ADAM BRODIE, AUCTIONEER, VALUER, HOUSE AND ESTATE AGENT, TOWN HALL, CONSETT, CONDUCTS SALES BY AUCTION ON REASONABLE TERMS.

ONLY AUTHORISED AGENT for ASSISTED PASSAGES QUEENSLAND, every Month by Steamer from London and Glasgow; and to CANADA every week from Liverpool. Passages Booked by every Principal Line to America on Lowest Terms.

☞ WANTED TO PURCHASE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE FOR CASH.

NOTE THE ADDRESS:—TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

The Consett Guardian

AND DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER.

No. 1,274. {REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.} FRIDAY EVENING, January 9th, 1885. PRICE ONE PENNY.

ADAM BRODIE,
SHARE AND INSURANCE BROKER,
TOWN HALL, CONSETT,
LOCAL GAS, WATER, AND OTHER SHARES BOUGHT AND SOLD.
☞ DEALER IN STEAMSHIP SHARES. ☜

FIRE, LIFE, ACCIDENT, AND PLATE GLASS INSURANCE AGENCY.

ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett, wishes to draw the attention of the public to the fact that Insurances of every description can be effected through his Agency, and that the Offices he represents are noted for prompt Settlement of Claims.

NOTE.—The Oldest Insurance Agency and the only Share Broker in the District.
ADAM BRODIE, TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

Money.

THE INDUSTRIAL LOAN COMPANY advances Money from £5 to £500 to respectable Householders, at a moderate rate of interest and easy payments. Applications personally or by letter (strictly private), 28, Clayton Street East, Newcastle.—Manager, I. TURNER. Business hours, 10 till 5.

MONEY WITHOUT SECURITIES.—The Monetary Advance Company Lends Money from £10 to £500 to respectable householders, farmers, &c., on their own security, at moderate interest and easy repayments. Applications, personal or by letter, receive prompt attention, with the strictest privacy. Offices, Neville Street, (opposite Central Station Hotel), Newcastle-on-Tyne.—H. S. SCOTT, Manager. 539s

MONEY ADVANCED, in large and small sums in Town or Country, on Personal and Household Security, Farm Stock, Second Mortgages, Deeds, Life Policies, Building Society or any other Shares or Interest, repayable to suit borrowers' convenience, as may be arranged. Write or call on M. L. ROSENBERG, Cross House Chambers, 54, Westgate Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (opposite Angus, Coachbuilder.) Established 1860. 674t

Lost.

LOST, on the highway near Satley, on Saturday, December 27th, 1884, a light Grey OVERCOAT. Reward given.—Apply, RICHARD THOMPSON, Partridge Close, Satley. 972t

LOST, Stolen, or Strayed, 2 FOALS, Black and Bay, and 1 PONY, Brown.—Anyone giving information at the Post Office, Leadgate, will be suitably Rewarded. 981t

Wanted.

WANTED, AGENT to push first-class Machinery Oils. Liberal Commission.—Box 31, Post Office, Liverpool. 978t

WANTED, a clean, active GIRL, as General Servant; age 17 or 18.—Apply to Mrs. LANE, Iveston Road, Leadgate. 976t

WANTED, 12 SHARES in the Consett Water Company, Limited.—Apply to ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett. 954t

WANTED, a good General SERVANT; also, an Elderly WOMAN to look after Children (a Widow preferred).—Apply to Mrs. RAWES, Turf Hotel, Consett. 986t

SERVANTS' REGISTRY OFFICE.
LADIES requiring Servants; also, Servants wanting Situations.—Apply to Miss COCKBURN, at the S. R. O., 13, Front Street, Consett. 828s

MRS. ARMSTRONG'S REGISTRY OFFICE, 15, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle.—Ladies requiring Servants can be suited daily with Cooks, Housemaids, Nurses, and good General Servants; and Servants of all classes with good situations, by applying at above address. 515t

AUSTRALIA and AMERICA.—Reduced Fares.—500 Workmen of all classes wanted for Queensland and Canada. Work immediately on arrival at Highest Wages. Assisted Passages granted. Employment guaranteed in Canada. Passages Booked to United States, Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney at specially Reduced Rates.—Apply to the Great Northern Emigration Co. (Queensland Government Agents), 96, High Street, Gateshead. 184t

EMIGRATION! EMIGRATION! EMIGRATION.
WANTED, at once, for America, Canada, Australia, Queensland, New Zealand and South Africa, Mechanics, Artizans, Labourers, Agriculturalists, Miners, Domestic Servants, and others. Assisted Passages to eligible Persons. Free Passages granted to South Australia to a limited number of Domestic Servants. Send Stamped Addressed Envelope for Particulars and Rates to DAVIES & COMPANY, House, Estate, and Emigration Agents, 23, Collingwood Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Handbooks on the different Colonies, price 6d. each, or 6½d. by post. 628t

To Let.

TO LET, a HOUSE and GARDEN at Templetown.—Apply to Mr. DOLPHIN, Delves House. 983t

TO LET, TWO COTTAGES.—Apply to WILLIAM CHEESEMAN, Iveston. 988t

TO LET, a HOUSE and SHOP, situate in Watling Street, Leadgate.—Apply to Mr. LEADBITTER, Catchgate, or Messrs. DRYDEN & Co., Consett. 975t

TO LET, February 13th, the HOUSE and SHOP, with Garden and Field, now occupied by J. W. TAYLOR, Newsagent, Dipton.—Apply to JOHN URWIN, Dipton. 970t

TO LET, Two Four-roomed HOUSES, pleasantly situated at High Friarside, near Lintz Green Station.—For Rent, &c., apply to M. ADAMSON, The Leazes, Lintz Green Station.

TO LET, WESLEY COTTAGE, Green Street Shotley Bridge, containing Five Rooms, Yard, and Out-buildings.—Apply to J. OLEY, Auctioneer, 10, Wood Street, Shotley Bridge. 46t

For Sale.

FOR SALE, 100 SHARES in the Consett New Town Hall Company, Limited.—Apply ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett. 931t

TO FARMERS.—FOR SALE, a large IRON ROLLER.—Apply at the *Guardian* Office Consett. 85

FOR SALE (under pressure), Rich, Full-toned Cottage PIANOFORTE, in Walnut Case. Only recently purchased. Must be Sold.—Apply, ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett. 963t

TO INNKEEPERS.—SPIRIT STOCK BOOKS. One Shilling each, may be obtained at the "Guardian" Office, Consett; or sent by Post on receipt of 13 Postage Stamps.

A GOOD PLAN.
£10 AND upwards invested, under the non-liability system, in carefully selected Stocks and Shares often returns handsome profits in a few days. Full details in Explanatory Book (fourth edition), gratis and Post Free. Address GEO. EVANS & Co., Stockbrokers, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C. Best and safest plan ever devised. 275t

FOR SALE, by Private Treaty, that most desirable and pleasantly situated FAMILY RESIDENCE "Cockwell Cottage," together with all necessary Outbuildings, large and fruitful Kitchen Garden, &c., pleasantly situated at Stoney Heap, near Leadgate, and in the occupation of Mr. Henry Dunn.—Offers will be received by Mr. JOHN S. MURRAY, Royal Auction Mart, Benfieldside. 789t

FOR SALE, an unlimited supply of PIANOFORTES, in Black and Gold, Walnut, and Rosewood Cases, by English and Foreign Makers, on our SPECIAL HIRE SYSTEM, from 60s. per quarter for three years, when the Instrument becomes the Property of the Hirer. Every Instrument warranted for seven years. HARMONIUMS from 10s. 6d. per month, on the same system.—DAWSON & Co., Pianoforte and Harmonium Warehouse, and Music Sellers, 1 and Saville Row Newcastle-upon-Tyne. 178r

JOHN CRAWFORD,
AGRICULTURAL VALUER AND FURNITURE AUCTIONEER,
24, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT

Business done promptly and on reasonable terms

JOHN W. DAVISON
CABINETMAKER, FURNITURE BROKER IRONMONGER, &c.,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT AND CATCHGATE,

HAS now on hand the largest and best made Stock of FURNITURE in the district.
IRON BEDSTEADS in great variety.
MATTRESSES, FEATHERS, FLOCKS, RABBIT DOWN.
A large Stock of New Patterns in PAPER HANGINGS.
PERAMBULATORS. HARDWARE.
Agent for the HOME WASHER and MANGLING MACHINES.
BURY'S and HARDY'S PATENT PICKS and SHAFTS.
Licensed Dealer in SPORTING and BLASTING POWDER

Business Announcements.

WILLIAM RAW,
AUCTIONEER,
VALUER, AND COMMISSION AGENT,
DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL,
CO. DURHAM.

VALUATIONS made for Probate and Legacy Duties.
Agent for the SALE of BUILDING SITES at the following places:—Benfieldside Estate, Broomhill Estate, Ebchester, Low Finings Estate, Langley Park, Consett, Leadgate, and Blackhill.
☞ All Business promptly and carefully attended to

PRESENTS! PRESENTS!!
THE CHEAPEST HOUSE IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND FOR
CLOCKS, WATCHES, JEWELLERY, ELECTRO PLATED GOODS,
CUTLERY, AND FANCY GOODS,
IS
BUNN AND DICK,
10, WEST GRAINGER STREET,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. 458s
☞ WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

THOMAS RAINE,
JOINER, CABINET MAKER, UNDERTAKER AND GENERAL CONTRACTOR,
DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL,

BEGS to thank his numerous Customers and Friends for their past support and patronage, and hopes by strict attention to business, to merit a continuance of their favours.

T. R. wishes to inform his customers and the public generally that he has now on hand a Large Stock of IRON and BRASS BEDSTEADS, at remarkably low prices. Also, FURNITURE of every description Made and Supplied to Order, and of the best Workmanship.

T. Raine also desires to inform the inhabitants of Leadgate and surrounding neighbourhood that he has arranged with Mr. JOSEPH SLATER, at Mr. H. Lee's, Front Street, Leadgate, to take Orders for Undertaking. Black Cloth Coffins Mounted from 35s. All Orders received shall have prompt attention. 878s

HUGHES & CO.'S
PHARMACY,
OPPOSITE THE NEW TOWN HALL.

CURRY'S Invaluable STOMACH & LIVER PILLS.

CURRY'S TOOTHACHE DROPS.

HUGHES' Cough, Rheumatic, and Neuralgic Pills. The IXL Blood Purifying Mixture and Pills. Rheumatic and Gout Mixture. Hop, Dandelion, and Mandrake Bitters. Concentrated Sweet Essence of Senna. Compound Decoction of the finest Red Jamaica Sarsaparilla. Tonga, the new Specific for Neuralgia. Raspberry Beer Powder.

TRUSSES OF ALL SIZES.

Dr. SCOTT'S ELECTRIC APPLIANCES.

AGENTS FOR THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST OPTICAL ASSOCIATION.

☞ SPECTACLES IN GREAT VARIETY.

OILS, PAINTS, COLOURS,
AND VARNISHES.

HORSE AND CATTLE MEDICINES

ALTERATIVE POWDER FOR HORSES.

SHEEP DIPS—COOPER'S, BELL & RIDDLE'S, McDOUGALL'S, AND OTHER KINDS.

HUGHES & Co.,
54, FRONT STREET, CONSETT

CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE IMPROVED
MAGNETIC BELTS,
For Lumbago, Rheumatism, Sciatica, Liver Complaints, &c
INVIGORATORS for Bronchitis and Asthma.
INVIGORATORS for Weak Lungs and Debility.
CHEST PROTECTORS for Colds, Coughs.
THROAT PROTECTORS for Sore Throats, &c.
KNEE CAPS for Sore and Weak Knees.
SOLES for Pains and Cold Feet.
Shoulder, Arm, Leg, Ankle, and Wrist Appliances.

THE ENORMOUS NUMBER OF APPLIANCES sold by Mr. Lamont during the past Six Years, and the numberless encomiums bestowed upon them as to QUALITY, CHEAPNESS, and SURE CURATIVE POWER, proves the immense popularity they have attained, and also "Their SUPERIORITY over the Dozens of Imitations that are continually being thrust upon the public."

MR. LAMONT has much pleasure in publishing the following TESTIMONIALS, recently received. Further particulars will be found in DESCRIPTIVE PAMPHLET Gratis on application or sent Post Free.

CHRONIC BRONCHITIS AND ASTHMA.
H.M. Prison, Durham, September 6th, 1884.
DEAR SIR,—I have worn your Magnetic Invigorator for nearly two years, and am happy to say that I now feel much better than when I commenced to wear it. My complaint—chronic bronchitis and asthma—is of long standing, and I do not expect a permanent cure. You can use this as you choose.—Yours truly,
Mr. D. Lamont. JOHN ROBINSON.

MAGNETISM FOR LOSS OF VOICE
Eslington Inn, Teams, Gateshead, Aug. 26th, 1884.
DEAR SIR,—Towards the end of last year I procured one of your Magnetic Throat Protectors for my wife's sister, who had been suffering for nearly three years from entire loss of voice. It gives me the greatest pleasure to inform you that she has now completely recovered her voice, and is as well as ever she was. She was under treatment by several doctors; but there was no good done by all the means recommended, and this makes me all the more anxious to inform you of the success of your Magnetic Appliance, and to allow you, if you wish, to publish this as a Testimonial for the benefit of other sufferers.—Yours truly,
Mr. D. Lamont J. MADDISON.

ASTHMA AND BRONCHITIS.
Prudhoe-on-Tyne, June 21st, 1884.
DEAR SIR,—My wife was a great sufferer from shortness of breathing left after a severe attack of Bronchitis. She had also since then been slightly Asthmatic. It gives me great pleasure to tell you that the Magnetic Invigorator purchased from you has been of wonderful use to her, and she has now worn it nearly two years. She feels altogether improved in health, and bids me say that she has found the Invigorator of the greatest value, both as regards the relief it has given her and in keeping her well.

I may also tell you that my wife's father, who suffered from Rheumatism, and spent pounds and pounds without relief, has derived astonishing good from your Appliances. Use this in any way that will be the means of making your Appliances more widely known.—Faithfully yours,
Mr. D. Lamont. JAMES R. GREEN.

THE SPECIAL MAGNETIC BELT at 21s. and SPECIAL LUNG INVIGORATOR at 21s. (formerly sold at 30s.), continue to give unbounded satisfaction. In sending for Belt, please state WAIST MEASURE OVER FIRST GARMENT. Sent Post Free on receipt of 21s.

☞ CALL OR WRITE FOR DESCRIPTIVE PAMPHLET GRATIS AND POST FREE

D. LAMONT'S MAGNETIC DEPOT,
(PERMANENT AND ONLY ADDRESS),
41A BLACKETT STREET NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
NOTE.—The Appliances forwarded Post Free.

Business Announcements.

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

WILLIAM STEWART AND SON,
33, GRAINGER STREET, AND SCOTSWOOD ROAD, NEWCASTLE; 33, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD; AND CORNER OF FREDERICK ROAD, HIGH STREET, SUNDERLAND.

MARBLE AND WOOD CHIMNEY PIECES.
KITCHEN RANGES
(OVER 60 SET-UP TO SELECT FROM).
STOVES OF EVERY KIND.

DINNING AND COOKE,
HOT WATER ENGINEERS, IRONFOUNDERS, &c.,
PERCY IRONWORKS, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
SHOW ROOMS, 91, 93, AND 95, PERCY STREET. 691n

STEAM TO WEST AUSTRALIA, &c. AMERICA, AND AFRICA.
PLATE GLASS INSURANCE.
FIRE, LIFE, AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE.

WILL. ELLIOTT,
ASSISTANT OVERSEER,
MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT.

BRICKS! SANITARY PIPES!

FIRE BRICKS, 2½in. and 3in., Quarls, various sizes, Ground Fire-Clay, Common RED BRICKS, RIDGE TILES, FIRE BRICKS for Glendinning Ovens, FLUE BRICKS, CHIMNEY TOPS, KITCHEN SINKS, GULLIES, JUNCTIONS, BENDS, ELBOWS, TAPERS, GARDEN EDGING, CEMENT, PLASTER, LATHS, HAIR LIME, TACKS, SAND, COALS, COKE, &c., &c., can be Supplied in Large or Small Quantities by applying to

R. CURRY AND CO.,
☞ DELVES LANE, CONSETT. ☜

STOCK of BRICKS, PIPES, &c., at DELVES LANE DEPOT.
CEMENT, PLASTER, &c., at WAREHOUSE, GIBSON STREET. 824t

FOR CHEAP DRAPERY GOODS.

DONALD BAIN,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL WAREHOUSEMAN,
71, WESTGATE ROAD, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

☞ YOU WILL SAVE 5s. IN THE POUND
BY
PURCHASING YOUR CLOTHING, DRAPERY,
AND
MILLINERY,
AT
J. GOODFELLOW'S,
19, AND 24, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 562t

IMPORTANT SALE FOR TWENTY-EIGHT DAYS.

T. H. BATCHELOR
Begs to announce the Purchase, at a Large Discount from Cost, of the
ENTIRE STOCK OF MR. MATTHEW RIDLEY, OF WEST STANLEY,
And will offer the same, together with Additions of Surplus Stock, which must be CLEARED BEFORE STOCKTAKING, making an Important Clearance Sale of about
£8,000 WORTH OF VALUABLE GOODS.
SALE TO COMMENCE ON FRIDAY EVENING, JANUARY 9th, 1885,
At Six o'clock, prior to which the Doors will be Closed from Noon, in order that it may be properly arranged.

THOMAS H. BATCHELOR,
(LATE J. T. POTTS)
General Drapery and Ladies' and Children's Clothing:
THE PEOPLE'S SHOPS, 9, AND 9A, MIDDLE STREET,
Men's, Youths', and Boys' Clothing, Hats, Caps, and Mercery:
LUTON HOUSE, 22, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 967t

HALL'S for OIL CAKE and COTTON CAKE.
HALL'S for HORSE FEED.
HALL'S for CATTLE SPICE.
HALL'S for FINEST HUNGARIAN FLOUR.
HALL'S for FINEST CALIFORNIAN FLOUR.
HALL'S for FINEST NEW PROCESS FLOUR.
HALL'S for the CHEAPEST SUGARS.
HALL'S for the BEST SUGARS.
HALL'S for the CHEAPEST TEAS.
HALL'S for FINEST NEW SEASON TEA.
HALL'S for BEST ASSAM TEA.
HALL'S for FINEST DARJEELING TEA.
HALL'S for FINEST BUTTER.
HALL'S for BEST LARD.
HALL'S for MANNA CAKE.

☞ HALL'S is the RIGHT SHOP for all who want a good Article combined with Cheapness.

STARCHES, BLUES, PATENT MEDICINES, and all PACKETED GOODS 10 to 50 per cent. Cheaper than the usual Prices.

JOHN HALL, WHOLESALE GROCER,
ANNFIELD PLAIN 298t

Business Announcements.

J. BATES,
JOINER, UNDERTAKER, AND FURNITURE BROKER.
SECOND-HAND FURNITURE BOUGHT, SOLD OR EXCHANGED.
☞ HARVEY STREET, CONSETT. 306t

REVELY AND KELL,
IMPORTERS OF
FOREIGN WINES AND SPIRITS,
WHOLESALE AND FAMILY MERCHANTS,
No. 7, COLLINGWOOD STREET, NEWCASTLE

MORISON JOHNSTON,
8, BIGG MARKET, NEWCASTLE,
Begs to announce that he has commenced the Business of AUCTIONEER AND VALUER, in conjunction with his present business, which will be carried on as usual. He trusts to receive the support of his friends and the public generally.
☞ All Accounts of Sales settled promptly. 396t

ROBERT SAVILLE,
HAIRDRESSER,
13, NELSON STREET, CONSETT.
UMBRELLAS COVERED AND REPAIRED ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE.
☞ GRINDING OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

INDIA RUBBER STAMPS,
FOR Endorsing Envelopes, Cheques, and Postal Cards, Heading Notepaper, Marking Linen and Pigeons, Stamping Monograms, Crests, and fac-similes of Signature.
POCKET AND DATING STAMPS,
Price and Pattern Sheets Free on application.
WILLIAM COLDICOTT,
BRIDGEMAN STREET, WALSALL. 783s

HERBS, ROOTS, AND BARKS.

W. J. SMITH,
270, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD.

WHOLESALE and Retail Customers supplied in any quantity of the best quality, at the lowest prices. 573t

R. VON DIX,
THE PHOTOGRAPHER,
MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT.
HALF-DOZEN CARDE-DE-VISITES AND ONE CABINET FOR 3s. 6d. SPLENDID FINISH.

JOHN WALKER & Co.,
BISCUIT MANUFACTURERS TO THE QUEEN,
GLASGOW,

BEG particularly to call the attention of the Public to the superior quality of their Biscuits, which are manufactured only from the finest machines.

They submit a few of their Specialties, which are well worthy of a trial, viz:—Alberts, rich Tea, Wine, Shaughran, Water, Ginger Nuts, extra Toast, Digestive (rich and royal); also, their famed Scotch Farls (rich) and Scotch Oat Cakes (plain). These can be had from all Grocers, and from their Wholesale Agents,
CURRY & CO, CONSETT. 119

JOHN JOHNSON,
JOINER AND CONTRACTOR,
MEDOMSLEY ROAD (near the British Schools),
CONSETT,

PREPARES Plans of Houses, together with strict and exhaustive Written Specifications for each Branch of the Building Trade.

Specimens of both may be seen at any time.

Charge moderate, being 2 per cent. on the value of the property to be built.

N.B.—Beams, Rafters, Posts, &c., subject to heavy strains, will have their dimensions determined by Mechanical and Trigonometrical Formulæ, instead of trusting to mere guess work. 278

FURNITURE AND HARDWARE SOLD UPON THE CO-OPERATIVE SYSTEM.

DISCOUNT 2s. IN THE POUND FOR CASH ONLY

WILLIAM WILKINSON,
CATCHGATE,

BEGS to inform his friends that owing to the great increase of business he has had to take the whole of his premises to meet the demands of his customers, and is now prepared with a well selected Stock of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, in all its Branches. Also, HARDWARE, GLASS, CHINA, CLOCKS, WATCHES, JEWELLERY. WEDDING RINGS from the best makers—Wholesale and Retail.

Agent for the New Patent Table Wringing and Mangling Machine, Hickman and Clay Coffin Furniture, and Patent Horse Nails. 371r

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN THE DISTRICT.

THE
"CONSETT GUARDIAN"
AFTER ATTAINING
A LARGE AND INCREASING CIRCULATION
HAS BEEN
CONSIDERABLY ENLARGED,
AND MAINTAINS ITS POSITION AS
THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER.

Full and Impartial Reports of all Meetings in the District (by its own Reporters). The General News is carefully condensed, and special attention is given to Local News, by Agents of known ability and character.

☞ TO ADVERTISERS.

THE *CONSETT GUARDIAN*
Has now been established upwards of twenty-four years, and has gained a most extensive circulation in Consett, Shotley Bridge, Blackhill, Lanchester, Annfield Plain, Medomsley, Ebchester, Castleside, Burnopfield, Lintz Green, Rowland's Gill, Iveston, Dipton, Tow Law, Burnhope, South Moor, Stanley, Tanfield, Tanfield Lea, Tantobie, White-le-head, Hobson, Clough Dene, Swalwell, and the adjacent locality.

The large and increasing circulation of the *Consett Guardian* renders it invaluable as an advertising medium, and current Advertisements are inserted in its columns at moderate charges. Advertisements for lengthened periods are subject to considerable reduction

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON
AT
59, FRONT STREET, CONSETT
Where Advertisements are received up to NINE o'clock on that morning.

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STONE and COAL-BORING MACHINES, STEMMING GEAR, SEWING MACHINES, WASHING, WRINGING and MANGLING MACHINES, PATENT POSSTAFF SPRINGS.—Sold Wholesale and Retail by GEORGE HUNTER, Medomsley, Lintz Green. 763t

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

F. A. AND E. WELCH,
WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,
ANNFIELD PLAIN. 920

CHEAP STATIONERY DEPOT.
FOR
FANCY AND GENERAL STATIONERY OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,
TRY
JASPER COCKBURN,
STATIONER, NEWSAGENT, PRINTER, & BOOKBINDER,
13, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.
☞ London and other Daily Papers supplied to order. Books not in Stock, to be had on a short notice.

TEETH.
MR. T. C. CAMPBELL,
SURGEON DENTIST,
8, GRAINGER-ST, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Artificial Teeth at reasonable prices.
They are adapted to the mouth on an improved system, guaranteed in every case to fit perfectly, and warranted for five years.
No extraction of stumps necessary.
A complete Upper or Lower Set from 30s. to £4 10s., 3s. to 10s. per tooth.
Nitrous Oxide Gas for Painless Dentistry.
Operations in Dental Surgery skilfully performed, and all charges strictly moderate.
Country patients visiting Mr. CAMPBELL'S Establishment in Newcastle, will have all the advantages of a most complete Dental Apparatus, and, whenever possible, will be allowed their railway fare. 810t

☞ ARRIVAL OF NEW GOODS,
AT
C. F. COOKE'S,
THE NOTED CHEAP SHOP,
ANNFIELD PLAIN.

ENTIRE NEW STOCK
OF
BOYS', YOUTHS', AND MEN'S OVERCOATS.
BLACK WORSTED OVERCOAT, 24s. 6d.
BOYS' SUITS, 2s. 6d.
BLANKETS, FLANNELS, &c., AT REDUCED PRICES.
FELT HATS AND CAPS, IN ENDLESS VARIETY.

C. F. COOKE, ANNFIELD PLAIN.

NORTHUMBERLAND CUTLERY EMPORIUM.
31, MOSLEY STREET, NEWCASTLE.

ROBERT CLARK,
MANUFACTURER OF ARTIFICIAL LEGS, ARMS, CRUTCHES, SPINAL SUPPORTS, INSTRUMENTS FOR CLUB FEET AND BOW LEGS,
TRUSSES, BANDAGES, BELTS, ELASTIC STOCKINGS, KNEE CAPS, SOCKS, &c.
SURGICAL INSTRUMENT & TRUSS MAKER To the Newcastle Infirmary.
A large assortment of
TABLE KNIVES, POCKET KNIVES, SCISSORS RAZORS, &c.
OPERA AND FIELD GLASSES, BAROMETERS THERMOMETERS.
MAGNETO ELECTRICAL MACHINES
☞ SPECTACLES TO SUIT ALL SIGHTS.

THOMAS MILNER,
DISPENSING AND AGRICULTURAL CHEMIST,
THE CENTRAL PHARMACY, CONSETT,

Informs the Farmers and Graziers of Consett, Lanchester and vicinity, that Messrs NESS & Co., Darlington, have received the Gold Medal at the International Health Exhibition, London, for their Celebrated Tar Elixir Sheep Dip, &c. Full descriptive Circulars, with recent Testimonials, may be had from T. M., sole Agent Consett.

T. M. is likewise Agent for BELL & RIDDLE'S Sheep Dip, Foot Rot Bottle, Concentrated Cattle Spice, COOPERS, McDOUGALL'S, MORRIS, LITTLE, & Co.'s, WILSON and KITCHEN'S Sheep Dips, &c., &c.

PURGING BALLS,
ALTERATIVE POWDERS FOR HORSES.
FELLON AND CLEANSING DRINKS FOR CATTLE.

☞ HORSE AND CATTLE MEDICINES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

MILNER'S HAIR RESTORER, 1s. PER BOTTLE

Sarsaparilla Blood Purifying Mixture. Dandelion and Podophyllyn Antibilious Pills.

QUININE WINE PREPARED ACCORDING TO THE BRITISH PHARMACOPŒA.

Invigorating Hop Bark and Columba Bitters.
QUININE AND IRON TONIC.
BALSAMIC COUGH MIXTURE.
COUGH LOZENGES, COUGH PILLS, &c.

FINEST NEW SEASON'S COD LIVER OIL
MALT EXTRACT, PARRISH'S CHEMICAL FOOD, FINEST COD LIVER OIL.

COMPOSITION ESSENCE AND COMPOSITION POWDER.

Agent for Mr. LAMONT'S Magnetic Chest Protectors, &c.

SPECTACLES IN GREAT VARIETY.

TRUSSES, BANDAGES, ELASTIC STOCKINGS.

MENTHOLINE FOR TIC, TOOTHACHE, &c.,
PREPARED BY
MILNER, CHEMIST,
7, SHAKESPEARE STREET, CONSETT 563t

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9TH, 1885.

ROUSED BY A FALSE ALARM.

It is not a trivial matter that the whole country, but more especially the large urban centres of population, should be thrown into a flutter by the publication of sensational intelligence regarding military or naval movements; nor is it of little moment that a leading journal like the *Times* should give point and force to such intelligence by stimulative comment and conjecture. Yet this was what happened last Monday, when the announcement appeared in various newspapers, that the Channel Squadron had been suddenly and peremptorily ordered to sea as the result of Cabinet deliberations, the destination of the squadron being, it was said, quite unknown. The public were told of the water police being sent round to bring in all the seamen on leave in Portsmouth and Devonport, of notices being circulated to sailors' homes, and of telegrams being sent by scores, to men away in the country on leave. If, after all, this whipping-in of the ships' crew was, as the public were soon afterwards given to understand, only the usual procedure in case of a squadron starting upon an ordinary and pre-arranged cruise, it certainly is to be regretted that the reporters who furnished the facts of the case to their journals did not trouble themselves to learn or state the actual significance—or insignificance—of the proceedings, instead of themselves drawing, or leaving others to draw, exaggerated inferences. If, on the other hand, there is any truth in one journalistic explanation of the matter, that a sudden and premature recall of men on leave was made merely to test their promptitude by a technical false alarm, then we cannot but think that an inopportune time was chosen for such an experiment. Whoever may be the parties chargeable with putting a misleading appearance on this matter, it is a fact that the public were seriously misled. This in itself would have been sufficient to call for remonstrance; but it is even of graver consequence that something like a popular defiance of Europe should have been evoked under the influence of this false alarm. At all events, there was a very observable manifestation of the Jingo spirit which under such circumstances makes itself conspicuous while the grave anxiety of sober-minded men is scarcely noticed. It is indeed noteworthy, and significant of the present national temper, that thousands of the British people should on Monday last have been ready "with a light heart" to make war upon some unknown enemy. There were at least three great Powers against either one of which the reported hostile movement of the Channel Squadron might have been directed, while an offensive movement against either might have drawn against us the allied hostility of all three. The readiness under such circumstances to support a rumoured belligerent movement of our Government tends to demonstrate two facts—first, that there is a very general feeling of exasperation in the country with regard to the recent attitude of some European Governments towards our own; and, secondly, that the British people are not disposed to submit tamely to the slights or provocations offered even by a combination of neighbouring States.

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

LONDON, WEDNESDAY EVENING.

There is a deepening feeling in the country that Prince Bismarck has this time overshot the mark, as his intrigue with M. Jules Ferry making France his catspaw or puppet to force us to terms is too barefaced to take in any one. We have only to stand on our dignity, to decline politely but firmly this insidious invitation to open a fresh Conference on Egyptian affairs in Paris, and the whole thing must fall through. It is not the first time we have stood against the world, and we shall weather the storm if we are only cool and collected.

The young King of Hanover has given in, and has agreed to accept Prince Bismarck's terms which are succession to the Duchy of Brunswick in return for a full surrender of his titular rights as King of Hanover. He had stood out so long on the all-or-nothing line—*Aut Cæsar, aut nullus*—that it was quite expected that Bruswick would share the fate of Hanover. Fortunately, he has thought better of it, and at the last moment has made his submission to the German Emperor. There will then be no difficulty about the succession and, what is better still, the Reptile Fund spent in subsidising and corrupting the German Press will now revert to more legitimate uses.

Mr Gladstone's illness was the talk of the town for a few days after his return on Saturday evening from the two Cabinet Councils. As he passed through Chester and the train stopped to change engines he was seen to look pale and dreadfully weary, and the insomnia is the most obstinate symptoms. He got over it last year by a run out to Cannes; but he is not likely in the present crisis of affairs to go far from home, and, indeed, the call is growing louder than ever for some decisive mark of energy on his part. This is the price which a nation's hero pays for being their hero.

The coming of age of Prince Edward, as the eldest son of the Prince of Wales is to be known in future, opens up a sphere of usefulnes to him which he is well qualified to enter on. A proposal to confer on him the freedom of the City of London has been deferred by request, as it is desired that this honour should be conferred on him soon after Easter This will be the public celebration of the coming of age of the heir to the throne in the second generation.

The public must be in an excited state of mind when so poor a hoax could be palmed off on them as that about the Channel Fleet being ordered off for foreign service. It was too absurd to be credited; but the public, in a certain state of mind, are apt to put two and two together in a way which makes five They are wrong in their conjectures; but some one must be to blame who sets them off on these useless alarms.

The sudden and unexpected death of the Bishop of London will place another mitre at Mr Gladstone's disposal. Dr Jackson, who had been Bishop of Lincoln since 1853, was advanced to the see of London in 1868, when Dr Tait was moved up to the Primacy. It is singular that within a few weeks of the announced resignation of Dr Woodsworth, the Bishop of Lincoln, who succeeded Dr Jackson in that see, Dr Jackson is called away by death. It cannot be said that the late Bishop ever rose above the level of respectable mediocrity. He was painstaking, conscientious, and devout; but the impression which he produced on his clergy is that which the popular verdict has confirmed—that he was not strong enough for the post, and that for stirring times like the present a fresher and more vigorous intellect is required. Among the names already put forward as likely to succeed to the see, those of Dr Maclagan, Bishop of Lichfield, and Dr Wilkinson, Bishop of Truro, seems most deserving of notice. Both have been leading London incumbents, and both are well qualified in other ways for the post.

I once heard Lord Chancellor Hatherley declare that it was impossible to state definitely the qualifications requisite to make a successful advocate. It is not quite such an impossibility to describe the qualifications tolerably safe, even in these days of cutting competition, to insure the success of a man of business. Physical courage, fair intelligence, and strong common-sense go far to account for the success of many of our most useful and prosperous citizens. I was particularly struck with this on reading a few of the interesting papers which have appeared in the *Citizen* on "Famous Londoners." One of these gives the history of Henry Lamplough, the well-known chemist. As a lad he distinguished himself by a courageous act of bravery. He was in 1833 at Scarborough when, the life-boats failing to rescue, he with three men in an open boat became the means of saving the whole of a ship's company which had run on shore—an act which the Scarborough people did not allow to pass without public recognition. Mr Lamplough enjoyed for many years the personal friendship of Dr Stevens, whose treatise on fever—the cholera and the blood—awoke in the young chemist a spirit of inquiry which led to the discovery of the famous Pyretic Saline. These papers on "Famous Londoners" deserve a more enduring place than the ephemeral columns of a newspaper.

WEARDALE BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The fortnightly meeting, held at Stanhope Workhouse, on Friday morning, was attended by Messrs Bainbridge (chairman), Rippon, Watson, Wooler, Snowball, Curry, Walton, Teasdale, Heppell, Robinson, Reed, and Dr Livingstone.

THE EXTENSION OF THE TRAMP WARDS.

The Clerk said the Surveyor's estimate for tramp-ward extension was £320, which could be paid either by loan or out of the current rates. If by loan, repayable over thirty years, the interest chargeable would in that period exceed the amount of the principal. The land fronting the Workhouse, purchased for between £580 and £600, repayable over thirty years, would entail in interest a sum as large as the loan itself.

Messrs CURRY and TEASDALE moved that the £320 be paid out of current rates, and Mr ROBINSON and Dr LIVINGSTONE proposed payment by loan, having regard to other probable heavy expenditure on such matters as water and drainage at Frosterley, though, as the Clerk pointed out, water and drainage work expense would come upon the rural part of Stanhope parish alone, whilst the vagrant cells would be chargeable to the Union.

The amendment was carried by 5 votes to 4.

AN OFFICER WITH MANY POSITIONS.

Mr Bainbridge, relieving-officer, was unanimously appointed registrar of births and deaths for the sub-district of Stanhope—an office payable by fee; collector of the Board's miscellaneous accounts, at £3 per annum; inquiry-officer, at £5, vice, £15 paid to the late officer; and vaccination-officer, paid by fee—sixpence for each certificate of vaccination, a penny for each notice to parents, and threepence for each name supplied for insertion in the public vaccinator's periodical returns.

SEASONABLE GENEROSITY.

Dr Arnison's offer to give the Workhouse inmates a tea was accepted with compliments, on the motion of Dr LIVINGSTONE, who thought Mr Arnison might also have included the Guardians in the invitation to tea. (Laughter.)

THE MILK CONTRACT.

In consequence of some difficulty, the milk contract, let to another person a fortnight ago, was transferred to Geo. Bainbridge, Parson Byers.

REMARKABLE.

The expenditure for the relief of the poor for the half-year ended Michaelmas, 1884, was £1,825, exactly the amount of expenditure in the corresponding half-year in 1883. This sum includes both in-door and out-door paupers.

