THE ENTIRE STOCK TO BE SOLD OFF
AT
BAIN & CO.'S SHOP,
NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT,
Comprising—Nearly 400 Men's and Boys' Hats and Caps, Collars, Fronts, Frillings, Laces, Ladies' Linen Handkerchiefs, Gent's Ties, Scarfs, and Braces, Ladies' Kid, Silk, Lisle, and Taffeta Gloves, Toilet Covers, Table Cloths, Table Covers, Coloured Cashmeres, Tapes, Reels, Crotchet Cotton, &c., &c.

The Consett Guardian

DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER
AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM GAZETTE.

SPECIAL LINES IN HATS AND CAPS!
Men's Felt Hats, 1s 5½d, 1s 9d, 1s 11½d, and 2s 3d.
A Lot of Lawn Tennis Hats, in Browns and Navy all at 7½d each; usual price, 1s 6d. Cheap for School Boys.
Men's P.O. (one peak) Caps, 3d, 5½d, and 11½d.
Boys' Jubilee 1s Caps; Sale price, 6d each.
Boys' Jubilee 1s 6d Velvet Caps; Sale price, 9d each.
Boys' Jubilee 2s Velvet Caps; Sale price 1s each.
AT SALE OF BAIN & CO.'S STOCK,
NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

No. 1,441 REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. FRIDAY EVENING, March 23rd, 1888. PRICE ONE PENNY.

Money.

SPECIAL BRANCH.—M. L. ROSENBERG, 54 Westgate Road, Newcastle, advances MONEY on Reversionary Interest or Legacies under Wills, or Life Policies for £100 and upwards, on Building Society or other Shares, on Household Furniture without removal, and on deposit of Silver Plate, Jewellery, or any goods at a reasonable rate of interest, and on terms of repayment, all as arranged.—Established 1860. 73

MONEY LENT PRIVATELY, From £10 to £2,000, in town or country, on approved note of hand alone, at 5 per cent. Also upon furniture, trade or farm stock (without removal), and to assist persons into business.
No sureties required. Strictly private, and no delay. Write or call on actual lender,
Mr. F. DUNBAR,
Kent Villa, St. Mary's Road, Harlesden, London

Found.

FOUND, on Saturday night last, a Black and White Cur Dog (part Tan).—Owner can have same by paying expenses, and applying to THOMAS LIDDLE, 13, Blackfine, between 5 and 6 p.m., if claimed in 3 days. 249z

Wanted.

WANTED, Strong GENERAL SERVANT.—Apply to Mrs. J. H. OSBORNE, Shotley Bridge. 257z

WANTED, at once, a HOUSE in Sherburn Terrace, Consett.
Apply NORTH-EASTERN BANK, CONSETT.

WANTED, a good GENERAL SERVANT; one accustomed to children preferred.—Apply at the *Guardian* Office, Consett. 275z

WANTED, SIX GIRLS as APPRENTICES to the Knitting.—Apply, on Monday first, to FENWICK & JOHNSON, Hosiery Factory, Consett.

WANTED, SIX COWS; new calved, or close to calving.—Apply by letter, stating lowest price, age, and colour, T. B., *Guardian* Office. 259z

WANTED, by a respectable middle-aged Woman, SITUATION as HOUSEKEEPER to a working man—Apply Bainbridge's Cottages, New Cornsay Colliery. 272z

LADIES REQUIRING SERVANTS and SERVANTS SITUATIONS will do well by applying at MRS. COOKE'S Registry, 38, Durham Road, Blackhill. 889w

FOR a short time only, R. VON DIX, MOUNT PLEASANT (opposite Conservative Club) CONSETT, TAKES FIRST-CLASS PORTRAITS, highly finished, at 3s 6d per Dozen. 91z

GIRLS REQUIRING SITUATIONS, and Ladies requiring SERVANTS.—Apply at Mrs. BELL'S Register Office, 54, Sherburn Terrace, Consett. 296w

COCKBURN'S REGISTRY OFFICE. FOR SERVANTS, (Established in 1877) 13, Front Street, Consett. A call invited, when best attention will be given. 340w

Under Distinguished Patronage.
MISS ANDERSON, Register Office for MALE and FEMALE SERVANTS, and GOVERNESSES, 9, Ridley Place, Northumberland Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. 263w

WANTED KNOWN, that E. WARDHAUGH, General Smith and Horse Shoer, Shotley Bridge, is Sole AGENT for the district, for CHAPMAN'S CELEBRATED CATTLE OILS. 62z

WANTED, Ladies' and Gentlemen's CAST-OFF CLOTHES, &c. Personal attendance in Town or Country. Letters of call immediately attended to.—Mrs. J. QUIGLEY, 5, Front Street, Consett. 396v

AGENT WANTED, for District, to CANVASS ADVERTISEMENTS for New Publication. Energetic men liberally treated with. One holding, or who has held, a similar occupation preferred.—Address by letter, with references and full particulars, to LIONEL CURRIE & Co., Wolsingham, *via* Darlington. 247z

WANTED, Men and Women to start a new business at their homes. Easily learned in an hour. No agency; no artistic work. Sixpence to Two Shillings per hour made day-time or evening. Requires no experience or large means, and is eminently respectable, extraordinarily profitable, and extremely fascinating. Samples and particulars, four stamps.—Address, CHAS. W. MORTON, 91, Hurst Street, Birmingham. 258z

WANTED it thoroughly known at Consett and the District that, for a short period before the busy season (Easter and Whitsuntide holidays) commences, HIGH-CLASS PORTRAITS, artistically finished, MAY BE HAD at very Reasonable Prices, at VENICE DUNN'S, PHOTOGRAPHER, 13, MEDOMSLEY ROAD, CONSETT. 92z

SPECIAL NOTICE.—2,000 Female Servants, Miners, Farmers, Labourers, Quarrymen, and others WANTED for Queensland, Australia. Free and Assisted Passages granted by Mail Steamers. Immediate employment on arrival.—Apply at once to the Queensland Government Agent, WM. J. JOHNSON, 96, High Street, Gateshead. — Also, WANTED Emigrants of all classes for the United States, £3 10s; Canada, £3 and £4; Australia, £11 11s; South Africa, £15 15s; South America, £8. 55z

To Let.

SHOP TO LET, with two windows, suitable for any business; situated in Raglan Street, Consett.—For particulars, apply to JOHN CRAWFORD, Auctioneer. 276z

COMFORTABLE LODGINGS for one or two respectable young men, at 63, Benfieldside Edge Road. 181z

TO LET, a good HOUSE and SHOP, 56, Durham Road, Blackhill, with immediate possession.—Apply to Mr WM. RAW, Auctioneer, Blackhill. 934y

TO LET, THREE Four-roomed HOUSES (New Fines Cottages), pleasantly situated at Medomsley.—Apply to JACOB WALTON, Overman, Medomsley Colliery. 911y

TO LET, a HOUSE, containing Six Rooms, Bath Room, and Scullery, situate in St. Cuthbert's Terrace, Benfieldside.—For particulars, apply to Mr. PETER GIBSON, Boot-maker, 57, Durham Road, Blackhill. 261z

TO LET, a large HOUSE and SHOP where a good Furniture and Hardware business has been done for a number of years. Proprietor retiring.—Apply to W. WILKINSON, on the premises, Catchgate. 28z

CONSETT INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETY, LIMITED.
TO LET, the CO-OPERATIVE HALL (capable of seating 500 people) for Concerts, Lectures, &c. Also, ROOMS suitable for Clubs and Friendly Societies.—For Forms and Conditions, apply to the Secretary, JESSE HALL, Consett. 65z

TO BE LET, SPRINGFIELD HOUSE, Shotley Bridge, May term or sooner, containing large Hall, 6 Reception Rooms, 10 Bed-rooms, 2 Kitchens, Servants' Bed-rooms, Stables, Cow-byres, Coach-houses, Cottage, large Garden, Greenhouse, and Paddock.—Application to view, to Mr A. HOULISON, Builder, Shotley Bridge; for terms of letting, to Mr WILLIAM RITSON, Woodleyfield, Hexham. 912y

TO BE LET, and entered on the 13th day of May 1888, LAND HOUSE FARM, in the Parish of Lanchester, and County of Durham containing 76 Acres, or thereabouts.—The present tenant, Mr ROBERT SUDDES, will show the Farm; and offers, in writing, to be sent to Mr EDWARD SHOTTON, Sunniside, near Gateshead 230z

TO BE LET, at Holmside Parish, Lanchester, Co. Durham, with entry on 13th May, 1888, Seven Acres, more or less, of RICH OLD GRASS, good DWELLING-HOUSE and GARDEN, and good Conveniences. Also, TWO COTTAGES, now in the occupation of Mr. Robert Miller Pearson, who will shew the same.—For particulars apply to WM. TAYLOR, Summerfield, Blackhill, who will treat for the same. 255z

For Sale.

FOR SALE, a STACK of OLD LAND HAY (well-won).—Apply W. C. RIPPON, Burnopfield, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

A STACK of NEW LAND HAY FOR SALE prime quality.—Apply to JOS. LEYBOURNE, Margery Flats, Lanchester. 260z

FOR SALE, One Second-hand GIG; also a Pair of Hickory PONY-TRAP WHEELS. Both in good order.—Apply East House, Leadgate. 263

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

FOR SALE, COWS and HEIFERS at profit.—Apply, W. C. BOWMAN, Hole House, Lanchester 196

FOR SALE, Two STOVES, BARS two COILS, and a quantity of IRON PIPES, for Heating Purposes.—Apply at the *Guardian* Office.

FOR SALE, by Private Contract, all that Valuable and Commodious HOUSE and SHOP in Front Street, Leadgate, adjoining the Wesleyan Chapel, containing—Large Front Shop, and Kitchen behind, with Five good Rooms on the Second Floor; also, Stable, and all other Conveniences: now in the occupation of Mr ROBERT WILLIAMS as tenant thereof, who will, on application, show the premises.—Apply to WILLIAM RAW, Auctioneer, &c., Blackhill.

Business Announcements.

SWEEP! SWEEP! SWEEP!
WITH PATENT APPARATUS no dust can escape; no forks to damage the jambs. Address—WILLIAM BUTCHER, 8, Messenger Street, Shotley Bridge. REASONABLE CHARGES.

WEDDING RINGS! WEDDING RINGS!
WE continue to present a Half-Dozen best Nickel Silver TEASPOONS to each PURCHASER of our Standard GOLD WEDDING RINGS.
F. A. AND E. WELCH
WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS, ANNFIELD PLAIN. 92

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

What oil is to machinery advertising is to trade.

