The Consett Guardian

AND DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER.

An ADVERTISING MEDIUM for Annfield Plain, Blackhill, Consett, Lanchester, Leadgate, Shotley Bridge, &c.

No. 1,072. {REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.} FRIDAY EVENING, March 18th, 1881. PRICE ONE PENNY.

Business Announcements.

J. TAYLOR,
PAWNBROKER,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL CLOTHIER,
BROAD CHARE,
(50 Yards from Quayside),
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

BISHOP AUCKLAND EQUITABLE PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY.

Chairman of Directors: Mr. JOSEPH WILKINSON, West Mills, Bishop Auckland.
Solicitor: RICHARD BOWSER, Esq., Bishop Auckland.

THE DIRECTORS are prepared to RECEIVE LOANS of FIVE POUNDS and upwards, at 5 per cent. interest, payable Half-yearly.

ADVANCES made and Shares entered at any time.

THE ENTRANCE FEES are abolished.

THE REPAYMENT of an Advance on Mortgage of £100 is 15s. per Month, or £9 per Annum, which covers Interest and Redemption.

PROFITS divided equitably amongst Members.

WM. V. THOMPSON, Secretary.

Offices: 25, Market-place, Bishop Auckland. 608m

WEDDING RINGS! WEDDING RINGS!!

A PRESENT to each Purchaser of our GUINEA GOLD RING.
F. A. AND E. WELCH,
WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,
ANNFIELD PLAIN. 318b

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, without first obtaining the said Company's permission, will be prosecuted according to Law.

By order of the Directors,
August 21st, 1875. M RICHLEY, Secretary.

J. BATES,
MEDOMSLEY ROAD, CONSETT,

JOINER, Undertaker, Furniture Broker, &c. Flocks, Feathers, Rabbit Down, Ironmongery, Perambulators, and General Furnishings. 606n

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NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

JACOB HUTCHINSON,
TAILOR,
(Late of Derwent Street, Blackhill)

RESPECTFULLY announces to his Friends and the Public that he has
REMOVED TO NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT,
(The Premises lately occupied by Mr. HARVEY, deceased)
Where he intends carrying on the Tailoring Business in all its branches, and hopes, by strict attention to all Orders, to merit a share of public patronage.

Please to note the following low quotations for Suits made to order:—

OVERCOATS	from	£1	5	0	upwards.
SUITS	„	1	18	0	„
MOLE TROUSERS	„	0	10	6	„
LADIES' JACKETS	„	1	5	0	„

☞ READY-MADE SUITS, 30s. and upwards.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND CONSETT DISTRICT GAS COMPANY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that any Person or Persons entering into the occupation of any House, Shop, or other Building, to which Gas has been supplied to the previous occupant, upon such entry must first obtain the consent of the Secretary of the Company before consuming the Gas supplied by the said Company. In default therefore, upon proof of the use of the Gas, without first obtaining such leave, such Person or Person will be Prosecuted as the Law directs. The Secretary can be seen daily at the Company's Office, Shotley Bridge, to whom all applications must be made.

By order of the Directors,
M. RICHLEY Secretary.

Shotley Bridge, October 9, 1870.

BUYERS save at least 25 per Cent. on all they purchase at HUGH MORTON and CO.'S Public Supply Stores for Clothing direct from the Factory. These Stores have been established to meet a long-felt want for good, serviceable Clothing, Ready-made or to Measure, at a moderate price. The garments are largely manufactured from West of England Cloths and Scotch Cheviot Tweeds, and are unequalled for appearance, durability, and finish. Our system being to supply superior clothing at one small profit on Factory Cost, we are of course unable to have any "Half-yearly" or "Great Reduction" Sales. Our Stock is so regulated that each season's goods are cleared by the ordinary sales over the counter. A comparison of the quality and prices of the goods will clearly show that our regular rates are much below the "Sale Prices" at ordinary shops, and also the great advantage of buying new and fashionable clothing direct from the factory at our Supply Stores. All Goods marked in plain figures. No credit given.

ABRIDGED PRICE LIST.

Men's Tweed Suits, wonderful value, 16s. 9d., 18s. 9d., 22s. 6d.
Men's Scotch Tweed Suits, very superior, 26s. 6d., 29s. 6d., 34s. 6d.
Men's Black Worsted Suits, bound, well trimmed and made, 29s. 6d.
Men's Blue Serge Suits, indigo dye, good quality, 21s.
Men's Tweed Trousers, exceptional value, 3s. 11d., 4s. 11d., 5s. 11d.
Men's Scotch Tweed Trousers, equal to bespoke, 8s. 11d., 10s. 9d., 12s. 9d.
Boys' Tweed Suits, all the newest shapes, from 2s. 11d.
Youths' Tweed Suits, very durable materials, from 9s. 11d.
Men's Mole Trousers, splendid value, 4s. 11d.

PLEASE NOTE THE ADDRESS:
HUGH MORTON & CO.,
Public Clothing Stores,
55, Grainger Street, Corner of Nelson Street, Newcastle. 991o

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Business Announcements.

TRESPASSERS on Number One Farm, will be prosecuted. 602m

THOMAS ROWE, BAKER & CONFECTIONER, FRONT STREET, LEADGATE.
☞ PIC-NICS AND TEA PARTIES SUPPLIED OR CONTRACTED FOR.

HENRY ROGERS
(Late of Consett),
AUCTIONEER and COMMISSION AGENT, 16, TYNE STREET, BLAYDON. 598n

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NEW CONFECTIONERY ESTABLISHMENT.

SIMON ROWE,

LATE of Allansford, respectfully intimates that he has commenced Business as Wholesale and Retail Confectioner and Plain and Fancy Bread Baker, at 17, Newmarket Street, Consett.

Funerals and Parties of every description supplied.

Brides' Cakes, both Plain and Ornamental, made to order. Address—17, Newmarket Street, Consett. 894o

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NOTICE.

THE Game upon Allendale and Medomsley East Farms is strictly preserved. All Persons found Trespassing will be prosecuted.

ALBUMS IN GREAT VARIETY
FROM 2s. 6d. TO 15s. 6d. EACH AT
ROBERT JACKSON'S,
PRINTER & STATIONER,
9, AND 10, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

JOHN JENKINS,
AUCTIONEER,
HOUSE AGENT, AND APPRAISER
TRAFALGAR STREET, CONSETT.

PARTIES leaving the Neighbourhood can have their Furniture, &c., turned into Cash on the shortest notice. 660n

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PLUMBING AND GASFITTING.

P. SURTEES having commenced Business as PLUMBER and GASFITTER, at Sherburn Terrace, Consett, begs to intimate to the Inhabitants of the District that he is prepared to Execute all Orders entrusted to him in a Prompt, Cheap, and Workman-like manner.

☞ All Orders left with Mr. AITCHINSON, Publican, Annfield Plain; or Mr. H. DAVISON, Ironmonger, &c., Catchgate, will receive prompt attention. 792o

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CARRIAGES.

MESSRS. ATKINSON and PHILLIPSON have at present an extensive Stock of NEW and SECOND-HAND BROUGHAMS and WAGONETTES, with moveable tops, of the latest designs, suitable for winter use. The REGISTERED CASTLEREAGH and RAVENSWORTH Pony Cars are received with great favour. These novel Carriages, which only weigh 3½ cwts., are hung on American single plate springs, and fitted with patent jump seats. Sporting and other Phætons, Moor Carts, and SLEIGHS. Drawings Free on application.
15, PILGRIM STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE

WILLIAM FITZPATRICK,
TAILOR,
CATCHGATE,

BEGS respectfully to call the attention of Gentlemen ordering Clothing for the present or approaching Season, to the following Price List:—

Superior Black Suit, in Plain Cloth or Worsted	£3	3	0
Scotch Tweed Suit	2	10	0
An excellent Pair of Scotch Tweed Trousers for	0	13	0

VENETIAN BLINDS, Wholesale and Retail; Old Blinds Painted, Varnished, or Refitted on the shortest notice; Fittings of every description kept in stock; Lines, Tapes, Pullits, Rollers, Slides, &c. Ladder Tape made in every size, 1½d. per foot, or 4s. per dozen yards, at

G. H. STEWART'S,
VENETIAN BLIND MANUFACTURER,
VENETIAN HOUSE,
1, WESTMORLAND TERRACE, & 2 DUKE ST., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. 602o

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Parties Furnishing will do well to Visit

WILLIAM WILKINSON'S
FURNITURE WAREHOUSE,
CATCHGATE,

Where they will find a large and well-assorted Stock of FURNITURE, HARDWARE, PERAMBULATORS, LOOKING GLASSES, CLOCKS, WATCHES, and JEWELLERY, Wholesale and Retail.

A PRESENT to each Purchaser of Half-a-Guinea Wedding Ring.

WASHING and MANGLING MACHINES.

AGENT for McDOMET and ELLIOTT'S DRILLING MACHINES for Coal and Stone.

HORSE NAILS, Patent and Hard Wrought.

AGENT for HICKMAN and CLIVE'S COFFIN FURNITURE.

FLOCKS, FEATHERS, and RABBIT DOWN always on Hand.

☞ N.B.—A large Assortment of New CRYSTAL, PERISCOPIC, & EUREKA SPECTACLES always on Hand. 181o

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NOTICE TO FARMERS AND OTHERS.

GEORGE HOBSON

TAKES this opportunity of thanking his numerous Friends for the very liberal patronage bestowed on him during the many years he has been in business, and begs to inform them that he has now got his Mill under thorough repair, and, with the addition of extra CRUSHING and SPLITTING MILLS, he is now in a position to fully meet the requirements of his Friends and the Public. Particular attention will be paid to Grinding, Crushing, or Splitting Grain for Farmers and the Trade.

Try the EXCELLO HORSE FEED.
Try G. H.'s CRUSHED OATS and BEANS for Horses.
Try G. H.'s CRUSHED MIXED HORSE FEED.
Try G. H.'s MIXED COW FEED.
Try G. H.'s MIXED PIG FEED.

Pure BARLEY MEAL, PEA MEAL, INDIAN MEAL, and every other Article in the Trade on the most reasonable terms.

HARPERLEY STEAM AND WATER CORN MILLS,
(Warehouse, Catchgate),
NEAR ANNFIELD PLAIN,
ESTABLISHED 1817.

Agent for the Live-Stock Condiment Company's CHAMPION SPICE, for Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Pigs, Dogs, Poultry, Game, Stacking Hay &c. 390o

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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 32, MOSLEY STREET, NEWCASTLE; 33, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD; AND CORNER OF FREDERICK ROAD, HIGH STREET, SUNDERLAND.

MARBLE AND WOOD CHIMNEY PIECES,
KITCHEN RANGES (over 60 Set-up).
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

FINEST OLD
VATTED SCOTCH WHISKEY.
Price, 18s. per Gallon. Nett Cash. Supplied in Casks or Cases.
PORTS, SHERRIES CLARETS, CHAMPAGNES, &c., all from First-class Shippers.

Price List on application to
WM. MILLER, JUN.,
WINE MERCHANT, QUEEN'S HEAD YARD, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

JOHN HALL'S PRICE CURRENT!

FLOUR, &c.—
Fines, 1s. 10d.; Supers, 2s.; Extras, 2s. 1d.; Baltic New Process Cross Arrow Brand, equal to Hungarian, only 2s. 3d.; Rye Meal and Households, 1s. 8d.; Sprat's Poultry Meal; Split and Whole Indian Corns; Rough Barley; Wheat; all kinds of Feeding Stuffs on hand; Prime Potatoes, 7d.; Rice, 1s. 10d.; Barley, 1s. 10d., Lentils, 1s. 9d.

TEAS, &c.—
Good Whole Leaf Tea, a capital liquor, 1s. 8d. per pound; Indian Tea, very pungent liquor, 2s. 6d. per pound; the finest blends in Indian and China Teas, at 3s. to 3s. 6d. per pound; the choicest Assam, 4s. per pound; Sugar, 2½d., 3d., and 3½d. per pound; Currants, 4d. and 5d. per pound; Raisins, 5d. per pound.

ALL 1s. 1½d. PATENT MEDICINES SOLD AT J. HALL'S ARE 9½d. TO 10d. EACH.

CHEESE, &c.—
American, 6d.; finest American, 9d.; English, 9d. and 10d.; Oleo-Butterine, 10d. to 1s.; finest new Danish Butter, equal to the best Sweet, only 1s. 6d.; Bacon, from 4½d. to 6½d.; Hams 6½d. to 7d.; Wilson's Corned Beef, only Gold Medal at the Philadelphia Exhibition, only 6d.; Salmon, 7d. per Tin; 1lb. Tin of Milk, 6d.; Tins of Tongue, 1s. each; 2lb. Tins of Roast Beef, 1s. each.

SOAPS, &c.—
A hard Pale, 2d. per pound; extra Pale, 3d. or 10d. per quarter stone; finest Pale or Mottled, 1s. per quarter stone; Almond Soap, 3d. per pound; finest White Windsor Soap, 4d. per pound, generally sold at 6d.; Sinclair's Cold Water Soap, 4d. per pound; Wax Candles, 6d., and Dips, 4½d. per pound; Tapioca, Flaked, Pearl, or Bullet, 3d. per pound; Rice Flour, 3d., Corn Flour, 5d., and Lentils, 2d. per pound.

GOODS REDUCED:—POTATOES, WAX CANDLES, SALMON, AND LENTILS.

TERMS—CASH.
☞ DISCOUNT—SIXPENCE IN THE POUND!! ☜

JOHN HALL,
WHOLESALE AND FAMILY GROCER, ANNFIELD PLAIN. 13p

DENTAL NOTICE!

MR. T. F. WATSON,
SURGEON DENTIST,
52, NEW BRIDGE STREET, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE,

CONSTRUCTS Artificial Teeth, on his New System, without Springs or Wires. ☞ Charges Moderate. Painless Operations under the influence of Nitrous Oxide Gas.

ATTENDANCE AT Mr. ROUTLEDGE'S, CHEMIST, 11, SHAKESPEARE STREET, CONSETT, EVERY TUESDAY, FROM 11 A.M. TO 3 P.M. 4p

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WINES & SPIRITS FOR THE PRESENT SEASON

Selected from W & A Gilbey's List of 220 varieties, representing the largest, finest and best matured Stock in the world.

The purity of every article is guaranteed under Act 38 & 39 Vict., Cap. 63. Consumers will recognise in this Act a means of verifying the guarantee W & A Gilbey have always given of the purity and genuineness of all WINES and SPIRITS bearing their seals and labels.

No better guarantee of QUALITY and VALUE can be given than the fact that about every eighteenth bottle of Wine, and every fortieth bottle of Spirits, consumed in the United Kingdom are supplied from W & A Gilbey's Stock. This statement is based upon the Government Returns.

AGENT—
W. AYNSLEY, CONSETT, LEADGATE & ANNFIELD PLAIN.
From whom Single Bottles of any varieties can be obtained at fixed London Prices.

WINES		Per Bottle	Per Dozen
PORT Castle A *from Portugal* fruity Wine, well matured	An excellent 5 years old	2/	24/
PORT Castle B *from Portugal* flavored fruity Wine	A fine full-8 years old	2/4	28/
SPANISH PORT Castle 1 *from Spain* A fruity Wine of good body	2 years old	1/3	15/
SPANISH PORT Castle 4 *from Spain* The finest old Red Wine produced.	10 years old	1/10	22/
SHERRY Castle SPANISH *from Spain* A good Spanish Wine	2 years old	1/3	15/
SHERRY Castle C *Pale from Spain* An excellent type of dry Sherry	6 years old	2/4	28/
MARSALA Castle VP *Pale from Sicily* A delicate dinner Wine	3 years old	1/4	16/
MARSALA Castle C *Pale from Sicily* The finest Marsala imported	7 years old	1/8	20/
CLARET Castle A *from France* A good sound Beverage Wine	1 year in bottle	1/	12/
CLARET Castle *from France* A superior Medoc Wine	1 year in bottle	1/6	18/
SAUMUR Castle *Silver Foil* A Sparkling dry Champagne	Bottles	2/1	25/
	Half-Botts.	1/3	14/6
SAUMUR Castle *Gold Foil* The choicest Wine of the District	Bottles	2/6	30/
	Half-Botts.	1/5	17/
CHAMPAGNE Castle 1 A good Sparkling Wine for ordinary use	Bottles	2/2	26/
	Half-Botts.	1/3	15/
CHAMPAGNE Castle 3 A high-class delicate Champagne	Bottles	3/6	42/
	Half-Botts.	1/11	23/

SPIRITS		Per Bottle	Per Dozen
GIN Castle UP Highly rectified at W & A Gilbey's Distillery	33 per cent. under proof	2/	24/
GIN Castle PROOF Highly rectified at W & A Gilbey's Distillery	Strength, proof	2/10	34/
IRISH WHISKEY Castle UP Fine Dublin Whiskey	33 per cent. under proof	2/3	27/
IRISH WHISKEY Castle PROOF Fine Dublin Whiskey	Strength, proof	3/0	36/
SCOTCH WHISKEY Castle UP Fine Scotch Malt Whiskey	33 under proof	2/3	27/
SCOTCH WHISKEY Castle PROOF Fine Scotch Malt Whiskey	Strength, proof	3/0	36/
BRANDY Castle UP Possessing the wholesome qualities of Cognac	33 under proof	2/6	30/
BRANDY Castle PROOF Possessing the wholesome qualities of Cognac	Strength pf.	3/6	42/
COGNAC Castle D A fine old Cognac Brandy	33 per cent. under proof	3/6	42/
COGNAC Castle F A fine old Cognac Brandy	Strength proof	4/6	54/
JAMAICA RUM Castle UP A fine Jamaica Rum	33 per cent. under proof	2/3	27/
JAMAICA RUM Castle PROOF A fine Jamaica Rum	Strength, proof	3/0	36/
HOLLANDS Castle 1 Distilled in Holland from Rye	14 per cent. under proof	2/4	28/
HOLLANDS *(Silver Stream)* The finest Geneva. Bottled abroad.	14 under proof	2/8	32/

All Bottles (except for Sparkling Wines) are charged 1d. each, which is allowed when returned.

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, Rochester, Low Flatings Estate, Langley Park, Consett, Leadgate, and Blackhill.

☞ All Business promptly and carefully attended to.

ESTABLISHED 1778.

REID & SONS.

SILVER PLATE,
ELECTRO-PLATE,
JEWELLERY,
CLOCKS,
WATCHES,

In large variety of Prices and Patterns.

N.B.—Illustrated Sheets and Catalogues Free on application. 7Ro

41, GREY 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. 384o

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SPECIAL SALE
OF
UNDERCLOTHING
AT THE
LONDON AND NEWCASTLE TRADING COMPANY,
69 AND 71, CLAYTON STREET
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

LADIES' CHEMISES,			1/0½, 1/6½
Do.,	Do.		1/11½, 2/6½
Do.,	Do.		2/11, 3/11
Do.,	Do.		4/11, 5/11
LADIES' NIGHT DRESSES.			1/11½, 2/6½
Do.,	Do.,	Do.,	2/11½, 3/11
Do.,	Do.,	Do.,	4/11, 6/11
LADIES' DRAWERS			10½d, 1/3½
Do.,	Do.,		1/6½, 1/11
Do.,	Do.,		2/6, 2/11

DRESSMAKING
BY AN EXPERIENCED STAFF ON THE PREMISES.

(In connection with the London and Newcastle Tea Company).

916o

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. 673o

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18TH, 1881.

THE RUSSIAN TRAGEDY.

We live in such stirring history-making times, that we have not much leisure to contemplate the mere cessation of any species of political or social development, having enough to do to follow the course of active events. Otherwise, European society, and, we may say, all civilized humanity, must have frequently experienced satisfaction of late in reflecting that a termination had come to the series of murderous and incendiary crimes which last year were directed against the foundations of all government and all political society in Russia. Whether it was that the concocters and perpetrators of such deeds had learned from the reprobation of humanity to eschew such villanous political agencies, or whether legislative and administrative reform had conciliated the bulk of the Russian people and deprived agitators and conspirators of even passive popular support, certainly their was, in either case, the fact that a considerable break had occurred in the succession of outrages, which it might well be hoped would prove to be a complete discontinuation. But the indulgence of any such feeling of satisfaction would have been premature. Russian conspirators were only illustrating the old adage *Reculen pour mieux sauter*—receding in order to make a more effectual spring. The confederated political assassins of the Northern Empire have been imitating a beast of prey, which, when it has startled its expected quarry by a premature movement, has shrunk back into a position of patient but viligant quietude. True, there have been some over signs of a continuance of suppressed activity among the vile brotherhood of assassins. Just about the same time there were several rumours afloat that pointed to the continued survival of the conspiracy. Among others, we may advert to the reported plot—to blow up the Emperor Alexander's yacht in Scotland, and the story of the Birmingham clockmaker with regard to the clockwork he was required to make for infernal machines. But such matters received little credit at the time, and certainly did not prepare us for the horrible tragedy of last Sunday afternoon, which awakened indignation and disgust throughout Europe when it became known on Monday. The story of the hideous crime is short and simple enough. The Emperor had, according to his custom, attended a Sunday parade at the Riding Room, and was returning to his palace with his brother the Grand Duke Michael, in a closed carriage. Accompanying the carriage was an escort of Cossacks, and at some little distance behind followed a vehicle containing a superior officer of police and his assistants. As the Emperor's carriage was passing a part of the route buunded by a garden wall on one side and the railing dividing the road from a parallel canal on the other, a hand-grenade or bomb was thrown at the imperial carriage, shattering the hinder part of the vehicle and disabling it, killing or wounding several of the military escort, and momentarily throwing the vehicle into confusion at the unexpected shock. The Emperor, with his brother, issued unhurt from the disabled carriage, and stood leaning against the canal railing while the police-officer hurried up and arrested the man who had thrown the missile. Just as all seemed thus over, and another of these vile regicidal attempts seemed to have failed in its prime object, a second man approached amid the excitement of the moment and threw a bomb at the Emperor, which fell and exploded actually between his Majesty's feet, shattering his lower limbs, and causing frightful internal injuries, from the effects of which the august victim died within two hours. The determined character of this murderous double attack, and the deliberate and determined preparations which must have been made for it, unfortunately demonstrate that political conspiracy was neither defunct nor dormant in Russia during the last few months, it was only lying perdue. Its revived activity will not embarrass the Russian Government more than it horrifies and disgusts civilized humanity.