WORKHOUSE RETURNS.

The casuals visiting the Workhouse during the fortnight numbered 104, against 53 in the corresponding fortnight last year. The Workhouse inmates number 84, against 69 in the corresponding period.

RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

The Board next resolved itself into the Sanitary Authority.

WOLSINGHAM WATER SUPPLY: A SCENE.

A committee was appointed to make the best terms for putting the drainage of Frosterley into an effective and serviceable condition.

On the motion of Dr LIVINGSTONE, who spoke under interruption from the Wolsingham Guardians, the Chairman was authorised to make the best terms he could for taking Waskerley water to Wolsingham, the CHAIRMAN and Dr LIVINGSTONE insisted that a previous resolution by Mr CURRY to sink wells was an admission that water was needed.

Messrs CURRY and SNOWBALL declared that they did not admit scarcity, but merely sought increased convenience.

Mr SNOWBALL, addressing the Chairman, with considerable warmth, said: "You, sir, talk about three times as much as you ought to do, and monopolise the time that other persons ought to have. At the last meeting you made many misstatements, and will not give others a chance of speaking."

Mr SNOWBALL, whom the Chairman good-humouredly rallied, left the room gesticulating.

SINGULAR MALADY AT WOLSINGHAM.

Mr Egglestone, the Surveyor, reported as follows:—During the last two or three weeks there has been a somewhat peculiar illness at Wolsingham. Within a very short time there were nineteen cases, all strong and powerful men from the steel-works. They reside in all parts of the town; all cases were in separate houses. No second case in one house has occurred. The illness continued three or four days, and then the patients were on the way of recovery. In this peculiar attack all those affected showed congestion of the liver, and feverish symptoms, and nearly all those who have thus been ill are employed at or about the blast furnaces. The Medical Officer is of opinion that the workmen have been heated; and having gone out into the cold, deceived by the mild weather, had thus got cold, and brought on the attack. On New Year's Day, all were fast recovering, and there had been no recent cases. I asked the Medical Officer if there were any cases of typhoid fever at Wolsingham, and he informed me there were no cases.

No comments were made.

HYMNS for Sunday School Anniversaries, &c., printed on the shortest notice, and at the *cheapest* rate, by ROBERT JACKSON, Consett.

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TOWLE'S PENNYROYAL AND STEEL PILLS FOR FEMALES quickly correct all irregularities, and relieve the distressing symptoms so prevalent with the sex. Boxes 1s 1½d. and 2s. 9d., of all Chemists. Sent anywhere on receipt of 15 or 34 Stamps by the maker E. T. TOWLE, Chemist Nottingham.

MAN'S NOBLEST WORK.—This is an age of great and works wonderful inventions. Steam, electricity, water, air, all are made to serve man, but unquestionably the greatest inventions are those which preserve man's health and prolong his life, and among the greatest of these are Stanton's Cough Pills. There effects are truly wonderful, and hundreds are happy to-day who once looked forward to an early grave. For Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Asthma Loss of Voice, Hay Fever, Hoarseness, Croup, or any Affection whatever of the Throat, Chest, or Lungs, Stanton's Cough Pills will positively cure. We can cheerfully recommend them to all, and can unhesitatingly say they are the only sure cure for Throat and Lung Affections. Sold by all Chemists in Boxes at 13½d and 2s. 9d Box sent post free on receipt of 15 or 35 stamps. Wm. Mather, Wholesale Druggists Manchester

New Year's Festivities.

CONSETT.—On New Year's day, the Consett Branch of the Church of England Temperance Society, held their annual tea and miscellaneous entertainment in the National Schools, both events being well patronised.—On the same date, the Primitive Methodists of Consett opened a sale of work, in aid of the chapel fund. A tea party was also held.—The Salvation Army (Consett Corps) held a series of special services during the holiday season, concluding with a public tea and a great meeting on New Year's Eve.—On New Year's eve, the Consett Quadrille party held a ball in the Lecture Hall.—On Monday se'nnight, the members of St. Mary's (Consett) Amateur Dramatic Society, gave a performance, under distinguished patronage, of "Colleen Bawn," in aid of the funds of Bishop Chadwick's Memorial Schools, Newcastle. The Agricultural Hall, Benfieldside, was well filled on the present occasion.

TOW LAW.—The total proceeds of the Tow Law Primitive Methodist Christmas tree and New Year's sales, which were inaugurated by Mr J. G. Wild, of Hedleyhope, amounted to £40, or, including donations, to £50, which will enable the trustees to pay off the entire debt of the chapel.—On Saturday about 180 of the old people of Tow Law were entertained to a free tea in the Mechanics' Institute.

WOLSINGHAM.—On New Year's Eve, the annual Christmas tree and coffee supper were held in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, at which there was a large attendance. The proceeds are to be given to the new chapel fund.—The usual watch night service was held in the Wesleyan Chapel, and was conducted by the Rev W. Henderson.—A ball was given in the Town Hall by the Wolsingham String Band.

LEADGATE WESLEYAN SUNDAY SCHOOL BAND OF HOPE.—The committee of the above gave an entertainment in the Bottle Bank School on the evening of New Year's Day, consisting of readings, recitations, melodies, and addresses. A juvenile string band was in attendance, and favoured the company with selections of music, Mr H. Leathord presiding over the meeting. The school, being well filled, presented a very favourable prospect for the year just entered. The meeting was brought to a close by singing and prayer.

TREAT AT WINLATON.—On New Year's Day about 100 of the old folks of Winlaton were entertained to a substantial tea at the Wesleyan School-room. After an enjoyable repast, an entertainment was held under the presidency of Mr D. Jeffrey, when songs, readings, and recitations were contributed by several local ladies and gentlemen. Each of the old folks was presented with ¼lb. of tea and ½oz. of tobacco; and on the motion of Mr Thomas Tweddle, jun., a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to those who had contributed to the success of the gathering. After a satisfactory financial statement by the secretary, Mr John Tweddle, an enjoyable meeting was brought to a close.

OLD PEOPLE'S TREAT AT BLAYDON.—On Friday afternoon, Mr W. Paxton, with his well-known liberality, gave the old men and women of Blaydon a treat for the seventh time. About 150 sat down to well-provided tables in the Primitive Methodist School-room, and then adjourned to the adjacent chapel, which was crowded in every part, to a public meeting, presided over by the Mayor of Gateshead (Ald McDermott). Speeches and recitations were interspersed by music and songs, in which young and old rivalled each other in adding to the common enjoyment, not the least interesting feature being the presentation by Dr Brown of an overcoat to the oldest man, and a shawl to the oldest woman, John Murray being the recipient of the former, and Mrs Nelson of the latter.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—Watch-night services were held in the various chapels. First-footing was carried on as usual. The Gospel Temperance Union held their annual tea in the Wesleyan School. After tea a well-arranged programme was gone through. Mr Geo. Smith delivered the annual address, and Mr M. H. Siddle (Newcastle), occupied the chair.—The annual sale of work held in connection with the Congregational Church took place, and was opened by Mr John Mitchell, of Claremont Villa, while the stalls were kept by the ladies of the congregation. — The annual meeting of the Perkin's Villa Wesleyan Juvenile Missionary Association was held, and Mr H. B. Slee, of Gateshead, delivered a lecture on "Ancient Egypt."—The Primitive Methodists of Chester-le-Moor held their annual tea and meeting.—A sale of work was held at Chatershaugh, in aid of the Extension Fund of the new chapel.

WHITE-LE-HEAD. — The choir of the Primitive Methodist Chapel held their annual supper on Christmas Eve when a good company partook of an excellent repast provided by Mrs Huggup and Mrs Crisp. After supper, the time was spent in innocent amusements until twelve o'clock, when a large company of singers paraded the village, singing their beautiful Christmas carols.—On the following day a Christmas tree and stall was held in the school-room. A large company assembled, and a lot of useful goods were disposed of in a short time, and a handsome sum was realised.—On New Year's Day the annual Trustee Meeting was held at ten a.m. under the presidency of the Rev E. Phillipson.—The reports of the treasurer (Mr J. Harrison) and of the secretary (Mr Thos. Crisp) were of a most satisfactory character. They were heartily thanked for their services, and afterwards re-elected.—The meeting, which was a most harmonious one was then brought to close.—In the afternoon, at two o'clock, the annual teachers' meeting in connection with the Sunday-school was held, the Rev E. Phillipson presided, and there was a large attendance of teachers.—The report of the secretary (Mr John Sanderson) showed the school to be in a prosperous condition, an increase of teachers and scholars being reported.—The meeting decided to give a handsome donations to the widows and orphans' fund, and also to the Sunday School Union.—The election of officers then took place as under:—Superintendents, Mr Thos. Crisp and Mr John J. Cuthbert; treasurer, Mr W. Dawson; secretaries, Mr J. Nicholson and Mr J. Reay; librarian, Mr John Sanderson.—The teachers subsequently took tea together, and thus closed one of the most pleasant meetings held in connection with this school.—The society has engaged Miss Young, of York, to conduct special services, to commence shortly.

KYO UNITED CHRISTIAN MISSION ARMY HALL.—On New Year's Day, a lecture was delivered by Mr Johnson, phrenologist, of Leadgate, his subject being "Human physiology." Great credit is due to the lecturer for the manner in which he handled his subject. He pointed out clearly, in a scientific way, the purpose of man's organisation it existed for. The lecturer went on to show that it was to make use of the elements upon which man existed. He also showed some of the many diseases to which mankind subject themselves to by breaking nature's law. Mr Johnson pressed upon his hearers the necessity of acquiring knowledge themselves, so that they might be able to save themselves from many things which befall humanity, and to accomplish the purpose the Divine Creator willed when man came from his hand.—The meeting was ably presided over by Mr Geo. Armstrong, of Catchgate. The proceeds of the lecture were for the benefit of Miss Ridley, the evangelist, who is leaving Kyo, and who, after a week's rest will begin special services at Greencroft Cottages, in connection with the Primitive Methodist Society, where it is to be hoped that she will be as successful in her labours with them as she has been with the U.C.M. Army. Some four months ago that lady came to Kyo and found the Church in a very low spiritual condition.—On Saturday night, a grand, interesting magic-lantern entertainment was given by Mr George Armstrong, of Catchgate, in the above place of worship, to a very fair audience considering the state of trade, and the Christmas and New Year festivities which have been celebrated in the same place.—On Christmas Day, Miss Ridley held her farewell tea when a good number did ample justice to the good things provided by the following ladies—Mrs Herdman and Mrs Ridley, also Mrs Fawcett, Mrs Maughan, and Misses Johnstone and Ward, who presided over the tables in an efficient manner. After tea a public meeting was held, when appropriate addresses were given by Mr J. Ward, Greencroft; Mr J. Humble, Annfield Plain; and Mr W. Harrison, Tantobie, &c. The meeting was presided over in an able manner by Mr. Jos. Johnstone, of Kyo. On Sunday, Miss Ridley preached her farewell sermon to a large and attentive congregation.

WEST PELTON.—On Christmas Day, a concert of vocal and instrumental music was given in the Primitive Methodist Chapel by the choir and an orchestral band. There was a crowded audience. The programme consisted of overtures and selections by the band, anthems by the choir, a quartett, and solos by Misses D. Hall and E. Lowther, which latter was very much appreciated. The band performed an amusing piece, "See Saw," with a chorus of children with their slates and bags over their shoulders, just as they come out of school. It had to be repeated. A double quartette, "A Merry, Merry Christmas to you all," was encored. A trio, "The Death of Old Thomas," which was very humourous, had to be repeated. A violin duet, by Mr Lowther and Miss Robson, was excellent; also a fine and brilliant fantasia from "La Somnambula" was performed as a solo by Mr Lowther in a masterly style. Mr W. Simpson accompanied, and Mr W. Cummins conducted. Mr MacKinley presided. The proceeds, which reached a handsome sum, will go to the reduction of the debt.

PARISH OF BEAMISH.—We are pleased to note that, despite dull trade, the Yule tide Festival, now consecrated to special Christian observance, has been thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed by the parishioners of Beamish.—On Christmas Day, two services were held in the Parish Church at Stanley. At Matins a seasonable sermon was preached by the vicar (Rev J. Crennell) to a good congregation, from the text—"Unto you is born this day, in the City of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." The morning service was preceded by a celebration of the Holy Communion at 8·30, when 41 communicants partook of that solemn memorial. Another celebration followed the morning service, when the sacred elements were administered to 39 additional communicants, bringing the total number up to 80. In the evening, after evensong had been read, instead of a sermon, a selection of carols was pleasingly rendered by the choir; the Vicar having first given a short history of "Carols, and their place in Christian song." The Church was suitably adorned with evergreens, &c.—On the Tuesday following Christmas Day, a sacred Christmas concert was given in the Oxhill Board School-room by the mission choir and others, to a large and attentive audience. The programme consisted of a number of hymns and carols so adapted as to suggest to the listeners the various blessings and life-experiences which a true Christian should derive from our Lord's incarnation. The solos were given by Miss Mantle, who sang very sweetly, "O Thou that tellest, &c.," and by the Rev C. E. Couchman, of Burnopfield, whose clear tenor voice in singing the two solos, "In token that thou shalt not fear" and "In the fields with their flocks abiding," was manifestly appreciated by the audience. A quartette, "Holiest, breathe an ev'ning blessing," was also effectively rendered by the Rev J. Crennell (bass), Mr J. Robinson (treble), Mr Green (tenor), and Master J. Ramshaw (alto). Mr Robinson's mellow voice blended in beautiful harmony, with the fine bass and clear tenor parts, while the alto at times contributed nicely to the harmony. Two short addresses added variety to the concert, one being given by the chairman (Capt. Geo. Ridley), and the other by the Curate of the parish. On all sides very complimentary remarks were made touching Mr Robinson's (choirmaster) perfect command over the choir, which obeyed him with almost the precision of a machine. This speaks volumes for Mr Robinson's efficiency as a teacher and conductor. The room was neatly decorated, and the proceeds go in aid of the harmonium fund.—On New Year's Eve, the Stanley Church choir met in the school-room for their annual Christmas gathering, when a bountiful and tastefully-arranged tea was provided. After tea the choir members engaged in various recreations until about nine o'clock, when they sat down to a substantial Christmas meat supper, to which thorough justice was universally done. Afterwards, the choir repaired to the Church to take part in the midnight service, which began at 10 45 p.m. Evening prayer was read by the Vicar, and followed by an address delivered by the Curate, on "The Christian's obligations to thankfulness for past mercies, and to prayer for future guidance." The last three minutes of the Old Year and the first two minutes of the New Year were spent on their knees by the whole congregation in silent prayer. The New Year's hymn, No. 93 (Church Hymns) was then sung, and after the benediction was pronounced the large congregation dispersed, wishing each other the various compliments of the season.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, DIPTON.—Probably the most important and successful Christmas and New Year festivities in this immediate district were those in connection with the above church. The congregation, which is gradually on the increase, is thoroughly enthusiastic at the prospect of soon seeing their long-cherished hope realised, viz., the erection of a church, and notwithstanding the depressed state of the times, all have worked with hearty goodwill in trying to raise funds for this object; and on the suggestion being made that a tea party might help matters forward, the following ladies readily undertook to supply provisions and preside at the tables:—Mrs Compton, Mrs Hardy, Mrs Mordue, Mrs Ramsay, Mrs Riddle, Mrs Turnbull, Mrs Usher, Miss Bowes, Miss Nattrass, Miss Thirlwell, and Miss Turnbull. The date fixed for the party was Saturday, January 3rd, in the Free Church School-room, kindly granted by the trustees. Admirable arrangements had been made for the comfort of everyone by a band of most willing workers, headed by Mr Mordue, churchwarden. The ladies above-mentioned had provided a most bountiful supply of eatables of all kinds, and of the very best quality, whilst Mrs Mordue laboured most successfully in supplying the tea hot and strong. A numerous band of young ladies and gentlemen busied themselves in looking after the wants of the great number who partook of the tea. The result was highly satisfactory; there was no confusion from beginning to end, and very frequent expressions were heard that it was one of the most pleasant and comfortable parties ever held in the village. In the evening, the fourth "Pleasant Evening" was held, and was the most successful of the series. This was in some measure due to a gentleman from Catchgate who most kindly sent over his piano in perfect tune—it was a great improvement on the harmonium which has been formerly used at these entertainments. Before beginning the programme, the Vicar (Rev R. Tuson), after calling for a vote of thanks to the ladies, announced the establishment of a Parish Magazine, and made a statement on the present condition of the Church Funds, from which we gather that the proposed new Church is estimated to cost £2,700, towards which £2,200 have been promised; the contracts would soon be let, and that an early commencement with the work was anticipated. The programme, which included glees, songs, and readings was then proceeded with, the following being the performers:—Misses Thirlwell, Thornton, M. Thornton (whose readings and recitations are always received with loud applause because of the masterly way in which they are rendered), Turnbull, D. Turnbull, Davison, M. Thirlwell (who both sang and accompanied with great skill); Messrs Riddle, Thornton, Arkless, Revs R. Tuson and J. Gornall (Vicar of Collierley), and a troupe of Masters and Misses Thirlwell, Davison, and Richley (these latter bringing down the house, by their singing of "See-saws." Every piece was well rendered, the keen frosty air being most favourable to the vocalists in helping them to get their notes clear and crisp. The audience was very demonstrative, and showed their entire appreciation of the treat provided for them by frequent bursts of applause. These "Pleasant Evenings" have become quite an institution in the district, and this—the middle one of the series—must have materially increased their reputation. It is rare that such high-class music—so well rendered—is heard outside the larger towns Perhaps owing to this being their first attempt, the ladies had provided much more food than was required at the tea, and after a hasty consultation with them, the Vicar announced, during the evening, that there would be a tea and coffee supper on Monday night at reduced prices. This accordingly took place and over 200 were present, making in all over 500 people provided for in a most handsome manner. We understand that, after paying all expenses, the proceeds yielded between £16 and £17.—On New Year's Eve, there was the usual "watch-night" service, when a numerous congregation assembled.

UPPER WEARDALE.—The New Year was heralded by the customary watch-nights and carols of the several villages.—A holiday and banquet of St. John's Wesleyan Band of Hope, embrace the celebrations of the New Year.

CROOK.—On New Year's Eve, the Royal Arch Druids had their first annual supper at the house of Mr T. Catron, Surtees Arms, where a repast of a capital character was served up to the guests.—A general holiday was observed in the district on New Year's day, and at the Primitive Methodist Chapel the service of song, "Whiter than Snow," was given by the choir and teachers, the connective readings being given by Miss Rust.—At the Temperance Hall an entertainment was given, and a very successful ball was held in the Mechanics' Hall.

CASTLESIDE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.—The bazaar, in connection with the above, held in the Board Schools, Castleside (a report of which appeared in last week's issue), was continued on Friday, opening at 6·30 p.m., and on Saturday at four p.m. At night, a musical entertainment was given by Messrs Lennox, S. Brodie, F. Brodie, T. Cuthbertson (Consett), and T. Brownlee (Castleside). Songs were rendered in a masterly style by Mr E. Saunders and Mr G. Cook, evanglist (Bishop Auckland), who has come to Castleside to hold special services. The stalls were presided over by the ladies named last week, and by their winning smiles and business tact, handed over to the treasurer the nice sum of £70 13s 6d, which speaks a great deal for their exertions.

LANCHESTER PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.—A special effort is been made on behalf of the chapel funds. On New Year's Day a tea was held, all the provisions being furnished by the friends. In the evening, a concert was given by the Shotley Bridge select choir, conducted by Mr W. Urwin, assisted by Misses Muse, Telford, Smith, and others. Mr L. Urwin ably presided at the harmonium. The chairman, Mr J. Oley (Shotley Bridge), was well received. The chapel was nearly filled.—Last Monday night Miss Ridley gave an interesting lecture on "The travels of a young girl," to a good company; after which a coffee supper was provided, and was well patronised.—The singers went out at Christmas and New Year, and raised the handsome sum of £3 8s 9d. All these gatherings have realised £12 6s 4d.

ROWLEY BAPTIST CHAPEL.—On New Year's day a tea party was held in connection with this place of worship, when a goodly number partook of an excellent repast. The tables were ably presided over by the following:—Miss Leybourne, Misses Dodd and Angus, Misses Ingram and Robson. A public meeting was subsequently held, presided over by Mr R. Evans, Beech Grove, Consett, assisted by the Revs E. P. Riley (Consett), E. W. Jenkins (pastor), Mr Oliver, Burnhill (Wesleyan), and Mr Robson, Waskerley (Primitive Methodist). The presence of the two last-named gentlemen indicates the existence of that spirit of sociality which ought to exist among religious demonstrations and workers in the furtherance of God's work.—The Chairman opened the meeting with a few appropriate remarks, on the age of the Church at Rowley. Having been erected in the year 1652 it will now be 232 years old. Looking at the figures we would imagine that many a severe winter's blast will have beaten against its walls.—The Rev E. P. Riley favoured with a very earnest and pathetic address.—Mr Oliver followed with an elaborate speech on "Time;" and Mr Robson with a short but grand speech on "Duty and privilege—past and present." After the Rev E. W. Jenkins had spoken, the Chairman brought a most enjoyable meeting to a close.

EBENEZER CHRISTIAN LAY CHURCH, SHIELD ROW.—An afternoon concert of vocal and instrumental music was given in the above church on Christmas day. Songs and duets were given by the Bros. McCartons (Kibblesworth), Mr G. Wood (Boldon), and the Misses York (Stanley). Violin solos and duets were given by Master J. Robson and Miss E. Robson; pianist, Mr John Chaytor (Stanley). The chair was occupied by Mr J. Warwick (Tanfield). The people came in great numbers. After the concert, a public tea was provided, when 180 sat down and partook of the good things provided. The Christmas tree and stall, furnished with useful and ornamental articles, was open during the day.—On New Year's eve, an entertainment and coffee supper was held; and on New Year's day the tree and stall were re-opened, and a goodly number of people visited the church, the stalls, &c., being presided over by Mrs W. Robson and the Misses A. Seymour and E. Dawson; the scholar's stall was looked after by Misses E. Whitfield, P. Bewick, S. Morpeth, and E. Seymour; while Misses J. Caxon, B. Dawson, A. Edwards, and Mrs J. Seymour served at the tables. An exhibition of curiosities and works of art was open. The services have been very successful, the takings amounting to £26, with £8 10s 10d worth of goods left on hand, make a total amount, money and goods, of £34 10s 10d. The whole of the articles, as well as the tea and supper, were given to the church. The proceeds will be devoted to the building of a vestry and other purposes in connection with the church.

BLACKHALL MILL WESLEYAN CHAPEL.—On New Year's Eve, a sacred concert was given by Messrs Joseph, John, and James Harker, and Miss M. A. Dent, Castleside, to a large and appreciative audience. The vocal and instrumental selections were gone through in a masterly style, receiving numerous *encores*. The solo, "The better land," was sung in a refined manner by Miss Dent. Other solos, duets, and Old Methodist tunes were ably rendered. Mr R. Harrison occupied the chair. The lengthy programme ended with a melody of old Methodist tunes and jubilees, which were well received. Meanwhile a ham coffee supper was provided in the school-room, and a large number of people partook of the same. The tables were gracefully presided over by the Misses Ellen Hindmarch, M. A. Bell. Thomason, England, M. Hunter, J. A. Urwin, and Isbella Hunter. A large number afterwards retired to the chapel to hold the watch-night service, which was solemnly conducted by Mr Joseph Harker, of Amble.—On New Year's Day, a tree and stalls were opened in the chapel by Mr M. Cawthorn. A good display of useful and ornamental articles colleected by the ladies' committee, were tastefully arranged; the stall-holders being Mrs J. Elliott and Mrs M. Cawthorn, Mrs Hall and Miss Urwin, Miss England and Mr J. Elliott. Refreshments, were supplied in the vestry by Mr and Mrs Sanders. During the evening, a large number of people assembled, and a speedy sale continued until the tree and stalls were stripped of their ornaments. Solos were sung by Miss Dent, Mr T. Lumley, and Mr R. Cawthorn, accompanied on the harmonium by Mr A. Cawthorn. After votes of thanks to the ladies, &c., the proceedings were brought to an agreeable close by singing the doxology. The sum realised the two days amounted to about £18 10s.

DEATH OF THE BISHOP OF LONDON.—The Right Rev John Jackson, D D., Bishop of London, died on Tuesday morning, at the age of 74, at his residence, the Palace, Fulham. The cause of death was heart disease. For some months it has been evident that the venerable prelate's strength had been gradually given way, and at a recent visitation at St. Paul's Cathedral he expressed the conviction that he should not live long.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—Indigestion and liver complaints.—The digestion cannot be long or seriously disordered without the derangement being perceptible on the countenance. These Pills prevent both unpleasant consequences; they improve the appetite, and with the increase of desire for food, they augment the powers of digestion and assimilation in the stomach. Holloway's Pills deal most satisfactorily with deranged or diseased conditions of the many organs engaged in extracting nourishment for our bodies from our various diets—as the liver, stomach, and bowels, over all of which they exercise the most salutary control. By resorting at an early stage of this malady to these purifying laxative Pills, the dyspeptic is speedily restored health and strength, and his sallowness gradually vanishes.

THROAT AFFECTIONS AND HOARSENESS.—All suffering from irritation of the throat and hoarseness will be agreeably surprised at the almost immediate relief afforded by the use of "Brown's Bronchial Troches." These famous "lozenges" are now sold by most respectable chemists in this country at 1s. 1½d. per box. People troubled with a "hacking cough," a "slight cold," or bronchial affections, cannot try them too soon, as similar troubles, if allowed to progress, result in serious Pulmonary and Asthmatic affections. See that the words "Brown's Bronchial Troches" are on the Government Stamp around each box.—Prepared by JOHN I. BROWN & SONS, Boston, U.S. European depôt removed to 33, Farringdon Road, London.

Football.

LOCAL FIXTURES.

Jan. 10.—Tanfield Lea 1st v. Rendel 1st, at Tanfield.
" 17.—1st Northumberland Artillery v. Tanfield Lea 1st, at Newcastle.
" 17.—Hobson Wanderers v Hedleyhope, at Hobson.
" 24.—Birtley 1st v. Tanfield Lea 1st, at Tanfield Lea.
" 24.—Pelton Fell 2nd and Juniors v. Tanfield Lea 2nd and Juniors, at Tanfield Lea.
" 31.—Tanfield Lea 2nd v. Birtley 2nd, at Birtley.
" 31.—Tanfield Lea 1st v. Beamish 1st, at Beamish.
" 31.—Hobson Wanderers v. Tow Law, at Tow Law.

WATERHOUSES v. CASTLE EDEN.—Played on the ground of the latter on New Year's Day, and resulted in favour of the home team by five goals to one.

SWALWELL TRUE BLUE v. BOUNDARY STREET JUNIORS (A).—Played at Swalwell between the above teams on Saturday, and resulted in a win for the home team by three goals to one.

ELSWICK ORDNANCE WORKS 2ND v. TANTOBIE 2ND.—Played on the ground of the former on Saturday, and after a very pleasant game, resulted in a draw, each side scoring one goal.

TANFIELD LEA 1ST v. GLOUCESTER 1ST.—Played on the ground of the latter on Saturday, in two periods of 25 minutes each. After a pleasant game, the match ended in a win for Tanfield Lea by four goals to nil.

HEATON ROVERS B v. TANFIELD LEA JUNIORS.—Tanfield Lea visited Heaton Rovers B on Saturday, when a quiet and pleasant game was witnessed by many onlookers. The game ended in a draw slightly in favour of Tanfield.

WOLSINGHAM v. WITTON PARK.—Played on New Year's Day at Wolsingham, and resulted in an easy victory for the home team by nine goals to nil. J. Peart obtained three goals, R. Peart three, J. Etherington one, M. Lambert one, and R. Etherington one.

WEST CORNFORTH RISING STAR v. ESH WINNING I.O.G.T.—Played in two thirties on the ground of the former on Saturday, and resulted in a draw, each team scoring one goal. Oliver kicked the goal for the home team, and Bell secured the one for the visitors.

TANFIELD LEA v. JESMOND 3RD (A).—Jesmond travelled to Tanfield Lea on New Year's Day and beat a scratch team of the Tanfield Lea by four goals to two. Jesmond goals were scored by Simpson (3) and Dixon (1). Tanfield Lea—Milburn, goal; Robson and Gardner, backs; Robinson, Brown, and Ruddick, half-backs; T. Gails (captain), Morton, G. Gails, Smith, and Donald, forwards.

DIPTON ROVERS v. SHOTLEY BRIDGE.—A match between the above clubs was played on the ground of the former on Saturday, in two periods of 20 minutes. The game resulted in a win for the home team by one goal, one try, and five minor points to nil. The tries were obtained by Robson and Woodley. Teams:—Shotley Bridge—G. S. Brown, back; Wilkinson, Milburn, and Howels, three-quarter backs; Scott and Gilbertson, half-backs; Shepherd, Hardy, Brown, Nixon, Urwin, Robinson, Barron, Routledge, and Leadbitter, forwards. Dipton—W. Turpin, back; R. Yeaman, J. Rutherford, and W. Kempster, three-quarter backs; L. Robson (captain) and W. Woodley, half-backs; Anderson, Dowson, Shaw, Eltringham, Ridley, Dixon, Leadbitter, and Humes, one short, forwards.

Sporting Items.

SPARROW SHOOTING AT BLACKHALL MILL.—The sparrow shooting handicap promoted by R. Wood was commenced on New Year's Day near the Ship Inn, Blackhall Mill. Score:—Barlow, 1 1 1; R. Wood, 1 0; Dr Carver, 1 0; J. Walton, 1 0; Care Nowt, 1 1 0; Our Bessie, 1 1 1; J. Walton, 1 1 0.

FOOT RACING AT DIPTON.—The finals for Mr J. Thirlwell's £5 110 yards handicap were concluded on New Year's Day, as follows:—Heat 1—J. Foster, 16 yards, 1; R. Teasdale, 10, 2; T. Wilkinson, 22, 3. Won easily. Heat 2—G. Brown, 21, 1; M. Armstrong, 17, 2; G. Kennedy, 14, 3. Won by two yards. Heat 3—J. Bowman, 17, 1; T. Brown, 19, 2; A. Allan, 16, 3. Won on the post. Heat 4—G. Teasdale, 17, 1; J. Armstrong, 16, 2; J. Kennedy, 17, 3. Won easily. Final—J. Foster 1, G. Teasdale 2, Brown, 3, Bowman 4. J. Thirlwell was referee, and M. Snowdon pistol firer.

PIGEON SHOOTING AT WITTON GILBERT.—A handicap, promoted by Mr T. Hunter, Three Tuns Hotel, was shot off on New Year's Day, in the Flower Show Field, and was a most successful gathering, over 500 spectators assembling to witness the sport, and over 70 competitors paying the 5s entrance to the sweepstakes, to which the promoter gave £3. The light was not a good one, and eventually as darkness set in, the following seven competitors, who had all their birds down, divided:—Ned, Ghost, Braes of Derwent, Thomasey, Witton, Langley, and Watson. Mr Geo. Bell (Witton Gilbert) was referee.

WRESTLING NEAR PRUDHOE.—The first competition for a silver cup for 10½ stone men took place on Saturday evening at Half-way House. The cup is to be won thrice in all. Final falls—A. Rutherford threw W. Rutherford, of Dukershagg, twice in succession and won. The wrestling for boys under 16 years of age was won by Andrew Hall, who threw W. McCann twice in the final falls and won.—A friendly match was wrestled between W. Stedman, Hexham, and P. Duffy, Consett, and ended by the former bringing Duffy to the ground twice out of thrice with the back heel, after some excellent tussles.

RABBIT COURSING AT FLINT HILL.—The rabbit coursing, promoted by Mr T. Gibson at Mr J. Bennett's, Flint Hill, was run on Saturday as follows:—Carrick's Fox, 15½, beat Henderson's Welcome, 17; Robinson's Bear, 18, beat Fawcus's Robby Dodds, 15½; Tweddle's Nun, 14½, beat Carrick's Fox, 15½; Storey's Flass, 15, beat Robinson's Bear, 16; Brown's Little John, 17½, beat Oates's Bitter Beer, 15½; Brown's Little John, 17½, beat Storey's Flass, 15; Oates's Bitter Beer, 15½, beat Wigham's What For, 16½; Fawcus's Robby Dodds, 15½, beat Spring's Nolburg, 17½. Second round—Bear beat Fox; Nun beat Flass; Little John beat Bitter Beer; Little John beat Robby Dodds. Third round—Little John beat Bear; Little John beat Nun. Little John received first and second.

THE NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM HARRIERS AT TANFIELD.—On New Year's Day, in spite of a very hard frost, these hounds were at the old New Year's meet, Tanfield, where they have met since 1848. Mr Fred Lamb, owing to the frost, merely intended taking the hounds to the meet for exercise. However, on arriving, finding a number of horsemen, he determined to try to hunt. Thanks to Colonel Joicey and Mr Handcock, of Barkus Close, the game was soon found, and, the scent being good, a capital run was enjoyed over a grass country skirting Gibside and Whickham, to the covets past Sunnyside. Reynold, the huntsman, upon the infant, going like a bird on the wing, always at the tail of his hounds. The run lasted 35 minutes, almost without a check from point to point, about five or six miles. These hounds have had very good sport this season. Old Siddle Dixon, the kennel huntsman, deserves great credit, as they are in perfect condition. A hare was killed in the covert below Barkus Close, but the run hare saved her life by getting into the coverts near Sunnyside.

CONSETT GROUNDS.—There was a good attendance at these grounds on New Year's Day, to witness the conclusion of the £10 10s rabbit coursing. The stake was filled by 24 dogs at 11s each. Results:—Smiles's Miss Proudlock, 16½, beat Baty's Goat, 16½; Richardson's Highland Mary, 16½, beat Wigham's Allendale Lass, 17½; Baty's Goat, 16½, beat Robinson's Bear, 18½; Richardson's Highland Mary, 16½, beat Robinson's Bear, 18½; Curry's New Year's Day, 17½, beat Dodds's Little Ada, 14. Second round (from the first days' running)—Robinson's Pick-Me-Up, 17½, beat Baty's Goat, 16½; Curry's New Year's Day, 17½, beat Richardson's Highland Mary, 16½; Smiles's Miss Proudlock, 16½, beat Highland Mary, 16½. Third round—Pick-Me-Up beat Goat; Routledge's Wild Tommy beat Miss Proudlock; New Year's Day beat Miss Proudlock. Fourth round—Pick-Me-Up beat Wild Tommy; New Year's Day a bye. Eventually, New Year's Day and Pick-Me-Up divided, Pick-Me-Up receiving £5, New Year's Day £4 10s, and Wild Tommy £1. The rabbits ran very strong. Mr N. Lamb was pistol-firer, and Mr W. Wilson judge.

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

CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

MONDAY, January 5th.—Before J. PRIESTMAN, Esq. (in the chair), and J. W. WALTON-WILSON, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

Charles Colquohoun, labourer, of Consett, was charged with being drunk at Consett, on the 31st December.—P.C. Hurworth adduced that shortly after eleven o'clock on the night in question, he found the defendant drunk and rolling about the thoroughfare in Middle Street. He was obliged to lock the man up.—Defendant affirmed that he was not drunk, but was "just a little bit tipsy." He saw one of the constables in the water-closet, and had a little "jaw" with him. On emerging outside, he met Hurworth, with whom he began to jest. This officer thereupon took hold of him by the neck somewhat roughly, and marched him off to the lock-up. If he had not started to chaff the policemen, they would not have known that he was under the influence of liquor. He thought it was only a little bit of a lark.—P.C. Newton gave corroborative evidence.—The Chairman: Have you any doubt that the man was drunk?—The Officer: None whatever. He was very drunk.—Defendant (sarcastically). Very drunk!—As Colquohoun did not produce any rebutting testimony, the Bench fined him 5s, and 10s costs; or seven days' imprisonment in default.

A young man named *Alex. Little*, of Crookhall, pleaded guilty to being drunk and staggering about in Harvey Street, Consett, about 4 30 last Saturday afternoon.—The facts of the case having been stated by P.C. Hurworth, the defendant was mulcted in a penalty of 10s 10d, including costs.

John McGrann, miner, of Leadgate (who was represented by his wife), was summoned by P.C. Symon for having been drunk, shouting, and swearing, and making a great noise in Front Street, Leadgate, about ten p.m. on the 21st ult. The officer ordered the man away several times, before he would depart.—Defendant was also fined 5s and expenses.

Joseph Brown, a youth, was found guilty, upon the evidence of P.C. Stubbs, of being drunk and disorderly, and causing a disturbance in Foundry Row, Blackhill, on New Year's Day.—The Magistrates imposed a fine of 5s, with 6s 2d costs.