NOTICE.
ALL ORDERS left at Mr T. LONGSTAFF'S, Leadgate; Mr E. HANLON'S, 7, Gibson Street, Consett; Mrs JAMESON, Durham Road, and Mr G. J. ROBINSON, Grocer (opposite Post Office), Derwent Street, Blackhill, will be attended to, with God's help, by
THE ALLEGRO SWEEP,
J. J. HARRISON.
Mayor's Chambers, Shotley Bridge. 48z

CHEAP STATIONERY DEPOT
FOR
STATIONERY, NEWSPAPERS, PERIODICALS, and a great variety of Fancy and Useful Articles suitable for the Season.
Desk and Pocket Diaries, 1888, Annuals, Account Books, Pocket Books, &c.,
TRY
J. COCKBURN,
GENERAL AND FANCY STATIONER,
13, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.
☞ Schools Supplied. Books Bound. Books not in Stock, may be had on a short notice. Newspapers, &c., delivered to order. 789

MUSICAL TUITION.
JOHN SURTEES, Organist of Christ Church Consett, gives thorough instruction in Piano Harmonium, Organ Playing, Harmony, &c. Special preparation for examinations. Lessons given at pupil's or his own residence. Orders for Tuning promptly attended to. Terms moderate.—Address 2, Cemetery Road, Blackhill. 644y

THE WORKING-MEN'S PERMANENT BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY.
Established in 1853. Interest allowed Half-yearly. 4½ per cent. Subscription shares, £50. Payments, 2s. per fortnight. Reserve Fund, £4,500
THIS is an old Society, offering every facility to Members. For prospectus and any information, apply to the Local Agent, JOSHUA LAX, Ironmonger, Shotley Bridge. 989y

AMERICAN LINE.
UNITED STATES MAIL STEAMERS.
LIVERPOOL TO PHILADELPHIA,
EVERY WEDNESDAY AND ALTERNATE SATURDAY.
First-class, full-powered Iron Steamships.
Accommodation for Passengers equal to any European Line.
Passengers and Goods landed at Philadelphia on the Wharf of the Pennsylvania Railroad.
The Shortest and Best Route to the West.
Apply to RICHARDSON, SPENCE & CO., 19 and 22, Water Street, Liverpool; ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett; E. SLOANE, Postmaster, Blackhill; G. LEADBITTER, Catchgate, *via* Lintz Green; A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Dipton; W. ANDERSON & Co., Shipping Agents, Tow Law; J. JOHNSON, 96, High Street, Gateshead-on-Tyne; JAMES POTTS & SON, 26, Sandhill, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 217z

THE WHISKEY,
BEN-GLEN-DEW,
42s. per Case of One Dozen each, or 21s. per Gallon (packages included).
RICHARD MURRAY,
BEN-FIELD-SIDE.
XMAS CASES OF ASSORTED SPIRITS AND WINES. 790y

QUEENSLAND.
ROYAL MAIL LINE STEAMERS.
PASSAGE £17 ONLY.
LAND ORDER WARRANTS, value £20, are PRESENTED FREE TO all approved PASSENGERS travelling BY THIS LINE.
This young and promising Colony is now offering Special Advantages to all Classes.
FARMERS and OTHERS may obtain FREEHOLD LAND under the Homestead Clauses of the present Land Act up to 160 Acre Blocks, for 6d. per annum per acre, being paid as Rent for Five Years, making 2s. 6d. per acre in all, when payment ceases and the Land becomes Freehold.
LARGER FREEHOLDS and LEASEHOLDS, on specially favourable conditions, may be had under the recently-passed Land Act.
For further Particulars apply to A. BRODIE, TOWN HALL, CONSETT; WM. J. JOHNSON, 96, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE; GRAY, DAWES, & Co., 13, AUSTIN FRIARS, LONDON, or the Brokers, Gellatly, Hankey, Sewell, & Co., London; Manchester, Liverpool, and Glasgow. 30y

Business Announcements.

SEND TO THE POST OFFICE
AND get an Order for One Pound, made Payable to WILLIAM STEWARD AND SON, and you will receive in return, Carriage Paid to any Railway Station or Carrier, 10lbs. of the Cheapest TEA in England, or 5lbs. of INDIAN TEA the Finest Tea in the World. Should it be your pleasure, we can forward Half of each kind as you may direct.
WILLIAM STEWART & SON,
33, GRAINGER STREET, AND SOUTSWOOD ROAD NEWCASTLE 3, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD; & CORNER OF FREDERICK ROAD, HIGH STREET, SUNDERLAND.

MARBLE AND WOOD CHIMNEY PIECES.
KITCHEN RANGES
(Over 60 Sets to Select from).
STOVES OF EVERY KIND
DINNING AND COOKE,
HOT WATER ENGINEERS, IRONFOUNDERS, &c.,
PERCY IRONWORKS, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
SHOW ROOMS, 91, 93, AND 95, PERCY STREET.

DENTISTRY.
MR. R. COLLIER,
SURGEON DENTIST,
Supplies PRIZE MEDAL ARTIFICIAL TEETH at Moderate Charges.
PERFECT FIT GUARANTEED. CHILDREN'S TEETH REGULATED WITH GREAT CARE
TEETH STOPPED, &c. CONSULTATIONS FREE. NITROUS OXIDE GAS ADMINISTERED IF DESIRED.
50, GRAINGER STREET, NEAR ART GALLERY, NEWCASTLE

SPRING SHOW.
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.
T. H. BATCHELOR
BEGS TO ANNOUNCE FIRST SHOW OF SPRING NOVELTIES IN DRESS MATERIALS, PRINTS, OXFORD SHIRTING, PLUSHES, VELVETS, and GENERAL DRAPERY, &c.
☞ A CALL RESPECTFULLY SOLICITED. 180s

☞ WANTED! ☜
People who wish to save money to Purchase their Groceries and Provisions at
R. WILLEY'S,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL GROCERY AND PROVISION ESTABLISHMENT,
20, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT.
WILLEY'S TEA AT 2s. DEFIES COMPETITION.
WILLEY'S COFFEES ARE OF THE FINEST QUALITY.
WILLEY'S BACON, LARD, CHEESE, BUTTER, &c., are of the Finest B[illegible]s only
WILLEY'S SOAPS ARE USED EVERYWHERE.
WILLEY'S FLOUR AND FEEDING STUFFS, at Lowest Market Prices.
WILLEY'S FOR FRESH COUNTRY BUTTER AND EGGS, from several Prize-taking Dairies. Fresh three times every week.
Orders by Post punctually attended to. Goods delivered daily by our own cart.
Bottler of Bass & Co.'s Pale Ale and Guinness's Stout. Mild and Bitter Ales on draught. The Trade supplied.
NOTE THE ADDRESS:—R. WILLEY, 20, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT. 615

WATCHES, CLOCKS, AND JEWELLERY.
WATCHMAKER TO THE TRADE. D. GRADON, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.
WATCH AND CLOCKMAKER, JEWELLER, SILVERSMITH, AND OPTICIAN, DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL.
WATCHES.—Splendid English Patent Levers, at 55/ and 58/-. D. G. can specially recommend these Watches, as they are exceptionally good value, and are giving good satisfaction, Warranted. LADIES' SILVER GENEVA WATCHES from 15/- a Superior Watch, made by Mathey (best maker), 36/6., also a good selection of other Watches. CLOCKS—Marble—Suitable for Presentation, from 21/-. AMERICAN Eight-days' Striking Clocks, from 15/6; Timepieces, from 3/6. JEWELLERY.—Half-dozen Nickel-Silver Tea-spoons and Gold Wedding Ring, from 7/-. A large and choice stock of Jewellery, Whitby Jet, Electro-Plate, &c. SPECTACLES AND EYEGLASSES in great variety. Steel-workers' Spectacles, 1/6 with case. D. G. *supplies the best Steelworks in the United Kingdom with these Specs.* All Watches, Clocks, Jewellery, Spectacles, and Eyeglasses repaired on the premises at Moderate Charges. Watches and Clocks Cleaned and Repaired by D. G. are upheld for one year, unless over-wound or damaged by accident.
ARTICLES MAY BE PURCHASED BY INSTALMENTS. CLUBS SUPPLIED. BAROMETERS AND THERMOMETERS.
190z D. GRADON, MANUFACTURER, BLACKHILL.

TRY
JOHN HUME & SON'S
CELEBRATED
"GERM MEAL."
SOUTH ACOMB, STOCKSFIELD-ON-TYNE, *June 7th, 1887.*
Messrs. JOHN HUME & SON,
GENTLEMEN,
You may recollect that some time ago I purchased several tons of your Germ Meal, and as I keep an accurate account of the food used by our cows, its cost, quantity used, and the amount of milk produced per week, it may interest you to know the result.
During the week preceding the use of the Germ Meal, the cows had maize meal at the rate of 7¾ lbs. per day, and before that they had the same quantity of barley meal. A slightly less weight, 7½ lbs. of Germ Meal was given to each cow per day, with as you will see, the most satisfactory results.—The increase in the milk produced was slightly over 5 per cent., which, with the lessened cost of your meal, showed a saving by its use of close upon 20 per cent. The increase in the return of milk for the week on which Germ Meal was used, over that on which maize meal was used, reached 16½ gallons; and as the latter cost 24s per qr. of 34 stones, as against 20s. 6½d. for the same weight of your Germ Meal, the advantage derived from its use has been strikingly demonstrated in my experience.
I am, yours faithfully,
W. TROTTER.

HARPERLEY AND CATCHGATE STEAM AND WATER CORN MILLS
NEAR ANNFIELD PLAIN, *VIA* LINTZ GREEN.
GEORGE HOBSON,
WHOLESALE
MILLER AND CORN MERCHANT, FIELD SEEDSMAN, &c.,
HAS ALWAYS ON HAND A LARGE STOCK OF
PURE LINSEED AND COTTON CAKES, WHOLE OR READY BROKEN.
INDIAN MEAL, PEA MEAL, BARLEY MEAL, BOXINGS, SHARPS, AND BRAN.
OATS, WHOLE AND CRUSHED, and FEEDING STUFFS of every Description.
THE CELEBRATED EXCELLO HORSE FEED
Thoroughly Cleaned by New and Improved Machinery, Spiced, or otherwise, to order.
HOBSON'S IMPROVED CONDIMENT FOR HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, PIGS, POULTRY, STACKING, &c., Cheapest and Best in the Market.
HOBSON'S AROMATIC CALF FOOD, REARS CALVES WITHOUT MILK.
This Calf Meal is an excellent substitute for Milk, and what is of very great importance to Stock Breeders, it tends greatly to save Calves from that Inflammatory Fever commonly called Quarter-ill or Black Leg.
G. H.'S MIXTURE OF
PERMANENT CLOVER AND GRASS SEEDS has been tested and approved by the leading Agriculturalists of the district upwards of thirty-eight years.
PRICE LISTS ON APPLICATION. 437

Business Announcements.

TO-DAY.
GREAT HALF-YEARLY SALE
AT
THE 2 W'S.
BARGAINS IN MEN'S SUITS. Sale Price, 12s 11d; Regular Price, 19s 11d.
BARGAINS IN MEN'S OVERCOATS. Sale Price, 15s 11d; Regular Price, 27s 6d.
BARGAINS IN HATS CAPS, SHIRTS, &c.
NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT, and NEWCASTLE. 25z

W. T. SMITH,
SURGEON DENTIST,
OF 19, ELDON SQUARE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
RESPECTFULLY begs to inform the Inhabitants of Consett and the readers of the *Guardian* that he will visit at Mr. F. JONES', No. 1, MOUNT PLEASANT, EVERY MONDAY, FROM 11 A.M. TO 5 P.M., where he has every accommodation for receiving his numerous Patrons, and is performing the very highest class operations that can be done in the Dental Profession, in all its branches both Operative and Mechanical, (having received a most thorough dental education in America). Also, all diseases of the oral cavity (the Mouth), facial neuralgia, &c.
Decay can be arrested in the Teeth by stopping them with Gold, Silver, and other Materials, whereby they can be preserved to last a lifetime, if proper care is taken by keeping them cleansed from all foreign matter, such as animal, vegetable, and tartar, which is so often allowed to collect round the necks of the Teeth.
Artificial Teeth inserted with all the latest American inventions and improvements. They can be retained in the mouth by Suction (an American Invention), without the aid of springs, wires, or clasps of any description, which so often destroy the remaining Natural Teeth. The mouth is prepared to receive the Artificial Teeth on the American principal, absolutely different from the English, and no cause is permitted to remain which can in any way produce Neuralgia, or effect the eye and ear. As diseased Teeth and roots is one of the principal reasons of the various ailments of these most valuable organs so as when the Teeth are once inserted they fit perfect without the least pain in any way.
Teeth may be extracted by the aid of Nitrous Oxide Gas, and other means by which the operations become painless.
All fees for services will be most reasonable, especially for Artificial Sets. 963z

W. T. ELTRINGHAM,
AGENT for BUILDERS' STORES and SANITARY GOODS of every description,
RAILWAY TERRACE, BLACKHILL.
ALWAYS ON HAND, FERENS' and LOVE'S NEW SINK and GULLEY with CLEANING BUCKET, as approved of by the Surveyors to the Lanchester Rural Sanitary Authority and Benfieldside Local Board.
SPECIAL QUOTATIONS FOR LARGE QUANTITIES. 104z

SPECIAL LINES.

10-STONE BAGS of FIRST-CLASS FLOUR,	12s 6d.	
FINEST SCOTCH OATMEAL,	1s 6d	Per Stone.
BEST SICILIAN LINSEED,	2s 0d	"
ROUGH BARLEY	6s 6d	Per Cwt.
SMALL INDIAN CORN,	7s 2d	"
INDIAN MEAL,	7s 6d	"
OATS and BEANS,	1s 6d	Per Stone.
SCOTCH POTATOES,	4s 0d	Per Bag.
50 TONS of BRAN,	£4 15s 0d.	