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

In London, I believe, the first day of spring weather generally comes on a Sunday. This year it came on Friday. The warm sunshine brought thousands of idlers into the thoroughfares and parks; schools got unexpected holidays for the good of their health. Senior partners in City firms left by exceptionally early trains; briefless barristers in the Temple sallied forth from their dingy dens; nurse-girls produced into the fresh air their bundles or perambulator-loads of sickly infantile humanity; and, in short, everyone who could get any excuse to be out was out. I was one of these, and went on my spring tour of inspection round the parks, finding everything refreshingly bright-looking and pleasant, in spite of the nakedness of the trees, which between them all have not leaves enough for the aprons of our first parents. Another month is required, I suppose, to "clothe the lilies of the field," which, by the way, have to do without clothes all the cold weather.

In spite of official contradictions, it is pretty certainly known that changes will take place ere long in the Cabinet. The Whig and Radical elements managed to square their differences upon Irish questions; but the Transvaal affair presents a rock on which a split is almost certain. I hear the opinion freely expressed that if the present armistice results in the yielding to the Boers of their demands, the fall of the Ministry is only the question of a few weeks.

Sir Henry Jackson's sudden death just after his well-earned promotion to the Bench, has caused quite a shock amongst the Equity Bar, of which he has been for some time one of the most eminent members. A more kindly colleague or a fairer opponent it would be difficult to find even in the Chancery Courts, where the same leaders are habitually pitted against one another and so grew familiar with one another's ways, and where to a large extent each leader has his own following of juniors, and so learns to work harmoniously with them.

The question of the ventilation of the Underground Railway is being itself well ventilated at the present moment. The difference of opinion upon the subject is between a general and a particular public, and in such disputes, upon one of the principles which lie at the root of the doctrine of Free Trade, the particular public must give way. The general public are the actual or potential travellers by the Underground: the particular public are the inhabitants of the route below which it passes. The interest of the former is to purify the long and tortuous subterranean cavern which has become by far the most important means of intercommunication between the different parts of the Metropolis. The residents above, of course, dislike to have their vicinity disfigured by intermittent clouds of steam, and their atmosphere poisoned by the escape of foul sulphurous vapours. There is much, doubtless, to be said on both sides. But, personally, as I do not live near the Underground, and as I do frequently endanger a vigorous constitution by travelling by it, I need hardly say I am all for ventilation.

Is there not the least leaven of humbug about the way that certain of the Free Libraries are managed? I imagine so. Two cases illustrative of my point have come under my personal notice during the past week. A distinguished author advertised a forthcoming work, a work upon which he has been exclusively engaged for a period of eleven years. It is a library—a standard—work in the highest sense of the term. Well, the advertisement had been out a week before he was besieged with applications from Free Libraries for *free copies*! The other case is that of a rising novelist whose latest story has rather made a noise in the circulating-library world. Scarcely had the reviewers spoken as to the merits of the novel than the novelist was pestered with applications from the Free Libraries for gifts of the book. It appears to have escaped the notice of those begging-letter applicants (one of the letters, by the way, was *lithographed*) that authors live upon what they derive from their books. Authorship is a profession, and an honourable one; but it is also a trade, and a most precarious trade, too. If an author sells his book right out to the publisher, by that act he relinquishes all control over the production. Beyond the few copies he receives, as per agreement, for his private friends, he has nothing whatever to do with the issue. Even when he retains control, when he publishes on "commission," as it is termed, it is not to be expected that he should diminish his profits by giving copies of his book to libraries. The idea is monstrous. As well expect the free gas and free coal and free service as free books from authors whose trade is authorship. The system deserves to be ruthlessly discountenanced. A library has no right to exist that cannot honestly pay its way. If a book is worth having in a library, that library should pay for it.

The "Reminicences of Thomas Carlyle" edited by Mr. Froude and just published is undoubtedly interesting, and will have a large sale. The notices of Edward Irving, of De Quincy, and of Mrs. Carlyle are especially attractive and touching. I am not ashamed of a piece of hero-worship which I committed lately in going down Cheyne Walk to have another look at the house so long and until so recently inhabited by the Great Dead. Already there are external signs of change, and before long, in the rapid changes which come over London property, this shrine of literary adoration will probably be nothing more than bricks and mortar, as unnoticed and as obscure as the spot where Milton first saw the light, or the novel in which the splendid precocity of Charlton's genius was extinguished in self-destruction. The name of Carlyle will be preserved, however, in one way in connection with the vicinity in which he lived and died. One of the gigantic Queen Anne Houses close by on the Chelsea Embankment, impressive in their hugeness too high for comfort, is called "Carlyle House." Chelsea will soon possess a worthier memorial of her Sage in Mr. Boehm's excellent statue.

Let us call things by their right names. Under the heading of "The New Bible: quick work," a New York firm announce that the revised version of the New Testament is to be set up in type on its arrival in New York "inside of twenty-four hours" from the time that an English copy can be procured. They add that within three days at least 1,000 copies will be bound ready for delivery, waiting purchasers, while 5,000 copies will be manufactured daily till the demand be met. This may be called "quick work" in America; but we should prefer to call it "sharp practice," at least, this is the phrase which our English publishers prefer. In any case, America is moving. She is desiring Free Trade in some concerns and protection others, and before long a coyyright of some kind will be felt to be a necessity on both sides.

Last Tuesday it was impossible without amusement to remark the gusto which the *Daily Telegraph* recorded—not on its own authority, but upon that of two respectable provincial papers—the Dog and Man Fight alleged to have taken place in Rosendale Valley. Peterborough Court does not yet forget its animated and circumstantial description some years ago of the apochryphal Dog and Man Fight at Hanley in Staffordshire—a story which was proved to have more of the "Cock and Bull" than the "Dog and Man" element in it. Rightly or wrongly, the hoax was ascribed to the inventive genius of that distinguished member of the *Telegraph* staff who upon another occasion supplied Khiva correspondence which was universally believed to have been written in Fleet Street, and, like the German's famous description of the camel, evolved entirely from the writer's "inner consciousness."

The "Hardwicke" Debating Society in the Temple, where law students' stammer out their maiden orations and young barristers employ—often in the only way which is open to them—their gifts of rhetoric not infrequently succeeds in getting some "great gun" to discharge a volley of argument for their delectation. On Friday evening the debate upon the Irish Land Laws was opened by Sir George Young, Secretary to Lord Bessborough's Land Commission.

There is a couplet in one of Lord Neave's admirable comic songs published in *Blackwood* a good many years ago which tersely expresses the advice recently given by the Government to the pork-eating population:—

> "But let your hams be duly boiled, and don't eat pork that's raw,
> For fear that Trichiniasis, should clutch you in its claw."

The disease is by no means a new one, though it has slightly changed the termination of its name.

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.

ASSASSINATION OF THE CZAR.

CONFESSION OF THE PRISONER.

PROCLAMATION OF THE CZAREWITCH.

MORE DEATHS.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 13.

The semi-official *Agence Russe* publishes the following details regarding the assassination of the Emperor:—

"The Emperor was driving on the Catherine Canal, which runs along the side of the Park of the Michael Palace, on his return to the Winter Palace, followed by an escort and his *aide de camp*, the Prefect of Police. The Grand Duke Michael was driving behind, also returning home from the review at the Riding School.

"After the first bomb, which struck two Circassians, the Emperor alighted to examine the extent of their injuries, notwithstanding that the coachman told him he would bring him in safety to the Palace.

"His Majesty had no sooner left his carriage than the second bomb burst at his feet, breaking both his legs.

"The explosion shattered all the windows in the intervening space as far as the Imperial chapel and stables, which are on the other side of the canal.

"The Grand Duke Michael and the Prefect of Police, De Vorsitzky, rushed to the spot, and conveyed the Emperor in the Prefect's sleigh to the Winter Palace.

"The man who threw the first bomb was arrested, but the second dissappeared in the crowd.

"The Emperor fainted on the staircase of the palace, but later regained consciousness, and received the sacrement. Death ensued about four o'clock.

"As the Czarewitch left the palace he was received with enthusiastic acclamations from the crowd. In all the churches prayers were offered up spontaneously by the people.

"The troops this evening took the oaths of allegiance to the new Emperor in the barracks. To-morrow the civil authorities will publicly take the oaths, and afterwards the funeral ceremonies will be proceeded with."

ST. PETERSBURG, March 14.

The members of the Imperial family yesterday took the oath of allegiance to the Emperor Alexander III. The guards and Court officials will take the oath at one o'clock this afternoon.

The *Novoe Vremya* to-day states that one of the men concerned in the assassination of the Emperor has confessed to having thrown the first bomb, but denies any knowledge of the person who threw the second. Besides a revolver, a dagger was found upon him. The name he has given is believed to have been a false one.

The *Golos* states that the name of the man who threw the first bomb is not Griaznoff, but Rusakoff, and that he is a native of Borowitchi, in the government of Novgorod, aged 21 years.

Last night a Cossack and a civillian, who declined to give his name, died from the injuries they received by the explosion of the bombs. Altogether twenty-three persons, thirteen of whom are in the hospital, were more or less injured.

The whole city is in deep mourning, and the newspapers appear to-day with mourning borders.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 14.

All the officers of the Guards, the civil officials, and the Court dignitaries, met in the Winter Palace to-day, in order to take the oath of allegiance to the Emperor Alexander III.

When all were assembled at one o'clock, the Emperor Alexander Alexandrovitch, followed by his Consort, now the Empress, and the whole of the Imperial family, issued from the cabinet where lie the remains of the late Czar. In passing through the St. George's Hall, on his way to the chapel the Emperor stopped before the Guard of Honour, and said in a voice half-choked with emotion, "I should like my son to ascend the throne under such circumstances as the present." His Majesty was greeted with loud acclamations on his way to the chapel. After the officers and functionaries had signed the oath, and kissed the cross in the chapel, the Emperor left and drove to the Annitckin Palace amidst the shouts of the crowd who lined the road.

IMPERIAL MANIFESTO.

ST. PETERSBFRG, March 14.

The following Imperial manifesto is promulgated to-day:—

"We, by the Grace of God, Alexander the Third, Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russias, Czar of Poland, Grand Duke of Finland, &c., hereby make known to all our faithful subjects that it has pleased the Almighty, in His inscrutable will, to visit Russia with heavy blows of fate, and to call her benefactor, the Emperor Alexander the Second, to Himself.

"He fell by the hands of impious murderers, who had repeatedly sought his precious life, and made their attempts because they saw in him the protector of Russia, the foundation of her greatness, and the promoter of the welfare of the Russian people.

"Let us bow to the unfathomable will of Divine Providence, and offer up to the Almighty our prayers for the repose of the pure soul of our beloved father.

"We ascend the throne which we inherit from our forefathers, the throne of the Russiam Empire, the Czardom of Poland, and the Grand Dukedom of Finland, inseparably connected with it. We assume the heavy burden whichGod impresed upon us, with firm reliance upon His Almighty help. May He bless our work to the welfare of our beloved Fatherland, and may He guide our strength for the happiness of all our faithful subjects.

"In repeating before Almighty God the sacred vow made by our Father, to devote, according to the testament of our forefathers, the whole of our life to care for the welfare, power, and honour of Russia, we call upon all our faithful subjects to unite before the altar of the Almighty their prayers with ours, and command them to swear fidelity to us and to our successor, his Imperial Highness the Hereditary Grand Duke Nicolas Alexandrovitch.

"Given at St. Petersburg in the first year of our reign."

ARREST OF THE SECOND ASSASSIN.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 14.

Russakoff, the man who threw the first bomb at the Emperor's carriage, and was arrested by a soldier after the explosion, is a young man of 21, who for the last two years has been a student at the Mining Acadamy.

The criminal who threw the second bomb has likewise been arrested, and is also a young man.

COLOGNE, March 14.

The *Cologne Gazette* to-day published a despatch from Eydtkuhnen, dated March 13, 1 p.m., stating that the preceding night several domiciliary visits were made by the police in search of a political criminal who was described as of tall stature, with brown hair and dark whiskers. It is added that the police had lately discovered traces of a fresh plot.

The same paper, in a telegram from St. Petersburg, dated yesterday, 8·53 p.m., states that the Emperor's injuries were of a terrible character. A Marine collected the orders which the force of the explosion tore from his Majesty's breast.

HIS MAJESTY'S LAST HOURS.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 14.

The following additional details have transpired in reference to the last hours of the late Emperor: The physicians who were first summoned to the bedside of the Emperor were Surgeon Kronglevsky and Doctors Botkin, Marcus, and Dvoriachine.

The last named immediately fetched the necessary instruments for amputating the legs, which were held to the body by the flesh only, the bones being broken. Blood flowed copiously from the lacerated muscles, and india rubber bandages were applied, first to the right leg below the knee and then to the left.

The right hand in which was a glove covered with blood, was found to be greatly lacerated. The marriage ring was broken, and the pieces driven into the flesh.

The next care of the surgeons was to tie up the veins, in order to cause the blood to flow back to the heart, and at length, under the influence of sulphate of oxygen and ice, the Emperor recovered respiration and opened his eyes.

The chaplain, M. Bajanow, availed himself of the interval of apparent consciousness to administer the sacrament, and for a moment some hopes were entertained for the Emperor's life; but a minute or two afterwards the heart finally ceased to beat.

In a few seconds after the Emperor had breathed his last all the members of the Imperial family surrounded the bed of death; and as the arch priest recited the prayers from those in extremes, while all knelt, the spectacle was heartrending.

Colonel Dvortjetsky, who arrested the first assassin and took from him his revolver and dagger, is confined to his bed, but is not seriously injured.

The number of persons injured by the explosion is greater than was at first supposed. Some of them subsequently died from the injuries they received.

ST. PETERSBURG, TUESDAY.

An Imperial Ukase, accompanying yesterday's manifesto, calls upon the peasants to join the rest of the Czar's faithful subjects in giving their allegiance to the new Emperor.

The Emperor's brother, the Grand Duke Vladimar, was yesterday appointed to the command of the Imperial Guard and military disirict of St. Petersburg.

The mortal remains of the Emperor Alexander II. will be removed at eight o'clock this evening from the cabinet adjoining the Reception Hall to the chapel of the palace, in the presence of the Imperial family and the high Court dignitaries and officials. The body is clad in the uniform of the Preobraschenski regiment, agreably to the wish of the deceased monarch.

A Requiem Mass was chanted at nine o'clock yesterday evening, and at midnight the doctors performed a dissection, which proved all the internal organs to be in a normal state, thus refuting the unfavourable rumours lately current respecting the health of his late Majesty. The body was subsequently embalmed.

The Emperor Alexander III. and the Czarina, on driving to the Palace yesterday afternoon, were surrounded by an immense and deeply sympathetic crowd.

The name of the man now in custody who threw the first bomb is officially declared to be Rousakoff. The prisoner, who is a native of Tikhvin, aged 19, began his education at the Vuitegorsk district school, In 1879 he entered the Mining Institute.

Of the 18 persons who were wounded by the explosion of the bombs, two have since died.

The six Cossacks forming part of the Imperial escort were all wounded, and one has since died.

Three peasants, a marine, subaltern, Colonel Dvorjetsky, one policeman, the orderly officer of the Emperor, a cavalry captain, and a soldier's wife were also wounded.

ST. PETERSBURG, TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

The Emperor Alexander III., in speaking to some persons who were separately received by His Majesty, said he ascended the throne under painful circumstances, but that he confidently relied upon the honest co-operation of all patriots. He would endeavour to merit the love of the whole of Russia, in the same degree as his father had possessed.

The traditional ceremony of taking the oath of allegiance to the new Emperor, Alexander III., was held in the Winter Palace at one o'clock yesteday afternoon. Following the order prescribed for such occasions, the procession passed through the different saloons of the Palace to the chapel. On reaching the Nicolai Saloon, where a large number of generals of the army and officers of all arms were assembled, the Emperor was at first scarcely able to restrain his tears, but, finally mastering his emotion, his Majesty addressed those present in a firm voice, expressing his warm thanks for the heartfelt sympathy manifested for the loss of his father. The Czar called upon all present to keep the dead Emperor in faithful memory, and to preserve the same fidelity towards himself. At the close of the address there was perfect silence for some moments, the stillness being only interrupted by the weeping of many preseat. Then, however, enthusiastic hurrahs burst forth, and were again and again renewed, until the chapel was reached. There the Emperor, whose strong grief hardly allowed him to speak, addressed the assembled members of the Council of the Empire and the Ministers, who, together with the other high dignitaries, took the oath of allegiance. The procession afterwards returned in the same order in which it started.

To-day and yesterday the military took the oath to the colours.

The streets continue to-day to be greatly thronged, and the people maintain the same quiet and smypathetic demeanour as yesterday. Only one feeling, that of grief and pain for the great loss sustained by the Empire and abhorrence of the act which caused it, are manifested by all classes, without distinction.

ARREST OF CONSPIRATORS.

ST. PETERSBURG, TUESDAY EVENING.

A special supplement of the *Official Gazette* is published this evening, containing a statement of the Minister of the Interior, to the followin effect:—

One of the chief organisers of the attack upon the Czar, a man who was arrested on March 11th, has confessed his complicity in the planning of the deed, and has also denounced the man Russakoff, who threw the first bomb, and was taken in *flagrante delicto*, as the prime auther. Russakoff, on being shown the corpse of the individual who evidently launched the second bomb, and was himself mortally wounded, recognsied his accomplice

The house from which Russakoff and his companion obtained the bombs was discovered last night. As soon as the officers of law appeared the male occupant of the house shot himself; but a woman, who was living with him, was arrested. The police found there a number of grenades, and also a proclamation stating that the assassination had been accomplished by two persons. At eleven o'clock this morning, a young man entered the house, and was immediately arrested, but not until he had fired six shots with a revolver, and wounded three policemen.

ANTI-COERCION MEETINGS.

HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING.

A large open air meeting was held on Saturday, in a field at Houghton-le-Spring, to consider the Irish policy of the Government. The meeting was attended by the workmen from a number of collieries in the district, and there were upwards of 5,000 persons present. Dr. O'Flannagan presided, and amongst those on the platform were Mr. J. G. Biggar, M.P. for Cavan County.

The CHAIRMAN, after opening the proceedings in an animated speech, said several letters had been received from gentlemen in the neighbourhood apologising for their inability to attend the meeting One of those was from Mr. Wm. Crawford, secretary to the Durham Miners' Association, who, after explaining his absence in consequence of previous engagement, wrote as follows:—"It ought not to be necessary to ask my views on coercion. I am opposed to it from whomever it may come, or whatever shape it may take. The most casual reader of history and observer of passing events must know that coercive measures are generally applied to a down-drodden and destitute people. Wide-spread and continuous destitution and want render a people disatisfied, and then our statesmen in place of giving remedial measures, carry amongst them coercion, the dungeon, and the sword. My confidence in some of the most prominent of the present Ministry is unabated; but I think that the application of a strong coercive measure to Ireland. is a great mistake. But for centuries of English misrule their condition to-day would not have been what it is. Their lands have been confiscated and handed to strangers and aliens. Their powers of producing wealth have been shamefully proscribed. Altogether our treatment of Ireland has displayed all the worst features which so often characterises the conqueror towards the conquered. For many generations our own liberties as workmen were proscribed, not by the suspension of law, but by the operation of bad and iniquitous laws. Let us remember this, and remembering it, do our little towards trying to remove from Ireland that bane of proscription and curse of coercion which now hangs like a pall over that unfortunate and unhappy country."

Mr. SAMUEL HILL, New Harrington, then proposed the first resolution as follows:—"That we the working men representatives of several large collieries in the northern Division of the County of Durham, do hereby utter our solemn protest against the policy of the present Government in its despotic action in establishing the *cloture* or gag, and in passing the Coercion Bill and the Arms Bill as remedies for starvation in Ireland, thus nullifying the words of its own members that force is no remedy for violent and extreme sufferings. (Cheers.)

Mr. JOHN BELL, of New Harrington, seconded the resolution.

The resolution was carried with loud cheers, only four hands being held up in favour of the negative against the entire body of the meeting in its support.

Mr. PETER ROPER, of Haswell, moved—"That being now fully enlightened as to professions, the practices and the dodges of the two political parties who rule this empire in turn, and as the interests and sympathies of and sorrows of the working classes of these islands are identical—(hear, hear, and cheers)—we hereby pledge ourselves to support no party in the future which will not legislate for us, as the working classes, in a truly liberal, humane, and motherly spirit, the land and the wages questions being to us questions of life and death." (Cheers.)

Mr. ANTHONY SCORER, Haswell, seconded, and

Mr. WM. WILSON, Wheatley Hill, supported the resolution. He said there was no hope for the working classes of the country until they made a thorough and compact third party, backed up by the English and Irish democracy. (Applause.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. JOHN GALLAGHAM moved, and Mr. WILLIAM LUMSDEN seconded, the third resolution:—"That we as trades unionists (recognised as such by the law of the land) do hereby utter our protest in the strongest manner against the Liberal Government for imprisoning without reason and without cause our brother trades unionists of the Land League in Ireland, as every blow struck at them is a blow equally aimed at ourselves." (Loud cheering.)

Mr. JOHN BELL, Seaham Colliery, supported the resolution. He said he believed if the aristocracy and capitalists in England had the same opportunity as they had in Ireland, they, the trades unionists of England, would receive no better treatment than the Irish people had got. (Hear, hear.)

This resolution was also enthusiastically carried.

