ain't this heavenly?'

"'And you feel better?' she says, laying her hand on mine.

"'Better!' I says, taking a long draught of the soft, sweet-scented air, and filling my chest, 'better, old girl! I feel as if I was growing backwards into a boy.'

"'And you fifty last week!' she says.

"'Yes,' I says, smiling, 'and you forty-seven next week.' And then we sat thinking for a bit.

"'Polly,' I says at last, as I sat there drinking in that soft breeze, and feeling it give me strength, 'its worth being so ill only to feel as I do now.'

"For you see I'd been very bad, else I dare say I'm not the man to go hanging about churchyards and watching funerals; I'm a stoker, and my work lies in steamers trading to the East. I'd come home from my last voyage bad with fever, caught in one of those nasty hot bad-smelling ports, been carried home to die, as my messmates said, and it was being like this, and getting better that had set me thinking so seriously, and made me so quiet; not that I was ever a noisy sort of a man, as any man who knows me will say. And now, after getting better, the doctor had said I must go into the country to get strength; so as there was no more voyaging till I was strong, there was nothing for it but to leave the youngsters under the care of the eldest girl and a neighbour, and I came and took lodgings out in this quiet Surrey village.

"Polly never thought I should get better, and one time no more did I; for about a month before this time, as I lay hollow-eyed and yellow on the bed, knowing, too, how bad I looked—for I used to make young Dick bring me the looking-glass every morning—the doctor came as usual, and like a blunt Englishman I put it to him flat.

"'Doctor,' I says, "You don't think I shall get better?" and I looked him straight in the face.

"'Oh, come, come, my man,' he says, smiling 'we never look at the black side like that.'

"'None of that, doctor,' I says; 'out with it like a man. I can stand it; I've been expecting to be drowned or blown up half my life, so I shan't be scared at what you say.'

"'Well, my man,' he says, 'your symptoms are of a very grave nature. You see the fever had undermined you before you came home, and unless——'

"'All right, doctor,' I says; 'I understand: you mean that unless you can get a new plate in the boiler, she won't stand another voyage.'

"'Oh, come! we won't look upon it as a hopeless case,' he says; 'there's always hope;' and after a little more talk he shook hands and went away.

"Next day, when he came, I had been thinking it all over, and was ready for him. I don't believe I was a bit better; in fact, I know I was drifting fast, and I saw it in his eyes as well.

"I waited till he had asked me his different questions, and then just as he was getting up to go, I asked him to sit down again.

"'Polly, my dear,' I says, 'I just want a few words with the doctor;' and she put her apron up to her eyes and went out, closing the door after her very softly, while the doctor looked at me curious-like, and waited for me to speak.

"'Doctor,' I says, 'you've about given me up. There, don't shake your head, for I know. Now don't you think I'm afraid to die, for I don't believe I am; but look here: there's seven children down-stairs, and if I leave my wife a widow with the few pounds I've been able to save, what's to become of them? Can't you pull me through?'

"'My dear fellow,' he says, 'honestly I've done everything I can for your case.'

"'That's what you think, doctor,' I says, 'but look here: I've been to sea thirty years, and in seven wrecks. It's been like dodging death with me a score of times. Why, I pulled my wife there regularly out of the hands of death, and I'm not going to give up now. I've been——'

"'Stop, stop,' he says gently. 'You're exciting yourself.'

"'Not a bit of it,' I says, though my voice was quite a whisper. 'I've had this over all to-night, and I've come to think I must be up and doing my duty.'

"'But, my good man——' he began.

"'Listen to me, doctor,' I says. 'A score of times I might have given up and been drowned, but I made a fight for it and was saved. Now I mean to make a fight for it here, for the sake of the wife and bairns. I don't mean to die, doctor, without a struggle. I believe this here, that life's given to us as a treasure to keep; we might throw it away by our own folly at any time, but there's hundreds of times when we may preserve it, and we never know whether we can save it till we try. Give's a drink of that water.'

"He held the glass to my lips, and I took a big draught and went on, he seeming all the time to be stopping to humour my madness.

"'That's better, doctor,' I says. 'Now look here, sir, speaking as one who has sailed the seas, it's a terrible stormy time with me; there's a lee shore close at hand, the fires are drowned out, and unless we can get up a bit of sail, there's no chance for me. Now then, doctor, can you get up a bit of sail?'

"'I'll go and send you something that will quiet you,' he said, rising.

"'Thank ye, doctor,' I says, smiling to myself. 'And now look here,' I says, 'I'm not going to give up till the last; and when that last comes, and the ship's going down, why, I shall have to try if I can't swim to safety. If that fails, and I can really feel that it is to be, why, I hope I shall go down into the great deep calmly, like a hopeful man, praying that Somebody above will forgive me all I've done amiss, and stretch out His fatherly hand to my little ones at home.

"He went away, and I dropped asleep, worn out with my exertion.

"When I woke, Polly was standing by the bedside watching me, with a bottle and glass on the little table.

"As soon as she saw my eyes open, she shook up the stuff, and poured it in a wine-glass.

"'Is that what the doctor sent?' I says.

"'Yes, dear; you were to take it directly.'

"'Then I shan't take it,' I says. "He's give me up, and that stuff's only to keep me quiet. Polly, you go and make me some beef-tea, and make it strong.'

"She looked horrified, poor old girl, and was going to beg me to take hold of the rotten life-belt he'd sent me, when I held out my shaking hand for it, took the glass, and let it tilt over—there was only about a couple of teaspoonfuls in it—and the stuff fell on the carpet.

"I saw the tears come in her eyes, but she said nothing—only put down the glass, and ran out to make the beef-tea.

"The doctor didn't come till late next day, and I was lying very still and drowsy, half asleep like, but I was awake enough to hear him whisper to Polly, 'Sinking fast;' and I heard her give such a heart-broken sob, that as the next great wave came on the sea where I was floating, I struck out with all my might, rose over it, and floated gently down the other side.

"For the next four days—putting it as a drowning man striving for his life—like a true-hearted fellow—it was like great foaming waves coming to wash over me, but the shore still in sight, and me trying hard to reach it.

"And it was a grim, hard fight: a dozen times I could have given up, folding my arms, and said good-bye to the dear watching old face safe on shore; but a look at that always cheered me, and I fought on and on again, till at last the sea seemed to go down, and, in utter weariness, I turned on my back to float restfully with the tide bearing me shorewards, till I touched the sands, crept up them, and fell down worn, to sleep in the warm sun—safe!

"That's a curious way of putting it, you may say, but it seems natural to me to mix up with the things of sea-going life, and the manner in which I've seen so many fight hard for their lives. It was just like striving in the midst of a storm to me, and when at last I did fall into a deep sleep, I felt surprised-like to find myself lying in my own bed, with Polly watching by me; and when I stretched out my hand, and took hers, she let loose what she had kept hidden from me before, and, falling on her knees by my bedside, she sobbed for very joy.

"As much beef-tea and brandy as you can get him to take,' the doctor says, that afternoon; and it wasn't long before I got from slops to solids, and then was sent, as I told you, into the country to get strong, while the doctor got no end of praise for the cure he had made.

"I never said a word, though, even to Polly, for he did his best; but I don't think any medicine would have cured me then.

"I was saying a little while back that I pulled my wife regularly out of the hands of death, and of course that was when we were both quite young; though, for the matter of that, I don't feel much different, and can't well see the change. That was in one of the Cape steamers, when I first took to stoking. They were little ramshackle sort of boats in those days, and how it was more weren't lost puzzles me. It was more due to the weather than the make or finding of the ships, I can tell you, that they used to steer their way safe to port; and yet the passengers, poor things, knowing no better, used to take passage, ay, and make a voyage, too, from which they never got back.

"Well, I was working on board a steamer as they used to call the *Equator*, heavy laden and with about twenty passengers on board. We started down Channel and away with all well, till we got right down off the west coast of Africa, when there came on one one of the heaviest storms I was ever in. Even for a well-found steamer, such as they can build to-day, it would have been a hard fight; but with our poor shaky wooden tub, it was a hopeless case from the first.

"Our skipper made a brave fight for it, though, and tried hard to make for one of the ports; but, bless you! what can a man do when, after ten days' knocking about, the coals run out, and the fires, that have been kept going with wood and oil, and everything that can be thrust into the furnaces, are drowned; when the paddle-wheels are only in the way, every bit of sail set is blown clean out of the bolt-ropes, and at last the ship begins to drift fast for a lee shore?

"That was our case, and every hour the sea seemed to get higher, and the wind more fierce, while I heard from more than one man how fast the water was gaining below.

"My mate and I didn't want any telling, though. We'd been driven up out of the stoke-hole like a pair of drowned rats, and came on deck to find the bulwarks ripped away, and the sea every now and then leaping aboard, and washing the lumber about in all directions.

"The skipper was behaving very well, and he kept us all at the pumps, turn and turn in spells, but we might as well have tried to pump the sea dry; and when, with the water gaining fast, we told him what we thought, he owned as it was no use, and we gave up.

"We'd all been at it, crew and passengers, about forty of us altogether, including the women—five of them they were, and they were all on deck, lashed in a sheltered place, close to the poop. Very pitiful it was to see them fighting hard and fast, and clinging to the side, but only to grow weaker, half-drowned as they were; and I saw two sink down at last and hang drooping-like from their lashings, dead, for not a soul could do them a turn.

"I was holding on by the shrouds when the mate got to the skipper's side, and I saw in his blank white face what he was telling him. Of course we couldn't hear his words in such a storm, but we didn't want to, for we knew well enough he was saying—

"'She's sinking!'

"Next moment there was a rush made for the boats, and two of the passengers cut loose a couple of the women; place was made for them before the first boat was too full, and she was lowered down, cast off, and a big wave carried her clear of the steamer. I saw her for a moment on the top of the ridge, and then she plunged down the other side out of our sight—and that of everybody else; for how long she lived, who can say? She was never picked up or heard of again.

"Giving a bit of a cheer, our chaps turned to the next, and were getting in when there came a wave like a mountain, ripped her from the davits, and when I shook the water from my eyes, there she was hanging by one end, stove in, and the men who had tried to launch her gone—skipper and mate as well.

"There were only seven of us now, and I could see besides the three women lashed to the side, and only one of them was alive; and for a bit no one moved, everybody being stunned-like with horror; but there came a lull, and feeling that the steamer was sinking under our feet, I shouted out to the boys to come on, and we ran to the last boat, climbed in, and were casting off, when I happened to catch sight of the women lashed under the bulwarks there.

"'Hold hard!' I roars, for I saw one of them wave her hand.

"'Come on, you fool,' shouts my mate, 'she's going down!'

"I pray I may never be put to it again like that, with all a man's selfish desire for life fighting against him. For a moment I shut my eyes, and they began to lower; but I was obliged to open them again, and as I did so, I saw a wild, scared face, with long wet hair clinging round it, and a pair of little white hands were stretched out to me as if for help.

"'Hold hard!' I shouts.

"'No, no,' roared out two or three, 'there isn't a moment;' and as the boat was being lowered from the davits, I made a jump, caught the bulwarks with my hands, and climbed back on board, just as the boat kissed the water, was unhooked, and floated away.

"Then as I crept, hand over hand, to the girl's side, whipped out my knife, and was cutting her loose, while her weak arms clung to me, I felt a horrible feeling of despair come over me, for the boat was leaving us; and I knew what a coward I was at heart, as I had to fight with myself so as not to leave the girl to her fate, and leap overboard to swim for my life. I got the better of it though—went down on my knees, so as not to see the boat, and got the poor trembling, clinging creature loose.

"'Now, my lass,' I says, 'quick'—and I raised her up—'hold on by the side while I make fast a rope round you.'

"And then I stood up to hail the boat—the boat as warn't there, for in those brief moments she must have capsized, and we were alone on the sinking steamer, which now lay in the trough of the sea.

"As soon as I got over the horror of the feeling, a sort of stony despair came over me; but when I saw that little pale appealing face at my side, looking to me for help, that brought the manhood back, and in saying encouraging things to her, I did myself good.

"My first idea was to make something that would float us, but I gave that up directly, for I could feel that I was helpless; and getting the poor girl more into shelter, I took a bit of tobacco in a sort of stolid way, and sat down with a cork life-buoy over my arm, one which I had cut loose from where it had hung forgotten behind the wheel.

"But I never used it, for the storm went down fast, and the steamer floated still, waterlogged, for three days, when we were picked up by a passing vessel, half-starved, but hoping. And during that time my companion had told me that she was the attendant of one of the lady passengers on board; and at last, when we parted at the Cape, she kissed my hand, and called me her hero, who had saved her life—poor grimy me, you know!

"We warn't long, though, before we met again, for somehow we'd settled that we'd write; and a twelvemonth after, Mary was back in England, and my wife. That's why I said I took her like out of the hands of death, though in a selfish sort of way, being far, you know, from perfect. But what I say, speaking as Edward Brown, stoker, is this: Make a good fight of it, no matter how black things may look, and leave the rest to Him."

He nodded gravely at me, placed his bandaged hand in the sling I had contrived, and went away without another word.

A DANGEROUS EPIDEMIC

An epidemic of influenza is at present raging in most parts of England, and scarcely anyone is without at least a slight attack. This dreadful malady is one of the most tiresome and inconvenient diseases imaginable, and few seem to realize that an absolute cure for it is to be found in Bile Beans for Biliousness. Influenza totally incapacitates the sufferer from doing any sort of work, and life itself becomes a burden. There is, in the first place, a violent cold, generally in the head, and a constant and violent headache is one of the most trying symptoms. Pains, too, in all parts of the body and limbs are also prominent, and a general collapse of the entire system follows. The appetite is impaired, and a sensation of weariness and total disability to even think in a connected manner is noticeable. Of course, as this malady gains hold on the system the symptoms become more strongly marked, until the patient is not only in an extremely delicate, but an absolutely dangerous condition.

To perform the double office of preventative and cure there is no remedy equal to Bile Beans for Biliousness. Acting as a preventative, they cleanse the system of all waste matter, purify the blood, build up the nervous organism, and thoroughly prepare all parts of the body to withstand the severest winter weather. As a cure, they act in the same manner, only, of course, the time consumed is necessarily longer. They break up a cold in a few doses, and will be found in all cases a thoroughly first-class remedy for influenza, even in the severest cases. Besides curing influenza they are an undoubted specific for biliousness, indigestion, influenza, rheumatism, debility, piles, tired feeling, palpitation, liver complaints, costiveness, headache, insomnia, liver chill, eczema, scrofula, and female ailments. Bile Beans are obtainable from chemists generally; or the Bile Bean Manufacturing Company will forward direct from their London Depot, 119 and 120, London Wall, one box for 1s. 1½d. or 2s. 9d. (large box holds 3 small). Please mention this paper if you are writing.

STANHOPE.

CHURCH SOIREE.—The annual soiree in connection with the Church party was held in the Barrington Schools, Stanhope, on Thursday night. The Bishop of Richmond presided, and gave an interesting resume of Church work at Stanhope and Crawley during the year. A capital sketch was given by the Misses Pulleine and Castor, which was much enjoyed. Games, etc., followed, and a very enjoyable evening being spent.

WEARDALE.

BOARD OF GUARDIANS.—Mr. J. W. Roddam, J.P., presided at Friday's meeting.—Dr. and Mrs. Livingstone were thanked for giving the inmates of the House a knife and fork tea on Friday last, and Mr. G. Currey for a cask of beer for the inmates on Christmas Day. The following were also thanked for supplying the inmates with apples, oranges, sweets, tobacco, &c.:—The Bishop of Richmond, Mr. J. W. Roddam, Mr. J. Smurthwaite, Rev. F. C. Jagg, and the Stanhope Mineral Water Company.

"BUCHU-PAIBA."—Complete cure of all kidney and bladder complaints, gravel, stinging, indigestion, inflammation. Of Chemists. Newbery & Sons, Agents, 1, King Edward Street, London, E.C.

STANLEY AND D ES

By "POST

not for me to go ... national or international. If it were, then I should have to commandeer the whole sixty-four columns of the "Guardian" which would be distressing to others as well as to myself. "The British Empire" received its fair share of attention at the time of the Jubilee, all memories of which have not yet been stolen from us by "the subtle thief," and however rapidly events may move and attract our attention we still have time to give thoughts to our own circumscribed areas. Stanley does not stand where it did twelve months ago. It has extended its borders, its trade has been steadily increasing, its health has been good, and its demeanour excellent. It forms a portion of the County of Durham which belies the remarks of Mr Justice Grantham at the last Durham Assizes, for good trade and good wages have not led to drunkenness and crime. Rather have they led to a religious upheaval, for there has been a remarkable advance made by the various denominations during the past twelve months. The year just departed has been marked by quiet, unostentatious progress; nothing hysterical nothing to stir the jaundiced blood of the hypercritical, or to afford an opening to the hypocritical. It has been, like one of Mr Goschen's budgets, a profitable hum-drum year. "The subtle thief" has not withheld his hand from all domestic circles, and where he has pilfered our sympathies must be extended. In this respect I trust his labours may be reduced to a minimum in the year upon which we have just entered, and I also express a hope that our public men may have health and strength to enable them to discharge the responsible duties which devolve upon them, and which, year by year, become more onerous and more peremptory.

SOUTH MOOR.

South Moor has not been without its incidents during the year. Building operations have been going on, and it is gradually taking rank among the leading colliery villages of the county. An important event was the opening of the bacterial filter beds, on the Sutton system, which have now been working for some months with success, and which have attracted the representatives of public bodies from various parts of the county. In the early part of the year a futile attempt was made to form a School Board—an indication in itself of the progress made at South Moor. New chapels have been opened and debts have been almost cleared off other places of worship. There is a future for South Moor and its career will be watched with interest.

TANFIELD.

Tanfield is one of those old-fashioned stand still places which give an air of respectability to a district round which are springing up villages and towns of what some people would call the mushroom order. It has its ancients, and it would be an interesting picture to see Messrs Irwin, Brewis, and Agar perched on the tower of Tanfield Church, pointing the finger of scorn towards Stanley, and chanting the couplet in monotone:—

> "Tanfield was Tanfield when Stanley was none,
> Tanfield'll be Tanfield when Stanley is gone."

But they bear no malice. They are content to go on in their old jog trot way, and I trust they have more than a few years to roll. They have a District Council at Tanfield which meets before midnight once a month. Old as they are they have not yet learned to keep good hours, but they are hardly beyond the reach of hope. They will probably mend their ways with the advent of the new century.

TANFIELD LEA.

Tanfield Lea is not exactly a holiday or a health resort. It is on the border land of the Tanfield Council area, and is something in the nature of a forlorn child. Access by road or field is execrable. Comparisons, it is said, are odious, and other Councils declare that the Tanfield body keep down rates by doing nothing for the ratepayers; and so Tanfield Lea has to shift for itself. The streets are not paved with gold, the buildings are not palatial, the inhabitants may be more plebian than patrician, but they are true hearted, and "kind hearts are more than coronets." Now and again they take the outer world into their confidence, and the latest instance may be taken as an example. The Primitives have been holding a bazaar in order to form the nucleus of a fund for the building of a school-room. The necessity did not strike me until Miss Bulmer informed me that they have 200 scholars, and a Christian Endeavour Society with a membership of 40, and only the chapel to serve all purposes. The need became apparent, the bazaar became justified, and the amount realised indicated the pluck, energy, and perseverance there is in the village lying in the valley. Let this example suffice, and may good luck go with the people of Tanfield Lea.

DEMONSTRATIVE VOLUNTEERS.

A few nights ago three ardent spirits presented themselves at the Stanley Police Station as candidates for shipment to South Africa. They were evident believers in the idea that the true remedy for everything is to ask a policeman. Accordingly their demands of the officers in charge to have their names taken down as volunteers to "fight the Boers," were [illegible]. Before their names could be taken it was necessary to test their military qualifications, and they were put through a series of manual exercises, which they accomplished to their own satisfaction. But the fighting element was strong in them, and [illegible] in bayonet practice they armed themselves with poker and forthwith charged the enemy with alarming vigour. As the enemy consisted of the [illegible] coats, capes, and helmets, a reinforcement [illegible] it was only with difficulty that the fierce belligerents could be tamed down. The War Office would be communicated with and the reply forwarded at the earliest moment.

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RETROSPECT OF THE YEAR 1899.

THE YEAR'S EVENTS: PARLIAMENTARY AND POLITICAL.

The extra-Sessional political oratory, prior to the opening of Parliament in February, included important speeches by some of the leaders on both sides. Mr. Balfour told his constituents in Manchester that he thought the Irish were entitled, as a matter of justice, to a Roman Catholic University; but that he was not inclined to press his personal view upon his colleagues. The Colonial Secretary denounced the sugar bounties given by certain nations as an iniquity, against which he held, we ought to protect our fellow-subjects in the West Indies. Mr. Asquith declared that "the Liberal party believed in Imperial expansion guided by good sense." Colonel Lockwood, M.P., as Chairman of the East London Water Company, denounced the London County Council as "a gang of Jack Cades."

On February 7 Parliament was opened, with a Governmental majority in the House of Commons of 137. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman was elected Liberal leader. The debate on the Address in reply to the Queen's Speech was not of a particularly lively or interesting character, and it was agreed to on February 21 in the Commons. Mr. Balfour introduced on the 23rd a bill for the reconstruction of the municipal administrative bodies of London. Sir Edward Sassoon (Unionist) was returned member for Hythe.

March saw the introduction by Mr. Walter Long of the Foods and Drugs Bill, designed to stop frauds by adulteration and wrongful description. On the 15th of the month Mr. Reckitt's bill for the better regulation of the sale of petroleum was rejected in the Commons by 244 to 159 votes. A compromise between the Government and the Telephone Companies was entered into and received the approval of Parliament. A bill was introduced into the House of Lords to limit usury and control money-lending. Outside the Legislature, the chief home political event was the meeting of the National Liberal Federation in Hull, at which, on the 6th inst., Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman protested that the expenditure of the Government was excessive, and called for incessant vigilance on the part of the Reform party. Mr. Holland was elected member for Rotherham in the Liberal interest.

On April 10 the House of Commons reassembled after the brief Easter recess, and an animated debate ensued on the crisis in the church. The Chancellor of the Exchequer brought in his Budget on the 13th, and formal resolutions sanctioning changes in the Wine and Stamp Duties were agreed to, also a resolution altering the law relating to the National Debt. The Naval Estimates exhibited a large increase; nine new warships were provided for, and increment of 4250 seamen. Mr. Chamberlain's bill for the acquisition of ownership in small houses by tenants was met by a hostile amendment, but the Second Reading was passed in the Commons by a very decisive majority on the 17th inst. Warm debate took place in the Commons over the Government's policy in China, which was criticised as wanting in vigour. Lord Russell of Killowen introduced a bill in the Upper House dealing with the subject of illicit commissions; and a bill was brought in by the Duke of Devonshire for the promotion of Secondary Education. Bye-elections occurred during April at Harrow—where Mr. Cox was returned by a majority of 1105 over Mr. Corrie Grant, his Liberal opponent; and in North Norfolk—where Sir. W. B. Gurdon defeated his Conservative competitor by 1165. The death of Mr. Tom Ellis, M.P., created a vacancy in the post of chief Liberal Whip in the Commons, and Mr. Herbert Gladstone undertook the office.

During May the London Government Bill was keenly discussed in the Commons, Ministers winning on important divisions by substantial majorities. Mr. Gerald Balfour's bill for according Ireland agricultural Home Rule, and a special department for agricultural and technical interests was well received; and the Church Discipline Bill was rejected in the Commons on the 10th; and the House adjourned over Whitsuntide on the 19th. The membership for Oxford University, vacant on the death of Sir John Mowbray, "Father of the Commons," was filled by the return of Sir William Anson, a Liberal Unionist, without a contest.

Supply largely occupied attention in the Commons in June, and on the 5th a vote of £30,000 to Lord Kitchener for his Soudan services was granted. On the 6th the tragic death of Dr. Wallace from an apoplectic seizure in the Commons created a painful sensation. The London Government Bill passed through Committee in the Lords on the 27th. Sir William Harcourt, in an address to his constituents which attracted very general attention, declared that a thorough readjustment of taxation would form a leading feature of the new Liberal programme. A decisive victory was the outcome of the Southport bye-election, Sir G. Pilkington securing a majority of 583; and in East Edinburgh Mr. Macrae, the Liberal candidate, scored an overwhelming success at the poll.

The Tithe Rent-charge (Rates) Bill was read a third time in the Commons on July 24, and subsequently passed the Lords. The Small Houses Bill passed through Committee in the Lords on the 25th. The Food and Drugs Bill amended to meet the wishes of commercial members, though repudiated as useless by representatives of the agricultural interest passed with ease. Government brought forward a proposal to take over the Niger Company's territories, and obtained a majority of 223 to 101 for their scheme. On a vacancy occurring in the representation of South St. Pancras, the seat was retained by the Ministerialists; but two seats were lost at Oldham.

Parliament was prorogued on August 9 after a comparatively uneventful session, the chief Acts passed being the Food and Drugs Bill, the London Local Government Bill, the Irish Agricultural Bill, the Tithe Rent-charge Bill, the Board of Education Bill, and the Shop Assistants (Seats) Bill. This latter comes into operation on the First of January, 1900, and provides that in all places where goods are actually retailed to the public by female assistants, the employer shall provide at least one seat to every three female assistants employed in each room, either behind the counter or in any other suitable position. Penalty for non-compliance with the Act—for a first offence, a fine not exceeding £3; and for a second or subsequent offence a fine not less than £1 and not exceeding £5. The Board of Education Act establishes a new administrative body, to consist of a President of the Board, of the Lord President of the Council (unless he is appointed President of the Board), her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, the First Commissioner of the Treasury, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who shall be charged with the superintendence of matters relating to education in England and Wales. The existing Vice-President of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education is also to be a member of the Board, but on the next vacancy in his office, the office is to be abolished, and the Education Department Act, 1856, is to be repealed, as also the words "the Vice-President of the Committee of the said Privy Council on Education being one of them" in the 7th Section of the Public Health Act, 1858.

The Tithe Rent-charge Act exempts the owner of tithe rent-charge attached to a Benefice from one-half of the rates to which the Act applies; the remaining half shall, on demand being made by the collector of the rate on the surveyor of taxes for the district, be paid by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue out of the sums payable by them to the Local Taxation Account, on account of the Estate Duty Grant.

The state of public feeling became so tense during September concerning the crisis which had arisen in South Africa between her Majesty's Government and the Transvaal and Orange Free State Executives that two Cabinet Councils had to be held at this unusual season of the year, on the 21st and 28th inst. respectively. The result was that strong despatches passed between Pretoria and London.

October 7 saw the summoning of Parliament to a Special Session, and simultaneously the calling out of the Reserves. Actual war with the Dutch Republics in South Africa commenced on the 11th, and on the 18th Mr. Balfour announced in the Commons, the emergency Session having commenced, that Government would ask for an additional War Office vote of 10 millions sterling, and 35,000 men for Transvaal operations. Both were granted on the 20th. Parliament was prorogued on the 27th. Bow and Bromley bye-election: Mr. Guthrie (U.) 4238; Mr. Harold Spender (L.) 2123.

November.—6. Exeter bye-election; Sir E. Vincent (C.) 4080, Mr. A. Haight (L.) 3371. At the Guildhall Banquet in London on the 9th, Lord Salisbury delivered an important speech, dilating on the cordial relations existing between Britain, Germany, and the United States, and announcing that the Government would permit no outside interference with the settlement of the Transvaal trouble. On the 20th great sorrow was occasioned by the demise of Lady Salisbury, wife of the Premier.

December.—7. Mr. R. E. Dickinson (C.) returned unopposed for Somerset (Wilts). 9. Mr. Chaplin, at United Service Club banquet in London, announced that there was never a more united Cabinet than that of Britain with regard to the South African war.

THE YEAR'S CHIEF EVENTS: FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

January.—1. Cuba transferred to the control of the United States. 5. Lord Cromer laid foundation Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum. 7. Aguinaldo claimed independence from the Philippines; desperate fighting, but American troops everywhere victorious. 18. Ahmed Fadil's forces, 2000 strong, surrendered on the Blue Nile to the gunboat Metemmeh. 21. Lord Kitchener appointed Governor of the Soudan. 27. Disturbance in the Austrian Reichsrath. Important progress was made during January in the arrangements for Australian federation.

February witnessed a wave of enthusiasm in the United States, provoked by the publication of a poem by Rudyard Kipling—"The White Man's Burden"—calling on white men to assume the rule of half-civilised races as a duty to humanity. 6. Count Caprivi died. The death of Prince Alfred of Saxe-Coburg brought the renunciation of the succession by the Duke of Connaught, making the young Duke of Albany heir to the reigning head of the Duchy. 11. Iloilo captured by the United States forces. 16. Sudden death of President Felix Faure, throwing France into mourning. 18. M. Loubet, advanced Republican, elected President of the French Republic; M. Meline, nominated as a Moderate, declining to stand. 19. Serious fighting between Russians and Chinese at Talienwan.

March saw Spain in political convulsion, the Conservatives under Senor Silvela coming into office. Lord Charles Beresford returned to England from his commercial mission to China on the 8th. The German Emperor met Mr. Cecil Rhodes in conference concerning South African Developments on the 11th. Agreement signed on the 21st between France and England for the settlement of Central African boundaries, this country retaining Darfur and the Bahr-el-Gazal.

April witnessed the spread of general indignation on account of the abrogation of local rights in Finland, which had been recognised under successive Emperors of Russia for over 80 years. 4. British troops ordered from Hong Kong to Kowloon. 18. British flag hoisted there. 27. Announcement of coming construction of all British Pacific cable.

The International Peace Conference summoned by the Czar met in May at the Hague, under the presidency of M. de Staal, but its proceedings proved disappointing. Another abortive conference was opened at Bloemfontein between President Kruger and Sir Alfred Milner respecting the Uitlander grievances and other South African matters; but the efforts of the diplomats concerned did not obviate the subsequent outbreak of war between Britain and the Hollander republics. A moderate Conservative Ministry came into power in Italy on May 12, under General Pelloux, and in Roumania a new Government was established, with M. Cantacuzene at its head. The Egyptian Budget exhibited a deficit of £398,000, a million and three-quarters being absorbed by the expenses of International control.

June 1 brought the return of M. Marchand and his companions to Paris, "the Fashoda incident" being thereby definitely concluded. France's attention was distracted from this matter by the order of a new court-martial on Dreyfus, imprisoned on the Devil's Isle for alleged treason. The Dupuy Ministry fell on the 13th, and a Coalition Government, with Waldeck Rousseau as Premier and General Gallifet as War Minister, was appointed. Political disturbance in the capital and other parts of France firmly put down, General Negrier and other Royalists being deprived of their appointments. Senor Castelar, the Spanish Republican leader, died.

July 10 was the death-day of the Czarewitch of Russia, the Grand Duke George, but little surprise was thereby occasioned as he had been ailing for years; the Grand Duke Michael became heir to the Russian throne. The Italian Parliament, after a week of scandalous disorder, was closed by Royal decree. Dreyfus was taken to Rennes for re-trial. The failure of the Bloemfontein Conference and subsequent negotiations rendered the South African crisis growingly more serious. The Transvaal difficulty was discussed in both Houses of Parliament on the 28th, the Government announcing that, having taken up the Uitlander grievances, they "would see the thing through."

August was marked by the spread of a strong anti-French feeling in Britain, Germany, and Italy, in consequence of disclosures in the Dreyfus case; and the strained relationship between this country and France was not decreased by the firing upon a French lugger by one of her Majesty's ships in the Channel, whereby a seaman was killed. Later, though his vessel was in the wrong, the Queen graciously compensated the fisherman's family. The Conservative parties in France coalesced in favour of a plebiscitary Republic; Anarchist and Royalists plots in Paris and elsewhere occasioned during August very considerable trouble. Illness of the Czar created some uneasiness on the Continent; and the Prussian Parliament distinguished itself by rejecting a Canal Bill favoured by the Kaiser. The Indian finances were pronounced satisfactory for the first time after many years. Towards the end of August a large force of British troops was despatched to the Cape.

September 9 was the date of the conclusion of the Dreyfus second trial, the civilised world being scandalised by the prisoner's re-conviction, which was followed by his free pardon, secret release, and removal to Carpentras. Political plots in France thickened, and various prosecutions were instituted. The publication of the Boer rejection of British terms was quickly followed by expanding military preparations, and 24,000 British troops were confronting the forces of the Dutch Republics in South Africa by the close of the month. A disastrous earthquake occurred on the 25th at Darjeeling; and disquiet in Chili caused a change of Government there, M. Sotomayor becoming Premier.

The Venezuela award was declared on October 3, and was received with general favour. Manifest strengthening of good feeling between Britain and the United States afforded general satisfaction throughout the Anglo-Saxon speaking race. The final contest for the America yachting Cup between the Columbia and Sir Thomas Lipton's Shamrock ended in the complete defeat of the latter. October witnessed the commencement of actual war between Britain and the Boers.

November witnessed the waxing of the war in South Africa, and public attention in this country was almost entirely centred thereon. 24. Dervish host put to flight by Anglo-Egyptian force at Oom Debrikhat. 28. Final battle fought, Mahdism being definitely overthrown, the Khalifa and his Emirs slain, and the entire force under him slain or captured.

December.—2. Treaty for partition of Samoan Islands signed at Washington. 4. United States new shipbuilding programme announced. 5. President McKinley's Message to Congress. German steamer searched for arms at Las Palmas at request of British. United States Budget showed deficit of 89,000,000dols. 9. Severe fighting in the Philippines reported, 70 insurgents killed and wounded.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN CAMPAIGN.

Concisely stated, the principal details of the South African campaign are as follows:

October.—16. Boer Ultimatum received, and reply sent. Free Staters cross into Natal. 11. Laing's Nek occupied by Transvaal Boers. 12. Western border crossed 40 miles south of Mafeking. Enemy cut railway and telegraph. British Agent leaves Pretoria. 13. Boers shell an armoured train south of Mafeking. Lieutenant Nesbitt and crew captured. 14. Mafeking attacked. Enemy repulsed with loss. Newcastle abandoned. 15. Railway destroyed and telegraph wires cut by Free Staters south of Kimberley. 20. British victory at Glencoe. Our losses: Killed 36, wounded 191. Enemy's casualties variously estimated, but heavy. In this battle British General Sir W. P. Symons was mortally injured. 21. Elandslaage. Another victory. British losses: Killed 51, wounded 210. The enemy lost 100 killed and wounded, with 200 missing and 300 captured. General Joubert, with the Boer main column, advances south. Dundee shelled. 22. Dundee evacuated. General Yule marches south with the Glencoe column to join Sir G. White. 24. Enemy defeated at Rietfontein. Our casualties: Killed 12, wounded 103, missing 2. Successful sortie from Kimberley. 25. Mafeking: General attack repulsed. Boers lose 50 killed. 26. General Yule's column arrives at Ladysmith. 30. Battle at Ladysmith. Two British battalions and a mountain battery captured by Boers. British losses: 300 killed and wounded. General Buller (appointed to chief command) arrives Cape Town. 31. Mafeking: Second attack repulsed. Enemy lose heavily. Our casualties: Six killed (two officers), five wounded.

Nov. 3. Ladysmith isolated. Telegraph wires cut. Fighting outside the town. Boer camp to the west shelled. Reported rout of Free Staters and capture of their camp. Cape Colony invaded by Free State Boers. Norval's Pont captured. 3. Colenso evacuated. Martial law proclaimed in northern districts Cape Colony. Garrisons withdrawn from Stormberg and other stations. 7. Kimberley. Bombardment commences. 9. First Transport (Roslin Castle) arrives Capetown. 10. Fighting Belmont, north of Orange River Station. Lieutenant-Colonel Keith Falconer and Lieutenant Wood killed. 15. Armoured train from Estcourt shelled by Boers. Engine gets back with 15 wounded. Many men missing including Captain Haldane and Mr. Winston Churchill, news correspondent. 23. Battle near Belmont. Western Frontier. Boers routed. Over 80 killed. Forty prisoners taken, including Colonel Schiel, German Commandant. British losses: 50 killed, 245 wounded, two missing. Fight at Beacon Hill (Willow Grange). General Hildyard loses 11 killed, 67 wounded, nine missing. 25. Battle at Graspan. Four hours' desperate fighting. Boers driven back. British loss: 24 killed, 166 wounded, seven missing. 28. Battle of Modder River. 8000 Boers routed. Fourteen hours' desperate fighting. Total British losses, 475; four officers and 68 men killed, and 19 officers and 377 rank and file wounded, with seven missing. Successful sortie from Kimberley; British casualties, 22 (including Major Scott Turner), killed, and 31 injured.

December.—2. General Clery reached Frere. 3. Transport Ismore wrecked 180 miles north of Cape Town; all soldiers saved. 5. General Buller left Pietermaritzburg for Frere. 6. Lord Methuen established communication with beleagured Kimberley garrison. 8. Sharp fight between Methuen and Boers near Enslin. Boer position near Ladysmith captured; two guns destroyed and the Maxim taken; one British soldier killed, one officer wounded. 10. General Gatacre suffered serious reverse in attacking Stormberg, being misled into a strong Boer ambush by guides.

THE YEAR'S CHIEF EVENTS—SOCIAL AND GENERAL.

January.—7. Queen conferred the V.C. for gallantry at Khartoum and decorated eight Omdurman heroes at Osborne. 10. Farewell dinner party to Empress Frederick at Osborne. 13. Launch of the Oceanic at Belfast. 14. Queen knighted Mr. F. Flannery, M.P., and other gentlemen. Mr. Cecil Rhodes arrived from the Cape. 18. Marriage of the Bishop of Hereford and Miss Symonds. 20. Memorial services for Prince Henry of Battenberg at Wippingham. 21. Marriage of Lady Winifred Clements and Mr. Arthur Renshaw. Board of Trade Returns showed vastly improved figures both as to exports and imports. The sale of the late William Morris's library realised £11,000. Funds raised for the relief of the widows of the late Gleeson White and Harold Frederic. Protestant demonstration at the Albert Hall, Kensington. Archbishop of Canterbury made a vigorous appeal for the temperance cause. Canon Eyton resigned his position at Westminster.

February.—2. Queen held Council at Osborne. 7. Mr. John Kensit made an ineffective appeal to Convocation. 14. Princess Charles of Denmark arrived from Copenhagen. 15. Engagement of Lady Margaret Primrose to the Earl of Crewe. 18. Lord Salisbury had an audience of the Queen. 19. Duke and Duchess of Connaught arrived at Oosdarman. Dangerous illness of Rudyard Kipling from pneumonia occasioned widespread sympathy.

March.—3. Princess Christian held second Drawing Room. 4. Engagement of the Earl of Scarborough and Miss Ashton. 6. Duke of York held Levée. Queen received Mr. Joseph Choate, the new U.S. Ambassador. 9. Opening of the Great Central Railway. 11. Princess of Wales, with Princess Victoria and Princess Charles of Denmark, left for Paris en route for a cruise on the Mediterranean. Queen left for Cimiez. 12. Queen arrived at Cimiez. 14. Duke of York held Levée. 15. Duke of York went to Abergeldie. 21. Funeral of Lord Herschell at Westminster Abbey. 25. Cambridge won the Boat Race. The decoration of St. Paul's Cathedral excited much controversy. London County Council made proposals for the establishment of a National Opera House. Universal pleasure expressed at the recovery of Rudyard Kipling. Friction at South Kensington: Mr. Walter Crane resigned the directorship.

April.—8. First experiments in wireless telegraphy between the South Foreland and the Goodwins. Marriage of the Earl of Scarborough and Miss Ashton. Engagement of the Earl of Shaftesbury and Lady Constance Grosvenor. 12. Birth of a son to the Marchioness of Camden. Church Missionary Society celebrated its centenary. Turner Exhibition opened at the London Guildhall. 19. Marriage of the Earl of Crewe and Lady Margaret Primrose at Westminster Abbey. 25. Marriage of the Hon. G. Gathorne-Hardy and Lady Dorothy Boyle; also of Col. Lloyd Anstruther to the Hon. Mrs. Alexander Stewart. Mr. Cecil Rhodes spoke sympathetically at the annual meeting of the Salvation army. The Mendelssohn scholarship, the most valuable prize of the year in music, was won by P. H. Miles, of the R.A.M.

May.—1. Coming of age of the Marquis of Graham. Lord Salisbury delivered a vigorous speech at the Royal Academy banquet; but the show of pictures declared poor. 2. Queen left Cimiez for Windsor. 3. Arrival of the Queen, who knighted Admiral Fullerton, commanding the Victoria and Albert. 6. Banquet and presentation of sword of honour to Colonel Macdonald. 10. Princess Christian held third Drawing Room. Launch of the Queen's new yacht by the Duchess of York. 11. Queen conferred the Royal Red Cross on three nurses, the Victoria Cross on Captain the Hon. A. G. A. Ruthven, and the D.S.O. and medal on several officers and men. 20. Confirmation of Prince Arthur of Connaught. Funeral of the Earl of Strafford. 24. The Queen's 80th birthday; world-wide rejoicings. 26. Queen left for Balmoral. Duke and Duchess of York visited Lynn. 29. Prince of Wales held Levée.

June.—5. Centenary of the Royal Institution. 9. Princess of Wales held Drawing Room. 10. Prince of Wales and Duke and Duchess of York attended Lady Salisbury's garden party at Hatfield. 14. Statue to Charles Darwin unveiled at Oxford. 17. Automobile Club Show at Richmond. 22. Marriage of Princess Marie of Mecklenburg Strelitz and Count Janitel at Kew. 26. Queen reviewed troops at Aldershot. Opening of Women's International Congress. The appointment of Sir George Kekewich as Secretary of the Science and Art Department announced.