PUT IN CARTS AT WAREHOUSE.
WILLIAM AYNSLEY,
TEA DEALER,
GROCER, PROVISION and FLOUR MERCHANT,
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT, AND FRONT STREET, LEADGATE

A. HALL & CO.
PRUDHOE-ON-TYNE,
CONFECTIONERS,
PLAIN and FANCY BREAD BAKERS, CATERERS FOR TEA PARTIES, CHILDREN'S TREATS, &c.
Funeral Bread, Birthday and Bride's-Cakes made to order.
Special arrangements made with Pic-nic Committees.
Goods delivered free by our own Cart.
☞ PRICES ON APPLICATION. 52z

INMAN LINE ROYAL MAIL STEAMERS,
INMAN & INTERNATIONAL STEAMSHIP Co., Ltd.
LIVERPOOL to NEW YORK, Every WEDNESDAY.
Calling at Queenstown every Thursday.
Apply to RICHARDSON, SPENCE, and Co., 22, Water Street, Liverpool; ADAM BRODIE, Auctioneer, Town Hall, Consett; EDWARD SLOANE, Post Office, Blackhill; ALFRED PHILLIPSON, Emigration Agent, Dipton; JOHN TULIP, Grocer, Cornsay Colliery; WILLIAM GRAY, 5, North Road Durham; WILLIAM WILSON, Cocoa Room, Chester-le-Street; GEORGE LEADBITTER, Accountant, Catchgate. 95z

THOMAS MILNER,
DISPENSING AND AGRICULTURAL CHEMIST,
☞ THE CENTRAL PHARMACY, CONSETT
SHEEP DIPS. SHEEP DIPS
T.M. respectfully draws the attention of Farmers to the
TAR ELIXER PRIZE MEDAL SHEEP DIP
Prepared by Messrs Ness & Co., Darlington, for which he is sole Agent.
PRICE 7s. 6d. PER 100 SHEEP.
☞ T. M. is likewise Agent for BELL & RIDDLE'S, McDOUGALL'S, LITTLE & CO.'S, JEYE'S, COOPER'S, and WILSON and KITCHEN'S Sheep Dips.
ALTERATIVE CONDITION POWDERS AND PURGING BALLS FOR HORSES.
FELLON AND CLEANSING DRINKS FOR CATTLE.
MILNER'S BLUE RIBBON ARMY MIXTURES
For the speedy production of a Delicious Temperance Cordial. Ginger, Pine Apple, &c. 6d. per Bottle.
MILNER'S DANDELION AND PODOPHYLLN STOMACH AND LIVER PILLS.
The excellent qualities of these Pills are too well known to be enumerated here, while the increasing demand under the Popular Name of Milner's Own Pills, is the best Proof of their efficacy. In Boxes 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d.
MILNER'S AFRICAN INSECT POWDER, IN TINS, AT 6d., 1s., AND PACKETS.
BALSAMIC COUGH MIXTURE.
An excellent Remedy for Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, &c. and all Diseases of the Chest and Stomach. 1s. per Bottle.
HAIR RESTORERS PERFUMES, POMADES.
TOILET REQUISITES IN GREAT VARIETY.
MILNER'S FINEST NEW SEASON'S COD LIVER OIL.
OILS, PAINTS, COLOURS, VARNISHES, AND CLEANSING REQUISITES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
SPECTACLES TO SUIT ALL SIGHTS.
TRUSSES OF ALL SIZES.
Agent for Mr LAMONT'S Magnetic Belts, Chest Protectors, Knee Caps, &c. &c.
MILNER CHEMIST
OPPOSITE THE POST OFFICE, CONSETT.

BOOKS suitable for PRIZES and SUNDAY SCHOLARS can be had at ROBERT JACKSON'S, "GUARDIAN" OFFICE, and 9, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT

JOHNSON HEDLEY,
MANUFACTURING and WHOLESALE CONFECTIONER, &c.,
37, PERCY STREET NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Superior Jams and Marmalades.
Biscuits of all kinds. 23z

EDUCATIONAL.
JON. C. WYLIE, PRIVATE TEACHER IN LANGUAGES AND MATHEMATICS.
☞ PUPILS ATTENDED AT THEIR OWN HOMES.
Evening School, from 6d. to 1s. per week. Commence on Monday, 18th October. 854w

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The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, March 23rd 1888.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN MEAT.

The Premier, in speaking upon Lord De La Warr's motion in the House of Lords, on Monday, the 12th inst., gave the quietus to any movement for the re-establishment of Protection through the instrumentality of the present Government. But this main boon to native agriculture being denied by Conservative equally with Liberal responsible statesmen, the champions of the Agricultural interest have lately been looking around diligently for any Protective crumbs of comfort which might be appropriated for the temporary appeasement of their *proteges*. We owed the Margarine Act rather to the predominant Protectionist feeling in the House of Lords than to any real solicitude for the interests of consumers of butter. It happened that in this case there was often a distinct fraud committed by offering a spurious substance for sale not only under the plausible designation of "butterine," but under the false one of "butter"; and so there was a reason to adduce for the intervention of Parliament apart from the protection of British agricultural interests. But the same reason would apply for legislating against the fraudulent sale of spurious compounds or substitutes as cocoa, arrowroot, jam, sardines, champagne, &c., so that it became evident why imitations of butter were specially singled out for prohibitory legislation. Emboldened by their success in this case, the gatherers-up of Protectionist crumbs have recently been forcing upon public attention what they put forward as an analogous case; and the movement in this latter case has now advanced so far that on Friday last Lord Lamington gave notice in the House of Lords that on the 23rd inst he would ask Her Majesty's Government whether they would not "introduce some measure to prevent the fraudulent practice of selling foreign imported meat as home produce—a practice which inflicts the greatest injury on the agricultural interest, and the producers and consumers of meat in the United Kingdom." What the Ministerial answer will be to this question we cannot predict; but we should fancy it would be in the negative, for two reasons—first, that in the case of meat there is no palpable fraud in selling one substance as quite another, as in the case of margarine and butter; and, secondly, because it would be found quite impracticable to work a complete and consistent system of trade laws carrying out the spirit of the suggested measure respecting meal. In regard to the first point, the analogy between margarine and butter on one side, and foreign and British meat on the other, fails altogether. The real analogy would be between the latter articles and foreign and British butter. But there is no legislation to prevent a shopkeeper from selling foreign butter simply as butter, as "the best butter" if he thinks it will bear that designation, or even as British butter. The spurious substance margarine being legislatively stigmatized, the genuine substance butter, whether foreign or British, is allowed to be sold by one indiscriminate name, and the price to be regulated simply according to quality. Now, why should not the same principle apply to meat, the quality of which is quite as easily perceptible to a purchaser as that of butter can be? If New Zealanders and Americans can send some meat hither of the primest quality, why should it not be sold as thus, instead under a depreciatory label which would imply that it was not equal to real inferior English meat? But, in respect to our second objection, what feasible and satisfactory test could be applied by food inspectors to determine out of many pieces of meat in a retail butcher's shop, which were British and which foreign? The difference between butter and margarine can be made readily obvious, because they are substances of different natures; but it might often puzzle the cleverest experts to distinguish foreign from British butter, and so with foreign and British meat. Then why should legislative discrimination stop at meat? why not carry it on to potatoes, other vegetables, and fruit, for instance? When the season of the year is far enough advanced for the foreign to compete with the earliest British produce of these kinds, it might be alleged that the latter, fresh from our market gardens, was subjected to unfair competition in not being compulsorily distinguished from much staler foreign importations. Yet what test could be applied in carrying out a law intended to enforce legislative discrimination? So with eggs, poultry, bacon, cheese, and many other articles. In short, it would be in vain for the farmer to seek an illusive Protection by getting every competing foreign import legally ticketed as such. The plan is unworkable and would not be of much service in a Protective way even if it could be worked?

Throat Irritation and Cough.—Soreness and dryness tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use Epps's Glycerine Jujubes. In contact with the glands at the moment they are excited by the act of sucking, the Glycerine in these agreeable confections becomes actively healing. Sold only in boxes, 7½d., tins, 1s.1½d., labelled "James Epps & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London." Dr. George Moore, in his work on "Nose and Throat Diseases," says "The Glycerine Jujubes prepared by James Epps and Co., are of undoubted service as a curative or palliative agent," while Dr Gordon Holmes, Senior Physician to the Municipal Throat and Ear Infirmary, writes: "After an extended trial, I have found your Glycerine Jujubes of considerable benefit in almost all forms of throat disease." 210x

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Correspondence.

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

THE RE-ARRANGEMENT OF THE CONSETT SEWAGE.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—I observe in your issue of the 9th inst., the committee connected with the Consett Local Board recommend that the only suitable mode of dealing with sewage is to carry out the system of irrigation. However beneficial changes may be, they are seldom carried out without more or less individual suffering. The ratepayers within the Local Board district have sighed and suffered long, and it appears another weighty straw has to be added. There never was a time when it became the taxpayer to watch more circumspectly than the present moment. It has puzzled wiser men than me to know why the settling pits that were put down by the ratepayers in past years were not placed closer to the bridge that crosses the Howdon Burn. I presume there should be no secrets in the representative system. The reason for everything must publicly appear. Every man is a proprietor in the Local Boards, and considers it a necessary part of his business to understand what concerns his interest, because it affects his property. He examines the cost and compares it with the advantages, and, above all, he does not adopt the slavish custom of following what are called leaders. The Local Boards of a free country, properly speaking, are not in the persons, but in the laws. The enacting of these requires no great expense, and when they are administered the whole duty of Local Boards is performed. The rest is all contrivance.—I am, yours, &c.

Ratepayer.

JUSTICES' DISCRETION IN VACCINATION CASES.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—I read in your journal of March 10th that Mr Priestman, the Chairman of the Bench of magistrates at Consett, observed to a defendant, charged with the non-vaccination of his child, "We have no discretion in the matter;" and again, "We have no option but to grant the orders." It would be well if Mr Priestman would refer to the chapter and section of the Act of Parliament which declares that a magistrate has no option but to make a vaccination order. For myself, I am not aware of any legislation giving power to magistrates to make vaccination orders, other than the 31st section of the Vaccination Act of 1867 (stat. 30 and 31 Vict., c. 84). By this section:—

"If the registrar, or any officer appointed by the Guardians to enforce the provisions of this Act, shall give information in writing to a justice of the peace that he has reason to believe that any child under the age of 14 years, being within the union or parish for which the informant acts, has not been successfully vaccinated, and that he has given notice to the parent or person having the custody of such child to procure its being vaccinated, and that this notice has been disregarded, the justice *may* summon such parent or person to appear with the child before him at a certain time and place; and, upon the appearance, if the justice shall find, after such examination as he shall deem necessary, that the child has not been vaccinated, nor has already had the small-pox, he *may, if he see fit*, make an order under his hand and seal directing such child to be vaccinated within a certain time."

You will observe that this section by no means compels the justice to order a child to be vaccinated, but merely says that he may do so if he thinks fit. Anti-vaccinators have great reason to complain of the way in which, in this and other matters, the plain meaning of the 31st section is that the justices should not make the order as a matter of course, though the legal conditions precedent may exist.—Yours, &c.,

H. N. Mozley.

King's College, Cambridge.

Sporting Items

Angling at Stanhope.—Mr John Robinson, of New Town, Stanhope, had a tussle with a very large fish, which he esteemed at 5 or 6lbs. He hooked him at Stanhope Burn foot, and wrought him for some time, but ultimately lost him.

Wrestling at Prudhoe.—The competition for a silver cup for 10st. men was resumed at Mr Tulip's, Half-way House, with the following result:—Final—J. Robson threw G. Robson (both of Prudhoe) twice and won. Umpires, Messrs Amers and Tiffin.

Bowling on Waldridge Fell.—Notwithstanding the immense quantity of snow on the Waldridge Fell, Joseph Rodham, of Pit Hill, 15oz., and Thomas Charlton, of West Stanley, 20oz., brought off their match for £10 a-side on the Old Race Course, both men being often up to the waist in snow. Charlton ultimately picked up.