Mr. BIGGAR, M.P., then addressed the meeting at some length.

SOUTH SHIELDS.

A crowded meeting was held in the Library Hall, South Shields on Saturday night. On the motion of Mr. O'Donneil McNeill, seconded by Mr. McAlister, it was resolved "That this meeting protests against the action adopted by the Government in their coercive policy, believing that it is unjust in principle, will be tyrannical in its working, and calculated to embitter the feelings of Ireland to England; and is further of opinion that the case of Ireland commands strong measures of land reform, embracing fixity of tenure, and that fair rents should be granted immediately."

Mr. O'DONNELL, M.P., supported the resolution, which, it was decided, should be sent to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P.

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The ordinary meeting of the above Board was held in the Board-room, Lanchester, yesterday—Mr. Geo. G. Taylor Smith presiding. There were present Mr. J. Wilkinson, Mr. Logan, the Rev. Canon Kearney, the Rev. J. P. De Pledge, Mr. Siddell, Mr. Pringle, Mr. Bowey, Mr. W. H. Hedley, Mr. Elliot Leybourne, Mr. Buckham, Mr. George Fletcher, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Hodgson, and Mr. R. Clarke.

INMATES OF THE HOUSE.

Week ending March 9th	161
Corresponding week of last year	125
Week ending Mar. 16th	161
Corresponding week last year	125
Vagrants relieved during the past fortnight	129
„ „ corresponding fortnight last year	401

The tenders for the supply of provisions for the six months ending October next were submitted. The following tenders were accepted:—

Flour, ...Mr. W. R. Wiggen, Langley Park.
Groceries,...Messrs. Chapman & Son, Durham.
Coals, ...Burnhope Colliery Co. (12 months.)
Coffins, ...Mr. Wm. Hall, Lanchester.
Butcher meat,..........Mr. Monkhouse, Durham.
Leading limestone, Mr. C. Puckering (12mon.)
Drapery Goods,..Mr. T. S. Atkinson, Consett.

TERMINATION OF THE SEAHAM COLLIERY STRIKE.

On Monday morning, a meeting of the men on strike was held to consider the resolution from the Federation Board, which offered that the men should go to work, and that the men objected to by the owners should receive one month's notice to leave. This resolution was agreed to by the men.

The following agreement was considered, and the men agreed to it:—

Durham, March 12. 1880.

Having heard from Messrs. Hall, Corbett, and Lishman that the owners have no further offer to make as to a settlement of the Seaham dispute, we are sorry that this is so, for whilst we are of opinion that an error has been committed in the selection of some of the names, we quite admit the mutual right of the employer and employed to engage whom they like, and to work for whom they like; at the same time, we ask Lord Londonderry to allow all the men (except those convicted for intimidation) to commence work, we, on behalf of the Federation Board, undertaking that the eight men whose names have been given us shall leave the colliery in a month from this day, unless Mr. Corbett and such men otherwise agree.—Signed by W. CRAWFORD, W. H. PATTERSON, T. HINDMARSH, WM. MOULE, S. DOVER, and JOHN SIMPSON.

ENGLAND AND IRELAND.

A GLANCE AT THE BEGINNING.

I propose this morning, as an edifying diversion, to relate briefly how Ireland came to be a dependency of the English Crown. The facts are supposed to be within the knowledge of every school-boy, but grown-up men sometimes forget what they learned in their youth, and in any case a connected statement may not be unacceptable. No one will pretend that the questions which agitate the nineteenth century can be settled by a reference to events which happened in the twelfth, but at the same time it is necessary to remember that the questions of to-day have had a historical growth, and we shall understand them better by seeing in what way they arose. It would be hard to say that any of the elements at work in the twelfth century are surviving now in a recognizable shape. The land question, for example, derives almost all its specific features from the confiscations which have taken place since the days of James I. Even the conquest of Ireland as a completed fact cannot be carried further back than the reign of Elizabeth. But in history the chain of causation is as unbroken as it is in the physical world. One event grows out of another. If the conquest of Ireland had not been begun in the twelfth century it would not have been completed in the sixteenth. Ireland might then have been conquered all the same, but the conquest would have assumed another form, and might have been attended with different consequences. To take a right view of the conquest of Ireland in the twelfth century we must look at it in connection with the conquest of England in the eleventh. I crave pity of our Irish fellow-subjects. Like them we are a conquered people, and our conquerors were the same as theirs. In the autumn of 1066 Duke William came over with his Normans and crushed the might of the English on the field of Senlac. In one day, in one fatal fight, we lost everything. A native dynasty which could trace its descent on English soil through more than five hundred years was swept away, and a foreigner ruled in its stead. Nearly all the land in England changed hands. The former owners were turned out, and their broad acres transferred to the soldiers of the conqueror, who became the barons of England. It is worth while observing that though the English had lived in this island for six hundred years before the Norman Conquest, and had been a powerful people for at least half of that period, they had never attempted the conquest of Ireland. The two countries had peaceful relations with each other. Little perhaps was known of the native races of Ireland, but the seaport cities from Dublin to Galway had been built by the Danes, who were still in possession of them, and a large part of the population of England were of Danish descent. Eighty-nine years after the Norman Conquest of England the first step was taken towards the conquest of Ireland. This fact sufficiently shows the close connection between the two events. During that period, and for much longer, the English people had of course no political power. At the end of it they were only beginning to accommodate themselves to the altered state of affairs. Their Norman masters had spent the interval in taking a firm grip of the land, in building castles, in fighting with their kings or with each other, and some of them in pushing their conquest in South Wales, whence they began to look hungrily across to the Irish coast, but they had to wait awhile before their predatory instincts could be satisfied. In the year 1154 two notable events occurred. On the 19th of December, Henry II., the first of our Plantagenet kings, was crowned at Westminster, and on the 4th of the same month Adrian IV. was elected to the Papacy. Adrian was an Englishman. Nicholas Breakspeare by name, the only Englishman that has ever filled the chair of St. Peter. He was born at Langley, near St. Alban's, and passed some of his early years at the Monastery of St. Alban's; but he went over to the Continent when still young, and probably never saw his native land again. To all intents and purposes he was a foreign ecclesiastic, though of English birth. His career seems to have been eminently brave. Attracting the attention of the Pope by his talents and assiduities in connection with his order he was made Cardinal Bishop of Albano, was sent as a missionary legate to Denmark and Norway, and on the death of Anastasius IV. became Supreme Pontiff. During the five years of his Pontificate he maintained the prerogatives of the Papacy at the highest point, and showed himself well able to transmit the thunderbolts of Hildebrande to the hands of Innocent III. It is a great thing now-a-days to be an Englishman, but it was not much then, and when Nicholas Breakspeare was seated on the Papal throne it was probably of no greater interest to him that he was born in England than it is to any of us that we were born in Warwickshire or Kent. Henry II., the ruler of well-nigh half the land that is now called France, and King of England to boot, had hardly mounted the throne when he began to entertain the thought of invading Ireland. It was the hey-day of papal power. Its pretensions were unbounded, and as a matter of policy it was important to obtain its sanction on behalf of any aggressive enterprise. Accordingly Henry applied to the Pope for permission to invade Ireland, and at once obtained it. The request was made and granted in 1155, the year after Henry's accession. The "Privilegium" of Pope Adrian is a sufficiently remarkable document. It is not complimentary to the Irishmen of those days, but the Irish Church was in ill-repute through the rest of Christendom. Ireland stood outside the pale of the old Roman world. It had not been conquered by the legions of Rome, and it was but loosely attached to the ecclesiastical monarchy which gradually grew up on the ruins of the imperial power. The Irish Church had never acknowledged implicitly the authority of the Roman See; in its constitution and practice it differed considerably from the orthodox standard, and its morality had fallen to a low ebb. This is admitted by Irish writers, and is too well authenticated to bear denial. The Irish clergy could hardly be worse than the Welsh, of whom their countryman, Giraldus Cambrensis, says: "Non libris intendunt, sed liberis; non foliis sed filiis; non librorium lectioni, sed liberorum dilectioni," &c., the purport of which is that they loved their children better than their books. At all events, there was a cry against them, of which Henry took advantage, and which we find re-echoed in the Pope's letter. The Pope addresses Henry as his dearest son in Christ, the illustrious King of England; praises him for seeking not only earthly fame, but a treasure of eternal felicity in heaven, and for aspiring to those rewards by extending the bounds of the Church, by making known to uninstructed and barbarous people the truth of the Christian faith, and by rooting out vicious weeds from the field of the Lord. His being actuated by religious and orthodox zeal is recognised as an omen of success in the enterprise to which he is looking forward. The Pope assumes as a fact beyond doubt that Ireland and all other islands which have been illuminated by Christ, the sun of justice, and have received the Christian faith, belong by right to the chair of St. Peter and the Holy Roman Church; and then, taking note of Henry's declared intention to bring the Irish under the subjection of law, to advance the cause of virtue, exact the payment of Peter's Pence from every household, and preserve intact the rights of the churches, the Pope solemnly gives his assent. He wills that the people of Ireland should receive him as their lord, and that whatever he may do, either by himself or by others, should tend to the welfare of the Church and the spread of the Christian faith. Fulfilling his mission in this spirit he will meet an eternal recompense from God, and win a glorious name for ever on earth. Such is the tenor of this famous "Privilegium." Henry obtained it, as I have said, in 1155, but he did not avail himself of it till 1171, and in the meantime some very important events had happened. The invasion of Ireland had, indeed, been undertaken by those Norman barons whom we saw casting longing eyes towards Ireland from the coast of Pembroke, so that when the King ente red the field his work was all but done. The episodes which crowd the above interval of sixteen years are of a romantico-tragical order, and need not detain us long. Dermid Macmurrough, King of Leinster, fell in love with the wife of a neighbouring chieftain. The lady's husband was away, but he had left her safe, as he imagined, in a "castle," or cabin, surrounded by a wilderness of bog. But love is daring. Did not Paris inveigle away Helen from the halls of Mehelans, under the very eyes of her natural protector? Dermid Macmurrough got across the bog, and eloped with the lady. The injured husband appealed to Roderick, King of Connaught, who readily espoused his quarrel, and in the end Dermid had to make himself an exile from Erin for a time. He went straight to King Henry who was then in Aquitaine, and begged his help in regaining his lost territories; but Henry's hands were full of other business, and he refused, though it is said that he gave him written permission to enlist the services of any of his subjects. At any rate, we soon find Dermid at Bristol and St. David's, disclosing his sorrows and bidding for help on high terms. The Norman barons in those parts, with their Welsh connections, readily assented to the bargain. Lands were to be bestowed upon all who took part in the enterprise. The most important of these, Richard de Clare, Earl of Pembroke, better known as Strongbow, was to wed Dermid's daughter, Eva, and succeed him as King of Leinster, Roderick of Connaught once overthrown. The scheme of invasion went on apace. It was another "Norman Conquest" on a small scale. It is needless to enter into details; suffice it to say that after one or two preliminary expeditions Strongbow embarked at Milford Haven, landed at Waterford, and after capturing and destroying that city, married the fair Eva, who had been brought to welcome her father's deliverer. From Waterford Strongbow marched to Dublin, where, in conjunction with Dermid's Irish forces, he beat or outmanœuvered King Roderick. and soon captured the city. The possession of the capital ensured the possession of all Leinster, which, oddly enough, seems after all to have retained its allegiance to King Dermid. But Strongbow knew that he could not keep his conquests. He had to reckon with a jealous master, who did not like to see his barons winning territories on their own behoof. The next year Henry collected a large army, and proceeded to put into execution the commission he had received from Pope Adrian, sixteen years before. He landed at Waterford, marched through the land in fine military array, receiving submission on all sides. Strongbow surrendered his conquests and dignities, receiving them back as fiefs from the King. At a council of prelates held at Cashel in November, Henry was recognised as King of Ireland, a scheme which he had drawn up for the reformation of the Irish Church in accordance with the Papal letter was accepted by the assembly, and his task was done. After a sojourn of six months in the country he returned to England. It was a hasty and half-finished affair; nevertheless, the Norman barons who took part in the invasion—the Fitzmaurices, the Fitzgeralds, the De Lacys, the De Burghs, &c., became the founders of great Irish houses, whose representatives still figure on the peerage roll, and from time to time to this there has always been a Viceroy at Dublin. This is how Ireland first became a dependency of the English Crown. The conquest was authorised by the Pope, and Henry may now be enjoying the eternal reward held out to him, but the consequences to us have been less felicitous.—"VERAX," the *Manchester Weekly Times*.

THE DURHAM MINERS AND COERICON.

The March circular of Mr. Wm. Crawford, the secretary of the Durham Miners' Association, was issued on Friday. Under the head of "The Government and Coercion," Mr. Crawford says:—"I am sure you will pardon me naming this matter. I have had several letters about it. Some of these desired to know why I had not supported the Government in passing into law the Coercion Bill: while others wished to know why I had not opposed the Government in passing that measure. I never care to meddle in matters which I do not, very fully understand. I yet question that I understand Irish history—past or present—sufficiently well to warrant me in interfering. It ought not now to be necessary to tell you that I am opposed to coercive measures of every description, and if called upon to record my vote, it would be recorded against such an irresponsible power being placed in the hands of any class of men, much less being placed in the hands of Irish magistrates and others. No one who is the least conversant with history can overlook the iniquitous treatment which Ireland has received at the hands of English statesmen. The history of that unhappy country has for centuries been one unbroken chronicle of unjust English invasion, and cruel and ruthless coercion. We forced upon Ireland an alien church, and then robbed and plundered the people and their national church for its support. We went with the Bible in our mouths, but the sword of injustice and destruction in our hands, and the latter was more successful than the former. The penal laws we have passed and applied to Ireland far surpassed in cruel severity the worst tyrannies of Russia and Austria towards Poland and Hungary. Not only did we enforce the most hateful and abominable penal laws, but we proscribed their trade in the most destructive manner. In 1678 the exportation of raw wool was prohibited by Act of Parliament. In 1680 we prohibited the importation of Irish cattle into England. After being prohibited from exporting their raw wool, they began to manufacture it themselves. This, however, was too much for English rapacity, and in 1699 a heavy export duty was placed upon all manufactured articles. I might go on enumerating cases, demonstrating the unwarranted conduct of England towards Ireland, and her present condition is the outcome of such exceptional legislation. We are bound to condemn agrarian outrages, whether they affect persons or property. Life must be held sacred. On the other hand, who can compute the number of horrible and premature deaths which have been caused in Ireland during the last three centuries by unjust English legislation? We ought to oppose coercion. Our own liberties were proscribed until the year 1825. Two generations ago, the workmen of England dared not complain. When driven by unjust regulations to speak out, they were invariably plunged into some dungeon. Can any of you conceive what our condition would have been to-day had these laws continued? And as it was with us up to the year 1825, so is it with the Irish people to-day. While strongly condemning agrarian outrages, my sympathies are entirely with the people of Ireland in their struggle for an existance, and I deprecate ecorcive measures of every description, from whosoever they may emanate.

DR. BARDSLEY'S ANTIBILIOUS PILLS.—For eradicating all impurities of the Blood from the system they have no equal. They have never failed to effect a cure, giving tone and strength to the system debilitated by disease. Sold by all Chemists in Boxes at 13½ and 2s. 9d.

MAN'S NOBLEST WORK.—This is an age of great works and 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.

MARY MARSTON,

By GEORGE McDONALD LL.D.
Author of "Annals of a Quiet Neighbourhood," "The Seaboard Parish," "Robert Falconer," &c.

CHAPTER XVIII.

MARY IN THE SHOP.

More than a year had now passed from the opening of my narrative. It was full summer again at Testbridge, and things, to the careless eye, were unchanged, and, to the careless mind, would never change, although in fact nothing was the same, and nothing could continue as it now was. For were not the earth and the sun a little colder? Had not the moon crumbled a little! And had not the eternal warmth unperceived save of a few, drawn a little nearer—the clock that measures the eternal day ticked one tick more to the hour when the Son of Man will come? But the greed and the fawning did go on unchanged, save it were for the worse, in the shop of Turnbull and Marston, seasoned only with the heavenly salt of Mary's good ministration.

She was very lonely. Letty was gone; and the link between Mr. Wardour and her not only broken, but a gulf of separation in its place. Not the less remained the good he had given her. No good is ever lost, the heavenly porter was departed, but had left the door wide. She had seen him but once since Letty's marriage, and then his salutation was like that of a dead man in a dream; for in his sore heart he still imagined her the confidante of Letty's deception.

But the shadow of her father's absence swallowed all the other shadows. The air of warmth, and peace, and conscious safety which had hitherto surrounded her was gone, and in its place cold, exposure, and annoyance. Between them her father and she had originated a mutually protective atmosphere of love; when that failed the atmosphere of earthly relation rushed in and enveloped her. The moment of her father's departure malign influences, inimical to the very springs of life, concentrated themselves upon her; it was the design of John Turnbull that she should not be comfortable so long as she did not irrevocably cast in her lot with his family; and the rest in the shop being mostly creatures of his own choice, by a sort of implicit understanding they proceeded to make her uncomfortable. So long as they confined themselves to silence, neglect, and general exclusion, Mary heeded little their behaviour, for no intercourse with them, beyond that of external good offices, could be better than indifferent to her; but when they advanced to positive interferance her position became indeed hard to endure. They would, for instance, keep watch on her serving, and as soon as the customer was gone would find open fault with this or that she had said or done. But even this was comparatively endurable: when they advanced to the insolence of doing the same in the presence of the customer, she found it more than she could bear with even a show of equanimity. She did her best, however; and for some time things went on without any symptom of approaching crisis. But it was impossible this should continue; for had she been capable of endless endurance, her persecuters would only have gone on the worse. But Mary was naturally quick-tempered, and the chief trouble they caused her was the control of her temper; for, although she had early come to recognise the imperitive duty of this branch of self-government, she was not yet perfect in it. Not every one who can serve unboundedly can endure patiently; and the more gentle some natures, the more they resent the rudeness which springs from an opposite nature; absolutely courteous, they flame at discourtesy, and thus lack of the perfection to which patience would and must raise them. When Turnbull, in the narrow space behind the counter, would push his way past her without other pretence of apology than something like a sneer, she did feel for a moment as if evil were about to have the victory over her; and when Mrs. Turnbull came in, which happily was but seldom, she felt as if, from some sepulchre in her mind, a very demon sprang to meet her. For she behaved to her worst of all. She would heave herself in with the air and look of a very duchess; for, from the height of her small consciousness, she looked down upon the shop, and never entered it save as a customer. The daughter of a small country attorney, who notwithstanding his unneglected opportunities, had not been too successful to accept as a husband for his daughter such a tradesman as John Turnbull, she arrogated position from her idea of her father's position; and, while bitterly cherishing the feeling that she had married beneath her, obstinately excluded the fact that therein she had descended to her husband's level, regarding herself much in the light of a princess whose disguise takes nothing from her rank. She was like those ladies who, having set their seal to the death of their first husbands by marrying again, yet cling to the title they gave them, and continue to call themselves by their name.

Mrs. Turnbull never bought a dress at the shop. No one should say of her, it was easy for a snail to live in a castle! She took pains to let her precious public know that she went to London to make her purchases. If she did not mention also, that she made them at the warehouses where her husband was a customer, procuring them at the same price he would have paid, it was because she saw no occasion. It was indeed only for some small occasional necessity she ever crossed the threshold of the place whence came all the money she had to spend. When she did, she entered it with such airs as she imagined to represent the consciousness of the scion of a county-family: there is one show of breeding vulgarity seldom assumes—simplicity. No sign of recognition would pass between her husband and herself: by one stern refusal to acknowledge his advance, she had from the first taught him that in the shop they were strangers: he saw the rock of ridicule ahead, and required no second lesson: when she was present, he never knew it. George had learned the lesson before he went into the business, and Mary had never required it. The others behaved to her as to any customer known to stand upon her dignity, but she made them no return in politeness; and the way she would order Mary, now there was no father to offend, would have been amusing enough but for the irritation its extreme rudeness caused her. She did, however, manage sometimes to be at once both a little angry and much amused. Small idea had Mrs. Turnbull of the diversion which on such occasions she afforded the customers present.

One day, a short time before her marriage, delayed by the illness of Mr. Redmain, Miss Mortimer happened to be in the shop, and was being served by Mary, when Mrs. Turnbull entered. Careless of the customer, she walked straight up to her as if she saw none, and in a tone that would be dignified, and was haughty, desired her to bring her a reel of marking-cotton. Now it had been a principle with Mary's father and she had thoroughly learned it, that whatever would be counted rudeness to *any* customer, must be shown to *none*. "If all are equal in the sight of God," he would say, "how dare I leave a poor woman to serve a rich! Would I leave one countess to serve another? My business is to sell in the name of Christ. To respect persons in the shop, would be just the same as to do it in the chapel, and would be to deny Him."

"Excuse me, ma'am," said Mary, "I am waiting on Miss Mortimer," and went on with what she was about. Mrs. Turnbull flounced away, a little abashed, not by Mary, but by finding who the customer was, and carried her commands across the shop. After a moment or two, however, imagining, in the blindness of her surging anger, that Miss Mortimer was gone, whereas she had only moved a little farther on to look at something, she walked up to Mary in a fury.

"Miss Marston," she said, her voice half choked with rage, I am at a loss to understand what you mean by your impertinence."

"I am sorry you should think me impertinent," answered Mary. "Your tone was insufferable, miss" cried the grand lady; but what more she would have said I cannot tell, for just then Miss Mortimer resumed her place in front of Mary. She had no idea of her position in the shop, neither suspected who her assailant was, and fearing the woman's accusation might do her an injury, felt compelled to interfere.

"Miss Marston," she said—she had just heard Mrs. Turnbull use her name—"if you should be called to account by your employer, will you, please, refer to me. You were perfectly civil both to me and to this —"—she hesitated a perceptible moment, but ended with the word "*lady*," peculiarly toned.

"Thank you, ma'am," said Mary, with a smile, "but it is of no consequence."