THE EDUCATION ACT.

John Plews, of Tow Law, was summoned by Mr Wm. Ward, at the instance of the Lanchester Union School Attendance Committee, for neglecting to send three of his children—aged respectively 13, 11, and 9 years—regularly to St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Schools at Tow Law.—Defendant said that he expected that his boys had been going regularly to school. He was aware they had been late for several mornings in reaching the school, and had been turned away.—Mr Ward, in answer to the Bench, stated that the school door was not closed until after the registers had been called over. He had enquired into the allegations of Mr Plews, and ascertained that on frequent occasions, whenever the teachers had gone to open the school door, his children had been in the habit of running away. Other times, they had played about until the door was locked, and then gone off home and stated that they were too late. He (Mr Ward) had experienced a great deal of trouble with the defendant ever since he came to reside in the district, somewhere about four years ago. The children had been attending different schools, but had been going to St. Joseph's for about a couple of years. Plews had been fined previously for this offence.—A penalty of 5s, inclusive of costs, was inflicted.

GATESHEAD COUNTY POLICE.

TUESDAY, December 30th.—Before U. A. RITSON, Esq (chairman), and R. O. LAMB, Esq.

DRUNK AND DISORDERLIES.

James Ellison, of Blaydon (whose case had been adjourned from last week, in consequence of the defendant having been ill), was charged by P.C. Harper with being drunk and disorderly at Blaydon, on Dec. 13th.—He was fined 1s and costs.

Lancelot Anderson, of Clayton Terrace, summoned by P.C. Farrar for having been drunk and disorderly at The Spen on the 19th Dec, was fined 2s 6d and costs.

Thomas Laing, of The Spen, was charged by P.C. Farrar with having been drunk and causing a disturbance at The Spen, on Dec. 20th.—As this was defendant's first appearance, he was let off on payment of a fine 1s and costs, 5s 6d.

Thomas Robinson, also of The Spen, was summoned by P.C. Farrar for having been drunk and disorderly at The Spen, on the 20th ult.—Fined 2s 6d and costs.

John Gray and *John Devlin*, both of Blaydon, were charged at the instance of Sergeant Beazies with being drunk and disorderly at that place, on Dec. 20th.—Defendants were fined 2s 6d each and costs.

HIGHWAY ACT.

Charles Heworth, of Winlaton, was summoned by P.C. Taylor on a charge of leaving two horses and a waggon on the highway at Winlaton Mill for the space of five hours.—A fine of 2s, including costs, was imposed.

WILFUL DAMAGE.

John Milton and *John Tate*, of Chester Street, Gateshead, were summoned for doing wilful damage to holly, the property of the Earl of Ravensworth, at Ravensworth Castle, on Dec. 19th.—P.C. Telford having stated the case, defendants were fined 6s 1d each, including costs.

ASSAULTS.

George Armstrong, of Victoria Garesfield Colliery, was summoned by John Quinn on a charge of assaulting him with a pit prop at Victoria Garesfield Colliery, on Dec. 18th.—He was fined 11s 6d, including costs.

James Ellison, the defendant in a previous case, was summoned by Samuel Shannon for having assaulted him at Blaydon, Dec. 13th.—Fined 6s and costs.

THEFTS AT BLAYDON.

Robert Davidson, of Blaydon, a number taker (respectably connected), who had been released on bail, was charged with stealing two canisters of coffee, the property of the North-Eastern Railway Company, at Blaydon sidings, on the 23rd Dec.—P.C. Gregory, of the N.E.R. Police, proved to seeing the defendant taking the tins off a waggon.—The Magistrates inflicted a penalty of £2.

DURHAM QUARTER SESSIONS.

The Epiphany Sessions were opened at the Courthouse, Durham, on Monday morning, before Mr J. Lloyd Wharton (chairman), the Rev G. P. Wilkinson (deputy-chairman), the Rev A. D. Shafto, Mr J. Kidson, and Mr John George Richardson. There were 33 prisoners for trial.

The Chairman, in charging the grand jury, congratulated them on the lightness of the calendar presented for trial, both as to the number of prisoners for trial and as to the character of the offences. Now that wages had fallen, and distress prevailed in the county, crime had decreased, and they saw from previous experience that prosperity and crime in the county increased in a similar ratio. The number of prisoners in gaol on the 3rd January last year was 650, whilst on Saturday last there were 473. With one exception, the cases in the calendar were most simple in their character, and having gone carefully over the depositions, he was of opinion they would have no difficulty in finding a true bill in any of the cases. The exceptional case was that of the Drill Instructor Heffermann, of Sunderland, who was accused of having stolen a quantity of ammunition belonging to the Government, whilst Thomas Miller, gunsmith at that place, was accused of having purchased the ammunition, knowing it to have been stolen.

The grand jury were then despatched to their duties, and true bills having been found, the business proceeded.

UNLAWFULLY WOUNDING AT BENFIELDSIDE.—John Fitzpatrick and Patrick Cunningham (on bail) were charged with unlawfully wounding John Toole at Benfieldside on the 20th December, 1884. Mr Grainger (who was instructed by Mr Welford, Consett) prosecuted, and Mr Dale defended Cunningham.—Fitzpatrick and a man named Riley began to quarrel in Mrs Jameson's public-house. Prosecutor afterwards interfered, and the defendants set upon him, kicking him savagely, a wound six inches long being caused on his head.—Sentenced to six months' hard labour each.

UTTERING BAD COIN AT QUEBEC.—Jos. Parker, a youth of fourteen, a pitman, was indicted for unlawfully tendering a counterfeit half crown at Quebec, near Durham, on the 18th October. Mr Siddle prosecuted.—The half-crown was paid to Mrs Waite, the village postmistress, and was shown to prisoner. He stole it, and afterwards attempted to pass it at John Marley's, Hamsteels New Inn. Prisoner was found guilty, but strongly recommended to mercy, and was sentenced to one week's further imprisonment.

ACQUITTED. — Margaret Dawson (27) and Elizabeth Rutherford (29), for stealing £2 10s from the person of Thomas Egglestone at Chester-le-Street, found not guilty.

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

TOW LAW LOCAL BOARD.

At the monthly meeting, held at the Offices, Tow Law, on Tuesday evening, there were present, in addition to the chairman (Mr Joseph Ridley), Mr Wm. Ridley, Mr W. R. Teasdale, Dr Johnstone, Mr Wm. Atkinson, Mr L. P. Wherly, and the clerk (Mr E. Milburn.)

FINANCIAL.

The Clerk reported the balance in the bank to the credit of the Board to be £204 5s 7d, from which the current month's accounts, amounting to £89 18s 0d, would have to be deducted, leaving £140 7s 7d in hand.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Inspector submitted the following monthly report:—

To the Chairman and Members of Tow Law Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to submit my usual report for the quarter ending December 31st, 1884. I have accompanied your Medical Officer in his inspection of the whole of your Board's district. Having made a careful inspection from house to house, I find, upon the whole, a marked improvement upon some of our previous inspections, especially at this season of the year. The principal nuisances we have had to complain of are defective and general want of spouting, defective stench-traps, &c.

The open gullets opposite the Old Forge Cottages do not appear to be satisfactory, there being loose "riggins" in several parts of the place. Behind a cottage dwelling in Bridge Street North we found a defective drain—no stench-trap or dung-hill, &c.

Any sanitary defect upon property belonging to or occupied by the Weardale Iron Company, I have forwarded notifications of the same to the Company's police-officer, and no doubt these will have his earliest attention.

Several private property-owners have had notices served upon them since we completed our inspection to abate nuisances upon their respective premises, and these I shall report on in my report ending January. Further details will be given by your Medical Officer.—Remaining, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

WM. GARRAWAY, Nuisance Inspector.

Tow Law, Jan. 6th, 1884.

The report, after a few comments had been made by the members, was adopted.

THE CEMETERY QUESTION: CLOSING OF THE OLD BURIAL GROUNDS.

The Clerk said that he had written to Dr Hoffman, the Government Inspector, informing that gentleman that he had not as yet, acknowledged the receipt of the plans for the contemplated cemetery; and on the 20th December he received a reply from the Burials' Act Authorities, stating that the plans had been received, and that Dr Hoffman's report was then before the Secretary of State.

In answer to a letter written by the Clerk, asking the Home Secretary, at the instigation of the Local Board, to revoke their Order in Council declaring the existing Burial Grounds in Tow Law to be closed from the 31st December last, and in consequence of the Local Board not being in a position to provide a cemetery prior to that date, to ask the authorities to extend the time for closing the burial ground adjoining the church until the 30th June, he (Mr Milburn) received a reply from Mr A. F. O. Liddell, intimating that the subject to which it referred to would receive due consideration. On the 1st January, a communication, dated from Whitehall, and signed by Mr Godfrey Lushington, was received to the effect that the Secretary of State had recommended to Her Majesty in Council that the time fixed for closing the burial ground at Tow Law should be extended until the 30th June next.

Mr ATKINSON enquired if any communication had been forthcoming respecting the Dan's Castle burial ground?

The Clerk replied not.

Mr ATKINSON: There's a mistake somewhere.

Mr RIDLEY: The Rev M. Simpson is under the impression that the Castle burial ground is closed. I suppose he has got a letter to that effect?

Mr ATKINSON: That is his information.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the Board had only applied for this burial ground to be kept open.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

Subjoined is the Surveyor's (Mr Hillary) monthly report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Tow Law Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—The hard, dry weather during the month has kept your roads in first-rate order through the depth of winter. The raising of the main road at the foot of the Castle Bank is progressing; and the agent to the North-Eastern Railway Company has, with his usual courtesy, in reply to a note from me, caused a good covering of limestone to be laid upon the cutting bridge. I hope therefore that in the summer your roads will appear as satisfactory to the County Surveyor as they were last year.

When I next visit Bishop Auckland, I shall select some traps for the street gulleys, respecting which I received notice at the last meeting. I have heard of a woman sustaining a bad fall in St. Alban's Street at the point where the old flags are about six inches higher than the new ones. If nothing is done to remedy this defect, I am afraid that some accident will happen.

I produce a plan for workshop which Messrs Scott and Roberts propose to erect at Dan's Castle.

Monthly Paybill.

		£	s.	d.
Main Roads:	Manual labour	5	2	3
	Team labour	2	16	0
Other Roads:	Manual labour	2	0	3
Gasworks:	Foreman's wages	6	16	0
Streets:	Lamp-lighting	1	7	0
Office cleaning		0	4	6
Making a total of		£18	6	0
Leaving balance in Surveyor's hands of		1	16	4

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

JOHN HILLARY, Surveyor.

Tow Law, Jan. 6th, 1885.

DAN'S CASTLE BANK.

The Surveyor, in answer to the CHAIRMAN, said that he had obtained four small truck-loads of stone from Stanhope Workhouse, which had been laid upon the roads.

Mr TEASDALE remarked that it would take a great quantity of rubbish to fill up the bank at Dan's Castle.

Mr W. RIDLEY said he had been told that there was not a bank there. The Surveyor was only filling up the place to create a bank. (Laughter.)

DANGEROUS FOOTPATHS.

In addition to the defective footpath mentioned in the foregoing report, Mr WHERLY drew attention to another dangerous place in High Street, opposite Mr Hall's boot shop, which ought to be attended to, as a man had sustained a severe fall there.

The Surveyor was authorised to remedy the defects complained of.

BARING STREET.

The CHAIRMAN reported that the Weardale Iron Company had promised to carry out the recommendations of the Medical Officer in regard to the removal of the conveniences attached to their property in Baring Street, and erecting them a distance from the dwelling-houses.

As the plans showing the proposed alterations had not been received, the subject was left in abeyance.

SEWERAGE.

The CHAIRMAN stated that, instead of the Board incurring the expense of carring out their original proposition for the drainage of the cottages at the Old Forge and Inkermann, Mr W. Rutter had consented to the Board somewhat modifying their scheme. It was now proposed that the drainage should either be conveyed through the fields, or along the main road; but in case the first-named idea was determined upon, the sewerage pipes might interfere with the drains in the field. The sewer might be continued just beyond the railway, at which point an open pit could be constructed, and the sewerage allowed to flow over the land belonging to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

After discussion, the members decided, on the motion of Mr ATKINSON, seconded by Mr TEASDALE, to proceed with the work forthwith, the pipes to be laid as far as practicable along the turnpike road. The tender of Mr W. Waugh was accepted for the performance of the contract; and Mr Snowdon, mining engineer, will be deputed to put in the requisite pegs, and furnish the contractor with the proper levels, &c.

ILLUMINATING POWER OF THE GAS.

The Clerk read out lists of prices, which had been received from several firms in the North, for the delivery of gas pipes, 2in. diameter and upwards; but as the lighting season was fast advancing, the Board decided to defer the consideration of the question of inserting a larger main from the gasworks along Wesley Street as far as High Street, until the summer months.

THE TRAIN SERVICE.

The Clerk read the memorial which he forwarded to the North-Eastern Railway Company, on behalf of the Board, praying for an alteration in the train service between Tow Law and Consett and Crook Stations. Another communication was read from Mr H. White, the local manager for the Weardale Iron Company, urging the Board to press forward vigorously the agitation for improved train accommodation, more particularly with regard to the question of re-commencing to run the 12 noon train from Tow Law to Consett, and thus continue the connection direct to Newcastle. A letter was also read from Mr Godfrey Smith, the passenger superintendent, of Newcastle, stating that the petition of the Local Board would be carefully considered before the time-tables were issued at the end of January, and he would acquaint the Board of the result.

It was agreed to wait the issue of events.

The Board subsequently arose.

DURHAM AND THE SEATS BILL.

CONSETT ELECTORAL DISTRICT.

The Commissioners entrusted with the duty of arranging the electoral districts for the county of Durham, have fixed their sitting to be held in the County Hall (Assize Courts), Durham, on the 16th January.

Respecting the proposal of the Boundary Commissioners to call the Lanchester and Consett Petty Sessional Division by the name of Consett, the *Northern Echo*, in a leading article, asserts that Lanchester is preferable to Consett, inasmuch as the name is already associated with an area conterminous with that of the proposed new division.

Touching the same subject, the Rev J. P. De Pledge, of Satley Vicarage, writes as follows to the *Newcastle Journal*, under the heading of "A Plea for Lanchester":—

"In the formation of the new electorate districts of the county of Durham it appears that an arbitrary and unreasonable selection of names for the new constituencies has been proposed, if not decided. It would be well, therefore, to ascertain the sentiments of the inhabitants of the new divisions before irrevocably making a choice of their designation. It may be said, what is there in a name? I maintain that there is a very great deal involved in it. A false step at the beginning of a new era in our electoral career may be the means of fostering and perpetuating jealousies and acrimonious feelings which may never be allayed, and may prevent the harmonious working of our representative system. I will confine myself to the district with which I am most intimately connected. The Union of Lanchester, with a population of nearly 58,000, is selected as the area for a representative of one of the eight divisions of the county of Durham. Why, I ask, should it be called the Consett division of the county—why should a township or parish (and that neither the largest in area, population, or rateable value), be selected instead of Lanchester—the name of the union—the seat of the local government and the headquarters of the Petty Sessional Division? For every reason this is the most desirable appellation for the new division. The township has an area of 13,644 acres, and a rateable value of £24,827; whereas Conside (Consett) township has only an area of 2,713 acres and a rateable value of £24,205. If the name has to be selected on account of the money value of the townships in the union, Tanfield has an area of 6,943 acres, and rateable value of £45,512. In all fairness the inhabitants of the district should have a voice in the matter, and they should not be left to the tender mercies of electioneering agents or associations of whatever party in politics. It is to be hoped that the Commissioner when he comes to Durham, will afford all parties a fair hearing on this most important point, for it is certain that a large majority of the parishes in the Union of Lanchester would not regard the name of Consett as a satisfactory designation for the Parliamentary district. It must not be forgotten that the commercial industries of this county are not the only interests to be represented—agriculture has also its rights, which must not be overlooked. The union of Lanchester includes an area of 67,255 acres, only 2,713 of which are in the township of Consett; and I think it is a matter for serious consideration whether the head-quarters of the district should be maintained in a locality where the population is fairly representative of both mining and agricultural industries, where it is more settled, more rooted to the soil, and around which cluster the memories and traditions of the whole district, rather than in a busy place like Consett, the growth of a few years, where the population is constantly changing, and whose existence depends upon the continuance of one great enterprise. It must be understood I am not saying one word in disparagement of Consett; there is great credit due to the enterprise which has created so large and prosperous a population, and which has met with such an abundant reward. Long may it flourish and pursue its peaceful industries; but do not let it usurp the chief position in a large union in which it forms a fractional part,—though not the most important of its many parishes, either in area, population, or rateable value. As the whole is greater than the part should the designation of the new division be Lanchester, the 18 parishes comprised in the union would have no reason to be dissatisfied, whereas if the invidious selection of Consett is made, political life will be paralysed and a feeling of unfairness will be cherished throughout the union. This is a matter entirely apart from politics; it involves no party issue; it may be considered a sentiment, but it is certainly one which has reason to support it, and which should not be treated lightly."

An important meeting of representatives of the Conservative Party throughout the County of Durham was held at Durham on Saturday. The Conservative Associations of the Northern and Southern Divisions were influentially represented, and Mr John Lloyd Wharton (Chairman of Quarter Sessions) was voted to the chair. The draft scheme for the eight divisions of the county issued by the Boundary Commissioners, was considered in detail, and, as a whole, met with the approval of the meeting, as a fair and intelligible system of redivision. Certain alterations were, however, considered advisable, with a view to the greater compactness of the new divisions, the aggregating of populations of like pursuits, and the preservation of the existing polling places; and it was decided to submit to the Commissioners the revisions that these considerations involved. Further, it was suggested that the Commissioners should be asked to reconsider the nomenclature of two of the new constituencies—viz., the one named by them as the "Brandon" division to be called "Castle Eden," and the south-eastern portion of the county to be named the "Sedgefield" division instead of "North Tees," as proposed by the official scheme. A committee was appointed to watch the interests of the Conservative Party in the county at the Commissioner's Court on the 16th inst., consisting of Mr J. L. Wharton and Mr H. E. Surtees, and Messrs C. E. Barnes (Durham), A. R. Gales (Sunderland), and H. Byron Reed (Darlington).

On Saturday an adjourned conference of the Executive Committees of the South Durham and North Durham Liberal Associations was held at Darlington, in connection with redistribution and the arrangement of the boundaries. In the interval since the circulars had been sent out calling the meeting, the scheme of boundaries as propounded by the Commissioners had appeared. The proposed business was therefore altered, and instead of propounding views to be transmitted to the Commissioners in respect of the new boundaries, the scheme just promulgated by the Commissioners was considered. Col. Scurfield, chairman of the South Durham Liberal Association, presided; and amongst the other gentlemen representing the same division were Sir Joseph Pease, M.P., Mr Dodds, M.P., Mr A. Pease, M.P., Mr T. Fry, M.P., Sir H. Havelock-Allen, and Mr David Dale. The North Durham Association was represented by Mr S. Storey, M.P., Mr H. T. Morton, Mr J. Laing, and Mr W. Jenkins. There were also present as representing the Durham Miners' Association:—Mr Forman, chairman of the Association; Mr Crawford, and Mr J. Wilson, secretary of the Miners' Franchise Association. The conference was private, but the results arrived at were that as applying to North Durham, the Boundary Commissioners' proposals were generally approved of. As regarded South Durham, the same was the case, with the important exception that the conference held the opinion that it was very undesirable to include the three large Parliamentary boroughs of Darlington, Stockton, and the Hartlepools in one division as the Commissioners had recommended. By the last census it was shown that there would be in these boroughs a population of 125,000, who would have representation in such boroughs but not for the county. The opinion seemed to be that a preponderating influence would be exercised by these centres of population upon the outside districts where the voters really lay, if they were all included in one division, not so much by the voting class in the boroughs for the county as the non-voting class, and that such a condition was not desirable, as it would tend to unduly influence if not override the opinions of the rural districts surrounding such boroughs. It was considered that any such influence would be minimised, and that the opinions of the different divisions would be more freely expressed in accordance with the sympathies and pursuits of the residents therein if the boroughs were put into separate divisions. Under these circumstances, it was decided to memorialise the Commissioners to remove Darlington from the Eastern or Northern Tees Division to the Western or Barnard Castle Division. To make such representations as might be necessary on this and other points which might arise, it was decided to appoint a joint committee to attend before the Commissioners at their forthcoming visit to Durham, the committee to consist of from the Southern Division—Col. Scurfield, Mr D. Dale, Mr H. F. Pease, Mr J. Proud, Mr C. B. Martin, and Mr T. Eden; and from the Northern Division—Mr H. T. Morton, Mr Storey, M.P., Mr Joicey (Gateshead), Mr Laing, Mr Jenkins, and Mr Glass; the Miners' Association to be represented by Messrs Crawford, Wilson, Hindmarsh, Hart, and Horne. The proceedings then terminated.

The *North Star* understands that the following gentlemen will be candidates for some of the new districts in the county of Durham, if the present scheme should be adhered to without any material alteration:—Durham city, Mr J. L. Wharton (C); Sunderland borough, Colonel Sim (C); Chester-le-Street and Blaydon district, Mr Lindsay Wood (C); Houghton-le-Spring district, Sir George Elliot (C); Brandon district, the Hon. G. H. Russell (C); Consett district, Mr Wm. Crawford (L); Jarrow district, Mr C. M. Palmer (L).

It is stated that a meeting of both parties will shortly be held in Chester-le-Street for the purpose of jointly petitioning the Boundary Commissioners with a view to making Chester-le-Street the centre of one of the new districts, this being a right they believe it entitled to on account of the antiquity of the place.

A meeting of the Committee of the Durham Liberal Association was held on Saturday at Durham, when a sub-committee was appointed to consider the Commissioners' scheme, and report on any alterations they might think desirable.

After the disposal of the business of the Durham Urban Sanitary Authority on Wednesday afternoon; a meeting of the councillors was held, under the presidency of the Mayor (Ald. Laidler), to consider the action it was desirable the Corporation should take with reference to the forthcoming visit of the Commissioner appointed to hear evidence with reference to the scheme for the establishment of the boundaries of the electoral districts of the County of Durham.—Councillor A. W. Granger said a very serious question for the consideration of the Council was whether the existing boundaries of the city should remain as they were at present. This was a question which would specially occupy the Commissioner. He (Mr Granger) reminded the meeting that there were a considerable number of houses situated close to the existing boundaries which, by interest and occupation, really belonged to the borough, and which might be attached to the Parliamentary borough without injury to the dwellers, and with advantage to the city, as likely to preserve the town from being absorbed into some polling district that might be established under the provisions of some new scheme.—A discussion ensued, and eventually the subject was relegated to the consideration of a meeting of the Council, to be held at an early date.—A committee was also formed to consider the matter and report to the special meeting.

Yesterday (Thursday), the acting justices of the Lanchester and Consett Petty Sessional Divisions held a private meeting (prior to the commencement of the regular business) in the Magistrates' Room at the Lanchester Court-house, under the presidency of Mr M. Kearney. There were also present—the Rev J. P. De Pledge, Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, Major E. Leadbitter Smith, Mr George Hedley, Lieut.-Col. A. B. Wilbraham, Mr J. W. Walton-Wilson, and Mr A. W. Granger (clerk of the court). The scheme of the Boundary Commissioners for the formation of the two Petty Sessional Divisions into an electoral area was generally approved of, but the majority of the gentlemen present strongly advocated the district retaining the name of Lanchester instead of the appellation of Consett, and it is expected that these views will be represented to the Boundary Commissioners at their forthcoming Court at Durham. The conference lasted about half-an-hour.

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The fortnightly meeting was held on Thursday se'nnight at the Lanchester Workhouse, when there were present: Messrs Geo. G. Taylor Smith (chairman), J. Wilkinson, John Buckham, Wm. Cumming, Rev J. P. De Pledge, and the Clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson).

After confirming the minutes of the last meeting, the Board dealt with the relief business.

INMATES OF THE WORKHOUSE.

Week ending Dec. 26th	181
Corresponding week of last year	154
Week ending Dec. 31st	181
Corresponding week last year	159
Vagrants relieved during past fortnight	5
" " corresponding fortnight last year	15

THE FESTIVE SEASON: COMMENDABLE GENEROSITY.

The Master (Mr W. Brotherhood) acknowledged the receipt of the following gifts this Christmastide: Mrs T. Taylor Smith, Greencroft Park, had presented a large quantity of toys, arranged on a Christmas Tree, which were distributed by that lady and Miss Kidson, London, among the children. Mr W. M. Annandale, Lintzford, presented each child over two years old with a useful toy, giving away about 50 in all. Mrs Reed, Lanchester, had given sweets, &c.; Mrs Cummings, Lanchester Post Office, nuts and sweets; Mr W. Cumming, Esh Hall, box of sweets; Miss Dorothy Robinson, ditto; Mr C. F. Cooke, Annfield Plain, and Messrs Chapman, Durham, apples and oranges.

On the motion of Mr BUCKHAM, seconded by the CHAIRMAN, the Clerk was directed to convey to the donors the thanks of the Guardians for their generous gifts.

A similar compliment having been paid to St. Mary's Amateur Dramatic Society for their performance of "The Octoroon," the meeting was adjourned.

CATARRH OF THE BLADDER.—Stinging, irritation, inflammation, all kidney and kindred complaints, cured by "Buchu-paiba." At chemists. Newbery and Sons, Agents, 1, King Edward Street, London, E.C.

The traffic returns of the North-Eastern Railway Company for the week ending January 3rd, show a total decrease of £3,794 as compared with those for the corresponding period of last year. The dock dues show an increase of £430.

RESTARTING OF FELLING COLLIERY. — Messrs Patterson and Bell, of the Durham Miners' Association, on Wednesday, had an interview with the agent (Mr A. S. Palmer) at the above colliery. The whole of the men had received notice, which terminated on Saturday last, and the pit was entirely stopped. An arrangement was made, and the pit resumed work yesterday (Thursday) morning.

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

ONE BOX OF CLARKE'S B41 PILLS is warranted to cure all discharges from the Urinary Organs, in either sex (acquired or constitutional), Gravel, and Pains in the back. Guaranteed free from Mercury. Sold in Boxes, 4s 6d each, by all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors throughout the World; or sent to any address for sixty stamps by the Makers, THE LINCOLN AND MIDLAND COUNTIES DRUG COMPANY, Lincoln. Wholesale Agents, BARCLAY & SONS, London, and all the Wholesale Houses.

MAINTENANCE OF PAUPERS IN DURHAM.—We are enabled to give, from figures just issued by the Local Government Board, from returns supplied by the Guardians of the Poor, a comparative statement of the cost of inmaintenance and out-relief for the parochial year 1884, against that of five years since 1879, in this and surrounding Poor Law Unions:— *Lanchester*. — Inmaintenance £1,803, against £1,878 in 1879; out-relief £3,233, against £3,406. *Weardale*.—Inmaintenance £616, against £806; out-relief £2,853, against £3,007. *Durham*.—Inmaintenance £1,942, against £1,850 in 1879; out-relief £5,150, against £5,192. *Chester-le-Street*.—Inmaintenance £951, against £1,015; out-relief £2,845, against £2,579. *Gateshead*. — Inmaintenance £4,205, against £4,157; out-relief £9,848, against £9,544.

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MISS JEFFERSON'S MISTAKE.

By CYNTHIA ST. CLAIR.

Miss Julia Jefferson laid down her Herbert Spencer and took up her Trigonometry. In doing so, she suppressed a sigh, for although she was thoroughly cultured and singularly deep, she was a woman, and had not yet turned her thirtieth year. The mathematics did not look especially inviting, and in place of setting resolutely to work, she gazed idly at the puzzling characters before her, and ended by dropping a tear in the middle of an abstruse problem. The tear was followed by others, and soon the page was covered with shining little circles, which arranged themselves in most unmathematical order, and offered no satisfactory solution of themselves. It was clear that some absurdly feminine instinct was asserting itself in Miss Julia's well-drilled anatomy, for her next movement was to the book-case, whence she took down a volume of poems. Was it Tennyson or Mrs. Browning? Oh, dear no. Miss Julia had not sunk as low as that, her views being as "pronounced" as her education was sound. She had attached herself to the school, which, when it does run into rhyme produces something very solid and useful indeed. The book in which she sought consolation was entitled "Odes to the Organism," written by a Mrs. Cornelia Kant, who had been hailed as the new priestess of the orthodox scientific cult.

Even Mrs. Kant, however, failed to supply the particular kind of sustenance of which the young lady's organism was in need, and the tears dropped as freely over the Odes as they had done over the Trigonometry. Matters were coming to a very serious pass, indeed, when the door flew open and a bright young creature, some years younger than Miss Julia, rushed impetuously in, checking herself at the sight of her sister's sad face.

"Why, Ju, *you* crying? What can be the matter?" And before the other could reply, she had pressed a hearty kiss on the elder's forehead, and holding up a letter, and waving it provokingly before her eyes, continued—

"I've a letter for you—and it's in a strange handwriting—and I'm sure it's from a gentleman!"

Did this appear as in some way an answer to the other's distress? At all events it seemed to suggest its cause, for the pale cheeks flushed with a sudden excitement, and the hands which caught hold of the note trembled not a little. The words, however, were dignified enough.

"Nonsense, child, you disturb one and excite yourself," and without deigning further reply, she walked away to her room. The younger sister pouted, looked lightly over the study books, tossed them aside, and with the remark "Ju's cross," tripped away again.

But under Miss Julia's dignified correct demeanor and perfectly appropriate remarks, a small tempest of emotions lay hid. During her passage to the door and up the staircase she had rapidly run through the list—small and insignificant enough—of her male acquaintances, and had decided that neither the editor who occasionally inserted her contributions to the "Tale Talker," and still more occasionally favoured her with a remittance, nor the uncle who admired her industry and kept up a correspondence with her, nor the secretary of the Primitive Research Society, had just then occasion to write to her. Who then could it be? And when she had locked herself in her room, and laid her hand on the envelope, she felt as eagerly and even violently curious as an ordinary Miss of 17. She allowed herself another moment of pleasing speculation, and then broke the seal and read as follows:—

"Dear Miss Jefferson,—I shall be very glad if you can contrive to meet me at J—— Square at half-past 4 to-morrow afternoon, when I have a matter of interest to communicate. Trusting you will pardon this liberty,—I am, yours respectfully,

ARTHUR F. CARTHEW."

This was not warm, but it was mysterious, which was the next best thing. There was a business-like tone about it, which was highly desirable, and altogether Miss Jefferson made up her mind that it was a very proper fashion of addressing a lady to whom the writer was a stranger. But who could he be? True, there was a young gentleman who, after her speech at the Research Society, had referred to her as an "ornament of her sex," but he had weak eyes and wore spectacles, and his name was Jones. She would go nevertheless—there was destiny in it—a heart had been drawn to hers; a sympathetic intelligence had gone roving round the universe till it had found its mate. And then she abandoned herself to delicious reverie. If he were intellectual—and he must be so—what a life would be theirs: if not, sad but sweet thought how she could gently lead him along the flowery paths of natural selection and up the pleasant incline of the Differential Calculus. She breathed his name, and took a shy glance at the mirror, and in the next five minutes had decided on the dress that became her best, and the bonnet that would set off her charms of face to advantage.

It is unnecessary to follow her through her dreams which, poor thing, were anything but fancy-free, and when the awaking came Miss Julia seemed to have been born afresh into a lovelier world. She thought that she had founded most of her actions on reason, but there was very little chance for reason under the present condition of things. She even tried her hand at verse-making on her lover's name, but having composed three lines, as follows:—

> "Oh, Arthur, thine the towering brow,
> The mouth bespeaking calm repose,
> The thoughtful gaze, the upturned ——"

She reflected that the rhyme which most readily occurred was "nose," and that was not precisely what she meant. So she confined herself to more thought-pictures, and found them sufficiently satisfying. By a natural instinct, which, however, she could not quite interpret, she forbore telling her sister Alice—her only companion—of the rendezvous, and when the heavy morning had past, when the toilet had been made with quite unusual care, and Miss Julia Jefferson had stepped out on what she firmly believed to be errand of life or death to her, our strong-minded friend had a sudden sensation of faintness, and closed her hand tightly on her cotton umbrella.

J—— square was reached at last, and sure enough, Miss Julia, gazing up hastily, with emotion, could perceive a gentleman, tall and well-proportioned, but well within the twenties, awaiting her approach. Another half-minute, and the two were standing face to face; the gentleman had stretched out a hand, and had given a welcoming smile. Miss Julia's heart sunned itself in its warmth, and she had already placed the handsome young stranger at one side of the domestic hearth to which she assigned her maiden self.

"Miss Jefferson," he began (he certainly had a beautiful voice), "I do not know how you will regard this unwarrantable intrusion on your time, but I could find no other way of getting an interview."

"Speak not of that, Mr. Carthew," said Julia tenderly, "when the heart is the guide—"

"My dear Miss Jefferson, how wonderfully you anticipate me. Let me cut a long story short. I met you and the young lady whom I have since learned is your sister, at a picture gallery some three weeks ago. It was a case of love at first sight." ("Oh, those intuitions!" sighed Julia, blissfully). I gathered your name and address from the secretary of the society, who chanced to know you, but in spite of all my efforts could get no farther. What could I do? ("Poor fellow," thought Julia, "what indeed?") Her charms, her—"

"*Her!*" shrieked poor Miss Jefferson, in an awful note of exclamation. "You mean" . . .

And then the truth flashed upon her, and she broke out, for the first time perhaps since her childhood, into bitter and uncontrolled weeping. The stranger's utter astonishment speedily gave place to a sense of the mischief he had unintentionally done, and with kind words and the most delicately formed apologies that he could offer, he endeavoured to soften the bitterness of the blow. For a time poor Miss Julia was not to be consoled. Her castle had been but of a day and night's growth, but it had been boldly built and bravely furnished, and now it had tumbled like a pack of cards over her desolate head. At length she stood quivering with shame, but pale and collected, before Mr. Carthew, and the words came slowly.

"Forgive, sir, a foolish woman's fancy. You wish to know my sister, and if I hear well of you I will try what I can do for you both."

She was as good as her word. The happy courtship ran quickly through its course, and, though Julia had scorned to make such a request, Alice's lover kept the secret of the interview in J— Square. Miss Julia went back to her Sociology, and constructed a theory of Society from which marriage was conspicuously absent. But when a small baby came to the wedded pair, and had the name of Julia bestowed on it, she changed her tune a little, and began the first chapters of a "Political Economy for Children," in which one intends that Julia the Second shall have a thorough grounding.

CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT HER.

"I shall never call on Mrs. Smith again," said Mrs. Jones. "I never want to see her any more."

"You women are very foolish to quarrel over trifles," said Mr. Jones. "Mrs. Smith is a very pleasant person, a little talkative, perhaps, but on the whole a very estimable woman. You shouldn't attach any importance to what she says. What was the trouble?"

"She said you weren't very prompt in paying your debts."

"Well, by thunder!" shouted Jones, jumping to his feet, "I would give 25dol. if she were a man for just ten minutes."—*New York Sun.*

ONLY ONE WHO KNEW.

"The great end of life," said the teacher, "is not to think but to act."

Here the scholars assumed an encouraging look of intelligence.

"Now, what is it that is the great end of life?"

No response.

"Come children, I have just told you what it is. Cannot you answer the question?"

"Please sir," piped a weak voice from one of the back seats, "I know what it is."

"Ah! that's right, my little man; now speak out and tell the scholars what the great end of life is."

"Death."

THEN AND NOW.

Bride—"There, I knew how it would be. We have not been married a month and already you have ceased to care for me."

Young Husband—"Why, my dear, what can you be thinking of? You are dearer to me than ever."

"It isn't so, I know it isn't. You took tea at our house several times before we were married and you scarcely touched a thing. Ma said she knew you were truly in love because you had no appetite."

"Of course, dear, but——"

"And now you are actually complaining just because I forgot to get anything for breakfast."—*Philadelphia Call.*

WHY HE WAS GOING TO CHANGE.

"Moving again, Fitz?" asked Pullet, as Fitz ober came out of the gate with a stove pipe tightly clasped in his arms and trailing a mirror behind him.

"Yes," moaned the afflicted man, swabbing his perspiring brow. "I'm going to leave this hole."

"What for? Don't like the neighbourhood?"

"Oh, no, not that; the neighbours are all right."

"Water ain't good, maybe."

"No better can be found in Atlanta."

"The rent hasn't been raised, has it?"

"No, that's the reason I'm going to seek another residence."

"What!" exclaimed the surprised Pullet: moving from a place because the rent has not been raised. Surely you don't object to that, Fitz?"

"No, I do not," sadly replies Fitz, as he started back for a kitchen set of furniture; "but the house agent does—you know."

HIS PATIENCE GAVE WAY.

"Heard you had a little row over at your place yesterday?" inquired a young man of a German coming in on a suburban train.