Wrestling in Weardale.—A crowded gathering witnessed the final issues of the cup competition for 10½st men on Saturday night at Wearhead, and were rewarded by seeing some fine bouts, and a genuine surprise in the ultimate victory of a hitherto unsuccessful athlete, William Thompson, Burnhope, who by dint of great improvement threw a previous dual winner—Harry Bell, Weardale—in the final, after cleverly disposing of other cracks *en route*, so that the result is more open than ever.

Shooting at Leadgate.—A pigeon shooting match for £30, between Henry Lee, Coach and Horses Inn, Consett, and John Carnon, Blackhill, was brought off on Monday afternoon in a field near Iveston Colliery, kindly granted by Mr J. W. Johnson, of the Bradley Arms, Leadgate. The conditions were 21 yards rise and 60 fall, at 12 birds a-piece. There was a very large muster of spectators, notwithstanding that the ground was covered thickly with snow. A strong wind was also blowing. Speculation was brisk, at 6 to 4 on Carnon. The result was that Carnon killed 6 birds out of 13, whilst his opponent only shot 1 out of 12. Mr Forster, of Annfield Plain, acted as referee, and T. O. Moir, of Consett, Livery Stables, stakeholder. T. Bennett, Dipton, was trapper for Carnon; and J. Proudlock, Consett, for Lee. A vast amount of excitement was evinced in the contest.

Wrestling Competition at Consett.—The third competition, confined to 11-stone men, for the silver timepiece presented by Mr Henry Lee, of the Coach and Horses Inn, Consett, came off at that hostelry on Saturday night. There was a numerous company of spectators. Result:—First round—Henry Stewart, Westwood, threw T. Donaghy, Consett; C. Brodie, Milkwell Burn, threw George Ferguson, Westwood; R. Glendinning, Westwood, threw C. Ferguson, Westwood; J. Young, Deerham, threw W. Turnbull, Blackhill; Peter Bradley, Consett, threw T. Robinson, Castleside; T. Milner, Castleside, threw John Walton, Allansford; T. Glasgow, Derwent Cottages, threw J. Hall, Allansford. Second round—Stewart threw Glasgow, Brodie threw Milner, Young threw Glendinning, Bradley odd man. Third round—Brodie threw Bradley, Young threw Stewart.—Final falls—Young threw Brodie twice in succession and won. Young who hails from Deerham, in Cumberland, gives every promise of becoming a prominent young athlete, and having been victorious in this competition on three consecutive occasions, is now entitled to the cup. The referees were Messrs Wm. Laidler and J. Miller; and Mr Wm. Lochrane was umpire.

Pigeon Flying at the Spen.—A pigeon-flying contest was brought off, the distance being from Low Greenside to the Spen. There was a good entry. The following are the results:—Heat 1—John Alexander's Blue beat James Leybourne's Check. Heat 2—James Bell's Lambkin beat Stephen Morland's First Try. Heat 3—Henry Barriet's Blue beat John Best's Blue. Heat 4—Michael Curtis' Foster's Hen beat Jos. Clydesdale's Out. Heat 5—Michael Curtis' Boston beat Isaac Clark's Bub's Bill. Heat 6—Joseph Handysides' Wheelbarrow-man beat Stephen Morland's Dummy. Heat 7—James Bell's Lamb beat Thomas Elliott's Red. Heat 8—Fred Cox's Sure beat W. Johnson's Red. Second ties—Heat 1—J. Alexander's Blue beat James Bell's Lambkin. Heat 2—H. Barriet's Blue beat M. Curtis' Foster's Hen. Heat 3—J. Handysides' Wheelbarrow-man beat M. Curtis' Boston. Heat 4—J. Bell's Lamb beat Fred Cox's Sure. Third ties—Heat 1—H. Barriet's Blue beat J. Anderson's Blue. Heat 2—J. Handyside's Wheelbarrow-man beat J. Bell's Lamb. Final heat—Henry Barriet's Blue 1st, J. Handysides' Wheelbarrow-man 2nd, J. Alexander's Blue and J. Bell's Lamb divided third money; the winner beating by one-and-a-half seconds. Luke Dickinson, Spen, officiated as starter, and James Cutter, Spen, as referee.

HOME RULE DEMONSTRATION AT CONSETT.

SPEECH BY MR M. CONWAY, M.P.

On Monday evening, in the New Town Hall, Consett, under the auspices of the Local Home Rule Association, a combined concert and public demonstration of the Nationalists was held in celebration of the festival of St. Patrick. Mr Jonathan Priestman, J.P., of Shotley Bridge, occupied the chair, and was supported on the platform by Mr M. Conway, M.P. (North Leitrim), Revs J. Foran and D. Power, Blackhill; Rev J. McGarrity, Brooms; Messrs T. Dunne, P. Coyle, M. McNally, Jas. Quigley, J. Kelly, and many of the prominent members of the Irish Parliamentary party. On the platform were seated several of the leading members of the Council of the North-West Durham Liberal Association, including Messrs J. Eltringham and Hy. Carss, Benfieldside; R. Walton, Blackhill; T. Spring, White-le-Head; J. Orr, Annfield Plain; W. Donaldson, Catchgate; T. Williams, Consett, and many others. The body of the spacious building was filled by a very large and thoroughly appreciative audience. The platform was decked with banners and evergreens for the occasion, a large banner, with oil-paintings of the two great leaders, Mr W. E. Gladstone and Mr Parnell, at each side, being the centre piece.

The Chairman, who was favourably received, in opening the proceedings, expressed himself strongly in favour of the Home Rule scheme. He said that on an occasion like this he might be excused, as an Englishman, for expressing himself rather strongly. They wanted to deal justly with Ireland, and he thought that they should all give their support to Mr Gladstone's Home Rule scheme. (Applause.)

The artistes engaged for the occasion were:—Madame Clara Marie Whatford, soprano (Bath, Bristol, and York Concerts); Miss Cairns, soprano (Consett); Mr D. Whitehead, tenor, and Mr T. L. Campion, basso (Durham Cathedral Choir). The pianiste was Miss Sloane, of Blackhill. The first part of the programme was then entered upon, Miss Cairns, Mr D. Whitehead, and Mr T. L. Campion giving in excellent style a piece, entitled "The meeting of the waters." They were loudly applauded for their efforts. Mr Whitehead was then called upon for the song, "Kitty Tyrrell," which he rendered in a most efficient manner, winning the warmest plaudits of the audience. In response to an *encore*, he gave a comic song, "Widow Malone," by his jolly style he kept auditory in a lively state of mirth. Miss Cairns then gave "Erin," her efforts to please being warmly appreciated. Her style is good, and she is undoubtedly a credit to the town of Consett. On being recalled, she gave an Irish Gaelic song, and was again loudly applauded. Mr Campion then gave "Rocked in the cradle of the deep," for which he received well-merited applause. He has a fine, deep bass voice, and it was indeed a treat to hear him. Replying to an *encore*, he gave an Irish song, entitled "The Blarney stone." Madame Whatford, in her rendering of the vocal waltz, "Il Bacio," was very successful, and met with a perfect storm of applause. In answer to the *encore*, she gave "The minstrel boy," meeting with similar success.

In the interval, Mr John Orr, Annfield Plain, was called upon to propose a resolution. He said it was a resolution in which he could heartily concur, and he was sure that all the people in this part of the country were in touch with the movement. He felt confident they would all be pleased to hear their respected countryman and friend, Mr Conway. He (Mr Orr) did not think that coercion was the right remedy for Ireland. He was strongly against such a measure. The Unionists and Tories might go under different names, but their aims were the same, for they were sailing in the same boat. He thought their friendship would not last long. They need rejoice, however, that the Liberal ranks had been "purged from the dross." (Loud applause.) They knew from past experience that the Liberals never set their faces to anything but what they accomplished their purpose sooner or later. They would yet live to thank the Grand Old Man for what he had done for them in the past. The resolution he had to propose was as under:—

"That we continue to use all legitimate means in our power to secure for Ireland Home Rule, as advocated by the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone; and we protest against the unholy alliance of pseudo Unionists and Tories in obstructing the just demands of the Irish people, and in opposition to the wishes of the great majority of the British subjects."

Mr Jas. Quigley, in a short and lucid speech, seconded the resolution. He felt proud to have the opportunity of doing so. It was a great pleasure to him to be present at such a meeting as that, and a still greater pleasure to have the opportunity of hearing Mr Conway. He hoped the next time they met together in that hall he would be able to congratulate his countrymen that they had attained Home Rule for Ireland. (Tremendous cheering.)

The Chairman here introduced to the audience the principal speaker of the evening, viz:

Mr M. Conway (Member for North Leitrim.) He said that the mere supporting of the resolution was not the particular object for which he came to Consett. That would be better done if left in the hands of gentlemen who knew them and resided amongst them, and who supported them so nobly at the last General Election. (Applause.) The duty itself, however, was a pleasing one. He supported it, not so much to ask them to do so, but because it had for its object the alleviating the sufferings of Ireland. They were met together that night for the

FURTHERANCE OF THE NATIONAL CAUSE.

They gathered together to recognise not only the general propaganda of St. Patrick's; but they were compelled to come forward until they relieved Ireland from the present odium under which it was placed. They must take advantage of the National festival to get them enlisted into the cause. They were met together not only to recognise the religious results which had accrued from the labours of St. Patrick, but he (the speaker) firmly believed that their patron saint laid the foundation of their Nationality which had brought the people into the forefront that day. The resolution they had just adopted expressed renewed confidence in the great Liberal chief, Wm. Ewart Gladstone—(prolonged cheering)—who would solve the Irish difficulties. He (Mr Conway) was there that night at the expressed wish of the chief of the Irish people—Mr C. S. Parnell. (Renewed cheers.) Metaphorically speaking,

MR PARNELL AND MR GLADSTONE WERE SHAKING HANDS

with one another. (Applause.) They were both working for the one great end. He had the satisfaction of working for the cause, not only by his vote, but by his position in the House of Commons. They were only waiting for the general election to put things to rights. (Applause.) Home Rule was only wanted for Ireland. It was all that was needed to solve Ireland's difficulties. People would ask: "What are her grievances?" "What has she got to suffer more than England?" The grievances of Ireland were twofold. They were both social and political.

MR PARNELL'S LAND BILL.

Mr Parnell was going to introduce a bill in the House of Commons on Wednesday night in the interests of the tenants of Ireland. They should see the development of some of the difficulties which the Tories would have to cope with. When they talked about the land question as it affected their people, no word was necessary from him. They knew right well "where the shoe pinched." Experience had taught them the sad question. But to the Liberals it was necessary to give some slight explanation. They know little about it. During the recess he was one of a committee appointed to report on the state of the Irish tenants, and for three months he was engaged in this work, under the Plan of Campaign under the direction of Mr O'Brien and Mr John Dillon. (Loud cheers.)

TWICE HE WAS ARRESTED,

and twice he was let go. (Laughter and applause.) He had travelled from north to south and from east to west, and most of the time he was kept in view by the police. What was the object of this espionage on the part of the Government? It was simply to uphold the system which obtained in regard to the law in Ireland—that is, to take up the cause of the landlords as against the masses in Ireland. The Irish tenants had a great deal to put up with. In England they knew very little of such sad experiences as fall to

THE LOT OF THE IRISH TENANTS.

The English landlords fenced and drained the land, and built proper accommodation both for man and beast. But in Ireland, alas! things were different. He had seen many of the struggles of the tenants. Many of them had reclaimed large tracts of bog land, properly drained and fenced it off, and even in some cases built their own houses. All without any assistance from the landlord. When they had done this, the landlord had come down upon them for an increase of rent. During the time the tenant was improving the land the landlord had watched his labours with a greedy eye, only waiting his opportunity to seize upon and claim it for his own. Land that had only been let for 6d per acre for shooting purposes had been improved by the tenants until it was worth into the teens of shillings per acre. That was the way in which Irish tenants were treated by their landlords. ("Shame.") The Government were at last made to recognise that the tenant had an equal interest with the landlord in the land. They had been forced to recognise the position of the tenants. They had had arrangements made for the fixing of the rents, and had had them in many cases reduced. But the people were now in a very poor condition. The state of the times was much against them. They could not live in the face of the foreign competition. In 1885 Mr Parnell brought in a bill to secure some slight

REFORMS IN THE RENT QUESTION.