This answer would have almost driven the woman out of her reason—already, between annoyance with herself and anger with Mary, her hue was purple: something she called her constitution required a nightly glass of brandy and water—but she was so dumbfounded by Miss Mortimer's defence of Mary, which she looked upon as an assault on herself, so painfully aware that all hands were arrested, and all eyes fixed on herself, and so mortified with the conviction that her husband was enjoying her discomfiture, that, with what haughtiness she could extemporise from consuming offence, she made a sudden vertical gyration, and walked from the vile place.

Now, George never lost a chance of recommending himself to Mary by siding with her—but only after the battle. He came up to her now with a mean unpleasant look, intended to represent sympathy, and, approaching his face to hers, said confidentially,

"What made my mother speak to you like that, Mary?"

"You must ask herself," she answered.

"There you are, as usually Mary!" he protested; "you will never let a fellow take your part!"

"If you wanted to take my part, you should have done so when there would have been some good in it."

"How could I before Miss Mortimer, you know!"

"Then why do it now?"

"Well, you see—it's hard to bear hearing you ill-used! What did you say to Miss Mortimer that angered my mother?"

His father heard him, and taking the cue, called out in the rudest fashion,

"If you think, Mary, you're going to take liberties with customers because you've got no one over you, the sooner you find you're mistaken the better."

Mary made no answer.

On her way to "the villa" Mrs. Turnbull, spurred by spite, had got hold of the same idea as George, only that she invented he had but imagined it; and when her husband came home in the evening fell out upon him for allowing Mary to be impertinent to his customers, in whom for the first time she condescended to show an interest;

"There she was, talking away to that Miss Mortimer as if she was Beenie in the kitchen! County people won't stand being treated as if one was just as good as another, I can tell you! She'll be the ruin of the business, with her fine-lady airs. Who's *she*, I should like to know!"

"I shall speak to her," said the husband. "But," he went on, "I fear you will no longer approve of marrying her to George, if you think she's an injury to the business!"

"You know as well as I do, that is the readiest way to get her out of it. Make her marry George, and she will fall into my hands. If I don't make her repent her impudence then, you may call me the fool you think me."

Mary knew well enough what they wanted of her; but of the real cause at the root of their desire she had no suspicion. Recoiling altogether from Mr. Turnbull's theories of business, which were in flat repudiation of the laws of Him who alone understands either man or his business, she yet had not a doubt of his honesty as the trades and professions count honesty. Her father had left the money affairs of the firm to Mr. Turnbull, and she did the same. It was for no other reason than that her position had become almost intolerable, that she now began to wonder if she was bound to this mode of life, and whether it might not be possible to forsake it.

Greed is the soul's theiving; where there is greed there cannot be honesty, John Turnbull, it is true, was not only proud of his reputation for honesty, but prided himself on being an honest man; yet not the less was he dishonest—and that with a dishonesty such as few of those called thieves have attained to.

Like most of his kind, he had been neither so vulgar nor so dishonest from the first. In the prime of youth he had had what people about him called high notions, and counted quixotic fancies. But it was not their mockery of his tall talk that turned him aside; opposition invariably confirmed Turnbull. He had never set his face in the right direction. The seducing influence lay in himself. It was not the truth he had loved; it was the show of fine sentiment he had enjoyed. The distinction of holding loftier opinions than is neighbours was the ground of his advocacy of them. Something of the beauty of the truth he must have seen—who does not?—else he could not have been thus moved at all; he had never denied himself even a whim for the carrying out of one of his ideas; he had never set himself to be better; and the whole mountain chain, therefore, of his notions sank and sank, until at length their loftiest peak was the maxim, *Honesty is the best policy*—a maxim which, true enough in fact, will no more make a man honest than the economic aphorism, *The supply equals the demand*, will teach him the niceties of social duty. Whoever makes policy the ground of his honesty will discover more and more exceptions to the rule. The career, therefore, of Turnbull of the high notions, had been a gradual descent to the level of his present dishonesty and vulgarity: nothing is so vulgarising as dishonesty. I do not care to follow the history of any man downward. Let him who desires to look on such a panorama, faithfully and thoroughly depicted, read Auerbach's *Diethelm von Buchenberg*.

Things went a little more quietly in the shop after this for a while: Turnbull probably was afraid of precipitating matters, and driving Mary to seek counsel—from which much injury might arise to his condition and prospects. As if to make amends for past rudeness, he even took some pains to be polite, putting on something of the manners with which he favoured his best "customers," of all mankind in his eyes the most to be honoured. This of course rendered him odious in the eyes of Mary, and ripened the desire to free herself from circumstances which from garments seemed to have grown cerements. She was, however, too much her father's daughter to do anything in haste.

She might have been less willing to abandon them, had she had any friends likeminded with herself, but while they were all kindly disposed to her, none of the religious associates of her father, who knew, or might have known her well, approved of her. They spoke of her generally with a shake of the head, and an unquestioned feeling that God was not pleased with her. There are few of the so-called religious who seem able to trust either God or their neighbour in matters that concern those two and no other. Nor had she had opportunity of making acquaintance with any who believed and lived like her father, in other of the Christian communities of the town. But she had her Bible, and when that troubled her she had the Eternal Wisdom to cry to for such wisdom as she could receive; and one of the things she learned was that nowhere in the Bible was she called on to believe in the Bible, but in the living God, in whom is no darkness, and who alone can give light to understand His own intent. All her troubles she carried to Him.

It was not always the solitude of her room that Mary sought, to get out of the wind of the world. Her love of nature had been growing stronger, notably, from her father's death. If the world is God's, every true man ought to feel at home in it. Something is wrong if the calm of the summer night does not sink into the heart, for the peace of God is there embodied. Something is wrong in the man to whom the sunrise is not a divine glory, for therein are embodied the truth, the simplicity, the might of the Maker. When all is true in us, we shall feel the visible presence of the Watchful and Loving; for the thing that He works is its sign and symbol, its clothing fact. In the gentle conference of earth and sky, in the witnessing colours of the west, in the wind that so gently visited her cheek, in the great burst of a new morning, Mary saw the sordid affairs of Mammon, to whose worship the shop seemed to become more and more of a temple, sink to the bottom of things, as the mud, which during the day, the feet of the drinking cattle have stirred, sinks in the silent night to the bottom of the clear pool; and she saw that the sordid is all in the soul, and not in the shop. The service of Christ is help. The service of Mammon is greed.

Letty was no good correspondent: after one letter in which she declared herself perfectly happy, and another in which she said almost nothing, her communication ceased. Mrs. Wardour had been in the shop again and again, but on each occasion had sought the service of another; and once, indeed, when Mary alone was disengaged, had waited until another was at liberty. While Letty was in the house she had been civil, but as soon as she was gone, seemed to show that she held her concerned in the scandal that had befallen Thornwick. Once, as I have said, she met Godfrey. It was in the fields. He was walking hurriedly, as usual, but with his head bent, and a glommy gaze fixed upon nothing visible. He started when he saw her, took his hat off. and, with his eyes seeming to look far away behind her, passed without a word. Yet had she been to him a true pupil; for although neither of them knew it, Mary had learned more from Godfrey than Godfrey was capable of teaching. She had turned thought and feeling into life, into reality, into creation. They speak of the *creations* of the human intellect, of the human imagination! there is nothing man can do comes half so near the making of the Maker as the ordering of his way—except one thing: the highest creation of which man is capable, is to will the will of the Father. That *has* in it an element of the purely creative, and then is man likest God. But simply to do what we ought, is an altogether higher, diviner, more potent, more creative thing, than to write the grandest poem, paint the most beautiful picture, carve the mightiest statue, build the most worshipping temple, dream out the most enchanting commotion of melody and harmony. If Godfrey could have seen the soul of the maiden into whose face his discourtesy called the hot blood, he would have beheld there simply what God made the earth for; as it was, he saw a shop-girl to whom in happier circumstances he had shown kindness, in whom he was now no longer interested. But the sight of his troubled face called up all the mother in her; a rush of tenderness, born of gratitude, flooded her heart. He was sad, and she could do nothing to comfort him! He had been royally good to her, and no return was in her power. She could not even let him know how she had profited by his gifts! She could come near him with no ministration! The bond between them was an eternal one, yet were they separated by a gulf of unrelation. Not a mountain range, but a stayless nothingness parted them. She built many a castle, with walls of gratitude and floors of service to entertain Godfrey Wardour; but they stood on no foundation of imagined possibility.

(*To be continued.*)

Markets.

NEWCASTLE CORN MARKET, Tuesday.—At this day's market there was little wheat shown by the growers, but on Saturday last there was a large delivery. Both of coasting and foreign we have a good arrival. The trade ruled quiet, but the business done was at the full prices of this day week. Barley steady. Maize rather lower. Beans and peas unchanged. Oats held for rather more money, which checked sales. Flour slow at late rates.

NEWCASTLE CATTLE MARKET, Tuesday.—At this day's market the arrivals from a distance consisted of 208 head of cattle from Aberdeen and the counties of the north-east coast of Scotland; 1,352 beasts, 33 sheep, 36 calves, and 400 pigs from foreign; 105 beasts and 40 pigs from Ireland. The show of stock presented for sale exhibited an increase of 206 beasts, and 1,480 sheep as compared with that of last week. Respecting quality, ca t'e were middling, while sheep were about an average. Sixty-three carcases of pork from Denmark were in Mr. Tindall's Meat Mart, Cattle Market. They would range in weight from five to twelve imperial stones, which was indisputably about the finest quality of pork that was ever shown in Newcast'e. The supply of beef comprised 1,275 head. The beef trade to-day was again in a very unsettled state. The better classes of home breds moved freely off at about the rates of this day se'nnight, but for all other descriptions the demand was in an exceedingly sluggish state, and the increase of cattle at Manchester tended to increased heaviness, with a dull finish. The number of sheep was 3,550. The mutton trade was considerably back from Tuesday last, and a slow dragging trade was experienced. Pigs—328 against 897 in the corresponding week of last year. Owing to trichnia or measles being discovered in some hams said to be Westphalian, it has made a complete stagnation in the pork trade, and we decline giving quotations, as it is to be hoped that the panic will subside in another week. One extensive butcher in Newcastle had half a dozen prime small porkers in the week ending March 5th; in the following week ending 12th, nill. So far as any loss was sustained to the butcher there was little, if any, as, generally speaking, "pork" is the most profitless article that a respectable family butcher can deal in, as the present season is the worst that was ever known. Paying 10s and 10s 6d, and, in some instances, 11s per stone of 14lb ready money, besides a shilling per head for dressing, is very poor pickings indeed. The day was delightful for holding the market, the weather being mild and pleasant, with a settled aspect. Prices for this day, sinking the offal are as follows:—

Beasts, prime heifers, per stone	8s 6d to 9s 0d
Secondary sorts	7s 0d .. 7s 6d
First-class oxen	8s 6d .. 8s 9d
Middling	6s 9d .. 7s 0d
Cows and inferior	6s 6d .. 6s 9d
Pork	7s 0d .. 10s 0d
Sheep (good vendable wedders) per lb	10d .. 11d
Middling	9d .. 9½d

NEWCASTLE HAY AND STRAW, Tuesday.—Old land hay £4 0s 0d to £6 6s; this year's growth, £0 0s to £0 0s 0d; new land hay, £4 10s to £7 10s; this year's growth, £0 0s to £0 0s; clover hay, £4 0s to £5 0s per ton; wheat straw, 1s 8d to 2s 2d; barley straw, 1s 4d to 1s 8d; oat straw, 1s 5d to 2s 1d per thrave. Carts of hay at market, 105; carts of straw, 31.

HEXHAM CORN MARKET, Tuesday.—At this morning's market there was an average supply of oats and barley. Grinding barley sold a little dearer. No change in the price of oats. No samples of wheat on offer.

HEXHAM PROVISION, Tuesday.—Butter, 1s 5d to 1s 6d per lb; eggs 13 to 14 for 1s; geese, 0d to 0d per lb; turkeys, 0s 0d to 0s 0d each; rabbits, 2s 6d to 3s per couple; hares, 3s 6d to 5s 0d each; chickens, 2s 6d to 3s 0d; ducks, 2s 6d to 3s 6d each; potatoes, 6d to 8d; onions 1s 10d to 2s 0d; apples, 3s 0d to 3s 6d per stone; cabbages, 0d each; lemons, 3d each; grapes, 8d per lb; flour, extra superfines, 2s 4d; superfines, 2s 2d; fines, 2s 0d; maslin, 1s 10d; oatmeal, 2s 0d to 2s 2d per stone. Marmalade oranges, 4d per lb.

NEWCASTLE FRUIT AND POTATO, Saturday.—Grapes 10d to 1s; cabbages, 1½d each; apples, 2s 4d to 3s 0d; Scotch potatoes, 7d to 8d; large onions, 1s 6d; small onions, 1s 0d to 1s 4d per stone; oranges, 25 for 1s; dates, 3d per lb; carrots, turnips, beetroot, pickling cabbages, and other classes of vegetables sold at low rates.

DURHAM PROVISION, Saturday.—Beef, 8d to 11d; mutton, 8d to 11d; veal, 9d to 11d; pork, 9d to 10d; bacon, 5d to 6½d; ham, 6d to 7d; cheese, 7d to 8d; lard, 7d per lb. Chickens, 2s 6d to 3s 0d; ducks, 3s 0d to 3s 6d; geese, 0s 0d to 0s; turkeys, 0s 0d to 0s 0d each. Rabbits, 3s 0d to 3s 4d per couple; hares, 4s to 5s 5d each. Hens, 1s 6d to 2s 0d. each. Pigeons, 1s 3d to 1s 4d per couple. Ptarmigan grouse, 0s 0d per brace. Butter, 1s 8d to 1s 10d; salt, do., 1s 2d to 1s 4d per lb. Eggs, 9 to 12 for 1s. Apples, 2s 6d to 3s 0d; onions, 2s 0d to 2s 6d per peck; potatoes, 8d to 9d per stone.

Business Announcements.

THOMAS SHAW ATKINSON

IS NOW

CLEARING OUT SOME VERY SPECIAL BARGAINS

AT HIS DRAPERY ESTABLISHMENT,

LUTON HOUSE.

22, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 996c

THE WEATHER!

FOR THE CONVENIENC OF, AND TO OBLIGE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE, IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE SEVERE WEATHER, TO VISIT

THOMAS LATHAM'S CLEARANCE SALE,

IT WILL BE CONTINUED FOR A SHORT TIME LONGER, DURING WHICH A LOT OF

REMNANTS

IN DRESS AND DRAPERY GOODS WILL BE OFFERED AT HALF-PRICE.

SURPLUS GOODS GREATLY REDUCED! TREMENDOUS BARGAINS OFFERED!!

THOS. LATHAM,

NEXT DOOR TO MR. DAVISON, OPPOSITE NORTH EASTERN BANK,

5, FRONT STREET, CONSETT. 958

DENTAL SURGERY

EIGHTH YEAR OF ATTENDING CONSETT.

MR. MARKHAM, SURGEON DENTIST, of Newcastle, Attends No. 4, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT, EVERY MONDAY, from Eleven till Three.

ESTABLISHED IN NEWCASTLE 1830.

MR. R. L. MARKHAM HAS REMOVED FROM 40, NORTHUMBERLAND STREET, TO No. 19, ELDEN SQUARE, NEWCASTLE. 637a

MR. JOHN POTTS,
AUCTIONEER, VALUER, & HOUSE AGENT,
1, TRAFALGAR STREET, CONSETT.

J. P. WISHES to call the Attention of Drapers, Clothiers, Boot Merchants, Furniture Brokers, and others, to the above. For Sales already arranged, see next issue.

WATCHES CLOCKS AND JEWELLERY

ON EASY TERMS BY JOINING

DAVISON'S CLUBS.

FOR TERMS APPLY TO

J. W. DAVISON,
WATCHMAKER AND JEWELLER,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT. 773c

LOOK HERE!
LOOK HERE!!
LOOK HERE!!!

COME TO CONSETT AT LAST.

THE CELEBRATED

NABOB INDIAN TEA!

3s. PER POUND.

THE Rare Quality and the Delicious Flavour which has obtained for it an immense Sale in every large Town in this Kingdom.

THE FAR-FAMED

CHALLENGE CUP
INDIAN PEKOE!

2s. 6d. PER POUND.

ONE of the greatest boons ever introduced to the Hard-working Classes of this Country, because for its Strength and the Invigorating Properties it contains it has no equal.

ALSO, THE

NATIONAL INDIAN TEA!

2s. PER POUND.

TRULY a marvel at the Price. These Teas are in ¼lb. and ½lb. Packets. Ask for one trial and you will never change.

OLD WHOLESALE & RETAIL BY

WILLIAM AYNSLEY,

GROCER, TEA DEALER, WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANT,

CONSETT, LEADGATE, & ANNFIELD PLAIN.

CLOSE of SEASON CLEARANCE SALE of PARAFFIN LAMPS, PETROLEUM STOVES, and COOKERS. GAS FITTINGS—including 2 Light Slides, from 12s. 6d.; Superb Three-Light Chandeliers, from 30s.; Stained Glass Lobby Lamps, from 18s. 6d. Also, GAS STOVES and COOKERS of new and efficient construction in great variety. A Splendid Large WASHING MACHINE and MANGLE, price £6 10s., reduced to £5. 10s., and many other useful Articles in good Bargains at

J. C. HALLIDAY'S, 908c
43, GRAINGER STREET, NEWCASTLE.

AN EXTRAORDINARY TEA!!

A SPLENDID BLEND.

2s. PER LB.
DRAWS A SPLENDID DARK LIQUOR.
HAS A DELICIOUS FLAVOUR.
IS A REALLY ECONOMICAL TEA.
IS A TEA THAT EVERY ONE SHOULD TRY.
IS COMMANDING A LARGE SALE.
2s. PER LB.

C. F. COOKE,
TEA DEALER, ANNFIELD PLAIN

A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF BRITISH WINES AND FANCY BISCUITS. 841c

JOHN CRAWFORD,
AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER & VALUER,
25, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT.

MONEY advanced upon Goods on the Shortest Notice.

Business done promptly, and upon reasonable Terms.

REVELY AND KELL,
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS,

BEG to announce that they have removed their Business from Mosley Street to more Commodious Premises.
No. 7, COLLINGWOOD STREET. 764c
NEWCASTLE.

THE AUCKLAND UNION
PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY.
ESTABLISHED 1857.

Offices—56, North Bondgate, Bishop Auckland.

THE Directors are prepared to ADVANCE MONEY on approved securities. The repayments may spread over 16 years, or any less number, to suit the means of borrowers.

INVESTING SHARES may be entered at any time, and withdrawn, if required, at a month's notice.

PROFITS are divided every three years.

The Interest and Profits paid to members on Completed Shares has averaged 6¼ per cent. per annum.

Any further particulars may be obtained of Mr. GEO. STILLMAN, 56, North Bondgate, Bishop Auckland; or Mr. JOHN ELLIOTT, Palmerston Place, Consett. 300c

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

5,000 MAGNIFICENT PRESENTS TO BE GIVEN AWAY.

The Anglo-French Jewellery Company, Ladypool Lane, Birmingham, in order to introduce their business before the public, have, at enormous expense, resolved to present to every person applying for the same a

FRENCH POCKET TIME INDICATOR, Patented.

This admirable little Article is the size and shape of an ordinary watch, has strong metal cases, steel works, balanced action, enamelled dial, crystal glass dome, patent adjusting swivel ring for attaching to watch guard. Each denotes correct solar time, and in fact no one, either male or female, shoul want for a watch, when such an opportunity as this offers, a chance which will never occur again. The Time Indicator is warranted for 5 years. To secure one of these little articles the sum of 1s. 4d. must be forwarded, either in P.O.O. or stamps, or two will be sent for 2s. 5d., with the full name and address filled in the form below, and enclosed to the Anglo-French Jewellery Company, Ladypool Lane, Birmingham.

A Handsome Gift to every Purchaser. We have resolved to give away, with every Pocket Timepiece, a neat and useful companion, in Aluminium Gold, case suitable for lady or gentleman. None sold without this coupon—

CONSETT | This Coupon entitles sender to Pocket Timepiece, with handsome Present, on receipt of 1s. 4d., or 2 for 2s. 5d., 3 for 3s. 6d., 4 for 4s. 3d.
Name..........
Address..........
Town.......... | GUARDIAN.

Address—The Manager, Anglo-French Jewellery Company, Ladypool Lane, Birmingham.

IMPORTANT.—As the quantity is limited, intending purchasers are requested to send at once. Orders received after these are sold out will be returned. 15p

WILLIAM WILSON,
(SUCCESSOR TO MR. THOMAS MCADAM)
HOUSE CARPENTER, JOINER,
AND UNDERTAKER,
SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

ALL JOBBING WORK done on the most Reasonable Terms, and at the Shortest Notice. 6p

GENUINE

GARDEN AND FARM SEEDS

FROM

ROBERT ROGERSON,
SEEDSMAN AND GROWER, DUMFRIES,
SCOTLAND.

Agent—RICHARD ASHDOWN, Gardener and Florist Prospect House, Leadgate.

Gardens kept in order, and Gardeners sent out by the day. 21p

Public Notices.

A BRAN of Superior Breed, at Mr. WILLIAM JOPLING'S, Durham Road, Blackhill.—Terms may be known on application. 797

NOTICE.

THE Hamsterley, Blackhall Mill, and Milkwell Burn Floral and Horticultural Society will hold their GENERAL MEETING for the Election of Officers, at Mr. BEAN'S, Blackhall Mill Inn, on Saturday, March 26th, 1881, at Seven o'clock p.m. 8p

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that WILLIAM TURNER, Station Hotel, Blackfine, has purchased a First-class Bred BULL, from the Executors of the late EDWARD YOUNG, of Broomy Holme, to serve Cows at 5s. each. Pedigree, "Young Hero;" Sire, "British Hero;" Grandsire, "Duke of Howl John." Terms—Cash. 10p

BENFIELDSIDE FLORAL SOCIETY.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Benfieldside Floral Society will be held in the Central Hall, Benfieldside, on Wednesday Evening, March 23rd, 1881, at Half-past Seven o'clock. Members are requested to attend.