"Yah, we had a leetle row. I tell you how it vos. Tree weeks ago I bought a biano for my lager peer saloon. My wife she blay on it and blease the gustomers. Der vos a young feller hangin' arount all te dime. He scemt het ofer heels in luf mit my biano. One day I vos owut, und when I coom back I lookt troo de window and saw dat young feller schtandin' at de biano singin', mit his arm arount my wife's waist. I vos mat about it right away, and vas going in the schtuffin to kick him owut, ven I twat to myself, 'Jacob, don't pe hart on de young feller. You vos young yoursellef once.' So I saidnodings."

"The next day I coom back from down town and looked troo the window und saw dot young feller sheltin' my wife on his lap. Moses! put I vos mat apout it, und vos going in his chaws to kick, ven I again tawt: 'Jacob, go schlow—you vos young yourselluf once.' So I set nodings."

"De next day I caught dot young feller keesing my wife. I vos so mat apout it dot I vanted to broke him up, but on der secont tawt I set to mysellef: "Don't get excited apout it Jacob; you vos young yoursellef once." So I set nodings."

A man was brought before a Paris court not lo since for not heeding the law "that no dog sho go at large without wearing a muzzle." In his fence he alleged that his dog had a muzzle. "H is that?" asked the justice. "Oh," said the de dant, "the Act says nothing as to where the muz should be placed, and, as I know my dog hate muzzle, I put it on its tail."

At a small dinner party one evening last week boy, evidently from the confectioner's shop, had be engaged to do the waiting. When he placed tw dishes of tarts before the hostess, she, probably thin ing it not correct to know what was coming, aske "What are these, William?" Whereupon the bo pointing first to one dish and then to the other, plied: "Them's a penny each, and them's two three-'a'pence."

"Put vof you tink? Yesterday I coom pack from der down town, ven I looked troo de window und der vos dot young feller helpin' himself to my peer und de ham sandwitches und de scheese. It mate me so mat dot I kickt him owut mine saloon und to der odder side of de street across alretty. Dot vus vhat der row vos apout."—*American Paper.*

If the models were interesting the doll department was also worth studying. A doll's bedstead with a pretty eider-down quilt made out of a fancy handkerchief, and a sweet little nightdress case of mushroom-coloured satin, bound round with écru lace, was the work of two little children aged 6 and 7 respectively. Another pretty doll stood ready for a journey, attired in a dark brown ulster. Her luggage consisted of a trunk and band-box made of black American cloth. A tiny strap went round the box, which had a deep tray, and was lined throughout with a tiny blue checked material. Dolly's trousseau lay inside this fair receptacle and she was furnished with a pale pink flannel dressing-gown, and every essential proper to the comfort of a well brought-up young lady. Even the handkerchief sachet was not forgotten, but lay at the top of the trunk resplendent in écru lace and pale pink quilted satin.

NORTH OF ENGLAND IRON AND COAL, Tuesday.—The iron market here to-day, though a quarterly one, was very poorly attended, more especially by members of the trade from London, Manchester, and other manufacturing districts. Business was of small extent also, and consumers appeared desirous of waiting longer before committing themselves, particularly as the prices were not so firm, and prospects for the first quarter of the year at least are regarded as unfavourable. The unsatisfactory returns issued on Monday have induced buyers to offer lower prices, and they have in a few cases found sellers take 3d per ton less than last week for small lots, No. 3 G.M.B. for prompt f.o.b. delivery being sold as low as 35s 3d. but 35s 4½d to 35s 6d are most commonly quoted and secured. The makers' lowest is 35s 9d, but 36s is still paid. The demand for grey forge is slacker than it was, and 33s 9d is accepted by some, though the majority want 34s, and the leading firms can get it. Warrants are nominally 35s 6d. Shipments, as in December, are quiet. Finished iron is in dull demand, but inquiries have of late been more numerous, and orders are expected to follow, though the work will have to be executed at rates which cannot yield any profits. Ship plates are £5; ship ang[illegible] £4 15s; common bars, £5 2s 6d; best bars, £5 1[illegible]d, all less 2½ per cent. discount, and on trucks at sellers' works, but a little less would be taken for a favourable order. The chair founders have had a greater number of inquiries recently, and secured orders, while the steel rail manufacturers report a better demand, with more encouraging prospects, and this w[illegible] upon the pig iron trade, for it will lead [illegible] reduction in the number of furnaces in Cl[illegible] The coal trade is without chang[illegible] prices are with difficulty maintained. [illegible] market to-day the Teesside Iron and [illegible] Works Co. (Limited) showed a specime[illegible] four-way boiler tube, made from the North [illegible] Steel Co.'s steel, and rolled at the Newport [illegible] Mills. Specimens of railway fastenings w[illegible] exhibited.

Business Announcements.

THIRTEENTH YEAR OF ATTENDING CONSETT.

MR. MARKHAM, SURGEON DENTIST, of Newcastle, Attends at Miss WILLIAMS', No. 4, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT, EVERY MONDAY, from 11 a.m to 3 pm.

ESTABLISHED 1830. 962p

PERSONS WISHING TO MAKE UP THEIR
HORSES FOR SALE OR SHOW,
SHOULD USE THE
"OPTIMUS" HORSE MIXTURE.
IT IS UNEQUALLED BY ANY OTHER MIXTURE.
PREPARED ONLY BY
JOHN HUME AND SONS
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
BRANCH—MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 583r

NOTE.—The Lamp is again Revolving in Middle Street, Consett, to show the Public that the Cheapest Shop to spend their Ready Cash at is

JOSEPH MURRAY'S,
FAMILY GROCER AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
16, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

J. M.'S chief aim has always been to Supply First-class Groceries and Provisions at Prices to suit the times.

INDIAN AND CHINA TEAS which cannot be surpassed for their Excellent Flavour and Last.
The TEA at 2s. per lb. can always be relied upon.
The Finest that can be got is the OLDEN TIME TEA, in 1lb. Tins, at 4s. A Treat to Drink it.
HAMS, BACONS, BUTTERS; LARD OF THE FINEST QUALITIES;
WILTSHIRE SMOKED HAMS AND BACON, Both Cheap.
CHEESE of every description, consisting of CHESHIRE, DERBY, GLO'STER,
WENSLEYDALE, RIPE ENGLISH STILTON, AMERICAN STILTON,
COTHERSTONE, DUTCH, EDAMS, AND AMERICAN. A Good Cheese at 4d. per lb.
NEW FRUITS, FIGS, PRUNES, MUSCATELS.
GRAPES, SULTANAS, AND VALENCIA RAISINS.
A FINE CURRANT AT 3d. PER LB.
FLOUR—BOTH ENGLISH AND FOREIGN. WHEAT MEAL, OATMEALS, BOXINGS, INDIAN AN BARLEY MEAL AT CURRENT RATES. A Good Flour, at 1s. 3d. per Stone.
UNFERMENTED NON-INTOXICATING FRUIT WINE, GINGER, BLACK CURRANT, AND RASPBERRY, AT 10½ PER BOTTLE.

☞ One trial of the Groceries and Provisions Bought at this Establishment will convince the thrifty Housewife to continue her patronage.

NOTE THE ADDRESS:— 923t

JOSEPH MURRAY, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

"BON MARCHE."
SPECIAL NOTICE!

Important Purchase of another lot of Travellers' Samples of Ladies' and Gentlemen's

UMBRELLAS!!

AT A LARGE DISCOUNT OFF COST PRICE.
PRICES:—FROM 9½d. EACH, UP TO 22s. 6d.

NOTE.—With the exception of being shown a few days, every Umbrella is perfectly sound and fresh. This is a rare opportunity for securing first-class Umbrellas at a Saving of at least Thirty per cent.

27 DOZEN STAYS AND CORSETS.

Some Marvellous Cheap Lines will be offered in the above Goods, the principal portion being Travellers' Samples, bought at a Discount of over Thirty per cent. off Cost Price Ladies will please note that all our Corsets are specially Manufactured, and are *made to Fit the Body*—not the Body the Corset.

PRICES:—From 1s. 4½d., and upwards.
The "BON MARCHE" Corset (expressly made for ourselves), 2s. 11d. per pair.

For Beautiful and Cheap Fancy DRESSES, go to the "BON MARCHE."
For Bargains in VELVETS, SHAWLS, and SKIRTS, go to the "BON MARCHE."
Go to the "BON MARCHE" for Good and Cheap FLANNELS and BLANKETS.
Go to the "BON MARCHE" for Bargains in SHEETS, RUGS, and TABLECLOTHS.
For the Best Value in Men's SHIRTS, BRACES,
COLLARS, FRONTS, &c., go to the "BON MARCHE."
For Wonderfully Cheap CALICOES, HOLLANDS,
HARNS, and DIAPERS, go to the "BON MARCHE."
Go to the "BON MARCHE" for extra Value in Gent's Lambswool UNDERCLOTHING.
Go to the "BON MARCHE" for Bargains in GLOVES, HOSIERY, LACES, FRILLINGS, &c.
70 Dozen TARTAN SCARFS, MUFFLERS, KNITTED CRAVATS, &c., 1d., 2d., 2½d., up to 1s 6d.

PARTICULARLY NOTE THE ADDRESS—
D. BAIN & COMPANY,
"BON MARCHE" (New Drapery Shop) FOR GENUINE BARGAINS,
4, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

HARPERLEY AND CATCHGATE STEAM AND WATER CORN MILLS,
NEAR ANNFIELD PLAIN, *VIA* LINTZ GREEN,
GEORGE HOBSON,
WHOLESALE
MILLER AND CORN MERCHANT, FIELD SEEDSMAN, &c.,
HAS ALWAYS ON HAND A LARGE STOCK OF
PURE LINSEED AND COTTON CAKES, WHOLE OR READY BROKEN.

INDIAN MEAL, PEA MEAL, BARLEY MEAL, BOXINGS, SHARPS, AND BRAN.

OATS, WHOLE AND CRUSHED, and FEEDING STUFFS of every Description.

THE CELEBRATED EXCELLO HORSE FEED
Thoroughly Cleaned by New and Improved Machinery, Spiced, or otherwise, to order.

HOBSON'S IMPROVED CONDIMENT FOR HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, PIGS, POULTRY, STACKING, &c., Cheapest and Best in the Market

HOBSON'S AROMATIC CALF FOOD. REARS CALVES WITHOUT MILK.
This Calf Meal is an excellent substitute for milk, and what is of very great importance to Stock Breeders, it tends greatly to save calves from that inflammatory fever commonly called quarter-ill or Black Leg.

J. H.'s MIXTURE OF
PERMANENT CLOVER AND GRASS SEEDS has been tested and approved by the leading Agriculturalists of the district upwards of thirty-eight years

PRICE LISTS ON APPLICATION 427r

ROWATT'S PATENT LAMPS.

Be sure and ask for one of ROWATT'S LAMPS, & have no other.

Their Patent SPLIT-WICK ANUCAPNIC and LORNE Lamps are the most Economic Light Producers from Paraffin or Petroleum Oil. They require no Chimney, and keep the Flame full up till the last drop of Oil is consumed. NONE GENUINE but those STAMPED

ROWATT'S PATENT.

RETAIL FROM IRONMONGERS AND LAMP-DEALERS.

Wholesale only—
ROWATT & SONS,
EDINBURGH, LONDON, & DUBLIN
699t

ROBERT JACKSON'S,
CHEAP PRINTING & STATIONERY
ESTABLISHMENTS,
59, FRONT STREET, and 9 & 10, NEWMARKET
STREET, CONSETT.

☞ AGENT FOR DIPTON:—MR. THOMAS CLARK
SOUTH MEDOMSLEY COTTAGES.

Business Announcements.

C. E. THOMPSON,
MANUFACTURER OF
RUBBER, STEEL, AND BRASS STAMPS,
SELF-INKERS, DATERS AND NUMERATORS,
PEN AND PENCIL STAMPS,
SELF-INKING LINEN MARKERS,
EMBOSSING PRESSES, METAL-BODIED RUBBER TYPE,
AUTOGRAPHS, MONOGRAMS, CRESTS, &c., 809t
9, GRAINGER ST., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

JOHN FREEK,
GROCER AND PROVISION DEALER,
23, VICTORIA STREET,
CONSETT.

HOT DINNERS, TEAS, and other REFRESHMENTS on the Shortest Notice and most Reasonable Terms.

N.B.—As J. F. has a REGISTRY OFFICE in connection with his Business, Ladies wanting Servants would do well to give him a call. 384t

AMERICAN LINE.
UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMERS
LIVERPOOL TO PHILADELPHIA,
EVERY WEDNESDAY AND ALTERNATE SATURDAY
First-class, full-powered Iron Steamships.

Accommodation for passengers equal to any European Line.

Passengers and Goods landed at Philadelphia on the Wharf of the PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

THE SHORTEST AND BEST ROUTE TO THE WEST.

Apply to RICHARDSON, SPENCE, & CO., 17 and 19, Water Street, Liverpool; ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett; R. SLOANE, Postmaster, Blackhill; G LEADBITTER, Catchgate, *via* Lintz Green; A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Dipton. 833p

QUEENSLAND.

This young and promising Colony offers Special Advantages to all classes, and the QUEENSLAND ROYAL MAIL LINE convey Passengers

☞ BY STEAMER FOR £7.

MAIL or other Steamers will be despatched from LONDON or PLYMOUTH fortnightly, by which ASSISTED PASSAGES will be granted to eligible Persons, such as Engineers, Farmers, Fitters, Engine Drivers, Railway Carriage Builders, Blacksmiths, Bricklayers, Stonemasons, Sawyers, Carpenters, Wheelwrights Shoemakers, Tailors, Shipwrights, Farm Labourers, Domestic Servants, Gardeners, Vine Dressers, Road Makers, Miners, Quarrymen, Navvies, at the following rates:—

SECOND CABIN..£21 10s. | THIRD CLASS...£7.

Children under 12 years, half-price. Infants under 12 months, free. Persons not eligible for assisted passages will be taken at the following rates:—Second Cabin, £31 10s.; Third Class, £17.

For further particulars regarding Passages, Land Laws, and Resources of the Colony, apply to GELLATLY, HANKEY, SEWELL & Co., 109, Leadenhall Street, London, and 12, Renfield Street, Glasgow; or to the Local Agent, A. BRODIE Town Hall Consett. 237t

Public Notices.

POPULAR LECTURE.

LEADGATE WESLEYAN CHAPEL.

REV. JAMES CUTHBERTSON, of Newcastle-on-Tyne (recently returned from Egypt and Palestine), will deliver one of his popular LECTURES in the above Chapel, on Wednesday, January 21st, 1885, subject—"TOUR IN EGYPT AND PALESTINE." Chair to be taken at 6 30 by Mr. J. LAX, of Shotley Bridge.

TICKETS—Reserved Seats, 1s.; Unreserved Seats, 6d. May be had of Messrs. J. Johnson, Sherburn Terrace; M. Bell, E. Foster, T. Harrison, G. Jopling, and L. Nicholson, Leadgate.

Sermon at 2 30 same day, by Rev. J. CUTHBERTSON. Collection at the close in aid of Trust Funds.

For the convenience of Friends, &c., from a distance, TEA will be provided in the Wesleyan Day School Bottle Bank, at 4 30. Tickets, Sixpence each. 980

THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY

CHIEF OFFICE, TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

CHAIRMAN:
Mr. ROBERT WALTON SHAW, Villa Real, Leadgate.
VICE-CHAIRMAN:
Mr. RICHARD MURRAY, Benfieldside House, Blackhill.
TRUSTEES:
Mr. W. B. TAYLOR, Selby Lodge, Consett.
Mr. WILLIAM AYNSLEY, Merchant, Consett.
Mr. JOSEPH MURRAY, Middle Street, Consett.
DIRECTORS:
Mr. WM. SHELL, Builder, Bars House, Consett.
Mr. NATHAN BLADON, Ale and Porter Merchant, Consett.
Mr. GEORGE AINSWORTH, Agent, Consett.
Mr. THOMAS GLEDSTONE, Bank Manager, Consett.
Mr. HEDLEY NICHOLSON, Middle Street, Consett.
Mr. GEORGE WADE, Front Street, Consett.
Mr. THOS. MCCOURTY, Watchmaker, Newmarket Street Consett.
ARBITRATORS:
JONATHAN PRIESTMAN, Esq., J.P., Derwent Lodge.
WILLIAM JENKINS, Esq., J.P., Consett Hall, Consett.
JAMES ANNANDALE, Esq., J.P., The Briery, Shotley Bridge.
J. W. WALTON-WILSON, Esq., J.P., Shotley Hall, Shotley Bridge.
BANKERS:
The NORTH-EASTERN BANKING COMPANY, Limited.
SOLICITOR:
Mr. THOMAS WM. WELFORD, Jun., Parliament Street, Consett.
SURVEYOR:
Mr. WM. SHELL, Jun., Station Road, Blackhill.
AUDITORS:
Mr. JOHN T. CURRY, East Parade, Consett
Mr. SEPTIMUS BRODIE, East Parade, Consett.

The First General Meeting, at which Subscriptions will be received, will be held in the Small Hall of the New Town Hall, on Monday, January 12th, 1885, at Half-past Seven o'clock in the Evening, and in the meantime any further particulars may be had from the Secretary, Mr. ADAM BRODIE, at the Registered Office of the Society, Town Hall, Consett. 933t

JUST ISSUED.

Super Royal Quarto, handsomely bound, gilt an bevelled edges, Price £1 1s.

SUITABLE FOR A SCHOOL PRIZE OR GIFT BOOK.

VIEWS
OF
MANSIONS & PLACES OF INTEREST
IN THE
LANCHESTER AND DERWENT VALLEYS,
AND
PORTRAITS OF LOCAL MEN
BY GEORGE NEASHAM, DURHAM.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

PORTRAITS.	
William Jenkins	1
Matthew Kearney	2
William Hedley	3
George Hedley	4
Thomas Colpitts Granger	5
John Graham Lough	6
John Annandale	7
John Renton	8
Joshua Lax	9
John Surtees	10
Robert Smith Surtees	11
VIEWS, &c.	
The Ford, the Seat of M. Kearney, Esq., J.P.	12
Lanchester Church	13
Burnhopeside, the Seat of Geo. Hedley, Esq., J.P.	14
Crookhall	15
Consett	16
Consett Iron Works	17
Greencroft, the Seat of Thomas Taylor-Smith, Esq.	18
Greenhead, the Birthplace of Lough the Sculptor	19
Lough's Mill	20
Shotley Grove	21
Shotley Bridge in 1840, from a Drawing by T. M. Richardson	22
The Bridge at Shotley Do. Do.	23
Shotley Bridge Spa Do. Do.	24
Colpike, the Seat of Edward Taylor-Smith, Esq., J.P.	25
Ebchester Church	26
Ebchester Church before being Restored	27
Medomsley Church	28
Hamsterley, the Seat of the Misses Surtees	29
Hamsterley, from the West	30
Handley Cross Bridge	31
Broadwood, the Seat of Geo. Garry Taylor-Smith Esq., J.P.	32

Mr. ROBERT JACKSON, proprietor of the *Consett Guardian*, has been appointed Sole Agent for the Sale of the above Work in the Consett District, and will send a copy to any address on receipt of a Postal Order for One Guinea. 6g

Public Notices.

39 IS THE WINNING NUMBER of the Watch Raffled for at Newlands. 984t

35. 186, and 50 respectively, are the WINNING NUMBERS for the Clock, Melodian, and Wax Doll, Raffled at R. WALKER'S, Stanley. 990t

THE MISSES WATSON and WILSON (Lady Evangelists) will commence a MISSION in the TOWN HALL, Shotley Bridge, on Saturday, January 17th, 1885. 985t

NOTICE.

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that on and after this Date I will not be responsible for any Debt or Debts that may be contracted by my Wife, ANN ELIZA MONTGOMERY DRAFFAN.

(Signed) JAMES DRAFFAN.
Blackhill, 8th January, 1885. 974t

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATING SOCIETY.

THE WEST STANLEY MUTUAL INSTRUCTION and PARLIAMENTARY DEBATING SOCIETY will commence on Thursday, January 8th, 1885, to be held in Mr. JOHN CLARKSON'S Long Room, Commercial Hotel. All parties wishing to become members to apply to
977t WILLIAM INDIAN, Secretary.

SHOTLEY ESTATE.

WHEREAS, on the night of the 31st ult., certain evil-disposed persons did DAMAGE to and DESTROY the GATE-POST, &c., of a field in the occupation of Messrs. WOOD; a REWARD of 10s. will be paid to anyone giving information that will lead to the conviction of such offenders.—Apply to Mr. WAUGH, Low Waskerley, or P.C. JEWETT. 973t

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION SCHEME.

A COURSE OF LECTURES ON "CHEMICAL SCIENCE, and some of its Every Day Application," by E. W. SMALL, Esq., B.A., B.Sc., will commence in Stanley National Schools, on Tuesday, January 13th, 1885, at Seven p.m.

Fee, for the Course, 2s. Students are earnestly invited.
957t GEO. RIDLEY, Secretary.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND CONSETT DISTRICT GAS COMPANY.

ANY Person Removing, Altering, or Tampering with any Meter, Pipe, or other Property of the above Gas Company, or Consuming Gas upon any Premises without first having obtained permission from the Secretary to the said Company, will be prosecuted as the Law directs.—By order,
M. RICHLEY, Secretary
Gas Office, Shotley Bridge. 148q

CONSETT! BLACKHILL! BENFIELDSIDE!

WHICH?

A MEETING of Tradesmen, Property Owners, and Ratepayers of the District, will be held in the Agricultural Hall, on Thursday, January 15th, 1885, at Half-past Seven p.m., to take into consideration the Parliamentary and Postal Arrangements of the District, and Name.

BURNS'S ANNIVERSARY.
NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT.
MONDAY, JANUARY 26th, 1885.
LECTURE ON LIFE OF BURNS
BY
REV. DR. MILLIGAN, HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING.
BURNS'S SONGS BY A SELECT CHOIR.
☞ SEE BILLS. 991t

ANOTHER APPROPRIATION.

FIRST SHOTLEY BRIDGE & DISTRICT 370TH STARR-BOWKETT BUILDING SOCIETY.

OFFICES—SONS OF TEMPERANCE HALL, BLACKHILL.

ALL Members' Books clear on the 13th January, 1885, will participate in the Ballot on Monday, 19th January, 1885, at Seven p.m. punctually, in the above-named Hall.—By order,
965t M. NOBLE, Chairman.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT STARR-BOWKETT 741st BUILDING SOCIETY.

THE OPENING LECTURE will be delivered by R. B. STARR, Esq., or his Agent, in the New Town Hall, Consett, on Friday, January 9th, 1885.

Chair taken by Rev. F. Steggall, at Half-past Seven p.m. Admission Free.

Members Enrolled. Prospectuses and all information obtained of the Secretary, Mr. WM. ELLIOTT, 5, Mount Pleasant, Consett.

☞ As a good many Shares are already taken up, intending members should enroll at once. 933t

SOUTH BIRTLEY STEAM, BRICK, AND TILE WORKS, CO. DURHAM.

ESTABLISHED 1852.

THE Proprietor, J. F. SWINBURNE, in returning his sincere thanks to his numerous friends for the liberal patronage they have bestowed upon him during the many years he has carried on the above Works, begs to inform them that he is in a position to Tender for Supplying, by Rail or otherwise, any quantities of AGRICULTURAL DRAINING PIPES of all sizes, and of the very best quality. Also, Best Machine-made BRICKS, PANTILES, FLOWER POTS, &c., and everything in the Trade as per Catalogue, which will be forwarded on application. 910t

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Brodie.

191, Sunderland Street, Leadgate.—Saturday, January 10th, 1885.—Sale of Superior Household Furniture, Beds and Bedding, &c.

ADAM BRODIE is instructed by Mr WILLIAM VALENTINE, who is about to emigrate, to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on the premises No. 191, Sunderland Street, Leadgate, on Saturday, January 10th, 1885, the whole of the Superior Household FURNITURE AND EFFECTS, as follows:—Mahogany Bedroom Drawers; Birch Desk Bedstead; Iron Bedstead and Mattress; 3 Birch Chairs; 3 Bed-room Chairs; Arm Chair; Kitchen Table; Round Table; Flock and Down Beds; Cocoa Matting; Fender and Fire-irons; together with all the Kitchen Utensils and Miscellaneous Effects.

Sale to commence at One o'clock exact time. 961t

ADAM BRODIE, Auctioneer, Valuer, and Estate Agent, Consett, undertakes the Sale by Public Auction or otherwise, of Houses and Land, Farming Stocks, Household Furniture, Merchandise, or other Effects, on reasonable terms. Valuations for Probate, Dissolution of Partnership, and settlement of Claims under Fire Insurances, or in Disputes. Fire, Life, and Accident Assurances arranged without delay. Shares of every description Bought and Sold on Commission. The Victoria Sale-Rooms are always open for the reception of Goods for absolute Sale.

Postal Address—ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett.

By Mr. J. Vickers.

Tow Law Auction Mart.

THE NEXT SALE will be held on Monday, January 19th, 1885. Extensive Consignments respectfully solicited to meet the increased demand for all kinds of Stock at this Mart.

J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.
Partridge Close, Tow Law. 971t

By Messrs. Nicholson and Murray.

☞ Royal Auction Mart, Agricultural Hall, Benfieldside.

☞ Monday, January 12th, 1885.

MESSRS. NICHOLSON & MURRAY will SELL BY AUCTION:—
15 to 20 Calving Cows and Heifers.
12 Prime Fat Cattle.
84 Fat Sheep.
1 Prime Boar Pig, about 30 st.
Pork Pigs, Store Pigs, Calves, Poultry, &c.
2 Strong Second-hand Coup Carts, in good condition
Sale at One o'clock p.m. 979t

JOHN SWINBURN MURRAY,
AUCTIONEER, VALUER, AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT,
ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

CHEAP EMIGRATION TO AMERICA
EMIGRANTS WANTED BY THE 1,000

FARES REDUCED—£2 16s. 0d. from Liverpool to America, by the BEST LINES. Children Half-price.

APPLY TO A. PHILLIPSON, AUCTIONEER, DIPTON.

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

Business Announcements.

Peel's Great Northern Horse Repository, Haymarket
The Oldest Established in the City.

SALES BY AUCTION of HORSES, CARRIAGES and SADDDLERY, EVERY TUESDAY, at Two o'clock.

Entries respectfully solicited.
A. T. CROW, Auctioneer.
JOHN PEEL, Proprietor

THE NEW
COAL AND STONE BORING MACHINE
From 20s. and 25s. each, complete with Drills; also BURY'S and HARDY'S PATENT STEEL PICKS and SHAFTS, DRILLS, JUMPERS, and STEMMING GEAR, Wholesale and Retail at
THOMAS BOSTON'S,
NUN STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

CARRIAGES.
J. COWEN,
CARRIAGE BUILDER,
HEXHAM,

HAS FOR SALE, NEW DOG CARTS and WHITECHAPELS of most substantial make, elegant designs, and fine finish. For quality and price they are the cheapest in the market, and never fail to give satisfaction.

Carriages of any description built to order.
Repairs of all kinds well and cheaply done.
Gentlemen waited on, and Estimates given. 668s

MOST MONEY LENT
On Silver Plate, Watches, Jewellery, Diamonds, and other Precious Stones, Plated Goods, Cutlery, Guns, &c., &c., at
J. & E. WILSON'S,
The Oldest Established and Largest Pawnbroking Business in the North of England. Established 1780.
12, PILGRIM STREET
FOUR DOORS BELOW BLACKETT STREET),
PRIVATE ENTRANCE: FIRST SIX DOORS IN HIGH FRIAR LANE.
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

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

MEDICINES!

One of the most severe and protracted trade struggles, within memory of the oldest resident in Newcastle continues to disturb the peace, profits, and prospects of north-country Chemists and Druggists. An interesting circumstance (inseparably associated with this struggle), that cannot too frequently or too forcibly be impressed upon public attention, *is the irrefutable fact* that

J. ROBERTS,

1, New Bridge Street, and 97, Clayton Street, was the first Newcastle Chemist to adopt and advertise the most extraordinary concessions in the price of popular Patent Medicines ever attempted in Newcastle, which fact (when known) *at once determines intelligent purchasers whereat to procure this class of preparations, as well as other forms of Medicine.*

☞ 1, NEW BRIDGE STREET, 97, CLAYTON STREET. 685t

EDITORIAL NOTICES.

Our correspondent at the Spen writes to substantiate the correctness of the report of the pigeon shooting contest recently held there, and adds that he has satisfactorily explained the matter to Mr R. W. McColvin, who denied the existence of the Spen Gun Club.

Several letters and paragraphs, which have reached us late in the week, are unavoidably held over.

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9TH, 1885.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

I have, I am afraid, lost favour with the good people of Lanchester. A valued friend has given me to understand that my note anent the christening of the new electoral district has given grave offence to the Lanchester people. I am sorry that any expression of mine should give pain to anybody; I would rather that I had the power to drive life's clouds away. I trust, however, that the sin is not an unpardonable one. Another day I may, perchance, have an opportunity of presenting the other side of the shield. Politics is a disquieting subject, and few can handle topics of that type without becoming unreasonable, more or less. This applies to the Lanchester people as well as myself, and to more pretentious individuals than either of us. For my part, I am sorry enough for my sins; and am continually forming resolves to do better next time. I have sometimes thought of consulting the Editor with regard to the propriety of heading my notes with a motto embodying the sentiment set forth in the following—"It is not necessary that a man agree with the opinion of his friend." It is no strange thing to meet with people who saddle the Editor with every expression in a newspaper that does not chime with their notions of right and wrong, however whimsical such preconceived notions may or may not be. Nothing could be more erroneous and unjust. The Editor, it is true, exercises his prerogative to purge the whirling stream of thought when unscrupulous pens stoop to personalities and abuse; but to expect him to cut out matter because a correspondent had not treated the subject in precisely the same manner as he (the Editor) could have wished it done is quite absurd. Reading nothing but what one can agree with is said to have a narrowing effect upon the mind—hence the utility of developing our talents, if we have any, just as the skilled physician strives to assist nature, and so performs a cure.

Apropos to the above is a letter which appeared in the *Newcastle Journal* of Tuesday, and the *Newcastle Chronicle* of yesterday (Thursday), from the pen of the Rev Mr De Pledge, of Satley. The communication does much credit to the rev gentleman's head and heart; but the game is a losing one; and the well-meant appeal is a too literal rendering of the old, old story—"Love's labour lost." Figures are usually dry and tedious, but those furnished by Mr De Pledge are interesting to a degree. In a word, I have not seen so excellent a specimen of a "varnished tale" for many days. Mr De Pledge holds—for obvious reasons which he sets forth with much subtility—that "for every reason" Lanchester "is the most desirable appellation for the new division." The rev gentleman speaks of the "arbitrary, unreasonable, and invidious selection" of names; and hints "that a large majority of the parishes in the Union of Lanchester would not regard the name of Consett as a satisfactory designation for the Parliamentary district." It is somewhat strange that his reverence makes no allusion here to an appellation which has been put before the public; and one to which is well calculated to give the desired satisfaction to those immediately concerned, viz: West Durham. Equally remarkable is Mr De Pledge's method of drawing deductions and forming conclusions. His statistics relative to acreage and rateable value was hardly the right thing. The new political dispensation makes provision for men, real, live men—not green pastures and golden guineas. It is no use getting up a war dance over a question like this. The student of history will remember that during the wars in the Low Countries, in which the Scottish and English soldiers took part, in the beginning of the 18th century, a difficulty arose which might have led to grave results but for the timely suggestion of an officer—I have forgotten his name, for I quote from memory. National pride was rampant in those days, for the antipathies of centuries were fresh and green. It was essential that the contingent of British troops should, as the saying goes, go shoulder to shoulder; but the proud Scots refused to fight under the red cross of St George; nor would the dashing Englishmen march to battle under the white saltire of St Andrew. Here was a proper dilemma, arising out of something more than a name—even a sign and a token. The difficulty was overcome by the placing of the red cross of St George upon the blue colours of the Scottish regiments, the whole forming the present Union Jack so well-known by flood and field. Now, the Parliamentary designation, "Consett," embodies the division to a T, as the whole district is much more widely and generally known under that name than any other; and a more equitable arrangement it would surely be unreasonable to expect.

I committed myself last week, under the impulse of the moment, by promising to give particulars of a certain ghost story in which I played a prominent but by no means noble part. I regret having made the promise, because the incident is half-forgotten, and having to think the matter over has brought me in closer proximity to the spirit world than I have at present any wish to be. I detailed the circumstances of this story in a scetch which appeared in the *Hexham Herald* some nine or ten years ago; but as I have not a copy by me I must needs again draw from the fertile tablets of the memory.

Living in a rural district, I had visited the neighbouring town in the evening, and it was not until a very late hour that I bent my steps homeward. I was alone, and the night was dark as Erebus. I had some six miles to traverse; and the road was as lonely as bleak moors and dark forests could make it. I was a stranger to fear at that particular epoch of my life; and, bar the dismal shriek of the owl and the shrill cry of the curlew, nothing intervened to mar the even tenor of my way. I had passed over about four miles of my journey when I came to a part of the road that had a very bad name. You see, my reader, the influence of a bad name, be it a road, a dog, or an individual. I felt rather uneasy at this juncture. The road lay through a wooded ravine, and close by the wayside were several rude pillars of moss-grown stone. A battle had been fought on the spot, and the huge stones marked the place where certain chieftians had fallen and were buried where their blood dyed the heather. But worse than this tale of death was a story of quite a different character. A ghost of gigantic stature had been seen in this dreary den by many of the country people; and although the spectre had never been known to lay violent hands on anyone in particular, yet many a sturdy ploughman would have gone miles out of his way rather than pass through that hollow after dark. I thought of this, and although uneasy I was not what might be termed afraid. I thought for a moment of the seven feet ghost which was said to have taken up its abode there; but I did not expect to meet the gruesome traveller. I pressed on at a pretty smart pace, and had just reached the bottom of the den, when suddenly looming through the darkness was a sight that well-nigh froze the very innermost current of the soul. Horror of horrors! some ten yards in front of me was the veritable seven feet ghost! My senses reeled, the death bell rang in my ears, my lips and tongue seemed scorched with flame; and why I did not drop from sheer terror must ever remain a mystery to me. I would have dashed from the spot had I been able; but strange as it may seem I still moved forward impelled by some irresistable power. The ghost was there some seven feet high or more, and broad in proportion. There could be no mistake about that. Every moment brought me nearer to it, although, like the ghost, I seemed to be walking on air, so overcome was I with terror that the earth seemed to vibrate beneath my feet. I cannot tell how many moments must have elapsed before I was side by side with the horrible thing. I was oblivious of the march of time; but the terrible silence was at length broken by my ghostly companion, who, in the purest Doric Scotch observed, "Aye, ye are some like mysel', ye're gie benichted!" I was, in truth, something more than benighted; but it was several moments before my parched lips could utter a syllable. My "ghost" was a harmless Scotch shepherd who, like myself, was quietly wending his way homeward. He was sauntering along with his crook behind his shoulders and both arms linked over it, and his plaid thrown loosely around him invested the honest fellow with the ghost-like attributes which so terrified me.

Now, then, I have kept my promise, and told you my first but not my only ghost adventure.

THE REDISTRIBUTION SCHEME.

A meeting of the North Durham Liberal Registration Association was held yesterday (Thursday) at Newcastle, to consider the Boundary Commissioner's official scheme for dividing the county. Mr H. T. Morton (Biddick Hall) presided, and there was an influential attendance.—Regarding Consett division, Mr W. Jenkins moved that it be approved subject to the addition of Edmondbyers and Hunstanworth, from Barnard Castle district.—Mr Jas. Joicey seconded, and Mr J. Calvert supported the motion, which was agreed to.—Mr J. Lucas moved, Mr G. Pickering seconded, and Mr D. Harris (Spen) supported, that the Blaydon division, as officially proposed, be approved, and this was carried.—Several alterations of other divisions were spoken of as regards the titles were that "Lanchester" should be substituted "Consett," and "Gateshead" "Blaydon." The following gentlemen were deputed to wait upon Boundary Commissioner at Durham, as representing North Durham: Messrs. Morton, Palmer, M.P., Storey, M.P., Joicey, Laing and Jenkins; and for the Miners' Franchise Association, Messrs Crawford, Wilson, Hindmarsh, Hart, and Orr.

DR. BARDSLEY'S ANTIBILIOUS PILLS.—For radicating 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 35 stamps. Wm. Mather, Wholesale Druggist, Manchester.