July.—1. Queen conferred D.S.O. on Colonel Barton and Captain Hobart, and the Royal Red Cross on Miss Isabella Smith. Meet of the Coaching Club. Queen inspected the Hon. Artillery Company. 2. Operatic performance at Windsor. Prince of Wales visited Agricultural Show at Edinburgh. 6. Marriage of Mr. Guy Fairfax and Miss Joan Wilson. 7. State ball. 8. Prince of Wales reviewed the volunteers in Hyde-park. Departure of officers for South Africa. 11. Marriage of Lord Delamere and Lady Florence Cole. Engagement of the Hon. Evelina Rothschild and Mr. Clive Behrens. 12. Princess Louise gave garden party at Kensington Palace. Court went into mourning for the Czarewitch. Lord Kelvin resigned the professional chair which he held at Glasgow for 53 years. 15. Queen presented new colours to the Scots Guards. 17. Queen viewed Sanger's circus procession. 18. Duke and Duchess of Connaught held a fancy fair at Bagshot-park. 19. Duke of York visited Liverpool. 21. Queen left Windsor for Osborne. Prince and Princess of Wales received the nurses at Marlborough House. 22. Queen's Prize at Bisley won by Private Priaulx, of Guernsey. 28. Queen opened children's wing of the Isle of Wight Hospital at Ryde. M. Avaroff, of Alexandria, munificent art patron, left by will £240,000 for the preservation of ancient Greek remains, and £40,000 for the encouragement of music. 31. Sir Julian Pauncefote raised to the peerage.

August.—3. Queen held investiture at Osborne. 4. Duke and Duchess of Fife entertained over 3000 school children at Duff House. Confirmation of the Duke of Albany at Windsor. 5. Duchess of Albany left Claremont with the Duke of Albany to take up her residence in Germany. 9. Queen held Council at Osborne. 10. Marriage of Miss Dorothy Ellis and Mr. Kenneys-Tuite. Princess Henry of Battenberg opened new block at the Consumption Hospital, Isle of Weight. 11. Queen reviewed the Portsmouth Volunteer Brigade. 14. Princess of Wales left for Copenhagen. 16. Celebration of Lord Castlereagh's majority. 17. Marriage of Commander Napier and Miss Oakes Seymour. 18. Arrival of Prince Charles of Denmark. 19. Queen went for a sea trip in the Alberta. 26. Queen attended Harvest Home on the Osborne estate. 31. Queen left Windsor for Scotland. Mr. Fortnum left £10,000 to Oxford University, and £20,000 to the British Museum. Westminster was constituted a city, and the chief magistrate of Bristol raised to the dignity of Lord Mayor. An extensive plan for the creation of a great fortified harbour at the Scilly Isles was adopted by the Government.

September.—8. Prince of Wales returned from Darmstadt. 9. Indignation meeting in London at re-condemnation of Dreyfus. 13. British Association meeting at Dover opened. 16. Departure of Sir George White and troops for the Cape. 18. Prince of Wales presented new colours to the Gordon Highlanders. 21. Arrival of the white Arabian donkey sent by Lord Kitchener to the Queen. 23. Meeting of lady cyclists in "rational dress" at Reading. 30. Queen presented colours to Seaforth Highlanders. Departure of troops and hospital nurses for South Africa.

October.—3. First of series of races between the Columbia and Shamrock for the America Cup (Sir Thomas Lipton's yacht was eventually defeated, after many disappointing tries, without winning a race). 9. Nine Pillars of the Temple of Karnac fell. 28. Lord Robertson appointed a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary.

November.—2. Launch of the battleship Venerable. 4. Sir William MacCormac and other eminent surgeons placed their services at the disposal of the Government for the South African war. 20. Lady Salisbury died at Hatfield; widespread expressions of sympathy with the Premier.

December.—4. The Queen received at Windsor the medical staff and nurses of the American hospital ship Maine. Smithfield Club Cattle Show; the Queen carried off many champion prizes, and the Prince of Wales also a very successful exhibitor. 7. The Queen sent £10 to the Windsor branch of the Navy League. 8. The Premier recovered from his recent illness. 11. Mansion House War Relief Fund reached £400,000.

THE YEAR'S CHIEF CALAMITIES, CRIMES, AND CIVIL CASES.

January.—6. Boiler Explosion at Barking, nine men killed. 12. Disastrous gale and loss of life off the British coasts. Official Receiver's report on Hooley bankruptcy published. Robbery of £50,000 in notes from Parr's Bank in London. 22. Earthquake in Greece, village destroyed.

February.—5. Miss Peterson, daughter of rector of Biddenden, shot the local schoolmaster dead. 8. Terrific thunderstorm in the West of England; two churches struck by lighting in Cheltenham. 15. Anti-Ritualistic rioting at Peterborough. 18. London express wrecked in Brussels, 21 deaths.

March.—5. Naval magazine exploded near Toulon; 50 killed and 130 injured. 16. Mr. Birt, late manager of Millwall Docks, arrested for fraud. 17. Great hotel fire in New York. 31. Wreck of the Channel steamer Stella on the Casket Rocks; 75 lives lost.

April.—12. Anglo-American reverse in Samoa; English lieutenant and two U.S. slain. 27. Tremendous cyclone in Missouri.

May.—12. Destructive explosion at St. Helens. Two Primates commenced at Lambeth hearing evidence and argument concerning the use of incense and candles in procession in the English Church. 18. Lady Rose Leigh divorced by her husband. 21. Liner Paris stranded on the Manacles. 25. St. John's, New Brunswick, devastated by fire.

June.—1. French Cour de Cassation quashed the first court-martial conviction of Dreyfus, and ordered a new trial. 11. Destructive fire at Elswick Works. 12. Bad outbreak of swine fever in Britain; 11,000 pigs destroyed. 16. Frightful mining disaster in Canada. 26. Russian military party massacred by Chinese brigands near Kirin. 29. Heavy thunderstorms in the Midlands and elsewhere; Mentmore, Lord Rosebery's seat, struck by lightning.

July.—1. Railway smash near Crewe. 6. Fatal floods in Texas. The Court of Chancery decided that the copyright of a speech at a public meeting rests in the reporter, and not in the speaker or the general public. 12. Miss Peterson sentenced to be detained during the Queen's pleasure in connection with the Biddenden tragedy. 20. Reformatory ship Clarence destroyed by fire on the Mersey.

August.—1. Archbishops pronounced opinion that incense and processional lights were illegal in the English Church. 4. Terrific thunderstorms. 8. French fisherman killed on board a lugger in the Channel by a shot from a British gunboat. 15. Plague raged in Oporto. 18. Explosion at Lest colliery, Glamorgan; 19 deaths. 20. Anarchist riots in Paris. 26. Abnormal heat, many deaths occasioned. 27. Accident to the Irish Mail at Holyhead.

September.—6. Destructive thunderstorms over England. 9. The Dreyfus Court-martial at Rennes (second trial) ended. Prisoner re-convicted by five votes to two. Notice of appeal to the Cour de Cassation given, and prisoner subsequently received a free pardon. 19. Accident to the Scotch express at Perth. 25. Disastrous earthquake at Darjeeling. 30. Heavy gale in the Channel; great loss of life.

October.—4. Dr. Colquhoun sentenced at Glasgow to five years' penal servitude for fraud. 7. Tremendous typhoon in Japan. 30. Fatal gas explosion at Manchester. 31. Cardiff Empire Theatre destroyed by fire.

November.—1. Dreadful boiler fatality in Sheffield, six lives lost. 16. Verdict of wilful murder returned against Louise Masset in connection with the murder of her child at Dalston. 20. Four children burned to death at Plaistow.

December.—2. Appeal in the Druce case dismissed, no one appearing for the appellants. 3. Trooper Ismore stranded 180 miles north of the Cape; crew and soldiers saved, many horses drowned. 4. Pool heiresses case, appeal dismissed. Mr. Justice Wright concluded his investigation into the affairs of the Industrial Contract Corporation. 5. 300 Armenians reported massacred by Kurds at Kosbur. Mr. Constantinidi obtained a judicial separation from his wife Julia (née Balli) for desertion. 7. Shipping casualties on the East Coast, five lifeboatmen drowned. 8. Accident to the Irish Mail near Norton Bridge, one man killed. 9. Big timber fire at King's-cross.

THE YEAR'S OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

January.—2. Duke of Northumberland. 10. Miss Sarah Thorne (actress). 14. Nubar Pasha (ex-Egyptian Premier). 19. Admiral John Hay. 22. Earl Poulett. 29. M. Sisley (eminent French painter). 30. Rev. Dr. Berry (Nonconformist divine). 31. Princess of Bulgaria.

February.—6. Prince Alfred of Saxe-Coburg. Count von Caprivi. 9. Dr. Sangster (organist and composer). Walter Hamilton (writer on the æsthetic movement). 11. Prince Charles Napoleon Bonaparte. 16. Lord Justice Chitty. 16. President Felix Faure. 23. Baron de [illegible]. 26. Dowager-Lady Sefton.

March.—1. Lord Herschell, ex-Lord Chancellor. Dr. A. K. H. Boyd, of St. Andrews. 8. Rose Leclercq (actress). 10. Sir Douglas Galton (scientist). 11. Mrs. Keeley (veteran actress). 12. Sir Julius Vogel. 16. J. F. Nisbett (dramatic critic). 21. Sir Arthur Fowler. 24. William Barnes (Notts cricketer). 26. Prince Lowenstein (at Iloilo). 27. Birket Foster (artist).

April.—3. Madame Michelet (litterateur). Archduke Ernest of Austria. 5. Mr. T. E. Ellis, M.P., chief Liberal Whip. 11. Prof. Monier Williams. 22. Sir John Mowbray, "Father of the House of Commons." 23. Jabez Hogg (microscopist). 30. Duke of Beaufort.

May.—1. Professor Buchner. 7. Sir H. S. Naylor-Leyland, M.P. 13. Earl of Wharncliffe. 15. Earl of Strafford (killed on the railway). 16. Francisque Sarcey. 26. Rosa Bonheur (animal painter). 30. Dr. Norman Kerr.

June.—3. Herr Johann Strauss (musician). 6. Dr. Wallace, M.P. (suddenly, after seizure in the Commons). 8. Augustin Daly (actor). 13. Lawson Tait (surgeon).

July.—10. Grand Duke George of Russia. 15. Dr. Graves (Protestant Bishop of Limerick). 20. Colonel Robert Ingersoll (American Agnostic). 26. General Heureaux, President of San Domingo (assassinated).

August.—4. Dr. Lloyd (ex-Bishop of Bangor). 11. William Simpson (war correspondent). 17. Lord Dunboyne. Miss Sara Lane (theatrical lessee). 19. Sir C. Lennox Peel (suddenly). 22. Edmund Routledge (publisher). 30. Baron Grant (ex-millionaire financier).

September.—4. Earl of Lisburne. 10. Viscount Clifden. 12. Cornelius Vanderbilt (millionaire). 14. Lord Watson. 15. B. Wells (eminent English flautist). 19. M. Scheurer Kestner. 30. Baron Somers.

October.—13. Lord Farrer. 25. Grant Allen (novelist). General Sir W. Penn Symons (died of wound received at battle of Dundee, Natal). 27. Florence Marryat (novelist). 31. Lord Hylton.

November.—16. Dr. Moritz Busch (biographer of Bismarck). 21. Marchioness of Salisbury. 23. The Khalifa (killed in the last decisive battle against Mahdism by the Egyptian forces under Sir Francis Wingate).

December.—5. Sir Henry Tate, art patron and philanthropist. Mr. Justice O'Brien. 7. Sir Charles Mitchell, Governor of the Straits Settlements. 9. Lord Penzance.

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS

A monthly meeting of the Lanchester Board of Guardians was held on Thursday last in the Board Room at Lanchester,—Mr. W. Logan, J.P., presiding. There were also present Mrs. Piercey-Taylor-Smith, Miss Helen Paile, the Rev. T. H. Archdall, the Rev. A. Magill, Messrs T. J. Muse, J. Green, J.P., A. Kuhlman, H. C. Wood, W. Young, G. Ritchie, W. Johnson, W. H. Telford, W. Gray, Geo. Forster, E. J. Warelo, Geo. Hobson, E. Sloane, J. Robinson, J. Davison, J. R. Ritson, L. Nicholson, U. A. Ritson, jun., the Clerk (Mr. W. H. Ritson), and the Workhouse Master (Mr. W. Brotherhood).

PAUPER STATISTICS.

The Workhouse Master reported that the number of inmates in the house was 216 as against 261 in the corresponding period of last year, showing a decrease of 45. The out-relief cases in the eastern district were 356 as against 432 or a decrease of 76. In the western district the numbers were 425 against 532, showing a decrease of 107.

"A HAPPY NEW YEAR."

The Chairman said at their last meeting they were good enough to give to the poor people outside an extra shilling for adults and an extra sixpence for children for the Christmas week. Might they not extend it for another week and grant the extra money for New Year as well? (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Green moved, and Mr. Muse seconded that the grant be made, and the motion was carried unanimously.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

Mr. Brotherhood reported that the following gifts were received for Christmas:—Mr. W. M. Annandale, 20/-, Mr. J. Coulthard 6, Mrs. Brown and Parker 5/- Mr. J. Storey Annfield Plain, box of sweets; Mr. Reed, sweets; Mr. G. D. Powell, a barrel of apples; Mr. J. Walton, two boxes of oranges, Mr. J. Muse, sweets; Mrs. Eales, cards; Mr. T. Wilson, bag of oranges, Mr. W. M. Scott, Durham, two dozen dolls, and Christmas cards; Mr. John Davison, box of oranges; Mrs. Aitcheson, sweets; Mrs. Cumming, sweets; Mr. W. Barras, a cask of beer; Mr. John Smith, Lanchester, 12 dozen lemonade and other aerated waters, and Mr. R. Burdon, 10/-.

On the motion of the Chairman, a vote of thanks was accorded to the donors for their seasonable gifts.

SEASONABLE COMPLIMENTS.

The remaining business was of a formal character, and having been transacted.

The Chairman said they had not only finished the work of the meeting, but also the work of the year, and before they parted he wished them all the compliments of the season. He hoped at their next meeting they would enter upon an exceedingly prosperous year, and that at the end they might find that there were fewer paupers in the Union than they had that day. Considering the state of trade there ought not to be much pauperism in the country at the present time, but, as the old adage said, the poor were always with them, and he supposed they would always have them. At the same time he hoped they would meet at the end of next year under the most favourable auspices. (Hear, hear.) He again wished them all a happy New Year.

Mr. Hobson said they could not possibly go away without wishing the Chairman the compliments of the season and "many happy returns." (Applause.)

The Chairman thanked the members and the meeting terminated.

LANCHESTER JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

A meeting of the Lanchester Joint Hospital Board was held on Thursday afternoon last, —Mr. W. Logan, J.P., presiding.

MEDICAL REPORTS.

Dr. Allen reported that since the last meeting of the Board two cases of scarlet fever had been admitted into the Infectious Hospital at Leadgate. A case of enteric fever had been discharged cured. Two patients remained in the Hospital.

Dr. Wilson reported that since the last meeting 10 children convalescent from scarlet fever had been discharged from Langley Park Hospital, leaving 20 cases of the same disease in the Hospital which were admitted during the month. All the patients were doing well.

The reports were received and the meeting ended.

SINCE THE WAR BEGAN.

INTERESTING STATEMENTS

BY A BENFIELDSIDE GENTLEMAN.

Our Stanley reporter writes:—An opportunity was afforded me on Tuesday week, of having an interesting conversation at the residence of Mr. John Calvert, High Stanley, with Mr. Thomas Teesdale, of Benfieldside, who had just returned from South Africa, where, as a colliery manager, he had been resident since 1888. Mr. Teesdale, who is a native of Medomsley, had prior to his enforced departure from the Transvaal been engaged in the opening of a coal mine at Middelburg, to the east of Pretoria. When all passes were withdrawn from British residents he was one of the crowd of refugees who made their way to Durban, which place he left on the 26th of November for Capetown, where he embarked on the Carisbrooke Castle for Southampton, arriving in England on Sunday week. At the time he left Durban, it was just beginning to dawn upon the people there that the struggle was going to be more prolonged than anticipated. Ladysmith was hemmed in, and the difficulties now known to our readers were becoming very apparent. The enthusiasm of the populace of Durban, however, was aroused, and as soon as the home Government granted the necessary permission for the raising of the first thousand volunteers the local officer commanding had double the number of applications. The only difficulty was to select the right men. The loyalty of the colonists there was beyond all question. As indicating the state of feeling Mr. Teasdale stated that they never opened a Wesleyan service without first of all singing the National Anthem. The services were all largely attended, and all joined heartily in the singing of the tune, which was followed by a special prayer prepared by the Ministers' Union. When the various places of worship were closed a united service or concert was held in the splendid Town Hall, and open air services were held at frequent hours during the day. The Town Hall gatherings were organized chiefly for the benefit of the refugees and had the countenance of the manager of the Natal Railways—a scotchman and a presbyterian—and others of influential position in the place. There was also a native Salvation Army led by two whites, and the general demeanour of the people was extremely good. All canteens were, under martial-law, closed at nine o'clock and so excellent has been the result that many hope the rule will become permanent. All tea rooms were closed at ten o'clock, and every person had to be within doors at from eleven at night until four in the morning. Anyone seen out between those hours without a pass—which was difficult to obtain—was promptly arrested. Early after the enforcement of this rule a gentleman was seen out shortly after eleven, and was taken into custody. "But," said he, "I am in command," to which came the reply "we have lots in command after eleven o'clock." Officers from a gun boat were sent for and identified him as the officer in command upon which, of course, he was released. Members of clubs strained the rule by starting for home at eleven and found themselves prisoners until four the next morning.

There was no doubt among the people as to the ultimate result of the war. Certainly matters had not gone as favourably as they wished or expected, but they might have been worse. The home Government was blamed, and it was believed that the Governor of Pietermaritzburg had materially saved the situation by getting the Indian troops out in the nick of time. They were rushed from the ship into the struggle, and the prevalent opinion was that this action prevented the Boers from entering Pietermaritzburg, and practically taking possession of the Colony. These gallant troops included a number of time expired men on their way home. Soon after that something like a panic was created by blue-jackets landing a large number of guns and placing them in position round Pietermaritzburg and in Durban. The rumour was that a commando was on the way to Durban, but it turned out to be groundless. Mr. Teasdale had left Durban on the day General Buller arrived, but he was present to witness the reception of General White and his staff. Some men in the crowd shouted out "Remember Majuba" and that, said Mr. Teasdale, became the watchword in the fight at Elandslaagte and at Dundee. Mr. Teasdale had a conversation with a man who was taken prisoner by the Boers and who was made into a hospital attendant at the battle of Dundee. They gave him a bit red cloth and painted a cross on it, and he was put in charge of a hut with a sick Boer. When the battle was in process an English officer rapped at the door of the hut, and asked "how many prisoners have you?" "I have one" came the answer. "Where is he?" asked the officer. "Standing here talking to you" replied the man. The officer advised him to take advantage of the opportunity he had of getting away, but he demurred, owing to the condition of his patient. When, however, he found that the Boer sick would be removed to an armour train he went to Ladysmith. When he got there he found he could not return after the British success to recover his clothes and £80, and consequently lost all.

Tommy Atkins has many kind friends on his arrival in port prior to being marched to the front. He comes in for a supply of bread and tobacco, both of which are acceptable. Any valuables he has with him he can, if he thinks fit, hand over to a Committee to be taken care of, and should he fall in battle they are returned to his home. One poor man handed over what he had in the shape of money, and in doing so said, "send it home to my wife. Poor lass, she will need it very much; most likely a child will have been born before I arrived here." The men were very appreciative, and to one lady who had spoken kindly to a number of them was addressed the words, "God bless you, madam, we all have mothers at home." These pathetic incidents in no way affected the cheerfulness of the men, who were as ready for the task before them as they would have been to respond to the bugle call in the barrack yard.

Why do the Boers fight? Mr. Teasdale gives a very interesting answer to the question. It may seem somewhat paradoxical to say the Boers are unanimous in fighting, yet they don't want to fight. "A Boer comes into your house," said Mr. Teasdale, "and after coffee and tobacco you get chatting away. One man I remember could talk English fairly well, and I asked him why they were so much opposed to us. What have you against me as an Englishman?" "Nothing whatever" was the reply. "I then asked who would you trust if you had any valuables or business to be done?"—"I would trust the Englishmen."—"Who brings the money into the country?"—"The Englishmen."—"Then why not give us all the vote and settle this thing without fighting?"—To that question he said their opinion was that they ought to have the vote, and they had told their representative in the Volksraad to give the Englishmen everything they wanted providing they did not want to take the country from them. Among the Boers it was not the Englishmen in the Transvaal but the Englishmen in England whom they dreaded. They seemed to think that the Englishmen at home wanted their country, and that they were a different class of people to those out there. They hated Mr. Chamberlain, and wondered why he was allowed to do everything. They thought that because of his official position at home, and of his signature being attached to the official documents that he did everything. Mr. Teasdale said he never came across a man yet who wanted to fight, but, as they said, they were burghers and if they did not fight their property was confiscated. Each burgher had to take up his rifle when called upon or lose his property. They are all of opinion that they will be defeated sooner or later "We are not fighting the Boers alone; we are fighting all nations," added Mr. Teasdale. The enemy at Elandslaagte was composed of Germans, Irishmen, and Hollanders. They were in the country and were all against England. The Hollanders had privileges which other people had not; they were Dutch, and were on the railways. Their language was the same as the Boers, but of a higher order. They spoke high Dutch, the Boers low Dutch. On the subject as to how the Boers got so much war material into the Transvaal Mr. Teasdale said the British Government knew all about it. Just before the war broke out a large quantity was sent in through Mr. Schreiner. The Portuguese stopped a consignment at Delagoa Bay, and just about the same time a large consignment arrived at Port Elizabeth. Schreiner passed it, and allowed it to go through our own Colony. The home Government had done nothing with Schreiner yet, but might do so. He had a large following, and the Bond were with him, consequently the Government had to be very careful in case these people rose up and made matters worse.

As to the mines Mr. Teasdale said there were a few, perhaps half a dozen of the best, now being worked by the Transvaal Government. They would not allow any Englishmen to step on them. They were being worked by several nationalities, and the Transvaal Government were keeping the gold themselves they were taking the gold which belonged to English shareholders. "The Transvaal is the most corrupt Government in existence" said Mr. Teasdale. In reference to the censorship he said it was severely felt in Durban where the longing to know was intense. Some of the news of the first battles they got was received from England. The newspapers out there whenever they got a scrap of news issued a slip which they called a special, and which was eagerly bought up at a penny each. Mr. Teasdale was up at Estcourt on a visit to a cousin, and they thought of going to Ladysmith, but the latter place was cut off that very day. The last train that came out of Ladysmith was fired on, and he got into that train and came down to Pietermaritzburg. He heard the gun fire at Ladysmith that morning when at Estcourt.

Mr. Teesdale had a sorry tale to tell of the journey from the Transvaal to Durban. After being told that their passes would be renewed, and they would be allowed to stay at the mines, they were stopped at short notice, and they were ordered to clear out. Even the nurses at Johannesburg were treated in that way. Many of them had not the means of making the journey, and a subscription had to be raised. At Johannesburg the station was so congested that bookings were stopped, and they had to proceed to a small station a short distance away. Here the difficulty of obtaining tickets was very great, and when they were obtained they had to take their places in crowded coal trucks and vans for a journey of 400 miles. So long as they were in the Transvaal they were subjected to the vilest insults. They were called all sorts of names, one man was taken out of the truck and had his moustache cut off with a penknife, and everything was done to goad them into a spirit of retaliation, but in order to prevent a disturbance they had to "grin and bear" it all. It was impossible to get food or drink. They were even refused water. At Delagoa Mr. Teesdale and three companions hired a cab to take them and their luggage to the nearest hotel. The driver was evidently as "fly" as any Cockney Jehu, for the drive to the hotel was but a few yards, and the charge was a sovereign. For a single room with two beds, together with some supper and breakfast, the charge was a sovereign each paid in advance, and they were allowed the luxury of a bath for an extra eighteenpence. These were a few of the hardships, but, said Mr. Teesdale, they melted into insignificance when the poorer people from Johannesburg arrived at Durban penniless and starving. Men and women with pinched faces and children crying for food was a pitiful sight, but the Superintendent of Police rendered immense service in obtaining relief for these poor people.

As to the business instinct of the people of Johannesburg Mr. Teesdale spoke in high terms. There, he said, at any station, large or small, it was possible to obtain a cup of coffee. How different to England! He was one of about 300 passengers who arrived at Southampton, all of whom would have welcomed a cup of tea or coffee. They were kept at the Customs for about five hours unable to get anything, and when they arrived at Waterloo at a late hour the difficulty was as great. He was twelve hours on English soil before he was able to get a cup of coffee. "That shows," concluded Mr. Teesdale, "that they are not so quick here in looking after business as they are in Johannesburg."

NORTH-EASTERN BREWERIES, LIMITED

ANNUAL MEETING AT SUNDERLAND.

The third annual meeting of the North-Eastern Breweries, Limited, was held on Wednesday afternoon at the Borough Hotel, Sunderland, under the presidency of Mr. Richard Murray, of Ford Hall, chairman and managing director of the company.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, which have already been published, congratulated the shareholders on the continued prosperity of the company's undertakings. He thought they had reason to be proud of the fact that as a result of the year's working they had been able to carry forward the substantial sum of £20,600 to the reserve fund, which, after £4,600 had been written off for depreciation of leasehold property, now stood at £54,000. He was pleased that his constant aim to raise a good reserve fund for future contingencies had thus been crowned with such success; and the fact that the company, after increasing their reserve fund to such a figure as £54,000, were able to declare a dividend of 11 per cent., must be most satisfactory to all concerned. The shares of the company had advanced during the year, for whereas they were last year he thought, £8, they were now £9; and consequently outside shareholders need have no fear in buying the shares at whatever market price they could obtain them for. The earnings of the company for the year had been £77,000 3s 4d, which, with the £1,918 10s 2d, the amount of the balance brought forward from last year, made a grand total of £78,918 13s 6d for the directors to deal with. At the last annual meeting he announced that the company had made arrangements for the purchase of the Broadway Brewery, Burton-on-Trent, and he was now pleased to be able to state that, after the carrying out of extensive improvements in the premises, it was hoped that the operations in that place would be commenced next month. After alluding to the recent purchase by the company of the business and properties of Messrs Kirk Brothers and Co., Stockton, he stated that as a result of this important purchase, together with other purchases, additions, and improvements during the year, there had been added to the assets of the company the sum of £232,501 2s 1d. During the year the company had, moreover, bought houses in Darlington, Thornaby, Coxhoe, Middlesbrough, South Shields, and Eston at a cost of £42,550. Last year he announced that the company had supplemented their three maltings by taking the maltings of Messrs Fenwick, and he was glad to say that this undertaking had proved to be profitable, though they were still compelled to buy some malt. Referring to the bottling establishment in Sunderland, he said that this had been successful, but he deplored the fact that about £2,000 had had to be written off on account of the destruction of bottles, and expressed the wish that some arrangement should be arrived at with other bottlers in regard to making a charge for bottles—even half cost price would be a great improvement on the present state of affairs. The company's breweries at Sunderland and Tudhoe had made great progress during the year. In regard to Messrs Kirk's brewery he pointed out that they had not had the benefit of a complete year's working, but the result of the purchase had fully realised the directors' expectations. In conclusion, Mr. Murray remarked that the directors had decided to abandon the proposed new B debenture shares, and to issue instead the outlying £100,000 worth of debentures which were arranged for in the prospectus at the formation of the North-Eastern Breweries, Limited. He also added that the company had £150,000 worth of unencumbered property, with which they could deal at any time that they thought proper. (Applause.)

Mr. W. Kirk of Norton Hall, Stockton, seconded the motion, and the report and balance-sheet were thereupon adopted.

On the motion of Mr. H. Rawlings, seconded by Mr. J. M. Nicholson, it was agreed that a dividend of 5 per cent. per annum, less income tax, be declared on the preference shares; and on the motion of Mr. W. Ainsley, seconded by Mr. W. Grey, another resolution was passed that a dividend equal to 6s 6d per share on the old ordinary shares for the half-year ending October 31st, 1899, and a dividend equal to 11 per cent. per annum on the new ordinary shares, as from the 1st July last, be declared payable on the 30th inst.

Mr. R. T. Murray was re-elected a director; it was agreed to vote the directors £900 for travelling expenses during the year, and Messrs Rawlings and Wilkinson and Mr. J. M. Nicholson were re-appointed auditors. A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the meeting.

CONSETT.

NEW CONSERVATIVE AGENT FOR NORTH-WEST DURHAM.—Mr W. H. Cruddas, of Consett, who has acted as Conservative and Unionist agent and secretary for the North-West Durham Parliamentary Division, with marked ability for upwards of a year-and-a-half, having left the district, Mr R. Lappleford, of Sheffield, has been appointed to succeed him, and will enter upon his duties in the constituency very shortly.

WEARDALE.

DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN WEARDALE GENTLEMAN.—Mr Wm. Robinson passed away very suddenly through rupturing a blood vessel at his home, Rowantree Foot. The deceased gentleman, who had experienced an active and eventful life in the goldfields of Australia and California and subsequently in the coal mines of the States, was a central and generous figure in the mining crisis of Weardale, his love of country being unstinted, and both in his religious sphere of Wesleyanism and sturdy Liberalism and benevolence his purse and large-heartedness were ever ready. Mr Robinson was a widower with no family, and for several years was a parish overseer, an office he filled with much fidelity after having fought one of the keenest and memorable contests in common ken; hence the respected resident's decease leaves a vacancy in social and parochial usefulness difficult to fill.

THE OPINION OF EVERY ENGLISHMAN is that liberty of speech and action is the birthright of every free man. "Britons never shall be slaves" is one of the most popular of our national songs, and as a matter of fact it is impossible for slavery to exist under the protecting shadow of the British flag. In the same manner men cannot remain bound under the healing influence of Holloway's Pills and Ointment. Their success in all parts of the world is now a familiar story, and it is only necessary to say here there is no known disorder that cannot be speedily cured or relieved by them.

HOW'S YOUR LIVER? Why I never knew I have one now, as I always keep a bottle of PATTRICK'S MEDICINE by me, and if I feel a little "off," I take a dose, and am soon myself again. Everyone who is ill goes to PATTRICK, CHEMIST, 5, Front Street, Consett, who can cure almost any complaint. 2/1½.

PLEASE NOTE THE FACT.

J. W. Davison & Sons'

Great Xmas Bazaar

NOW OPEN.

All the Latest Novelties suitable for Christmas Presents

IN GREAT VARIETY, AND

Happy Toy-land for Children.

Special.—We beg to thank our many Customers for the kindly interest and patronage accorded to us during the year, and to say that we now hold one of the finest Stocks in the District of Dining, Drawing, and Bedroom Suites, and all other House Furnishing necessaries to make Comfortable Homes.

We ask you to favour us with a visit, there is no obligation to purchase, we only ask you to allow us to show you what we have, and we are sure you will be interested.

Front Street, Consett. AND London House, Stanley.

CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

THURSDAY, Dec. 28th, 1899.—Before Mr. James Annandale (Chairman), Mr. F. Priestman, Mr. W. Aynsley, and Mr. G. Ainsworth.

THE TIPPLERS LIST.

The following is a list of the cases of drunkenness and the fines imposed:—Frank Carr, 10/- and costs; John Hewitson, 5/- and costs; Thos. McManus, 5/- and costs; Rose Mason, 5/- and costs; Robt. Lamb, 5/- and costs; Chas. Brodie, 10/- and costs; Chas. McHugh, 5/- and costs; Robt. Hemsley (pleaded not guilty), 5/- and costs; John Birtley, 5/- and costs; Bart. Davison, 5/- and costs; John Robinson, 5/- and costs; Pat. Keen, 5/- and costs; Wm. Smith, 5/- and costs; Robt. Dixon, 5/- and costs; Robt. Rooney, 5/- and costs; Ed. Lakey, 5/- and costs; Robt. Mason dismissed.

THROWING SNOWBALLS.

Thos. Dunn, Burnopfield, was summoned by P.C. Robson for throwing snowballs in the Front Street, Burnopfield, on December 17th.—The officer said there had been many complaints about the matter.—The case was dismissed on payment of costs.

BREACH OF THE PEACE.

Peter Lamb and John Ed. Forster were summoned by P.C. Dobinson for fighting at Flint Hill, on Dec. 16th.—Defendant Forster did not appear, and Lamb was bound over to keep the peace.

Robt. Glendinning and Wm. Gillender were summoned by P.C. Hunter for fighting at Medomsley, on Dec. 15th.—Defendants were bound over.

EDUCATION ACT.

Mr. Seymour Meddick, Hobson Colliery, Attendance Officer, summoned James Liddle, for failing to send his child to school.—A fine of 5/- and costs was imposed.

Geo. Charlton and Anthony Harrison were also summoned by Mr. Meddick for a similar offence.—Defendants were fined 5/- and costs.

MINES' REGULATION ACT.

Thos. Joyce and Joseph Milburn were summoned for fighting in the mine at Hamsterley Colliery, on Dec. 2nd, against Rule 121 of the Mines' Regulation Act. Mr. T. W. Welford appeared to prosecute.—Wm. Morgan, deputy in charge, saw the defendants at the meeting station strike each other, when he told them that if they did not desist it would be worse for them.—Defendant Joyce said he and Milburn had a few words about their "place," when the deputy saw them. They were only joking and were all laughing. There was no striking.—Joseph Laws said he was present when the dispute happened about leaving the place right for each other. He saw Joyce push Milburn away and he fell over. The deputy never said anything to them. Milburn was excited and there was no blow struck.—Defendants were fined 1/- and costs.

James Siggers, Hy. Evans, Nellie Siggers, and Jessie Evans, of Benfieldside, were charged by Thomas Charlton, of the same place, with having assaulted him on Dec. 9th.

Complainant said in consequence of some disturbance he went to defendants' Siggers' house to see about it, and returned home. Defendant Siggers then went to his house and asked to see him, but complainant's wife refused him admittance, and shut the door, locking it after her, whereupon defendant broke the window, entered the house, and assaulted him whilst the other two defendants, Hy. Evans and Jessie Evans, broke the door open. Siggers' wife hit him in the eye, and when he and Siggers were in the pantry the defendant used a knife to him.

Mrs Evans here addressed the Court and said complainant went into her house and demanded drink, and because she would not serve him he threatened to assault her.

Complainant (laughing): Where did you get a story like that?

Mary Charlton, wife of complainant, said she and her husband were having dinner on Dec. 9th, when Siggers came to the door and asked for, "Tom." She answered the door and after hearing what defendant said she shut the door and locked it, and the defendant trying to prevent her by putting his foot between the door and the door frame. Afterwards the defendant Siggers entered the house by the window, whilst the other defendants' Evans who had appeared on the scene shouted "Fetch him out and let's go for him." When Siggers got over the table he took a knife from it with which he threatened to stick her husband, who ran into the pantry to avoid him. Witness then got between the pantry door and defendant when Evans struck her three blows on the mouth and one on the head.

Siggers here told the Bench that Charlton had cut the muscle of his arm with the knife.

Witness (continuing) said defendant Siggers cut his arm by pushing it through the window. Evans incited Siggers on to make the disturbance.

P.C. Ellwood, of Blackhill, said he visited the house on Dec. 9th and saw that the window had been broken. Defendants were all more or less the worse for drink.

Defendant Siggers said he was sorry it had happened. Since then he had removed and hoped it would not occur again.

Evans said he had lived in the town for 9 or 10 years, and he had never been in Court before. He had done nothing and hoped the Bench would look over the offence. He had been summoned because he happened to be there.

The Bench considered Siggers the worst and fined him 20s and costs, and dismissed the charge against his wife; and fined Evans 10s and costs, and Mrs Evans 5s and costs.

ALLEGED ROBBERY AT BLACKHALL MILL.

A somewhat daring burglary took place at Blackhall Mill. It appears that the warehouse belonging to the business place of Messrs Wm. Aynsley, Ltd., which were destroyed by fire on Friday, Dec. 22nd, had been broken into, and groceries, weights, and provisions stolen therefrom. Thanks to the astuteness of the resident policeman, P.C. Sinden, three of the thieves were caught on the premises and taken into custody. On Tuesday the three prisoners, Wm. Charlton, miner, Milkwell Burn; George Young, and John Robson, miners, Blackhall Mill, were charged with unlawfully breaking into the premises of Wm. Aynsley Ltd., at Blackhall Mill, and stealing therefrom certain groceries and provisions. On the application of Inspector Best, they were remanded till Thursday, when they were brought up on remand and charged with the offence.—Mr. T. W. Welford, of Consett, appeared for Young, and pleaded not guilty, but reserved his defence, but the other defendants were not defended.

Thomas Lee, manager of the Blackhall Mill shop and residing at Low Westwood, said he examined the warehouse at the back of the shop on Saturday, Dec. 23rd, between 7 and 7.30 p.m. and found it all right; the window was then closed. On Christmas Day about one o'clock in the morning he was called up by P.C. Sinden to go to the warehouse. He went and found that a lot of goods had been stolen, the window being then open. On going inside he found the place had been ransacked and a large quantity of goods were missing. There was a ham and some brass weights missing; and those articles (produced) he identified as being the property of Wm. Aynsley, Ltd. There value was 12s in all. Lots of other articles were missing and he also found egg shells lying about the yard. In answer to Mr Welford witness thought the window had been opened from the outside.

James Cuthbert Sinden, police constable stationed at Hamsterley Colliery, said on Dec. 24th, about 11.45 p.m., he was on duty at Blackhall Mill near the premises of Wm. Aynsley, Ltd., when he heard a disturbance in the back yard. On going round he found Young standing with his back close to the wall and the ham and box of weights (produced) lying behind him. Turning his lamp on he saw Robson with two eggs in his hand which he dropped and went off. He also saw Charlton crouch behind the door inside the warehouse, and whilst he held Young Charlton went out, and he (witness) dropped the ham and drew Charlton in front of him. He noticed a fourth man emerge from the warehouse and grabbed at him, but witness missed him and he got away. He locked the prisoners up, and called up the manager of the shop. On charging defendants with unlawfully entering and stealing certain goods from the premises Young replied: "I was in the yard, but had nothing to do with them." Charlton replied "I was drunk or I would not have been there," while Robson said "It's no use denying it, you burned the lamp on when I had the eggs in my hand." In answer to Mr Welford witness said the thieves had entered the premises by the window. Young was about three yards from it. If the ham had been dropped from the window it would have to be carried to the place where he found it.

Charlton in his defence said he was as drunk as a "noodle" or he would never have been there. He didn't know anything about it.

Robson said he had been on the premises since Friday, the day of the fire, and had helped to lead the carts until he was wet through, and nearly got his "death" over it.

Defendants were committed to stand their trial at the Durham Quarter Sessions, which commenced on New Year's Day, bail being allowed.

TANFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

A monthly meeting of the members of the Tanfield School Board was held on Tuesday evening, in the Board Schools, West Stanley,—Mr W. Severs presiding. There were also present:—the Rev. T. H. Archdall, the Rev. Father Thompson, Mr J. Green, J.P., Mr B. Mason, Mr W. Bulmer; and the Clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson).

ADVANCES.

Miss Robson, assistant mistress at West Stanley Board Schools, applied for an advance in salary to £55.—The Clerk stated that when Miss Robson was appointed at a salary of £45 she was given to understand that at the end of six months an application from her for £50 would be taken into consideration. She had not made the application until the end of twelve months. After a short discussion Messrs Archdall and Thompson voted for the advance, and Messrs Bulmer and Mason against. The Chairman gave his casting vote in favour, and the advance was granted.

Mrs Pearson, caretaker of the Pickering Nook Schools applied for an advance of wages, and it was resolved to pay her 10s per week during one portion of the year, and 14s during the second.

USE OF SCHOOLS.

Mr J. Calvert and Mr H. Armstrong attended as a deputation from the Wesleyan Society to ask for the use of the West Stanley Board Schools at Easter for the purpose of holding a Trades' Exhibition similar to that held last year.—On the motion of the Rev. T. H. Archdall, seconded by Father Thompson, the application was granted, subject to the teaching of the scholars being uninterrupted.

Mr Joseph Wilson applied on behalf of the teachers for the use of the Leases Schools on Jan. 26th, for the purpose of holding a social on behalf of the Reservists' Fund.—The application was granted.

TEACHERS' REPORTS.

The teachers reported that the average attendances for the four weeks ending Dec. 15th last were as follows:—East Stanley Mixed 237, Infants 109; West Stanley Senior 343, Junior 200; Tanfield Lea Mixed 218, Infants 51; Pickering Nook Mixed 175, Infants 48; Leases Mixed 205, Infants 67; Tanfield Mixed and Infants 43; Causey Row Mixed and Infants 128. Mr Smith, of Tanfield Lea Mixed, complained of the school being too cold for the children, and the matter was referred to a local committee.

The Board then adjourned

NEWS FROM THE SEAT OF WAR

AUSTRALIANS TO THE FRONT.

EAGER TO FIGHT FOR THE MOTHERLAND.

Mr. J. W. Fawcett, of Satley, who holds an honorary command in one of the Australian regiments, has this week received letters from some of the officers of the Australian troops now in South Africa. One of them says:—

"You will see I have changed my address since last I wrote. I am now, you will see, one of the "Colonial boys" who has come to fight for "dear old motherland," and to show that, though born in Australia, Britain is our home, and those who offend her, hurt us as well.

"We are all anxious to get a slap at the Deutchers and Squareheads, and to let old Kruger know that he has trodden on the lion's tail, so much this time, that he has roused not only the old lion's blood, but that of his offspring as well, and we'll let him know that this young lion can fight as boldly and fearlessly as the old one."

"Horrible are the stories that reach us of Boer cruelty and savagery towards helpless Britishers, which makes our blood boil again, and makes us all the more eager to meet the psalm singing hypocritical, white savages, and teach them that they are not going to have all their own way. The arrogant cowards, all right behind rocks and stones, disdain to fight in the open, well knowing that they would soon lose the number of their mess."

"News has just reached us that some of the Australians who did not leave the Transvaal before the outbreak of war have been commandeered and compelled to fight against us. Some of the boys, true to their country and their Queen, refused, and they were, so it's said, cruelly shot. In revenge for this, the boys have vowed to show no mercy to the Boers, whilst as for Old Kruger, they have vowed to make sausage meat of him. By shooting these Australians they have insulted and hurt us, and in return neither mercy nor pity will be shown, once we get at them."