11p G. BAINBRIDGE, Secretary.

BENFIELDSIDE LOCAL BOARD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to all Owners and Occupiers of Property, situate within the District of this Board, to have their HOUSES NUMBERED and STREETS NAMED prior to the 2nd day of April, 1881, the time appointed for taking the Census.

By Order of the Board,

JOHN BOOTH, Clerk.

Shotley Bridge, 16th March, 1881. 22p

THE CORBETT FAMILY SILVER CHAMPION PRIZE BAND

(The only Family in England that has a Set of BESSON'S Silver Instruments) will give a

GRAND CONCERT

In the

CO-OPERATIVE HALL, ANNFIELD PLAIN

ON SATURDAY, MARCH 26TH, 1881. 27p

CONSETT AND DERWENT VALLEY ENTIRE HORSE SHOW.

THE

ANNUAL SHOW OF CART STALLIONS

WILL BE HELD AT CONSETT,

On THURSDAY, MARCH 24th, 1881,

When a

PRIZE OF £30 will be given for the best Horse shown.

CONDITIONS.—The Prize Horse to Travel in this District for the Season. Entries can be made up to Nine o'clock a.m. on March 24th, 1881, on application to the Secretaries, from whom copies of the Rules may be had.

On account of the Cattle restrictions, the Fair this Season will be for Horses only.

ROBERT HEDLEY, ADAM BRODIE, } HON. SECS.

Town Hall Consett,
March 8th, 1881.

6TH ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALE.

GEORGE RICHARDSON,
DRAPER, SHOTLEY BRIDGE,
Respectfully announces that his

6TH ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALE!

Will commence

ON SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH, 1881

For Fourteen Days, concluding April 2nd.

The Stock is large, and will be cleared out at Great REDUCTIONS.

An Immense Stock of STRAW HATS to be cleared out at very low prices.

All Goods to be paid for when purchased. 24p

THE ENLARGMENT OF

ST. CUTHBERT'S CHURCH,

BENFIELDSIDE, AND THE

BUILDING OF A SUNDAY SCHOOL.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

	£	s.	d.
R. DICKINSON, Esq., Shotley House	350	0	0
JAS. ANNANDALE, jun., Esq., The Briary	125	0	0
J. BOOTH, Esq., Summerdale	60	0	0
J. PRIESTMAN, Esq., Derwent View	60	0	0
Dr. RENTON, Orchard House	50	0	0
A. B. WILBRAHAM, Esq., Snows Green House	36	15	0
F. PRIESTMAN, Esq., Derwent View	30	0	0
Rev. F. B. and Mrs. THOMPSON, The Vicarage	30	0	0
W. DICKINSON, Esq., The Villas	25	0	0
Mr. JOHN THIRLWELL, Front Street	10	0	0
Mrs. RENTON, Orchard House	10	0	0
Miss HEWITT, Highgate	10	0	0
Mr. COLLINSON, Shotley Grove School	5	5	0
A FRIEND	5	0	0
Mr. A. HOULISTON, Front Street	5	0	0
	£812	0	0

A more complete List will be issued next week. 30p

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY,

CHIEF OFFICE: HOLBORN BARS, LONDON, E.C.

SUMMARY OF THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT,

For the Year ending 31st December, 1880.

THE Directors have much pleasure in presenting their Report and Accounts for the year 1880.

In every respect the accounts are satisfactory, the progression of the Income is particularly gratifying, the increase of the Assurance Funds very considerable, while the percentage of each item of expenditure again shows a reduction.

ORDINARY BRANCH.

In this Branch the New Business completed during the year consists of 5,089 Policies, assuring the sum of £639,935, and producing a New Annual Premium Income of £22,529 9s. 11d.

The expenses of the Branch are 11·22 per cent. on the Premium Income, and are a trifle less than those of last year.

The Annual Premium income at the end of the year is £122,647 5s. 5d., showing an increase of £13,065 16s. over the year 1879.

At the close of the year 1881 the Quinquennial Division of Profits will take place. All Persons whose Proposals have been accepted and the Premiums paid before the 31st December, 1881, will participate in the Bonus.

From the results of the operations of the four years of the present Quinquennium, there seems every reason to believe that a very satisfactory Bonus will be declared.

INDUSTRIAL BRANCH.

The Premiums actually received during the year in this Branch are £1,608,849 8s. 7d., as compared with the sum of £1,407,143 10s. 6d., received during 1879, showing an increase of Premium Receipts of £201,705 18s. 1d.

The Claims of the year amount to £573,837 1s. 9d., while the total amount of Claims paid in this Branch is £3,146,360.

The expenses of conducting the existing business of this Branch are now 31·9 per cent. upon the Premium Income, shewing a further reduction from those of last year, and being 10 per cent. less than the amount provided at the last valuation.

These expenses are necessarily higher than those in the Ordinary Branch, as the premiums are collected weekly, but they are still less than those of any other similar Company transacting purely Life Assurance business.

The rate of the New Business charges is upwards of one-half per cent. less than that of last year, but inasmuch as specific provision is made for these charges in the first year's premium, and they are defrayed by new entrants, forming no charge whatever upon renewals, their incidence is of no practical moment.

The process of reducing the Extension Expenses has been continued during the past year. The expenses incurred under this head shew a diminution of more than one-half per cent. and the same remarks apply to these as to the New Business charges.

The organisation of this Branch is still maintained in a high state of efficiency.

The result of the valuation at the end of the year 1876 completely demonstrated the safety and soundness of the system on which the Company's Industrial Business is carried on.

The Directors have since that date caused statistical returns of the most minute and exhaustive character relating to the transactions of this Branch to be compiled. The books containing these returns have been from time to time examined with an anxious desire to introduce all improvements for the benefit of the Assured which may with safety and propriety be adopted.

The business of the past four years has been attended with the most satisfactory results, and the Directors propose, if the valuation at the close of the year realizes their expectations, to introduce such additional alterations and improvements as they consider can be made with due regard to the stability of the Company.

LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES' ACT, 1870.—FOURTH SCHEDULE.

BALANCE SHEET OF THE PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY (ORDINARY BRANCH),
On the 31st December 1880.

LIABILITIES.

		£	s.	d.
Life Assurance Fund		663,485	1	2
Sickness and Assurance Fund		491	16	7
		£663,976	17	9
Claims under Life Policies admitted but not yet paid		12,972	1	3
		£676,948	19	0

ASSETS.

		£	s.	d.
Mortgages on Property within the United Kingdom		157,110	4	1
Loans on the Company's Policies		23,653	0	11
Investments:—				
In British Government Securities		95,182	2	3
Indian and Colonial ditto		49,989	7	3
Foreign ditto		13,367	15	3
Railway and other Debentures and Debenture Stock		44,189	10	11
Ditto Shares (Preference and Ordinary)		21,697	16	7
House Property	£97,228 14 8			
Less Leasehold Redemption Fund Transferred	6,000 0 0			
		91,228	14	8
Reversions		57,986	3	6
Life Interests		76	12	6
Mortgages of Reversions		2,848	9	2
Loans on Municipal and other Rates		19,013	7	6
Agents' Balances		4,711	8	7
Outstanding Premiums		1,273	3	5
Ditto Interest and Rents		5,283	9	7
Amount due from Official Liquidator of International Insurance Society		8,067	15	0
Deposits at Three Months' notice		50,000	0	0
Cash—On deposit	£20,000 0 0			
On current account	11,269 17 10			
In hand	100 0 0			
		31,369	17	10
		£676,948	19	0

BALANCE SHEET OF THE PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY (INDUSTRIAL BRANCH),
On the 31st December, 1880.

LIABILITIES.

	£	s.	d.
Shareholders Capital	24,920	0	0
Life Assurance Fund	1,318,547	1	2
Contingency Fund	40,000	0	0
Claims under Life Policies admitted	15,230	15	5
	£1,398,697	16	7

ASSETS.

		£	s.	d.
Mortgages on Property within the United Kingdom		72,930	0	11
Investments:—				
In British Government Securities		144,600	11	6
Railway Debenture Stock		48,632	9	11
Freehold Ground Rents		450,001	0	1
House Property	£219,121 7 8			
Less Amount written off New Offices	2,000 0 0			
		217,121	7	8
Scotch Feu Duties		7,047	14	0
Freehold Estates		59,678	8	4
Life and other Interests and Reversions		43,008	5	2
Furniture and Fittings	£24,500 0 0			
Less amount written off	500 0 0			
		24,000	0	0
Loans on Municipal and other rates		166,670	14	10
Loans on Personal Security		36,626	18	5
Agents' Balances		89,429	14	2
Outstanding Interest and Rents		10,380	0	10
Deposits at Three Months' notice		5,000	0	0
Cash—On current account	£23,320 10 9			
In hand	250 0 0			
		23,570	10	9
		£1,398,697	16	7

EDGAR HORNE, Chairman.
HENRY HARBEN, PATRICK FRASER. } Directors.
THOS. C. DEWEY, WILLIAM HUGHES, } Managers.
W. J. LANCASTER, Secretary.

We have examined, month by month, the various Receipts and Payments of the Prudential Assurance Company.

We have also examined the foregoing Accounts, find them to be correct, and hereby confirm the same. We have seen and examined the various securities.

JAMES ALLANSON, ROBERT BARNES, } Auditors.

14th February, 1881.

Contracts.

TO CONTRACTORS.

TO LET, the several WORKS required in the Erection of a Parsonage House at or near Holmside, for the Rev. EARLE M'GOWAN.

Drawings, Specifications, Condition of Contract, and Form of Tender may be seen at our Offices on and after Monday, the 21st inst.

Tenders, sealed and endorsed, are to be delivered to us on or before Monday, April 4th, 1881.

No pledge is given that the lowest or any Tender will be accepted.

JOHN SMITH and SON, Architects.
Town Hall, Shotley Bridge, March 17th, 1881. 7p

Found.

FOUND, a FERRET.—The Owner can have it by paying expenses within Seven days, from J. CANN, Seedsman, Consett. 29d

To Let.

TO LET, a Furnished SITTING-ROOM and BED-ROOM.—For Particulars apply at Swiss Cottage, Shotley Bridge. 999c

THE Annfield Plain Co-operative Society's Hall is now Open for Public Entertainments. Terms on application to the Manager, Mr. ADAM BROWN. 616a

TO LET, a HOUSE and Six Acres of MEADOW LAND, with Two GARDENS, at Greenside, near to Castleside.—Apply to J. MOODY, East Butsfield. 17p

TO BE LET and entered upon immediately, a Two-roomed COTTAGE at Little Black Hedley, near Mosswood, together with CLOSE and GARDEN.—Apply to JOHN ANDERSON, Woodman, Mosswood. 983c

TO LET or SELL, a Newly-Erected DWELLING-HOUSE, situated in Benfieldside Edge Road, and containing 7 Rooms; also, Bath-room, Scullery, and Pantry, with good yard and Garden behind.—Apply to Mr. P. Gibson, Foundry Row, Blackhill. 752c

ALLER'S FARM (ADJOINING ROWLEY STATION).

TO LET, the above FARM, containing Ninety-six Acres, or thereabouts; to be entered upon in May next.—For Particulars apply to Mr. T. J. MUSE, Castleside House, Blackhill, Durham.—Offers received in Writing up till Monday, March 28th, 1881. 917c

For Sale.

FOR SALE, a New Calving COW.—Apply to GEO. WILLIE, Ousterley Farm, Craghead. 26p

FOR SALE, Cheap, a good Strong ROLLEY.—Apply to N. ELDON, Delves Lane, Consett. 929c

FOR SALE, a large quantity of LARCH RAILS, either with Posts or without.—Apply to THOMAS LAMB, Slaley. 987c

FOR SALE, an Incalving COW; to Calve in May.—Apply to ROBERT LYNN, Clough Dene, via Lintz Green. 20p

FOR SALE, PIGS, from Nine to Fourteen Weeks old.—Apply to GEORGE SIDDLE, Butcher, Shotley Bridge. 18p

FOR SALE, Champion POTATOES and Black and White TARTER OATS, warranted Pure.—Apply to J. OSBORNE, Eddes Bridge, Blackhill. 995c

FOR SALE, several HORSES, COBS, and PONIES, quiet to Ride and Drive in Double and Single Harness.—Apply to Mr. JOHN BRODIE, Shotley Bridge, or JOS. BELL, Highgate. 217c

FOR SALE, New and Second-hand CONVEYANCES of every description.—Apply to Mr. ADAM BRODIE, Auctioneer, Consett, or to JOHN BRODIE, Jun., Shotley Bridge. 811h

FOR SALE.

SPRING TARES;
PURE TARTARIAN OATS;
SEED BARLEY, and SEED WHEAT,
From HALLETT'S PEDIGREE STOCK;
LINSEED and COTTON CAKES, &c.

EDWARD DIXON,
MILLER AND SEEDSMAN,
EBCHESTER MILL.

Wanted.

WANTED, Two DRAINERS.—Apply at once to Mr. JOHN MILNER, Agent, Castleside. 31p

AGENT wanted to push First-class Lubricating Oils. Commission—10 to 15 per Cent.—Box 322, Post Office, Liverpool. 847c

STRAW WANTED; delivered at Woodlands; any sort, if clean and dry.—Address, stating sort, to Mr. Haansbergen, Woodlands, Consett. 964c

WANTED, an APPRENTICE to the Millinery Business.—Apply to Miss TURNER, 41, Durham Road, Blackhill. 16p

WANTED, a respectable Girl to act as GENERAL SERVANT for a Country Inn.—Apply at Westwood House, near Ebchester. 23p

WANTED, immediately, a Midle-aged Woman as HOUSEKEEPER to a Single Man without encumbrance; duties light.—Apply at the Office of this Paper. 12p

WANTED, AGENTS.—A genuine Agency is offered to Shopkeepers, Clerks, &c., having spare time. Orders taken from Illustrated List (Samples optional). None unable to give references as not respectability need apply.—For Terms and full Particulars send stamped directed envelope to the AGENCY SUPERINTENDENT, the Musical Instrument Club Company Hexham-on-Tyne.

LANCHESTER UNION.

THE Guardians of the Poor of the Lanchester Union require the Services of a FEMALE NURSE for the Infirmary of the Lanchester Workhouse. Salary, £25 per annum, with Rations and Residence. The person appointed will not be required to enter upon her duties until the 26th day of May next.

Applications, in own Hand-writing, stating Age, Qualifications, &c., with Testimonials, to be sent to me on or before Wednesday, the 30th inst.—By order,

WM. HENRY RITSON,
Clerk to the Guardians.

Lanchester, March 17th, 1881. 28p

Sale by Auction.

By Mr. W. Raw.

MR. WILLIAM RAW having been honoured with instructions from Mr. JOHN WHITE, Farmer, Edmondbyers (who is declining Farming) will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION the whole of his Valuable FARMING STOCK, IMPLEMENTS, &c., early in May next.

Sale Office, Blackhill, Co. Durham. 977c

By Mr. A. Brodie.

Front Street, Leadgate.

Continuation of the Important Sale of Mr. R. W. SHAW'S Surplus Stock, for Four Days only.

MR. ADAM BRODIE is instructed by Mr. SHAW to continue the Important SALE of Surplus Stock of Superior Linen and Woollen DRAPERY, for Four Nights longer, Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, March 25th, 26th, 28th and 29th, commencing at Seven o'clock each Evening. Particulars in Bills. Also, on the Saturday Night One Best Howe's Sewing Machine will be sold without Reserve. 979c

Westgate House, Wakefield.

Re NIXON and WHITLOW, Wholesale Warehousemen, and FLETCHER and WRIGHT, Drapers, in Liquidation.

MR. ADAM BRODIE is instructed by the Trustees to SELL BY AUCTION, on the Premises, at Wakefield, on Monday, March 14th, 1881, and following days, the whole of the remaining portion of the Superior Stock of LINEN and WOOLLEN DRAPERY belonging both estates.

Sale to commence at One o'clock in the Afternoon and Six o'clock in the Evening of each day. 4p

TO FARMERS, GRAZIERS, AND OWNERS OF LIVE STOCK.

MESSRS. HEDLEY and BRODIE, Agricultural Auctioneers and Live Stock Salesmen, Town Hall, Consett, are prepared to undertake the Sale by Auction, or otherwise of every description of Live Stock and Agricultural produce, and trust, by careful attention to all commissions with which they may be favoured, to merit the confidence of the Agriculturists of the District. Valuations for probate. Insurances on Farming Stock effected through the London Insurance Corporation (Established 1720). 744h

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

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Phillipson.

High Row, Marley Hill.

MR. A. PHILLIPSON, ordered by Mr. JOHN REDGWELL, who is Emigrating to Queensland, to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at his Premises, High Row, Marley Hill, on Monday, March 21st, 1881, the whole of his Household FURNITURE and other EFFECTS.

For Particulars see Bills. 994o

A. PHILLIPSON, GENERAL AUCTIONEER, VALUER, HOUSE-AGENT, &c., DIPTON.

CASH ADVANCES made, and FURNITURE, &c., Bought for Cash. Business done Promptly, and upon Reasonable Terms. 27o

By Mr. J. JENKINS.

Mr. JENKINS' Assembly Rooms, Trafalgar St., Consett.

In Liquidation.

IMPORTANT SALE of the remaining Portion of Mrs. E. MARRINER's Stock-in-Trade of BOOTS and SHOES from her Shops in Houghton-le-Spring, Seaham Harbour, and Sunderland.

Also, an Immense Stock of Valuable DRAPERY GOODS, consisting of Silks, Satins, Carpets, Hearth Rugs, Blankets, Sheets, Quilts, Towels, Holland, Calico, Wool and other Shirtings, Fancy Dress Goods in great variety, Ladies' Underclothing, Umbrellas; also, a quantity of Tweed and other Cloths, and other Goods appertaining to a First-class Trade.

The whole of the above Goods have been removed to Mr. JENKINS' Rooms for convenience of Sale, and will be SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION, without Reserve, on Monday, March 14th, and following days.

Sale at Two and Six p.m.

Goods on View Daily. 3p

By Mr. H. Brown.

27, Cort Street, Blackhill.

MR. HENRY BROWN is instructed by Mr. OWEN MCMAHON, who is about to emigrate to America, to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION at the above place, on Monday, March 28th, 1881, the whole of his Valuable Household FURNITURE, comprising — Excellent Eight-day Clock; American Clock; Gold Watch; Silver Watch; Kitchen Table; Round Tea Table; 4 Kitchen Chairs; Arm Chair; Child's Chair; Rocking Chair; Basket Cradle; Mahogany Cupboard; Mahogany Centre Table, on Pillar and Claws; Child's Crib; Mahogany Sofa, in Hair-seating; 2 Mahogany Chests of Drawers and Bookcase; 6 Mahogany Chairs, in Hair-seating; 2 splendid Iron Bedsteads and Mattresses; Towel Rack; Bed Hangings; 6 Bed-room Chairs; Child's Crib; 2 Washstands and Dressing Tables; Swing Looking Glass; 10 valuable Pictures, on Scriptural and other subjects; 3 Sets of Window Hangings; Cornice Poles and Venetian Blinds; Window Blinds and Rollers; Carpets; Druggets; Cocoa Matting; Hearth Rugs; Mats; Oil Cloth; Stair Carpet and Rods; handsome Writing Desk; Chamber Ware; Perambulator; 3 Sets of Fenders and Fireirons; Stool; Tidy; Bird Cage; handsome Model of a Ship; an excellent Sewing Machine, in working order; Chimneypiece and other Ornaments; together with all the Kitchen Requisites, Cooking Utensils, Crockery Ware, &c.

At the same time and place, will be Sold—Filter; Clock; Desk Bed; Mahogany Couch; Mirror, in Gilt Frame; Card Table; Walnut Centre Table; small Box; 2 Kitchen Chairs; Chest of Drawers; Ash Pan; Fender and Fireirons; Dust Pan; with other miscellaneous Articles.

Sale at One o'clock prompt.

Sale Office, Broomhill, near Ebchester. 9p

Dixon Street, near Cemetery Road, Blackhill.

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, OFFICE FURNITURE, and BUILDING SITES FOR SALE BY AUCTION, on Tuesday, March 29th, 1881, at the above place, belonging to T. PATTERSON, Esq., who is leaving the District,

Mr. H. BROWN, Auctioneer.

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE—

Large Mahogany Centre Table; small Round Table; splendid Mahogany Secretaire and Bookcase; excellent Mahogany Cheffioner Bedstead; 6 Mahogany Baloon-backed Chairs, in Hair-seating, with Covers; Easy Chair, in Hair-seating, with Springs; Iron Bedstead, richly mounted in Brass; Iron Bedstead; 2 Straw Mattresses; Down Bed; Washstand; Towel Racks; 3 Bed-room Chairs; Eight-day Clock; Sofa, in Leather; Mahogany Dining Table; Tea Table; 6 Kitchen Chairs; 2 Arm Chairs; small Chest of Drawers; 2 Chairs for Children; Stool; Kitchen Table; Galvanic Battery; Perambulator; Set of China; Clothes Horse and Props; Wringing and Mangling Machine; 3 Sets of Fenders and Fireirons; Brussels Carpets; Kidderminster Carpet; Druggets; Door and Passage Mats; Oil Cloths; Glass Ware; Ornaments; Pictures; Metal Pots and Pans; Dairy Utensils; Cooking Utensils; Crockery Ware, &c.

OFFICE FURNITURE—

Copying Press; Set of Mahogany Drawers, with compartments complete; large Double Writing Desk, on strong Frame.