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

A Runaway Horse.—On Monday evening, whilst Mr Bell, who is in the employment of Messrs Curry and Co., merchants, of Consett, was visiting the customers of the firm, he called upon Mr Bland, farmer, of Iveston, leaving his horse and conveyance standing at the door. When the man was inside the house, the animal started off and proceeded steadily on its homeward journey; but in travelling through the Front Street, Leadgate, it was perceived that the horse was not in charge of any person, consequently several people commenced to shout and gesticulate in their attempts to stop the progress of the animal. The noise caused the horse to run off in fright, and it gallopped off at a great pace towards Consett. Fortunately, nothing serious occurred, until the animal had turned past the corner of the Town Hall into Middle Street, when the vehicle caught the lamp-post standing in front of Mr Aynsley's shop, damaging the lamp, and almost smashing the conveyance to pieces. This accident was the means of debarring its progress, and the horse was caught and led quietly home. Some alarm was, however, occasioned by the non-appearance of the driver Bell, it being surmised at first that some harm had befallen him; but the man turned up some time afterwards and explained how the affair had arisen.

Reading and Recreation Rooms.—The whole of the newspapers, magazines, and periodicals, taken for the half-year ending June 30th next, were sold by auction, on Monday evening, Mr Adam Brodie officiating as auctioneer. The sale took place in the Reading-room, and there was a good attendance of members. The following prices were realised:—"Newcastle Daily Chronicle," 3s 6d; "Newcastle Journal," 2s 9d; "Northern Echo," 1s 7d; "North Star," 1s 2d; "Northern Evening Express," 9d; "London Standard," 5s 3d; "Daily News," 4s 9d; "Newcastle Weekly Chronicle," 2s 4d; "Consett Guardian," 3d; "Durham Chronicle," 2s 9d; "Times" (Weekly Epitome), 1s 4d; "Iron and Coal Trades' Review," 2s; "Engineering," 4s 3d; "Iron," 2s 6d; "Bazaar, Exchange, and Mart" (tri-weekly), 3s 6d; "Gardening Illustrated," 6d; "Christian World," 1s 4d; "Illustrated London News," 6s; "Graphic," 7s; "Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News," 5s; "Punch," 2s 9d; "Fun," 1s 3d; "Judy," 1s 3d; "Funny Folks," 1s 4d; "Tit-Bits," 2s 1d; "Blue Ribbon Chronicle," 7d; "Mechanical World," 2s; "Builder," 2s; "Spectator," 3s; "Saturday Review," 2s 6d; "Farm and Home," 1s 1d; "Hexham Courant," 1s 2d; "Century Magazine," 5s 6d; "Longman's Magazine," 2s; "Cornhill," 2s 8d; "Quiver," 2s 3d; "Cassell's Magazine," 2s 6d; "English Illustrated," 3s; "Leisure Hour," 2s; "Chambers's Journal," 2s 6d; "Harper's Monthly," 5s; "British Workman," 3d; "Good Words," 2s 2d; "Nineteenth Century," 9s 3d; "Contemporary Review," 9s 6d.

BLACKHILL.

St. Mary's Church.—During the past week, the whole of the clerestory windows in the Catholic Church, Blackhill, have been filled with stained glass, the subjects being being the twelve Apostles. The work has been executed by Mr W. H. Atkinson, of Newcastle.

Benfieldside Stock Auction Mart.—Messrs Nicholson and Murray sold on Monday afternoon, 25 calving cows and heifers (including 6 grand black polled cows), from £9 to £22 10s; 18 fat cattle, best lots from £21 to £27 10s; smaller lots, from £11 to £18; 97 fat sheep, from 24s to 53s 6d; 13 prime pork pigs, 35s to 54s; 7 draught horses, £20 to £45. Cart harness, poultry, and potatoes made good prices. A very large company were present, including farmers, butchers, graziers, and cattle dealers. The whole of the lots changed owners, and a satisfactory sale was brought to a close at 3·30 p.m.

United Methodist Free Church.—In continuation of the services conducted by Misses Watson and Wilson, a fruit banquet was held in this place of worship on Tuesday evening, which proved very successful both in regard to numbers and finances. Over 200 persons assembled to listen to the impressive discourses from the chairman (Mr Irvine Clarke of Westwood), Messrs Jas. Falliser, Blackhill, and Henry Cárns, Shotley Bridge. Selections of music were given at intervals by the choir in excellent style, under the able leadership of Mr W. Davison. A solo was sung by Corporal Isaac Unsworth with much feeling, and a song by Mr Jno. Collinson was capitally executed. Several rounds of fruit were distributed by Mr F. T. Williams and others. The proceedings were most edifying, many of the converts who are joining the chapel testifying to the change wrought in their hearts, lives, and homes through the instrumentality of the lady preachers.

Close of the Mission.—The mission, conducted in the Agricultural Hall, Benfieldside, during the past six weeks, was brought to a highly successful termination on Monday evening. The movement has been one of the most extraordinary revivals ever witnessed in this or any other locality, the efforts of the lady evangelists—Miss Watson and Miss Wilson—having been blessed with unprecented success. During their sojourn at Blackhill, we are informed that no less than 535 adults and about 300 children have been led to the penitent form, and professed to have found a Saviour. Since the advent of these ladies to this part, many congregations who first held aloof for the movement, have been induced to pay a visit to the Hall, the result being that all prejudice has been swept away, and even the ministers of different denominations—who at first set their faces against the revival—are now in full sympathy with it, the Revs E. W. Jenkins (Baptist), and Geo. Lord (Free Methodist), more especially, taking a prominent part in the services.—The watch-night service on New Year's Eve was attended by 1,100 people, and during the closing moments of the year the vast congregation knelt in silent mediation for several minutes, the scene being described as a most touching and impressive one. After the clock struck twelve, the silence that reigned was broken by the voice of Miss Watson sweetly resounding through the spacious buiding, singing the beautiful hymn "Every hour I need Thee."—On Sunday, the Hall was crowded at both afternoon and evening services, it being estimated that 2,500 persons were present. The greatest power was exhibited and the deepest interest awakened throughout the meetings, and 42 persons were "brought in." The concluding service was held on Monday night, when the building was densely packed, and expressions of sorrow were everywhere manifested that the end of the mission was drawing nigh. The new converts having been drafted off to the several churches, it was announced that the evangelists would commence a similar mission in Shotley Bridge Town Hall on the 17th inst.—Miss Watson and Miss Wilson left on Tuesday, for their homes at Carlisle, where they propose to take an interval of rest, having laboured unceasingly during their sojourn at Blackhill. The ladies were met at Consett Station by a large number of the converts, and those interested in the work, including deputations from the Consett and the Tinmill Works, and were accorded a hearty and enthusiastic ovation. The hymn, "Shall we meet beyond the river," was struck up, and after an interchange of farewell greetings, and a few words of encouragement to the converts, the ladies bade the large concourse good-bye. As the train steamed out of the station, the crowd seemed deeply moved.

BLAYDON.

The Rev W. Saul, of Blaydon, has accepted an invitation to his native circuit, Doncaster, which he left thirty-five years ago.

Derwent Rifle Club.—The usual New Year's handicap sweepstake competition of the members took place at the club range, Bucs Hills, Blaydon. The weather was very cold, and there was an awkward wind from the left, requiring at times an allowance of six feet. The ranges were 200 and 500 yards, 7 shots at each range; Wimbledon targets and scoring; position at 200 kneeling, at 500 prone. There was a large muster of members. The following were the successful competitors:—

	Tl
Col.-Sergt. R. Killin, 5th DRV., South Shields	58
Priv. J. Dixon, 5th DRV. Win'aton	58
Priv. T. Bowman, 5th DRV, Gateshead	57
Sergt. B. J. Hardcastle, 3rd VBNF, Newcastle	56
Priv. T. [illegible]wis, 5th DRV, Gateshead	56
Priv. W. Coulson, 2nd VBNF, Walker	56
Priv. J. Strafford, 1st VBNF, Hexham	54
Col.-Sergt. J. Park, 3rd VBNF, Newcastle	52
Sergt. G. Green, 2nd VBNF, Scotswood	52
Priv. H. Gardner, 3rd VBNF, Newcastle	52

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

The Failure of Mr Richardson.—At the Newcastle Bankruptcy Court, yesterday (Thursday), before Mr Registrar Ingledew, the examination of Mr Charles Richardson, Spa Grounds, Shotley Bridge, was held.—The debtor stated his assets consisted of household furniture, worth £100, over which, however, there was a bill of sale for that amount given in favour of Mr Priestman, his uncle, in 1882; some crockery and forms and tables, worth about £3; and four shares in the Shotley Bridge Starr-Bowkett Building Society, which were practically worth nothing. He was entitled to a reversionary interest in the estate of Tinkley Hill, Durham, on the death of his father and mother. He had mortgaged this to the extent of £350, its full value. His life was insured for £650, but the policy was in favour of his wife. He owed £100 rent for the Spa, a quarter's rent for the cottage in which he lived, and about £10 for rates and taxes. His total liabilities amounted to over £1,300. He entered upon the Spa Grounds in 1882. His first season resulted in a profit of £170 but the last season was a failure, his loss amounting to between £150 and £200. He first became aware he was insolvent at the end of September, 1883. Bad times had caused his insolvency. In his second season the number of visitors fell off to a very great extent, and he lost money over various sports he gave. Another source of loss was the fact that when he made provision for picnic parties a smaller number turned up than was expected. His expenditure at the Spa during the last year would average about £4 a week. He intended to make his creditors an offer at the meeting on Saturday, but he could not say what the amount would be.—The examination was adjourned until Thursday next.

LANCHESTER.

Through the kindness of Mr C. M. Palmer, M.P., seventeen loads of coal have been distributed amongst the deserving poor of the village of Lanchester. The coals were carted gratuitously by Mr John Cumming, of Langley West House.

Oddfellows.—The members of the Loyal Clavering Lodge of Oddfellows held their annual dinner at the Blue Bell, Lanchester, on Saturday evening. An excellent repast was served by the host and hostess, Mr and Mrs Hodgson, and a large number of brethren sat down. Bro. Thos. Dunn (secretary) presided. A lengthy toast list was gone through. The Chairman, in proposing "Success to the Clavering Lodge," pointed out the prosperity of the Lodge, and the great advantages Oddfellowship holds out, and hoped the members would exert themselves in the future as they had done in the past. He feelingly alluded to the death of their late treasurer, Bro. Thos. Ward.—Several songs were sung, and a pleasant evening was spent

HAMSTEELS.

The Smallpox.—A man named Liddell, who was removed to the temporary cottage hospital at Quebec, suffering from smallpox, died yesterday (Thursday) in that institution. There are three cottage hospitals in operation under the management of the Lanchester Joint Hospital Board, viz., at Cobey Castle, Springwell, and Craghead, all occupied by patients.

DIPTON.

The Church Magazine.—The first number is issued this month, and contains an appropriate New Year's Address by the Vicar, and some useful and interesting parochial information. We wish it a wide circulation and every success.

BEAMISH.

Ratepayers' Meeting.—The half-yearly meeting of the ratepayers of Urpeth township was held on Thursday se'nnight, at the house of Mr Adamson, Beamish. The business was of the usual character, the appointment of overseers, &c.

Reading Room.—The quarterly meeting of this institute was held on Tuesday night, when Mr English occupied the chair. The usual sale of papers brought in good prices. The following officers were elected for the present year: President, Rev J. Mathwin (re-elected); vice-president and treasurer, Mr R. J. English (re-elected); secretary, Mr J. Waistell (re-elected); committee, D. Carr, W. Davidson, J. Craigs, J. Ransome, J. Armstrong, and J. Henderson.

LEADGATE.

Church of England Temperance Society.—On Friday night, the usual meeting was held in the Infant School-room, Church Square, Leadgate. The proceedings opened in the customary manner—with a hymn and prayer—and after an address, "Is alcohol a food?" by the curate of Leadgate (Rev J. Kirk), the following programme was rendered to a numerous audience, who evinced their appreciation by hearty tokens of applause:—Reading, "High art music," Mr Joe Nicholson; duet violin, Masters T. Shield and C. Foreman; reading, "The husband's vow," Mr C. Clegg; cornet solo, "Annie Laurie," Master L. Harker; reading, "Wild men in Australia," Mr Elsdon; song, "Come lasses and lads," Miss Mitchell; aria, "Pealing bells," Mr A. Mitchell, B.A.; recitation, "Lord Ullin's daughter," Rev J. Kirk; duet violin, "Rule Britannia," Masters Stewart and Robson; reading, "How to save one's bacon," Master J. T. Stewart; arietta, "Danish march," Temperance Band.

Christmas Tree and Supper.—On Wednesday afternoon, a Christmas tree, sale of work, &c., was opened in the Infant School-room, Church Square, Leadgate, the proceeds of which will be applied towards the liquidation of a debt of about £60 at present resting upon the building fund of St. Ives Church, Redwell Hills. The tree, which was beautifully bedecked with all sorts of useful and ornamental goods—gratuitously presented by the lady members of the congregation—was erected on the slanting gallery at one end of the room, thus displaying the goods to the greatest advantage. The stall was in charge of Mrs Mitchell, Mrs T. Foreman, and Mrs Geo. Nicholson, who conducted the sales with the assistance of a bevy of young ladies. One article deserving of special mention was a beautiful and valuable screen belonging to Mrs Foreman, which it is intended to dispose of at a bazaar proposed to be held next Easter. On the present occasion, the annual parochial tea and coffee supper was provided, and during the proceedings about 300 persons sat down to the tables, their needs being supplied by an energetic army, comprised for the most part of the fair sex. As the evening advanced, people of all denominations from Consett, Blackhill, Shotley Bridge, Annfield Plain, Iveston, Dipton, East Castle, &c., visited the place, and the building became literally thronged during the progress of the supper, and locomotion was only effected with the utmost difficulty. The repast was of a substantial character, embracing a plentiful supply of beef, hams, tongues, geese, &c., the gifts of the tradesmen of the district. Eventually the tables were cleared out, and games and amusements were indulged in, music being supplied by a band of instrumentalists. Amongst the fashionable company present were the vicar (Rev J. W. Mitchell), Revs R. Tuson (vicar of Dipton), J. W. Kirk (curate), Messrs R. W. Shaw (Villa Real), T. Foreman, G. Nicholson, and E. Todd (Leadgate), C. W. Balleny (Greencroft), E. Balleny (Ebchester), R. Murray (Benfieldside), &c. The proceedings closed shortly after ten o'clock, when a tolerably fair amount of business had been transacted.

HEDLEY HILL.

Educational.—The members of the Literary and Social Institute, Hedley Hill, held their fourth annual meeting on Tuesday evening—Mr J. J. C. Allison in the chair. The secretary (T. W. Hughes) read the yearly report, which showed that the income for the past year had been £91 0s 6½d. and the expenditure £81 10s 0d, leaving a balance in hand of £9 10s 6½d.

SPEN COLLIERY.

The New Year.—The New Year passed over very much the same as the Christmas, very quietly. On New Year's Eve, the Spen Excelsior Reed Band commenced their annual ball in the Miners' Hall, and continued until four o'clock on New Year's morning. At the different chapels and churches at The Spen, Victoria Garesfield, Barlow, Greenside, &c., the usual watch meetings were held, and the choirs afterwards sallied forth and carolled the different places. On New Year's Day, the quietude was broken only by a little excitement over pigeon-flying, shooting matches, &c.; whilst those who enjoyed skating had the chance (which a great many accepted) of repairing to the Greenside pond, where the ice was in excellent condition, and was thoroughly enjoyed by a great number of skaters.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

The announcement of the death of Colonel Johnson, of the Deanery, Chester-le-Street, has been received with much sorrow in the district. He expired early yesterday (Thursday), having reached the ripe old age of 86. He was very good to the poor in the vicinity of his dwelling.

A Want of Magistrates.—At Chester-le-Street Petty Sessions on Wednesday se'nnight considerable inconvenience was felt at the non-attendance of magistrates, Col. Sheppee being the only one present. It was found necessary to adjourn many of the cases, which will compel the defendants and witnesses to lose another day's work.—Hugh Gallagher and Andrew Thompson were fined 10s and costs each for trespassing in pursuit of game on land the property of Mr S. Tyzack, at Edmondsley.

WEARDALE.

Trade.—Although wages are small employment continues pretty regular. The "bargains" will be let at New House during the current week. A number of men employed at Killhope Mine will, we hear, be transferred to Grone Rake and Rookhope. Messrs Walton, Bollihope Lead Smelting Mills, are about commencing the manufacture of lead pipe. This will be a new industry in Weardale, and in these depressed times any addition to the trade of the dale is very welcome.

Generosity.—Mr Bainbridge, Lease House, recently presented a commodious villa, standing in its own grounds, for the use of the Superintendent Minister of the Wesleyan Circuit, and Mr T. E. Fenwick handsomely furnished it. Now the Frosterley Wesleyan Chapel, at Mr Bainbridge's suggestion, has to undergo considerable alteration. A minor alteration of the rostrum and choir gallery is now in hand, and it is in contemplation to improve the lighting, the warming, and ventilation, and to raise seats at the back of the chapel.

Serious Accident.—On Wednesday week, a lead miner, named Ralph Walton, Broken Way, was seriously injured at Green Laws Mine. He, along with his partnership of miners, was conveying some wood, necessary for their workings. One of the planks becoming loose, caught the side of the level along which the waggon containing ore was being drawn, causing it to recoil and strike the above miner in the side, seriously injuring him. But for the horse stopping he would have been killed outright. He was speedily attended by Dr Hewitson, St. John's, and lies in a precarious state.

STANHOPE.

A hen belonging to Mr J. G. Ashbridge, Crawley House, Stanhope, hatched a sitting of eggs on Monday. A chicken, also hatched by the same hen, when three months old, weighed 5¼lbs. after it was dressed for cooking.

Quarry Accident at Frosterley.—On Tuesday, a driver in Broadwood Quarry, named Smith, was seriously hurt while following his employment. He had noticed that his pony was on one road and the waggon on another. He tried to unhook the chain, but in doing so slipped, and the wheel went over his leg. His ankle was broken and many injuries sustained about his body.

Fearful Death of a Boy.—On Monday, a terrible fatality occurred at the Parson Byres Limestone Quarry. Whilst Thomas Bell (15) was following his employment at the above quarry, a large stone, half a ton or more in weight, fell from the face of the quarry upon deceased, who was at work below, crushing him severely about the body and legs, causing almost instantaneous death. Deceased was a son of Mrs Bell, of Crosshill, Stanhope.

A Public Hall for Frosterley.—On Monday evening, an enthusiastic public meeting was held in the Churchroom, to consider the desirability of an effort being made to obtain a building better suited to the public requirements. This matter was brought before the members of the Workmen's Institute at the annual meeting. A small committee has been considering the question. Communications have been exchanged with the Quarrymen's Union. Now the public earnestly set about a practical plan, such as may result in the establishment of an institute with classrooms, lecture hall, cricket, quoits, and football clubs. The scheme is to have a voluntary surrender of 2d per pay on the part of all employed in the various quarries in the Chapelry of Frosterley, and supplement this by a subscription of like amounts from others.

OXHILL.

Primitive Methodist Chapel.—The members and friends of this Society have just completed, on New Year's Eve, a very successful year in efforts to reduce the chapel debt, having by coffee suppers, stalls (for the sale of useful and ornamental articles), pie suppers, &c., paid off £95. The trustees are wishful to express their thanks to their friends and the public generally for the very generous and liberal support afforded them all this time, more especially to Mrs Nesy, who has not only given liberally but has worked unceasingly to get the debt paid off. There is yet £100 standing to be dealt with, and we hope the same sympathy and help will be given them as in the past, and that next year, 1886, they will be free from debt.

CROOK.

Free Gardeners' Dinner.—The annual district meeting of the West Durham District of the United Order of Free Gardeners was held on Saturday last, at the house of Bro. M. Nicholson, Royal Oak Inn, Crook. Bro. J. G. Walton, Tow Law, Master, Bro. Matthews, Darlington, D.M., Bro. Joseph Philipson, Crook, tyler, and Bro. W. Iley, secretary, read the report for the year, the number of members being 802; 31 increase for the year. £37 18s balance in management fund, and £24 18s in death fund. The auditor's report was read and received as satisfactory. The following are the officers for the year:—Master, Bro. J. Vickers, Tow Law; D.M., Bro. J. Halkier, Hamsteels; secretary, Bro. W. Iley, Crook; treasurer, Bro. J. G. Walton, Tow Law; Bro. W. Parr, Butterknowle, was appointed trustee in the place of Bro. Matthews, who is leaving the district. Bros. Briggs and Phillips were appointed auditors.

SWALWELL.

Band of Hope.—On Monday evening, the weekly meeting was held, when Mr Ramsay (Blaydon) presided, and a capital progamme was given by Mr J. C. Watson, Mr Calvert, Miss Dorothy Monkhouse, Mr Speers, Mr Troup, Master B. W. Lumley, and five young girls.

EBCHESTER.

The marriage of the Hon. John G. P. Vereker, and Miss Eleanor Surtees, daughter of the late Mr Surtees, of Hamsterley Hall, is to take place at St. George's, Hanover Square, on Wednesday, January 28th.

WYLAM.

Captain E. U. Blackett, Lord of the Manor of Wylam, has generously made a gift of land, to the extent of half an acre or more, in the most eligible part of the village of Wylam-on-Tyne, for the purpose of the new church now in course of erection.

DURHAM.

Miners' Association Fund.—On Wednesday, the officers of the Durham Miners' Association in Durham received a cheque for £10 from the representatives of the Birtley Co-operative Store, in aid of the fund which has been established for the relief of the unemployed members and their families. This fund has been established for some time, and is supported by a contribution of 3d per fortnight, which has enabled their representatives to pay allowances of 6s to 8s per man.

WATERHOUSES.

A young married woman, named Elizabeth Greaves, was remanded at the Durham County Police Court on Wednesday, on a charge of attempting to pass three counterfeit half-crowns at Waterhouses, in the Dearness Valley, on Sunday.

WHICKHAM.

The Water Supply.—Writing to the *Newcastle Journal*, "A Resident" asks:—"Will you kindly allow me, through the medium of your columns, to draw the attention of the Water Company to the very irregular supply of water to the village of Whickham? It has always been so, more or less, but now it is becoming really unbearable—it being off the greater part of almost every day. Is it not the duty of the Local Board to see that the village is properly and continually supplied with water?"

TOW LAW.

Novel Entertainment in a Coal Pit.—On New Year's Eve there was a coffee supper, followed by music and dancing, down Sunniside Pit, Tow Law. A large number availed themselves of having a trip underground.

Auction Mart.—Mr Vickers sold at this mart on Monday last, 28 dairy cows and heifers, which realised from £12 10s to £23 5s; 6 geld cows, £8 10s to £13; 22 store cattle, £6 10s to £9 17s 6d; 11 fat cattle, £12 to £22; 210 fat sheep, 22s 6d to 51s each. A large company present, and prices a little in advance of recent quotations.

Primitive Methodism.—Mr John Scott and Mr Allen Ramsden, of Hexham, preached on Sunday, at Tow Law. The movement for the removal of the chapel debt has been successful. The Christmas and New Year's Days festivals, inaugurated by Mr J. G. Wild, realised some £50, which, added to the amount in hand of the trustees, has proved to be sufficient.

Old Folks' Tea.—Saturday witnessed one of the largest gatherings that has ever taken place in connection with the annual tea in the Mechanics' Hall, Tow Law, and which has now become a recognised institution. About 120 person, partook of an excellent repast. The veteran, Mrs Moses, whose age is about 100 years, was again among the guests. In the evening, an entertainment was provided for the old people, comprising speeches, vocal and instrumental music, and recitations, when the Revs R Gillender, H. P. Slade, and T. C. Hughes, Mrs Jno. Hughes, the Misses Simpson, Messrs A. Ramsden (Hexham), T. Raine (Crook), J. Hughes, J. Ayton, J. Raine, J Robinson, and M. and Thos Pattinson, generously gave their services. The Rev M. H. Simpson (vicar) presided. The I.O.G.T., under whose auspices this treat is provided, deserve commendation. Bro G. F. Pattinson, W.C.T., "Beacon of Hope" Lodge, for the energy displayed on this occasion, rightly claims a high encomium. After the opening hymn and prayer by Mr Slade, the Chairman gave an address, and the following programme was gone:—Piano solo, "Alexandra quadrilles," Miss Simpson; song, "Mary of Argyle," Mr Hughes; recitation, Mr Robinson; address, Rev H. P. Slade; piano duet, "Osborne quadrilles," Miss Simpson and Mr Hughes; quartette, "Beware!" Mrs and Mr Hughes, M. Pattinson and J. Ayton; address, Rev R. Gillender; quartette, Mrs Hughes, Miss C. Simpson, and Messrs Hughes and Ayton; recitation, "The Bridge-keeper's Story," Mr Thos. Pattinson; address, Mr Ramsden; piano duet, Miss Simpson and Mr Hughes; songs, Messrs Hughes and Ayton; address, Rev T. C. Hughes; duet, "The crookit bawbee," Mrs Hughes and Mr T. Raine; trio, "Maiden fair," Messrs Hughes, J. Raine, and Ayton; song, "The little hen," Mr T. Raine; song, "Auld Lang Syne," Mrs Hughes.

WEST STANLEY.

A Parliamentary Debating Society has been formed at West Stanley.

University Extension Scheme.—A course of lectures is announced to be delivered in the Stanley National Schools, in connection with the Cambridge and Durham University Extension movement, by Evan W. Small, Esq., B.A., B.Sc. (late Scholar of Christ's College, Cambridge), on "Chemical Science, and some of its Every-day applications." The series commences next Tuesday evening, and will be continued every succeeding week for the ensuing six months. The moderate fee of 2s. only is charged for the course. As this is the first attempt to introduce the University Extension Scheme in this district, the committee hope that a large number of persons will avail themselves of its advantages.

C.E.T.S.—(*Beamish Branch.*)—A meeting of this society was held in the Stanley National School, on Monday evening, when there was a large attendance of members and non-members. The chair was occupied by the president (Rev J. Crennell, M.A.), who opened the meeting in the usual way. The programme, an unusually lengthy and varied one, was quickly introduced by Mr E. W. Robson, who read "Betty's Christmas visit to Newcastle," causing incessant laughter. The choir sang "Love at home" in capital style, the second verse being sung by Mr R. D. Grundy, and the third by Miss K. Masterman. Mr Geo. Anderson added greatly to the effect of the melody by his brilliant accompaniment on the harmonium. Miss A. Wood sang "Mother kissed in my dreams" in a pleasing manner, and was followed by Master J. Drummond, who recited "The teetotal sign-board." Then followed an amusing dialogue, "The trials of patient woman." The characters were ably sustained by Miss M. A. Ramshaw (Charlotte Meek, a very patient woman), Mr E. W. Robson (Andrew Meek, her husband, employed by Mr Horkington, as foreman), Miss J. Robson (Mrs Heartburn, a neighbour of the Meeks), Miss K. Masterman (Sally, housemaid at Meek's), Mr J. W. Kelly (Bullocks, a butcher), Miss A. Wood (Miss Furbellows, a millner), and Mr J. Robson (Mr Horkington, Andrew's employer). The audience was delighted with the dialogue, and showed their appreciation by rounds of applause. Misses A. Wood and J. Anderson sang a duet, "Waiting for me," after which Mr J. Robson recited "Things we don't like to see." Receiving an *encore*, he favoured again with "The coachman." Miss M. A. York sang "Water from the spring," which was so much applauded that she again rendered another song. The trio, "Come unto Jesus," was sung by Messrs E. W. Robson, J. W. Kelly, and R. D. Grundy, after which Mr R. Bell gave the reading, "Patient Joe, the Newcastle collier." The Rev J. Crennell recited "The Cameleon," which was so well executed, and equally as well appreciated, that it received a prolonged *encore*, and the president again recited a piece showing the miseries arising from a person's inability to digest a cucumber. This brought the proceedings to a close.

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PASSION AND PATHOS.

By GEORGINA MACKEY

Jem Horton had got into a very indifferent—not to say hopeless—state of mind and body. What with cursing, fighting, fuddling, and gambling, whenever he had the money to expend on the two latter vices—for the first two were simply as the sauce and flavour to Jem's meat and drink—he had gone with amazing rapidity down the road which has but one terminus. He was a blacksmith, and though he was getting not a little flabby and out of condition, the fine thews and limbs he had brought from his country home still stood him in fairly good stead. Having lost a wife and child, Jem conceived that his social duties were no longer of an exacting character, and when, by a series of combats he had established his right to be regarded as the "pet" of a pugilistic circle, the decline set in. He had always been a steady drinker, and now he became a constant and sometimes a furious one. The bright eye and upright gait of his youth had long ago vanished, and although much of his manly strength remained it was wrapt up in so much flesh, and the corpulence itself had so much to do with the beer in which Jem's diet largely consisted, that he was no longer a pleasant sight to look on. Indeed, when the grimy old Vulcan—he was now about 50 years of age—flung down his hammers and stretched himself after his day's work at the anvil, the forge fire played strange tricks with his dirty sodden face and ungainly person. He seemed about as bad a specimen of humanity as nature and vice together could make him. Perhaps, if he had worn broadcloth and simply swindled his neighbours instead of occasionally breaking their heads, he might have passed for a respectable member of society. But appearances were against him, and so were his habits and character. Not that he was idle or even perhaps worse tempered than most of his neighbours—but he was on a somewhat larger scale of iniquity. "Jem's no beauty," said his fellow-workmen, and although their sense of moral loveliness was never very distinct, the words implied something more than a reflection on Jem's physical disadvantages. Be that as it may his strength and skill sufficed to get him a hard livelihood, and the same qualities enabled him to keep out of the hands of the police during his clumsy frolics.

One morning, Jem appeared at the smithy a little more sodden and sulky than usual. He had been drinking for a week, but a press of work at once secured him employment, and he silently took his place at the anvil. His companion was a young Lancashire man of respectable character, who prided himself not a little on the decent way in which he maintained himself and his home belongings. He was a talker and a trades union man, and had a smart tongue of his own, which he employed with considerable effect on his fellow-workmen. The formidable Jem himself was an occasional butt for his wit, and, strange to say, the old tyrant bore the infliction with a good humour which seemed like a stray relic of his better days. He had even been known to shew a kind of rough tenderness to his companion's blue-eyed little girl. But on occasions like the present, it was always dangerous to attempt to rouse him from the half-repentant, half-vindictive mood in which a long bout of drinking usually left him. So the musical ring of the hammers, the wheezy roar of the bellows, and all the minor sounds of clicking, and filing, and tapping that make up the harmony of the smithy chorus, went on with little intermission in the way of rough joke and good-humoured palaver. Unfortunately, the character of a wit carries with it the sternest obligations, and Tom Ainsley—for that was the young man's name—did not need the sly nods that some of his fellows threw towards Jem's unconscious form to invite him to a gratis exhibition of his powers.

"Jem, lad," he began, "hast broke any heads o' late? Wilt get a crack for thaself one o' these fine days."

This was rather a daring stroke, but there was no immediate response, and encouraged by his opening, he continued, while the men round slackened their work, so as more readily to join in the fun.

"Jem's going to ask Master Goodrich to wipe off his score at the Bull, an' if he won't do 't he'll knock him down for's pains."

There was a slight haw-haw at this, but beyond an evil turn of the eye in Tom's direction, and a visible tightening of his grasp on the hammer, Mr. Horton took no notice. After a pause which Tom employed in furbishing afresh his mental armoury, the assault recommenced.

"When Jem goes a coorting again, he'll want summat more'n his handsome face. The lasses like a lad as can talk wi 'em a bit."

The sullen face grew darker still over this somewhat brutal remark, and there was an additional sting in the fact that Jem felt himself powerless before his light antagonist. Tom gained further encouragement and laid his hand tauntingly on the other man's shoulder, saying,

"Jem's lost his pluck as well as his tongue, now-a-days, for he won't——"

The sentence was not finished, for Jem Horton had flung down his hammer, and, although on most occasions he would have offered a fair challenge for a fair fight, had caught up a bar of iron and with an oath aimed it full at Tom Ainsley's head. Half-a-dozen hands were on his arm ere the missile had flown, and the man for whom it was aimed ducked promptly and saved himself. But though its direction was changed, the iron still swung heavily through the air, and a shrill cry of pain from behind the spot where the workmen were gathered sent a thrill through the whole company, and every man, Jem excepted, turned sharply in its direction. There—oh, shame and horror, was a child—Tom's blue-eyed little maid and Jem's favourite—stretched unconscious on the smithy floor. She had come to bring her father's mid-day meal, and standing quiet and wondering while the rough chaff went on, and quite unperceived by the group of workmen, her small body had become the mark for the cruel missile. I think in another moment the rough fellows would have flown at Jem and fairly throttled him had it not been for the extraordinary action of the culprit. There was the briefest possible pause, and then—anticipating even the wretched father—Jem sprang forward, and, with a smothered groan, caught up the child, but in the tenderest fashion, and strode out of the workshop holding her in his arms.

* * *

Poor little Lizzie did not die. Jem had hurried to the nearest hospital, and it was soon found that her life could be saved. But her playing days were over—the merry child became a helpless cripple. I don't know how Jem made his peace with the poor father, but by some means or other he contrived to become chief nurse to, and head attendant on, the innocent sufferer. He had to conquer the child's natural abhorrence of him, but, he did this with a patience which was truly wonderful. He was an ingenious fellow in his way, and with a little help from a carpenter fitted her with a small carriage, with which, when she grew stronger, she began to take the air, with Jem as driver and protector. At first he seemed the victim of a dull sort of despair, which only allowed him the simple relief of watching over the child, and supplying every want of hers that he could understand. In a day or so after the accident he returned to his work, and bent over it in a silence which he could never be induced to break. He earned good wages, but well-nigh everything seemed to go in the direction of his poor little victim.

On the Sunday holiday, his one employment was to wheel her through a mile or so of streets, till they reached the fair green fields beyond. Then, as the child grew communicative, and losing her terror of the old man, began to chatter of the sights around them, Jem would answer her in short, hesitating phrases, and with a deferential tone. His old country life served him well, and he was more at home amid brooks and trees than his small companion. What a strange sympathy it became! As the child grew older she got to appreciate more the nature of the relationship between them, and to feel, with subtle girlish instinct, the change which had come over the man's life. They lived on some years in this fashion, but the girl was the first to go. In another month her old companion was laid in the ground beside her. He neither sought nor ne[illegible] and it would be impossible to say whether he ever forgave himself the wrong he had done, or knew what was the degree of happiness he found in Lizzie Ainsley's society. On his tombstone the clergyman of the parish directed the word "Forgive," to be engraved in characters of gold.

The number of olive farmers and merchants among the Italians is very large. They have a proverb—"If you wish to leave a competency to your grandchildren, plant an olive."

The Interior of Greenland.—A journey made across the frozen interior would no doubt be barren in results. For, although the interior has not been seen from the outskirts over its entire length and breadth, it has been viewed to a sufficient extent, and has been examined with sufficient precision, to render it a matter of almost absolute certainty that the whole of the interior from north to south, and east to west, is entirely enveloped in snow and ice.

The Seven Wise Sayings.—The seven wise men of Greece acquired their fame from the proverbial sayings they originated or adopted. Solon of Athens took for his motto, "Know thyself;" Chilo of Sparta, "Consider the end;" Thales of Miletos, "Who hateth suretyship is sure;" Bias of Priene, "Most men are bad;" Cleobulus of Lindos, "The golden mean;" or "Avoid extremes;" Pittacos of Mitylene, "Seize time by the forelock;" Periander of Corinth, "Nothing is impossible to industry."

John Peerybingle (of delightful memory) used to boast that if a wedding-cake were to be done up in a turn-up bedstead or a keg of salmon, his wife would manage to scent it out. Unfortunately the receptacles intended for the transmission of wedding-cake are only too well known, and do not require the keen intuition of the carrier's wife, in order to surmise their contents. The consequence is that sundry delinquents have been lately abstracting the interior of the boxes and doing them up again, and the recipient of the parcel has discovered nothing but a few crumbs left in the dainty white box. There may be some consolation in the old attar of roses bottle, where the scent of the roses clings round it still, but the spicy odour left by a piece of wedding-cake is simply tantalising to the unfortunate recipient. There is also the other side to the question, contained in the annoyance of the happy pair who get the credit for a mean distribution of the coveted dainty. The size of the cake sent now is certainly small, but fashion demands more than the few crumbs which have been all that the marauders have allowed to arrive. What is to be done with the offenders when caught is a question for grave decision. Binding them firmly hand and foot with white satin ribbon would probably be the first method of procedure, and what would be done with them next is a question which would depend on the clemency of the jury. Probably, however, the judge would pass sentence on them to the effect that they should never be allowed to have a wedding-cake of their own.

Market Reports.

Newcastle Flour, Saturday.—Hungarian, 2s 0d; American, 1s 9d; No. 1 superfine, 1s 9d; superfines 1s 8d; fines, 1s 6d; households, 1s 4d; seconds, 0s 0d ryemeal, 1s 6d; wheatmeal, 1s 6d; oatmeals, English 2s 2d; Scotch, 2s 0d per stone; 4lb loaf, 6d.