"As yet the number of Australians here are not many, but there are dozens of others all anxious and willing to come, if only the British Government will grant permission."

"At last we are ordered to the front; and you cannot imagine the excitement and the cheering that greeted the news of our advancement. Every one is mad with happiness, and anxious, and anxious to meet the enemy and let them see what we are made of."

"Britain has been long suffering—but as the 'Britains, strike hard' this time, and glad we are to know that Australia is permitted to help to strike the blow. Proudly we Australians boys go marching side by side with the noble lads from the 'Homeland,' glad to help, and proud to bear a part in Britain's war for the liberty and freedom of her sons."

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 for our breakfast and supper 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 and pound tins, by Grocers, labelled—"JAMES EPPS & CO., LTD., Homœopathic Chemists, London."

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[illegible]ong Pure Tea - - - 1s. 0d. per lb.
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Absolutely Finest Fresh Creamery Danish Butter.
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CLOCKS, WATCHES, AND JEWELLERY—
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Try our
STONE GINGER BEER.
SODAS AND LIME JUICE a Speciality.
Goods delivered by our own Vans.
SPECIAL TERMS TO RETAILERS.

NOTE ABOVE ADDRESS. 374e

KOLACTICUM OINTMENT

ACHES and PAINS disappear speedily by use of the newly-discovered KOLACTICUM OINTMENT. Highly recommended for the permanent cure of RHEUMATISM, PILES, VARICOSE VEINS, STIFF JOINTS, SKIN DISEASES, ULCERS, ERUPTIONS, etc., etc. Every sufferer should give this Ointment a trial, and prove its wonderful healing powers. Sold in large boxes with full directions.

PRICE, 2s 9d POST FREE.
THE KOLACTICUM CO.,
585y. 54, Bow Lane, Cheapside, E.C.

AMERICAN LINE.—UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMERS.

SOUTHAMPTON—NEW YORK SERVICE.

SOUTHAMPTON to NEW YORK.

SATURDAY, at noon.

Highest Class of Accommodation for Saloon, Second Cabin, and Steerage Passengers.

LIVERPOOL—PHILADELPHIA SERVICE. Every WEDNESDAY.

LIVERPOOL TO PHILADELPHIA

Calling at Queenstown every Thursday.

Passengers and goods are landed at Philadelphia on the Wharf of the Pennsylvania Railroad, which has the shortest and most Direct Route to all places in the Western States.—Apply to Richardson, Spence, and Co., Southampton or Liverpool; or to Local Agents, J. Crawford, Victoria Street, Consett; T. D. Dryden and Co., Front Street, Consett; Alfred Phillipson, Emigration Agent, Dipton; William Gray, 5, North Road, Durham; Geo. Leadbitter, Accountant, Catchgate; Thomas Storey, Auctioneer, Front Street, Chester-le-Street; W. J. Johnson, 95, High Street, Gateshead-on-Tyne; Wm. Anderson, Bridge Street, Tow Law; R. Sloane, Post Office Blackhill; or T. A. Brown, 3, Market Place, Crook. 725b

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DIARIES FOR 1900.

DIARIES	For 1900	DIARIES
DIARIES	With £500	DIARIES
DIARIES	Insurance Coupon.	DIARIES
DIARIES	For 1900	DIARIES
DIARIES	From 6d. Upwards	DIARIES
DIARIES	For the Pocket	DIARIES
DIARIES	For 1900	DIARIES
DIARIES	For the Office	DIARIES
DIARIES	In all Bindings	DIARIES
DIARIES	For 1900	DIARIES
DIARIES	Good and Useful	DIARIES
DIARIES	To Suit All	DIARIES
DIARIES	DIARIES	DIARIES

AT THE

"GUARDIAN OFFICE,"
FRONT STREET,
CONSETT.

Business Announcements

MRS. PURVIS,

6, HAVELOCK STREET, CONSETT.
(Late of Blackhill.)

BEGS to announce to the inhabitants of Consett and District that she has removed to the above address. Refreshments at any time. Home-made Bread and Teacakes.

☞ Funerals and Parties Catered For.

MARK COATES,

EDINBURGH HOUSE,
13, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,

IS getting his name up for XXX and XXXX Sparkling Bitter and Mild Ales, drawn from the Wood. Cigars special'ty 2d.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL.

GEORGE WADE JUN.,

IRONMONGER, &c.,
55a, FRONT STREET, CONETT.

G. W. wishes to Thank the Public generally for the liberal support received, and begs to state that he has a good selection of Cutlery in Razors and Strops, Pen and Pocket Knives, Scissors, etc., suitable for Xmas Presents. Joiners' Tools from noted makers, and Builders' Hardware in general. Petroleum Oil. Pictures Framed. Repairs Neatly Executed, &c. Venetian Blinds made to Order. All goods not in Stock procured on the shortest notice. 177g

---

ANTHONY COOPER,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL FRUIT AND POTATO MERCHANT,
24, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT

BEGS to Thank his Customers for past favours. He will, as usual, give the Best Article at a Moderate Price.

Try our Best SCOTCH MAIN CROPS At Market Prices; also, at

FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

A Good Stock of Geese, Chickens, Ducks, and Rabbits, for the Xmas Trade.

PREVIOUS TO REMOVAL TO NEW PREMISES IN MIDDLE STREET.

J. COCKBURN.

BEGS to Thank the General Public for their Patronage and Support during the many years he has been in business.

FOR XMAS AND NEW YEAR'S CARDS, FANCY GOODS, ANNUALS, DIARIES, POCKET BOOKS, PURSES, HYMN BOOKS, PRAYER BOOKS, BIBLES, &c., &c., TRY

JASPER COCKBURN,
11, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

☞ SPECTACLES TO SUIT ALL SIGHTS.
Agent for the British and Foreign Bible Society.

MADGE HARRIS,

CONFECTIONER,
5, HAVELOCK STREET, CONSETT.

BEGS to thank her customers and the public for their past favours and hopes to receive a continuance of their support. She has a good assortment of confectionery, tobacco, and cigars of the best quality at reasonable prices. Mineral Waters and light refreshments. Pouches and cigarette cases; fancy goods, and Xmas cards for seasonable presents.

JOHN CRAWFORD,

VICTORIA STREET, AND 2, CHURCH STREET, CONSETT,

BEGS to thank his many Customers for their Patronage during the last 30 Years. He will have, during Christmas Week, a large STOCK of GRAND BEEF and MUTTON, DAIRY-FED PORK, TURKEYS, GEESE, and DUCKS, at prices to suit the Times.

A large Consignment of Turkeys, Geese, and Ducks will be shown FOR SALE in the Victoria Street Sale Rooms, on FRIDAY and SATURDAY First, at Reasonable Prices.

ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO. 331g

ROBSON AND ROWLAND,

MINERAL WATER MANUFACTURERS,
14, JOHN STREET, CONSETT.

WITH the advent of the Festive Season we wish to Thank our many Customers for their generous patronage. Our Mineral Waters are acknowledged to be "A.1."

Specialities for the Winter Season, GREEN GINGER CHAMPAGNE, RASPBERRY AND LEMONADE.

☞ ALL ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO. Trial Solicited.

Satisfaction Guaranteed.

FOR
POULTRY APPLIANCES,
INCUBATORS,
FOSTER-MOTHERS,
AND ALL
POULTRY NECESSARIES
GO TO

DAWSON'S

FANCIERS' SUPPLY STORES,
RITSON'S ROAD, BLACKHILL.

ESTABLISHED 1851.

BIRKBECK BANK,

Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.

INVESTED FUNDS ... ... £12,000,000.
NUMBER OF ACCOUNTS, 85,094.

TWO-AND-A-HALF per CENT. INTEREST allowed on DEPOSITS, repayable on demand.

TWO per CENT. on CURRENT ACCOUNTS, on the minimum monthly balances, when not drawn below £100.

STOCKS, SHARES, and ANNUITIES purchased and sold for customers.

SAVINGS DEPARTMENT.

Small deposits received, and Interest allowed monthly on each completed £1.

The BIRKBECK ALMANACK, with particulars, post free.

FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.
Telegraphic Address: "BIRKBECK LONDON."
Telephone No. 5, Holborn. 575b.

BRAMWELL'S BONDS,
C AND S,
CHURCH STREET, SUNDERLAND.

130 YEARS' REPUTATION

FOR WINES AND SPIRITS.

PRESENT PROPRIETORS:

THE NORTH-EASTERN BREWERIES LTD.
SUNDERLAND.
RICHARD MURRAY, MANAGING DIRECTOR.

SPECIALITY:—

"NEB" MALT STOUT.

CASH PROVISION STORES,
4, PARK ROAD, CONSETT.

ALL who desire to spend a Happy Christmas should purchase their Groceries at the above Establishment, where Sterling Value is the rule All the Year Round.

CURRANTS, RAISINS, LEMON PEEL, MINCEMEAT, FRUIT CAKES, BISCUITS, In Great Variety.

JAMS, &c., from the Best Makers.

HAMS, BACON, and CHEESE, Best Value in Town.

OUR SPECIAL FLOUR, The Delight of the District.

Our Fine Flavoured TEAS, Recommend themselves

All our
Groceries and Provisions are sold at
LOWEST MARKET PRICES
All the Year Round
AT

G. D. POWELL'S,

CASH PROVISION STORES,
4, PARK ROAD, CONSETT.

Business Announcements

DON'T FORGET.

GEORGE MCNEAL

BILL-POSTER,
ANNFIELD PLAIN,

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.

GEORGE SURTEES,

DECORATOR.

PAINTING, PAPER-HANGING,
SIGN WRITING, GRAINING,
PICTURE FRAMING AND GILDING.
BENFIELDSIDE ROAD,
SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

ART STUDIO (PAINTING AND DRAWING) NORTH VIEW, MEDOMSLEY R.S.O.

ESTABLISHED 1860.

W. FITZPATRICK,

TAILOR,
ANNFIELD PLAIN,

THANKS the Public for the Support which has been accorded him in the past, and trusts to have a continuance of their favours during the year 1898.

The Latest Materials and Designs in OVERCOATINGS, SUITINGS, and TROUSERINGS.

The Suits at 45s having given unbounded satisfaction in the past can be thoroughly recommended, and will receive special attention during the coming season.

PERFECT FIT AND SATISFACTION GUARANTEED.

LIBERAL DISCOUNT FOR CASH.

BESSEMER HOUSE, BLACKHILL.

W. RICHARDSON,

DRAPER AND MEN'S OUTFITTER.

FOR THE SEASON.

Large Assortment of LACE, GLOVES, &c., &c., for Presents.

DECORATIVE PLANTS for Ornamentation.

UMBRELLAS, HABERDASHERY, AND HOSIERY

New and Special Consignment.

To Spend Wisely STOP HERE

THE HEALTH & SICKNESS BENEFIT SOCIETY

Sickness Weekly, 18s.		Contributions 11s. per Quarter.
Death	£20	
" of Wife ..	£10	Half of these for 5s. 6d. per Quarter.
Lying-in of Wife	£1 10s. 0d.	

Contributions also Monthly and Weekly.

Six hundred members have joined in this District.

Prospectus and all information obtained of the Secretary, Registered Office, Criswell House, Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C., or the Local Collecting Secretaries.

Additional Canvassers, Collectors, and Agents wanted in this District. 733f

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PHOTOS.

VENICE DUNN.

7 AND 8, MEDOMSLEY ROAD, CONSETT. Will supply enlarged PHOTOS, finished in Oils, Water Colours, or Crayons, Framed; complete prices varying from 15s to 45s. PHOTOS artistically finished in the latest and most improved styles. Cabinets 12s to 15s per dozen; Carte-de-Visites, 6s to 7s per dozen. Bands, Choirs, Football and Cricket Clubs, Lawn Tennis and Wedding Parties taken on the most reasonable terms.

VENICE DUNN, Junr., Travelling Agent, will be glad to call and submit prices and samples, and furnish all particulars, take orders, and supply club cards to all desirous to join the Club. Photos framed or copied. Cameras, Lenses, and Photographic material supplied to Amateurs. 320e

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BABY WON'T CRY IF YOU GIVE IT

MOTHER'S FRIEND

AND BABY'S COMFORT.
RECOMMENDED BY THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

THE BEST AND SAFEST MEDICINE FOR CHILDREN CUTTING THEIR TEETH.

CONTAINS NO LAUDANUM, OPIUM, OR MORPHIA.

MOTHER'S FRIEND Prevents and Cures Wind, and Griping Pains in the Stomach or Bowels.

MOTHER'S FRIEND Prevents and Cures Convulsions, Fevers, Fits, and Thrush.

MOTHER'S FRIEND corrects Acidity and cures Diarrhœa.

MOTHER'S FRIEND removes Pain and produces Natural Sleep.

PREPARED ONLY BY

J. ROBINSON,
DISPENSING AND FAMILY CHEMIST.
STANLEY AND ANNFIELD PLAIN
AGENT FOR GLENDINNING'S BEEF AND MALT WINE 305y

LIEBIG'S BEEF AND MALT WINE.

This preparation is made from
PORT WINE,
EXTRACT OF MALT, AND
EXTRACT OF BEEF.

Is an EXCELLENT RESTORATIVE AND NERVE TONIC, and very highly Recommended.

3s. 6d. per quart Bottle (usually sold at 4s 6d.)
1s. 9d. per pint Bottle (usually sold at 2s. 9d.

Tawagin Port Wine, 1s. 6d. per quart bottle.
Sherry, 1s. 6d. per quart bottle.
Robinson's Quarts of Irish Whiskey, 3s.
Robinson's Quarts of Scotch Whiskey, 3s.
Claret from 1s. per bottle.
Burgundies from 1s. per bottle.

NOTE THE ADDRESS:

ROBINSON & CO.

DRUG STORES,
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.
CHESTER-LE-STREET.

HENRY ANNANDALE TOWN,

(Professional Associate of the Surveyors' Institute.)

LAND, ESTATE AGENT,
VALUER AND SURVEYOR,
UNDERTAKES

The entire Management of Country Estates.

Properties of every description, either in Town or Country, Managed on Moderate Terms under Personal Supervision.

Properties Sold or Let on Commission.

Valuations undertaken and Mortgages Negotiated.

Agent for the Lancashire Fire and Life Insurance Company and Globe Accident Insurance Company.

15, PILGRIM STREET,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Telephone, No. 4a.

THE

NEW STANLEY HOTEL,

THE "QUEEN'S HOTEL,"

IS NOW OPEN.

With a Stock of the finest
ALES,
WINES,
AND SPIRITS

PROPRIETRESS MRS CHAYTOR

Business Announcements

JAMES FROSDICK is the only Billposter that has rented Stations within the three Urban Council Districts of Consett, Leadgate, and Benfieldside. Bills Posted and Distributed at the lowest rates. 596.

F. W. PIGFORD.

CATCHGATE.

PAINTER PAPERHANGER, &c

ESTIMATES GIVEN.

J. MORGAN,

Hardware Dealer, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT, the shop for Quality and Cheapness combined for all kinds of Hardware Goods, Glass, China, Earthenware, &c. Our Celebrated Electric Brand Lamp Oil, Lamps, Chimneys, and Wicks of all kinds.

Clubs are now being formed for all kinds of Goods. Particulars on application.

SAFES FROM 55/-

CARRIAGE FREE.
LOWEST CASH
PRICES OR
INSTALMENTS.
State Size Required.
LEVY'S Mercantile Office,
55, Frederick St., Sunderland

SERVANTS REGISTRY WEST STANLEY.

MRS. SCOTT begs to inform the Public that she has removed to the FRONT STREET opposite the Co-operative Stores, West Stanley.—All letters and applications promptly attended to. 988e

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NEWCASTLE WARDROBE CO.,

31, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT.

NEW AND SECOND-HAND CLOTHES, BEDS, &c.

☞ Orders executed for Oilskin Garments, guaranteed Waterproof; Leather Goods, &c. Inspection invited. 380e

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ELMPARK, SHOTLEY BRIDGE. DAY & BOARDING SCHOOL FOR BOYS. A THOROUGH MODERN EDUCATION.

On reasonable terms in most healthy situation Successful preparation for all preliminary Examinations.

Next Term, January 17th, 1900.

Instruction includes Book-keeping, Land Surveying, Science, Shorthand, Drawing and Music.

A Field for Cricket, Tennis and Football.

MONTAGU V. STEGGALL, M.A., Head-master.

HOSPITAL

FOR AGED AND INFIRM BOOTS,
1, RAGLAN STREET, CONSETT.

GENT'S BOOTS, SOLED AND HEELED... 2s 9d
LADIES' Do. Do. ...1s 9d

With Leather Tanned on the Old Fashioned Process with Oak Bark. Standing unrivalled in quality; having gained 11 Highest Awards at Exhibitions. It is fallacious for any other firm to say they use best Leather, as I am the only one in this district that buys this brand.

(Signed). J. ORTON.

ESTABLISHED 26 YEARS.

MRS. ROGERS,

MERCHANT TAILOR,
13, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT,

DESIRE to return her very sincere thanks for the generous patronage bestowed upon her since the death of her late husband, and trusts by Excellence of Material and Workmanship, and Guaranteed Style and Fit, to continue to receive the confidence and support of the public of Consett and District.

SCOTCH, IRISH, AND WEST OF ENGLAND TWEEDS, LARGE ASSORTMENT TO CHOOSE FROM. 14g

---

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN,

FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

LEEDS, LONDON, YORK, SCARBOROUGH, DONCASTER, NEWARK, MIDDLESBROUGH, DARLINGTON, WEST HARTLEPOOL, BLYTH, BISHOP AUCKLAND, GATESHEAD, JARROW, KEIGHLEY, MORECAMBE, HULL.

THE LARGEST WHOLESALE and RETAIL DEALERS IN THE KINGDOM.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN'S PIANOS.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN'S Stock of PIANOS is the largest and most varied in the Provinces. Fine specimens of the best English, American, and Continental makers may be seen, and their relative value ascertained.

SPECIALITY PIANOS.

PIANOS. Famous for Solid Build. PIANOS.
PIANOS. Famous for Durability. PIANOS
PIANOS. Famous for Tone. and Cheapness. PIANOS. PIANOS.

£19 10s 6d Cash, £23 Cash, £28 Cash, £33 Cash, or on ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN'S DEFERRED PAYMENT SYSTEM: 12s 9d, 15s, 18s 4d, and 21s per month.

SEE AND HEAR THESE BEAUTIFUL INSTRUMENTS.

THOUSANDS ARE IN USE AND ARE UNIVERSALLY ADMIRED.

GUARANTEED TEN YEARS.

SEND FOR CATALOGUE.

SEE

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN'S DISPLAY OF
HIGH-CLASS PIANOS
HIGH-CLASS PIANOS
BY THE WORLD'S GREATEST MAKERS.

IN A VARIETY OF STYLES.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN'S STOCK OF
HORIZONTAL GRANDS
HORIZONTAL GRANDS
HORIZONTAL GRANDS
IS THE LARGEST AND MOST VARIED IN THE PROVINCES.

The relative merits of each maker's instrument may be ascertained by a close and equal comparison, WHICH IS OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO A PURCHASER.

SEND FOR ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN'S BEAUTIFUL ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE.

KNAUSS PIANOS.

KNAUSS PIANOS.

THOSE WONDERFUL KNAUSS PIANOS Acknowledged by connoisseurs to be THE BEST HIGH-CLASS PIANO IN THE MARKET AT A MODERATE PRICE.

The KNAUSS PIANOS are wonderfully popular with the Musical Public, and are known to be Instruments of the greatest stability.

Inspection invited.

CATALOGUES FORWARDED FREE

AMERICAN ORGANS. AMERICAN ORGANS

In large numbers, Second-hand, at all prices, and bargains.

SPECIAL NEW MODELS OF BEAUTIFUL DESIGN, Sweet Tone, and substantially made at £12, £14, £15, and higher prices.

CATALOGUES FREE.

SEND FOR PARTICULARS OF ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN'S

FREE LIFE AGREEMENT SCHEME.

Since this scheme was introduced by Archibald Ramsden over £800 has been paid.

IT IS WORTH THE ATTENTION OF INTENDING PURCHASERS.

It is Free, being given to every Purchaser on their Hire and Purchase System.

HARMONIUMS.

Second-hand, at any price. Good Instruments are offered at so low a price as £2.

SEND FOR PARTICULARS.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN'S THREE YEARS SYSTEM IS THE FAIREST IN USE, and is adapted to the special requirements of their customers. Every consideration is shown to purchasers who from unforeseen circumstances are not always able to make their payments punctually.

SEND FOR CATALOGUE.

ARCHIBALD RAMSDEN (LIMITED), FRONT STREET, CONSETT. PARK ROW, LEEDS.

Business Announcements

W. MORGAN.

PAINTER AND DECORATOR,
8, HARVEY STREET, CONSETT.

A Good Supply of Wallpaper always on hand, Lincrusta Walton, &c.

ESTIMATES SUPPLIED. 517f

WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION!

K. VOSS,

65—67, BLACKETT STREET,
NEWCASTLE,

HAS the Largest and Most Stylish Stock of Ladies', Gentlemen's, and Children's Second-hand Clothing, in the United Kingdom. Guns, Portmanteaus, Football Bags, Waterproofs. Dress Suits and Fancy Costumes a Speciality.

CALL AND INSPECT THE STOCK. 665d

STOKOE & ROBINSON

Successors to MR. JOHN ROUTLEDGE,

JOINERS, UNDERTAKERS, SHOP FITTERS, AND WHOLESALE CABINETMAKERS.

Dealers in all kinds of Wood Goods.

GIBSON STREET, CONSETT.

COMPLETE FUNERAL FURNISHERS.

If you are in want of
FOOTBALLS, BELTS, SHIN GUARDS,
INFLATORS, or HARNESS,
Of any description, for wear and quality,
GO TO

WILLIAM BIGGINS.

SADDLE AND HARNESS MANUFACTURER,
CHURCH STREET, BLAYDON.

BRANCHES:—Busty Bank, Burnopfield, R.S.O.
Tyne View, Lemington-on-Tyne.

COLLIERY WORK CONTRACTED FOR

PIANOS & ORGANS

FOR SALE,

8s., 10s. 6d., 12s. 6d., 15s., 17s. 6d., 20s., 22s. 6d., per Month.

Guaranteed 10 years. Liberal Discount for Cash.

Old Pianos taken in exchange.

Tuning and Repairs promptly attended to.

CYCLES. CYCLES.

Sole Agent in District for the "Osmond," "Beancu," "Ariston," and other renowned makes.

ACCESSORIES, REPAIRS, RE-PLATING, AND ENAMELLING done on the Premises.

ADDRESS:

E. SLOANE & SONS,
PIANO AND CYCLE WAREHOUSE,
BLACKHILL. 549d

Public Notices.

HIGHGATE AND DISTRICT FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

THE YEARLY CLUB will re-commence on Jan. 6th, 1900, when all Members are requested to attend. Business important. New Members can be enrolled. J. LUMLEY. 396g

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MARLEY HILL BRASS BAND.
CHRISTMAS PRIZES.

WINNING NUMBERS.—209, No. 18 and 7 book, 658, 670, 666, 997, 853, 759, 139, 18, 992, 253, 917, 369, 758, 711, 219, 490, 675, 361, 77, 484, 876, 477, 250, 531. — JOHN PARKIN, 79, Marley Hill Colliery, Co. Durham. 401g

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BURNHOPE, LANCHESTER, STANLEY, AND DISTRICT PLOUGHING ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL COMPETITION in connection with above, will be held at Tanfield, on Monday, Jan. 8th, 1900.

400g JOS. INNES, Secretary.

LEADGATE DERBY LEEK SHOW.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the above will be held on Saturday night first, Jan. 6th, at 7.15 p.m., in the Co-operative Hall, when all intending exhibitors are kindly invited, radius Two miles from Hall.

410g JOHN MAUGHAN, Secretary.

FIVE POUNDS REWARD.

WHEREAS some Evil-disposed Person or Persons, did, on the night of Wednesday, Dec. 27th, near the Railway Hotel, Consett, Wilfully and Maliciously ASSAULT Mr. HENRY GOODEN, Manager for Mr. H. P. Tyler, Consett. The above reward will be paid to anyone who will give such information to the above-named, as shall lead to the conviction of the Offender. 430g

---

FIVE POUNDS REWARD.

THIS REWARD will be given to any one who can prove the following statement to be untrue. Viz.—That the Pearl Life Assurance Co. wanted to reduce the Terms of Employment of the Consett Agents by about 17 per cent, also that they wanted to make the Agents Pay Half the Salary of their Assistant Superintendent.

Signed, E. TELFORD
417g Late Superintendent.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA,

FUND in aid of the Wives and Families of of Soldiers and Sailors serving with the Colours.

CONSETT DISTRICT.

CHAIRMAN:—COUN. WM. AYNSLEY, J. P., CONSETT.

HON TREASURER:—MR. T. L. GLEDSTONE, NORTH-EASTERN BANK, CONSETT.

HON. SECRETARY:—MR. T. W. WELFORD, CLERK, CONSETT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ALREADY PROMISED OR RECEIVED.

	£	s	d
Geo. Ainsworth, Esq., J.P.	5	0	0
Messrs Davison and Sons	5	5	0
Mr. John Petherick	3	3	0
Wm. Aynsley, Esq., J.P.	2	2	0
Mr. G. D. Powell	1	0	0
Mr. R. C. Foster	1	0	0
Mr. John Lowes	1	0	0
Mr. Geo. Harrison	1	1	0
Mr. Jos. Peacod	1	0	0
Mr. G. T. Hyden	1	0	0
Mr. M. Cowen	1	1	0
Mr. T. W. Welford, jun.	1	10	0
Mr. Jos. Murray	1	1	0
Mr. Hardy		5	0
Mr. T. L. Gledstone	1	0	0
Rev. W. D. Croudace	1	0	0
Mr. P. A. Coltman	1	1	0
Mr. T. D. Dryden	1	1	0
Mr. C. Almond	1	1	0
Miss Imeson		10	0
Mr. J. R. Brodie		5	0
Mr. T. Milner		5	0
Mr. J. H. Wood		5	0
Mr. J. W. Hardcastle		5	0
Mr. Bell		5	0
Mr. Dodd		5	0
Caledonian Society per Mr. A Russel	2	7	[illegible]
Mr. Alex. Russell		10	6
Mr. Wm. McKay		10	6
Mr. R. J. Kirkhouse	1	1	0
Rev. J. Foran		10	0
Mr. Thos. Maughan		5	0
Mr. W. S. Macfeggan		10	0
Mr. D. H. C. Balleny		5	0
Mr. Geo. Dawson		10	0
Mr. Jes Scott	2	2	0
Mr. Wm. Ward		5	0
Rev. G. B. Polkinghorne	1	1	0
Mr. Venice Dunn	1	0	0
Consett and District Cricket Club Dinner contribution		9	6
Rev. M. J. B. Bennett		10	6
Mr. T. M. Wylie		10	6
Mrs. C. Balleny		10	6
Mr. T. A. Jervis		10	6
Consett Iron Co.'s Workmen at Delves	2	1	0
Mr. Wm. Keenleyside	1	1	0
Proceeds of "Reggies" Concert ...		1	7
	40	5	10

Subscriptions will be gladly received by any Member of the Committee; or at any of the Local Banks, or at the Office of the Local Secretary.

W. AYNSLEY, Chairman,
287g T. W. WELFORD, Secretary,

Public Notices.

SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, CONSETT.

CLASSES for Drawing and Painting, under a trained Certificated Mistress.
Next Term commences Jan. 15th, 1900.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF DIPTON

SHOULD any ASHPITS or PRIVIES be Overlooked or not properly Cleaned, please notify the Contractor at once when they will be attended to. Signed,
G. NICHOLSON, Contractor.
579e

FELLSIDE FLOWER SHOW.

CHRISTMAS DRAWING.—1, 794; 2, 291; 3, 144; 4, 825; 5, 502; 6, 867; 7, 727; 8, 406; 9, 869; 10, 1,031; 11, 504; 12, 484; 13, 128; 14, 609; 15, 973; 16, 360; 17, 642; 18, 496; 19, 576; 20, 845; 21, 744; 22, 16; 23, 214; 24, 315; 25, 292; 26, 798;

SHOTLEY BRIDGE & CONSETT DISTRICT GAS COMPANY.

THE Directors of this Company beg to give notice that the PRICE of GAS, consumed in their District, from the 1st day of January, 1900, will be Three Shillings and Fourpence per 1,000 Cubic Feet nett. All Discounts hitherto allowed will be discontinued until further notice.

By Order of the Board,
M. RICHLEY, Secretary.
Dec. 27th, 1899. 850g

HYDEN TESTIMONIAL.

MR. G. T. HYDEN, Head Master of the Consett Iron Co's British Schools, Consett, completes 21 years' service in that post at Christmas, and it has been decided to present a Testimonial to him to mark the event.

Will Old Scholars, Parents, and Friends, who desire to subscribe, kindly address their communications to

MR. S. RAYNER,
4, Barr House Avenue,
Consett.

All communications will be promptly acknowledged. 978f

TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR CONSETT.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	2263	14	6
W. M. Annandale, Esq., Lintzford	5	5	0
	£2268	19	6

Subscriptions may be paid to
Mr. T. L. GLEDSTONE, Hon. Treasurer, N.E. Bank, Consett;
or further information from the Hon. Secretaries—
Mr. W. S. DAVIES, Brynglass, Consett; or
Mr. G. T. HYDEN, Blackfyne House, Blackhill.

GREENSIDE, RYTON, WINLATON, AND BARLOW DISTRICTS PLOUGHING AND HEDGE-CUTTING ASSOCIATION.

PRESIDENT, JOHN SIDDELL, Esq., Prudhoe Hall.

THE NINTH ANNUAL COMPETITION will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 3rd, 1900, (weather permitting), on Ash Tree Farm, Chopwell.

Champion Class in both Ploughing and Hedge-cutting.

Entries close on Wednesday, Dec. 20th, 1899, to EDWARD FORREST, West Kyo, Ryton-on-Tyne, Secretary.

Prize Lists and Entry Forms on Application.

CONSETT INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETY LTD.
NOTICE TO MEMBERS.

THE 146th QUARTERLY MEETING of Members will be held in the PRIMITIVE METHODIST SCHOOLROOM, CONSETT, on Saturday Night, Jan. 6th, 1900. Newspapers and Magazines of Branch Reading Rooms will be Sold by Auction at 6 p.m., by MR. JOHN CRAWFORD, Auctioneer, Consett. For Agenda see Balance Sheets and Windows.

The Members' Share Books will be balanced and given out on and after Jan. 8th, 1900.

By Order of the Committee.
354g EDW. HUNTLEY, Secretary.

DERWENT VALLEY HABITATION OF THE PRIMROSE LEAGUE.

THE ANNUAL BALL in connection with the above Habitation will be held on Thursday, Jan. 18th, 1900, in the Temperance Hall, Shotley Bridge. Dancing from 8 p.m to 4 a.m. Price of Tickets, Members 2s. 6d.; Non-Members 3s., (including refreshments). If Tickets are taken *after* Tuesday, Jan. 16th, prices will be Members 3s.; Non-Members 4s. Tickets may be obtained from MRS. TOWN and MR. R. HALL, Shotley Bridge; MISS RICHLEY, Blackhill; MISS NIXON, Victoria Garesfield; MISS HETHERINGTON, Medomsley; MRS. ARMSTRONG, Blackhall Mill; and MISS WALTON-WILSON, Shotley Hall. 571g

PEARL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.
CHIEF OFFICES: LONDON BRIDGE, CITY, E.C.

NOTICE TO POLICY-HOLDERS.

OUR REPRESENTATIVES in Consett district having resigned their positions with us, are now seeking to damage the reputation of the Company by alleging that we have attempted to reduce their wages. We have only to say that this statement is absolutely false.

By Order of the Board,
J. F. FOLEY,
Managing Director.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' FAMILIES' ASSOCIATION.

TRANSVAAL WAR.

ALL APPLICATIONS for Temporary Relief by the dependents of Soldiers (where the breadwinners are serving with the Colours) not already receiving Grants from Local Funds, should be made personally or by letter to Mr. J. B. Lazenby, Hon. Secretary, for the Petty Sessional Division of Lanchester, at his Office, Bank Chambers, Shotley Bridge.

The following information should be supplied with each Application:—*Name of Parish, Full Name of Soldier, Age, Married or Single, No. of Children, Wife, Mother, or Relatives, Dependent, Regiment, Regimental No., whether in Receipt of any, and if so what Relief or Government Allowance.* 446g

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' FAMILIES RELIEF FUND.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

His Honour Judge Greenwell	5	5	0
Mrs. Greenwell	5	5	0
Joseph Pumphrey Esq.	10	0	0
Collection at Shotley Bridge Cricket Club Concert	4	0	0
Alexander McIver		2	6
A Friend		2	6
Collection at Shotley Bridge Wesleyan Chapel 4th December	1	15	0
A. C.		10	0
Collection at Lanchester Parish Church 26th November	9	10	11
F. Priestman Esq.	5	5	0
Mrs. Priestman	5	5	0
Lewis Priestman Esq.	10	10	0
N. W. D. Master Builders' Association	1	4	6
J. B. Lazenby	3	3	0
Derwent Flour Mill Employees		13	0
George Peile, Esq.	5	5	0
Harry Peile, Esq.	3	3	0
Canon Ross-Lewin	2	2	0
J. P. Maling, Esq.	1	1	0
Collected by Mrs. Lazenby	2	19	6
A. Houliston, Esq.		10	6
Mr. George Newmarch	1	0	0
Half collection at Consett Cricket Club Dinner, per Mr. Ramsay			
James Annandale, Esq.	5	5	0
Shotley Gas Company's Employees		15	0
Derwent Flour Mill Employees		6	6
Shotley Grove Paper Mills Employees	4	1	1
Collected by Mrs. Lazenby (2nd card)	4	14	6
Collected by Mr. J. D. Piercy-Taylor-Smith	26	3	10

NEW THEATRE.
CONSETT.

Lessee and Manager .. Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.
(Also of the Royal Theatre and Opera House, Barrow-in-Furness, and Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne).
Resident Manager .. Mr. LLOYD CLARANCE.

Last Three Nights and Unprecedented Reception of
Mr. JOHN GERANT and Co. in the Splendid Military Play—

AT DUTY'S CALL.

MONDAY, JANUARY 8th, 1900.
Mr. T. EDWARD WARD and Co., in the Emotional Comedy Drama—

HER WEDDING DAY.

SINBAD THE SAILOR IS COMING.

NATHAN ELSDON.
AUCTIONEER AND VALUER.
OFFICES AND SALE ROOMS, DELVES LANE, CONSETT.

N. ELSDON wishes his friends and customers to know that he has the LARGEST AND BEST SALE ROOMS in the district and that he is prepared to STORE FURNITURE and all classes of goods FREE OF CHARGE, and Sell on Commission according to arrangement.

All Classes of Furniture or Property purchased outright for Cash, or sold by Auction.

Church Notices.

ST. CUTHBERT'S PARISH CHURCH, BENFIELDSIDE

SUNDAY FIRST JANUARY 7th.

COLLECTION AT MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER FOR "SOLDIERS' FAMILIES."

CONSETT WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7th, 1900.
Morning 10·30 } Rev. G. E. POLKINGHORNE.
Evening 6 }

ALL SEATS FREE.

CONSETT PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7th, 1900.
Morning, 10·30 } Rev. A. CAMPBELL,
Evening, 6 } Chester-le-Street.

ALL SEATS FREE.

ST. IVES', LEADGATE.

SUNDAY FIRST.

COLLECTIONS FOR THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON'S FUND.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7th, 1900.
Morning, 10.30. } Rev. JAMES TAYLOR.
Evening, 6. }

ANNFIELD PLAIN WESLEYAN METHODIST NEW CHURCH.

GRAND EVENING CONCERT, in the Co-operative Hall, Annfield Plain, on Saturday, January 6th, 1900.

ARTISTES.—Soprano, Miss Armytage; Contralto, Miss Mimi Beers; Tenor, Mr. Wm. Catcheside; Basso, Mr. J. A. London Humorist, Mr. Frank Cooke, the Celebrated Tyneside Comic.

Accompanist, Coun. R. Affleck, Esq., J.P. Pianist, Miss May Ellis, A.L.C.M.

Chair to be taken at 7.30 p.m., by Alderman J. Barker Ellis, Chairman of the Corporation Concerts, Newcastle. Tickets, One Shilling each. 346g

Excursions

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY.
EXCURSION TRAINS.

SATURDAY, JAN. 6th, 1900; from CONSETT at 1·5 p.m. for GATESHEAD and NEWCASTLE.

SATURDAY, JAN. 13th, 1900; from BLACKHILL at 12·10 p.m, for ELSWICK and NEWCASTLE.

For further particulars see bills.
York, GEORGE S. GIBB,
January, 1900. General Manager.

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. J. Green.

BLACKHILL FARMERS' MART CO., LTD.
MONDAY, JANUARY 8th, 1900.
MR. JACKSON GREEN, AUCTIONEER.

20 Fat Beast, including a two year old Bull up to 70 stones; 200 Fat Sheep, including a consignment of 40 North-Country Hoggs; Cows, 1 Cow 10 days' calved; Calves; Grazing Cattle; Poultry, Ropes, Ladders, Carrots, &c.
Sale at One o'clock.
J. W. OSBORNE, Secretary,
457g 10a, Durham Road, Blackhill.

MR. JACKSON GREEN
AUCTIONEER, VALUER, & COMMISSION AGENT.

Agricultural and Probate Valuations carefully made.

All Classes of Sales conducted on Reasonable Terms.
SALE OFFICE—
SATLEY, TOW LAW, R.S.O. 807a

By Mr John Crawford

MR. JOHN CRAWFORD, is instructed to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at his Salerooms, Victoria Street, Consett, on Monday first, Jan. 8th, at One o'clock, the Household FURNITURE and EFFECTS. Piano, Stool, Mahogany Drawers, Presses, Brass Mounted Beds and Bedding, other Lots too numerous to mention. 443g

MR. JOHN CRAWFORD, is instructed to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the House of Mr. Wright, Burton House Inn, Burnopfield, on Thursday evening, Jan. 18th, at 7 o'clock, the Two FREEHOLD COTTAGES, Raglan Place, Burnopfield, now occupied by Messrs. Welsh and Lammonby, as Tenants; also, Two COTTAGES adjoining, now occupied by Mrs. Potter and Thos. Mason, as Tenants. Full particulars, apply, JOHN CRAWFORD, Auctioneer, Consett. 444g

JOHN CRAWFORD, AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER, VALUER, EMIGRATION and HOUSE AGENT. Also, appointed Bailiff by his Honour Judge MEYNELL, to Levy Distress for Rent, under the Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888. Sale Office, 25, Victoria Street Consett.

By Mr. Thos. Storey.

28, Middle Street, East Stanley.

THOMAS STOREY, instructed by Mr. T. Mackinlay, will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on Saturday, Jan. 6th, 1900, the whole of the Valuable Household FURNITURE, &c., comprising Sitting-room Suite, Bed-room Suite, Bedsteads, Hair Mattresses, Spring Mattresses, Carpet, Mirror, Tables, Chairs, Valuable Press, Wringing Machine, Sewing Machine, 8-Days' Clock, some good Pictures, Brasses, Fenders, and all the almost new Household Goods. See Bills.
Sale at One o'clock. 451 g

By Mr John T. Weston, Junr

Earl Grey Inn, West Kyo, near Annfield Plain.

To Contractors and others.

Owing to the Completion of a Contract,

JOHN T. WESTON, Jun., is instructed to offer for SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on Wednesday, Jan. 17th, 1900. Cart Horses, Harness, Sanitary Pipes, sizes various. Particulars later.

Entries can be left at Mr. Thomas Gatiss' Earl Grey Inn, West Kyo, near Annfield Plain, or the Auctioneer.

Sale Office: Cornwall House,
Annfield Plain, R.S.O. 336g

43, Joicey Terrace, Oxhill.

JOHN T. WESTON, Jun., Auctioneer, instructed by the Executor of the late Mr. H. Fleming, to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, Valuable FURNITURE, etc., on Monday, Jan. 8th, 1900.

Sale at One o'clock, p.m.

N.B.—Anyone having Goods to dispose can have them included in the above Sale.

See Bills for particulars.
Sale Office: Cornwall House,
Annfield Plain, R.S.O. 335g

JOHN T. WESTON, JUN.,
AUCTIONEER & COMMISSION AGENT.
SALE OFFICE—
CORNWALL HOUSE, ANNFIELD PLACE, ANNFIELD PLAIN, R.S.O.

Sales conducted with care, efficiency, and on the most reasonable terms. Correspondence and inquiries invited. Prompt settlements.

T. D. DRYDEN,
AUCTIONEER AND VALUER,
56, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

JOHN SWINBURNE MURRAY,
THE
AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER, VALUER AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT,
BLACKHILL.

Being done with the Auction Mart, is at liberty to take Sales of every description on any day of the week.

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

All Sales conducted with Care, Economy, and Quick Settlements.

WHITEHALL LODGE, BLACKHILL.

WILLIAM ROBINSON,
AUCTIONEER AND VALUER, AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT
NEW FINES, MEDOMSLEY.

Sales conducted on the most reasonable terms

SPECIAL NOTICE.

A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Valuer, House, Land, and Emigration Agent, will undertake AUCTION SALES upon most reasonable terms, and conducted in the best style. LETTERS by Post will have prompt attention, and all sorts of GOODS, FURNITURE, &c., bought right out for cash. Appointed by His Honour Judge MEYNELL, under the Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888 Office, Front Street, Dipton, by Lintz Green Station.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS' FAMILIES RELIEF FUND.—To-morrow (Friday) night a musical and dramatic entertainment is to be given in the Temperance Hall, Shotley Bridge, on behalf of the Soldiers and Sailors' Families Relief Fund. The artistes include the ablest and most distinguished amateur talent in the north, and apart from its beneficent object the entertainment will be a rare treat in itself. Mr. T. Nixon's orchestral band will be in attendance, and the performance, which has been promoted by Mrs. Barclay, Mrs. Faber, and others, will be presided over by Mr. F. Priestman, J.P.