But the Government refused to do anything in the matter. Accordingly a deputation was formed to visit the landlords and agents, but only in a few cases were they taken any notice of. In the majority they were received with scorn and floutings. This gave rise to renewed action, and the Plan of Campaign was formed. Their object was to get the people a fair remuneration for their day's labour.

COERCION.

had done one thing. It had shown to the eyes of the public that it was not the right way to go about to win the hearts of the Irish people. For the majority of Irishmen were a warm-hearted people, and it would not be impossible to win their respect. They cared little, however, for coercion as it was administered by Mr Balfour—(hisses)—and nothing for the coercion of Lord Salisbury. (Renewed hisses.) It was he who had given them a new word, and that word was "boycott." Lord Salisbury had said that one member of the Cabinet was worth the whole of the Irish Members. There would soon be another new word in the dictionary, and that would be "Salisbury." (Laughter.) Its meaning would be "That which is not true." (More laughter.) He was sure that one Irish member was worth 86 Salisburys. At an important meeting of

THE UNIONIST PARTY.

Mr Russell, a very influential member of the Conservative party, had been bound to recognise the truth of the statements regarding the Irish people. He had been forced to admit their rights. They were determined that their people should not be considered as merely a "subject race." They could not deny that they were

A CONQUERED RACE,

but they were not, as a great many seemed to think, an inferior people. They had a representation of 86 Members in the House, whose chief aim and object was the salvation of the Irish people. At one time Irish representatives had been completely ignored. But the situation had been altered. They did not know the Liberals until two years ago. But

THEY KNEW THE TORIES.

They knew them right well. (Laughter.) When the Tories found the ground slipping from under them, believe him they would come to the Irish members and ask them what it was that they wanted. That night the new

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL

was being introduced in the Parliament, and it was intended to introduce a similar measure with respect to Ireland. Of course, they would refuse anything from the Tory party. They had once been bitten by these men, and the leader of the Irish party would despise the overtures of the Conservatives, for they would give them just such treatment as they had shown. They would go to the altar of the Liberal party to secure their rights. (Loud applause.)

"THE CASTLE" REGIME.

Mr Conway next spoke at some length on the manner in which things were managed at Dublin Castle, and strongly denounced the present system of government. He did not believe in the nomination of officials. It was not right that one man should have the power to appoint whoever he pleased. The right of appointment should be left in the hands of the people. Things were not as they should be at Dublin Castle. There was nothing revolutionary in this. On the contrary, he thought it was due to the interests of the people. If they contrasted the police force in Ireland with that in England, Scotland, or Wales, they would find a great difference in the cost of maintaining them. The number of police in Ireland was 12,000, and sometimes it reached 13,000. In England alone the cost of maintaining the police was £800,000; while the police force in Ireland cost one million and a half per annum. Both Scotland and Wales paid a much less sum for the maintenance of their police. (Cries of "Shame.") The police in Ireland were not intended to ferret out crime, but to put down political opposition. That was the real position of Ireland. Could they conceive, with regard to the position of Ireland, greater evils than were shown by the facts he had given them, Ireland to-day was

THE REPROACH OF ALL NATIONS.

An Englishman could not brag now of the freedom of his country when he was abroad without being asked "How is it that you have an Ireland, and that there is so much dissatisfaction there?" Discontent was theirs, and that had provoked reform, and they were now within measurable distance of the goal. It was on an occasion like the present that they should congratulate themselves on having an Englishman in the chair. (Applause.) They, as Irish people, wanted a

PARLIAMENT WHICH WAS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE.

By which the internal affairs of the country could be governed. (Loud Cheers.) There was nothing very revolutionary in that idea. ("No, no," and cheers.) There was nothing in that scheme likely to disintegrate the Empire. ("No.") Or to overthrow the Army or Navy. Such a concession would tend to cement the feelings and sympathies of the Irish people with the English nation. (Loud cheers.) So long as England governed Ireland in the fashion she had hitherto done, so long would her escutcheon be blotted.

THE COMING STRUGGLE.

They voted strongly against this political system two years ago, and the struggle would be even harder at the next general election. He (the speaker) expressed the firm belief that they would be enabled to bring about the reforms which they had so long contended for in Ireland. (Tremendous cheering.) They had the great Liberal party at their back, and if they only worked with energy and perseverance, they would in the end become successful. (Prolonged cheers.) That day was one on which the two peoples met in union, and if they were alike in their interests, it was bound to bring about the reform which was so much needed. (Deafening cheers.)

The Chairman, in commenting on the remarks of Mr Conway, said he was rather surprised to hear that gentleman say that he had been twice arrested, and still more surprised that they had let him off again. (Laughter.) He was glad to witness the respect that gentleman evidently bore towards the Liberal party. He then put the resolution proposed to the meeting, and it was unanimously carried.

Mr T. Williams then moved the following resolution:—

"That copies of the foregoing resolution be sent to Mr Parnell, Mr W. E. Gladstone, and the Marquis of Salisbury."

He said the democracy was with them. They might congratulate themselves that the goal for which Ireland had laboured so long was well nigh reached. He was there as an Englishman to help in the movement. He had great respect for the two gentlemen whose names came first on the resolution, but he protested against Lord Salisbury being linked with such renowned names. (Applause.) The latter he (Mr Williams) did not care much about, and the least said about him the better. (Laughter and cheers.)

Mr M. McNally, in a short and witty speech, seconded the resolution.

On the Chairman putting this resolution to the meeting, it was carried unanimously by loud acclamation.

Mr Carss was then called upon to propose the following:—

"That the best thanks of this meeting be given to Mr Conway for his able and eloquent address."

As an old Radical of 1832, he was born under Tory rule. When he looked back on the past, and then looked at the changes in the present, he was glad to see that they were striving to secure right for the Irish people. The Tories were going along swimmingly just now. But by and bye some hitch would occur, and then if they kept their powder dry they would be ready for them. (Laughter.) They should keep cool, calm, and united. Their worthy chairman was much against using violence, but violence was sometimes necessary. The means justified the act. Violence had been much deprecated in Oliver Cromwell's time, but it had to be resorted to. And let them look at the blessed change that had been made. He spoke somewhat strongly on the manner in which the Irish people had been treated. If the English people had been treated in the same fashion he could assure them that it would not have been long before the "fat was in the fire."

Mr J. Eltringham seconded the resolution. He was pleased to note the long speech of Mr Carss, because it relieved him from the necessity of making one. (Laughter.) He would rather see the programme gone on with than make a speech. When they heard accounts of the sufferings of the Irish people through the papers they were apt to place little belief in them, but when they heard the details from the lips of such a gentleman as Mr Conway they could only conclude that they were indeed too true, and lament that it was so.

Mr Conway said he was much obliged to them for their expression of thanks. He might say, however, that it was due to Mr Parnell and not to him, for it was at the express wish of that great leader that he was present that night. He was there just to oblige his own countrymen. He would be glad to make amends for his previous non-attendance on some future occasion. When he returned to town, he would take the opportunity of letting them know how enthusiastic the people of Consett were in the cause. (Cheers.) They did not know how soon they might have to take part in a general election. They scarcely knew, politically, what a day might bring forth. Twelve months later they might be congratulating themselves on the near return of the Liberal party to power. A Parliament lasted seven sessions, and two of these had already passed. According to that, four years more would give them the opportunity of coming to the front, and then he predicted that they would be getting ready to go into power. He hoped they would rally to the front, and support them in getting for Ireland her rights. (Loud applause.) He again expressed his pleasure at seeing so many Englishmen taking part in the proceedings, more especially the chairman, to whom he moved that a vote of thanks be passed. He felt sure that when the vote was put to the meeting they would endorse it. Irishmen, as a rule, were not ungenerous, and he would ask them to show their appreciation of the services of the chairman by rising to their feet and giving him three cheers.

Mr Thos. Dunne seconded the motion, observing that, taking into consideration the fact that the Chairman had come there at considerable personal inconvenience, and had shown such an interest in the cause, he thought it was his duty to second the proposition. (Applause.) Speaking of the Coercion Bill which had been passed by Mr Gladstone's Government, he said they were to be excused for it, inasmuch as it had been passed through misleading and false information being supplied to them from Dublin Castle. On account of these mis-statements it was that Mr Forster had to be re-called to England.

Mr Conway here put the motion to the meeting, and the audience rose to their feet and gave three deafening cheers for the Chairman, and three for Mr Gladstone.

The Chairman, in acknowledging the compliment, stated that it had never before been his lot to witness such a queer mixture of politics and music. (Laughter.) He was glad to hear Mr Conway speak in such glowing terms of Mr Gladstone. (Cheers.)

The second part of the programme was thereafter entered upon. "The Skippers of St. Ives" was rendered in excellent style by Mr Whitehead, and in answer to the inevitable re-call, he gave a touching Irish song, which was listened to in rapture by the audience, who heartily applauded him for his efforts. Madame Whatford subsequently favoured with "Rory O'More," and being likewise *encored*, gave "The last rose of summer." Next came Mr Campion with "Father O'Flynn." The piece was given in an accomplished style, and evoked rounds of applause. He responded with "The village blacksmith." "Kathleen Mavourneen" was the succeeding piece on the programme, and was sung capitally by Miss Cairns, who fully deserved the warm reception accorded her by the audience. She responded to an *encore* with a comical sketch of love-making, entitled "Just in a casual way." This was received with the utmost hilarity. The *coup* of the evening, however, was a duet by Madame Whatford and Mr Whitehead. It was entitled "Miserere," and was rendered in grand style by both performers, who fairly succeeded in enrapturing the audience. This piece was re-demanded, and was accorded an equally warm and attentive reception. The singing of the National Anthem by the company closed the proceedings, which did not terminate till about eleven o'clock.

The demonstration proved an overwhelming success; the only drawback being that the meeting was prolonged a little too long. It was expected that one or two other prominent speakers (including Mr Atherley-Jones, M.P.) would have been present; but they were prevented from attending in consequence of having made proir engagements.

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STOCK AUCTION MARTS.

Benfieldside.—Nicholson and Murray held their usual weekly sale on Monday. There were forward 19 fat cattle, which brought from £8 10s to £16 15s; 66 fat sheep, 32s to 48s 6d; 9 pork pigs, 25s to 80s; and 6 cows, £12 10s to £12 15s. A number of gripes, shovels, &c., sold at fair prices. A quantity of hay, corn, &c., was entered, but on account of the blocks in the roads were not able to get forward. Trade for all kinds of stock was extremely good, beef making 8s per stone; mutton 8s to 9d per lb.; pork 7s per stone.

Tow Law.—Mr Vickers had forward on Monday:—5 cows and 19 fat cattle. Owing to the roads in the country districts being completely impassable with snow, large entries of stock could not get forward.

CHESTER-LE-STREET BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The fortnightly meeting was held on Thursday se'nnight—Mr Thomas Robson presiding. Also present: Messrs H. W. Kerrich-Walker, J.P. (*ex-officio*), J. Crawford, S. Holmes, J. Kirkup, Geo. Swinburne, W. B. Tully, J. Chrystal, J. Mitchell, J. Humble, R. T. Swallow, E. Nicholson, R. J. Coxon, G. T. Forster, T. Langton, C. Robson, T. C. Potts, T. Heppell, P. Hay, Rev W. W. Phillipson, and the clerk (Mr R. Dickinson).

THE AUDITOR AND THE ASSISTANT-OVERSEERS' BALANCES.

A letter from the Local Government Board was read respecting the salaries of the assistant-overseers. In consequence of the auditor having disallowed certain charges made by the assistant-overseers, the Guardians had resolved to increase the salaries of their assistant-overseers in order to meet those charges. The letter stated that in the case of Witton Gilbert the decision of the auditor had been overruled, and that it had been an oversight that the matter had not been attended to sooner.

After some discussion, it was unanimously resolved that the decision of the Guardians be endorsed, and that the salaries of the assistant-overseers be so increased that it will not be necessary for them to make any extra charges.

CONTRACTS.

On the recommendation of a select committee, the contracts for the ensuing half-year were let as follows:—Butcher meat, Mrs Young, Beamish; groceries, Mr Wm. Mitchell, Chester-le-Street; milk, Mr T. N. Brown, Chester-le-Street; draperies, Mr W. Hall, Chester-le-Street; men's and boys' suits, Mr G. Smith, Chester-le-Street; coals, Mr Joseph Goldsboro, Chester-le-Street; coffins, Mr Joseph Siddell, Chester-le-Street; shoes, Mr Wm. Wilson, Chester-le-Street.