FREEHOLD BUILDING SITES—

On the same day, at Seven o'clock in the Evening, at Mr. RICHARD MURRAY's, Royal Hotel, Blackhill. Two FREEHOLD BUILDING SITES, containing 494 square yards, situate at Broom Hill, near Ebchester Station, commanding an extensive and pleasant view of the Derwent Valley and Railway, where there is a constant supply of Pure Water and Fresh Air. There is a free Quarry within a few yards of the Sites.

The Auctioneer will, on application, show the Sites, and give all necessary information respecting the same.

ORDER OF SALE.—Furniture at One o'clock; Building Sites at Seven o'clock. 15p

Late Advertisements.

WANTED, a Strong Girl as SERVANT; one that can milk.—Apply to Mrs. Smith, Hollinside Hall, Lanchester. 33p

WESLEYAN CHAPEL, LANCHESTER.

GRAND CONCERT OF SACRED MUSIC

WILL BE GIVEN BY THE

DIPTON WESLEYAN CHOIR,

IN THE ABOVE CHAPEL,

ON MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 28TH, 1881,

WHEN choice Selections of Music from the works of Handel, Haydn, Fawcett, Scarisbrick, &c., will be performed. For Particulars see Programmes.

Conductor, Mr. S. SWALWELL; Harmoniumist, Mr. W. T. DAGLISH.

Doors open at 7 p.m.; Concert to commence at 7·30.

Admission, Reserved Seats, 1s.; Unreserved Seats, 6d.

Tickets may be had of Messrs. J. HUNTER and JAMES GIBSON, Burnhope; Messrs. W. DIXON and T. WILKINSON, Lanchester; and the Members of the Choir.

Proceeds in aid of Dipton Wesleyan Chapel. 32p

FOOTBALL.—DERWENT ROVERS v. NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.—A match between the above clubs was played at Burnopfield, on Saturday last, and resulted in an easy victory for the home team, by two goals to *nil*. The game was played in two thirties, and the kick off was made at four o'clock by Turner, on behalf of the home team, and the ball being well followed up by O'Niel, a charge was soon made for the goal, but was missed, the ball striking the goal post and passing outside secured to the visitors a goal kick, when for a time they kept the ball out of the vicinity of their goal. But it was soon evident the home team had the best of it, and during the first half-time they made four repeated charges at the goal, but without effect, no goal being got on either side. After half-time the visitors merely had to act on the defensive, and defend their goal, when about eight assaults were made upon it, two only taking effect. Had the home team kept to their places and passed the ball more they would have materially added to the number of their goals, but the wings have a bad habit of getting too much into the centre, and their play would have been a great deal better had they let the centre players pass the ball to them, and then take it up the side. For the visitors Messrs. Huner, Scott, and Mills played well, while for the home team Messrs. J. Nevins, J. O'Niel, and R. Nevins deserve mention.

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18TH, 1881.

"INCEDO" AND OUR LOCAL BOARD MEMBERS.

An apology is due to those members of the Consett Local Board who may feel annoyed at the remarks of "Incedo" in the "Echoes from Blackhill," published by us on the 11th inst. The word "ignoramus" in the article referred to should have been *apologist*. This we trust will be deemed satisfactory by those to whom the highest respect is due for the manner in which they have hitherto discharged their public duties.

ECHOES FROM BLACKHILL.

[BY INCEDO.]

The weather during the last few days has been charming. Nothing could be more invigorating than the mellow rays of the sun, together with the life-giving breezes which have visited our stricken earth. Those who rise betimes must have hailed with delight the song of the thrush, and the carol of the lark. Such sounds, after a long winter-time of snow and frost, come like mystic voices from out the past to tell that the season of decay and death has passed away; that the earth, aroused from the torpor of a long night, has shaken off the ghostly habiliments of the grave, and will ere long don a mantle of living green.

St. Patrick's Day dawned most auspiciously and the natives of the Green Isle, resident in this district, sported their favours in honour of Ireland's patron saint. Welshmen too, were displaying their leek the other week in remembrance of St. David. Nor was this all. No. Those sons of the mountain resolved to celebrate the event by holding a social gathering: and they did so. I understand the affair was a grand success. The tables groaned beneath their burdens and the hearts of the merry company were gladdened by native song and jest; by reminiscences of old times, and old scenes—those ever—fertile sources of delight—the tales of other years. This is a step in the right direction, for, there is a deep meaning in these social gatherings of people; Albeit that they are united by no other bond than that of one common nationality, nor is the spirit which prompts this reciprocity of feeling by any means new. About 2,000 years ago a number of Greeks who had settled in the north of Italy were in the habit of holding an annual festival. Greece then occupied the foremost place in the civilised world, and for a time those colonists preserved their language and manners, but as time rolled on they found that they were gradually losing their distinctive character, and growing more and more like the people by whom they were surrounded. Hence they determined to meet annually and thus strengthen the indissoluble ties which link men to the land, as well as to the race, from which they sprung. The outsider knows nothing of the pleasures accruing from those patriotic gatherings, nor can our philosophy define the feeling aright.

After discoursing about the doings of the Welsh and Irish sojourners in this district, the question naturally arises—"What of the Scotchmen? Where are they?" I am afraid that, like the rhyme in the school-book, the echo answers "elf." When do they deck themselves with their much-beloved thistle, or hold their annual festival. Again the echo answers "elf!"

Local and District News.

PRESENTATION AT DIPTON.—An interesting meeting was held at Dipton, on Wednesday night, March 9th, at the house of Mr. A. Phillipson, to take leave of Mr. Thos. Hedley and family who are about to emigrate to Australia. Mr. A. Phillipson took the chair. Having made a few remarks he called upon Mr. John Usher, who in behalf of the friends at Dipton presented Mr. Hedley and family with a beautiful inkstand and a purse of gold. Mr. E. Wilkinson likewise presented Mr. Hedley with a beautiful view of Dipton Wesleyan Chapel. This was a testimonial expressly for Mr. Hedley, as he is one of the trustees of the above chapel. He feelingly responded to the friends for their kindness. Messrs. Swallwell, Ramsey, Glenwright, Robson, and Robinson delivered short speeches suitable for the occasion, and wished their friends a short and pleasant voyage.

BLACKHILL MECHANICS INSTITUTE.—The following are the books added to the Library during the month:—

Book	Author.
The Tramp Abroad	Mark Twain.
Father Prout	Blanchland Jerrold.
The Jest book	Mark Lemon.
Woman in White	Wilkie Collins.
Queen of Hearts	do.
Scenes of Clerical Life	Geo. Eliot.
Romola	do.
British Novelists and Other Styles	
Voyage in the Sunbeam	Mrs. Brassey.
Han's Anderson's Tales	
Hazlett's Table Talk	
Engine Driving	Mr. Reynolds.
Life of Beaconsfield	T. P. O'Connor.
History of England	Lord Macaulay.
Dean Swift's Works	
History of Scotland	Tytler.
History of Ireland	Haverty.
Sator Resartus	Thos. Carlyle.
Homer's Ilbad	Pope.
Homer's Oddysey	do.
Theocritus	

We believe that a further larger addition may be anticipated.

BURNOPFIELD CRICKET CLUB.—A meeting of the members of the above club, to inaugurate the club for the ensuing season, was held at Miss Adamson's, Black Horse Inn, Burnopfield, on Monday evening se'nnight, when, owing to the inclement weather there was not a very large company present. The meeting was held for the purpose of electing the officers for the ensuing season, and the greatest interest was taken in the proceedings by those present, which promises well for the success of the club. The worthy president, Hy. W. Watson, Jun., Esq., was re-elected, and the following were chosen:—vice-presidents, M. Adamson, Esq., Burnopfield; R. B. Clark, Esq., Marley Hill; Robert Clark, Esq., Lintz Green House; W. J. Handcock, Esq., Barcus Close; F. Priestman, Esq., Shotley Bridge; R. Reed, Esq., Lintz; Rev. T. Stirrup, Burnopfield Vicarage. R. Armstrong was re-elected captain, and J. Curry sub-captain; Wm. Charlton, secretary; and Jno. Turner, treasurer; for the committee the following were elected.—T. Burton, J. G. Charlton, Jos. Eltringham, J. P. Geat, W. Lamb, Jno. Scott, and Adam Smith. The secretary was instructed to try and arrange matches with different clubs in the district, and the committee hope that the club, which opens for the season on the 2nd prox., will receive the support of the young men of the district who delight in the healthy, invigorating, and noble game of cricket.

Local Police Courts.

CONSETT POLICE COURT.

MONDAY, March 14th, 1881—Before A. TOWN, Esq. (chairman), J. PRIESTMAN, Esq., and JAMES ANNANDALE, jun., Esq.

DRUNK AND DISORDERLIES.

A stripling named James Graham was charged with being drunk and disorderly. P.C. Simpson stated that on the 26th ult. he saw the defendant very drunk. On requesting him to go away he (defendant) threatened to strike him with a coal-rake which he carried. Fined 5s and costs.

Joseph Sullivan was charged with being drunk at Number One on Saturday afternoon, the 26th of last month. Sergt. Tranmer proved the charge, and as defendant did not appear the Bench inflicted a fine of 10s, in default seven days' imprisonment.

Hugh Mullin, was charged with being drunk and disorderly. Sergt. Thornton said that on Saturday night he was on duty in Church Street, when he saw Mullin intoxicated, and creating a great disturbance.—Fined 5s and costs.

Edward Owen was similarly charged. P.C. Robinson said the defendant was drunk and causing a disturbance in front of the "Bath" Hotel on Saturday night.—Fined 5s and costs.

Bernard McLaughlin was fined 5s and costs for being drunk in Middle Street, on Saturday night.

CHARGE AGAINST A LEADGATE PUBLICAN.

John Lowes, publican, Leadgate, was charged with selling drink during prohibited hours. P.C. Fryer said that about a quarter to one o'clock on Sunday morning, the 28th of last month, he was on duty at Leadgate, when he saw John Lowes in company with another man named John Murphy walking down the street. He watched them enter the house and heard the door locked. On listening he heard Murphy call for some whiskey. He saw Murphy leave and searched him when he found in his coat pocket the bottle of whiskey produced. Murphy requested him to take a "drop" and say nothing about it. He declined, and took him back with him to charge the defendant, who then alleged that the whiskey had been purchased in Consett. Witness further said that Murphy subsequently admitted having obtained the whiskey at Lowes' house,

Dr. CARR, barrister-at-law, defended, and called John Murphy, who, on being sworn, asserted that he had purchased the whiskey at Ward's public-house in Consett before eleven o'clock. He merely called at Lowe's public-house to arrange as to the payment of some money for cricketing clothes.

Hugh Magee swore that he was present when Murphy purchased the whiskey at Consett.

Mrs. Lowes also swore that no liquor was sold to Murphy at that time.

The charge was dismissed.

CHARGE OF PERMITTING DRUNKENNESS.

William Robson, "Miners' Arms" Inn, Highgate, was charged with permitting drunkenness. P.C. Hadwin stated that on the 25th of February, about half-past 9 o'clock he was on duty when he heard a noise in Mr. Robson's public-house. On entering he found John Maughan very drunk and in the act of drinking a glass of beer. He called the attention of the landlord to the fact, but he denied that the man was intoxicated.

Mr. WELFORD defended, and said that his client did not notice that Maughan was affected wtih liquor. He (Maughan) was owing Mr. Robson 2s towards which he paid 1s, and ordered a glass of beer which was supplied, as the defendant thought he was perfectly sober.

Other witnesses, who were present, stated that the man Maughan was not wholly drunk, but was slightly affected with liquor.

Case dismissed.

CHIMNEY ON FIRE.

Thomas Conroy was charged with allowing his chimney to be on fire, on the night of the 24th ult., P.C. Robinson said he noticed the chimney burning for an hour and a half,—fined 1s. and costs.

WARNING TO DOG OWNERS.

Charles Quin, and Owen M'Kie were each fined 7s 6d for keeping a dog without a license.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Christoper Lumley, grocer, Dipton, was charged with adulterating sweet nitre. Mr. Supt. Oliver said that on the 17th Feb. he called at defendant's place of business and purchased a sample of sweet nitre, which on being submitted to the public analyst was found to be diluted with water. Defendant was represented by a young man who informed the bench the nitre was in stock when Mr. Lumley commenced business about twelve months ago. The chairman: They must see that what you do sell is according to law, —fined 10s. and costs.

Anthony Ramsay, and Wm. Allison, grocers, Dipton, were fined 10s. and costs for a similar breach of the Food and Drugs Act. Both defendants contended that the nitre was the same as when it was purchased.

ASSAULT AT CONSETT IRONWORKS.

A youth named Patrick Campbell, employed at Consett Ironworks, charged Laurence Lochrane with assault. Complainant stated that on the morning of the 28th ult. he was partaking of breakfast at the works when defendant, without provocation, struck him a violent blow on the side of the head and knocked him down. In consequence of the assault he was off work for a week, during which he was under the treatment of the doctor.—Defendant, who did not appear, was fined 10s and 16s costs.

ASSAULT AT WHITE-LE-HEAD.

A respectable-looking woman named Jane Herron was charged with assaulting Isabella Reay at White-le-Head on the 22nd ult. It appeared that on the day referred to the accused savagely assaulted complainant. She seized her by the hair and struck her on the face.—In extenuation, the defendant said that Mrs. Reay went in front of the window of her house, made faces and laughed at her, and she (defendant) struck her over the face. Fined 20s including costs.

ASSAULT AT BURNOPFIELD.

James Hanlan, was charged with assaulting Patrick Burns, at Burnopfield on the 4th March.

Mr. T. W. Welford was for complainant, and Dr. Carr, barrister-at-law, defended.

In opening the case, Mr. WELFORD explained that the defendant rented an upstair-room in complainant's house. About eleven o'clock on the night of the 4th inst., the latter took into his house a man named Daniel McKenna. Having conversed for some time Hanlan came downstairs, seized hold of McKenna, forced him out at the door, and belaboured him with the poker with which McKenna was lighting his pipe at the time of the assault. Burns then went to the door when Hanlan felled him to the ground with the poker, kicked him, and blacked his eye.

Two lodgers and Mrs. Kelly, sister to complainant gave evidence bearing out the above statement.

The man McKenna was placed in the witness box and said that when he entered Burn's house he was the worse of drink. On being thrown out of the house by Hanlan he commenced to shout "murder" because the others were shouting it. (Laughter.)

Dr. CARR, on behalf of his client, denied the charge, and said that the complainant's little girl went to Hanlan's room, asked him to go and keep her father from killing her mother. He pointed out that it was rather unlikely that one man should commence hostilities against three men without being interfered with.

A respectable-looking person named Mrs. Guy said that when her attention was called to the disturbance Hanlan was down on the ground and was being savagely assaulted by three men and three women. She further alleged that she saw Patrick Burns kick him.

The case was dismissed.

ANOTHER OF THE SAME.

Catherine Burns, wife of the complainant in the previous case, also charged Hanlan with assault, alleging that when she went to the door and remonstrated with defendant he knocked her down and kicked her.

Mr. Welford conducted complainants' case whilst Dr. Carr defended.

This case also was dismissed.

A PUBLICAN HEAVILY FINED.

Mr. John Young, landlord of the "Rose and Crown" Hotel, Blackhill, was charged with selling liquor during prohibited hours.

Mr. Wilson (Messrs. Bush and Wilson), Newcastle, defended.

It appeared that Police-constables Longstaff and Nicholson were attired in plain clothes on Sunday morning, the 27th ult. They were standing at Durham Road End, Blackhill, when a man named Price came up. One of them informed him that he was a horse driver and the other said he was a quarryman. They said it was their intention to walk to Newcastle, and requested him to procure them some whiskey. He tried to get it at Richardson's public-house but was unsuccessful. They then dispatched a man Gascoigne to the "Rose and Crown" for a shilling's worth of whiskey, and, as stated by P.C. Longstaff, they observed Gascoigne give Mr. Young the money and receive the whiskey which the former handed over to P.C. Longstaff. Mr. Young now said that on the morning referred to he was shovelling the snow away from the front of his house when the man Gascoigne went up to him and said he did not feel very well. He (defendant) then gave him a gill of whiskey on condition that he shovelled the snow from the frontage.

Henry Price spoke as to hearing Gascoigne ask for the whiskey, which Mr. Young agreed to give him provided he (Gascoigne) removed the snow. He further said that he did not see Young receive the money. Had it been passed he could have seen it.

John Gascoigne also asserted that he received the whiskey for shovelling the snow, and that he put the shilling in his pocket.

Mr. WILSON contended that there was no case against his client, as the man Gascoigne did not use the shilling for the purpose for which it was given him, but pocketed the money for the work done. He held that there was no evidence to show that the transaction was a sale.

The Bench fined defendant £5 and costs, the license not to be endorsed.

Mr. WILSON said he intended to appeal against the decision.

Parliamentary Summary.

MONDAY.

In the House of Lords, the Peace Preservation (Ireland) Bill was read a first time, and the second reading was fixed for Tuesday, Earl GRANVILLE gave notice that he intends to move for an address to Her MAJESTY on the assassination of her relative, the Emperor of Russia, and ask their Lordships to agree to an address of condolence with the Duchess of EDINBURGH at her loss.

In the House of Commons, Mr. EATON took his seat for Coventry. Mr. BRADLAUGH rose to present petitions. Mr. GORST objected, on the ground that by the decision of the law courts the seat for Northampton was vacant, as if the holder of it were dead. Sir HENRY JAMES said the decision was only that of the Court of First Instance, and was liable to be reversed on appeal. The SPEAKER ruled that without a motion to the contrary effect he must hold the member of Northampton in order, and accordingly Mr. BRADLAUGH presented several petitions. In reply to Mr. DILLWYN, Mr. GLADSTONE said if urgency or supply were not declared, the House could not, in the opinion of the Government, pass the necessary votes before the 21st of March. He then moved that the state of business in regard to votes on supply is urgent. A division was taken, when the numbers were—for urgency, 296; against, 212. The SPEAKER said that as the motion had not been carried by three to one it fell to the ground. On an appeal by Mr. GLADSTONE to private members, Sir RICHARD CROSS, who had a motion on the paper with regard to the Artisans' Dwelling Act, and Mr. O'DONNELL, who had on the paper a notice of privilege with regard to his suspension, withdrew their motions, and the House went into Committee of Supply.

TUESDAY.

In the House of Lords, Earl GRANVILLE, in moving an address of sympathy and sorrow to the Emperor of Russia and to the people of that country, and an expression of the indignation of that House at the assassination of the Emperor of all the Russias, called to the remembrance of their Lordships the many beneficent measures the late CZAR had succeeded in carrying into effect, and said it appeared to him that a man who had achieved so much and attempted more should be the victim of an outrage which had filled with indignation all civilised countries. The address was seconded by the Earl of BEACONSFIELD, and unanimously agreed to. Afterwards a Message of Condolence to Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Edinburgh at the great loss she has sustained by the assassination of her father was passed, and the Dukes of RICHMOND and BEDFORD were requested to personally present it to her.

In the House of Commons, Sir CHARLES DILKE stated, in answer to Mr. McIver, that he was not in possession of any evidence tending to show that the delay as regards the commercial treaty negotiations with France was attributable to our continued importation of foreign manufactures, free of duty, unaccompanied by stipulations of any kind with reference to reciprocal right. Mr. MACIVER announced that in consequence of this reply he would on an early day call attention to the neglect of commercial interests by Her Majesty's Government, and move that, in the opinion of the House, Customs duties should at once be replaced upon such importations as came into unfair competition with the industries of Great Britain and Ireland. Replying to Sir WILLIAM PALLISER, who asked a question with reference to the withdrawal from Candahar, Mr. GLADSTONE said the Government could not undertake to instruct the Viceroy of India to waive or postpone any measure which might have been required by the state of affairs in reference to that which was now pending in the House. Mr. GLADSTONE afterwards moved, and Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE seconded. that addresses should be presented to the QUEEN and the Duchess of EDINBURGH in connection with the melancholy assassination of the Emperor of Russia, and the resolutions were unanimously agreed to. At the request of Mr. GLADSTONE, Mr. Bradlaugh consented to postpone his resolution with reference to perpetual pensions, and the House then went into Committee of Supply.

WEDNESDAY.

In the House of Commons, Sir RICHARD CROSS said he hoped that, as many members had postponed questions on going into Committee of Supply, especially with respect to matters of army organisation, the Government would see its way to meet them at a later period of the session. He also expressed a strong hope that the Government would reconsider its determination to ask for three months' supply on account. Mr. GLADSTONE replied that he could not give a precise promise, but the Government would do its best to reciprocate the courtesy of the private members who had given way. With respect to the latter question, he hoped that the House would consider the circumstances of public business. The House had met before the usual time, very little progress had been made with the legislative measures promised in the Queen's Speech, and he was afraid that unless supply was voted on account, there would be no interval for the important measures which the Government had undertaken to introduce. The House then went into Committee, and on the vote of £5,000,000, as an instalment, in aid of the Government of India to defray the expenses of the Afghan war, Mr. GLADSTONE said this proposal was in fulfilment of a pledge which had been given last year. Sir S. NORTHCOTE, the Marquis of HARTINGTON, Professor FAWCETT and Mr. STANHOPE took part in the debate which followed, and the vote was ultimately agreed to. Mr. HORWOOD moved the second reading of the Maintenance of Children Bill; but the measure was strongly opposed, and the House adjourned.

LECTURE FOR WORKING MEN.

"WHY PAY RENT?"

Yesterday (Thursday) evening, Mr. R. B. Starr delivered a lecture in the Wesleyan Schools, Gibson Street, Consett, on Starr-Bowkett Building Societies, &c.

Mr. J. BELL, sen., Sherburn Terrace, one of the local directors, occupied the chair, and, in introducing Mr. Starr, said that they would all agree with him that building societies, as a rule, are productive of a great amount of good. He explained that they were not to talk depreciatingly of other building societies. Mr. Starr would invite their closest inspection, and the meeting was open for any individual to ask questions relative to the operation of these societies. In conclusion, he said that, from what he had seen of the Starr-Bowkett Building Society, he was satisfied that the principles upon which it was founded were genuine.