OUR ALMANACK.

In accordance with our usual practice we intend issuing an Almanack, replete with information of value and use to our readers. Great care has been exercised in its compilation, and with next week's issue (Jan. 12th) each reader of the 'Guardian' will receive a gift of this useful and popular annual.

Business Announcement.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY.
WILLIAM AYNSLEY, Esq., Chairman.

SUBSCRIPTION MEETINGS are held in the New Town Hall Buildings, Consett, between 7 and 8 o'clock every alternate Monday.—The Monday after the Consett Iron Co.'s pay Saturday. ☞ DEPOSITS received at four per cent. interest, repayable on giving one month's notice.

THE CONSETT GUARDIAN.

Friday, January 5th, 1900.

EDITORIAL CHAT.

A MUCH RESPECTED resident of this district passed away at Gateshead on Saturday, in the person of Mr. John Harrison, formerly a superintendent in the Durham County Constabulary. The late Mr. Harrison was a native of Witton Gilbert, and joined the county force at the age of 25. He proved himself to be a very capable officer, and soon earned promotion. He was stationed at Houghton-le-Spring as superintendent, then at Jarrow, and finally at Gateshead, to which place he came in 1882, as head of the Chester-le-Street Division. After holding the latter position for about ten years he retired on a well-earned pension. The deceased gentleman discharged all his duties admirably, and was held in high esteem throughout the county. He was 65 years of age, and married, and leaves a widow, but no family. The funeral took place at Gateshead Cemetery on Wednesday afternoon, and was attended by a large and representative company.

THE SHOTLEY BRIDGE String Band are a body of musicians who are ever ready to give their services on behalf of any deserving object. They travel about the district in all kinds of weather, and, no matter how inclement the conditions may be, they can be trusted to cause no disappointments. When we remember that they give their time and services gratuitously, and that the music they render is of a high-class character and never fails to win the admiration and applause of their audiences, we think that they are worthy of our warmest gratitude. At a concert given by the band at Ebchester on Tuesday evening, the chairman (Coun. W. R. Cooke, of Westwood) referred in appreciative terms to the excellent work of the capable body of musicians under the leadership of Mr. Thomas Nixon, and mentioned that a movement was to be set on foot at Westwood with a view to promoting a concert for the benefit of the band. This is a capital idea, and one that should be heartily taken up in the Westwood district, where the band have appeared on many occasions. Mr. Cooke is a gentleman who, once he takes anything in hand, is sure to carry it to a successful issue, and therefore it is pleasing to know that he intends to take an active interest in the proposed benefit concert. Only a few weeks since Mr. Nixon's combination gave an entertainment at Westwood on behalf of the Soldiers and Sailors Families' Association, and Mr. Cooke announced on Tuesday night, amid applause, that the result would be that about £8 would be handed over to this most deserving fund. This is only one instance of the many kindly actions performed by the band.

SPEAKING OF THE purchase of the collieries, etc., of the Weardale Iron and Coal Company, a contemporary makes the following interesting remarks:—"A promotion of great magnitude was that effected by Sir Christopher Furness in September last, when he purchased the extensive collieries and ironworks of the Weardale Iron and Coal Company, and amalgamated them with the Thornley, Ludworth, and Wheatley Hill Collieries, near Castle Eden, belonging to the Baring family, under the title of the Weardale Steel, Coal, and Coke Company, with a capital of £900,000. The Weardale Company's properties consisted of the well-known ironworks at Tudhoe, Spennymoor, and Tow Law, producing 70,000 tons of steel ingots and 48,000 tons of finished iron and steel per annum, and of the following seven collieries:—Tudhoe, Croxdale, Tow Law, Middridge, Black Prince, Hedley Hill, and Bishop's Close. These, together with the Castle Eden group, are capable of an output of some 2,000,000 tons of coal and half a million tons of coke. They are in direct railway communication with the Tyne and Sunderland on the noth and east, and with Hartlepool on the south-east, while the Wheatley Hill, Thornley, and Ludworth Collieries are naturally not far distant from the Hartlepools, though a good deal of their coal finds its way to Tyne Dock and Sunderland for shipment. The contemplated railway between Seaham Harbour and the Easington Colliery would, of course, make the port the outlet for the mines, and would also no doubt, place them in direct communication with the general railway system. It is quite possible that one of the immediate effects will be a considerable impetus to the bunker coal trade, especially from the South Durham ports. The deal is the largest that has taken place in the coal trade since the purchase of the Lambton collieries by Sir James Joicey, and marks another move in the direction of concentration of coal-producing facilities in the county. Practically, the bulk of the Durham collieries are now held by four influential capitalists, who among them control a larger output of coal than any other firm in the country."

WE HAVE HEARD several inquiries made from time to time respecting the Leadgate and District Operatic Society, and many people are asking whether, after the very admirable and successful performance of "H.M.S. Pinafore," the members are going to be content to rest upon their oars. We sincerely trust that such is not the case. Our local amateurs gave us such a treat upon their first public appearance that we are anxious to see and hear them again. We understand that nearly all the members are willing to enter into rehearsals with a view to performing another opera, but it appears that no one seems inclined to take the initiative. This is a pity. Most people look upon Mr. Jonathan Stephenson—and rightly so—as the one who bore the brunt of the responsibility upon the last occasion, and possibly the members are waiting for a "friendly lead" from that gentleman. Judging from what transpired at the public performances of Gilbert and Sullivan's famous opera, we should say that the society are capable of undertaking with success many operas from the pens of our best authors. It is a thousand pities that such a mass of excellent talent as was exhibited upon the production of "H.M.S. Pinafore" should be allowed to lie dormant in our midst. We trust to hear of some definite steps being taken shortly with the object of fixing upon another opera, and getting the rehearsals under weigh at once.

WE ARE PLEASED to record that the members of the Consett and District Philharmonic Society scored another success on Wednesday evening of last week, on the occasion of their second subscription concert for the season. Profiting by previous experience, it was again decided to vary the programme by making the second part of a miscellaneous character, this departure having proved eminently satisfactory before. Somehow or other the society seem to possess the good fortune—or shall we say acumen?—to rarely make a mistake in the selection of their principals, and to this fact they doubtless owe much of the reputation and success they have achieved. The present occasion proved no exception to the rule, the two lady artistes especially being heard to the utmost advantage. The first part of the evening was devoted to a rendition of Spohr's "Last Judgment," to which every justice was done by all concerned. The chorus did splendidly, their work being of the highest character, and was the subject of much favourable comment. The orchestra also performed in fine fashion, attacking their task without the slightest hesitation, and in such a manner as could only have been acquired by thorough practice and a full knowledge of their work. We have already referred to the principals—who completely captivated the audience in the second instalment of the evening's enjoyment—and it only remains for us to accord a meed of praise to Mr. G. P. Stephenson, who, as conductor, performed a difficult task most perfectly, and a word of congratulation to the secretaries (Messrs Brown and Heslop) and the committee for the satisfactory nature of the arrangements. As long as the society continue to supply such splendid musical fare as they did last week, they should be assured of a hearty and generous response from the music-loving portion of the community.

MISS LUCY LYONS, of Gateshead, is a very popular evangelist, and has just concluded a successful month's mission work at Annfield Plain. Good congregations assembled night after night, and gradually increased from the commencement of the mission. On Monday night last a public farewell service was held in the Co-operative Hall, presided over by Mr. T. Robson, when addresses were given by Miss Lyons, Mr. Jas. Prinn, and Mr. Wm. Down. During the course of the evening the chairman handed over three handsome and useful presents to Miss Lyons—one given by Mr. Mark Henderson, another by Mr. Joseph Oldfield, and the third one voluntarily subscribed for by those who had benefitted during the mission, as a token of their esteem and appreciation of Miss Lyons' services. The latter lady thanked all who had in any way assisted her in her work, which, she was pleased to say, had been a success. There had been unity in the church—not a discordant note—the one aim being to rescue the perishing, to lift up the fallen, and save the drunkards from misery and want, and bring sunshine into their homes and lives. Miss Lyons said she would have been sad that night had there been no prospect of her coming back again; but she would return about the back-end of March, when her other engagements were fulfilled. Miss Lyons concluded by thanking the donors of the presents for their kindness, and altogether a memorable evening was spent. Such ladies as Miss Lyons undoubtedly do a lot of good, as they are able to get hold of people whom the churches and chapels cannot—under existing conditions—touch.

MANY PEOPLE APPEAR to be in considerable doubt as to the methods adopted by the Soldiers and Sailors Families' Association in the distribution of its funds, and also upon several other points. As this association has branches in the locality, we would advise those in doubt to read Mr. C. F. Scott's remarks respecting the work of this body, which appear in another portion of our present issue. Mr. Scott (who acts as secretary of the Leadgate branch) has been at great trouble to obtain reliable data upon the matter, and he explains the objects and aims of the association in a very lucid manner. Of the many funds in existence for the relief of the dependents of those at the front, and for assisting the widows and orphans of men who may fall in fighting their country's battles, we certainly think that the Soldiers and Sailors Families' Association is the best. For one thing, it has the warm approval of Lord Wolseley, the Commander-in-Chief, as well as that of several other eminent men. Its methods are undoubtedly square and above-board, and, unlike the Patriotic Commissioners, it does not seek to hoard up money subscribed by a generous public for the relief of many gallant fellows who have been allowed to die in the workhouse. It is a pity that any of the money from the Lord Mayor's Fund should have gone to swell the coffers of the Patriotic Commissioners. In our opinion, the Soldiers and Sailors Families' Association is deserving of all the support that can be bestowed upon it; and the thanks of the community are due to Mr. Scott for the pains he has taken to place such a mass of interesting—at this particular time—information concerning the society before the public.

NOTES FROM CASTLESIDE

[BY "CASTLESIDEITE."]

THE NEW YEAR.

The year 1899, with its ups and downs, its joys and sorrows, is in the past tense. We may be allowed to wish our many friends, and more numerous readers, "A very happy and prosperous New Year." The year past has been in many senses a prosperous year commercially, politically, and socially. Apart from the troubles and cruel losses in South Africa, 1899 has been a happy year for Great Britain. Trade has been abundant; all classes of the population have been enriched; industrial and political conflict has seldom been more conspicuous by its absence; agreements promotive of international peace have been entered into with Russia as regards China, with France as regards the Soudan, and with Germany with respect to Samoa, Zanzibar, and possibly various other territories and subjects; our recent victory in the Soudan by Captain Wingate's (now Sir C. Wingate) forces has put an end to all apprehension of future Mahdi or Dervish troubles; and in face of our disappointment and many reverses in the Transvaal, the national spirit continues strong and resolute. The patriotism of our Colonies in our present struggle has endeared and knit more closely than before love for our kinsmen across the seas. Locally, and in a temporal sense, our prospects look brighter. Many of the employees of the Consett Iron and Steel Company commence work on an advance of five per cent.—an advance in which all will benefit, workman and tradesman alike.

AN ENJOYABLE GATHERING.

The "At Home" given to the many kind wishers of the Rev. J. and Mrs Wallis on their return, after their honeymoon, was largely attended and heartily enjoyed by all the guests.

CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT.

The entertainment in the Board School on Christmas Day, given by the Wesleyan Sunday School children (assisted by Miss Florence Muse, Miss Lilian Hall, Miss Lily Dent, and Miss Polly Brownlee), and promoted by Miss Edith Muse, accompanied on the piano by Miss D. Bewick, and presided over by Coun. T. J. Muse, was a success in every sense, both as a musical treat and in numbers. The supper was largely attended.

THE BAPTISTS.

The annual church gathering of the Baptist Church, Rowley, on New Year's Day, was largely attended. The speakers were Mr T. G. Elliott, Dean Howl, and the Rev. E. W. Jenkins (pastor.) The supper which followed was patronised by a large company, who did ample justice to the many good things set before them.

SALE OF WORK.

The sale of work and entertainment in the Board Schools on New Year's Day was a success numerically and financially. The musical part of the programme was provided by the Stephenson and Ripley families, assisted by Miss Maddison, Frosterley; Mr Taylor Bell, Edmondbyers; and Mr Beveridge, Newcastle. The sale of work and supper was presided over by the ladies connected with the Primitive Methodist Church, in whose interest the effort was promoted. The young men connected with the church opened the sale. The chair was occupied by Mr J. G. Raine, supported on the platform by Messrs J. A. Ripley, R. Lee, J. Batey, Geo. Raine, T. Milner, T. Potts, and T. Ripley. On Tuesday the sale was opened at 4.30, and in the evening, at 7 o'clock an entertainment was given by the Misses Muse and Party. Miss L. Muse recited "The Absent-minded Beggar," after which a collection was made for "Tommy Atkins," which realised the nice sum of £1. The chair was occupied by Coun. T. J. Muse. The sale of work and entertainment realised the sum of £23.

WEARDALE NOTES.

[BY "STANHOPE."]

A JAMESON RAIDER.

A highly interesting lecture on the Transvaal was given at Stanhope on Friday night, by one of the famous Jameson raiders, who was taken prisoner by the Boers along with many others, and "Dr. Jim." He gave a graphic description of the raid, and his wonderful experiences in Pretoria and his hair-breadth escapes during that eventful wild goose-chase. He drew a big company and interested them highly.

DOING WELL.

The Stanhope footballers, after three champion wins, have again scored, beating Stockton Old Boys on New Year's Day by two goals to one. On Saturday they had a draw with Roddymoor of two goals each.

A SAD CASE.

It is often said there are no poor people in Stanhope. During this very cold Christmas and New Year a poor woman has sat without a fire day after day, having no firing and no one to help her, and yet there are over 400 professing Christians in Stanhope. They should read "What would Jesus do?"

CONSETT.

WESLEYAN SUNDAY SCHOOL.—In connection with this school a gathering of young people was held in the Wesleyan Lecture Hall on Tuesday night. Various games were indulged in, and fruit, etc., were served at intervals. Mr. Grant officiated as chairman.

ERRATUM.—We regret that in an advertisement notice last week of an excursion train from Consett to Newcastle and Gateshead, on Saturday first the time of departure from Consett was given as 3.5 instead of 1.5.

FLINT HILL.

MARRIAGE OF MISS EMBLETON.—On Sunday, shortly after noon the marriage of Miss Hannah Embleton, of Derwent View, Flint Hill to P.C. Dobinson, of Hill Top, was celebrated at the church of St. John the Evangelist, Dipton, the officiating clergyman being the vicar, the Rev. R. Tyson. Mr. Herron, manager of the Wholesale Supply Stores, Flint Hill, acted as "best man," while Miss Johnson, of Flint Hill was bridesmaid. Mr. Luke Embleton, father of the bride gave her away.

SCOTCH CONCERT, Monday 29th January, 1900.

ARTISTES:—
MISS JESSIE McLACHLAN.
MISS LIZZIE HUNTER.
MR. J. M. HAMILTON.
MR. R. BROWN.
MR. HARRY LAUDER.
MR. R. BUCHANAN.

Full particulars later. 186g

Local and District News.

Consett.

LONDON COLLEGE OF MUSIC.—At the practical Examinations held in Newcastle-on-Tyne in December, Miss Mary E. Curry, Tanfield Lea, pupil of Mr. Geo. Dryden, A.L.C.M., Consett, successfully passed in Pianoforte playing in the Advanced Senior Section with honours. Mr. Dryden will resume his professional duties on Thursday, Jan. 4th.

FIRE IN DELVES LANE.—On Wednesday morning, about one o'clock, a fire broke out on the premises of Mr. Nathan Elsdon, wine and spirit merchant, Delves Lane, Consett. Several of the whiskey and beer barrels took fire, but, fortunately, the policemen on duty saw what had happened, and with the assistance of Mr. Brewis Elsdon (son), managed to extinguish the flames before any very serious damage was done.

FAREWELL SERMON.—The Rev. M. J. Bennett, B.A., who has officiated as curate at Christ Church, Consett, since the installation of the present vicar, preached his farewell serman on Sunday night, prior to his departure for Australia, where he has personal interests. His parting words were listened to by a very large congregation, and at the close of the service, the choirmaster, Mr. G. T. Hyden, on behalf of subscribers, presented the Rev. gentleman with a handsome travelling bag, which was acknowledged in appropriate terms.

THE BLACKHALL MILL SHOPBREAKING CASE.—In addition to the three men already committed for trial on a charge of breaking into the premises of Messrs Aynsley, Ltd., at Blackhall Mill, on the night of Sunday, December 24th, a fourth man, alleged to have been implicated in the matter was arrested at Burnopfield by P.C. Robson and conveyed to Consett. His name is John Molloy, a miner, who resided at Greenside. He was brought before Mr. G. Ainsworth at Consett Police Court on Saturday morning, and remanded.

PARISH CHURCH.—On Sunday evening last the Rev. M. J. B. Bennett preached his farewell sermon to a very large congregation. After the service several of the officers and members of the church remained to take an affectionate leave of Mr. Bennett, and to ask his acceptance of a small token of their appreciation and esteem. The present took the form of a handsome leather portmanteau and dressing-case combined, beautifully fitted with every toilet requisite, in silver mountings. In accepting the present, Mr. Bennett expressed his most cordial thanks to all who had so kindly remembered him, and sopke in most affecting terms of his departure from Consett and the many kind friends he had made there. It was a little meeting long to be remembered by those who were present.

COUNTY COURT.—On Wednesday, at the Consett County Court, before His Honour E. J. Meynell (judge), Mr. J. McCartan, of Consett, made application on behalf of Hutton Little, a miner, of Dean Bank, Allendale Cottages, Medomsley, for an amendment of the order made against Eleanor Little, of 52, Sheldon Street, Jarrow, in respect of the funeral expenses of Sarah Elizabeth Little, who died and was buried at Medomsley. In his application Mr. McCartan stated that since the service of the order, and before the hearing of the Court, the defendant had died, and he now wished His Honour to amend the summons and make it against Ambrosine Little, second daughter who was now keeping deceased's house, and whom he believed to be the executrix "de son tort." The amount claimed was £5.—His Honour granted the application.

WESLEYAN "AT HOME".—On New Year's night the Consett Wesleyans held an "At Home" in the church hall, when a large gathering attended and took part in an enjoyable entertainment. The programme consisted of vocal and instrumental music, the Church Orchestra conducted by Mr. W. Lowrie contributing a number of difficult selections in a praiseworthy manner. Several local artistes volunteered their services and a number of fine part songs and madrigals were rendered by the choir, Mr. C. Stelling officiating as accompanist. During the evening tea, coffee, and other refreshments were served at intervals, thus adding to the enjoyment of the company. The Rev. G. E. Polkinghorne presided, and in a few introductory remarks expressed the pleasure he felt at seeing so many young people present, and he hoped they would spend a pleasant evening. There were many sad homes in England that night. Dwellers in hall and cottage had risen to a man, in a way that country had never known before, in order to fight the righteous battles of our Queen and land. (Applause.) Undoubtedly they were all thinking very anxiously about what was going on in South Africa. Whether they favoured the Boer or not, the same feeling exactly prevailed—a feeling of intense sympathy towards the men who were sent out to do that dreadful work. God grant that it might speedily come to an end.

Annfield Plain.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL.—On New Year's Day a sale of work and limelight entertainment were held in the Annfield Plain new schools, Durham Road, to raise funds for the enlargement and renovation of the organ for the new Wesleyan Church, Annfield Plain. The stalls were laden with articles remaining from the late bazaar. The tea-tables were presided over by Meadames McPherson, Dodds, and Miss Ethel Russell. The limelight exhibition and views of the scene of the war was ably conducted by Mr. Wm. Rutherford, jun., in the unavoidable absence of Mr. A. Brown.

FREE CHURCH MISSION.—On Sunday evening, Miss Lucy Lyons, evangelist, of Gateshead, conducted a watch-night service in the Co-operative Hall, Annfield Plain, when addresses were given by Mr. Foster Prinn and Mr. Thos. Robson. The hall was packed. On New Year's Day a farewell tea was held in the Annfield Plain Board Schools, tht tea tables being presided over by Misses Smith, Hetherington, Lawson, Allsopp, Reynolds, and Milburn; the breadcutters were Meadames Johnson, Robson, A. Reynolds, Doney, and Tarr. In the evening Miss Lucy Lyons conducted a farewell meeting in the Annfield Plain Co-operative Hall, when addresses were given by Mr. W. Down, Mr. James Prinn, and Miss Lyons. Mr. Thos. Robson presided over a large audience. The mission has been signally successful, and has been the means of adding some fifty new members to the mission.

Burnhope

YEARLY FUND.—The annual meeting of the above was held on Dec. 16th, at Mr. Edrell's, when there was a splendid supper provided by the host and hostess in their usual style. After each member had done ample justice, a smoker followed, at which Mr. Wm. Gray, Gosforth Villa, took the chair, with Mr. I. Thompson in the vice-chair. Mr. Gray in his opening remarks referred at great length to the condition of the country, and at the same time gave the first toast of the evening, that of "The Queen." The Chairman next called upon the secretary to give his report, which showed a membership of 38, and two honorary members. After everything was paid for there remained 5/5 for each member to receive. The report was adopted as satisfactory. Songs were sung by the following:—Messrs Jas. Holligan, John Uncles, William Urwin, John Stubbs, and Geo. Stubbs. The vice-chairman gave the toast of "The Chairman," and Mr. Gray responded in a few appropriate remarks. The toast of the "Secretary and Sick Steward" was given, and was responded to by both gentlemen. Mr. Gray gave "The Coal Trade of Burnhope and the county generally." A few more songs brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.

Blackhill.

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL.—The annual Band of Hope entertainment and supper was held on Monday evening, the entertainment, held in the chapel, being presided over by Mr. William W. Ellison, Blackhill, who very earnestly emphasised the good work done by Band of Hopes and Sunday Schools. The programme was a varied one, viz., violin solo, Mr. S. Wilson (encored); recitations, Mr. Ashby and Mr. Lamb; duet, Masters Ernest Wilson and Alex Hill; selection by juvenile choir, under the leadership of Mr. W. Lamb, Mr. Aaron Price accompanying on the organ. After the entertainment a splendid ham-and-coffee supper was provided in the school-room, over 100 indulging in the good things provided. The tables, &c., were attended to by Mrs. W. Siddle, Mrs. L. Robson, Mrs. C. Harris, Mrs. B. Thompson, Miss Carruthers, and Messrs J. Siddle W. Wilson, F. Brown, G. Stirling, and J. Stokoe. Games were indulged in till midnight, when all retired after thoroughly enjoying themselves.

Burnopfield

P.M. CHURCH.—In connection with the above a sale of work was held in the Pickering Nook Board Schools on Saturday evening A Sunlight Soap Washing Competition was held, the prizes for the same being generously provided by Messrs Lever Bros., Port Sunlight. The successful competitors were.—Mrs. Greenacre, 1st prize, case of teaspoons and tongs; 2nd prize, Miss Brown, case of assorted soap. Mr. G. Turnbull obtained 1st prize and Mr. J. Maddison 2nd prize in the hat trimming competition. On Sunday, Mr. Isaac Urwin, evangelist, preached in the morning at 10.30 and in the evening at 6, and in the afternoon a musical service was given by the choir, conductor, Mr. N. Smailes; organist, Mr. Ed. Bell. During Monday's proceedings there was a pleasant and pleasing interval, when Mr. J. Brabban, on behalf of the trustees and the choir, presented to Mrs. J. Maddison, in a few well-chosen remarks, a splendid tea and coffee service in recognition of her services as organist previous to her marriage. Mrs. Maddison's father, Mr. J. W. Bell, suitably responded on her behalf for the handsome gift. The following ladies looked after the tea tables:—The Misses H. Burnip, A. Burnip, M. Aynsley, K. Gray, E. Gray, E. Spink, M. Davison, and S. Hall, whilst Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Greenacre, and Mrs. Meddick prepared the tea and cut the bread. The Drapery Hall was attended to by Mrs. J. W. Bell and Mrs. Hall. Fancy Stall—Mrs. Jackson and Miss S. Davison. Sweet Stall—Mrs. J. Maddison and Miss Maddison. Mr. Jas. Johnson, of Leazes, attended the sale with his phonograph and electric battery. The whole of the proceedings were a success, and will mean a nett gain of over £30 to the Trust Funds of the church.

Chester-le-Street

CALL AT PETER HAY'S, CHESTER-LE-STREET, for Gents', Youths, and Boys Overcoats, Ready-made Suits. Gent's Mercery, Evening Dress Material. Endless variety of Fancy Goods, suitable for Christmas and New Year presents.

GUARDIANS ELECTIONS.—Two of the four vacancies on the Chester-le-Street Board of Guardians and Rural District Council, caused by the death of Mr. John Hodgson, Edmondsley; and Mr. H. E. Henderson, of Chester-le-Street, have been filled up. For the former Mr. James Wilson, colliery engineer, Wellington Street, Edmondsley, was returned unopposed. For the second vacancy there were two nominations, namely, Mr. John Bewick, John Street, Newfield, Pelton Fell, miner; and Mr. David Duncan, Front Street, Chester-le-Street, medical practitioner. The polling took place on Saturday last Mr. R. Dickinson officiating as returning officer. Very little interest was evinced in the contest which resulted as follows:—Duncan, 383; Bewick, 313, majority for Dr. Duncan, 70. There are upwards of 2,000 voters on the register. The remaining vacancies are those caused by the death of Mr. M. J. Starford (Urpeth Parish,) and Mr. P. Hay, Chester-le-Street.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE MR. PETER HAY.—On Sunday afternoon the funeral of the late Mr. Peter Hay, of Chester-le-Street, took place at the new cemetery. The deceased, who was 56 years of age, and had just retired from business, was as well known and respected as any public man in the district, and it was therefore fitting that his body should be followed to its last resting place by a large concourse of sympathisers. All the prominent tradesmen of the district attended and the Board of Guardians, and Rural Council, of which the deceased gentleman was a member up to the time of his death, were represented by the following members and officials:—Messrs R. H. Lonsdale, W. Norman, John Mitchell, Peter Oswald T. Arnell, J. Smith, T. C. Renwick, J. Emmerson, R. Dickinson, clerk, A. Aikman, workhouse master, and W. Parkin, school attendance officer. The local cricket and football clubs were also strongly represented Mr. Hay having been an ardent supporter of each. The service was conducted by the Rev. A. Dunn, M.A., curate of St. Cuthbert's Parish Church, and the surpliced choir of the church also attended and sang several hymns appropriate to the occasion. A number of beautiful wreaths were laid on the mound. Mr. Jopling, of Chester-le-Street, carried out the arrangements.

Catchgate

FREE CHURCH.—On Sunday afternoon, the church choir rendered a sacred concert in the above church, while on New Year's evening a grand concert was rendered by Mr. A. Dawison's musical party from Westwood, supplemented by local talent. The proceeds were in aid of the church funds.

Dipton

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.—On New Year's Day, Mr. J. W. Taylor, J.P., opened a grand bazaar in the Dipton Board Schools, in aid of the new chapel building fund. Mr. Thos. Towns, of Newcastle, was advertised to open the bazaar, but was prevented for some reason from fulfilling the engagement. The drapery stall was presided over by Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Hardy, Mrs. Williams, Miss Robson, and Miss Foster; toy stall, Mr. L. Heslop and Mr. W. Alderson; sweets stall, Mr. J. G. Taylor; the tea tables being presided over by Mrs. Pace, Miss F. J. Williams, Mrs. Batey, Miss Layburn, Mrs Freick, Miss E. Mason, Miss H. E. Williams; the breadcutters were Mrs Alderson, Mrs. Wharton, and Mrs. Oliver. The "sand dip" was attended to by Mr. Scholick. During the evening magic-lantern and mesmeric entertainments were conducted by Mr. J. W. Taylor, Mr. E. Herdman, and Mr. T. Williams.

Dunston

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—The members and friends of the above-named Institute held their annual social gathering on Saturday evening, in the Dunston Board Schools. About thirty persons sat down to an excellent supper, and, needless to say, the good things were thoroughly enjoyed. Mrs. John Lister and Mrs. Wm. Halliday kindly waited on the company, for which they received a cordial vote of thanks. The following gentlemen were present—Messrs R. Thompson, sen., J. Lister, J. Sweddle, A. Swaddle, T. Bainbridge, W. Halliday, M. Wilson, J. Noble, W. Dixon, A. Gladstone, J. Bonner, A. Rutherford, J. G. Swinburne, T. Penman, W. Davison, G. Robson, G. Batey, S. Soulsby, S. Lunn, J. Thwaites, G. Douglas, A. Maughan, D. Watson, G. Scott, A. Hopper, T. Kent, R. Fulthorpe. After supper the rest of the evening was devoted to harmony, several gentlemen rendering songs in capital style, a special feature being the chorus singing. Taking the gathering as a whole, it certainly deserves to take rank amongst the best held by this Institute, and will be long remembered by those who were present. After the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" and "God Save the Queen" the company dispersed. "Mony ne speech, an' mony ae sang, and laffter free, an' lood, an' lang, oft throo the room the chorus rang, frae the guidly company."

Knitsley

DEATH OF MR. WM. HAUGHAN.—On New Year's Day, Mr. Wm. Haughan, aged 79 years, of Knitsley Grange Farm, died after a prolonged illness. It appears that the deceased had, previous to his taking the Knitsley Farm, been the tenant on the Humber Hill Farm, adjoining the Woodlands Estate, which he had farmed when the late Mr. Matthew Kearney was chairman of the Justices of the Peace for the West Division of the Chester Ward. The deceased had been ailing for several years, but had up to recently been able to go about. His death removes a very old standard from the Knitsley, Consett, and Medomsley District, where he was well-known. The interment took place at Medomsley this (Thursday) afternoon.

Leadgate.

ST. IVES CHURCH.—The usual watch-night service was held at this Church on New Year's Eve, and was attended by a good congregation.

DERBY LEEK SHOW.—The annual meeting in connection with the above will be held in the Co-operative Hall, Leadgate, on Saturday night first, at 7.15. Intending exhibitors (radius, two miles) are requested to attend.

LORD MAYOR'S FUND.—The collections at St. Ives Church, Leadgate, on Sunday first, will be on behalf of the above fund, for the benefit of the wives and families and widows and orphans of our soldiers and sailors in the Transvaal. We trust that the response to such a worthy object will be on a liberal scale.

I.L.P.—On New Year's night a social and dance was held in the Co-operative Hall, Leadgate, under the auspices of the Independent Labour Party. Refreshments were provided at moderate prices. There was a fairly good attendance, and a most pleasant evening was spent.

CONCERT AND SOCIAL.—In connection with the Leadgate Athletic A.F.C., a concert and social was held in the Redwell Hills school-room (kindly granted by the Rev. T. Varley, vicar), on New Year's night. Mr. W. Brears occupied the chair, and a capital programme of vocal and instrumental music was rendered by a company principally consisting of local artistes. There was a good attendance. Refreshments of excellent quality were provided, and all enjoyed themselves. The proceeds were on behalf of the funds of the club.

Medomsley.

CYCLING CLUB BALL.—We regret that we inadvertently omitted the following names of those present at the above highly successful and enjoyable function:—Mr. A. T. Whiteley, Miss Scott, and Miss Williamson, Medomsley; Mr. J. and Miss Walker, Medomsley; Mr. W. Hornsby, Medomsley, and Miss Reay, Sherburn Hill; Mr. W., and Miss M. Lovat, Medomsley; Mr. H. Walton, Medomsley; Mr. W. Wheatley, Medomsley; Mr. W. Thompson, Medomsley; Mr. J. Phillips, The Hollings, and Miss Hunter, Allendale Farm, Medomsley; Mr. F. Forster, Stanley, and Miss K. Armstrong, Medomsley; Mr. W. Whitfield, Stanley, and Miss I. Armstrong, Medomsley; and Mr. F. Traynor, Medomsley.

TEA AND CONCERT.—The annual tea and concert in connection with the Medomsley Sons of Temperance was held on New Year's Day, in the Temperance Hall. A splendid tea was provided in the afternoon, to which a large number sat down. Afterwards the concert took place, the hall being filled by an appreciative audience. Mr. Wm. Anderson, of Shotley Bridge, occupied the chair. Mr. T. Nixon's Orchestral Band, from Shotley Bridge, proved a big attraction, and their selections were loudly applauded. The violin solos by Mr. Nixon and Mr. Oliver gave great satisfaction, whilst the singing of several artistes, including Mr. Bell, Mr. J. McTaggart, and others was much enjoyed. An excellent temperance address was given by Mr. D. McMillan, of Sunderland. Miss P. Urwin proved an efficient accompanist. The day's proceedings were very pleasant, everything passing off most successfully.

DEPARTURE OF A RESERVIST.—On Saturday morning, Private D. McKinnell, a reservist belonging to the King's Own Scottish Borderers, left Ebchester station "en route" for Berwick, from which he goes to Aldershot and then to the front. On Friday evening, at the house of Mr. Thos. Traynor, Green Tree Hotel, Medomsley, a hearty send-off was given to McKinnell, who was very popular in Medomsley. Mr. J. Ross, sen. (an old colour-sergt. of the Grenadier Guards), occupied the chair, and a most pleasant time was spent by a company numbering between 20 and 30, in toast and song. The health of Private McKinnell was enthusiastically pledged, and many were the wishes expressed that he might return safe and sound. Mr. McKinnell, we might mention, is a member of the North-West Durham Caledonian Society, and also acted as secretary of the Green Tree Yearly Fund Club.

Stanhope

"AT HOME."—A very successful "At Home" was held in the Primitive Chapel, Stanhope, on Saturday night, given by the young folks. The Rev. R. Huddlestone presided. A large company was present.

DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN RESIDENT.—Mrs. Jane Currey, the wife of Mr. Joseph Currey, spirit merchant, Stanhope, passed peacefully away on Monday night, at the age of 53. She was a native of Derwent Head, but had lived at Stanhope many years. For long years she was connected with the Stanhope Wesleyans, and was greatly respected in Stanhope, where her death is much lamented.

COMING-OF-AGE FESTIVITIES.—On Monday the coming-of-age of Messrs C. Snowdon, son of Superintendent Snowdon, and D. McCallum, son of Mr. D. McCallum, merchant tailor, were duly celebrated in the Town Hall. A large number of guests were present, and music and dancing were kept up into the small hours. There was a princely spread, catered for by the Misses Charlton. A most enjoyable evening was spent.

LECTURE ON THE TRANSVAAL.—A highly interesting lecture was given on Friday night in the Barrington Schools, Stanhope, by the Rev. Mr. Pattinson, Chaplain to the Bishop of Ripon, on "The Transvaal," illustrated by lantern slide views. The Bishop of Richmond presided. The lecturer was one of the prisoners taken in the famous Jameson Raid, of which he gave a graphic description. Mr. J. A. Mason manipulated the slides, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Tew.

Swalwell.

CRICKET CLUB.—On Friday evening the members of the Swalwell United Cricket Club held a successful social and dance in the Swalwell Board Schools. Dancing commenced shortly after eight o'clock to the strains of music supplied by Mr. Robson Thompson, Blaydon, and was kept up with much spirit till the early hours of Saturday morning. The duties of M.C.'s were efficiently discharged by Messrs Greensitt and Laidler. Upwards of 50 couples were present and the dance was much enjoyed.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—The members of the Swalwell Presbyterian Church held their annual tea and concert on Monday, which proved a great success. At the tea a goodly company sat down to tables presided over by Misses Newton, P. Newton, Fletcher, Young, Douglass, Drummond, Collingwood, May Smiles, E. Harbin, Riddell, Harbin, Madge Smiles, and E. Shield. In the evening an excellent entertainment took place, at which an interesting programme was gone through. The artistes were Mr. Alex Tait, Miss Purvis, Miss Brooks, Miss Carson, Mr. A. Smith, Mr. Ben English, and Mr. Taylor, all of whom acquitted themselves well. Encores were frequent, and were most willingly responded to. The proceedings were presided over by the Rev. W. Dryburgh, B.D. The proceeds were in aid of the building fund.

Stanley.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN SIMPSON.—Sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Simpson, of West Shield Row Villa, Stanley, on the death of their son, Mr. John Simpson, which occurred on Tuesday. The interment has been fixed to take place at Stanley on Saturday afternoon, when a service will be held in the Wesleyan Church.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—The attraction at this place of amusement during the present week is Harry Starr and his able company in the production of "Carl, the clockmaker." A story of anarchy, the piece is full of stirring incidents, all of which are capitally depicted, and the various parts being well and ably acted, the play is one well worth a visit.

PROPOSED COTTAGE HOSPITAL.—A meeting of the representatives of the mining lodges in the Stanley district was held on Saturday evening, Mr. William Bulmer presiding, to consider the question of erecting a cottage infirmary for the Stanley district. Eleven collieries were represented, and the feeling was unanimously in favour of an Infirmary being erected. Mr. James Robinson was appointed secretary of the movement, and was instructed to obtain particulars as to the cost of erection and maintenance of similar institutions elsewhere. It was agreed that the managers of the various collieries in the district should be approached and asked to bring the matter before the owners. Mr. F. H. Burn, of West Stanley Colliery, was thanked for his offer to assist in the movement, and the offer was gratefully accepted.

WESLEYAN CHURCH.—On Monday afternoon the members of the Stanley Wesleyan Church held a successful sale of work, which was opened by Mrs. T. W. W. Ritson in the presence of a large gathering. On the motion of Mr. J. Green, seconded by Mr. Oliver, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs. Ritson for her kind services Mr. Ritson, suitably replied on behalf of Mrs. Ritson. The stalls, which were well stocked, were presided as follows:—Drapery stall—Meadames Humble, Harris, Routledge, Scott, and Calvert. Sweet stall—Mr. J. Green, Mrs. Reay, and Miss Green. Refreshment stall—Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. W. Green, Mrs. Oliver, and Mrs. Barraclough. A public tea was also held, at which a large company sat down to tables presided over by Miss Willey, Miss Brown, Misses Armstrong (3), and Miss Waggott.

Waskerley

CAROL SINGING.—On Christmas morning a number of young people resident in the village went out carol singing, when about thirty houses were visited, with good financial results.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.—On Christmas evening the members of the Waskerley P.M. Chapel held a successful fruit banquet in the school-room, at which a large company were present, presided over by Mr. Bright. Interesting addresses were delivered by Mr. Gascoigne and Mr. George Scott, of Butsfield. The proceeds were in aid of the renovation of the chapel.

Whickham

DEATH OF MRS. LIDDELL.—The parish of Whickham has lost one of its oldest and most highly respected residents by the death of Mrs. Charlotte Liddell, of the Post Office, Whickham, which sad event took place on Friday evening with almost tragic suddenness. The deceased, who had held the position of post-mistress at Whickham for something like ten years, was much esteemed by all who knew her, and it was with painful feelings that the news of her sudden demise at the age of 65 years was received by a host of acquaintances. She was endowed with unbounded kindness and possessed of a most loving disposition. The respect and esteem in which the deceased lady was held was manifested on Monday afternoon by the very large number of people who followed the remains of the deceased to their last resting place in the pretty Churchyard at Whickham. Mrs. Liddell leaves a grown-up family to mourn her death, and for whom widespread regret has been expressed.

Late Advertisement

TRANSVAAL WAR.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' FAMILIES RELIEF FUND.

A MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC
ENTERTAINMENT
AT THE
TEMPERANCE HALL, SHOTLEY BRIDGE
ON
FRIDAY, JANUARY 5th, 1900.

Promoted by Mrs. Barclay, Mrs. Faber and others.

Chair to be taken at 8 o'clock, by
FRANCIS PRIESTMAN, Esq., J.P.
For further particulars see Posters. 456g

Shotley Bridge

PRIMITIVE METHODIST Y.P.S.C.E.—The members of the above society held a supper and pleasant evening on New Year's night, a large company being present. At intervals solos and duets were rendered by Mr. and Mrs. J. Leadbitter, Misses Gibson, Lee, and Glendinning. The pianist was Mrs. Lee. A few quiet games were also enjoyed. The proceeds taken were in aid of the trust fund.

ST. CUTHBERT'S, BENFIELDSIDE—SOLDIERS' SUNDAY.—The worshippers of St. Cuthbert's, Benfieldside, are reminded that they—in common with thousands of other congregations—will be able to contribute to the relief of our brave soldiers' families on Sunday first January 7th, at morning and evening services. Their gifts will have the advantage of being offered in the sanctuary during Divine worship, and being made a special offering to God in His House for the benefit of those in need. A special blessing is attached to gifts offered in this way. Those unable to attend can send their contributions to the church-wardens:—Messrs F. Priestman or J. Collinson, Shotley Bridge.

Tanfield

PLOUGHING COMPETITION.—The ploughing competition in connection with the Burnhope, Lanchester, Stanley, and District Ploughing Association will be held at Tanfield on Monday first.

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—A public tea Xmas tree, and children's party, was held in the Board School on the 23rd ult., under the auspices of the candidates of the Tanfield branch of the G.F.S., in aid of the Church Restoration Fund, and was most successful, over £14 being realised. The following ladies contributed towards the tea, &c., and gave most able assistance—Mrs. Agar, Mrs. Archdall, Mr. Armstrong, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Callander, Mrs. Clementson, Miss Davison, Mrs. Eltringham, Miss Fidler, Miss Ford, Mrs. Gladders, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Hinkley, Mrs. Hogarth, Mrs. Jos. Irwin, Mrs. Johnson, Miss Laidler, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. T. Robinson Mrs. J. Robinson, Miss Robinson, Mr. Jos. Robson, Mrs. Rodham, Mrs. T. Robson, Mrs. Routledge, Mrs. T. Smailes, Miss Smailes, Mrs. Snowdon, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Spinks, Mrs. Swinburn, Mrs. Shafto, of Beamish Park, also gave liberally to the tea and Xmas tree, and sent 24 of the children on the estate to the party, most kindly paying for them and providing carriages to take them to Tanfield and back. The children, when dancing, presented a very pretty sight, and reflected great credit on the Misses Davison and Laidler, who had carefully trained them. The music was provided by Mr. F. Hunter and the Misses Lake, who most kindly gave their very able services.