APPOINTMENT OF POORHOUSE PORTER.

Two applications were put in for this appointment, and after hearing the testimonials accompanying them, the Guardians decided by a majority to appoint Robert Elliott to the vacant office.

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT-OVERSEER FOR BIRTLEY.

There were eight applications for the office of assistant-overseer and rate-collector for the township of Birtley.

On the names being submitted by the Chairman 14 votes, a clear majority of the Guardians present, were recorded for Mr I. Smiles, of Chester-le-Street, who was thereupon appointed.

ASSISTANT-OVERSEER FOR LAMESLEY.

The following letter from the Local Government Board was read respecting the recent appointment made by the Guardians:—

I am directed by the Local Government Board to inform you that to the Order of the 1st of May, 1887, they approve of the appointments of Mr Geo. Wm. Kirkup to the offices of collector of poor rates and assistant-overseer for the chapelry of Lamesley, in the Chester-le-Street Union.

The Board also direct that Mr Kirkup shall, until otherwise directed by them, be paid a salary of £30 per annum for his services as collector of poor rates, and a salary of £20 per annum for his services as assistant-overseer for the above-mentioned chapelry.

(Signed) Edmund Wodehouse, Assistant-Secretary.

The Chairman: That is satisfactory.

MASTER'S JOURNAL.

The Master reported that the number of inmates in the House that day was 129, as against 127 at the same time last year; 167 vagrants had been relieved during the fortnight, as against 139 for the corresponding period last year.

RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

The Guardians present then sat as the Sanitary Authority—Mr Robson in the chair.

THE CRAGHEAD AND WAGTAIL SEWERAGE SCHEME.

The following letter was read from the Local Government Board:—

Whitehall, March 12th, 1888.

Sir,—I am directed by the Local Government Board to state that they have received the report made by their inspector, Mr Arnold Taylor, after the inquiry held by him with reference to the application of the Rural Sanitary Authority of the Chester-le-Street Union to sanction to borrow £630 for works of sewerage for the township of Edmondsley. Before, however, deciding upon the application, the Board request to be informed whether the draft agreement proposed to be entered into by the Rural Sanitary Authority of the Chester-le-Street Union and the Rural Sanitary Authority of the Lanchester Union for the execution and supervision of the Craghead and Wagtail sewerage scheme, has now been finally settled and accepted by both parties.—Your obedient servant,

C. N. Dalton, Assistant-Secretary.

The Chairman said that so far as the Board was concerned it was settled.

The Clerk said he wrote to Mr Lisle, clerk to the Durham Rural Sanitary Authority, and it appeared that the matter was not settled so far as the Lanchester Union was concerned.

The Chairman: We are not stopping the way. If they choose to stop it we cannot help it.

Pending the completion of the arrangements between the two Authorities, the matter remains in abeyance.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT.

The Local Government Board reported that they had paid to Mr R. Spence, the treasurer of the Chester-le-Street Rural Sanitary Authority, the sum of £155 11s 6d, the amount payable to the Sanitary Authority from the grant made by Parliament in respect of a moiety of the salaries paid to medical officers of health and inspectors of nuisances. The amount for the medical officer of health was £70, and the inspector of nuisances £85 11s 6d.

THE ALLOTMENTS ACT AT WASHINGTON.

The Clerk read the following letter respecting the application for allotments at Washington:—

Spennymoor House, Spennymoor, 5th March, 1888.

Dear Sir,—With further reference to your letter of the 20th ult., I beg to say that I am prepared to treat with persons requiring allotments on Mr Shafto's estate at Washington:—Yours truly,

John Tate.

R. Dickinson, Esq., Clerk to the Chester-le-Street Rural Sanitary Authority.

The Chairman considered this reply exceedingly satisfactory.

In his report the Sanitary Inspector (Mr Barrass) referred to the matter, application having also been made to him on the same subject. There was a certain piece of land which the applicants wanted, but a high price was asked for it, as it had been put in cultivation and order for an away-going crop. If the men waited until the crop was taken off they would get the land cheaper.

The Chairman said it rested with the applicants as to whether they cared to take the land now and pay £5 an acre or wait till after the crop had been reaped, when they might get it for £3 per acre.

It was decided that this should be told to the persons applying.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

Dr Duncan reported that during the fortnight there had been registered 36 deaths and 74 births, giving a death-rate of 19·5, and a birth-rate of 39·2. There had been one reported case of typhus fever, but the officer had failed to trace any symptoms of the disease, although it is one of the most dangerous and infectious fevers. No one had suffered from any infection from the case.

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

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Local Police Courts.

LANCHESTER PETTY SESSIONS.

THURSDAY, March 15th. — Before WM. HEDLEY, Esq. (in the chair), GEO. G. TAYLOR SMITH, Esq., and W. B. VAN HAANSBERGEN, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

Thomas Priest was found guilty, upon the testimony of P.C. Crabb, of having been drunk and disorderly at Craghead on the 17th ult., and was fined 5s and costs.

James Mason, for having been drunk at the same place on the 18th ult., was mulcted in a similar penalty.

Matthew Dunn and *John Trevor*, for drunkenness on the 18th February, were also fined 5s and expenses.

John Humphrey, an old man, pleaded guilty to having been incapably drunk at Lanchester, on the 3rd inst.—P.C. Bradley having stated the circumstances, the defendant was ordered to defray a fine of 5s and costs.

Wm. Hardy and *Thomas Eddy* appeared to answer charges preferred against them by P.C. Bradley, of having been found in an inebriated state on the Cornsay Road, near Lanchester, on the same date, and were fined in like penalties.

THE EDUCATION ACT.

John Gilligan and *John Winter*, both of Lanchester, were proceeded against by Mr John Gibson, on behalf of the Union School Attendance Committee, for the irregular attendance of their children at school.—Defendants were fined in the full amount—5s each, inclusive of costs.

ALLEGED ASSAULT AT STANLEY.

Wm. Embleton was summoned for committing an assault upon Isabella Embleton, at West Stanley, on the 24th ult. Neither party appeared, and the case was dismissed.

THEFTS AT CONSETT.

A single woman named *Elizabeth Stokoe* (34), a native of Bellingham, in Northumberland, was brought up (on remand) to answer charges of stealing two plaid shawls—one being the property of Catherine Waterson, a hawker, of Consett, on March 1st, and was valued at 1s; and the other belonging to Mary Boyle, of Consett, on the 6th inst., and was worth 11s.—Information of the thefts having been given to the police, P.C. Mitcalfe spoke to apprehending the prisoner on the 6th inst., at Consett, and on charging her with stealing Boyle's shawl, she replied that she gave the woman half-a-crown for the article. Afterwards, in the Police Offices, she stated that she bought the shawl for a shilling.—Defendant asserted that the shawl claimed by Waterson belonged to herself. Touching the second charge, she stated that whilst staying in Matthews' lodging-house the prosecutrix wanted some money to buy liquor with. Prisoner bought the shawl from Boyle for 1s, and she went out and got a quart of beer with the money. Stokoe talked very boldly in the dock. She pleaded not guilty to the allegations in the court, and wished for the cases to be summarily disposed of.—The Bench said there were previous convictions for larceny recorded against the prisoner. She was committed to take her trial at the Quarter Sessions for stealing Mrs Boyle's shawl. The other charge was dismissed.

CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

FIRST COURT.

MONDAY, Mar 19th. — Before JOS. PRIESTMAN, Esq. (in the chair), W. B. VAN HAANSBERGEN, Esq., and WM. GREEN, Esq.

ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENT AT CONSETT.

Stephen Smith, a young man, residing with his father at Woolley Terrace, near Crook, appeared (on bail) to answer a charge of embezzling, in Nov. last, certain sums of money, the property of Mr Walter Willson, grocer, of Middle Street, Consett, for whom he was formerly employed as carman.—Mr T. W. Welford (Consett) appeared to prosecute, and stated that Mr C. M. Dix (Newcastle) had just been instructed to defend, but that gentleman had intimated that it would be impossible for him to be at the Court that day. He (Mr Welford) had no objections to an adjournment, providing the expenses of himself and his witnesses—some of whom had come long distances—were paid.—The prisoner's father expressed his willingness to defray the costs incurred, and the Bench assented to a postponement.—Prisoner was therefore remanded till Thursday next at Lanchester, but was admitted to bail. He had to defray £2 8s, costs of the adjournment.

THE EDUCATION ACT.

Michael Boyle, of Leadgate, was summoned at the instance of Mr Wm. Ward, on behalf of the Lanchester Union School Attendance Committee, for his son's irregular attendance at school.—Defendant pleaded that he had often taken his son personally to the Brooms Roman Catholic School, but he generally managed to escape before dinner-time. He could not afford to lose his employment in order to stay at home and see that the boy went to school every day.—Mr Van Haansbergen: You should try what a good whipping would do.—The Chairman: Is the boy beyond your control?—The father: No; I can manage him.—The Chairman told defendant that the law compelled him to send his son to school, and he would have to pay a fine 2s 6d and costs.

George Herron and *James Paul*, of Dipton, were proceeded against by Mr David Mole, acting upon instructions received from the Collierley School Board, for being guilty of a like offence.—Herron (who did not appear) was mulcted in the full penalty of 5s and costs. The charge against Paul was withdrawn.

NON-MAINTENANCE OF THEIR PARENTS.

George Siddell, of Jarrow, was summoned by Mr Mr John Moon, relieving-officer, for refusing to comply with an order made upon him by that Court to contribute towards the maintenance of his father, who was formerly a horse-keeper under the Consett Iron Company, and lived at Blackhill, and has now become chargeable to the Lanchester Poor Law Guardians. The arrears claimed amounted to £2 7s 6d.—Their worships issued an order for payment; or, in default, a month's imprisonment, without hard labour.

John Froedick, a gamekeeper, residing at Tilbey, in Norfolk, was also summoned by Mr Moon to show cause why he should not contribute towards the support of his father and mother, who became chargeable to the Lanchester Guardians on the 23rd ult., and were in the receipt of 5s per week out-relief. Mr Moon stated that there were three sons in this neighbourhood, two of whom had agreed to pay 1s 6d a week and the other 1s; and he asked for 1s 6d per week from the defendant.—The Magistrates stated that his wages were only 16s per week; and in the absence of any further testimony as to his means, they made an order for the payment of 1s weekly.

EMPLOYERS' AND WORKMEN'S ACT.

Wm. Hunt, a quarryman, sought to recover from Edward Taylor (of the firm of Messrs E. and J. R. Taylor, building contractors, Benfieldside) the sum of £2 11s 10d, due to him as balance of wages up to 20th Oct.—Mr T. W. Welford conducted the defence, and admitted that 4s 5d was owing to the plaintiff, and there was a further sum of 18s 4d due to Hunt, for work done subsequent to the 20th Oct., at Elm Park Quarry, for which his client had not received a bill of particulars.—The Bench said that they did not take this item into consideration—Plaintiff's case was that he claimed £1 12s 9d for hewing stone out of Westwood quarry, which went to Hamsterley, and 18s 4d for winning stone from Elm Park quarry. There were 21 loads of "blockers," at 1s 10d a yard; together with several courses of "stringers," at 6d per foot, and "rubble" at 10d a load. He had received from the defendants £8 5s on account.—Pattinson Milburn, Medomsley, attested that he had measured the stone used in Mr Morris's new house, and found that there were 71½ square yards.—Defendant was called and stated that the price to be paid for "blockers" was 1s 9d per load, which was more than he had hitherto given.—Robert Surtees, who also measured the building, stated that his figures were 68 square yards, which would come to £5 19s. There were 12 feet 6 inches of strong coursing, and 5 pieces of "blockers."—It was explained that in order to account for the discrepancies between this witness's figures and those given by Milburn, that the latter had neglected to calculate for three windows which had been constructed in an old wall, and the stone therefrom taken out and utilised in the new portion of the building.—Robert Bell, defendant's cartman, spoke to taking 58 loads of stone from Westwood to Hamsterley. He told the "boss" the number every night, and if he failed to see him he chalked it down in the stable.—Several witnesses were heard on both sides, the investigation of the case extending over a considerable period. Some amusement was created in court by the droll utterances of the plaintiff.—Ultimately the Bench awarded the plaintiff 16s 3d, each party to pay their own costs. Plaintiff was informed that if he applied to Mr Taylor for the other 1s 4d it would be handed over to him.