Mr. STARR commenced his lecture by urging the necessity of thrift amongst working men in order that they might live above charity. He said the organization they were about to form was one of many which had been in existence for many years, and through which thousands of men had been enabled to build houses and live rent free. It was not his fault if they had not heard of it before, Lord Derby had said at a meeting of mechanics some time ago, "Do you knew that when you spend 3d. in intoxicating drink, that you swallow one yard of land?" He dared to say that there were many in that room who had swallowed many acres—(laughter)—and not a blade of grass was to be seen. Permanent Building Societies, he said, were very good, but were generally intended for a class who could afford to pay interest, and he did not see how it could be suitable for the great mass of working people who could not afford to pay interest. If they wanted to borrow £300, they would be told that they must find a property worth £350, or the Society could not lend them the money. Another difficulty was the interest charged, which would make them have to pay £34 to £40 a year for a property perhaps not worth more than £24 or £25, and that must necessarily be a great impediment to a working man. In the Starr-Bowkett Building Society they could pay 6d. per week for £100, to be free of interest. In twenty-one years it would accumulate to £27 6s. If they paid 1s. per week, that would make £54 12s. Any who could afford to pay 1s 6d a week, got £300 free of interest, and paid the subscription of £81 16s in twenty-one years, and these subscribers re-paid the money week by week. He then explained that the ballot was made every three months, and if the successful one could find property, their surveyor was asked to inspect it, and report to the trustees its commercial value. If it was worth the money, the whole amount would be lent to him. This, he held, was a better plan than going to a loan office—paying 50 or 60 per cent. for their money. Another way was this:—Most members got the ballot unexpectedly and were not prepared to buy a house. They then returned it to the society, and it was re-ballotted, and another member got it. When he was ready for it, by and bye he could claim it. At one meeting they had a young lady who got a £400 appropriation, and a young gentleman—her sweetheart—was sitting next to her, and she said she did not want it just then. He (the lecturer) said he thought she was going to get married. She said that she was not going to get married for eighteen months. He advised her to return it to the Society, but she did not wait—she got married three months after she got the ballot, consequently she got a husband through the ballot. (Laughter.) Alluding to the objections entertained by some individuals to invest money in a building society, he pointed out thaat if they saved 6d per week outside a Society, it would take seventy-six years to save £100, and humorously remarked that many of them would have a house of another kind long besore that period had elapsed. Taking another more sensible person, he would invest it where he would receive five per cent. compound interest, and they would wait thirty-five years. Let them pay 2s per month for twenty-one years, and they would save £27 6s. The interest added at that time will be £21 19s 2d, which would make it £49 odd. Let that money remain until it becomes £100 and they would wait fourteen years and a few months—for money doubled itself at five per cent. interest in that period. Now, if they got £50 in twenty-one years, at five per cent. compound interest, they had got £100 which only cost them £27 6s, and the result was as marvellous and truthful as it was simple. The lecturer read balance sheets of several of the Starr-Bowkett societies, demonstrating their sound condition, and showing them to have a considerable balance over and above their liabilities. Speaking of the manner of obtaining profits, he said that if a member got the £300 ballot he was at liberty to sell it, and so make a profit. The society then said that as we have helped you to get that, and as you are about to leave us, we will make you pay £2 for each £100 you are going to sell, and that, he said, brought them a large profit. Another mode of profit was buying their appropriations, and re-selling them at a profit. If a member took a share, and did not pay his contribution, he was fined a half-penny per week, which made twopence per month, and if it was allowed to lapse for a month he was fined fourpence, but if he paid four weeks in advance those fines were overlooked. If a man was out of work, or sick, there are no fines. Further, a member taking four shares, and who, having paid his contributions for a few years—or one year—falls out of employment, and could not pay, they recommended him to reduce the four shares to two, and, having paid on the four for twelve months, he need not pay anything on his remaining two shares for the next twelve months, if he was still out of work.

At the close of the lecture, several questions were asked by Mr. Raw, auctioneer, and by Mr. Ingles, both of whom appeared to be dissatisfied with the explanations of the lecturer, who, unfortunately, was unable to continue the discussion in consequence of having to catch the train. He, however, expressed his willingness to return and discuss the disputed points at an early date.

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, 1881.—The two first prizes for Upright and Grand Pianos have been awarded to Messrs. John Brinsmead and Sons, of London, who at the recent Sydney Exhibition, gained the two first and only special prizes, and also the first prize at the one held at Brisbane a few months ago. These prizes were gained in competition with the most celebrated pianoforte makers of the world, and not as at previous Exhibitions in competition with British exhibitors only.—*Morning Post*, March 9th, 1881. 25p

Business Announcements.

ALLAN'S
LIST OF CHEAP BOOKS.

Cassell's Popular Educator, 6 Volumes, Cloth, 36s., for 30s.
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"MAMMA," said a little girl, "as people get old does their hair grow quarrelsome?"—"Why, no, my child. What ever put such a notion in your head?"—"I thought it must be so, 'ma, because I heard that old people's hair is constantly falling out."

PRACTICAL ADVICE.—This is the sound practical advice that is given by a misanthrope—"If ever you should be so unfortunate as to be attacked by night, never shout 'Murder!' for no one will bother about you; yell 'Fire!' and everybody will be out of doors in a jiffy."

AN American tourist was visiting Naples, and saw Vesuvius during an eruption. "Have you anything like that in the New World?" was the question of an Italian spectator. "No," replied Jonathan, "but I guess we have a mill-dam that would put it out in five minutes!"

A SOLDIER was sentenced for deserting to have his ear cut off. After undergoing the ordeal, he was escorted out of the court-yard to the tune of "The Rogue's March." He then turned, and in mock dignity thus addressed the musicians; "Gentlemen, I thank you, but I have no ear for music."

MAYBE this will be a warning to women not to paint and powder their faces. A lady went up to a dummy to put a shawl upon it, to see how it loooked, and the dummy turned round and struck her with a parasol. Then the lady saw it wasn't a wire figure with a wax head and face, but a would-be blooming lass of forty-five or so.

IN these days no one is safe from the charge of plagiarism. B. went to church last Sunday (a thing unusual), and, upon being asked his opinion of the clergyman, said, "Oh, his sermon was very good; but the prayer beginning with 'Our Father' I think he stole it entire. I know I have heard something that it was strangely like."

AN IRISH CORRECTION.—An Irish member of Parliament stated in the House of Commons the other week that if the Land League had not existed crime would have been ten times as great. "There had been," he said, "great exaggerations in the reports of outrages. Three-quarters of the reports were exaggerated, and half the reports had no foundation whatever.

Business Announcements.

EVERY reader of the *Consett Guardian* who can spare Half-a-Crown should send for a Lot. The following Prizes have been won in former Distributions: A 60-Guinea Piano, a 40-Guinea Piano, 3 30-Guinea Pianos, 1 25-Guinea Piano, 1 24-Guinea Organ, 3 20-Guinea Pianos, 2 15-Guinea Organs, 3 10½-Guinea Organs, 1 10-Guinea Harmonium, 1 9-Guinea Harmonium, 1 8-Guinea Harmonium, 1 7-Guinea Harmonium, 7 6-Guinea Harmoniums, and upwards of TEN THOUSAND other Prizes.

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LOT AB.—A beautiful Oleograph, Painted in 16 Colours, entitled, "Youth Health." Size, 20in. by 16in.
LOT AC.—A very handsome Oleograph, in 20 Colours, entitled, "The Favourite Dove." Size, 20in. by 15in.
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LOT AE.—A charming Sea Scene, entitled "Off Yarmouth." Size, 20in. by 12in.
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2 PRIZE VOUCHERS with 2 Lots, 3 Do. with 2 Lots, and so on.
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The following Letters are selected from a large number received from Prize Winners in previous Distributions.

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The Cresent, Florence, Longton, Staffs, May 7th, 1880.
GENTLEMEN,—It affords me pleasure to inform you that the "Multum-in-Parvo" Piano I received as a prize from your drawing of Jan., 1880, gives great satisfaction. It is handsome in appearance, and an excellent toned one, and is pronounced by professional gentlemen a very good instrument, and quite worth its selling price.—Yours truly,
W. J. GOODWIN.

PIANOFORTE.
Main St., Bulwell, Nottingham, July 10th, 1879.
GENTLEMEN,—The "Multum-in-Parvo" Piano I received from you as a prize nearly a year ago continues to give every satisfaction. I have had it examined by a dealer in musical instruments, and by several good pianists, and they all pronounce it a beautiful instrument, and would be very cheap at your catalogue price (28 Guineas).—Yours very truly,
JOHN W. THORPE.

PIANOFORTE.
Sheard's Terrace, Noristhorpe Lane, Heckmondwike near Leeds.
GENTLEMEN,—It affords me pleasure to inform you that the piano I received from you as a prize from the drawing of March, 1878, is very good in appearance; the tone is also very good; and so far exceeds my expectations.
JAMES LISTER.

AMERICAN ORGAN.
15, St. Cuthbert St., Kirkcudbright, 7th May, 1880.
DEAR SIR,—I beg leave to say I received the Prize American Organ safe.—Yours truly,
J. C. MACKENZIE.

HARMONIUM.
Farm Cottage, Waltham Grove, West Brompton, London, S.W.
GENTLEMEN,—I am greatly pleased with the Six-Guinea Harmonium which I was fortunate enough to win in your last Distribution of Musical Instruments. It has a wonderfully rich, full tone, and fine compass for its size. They will prove a boon to those whose means will not allow an expensive one, but desire to have an instrument that will bring forth "sweet sounds," and will prove an attraction to the furniture of any room.—Wishing you every success,
H. H. GRIFFIN,
Bicycling Editor of *The Bazaar and Exchange and Mart.*

HARMONIUM.
167, Windmill St., Gravesend, Jan. 14th, 1880.
DEAR SIRS,—Having thoroughly tried the Harmonium which I was successful in winning in your Distribution of Musical Instruments, I beg to tender you my best thanks for sending me such a good one. Several friends have tried it, and pronounced it worth far more than your Prize Ticket named, viz., 10 Guineas. You are at liberty to publish this should you require it, with full name and address.—I am, Sirs, yours, &c.,
F. S. WRIGHT.

HARMONIUM.
Scarborough House, Ely Road, Canton, Cardiff, April 16th, 1880.
GENTLEMEN,—I have received Prize Harmonium in good condition. I have had it tried by some friends who understand them, and they say it is a good one, in fact it gives every satisfaction.
(Miss) P. D. RICHARDSON.

HARMONIUM.
Bawdeswell, East Dereham, Norfolk.
GENTLEMEN,—You will be pleased to hear that the Prize Harmonium (exchanged for American Organ won) was delivered to me yesterday. I have been trying it, and must say you are able to turn out an instrument fit to compete with those of any other firm. Appearance, tone, and touch are admirable. It is admired by all who see it.
JOHN H. HERRING, Certificated Teacher.

HARMONIUM.
9, Waverley Terrace, Villa Place, Hessle Road, Hull.
MRS. MARTIN begs to acknowledge receipt of Harmonium (exchanged for American Organ won), which is a splendid instrument in every respect, and if, instead of being a prize, she had paid full catalogue price for it, would consider it well worth the money.

HARMONIUM.
Low Moor Station, near Bradford, Yorks:
GENTLEMEN,—I have to inform you that I received Prize Harmonium all safe and in good condition. I have had it tried by some parties who understand them, and they state it is a good one, and give it a very good character—in fact it gives every satisfaction.
CHARLES HOLT.

HARMONIUM.
Rawling Street, Chelsea.
MISS S. A. WATSON, in acknowledging receipt of Harmonium, must say it exceeds her expectations; and she has had it tested by friends who are fully competent to judge, and they pronounce it an excellent instrument and rich in tone. She is perfectly satisfied and delighted with it.

HARMONIUM.
White Lion Hotel, Bath.
GENTLEMEN,—I have pleasure in informing you that the Prize Harmonium received from you last month is a very good one, both in tone and appearance, and is one with which I am very much pleased.
(Miss) F. FENNER.

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BENFIELDSIDE LOCAL BOARD.

The monthly meeting of Benfieldside Local Board, was held on Wednesday afternoon—Mr. J. Annandale, jun., presiding.—There were present: Mr. Charles Wilson, Mr. J. Lax, Mr. Eltringham, Mr. Wheatley, Mr. Jno. Smith, Dr. Geo. Renton, Mr. H. Carss, Mr. Turner, and Mr. Dowson.

HIGHWAY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The above committee met on the 14th inst., and recommended that the bills amounting to £75 12s. 1d. should be paid. The recommendation was adopted.

BUILDING COMMITTEE.

The committee recommended the Board to pass plan of a house intended to be built by Mr. Dixon, the surveyor, and also plan of a wash house to a house occupied by Mr. Parnaby, and belonging to the Consett Iron Company. These were passed.

A WARNING.

A circular which had been received from the Local Government Board, urging the necessity of exercising care in cooking pork or foreign bacon, was submitted. The Board states that it has no information of the existence in this country of the disease known as trichinosis, or more correctly trichiniosis, but it seems desirable that special precaution should be taken particularly where foreign pork and bacon are concerned, and that the authorities should call on their officers to use exceptional vigilance as to sale.

After a discussion, it was decided to place the circular in the hands of the Sanitary Committee.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Inspector (Mr. Dixon), reported that a nuisance was existing in the west end of Tin Mill Street, which was caused by a lot of pig sties being erected. He considered the stench arising from those to be injurious to the health of the public. He (inspector) had made several inspections throughout the district which was in a very fair state.

The CHAIRMAN: Does anyone know Tin Mill Street?

Mr. ELTRINGHAM: I think we inspected the place sometime ago.

The Surveyor said that at that time they had allowed the people to keep the pigs, provided the place was kept clean, but he thought there was no probability of their doing so.

Dr. GEO. RENTON suggested that the Medical Officer should inspect the place and report.

Mr. CARSS said that pigs should not be a nuisance more than any other animal. The people ought not to be compelled to take away their pigs provided they kept them clean. The proper thing to do was for the Board to pass a resolution ordering them to abate the nuisance.

The Surveyor was instructed to take proceedings against the owners of the pigs.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The Surveyor (Mr. Dixon), reported that during the month, the workmen had laid on to several of the highways in the district about 170 tons of limestone and 21 tons of whinstone. As instructed at the previous meeting he had forwarded a sample of the water supplied by the Consett Water Company to Mr. Pattinson, Analytical Chemist, Newcastle.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that Mr. Pattinson had not yet reported upon the water.

Mr. ELTRINGHAM (significantly): The motion does not say he has to get a report. We made a mistake in not saying that. (Laughter).

Mr. CARSS said it was ridiculous for any gentleman to submit a sample of water to an analyst and then to say he was not to report upon it.

The subject collapsed.

THE FEVER HOSPITALS.

The Clerk (Mr. Booth), read a letter from Mr. Ritson, clerk to the Lanchester Rural Sanitary Authority, in which was embodied the resolutions made at the conference of the committees appointed by the four Sanitary Authorities.

The decision was that each committee should report to its Board that the rateable valuable was to be the basis of contribution, and that the Joint Board should be composed of fifteen members, nine from the Rural Authority, and two from each Board.

Mr. C. WILSON said that some difficulty arose at the conference as to the representation on the Joint Board. It was contended that if two members were appointed by each Board in addition to the chairman it would make three representatives each. However, that was over-ruled, and it was agreed that two only should go from each Board. There was also something said respecting how it was to be rated on the different districts. It was thought that if notice was sent to each district to raise the money, they could leave the authorities to pay as they thought best; if it was under 1d in the pound, they could pay it out of the poors' rates and if it was over a 1d. it would have to be collected separately.

Mr. LAX said if it was collected by the Local Board, the land would only pay one quarter, and it was only right that it should contribute its proper quota.

Mr. ELTRINGHAM said it was left for the three Boards to pay as they thought proper, but to collect it in the General District Rate, land would only pay one quarter, and in the Rural Sanitary District it would pay on the whole.

Mr. H. CARSS said the three Urban Sanitary Authorities would be obliged to pay it out of the District Rate. They could not get it out of the Poors' Rate, consequently, £2,000 of their rateable value would only be levied on the quarter, and that basis was in a false position with the other authority.

Mr. C. WILSON said it made no difference between the authorities. Their proportion was according to their full rateable value.

Mr. CARSS said that what he wished to impress upon them was that the landowners in the township would have the advantage of the owners of mills and houses, the latter of whom would have to make up the difference. It seemed a little more than fair to the owners of land, as they would only have to pay a quarter of the penny in the £. To put it in a practical way:—Supposing the rateable value was £15,000, £12,000 of which was for houses, and £3,000 for land, the £3,000 was based on a quarter, and the other on the whole.

Mr. ELTRINGHAM said that if the land paid on a quarter, it devolved upon the other property owners to make up the loss.

Mr. C. WILSON explained that the present business was to consider whether the Board ratified the resolutions come to by the Joint Committee, who had no power, further than bringing it before their respective Boards.

The Clerk (Mr. Booth), while admitting the principle contended for by Mr. Carss and Mr. Eltringham, remarked the difference was hardly worth fighting for, and quoted figures showing the difference was very small.

The resolutions submitted were ratified, and will be forwarded to the Local Government Board.

THE FOOTPATH AT BENFIELDSIDE STATION.

Dr. Geo. Renton moved that a request be sent to the North-Eastern Railway Company, to allow the footpath across the railway at Benfieldside Station to remain open on Sundays. He said that a large number of the population on the high side of the railway had to make a long detour to get to a place of worship.

Mr. DOWSON seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

THE CENSUS.

The CHAIRMAN read a communication from the Registrar-General, pointing out the advisability of having all the houses properly numbered.

Mr. CARSS moved that the Surveyor be instructed to give notice to all the occupiers of houses in the district to number their houses, if not already distinguished.

Mr. C. WILSON seconded.

Agreed to.

The Surveyor: Have I to understand that houses already numbered will have to be altered if they do not fit in with the new numbers?

Mr. CARSS: Yes.

Mr. Booth remarked that he would have to endeavour to get the numbers to fit as much as possible.

THE FOOTPATHS IN BLACKHILL.

Dr. George Renton called the attention of the Board to the footpath in front of Mr. Strachan's shop at Blackhill. It required flagging. On certain occasions this winter it had been a great nuisance.

Mr. TURNER remarked that it ought to have a kerbstone, and be flagged down as far as Snowdon's.

Mr. ELTRINGHAM pointed out that there was not sufficient room for a proper footpath, and remarked that the owners of the houses should not have taken so much rooom up for their gardens.

The CHAIRMAN thought the Board had undertaken to repair any flagging which might be laid down, but it could not bear the cost of laying the flagging.

Mr. LAX: As a rule, people building the property flag the footpath, and the Board agrees to keep it in repair afterwards.

On the motion of Dr. Renton, seconded by Mr. Turner, it was resolved to kerb and flag the footpath lower down in Durham Road in front of the house occupied by Mr. Latimer.

THE LIGHTING OF BOTTLE BANK.

Mr. H. CARSS moved that the Clerk be instructed to write the Consett Iron Company, and request it to place some lamps in Bottle Bank. There was a population of something like 360, with a rateable value of about £210, and some parts of the district, with a rateable value of about £400, and a population of perhaps 150, were furnished with half-a-dozen lamps.

Mr. SMITH: Why is it to go to the Consett Iron Company.

Mr. CARSS: Because they are private streets.

The motion was carried.

A VOTE OF THANKS.

Mr. LAX said that as that was the last meeting before the election, he was desirous of moving that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to the Chairman, Mr. J. Annandale, for the able and gentlemanly manner in which he had conducted the business of the Board during the year.

Mr. ELTRINGHAM seconded, and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. ANNANDALE responded, briefly.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The Medical Officer (Dr. Renton) submitted the following report:—

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour, for the third time, to submit an annual report on the health of the Benfieldside Urban Sanitary District.

SICKNESS AND MORTALITY.

During the 52 weeks of the year 1880, the Registrar's return records the births of 190 children—106 males and 84 females; and the deaths of 108 persons, 51 males and 57 females, the excess of births over deaths was thus 82.

POPULATION.

The population is estimated to be 6,398, or an increase of 2 over the estimate of the previous year. No enumeration of the population having been attempted since the taking of the Imperial census in 1871, I do not claim for above the figures more than that they are roughly accurate.

BIRTHS.

The birth-rate is equal to 29·6 per 1,000, or 5 below the rate of 1879, and 7 below the mean of the last 10 years.

Mean of 10 years—36·4.

1871	'72	'73	'74	'75	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80.
44·8	37·2	46·0	35·4	36·5	34·9	32·5	32·8	34·5	29·6.

DEATHS.

The year exhibits a moderately low death-rate. The 108 deaths represent a rate of 16·8 per 1,000, a rate not only 4 per 1,000 below the estimate of 1879, but 5 below the mean rate of the last 10 years. In analysing this mortality I find that 34 or 31·4 per cent. are referred to zymotic diseases, namely, 8·3 per cent. to diarrhœa, and 23·1 per cent. to scarlet fever.

Mean of 10 years—19·6.

1871	'72	'73	'74	'75	'76	'77	'78	'79	'80.
27·5	22·1	24·4	18·6	19·2	14·4	15·3	17·6	20·7	16·8.

SEASONS.

The relative mortality of the four quarters of the year will be seen in the subjoined table. The excessive mortality was due to the prevalence of scarlet fever:—

1st quarter	33	equal to	20·7	per 1,000 per annum.
2nd "	30	"	18·8	"
3rd "	27	"	16·9	"
4th "	18	"	11·3	"

AGES.