WEDDING.—A very pretty wedding was solemnized at the above Parish Church on New Year's Day, the officiating clergyman being the Rev. T. H. Archdall, Vicar. The contracting parties were Mr. T. Cass Craven, son of Mr. T. Craven, contractor, Beamish, and Miss Jennie Brewis, daughter of Mr. W. Brewis, Tanfield Lea. The bride, who was given away by her father, looked very charming in a gown of white silk, trimmed with passementerie and chiffon, with a white hat with chiffon and ospreys. She also carried a lovely bouquet of white chrysanthemums, the gift of the bridegroom. There were four bridesmaids—Miss Dodsworth, Knaresbro', and Miss Craven, who wore most becoming dresses of blue silk trimmed with white bebe ribbon and passementerie, with hats to match; the two younger bridesmaids—Miss Nora Brewis and Miss Maud Craven—were attired in white silk smocks, with hats "en suite." Mr Brewis (a brother of the bride) officiated as groomsman. A numerous gathering of friends of the contracting parties, who are so well-known and esteemed in the neighbourhood, assembled to witness the ceremony. While the bridal party were leaving the church Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" was played by Mr. G. Craven. In the course of the afternoon the happy pair left for Edinburgh, where the honeymoon is being spent. Mr. and Mrs. Craven were the recipients of many useful and beautiful presents.

White-le-Head

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.—On Saturday evening a grand concert and supper was held in the above place of worship on behalf of the new building fund. The proceedings were conducted by Messrs J. Cochrane and J. Rodham's bachelor company, who deserve great credit for the admirable way in which the concert was organised. Over two hundred persons enjoyed the fare provided, the concert being presided over by Mr. J. Dixon, of White-le-Head, who in a few short but pithy remarks, urged the young men to become more closely connected with the church. It was the first of a series of concerts which the company, composed of non-members of the church intend to give in aid of the new chapel. The programme was ably executed from start to finish by Messrs J. Cochrane, J. Lishman, T. Hardy, W. A. Pyle, W. Reay, jun., C. Cook, Smith, T. Reay, J. Richardson, J. Rodham, and S. Richardson. After the concert the audience repaired to the school-room where a very sumptuous supper was provided, the tables being presided over by Messrs J. Lishman, T. Rodham, R. Arkless, W. Blaylock, J. Burdon, S. Richardson, and T. Reay. The effort was a highly successful one, and it is expected that between £13 and £14 will have been added to the coffers of the new building fund.

DEATH OF A STANHOPE MAN AT CONSETT

Mr. Joseph Watson, the respected Wesleyan chapel keeper at Consett, who departed this life on Sunday night, December 31st, was a well-known Stanhope man, and universally respected both in Consett, at Annfield Plain, and in Weardale. At one time he was assistant gardener to the late Mr Hildyard, of Horsley Hall, Weardale, where he was highly esteemed. These late years, when failing health would allow, he worked for the Consett Water Co. at Annfield Plain. Through ill-health he was compelled, although reluctantly, to leave the Company's service, not being able to do the work. Some short time ago he was appointed caretaker for the Consett Wesleyan Chapel. It was thought that here, where his work and surroundings were more congenial, his health would improve, but unfortunately it did not. He gradually grew worse, until on Sunday night he expired with the dying year. He left his home here for a brighter home in the better land, where that fell scourge of the English race, consumption, can never come, but where—

"Perennial spring holds potent sway,
In the realms of everlasting day."

Deceased was for many years a Wesleyan, and an active member in the Stanhope Wesleyan Society, where he was beloved. He held some important offices among them, one of which was that of a local preacher. His life was quite in keeping with his profession, and he was genuine to the core. He made lots of staunch friends wherever his lot in life was cast, both in Weardale, [illegible], and Consett, who now mourn his loss. The late Mr Watson was a keen botanist, and an ardent admirer of nature and the beautiful. Geology had also special attractions for him, as had likewise some of the other sciences. He was also a genius in several things, and many of his productions bore the stamp of genius. But above everything he was good and adorned the doctrine of the Cross. He served the Master loyally, not from a slavish fear of death, but out of pure love to God and His cause.

"He died, but no pencil can ever display,
The splendour and glory that burst on his sight;
As guided by angels he sped on his way,
Through portals of praise to the Temple of Light."

The funeral took place on Wednesday. Previous to the departure of the "cortege" for Stanhope a service was held in the Consett Wesleyan Chapel, conducted by the Rev. G. E. Polkinghorne. Several prominent Wesleyans accompanied the mournful procession to the outskirts of the town. Arrived at Stanhope the "cortege" proceeded to the residence of Mrs. Graham (mother-in-law of deceased), where a short service took place, after which the remains were conveyed to Stanhope cemetery, and the service at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. A. Woolliscroft, Wesleyan minister. A large number of relatives and acquaintances in Stanhope and district were present to pay their last tribute of respect to deceased's memory. Those who went by road included Mrs. Watson (widow), Miss Watson (sister), Mr. J. F. Elliott, Annfield Plain; Mr. and Mrs. Best, Bow Mount, Consett, Mr. Dodds, joiner, Taylor Street, Consett, acted as undertaker, while Messrs T. C. Rawes and Co., Consett, supplied the hearse and mourning coaches.

HEDLEYHOPE.

EARLY LAMBING.—Mr. R. Crowe, of Corsay House, Hedleyhope, has a ewe that dropped two fine strong lambs on Tuesday.

AFTER CHRISTMAS
YOU WILL NEED

In order to avoid the possible necessity of having to lay off work, as a loss of time, especially when ill health overtakes you, is a serious consideration. Working men cannot afford to be idle, working women can not afford to be sick, neither can they afford to pay needless doctors' bills. Christmas festivities are often followed by serious derangement of the Stomach and Liver. What you need then is VENO'S SEAWEED TONIC. You cannot find a better medicine no matter where you go, for indigestion, sluggish, torpid liver, constipation, sick headache, weak heart, and that heavy, dull, weary feeling. It is a Godsend to men and women who are suffering from Stomach, Liver, Kidney and Blood disease.

VENO'S SEAWEED TONIC

Is the Best and Safest Cure for Ailments arising from a diseased condition of the Stomach, Liver, Kidneys, and Blood, such as Indigestion, Wind, Biliousness, Sick, Dull Headache, and Weakness It is the best medicine for weak, pale debilitated men and women, especially where there is heart weakness and constipation. Price 1s 1½d and 2s 9d.

VENO'S LIGHTNING COUGH CURE.

It stops an ordinary cough in one night, and cures Chronic Coughs, Asthma, Bronchitis, Weak Lungs, Catarrh, Influenza, and Whooping-cough rapidly. Its vast superiority over the different emulsions and ordinary cough mixtures cannot be estimated. It has saved thousands of lives after they had been turned out of hospitals. It is a scientific remedy, endorsed by medical men. Ask for VENO'S LIGHTNING COUGH CURE. Price 1s 1½d. and Sold by the Consett and Stanley Co-operative Societies, and all medicine vendors. When you ask for VENO'S REMEDIES see you get them. AVOID the man who offers a substitute. Some irresponsible dealers are in the habit of offering you a cheap common mixture of their own.
334g.

NEW THEATRE, CONSETT.

There is nothing that goes down better just now with the patriotic people of this country than a military play, and therefore Mr Robertson is wise in selecting these for his Consett house of amusement. "At Duty's Call" is being performed this week by Mr John Gerant and Company, and the result has been crowded houses. The story deals with Gordon and Khartoum, and is capitally written. Add to this splendid acting and excellent scenery, and it will at once be seen that Consett playgoers are well provided for this week. As we have said above, big business has been the order, and a continuation of such plays as this one is sure to prove remunerative to Mr Robertson, the popular lessee. The piece loses nothing in the capable hands of the company performing it this week. As "Salema" (a slave), Miss E. Nolan O'Connor gained general approbation, her interpretation of the part leaving little to be desired. Miss Marie Auckland was excellent as "Dora Drummond," and Miss Ada Waugh created an amount of amusement in the role of Dora Drummond's maid. The hero of Khartoum found a most able representative in Mr Ernest St. John, whose splendid acting time after time gained for him rounds of applause. Mr John Gerant was seen to the utmost advantage in the part of "Harold Allison" (the villain), which he performed to perfection. Mr Robert Whyte, jun., had a part that fitted him like a glove in "Captain George Allison," and his fine, manly impersonation of the hero cannot be too warmly commended. Mr Henry S. Agar and Mr Fred Sandy caused any amount of fun as "Terry O'Halloran" and "Jack Spender" respectively. The other parts were all most satisfactorily taken, and we unhesitatingly put down "At Duty's Call" as one of the best military dramas that we have seen. It deserves to be liberally patronised.

BLAYDON PRIVATE ASSEMBLY

The annual social and dance, under the auspices of the above, took place in the new Co-operative Hall, Blaydon, on Friday evening week, when upwards of 50 couples were present. The duties of M.C.'s were efficiently carried out by Messrs Harry Laidler and Tom Grunsitt, whilst Messrs Waggot and Thompson, as musicians, left nothing to be desired. During the interval supper was served by Miss Hodgson, of Blaydon, who was complimented on the splendid repast she had provided. Amongst those present were:—Mr D. Hymers, Mr R. Battensby, Mr S. Hands, Mr S. Fitch, Mr G. Browell, Mr R. Browell, Mr J. Hodgson, Mr H. Laidler, Mr T. Grunsitt, Mr Joe. Batson, Mr J. Browell, Mr R. Roscamp, Mr L. McDonald, Mr Calder, Mr G. Rutherford, Mr W. Bullerwell, Mr H. Jenkins, Mr T. Myers, Mr W. Hodgson, Mr J. Ward, Mr T. Hunter, Mr F. Walker, Mr E. Crone, Mr C. Jackson, Mr G. Lowdon, Mr J. Biggers, Mr R. Thompson, Mr Baker, Mr Ed. Battensby, Mr Smith, Mr T. Sullivan, Mr Turbit, Mr Cross, Mr J. Bewley, Mr Crone, Mr J. Hands, Mr Heckles, Mr T. Biggers, Mr J. Andrews, Mr Robt. Ridley, Mr J. Finch, Mr J. Prudhoe, Mr W. Whitfield, Miss Batey, Miss Skidmore, Miss E. Shotton, Miss E. Dowson, Miss Ada Skidmore, Miss Foster, Miss Jameson, Miss Jobling, Miss Isabella Hodgson, Miss Annie Reay, Miss Shotton, Miss Miller, Miss Watson, Miss Hogg, Miss Cullen, Miss Turnbull, Miss Batey, Miss Isabella Overton, Miss Laidler, Miss Gilhespy, Miss Whitfield, Miss Clark, Miss Donnelly, Miss March, Miss Smith, Miss Davison, Miss Tulloch, Miss Pearson, Miss Hodgson, Miss Battensby, Miss Sullivan, Miss Robson, Miss Dowson, Miss Bewley, Miss Ryding, Miss Yallop, Miss Dixon, Miss Phillipson, Miss Lambert, Miss Cliff, Miss Gee, Miss Hare, Miss Marshall; and others.

Information for Intending Emigrants

The following information is issued from the Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.—The January Circulars of the Emigrants' Information Office and the annual editions of the penny handbooks show the present prospects of emigration. The notice boards are now exhibited, and the circulars may be obtained free of charge, at nearly 500 Public Libraries and Institutions throughout the country. It is too early in the season for the ordinary emigrant to go to Canada, unless he has friends to go to or money to keep him till the spring, when there is likely to be the usual demand for competent farm labourers. In New South Wales there is practically no demand for ordinary farm or station hands, miners, or mechanics, unless they are specially competent and have a little money when they arrive. In Victoria there is not much improvement in the general demand for labour, except that a considerable number of those out of employment have been set to work on railway construction. The report of the Chief Inspector of Factories shows that the number of factory employees in 1898 was 45,844. This was less than in 1889-91, but 666 more than in 1897; over 16,000 of the total number were females. The improvement labour is necessarily limited; but a really first- the only important decline having been in the boot trade, where the number of employees dropped from 4,590 to 4,235. There has been a remarkable increase in the number of females employed in factories, their numbers having doubled since 1888, whereas the number of male employees has declined. There has been a considerable amount of settlement on the land recently, and dairying has made special progress. In South Australia there has been a demand for farm hands, and for married couples without children for farm and station work. There is no demand for more mechanics in Adelaide or elsewhere, but miners have been well employed, and there is the usual demand for female servants. In Queensland there has been a general improvement in trade, and in the demand for labour; the depression has almost entirely passed away, and the disposal of the unemployed has ceased to be a difficulty. There is a good demand for farm labourers, miners, and female servants, for a few engine fitters, carpenters, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, galvanised-iron workers and coopers, and for married couples in pastoral districts. Free and assisted passages are now being granted to farm labourers and female servants from 17 to 35 years of age, who have never been otherwise engaged. In Western Australia the population, though it has rapidly increased, is still small, and therefore the demand for all kinds of labour is necessarily limited; but a really first-class man can always get employment in the building and kindred trades. Speaking generally, prospects are better than they were a year ago, and many of those who left the Colony during the depression have returned. Rents have fallen and the cost of living has declined. The chief demand is for miners, farm labourers, and for female domestic servants; free passages are being offered to the latter.

In Tasmania miners and mechanics at Zeehan, Queenstown, and Gormanston, on the West Coast, and in the surrounding districts, are well employed; good miners, navvies, and mechanics (especially first-class fitters, carpenters, and men in the building trades) can always get work, but there is no demand for inexperienced men. The timber-trade in the south-west has been busy, and men in saw mills have been fully employed. In other parts of the Colony there is no general demand for more mechanics. The supply of farm labourers is sufficient. In New Zealand there has been plenty of employment for men in the building and engineering trades, in the flax mills and saw mills, and to a less extent in the boot and clothing trades; competent bushfellers, road makers, farm hands, and shearers have no difficulty in getting work in country districts during the present busy season. With regard to South Africa persons are warned against going there at the present time in search of work.

AUSTRALIAN MYTHS

[BY J. W. FAWCETT.]

NILPAROO, THE SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAINS.

Far up one of the many narrow valleys of Southern Queensland, in the district known to flower-elves and water-witches as the Ubi-Ubi, in the long long ago, dwelt one Nilparoo, a very powerful and warlike person, who by his great prowess had become the chief of the district, and as such exercised his monarchial powers with so grand and so great effect that he very soon became the joy and pride of his people. In time he became so powerful that he was thought to have become the possessor of some great spirit and by and by this thought grew and grew until he was believed by his subjects to be none other than a great spirit himself. Held up by this, he grew so full of pride, that it turned to arrogance, and in turn the great and good chief Nilparoo, the pride of his tribe, became a haughty, cruel, and tyrannical man, exercising terrible powers over his people, compelling them to become his slaves and treating them in a manner anything but good. Puffed up by this pride he began to imagine that he was an all-powerful person, and in proof of such he worked several rather wonderful miracles. Trying to prove himself greater and more superior than the Great and Good Creative Spirit, he fell. Thinking he could stop the course of storms, and so keep those desolating agents from damaging (as they largely and frequently did) his territories, he seated himself on the pointed peak of one of the highest hills in his district, and as the storm came rolling on along the plains and then rising up the woody slopes, he stretched forth his long bony arms, and in a menacing tone, rebuked the tempest, and bade it depart and not approach his lands. Blacker and blacker grew the clouds, and faster and faster rolled the storm. The wind howled more loudly, and the rain fell in faster torrents, heeding not the arrogant commands of Nilparoo. Just as the storm reached the summit where stood the chief, a swift curling blast caught him in its arms, and, carrying him onwards, devastated his whole territory. The giants of the forests were turned up by the roots, and had their branches carried for miles and miles, and the mountain rocks were hurled with tremendous force into the valleys. The breakwinds of his people were scattered hither and thither, and his subjects mangled by the rolling stones and falling rocks. Of the once mighty chief nothing remained, he had been carried into spirit-land. Where once stood Nilparoo's leading camp now nothing remains but a scene of desolation—barren rocks and arid soil—whilst the descendants of the few of his people who were spared keep as far as they possibly can from its situation; for up on one lonely crag is seen, whenever a storm is rising, a shadowy form, human-shaped, with long extended arms, and defiant attitude; whilst through the howling wind is heard, at times, a weird human-like cry as the wail of one in distress. That form and that cry belongs to Nilparoo, the spirit of the mountains.

THE HOME OF BUNYIP, THE MAN-EATER.

Forming the boundaries of the colonies of New South Wales and Queensland is an irregular chain of mountains, formed of lofty pinnacles, rugged peaks, hump-like hills, and jagged boulders, rising like mighty citadels of nature, which in the eye of fancy rapidly likens themselves into bastions, fortifications and castellated towers, and clad from their ragged bases to their rock-bound weather-scarred summits, with dense scrub and eucalyptic forests. Among these many curious peaks and pinnacles is one—a rampart of granite with a turret-like summit—which possesses, on its crown, a curious depression. Geologists tell us that this hollow is the crater of an extinct volcano. Aboriginal tradition tells us that this crater, which is filled by a lake, is fathomless. Here in the annals of myths and superstitions, dwells the Great Bunyip—the mighty eater of human beings, the monster who prefers to make his meals off men and women, whose favourite victims are young unmarried maidens. This mysterious waterhole is the natal home of all Bunyips that haunt the lagoons and waterholes of Australia, for the Great Bunyip is father of all. The spot is shunned by every aborigine, for few even amongst their mighty warriors care to venture into a district inhabited by the awe-inspiring "debbil debbil." All those who have dared to tread within the territory of the Great Bunyip have fallen victims to his canibalatic powers, and in a cave near it is a very large number of human bones, the existing remnants of some of his prey.

In the neighbourhood of this cave is a patch of fine red earth such as all the tribes employed for painting themselves, when they attended the great dances and festivals which every now and then took place. But though many men used to go for this material, few ever returned, for the terrible evil one caught them. At last one day Pyume, the great spirit, met a number of men going for ochre and drove them back, forbidding them ever to go near the place of destruction again, and they have never ventured near the place since.

THE FIRST WATERHOLE.

Many years ago a great drought covered the whole of the western district of Victoria. The creeks and rivers had all run dry, the waterholes and lagoons were parched up, and there was no fresh water in all the country. All the wild animals and birds were perishing of thirst. Two birds, a gigantic crane, and a magpie-lark, who had been searching the country for water, but in vain, met together for a general consultation as to what was best to do. A turkey-bustard of their acquaintance was never thirsty and they could not understand how it was. Knowing that he would never tell them whence he obtained his supply of fresh water, they resolved to watch him, and find out the spot he visited to quench his thirst. So they flew high into the heavens, and watched his movements. They saw him fly off to a flat stone, and then as if suspicious that some one was watching him, he looked carefully around him and towards the sky. But he saw nothing except two small specks in the sky which he thought were small clouds. He then lifted the stone, and drank from a little spring which trickled from a cleft in the rock. After carefully replacing the stone he flew away. After he had gone out of sight the two spies came down from the sky, and, removing the stones, quenched their thirsts, saying in the language of the country—king quakko gual—"we have done him." They then had a bath, and flapping their wings with joy, made the water rise until it formed a lake. Such is the first formation of waterholes according to the Kolor tribe of Western Victoria.

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HOW GOOD TEMPERED AND ROSY your baby is, Mrs Jones! Whatever do you give it? Oh, just one or two of PATTRICK'S COOLING & TEETHING POWDERS every week. They are the cheapest and best in the district—only 8d per dozen, from PATTRICK, CHEMIST, 5, Front Street, Consett.
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PARDON ME!

HAVE YOU TRIED THE POPULAR KYTE TEA? Sold at 1/6, 1/10, 2/-, 2/4, 2/8, 2/10, & 3/2. Aroma and Quality Delicious.
HAVE YOU USED KYTE COFFEE? The Essence of Perfection.
In ¼, ½, and 1-lb Tins. Sold at 1/- 1/4, and 1/8 per lb.
HEALTH SALT. The Indispensable Remedy for Disordered Liver. A Morning | KYTE BAKING POWDER. Absolutely Pure—Therefore Best.
Judgment and insist on having KYTE BRAND GOODS. The Standard of Quality.
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From ANTHONY OATES,
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THE SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' FAMILIES' ASSOCIATION.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT IT.

As several branches of the above association have been formed in our district, many people are anxious to know more about its method of working, &c., than they have yet been made acquainted with. Therefore the following remarks delivered by Mr. C. F. Scott, at a meeting held at Iveston will probably prove of interest to our readers:—

The career of arms is not a remunerative one at any time, and never has been either for officers or men. When our soldiers and sailors are doing noble and heroic deeds abroad it must be some comfort to them to know their wives and families or other dependents are being cared for, if not wholly so, at least to some extent, to prevent them being dependent upon charity, workhouse allowance, or begging their bread. This association has a noble work to do, and should be supported in every way by every one able to spare a little time and a little money. So much has been said and written about our soldiers and sailors fighting in Africa at the present moment—the horrors of the battlefield—the exposure to heat, cold, rain, night air, and climate, risks to health, and the absolute need of administering to their comfort, health and needs, that it is perhaps unnecessary for me to further enlarge upon that portion of the question, and will therefore devote my time to explaining, as far as I possibly can, the aims objects, and intentions of this Association, which has now had a branch established in the district. The initiation of this Association was the first attempt to create a complete organisation throughout the kingdom by the formation of County Branches with local divisions, as well as branches in India and at all Foreign Stations.

In 1854 a Patriotic Fund was initiated during the Crimean War—but no attempt was made to create any organisation for its distribution for over 40 years. In 1895-96 an inquiry was made into the question, with the result that two suggestions were submitted by the Committee appointed by Parliament, regarding its administration. The commissioners of the fund entirely ignored the first, so far as it applied to "outside funds," and instead of establishing local committees in military centres, garrison towns, and naval ports, are endeavouring to form County Patriotic Associations on similar lines to those started in February, 1885, by this Association. The committees under this Patriotic Association were established for the purpose of making inquiries and recommending suitable cases for pensions under enlarged powers granted by Royal mandate in 1897—a work which would, I venture to say, have been more expeditiously and probably better done by this S. and S.F.A. A proposed Imperial War Fund was originally initiated for the relief of invalided soldiers and sailors, and also a proposal to establish Regimental County Funds, but these, it was thought, would be detrimental to the interests of those for whom relief was intended, if it was carried into operation. That it ever really existed I cannot say, but if so, by co-operation with the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association all claims upon it would be treated alike and on the same basis.

The Association was formed in February, 1885, with the object of aiding the wives and families of men of all branches of the land and sea forces of the United Kingdom. It has been found that the want of any such organisation has been most felt when troops are suddenly ordered on foreign service, and their wives and families in many cases become homeless; but apart from the necessity of help at such a time, there is much for the Association to do in times of peace. It is probably known only to military men, and those who have witnessed a "leave-taking," that no regiment ever embarks on the ordinary tour of foreign service without leaving behind untold misery and woe. Few also realise the endless cases of distress which are continually occurring to the wives and children of sailors; to total orphans of both soldiers and sailors; and to widows and orphans who, from special circumstances, may not be entitled to any pension or relief. To all such the Council hope to lend a helping hand, but they can only do so with adequate funds and an established organisation.

The Commander-in-Chief, for instance, has two funds at his disposal at the War Office, one "for the relief of widows of soldiers in necessitous circumstances, and of good character, due regard being made to the widow's age and number of children she has to support." The other, "for the relief of wounded, disabled, or decayed soldiers of good character, late of Her Majesty's Army." The administrators of these and similar funds would, no doubt, welcome such applications, and be glad to avail themselves of the machinery of the Association, both for inquiry and distribution. The Association is formed for the purpose of aiding the wives and families of men of all branches of the land and sea forces of the United Kingdom, and is called "The Soldiers and Sailors Families' Association."

The following are shortly the cases which are eligible and ineligible:—

ELIGIBLE.

(1). Wives and families of men in the service, including the Permanent Staff of the Militia.

(2). Widows and orphans of men—(a) who died in the service subsequent to February, 1885; (b) Who died in the reserve, provided the marriage took place before the man's discharge to the reserve.

(3.) Wives, children, widows, and orphans Army, Navy, and Militia Reserves, but only when serving with the colours.

(4). Aged parents, under exceptional circumstances, to be submitted to the Council.

INELIGIBLE.

(1). Soldiers and sailors themselves.

(2). Widows and orphans of men who died prior to the foundation of the Association, 1885.

(3.) Wives, children, widows, and orphans of men who married after their discharge, or who were discharged before 1885.

Exceptional cases, or where doubts exist as to their coming within the scope of the work of the Association, shall be submitted to the Council.

OBJECTS OF RELIEF.

A.—The wives and families of men actually in the service, including the permanent staff of the Militia; or the widows and orphans of those who may die, or who have died in the service since the Association was instituted in February, 1885, whether "on" or "not on" the strength of their Regiments; also the wives, widows, and families of all men in the Naval, Coastguard, and Marine Forces, where marriage (as in the case of a soldier) is proved, and the case found deserving. (See mode of relief below.)

B.—The wives and families of men belonging to the Naval, as well as the Army and Militia Reserves. (See mode of relief below.)

C.—The wives, families, widows, and orphans. (See mode of relief below.)

(d.) Of men invalided to temporary pensions, and discharged as unfit from disease or accident contracted in and by the service.

(e.) Of men (with 21 years' service in the Regular and Reserve Forces) accepting a gratuity, though not entitled to a pension.

(f.) Of men discharged with good conduct; and pensioners.

(g.) The bed-ridden, crippled, insane, and aged parents of either sex, if in any way dependent on their sons while serving.

CASES NOT ENTITLED TO RELIEF FROM FUNDS.

(a.) Soldiers and sailors themselves.

(b.) Widows and orphans of men who died prior to the foundation of the Association in February, 1885.

(c.) Wives, children, widows, and orphans of men who married after their discharge, or who were discharged or pensioned before February, 1885.

MODE OF RELIEF.

To A.B.C.—Assistance in obtaining work or employment, or the placing of children in schools, homes, or asylums.

To A.—By money grants (temporary) as enumerated on next page.

To B.—By money grants (temporary) only when men are actually serving with the colours.

To C.—By money grants (temporary) only under exceptional circumstances, to be submitted to the London Council.

MORE FULLY EXPLAINED.

Assistance in obtaining work or employment should be the primary aim of each local Committee, although relief by money grants (temporary) may in some cases be considered necessary till such has been found; or, under special circumstances, even to supplement this. In many cases the families of men, not actually serving, are best relieved by work being locally found for the men themselves.

Relief by money grants may be made in such cases as sickness; expense of nurse; surgical appliances; infirmity; death; funeral; doctor's fees; conveyance to a hospital or Convalescent Home; hospital charges; nourishing food; loss of employment, or, exceptionally, through inability to obtain any; fee to be taught nursing, etc.; payment of rent or school fees; purchase of tickets for soup, coal or blankets; warm clothing or boots for children; purchase or hire of mangle or sewing machine; payment of railway, steamboat, or other conveyance on change of quarters in Great Britain, Ireland, or the Channel Islands, where not entitled to Government warrants; provided, in all cases, the recipients are ascertained to be deserving of help, and continue to be so.

The Association continues to make the movement one of "self-help," encouraging and supporting those only who are ready and willing to help themselves.

The Officers' Branch has been formed with the object of aiding the widows and children of officers of all branches of the united service.

PRIMARILY—By helping in the education of officers' children, either by payment or purchase into existing schools and Institutions; and,

SECONDLY—By temporarily aiding with small grants, as funds will admit, necessitous officers' widows; and,

THIRDLY—By helping, where necessary, with clothing.

This branch is in no way to encroach upon, or interfere with, existing funds or institutions, but to meet a want which these are unable to supply.

The Nursing Branch has been formed with the object of providing properly qualified nurses to attend and look after the wives and families of soldiers and sailors in large garrison and seaport towns (where no such provision at present exists), as well as to instruct them in matters of health and hygiene. The duties undertaken are those of a "District" nurse, i.e., visiting several families each day, and not restricted to the attendance or care of any particular patient or family at a time. The work is strictly undenominational.

The Clothing Branch has been formed with the object of supplying suitable clothing—

(a.) To the wives and families of soldiers and sailors serving at home;

(b) To depots at foreign stations, such as Bombay, Egypt, and Malta, for wives, widows, and children returning home;

(c.) To sick and invalided men returning from hot climates in time of peace, or active service in time of war.

WHAT MAY BE DONE.

Purses were presented by 34 children under 13 years of age, and by 33 ladies and young ladies over 13.

A Fancy Dress Ball was organised by the Norwood Division (South London District) in aid of the fete, to which members of the Council, many presidents of counties, and others, consented to give their patronage, on the understanding that the same involved no liability.

For the wives and children separated at home from their husbands and fathers by the exigencies of the war.

Extracts from a letter issued by the Marquis of Lansdowne, K.G., Secretary of State for War, and Field-Marshal Viscount Wolseley, K.P., Commander-in-Chief:—

"Local agencies can alone distribute the funds which may be available, with a thorough knowledge of the merits of each case."

"No doubt a certain number of men join a regiment though previously unconnected with its district; and, again, a certain number, after serving with the colours of a regiment, leave its district to marry and settle down elsewhere. But the only organisation which will prevent cases of hardship from being either overlooked or dealt with twice over is that which we recommend."

"The Lord Mayor of London has appealed to the public for subscriptions to funds, one of which is for the benefit of "The wives and children separated at home here from their husbands and fathers by the exigencies of the war," and has intimated that contributions to this fund will be handed to that excellent institution, The Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, of which Her Majesty the Queen is patron, and the Princess of Wales president. We cordially support the Lord Mayor's action, and we trust that it will be imitated by local organisations in many parts of the Kingdom."

"The Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association has branches in every county."

"We take this opportunity of explaining that this Association is prepared to assist the wives and families of soldiers, whether they are or are not on the married establishment of the regiment."

"Cases of widows and orphans arising out of the war should therefore be immediately brought to the notice of the Royal Commission of the Patriotic Fund, but in all such instances help should be continued, and, if need be, enlarged, until the receipt of the first payment of their pensions."

"In the same way cases, as they arise, of men disabled by wounds should be reported to Lloyd's Patriotic Fund, and ladies and gentlemen desiring to help in the supply of clothing, hospital, and other comforts for the sick and wounded, to the British Red Cross Society."

"As regards allocation of funds, it may be stated from general information that moneys subscribed in response to appeals to the public for a specific object cannot be legally devoted to any other. Thus, for example, sums subscribed for widows and orphans are not available for wives, children, and dependent relatives, and vice-versa; nor can sums subscribed for either of the former be diverted for the benefit of the men themselves."

"Copies of 'Naval and Military Funds and Institutions,' being a complete guide to all funds, asylums, schools, and employment agencies, will be forwarded on receipt of a postal order for 1s 9d."

"All cases should be treated locally on their own merits, some requiring more, some less, monetary relief, whilst many may not care or require to receive any relief at all."

"Sobriety and good conduct should govern all assistance, which should be given personally and weekly."

"Work or employment (except for those in delicate health, or with young children) should, where possible, also be found."

"The monetary grants from the Association should be so regulated that the total amount received by the wife from all sources should not (unless under some exceptional circumstances) exceed the pay or wages of the bread-winner previous to separation; but in all such cases relief should be such as to place the wife and family in such a position that there should be no feeling of their having to "struggle" during the absence of the bread-winner."

The following is the scale of "Separation" allowance granted by the Government and paid from the date from which the man receives army pay:—

Wives and children "on" the strength—Wife, 4d per day in quarters, including fuel and light; each child (girl under 16 or boy under 14), 1½d. per day. If not in quarters—Wife, 8d per day; each child (girl under 16 or boy under 14), 2d per day. No rations are given.

Wives and children of Reservists—Wife, 8d per day; each child (girl under 16 or boy under 14), 2d per day.

While at home, the man makes his own arrangements for remitting money to his family out of his pay; but in the event of his proceeding abroad, the army authorities perform this service for him, and compel the remittance of the following minimum amount according to rank. He has the option of remitting a larger sum:—

Minimum allotment (stopped from the pay of a private)—When drawing a field ration: Wife, 4d per day, child (under 16), 1d per day. Total not to exceed 6d without the man's consent.

When not drawing a field ration: Wife, 2d a day, child (under 16), ½d per day. Total not to exceed 3d without the man's consent.

N.B.—The wife of every Reservist should be able to produce an identity certificate (Army Form D455), which she receives with her first separation allowance.

Wives and children "not on" the strength—No separation allowance or help from Government.

Generally speaking, the same amount granted by Government to those "on" the strength and the Reservists should (subject to para. 4) be given by the Association. The allowance given by the Association to those "not" on the strength, who receive no "separation" allowance, should be equal to that granted by the Government and the Association together, viz., 1s 4d per day to each woman, and 4d per day to each child. During the embodiment of the Militia or the calling up of the Militia Reserves, the wife of a Militiaman, when separated from her husband, should be similarly treated as in the foregoing paragraph.

This is no new Association. It was started 14 years ago in England, though only about a year ago in this county. It is the most perfectly organised of all the associations formed for this purpose. Its central offices are in London, the president being the Princess of Wales. The Queen has given her name as patron of the association. Each county in England has been mapped out into divisions, to which are appointed a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, and, in some cases, a committee, who are responsible for the relief of suitable candidates in their division. The secretary takes steps for finding out cases by communicating with people, such as the clergy and ministers in the division, who are conversant with the needs of their own district. In addition to these local divisions, each county has a central branch with president, secretary, and treasurer. The local divisions report to the central county branch, and pay any money into the central county fund that they feel they can spare. The county treasurer in his turn reports to London, and pays any money that he can spare into the central fund, which, in its turn, helps those county branches which may have extra heavy claims upon them.

Now for the people whom it is our duty to help. I may say that our society is more comprehensive than any other organisation in the country for helping those depending upon soldiers and sailors, and who are in want, we help the wives and families of all soldiers and sailors on service, whether married with or without leave, whether they are Reservists or serving with the colours, whether they are the families of militiamen called out for service, as at present. In fact, any soldier or sailor, who has a family dependent upon him, and he is on service, has a right to help for them from this society. Further, we give help to aged parents or sisters dependent on sons or brothers. In addition to monetary grants, we make it our duty to try and find employment for them where possible. This is about as comprehensive as any association could be. I may say, however, that at the present time we are, owing to our cordial co-operation with the Reservists' Fund, not helping the wives and families of Reservists or Militiamen, but confining our attentions to those serving with the colours. As to the amounts we give, I may say that while not actually tied down, we are advised from headquarters to give 8d per day and 2d to each child to people married on the strength.

The Chairman (Coun. W. Robson), in replying, said there was no rivalry between the association and the other local funds. Should, unhappily, the Reservists' Funds not suffice, the association would resume its more complete function, and help the wives and families of the Reservists and Militiamen called out for service, as well as the wives and families of those with the colours.

There was, he believed, a very general desire to subscribe liberally and promptly, but also a very general uncertainty as to which of the many funds desirous to afford assistance to the "service," in some form or another, lays itself out for that kind of assistance which is at the present moment most needful, viz., aid to the wives and families left behind. Without in any way undervaluing the forms of "service" assistance rendered by the Soldiers' Help Society, and Lloyds' Patriotic Fund, all of which he had no doubt deserved public confidence and assistance, the society which best lent immediate help to the women and children left behind was "The Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association." That association had been established since 1885. Its objects were, "To aid the wives and families of men of all branches of land and sea forces serving with the colours, by giving temporary help and finding employment through the personal interest of its local office bearers and representatives throughout the kingdom." Its scheme of administration was to have a branch in each county, and to sub-divide the county into divisions, usually co-extensive with Petty Sessional districts, leaving each division to sub-divide itself into convenient smaller areas. A considerable part of the county of Durham had for some time been organised on these lines, and within the last few days the remainder of the county had been similarly organised. The President of the Durham County is the Marchioness of Londonderry.

Sir,—On no previous occasion of the despatch of a large Expeditionary Force from this country has there been such a complete organisation, consisting of over three thousand ladies and gentlemen throughout the Kingdom, voluntarily undertaking to befriend the wives and families of our soldiers and sailors during their absence on active service.

Additional funds are all that is now required to meet the extra demands which must of necessity fall on the Association at the present time.

It is needless to add that while those "on" the strength are equally helped by the Association with those "not on the strength," the needs and wants of the latter are far in excess of those of the former.

The wives and families of the Reserves while serving with the colours, are helped equally with those of the standing forces.

Her Royal Highness, the President, and the Council with confidence therefore appeal to the public, as well as to all interested in the services at home and abroad, to help in this great national work.

Subscriptions will be thankfully received by all local office-bearers of the Association, or by myself as Treasurer at this office.

In the latter case cheques and postal orders should be crossed "Coutts and Co."

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
JAMES GILDEA (Colonel.)

WEDDING AT CONSETT

A wedding creating quite a large amount of interest took place at Consett on Tuesday, Dec. 26th, when Miss Lily Green, second daughter of Mr R. D. Green, and Mr Jacob Potts, fourth son of the late Mr Thos. Potts, both of Consett, were married at the Primitive Methodist Church. The contracting parties being so closely connected with the above place of worship, and likewise highly respected, it was not surprising to find the church packed with friends, etc., of the bride and bridegroom; and when the bride entered the church accompanied by her father, the organist (Mr Jones) played the "Festive March," and at the conclusion Mendelssohn's "Wedding March." The officiating minister was the Rev. J. S. Nightingale, of Consett. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore a dress of cream habit cloth, trimmed with silk, lemon and white passementrie, mink fr. and orange blossom, with a hat to match, with white plumes, and osprey tips; she also wore a gold curb bangle and crescent brooch, and carried a shower bouquet, the gift of the bridegroom. The bridesmaids were Miss Hetherington, of West Hartlepool, who wore a dress of cream cashmere, trimmed with brocaded silk and chiffon; and Miss Graham, Sunderland (cousin of the bride), who wore a cream silk dress, trimmed with swansdown, with picture hats to match, trimmed with lemon and white, and tips. They each wore a gold brooch, the gift of the bridegroom. Mr C. Ramshaw acted as "best man," and Mr J. Green (brother of the bride) as groomsman. After the ceremony, the bridal party drove to Mr V. Dunn's studio, where they were photographed, and then to the residence of the bride's parents, where the many guests were entertained to tea, etc. Among those present were:—Mr and Mrs Nightingale, Consett; Mr and Mrs Potts and family; Mr J. J. Potts, South Shields; Mr and Mrs Green (sister and brother), Consett; Mr and Mrs White (sister and brother-in-law), Consett; Mr and Mrs Goldsmith, Consett; Mr and Mrs Foster, Consett; Mr and Mrs Taylor, Consett; Mr and Mrs Whebarn, Dudley, Birmingham; Mr and Mrs Hope, Consett; Mr and Mrs Maund, Consett; Mr J. Brown, Sydney House, Consett; Mrs Hunter, Newcastle; Mrs Lilley, Sunderland; Mrs Stobbart, London; Mr J. Dowson and Mrs Lowes, Consett; Mr J. Turner and Mrs Grant, Consett; Mr J. Hall and Mrs Siddle, Consett. A large number of handsome and costly presents were given to the newly-married couple, including several from Dudley, the future home of the happy pair.

A Labour Candidate for Chester-le-Street Division

Mr Kier Hardie the only Candidate Nominated

The members of the Chester-le-Street Division Direct Labour Representation League held another meeting at Lockhart's Cafe, Neville Street, Newcastle, on Saturday afternoon, Mr J. B. Jobling (Blaydon Engineers) presiding. The proceedings were again private. In an official report, issued at the close, it was stated that there had been a fair representative attendance from miners' lodges, trades unions, and Trades Councils. At the previous meeting it had been decided to ask the branches of the various trades unions to send in the nominations of persons willing, if selected, to run as direct labour candidate for the Chester-le-Street Division. In response, only one name—that of Mr Keir Hardie—had been received. As, however, some of the branches had not yet held meetings, it was decided that the resolution previously passed to finally decide on a candidate that day be rescinded, and that a printed circular be sent out to each branch asking for Mr Keir Hardie's nomination to be endorsed, or further nominations to be sent in. Another meeting is to be held after the replies have been received.—Messrs J. B. Jobling and Mr Thomas Richardson (Washington) were appointed to attend the joint Conference of co-operators, trade unionists, Socialists, and others, convened by the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress, to be held in London on February 27th to consider the question of labour representation.

Death of a Catchgate Nonogenarian

On Tuesday morning, Mr William Moore, who had attained the advanced age of 92 years, succumbed to the burden of years at his residence, Catchgate, where he had lived in retirement for nearly a quarter-of-a-century. Born on the 22nd of November, 1807, at Maiden Law, he early followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, and devoted himself to farming. For the long period of 65 years the three generations held unbroken possession of the Pea Farm, near Stanley, the severance taking place in 1854, when the gentleman who has just passed away removed to Kyo West House, where he remained for some few years. He then purchased Carrmyers Farm which he held for eight years, then removing to Shield Row West Farm. He gave that up 24 years ago when he retired and took up his residence at Catchgate. When at Kyo he acted as assistant overseer, and for several years represented Kyo on the Lanchester Board of Guardians. He was a gentleman who chiefly devoted himself to his own business, and though he bred stock it was not for exhibition purposes. Though a comparatively spare man he was always healthy, well preserved, and of strong and cheerful disposition. When within a week of celebrating his 90th birthday he had the misfortune to break his arm, and, despite his great age, he bravely and successfully went through the process of having the limb re-set, and of seeing it gradually heal up. He had a family of nine sons and daughters, five of whom survive, the eldest being Mr John Moore, of Durham Road, Annfield Plain. The interment will take place on Saturday at Hare Law Cemetery.

J. T. Castle, Front St., Stanley, is not excelled in the district for Wedding Presents in Sterling and Electro-Silver.

"ROUGH ON CORNS."—Ask Chemists, Perfumers, or grocers for "Wells' Rough on Corns." Quick, complete permanent cure for hard or soft corns, warts, bunions. 6d and 1s bottles.

BAZAAR AT TANFIELD LEA.