SECOND COURT.

Before Messrs JAS. ANNANDALE, (in the chair) and H. W. WATSON, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

John Thomas Green was found guilty, upon the testimony of P.C. Stankley, of having been drunk and disorderley at Consett, on the 5th March, and was fined 5s and costs.

William Thompson, of Dipton, and *Joseph Cooper*, *James Hughes*, and *William Beckwith*, of Iveston, were summoned by P.C. Stubbs for drunkenness in the streets of Leadgate on the 3rd, 4th, and 10th March.—Beckwith (who was not represented in court) was ordered to pay a penalty of 10s and costs, with the alternative of 7 days hard labour; the other offenders were let off with a 5s fine.

James Kay also failed to appear on his own recognisances to answer a charge, preferred against him by P.C. Mitcalfe, of having been inebriated and kicking up a loud disturbance at Consett, on the 5th March.—The magistrates imposed a fine of 5s and expenses; in default, defendant to undergo a week in Durham gaol.

James McNally, who was accused by P.C. Richardson of being in a drunken state at Consett, on the 10th inst., was mulcted in a penalty of 5s and costs.

Matthew Nicholson and *John Dolan* were similarly dealt with, P.C. Sanderson having found the men incapably drunk at South Medomsley, on the 11th of this month.

Elizabeth Hall, married, was brought up by P.C. Lawson on a charge of intoxication at Consett, on the preceding Saturday night.—The Bench took compassion upon her, and allowed the defendant to take her departure on promising to pay a fine of 1s and costs.

Patrick Kinnon and *James Robinson* were charged with being drunk and disorderly at Consett, on the same night.—P.C. Richardson adduced the facts, and the magistrates inflicted fines of 5s and costs upon each offender.

Joseph Bell was placed in the dock to answer a charge of drunkenness at Blackhill about midnight on Saturday, and was fined in a like amount.—P.C. Phillipson proved the case.

BREACH OF THE PEACE.

James Cregan and *Patrick Smith* were summoned by P.C. Stankley for fighting with each other in the streets of Consett, on March 10th.—Defendants were bound over to keep the peace for the space of three months, and pay 8s as costs.

HIGHWAY ACT.

Dayman Patterson, of Tow Law (who did not appear), was charged by P.C. Richardson with allowing his horse and cart to stand in Ox Place, Consett, on the 29th ult., without any person being in charge thereof.—The Court imposed a fine of 5s and costs; in default, seven days' hard labour.

KEEPING A DOG WITHOUT A LICENSE.

Thomas Swinburne, of Iveston, was summoned at the instigation of P.C. Newton, for keeping a dog without a license.—He was fined in the sum of 5s and costs.

LOCAL ACTS.

Francis McAleer, of Albert Row, Consett, was summoned by P.C. Scott on a charge of allowing the chimney of his abode to be on fire, on the 2nd March, and was fined 1s and expenses.

YOUNG THIEVES.

Michael and *Thomas Agnew*, aged 13 and 11 years respectively, living in Albert Row, Consett, were placed on trial charged with stealing a quantity of oranges, chocolate, and sweetmeats, from the establishment of Frederick Williams, in Front Street, Consett, on the preceding Thursday night. The boys were given into the custody of P.C. Mitcalfe.—Their worships convicted the defendants of the offence, and bound them over to be of good behaviour in the future, and to come up for judgment whenever called upon.

SERIOUS ALLEGATION AGAINST A DIPTON TRADESMAN.

At the Consett Police Court, on Monday afternoon, Emanuel Maddison, grocer and provision merchant, who also keeps the post-office in Front Street, Dipton, was charged on a warrant—prisoner having surrendered himself up to the police—with committing an indecent assault upon Christiana Trotter, a single woman, on leaving a place of worship at Dipton, on the preceding (Sunday) night. Prisoner was formally remanded till Easter Monday, but was released on bail—himself and a surety of £25 each.—Mr Maddison afterwards applied for and obtained a summons against the woman Trotter, for having assaulted him at the same time and place.

LOCAL WESLEYAN METHODISM.

WESLEYAN QUARTERLY MEETINGS AT BLACKHILL.—The quarterly meetings of the Shotley Bridge and Consett Wesleyan Circuit were held on Monday at Blackhill, under the presidency of Rev Henry Parkes, superintendent. The accounts presented by Mr Joshua Lax, circuit steward, (Shotley Bridge), showed a balance in hand of £3 9s 3d for the circuit fund, and £10 5s 3d for the conveyance fund. The numerical schedule showed the present number of members to be 1,566, an increase of 11 on the quarter and 86 on the year, 176 on trial, and 44 in junior classes. Permission was given for the enlargement of the Consett Wesleyan Chapel, or the erection of a new building, and the erection of another vestry at Castleside. Regret was expressed that Rev Henry Parkes's term of three years would expire at the next Conference. He will be succeeded by Rev T. Broadbent, of Barnard Castle. Revs J. Wesley Keyworth (Shotley Bridge) and F. S. Chesters (Annfield Plain) were unanimously invited to remain in the circuit a third year, which invitations were cordially accepted. The circuit stewards Messrs J. Lax and J. Routledge, (Consett) will attend the district meeting in May. At the close of the meeting the united trustees meeting was held. The schedule presented by the chapel secretary was considered very satisfactory, none of the circuits being in debt beyond a few pounds. Mr Mark Noble (Blackhill) was re-appointed chapel secretary. The next quarterly meeting was arranged to take place at Consett in June next.

CHESTER-LE-STREET CIRCUIT.—The quarterly meeting of this circuit was held on Saturday afternoon at Chester-le-Street—Rev J. Charlesworth presiding. The numerical statement showed the number of members to be 752. The income during the quarter was reported to have been £85 1s 4d, and the expenditure slightly in excess of that sum. Rev J. Charlesworth was invited to stay a third year, and accepted the invitation. The stewards were instructed to appoint a successor to Rev F. Church, whose time expires at the next Conference. An application for permission to build a new Sunday school at Pelton Fell was granted.

CROOK CIRCUIT.—On Tuesday evening, the Wesleyan Circuit quarterly meeting was held at Crook—Rev J. Fielden presiding. The numerical statement showed a large increase in the membership, and the finances a substantial surplus to be added to a previous good balance. Revs J. Fielden and W. H. Farnell accepted a cordial invitation to remain another year.

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THE LATE SNOWSTORM.

CONSETT DISTRICT.

The gale and snowstorm culminated on Thursday se'nnight—as briefly stated in last week's issue—in a perfect "blizzard" or whirlwind, the result being that all the roads and railways were more or less blocked up, and there was a cessation of operations on Friday last at the Consett Iron and Steel Works, the Blackhill Tinmill Works, and the whole of the neighbouring collieries. The Derwent Valley Railway was blocked up for a short time on Friday morning, although the large snow-plough had just travelled that way on the preceding night. On the Consett branch railway the morning passenger trains were considerably delayed, but during the afternoon the service was pretty well maintained between Newcastle and Durham. The first train from Newcastle, due at Consett a few minutes after seven o'clock, stuck fast in a cutting between Shotley Bridge and Consett Stations, and a gang of men had to be sent from Consett to dig a road for it. The train reached Consett with the mail bags and newspapers about an hour late, but continued its journey towards Durham. The first train from Durham, however, became embedded in the snow between Lanchester and Knitsley, and here another delay was occasioned, the Durham train having to return to tha city. The line was opened by noon, the 12·40 train at Consett reaching that place about one o'clock. A fresh train was put on at 8·15 to preserve the connection between Consett and Newcastle. The 10·30 train from Newcastle to Consett was also half an hour late. The line between Consett and Crook and Tow Law, which was opened for a short time on Thursday night, was again blocked up on Friday, and not a single passenger train traversed the way. Four engines—two belonging to Darlington and two from Waskerley—were forced to remain at Consett Station overnight, and twelve of the workmen were also storm-stayed there. The Darlington locomotives were despatched to their destination, via Durham on Friday afternoon, whilst the snow-plough cleared the road so as to allow the other two engines to get as far as Waskerley. The trains on the Derwent Valley line are much shortened, and the railway officials declare that the storm is heavier than it was a couple of years ago. A similar opinion is likewise held by the local road surveyors.

The effects of the recent hurricane and storm are now clearly visible in the district. Snow is piled up to an enormous height in many of the streets, although a vast quantity has been carted away, or disappeared by the thaw which has set in since Monday. On Saturday, some of the business establishments in the town resembled some icebergs in the artic regions. Long icicles were suspended from the eaves of the shops, and the front of the Co-operative Store seemed like a block of ice. So fantastic and picturesque was its general aspect that a local enterprising photographer (Mr V. Dunn) took portraits of the view on Saturday morning. There was a large influx of visitors into the town on Saturday night.

The blocks on the railway between Cold Rowley and Burnhill, and from thence to Tow Law have been of the most serious and formidable description. The line was only opened for a short period on Thursday se'nnight, but was snowed-up ere the followed morning dawned, and remained so till Sunday. There were some heavy cuttings from a little beyond Tow Law to Hounds Gill, near to Consett Station. The line beyond Crook to Tow Law was opened on Friday, and there had been no drifts overnight. A party of 130 men were sent to open this line, 60 of them being special workmen. These men were under the charge of Mr W. Cook, of Darlington, district superintendent. The weather favoured the operations and the line was opened shortly after five o'clock. Some sidings of the Consett Iron Works were opened by other labourers on Friday and Saturday. Crook was the last point which could be reached on the Consett branch, and a guard has wired that he was fast for the night at Cold Rowley. The snow-plough had been at work, and it is reported that in the course of its operations it suddenly came upon a buried engine. On Saturday night, an engine came from Waskerley to Tow Law to procure supplies of flour and groceries, as the village people were in a state of semi-starvation for want of necessary food. The task of cutting the snow between Burnhill and Rowley was of a hazardous description. A party of men were employed removing the snow wreaths overhanging the cutting. This was a most difficult work. A man, secured round the waist by a rope, had to go on to the snow and cut it way. Men behind held the rope to prevent their comrade from falling into the chasm below. Several collieries were also opened for traffic. The railway between Consett and Tow Law, which had been blocked between Rowley and Waskerley since about Wednesday, was opened on Sunday, several hundred men being employed on the line. An attempt was made to run the early passenger trains in both directions on Monday morning; but it seems that a mineral train from Tow Law had become embedded in the snow drift at what is known as "Calvert's Cut," and a relief train, carrying 300 workmen, was brought on the scene to dig her out. The result was that the passenger trains were delayed for more than an hour. It appears that about three inches of snow fell in these regions on Sunday night, and the snow drifted on to the railway again. Since then the trains have been running pretty regularly, although somewhat behind time. Owing to the labours of bodies of men on Sunday, the North-Eastern mineral line between Burnhill to Consett and Annfield Plain was also rendered passable, as well as the Consett Iron Company's local railways. Work was on Monday resumed at the Consett Iron and Steel Works, and several of the neighbouring pits; and it is to be hoped that we have now seen the end of the late terrific storm.

On Tuesday morning, the Tow Law and Consett line was once again blocked up by the shifting snow, and the passenger traffic was impeded. It was at the time feared that the train from Crook due at Consett at 8.55, would not be able to reach that place, accordingly a special engine and carriages was despatched from Newcastle, to bring the passengers from Consett to the city. In the meantime, however, the ordinary train had managed to progress as far as Consett, and proceeded on her destination. All the roads are now opened out, and the weather is of the most genial nature.

LANGLEY PARK.

A newsagent at Langley Park writes on Saturday as follows:—"Sorry to have to inform you the snowstorm in this district is so intense that communication is entirely cut off from Old Esh Village, New Cornsay Colliery, and Quebec Colliery. I have three boys going daily with the evening papers, and one of them, who goes to the Cornsay Colliery, was storm-stayed on Tuesday night. At ten o'clock I left home in search of him, and was only too glad to find the boy in a person's house at Esh Lane. From Tuesday night the evening papers have not reached either Quebec or New Cornsay."