Newcastle Fruit and Potato, Saturday.—Scotch potatoes, 6d to 8d; English do., 6d; onions, 10d to 1s 6d per stone; figs, 4d to 10d per lb; apples, 1s 6d to 2s per stone; cauliflowers, 1d to 3d each; oranges, 9d to 1s 6d per dozen; pomegranets, 1d to 2d each; foreign grapes, 6d to 10d per lb; English do., 2s to 6s 6d per lb; blackberries, 0d to 0d per quart; cabbage, roots, and other classes at late rates.

Newcastle Meat and Poultry, Saturday.—

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Prime large beef	0	9 to	1	0	Pigeons, pr couple	1	6 to	1	9
Prime mutton ...	0	11	1	0	Turkeys, per lb...	0	11	1	2
Small Pork	0	9	0	11	Turkeys, poult...	0	0	0	0
Veal	0	8	0	11	Partridge, brace	4	6	5	0
Lamb, per lb	0	0	0	0	Pheasants	6	6	7	6
American beef ...	0	2½	0	7	Geese, per lb	0	10	1	0
" mutton	0	5	0	9	Goslings, each	0	0	0	0
" lamb ...	0	0	0	0	Hares, each	4	0	0	0
" veal ...	0	7	0	9½	Leverets	2	6	3	6
" pork ...	0	8	0	9	Rabbits, couple	2	0	3	0
Hens, each	1	0	1	9	Ptarmigan, cuple	0	0	0	0
Ducks, per couple	2	6	3	6	Black Game, brce	5	6	6	6
Ducklings, per cp.	0	0	0	0					
Chickens	5	6	7	0	English fresh butter, per lb...	1	2	1	4
Wild ducks, brace	0	0	0	0	Fresh eggs 8 for 1s				
Quails, per couple	0	0	0	0	Salmon, per lb	0	0	0	0
Grouse, per cople	5	6	7	0	Do. trout	0	0	0	0

Hexham Provision, Tuesday.—Butter, 1s 4d to 1s 5d per lb; eggs, 6 for 1s; black game, 0s 0d to 0s 0d per br.; grouse, 0s 0d to 0s 0d; hares, 3s 6d to 4s 6d; rabbits, 2s 3d to 2s 9d per couple; chickens, 2s 0d to 3s 0d; ducks, 2s 3d to 3s 3d; potatoes, 6d to 8d per stone; cooking apples, 1s 8d to 2s 4d per stone; cauliflowers, 3d each; plums, 0d; blackberries, 0d to 0d per quart; lemons, 1d to 4d; cabbages, 1d to 2d each; flour, extra superfines, 1s 10d; superfines, 1s 8d; fines, 1s 6d; maslin, 1s 4d; oatmeal, 2s 4d per stone.

Durham Provision, Saturday.—Bacon, 4½d to 7d; ham, 7d to 8d; cheese, 6d to 7d; lard, 7d; chickens, 1s 6d to 2s 6d; ducks, 2s 0d to 2s 6d; hens, 1s 6d to 2s each; pigeons, 1s 2d to 1s 3d per couple; rabbits, 2s 9d to 3s 3d per couple; butter, 1s 6d to 1s 8d; eggs, 5 to 6 for 1s; damsons, 0d to 0d per quart; pears 0d to 0d; grapes, 6d to 1s per lb; apples, 1s 6d to 2s; onions 1s 0d to 1s 6d per peck; potatoes, 6d per stone.

Newcastle Corn, Tuesday.—Arrivals into Newcastle for week ending Jan. 5, 1884:—Coast and rail—Wheat, 5,211; maize, 380; barley, 606; malt, —; oats, 2985; rye, —; beans, 887; peas, 78; flour, 3,062 qrs. Foreign—Wheat 1,800; maize, 4000; barley, 1,266; malt, —; oats, 2287; rye, —; beans, —; peas, —; flour, 15,620 qrs. The weather continues very cold, and some snow has fallen. The arrivals of wheat from the coast are small, with nothing fresh from abroad. At this day's market there was a steadier feeling in the wheat trade, and on the business done last week's prices were fully maintained. Maize on the spot very scarce, and sold at high prices, but to arrive sellers took rather less money. Scotch oats sold steadily at late rates, foreign firm. Peas, beans, and feeding barley rather dearer. Malting barley met with rather a better demand, but no advance in price could be made. Flour me with a good inquiry, and 6d per sack higher.

Hexham, Tuesday.—Barley was an average suppy for which there was a brisk demand, at prices ranging from 25s to 27s per qr. A few samples of oats of inferior quality, but no wheat on offer.

Newcastle Hay and Straw, Tuesday.—Old land hay, £3 5s to £4 8s; this year's growth, £0 0s 0d to £0 0s 0d; new land hay, £4 0s to £5 10s; this year's growth, £3 12s to £5 0s; clover hay, £0 0s to £0 0s per ton; wheat straw, 1s 8d to 2s 3d; barley straw, 1s 4d to 1s 7d; oat straw, 1s 7d to 1s 10d per thrave; carts of hay at market, 110; carts of straw, 48.

Newcastle Cattle, Tuesday.—The arrivals from a distance consisted of 13 head of cattle, — sheep, and 450 pigs from Aberdeen and the districts in the North-east coast of Scotland; 51 beasts and — pigs from Ireland; 665 beasts and 95 sheep and lambs from foreign countries; and — beasts from Canada.

Respecting quality, every description of stock was a good seasonable average.

The supply of beef comprised 1,734 head. Although the number of cattle was small, trade ruled dull at lower rates, and at the close a clearance was not effected.

The number of sheep shown was 5,230. The mutton trade was inactive, the dead meat market being full of mutton, causing butchers not to purchase any.

The number of pigs shown was 951. The pork trade was dull, with part left over at the close.

PRICES FOR THIS DAY SINKING THE OFFAL.

Beef, prime heifers, per stone	9s 3d	to	9s 6d
Secondary sorts	8s 9d	..	9s 0d
First-class oxen	8s 9d	..	9s 0d
Middling	8s 3d	..	8s 6d
Cows and inferior	6s 6d	..	7s 6d
Pigs	5s 6d	..	9s 0d
Sheep, small, per lb	8½d	to	8¾d
" large fat, per lb.	8d	to	8½d
Lambs, per lb	6d	to	7d.

Nos: Cattle, 1,734; sheep 5,230; pigs, 951.

Railway Time Table.

CONSETT BRANCH.

Stations.	Week Days. A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
NWCASTLE Dep.	6 10	9 40	11 0	12 20	2 30	5 30	7 30
Scotswood "	6 17	9 47	11 7	12 27	2 37	5 37	7 37
Swalwell "	6 24	9 54	11 14	12 34	2 43	5 44	7 44
Rowlands Gill "	6 34	10 4	11 24	12 44	2 53	5 54	7 54
Lintz Green "	6 40	10 10	11 30	12 50	2 59	6 0	8 0
Ebchester "	6 53	10 20	11 40	1 0	3 12	6 10	8 13
Shotley Bridge "	6 59	10 24	11 44	1 4	3 18	6 14	8 19
CONSETT Arr.	7 5	10 30	11 50	1 10	3 23	6 20	8 25
CONSETT Dep.	7 10	10 32	...	1 12	3 25	...	6 33
Knitsley "	7 21	10 43	...	1 23	3 36	...	6 44
Lanchester "	7 30	10 53	...	1 32	3 45	...	6 53
Witton Gilbert "	7 38	11 1	...	1 40	3 53	...	7 1
Aldin Grange "	7 45	11 9	...	1 47	4 0	...	7 9
DURHAM Arr.	7 50	11 15	...	1 52	4 5	...	7 15

	A.M.		A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
DURHAM Dep.	7 25	...	11 42	2 35	...	5 10	8 10
Aldin Grange "	7 32	...	11 48	2 41	...	5 17	8 17
Witton Gilbert "	7 40	...	11 55	2 48	...	5 25	8 25
Lanchester "	7 50	...	12 5	2 54	...	5 35	8 35
Knitsley "	8 2	...	12 15	3 8	...	5 45	8 45
CONSETT Arr.	8 12	...	12 25	3 18	...	5 55	8 55
CONSETT Dep.	8 15	9 10	12 33	3 25	...	5 56	9 2
Shotley Bridge "	8 20	9 15	12 38	3 30	...	6 0	9 7
Ebchester "	8 24	9 19	12 42	3 34	...	6 4	9 12
Lintz Green "	8 34	9 29	12 50	3 44	...	6 14	9 22
Rowlands Gill "	8 39	9 34	12 55	3 50	...	6 20	9 28
Swalwell "	8 47	9 42	1 3	3 57	...	6 27	9 36
Scotswood "	8 54	9 49	1 9	4 4	...	6 34	9 43
NEWCASTLE Ar	9 5	10 0	1 20	4 15	...	6 45	9 53

SUNDAYS.

	A.M.	P.M.		A.M.	P.M.
NEWCASTLE	7 30	7 20	CONSETT dep.	8 35	8 20
Scotswood	7 37	7 27	Shotley Bridge	8 40	8 25
Swalwell	7 44	7 34	Ebchester	8 44	8 29
Rowlands Gill	7 54	7 44	Lintz Green	8 54	8 39
Lintz Green	8 0	7 50	Rowlands Gill	8 59	8 44
Ebchester	8 13	8 0	Swalwell	9 8	8 53
Shotley Bridge	8 19	8 4	Scotswood	9 14	8 59
CONSETT arr.	8 25	8 10	NEWCASTLE ar.	9 25	9 10

MARKET TRAINS ON SATURDAYS.

First second, and third class return tickets will be issued on Saturdays by the following trains:—

	A.M.	P.M.		A.M.	
NEWCASTLE	7 10	4 15	DURHAM dep.	7 55	...
Scotswood	7 17	4 22	Aldin Grange	8 1	...
Swalwell	7 24	4 30	Witton Gilbert	8 9	...
Rowlands Gill	7 34	4 40	Lanchester	8 20	...
Lintz Green	7 40	4 46	Knitsley	8 32	...
Ebchester	7 53	4 59	CONSETT late a	8 45	...
Shotley Bridge	7 59	5 5	Benfieldside d	8 50	...
CONSETT late a	8 5	5 12	Shotley Bridge	8 55	...
Benfieldside d	9 20	...	Ebchester	8 59	...
Knitsley	9 32	...	Lintz Green	9 9	...
Lanchester	9 41	...	Rowlands Gill	9 15	...
Witton Gilbert	9 50	...	Swalwell	9 22	...
Aldin Grange	9 59	...	Scotswood	9 29	...
DURHAM arr	10 5	...	NEWCASTLE dp	9 40	...

SALTBURN, STOCKTON, & DARLINGTON BRANCH

Stations.	Week Days. A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
NEWCASLE dep.	...	6 10	...	...	12 20	...	5 30
CONSETT	...	8 20	...	...	2 0	...	6 25
Rowley	...	8 30	...	...	2 10	...	6 34
Burnhill	...	8 40	...	...	[illegible]	...	6 43
Tow Law	...	8 53	...	...	2 33	...	6 56
CROOK arr.	...	9 5	...	...	2 45	...	7 8
" dep.	7 35	9 7	11 23	1 5	2 52	5 30	7 13
Bishop Auckland	8 0	9 31	11 43	1 29	3 12	6 3	7 37
Darlington	8 30	10 0	12 10	2 0	3 45	6 45	8 10
Stockton	8 56	10 31	12 40	2 29	4 13	7 18	8 37
Middlesbro'	9 5	10 41	12 50	2 38	4 22	7 31	8 51
SALTBURN	10 10	11 15	[illegible]	3 12	4 57	8 5	9 24

Stations.	Week Days. A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
SALTBURN dp.	5 50	8 5	9 52	...	1 40	3 45	5 40
Middlesbro'	6 27	8 40	10 25	12 50	2 18	4 20	6 5
Stockton	6 37	8 48	10 32	12 57	2 21	4 28	6 22
Darlington	7 20	9 20	10 55	1 30	3 0	5 5	7 20
Bishop Auckland	7 49	9 48	11 21	1 56	3 26	5 33	7 48
CROOK arr.	8 10	10 6	[illegible]	2 16	3 47	5 55	8 10
" dep.	8 13	...	[illegible]	2 20	...	6 5	...
Tow Law	8 25	...	[illegible]	2 32	...	[illegible]	...
Burnhill	8 40	...	...	2 45	...	6 35	...
Rowley	8 50	...	...	2 55	...	6 45	...
CONSETT arr.	9 0	...	...	3 5	...	6 55	...
N'WCASTLE	10 0	...	...	4 15	...	...	...

Advice to Mothers!—Are you broken in your rest by a sick child suffering with the pain of cutting teeth? Go at once to a chemist and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. It will relieve the poor sufferer immediately. It is perfectly harmless and pleasant to taste, it produces natural, quiet sleep, by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes "as bright as a button." It soothes the child, it softens the gums, allays all pain, relieves wind, regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for dysentery and diarrhœa, whether arising from teething or other causes. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup is sold by Medicine dealers everywhere at 1s. 1½d. per bottle.

SOMETHING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

CHRISTMAS SUPERSTITIONS.

In the dark days of ignorance and superstition, when the common people swallowed, without thinking, almost any story that cunning men chose to tell them, many very strange beliefs used to be held in connection with Christmas time, some of which, in spite of the boasted civilisation of this nineteenth century, have hardly yet died out.

Many years ago, there grew in a lane near the churchyard of Glastonbury Abbey, in Somersetshire, a hawthorn tree which, it was said, always budded on the 24th and blossomed on the 25th of December. Afterwards an alteration was made in the days of the month, so that what had been the 25th of December become the 5th of January. This change at first caused a good deal of confusion in the minds of the people and a magazine published in January, 1753, states that on Christmas day, new style, a vast crowd went to see the noted thorn, and were much disappointed when they found that it shewed no sign of blossoming. However, they determined to watch it narrowly up to the fifth of January, the old Christmas Day, when lo! it blossomed as usual. Some years later the tree was cut down, but it is reported that slips from it are still preserved which blossom on the 5th of January to the present day. An ancient legend thus accounts for the origin of this miraculous tree: St. Joseph, of Arimathea, when visiting England, landed not far from Glastonbury at a place where there was an oak planted in memory of his landing, called the "Oak of Avalon;" from there Joseph and his companions marched to a hill nearly a mile on the south side of the town. On reaching this hill they rested themselves, being very tired, which circumstance gave the hill the name of "Weary-all-hill," (since corrupted into "Werrall-hill"); and while staying there St. Joseph stuck on the hill his staff—a dry hawthorn-stick—which grew, and ever, since then, blossomed on Christmas Day. A flat stone, with certain initials cut in it, even now marks the spot where the famous tree once stood, and where, according to the legend, Joseph of Arimathea stuck his pilgrim staff into the ground.

Among the wonders to be seen in the beautiful cathedral of Cologne are three skulls, which are reputed —though, it is to be feared, on not very good authority—to be the skulls of the wise men of the East, who came to Bethlehem at the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. These precious relics are enveloped in velvet, and decorated with embroidery and jewels, so that the upper part of each skull only is seen, and the hollow eyes which, as many devout people believe, once rested on the Saviour. As departed saints, the Wise Men, or Magi, as they were called, were in the Middle Ages, almost universally regarded as possessing great power of intercession and protection. Any article that had touched these skulls was believed to have the power of preventing accidents to the bearer while travelling, as well as to be a protection against sorcery and a guard against sudden death. The supposed names of the Magi—Melchior, Belthasar, and Jasper—were also used as a charm, and were inscribed upon girdles, garters, and finger rings. Rings thus engraved were considered to be particularly useful in cases of cramp.

From a curious old song preserved in the British Museum, it seems that in olden times it was considered peculiarly lucky when Christmas Day fell on a Sunday, and very much the reverse when it occurred on a Saturday. In the former case the winter would be mild and the summer be fair and dry, and a child born on that day would become a great lord; but in the sad event of Christmas happening to occur on the last day of the week the winter would be tempestuous, and the summer wet; the fruit and corn crops would fail; many old people would die, and children born on that day would all perish within half a year. Somewhat similar to these notions is the belief in Devonshire that if the sun shines bright at noon on Christmas Day, a plentiful crop of apples may be expected in the following year.

In the district of Sologne, France, it is still believed that at Christmas time, horses, cows, oxen, bulls, asses, &c., have the power of speech, but we are not told in what language they talk. These animals are said, at the time, to complain of their masters or to praise them, according to the treatment they receive. This gift of speech comes into operation on Christmas Eve, just before twelve at night, and finishes at noon on Christmas Day, or sooner if the person who has the care of the animals be guilty of any mortal sin. If the good people of Sologne wish to discover whether their servants are faithful to them they send those whom they suspect to take care of the beasts, and if they refuse they are ordered to leave the next day. It was an old English superstition long current in Devon and Cornwall, and which, perhaps, still lingers both there and in other remote parts of the country, that at midnight on Christmas Eve, the cattle in their stalls always fell down on their knees in adoration of the infant Saviour, and that after the change from old to new style they have continued to do this only on the eve of old Christmas Day. It appears from numerous old prints and also from a Latin poem of the 15th century, that this idea was derived from a prevalent notion in the middle ages, that an ox and an ass present at the birth of Christ fell upon their knees in a suppliant posture.

Besides the reverence shewn by cattle every Christmas Eve, it was also said that the bees sang in their hives at the same time, and that bread baked on that day never became mouldy. However foolish we may think these beliefs, the idea underlying them was very beautiful, viz., that all nature united in celebrating the birth of Christ, and partook in the general joy which the anniversary of the Nativity inspired. Another beautiful fancy was that at this season the Powers of Darkness were prevented from using their evil influence on mankind. The cock was then supposed to crow all night long, and by his vigilance to scare away all malignant spirits. This idea is finely expressed by Shakspeare in his play of "Hamlet." The watchman, Marcellus, describing the appearance of the ghost of the murdered king of Denmark, says:—

"It faded on the crowing of the cock,
Some say, that ever 'gainst that season comes
Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated,
This bird of dawning singeth all night long,
And then, they say, no spirit stirs abroad,
The nights are wholesome, then no planets strike;
No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm,
So hallow'd and so gracious is the time."

NUTS TO CRACK.

1.—My *whole*, composed of ten letters, names a famous general; my 4, 2, 7 is a part of the body; my 3, 9, 6, 7 is extended; my 1, 2, 4, 8, is part of a boat; my 7, 5, 4, 3 is a measure; my 10, 2, 1 is recent; my 6, 9, 8 is a negative; my 8, 5, 2 is to fasten; my 1, 5, 10, 7 is part of an army.

2.—Buried Proverb.—That is strange Millicent Godwin down there wearing a felt hat. Excepting old Deb Low, she lives now quite alone. She proved my best friend many years ago oddly enough.

3.—Of all creative powers, unseen, I form a part,
To all that's good, a double dole impart;
In all that's wicked, vile and base
Be sure I never find a place;
With man I never deigned to dwell,
But woman owns my potent spell;
Of all that's lovable I form a part,
But ne'er for hatred found a heart;
Ever on toil and labour I bestow
A charm that ease can never know;
I increase the joys of all little boys,
Am apt to aid them with their noise;
With little girls I've ne'er been seen,
Though often with their dolls I've been;
In country, town, and borough I abound,
In city, village, or in streets I'm never found;
With you, yourself, I'm sure to agree,
But time to myself I ne'er can be.

4.—Hatred; beheaded, a girl's name; again beheaded, insects appear; again, and the result is a cold substance.

5.—Twelve Hidden Trees.

On! ye warlike sons of Moloch!
What if iron gates oppose?
Strike! and at each blow you give them,
Menace, dare, defy your foes.
Up in eager haste to conquer—
Who will own to qualm of fear?—
None but rage or anger feeling,
Fierce as pent volcano here.
Swift, as hurls Great Jove the lightning,
Speed each dart with level might;
Shower shot and grape around them—
Ours we deem a plea for right.

6.—My *first* is lofty; my *second* is low enough to be under foot; and my *whole* is much the same as my second.

7.—In "baker's bun."
In "every pun."
In "Irish nun."
In "clownish fun."
In "shooting gun."
In "shining sun."
Whole is a city in Prussia.

LAST WEEK'S KERNELS.

1.—A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. 2. Regal-e, perfume-r, pin-k, shrew-d, tablet, relic-t, mode-l. 3. Campbelltown. 4. September. 5. Paucity. 6. Travel, ravel, vale, lea. 6. Keats, Dante, Hood, Meredith, Homer, Shelley, Poe, Crabbe, Ossian.

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IN VERY STRANGE COMPANY.

A GHOST STORY FOR CHRISTMAS.

BY

HENRY FRITH.

Author of "The Mystery of Moor Farm," "Jack o' Lanthorn," "Dr. Grusenstein's Ghost," &c., &c.

CHAPTER II.

THE HAND OF FATE.—THE MAGIC RING.

To render the subsequent events of this eventful Christmas clear and intelligible to my readers, I must go back for a few years and mention certain circumstances which, as it turned out, bore directly, but most unexpectedly, upon the incidents I am relating. These circumstances are by no means the least eventful of my experiences, and to me they were the most important, as you will see.

It may be remembered that George Parkyn, my friend of many years standing, had mentioned Miss Frazer as having been an "old flame" of mine. This was so far true, inasmuch as I had admired her from the very first evening we met. She was then engaged to Mr. Walden's eldest son, Harold, who was at Oxford, and intended for the Bar. Of course, I was perfectly ignorant of this, and when I accepted the care of Miss Frazer to take her down to dinner, I had but a vague notion of her name even. Let me begin in order.

When I entered the drawing-room she was sitting, rather in a corner, near an elderly lady, with whom she was staying in London that January time. As my name was announced she looked up casually from the album she was inspecting and our eyes met. Why my gaze had fallen upon her I cannot explain, but our eyes met directly—fully. One steady glance was exchanged, she dropped her lids, and I shook hands with my hostess.

After a brief delay others came in and Mr. Acton, with a card in his hand, came across to me.

"Leonard," he said, "we have been disappointed in a young friend. Will you take Miss Frazer in to dinner? Come, I will introduce you."

[I may add that Mr. Acton always managed these little arrangements at his parties. His wife did not interfere with his plans in any way.]

A wild idea crossed my brain that Miss Frazer was the young lady whose grey eyes had met mine as I entered the room. There had been something in her glance which convinced me we should be friends if once we became acquainted. Whether any other people ever can testify to a similar experience I cannot tell. I am relating simple, unvarnished facts, for which many still living can vouch.

I was led willingly to the corner where, gazing dreamily at the album, sat the young lady in whom, as yet unknown, I took the greatest interest. Our introduction was commonplace and formal. But our eyes again met; then, as we entered into a budding conversation, dinner was announced. We, of course, went in together, and we sat near the door, on our hostess's right hand.

During dinner Miss Frazer and I discovered many tastes in common. We found we knew each other's friends. The general conversation became more animated, but somehow my charming companion and I were not drawn into the vortex. We chatted of many topics, and at length descended to the question of mediums and spiritualism.

"My aunt frequently holds converse with the dead," whispered my companion behind her fan. "Do you see that young lady at the other end of the table, with rather dreamy eyes?"

"Yes," I replied; "she has beautiful arms and hands."

"Ah, you have remarked that too?" Miss Frazer replied; "She is a medium, and claims to see visions of the dead, and to interpret them. She is my cousin. She says you are nearly a medium yourself."

"Very curious," I said. "But though I scarcely can credit such manifestations, and do not make any claim to be a medium, I do believe in Fate. Now, of course, this is only *my* theory, but I fully believe that people fated to be united will meet in this world. There are *pairs of men and women created*—they *must* meet some time. There is an affinity which will sooner or later bring them together. Do you follow my idea?"

"Perfectly," she answered. "You mean that two people fated to meet, *will* meet in time and for eternity? Yes; but suppose they are married to others, would not that be rather awkward?"

"Very," I answered. "But we need not discuss that issue. We have only to look around us and see the unhappy couples who are not suited, and who would be suited and happy with others whose 'Fates' they are."

"Really, you are too deep for me," she said. "But I daresay there *may* be something in your theory. My Fate, at any rate, is fixed."

"So is mine," I replied. "I fully believe it is—though it seems impossible."

"May I enquire who your 'Affinity' is?" she asked, smiling archly, in full possession of her unconscious beauty. "Is she *very* charming?" Do tell me. I am quite anxious."

"She *is* very charming," I replied, warmly; "but I can scarcely tell you who she is."

"Oh, is it such a secret? I love a mystery! Tell me, please. I will be most discreet."

"Will you promise not to tell, then?" I said, as I perceived our hostess getting ready to move.

"Yes; I promise to respect your confidence. Who is this 'Fate' of yours? Quick!" she cried.

Mrs. Acton rose. All the ladies rose also. As I made way for Miss Frazer, I whispered:

"Yourself!"

She passed by me with a heightened colour and a frown. Not a look did she vouchsafe at me. She was offended. Well, I had been *rather* precipitate, perhaps. Yet she had asked me. Surely she had seen my evident regard. How had I sinned?

My reverie was interrupted by Mr. Acton, saying:

"Oh, yes, Harold couldn't come up in time. He will be here presently, though. She will make him an excellent wife."

"Of whom are they speaking?" said I, to Bob Gwilliam, beside me.

"Of Miss Frazer and young Walden. They are 'engaged' you know. You seemed to be very much occupied, by-the-bye; but it is 'no go' there. They will be married in the spring!"

A nice mess I had made of it. So she was "engaged" already, and I alone had been ignorant of it! This was a pleasant beginning, indeed. I must get out of my scrape somehow. How? . . . .

After dinner some tricks were performed with cards, and some curious hits made in "fortune telling." We were all, or nearly all, old friends, so perhaps the "cards" knew a good deal beforehand. But I determined to try my "Magic Ring."

So, in a pause, I said, "I have a ring here, Mrs. Acton, which will tell us whether we are sympathetic or the contrary. Let me suspend this plain gold ring with a thread, and it will swing toward the person with whom I, or you, or anyone, may be *en rapport*.

"Let us try the ring," said several persons.

Drawing from my finger a plain gold ring like a wedding ring—a gift I still wear—I suspended it to a piece of cotton, and let it hang motionless. A lady then came forward and waited until the ring began to oscillate slowly between me and the table, near which I was standing. The lady then grasped my hand, and in a few seconds the ring ceased to move in the direction it had started, but oscillated *towards the lady*, in a direction at right angles to its former course, but gently.

"We are good friends," I said. "No more. Miss Frazer, we are almost strangers. Will you try?"

Again her glance met mine. She seemed about to decline, but something made her change her mind. She rose, and when the ring was again swinging from me, gently she grasped my hand.

Our hands fitted, thumb to thumb, tightly. I could feel her throbbing pulses in my palm. All eyes were fixed on the ring. It wavered, and then gradually turned towards her, swinging at length laterally from me to her, fast, and like a pendulum! Our grasp tightened firmly.

"Dear me!" exclaimed an old lady, "why, what affinities you must be to be sure! I never did!"

Miss Frazer blushed deeply, and suddenly withdrew her hand from mine. For the fourth time our eyes met in a full steady look. Was there an appeal in hers?

I could not tell. At that moment Harold Walden was announced, and the ring-trick tried no more. Miss Frazer and I parted friends, but before the party broke up I had been chatting with the elderly lady who had been so surprised by the ring. That lady was Mrs. Doubleday, Miss Frazer's aunt.

"Mind you come and see me," she said at parting. "I am going to Bath for Easter; my niece will be with me. You will be near Bath, you say?"

"Yes, at Clifton. I will call if you will permit me."

"Certainly," she said. "Minnie, Mr. Burton, will be at the ball at Bath after Easter."

"Indeed!" replied Miss Frazer; "we may meet again then. But Easter is a long time away!"

"Shall I come, Miss Frazer?" I said, boldly, as I bade her good night.

"If you like," she replied, "*I* have nothing to do with it. My aunt has invited you. Perhaps you had better accept the invitation."

We parted. We met again. We danced. No word of love ever passed my lips. She was engaged and sacred in my eyes. We met again, and the day after that last meeting I heard what many had known for some days. Harold's parents had interfered. He had an appointment offered him. If he married he could not go out and take it up. It was a prize for so young a man. Could Miss Frazer release him?

She did, with a few tears. Their parting was affectionate, but final. She ran away to stay with her aunt, and to grieve alone. Then we met as I have said, but nothing passed between us. She was marble now—she wore her mask of happiness with perhaps a breaking heart—who can tell?

The Frazers were furious, and for eighteen months never noticed the Waldens. At length matters mended, and Mrs. Walden, having taken The Lindens, determined to give a conciliating party. The Frazers were asked and accepted. I was asked and I accepted. Fate was drawing us nearer and nearer, when the unseen agency in the old mansion interfered, and—we were parted again!

But what says Longfellow?—

"Even as rivulets twain from different and separate courses,
Seeing each other afar as they leaped from the rocks, and pursuing
Each one its devious path; but, drawing nearer and nearer,
Rush together at last at their trysting-place in the forest
So these lives, that had run thus far in separate channels,
Coming in sight of each other, then swerving and flowing asunder;
Parted by barriers strong, but drawing nearer and nearer,
Rushed together at last, and one was lost in the other."

Events had proved too strong for me. But when I heard of Miss Frazer's presence at The Lindens I confess I started thither in the hope of prosecuting my suit with her. Ever since our first meeting I had loved her; and she—? Well, perhaps what I had read in those grey eyes gave me a little hope that if Fate should some time bring us together we would be happy.

This chapter may appear to have little bearing upon my tale, but it has a very great deal to do with it; and also with the curious events which happened at The Lindens while we remained there.

Now, let me resume my narrative of the Haunted House and its haunters.

CHAPTER III.

UNINVITED GUESTS.

"Which rooms will you have, sir?" asked the caretaker, as she opened the doors upstairs. "These is nice ones. Miss Frazer and her mother had this suite."

"Then I will have this suite," I replied, smiling, while Parkyn shook his head at me as if to intimate that I was very "far gone" indeed in love.

"Very well, sir. And you, sir? Will you have the adjoining rooms?"

"Yes, madam," replied Parkyn. "Any apartments your ladyship pleases. These will do nicely for your humble servant."

"Lor, sir, you do be making fun o' me. Humble servant, indeed! There's a precious few of 'em about; upstarts *I* call 'em—a-turning up their noses at honest vittles, and behaving as wild as hawkses and worse. Beg pardon, sir what did you say?"

"Only that when you have finished, madam, I would suggest warm water, a fire, and dinner. It is chilly here."

"That it be, sir. Well, I will get it all ready, though through your bein' unexpected, things is mixed."

Parkyn apparently did not wish to argue the point as to the manner in which our arrival, so unexpectedly, had caused any mixture in existing arrangements. He came into my little sitting-room which opened into a luxurious bed-room.

"George," I cried, "this is magnificent!"

"But cold," added Parkyn.

"My dear fellow, I am quite warm now. Certainly a fire would be an improvement. But here is our elderly Hebe."

Warm water, a couple of fires, and a change of dress soon made us quite comfortable. We descended to the small dining-room, a good-sized apartment, and twenty minutes' later sat down to an excellent meal.

Just as we were turning round to the fire, our glasses filled with ruby port which we had found in the cellaret, Parkyn said:

"Hark. Listen. Here are some more arrivals."

"What fun!" I remarked. "Wonder who they can be?"

The sound of carriage wheels and the stamping of horses succeeded. Then, ere we could remark upon the suddenness of the arrival, a loud rapping came at the front door.

"By Jove!" exclaimed Parkyn, "that man is in a hurry. Old madam must look alive."

No one came upstairs, however. The rapping was repeated. Parkyn rose.

"I'll open the blessed door," he said. "We shall have the house down soon."

He went out and opened the door. In a moment he returned somewhat hurriedly.

"Well, who are the new comers?" I said. "Have you told the footman there is no admittance?"

"Leonard," said my friend, gravely, and in such a tone that my blood ran cold, "there is no one there!"

"No one. No carriage—no horses?"

"No."

"You opened the door and saw nothing?"

"Nothing but snow, trees, and moonlight. It is a clear, frosty evening. Not a soul stirring."

Not a soul stirring! Was there not; were not many souls stirring that 23rd of December, 1882? Yes, indeed.

"This is very extraordinary," I said, as I emptied and filled my glass. "There may be something in the ghost after all."

Scarcely had I finished speaking when another knock came at the door.

"Your turn, Leonard," said Parkyn.

Unwillingly I rose, and leaving the dining-room door open went and opened the front door. The rattle of steps being let down, and the rustling of dresses, succeeded, and I remained spell-bound in the frosty air.

Something swept by me—a silk dress rustled past—the invisible steps of the invisible carriage were put up by an invisible servant, and the carriage, invisible, was turned towards the stable-yard at the side of the mansion. The sound of wheels grew fainter. Then from the opposite direction the same sound became audible; another carriage was approaching. Leaving the door ajar I hurried back to Parkyn.

He was as pale as death—ghastly!

Ere I could arouse him from his reverie another carriage drew up. Again the knocks: the door was pushed open—more arrivals; they all went upstairs; and then the carriage was driven off by the ghostly coachman to the stables.

"Shut the door. Let the old woman do as she pleases," said Parkyn, at last. "There is some trick in this, depend upon it. There is an echo, or we fancy we hear the carriages. I won't believe in ghosts driving about at ten o'clock at night."

"Shall we go out together, and try whether anyone is lurking about?" I suggested. "Perhaps the old dame is in league with her friends, and they wish to keep the house empty."

"But how do you account for the rustling of the dresses, and the rattling of the steps? the muffled sound of the wheels in the snow?"

"I cannot explain. But let us explore."

So we put on coats and hats, armed ourselves with sticks, and stepped noiselessly out. We crouched down behind the laurels, and waited.

The only sound audible at that moment seemed to come from inside the house. A subdued noise of the movement of people appeared to strike upon our ears. But we had scarcely time to speculate when the muffled tramp of horses' feet came audible. A carriage was approaching up the Avenue.

"Hush!" whispered Parkyn. "Watch very closely."

The sound came nearer and nearer. In a few moments a carriage (invisible) swept past, pulled up at the steps, and we fancied people, all invisible, alighted with the same ceremony of rattling steps and champing bits. Again and again was this mysterious drama acted, until at last twenty ghostly vehicles had come, and had all driven off, as it seemed, to the stables.

"There is something really extraordinary in this," remarked George Parkyn. "Let us go to the stables and examine them."

We required no light other than the brilliant moonbeams, which showed us our way clearly. No traces of wheels or of hoofs were visible on the untrodden snow, yet many carriages had been heard to go in this direction.

We soon reached the stables half concealed by trees and shrubs. The yard gates were open, the yard was empty. We passed into the stables and listened intently, a gentle murmur was audible, and a slight hissing sound like the escape of water at high pressure from a leaking tap. That was all, except that here and there a muffled stamp or a rattling noise as of blocks were heard. We could see nothing. But then Miss Frazer's remark concerning her cousin's estimate of myself came to my mind.

"She says *you* are almost a medium." Then I remembered how the cousin (Lily) and I had spoken of this, and how she had seen by my expression she declared that I was sensitive of spiritual influences and likely to be affected by them. Perhaps I might by exercise of will fathom this mystery, but all my "willing" was vain. I had no power over these ghosts.

"Well," said Parkyn at last, "we may give up this wild-ghost chase. It is all humbug, of course, but nevertheless I cannot understand it. Never could."

"Let us go in," I said. "I am chilly. We will have the old lady up and question her."

We returned to the house, and had scarcely seated ourselves by the fire in the dining-room, when we were both startled by the strains of distant and stately music, played in minuet time, with exquisite cadence.

The effect anywhere would have been curious. In the empty house it was weird! Through the long dark passages and empty chambers, down the broad staircase to the hall, came the sweet, faint, sound of old-time music, the graceful minuet and anon a more lively measure suggestive of the maypole or the contra dance.

We listened spell-bound for a time. Neither of us felt inclined to go upstairs, fearing to break the spell. After various pauses the music ceased longer than usual; and then Parkyn rang the bell.

"Madam," said he, when the old woman appeared, and somewhat sleepy, "we would be informed what guests you have invited this evening, and how long you intend to keep up your entertainment?"

"Lor, sir, *me* entertain parties! There's not a mortal person in the house, I warrant, but ourselves. The music is the ghosts.'"

"Do you mean to tell me, madam, that this music is not all humbug and nonsense to alarm us?"

"Yes, sir, I do. The music and the ghosts is here to-night. You may have heard them coming in. They come here as they used to do in the old squire's time, many a year ago, as I've heard my mother tell. I often hear them."

"And are you not afraid?" I asked.

"Dear, no," she replied. "They never hurts, they don't. The music it is very pleasant, and mostly sends one to sleep. In the summer it is very pretty, and lots o' people come to hear it."