For some time past the Primitive Methodists of Tanfield Lea have been preparing for a bazaar, the object of which was to raise funds for a new Sunday School. At present they have no building, except the Chapel, in which to hold class meetings and carry on Sunday School work, and as their numbers are increasing, it became necessary to take steps to provide the extra accommodation required. As soon as it was resolved to hold a bazaar, the lady members of the congregation set to work with a will and had an excellent chief in Miss Bulmer, as bazaar secretary, that lady leaving no stone unturned to make the effort a financial success. She was ably supported by the trustees, Messrs J. Long (senior leader), W. Armstrong (school superintendent), and Jacob Milburn (treasurer of the Christian Endeavour Society.) The use of the Board Schools having been granted, advantage was taken of the Christmas holidays, and the bazaar was held on Saturday and Monday. The various stalls were all well stocked, and were presided over by the following:—Mesdames Rockett, Bloomfield, Foster, Hobbs, Stephens, Christopher, Whitfield, Coe, S. Christopher, Mudd, Holmes, and Hutton; Confectionery Stall:—Mrs. J. Milburn and Miss Robson; Sunday School Stall:—Misses Waggott and Pyle; Flower and Fancy Good Stall:—Miss Walton and Miss Bulmer. There was also a stall given and superintended by the gentlemen, while refreshments were to be had at tables, presided over by the Misses Mudd, Whitfield, Stephens, and Foster. Tea was served on the Lockhart system, by the Misses Hobbs Robson, Rockett, and Anderson. Mrs. T. Rockett acted as treasurer, and Mrs. Jacob Milburn as club secretary.

Mrs. S. Brodie, of Consett, presided at the opening ceremony on Saturday afternoon and, after devotional excerises was introduced by

The Rev. D. Kyles, who said he believed, with most of them the name Brodie was a household one. They were reminded that Mrs. Brodie's brother-in-law was a superintendent of that circuit and both her husband and relatives in Consett were connected very closely with the Primitive Methodist cause. They were always glad to see spiritual and connexional relations amongst them, and he had pleasure in introducing Mrs. Brodie.

Mrs. Brodie, who was received with applause, thanked Mr. Kyles for his touching reference to her husband's family. It was always a pleasure to them to do anything for Primitive Methodism, and what interested her husband naturally interested herself. Hear, hear.) When Miss Bulmer wrote and asked her to preside over that gathering she thought that in Miss Bulmer's large circle of friends there must be many ladies able to discharge the duties in a more efficient manner than she could. However, after due consideration, after conferring with her husband who advised her to come, and believing that a speech would not be expected from her, she decided to accept the invitation in the hope that she might render some assistance in the attainment of the object they had in view. She was also induced to come owing to the worthy object for which the bazaar had been promoted, namely, the raising of money for the building of a Sunday School. She was always interested in anything that interested children. It was not only their privilege, but it was their duty to give the children an efficient education in all branches in order to fit them for the responsible duties of life. She trusted the bazaar would be an unbounded success, and that at the close those who had worked so industriously would find that they had received more than they hoped for. (Applause.) She had pleasure in asking Miss Walton, of Newcastle, to declare the bazaar open.

Miss Walton said she was very pleased to be with them, and to open the bazaar. In looking round the room she must congratulate them on the beautiful and tasteful display. It must have meant great labour to those who had worked so long for the success of the effort. She hoped it would not be without reward. At present they had to hold the Sunday School in the Chapel, and as a teacher she had worked under similar conditions in Newcastle. When work had to be carried on in that way it was bound to suffer. She, therefore, thought the scheme they had formulated ought to be carried forward with the least possible delay. She thought they all had the welfare of the children at heart, and she earnestly hoped they would all do everything they could to make the bazaar a success. (Applause.)

Miss Bulmer moved a vote of thanks to Miss Walton, which was seconded by Mr. Milburn, and carried amid applause.

A similar compliment was passed to Mrs. Brodie, on the motion of Mr. Kyles, seconded by Mr. A. Stephens, and the sale was proceeded with.

SPEECH BY MR. JOHN WILSON, M.P.

On New Year's day the bazaar was re-opened by Mr. John Wilson, M.P., Councillor W. Bulmer presiding over a large gathering. Prayer having been offered by Miss Bulmer,

The Chairman began by wishing them all a very happy and prosperous New Year. His duties as chairman were very light, and it was very proper that that should be so, for when they had Mr. Wilson among them they ought to get as much out of him as they could. (Laughter.) Mr. Wilson stood very high in their estimation, and he felt sure they were all pleased to see him. He had great pleasure in introducing him, and in asking him to open the bazaar.

Mr. Wilson, M.P., who was received with hearty applause, said he thought the duty they imposed upon him was what was commonly called a work of supererogation. The real work was done on Saturday, and he did not know whether they ought not to call the proceedings that day "the back end" of it. (Laughter.) If it was a pleasure to them to see him there that day, he could assure them it was a pleasure to him to be present. In his ramblings round the country, and he might say round the world, he had learned a few lessons, and one of the most important was "always try in your actions to keep before you the objects and the harmonies of the occasion in which you find yourselves." The duty of an opener of a bazaar ought to be to get out of the way as soon as possible, in order that the spenders and the receivers might be joined together in the holy bonds of matrimony. (Laughter.) He understood the object was the building of a school. On that head he was not the fittest man to speak, because he had not been a Sunday school teacher for many years. The loss had been his own. He did not think a man was any the worse for going to a Sunday School, but a great deal the better. The reason was, however, that he was so many Sundays away, and when he was at home he had a partner who thought he ought to be with her. They had been together for 35 or 36 years, and they were sweethearting as much as ever. (Laughter and applause.) That was why he had not attended, but he knew the worth of a Sunday School. He knew it in his own life. He knew some of the difficulties, trials, anxieties, and doubts that came into the minds of the Sunday School teacher. He had many a time, as a teacher, seen lads and lasses slide off and lose their hold, apparently, on religious teaching, and the teacher had been discomfitted, disheartened, and almost cast down. But it was a mistake. No man on earth could gauge the force of Sunday School teaching. He believed there was no stronger force in the amelioration of this country, and in the rectification of the lives of their young lads and lasses than the Sunday School teacher, because they took the pupils at the most important part of their lives, and they sowed in them lessons that were never lost. When they talked about measuring the magnitude of religious teaching they forgot the lesson of the seen and the unseen. The author's illustration was the breaking of a window and somebody said "let it smash, it is good for trade." That was the seen, but the unseen was in the amount of money a man had to pay unnecessarily. The seen were those who remained, the unseen was the teaching those who went away carried with them. Who could tell how many there were out of gaol to-day, and would not have been but for Sunday School teaching? There was many a man who had set out on a marauding expedition, but who had been stopped by the unconscious flashing of a truth across his mind. The truth was embedded in their minds, and it kept them out of gaol. In Sunday School teaching there was not only an impelling, but a retarding and a hindering. There lay the encouragement for those who were Sunday School teachers; there was the encouragement for those who had not yet joined the band of teachers to do so. (Applause.) Life was short, and let them try to do good while they could, so that when they were gone and forgotten, the influence of their lives might be felt beneficially in the lives of others who might have received an impetus and inspiration from some word or transaction. That bazaar was the aggregation of a few efforts, continual, persistent, and persevering, but it showed what could be done, and he had pleasure in declaring it open, and in wishing it success. (Applause.)

Mr. Henry Mudd moved, and Mr. John Long seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Wilson, which was carried by acclimation, and the honourable gentleman, having briefly acknowledged the compliment, proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was seconded by Mr. Wm. Armstrong, and carried.

Amusements of various kinds formed an attraction on the two days during which the bazaar was open, and consisted of songs, duets, readings, pianoforte solos, selections at intervals (on Monday), by Mr. James Webb's string band, hat trimming of gentlemen, washing competition and match striking competition for ladies, a bran tub for children, and last, but not least, a popular shooting range prepared by Capt. Crossling.

All were largely patronised, and helped materially to swell the takings.

In aid of the bazaar contributions were received from the following:—Mrs. Joicey (£10), Mr. James Joicey, Poulton Priory, Gloucestershire; Mr. James Thompson, Dene House, Gateshead; the Rev. T. H. Archdall, M.A., vicar of Tanfield; Dr. Benson, Stanley; Mr. J. Walton, Newcastle; the Rev. Edward Evans, Glasgow; Mr. T. Ainsley, Tanfield Lea; Mr. S. Brodie, Consett, and others. A communication was received from Mr. Atherley-Jones, M.P., wishing the effort every success and promising, if possible, to attend.

Mr. J. Milburn won first prize in the Sunlight Soap Competition, and Mr. Matt. Trewick second prize. In the hat trimming competition the first prize was awarded to Mr. John Coe.

The amounts taken were, on Saturday £84 15s, and on Monday £40 5s, giving a total of £125.

LOOK HERE! LOOK HERE!!
N. ELSDON
IS AGAIN TO THE FRONT WITH HIS
Wines, Spirits, Mineral Waters, Ales, Stout, &c.

IRISH AND SCOTCH WHISKY.

Per Bot.	Per Qrt.	Per Gal.	Per ½ Gal.
2s 3d	3s 0d	12s 0d	6s 0d
2s 6d	3s 3d	14s 0d	7s 0d
2s 9d	3s 6d	16s 0d	8s 0d
3s 0d	3s 9d	17s 0d	8s 6d
3s 6d	4s 0d	18s 0d	9s 0d
	4s 6d	19s 0d	9s 6d
	5s 0d	21s 0d	10s 6d

GIN,

Per Bot.	Per Qrt.	Per Gal.	Per ½ Gal.
2s 3d	3s 0	13s 0d	6s 6d
2s 6d	4s 0	16s 0d	8s 0d

HOLLANDS:—3s per Bottle.

RUM.

Per Bot.	Per Qrt.	Per Gal.
2s 3d	3s 0d	12s 0d
2s 6d	3s 6d	14s 0d
3s 0d	4s 0d	16s 0d

BRANDY.

Per Bot.	Per Qrt.	Per Gal.	Per ½ Gal.
3s 0d	3s 9d	15s 0d	8s 0d
3s 3d	4s 6d	18s 0d	9s 0d
3s 6d	5s 0d	20s 0d	10s 0d
4s 0d	6s 0d	24s 0d	12s 0d
5s 0d			
6s 0d			

SHERRY.

Per ½ Gal.	Per Bot.
6s 0d	1s 6d
7s 0d	2s 0d
8s 0d	2s 6d
	3s 0d

GINGER CORDIALS, &c., 1s 3d per Bottle. BLACK BEER, 1s 3d.
GOOD PORT WINE, 1s 6d, 2s 3s, 4s, and 5s per Bottle.
FINE ALES (OCTOBER BREWINGS), IN BOTTLES.
PALE ALE .. .. .. 1s 6d per doz. Gills; Reputed Pints, 2s
MILD ALE .. .. ..
STOUT .. .. ..
BASS'S ALE .. .. .. 1s 9d per doz. Gills; 9-gal. Casks, 9s & 10s 6d
.. .. .. 2s 9d per doz. Pints; 18-gal. Casks, 18s & 21s.

☞ Don't wait till Christmas and New Year's Eve, but come before the rush, so that you may get supplied. Send your Orders by Post, and the Goods will be delivered promptly by my own men. Eight Vans on the road daily.

Wishing you the Compliments of the Season. I am, your humble Servant,
N. ELSDON.
DON'T FORGET THE ADDRESS:—NEAR THE NEW CONSETT STATION.
217g

ICE FATALITY AT ANNFIELD PLAIN

On Saturday morning some lads were sliding on the pond by the side of the Annfield Plain passenger line, when one of them, a lad ten years of age, named John Smith Telford, the son of Mr Wm. Telford, of Pontop Rows, Annfield Plain, fell into a breach in the ice made by some water running through a culvert into the pond. The sad affair occurred about 12.45, and it was not until 1 p.m. that the body was recovered, only too late, from its perilous position. A man named Geo. Howe went into the water twice to try and save the lad, but was unable to remain long enough in the water to accomplish his object. Finally the deceased was got out. Dr. Graham, of Annfield Plain, was sent for, and when that gentleman arrived a few minutes after the messenger had been despatched he pronounced life extinct. Prior to his arrival Sergt. Macdonald, of Annfield Plain, and some of the railway hands tried to induce respiration, but their efforts were useless.

THE INQUEST.

An inquest was held at Mr Lumley's, on Tuesday afternoon by Mr Coroner Graham.

Wm. Telford said he was a miner, and he identified the body as that of his son, John Smith Telford, ten years of age. The boy was drowned on the 30th Dec., at Woodrow Pond.

George Howe, Clavering Place, Annfield Plain, miner, said he was putting some cement on a chimney and saw the boy splashing about in the water of Woodrow Pond. He would be about two hundred yards away, and went to the place as quickly as he could. The boy had sunk and come up again about twelve yards from the edge of the pond, which was frozen over, but a runner of fresh water had broken the ice, and the boy had fallen in whilst sliding. Witness went in twice, but it was too deep, and he went along the ice. He got some sleepers from the North-Eastern men and crept along and got the lad out at about one o'clock. He was dead.

William Watson, blacksmith, Clavering Place, was near the last witness, and saw the boy's head above water. He assisted Howe as much as possible. He tied a rope to Howe when he went in a second time. He followed Howe along the ice.

The Coroner said he thought the Jury would be satisfied that the poor lad had been accidentally drowned. He thought it would be some consolation to the boy's father, as well as satisfactory to the Jury, to know that the witnesses did what they could to try and save the boy. They could do not harm.

A verdict of "Accidentally drowned" was then returned.

Weardale District Council

Mr. J. W. Roddam resided over the usual fortnightly meeting at Stanhope on Friday.—A communication was read from the Wolsingham Parish Council with regard to the dilapidated condition of a footpath in Augate Street, Wolsingham. The mattter was referred to the Wolsingham Committee.—A letter was read from the Stanhope Parish Council in regard to "insufficient drainage" at Frosterley Batts. It was thought that complaint should be made through the District Council and not through the parish authority.—The Stanhope Parish Council wrote regarding an alleged obstruction between Eastgate and Rookhope caused by the substitution of two stiles for wicket gates which were evidently thought to be of an inconvenient character. Mr. Mainprise said he had never heard of a stile being an obstruction before. Mr. Monkhouse pointed out that the alteration had been carried out with a view to preventing sheep from straying. The question was referred to the Surveyor.—On the proposition of Mr. Brownless, seconded by Mr. Muschamp, it was decided to purchase macintoshes, leggings, and sou-westers for the Council's roadmen.—Plans for four dwelling-houses to be erected in Augate-street, Wolsingham, were submitted.

Stanhope School Board

Dr. Livingstone presided over Friday's monthly meeting.—The attendance was reported as follows:—Wearhead, 83.6 per cent.; St. John's Chapel, 85.4; Westgate, 82; Rookhope, 91.6; Frosterley (North), 80.5; Stanhope, 89; Lanehead, 77.4; Frosterley (South), 73.—A discussion took place regarding the ownership of the pianos in use at the schools, and the matter was left over.—With regard to the introduction of military drill at the schools, Sergt. Lawrence wrote stating that he was prepared to act as instructor to the four east schools for £20 per annum; whilst Sergt. Carr, of Cowshill, made an offer to act in a similar capacity for the four west schools for £15 a year, including all expenses. Mr. Philipson raised the question regarding the advisability of introducing military drill. Eventually the Clerk was instructed to furnish particulars of schools where military instruction is given, and report to the next meeting.—The reports to hand in regard to the pupil teachers' examinations were considered very unsatisfactory.—Miss Pickering's resignation as pupil teacher at the North Board School, Frosterley, was accepted.

HARE LAW.

PARISH CHURCH.—On New Year's Day the annual sale of work in connection with this church was held in the Greencroft Board Schools. The parish stall was presided over by Misses Watchman and Cuthbert; the sweet stall by Mrs. Geo. Ferguson; the toy stall by Master J. Gornall; while the tea tables were attended to by the Misses Neale and Mitchinson, Mesdames Neale and Ed. Neale assisting to make the tea. In the evening Karl Hadyn, an eminent illusionist and sleight-of-hand entertainer, gave an entertainment, after which several songs were sung. The proceeds were in aid of parish work.

THE ORIGIN OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM LIBRARY.

IN an article on the World's Famous Libraries, appearing in the January number of the "Windsor Magazine," there is an interesting account of our own great library. "The famous British Library began with a gift of some 50,000 books to the nation by Sir Hans Sloane, but became really a national library of influence when, in 1757, King George II. presented to it the priceless and immense collection of books and MSS. which had been collected by his predecessors on the throne from the time of Henry VII. onwards. These included also the library which had been Archbishop Cranmer's, and those of other celebrated Englishmen of the Middle Ages. Then later, another king, George the Fourth, gave to the British Museum Library the magnificent collection of works which his father, George III., had spent his life in getting together at a cost of over £200,000. This noble gift of the year 1823 was followed by that of the Right Honourable Thomas Grenville, in 1846, which consisted of over 20,000 volumes. And by the law which provides that a copy of every work entered at Stationers' Hall shall be presented to this library, the famous collection of books at the British Museum is ever increasing by leaps and bounds. The immense reading-room, when it is well filled with readers, is a sight worth seeing. The absolute stillness and air of studious interest which pervade the whole of this great apartment cannot fail to strike the most careless observer. The long rows of shelving, miles upon miles of it, filled with 1,500,000 volumes that the library now boasts, are a never-failing source of wonder. And one's admiration is the more increased when it is remembered that so perfectly is the whole catalogued that the librarians or their assistants can find any book required almost at a moment's notice! In this respect, at least, our great library stands unique amongst the biggest libraries of the world."

IN AN UNDERGROUND CITY OF THE DEAD.

In a particularly readable article appearing in the January number of the WINDSOR MAGAZINE, Mr. F. Dolman describes a visit to the Catacombs of Rome. "To walk through subterranean Rome would be equal, I found, to journeying from one end of Italy to the other, from Alpine snow to Sicilian heat. In other words, the passages through the catacombs which I wished to see are believed, according to the most moderate computation, to measure something like 600 miles, and many of them have been only partically explored. In other in one or two sections that this city of the dead can be veiwed; but even in this limited fashion subterranean Rome is found to be a sight without parallel elsewhere in the world, a city of the dead hardly less interesting in its way than the living city below which it has been formed. The catacombs have for many years been in the charge of monastic orders, and my ramble through St. Callistus was under the guidance of a Franciscan friar, young, fresh-complexioned, cheerful, and humorous in his talk. The catacombs are such a mighty maze, with passages at four or five different levels, crossing at all kind of angles, that to venture far into them alone would be almost an act of suicide. It is recorded that about 60 years ago a party or students, with the confidence of much theoretical knowledge, unattended by any of the experienced guides, descended into their depths and were never heard of again. Diligent search, renewed again and again, revealed nothing as to their fate, which must have been that of agonising death in some remote, undiscovered crypt or corridor. This warning has proved sufficient ever since; the students' mysterious tragedy was the first and last of its kind."

MONTREAL, THE "EDINBURGH" OF CANADA

[BY HARRY FURNISS.]

"Montreal is the Edinburgh, Toronto the Glasgow of Canada," writes Mr Harry Furniss in his clever Canadian Sketches, now appearing in the WINDSOR MAGAZINE. "Should a name-coiner, such as Max O'Rell, try his ingenuity with Montreal, he would doubtless christen that splendid cosmopolitan city, raised on the site of the little Indian village Hochelaga, Mac de Montreal. It is inhabited by the French, businessed by the Scotch, dominated by the priests, visited by the world, and admired by all, and, as a city, is the centre of Canada. 'Mac' is the most important ingredient in this Hochelaga hotch-potch. The magnificent granite buildings remind him of bonnie Aberdeen; and surely the tall, twisted telegraph poles in the busy streets are fair substitutes for the Scotch fir, with the qualifying thought that their utility is probably dearer to him than their picturesqueness. Montreal is the largest of Canadian cities, her steady growth being due to her situation at the junction of St. Lawrence and Ottawa. Here on Mount Royal Island is the natural centre of the commerce of two great river basins, and the shrewd business men of Montreal have taken advantage of their position at the gateway of trade, and have made the current of traffic pay toll to them. At this point steamers and sailing-ships are loaded with lumber, grain, cattle, and other exports. Here comes the product of other lands for distribution to a million or more consumers in towns, villages, and on farms. Here, too, are great factories, built where convenient access to various kinds of raw materials favours cheap production and makes manufacturing profitable. Here comes a portion of the traffic of the great lakes, brought by canal and river. And not the least important item is the fact that here the principal railway lines meet."

THE LARGEST LIBRARY IN THE WORLD.

"The library which has the distinction of holding in its receptacles the greatest number of printed books is that of France, known as the 'Bibliotheque Nationale.' It is situated, of course, in Paris, and can boast of being the biggest library in the world. It is housed in a magnificent building, but its foundations were laid in the Louvre, when King Louis XI. gave a small collection of books to form the nucleus of a national library. Since that time every French king has seemed to consider it his duty to help forward this library as much as he could, and many presents of old and rare works were subsequently added by Royal gift. Another fact which aided in the growth of this institution into the place of honour amongst libraries was that, as early as 1617, the Bibliotheque Nationale acquired the right to have two copies of every book issued from French presses. It was further increased by the forfeited collections of private persons during the French Revolution, all of which were presented to the Bibliotheque Nationale by the authorities. There are no less than 3,000,000 volumes already in the Bibliotheque Nationale, and the number is rapidly increasing! But the cataloguing of this tremendous collection is not to be compared for a moment with that of the British Museum Library; and the task of beginning a proper catalogue of the collection is one from which the boldest and most enthusiastic librarian may now well shrink in dismay."—From the January number of the WINDSOR MAGAZINE.

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GARDENING NOTES

FAVOURITE FLOWERS.—PANSIES.

DESCRIPTION.—Charming hardy perennials, of tolerably easy growth. Good strains of seeds may be relied on to yield wonderful diversity of colours and markings.

SOIL.—Any light, sandy soil will do for the seed-beds, and the plants succeed everywhere, excepting very hot and dry positions. They thrive most luxuriantly in moist, cool, earth. Additions of fibrous loam, decayed cow manure, horse droppings, and road grit, or sharp sand are beneficial.

SOWING.—The seeds can be sown at any time of the year, but June is the best month in which to sow for autumn transplanting, and August or September for moving in spring. Sow thinly in pans or boxes, cover lightly, and place in very gentle heat or in a cold frame. Sowings may also be made in shallow drills in the open ground during the summer months.

AFTER-CARE.—Prick off the seedlings into an unheated frame or into boxes as soon as large enough to handle, and when good roots are formed transfer the plants, with as large balls of earth as possible, to well prepared ground, in which they should be placed rather deeply. Thin out the seedlings from border sowings to six inches apart, and in course transfer them to their flowering quarters. Stir the surface of the bed if it become set after heavy watering or rain. A mulching of old potting-soil, leaf-mould, and mellow manure should be given as the flowering season begins, and again some three weeks later. When watering becomes necessary, in summer, give heavy soakings during the evening. Good culture and generous treatment not only increase the size and brilliancy of the flowers, but lengthen the flowering season.

MIGNONETTE.

DESCRIPTION.—Perhaps the most easily grown of hardy annual flowers, mignonette is valuable alike for its delightful fragrance and for cutting. It is also an excellent flower for bees.

SOIL.—The best results may naturally be expected from well manured, cool soils. Rich, friable earth, with which some old cow-manure and mortar have been incorporated, is necessary for pot cultures.

SOWING.—Sow thinly in shallow drills on the open border any time in spring, for plants to bloom after autumn, or about a dozen seeds to a five or six inch pot. Cover the seeds very lightly. For winter-flowering plants, sow towards the end of August or in September.

AFTER-CARE.—Thin out open-air sowings until the plants stand a foot apart, and the pot seedlings till only three or five remain to a pot. Thin out weak shoots also, and stop very vigorous ones. Water freely during the summer, especially if the weather be unusually dry. Stand the autumn-sown pots in a shallow cold frame on a bottom of ashes, and allow them air freely. During October remove them to a light greenhouse shelf in a temperature of about 50 degrees.

HOLLYHOCKS.

DESCRIPTION.—Amongst the noblest of our hardy flowers, hollyhocks are easily raised from seed, can be planted out almost like dahlias, and produce stately effects in almost every position. The blossoms are much frequented by bees.

SOIL.—To grow really fine spikes of bloom, deeply trenched and liberally manured soils are essential. Rich, sandy seed-beds should be prepared.

SOWING.—Sow early in the year in a temperature of from 65 to 70 degrees in well drained sandy soil, and cover the seeds very lightly, or in drills 12 inches apart on a warm, south border during summer, and cover with 1 inch of fine soil.

AFTER-CARE.—Prick out the seedlings from green-house sowings an inch apart when an inch high into other pots of porous soil just deeply enough for the leaves to come into contact with the soil. Pot singly during March, and harden off gradually, preparatory to planting out in early May, when the weather is settled. Thin out the seedlings from open-air sowings to some six inches or so apart, and transplant them at the end of September to their flowering quarters, where they must be protected with light litter, if the soil is light and the position sheltered. Otherwise it is better to winter them in a cold frame, to which air is freely admitted whenever consistent with safety, and from which they are planted out in May. Thin out the spikes when about a foot high in May, or June, leaving four to strong, well established plants and two only or three to weaker specimens. Stake the spikes in good time to ensure their growing straight, using stakes about four feet in height, and tying them in firmly. During dry weather water and liquid manure may be given freely, though the latter must not be poured too near the stem.

EXHIBITION-CULTURE.—To produce extra large flowers, leave only one spike to each plant, remove all side shoots, thin the flower buds if crowded, and pinch off the top of the spike.

PESTS.—Red spider and thrips, especially the former, do much injury during hot weather. It is a good practice to syringe the plants daily with clear water, and to use a pail of soapy water, to which some tobacco liquid has been added, on the undersides of the leaves if ever pest be observed. The hollyhock fungus, a kind of rust, usually appears in May or June, on the leaves and stems, which are all more or less deformed, the leaves sometimes withering up before the flowers appear. Sponging with a solution of permanganate of potash (two tablespoonfuls to a quart of water is the most effectual preventive and remedy; but every diseased plant should be rooted out and burned.

PRIMROSE.

DESCRIPTION.—Delicately perfumed hardy perennials, embracing a wide range of colours, and equally acceptable for pot and border culture.

SOIL.—Satisfactory results may be obtained in any garden soil in a shady position, but the richest and finest blooms are produced in rather moist loam.

SOWING.—Sow out of doors, preferably in seed pans, any time during summer, and cover lightly with almost pure sand. Lay sheets of glass over the pans to check evaporation. Open border seed beds must be dressed with soot to keep away slugs.

AFTER-CARE.—Pot on the seedlings from the pans, or plant them out directly they are large enough. Thin those of border sowings if necessary to prevent crowding, and eventually transfer the plants to their flowering positions. Weak liquid manure is beneficial when the buds have formed, and before they expand. As soon as the colours of the petals show in the bud in spring, choice plants may be raised and potted for indoor decoration. Keep them in a close frame for a day or two until established, when the simplest treatment suffices.

ANTIRRHINUM.

DESCRIPTION.—Fine border perennials, thriving in almost all situations, and blossoming the same year if sown in early spring. The varieties are divided into 3 sections, tall, medium, and dwarf or Tom Thumb.

SOIL.—Snapdragons are often to be found growing on ruined walls and in similar situations, but they flourish to perfection in a dry, rich soil in a sunny, somewhat exposed situation.

SOWING.—Sow in heat during January and February to flower the same year, and in drills in the open ground during summer to blossom the year following.

AFTER-CARE.—Pot the seedlings from sowings made in heat singly, and harden them off gradually for planting out in May. Transplant directly from open-air seed-beds to flowering positions during cloudy weather.

AQUILEGIA.

DESCRIPTION.—Charming and most elegant hardy perennials, beautiful alike in habit and the colour and form of the flowers. Many varieties blossom the same year if sown early in March.

SOIL.—The more robust varieties flourish in any ordinary garden soils, but the less hardy kinds do best in good, friable, sandy loam preferably incorporated with leaf mould.

SOWING.—Sow early in spring in pots or pans in a close, cold frame in a shady place, or on the open border during June or July. Some plants may be shifted on into 6-inch pots, which must be moved into cold frames or houses at the approach of winter.

AFTER-CARE.—Prick out the seedlings, and transplant in course to flowering quarters.

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AGRICULTURE

SOWING PASTURE SEEDS.

PROSPECTIVE CROPS.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS.—Not only does a protective crop shield the young pasture from the evil effects of drought, frost, and wind, but it profitably utilises the soil while the grasses and leguminous plants develop, and renders great assistance by keeping weeds in check until the young pasture plants are sufficiently strong to successfully contest the ground with them. If the seeds be sown without a protective cereal a costly process of weeding is usually necessary to remove noxious species, which are propagated principally by their roots, the annual seed producing kinds being, of course, readily destroyed by an occasional mowing with a scythe, an operation of great benefit to the young grasses. It follows, therefore, that a protecting crop is desirable in all cases, excepting, perhaps, for the formation of ornamental swards. In the interests of the future pasture it is much preferable to cut a cereal for grass fodder than to permit it to mature for the production of grain or straw, because the necessary protection is thus afforded without shading the pasture plants too long, and without taking so much out of the land. The choice of corn must naturally to some extent be controlled by the character of the land.

THICKNESS OF SOWING.—Thick seeding with a cereal is directly injurious, as the plants tiller out and occupy the space which should be devoted to the grasses and clovers; besides which the heavier the sowing so much the greater is the danger and loss to be apprehended from the crop being laid. Indeed, it is absolutely essential to the success of a pasture than any protective cereal to be sown thinly only, and this is especially so in the case of winter corn in which a mixture is to be sown in spring. Not more than half the usual quantity of barley should be used, though greater proportions of other cereals may be employed.

CEREALS TO CUT GREEN.—Of all spring-sown to be preferred, because they do not occupy the land too long when cultivated in this way, while, if properly managed, they give a good supply of excellent green fodder. By taking the first cutting when the crop is not more than 6 or 7 inches in height all risk of injury to the grasses and clovers is obviated; a second and considerable crop of green fodder is obtained from the oats, and a third and final cutting may be taken in autumn from the young pasture plants. Summer bearded wheat is sometimes sown to shelter young pastures and supply abundant green fodder; but as the springs oftener, and continues growing longer than oats, it is apt to shade the ground too late in the season. Rye excels oats in hardiness, and is therefore more often used for autumn sowings to produce green fodder.

CEREALS FOR THE GRAIN.—Amongst spring-sown protective cereals wheat is most desirable, since it dies out of the land sooner than oats, and does not tiller out too freely. Summer barley can only be relied on in good land, does not yield much straw, and in favourable seasons occasionally tillers out so luxuriantly as to eventually leave vacant spaces in the pasture. Oats occupy the land too long, and are too easily laid for a desirable protective crop. Winter wheat and rye are sometimes employed to protect spring-sown seeds; but they are readily laid, and are frequently thus responsible for serious injury to the young fodder plants, especially to leguminous varieties.

OTHER PROTECTIVE CROPS.—Rape and flax have been employed with more or less success, but the latter is not generally cultivated in this country; while sheep do great damage to the young pasture when feeding off the former.

TIME OF SOWING.

SPRING SOWING.—Spring is undoubtedly the most favourable season for the sowing of pasture mixtures, because there is always sufficient moisture remaining in the land from the winter to ensure germination and to support the young plants. From the third week of March until the end of the first week in May is the safest time, and as a general rule the earlier the seed can be got in during this period the better will be the results. Sowings made in early March incur risk of serious injury from late frosts unless they are protected by winter corn. Leguminous plants and some grasses do not resist severe frost, and the uprooting action of alternate freezing and thawing, so well when the seed is sown in autumn as when the seeding is done in spring, because the spring-raised plants have a longer period in which to become established before the winter, while the seedlings generally vegetate more freely during spring than in autumn, and are consequently better able to defend themselves against such encroaching plants as fiorin. In addition, the plants from a spring sowing always grow more luxuriantly during the following spring than do those of autumn sown pastres.

SOWING WITH CORN.—It is permissible to sow considerably earlier in a winter cereal, as the young fodder plants are sheltered by the corn, which should be about two inches in height when the seeds are sown. The more general practice, however, is to sow immediately the protective cereal has been got in during spring, preferably in April.

SOWING ON OLD LEYS.—Seeds may be sown at the end of February or quite at the beginning of March on an old clover or sainfoin ley which was heavily dragged the preceding autumn, and top-dressed in early winter.

SUMMER SOWING.—Pasture seeds are occasionally cereals, are always hazardous exvetches, the first hay crop, trifolium, &c., but such sowings are reliable only in very wet seasons.

AUTUMN SOWING.—While autumn sowings after potatoes, green fodder crops, and occasionally cereals, are always hazardous excepting in wet years; they are sometimes absolutely necessary owing to the impossibility of preparing heavy, tenacious land in good time in spring; but the plants are liable to injury from drought and early winter frosts, by the latter of which young clovers are often killed outright. August and the first week of September is the safest period in autumn for getting the seeds.

PRACTICAL SOWING.

ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS.—Beyond a fine, firm and level seed-bed, the necessity for which has been already demonstrated, a sufficiently dry soil to permit of the harrow and roller working without clogging, and a day still enough for the seeds to be distributed tolerably regularly are essential.

PREPARING FOR SEEDS.—Immediately before sowing a harrow must be run over the land. When it is merely intended to roll the seed in, a ring, or Cambridge, roller may be substituted for the harrow.

SOWING THE CEREAL.—Sow the protective cereal broadcast, mixed with what sainfoin and tall oat grass seeds are to be used, and harrow the sowing in. If intended to mature for grain or straw the corn is sometimes drilled alone, so that the pasture shall not be too densely shaded; but the method of broad-casting appears to keep weeds in check better by more fully occupying the ground with the grass and clovers.

PREPARATION OF MIXTURES.—Separate the seeds to be sown into two mixtures, containing respectively the heavy and light species. Where the slight additional expense of crossing the land a third time is not a consideration make a separate mixture of the meadow-grasses and crested dogtail-grass, though this is unnecessary when the seeds are to be only rolled in and not covered with a harrow.

DISTRIBUTING AND COVERING.—Though excellent results are often obtained by skilful broadcasting, the seed-barrow distributes the grains nearer to the ground, and should therefore be preferred under ordinary conditions. The heavy seeds may be sown up and down the field, the lighter mixture following next across the land. The whole should then be touched over as lightly as possible with a bush or light iron harrow. If the soil be heavy the process of harrowing may be omitted if desired. Immediately after the harrowing the mixture of the meadow-grasses and crested dogtail grass is sown; and finally a tolerably heavy roller must be passed over the whole field twice in opposite directions. When sown in a winter cereal the seeds cannot be harrowed in, but are merely pressed into the surface with a roller, as this operation does not injure the corn at all.

WILLIAM TOOGOOD, Southampton.

CHINESE PUBLIC BATHS

In the town of Shanghai, as well as in many other large Chinese towns, there are a number of hot-water bathing establishments, which must be of great importance as regards the health and comfort of the natives. These baths have generally two outer rooms used for undressing and dressing; the first and largest is for the poorer classes; the second for those who consider themselves more respectable and who wish to be more private. As you enter the largest of these rooms, a placard which is hung near the door informs you what the charges are, and a man stands there to receive the money on entrance. Arranged in rows down the middle and round the sides of both rooms are a number of small boxes or lockers, furnished with lock and key, into which the visitors put their clothes, and where they can make sure of them when they return from the bathing-room. The bathing-room is entered by a small door at the farther end of the building, and is about 30 feet long and 20 feet wide, the bath occupying the whole space, except a narrow path round the sides. The water is from one foot to 18 inches deep, and the sides are lined and covered with marble slabs, from which the bathers step into the water, and on which they sit and wash themselves; the furnace is placed on the outside of one of the ends, and the flues are carried through below the centre of the bath. The establishment in the afternoon and evening is crowded with visitors, and on entering the bathroom the first impression is almost insupportable; the hot steam or vapour meets you at the door, filling the eyes, ears, and causing perspiration to run from every pore of the body; it almost darkens the place; and the Chinamen seen in this imperfect light, with their brown skins and long tails, sporting amongst the water, render the scene a most ludicrous one to an Englishman. Those visitors who used the common room pay only six copper cash; the other class pay eighteen; but they in addition have a cup of tea and a pipe of tobacco from the proprietor.

BRIEF ANNALS OF SOUTH AFRICA

(By J. W. Fawcett.)

1850. Benjamin Pine appointed Lieutenant Governor of Natal.

1850. Outbreak of another Kaffir war. These relentless Africans made an unprovoked attack upon Her Majesty's troops, and massacred some of the military grandees occupying the villages in the Chumie Valley. Sir Harry Smith, the Governor of Cape Colony, had a narrow escape when, in endeavouring to reach headquarters, he left Fort Cox, clad in a rifleman's uniform, where he had been for sometime surrounded by hordes of angry Kaffirs. Being joined by a number of rebellious and discontented Hottentots, they maintained, for nearly two years, a guerilla war, which involved great sacrifice of life and property. They were finally subdued at a cost of nearly £2,000,000.

1850. The inhabitants of Cape Colony petition the Imperial Government for representative government.

1851. The Potchefstroom Raad, in consequence of the jealousies between the Boer leaders, appointed four co-ordinate Commandant Generals.

1852. The Sand River Convention signed (January 17th) by two British assistant commissioners—Major Hogge and Mr Owen, by which the Transvaal Boers were granted their independence. The more important articles of this Convention are:—

Article 1.—"The assistant commissioners guarantee in the fullest manner on the part of the British Government to the emigrant farmers beyond the Vaal River the right to manage their own affairs, and to govern themselves according to their own laws, without any interference on the part of the British Government, and that no encroachment shall be made by the said Government on the territory beyond, to the north of the Vaal River; with the further assurance that the warmest wish of the British Government is to promote peace, free trade, and friendly intercourse with the emigrant farmers now inhabiting, or who hereafter may inhabit, that country, it being understood that this system of non-interference is binding upon both parties."

Article 2.—Arranges, in case of misunderstanding, for a subsequent delimitation of boundaries.

Article 3.—"Her Majesty's assistant commissioners hereby disclaim all alliances whatever and with whomsoever of the coloured nations to the north of the Vaal River."

Article 4.—"It is agreed that no slavery is or shall be permitted or practised in the country to the north of the Vaal River by the emigrant farmers."

Article 5.—Arranges for mutual facilities and liberty to traders and travellers on both sides of the Vaal River.

Article 6.—Allows the emigrant Boers to obtain ammunition in British colonies and possessions—"it being mutually understood that all trade in ammunition with the native tribes is prohibited both by the British Government and the emigrant farmers on both sides of the Vaal River.'

Article 7.—Arranges for the mutual extradition—"as far as possible"—of criminals and mutual access to courts of justice.

Article 8.—Validates for purposes of inheritance in British possessions, certificates of marriage issued by the proper authorities of the emigrant farmers.

Article 9.—Allows free movement of all persons, except criminals and absconding debtors, between the British and the Boers' territories.

1852. Hendrik Potgieter, a Boer leader in the Orange River Sovereignty, sent a letter to Sechele, a Bechuana chief, commanding him to surrender to the Dutch, and also to stop English traders from proceeding into the interior. Sechele returned a bold and resolute reply, stating that he was an independant chief and that the English were his friends and refused to obey the summons.

1852. Six hundred Boers and about seven hundred natives belonging to tribes they had conquered attacked Sechele's town—Chonane—and after a long struggle defeated the Bechuanas (August.) Sixty Bechuanas and 35 Boers were killed. They looted the place and then set it on fire, and departed, taking with them about 200 children as captives to be made slaves of, and a large number of cattle belonging to the tribe. In this raid they sacked Dr. Livingstone's house (the missionary being absent), carrying away everything that was of any value, and destroying his books, medicine, and papers. They also drove away all his cattle.

1852. As soon as Sechele heard of the attack of the Boers, he, firmly impressed with the idea of English justice, started for Cape Town to lay the case before the English Queen.

1852. Rebellion of the Basutos suppressed by the British.

1852. A large number of Bechuanas attacked and defeated a party of Boers, compelling them to flee, leaving their waggons and goods behind them, which was captured and taken to Letubamba, the headquarters of the tribe.

1852. The Boers alarmed at the successful attack of the Bechuanas, sent four of their number to sue for peace, which was agreed to on condition that they returned Sechele their children, which Schlos, one of their leaders, had taken captive and made slaves.

1852. The Boers north of the Vaal having gained their independency established a government of their own. The Potchefstroom republicans, who were the chief emigrant farmers represented at the negotiations of the Sand River Convention, adopted the title of South African Republic, but their Raad had authority only in a very small district. Marthinus Wessels Pretorius was appointed the first President.

1852. The Honourable George Cathcart appointed Governor and High Commissioner of Cape Colony.

1852. The Copper Mines at Springbok, Cape Colony, first opened by the Dutch, and which had been closed for many years re-commenced working.

1853. Division of the Diocese of Capetown and establishment of the Sees of Grahamstown and Natal.

1853. Consecration of the Rev. J. W. Colenso as first Bishop of Natal, and the Rev. —. Armstrong as first Bishop of Grahamstown.

1853. Submission of hostile Kaffir chiefs to Sir George Cathcart, the Governor of Cape Colony, who proclaimed Kaffraria a British dependency.

1853. Outbreak of a serious epidemic amongst the horses in Cape Colony, by which in two years, over 70,000 animals died.

1853. By an order in Council of March 11th, the Government of Cape Colony was made a regular constitution. Two Elective Chambers—a Legislative Council of fifteen and an Assembly of forty-six—being granted.

1853. The Boers of the South African Republic, finding that the country over the Drakensberg and among the mountains along its edge, was too cold for the cattle they had brought from the warmer climate of Natal, despatched a messenger to Panda, the paramount Zulu chief, to ask for permission to graze for two months at the end of the winter on a piece of country between the Buffalo and Blood Rivers. At this date this portion of country was unoccupied and Panda granted the Boer's their request, only on condition that they would not build on it. The Boer representative promised this but no sooner did he return to Potchefstroom, than he gave out farms to his friends, took some himself, and returned to the territory with a number of Boers, and herds of cattle, and commenced permanent occupation. This act, however, was against President Pretorius's wish, and he, doubtless, seeing that it was a direct violation of Article 1 of the Sand River Convention of 1852, sent them both verbal and written instructions to return. They paid no more respect to the honest scruples of their President than they did to their own promise to Panda. In order to relieve Pretorius of all responsibility they started an independent republic of their own, which they styled the Republic of Utrecht, and which had a separate existence and no connection with any other until in 1858 it became incorporated with the central Government of the South African.