Of the 108 deaths from all causes, 49, or 50·3 per cent. of the total number were of children under 5 years of age; 19, or 17·5 per cent. of which were infants under 1 year; 39, or 36·1 per cent. of children and adults from 5 to 60 years, and 16, or 14·8 per cent. of elderly persons aged 60 years and upwards. The mortality amongst children under 5 years, notwithstanding the prevalence of scarlet fever throughout the year, is comparatively satisfactory, inasmuch as the number is two below the record of last year, and 14 below the number chronicled in 1878. Of infants under one year the registered deaths have declined from 31 in 1879 to 21 in 1880.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.—SCARLET FEVER.

In my annual report for 1879 I gave a lengthy account of the origin and spread of an outbreak of scarlet fever which persisted with transient intermissions throughout the year. I mentioned some of the difficulties encountered in our endeavours to stem the progress of the disease. Our exertions to isolate the infected were continued with unabated energy, but in spite of all the epidemic has been uninterrupted almost through the whole of the year upon which I now report. In January and February there were 19 and 11 cases respectively. In March the number rose to 53, and declined to 12 in April, and rose again to 36 in May. By far the greater number of the foregoing occurred in the densely populated streets of Bottle Bank, West Row, and Derwent Street. With the month of May the epidemic seemed practically to have ended, so far at least as Blackhill was concerned, as only three cases are recorded in the following five months. However, in August a fresh outbreak was inexplicably as unexpectedly lit up in an Infant School in Shotley Bridge. Ten cases were the result. The disease re-appeared in Blackhill in November and December, the number of cases being six and five respectively. I failed to discover the cause of the outbreak in the Infant School, but the further spread of it was at once suppressed as soon as the school was closed. The obstacles in tracing isolated attacks of scarlet fever to their source are well nigh unsurmountable, and baffle the most searching inquiries. Parents are naturally reticent in communicating information at all likely to interfere with their social surroundings. The spread of the outbreak could not be traced to any of the dairies of the neighbourhood. When once the disease appears in a crowded street it becomes an easy matter to follow it from door to door. As in the streets quoted above, most of the houses are of the worst possible description, and having but two rooms each, the upper one being about six-and-a-half feet high by twelve feet square and approached by a ladder, and the lower one serving at once as sleeping room, sitting room, wash-house, and kitchen; it is not a matter of wonder that every child in such houses takes the disease when once infection is admitted. Not only is this the case, but the infection is conveyed from door to door by gossiping neighbours and friends who, in spite of threats and entreaties, persist in their blind ignorance in visiting infected houses until every domicile in the street has suffered more or less from the scourge, until, so to speak, the disease runs itself out.

ENTERIC FEVER.

During the year seven houses infected with enteric fever have come to my knowledge, all of which I visited and carefully inspected. In four of them the fever was essentially sporadic, as the situation of the houses were widely separated and developed, but one case in each, viz.: "The Wood" Cottages, Cutlers Hall; Bessemer Street, Blackhill; Wood Street and Front Street, Shotley Bridge. I failed to find any adequate cause in or near the tenements for these isolated cases. In the two houses, however, which form the corner of Armstrong Street and Durham Road, and one other adjoining there was a distinct outbreak and a direct sequence of cases—seven in all—and a specific cause discovered, namely, a choked drain communicating with the main sewer, which was at once put into order, in immediate proximity. Not only these three houses, but the whole street is built on clay, and without proper foundation. The walls and floors are nearly always damp and foisty. My advice to the Authority is to have the worst of the floors taken up and re-laid with cement. The whole of the above cases were not of a malignant type, and happily no deaths occurred.

SMALL POX.

A case of small pox occurred in Walton's Row, in a girl working at the Paper Mill. The usual precautions prevented a recurrence of the disease.

MEASLES.

Measles was epidemic in the summer months, upwards of 150 cases having been notified to me. No deaths.

DIARRHŒA.

Diarrhœa was more than usually prevalent in the summer and autumn, assuming occasionally a choleraic character. The whole of the nine deaths under this heading were of children under two years old, the majority of them being due primarily to malnutrition. A great deal of ignorance prevails among the artisan classes as to the proper feeding of infants when deprived of their natural food. Instead of cow's or goat's milk, or the condensed milk, which is so very suitable for young children, they are given farinaceous compounds which they are unable to digest, consequently mechanical irritation and inflammation is set up in their delicate digestive canals, followed by diarrhœa, atrophy, convulsions, and death. I am convinced that most of the deaths ascribed to diarrhœa are due to improper feeding, and is the principal cause of the excessive infant mortality about which we read so much, and the outcome of not a few coroner's enquiries. These cases are, therefore, not the specific disorder for which there is a distinct heading in the Local Government forms classified under zymotic diseases, and under which we are expected to return them.

INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL.

The Authority has had under consideration the erection of an infectious hospital in conjunction with the Sanitary Authority of Leadgate, Consett, and Lanchester. It is most desirable that a building set apart for the isolation of infectious diseases should be speedily erected. It is unnecessary to spend a large sum of money on an hospital, which to my mind would only be required for the reception of scarlet fever, except on a very exceptional occasion. On reviewing the history of epidemic disease in the past twelve years, it is satisfactory to note that there has been an almost annual decline in the number of enteric and other forms of continued fever. Typhus fever has vanished as did the plague before advancing sanitation; and as to the much dreaded small pox (against which it is now, I think, almost superfluous to add, the Compulsory Vaccination Act has proved an effective weapon) there has been no epidemic of it since 1872. It therefore follows that only in the instance of an outbreak of scarlet fever would an hospital be of any practical value against the spread of which we have hitherto discovered no other means of prevention. It is only by complete and prolonged isolation of cases, and the daily disinfection of the patients as well as of their clothes for an indefinite period after convalescence is established, that we with any degree of certainty can expect to be free from infection. This being so, the hospital resolves itself into one for children only, and therefore the expense of distinct wards for the separation of sexes unnecessary. An hospital of ten beds, in my opinion, would be ample for present population.

ASHPITS AND REFUSE REMOVAL.

On my various inspections of the district I have observed, generally, a much more cleanly state of the yards and lanes than formerly prevailed. I also noticed that eleven of the ashpits complained of in my last report have been covered. The emptying and deodorising of the ashpits, and removal of refuse is now done more thoroughly and systematically.

SEWERAGE DISPOSAL.

The contemplated extension of the main sewer referred to in my last annual report has been carried out. The sewage has been diverted from Baxton Burn (which stream now flows inoxious into the river Derwent) by a sewer 16,000 yards in length, to which has been united all subsidiary drains throughout its course. Many of the water spouts from adjacent houses have also been attached to it, thereby securing lofty ventilation of the sewer. The sewage, without filtration, is emptied into the river, which, however, is only a provisional step, about one hundred yards beyond the lowest inhabited house in Shotley Bridge.

WATER SUPPLY.

A report of the County Analyst furnished at the instance of the adjoining Sanitary Authority of Consett of the water supplied to the district, to the effect that it is unwholesome for human consumption, has been fully discussed by the Board. The water is undoubtedly tainted occasionally by decayed vegetable products in the summer months, especially when the supply gets scanty and after heavy falls of rain the reservoir becomes flooded stirring up the vegetable deposit that has settled at the bottom. Judging of the water by the light of comparison it is unequalled by any of the surrounding springs to which the people flocked when unnecessarily scared by the report referred to. The springs are much more liable to be poisoned by more deadly organisms in their proximity to drains and cesspools than water collected from the adjoining moors. It is an undeniable fact that since we have been supplied by a plentiful supply of soft water and less hard water consumed from the springs, enteric fever and allied disorders have steadily diminished. I have no hesitation in asserting that our present system of water supply from the moors has been the salvation of the densely populated villages to which it is now abundantly furnished.

SANITARY WORK AND IMPROVEMENT.

Besides the laying of the new sewer and the covering of several of the more exposed ashpits mentioned above, two dilapidated privies have been replaced by water closets, and a public urinal erected in Blackhill. A good deal of surface channelling has been laid down during the year as well as cementing and other improvements made to some of the foot-paths. For committing nuisances 23 notices were served and 2 summonses issued for similar offences. The slaughter houses were inspected monthly and white-washed. The Inspector on my order disinfected 29 houses, and many others were similarly dealt with privately on my recommendation. Almost a ton of McDougal's powder has been used to sewer grates, surface channels, open ashpits, and midden heaps in the course of the year.

The relative immortality from all causes and zymotic diseases respectively in the three divisions of the district:—Blackhill: deaths from zymotic diseases, 29, 7·7, per 1,000; deaths from all causes, 79, 21 0, per 1,000.

Benfieldside and Cutlers Hall: deaths from zymotic diseases, 4, 3·0, per 1,000; deaths from all causes, 17, 12·8, per 1,000.

Shotley Bridge and Snows Green: deaths from zymotic diseases, 1, 0·7, per 1,000; deaths from all causes, 12, 9·0, per 1,000.

W. M. RENTON, M.D.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Shotley Bridge, 16th March, 1881.

CASES OF SCARLET FEVER AND NUMBER OF DEATHS DURING 1880.

Names of Streets.	Number of Cases.	Number of Deaths.
Walton's Row, Blackhill	15	3
West Row, "	13	0
Bottle Bank, "	54	11
Derwent Street, "	27	5
Bessemer "	5	1
Roger "	1	0
Ridley "	4	2
Murray "	4	0
Tin Mill "	5	0
Hawthorn Ter., "	3	0
Turncoat Row, "	2	0
Durham Road, "	9	1
Benfieldside Lane	1	0
Baxton Burn	1	0
Cutlers' Hall	1	1
Shotley Bridge	16	0
Railway Terrace, B.H.	3	1
Total	164	25

HISTORY OF EPIDEMIC DISEASE IN THE BENFIELDSIDE SANITARY DISTRICT DURING THE LAST TWELVE YEARS.

	Small-pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Typhus.	Continued Fever.	Diphtheria.	Total.	Deaths per 1,000
1869	3	24	12	15	—	1	55	
Deaths	—	4	2	6	—	—	12	2·7
1870	37	56	68	—	12	—	173	
Deaths	3	8	4	—	—	—	15	3·4
1871	46	248	47	—	37	—	378	
Deaths	5	25	11	—	—	—	41	9·2
1872	53	22	16	—	23	—	114	
Deaths	6	5	2	—	2	—	15	3·3
1873	6	45	56	4	43	—	154	
Deaths	4	2	7	—	2	—	15	3·1
1874	4	77	30	—	18	—	129	
Deaths	2	5	3	—	2	—	12	2·4
1875	—	23	8	—	2	1	34	
Deaths	—	6	3	—	—	1	10	1·7
1876	—	57	19	—	1	1	78	
Deaths	—	2	2	—	1	1	6	1·0
1877	6	50	7	—	—	1	64	
Deaths	—	8	1	—	—	1	10	1·6
1878	—	39	6	—	—	1	46	
Deaths	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	0·3
1879	2	159	1	—	—	—	162	
Deaths	—	30	1	—	—	—	31	5·1
1880	1	164	13	—	—	—	178	
Deaths	—	25	—	—	—	—	25	3·8

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BENFIELDSIDE LOCAL BOARD DISTRICT, DURING THE YEAR 1880, AT ALL AGES.

Disease.	Months.				Under Five Years.					Above Five Years.																			Total.
	1	3	6	9	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	
Diarrhœa			2	1	1	5																							9
Scarlet Fever						5	2	3	5	7	1	1				1													25
Phthisis										1		3	1					1											6
Pneumonia Bronchitis, &c		1				5		1		1				1						1			2						12
Tubercular Meningitis			1			2				1			1																5
Marasmus		1																											1
Malnutrition		2	1			1																							4
Heart, Diseases of												1						1	1	1	1			1					6
Brain, Diseases of				1		1						1							1					1		1			6
Apoplexy																	1	1					1		2			1	6
Rheumatic Fever														1									1						2
Peritonitis																			1										1
Cancer																						2			1				3
Kidney, Diseases of						1																1							2
Debility	5	1																											6
Convulsions	1																												1
Premature Birth	2																												2
Syphilis					1																								1
Parturition																	2												2
Puerperal Fever														1	1														2
Senile Decay																							1						1
Coroner								2				1						1		1									5
Totals	8	5	4	2	2	20	2	6	5	10	1	7	2	3	1	1	3	4	3	3	1	3	5	2	3	1	·	1	108

CONCERT AT WEST STANLEY.—A grand concert of vocal and instrumental music was given in the Primitive Methodist School-room, West Stanley, on Saturday night last, on behalf of the Independent Order of Good Templars, to an intelligent and appreciative audience, when the following pieces were rendered with credit and ability. Mr. W. C. Carmichael, of Felling, sang "The Waggoner," and "The three topers," in a masterly style, accompanied by Mr. Whitehead. Mr. J. Gray, of Gateshead, gave two very interesting and instructive readings in the Cumberland dialect, with his usual ability and force. Miss Dodgson, of Newcastle, sang "Gipsy Jane"; "Time may steal the roses, darling"; and "The blind girl's dream," accompanied by Mr. J. W. Rosby, of Newcastle. She was received with great applause, her singing being excellent. Mr. J. B. Robson, of Kibblesworth, played two flute solos ("The Swiss boy," and "Long, long ago,") in a splendid manner. Mr. W. Jackson, of Gateshead, recited "Vat you please," and read "Poor Richards' sayings," with great success. Miss Teasdale, of Newcastle, who is an excellent singer, sang "Caller Herrin'," for which she received an *encore*, "Children's voices," and "The wishing cap," accompanied by Mr. J. Richardson, of Kibblesworth. Mr. Wm. Bowden, of Gateshead, sung "My own true love," and "Ring, ring the banjo," which received loud applause. A laughing chorus was sung by Messrs. J. B. Robson and W. Bowden, which brought a very pleasant evening's entertainment to a close. Mr. Wm. Bowden presided.

THE PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY.—To-day we present to our readers a copy of a summary of the thirty-second annual report of this, the largest and most successful Assurance Company, and in doing so we congratulate the members upon the continued prosperity of the Company. In the ordinary branch the expenses are lighter in proportion to business done than they were last year, while the new business consists of 5,089 policies assuring £639,935, and producing a new annual premium of £22,629 9s 11d; this leaves the annual premium income at the end of the year 1880, at £122,647 5s 5d, and shows an increase of £13,065 16s over the preceding year. A further inducement to intending assurers is that at the close of the present year the quinquennial division of profits will take place, and all persons whose proposals have been accepted, and whose premiums have been paid before the 31st December, will participate in the profits which are expected to be something handsome. In the industrial branch the immense sum of £1608,849 8s 7d has been received for premiums during the past year, which is an increase of £201,705 18s 1d. The claims met during the year amounted to £573,837 1s 9d, which brings up the total amount of claims paid in this branch to £3,146,360. No one can estimate the amount of suffering which has been alleviated by the timely payment of this large sum to the surviving relatives and friends of deceased assurers. It appears almost superfluous for us to enforce upon our readers the necessity of assurance, but so long as we all imagine "everyone mortal but ourselves" it becomes our duty to advise all within our reach to secure an assurance on their lives, and we know of no company in which the full benefits of assurance are more easily secured, and the claims in case of death so promptly paid. As hinted at in the last paragraph of the report, the large sums now collected by the agents of the Prudential Assurance Company will speedily place the directors in a position to accord still greater advantages to their members, and this, we feel justified in stating, will be carried out as early as they can consistent with the stability of the Company.

Correspondence.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE COUNTY COURT REMOVAL.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—I see by your impression of the 11th inst., that a ratepayers' meeting had been held at Shotley Bridge, for the purpose of opposing the removal of the County Court from Shotley Bridge to Consett, at which meeting the Chairman (one of our respected magistrates) took great pains to explain to the meeting the position of Shotley Bridge, for County Court purposes, as compared with Consett. He explained that the County Court district extended three or four miles west and to Blanchland, which was probably fifteen miles from Shotley Bridge (they must be very short ones). He also says would it be to the inconvenience of plaintiffs to have to trudge three miles further to Consett (short miles again). I think it is only fair to ask the Chairman (as he seems to have taken a great deal of trouble to ascertain the number of cases from Consett but not from Shotley) how many cases have been from either Edmondbyers or Blanchland, or from any other of the outlying districts? He also makes out a population of 8,000, lying within one and-a-half miles of the present court. Granting that to be so, three-fourths of that number are much nearer to Consett than Shotley Bridge. And, then, again, the enormous number of 8,000, which the Chairman names is not equal to the population of Consett alone, not taking into account the number that have to pass Consett to get to Shotley Bridge, as out of the 100 cases six only were from Consett, at least seventy per cent. of the ninety-four remaining cases had, and were bound, to pass Consett to get to Shotley Bridge. And, again, it is not only the distance, but look at the road down—almost a precipice. When you consider that Shotley Bridge is 600 feet below Consett, it must be a heavy tax on the strength of a great deal of the poor people that, have as the Chairman remarked, to trudge down that enormous hill to pay their instalments, and that, perhaps, for a period extending over eighteen months or two years, and the Chairman overlooks the great expense the plaintiffs are put to in travelling to get summonses, attend the hearings, the journeys to receive their instalments, &c., and the distances beyond Consett. I would next ask the Chairman what he thinks of the insignificant number of 8,000 compared to the populations of Consett, Leadgate, Medomsley, Dipton, Colliery Dykes, Hill Top, White-le-Head, Tantobie, Tanfield, part of Beamish, Hobson Colliery, Catchgate, Annfield Plain, Kyo, Oxhill, Stanley, Shield Row, Greencroft Cottages, part of South Moor, East and West Butsfield, Rowley, and Castleside, all of which last-named places prefer having the County Court at Consett instead of at Shotley Bridge, and I may, with confidence, state that such districts comprise a population of 27,000 people, or more, all of whom have to pass through Consett and Leadgate to get to Shotley Bridge. The Chairman also intimated that there was no place at Consett to hold the court in. Now, I must say that, with all due respect to the Chairman, he must have known very different from that, when he himself sits in one of the very best Police Courts in the county at Consett (except Durham), and which is available for any County purpose, and I am informed the County Court has precedence. The Chairman also asked the question—"Did the County Court at Shotley Bridge hold its head up through the support of Consett and its suitors?" The question might very truthfully have been answered yes; through Consett and the persons, from those other places, who had to pass Consett to get to Shotley Bridge, and I was glad the Chairman had been at the trouble to ascertain the number of plaintiffs from Consett at the last court day; but the Chairman might have explained the number of cases each plaintiff had, for I have known three plaintiffs from Consett have quite as many cases as was at the last court altogether, and he might as well have explained that for some five or six years past there was not six plaintiffs in Shotley Bridge that had used the Court. Such is a fact. Then Mr Henry Carss makes a harangue and states that Shotley Bridge is the most central place in the County Court district, and most convenient, and inexpensive to the public who require to attend the court, and that there was an excellent Town Hall, erected for the purpose of the County Court; but he did not tell his audience that the County Court bailiff had lately removed from Shotley Bridge to Blackhill, within ten minutes walk to Consett, to be more in the centre of his work as bailiff than at Shotley Bridge. Now, Mr. Editor, I think that these observations have a tendency to lead the general public astray as to the centrality. I cannot see how all the above enumerated places can be taken as to form any portion of the centre to Shotley Bridge. Then, he speaks of cages and canaries! What has cages and canaries to do with the County Court? They can be neither plaintiffs nor defendants, and I think the general public is not to be deprived of convenience to themselves through the shareholders of the Town Hall company being deprived of a little interest for the money they have expended in building the Town Hall, and it cannot be said that the building was built for the purpose of the County Court. Then we have Mr. Eltringham from Benfieldside, nearer Consett than Shotley Bridge, and his remarks go to show that the remaining ninety-four cases—if there were such a number—came out of the 8,000 population named by the Chairman. And as to railway accommodation. It is quite clear to those that will see that the Benfieldside Station is as near, if not nearer, to Consett than Snow's Green Station is to Shotley Bridge, and quite as easy of access. Now, Mr. Editor, I fear that I have trespassed too long, but I trust that you will excuse my occupying so much of your valuable space, and cannot conclude without hoping that the County Court removal and the New Railway Scheme will shortly benefit the Consettonians and their neighbours.—I am, sir, yours obediently,

ROBERT JACKSON.

Leadgate, 11th March, 1881.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.—During piercing winds and excessive variations of temperature everyone is more or less liable to informal and external disease. Throat, chest, liver, bowels, kidneys, and skin all suffer in some degree, and may be relieved by rubbing in this Ointment, aided by proper doses of the Pills, for administering which full directions accompany each box; in truth, anyone who thoroughly masters Holloway's "instructions" will, in remedying diseases, exchange the labour of an hour for the profit of a lifetime. All bronchial, pulmonary, and throat disorders require that the Ointment should be well rubbed upon the skin twice a day with great regularity, considerable briskness, and much persistence.

GEORGE HOPE,
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THE LEAZES, BURNOPFIELD.
MONUMENTS, Tombs, Headstones, and Tables, erected in Marble, Stone, or Granite.
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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

CONSETT—At Front Street, on the 15th inst., the wife of Mr. Wm. Borrow, of twins—girls.

MARRIAGES.

LANCHESTER—At the Register Office, on the 9th inst., Mr. R. T. S. Scott, Kyo, to Miss E. E. Robinson, Quaker House Lodge.—On the 12th inst., Mr. H. Callender, to Miss H. Bell, both of Medomsley.—Same day, Mr. J. J. Hoggan, to Miss M. J. Donley, both of Oxhill.—On the 14th inst., Mr. W. Arkless, Bradley Cottages, to Miss M. McMann, of Consett.—On the 15th inst., Mr. G. Atkinson, to Miss M. Hutchinson, both of Andrew's House.

DEATHS.

ALLENDALE—At Lonkley Head, on the 15th inst., aged 30 years, Isabella, daughter of Wm. and Jane Errington.

LANGLEY MOOR—On the 16th inst., John Patrick, son of Mr. M. Quinn, miner, aged 8 years.

TOW LAW—On the 14th inst., Robert, son of Mr. Wm. Smith, merchant, aged 20 years.

ROBERT BEALL,
MONUMENTAL SCULPTOR IN MARBLE, GRANITE, AND STONE,
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