"Wonderful," was all we could say.

"Do you want anything more, gentlemen?" asked the old dame.

"Who was this old squire you mentioned, and why do the ghosts come still?" asked Parkyn.

"Because he asked them all," she replied. "Many a time I've heard the story how he gave parties and the ghosts (particularly ghostesses) came here."

"Tell us the legend, madam, and drink a glass of wine with me," said Parkyn, the polite. His politeness rather embarrassed the old woman, though.

"You be a main funny gentleman," was all she said, smiling; "a mad-damning me like a lady who is but a housekeeper, and an old servant."

"All the more deserving, madam," replied Parkyn, with a smile. "Your health, old lady; they are at supper, I presume, as the music has ceased. Proceed, if you please."

"Ah, sir, it's all well enough to la wait and see! Wait and see!"

CHAPTER IV.

THE HOUSEKEEPER'S STORY.—THE APPARITION.—A SUDDEN DEPARTURE.—JUST IN TIME.—CONCLUSION.

"It was, as I have heard my mother say, a fine time here when Sir Randolph had the property. There was eating and drinking and hunting day after day; dicing and gaming at night, also with drinking. Many a poor young man has been killed in the meadow yonder in duels which arose over the dice and cards.

"Sir Randolph, the 'old squire,' as they called him, was always entertaining people, until he become rather 'cracked'—saving your presence and his. Then, after a while, his friends fell off, and his parties were not so respectable, though, if all I heard is true, the ladies and gentlefolks had not much the best of it. Anyhow, the people fell off, and even the dis-respectable ones wouldn't come so far as this at last.

"So Sir Randolph was all alone, with only the servants, but every day he would have dinner laid for fifteen or twenty people.

"'I have asked my old friends to come, dead or alive,' he used to say, 'and come they will.'

"Sometimes a neighbour or two would dine here, and then it was just the same. The squire used to introduce these neighbours to his imaginary friends—Lady this, or Mistress that, with Sir somebody something else, all in regular order. He never forgot rank or position, sir. Never! He used to lead My Lady to the chair on his right, and put another Ghost on his left hand. Then he would address them, and take wine with them, in order, never forgetting a person, or the station of anyone.

"Besides, he expected his guests to enter into conversation with his Ghosts. If you came you had to chat with the vacant chair next you or with him. You had to wait for an answer too, and continue all the time pleased and entertained.

"The neighbours were at first amused and then terrified. They quite deserted the old man at last, but he continued his business alone, chattering and doing the honours by himself, making the servants wait on apparently empty places. The carriages would come and be announced, and Sir Randolph would invite them to come for ever and ever, for eternity if they liked, and welcome! He would himself call the carriages—the Lovells, the Hardys, the Gearys, the Harleys, the Frazers——"

"The Frazers!" I exclaimed.

"Yes, sir, ancestors of the old gentleman who was here the other day. Them and a lot more was invited, particularly at Christmas, when a large party always came. He managed the whole thing himself, and saw there was plenty of victuals and drink.

"Since his death the company has come regularly as he invited them. Many times during the year, winter and summer, the parties drive up, and the music commences. Then, early in the morning, they go away as they came—all invisible, though you can hear them plain enough. Perhaps we could see them if we were good enough, too. But I never seen 'em, though once, one of our maidens, who was in consumption, declared she saw a lady, who beckoned her to put on her cloak, and she did so.

"The lady gave her some money, which she put in her pocket and brought to us next day. The coin was a piece of stone cut out from some wall or slab; and you will scarcely believe me, gentlemen, but it was found to have been broken or cut from the churchyard grave of the girl's mother, and in less than three months the housemaid was dead and buried in the same place!"

"Curious, if true!" remarked Parkyn.

"It's quite true, sir. Many here can tell you the same. The girl left me the piece of stone which they say if any one holds, and waits in the long gallery he will see the ghost, and also hear the future or see presented to him what is happening to those dearest to him."

"Like the scene in the 'Corsican Brothers,'" said Parkyn. "Go on, madam."

"Never seen the gentlemen here, sir," continued the housekeeper. "They didn't come this year nor last. We had the 'Bounding Brothers' at the circus —if——"

"No relations, madam, believe me. So, if my friend here holds the ghostly coin, and stands in the gallery, he will see his future, eh?"

"Yes, sir, so they tell me. If he ain't afeard and is strong-willed, he may see his lady-love, I'm told."

"If I could believe that," I began, but stopped, ashamed.

"Believe it? Nonsense! rubbish!" cried Parkyn. "Let's go to bed. We will inspect the gallery in the morning. Good night."

We parted. The ghosts were quite still. But when I reached my rooms I could hear the strains of distant music again.

"I wish I had the talisman," I muttered. "I would give anything to know whether Minnie Frazer is thinking of me."

I had heard or read that when two souls really in accord think of each other at the same time they are each in a measure sensible of the presence of the other. I was always thinking of Minnie. She exercised a most peculiar fascination for me, and at The Lindens I was particularly occupied with her.

I looked at my watch as I wound it. It was past one o'clock. Not very likely that Miss Frazer would be thinking of me at 1 a.m. Yet I pictured her to my mind. Here was I in the suite of apartments so lately occupied by her and her mother. My affection for Minnie was one of those absorbing affections which appear so unreasoning and unreasonable, and yet which are so naturally born of admiration and respect, but suddenly, passionately, with an all-pervading sense of longing to see the object, while recognising the folly of the passion—maybe its hopelessness.

Minnie certainly seemed in a worldly and social sense far out of my reach. Yet, had not she been so when we first met, and yet I had loved her! She had not checked my attentions—probably believing herself quite secure against any feeling nearer than acquaintanceship or friendship—and yet her eyes told my a tale which I dared to interpret in my own way. A longing look in them—a look unconsciously betrayed to me—gave me hope; then, contrary to all expectations and probability, her engagement was suddenly broken, and now she was free—free to be my wife! I loved her devotedly—passionately. Did she care for me? Could I persuade her to marry me? Was my Will the stronger? That I would ascertain.

Nonsense, all this force of will, you say! Is it? Take a common case. In an omnibus for instance. Look at a person, an entire stranger, and you will, in many cases, force him or her to turn and look at you. This is power of will, of soul over soul. Why, then, should we not have dominion in many cases over *absent* souls?

Two o'clock struck while I was musing upon Minnie, and I determined to write to her. I suddenly became assured that we were somehow in communication. I *felt* she was near me in spirit, and under the influence of this feeling I acted. Entering the boudoir I sat down, and drawing paper and pens towards me, began to write. On the table lay a piece of stone!

The Talisman!

The fire was burning brightly. In the air lingered the sad sound of the ghostly music which soothed me.

Seizing a pen I wrote—it was no time for half measures—"My dearest——"

I paused and thought how I should continue. "My dearest" was rather—nay, it is a *very* affectionate, and to a young lady a startling commencement to a letter—a first letter—but I let it remain.

"My Dearest Miss Frazer,—

"Ever since I first had the pleasure of meeting you, I have loved you, and were it not madness I would fain hope that you care for me—a little too. Hitherto we have not met frequently, for obvious reasons; but, now that all barriers, I trust, have been removed, may I venture to hope that I am not quite indifferent to you? Oh, if you could only know my feelings, the deep love I have cherished unknown to you—for yourself, you would, I believe, at any rate *pity* me. If you could only see me—once——"

What was that? A sigh?

I looked up. Seated before me, a pencil in her hand, as if she were writing a memorandum in a diary, sat Minnie Frazer herself, in evening dress—a beautiful picture. Minnie? Yes, she was there!

I scarcely dared to breathe. I was not terrified, but spell-bound. The figure in its ball-dress, the flowers in the corsage, the beautiful white arms and hands were all distinct. A string of pearls encircled her rounded throat, making it more rounded in its contour, as it rivalled the pearls in whiteness and beauty.

"Minnie," I gasped. "Minnie!"

The figure raised its head. One imploring look, and then it continued writing. An irresistible impulse compelled me to try to decipher the characters on the leaves. I moved gently. I managed to descry a few words. They were simply these:

"I wish Mr. B—— had been there. Alas, it is no use wishing! He will not come now, and we leave on Monday."

I put out my hand to grasp the paper and the hand resting on it. The vision vanished. Gone, oh, my darling, gone!

I started up and gazed around the room. Madly I called upon her to return. I begged, with the "talisman in my hand. I implored the vision to return, but nothing answered me, save the sound of a long-drawn sigh, which seemed to come from above.

My resolution was taken at once. I would return to town by the first train in the morning to Miss Frazer, and decide my fate. I packed my slender baggage at an early hour, and when the old dame came to call me I was already dressed. She was greatly surprised when I announced my intention to return, but confessed to leaving the "talisman" in my room. Parkyn chaffed me unmercifully concerning the ghosts—and my fears. I remained positive, and left him at The Lindens, alone.

The snow delayed the train—it was late, of course, and luncheon time had passed when I reached London-bridge. The wintry evening was already settling down in frost and fog upon the City as I quitted it for my chambers. Once arrived there matters became more clear. A call at the Frazers would not be out of the way, and, Christmas Eve though it was, I would go.

A hansom deposited me at the door at four o'clock. Mrs. Frazer was at home; but after waiting a moment in the drawing-room alone Miss Frazer came in.

"I am very sorry mamma cannot receive you, Mr. Burton. Just before you came she had a slight fall on the stairs, and she is lying down; so you must excuse her."

"Willingly," I was about to say, but checked myself in time. After expressing a proper amount of regret, I said:

"So you are leaving town soon?"

"Who could have told you that," she replied, quickly. "We only decided on the move last evening!"

"Miss Frazer," I said, spurred on by Fate, "Listen to me, please, for a few moments. Do you remember what I once said to you at a dinner party months ago about Fate?"

"At the Actons? Yes, quite well. It seemed so curious and original to me. Well, Mr. Burton?"

"Minnie, dearest Minnie, listen. Last night I was at The Lindens——"

"At The Lindens! Why, it is haunted. We all quitted it in sheer fright!"

"I know; but Mrs. Walden did not tell me nor my friend, Parkyn—you know him—and we found ourselves there alone. Last night, or rather this morning at two o'clock, I was writing to you."

"To me, Mr. Burton? Writing to *me*!"

"Yes, Miss Frazer, to *you*, to tell you how I had loved you since first we met—how dearly I love you still. Wait a moment—let me tell you all. As I was writing, your spirit, your spectre, call it what you please, became visible to me as in my agony and pain of love I called upon your name. You were seated writing. I saw you in your ball dress and pearl necklet, writing. Shall I tell you what I read?"

She made no answer. The grey eyes were veiled, the full bosom heaved and throbbed—but Minnie was silent.

"You wrote: '*I wish Mr. B—— had been there. Alas! it is no use wishing. He will not come now, and we leave on Monday!*' Oh, my dearest, is it possible you were thinking of me as I was thinking of you? Tell me, Minnie, my darling, my love! Do not leave me longer in suspense. The paper decided me; here I am come to learn my 'fate.' To-night I will return to The Lindens."

Miss Frazer was utterly confounded and taken aback. Deep blushes suffused her cheeks; her eyes were hidden; but when I grasped her hand she did immediately withdraw it. At last she said:

"Mr. Burton. *is* this true? Is not your narrative —pardon me—fictitious or partly a fiction? That I *did* write something in my diary last night, on my return from Mrs. Allingham's little dance is true, but——"

"How else could I know the words, or of your intended departure? Oh, Miss Frazer—Minnie—do not be cruel. Tell me, for pity's sake, do you think you can love me?"

"I cannot tell you now; there are reasons; but I *like* you very much, and since I lost Harold, I have never cared for anyone as I care for you!"

"Must I be contented with that?" I asked, humbly. "Is there no other hope? In future perhaps——"

"Wait and see," she replied, gravely, but with some tenderness, too. "Let the future take care of itself. We are friends still; we may meet, again. Good bye—for the present."

"I will wait, Minnie; I will wait in hope—till you and I are united. You do not think badly of me, then?"

"No, indeed," she answered. "There is no other except yourself; but I do not love you as I ought to love my husband. Do not ask for more now. Please go!"

I went. She and her parents left London. I wrote to her twice, and she answered my letters. Then the season came round again. We met continually, but never referred to the past except indirectly.

At length, on a late June evening, we suddenly encountered each other on a balcony outside a grand mansion where dancing was going on. I had been taken to the ball by Mrs. Acton, and being unprovided with a partner, strolled out into the moonlighted balcony, and recognised—Miss Frazer!

We started mutually—the meeting was so totally unexpected. But we were *destined* to meet! A great wave of love surged in my heart, and I determined to bring things to a crisis now. After a few commonplaces I said—

"Miss Frazer, I am leaving town in a week. Do you remember our last compact? Can you listen to my suit *now*? Can you—oh, darling, *will* you be my wife?"

She looked up, and her great grey, lustrous eyes met mine fearlessly. After a pause, as if debating with herself, she whispered, almost fondly—

"I would willingly pass the remainder of my life with you, if——"

"If what? Do you not love me? Oh, Minnie, Minnie, do not say that! If you only knew how I loved *you*! *Do* you love *me*?"

"Yes, dear," she replied gently, with a sweet frankness I shall never forget. "Yes, I *do love you, Leonard, after all my struggling against it!*"

* * * *

My tale is told. We are not married yet. Minnie is not yet wholly mine. Events, which it is undesirable to enter upon, have, for a little time, parted us; but we are the same in heart and in our love. The Lindens is still unlet, but if things turn out as I expect next Christmas, when Minnie and I shall be again together, I intend to go down there and purchase the deserted mansion, which can be had "for a song." The ghosts and the music are still heard. This is no fiction, any more than I or Minnie are fictions. We are both alive and well—*almost* happy—apart, but looking forward to the day when our "fate" shall be accomplished; when there shall be no more partings, nor sorrow.

THE END.

A LETTER FOR LADIES.

Christmas Day has gone at last, and many of us are not altogether sorry it is over. To the children it is indeed a delightful time, looked forward to for months before, and remembered for week's 'afterwards, but to many of us older people it means living at high pressure, and having to get through about double our ordinary amount of work. The housekeeper's cares are many at this period, paterfamilias has to work much harder in anticipation of his holiday, and to most of us comes the anxious burden of Christmas presents—the fear of leaving somebody out, or giving them something that they do not care for. When, however, all this is over, the presents dispensed, the Christmas cards sent off, and the Christmas party become a thing of the past, we feel a certain sense of relief, and think that things have not turned out so badly after all.

The Christmas pudding has been heartily stirred, and we have all ensured our good luck for the coming year by having a hand in the stirring. Even the youngest one has taken the spoon in his chubby fist, and though his feeble dabbings may not have greatly improved the pudding let us hope that they will be beneficial to his future career.

Another novel feature in the shop-windows has been the abundance of little wax figures dressed up in fancy costumes. Children's fancy dress balls are now so common that it is certainly a saving of trouble to be able to buy dresses ready-made, and the windows are full of little Buy-a-broom girls and Dick Whittingtons, and other historical characters. The idea is excellent, and probably in process of time it will be better carried out. Some of the styles are pretty, but the colours are in nearly every case too bright. This is a very common mistake in fancy dress, but it is a pity to vulgarise a pretty child by dressing it in violent hues.

Children's party-dresses are very pretty this year, and are nearly all made high to the throat. This is a fashion which I am sure Lady Harberton's Dress Reform Society would approve of, for the colds and coughs which were due to the old system must have been simply innumerable. The little dresses are made chiefly of surah or merveilleux, whilst some simpler ones are made of cream-coloured nun's veiling. Finer dresses still and equally sensible are the sweet little plush bodices and tunics worn over a skirt of écru lace. These are also high to the throat with a down-turned frill of lace. The sleeves are made in one large puff, reaching to the elbow, where they terminate in a full lace frill.

The exhibition of the toys collected by the editor of *Truth* for distribution among the poor children in the hospitals and workhouses was held last week, at Limmer's Hotel, in Conduit-street. Each child will receive a toy for its own amusement, while in addition to this two or three large ones will be presented to each institution for the general use of the inmates. A lady residing abroad has sent 15 large musical boxes (valued altogether at £100) whilst another anonymous donor has sent 8,000 sixpences to be distributed among the workhouse children. It did one's heart good to look round and see the toys, and picture the delight of these poor little waifs and strays, who get so few gleams of brightness in their lives. This is now the fifth year that Mr. Labouchere has organised this excellent charity, and the amount of subscriptions have increased in the most extraordinary manner. The first year only a thousand toys were given away, but this year it has been found possible to include every child in the hospitals, workhouses, workhouse infirmaries, and workhouse schools of London, amounting in all to 11,175. The most interesting part of the exhibition was certainly the home-made toys. They were all placed together on a long centre table and repaid the minutest inspection. In some cases the makers sent an explanation of the materials of which their exhibits were made, and it was most interesting to see what curious little odds and ends entered into the composition of some of them. A perfect model of a six-sided summer-house was made of cedar spills and mounted on the bottom of an old bill-file; its little door opened and shut, and the handle was composed of a metal glove-button. A most charming little suite of chairs and tables was made of chestnuts. The nut itself formed the seat, with its rounded side upwards, its tough skin producing very much the effect of brown leather, the legs and backs of the chairs were formed of pins stuck into the chestnut and neatly covered over with rows of pale blue yarn.

Very charming was a representation of the barley-sugar house dear to us from our childish days as the abode of Hans and Grethel. The cottage was modelled in so artistic a fashion that only the keenest scrutiny would convince one that it was made of veritable sweetmeats. The bricks were made of squares of chocolate and other sweets, the windows were made of gelatine. Ratifias were freely used in the process of house decoration, and a dear little gingerbread bench was placed outside the porch. The roof was composed of a paste made of flour and water and sugar, which had very much the effect of snow. A china old woman sat in the doorway, whilst a china Hans and Grethel sat at one side of the angelica-covered landscape.

A beautiful model, representing the seaside, was only a little spoilt by being somewhat overcrowded. There were numbers of little kiosks and seaside shops, carriages and wagons, and lamp posts with a single crystal bead for the lamp. Every kind of amusement was in progress on the beach. Here was a group of nigger minstrels, listened to by a number of little china children of the Darby and Joan order, who were seated in a semicircle round them; here was a group of performing dogs, with a similar kind of audience. A tiny Punch and Judy show was amongst the rival attractions; whilst a man selling air-balls stood on one side, the balls being rendered by pearl beads of various colours.

A representation of a harvest home was the best model for artistic arrangement. A triumphal arch is reared at one side, formed of moss and red and blue china ribbon, the hay-makers stand about in groups, holding hay-rakes of about the size of a lucifer match. The little cart containing the last load is drawn into the meadow, and a tent containing a cold collation and tiny rout seats is placed at one side of the landscape. The squire and his wife are approaching the festive scene in the distance, whilst a tiny china doll, dressed up like a peasant, presents them with a bouquet of flowers.

CANNES.—The most popular of all excursions around Cannes is that by boat or steamer to the Islands of St. Marguerite and St. Honorat. The fortress founded by Richelieu in the former island is historically interesting, as the place where first the Man in the Iron Mask was imprisoned, and subsequently Marshal Bazaine. One hears so much in the locality about these incidents that they almost cease to interest. The mystery connected with the former personage has never been satisfactorily cleared up; and his existence has grown into a kind of myth, round which all kinds of supposititious stories and romantic conjectures have gathered. The fortress is still used as a prison for Arab criminals, who are sent there from Algeria. Their dignified attitudes, dark wild faces, and oriental dresses made up a picturesque and interesting sight. Accustomed to the free life of the Desert, their confinement in the frotress must be peculiarly irksome to them. The island is covered almost entirely with a forest of splendid umbrella pines.—*Art Journal.*

A DEATH WARNING.—Towards the close of November, 1779, Lord Lyttelton had gone down from London to Pit place for the purpose of spending a week or two in field sports or other recreation, and he had taken with him a gay party of friends. On the 24th of that month he had retired to bed at midnight, after spending the evening at cards with his guests, when his attention was attracted by the fluttering of a bird, apparently a dove or a pigeon, tapping at the window of his bedchamber. He started, for he had only just put out his light, and was about to compose himself to rest, and sat up in bed to listen. He had gazed and listened for a minute or so, when he saw, or at all events fancied he saw, a female clothed in white enter—whether by the door or by the window we are not informed—and quietly approach the foot of his bed. He was somewhat surprised, and not agreeably surprised, when the figure opened its pale lips and told him that three days from that very hour he should cease to live. In whatever manner this intimation, real or unreal from the other world was conveyed to him, whether by sound of the voice or by any other mode of communication, one thing is certain, that Lord Lyttelton regarded it as a reality, and a message from the world of spirits. The third night came, and everything had gone on as usual. The guests had sat down to dinner, played their rubbers of whist, and retired, but none of them had dared to rally the young Lord Lyttelton on the depression of spirits under which he laboured. Eleven o'clock came; the party broke up and went to their several rooms, wishing each other good night, and heartily desiring that the night were past and gone, so restless, anxious, and uncomfortable did they feel without exception. Twelve o'clock came; and Lord Lyttelton was sitting up in bed, having given his servant orders to mix him a dose of rhubarb, though apparently in the best of health. The dose was poured out, and he was just about to take it when he found that there was no teaspoon. A little out of patience with the valet for neglecting to have a spoon at hand, he ordered him to go and fetch one from the pantry at the foot of the stairs. The man was not absent from the room for more than a minute, or possibly a minute and a half, but when he returned he found his master lying back upon the bed speechless and motionless. No efforts to restore animation were of any avail, and no symptom of consciousness showed itself. His lordship was dead, having died on the third day, as the spectre had foretold.

HOT AND STRONG FOR THE BISHOP.—*The Out-of-Door Life of the Rev. John Russell* contains the following description of the reception which Parson Froude is said to have given to his diocesan, the late Lord Bishop of Exeter. Week after week sundry newspapers had been publishing articles of the most scurrilous description, headed "Knowstone Again," the burden of which reflected on Froude's mode of life and the lawless acts perpetrated in that parish. These of course never failed to reach the bishop's eye; consequently the stout-hearted prelate, always a friend to be depended on when his clergy were, as he thought, unfairly assailed, summoned Mr Froude to appear at the palace and explain the grave charges thus publicly brought against him. But neither did Froude obey the summons nor would he give the bishop a chance of wigging him by attending his visitations; so, like Mahomet and the mountain, the bishop determined to go to him—a course which, short of legal proceedings, was the only one now open to him. Accordingly, on a bitter winter morning, the bishop, conveyed by a post-chaise from Tiverton, arrived at Knowstone Vicarage, and, having inquired if Mr. Froude were at home, was told he was, on hearing which he entered the house. After a short delay in the cold guest-chamber, the bishop was shown into another apartment, where sat Mr. Froude before a comfortable fire, his head muffled in flannel and his voice apparently as hoarse as that of a carrion crow. "I've come to see you, Mr. Froude," commenced the bishop, "to inquire if—" "Oh, yes, my lord! 'Tis cold work, sure enough, travelling over our moors. But do'ee take a glass of hot brandy-and-water; 'twill keep off the shivers when naught else will." Then, in spite of the bishop's protestations that he needed no alcohol, especially in the morning, Froude rang the bell and ordered a glass of brandy-and-water to be mixed forthwith, "hot and strong for the bishop." Again his lordship positively declined the stimulant, and endeavoured to explain the object of his visit; but Froude, apparently not hearing a word he had uttered, cut him short by saying, "It's my only doctor, my lord, is a drop of brandy; and, if I had been taken it when I got my chill, I shouldn't now be as I be, deaf as a haddock and nursing this fire like an old woman." The bishop would hear no more; but, making him a grave bow, took his leave, entered his carriage, and returned whence he came. In ten minutes from that time, so goes the story, Froude was seen to mount his horse and trot away in company with his hounds.

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From the SATURDAY REVIEW.
TWO SUMMER STORIES.

Those wandering Englishmen who have found themselves on the lofty piazzas of a Saratoga hotel in the height of the torrid season, or who have sat in cool comfort on the hospitable verandahs of a Newport cottage, where lawns of an almost English richness of verdure slope away to the pleasant waters of Narragansett Bay, cannot but have made the acquaintance of a variety of fiction known in the United States as the "summer novel." The wandering Englishman will, no doubt, have seen many of the pretty girls of America reading the flat quarto pamphlets into one of which the pirate-publisher reprints the solid three volumes of the English novel; but he must have noticed, by the side of these thin piratical octavos, certain stouter octavo volumes stitched in paper covers. These latter were Summer Novels, and they are generally of American authorship. Their chief characteristics are brevity and liveliness; for the Summer Novel is the reverse of the Convalescent Novel. As we understand the matter, the convalescent requires a novel of gentle interest, of exciting episode, and of interminable length; while the general reader in summer seeks rather for a short tale which will keep him quietly awake during a sultry afternoon. The ideal Convalescent Novel is the great epic of the great Dumas, with its many sequels, wherein all the daring deeds are duly set down of the Three Musketeers. The ideal Summer Novel is Mr. Howell's "A Chance Acquaintance" or Mr. James's "Siege of London," truly books for an idle hour—bright and brief. It is as Summer Novels that we must describe the two books* before us. One of them is American in authorship and the other is English; one of them is by an experienced teller of tales, and the other is plainly enough a first attempt; one of them is by a man, and the other, in spite of a masculine *nom de guerre*, is obviously the handiwork of a woman; one covers almost the whole of the heroine's life and the other confines itself to the setting forth of the events of six weeks; but the one and the other are Summer Novels in their brevity, their simplicity of plot, and their liveliness of narration. "In Sunny Switzerland" is the work of an educated lady—a book which can be taken up with pleasure. The sentiment is wholesome, and it does not sink into sentimentality. The character of Mr. Folliot is very neatly hit off, and suggests that the writer may develop a strong power of character-drawing; and the two sisters, Eleanor and Verna, are painted with sympathetic touches.

---

* *The Fortunes of Rachel.* By Edward Everett Hale. *In Sunny Switzerland: a Story of Six Weeks.* By Rowland Grey. London: KEGAN PAUL & Co. Price 5s.

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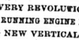

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CHRISTMAS CARDS.—The Cheapest Packet, containing really first-class CHRISTMAS CARDS (In two series. SERIES 1, 12 Cards, 1s. 1d., post free; SERIES 2, 11 Cards, 1s. 1d., post free), is that issued by C. W. STIDSTONE, 33, Moorgate Street, London, E.C. Illustrated List post free.

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PATENT EYELETTED SEAM CORSET.
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EYELETTED FROM TOP TO BOTTOM of each seam, making the strongest seam ever known, and providing the necessary ventilation, without which no article of under-clothing is perfect.
The Makers undertake to re-place, gratis, every pair giving way at the seams.
Drab, Fawn, White, &c. - 5/6
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As imperfect imitations are being offered, please see that "SYMINGTON'S" is stamped on the Lining.
From Drapers and Ladies' Outfitters.

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

HOGE'S
HOREHOUND
HONEY
FOR THE PROMPT RELIEF OF CHEST COMPLAINTS, COUGHS, AND SORE-THROATS.
SUPPLIED BY ALL CHEMISTS.
The safest and most efficacious remedy ever discovered for all pulmonary diseases, sore or congested lungs, consumption, coughs, colds, sore throats, hoarseness, &c. An uncompounded product of Nature secreted in the petals of Horehound blossoms, and gathered by the honey bee.
SUCCESS IN THE PURSUITS OF LIFE depends much on a thorough knowledge of every branch pertaining to the vocation the individual chooses to follow. Yielding to the early inclination of making the study of the honey bee a professional one, Mr. Hoge's life-long association and continual study has been with them. This gave him unequalled facilities for investigating the curative properties of various kinds of honeys, and enabled him to discover and corroborate the wonderful healing powers of Horehound Honey.
IT IS A COMMON ERROR to think that any kind of Honey will make a good cough mixture, and we regret to say most chemists employ Honey as a basis for such medicines, without the least discrimination as to its source. It would be just as rational to expect any kind of bark to make good quinine. Francois Huber, Baron Liebig, and Sir John Lubbock agree with all other investigating naturalists in the assertion—that the characteristics of various Honeys are attributable to the plants from which they are gathered. Xenophon tells us that all his soldiers who ate of the Honey found in the villages on the mountains of the Colchians lost their senses; that those who ate but little were like men very drunk, and those who ate much like madmen. Pliny accounts for this by saying the honey was gathered from the flowers called *Rhododendros*, while of the Horehound plant Keats beautifully says—
"The bee, with sense so subtly true,
From *Horehound* herbs extracts the healing dew."
HONEY IS NOT MADE BY THE BEES, they are simply the vehicles provided by an all-wise Providence for *conveying* the Honey from the petals of the blooms and depositing it into the cells of the honeycomb. Notice a bee as it alights and insinuates itself into the very heart of the flowers, and you will have no difficulty in observing by a telescope motion of its body that it is sucking or rather pumping the drop of nectar into its honey sack, which is lined with a muscular tissue. When filled, the little almoner of nature flies away to its hive, and, by compressing the muscles of its honey sack, deposits the Honey into the cells. The Honey undergoes no digestion, and is chemically the same in the hive as in the petal of the flower.
The LORD MAYOR of LONDON ORDERS IT.
MANSION HOUSE, LONDON, E.C.,
September, 28, 1883.
The LORD MAYOR would thank Messrs. W. M. Hoge and Co. to send him half a dozen of their Hoge's Horehound Honey, which has been *well recommended* to him.
W. L. BRIGHT, Esq., son of the Right Hon. John Bright, M.P., says Hoge's Horehound Honey CURED his father of a bad cough.
WHAT THE CLERGY SAY OF IT:—
ELY, CAMBS., *May*, 1883.
The Rev. C. D. KINGDON has great pleasure in bearing testimony to the excellent properties of Hoge's Horehound Honey for preaching. It makes the voice clear and pleasant, and takes away all that huskiness in the throat which is so uncomfortable to preacher and congregation.
THE PRIMA DONNA.
HAWTHORN LODGE,
FINCHLEY NEW ROAD, N.W.,
March 30, 1883.
Messrs. W. M. HOGE & Co., London.
GENTLEMEN,—I have much pleasure in stating that I consider your Horehound Honey the most wonderful remedy I have ever tried, possessing properties which are nothing short of marvellous for the cure of affections of the throat and chest. I shall never be without a bottle of Horehound Honey.—Yours very truly, MARIE ROZE.
Your Honey is delicious. ELLEN TERRY.
From the CHAMPION BILLIARD PLAYER.
33, MARYLANDS ROAD,
WESTBOURNE PARK,
October 27, 1883.
Messrs. W. M. HOGE & Co.
GENTLEMEN,—I have much pleasure in certifying to the excellence of your Horehound Honey. I have found great relief from taking it, and strongly recommend it for coughs.—Yours faithfully,
JOHN ROBERTS, JUN.
WHAT IT DID FOR GEO. F. BLACK, Esq.
7, SUFFOLK LANE, CANNON STREET, E.C.,
LONDON, *April* 20, 1883.
Messrs. W. M. HOGE & Co., London.
GENTLEMEN,—Having suffered for many years with irritation of the throat and chest, I never found any remedy to relieve the irritation until I purchased a bottle of your Horehound Honey, which I did a few days since. I want to inform you it had a wonderful soothing effect, affording relief at once. Please send me one dozen bottles, and oblige,
Yours truly, G. F. BLACK.
PUT UP IN LARGE BOTTLES,
PRICE, 1s. 1½d. PER BOTTLE.
And Supplied by all Chemists.
WHOLESALE BY
HOGE'S HONEY COMPANY, LIMITED.
12, GREAT EASTERN STREET, LON

POST FREE FOR SIX STAMPS.
The MARVELLOUS WORK on
CONSUMPTION,
BY GEORGE THOMAS CONGREVE,
Coombe Lodge, Peckham, London, S.E.
Mr. Congreve is publishing ONE RECENT CASE of CURE EVERY WEEK in the "Christian World" and other Weeklies.
NEARLY 100,000 SOLD!

FOGS
And DAMP AIR produce
Catarrh, Coughs, Hoarseness.
THE FINEST REMEDY FOR
COLDS, COUGHS, etc.,
IS
CONGREVE'S
BALSAMIC ELIXIR,
In bottles, 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., and 4s. 6d.
SOLD BY ALL MEDICINE HOUSES.

CONSETT COUNTY COURT.

Wednesday, Jan. 7th.—Before His Honour E. J. Meynell, Esq., Judge.

THE ILLEGAL DISTRAINT.

Jackson v Frosdick.—At the October sitting of the County Court, Charles Jackson and his father, Robert Jackson (now deceased) obtained a judgment against James Frosdick, bill-poster, &c., of Consett, for £3 5s 2d, for an illegal distraint made on the 12th August last. The money was ordered to be paid in a single instalment, but as the defendant had failed to do so, he was now summoned to show cause why he had not paid it.—Defendant was examined by Mr Joliffe, of Newcastle (who represented the plaintiff). He said that the house he was residing in, situate in Medomsley Road, was not his own property, but belonged to Mr Brodie. He had not paid any rent lately, but the agreement was for 6s 6d per week. He had built four houses at the top of Mount Pleasant, which were worth perhaps about £500. The houses, however, were mortgaged in a Building Society for £565. The rents from them would realise £1 per week. He possessed other 12 houses, which were mortgaged for about £600, and simply brought in something like 3s a week. The whole of these houses were only worth about £450, the value having being reduced in consequence of the depression in trade. He did not possess any horses, as he sold his animals as well as his carts three months ago. He only made between 5s and 6s per week out of the bill-posting business, but there had not been any trade recently. The bill of sale was for £180, which was paid off about two months ago. He (defendant) was ordered to pay £2, but as he was not in a position to raise that sum, he borrowed the money from a friend, and he (Frosdick) allowed him to mortgage his house.—His Honour: How much is your furniture worth?—Defendant: Not much. There are only two small rooms furnished. I have been trying my best to get this matter settled.—His Honour: Well, you had better make the plaintiff an offer, otherwise he can seize your furniture.—Defendant: I cannot do anything at present.—His Honour: Very well. The case is struck out.

MAN AND WIFE.

Brown v. Fairlamb.—Peter Brown, of Medomsley Edge, sued John Fairlamb and his wife for 17s, for goods procured by the latter prior to her marriage in August, 1882.—Judgment was given for plaintiff for payment at 1s per month; but His Honour informed Mrs Fairlamb that she was not obliged to pay the money out of her husband's cash, if she had any of her own.

THE ALLEGED BETTING TRANSACTION.

Brown v. Heslop.—In this action, adjourned from last Court, His Honour, after hearing further evidence, decided in favour of the defendant.

IMPORTANT ACTION FOR DAMAGES: AMUSING CASE.

Moore v. Moffatt.—In this action Wm. Moore, Shotley Bridge, claimed £25 from Robert Moffatt, cartwright, Medomsley, under the following circumstances:—£20 as damage for an assault committed upon him by the defendant; £2 10s for trespass upon the plaintiff's property; and £2 10s for repeatedly obstructing within the past three months the plaintiff's right of way to his land.—Mr Boyd, barrister (Newcastle), was counsel for the plaintiff; while Mr Greenwell, barrister (Durham) conducted the defence.—The question of plaintiff's right to the title was raised at the outset, but after a brief conversation, Mr Greenwell intimated that they did not dispute the title.—Mr Boyd, in the course of a lengthy opening, said that in 1849, plaintiff bought certain property from a Mr Dyson Hunter, and at that period he entered possession, although he did not receive his title deeds until 1854. There was a plan attached to the deeds, to which he (Mr Boyd) would if necessary call His Honour's attention. [His Honour examined several plans, prepared by Mr Smith, Shotley Bridge, and counsel for both parties pointed out the relative positions of plot of land and piece of road in question.] From that date down to the present day, his client had been accustomed to use a piece of road—or, more properly, waste ground—in order to reach his land; and which eventually branched into the Newcastle main turnpike road. Up to quite recently plaintiff had passed to and fro along this road without any interference or obstruction. A few years ago, however, defendant purchased a squatters' home, or piece of waste ground, and subsequently erected a warehouse thereon. Since 1883, Moffatt had laid pieces of wood across the road, causing an obstruction to the plaintiff, and had also put a quantity of timber upon the piece of ground his client had bought from Mr Hunter, thus committing a trespass. The second offence of obstructing the plaintiff's right of way to the Consett highway, is that on the 25th August, 1883, Mr Moore gave the defendant notice to remove the obstructions; both off the road and the piece of ground, but that was unheeded. On December 1st last, more wood was put upon the road, and it was rendered almost impassable for carts and horses. On December 2nd, plaintiff proceeded with two men, and three horses and carts, for the purpose of removing the obstructions himself, and thereupon he was assaulted by defendant, who caught his client by the collar, threw him down, and he was so maltreated that he was ultimately rescued from Moffatt's clutches by a neighbour (Mr Valentine). Plaintiff suffered very much from the effects of the assault. If he (Mr Boyd) proved the facts, he would ask for an injunction to restrain the defendant from placing any more obstructions either on his client's land or upon the road in question.—His Honour: But you have not made a claim for an injunction.—Mr Boyd admitted this, but pointed out that His Honour, in the exercise of his equitable jurisdiction, had power to issue an injunction.—His Honour said he might have power to grant such an injunction, but the plaintiff had failed to make his claim. He appealed to Mr Greenwell if he had any objection to an injunction being granted?—Mr Greenwell replied that he had, and urged that his learned friend had not shown sufficient grounds for to ask for an injunction.—His Honour observed that as the claim would not hurt the defendant, he would consider the request at the proper time.—Plaintiff bore out the opening statement of his counsel, as to the purchase of the ground, and described its exact position to the surrounding land, and the situation of the piece of road leading to the Lobley Hill turnpike. His land adjoined property belonging to Mrs Brown, and both that lady and himself had a right of way along the road, which he regarded as private. At length, however, he made a verbal agreement with Mrs Brown, for a new gate to be placed in the wall, she using a separate road, which was divided from his portion of the road by a wall which he himself erected. Plaintiff, with considerable difficulty, explained to His Honour the relative positions of the new and old gateways, also of the walls, fences, &c. In further examination, he said that it would be five or six years ago since defendant first began to obstruct the road. As he did not reside near the spot, and was not in the habit of frequently using the road, he did not see the obstruction himself until 1883, when he observed logs of wood lying right across the road, and protruding three-parts across the front of his gateway, thus blocking up the entrance to his property. He first went to Moffatt, and appealed to him as a neighbour to remove the obstructions, but as this apparently had no effect, he served the defendant with the subjoined notice; dated Aug. 25th, 1883:—

"If you do not remove the wood obstructions from my property at Medomsley, I will remove the same, and hold you responsible for the costs.