A BALOON POSTAL SERVICE.

During the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, Germany issued what were called "Field Post Correspondence Cards," for the use of Soldiers only, who obtain them at the rate of about five for a halfpenny. These the soldiers could use without any stamp. Another issue of the same series, intended for civilians, had a place for a stamp, which had to be affixed before the card was posted. This system, however, one would think, must have been subject to no end of abuse. On the other side of the line during this memorable war, the French had their "Balloon Postal Cards." Suppose a Frenchman, confined in Paris during the siege, wanted to communicate with friends outside. Of course it was out of the question to do so by ordinary channels—railway, carriage, or messenger. There was only one method open to him, that of the balloon post, and this by no means a certain one. However, if he determined to risk it, he procured a little card, smaller than the American blue "postal" of to-day, on which were printed such patriotic sentiments as "Paris defies the enemy," "Only one war is just and right, that for independence." These were written in both French and German, the latter fact testifying to the likelihood there existed of the correspondence falling into the hands of the enemy, who, the Parisians evidently hoped, might be properly impressed by reading such utterances as those quoted. These defiant sentences appeared around the four sides of the card. In the centre, above the space for the address, were the arms of the French Republic; to the left of this, in large type, the words, "Per Balloon" (By Balloon); and to the right the reminder, "The Government reserves the right to confiscate all postal cards that contain matter of a nature to be utilised by the enemy." In the lower left hand corner was a space to which the stamp was to be affixed. On the other side of this card the Parisian would write his message and entrust it to the bag, which a balloon took up and dropped somewhere in the surrounding country where there was the least chance of the Prussians picking it up. Should it escape this fate, it was carried to the nearest post-office, and the mail matter despatched to the various addresses.

THE FREE CHURCHES

"IAN MACLAREN" AND CANON HAMMOND.

The epistolary controversy between Dr. John Watson ("Ian Maclaren") and Canon Hammond concerning the doctrine of Apostolical Succession has excited considerable interest among Nonconformists. Dr. Watson, in a sermon at the City Temple, London, in connection with the Metropolitan Free Church Federation, spoke very plainly about a theory of orders which made the ministry of some ignorant, debased Brazilian priest "valid," and denied this quality to the ministry of Bunyan, or Dale, or Spurgeon. Canon Hammond practically admits the impeachment. He points out that the sons of Eli—Hophni, and Phinehas—were wicked, yet the efficacy of their priestly ministrations was not thereby impaired, and that Judas Iscariot though the Lord knew that he was to prove himself a traitor, was an Apostle. Dr. Watson retorts by answering whether Canon Hammond contends that Our Lord was indifferent to personal character in His apostles. The correspondence has been printed in full in the "British Weekly." The controversy is conducted on both sides in a fine spirit, with courtesy and calmness.

DR. PARKER AND THE WAR.

Dr. Parker has taken practically the same line on the war as Mr. Frederick Greenwood The Boers, he says, have shown themselves formidable enemies. Let us offer to discuss terms of peace with them, fully resolved that if they prove obstreperous we shall continue the fight to the inevitable end. This was Dr. Parker's advice in the "Daily News." The minister of the City Temple is continually surprising and dazzling people. He has followed his article by a statement from the pulpit that he thinks the Queen in an unofficial capacity—"as a woman, a mother, a widow"—could stop the war. How, he does not explain. "She herself must spontaneously determine. Let us leave it to the instinct and the impulse of her great motherly heart which has never failed her."

THE SUCCESSOR OF THE REV. J. H. SHAKESPEARE, M.A.

As most readers of this colmn know, the Rev. J. H. Shakespeare, M.A., before he became the secretary of the Baptist Union about a year ago, was minister of St Mary's Church, Norwich, a historic pulpit of Nonconformity. It was no easy thing to find a suitable successor to Mr. Shakespeare, but the church has hit upon a good and true man in the Rev. T. Phillips, B.A., of Kettering. Mr. Phillips is one of the coming men—if he be not "arrived"—of the Baptist denomination. He has had distinguished success at Kettering, and his people are very sorry to part with him. Mr. Phillips is an enthusiast for the Free Church Federation movement, and very few men have done more downright hard work on its behalf.

THE SHEFFIELD MEETINGS OF THE NATIONAL FREE CHURCH COUNCIL.

The programme for these meetings, which are to be held from March 12th to March 15th, inclusive, has now been fixed. We observe that three hours have been set apart for the discussion of public questions. There is not likely to be any lack of matter for debate. Perhaps it is unprecedented that a member of the State Church, Mr. Walter Walsh, author of "The Secret History of the Oxford Movement," should take part in the proceedings. Mr. Walsh, along with Dr. Barrett, is going to discuss "The present aspect of the Protestant Movement." The great enterprise of the Free Churches of 1901 is to be a limited simultaneous mission and the best means of making this a success will have to be considered. In view of the concentration of temperance reformers on Lord Peel's report, the discussion on "The attitude of the Free Churches towards temperance legislation," which is to be opened by the Rev. C. F. Aked, the energetic Liverpool Baptist, will be of special interest and importance. Owing to the increasingly large attendance of representative members, the number of personal members will be limited, and application should be made at once to the Rev. Thomas Law, Memorial Hall, London.

MRS. GEORGE CADBURY,

the wife of the great "Cocoa King," of Birmingham, is an energetic and Christian worker, and almost as well-known in the Midlands as her husband. She is very wide in her sympathies. For some years she was President of the Birmingham "Union of Girls' Club," which represent all denominations. At the Manor, Northfield, the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs George Cadbury, two lady gardeners are employed. Some interesting details of Mrs Cadbury's work is given in the January "Free Churchman."

"WORTH A GUINEA A BOX."

Mr. Joseph Beecham, J.P., the new Mayor of St. Helens, and the chief proprietor of "Beecham's Pills," is a Congregationalist, and is the subject of an article in the January "Free Church Chronicle," one of the series on "Free Churchmen in Municipal Life." A long review of the Rev. J. S. Drummond's life of Dr. Berry is an interesting feature of the new number. The writer has some new information: On the second Sunday of Dr. Berry's ministrations at Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, while he was in the middle of his sermon, the church suddenly filled with smoke, and the people became alarmed. Dr. Berry, with the greatest "sang froid," summoned the assistant pastor, told him to go and find out what was the matter, and proceeded quite calmly with his discourse. He rivetted the attention of the people on himself. When the assistant came back he reported that something had gone wrong with the heating apparatus, but there was no cause whatever for alarm. Dr. Berry communicated this information to the congregation, and the service went on without anxiety or interruption. On Monday morning, the New York papers were full of stirring accounts with big, bold headlines, of how the young divine from England had calmed an excited congregation in the most wonderful manner.

DR. HORTON ON MARRIAGE AND GOSSIP.

Dr. Horton has been giving advice to young women and girls. He thinks it "altogether wrong and unwholesome that girls should be taught to dwell on the thought of marriage as the one aim and object of their life." But are they so taught? Dr. Horton is dead against gossip and tattle. Like Wordsworth, he would have no personal talk.

WESLEYAN MINISTERIAL DEATH-ROLL

During the year just ending 41 Wesleyan ministers have died in Great Britain, 3 in Ireland, and 6 on the foreign mission field. The following were connected with this district —Richard Hopper was at Newcastle (Blenheim Street 1883-6); Thos. W. Johnstone was three years second minister at Gateshead (High West Street), and had previously been at Sunderland; Aaron Edman, who was superintendent at Houghton-le-Spring and Shotley Bridge 1873-9; Joseph Henry Slack, who died whilst superintendent at Chester-le-Street; William L. Wingle, who was three years at Darlington; Henry Hine, who began his ministry at Wolsingham, and afterwards spent three years each at Durham, Gateshead, Barnard Castle, North Shields, and Stockton; J. C. Harrop, who was three years at Stockton; William Barrowclough, who was three years each at Bishop Auckland and Berwick-on-Tweed; Ebenezer A. Gardiner, who commenced his English work at Bishop Auckland, after spending six years at West Africa; Jabez Ingham, who travelled in Bedale, Whitby, Durham, Blyth, and Cockermouth; Richard Stevens, who was superintendent at Blyth at the time of his death, and was previously at Houghton-le-Spring; Josiah Goodacre, who preceded Mr Stevens at Houghton-le-Spring; Uriah Butters, whose ministry extended over a term of 63 years, and amongst his many circuits were Wolsingham, Hexham, Kendal, Alnwick, Bedale, and Crook; Joseph Charlesworth, who finished a three years' superintendency at Crook at the Conference of 1898 and went to Pateley Bridge, having been previously at Chester-le-Street and Kirby Stephen; Alfred Lockyer, who was two years at Penrith; Joseph R. Cleminson, who began his ministry at Reeth, and was afterwards at Alston, Wolsingham, and Stokesley; George Sargeant, who was at Sunderland 1866-9, from whence he went to Jamaica, and for six years was president of the West Indian Conference; Samuel Sheard, who was three years at Durham; James Nicholson, who was four years at Pickering and Barnard Castle; Edward Knibbs, who was six years at Guisborough and Hartlepool; Thomas Brooks, who commenced his ministry at Gateshead in 1832, and was afterwards at Scarborough and Sunderland; Edwin Seller, who was at Malton, Pickering, and Filey.

BLAYDON.

PRESENTATION.—In the waiting room of the railway station, Blaydon, on Wednesday night, an interesting gathering took place, Mr George Yeomans, late chief clerk of the passenger department, at the above-named station, who has been appointed stationmaster at Longhirst, was made the recipient of a testimonial from the Blaydon Station staff of employees of the N.E.R. The testimonial was also subscribed to by several influential residents and others, in the Blaydon district. Mr Wm. Parton, who presided, referred in high complimentary terms to the courtesy of Mr Yeomans, whom he believed the travelling public generally always found to be civil and obliging in the discharge of his official duties.—Mr Lumsden, (station master at Blaydon), made the presentation, which consisted of a purse of gold, and a beautiful tea and coffee service for Mrs Yeomans. He spoke in eulogistic terms of the integrity and straightforwardness of character which distinguished Mr Yeomans during his seven years' service at Blaydon Station.—Mr W. Plender, and Mr Brownless, foreman porter, also spoke.—Mr Yeomans suitably replied, thanking the subscribers for their kindness, and remarking that he would ever cherish the gifts.

VALUABLE DISCOVERY FOR THE HAIR.—If your hair is turning grey or white or falling off use the MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER, for it will positively restore in every case, grey or white hair to its original colour. It makes the hair charmingly beautiful, as well as promoting the growth. Price 3s 6d. per bottle.

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A COMPLICATED CASE FROM AXWELL COLLIERY.

At the Gateshead County Police Court, on Thursday, Jas. Fenton, a hewer, sued Messrs Hannington and Co., Ltd., Axwell Colliery, for wages which he said were due to him. His claim was made up of £2 2s 2d, wages due on Nov. 3rd, and 13s lying-on money. Mr Hick, who was for the plaintiff, said his client was given notice on Oct. 21st to leave the defendants' employment, and to vacate the colliery house at the expiration of a fortnight. In consequence of the confinement of his daughter, the plaintiff was not able to get out of the house until 3 weeks later, and the defendants refused to pay him his money.

The defendants filed a counter claim. They said that they paid £1 6s to the plaintiff's son. They admitted £1 9s 2d; but they claimed 15s for 3 weeks' occupation of their house after the expiration of notice to leave, and £2 damages as loss of the services of another hewer whom they had engaged, but who left in consequence of his inability to get occupation of the house which the plaintiff refused to give up.

The plaintiff said he gave no authority to his son to receive his wages.

A Clerk in the defendants' employ spoke to giving the plaintiff's son £1 6s in his behalf.

Evidence was given on behalf of the defendants to show that it was the custom at the colliery to pay a man's wages to members of his family sent for it.

The Magistrates' Clerk said if they did this they did it at their own risk.

The Bench said that such an arrangement was for the convenience of the men themselves.

The defendants' manager said the man he engaged to take the plaintiff's place brought his furniture from Bishop Auckland on the 18th ult. As the plaintiff did not get out of the house this man had no where to put his furniture. Another company offered him work and a house if he would begin at once and he went over to them. The defendants had not been able to get another man in his place, and consequently they had lost in the output of coal.

The Bench said the defendants must pay the £1 6s which they said they had paid to the plaintiff's son. They would have their remedy against the son. This, together with the £1 9s 2d admitted as owing by the defendants, brought the sum for which they gave judgment to £2 15s 2d. On the counter claim they gave judgment for the owners for 15s for the use of their house after the notice to leave had expired, and £1 damages for loss in regard to output in consequence of the plaintiff's action. In the result the judgment was that the plaintiff would be paid £1 0s 2d.

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HOW TO PROVE A WILL.—Without expense—price 6. Will Forms 3d each; Improved Will Forms, with full directions how to fill it up, with printed example, 6d each, at the "Guardian" Office, Front Street, Consett.

DR. BARDSLEY'S ANTIBILIOUS PILLS—for eradicating all impurities of the blood from the system they have no equal. They have never failed to effect 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 36 stamps. Wm. Mather, Wholesale Druggist, Manchester.

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HAS STOOD THE TEST of MANY YEARS.
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G. Handyside gives his Medicine Free every Saturday from 2 p.m. till 4 p.m., at 12, Bentinck Crescent, Elswick Road, Newcastle, for 3 months to all who are unable to pay for it—(and the regular medicine has been tried and failed)—for Consumption, Kidney Disease, Sleeplessness, Looseness of the Bowels, Cancer, Tumours, Bladder Diseases, and Rheumatism, indeed all diseases under the sun. Two remarkable cases have been cured lately. One was Blindness from debility. The reporter to the "Jarrow Guardian" came into the consulting room and saw the lady who was blind from debility, and he again saw after she was restored to sight. The case was made public through the "Jarrow Guardian." The cause of the Blindness was debility of the organs of sight They were strengthened and the sight was restored. Blindness being produced by defective organs it will not cure, but there are thousands of people who can be cured who are blind from debility. The next marvellous case was one of Bladder Disease which was caused was all irritated gland at the bottom of the bladder. The irritation was removed, and the water is passed freely, and quite clear. About half of the cases of Cancer and Tumour have been cured, but in all cases where they have not been cured the agony and pain has been considerably reduced. This is a very dear medicine, and a good many people cannot afford to buy a sufficient quantity to cure bad cases. Cancer and Consumption often takes six months to cure them, and the medicine will cost 8/- a month, which thousands cannot afford to pay. I know of a case in York, where a person bought four lots of Consumption Cure, and it brought her out of bed, when her doctor had given her up. Her mother said to my agent—"The medicine I bought of you is curing my daughter, but our funds are exhausted. What is to be done?" I know of several similar distressing cases. No such cases need occur. It is given away freely every Saturday, and those who cannot believe the marvellous things this medicine does are welcome to come and see for themselves, for all the patients are glad to relate the change it has effected in them Those who reside too far away to come for the medicine themselves, I will give it to any of their friends, and they can send it. This is a great boon to the working classes, and they should know its marvellous power, for when the head of the house is laid in bed with sickness, poverty and pinching dwells in their homes. For those who live too far away to come and see for themselves I will ask newspaper reporters to report the cases. If any factory employing above 500 elect a man to come to the dispensaries I will be glad to pay all the expenses in coming, and also pay for his time. One missionary in Glasgow came to me, and said he had heard of such remarkable cures by Handyside's Consumption Cure that he would like to know something more about the medicine. I replied to him that I was just going to dispense the Medicine, and he was welcome to come and hear what the people said it had done for them. I gave the Medicine away for two hours. I asked him what he thought of the power of this medicine, and he replied, that had anyone swore what he had heard he could not have believed it. Another one went to Sunderland, and heard from the people's own lips the cure of blindness through debility, being restored to sight. Cancer being cured, huge ulcers of the legs healed up, Consumption cases quite jaunty and gay, his amazement was so great that he could scarcely sleep. A person who went to my dispensary in Leeds, wrote to me and congratulated me on the Medicine and said it really looked as if Jesus Christ had come back to earth again. A layman of the Church of England entered a railway carriage in London where one of my assistants and I were sitting. He complimented my assistant on the wonderful work this medicine was doing. He continued, "had I not seen week after week the wonderful results I never could have believed it." When he was told that I was the owner of the Consumption Cure, he lifted his hat, and said, "I should be the happiest man in the world to be able to relieve so much suffering." I could mention several hundreds of similar cases, but to believe these miracles they must be seen. All that is needed to obtain this medicine is a note from any of their neighbours, to certify that the person has been under doctors' treatment and has not been cured. This is also a remarkable Medicine for Bloodlessness. Youths of both sexes from 12 to 15 years old are often troubled with it. I have known several cases where Consumption was setting in perfectly cured by this medicine. If the children are not cured in early youth it leaves a deliciency for life, and prevents them from rising to any high position in life where energy is required.

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

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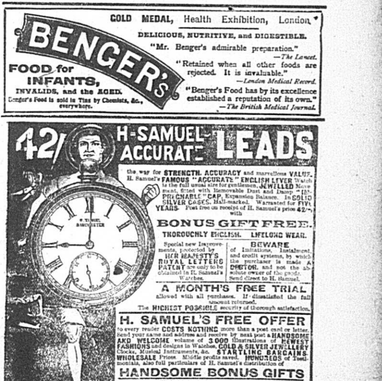

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CONSETT DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A [illegible] meeting of the members of the [illegible] District Council was held [illegible] Wednesday evening.—Mr. W. Ayn[illegible] (chairman) presiding. There [illegible] present Messrs G. Ainsworth, (vice-chairman), G. D. Powell, G. T. [illegible], [illegible] Holliday, W. Rippon, J. Lowes, [illegible] Forster, the Clerk (Mr. T. W. Welford, and the Surveyor (Mr. W. S. Shell.)

THE LATE DR. RENTON.

The Chairman said he would like to refer to the death of Dr. Geo. Renton, who, as they knew, acted as their Medical Officer of Health and was for so many years Medical Officer for the old Local Board. It was hardly necessary for him to refer to the good qualities of the late doctor as they were so well known to them. He could only say as an old resident that his genial presence would be missed by a large circle of friends, and he would suggest that the Clerk send a letter of condolence to Mrs. Renton and family. He moved accordingly.

Mr. Ainsworth seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

The Building and Sewage Committee recommended that Messrs W. B. Reid and Co's plan for alterations to the Alexandra Hotel, Havelock Street, Consett, be passed. The Surveyor having prepared a plan for stabling &c., and estimate of the cost, and also of the requisites to enable the Council to carry out the work of the removal of house refuse and other team labour in the district, the Committee, after careful consideration, recommended that after the expiration of the period of the existing contracts the Council take the work into their own hands; further that until such time as all was in readiness for so doing the Committee be empowered to take such steps as they may deem best to have the work carried out in the meantime.

The Chairman said they had the plans of stables, &c., before them. The Committee thought if they did adopt that proposal they ought to have sufficient carts and horses to do the whole work—the team work as well as the cleaning of the ashpits. They seemed to be fairly well satisfield that four horses would be sufficient for the scavenging, and other two for the extra work. Six horses at £45 would be £270, six carts at £17 each would be £102, six sets of harness, £31 10s, which, with the other items would give a total of £863 5s 6d. On a four horse and cart basis the total would be £600. He believed under their new bye-laws the cleaning could be done during the day as well as night.

Mr. Holliday said he belived the contractor was doing part during the day now.

The Chairman said it was quite certain the contractor was not doing the work satisfacterily, and the question was whether the Council would take it into their own hands or get a fresh contracter.

Mr. Ainsworth said he should not like to lay too much stress on the estimated cost which might be lower than it would turn out to be. At the same time if that was the only efficient way of doing the work they must face it whatever the cost. It might be that their condition in the past had been too onerous and that they had been too hard on the contractors, and if so then they should further consider the matter.

Mr. Holliday said Mr. Ainsworth was not at the meeting on Tuesday night when the contractor made a statement as to doors being bolted and so preventing them from getting in to do the work. He was asked if there were 20 such instances out of the 638 houses neglected, and all he could say was that he did not know.

Mr. Ainsworth said he was not speaking with regard to the present contractor at all. He spoke more as to the principle of letting the work by contract. If their rules had been too stringent and prevented contractors from tendering them they might re-consider their position. When a man contracted to do a thing he should do it, but whether their terms were unnecessarily stringent was another matter.

The Surveyor, in reply to Mr. Hyden, said that for some time the contractor had been doing most of the work during the day.

Mr. Powell said they had only tried two years by contract and they seemed to have the question before them every month. It seemed too difficult a job or those who contracted estimated too low. The only thing for them to do was to take the bull by the horns and do the work themselves. If it cost £200 more the health of the town would benefit. He moved the adoption of the recommendation in the report.

Mr. Holliday said the great difficulty was in the initial cost. Once that was over then the Surveyor could see that the work was done thoroughly and systematically. They would save in the long run, and they would have no more of this trouble.

Mr. Hyden said he made the cost estimated work out at a fivepenny rate.

Mr. Holliday: That is the initial cost?

Mr. Hyden: Yes.

Mr. Forster said the advantage of doing the work themselves would be that they would see it was efficiently done. He seconded the adoption of the recommendation.

The motion was agreed to, and the report was adopted.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The Surveyor reported that owing to the storm setting in the work to be done by the steam road roller had been suspended. He had gone into the difference of cost for having the limestone delivered already broken, and getting it rough and breaking it here, particulars of which would be submitted to them. The following had been collected:—General district rate £40 2s 5d; private street improvements 12/10, bye-laws 5/6, market tolls £1 13s—total, £42 15s 9d. The Finance Committee in their report stated that they found hand broken stones could be got delivered on the roads at a saving of 6½d per ton as compared with rough limestone. They recommended that broken limestone be obtained, and this was agreed to.

FINANCE.

The Finance Committee reported that the treasurer's book showed a balance of £1210 17s 8d in favour of the Council. They recommended the payment of accounts amounting to £331 17s.

The report was adopted.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Mr. Shell, as Inspector, said he had again to report the very unsatisfactory way in which the contractor (Mr. A. Stephenson) was carrying out the removal of house refuse. He had tried all means without effect. During the month the houses attended to once were 909, twice 110, thrice 22, and five times 164, total 1205; houses empty 37, attended to by owners themselves 37, houses not attended to by the contractor 638,—total 712, grand total, 1917.

The Council then adjourned.

Chester-le-Street Petty Sessions

WEDNESDAY, January 3rd.—Before Mr H. W. Kerrich-Walker and Mr F. S. Newall.

THE CHARGE SHEET.

The charge sheet was an exceedingly light one, there being only four cases of drunkenness, and three other charges for hearing. The "drunks" were dealt with as follows:—Richard Hall, fined 2s 6d and costs; Jane Ann Adams, 2s 6d and costs; Wm. Sanderson, 2s 6d and costs; and Thomas Laidler, who did not appear, 5s and costs.

ALLEGED BREACH OF THE PEACE.

Charles Hall, Henry Pickford, and Robert Pickford were charged with having committed a breach of the peace at Ouston on the 24th December. The defendants did not appear, and P.C. Buckley having proved the service of the summons, Supt. Rutherford applied for a warrant, which was granted by the Bench.

HUSBAND AND WIFE.

James Cuthbertson was charged on a warrant, after an adjournment, with being in arrears of maintenance to his wife, Isabella Cuthbertson, to whom an order was granted under the Married Women's Act.—Defendant agreed to pay £2 into court providing the warrant was withdrawn. Mrs Cuthbertson accepted the offer, and the Bench confirmed it.

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT.

John George Head, miner, Perkinsville, was charged with having committed an aggravated assault upon Janet Hannay, 20 years of age, on New Year's night.—Prosecutrix said she was a single woman and lived at Bedlington, in Northumberland. Two weeks previously she, with the consent of her parents, came to Perkinsville as housekeeper to the defendant. On New Year's day he tried to kiss her under the mistletoe, but she resisted. At night he entered her bedroom and assaulted her. She put a mackintosh on and ran outside, finding shelter in a neighbour's house.—Sarah Clewes, married, said she lived near the defendant, and on New Year's night heard someone screaming outside her door. She went out and saw prosecutrix standing against the rails. The prosecutrix made a complaint, and someone went for the police.—Dr Taylor said he had examined the prosecutrix and found her bruised in one of two places.—P.C. Buckley gave evidence as to the arrest, after which the defendant went into the box and practically admitted the offence.—The Bench inflicted a penalty of 10s and costs.

WEARDALE.

CONCERT.—The annual concert in connection with the High House Wesleyans was [illegible] on New Year's night, to an appreciative audience, by the choir, assisted by Mattie McNichol, of Darlington. [illegible] Mr. W. F. Dawson; chairman, [illegible] Hunter. A large company was

DURHAM QUARTER SESSIONS

The Epiphany Quarter Sessions for the County of Durham were commenced at the Assize Courts, Durham, on Monday, before the Right Hon. J. L. Wharton, M.P., and other magistrates. In charging the Grand Jury the Chairman said they saw at present their county and the country in general, so far as trade was concerned, in a most prosperous condition, and if only the same amicable relations were maintained between employers and employed and the state of prosperity of trade continued, they would, he hoped, meet again at the end of the year feeling that they had had indeed a prosperous year. They knew the anxiety there was abroad with regard to that most serious war in which they were engaged. He could only hope that at the end of the year the war might have been concluded, and an honourable and lasting peace arranged between the contending parties.

CONSETT WOUNDING CASES.

Joseph McGurk (45), labourer, was indicted for having unlawfully wounded Ann Jackson, at Consett, on the 25th of November. He pleaded guilty to the offence, and was sentenced to six months imprisonment with hard labour.

Matthew Coleman (62,) labourer, was indicted for wounding Wm. Wall, at Consett, on Nov. 25th. The Jury found him guilty, and he was sentenced to two months' imprisonment with hard labour.

THEFT FROM THE PERSON AT WEST CORNFORTH.

George Harrison (24), and Thomas Cawley (44), labourers, were charged with stealing from the person of John Pantler a watch and chain, his property, at West Cornforth, on the 9th December.—Prisoners were found guilty, and sentenced each to three months' imprisonment with hard labour.

THE WHICKHAM CHILD STEALING CASE.

Eliza Jane Beadnell, 23, laundress, was charged with taking, by force, Edith Pyle, a child of the age of 3, with intent to deprive the father, George Pyle, of the possession of the said child, at Whickham, on September 9th.

Mr. Meynell prosecuted, and, in opening the case, said the father of the child, George Pyle, was a mason and a widower living at Whickham. Early in September, he advertised for a housekeeper, and the accused applied, and was engaged for the situation, and she entered on her duties on the 8th September. On the following day the accused sent an elder daughter of Pyle's out to seek blackberries, and said she would take care of Edith. While the elder girl was out, and Pyle was at work, the accused left the house with Edith. Later on the same day she was heard of at Gosforth, where she lodged all night with a Mr. and Mrs. Knox. She then had the child with her, and stated that she came from Bishop Auckland. On the plea of returning with the child to her father, the accused borrowed half-a-crown from the Knox's on the following day, and left the house. Three days later, the accused entered a train at Alnmouth, and told a lady in the same compartment that the child's father was waiting to receive it at Newcastle Central Station. The lady promised to take care of the child as far as Newcastle, but on arrival there, no one was waiting, and the child was given to the railway authorities, who handed it over to the police, and it was returned to its home at Whickham. The child, when it left, wore a hat which cost 4s 6d, and when it was brought back, it had a fresh hat marked "9d" inside; otherwise it was no worse.

The accused, in defence, handed up a written statement, in which she said she had no intention of stealing the child.

She was found guilty, and on the understanding that, upon her release, she would be received into the Diocesan Home for Friendless Women at Gosforth, she was sentenced to one month's imprisonment, without hard labour.

WAREHOUSE BREAKING AT BLACKHALL MILL.

William Charlton, 47, George Young, 29, and John Robson, 37, miners, were charged with breaking and entering the warehouse of Wm. Aynsley, Ltd., and stealing therein 11lbs. of ham and other articles, their property at Blackhall Mill, near Ebchester, on Christmas Eve.—Mr Robinson prosecuted.

P.C. Sinden, of Hamsterley, was on duty at Blackhall Mill, on the night in question, when he heard a voice in the warehouse. On going up he found Young and Charlton in the place, and Robson, who was under the window, had two eggs in his hand. There had been a fire at Aynsley's shop on the previous day, and the goods had been stored at the warehouse in consequence.

Charlton and Young denied all knowledge of the matter, Charlton adding that he was drunk. Robson, who was the only one who addressed the jury, caused considerable laughter. He said: My lord and gentlemen of the jury, I was drunk at the time. Maybe some of you know what it is to be drunk. He added that he had not stolen the eggs, but picked them up from the ground outside. The place had been on fire on the previous day, and he had lost a shift to help with the pumping engine. There were many other things lying about.

The accused were all found guilty, and were each sentenced to 21 days' hard labour.

Fatality at Malton Colliery

Robert Jarvis, 30 years of age, residing at Front Street, Lanchester, and employed as a coke-filler at Malton Colliery, was killed near the coke-ovens at 9 o'clock on the morning of December 31st. Deceased, with a man named Thomas T. Laidler, was in the act of running some empty coke trucks from a siding to the coke bench. The brakes of two trucks were taken off, deceased being in charge of the first, and Laidler of the second. After the trucks had run about 15 yards Laidler heard Jarvis shout out, "Oh! dear," and at once applied the brake to his truck. The trucks moved on for five yards further, and Laidler then saw deceased lying on the plates, the trucks having passed over the lower part of his body. At the inquest held in the Police Station on Tuesday afternoon, the jury, after hearing the evidence, returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

Dunston Amateur Cycling Club

The third annual social and dance held under the auspices of the Dunston Amateur Cycling Club took place on Friday evening in the Dunston Board Schools. As was anticipated, the event proved a great success, and is now regarded as the most important social gathering held in the district. In Mr Archie Rutherford the club possess a most hard-working and courteous secretary, and to this gentleman the success of the gathering was in a large measure due. The arrangements on Friday evening were complete in every detail, being studiously looked after by the able secretary, assisted by Messrs A. T. Brunswick, J. Beckett, Dr. Dougall, Dr Forster, M. Ellis, and E. Todd. Dancing commenced shortly after eight o'clock, and was kept up with much spirit till the early hours on Saturday morning. A capital programme of dance music was drawn up, and this was placed in the hands of Mr E. R. Corbett, of Gateshead, who ably discoursed the same. Capable M.C.'s were to be found in Mr A. T. Brunswick, Mr W. G. Swinburn, Dr Dougall, and Dr Forster. Refreshments were supplied by Messrs Keedy, Gateshead. Amongst the large company present were:—Mr W. Thirlway, Whickham; Miss Stark, Whickham; Mr J. Jobling, Whickham; Miss Donnelly, Gateshead; Mr J. Nicholson, Whickham; Miss Nicholson, Whickham; Mr R. T. Swinburn, Whickham; Miss Swinburn, Whickham; Dr. Dougall, Dunston; Dr. Foster, Dunston; Miss Hunter, Dunston; Mr Murphy, Gateshead; Mr W. Maddock, Gateshead; Miss A. Taylor, Dunston; Miss M. Taylor, Dunston; Mr W. Dixon, Dunston; Miss L. Taylor, Dunston; Mr and Mrs O'Brien, Dunston; Mr Brewis, Gateshead; Mr Rolls, Gateshead; Mr Rowell, Dunston; Mr and Mrs I. Bewley, Dunston; Mr and Mrs C. McIntyre, Dunston; Mr W. Handyside, jun., Pelling; Miss H. Lawson, Dunston; Mr J. Taylor, Dunston; Miss Pozmire, Dunston; Mr W. G. Rutherford, Dunston; Miss Smith, Dunston; Miss C. Rutherford, Dunston; Mr A. Graham, Dunston; Miss Taylor, Gateshead; Mr Killen, Dunston; Mr D. P. Clarke, Gateshead; Mr W. Gowland, Gateshead; Mr W. Atkinson, Dunston; Miss F. Thompson, Gateshead; Mr F. Thompson, Gateshead; Mr A. T. Thompson, Gateshead; Mr J. Arthurs, Gateshead; Miss Boldon, Dunston; Mr J. Boldon, jun., Dunston; Mrs Gallon, Dunston; Mr Boldon, Dunston; Miss P. Weston, Dunston; Mr E. Todd, Dunston; Mr J. Beckett, Gateshead; Miss G. Smith, Dunston; Mr I. Lawson, Dunston; Miss L. Wilkinson, Dunston; Mr J. G. Swinburn, Dunston; Miss C. Swinburn, Dunston; Mr and Mrs W. G. Swinburn, Dunston; Mr A. Scott, Dunston; Miss I. Scott, Dunston; Mr J. Dixon, Dunston; Miss L. Brown, Dunston; Mr E. Robson, Dunston; Miss Soulsby, Dunston; Mr R. A. Rutherford, Dunston; Mr Stephenson, Dunston; Miss M. Parker, Dunston; Mr H. Gowland, Dunston; Miss K. Winship, Dunston; Mrs Alcraft, Dunston; Mr and Mrs A. T. Brunswick, Dunston; Mr T. A. Buckton, Dunston; Miss J. Buckton, Dunston; Miss G. Bokton, Dunston; Mr J. Whitfield, Swalwell; Mr C. Shillitoe, Dunston; Miss McKeon, Dunston; Mr T. Denham, Dunston; Miss Brunswick, Dunston; Mr W. Hutchinson, Dunston; Miss J. Hutchinson, Dunston; Miss M. McFarlane, Dunston; Miss J. McFarlane, Dunston; Mr D. Watson, Dunston; Miss J. Noble, Dunston; Miss A. Gladstone, Dunston; Mr R. McDougall, Dunston; Mrs Clarke, Dunston; Miss Frost, Dunston; Mr Ellis, Dunston; Mr Thompson, Dunston; Miss Norman, Dunston; Mr J. Shaw, Dunston; Miss Shaw, Dunston; Mr Turnbull, Whickham; Miss Menzies, Dunston; Miss E. Hopper, Dunston; Mr E. Gladstone, Dunston; Miss Gardner, Dunston; Mr J. Foster, Dunston; Mr J. Irving, Dunston; Mr Warburton, Dunston; and others.

A SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEACHER AND HIS FRIENDS

A well-known Sunday School teacher has told an impressive and interesting story to the representative of a newspaper. As might have been expected, we learn from this paper (the "Dean Forest Mercury) that his character is of the highest. He has instructed a successful class, and his word can be thoroughly relied upon. The young man alluded to is William Field, son of Mr. William Field, of Littledean Hill, Cinderford, Dean Forest. The newspaper representative adds that he has known Mr. Field and his family for many years, and the teacher in particular. He is a clever and well-educated young man of twenty-three years, employed at one of the largest collieries in the district. Early last year he was stricken down by an attack of influenza, and other complications supervening he was in a very critical condition for some time, and was the subject of much prayer and anxiety on the part of his immediate friends, all of whom are active Christian workers, and also of his fellow teachers in the Sunday School at Greenbottom (an off-shoot of the Baptist Church there), where he had a very successful class, being a very faithful and beloved teacher, all of which facts the newspaper vouches for. Since Mr. Field's recovery, the writer interviewed him with the following result:—

The Writer: "I am glad to see you are quite well again, Mr. Field, and want to ask you a plain question or two about the same, as I know you will only say what is true. We know that you were not expected to recover. How did it happen so unexpectedly that you got well again?"

Mr. Field: "After the crisis of the influenza was passed I began slowly to mend, but it was very slow; and I suffered a good deal from pains between the shoulders. One day I happened to read in a paper of the cures effected by Dr. Williams' pink pills for pale people, and it seemed to me they were just what I wanted. I determined to try them. The first dose or two relieved me. My mother thought as they did me so much good I had better try another box, which I did, and as you know, I got able to do work—much sooner than I expected to, or should have done, I believe, but for the pills."

The Writer: "How many did you take?"

Mr. Field: "I took between two and three boxes altogether; and I was ill about eleven weeks."

The Writer: "There is no mistake about the matter, or doubt as to the value of the pills?"

Mr. Field: "Not in the least, and you know I can have no object, and am not likely, to say what I do not really believe."

The Writer: "You have had no relapse since you began to work again?"

Mr. Field: "No, I am thankful to say. I have been able to attend to my work, and social and religious duties ever since, the latter of which is a great pleasure to me, as you know."

All classes praise Dr. Williams' pink pills for the way in which they have cured paralysis, locomotor ataxy, rheumatism and sciatica, diseases arising from impoverishment of the blood, scrofula, rickets, chronic erysipelas, consumption of the bowels and lungs, anæmia, pale and sallow complexion, general muscular weakness, indigestion, loss of appetite, palpitations, pains in the back, nervous headache and neuralgia, early decay, all forms of female weakness, and hysteria. These pills are a tonic, not a purgative. They are genuine only with the full name, Dr. Williams' pink pills for pale people, and are sold by chemists, and by Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Holborn Viaduct, London, at two shillings and ninepence a box, or six boxes for thirteen and nine. Pink-coloured pills sold loose or from glass jars are not Dr. Williams' pink pills; accept them only in the pink closed wrapper as above described.

Successful Ball at High Spen

The annual ball held in connection with the High Spen Private Quadrille Party was the occasion of a grand display in the Assembly Rooms, High Spen, on Friday night last. Great preparations are made annually for this notable occasion, this fact being fully demonstrated on Friday night, when numbers of young ladies and gentlemen gathered in the hall at the appointed time. The room was most beautifully and neatly curtained off, and the walls were decked with evergreens, ferns, pictures, and flowers. The stage was set off in a most delightful manner, while the north end of the room was ornately decorated with curtains, in the centre of which was a picture and motto, "G.O.M." All these arrangements had been excellently carried out by the energetic secretary, Mr Ed. Summerside, assisted by a trustworthy committee. These gentlemen deserve credit for the most energetic and able manner in which they executed their duties, having left nothing undone in order to attain success. At the time appointed the dancers, eager for the commencement of what proved to be a most pleasant evening, swept off to the strains of the "Grand March." The scene was one of the most magnificent ever witnessed in the room. The beautiful aspect of the hall, together with the delightful contrast of the many charming dresses, rendered the sight of an unequalled character. During the evening songs were sung at intervals by Mr G. Carr, Spen; Mrs Birkett, Winlaton; and Mr Coates, Spen, much to the enjoyment of those assembled. The duties of M.C.'s were ably carried out by Mr. H. Laverty, Victoria Garesfield. Amongst those present were the following:—

Mr J. Nixon, Victoria Garesfield, and Miss Smith, Spen.
Mr M. Nicholson and Miss A. Carnaffan, Spen.
Mr J. English and Miss Colman, Spen.
Mr Harper and Miss Riddle, Spen.
Mr H. Brown, Greenside, and Miss J. Forsyth, Spen.
Mr B. Davison, Burnopfield, and Miss Fothergill, Spen.
Mr T. Wishart, Spen, and Miss Wheatley, Rowland's Gill.
Mr J. Weatherley, Spen, and Miss J. Pyle, Burnopfield.
Mr J. Hemming and Miss Armstrong, Spen.
Mr M. Carr, Spen, and Miss A. Gibson, Victoria Garesfield.
Mr H. Archdall, Chopwell, and Miss A. Ridley, Spen.
Mr J Norman, Longtown, and Miss Langdale Newcastle.
Mr T. Cheesman, and Miss A. Carr, Spen.
Mr I. Smith and Miss N. Rutherford, Spen.
Mr T. Ridley, Spen, and Miss A. Rorby, Coalburns.
Mr Wm. Ridley and Miss Davison, Spen.
Mr W. Dickinson and Miss Ridley, Spen.
Mr Tiffin and Miss Clasper, Low Spen.
Mr C. Armstrong and Miss Hall, Spen.
Mr E. Lowdon and Miss Storey, Spen.
Mr Barrett and Miss Charlton, Spen.
Mr J. Newton and Miss Poole, Victoria Garesfield.
Mr W. Nicholson and Miss Newton, Victoria Garesfield.
Mr T. Richley and Miss Burnett, Spen.
Mr L. Hall and Miss M. Rogers, Spen.
Mr Minks, Victoria Garesfield, and Miss Robinson, Spen.
Mr W. Heppel and Miss Nichol, Spen.
Miss Nichol, Miss Cawthorn, Misses Lowery, Miss Butler, Miss E. Laverty, Victoria Garesfield.
Miss Milburn, Miss Hood, Miss Webster, Miss R. Ridley, Miss B. Milburn, Misses Bullerwell, Miss P. Forsyth, Miss A. Robson, Miss Leybourne, Miss Clydesdale, Miss Patterson, Spen.
Misses Nixon, Misses Gibson, Miss Ford, Victoria Garesfield.
Miss Ridley, Chopwell.
Miss Jamieson, Miss Murray, Greenside.
Misses Ridley, Barlow Fell.
Miss Burnett, Spen.
Miss Allison, Whickham.
Mr P. Smallwood, Durham.
Mr Gibson, Mr Robinson, Mr Marrs, Mr J. Stewart, Mr G. Gill, Mr Coulson, Mr M. Forsyth, Mr. J. Farrage, Mr. Coates, Mr. G. Fisher, Mr. W Hood, Mr J. Elliott, Mr J. Morland, Spen.
Mr R. Parker and Mr J. Winship, Greenside.
Mr R. Gibson, Mr S. Newton, Mr A. Laws, Mr A. Walton, Mr Bushby, Victoria Garesfield.
Mr. J. Pattison, Consett.
Mr. T. Watson, Mr. J. Gibson, Mr. J. Ridley, Low Spen.
Mr and Mrs J. Eltringham, Chopwell.
Mr. and Mrs G. Robinson, Spen.
Mr. and Mrs Q. Carr, Spen.
Mr. and Mrs. Elliott, Winlaton.
Mr. and Mrs. Short, Spen.
Mr. and Mrs. Stobbs, Spen.
Mrs. Dixon, Spen.
Mrs. J. Armstrong, Spen.
Mrs. Harper, Spen.
Mrs. T. Parkin, Spen.
Mrs. Carnaffan, Spen.
Mrs. W. Robson, Spen.
Mrs Young, Spen.
Mrs Ridley, Barlow Fell.
Mr and Mrs Gibson, Victoria Garesfield; and others.

The music was of a most excellent character, and was supplied by the Misses Dawson, of Hamsterley. During the evening a splendid supper was supplied in an adjoining room. The "inner man" was attended to most willingly by Mrs Summerside, Mrs Morland, Mrs Barker, Mrs Hood, Mrs Rutherford, Mrs Elliott, assisted by many friends. A most enjoyable evening was spent by all, and it proved to be one of the most successful balls ever held in the building.

HIGH SPEN.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH WORKING PARTY.—On Saturday night the annual bazaar in connection with the above party was held in the Assembly Rooms, High Spen. The affair was a great success, and will encourage them in carrying on their work for another season. During the sale of work the company were entertained by songs, etc., by various friends, accompanied by Mr. C. W. Randle on the piano, and Mr. Ed Summerside on the clarionet. The stalls were attended to by Mrs. Weatherburn, Miss Ford, Miss Nixon, Miss Richardson, Mrs. Greener, Mrs. Bagnall, Miss Nixon and others. The refreshment stall was attended to by Mrs. Gibson, Mrs. Fairless, and Mrs. Tompkins.

New Year's Festivities at Lanchester

On New Year's Day Mr and Mrs Piercey Taylor-Smith, of Colepike Hall, gave the inmates of the Lanchester Workhouse their usual tea, which consisted of spice loaves, tea cakes, and other dainties. After tea, sweets, oranges, tobacco and pipes were handed round for the old folks, who enjoyed the kindness manifested towards them by the genial host and hostess. Amongst those who assisted the Master and Matron to dispense the good things were Mr and Miss Walton, Mr and Mrs Worrall, Miss Worrall, Mr Keith, Mrs and Miss Reed, Miss Della, Miss A. Scott, Mrs Towns, Miss Leybourne, and Mrs Waugh, while the patients in the Infirmary were attended to by Nurse Watson, Nurse Park, and Nurse Dean. Immediately after the repast, and before leaving the dining hall, the Master called for three hearty cheers for Mr and Mrs Piercey Taylor-Smith, and wished them many returns of the day. The dining hall was then cleared, and the usual ball commenced, and was kept up until the small hours of the morning. The dance was led off by Mr and Mrs Piercey Taylor-Smith. During the evening the proceedings were enlivened with songs by Madame Bellas-Dryden, Consett; Mr Chas. Atkinson, Newcastle; and others, while Mr Piercey Taylor-Smith recited "The Absent-minded Beggar." A collection was taken, when £4 7s in aid of the reservist fund was received. Amongst those present were:—

Mrs Oliver and family, Hurbuck Farm.
Mr and Mrs Taylor, Lanchester.
Mr and Mrs Wake, Lanchester.
Mr and Mrs Wilson, Lanchester.
Mr T. Wilkinsin, jun., Lanchester.
Mr and Miss R. Walton, Lanchester.
Mr Chas. and Miss Laidler, Burnhopeside.
Mr and Miss Nichol, West Shields.
Mr and Mrs Sinton, Lanchester.
Mr and Mrs Cumming, Lanchester.
Mr W. and the Misses Aitkin, Lanchester.
Mr and Miss Welch, Stanley.
Mr and Mrs Davies, Quebec.
Mr and Mrs Bowes, Lanchester.
Mr and Miss Toward, Lanchester.
Miss Wilson, The Ford.
Miss Ada Cawthorn, Hobson.
Mr Ed. Scott, Cornsay Colliery.
Miss Burton, Lanchester.
Miss Wilson, Maiden Hall.
Miss Woods, Ryton.
Miss Dixon, Ryton
Miss Reed, Lanchester.
Miss Snaith, Lanchester.
Mrs Cumming, Lanchester.
Miss and Miss Ruth Neasham, Lanchester.
Miss Muncaster, Spring Gardens.
Mrs Brown, Lanchester.
Mrs Parker, Lanchester.
Mr Chas. Atkinson, Newcastle.
Miss Shipley, Malton Colliery.
Miss Jameson, Greenwell.
Miss Lowdon, Clifford House, Quebec.
Miss Weston, Annfield Plain.
Miss Aynsley, Malton Colliery.
Miss Wake, Maiden Law.
Miss Leybourne, Lanchester.
Miss Lily Wilson, Lanchester.
Mr and Mrs Stockton.
Mr and Mrs Coulthard, Dipton.
Miss Bardon, Branch Villa.
Mr and Mrs Greener, South Pontop.
Dr. Trotter, Bedlington.
Mr W. Wilkinson, New Acres.
Mr T. and Mr H. Nicholson, Manor House, Lanchester.
Mr and Mrs McGarrity, Lanchester.
Mr and Mrs R. Milburn, Consett.
Mr and Mrs W. W. Thompson, Lanchester.
Mr W. Forster, Stanley.
Mr Cawthorn, Hobson.
Mr G. Dryden, jun., Consett.
Mr D. Keith, Newcastle.
Mr and Mrs Worrall, Newcastle.
Mr R. W. Sherwood.
Mr R. Jackson, Lanchester.
Mr F. Johnson, Old Cornsay.
Mr R. W. Walton, Lanchester.
Mr Jas. Wilson, Lanchester.
Mr T. Simpson, Lanchester.
Mr H. Walton, Lanchester.
Mr R. Burleigh, Lanchester.
Mr H. Jameson, Greenwell.
Mr R. Armstrong, Hamsteels.
Mr J. G. Dawson, Lanchester.
Mr G. Murray, jun., Dipton.
Mr and Mrs J. E. Davies, Dipton.
Mr R. W. Aynsley, Malton Colliery.
Mr and Miss Hunter, Medomsley.
Mr and Mrs T. D. Dryden, Consett.
Mr E. Sloane, Blackhill.
Mr G. T. Wilson, Blackhill.
Mrs Towns, Lanchester
Miss Waugh, Lanchester.
Mr W. J. Brown, Middlesbro' Workhouse.

WESLEYAN MINISTERS

Provisional engagements are being actively entered into between Wesleyan ministers and circuit officials in view of the next Conference, which will be held at Burslem, in Staffordshire. The following have reference to this district—Rev G. Heathcote Barker, who left Sunderland (St. John's) for Pembroke in 1897, goes to Lincoln; Rev. Joseph Cartwright, Hornsea to Newcastle (Elswick Road); Rev Thomas C. Chaddock, Whitehaven to Hull; Rev. John Clements, a native of Shotley Bridge, from Dover to Ashford; Rev Frederic G. T. Dent, Spennymoor to Ulverstone; Rev Richard Garbett, late of Wolsingham, from Grimsby to Burton; Rev William Greenwood, Middlesbrough (South Bank) to Nuneaton; Rev Thomas H. Horrell, Stockton-on-Tees to St. Helens and Prescot; Rev Henry Hodder, who went from Gateshead (Bensham Road) to Plymouth, to Northampton; Rev J. J. Ingram, who was three years at Gateshead (High Street West), from Luton to Birmingham; Rev Gilbert E. Kennaugh, Pateley Bridge to Otley; Rev John Kerwick, Ripon to Devonport; Rev Isaac Pollitt, who began his ministry at Durham and Alnwick, to Woodville and Swadlincote; Rev Geo Oyston, B.A., from Ossett to Barnard Castle; Rev W. E. Oswald Parry, Middleham to Lancaster; Rev George Smith, York to Bradford; Rev J. Jeremy Smith, Darlington (North Road), and previously Gateshead (High Street West), to Leigh, Lancashire, for a second term; Rev John J. Sutton, late of Alston, Burton to Ilkeston; Rev Walter W. Ward, late of Tynemouth, Huddersfield to Wanstead and Woodford; Rev John Wilson, B.A., B.D., Sunderland (Sans Street) to Bradford; Rev David Young, York to Kilburn and Hampstead. Rev Arthur Bourne, of Stafford, is engaged to South Shields for 1901.

Blackhall Mill Wesleyan Chapel.

Visit of the Rev. Hopper Joplin of Jarrow.

On Sunday and Monday, the Rev. Hopper Jopling, of Jarrow, paid a visit to the Blackhall Mill Wesleyan Chapel. On the former day he preached two sermons, the afternoon subject being, "The order of the bier," and the evening "Religious proxies." On Monday evening, the rev. gentleman delivered his popular lecture entitled, "Dr. Squintum." Mr Hogg, of Westwood, occupied the chair. In the course of his remarks Mr Jopling said the study of the centuries was brimfull of interest and instruction. Each century seemed to have brought with it some new and fuller revelation from Heaven, notably so in the eighteenth century. The loyalty of Wesley and Whitfield in preaching the gospel resulted in the establishment of churches which were still playing an important part in the evangelisation of the races. To one of those noble men—George Whitfield—he wished to call their attention that evening. That good man, an eloquent preacher, who, on account of a cast in his eye, was nick-named by his enemies, Dr. Squintum. To the most of the men whose names were so familiar to the world to-day the great Reformation movement was due. That movement gave them their great race of poets, philosophers, and divines, amongst whom were Shakespeare, Lord Bacon, and Raleigh, Martin Luther, John Knob, Richard Baxter, John Bunyan, Isaac Watts, Robert Hall, Richard Watson, Andrew Fuller, and William Carey. One of the brightest luminaries amongst those apostolic men, was George Whitfield. Born in England and buried in America, he was the Christian hero of two hemispheres, honoured and beloved in both. Whitfield was born at the Bell Inn, Gloucester, when the chimes of the Christmas bells pealed forth from the old Cathedral tower in 1714. The son of an innkeeper, his birth showed no hopeful buds of promise, but He who fashioned the precious diamond in the dark caves of the earth, created Whitfield, who in after years was to flash out upon the world with special brilliancy and splendour. Leaving school at the age of 15, he entered upon his duties at the Inn. He next proceeded to Pembroke College, Oxford, where he made the great choice of his life. Beginning to preach at the age of 21, he at once gave evidence of his fitness for the pulpit. The effects produced by his first sermon were so remarkable that a complaint was made to the bishop of his having driven fifteen persons mad by it. At first the bishop refused to ordain him, but happily for Whitfield, a lady undertook to plead his cause and soon removed the bishop's scruples. The religious state of the country wore a melancholy aspect. The moral gloom had deepened in the form of a merely nominal Christianity, a spectre that walked in darkness, while religion itself was asleep in the palaces of a dominant Church. The Church was worldly and heedless of her mission. Her ministers knew everything about the use of ram-rods and fishing-rods, but were quite ignorant of the use of the Rod of God. But a change was at hand; the nation was all in a move like the ocean before the coming storm. Whitfield emerged from his seclusion and girded on his armour for the fray. No doubt he was the right man for the work. The lecturer then gave a graphic description of the marvellous life of the great evangelist, and concluded by paying a high tribute to the character and work of Whitfield, whom he designated as one of the world's heroes and benefactors.

Votes of thanks to the lecturer and chairman terminated the proceedings.

Time means money! Have the correct time, by wearing J. T. Castle's 50s English Lever.

Ebchester Wesleyan Chapel

New Year's Festival

On Tuesday night, the annual festival in connection with the above place of worship took place in the chapel. The weather conditions were execrable, but this notwithstanding there was a very large audience. The event took the form of a concert and supper, the former being provided by the well-known Shotley Bridge String Band, under the leadership of Mr. T. Nixon. After devotional exercises, Mr. Urwin introduced the chairman (Coun. W. B. Cooke, of Westwood), remarking that Mr. Cooke was well-known and highly respected throughout the district, being ever ready to lend assistance to any good cause promoted in the neighbourhood. (Applause.)—The Chairman said he took it that it was the essential duty of a chairman to say as little as possible. Although he had been a number of years in the district that was the first time he had had the pleasure of presiding over a gathering in that building. He was pleased to be there, more especially as they had Mr. Nixon's band to amuse them. He knew something of what the band had done, and the public had no idea what had been done by these musicians in the way of helping deserving objects. At Westwood they had annually a treat for the old people, and it was chiefly due to the performance given by the band that they were enabled to secure funds for that treat. (Applause.) Not long ago they organised a concert for the benefit of the Soldiers and Sailors Families Association, and, thanks to the efforts of the band, they raised something like £10. After paying all expenses there would be £8 to hand over to the association. (Applause.) The band did all this without any pay. But as musicians they must necessarily incur considerable expense. A short time since a scheme was set on foot at Westwood to give them a benefit concert. Unfortunately, he (the chairman) was laid up with influenza, and the thing had not been pushed forward. However, before the concert season closed they intended to do this, and he hoped that all in the district would support the affair, and thus show their appreciation of the band's efforts in a practical way. (Applause.)—The concert was then proceeded with, the first item being a selection by the band, which was rendered in fine style. Then Mr. J. Bell sang "The soldier's grave" in a sweet tenor voice, and later on obliged with another song, receiving hearty applause. Miss Siddle was in excellent voice, and her singing of "Ora Pro Nobis" was a treat of no small order. In the second part she sang with much archness a semi-humorous song depicting the troubles a young girl experiences because her various beaus could not understand that because she didn't say "no" she meant "yes," when they popped the all-important question. Miss Gibson also rendered a couple of songs in meritorious fashion. The violin solos of Mr. Nixon and Mr. E. Oliver were very much enjoyed, and were listened to with rapt attention, both artistes coming in for warm applause. A musical quartette, "Come where my love lies dreaming," was beautifully played, and, to our mind, was one of the tit-bits of the evening. Mr. J. McTaggart, the popular humorist, came out in a new line, comicality giving way to sentimentality, and we must confess that he did every justice to that charming song, "The Rose of Avondale." However, later on Mr. McTaggart resumed his usual role, and in "Herr Von Steiner's Band" (in which he was ably assisted by the members of the band) he caused roars of laughter, responding to an encore with "I buried Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay." The closing item was a very fine selection by the band, including "Old Towler," "My pretty Jane," "The anchor's weighed," "Bonnie Dundee," "The British Grenadiers," etc.—The Chairman, in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the band, said he felt sure that they had all thoroughly enjoyed the excellent programme placed before them. (Applause.)—The motion was carried by acclamation, and suitably acknowledged.—Mr. Urwin next proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, remarking that he thought the bills they had issued, announcing that concert as a "real treat," had been thoroughly justified (Hear, hear.) They were all pleased to have Mr. Cooke amongst them, and hoped to see him often.—The motion having been adopted amid loud applause, the chairman returned thanks.—Afterwards a well-attended ham-and-coffee supper was held, the whole proceedings passing off most successfully. Miss P. Urwin was an able accompanist.

St. Mary's Church Choir, Blackhill

Annual Soiree

One of the most enjoyable gatherings it has been our pleasure to visit was that given on Wednesday of last week, under the auspices of the above choir, in St. Mary's Schools, Blackhill. Notwithstanding the many counter-attractions that were announced to take place on the same date, the room was filled with a large and thoroughly appreciative company. We might mention that this was the sixth annual soiree held in connection with the choir, and although the previous ones were an unqualified success, we are rather inclined to say that last Wednesday week eclipsed them. The room, which presented a most charming and festive appearance, was exquisitely decorated by a committee of ladies, assisted by a few of the bass singers, who certainly spared no effort or pains in successfully carrying out the responsible duties that were allotted to them. During the evening the choir gave a most capable rendering of several excellent songs and choruses, each of which was received with unstinted applause. The parts were splendidly balanced, and the expression and finish were distinctive features. The singing was a decided treat, and the applause at the conclusion was most enthusiastic. Many pleasant and interesting games were heartily enjoyed by the younger members of the company. Amongst those present we noticed the esteemed pastor of St. Mary's Church, Rev. Father Foran, and the Rev Father Kelly. During the interval, a cold collation was served up by Mrs Purvis, to which the company did full justice. Before the conclusion of the evening's entertainment, Mr E. J. Sloane, Mus. Bac., in the course of a few appropriate remarks, proposed that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to the Rev Father Foran for so kindly granting the choir the use of St. Mary's Schools on the occasion of their annual gathering. This expression of gratitude was carried with acclamation, and, in response to which, Father Foran expressed his pleasure at being present, and remarked that he was pleased to see such a nice company assembled there, and trusted that the choir and their friends would spend a very enjoyable evening. (Applause.) During the evening Messrs E. J. Sloane, Mus. Bac., and J. Reddington presided at the pianoforte.

Team Valley Ploughing Association

Annual Competition

The second annual prize ploughing and hedge-cutting competition was held on Tuesday, at Lameseley, on land kindly granted by Mr Joseph Anderson. Heavy rain fell the greater part of the day, and told heavily against the gate receipts. There were only five absentees amongst the numerous competitors. The president, Mr Henry Wallace, in reading the judges' awards, congratulated the society upon the excellent turn out of competitors, and more especially the judges and stewards, who, throughout the day, had had a severe time, but had discharged their work admirably. The judges were:—For ploughing: Mr W. H. Coxon, Picktree; Mr Ralph Stoddart, Framwellgate Moor; Mr W. Bewick, North Shields. For hedge-cutting: Mr J. W. Bewick, Streatlam Castle; Mr Ralph Stoddart. For best groomed horses and best kept harness: Mr T. R. Jarvie, Gateshead; and Mr J. C. Turnbull, Hedley West House. Awards:—

Swing or wheel ploughs (open)—1st, James Smith, Derwent Crook; 2nd, James Dunn, Grange Farm, Cleadon; 3rd, Thomas Fogg Smith, Burnt House, Monkseaton.

Swing ploughs (for men who have never won a 1st prize)—1st, George Reah, Ouston Bank; 2nd, H. S. Johnson, Low Urpeth; 3rd, James Weddell, Long Acre; 4th, R. Hindmarch, Team Colliery Farm.

Wheel ploughs (for men who have never won a 1st prize)—1st, Thomas Smith, jun., Derwent Crook; 2nd, T. Henderson, East Sunniside Farm; 3rd, Henry Smith, Lameseley North Farm; 4th, Wm. Pattison, Lonefield House, Marley Hill.

For boys under 19 years—1st, John Kirton, Birtley Cottage Farm; 2nd, R. Wilkinson, Salt Pans, Birtley; 3rd, James Rotherford, Green's Farm, Ravensworth.

Hedge-cutting (confined to district)—1st, Matt Nixon, Picktree; 2nd, R. Clark, Harlow Green Farm; 3rd, Dixon.

Hedge-cutting (open to all comers)—1st, John Musgrove, Sutton, Thirsk; 2nd, Joseph Bowen, Stainton; 3rd, John Cook, Thorn Hill, Bilsdale, Middlesbrough.

Best-groomed horses and best kept harness—1st, Messrs Smith, Derwent Crook; 2nd, Rotherford. Special prize of 10s 6d to Messrs Smith.

The secretarial duties were efficiently discharged by Mr W. Johnson. A dinner was held at the Ravensworth Arms in the evening.

BLACKHILL.

YOUNG LADIES SOCIAL.—On Monday evening the annual social of the young ladies connected with St. Aidan's Church, was held in St. Aidan's Hall, Blackhill. The arrangements were carried out by a strong committee of ladies, and as a result the hall presented a very attractive appearance. There was a very good attendance of ladies and gentlemen. The duties of M.C.'s were carried out by Miss Robson, Miss A. Robson, Miss Routledge, Miss Freak, Miss Cockburn, and Miss Wilson. The music was supplied by Messrs Winter and Hall, and refreshments were provided by the young ladies. The duties of secretary were ably carried out by Miss Stephenson, and a very enjoyable evening was spent with vocal and instrumental music and dancing.

Wesleyan Methodism at Rowland's Gill

Some years ago the Wesleyans at Rowland's Gill had a small cause which was conducted in a room over the Colliery Storehouse, but were compelled to abandon it owing to the room being taken for other purposes. After being homeless for some years the Smailes Estate came into the market, and the village is fast developing into a charming residential suburb of Newcastle and district, owing to the extensive developments of Messrs Priestman's Collieries, which will shortly become a centre of thriving activity. The Bensham Road Circuit, Gateshead, feeling the need of a Wesleyan Chapel at Rowland's Gill, purchased a site at the junction of the Strathmore Road and the main road to Lintz, upon which a temporary building of wood with brick foundations, capable of accommodating 120 persons, has been erected by Mr Jackson, to whom great credit is due for the expeditious and satisfactory completion of the building. The opening services took place on Saturday when the edifice was crowded to hear a sermon from the Rev. W. H. Moseley, of Gateshead, who preached with his usual eloquence and fervour. The public tea, which followed was kindly provided by Mrs Bustin, of Gibside, was patronised by some 200 persons, who partook of an excellent repast. In the evening a public meeting was presided over by Mr Wm. Archer, of Victoria Garesfield, when addresses were given by the Revs. W. H. Moseley and H. Hoole, Mr G. H. Snowball, J.P., and Mr J. C. Batey, while the secretary of the building committee, Mr Wm. Nicholson, Gateshead, gave a short but interesting history of the first society at Rowland's Gill. On Sunday evening Mr Nicholson preached an instructive sermon from the words recorded in St. John, 3rd Chap., 7th verse, to a large audience. The proceeds realised were some £20, and augurs well for the speedy extinction of the initial debt of erection. It is the intention of the friends to launch their larger scheme of a permanent structure, which will be a great boon to the population of that beautiful neighbourhood.

Consett Temperance Mission Band

Annual Supper and Presentation

On Saturday evening, the above-named band held their annual supper and concert in the Wesleyan Lecture Hall, Consett. The ladies in attendance at the tables were Misses Dunn, Lowrie, Armstrong, and Hickford, assisted by Mr Harrison Dobson and Mr Wesley Whitfield, and it only remains to be said that a good supply of good old English fare had been provided. The boiled ham was appetising, the roast beef was prime, and the roast pork was delicious. The whole arrangements of the supper were under the personal supervision of Mr Edward Grant. After the cloths had been cleared, and in the absence of the permanent chairman (Mr Bainbridge), Mr Joe McWilliams was voted to the chair. Mr McWilliams thanked the members of the band for the honour conferred upon him, and stated that he was pleased and delighted to see so many present at this their annual gathering, and that he had to congratulate them on the splendid position which the band had attained, both musically and financially, and that he was pleased to say that everything was working in concord and harmony. He strongly advised every member of the band to press on to higher attainments; in fact, for every man to try to be a prefix or duplicate of Mr Dan Godfrey. Afterwards he called upon Mr A. McWilliams for a song, which was given in good style, and was highly appreciated by the audience. Mr J. Gardiner next followed with a concertina solo, which was very sweetly rendered and was well received by the company. Mr J. Bell sang two songs during the evening. This gentleman is in possession of a beautiful tenor voice, and his songs made a marked impression on the audience. Miss Whitehead gave two mandoline solos with very great success. Mr T. Gleghorn sang two songs, and notwithstanding a slight constitutional nervousness noticeable in this young gentleman, he soon succeeded in raising the enthusiasm of the audience. Sims Reeves is known the whole world over as the singer of the song, "My Pretty Jane." Mr Gleghorn is known over the whole of North-West Durham as the singer of the song, "Bonny Mary of Argyle." Mr J. W. Heslop acquitted himself well in the song, "The sailor's grave." During the evening, Mr J. Williams, on behalf of the band, presented Mr E. Grant with a case of cutlery. In the course of his speech Mr Williams stated that Mr Grant had held his position in the band for a period of eight years. During the whole of that time he had worked incessantly for the band. In bygone times men used to be appointed as elders, whose duties were to look after the spiritual wants of the congregation. Other men were appointed as deacons, whose duties consisted in looking after the money matters and financial department of the congregation. Mr Grant's position in the band was an embodiment of these two offices. He attended to the spiritual and financial matters of the band. (Applause.) In responding, Mr Grant thanked the members of the band sincerely for the present, and stated that he was bound up in the interests of the band, and hoped they would all meet at last around the throne of God as an unbroken band. (Applause.) Mr J. Ellison, in the name of the band, presented the leader (Mr J. W. Heslop) with a valuable dressing-case. Mr Ellison, in the course of his remarks, referred to the splendid state the band was now in, and to the musical abilities of the leader, and stated that Mr Grant and Mr Heslop divided the work between them, Mr Grant doing the outside work, and Mr Heslop doing the inside work. In making the presentation Mr Ellison hoped that Mr Heslop might be long spared to enjoy the present. (Applause.) Mr Heslop, in responding, thanked the band for their magnificent present, and stated that the time he spent with the band was a pleasure. He spoke at some length on band matters, and incidentally stated that the married bandsmen were preferable to single ones. Single men generally came to the practices late, and were restless and fidgety while they were there, and frequently had to leave before the practices had finished, in order to keep some important appointment—(laughter and applause)—whereas married men came to the practices at the proper time, and were attentive and as steady as rocks, and always stayed until the finish of the practices. (Applause.) The Chairman next gave an evangelistic address on the subject of "The Potter and the Clay," after which the proceedings were brought to a close by the singing of the doxology. Mr Arthur Herbert Heslop presided at the piano.

FROM PINING TO PLENTY.

A TRUE BILE BEAN STORY.

A Leeds lady, Mrs. G. Rotherforth, of Yarm Place, Beeston Hill, as she is to-day, and the Mrs. Rotherforth who lived at that address last month, are by no means identical persons, except in a legal sense. The lady so named is to-day a bright cheerful, healthy woman. Last month she was, and for some time had been, in a state of invalidism, which she had come to regard as chronic. The transformation which has been worked is so wonderful, that hundreds of poor sufferers may be glad to learn from her own lips how it was worked. To quote Mrs. Rotherforth's own words:—"A month ago I was in the throes of suffering. All night long I would lie awake with a splitting headache, or else would awaken with it in the morning. In the hope that it would improve I used to get up and go about my household duties; but instead of improving, it became worse. I was bilious too, and the day begun in hope would end in despair. I was compelled to spend the greater part of many a day lying helpless upon the sofa. The house work must be attended to, so I had to pay a woman to come in and do it for me. This has occurred as often as three or four times a week; and the expense it entailed was a serious item. Not only so, but I spent pounds in buying medicines of various kinds."

Here a little maiden, of six or seven, building wooden bricks on the table, chimed in—

"Yes, mother. You were always sending me to the chemists." Continuing her story, Mrs. Rotherforth said:—

"What I have suffered no one knows. I could only eat very little, and I had even to pine myself with a view to trying to prevent the bilious attacks becoming permanent. I could not eat butter or bacon, or fat of any kind. Yet notwithstanding that I was pining myself, and that my strength was failing accordingly, the biliousness and headaches did not diminish in their severity, and week after week I had to pay to have my household work done for me. A month ago, my sister, who lives at Meltham, near Huddersfield, and who had at one time been nearly as bad as I had become, visited me. She advised me to try Bile Beans for biliousness. It was with very little faith of relief that I did so; for at that time I was very bad indeed. To my intense astonishment, the second day after I had commenced to take them, I felt better. The following day my headache went. After that I took two beans every night; and although I have only taken them a short time, you see the result. I am perfectly well again. I can eat anything, and for three weeks now, practically, I have not felt any trace of the ailments which made my life a burden to me. I can do my work easily, and life has once more become worth the living. I am more thankful for my cure than I can tell you; but I thought that I could at least write and let you know what had been my experience. I shall certainly recommend Bile Beans to all my friends who suffer from biliousness or headache; and I only trust that other poor sufferers will get the relief I have obtained."

The lady referred to by Mrs. Rotherforth as her sister is Mrs. Holroyd, a pupil teacher of Meltham. This lady was almost in as bad a condition as was Mrs. Rotherforth, and to one who had a profession to follow the result was likely to prove disastrous. Fortunately she heard of Charles Forde's great discovery, and the result was an unspeakable benefit, not only to herself, but to the lady whose testimony we have quoted above.

HIGHGATE.

FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—The yearly meeting of the Highgate and District Friendly Society will take place on Saturday night first, when important business will be transacted.

FOOTBALL.

SPEN RED AND WHITE RANGERS v. CONSETT SHOP BOYS.

Played at Consett, and ended in a win for the former by five goals to nil.

TANTOBIE RED STARS RESERVE v. KIP HILL RED ROVERS.

Played at Tantobie, and ended in a win for the former by four goals to three.

HOBSON UNITED v. ALLENDALE WHITE STARS.

Played on the latter's grond, and resulted in a win for the Hobson by four goals to nil.

LEADGATE UNITED v. TANFIELD UNITED.

Played at Leadgate on Saturday, and after a very pleasant game ended in win for the home team by four goals to one.

LEADGATE UNITED v. LEADGATE PARK

Played on the ground of the former. The home team won the toss, and Birtley set the ball in motion, and the United pressed, but Jones cleared. After a smart run Davison scored for the visitors, and after thirty minutes' play Jacobson equalised. When the interval came the score was one goal each. During the second half the United scored twice, while the Park notched one goal. Final—United, three goals; Park, two goals.

NORTHERN ALLIANCE.

LEADGATE PARK v. MIDDLESBROUGH A.

These teams met at Leadgate on New Year's Day before a good gate. The ground was very hard, and ice covered the field in places. The visitors were strongly represented, whilst the Park were without Forster and Bowes. At the outset the exchanges were pretty even, both custodians being called upon. Cook and Grant put in some fine work on the Park right, but their centres were not improved upon. Birtley once got past the backs, and seemed likely to score, but he finished up with a weak shot. Murphy ran down and put across, and although J. Crowther cleared, Redfern returned the ball, and Bell scored with a low shot. The home men tried hard to equalise, and only some fine goalkeeping by Smith kept them from doing this. Shortly before the interval the visitors put on another goal with a soft shot. Half-time:—

Middlesbrough .... Two goals
Leadgate .... Nil

Upon resuming the Park at once pressed, and Smith saved marvellously. Then the Teesiders attacked, and Temple and J. Wilson were kept busy. The pressure was relieved, and Grant made a brilliant run, centring in splendid fashion, and W. Crowther dashed in, but the leather was got away when a score seemed a certainty. At this point a dense fog overspread the ground, and the referee was compelled to stop the game, there being then nearly half-an-hour to go. Final:—

Middlesbrough .... Two goals
Leadgate .... Nil

Fixtures for Saturday.

DURHAM SENIOR LEAGUE.

LEADGATE PARK v. STOCKTON.

This game will be played at Leadgate on Saturday, and should produce a good struggle.

LEADGATE PARK.—Goal, M. Hedley; backs, G. Temple and Joe Wilson; half-backs, P. Daly, R. Wilson, and J. Bowes; forwards, B. Cook, J. Grant, W. Crowther, J. Birtley, and G. Forster. Linesman, T. Cartmell.

Referee, Mr H. Mackin, Bill Quay. Kick-off at 2.15 p.m.

DERWENT VALLEY LEAGUE.

MARLEY HILL v. LEADGATE PARK RESERVE.

This game will be played at Marley Hill on Saturday.

PARK RESERVE.—Goal, J. Calvert; backs, W. G. Robson and J. Thompson; half-backs, D. Cartmell, C. McAloon, and W. Calvert; forwards, J. Harper, C. Walton, P. Hughes, R. Gleadow, and C. Todd.

Brake leaves headquarters at 1 prompt.

TYNESIDE LEAGUE.

HOBSON v. BLAYDON.

At Hobson on Saturday.

HOBSON.—Goal, Randall; backs, Liddle and McCue; half-backs, Heslin, Bell, and Layton; forwards, Walton, Layton, Cullen, Andrews, and Smith.

NORTH-WEST DURHAM ALLIANCE.

ALLENDALE PARK v. CONSETT SWIFTS.

At Medomsley.

ALLENDALE (chosen from)—Robson, Hunter, M. Walton, Hobday, Taylor, T. Walton, Gillender, J. Walton Brown, Robinson, Truman, Lynop, and Yeate.

Kick-off, 2.30.

STANLEY ATHLETIC v. LEADGATE UNITED.

To be played at Stanley on Saturday.

LEADGATE UNITED.—Goal, J. Crowther; backs, Whitfield and Tait; half-backs, W. Milburn, W. Oxley, and A. Prince; forwards, T. Tait, G. Temple, Lee, A. Crowther, and Jacobson.

Wolsingham Petty Sessions

TUESDAY, Jan. 2nd.—Before Mr C. J. Backhouse.

DRUNKS.

The undermentioned persons were fined for drunkenness during the month:—Wm. Hogshaw, 10s; Ralph Anderson, 20s; Wm. Moore, 10s; Thos. Duff, 7s 6d; John Graham, 7s 6d; Robert Bowes, 7s 6d; and James Smith, 7s 6d.

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY.

Wm. Gibson and James Craggs, at the instance of P.C. Flynn, were each fined 12s 6d for the above offence, at Tow Law.

REFUSING TO QUIT.

George Gibson, Tow Law, was fined 19s and costs for refusing to quit licensed premises at Tow Law, when requested to do so.

CLOSING OF A PUBLIC WELL.

The Weardale District Council applied for a magistrates' order to close the Pitts Well in Upper Town, Wolsingham, at last Court day. Samples of the water were taken in the presence of two experts—Mr Stock, Durham county analyst, and Mr Pattinson, Northumberland county analyst—and by them analysed, and the result of their analysis is practically the same, both gentlemen condemning the well. A closing order was given by the Bench, and the well is to be closed forthwith.—Mr Thompson, Stanhope, appeared for the Council, and Mr T. Dowling for Mr G. R. Wooler.

IN MEMORIAN.

In loving memory of Florence Wharton, who died on Dec. 31st, 1889, aged 4 years and 11 months; also, Alfred Wharton, who died on January 16th, 1890, aged 4 years and 11 months.

Gone, but not forgotten

In loving memory of Thomas Henry, dearly-beloved husband of Mary Ann Armstrong, of 13, Foster Street, Delves Lane, who departed this life on Jan. 3rd, 1899.

"Till the morning breaks and the shadows flee away."

Ever remembered by his wife and family.

In loving memory of my dear sister, Ann Lennon, beloved daughter of John and the late Jane Heron, who died Jan. 7th, 1891.

Farewell, dear sister, fare you well,
A long and last adieu;
Farewell my dear and faithful friend,
God will protect you now.

In affectionate and loving remembrance of my dear father, Thomas Hodgson, who died at Tantobie, Jan. 4th, 1899; also, my dear mother, Margaret Hodgson, who departed this life Dec. 10th, 1870.

Thou art not forgotten father and mother dear,
Nor ever wilt thou be;
As long as life and memory last
We will remember thee

By his son and daughter,
William and Alice Hodgson.

In loving memory of Thomas Hodgson, who died Jan. 4th, 1899.

He was so long with pain oppressed,
It wore his strength away;
It made him long for endless rest,
That never can decay.

Ever remembered by his daughters, Meggie and Isabella, also son-in-law and family.

In loving memory of Mary Florence (Florrie) the beloved daughter of Thomas and Mary Ellen Milner, of Castleside, who died Dec. 30th, 1898.

Dearest darling you have left us,
Just a year ago to-day;
But the thought of you is something
That will never pass away.
Forget her! No, we never will.
We loved her here, we love her still.
Nor love her less because she's gone
From here to her eternal home.

Deeply lamented
By her parents, and brothers and sisters.
Ever remembered.

WATERHOUSES.

NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS.—Watchnight services were held at the various places of worship, and at the Parish Church the Vicar (the Rev. G. W. Smith, M.A.) delivered a short but impressive address. The conventional first-footing was indulged in during the early hours of the morning. The weather was very seasonable. A football match between the Co-operative Wednesday Team and a scratch team, composed of Esh tradesmen, drew a large concourse to the Flower Show Field. A score of three goals to one in favour of the Wednesday team was the result. Prior to the encounter, the representatives of each team, attired in the costumes of Tommy Atkins and the Naval Brigade, headed by the Cornsay Prize Band, paraded the streets of Esh and Waterhouses, evoking patriotic cheers. A sum of £10 13s 6d will be devoted to the Reservists' Fund.

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NEW YEAR IN WEARDALE.

On Saturday the alternate snow, fresh, and frost drove all from the roads, which were dangerous to a degree, many having business receiving some nasty falls, especially the rural postmen, who, during the week have had to brave the risk to limb on the hill sides from drifts and ice with the heavy festive season delivery. On Saturday night the Wesleyan bazaar at Wearhead was successfully continued, and intense merriment was created by the gentlemen's towel washing competition, for which twelve entered, the judges being Miss Walton, Newcastle, and Mr Jas. D. Pentland, Ireshopeburn, who awarded the first prize to Geo. Burdess, Cowshill; 2nd, T. Coulthard, Ireshopeburn; 3rd, T. Wm. Hodgson, Wearhead; 4th, Wm. Thompson, Prize Hill. A vote of thanks was accorded with acclamation to the judges, on the motion of Mr J. Thompson, Burtree Pasture; and Miss M. J. P. Harrison (as hon. secretaries) were congratulated on the success of the effort. The festivity of the expiring year was enhanced in the above locality by the hospitality of Mr and Mrs Ed. Partington (ex Darlington), the temporary host and hostess of the village hotel. On Sunday night the customary watchnight services were held, but owing to the danger to pedestrians from the ice were only meagrely attended, as was the customary first-footing, only Dr. Easton (St. John's) and Mr Pentland's (Ireshopeburn) being largely invaded with carollers, the family of the last-named rendering the song of "The Absent-minded Beggar," and passing round the hat in aid of the Soldiers' Relief Fund. Monday was a general holiday, and after a football match between Weardale and a team of Harry and Bob Smith's, Crook, who were accompanied by many friends, who were suitably entertained, was played in the afternoon. A concert at High House Chapel, at which Miss Mattie McNichol, of Darlington, was the solo soprano soloist, closed the advent of welcome to 1900. Yuletide having been marred by industrial depression and the weather.

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

Marriages.

CRAVIN—BREWIS.—St. Margaret's Church, Tanfield, 1st Jan., by the Rev. Thomas H. Archdall, M. A. (Vicar), Thomas Cass Cravin, eldest son of Thomas Cravin, builder and contractor, Denton Cottage, Pelton, to Jenny, eldest daughter of William Brewis, postmaster, Tanfield Lea.

Deaths.

ATKINSON.—Summerhill, Blaydon-on-Tyne, Charles H. Atkinson, son of Humphrey and Margaret Atkinson.

ALLISON.—Consett, 13, Trafalgar Street, 30th ult., aged 42 years, Joseph, beloved husband of Phœbe Allison.

BLACK.—White House Lane, Ushaw Moor, on the 1st inst., Margaret Black.

BROWN.—East Stanley on the 2nd. inst., aged 59, Joseph Brown.

BROWN.—43, Benfieldside Road, Blackhill, 31st ult., in her 93rd year, Mary, relict of George Brown, of Great Whittington.

BELL.—Leadgate, 362, North Cross Street, Robt. Bell.

BRIGGS.—Nettlesworth, 13, Front Street, on the 27th ult., aged 70, Ann Briggs.

CURRY.—49, Towneley Street, Stanley, on the 3rd inst., aged 72, Mary Curry.

CURRY.—At Stanhope, on the 1st inst., Jane, wife of Joseph Curry.

CROOKS.—At 10, Cuthbert Street, Blaydon, 30th ult., aged 71, William Crooks, waterman.

COULSON.—Schoolhouse, High Spen, on 27th inst., aged 9 months, Charles Henry Allen, son of Thomas and Annie Coulson.

GIBBON.—Kip Hill, at the residence of his brother, on the 31st ult., aged 42, Joseph Gibbon.

GRAHAM.—Newcastle, 133, Tamworth Road, on the 28th ult., in his 68th year, John Graham, draper, formerly of Blaydon.

HARRISON.—4, Shaftesbury Place, Gateshead, on the 30th ult., aged 67 years, John Harrison, husband of Mrs Harrison. Ex-Supt. of the Durham County Constabulary.

HAUGHAN.—Knitsley Grange, Jan. 1st, aged 79, William Haughan, husband of Margaret Haughan.

HILL.—At the Marquis of Blandford Hotel, Newcastle, on the 26th ult., Jane Hill, late of Leadgate.

HILL.—3, St. Aidan's Place, at the residence of her aunt, on the 25th ult., aged 2 years and 9 month, Mary Alice, daughter of the late Mrs Hill, Sherburn Terrace, Consett.

JARVIS.—Accidentally killed at Malton Coke Ovens, aged 29, years, Geo. Robert Jarvis.

LIDDELL.—Whickham, on the 30th ult., aged 55, Charlotte Ann Liddell.

MORGAN.—At Tow Law, on the 29th ult., Mrs Morgan, aged 60 years.

MOORE.—Catchgate, on the 2nd inst., aged 32, William Moore.

MURPHY.—90, School Row, Hamsterley Colliery, 28th Dec., James, husband of Anne Murphy.

PENTLAND. — Douglass Terrace, Blaydon Haughs, at the house of his brother-in-law (James Tench), aged 52, David Pentland.

PICKERING.—26, Hawes Street, 1st inst., Wm. Storey Pickering, aged 50 years.

RENWICK.—Back Street, Winlaton, 30th ult., aged 61, William Renwick, iron manufacturer.

SIMPSON.—West Shield Row Villa, Stanley, on the 2nd inst., John Simpson.

STEPHENSON.—At Frosterley, 29th ult., Joseph Stephenson, farmer, Broadwood Farm.

SIMPSON.—West Shield Row Villa, Stanley, 2nd inst., John, the dearly beloved son of William and Elizabeth Simpson. To be interred at Stanley on Saturday; service in the Wesleyan Church at 2.30. Friends please accept this, the only intimation.

SUMMERS.—84, Avenue Road, Gateshead, on the 27th ult., aged 54, Margaret Ann Summers, wife of Wm. Summers, and eldest daughter of the late Storey and Elizabeth Burn (Whickham.)

TURNBULL.—Blackhill, 13, Bessemer Street, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs Ward Davison, aged 82 years, Margaret Turnbull.

WRIGHT.—Pitt Hill, Stoney Lane, on the 30th ult., aged 31, Jane Wright.

WALTON.—At Bollihope, near Stanhope, on the 29th ult., James Walton, formerly of Upper Weardale, aged 81 years.

WATSON.—At Consett on the 31st ult., Joseph Watson, aged 34 years, formerly of Stanhope.

WALLACE.—At 35, Amelia Street, Elswick, Jan. 2nd, James Ambrose Wallace (late of Gosforth and Whitley), for over 50 years a Wesleyan Local Preacher, and for many years with the Prudential Assurance Co.

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