Wm. Moore."

When he (plaintiff) handed the notice to Moffatt, the latter flung the paper back to him, calling him a "dirty old b——." Defendant also pulled out a sovereign and threatened to fight him. (Laughter.) The obstruction still continued until Dec. 1st, and on the following day, he (plaintiff) proceeded with three horses and carts to take away the timber. On that occasion, defendant caught hold of him roughly by the collar, struck him, kicked him, and finally knocking him down said he would eat him. (Laughter.)—His Honour: He did not eat you, though. (Loud laughter.)—Proceeding, plaintiff said that defendant attacked him until he was tired, and Mr Valentine kept him back. The road was obstructed on both sides so that a cart and horse could not travel along; and he had suffered severe injury from the assault, his left shoulder being still painful. Defendant offered to fight him for £3. (Laughter.)—His Honour: Never mind what he offered.—Cross-examined by Mr Greenwell: He seldom used the road. There was not any obstruction when he got the hay last season—that was the last occasion he tried to pass along with a cart. He could not gain access to his field by any other route, except going through the garden. Formerly there were three roads leading to his field, but he stopped one up at the bottom which was of no use. Mr Hunter, the vendor, would not allow him to have this road until he blocked it up. There was a gate off the Medomsley Road into the field. He (plaintiff) sold a strip of property adjoining the Medomsley Road for building sites, and this had stopped up one of the roads. When the gateway was further down there was still a road to his property.—Mr Greenwell: How did you get to your field when the gate was there?—Plaintiff: By opening the gate. (Laughter.)—Mrs Brown's property adjoined his land. The wick fence was the original boundary, but he gave up that piece of ground because there was not a road to it. Mrs Brown arranged with him to have an independent road.—Plaintiff was subjected to a lengthened cross-questioning by Mr Greenwell, but his statements were so incoherent, that His Honour declared that he could not take the man's evidence, as he first said one thing, and then the next moment contradicted himself. — Plaintiff said he had witnesses who could explain the matter better than he could, as his memory was not so good as it was.—His Honour: I hope they are better witnesses than yourself (laughter), because it is impossible to understand what you mean.—In reply to further questions, Mr Moore stated that the whole of his property let for £53 a year. He was prevented from getting along the road to his field perhaps about a year ago, when he was taking a cart-load of manure, and he had to shift the wood before he could pass through. There would be six or eight tons of timber altogether, and he threw a great quantity of it on the top of the defendant's coal-house (laughter), although he did not remove the whole of the wood himself. He went in December with three horses, a crow-bar, a pick-axe, and some chains. (Laughter). Mr Moffatt met him as soon as he arrived, and stopped him from getting to his ground. The assault took place between the old gate and the new one. He attempted to put the chains around the trees, but the defendant prevented him, although he endeavoured to do so several times. Defendant excitedly asserted that he wanted to fight him. (Laughter.)—Mr Greenwell: Did you not fight with him?—Plaintiff: No; but he kicked my shins. Did you kick him?—No. Will you swear that you did not kick the defendant?—I have just sworn so. If my feet caught Moffatt during the encounter, it would be purely accidental. (Laughter.) He pulled me by the collar, and it took three men to get me released.—Mr Greenwell: Who were they?—Mr John Valentine and the defendant's two apprentices.—Mr Greenwell: Did you threaten to strike Moffatt with the chains?—No. Did you not attempt to strike him with the crow-bar?—No; I "clutched" hold of the crow-bar to defend myself, but Mr Valentine snatched the weapon from me, as he was afraid that a murder would be committed. (Laughter.) Valentine was afraid that I was going to strike Moffatt with the crow-bar. (Laughter.).—Turning to Mr Greenwell, plaintiff said, somewhat excitedly: I wouldn't tell a lie for you or anybody else. (Renewed laughter.)—Mr Greenwell: You used some very bad language to Mr Moffatt?—I did not. Did you not call him a "miserable scoundrel? (Laughter.)—No; but he called me one. (Loud laughter.)—His Honour: What did you call him?—Nothing, your Honour.—Mr Greenwell: Did you not call him a bankrupt?—I did not. What did you say to him then?—(No answer.)—His Honour: You are asked, what did you tell him?—I said nothing to my knowledge; in fact I could not say anything bad enough about him. (Laughter.)—His Honour: Then you were quite calm all this time?—Yes; and I have somebody here to prove it.—Mr Greenwell: Did you not threaten to kill the b——?—No.—Re-examined by Mr Boyd: After he (plaintiff) passed through his gate, there was nothing to obstruct him except the mark of the old fence.—John Valentine, blacksmith, stated that he had occupied the house adjoining Mr Moffatt's place for 22 years. It would be nine years since defendant came into possession of his premises, and since then he had built a shop. The road was 12ft. wide opposite defendant's warehouse. He had observed pieces of wood lying on the road, but as he had no right along there, he could not state positively that an obstruction was caused. He remembered Moffatt last December threatening to prevent plaintiff from removing the wood lying about. Moffatt got hold of Moore by the coat collar, and they struggled together. Plaintiff climbed on the top of the wood, and they both fell down—he could not say which party was uppermost. Nothing more took place till they were separated, and plaintiff did not stay any longer.—By Mr Greenwell: There was queer language exchanged on both sides. In his opinion, one party was as bad as the other. He saw plaintiff try to back one of his horses on the top of Moffatt, who was then standing on a pile of wood. Did not notice plaintiff strike defendant with the chains. He kept the crow-bar beside him, and never allowed Moore to have it in his hands. Never heard plaintiff say anything about killing Moffatt. The reason he accompanied Moore was because the latter requested him to come and see that the peace was not broken. (Laughter). Moffatt and himself (witness) had not been on good terms lately. He pulled some spouting down, and defendant brought an action and recovered damages against him.—His Honour: You do not seem to have done Moffatt much harm to-day. — William Hunter, farmer, and John Hunter (his brother), both of Medomsley, were called to prove that they were in the habit of using this road almost every day, and frequently it had been obstructed by the defendant's timber. On one occasion, the road was entirely impassable, and they had to take the horses out of a reaping machine before conveying it to the field. The road, however, had not been so bad since the disturbance between Moore and defendant. Having shown the relative positions of the wall and gateways in 1849, previous to the property being disposed of to Mr Moore, the first-named witness stated, in answer to Mr Greenwell, that for a space of two or three months it had been almost impossible to get along the road. He had complained to Mr Moffatt, and that gentleman had always done his best to make the road clear for them.—This completed the evidence for the plaintiff, and Mr Greenwell submitted there was no case.—His Honour: They have certainly proved that the ground belongs to Mrs Brown.—Mr Greenwell: I mean there has been no trespass as regards the the piece of ground between the two gates.—His Honour: As regards the assault, it appears that plaintiff at that time was engaged in removing the wood actually situated on Mrs Brown's property, and which was really not an obstruction between the property referred to. As plaintiff's witness states there was six of one and half-a-dozen of the other, the case of assault and for trespass must be struck out. The only question that remains is the obstruction of the road, for which plaintiff claims £2 10s damages.—Mr Greenwell: Touching Moore's case he had never been obstructed at all—or, according to his own word, but very slightly.—His Honour: He can only claim nominal damages. I find that Moore has not sustained any real damage. The persons who appear to have been stopped the most were not plaintiff's tenants, but the Messrs Hunter.—Mr Boyd urged that plaintiff had suffered great inconvenience, and he asked His Honour to grant the injunction as requested, as this was the only road into the field.—His Honour pointed out to Mr Boyd that he was satisfied, according to the plans, that the ground beyond the boundary belonged to Mrs Brown.—Mr Greenwell averred that the road had never been obstructed whenever Moore desired to use it.—His Honour: But if the road has ever been obstructed by the defendant, it must follow that he has trespassed.—Mr Greenwell: I am afraid I must admit that point.—His Honour: Then there is evidence of trespass, but not of actual damage suffered. — Defendant was then sworn, and attested that the wood stored on this piece of ground was for his own use. It was laid on one side of the road only. He never knew of the Hunters complaining to him that they could not get along the road. Moore never complained, except by sending the notice produced. There was plenty of room for a cart to pass along towards the field. He only allowed the logs of wood to be across the road when they were busy cross cutting the pieces with the saw. He never recollected a cart coming along whilst they were thus engaged. If any conveyance was seen approaching, all obstructions were at once removed to allow of it passing.—By Mr Boyd: He bought the sawpit ten years ago from Robert Brown. He was not astonished at the Hunters being unable to get along with the reaper, as they were generally under the influence of liquor when they came. He never paid the slightest attention to Moore's notice, as he did not tell him verbally that the road was obstructed.—His Honour: But a written notice is much better than verbal instructions.—Defendant: I did not consider the road was obstructed at all.—His Honour: Then you ought to have told the plaintiff so.—John Moffatt (defendant's nephew) and Robt. England (employed by Mr Moffatt) adduced corroborative evidence.—Mr Greenwell explained that it was only an easement that Moore had along the road. The obstruction was caused by someone else, therefore Moore's easement was never interfered with, as he could always get along when he wished.—His Honour: Plaintiff said something about being obstructed with the "muck" carts, but he could not give the exact date, and his evidence was very "shakey."—Mr Greenwell said it had just been pointed out to him that plaintiff only claimed damages for obstruction arising within the past three months. He had not shown that such was the case even in regard to the manure carts.—His Honour: I am inclined to infer that this obstruction occurred more than three months ago.—Mr Boyd said he was unaware that the claim was limited to that period. The parties, however, knew full well what they were fighting about, and he had shown that the plaintiff had suffered inconvenience in consequence of not being able to get to and from his fields.—Mr Greenwell drew attention to the fact that in the notice served upon the defendant, Moore never called upon him to remove the obstruction, but simply to take the wood away. That was the real point at issue.—Mr Boyd stated that his client was an illiterate person, and might not specify the terms of the notice in the same way as if he had previously consulted a solicitor. The parties were well aware what the dispute was—that plaintiff's right of way had been interfered with.—His Honour ultimately gave judgment for the defendant, and allowed costs on the higher scale, to be borne by the plaintiff.

PRESENTATION AT LINTZ COLLIERY.

On Tuesday evening, a most interesting event took place at Lintz Colliery, when Mr Gooch was presented with the following beautifully-illuminated address on his retirement from the position of general manager of the above colliery, after a service of thirty years:—

To Mr George Henry Gooch, Lintz Green.

Sir,—We, on behalf of the workmen of Lintz and North Lintz Collieries, and residents of the neighbourhood, hereby wish to place on record, on your retirement from the position of general manager of the above collieries, our high appreciation of your sterling qualities which have ever been apparent amongst us for a period of thirty years.

We desire most particularly to bear testimony to the courtesy, impartiality, and kindness shown by you to us under all and varying circumstances, knowing as we do the many instances in which you have both sympathised with, and assisted the needy and afflicted.

The fact of your having undertaking the responsibilities, and fulfilled the duties of churchwarden, school manager, and Sunday-school teacher proves the tender regard you have always had for the spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being of all those with whom you have been brought in contact, and makes us greatly regret your leaving the district.

We sincerely hope that the reminiscences of the past may always be pleasant, and that you may enjoy your retirement from active life.

Signed this 21st day of December, by the Committee:—

Robert Reed.
Jas. F. Robinson.
Wm. Braidford.
Johnson Welch.
Geo. Shillitoe.
James Batey.
Isaac Wilson.

As soon as it became known in the district that Mr Gooch was retiring, universal regret was expressed, and a committee was formed to give this expression a tangible form, with a result that far exceeded their expectations.

The address was read by Mr Shillitoe, and Mr Reed in making the presentation spoke of the pleasure the committee had felt in meeting with such unanimous support from rich and poor alike, and in asking Mr Gooch's acceptance of the address regretted his severance from the colliery and the district.

Mr Batey, in presenting a splendid silver epergne and candlesbrum to Mr and Mrs Gooch, said he need not add anything to what had been stated by Mr Reed of the the esteem in which they were held by all, and how greatly their loss would be felt. Mr Gooch had been most ably assisted by Mrs Gooch in all good works, and particularly in helping the needy. He hoped that the articles would be of great use to them, and remind them pleasantly of the time spent in this district.

Mr Robinson in asking Miss Gooch to accept a lady's dressing case, remarked that he need not reiterate what had been said by the previous speakers, and could only trust that the article before him would be of great use to her, and help her to remember the time she had spent at Lintz.

Mr Gooch, who was evidently affected, said he could not sufficiently thank them for their kindness in presenting those magnificent articles. He could assure them that they would treasure them greatly, and would when they saw them on their table turn memories back to the happy period spent at Lintz. It had been a great wrench to sever his connection from those with whom he had so long and so agreeably worked.

The presentations took place at Mr Gooch's house, and afterwards the committee were most hospitably entertained by himself and Mrs Gooch, a most enjoyable evening being spent.

The Rev Canon Gray, J.P, Wolsingham, has again been elected president of the Wolsingham Mechanics' Institute.

Poor-Law Inquiry.—An inquiry was held on Monday by Mr Arnold Taylor, Inspector under the Poor-Law Board, in the Board-room at the Workhouse, Durham, in consequence of an application for urban powers in the Crossgate (rural) township. Of the witnesses called, all owners or occupants of property in the township, only one (Mr John Forster) opposed the application. After hearing the evidence on the matter, the Inspector in closing the inquiry made a few remarks, which were deemed favourable to the applicants for urban powers.

Freemasonry.—The Marquess of Granby Lodge on Tuesday night, at the Freemasons' Hall, Durham, Bro. Wm. Logan, J.W., of Stobilee House, Langley Park, was installed W.M. for the ensuing year. The ceremony was impressively performed by the W.M., Bro. Andrew Carr. The W.M. then invested his officers, viz., Bro. A. Carr, I.P.M.; Bro. Rev J. Lawson, S.W.; Bro. Wm. Crawford, J.W.; Bro. Chas. Dawson, jun., S.D.; Bro. Geo. W. Richardson, J.D.; Bro. M. Fowler, treasurer; Bro. W. H. Oliver, secretary; Bro. Rev Canon Tristram, chaplain; Bro. J. Leatham, organist; Bro. S. Fenny, almoner; Bro. Thos. Dunn, I.G.; Bros. Walter Brotherhood and Chief-Constable Smith, stewards; Bro. John Carter, tyler. The brethren, of which a large number was present, afterwards sat down to a sumptuous repast in the banqueting room, when the usual loyal and masonic toasts were given, and a most harmonious evening spent.

Board of Guardians.—At the meeting on Saturday—the chairman (Mr Thomas Crawford) presiding—Mr Richardson moved that the Workhouse buildings be insured in the Imperial Company, which was seconded by Mr Johnson, and carried.—Two letters were read from schoolmasters complaining of the non-payment of school fees by Mr George Hodgson, late school inquiry officer for the eastern district of the Durham Union.—The Clerk suggested that the whole of the schoolmasters of the district be asked whether their fees had been paid by Mr Hodgson or not.—This suggestion was agreed to.—The Board then proceeded to the election of a school inquiry and school attendance officer for the eastern district, salary £90.—Mr Wm. Henry Craig (32), Shincliffe, colliery clerk, was appointed by 18 votes out of the 24 Guardians present.—Small-pox was stated to be on the increase at the Boyne and Langley Moor villages in the suburbs of Durham. The disease is now rapidly dying out in the city itself.

CONSETT LOCAL BOARD.

The monthly meeting of this body was held on Wednesday evening, under the presidency of the chairman, Mr W. Jenkins, J.P. There were also present—Rev F. Steggall, Messrs J. Calvert, T. Siddell, W. Aynsley, T. Dunne, J. Collinson, W. R. Taylor, J. Palliser, Wm. Sheil, H. Cares, the clerk (Mr T. W. Welford), and the surveyor (Mr W. Rippon.)

The minutes of last meeting, and also of a special meeting, were read and adopted.

THE PROPOSED ELECTORAL DISTRICT.

On this matter cropping up, the Chairman in a lengthy speech, explained that under the New Seats Bill the County of Durham would be divided into eight sections, instead of being represented in Parliament as North and South Durham. These eight divisions, they would no doubt have observed, had been already enumerated by the Boundary Commissioners, and to his mind were highly satisfactory. Third on the list was Consett; and the question then presented itself as to whether they had any duty to perform as to the designation of the Consett area. He had lived and laboured for many years in the district, as they themselves had, and it was only natural that they should never rest satisfied until they gained a representative. The Boundary Commissioners themselves saw that Consett was the most important centre of the whole neighbourhood, being what might be called the active portion of the electoral district. It was but natural that the inhabitants of Lanchester—that quiet, little spot—would strongly object to the designation Consett, as they would no doubt wish the new member to take its ancient name—Lanchester. He had no violent feeling in the matter; but he really did think that when the Franchise Bill was passed, it was not to enfranchise the Workhouse, the church, or the steeple, but the people—(hear, hear)—and where the people were, it was only right the member should take his name from, viz: Consett. (Cheers.) He might say the Boundary Commissioners were going to meet at Durham on the 16th inst., and it would be prudent on their part to have someone there to represent their interests. The Rev F. Steggall had prepared a statement of facts with a view to having it read (if it met their approval) to the Commissioners; and he then called upon

Mr Steggall to read the same. The rev. gentleman said he had drawn the statement up with the object already stated by their Chairman. He proposed, if they were pleased to adopt it, sending a copy to the Commissioners, and for their Clerk to be present to read it. The statement also had another object. He had observed a letter from Satley upon the subject in the *Daily Journal*, and if copies of the statement were sent to the daily papers, he thought it would constitute a reply to the letter before-named. He then read as follows:—

"The Consett Local Board, having learnt that the Commissioners appointed for the arrangement and nomenclature of the electoral divisions of the county of Durham have decided that one such division—viz., the north-west portion of the county—shall include the two Petty Sessional Divisions of Consett and Lanchester, and shall be called by the name "Consett," the said Local Board beg most respectfully to support the decision of the Commissioners, and to submit for its confirmation certain facts which may not be known to the Commissioners. Consett has within the last forty-five years become the seat of three most important industries, viz., iron, coke, and coal. Its population is 9,000, but it also virtually includes three-fourths of the adjoining townships of Benfieldside and Leadgate, the populations of which are about 6,000 and 5,000 respectively. Consett has long been regarded and used as a market town by the surrounding villages, numbers of persons from Medomsley, Dipton Colliery, and Tanfield (only second to Consett and district in population), attend Consett weekly for the purchase of goods and other business. So fully have these facts been realised by the North-Eastern Railway Company, that in compliance with requisitions from Consett and some of the before-mentioned places, they have agreed to extend their railway communication from Consett to Stanley, the most remote point of the districts named. This line has been more than a year in progress, and will be opened in 1886, if not before. Consett has also conveniences for electoral and other public purposes such as no other portion of the division can lay claim to. It has the largest town hall with ante-rooms and also several large public rooms. Its main streets are of great width, and present areas for the assemblage of large crowds without any risk of accident. It has a court-house for petty sessional and other purposes, which was erected at a cost to the county, inclusive of local subscriptions, of upwards of £6,000. The county court for the whole division is held at Consett. The superintendent of police for the whole electoral division, together with many of his men, reside in the Court-house, or in proximity to the same; so that for the foregoing reasons, for the delivery of the ballot boxes from the several polling districts, the counting of the votes, and the declaration of the poll, the Consett Local Board venture to assert that no other part of the electoral division has equal advantages, or is more deserving of conferring a name on a Parliamentary representative than "Consett" itself. (Applause.) The name "Consett," as well as "Conside," is found in ancient documents, and is used in an old public record in Bishop Cosin's Library in Durham. The name "Consett" is as old as that of "Lanchester" itself, and is not without its traditions. (Hear, hear.) Lanchester was once the natural centre of a large and purely agricultural district, and, from its quiet associations, became the spot selected for carrying-out the local provisions of the poor laws, and hence gave the name to the union formed with the surrounding villages. Consett has won a name for itself—apart from its ancient designation—by its wonderful development. (Hear, hear.) Had Consett remained simply one of the many villages comprised in the Lanchester Union, such as Satley and smaller localities—(laughter)—there would have existed no direct railway communication between Durham and Scotswood-on-Tyne, and certainly no railway communication with Lanchester itself. It was to unite Consett to Durham and Newcastle-upon-Tyne that the first Consett branch railway was made in the Lanchester valley, with Consett as its terminus. It was afterwards extended from Consett to Scotswood-on-Tyne. The Consett Local Board would further submit to the Commissioners that the population of the North-west Division of the county of Durham is essentially "industrial" as distinguished from "agricultural." (Hear, hear.) The assessments of property fully demonstrate this. The name of "Lanchester," with its sole associations with agriculture and poor law relief, as applied to a great electoral division, and given to a member of Parliament, four-fifths of whose constituents will be of the non-agricultural class, would be a grave mistake, whereas the ancient name of "Consett," which provides work for a population of 25,000, extending its industrial operations eight miles east, to Witton Gilbert and Esh, and four miles north, to Medomsley and Allendale, will at once preserve what is valuable in that which is old, and also give expression to that which is new in the enfranchisement of a large number of the industrial classes, who, with the general public, will ever associate with the name of "Consett" the virtues of undaunted industry, prosperity, and progress. (Cheers.)

Mr Aynsley: I think the Satley gentleman will be pulled to pieces with that. (Laughter.)

Mr Calvert asked if the other Local Boards intended acting in a similar manner?

The Chairman said he could not say.

Mr Dunne thought it would have a great deal more weight if the three Boards were united; and he suggested that copies of the statement be sent to each Board asking their support.

Mr Aynsley considered this a wise suggestion.

It was eventually moved by Rev F. Steggall, seconded by Mr Aynsley, that the statement be adopted, and copies be sent to the *Newcastle Chronicle* and *Journal*, and also to Benfieldside and Leadgate Local Boards, requesting them to cooperate with the Consett Board in supporting the abovestatement before the Boundary Commissioners at Durham, on January 16th, 1885. Also, that a copy be sent to the Lanchester Board of Guardians.

On the motion being unanimously carried, Mr Dunne moved, and Mr Taylor seconded, that the Chairman, Rev F. Steggall, Mr Siddell, and Mr Calvert, along with the Clerk, form a deputation to meet the Commissioners.

Agreed to.

The Chairman next read a letter from the Clerk to the Lanchester Board of Guardians, which asked the Board to instruct their committee to work in conjunction with the Guardians' committee, and those appointed by the other Local Boards, with the view of having the Union formed into a Parliamentary electoral district.

After a lengthy discussion on the matter, it was moved by the Chairman that a reply be sent to the Guardians to the effect that a committe appointed at that meeting were prepared to confer with their committee and the ones from the other Local Boards on the subject.

On Mr Siddell seconding the motion, it was agreed to.

THE PARK SCHEME.

Mr Dunne said that Mr Siddell, Mr Palliser, and himself met the representatives of the Benfieldside Board on the above question, and combined had an interview with Mr Jenkins, manager of the Consett Ironworks. At the last meeting of the Benfieldside Board, as reported in the *Guardian*, some gross mis-representations were made upon the subject. Some of the members had stated that Mr Jenkins asked for a rental of £50 per annum for the ground, which was entirely wrong. It was also stated that the cricket field would not be included in the scheme, and this also was totally untrue. He indeed felt sorry that these false impressions should have been made upon the minds of the public, as it had such a bad effect. He might say that Mr Jenkins had very kindly promised to introduce deputations from the two Boards to his Directors on the 20th January, and he thought they should take hold of this opportunity.

The Chairman read a letter from the Benfieldside Board, in which the following resolution was enclosed, having been passed by that Board:—"That the members of this Board are still willing and anxious in the interests of the large population of Blackhill to accept, in conjunction with the Consett Local Board, the ground adjoining Pasture Drift Road, and lay it out as a recreation ground, if the Consett Iron Company consent to grant the land in perpetuity for that purpose, free of rent; the exact bounds to be determined between the two Boards and the Company, the cricket field to become *sina qui non*." He (the Chairman) said Mr Dunne was quite right in his assertions; and if they were still in the mind to meet his Directors this month, it would give him pleasure in introducing the deputations.

Mr Siddell: When we met in conference, I think you suggested that we should put off meeting the Directors until July, when they would be in Consett.

The Chairman: Yes; the slowness of trade, and the advantage of meeting them upon the ground made me suggest that. However, if you still think it would be best to meet them on the 20th January, you may do so.

Mr Dunne: I may say it has already been settled by the committees to meet the Directors this month.

Mr Carss thought it would be an advantage waiting until they could meet the Directors on the spot.

Mr Aynsley: As one of the deputation, I think it will be prudent on our part to put the matter off, as trade may perhaps turn out much brisker then, and it is possible that we may succeed in getting the Directors to carry out their original idea.

Mr Dunne was afraid that the matter had been put off too long.

Mr Collinson: I move that the subject be left over until July.

On Mr Siddell seconding, the motion was carried.

APPOINTMENT OF NUISANCE INSPECTOR.

On the motion of Mr Aynsley, seconded by Mr Taylor, Mr W. Rippon was re-appointed Inspector of Nuisances for the ensuing twelve months, at the salary of £80 per annum.

The Chairman: Is not half of this amount paid by Government?

The Clerk: Yes.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

Appended are the quarterly report and statistics presented by the medical officer (Dr William Renton):—

To the Chairman and Members of Consett Local Board.

Gentlemen,—The epidemic of scarlet fever and whooping cough of which I made mention in my last report have well-nigh vanished, and the district at present, so far as I have been able to ascertain, is almost free from diseases of an infectious character.

The zymotic mortality, however, during the last quarter of the year, has been higher than any similar period for the last two years, owing exclusively to the fatal prevalence of whooping cough.

I have also to report that during the quarter, three cases of enteric fever have occurred in one of the houses in Medomsley Road which were condemned two years ago in consequence of their then unsanitary state, and the prevalence of this disease amongst the tenants occupying them. Certain improvements were at that time made by order of the Authority, but which, as this subsequent outbreak has proved, were not thought sufficient either by the Inspector or myself.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

Wm. Renton, Medical Officer of Health.

Jan. 7th, 1885.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CONSETT FOR QUARTER ENDING DEC. 31ST, 1884.

72 births, representing an annual ratio of 32 per 1,000: 33 males and 39 females.

39 deaths, representing an annual ratio of 17·3 per 1,000: 18 males and 21 females.

Mr Dunne, referring to the property mentioned by the Medical Officer, said it would be a very great hardship to compel the owners to pull down the houses, as the unsanitary state of the place had been caused by a subsidence. He, therefore, begged to move that Mr Rippon inspect the property, and report to next meeting what he thought would remedy the nuisance.

Mr Taylor seconded the notice.

Mr Sheil: Do you think, Mr Chairman, that sufficient attention is paid to the doctor's complaints? I am of opinion that there is not.

The Chairman: I don't think there is; to my mind the attention paid to him has been very lukewarm.

Mr Carss: Then I should say, let notices be served at once to abate the nuisance complained of by the doctor.

Mr Sheil: I should not like to see any hardship put upon the owner of the property named; but what I referred to most was the defective outbuildings.

Mr Calvert: When these houses were built, they were set too low; and I do not think there has been any subsidence in connection with them—the subsidence occurred further away.

Mr Dunne: I beg your pardon, but I know for a fact that a subsidence has occurred.

No amendment being made, Mr Dunne's motion was put to the meeting and carried.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The Surveyor (Mr Rippon) submitted the subjoined report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Consett Local Board.

Gentlemen,—In the early part of last month I found that the main sewer behind Front Street had refused to act on account of the pipes silting up for a length of about fifty lineal yards. As this sewer is a great depth from the surface we found it very difficult to rectify. A special meeting of your Board was held in December to consider the best method to adopt in the future when it was decided to put in a new 9-inch main sewer from a point opposite to Mr J. T. Curry's property, East Parade, to near the Black Horse public-house, of sufficient depth to drain the cellar, the branch drains belonging to adjoining properties to be connected to the new sewer also. This work is being pushed forward, and I expect to complete it by the end of this week. As directed, I am making provision for flushing at stated periods, in order to prevent silting in the future.

I have received from Messrs Ord and Maddison 100 tons of rough limestone, the greater part of which is broken and ready for use.

Portions of Castleside Road and Front Street have been covered with road metal.

The footpath on Consett Hall Road has been covered with chippings. The other footpaths in your district are having attention.

Mr Allison has nearly finished his contract for kerbing and channeling on Medomsley Road. When the proper season arrives, I expect the property-owners will cement the footpath. When this is done, a great improvement will have been made in this part of your district.

I have inspected your district and found the ashpits, taken as a whole, well looked after, and the privies clean.

The following amounts have been paid to treasurer:—

	£	s.	d.
General District Rate	513	3	11
Rent for County Court Offices	7	10	0
Private street improvement........	10	6	10
Market tolls	2	9	3

I am, gentlemen, your humble servant,
WILLIAM RIPPON.

Consett, Jan. 7th, 1885.

The Surveyor was instructed to put in crossings in Medomsley Road where required, and also one at the end of Middle Street adjoining the Town Hall.

After signing various cheques, the Board rose.

WOLSINGHAM PETTY SESSIONS.

Tuesday, Jan. 6th.—Before C. J. Backhouse, Esq. (chairman), and C. Arnison, Esq.

Thomas Marsden, quarryman, for being drunk on the highway at Wolsingham, 13th Dec., was fined 20s and costs.

George Kirkbride, labourer, for being drunk on the highway at Wolsingham, 16th Dec.—Fined 15s and costs.

George Cochrane, labourer, for being drunk on the highway at Wolsingham, 20th Dec.—Fined 7s 6d and costs.

Joseph Coulthard, of Frosterley, quarryman, for being drunk at Wolsingham, 22nd Dec.—Fined 10s, including costs.

Isaac Alcorn, of Frosterley, quarryman, for being drunk on the highway at Wolsingham, 22nd Dec.—Fined 5s and costs.

Thomas Stobbs, of Charterly, farmer, for being drunk on the highway at Wolsingham, 15th Dec.—Fined 7s 6d and costs.

William Smith and *George Stephenson*, labourers, for being drunk on the highway at Wolsingham.—Fined 10s each, including costs.

James Bowe, besommaker, for being drunk at Wolsingham.—Fined 15s and costs.

Thomas Johnson, joiner, for being drunk at Wolsingham, 27th Dec.—Fined 7s 6d and costs.

John McKeon, labourer, for being drunk at Tow Law, 6th Dec.—Fined 7s 6d and costs.

George Cruddace, of Sunniside, late innkeeper at Wolsingham, for being drunk on the highway at Tow Law, 9th Dec.—Fined 7s 6d and costs.

William Pearson, miner, for being drunk at Tow Law, 12th Dec.—Fined 7s 6d and costs.

Hugh McGurkun, miner, was brought up on two charges of drunkenness at Tow Law, and was fined 5s and costs in each case.

THE EDUCATION ACT.

Thomas Ford was fined 5s for not sending his two children to school at Wolsingham, 25th Nov.

ROWDYISM AT TOW LAW.

Lancelot Coates, of Tow Law, miner, was bound over to keep the peace for fighting with Thomas Hedley at Tow Law.—A warrant was issued for the arrest of Hedley, who did not appear.

DRUNK ON LICENSED PREMISES.

Archibald M'Ivor, of Tow Law, and *William Dempsey*, of Dearness Valley, miners, were fined 7s 6d each for being drunk on the licensed premises of Mrs Finlay, at Tow Law.

ALLEGED ASSAULT.

A charge against *Arthur Carr*, miner, of Tow Law, of seriously assaulting Hannah Booth, on the 6th ult., was dismissed. Mr Maw, of Bishop Auckland, defended.

ASSAULT ON THE POLICE AT TOW LAW.

John McIver appeared to answer two charges of drunkenness, and was fined 10s for each offence, or seven days' imprisonment.—He was further charged with assaulting Sergeant Christison at Tow Law, and was fined £1 and costs, or a month.

GATESHEAD COUNTY POLICE COURT.

Tuesday.—Jan. 6th.—Before R. O. Lamb, Esq. (chairman), J. M. Redmayne, Esq., and R. Forster, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

John Fitzpatrick, of Shotley Bridge, was charged by P.C. Pattison with being drunk and disorderly at Blackhall Mill, on Dec. 27th.—Fined 2s 6d and costs.

William Soulsby, of Hamsterley, summoned by P.C. Pattison for having been drunk and disorderly at Blackhall Mill, on Dec. 28th, was fined 2s 6d and costs.

Joseph Jacobson, of Milkwell Burn, was summoned by P.C. Farrar for having been drunk and fighting at Blackhall Mill, on Dec. 27th.—Fined 7s 6d, including costs.

John Thompson, of Blaydon, charged by P.C. Harper with having been drunk and disorderly at Blaydon, on Dec. 27th, was fined 5s and costs.

James Rennison, of Blaydon, was summoned by Sergt. Benzies for being drunk and disorderly at Blaydon, on Dec. 27th.—He was fined 1s and costs.

John Graham, of Blaydon, charged by P.C. Walton with having been drunk and disorderly at Blaydon, on Dec. 24th, was let off on payment of 1s and costs.

Thomas Hurst, of Blaydon Haughs, charged by P.C. Walton with being drunk and disorderly at Blaydon, Dec. 27th, was fined 5s and costs.

ASSAULT ON THE POLICE.

Thomas Batey, of Gateshead (who had been locked up, but afterwards released on bail), was charged with having assaulted P.C. Green at Whickham, on the 1st inst.—P.C. Green stated that on the day named the defendant was very drunk and causing a great disturbance in the village. He took him to a house of a friend's, who lived in the place. He afterwards came out and took his coat off to fight the officer, and after a very great deal of trouble with the defendant—some of the villagers taking a keen interest in the proceedings—he loudly offered to lay 2 to 1 on the police being the best man. After the race was all over, defendant found himself in a cart on his way to the Gateshead County Police Station.—The Bench fined him £1 2s 8d, including costs.

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

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

Lanchester.—8th inst., the wife of Mr W. Simpson, of a son.

Wolsingham.—Grammar School, 4th inst., the wife of Rev A. Currie, head-master, of a son.

DEATHS.

Blackhill.—On the 8th inst., at No. 4, Durham Road, aged 24, John Alexander, son of Alexander and Elizabeth Cunningham. To be interred at Benfieldside Cemetery, on Sunday, January 11th. Friends, kindly accept this intimation. 984t

Langley Moor.—Station Hotel, 3rd inst., aged 65 John Walsh.

Tanfield.—2nd inst., aged 44, after a long illness, John Robson, engineman.

Satley.—At Broomshields Lodge, 29th ult., aged 44, James Neil.

Blaydon.—Cuthbert Street, 6th inst. aged 31, the wife of Joseph Butter, mason.

Prudhoe.—2nd inst., aged 67, Sarah, wife of the late John Wormald.

Swalwell.—3rd inst., aged 72, William Mitford, blacksmith.

Mickley Square.—5th inst., Ellen, wife of Joseph Walton, and daughter of Thomas Middleton.

America.—Kalama, Eaton County, John Southern, died, December 18th, 1884, aged 50 years; late of Annfield Plain, County Durham. 989t

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