SPEN COLLIERY.

Spen and Victoria Garesfield were absolutely cut off from the outer world last week, and communication was only restored on Monday. Snow has lain in that locality to a much greater depth that it was in the Consett district.

SAD DEATH IN THE SNOW NEAR CROOK.

On Saturday morning, a youth named Joseph Armoury, 17, son of Mr Jonathan Armoury, innkeeper, of Howden-le-Wear, was found dead in the snow and slush in a bye lane between Howdon and Crook. The youth was an apprentice with Mr Watson Collingwood, butcher, of Howdon, and had been sent on horseback with a basket of meat to Crook. Some people from Whitfield's Houses met the horse riderless in a little frequented bye lane, which is a bad road, and generally partly flooded with water like a brook. On going back, they found the dead body of the youth, lying on the road in the wet snow, with the basket beside him.

WEARDALE.

The storm continued to rage with increased fury during Thursday night, and Friday in Weardale. The strong gale has blown the snow into drifts of enormous depth, which has made the roads impassable for vehicles. All communication with Alston and Allendale is entirely suspended, and the storm rages on the moors with terrific fury. At the time of writing the morning's mail had not arrived at Cows Hill, though more than two hours after the usual time.

Friday morning presented a complete snow block in Stanhope and the Weardale district. The roads in places were levelled with deep beds and ridged barriers of snow. The rural postman got to Rookhope, and later Mr Proud, deputy coroner, accompanied by P.C. Burnhope, was driven by sleigh to Eastgate, and thence proceeded on foot to hold an inquiry on the dead body of the man found on Boltsburn on Monday. The mails from Stanhope westward were despatched by Mr Mewby by sleigh, but the driver could not proceed further than St. John's Chapel. From thence the bags were taken on horse back, but the horse had to be abandoned, and the driver, under great difficulty, had to proceed on foot as best he could, being sometimes on the wall tops. The storm continues, but is not so severe, yet snow has fallen less or more the greater part of the day.

A Stanhope correspondent wrote on Sunday:—In the Stanhope and Weardale district snow cutting is being pushed forward with a view to establishing traffic and labour. During the storm labour was suspended at the limestone quarries at Stanhope and Frosterley, where several hundred men are employed, but operations will now be resumed. The mineral lines from Waskerley to Parkhead and Crawleyside, and from Parkhead to Rookhope and Weardale, remain blocked, and it will require a vast amount of labour to open the blocked cuttings. The Weardale ironstone and coals for Weardale run over the Rookhope line, and coal, lime, and limestone over the Waskerley and Crawleyside line. The traffic on the main roads has been so far resumed by aid of snow-plough and spade. On the main road west of Stanhope, and near Hare'aw, a barrier has been cut through seven feet six inches in height. The road from Stanhope to the coal depots at Crawleyside has been opened, the thickest part cut through, being about seven or eight feet. The outlying roads to Rookhope, to Edmondbyers and the mountain passes at the head of the dale remain blocked, and it will be some time before communication for vehicular traffic will be established.

Writing on Saturday, a correspondent at St. John's-in-Weardale says:—At Ireshope Burn, the snowstorm, which commenced last Sunday, continues, although the gale of the last six days has moderated considerably and the atmosphere is clearer. It is now possible to get out of doors to view the extraordinary state of the valley due to the accumulated snowdrifts. Thanks to the energetic plying of the snow-plough, a sledge track for the mails is kept open between Stanhope and Ireshope Burn, but beyond this the main road is blocked level by the walls. The post carrier carries the mail bags by the fields or wall tops as best he can, the highway authorities finding him a pioneer to precede him with a staff to probe the snow to avoid calamity, and he immediately returns, so that postal communication [illegible] can only reach every alternative day. A large staff of men were cutting a bridle track on Saturday. The fierce gale drove the fleecy element into every chink and crevice of the more exposed hamlets and homesteads, besides rendering them unapproachable by the ordinary paths; and, owing to the distance from the main road their occupants are to be pitied, as they can have but a scant supply of food and fuel. So far as the eye can reach huge boulders of snow are thrown up in unique and awe-inspiring forms.

BLANCHLAND.

The violent snowstorm of last week has considerably abated in this part of the country since Friday. Sunday was remarkably fine and calm, but showers of snow fell through the night, and on Monday there is a strong, keen east wind blowing, which is again drifting the snow. The frost is also extremely severe. Icicles are suspended from the eaves of the buildings, measuring two yards, and the ground is covered with better than eighteen inches of level snow. A good staff of labourers have been despatched by the road surveyors of the district, who are making good progress in cutting the snow, and in the course of two days—barring a blast arising—the main roads leading to the different stations and collieries are expected to be ready for vehicular traffic, which is much needed as coals and other commodities are getting scarce. From the highest points in the district, however, travelling by foot is successfully performed, the pedestrians getting through the fields and avoiding the blocks. The Riding Mill and Blanchland messenger has never failed in doing his duty daily; but for some miles of the journey he was kindly assisted by Mr John Heppell, farmer, of Millshield, with a powerful horse, whilst the road men in the Fotherley district also rendered him good service. Complete telegraph communication is now resumed. The bulk of the hill farmers are fairly provided with hay, which they daily supply to the sheep on the sheltered parts of the moors, to which they fortunately succeeded in getting them. Others, however, having short supplies of hay have been obliged to contrive otherwise for their support, and some hundreds of sheep and several cattle have been removed to the village, where a stack of hay has been bought at the rate of £5 per ton, which is apparently the top price of hay in the district, and dealt out daily to them. Considering the severity of the weather the losses of sheep are surprisingly light; only in two or three cases have a small number perished. The Hexham carrier was stopped on Friday, but the road is expected to allow of his journey being made on Tuesday. The severity of the weather is also telling upon the game; grouse are flocking very much into the lower ground—though they do not appear to be driven off the moors as on the occasion of the big storm two years ago; ground game too will find their food very scarce on the ground, which is covered up, though they get access to the hay that is stacked in the fields, which is keeping them alive, as no signs of their perishing are apparent. Although the storm is estimated below that of two years ago.

THE SHEEP ON THE WEARDALE MOORS.

The Weardale sheep farmers are feeling keenly the hardships of the great snowstorm. The sheep-walks in the Stanhope and Weardale district are very extensive; Bollihope Moor contains an expanse of 7,319 acres; Stanhope Moor, 9,476; Burnhope, 5,000; and other moors, including Ireshope, Kilhope, and Wellhope, about 8,000 acres. On these 30,000 acres of exposed heath land there are probably 20,000 head of black-faced sheep. In consequence of the storm these are grouped together, and are depending altogether upon the hay which has to be daily sledged, horse-backed, or otherwise conveyed to them. Several sheep are reported missing.

THE DEATH ON WEARDALE FELLS.

On Friday last, Mr J. T. Proud, deputy coroner, held an inquest upon the body of the man name unknown, who was found in an exhausted condition upon the Fells, near Bottsburn, in Weardale, and who expired a few hours after his discovery. Mr Proud had a terrible experience of the snowstorm, and had to walk from Eastgate to the place of inquiry, a distance of three miles over a road perfectly impassable, the snow lying to a depth of six feet. The inquiry failed to establish any identity of the unfortunate man, and a verdict that he had died of exhaustion on the fells was returned. In the afternoon, the funeral took place, and was attended by over 50 dales-people, who assembled in front of the hotel and sang a hymn.

CROOK AND DISTRICT.

The snowstorm which commenced on Sunday week has brought things almost to a standstill in this district. The snow-plough has been called into requisition in Crook, and the main roads to Waterhouses, Cornsay, and Tow Law are blocked by drifts, which, in some instances, are 10ft. and 12ft. deep. Business is almost suspended. The service of trains has been greatly interrupted. On Thursday afternoon, shortly before two, the North-Eastern snow-plough, with four engines attached, found its way through to Crook via Consett and Tow Law, and the train which should leave Crook at one p.m. followed five minutes later with two engines attached. In some cases the trains are two and three hours late. Snow was still falling on Friday night, but on Saturday the storm abated.

A LOCAL POSTMASTER'S ADVENTURES.

The postmaster at West Stanley, Mr Mallams, had a cruel journey in the storm last week. Leaving home about 5 p.m., with the mail bags, he reached his destination at Rowland's Gill Station safely after a deal of difficulty. The return journey began shortly after 6 p.m., dusk setting in, and on reaching Barcus Close, he missed his track, and, getting into the fields, could not get out again. After many fruitless attempts, the only thing that could be done was to keep up courage, and wait for daylight. He made a circle, and kept walking round, with his horse following him. These and similar tactics were carried out for five hours in that field, until a man on foot, who had also lost his way, bound for the same place, came into the field, so the two eventually found a way out, and, after crossing fields abounding with difficulty, finally reached home completely tired out about 3·15 a.m.

A WALK FROM CONSETT TO NEWCASTLE.

On walking through from Consett to Newcastle writes another correspondent on Friday, I found the roads much blocked. From Flint Hill to Marley Hill they were entirely blocked, pedestrians having to take to the fields. In the morning a S.E. gale was blowing, snow falling continuously, and drifting heavily, and it was intensely cold. The telegraph wires on this road, which is a main route to London, presented a ruinous appearance, the wires hanging like bunches of ribbons at nearly every pole between Dipton and Marley Hill House. A number of men were here busy clearing away the wreckage and making repairs. It is not expected that the wires will be in working order before the end of this week, but, more probably, the end of next week, as the work must necessarily be slow, the poles being difficult to get at, there being as much as 10 feet of snow in the roadways, and the poles, wires, and cross-trees being all coated with ice. The Post Office authorities are, however, to be commended for the energy they display in endeavouring to restore communication, the work being both difficult and dangerous. Waggons, loaded with wood, and other vehicles are embedded in the snow. Snow-cutting has had to be abandoned, and the cuts are nearly drifted full again. Numbers of birds are lying dead, and others are easily caught. About noon the wind backed to the north-east, and there was every appearance of a continuance of the storm in even a severer degree. Although the country presented an arctic appearance, there were many beautiful sights, and it would be worth while for some of our local photographers to go out and take views, some splendid ones being obtainable near Rowland's Gill Station. After passing Marley Hill Colliery the roads are better, and not nearly so cold, but I was heartily glad to reach the "canny toon," and will not be easily persuaded to again take a tramp during a North-Country blizzard.

ESH AND USHAW COLLEGE DISTRICT.

The storm has been felt very severely in the Esh and Ushaw College district. The main road from Ushaw College to Esh and Quebec was almost completely blocked from Wednesday to Saturday. Both vehicular and foot traffic was exceedingly difficult, and several horses and traps have had to be dug out. The postman from Durham to Cornsay, by way of Esh, was compelled to leave his trap at Mrs Brown's, Esh, on Wednesday, since which time he has performed his journies on horseback, but only with the utmost difficulty. The Cornsay butcher, driving from Hill Top homewards on Saturday, was upset on the Esh Road, and narrowly escaped injury; while the Langley Park Store cartman was seriously injured about the face by an accident which occurred as he was starting with his load on Saturday. Newsagents have experienced considerable difficulty in delivering the papers since Wednesday week, especially in the district of Cornsay Colliery and Old Cornsay.

CHESTER-LE-STREET AND DISTRICT.

There was no cessation of the snowstorm in this district on Friday. The snow-plough had to be taken out early in the morning, the roads having been drifted to a considerable height. Notwithstanding the passage of the plough, considerable difficulty was experienced by carriers and others with conveyances in reaching their destinations, indeed some were forced to turn back. Happily the railway has been kept open, and there has been no stoppage of trains in this part of the Team Valley line. Some of the pits near here have been idle two or three days in consequence of not being able to get waggons to carry the coal away. Business is almost at a standstill, very few people being able to reach the town. The snow ceased, but a keen wind was blowing from the east, with a sharp frost, giving everything a wintry appearance.

The rural messengers report that travelling is well-nigh impossible. The tradesmen are experiencing great difficulty in serving their customers, a rolley belonging to the Birtley Co-operative Store having become embedded in the snow near Portobello, notwithstanding every effort to extricate it. In the West Pelton district some 200 men are employed in opening the roads which are entirely impassible, while gangs of men are employed in keeping the railway lines open. Several of the collieries are stopped, and all outdoor work is completely suspended. A like state of things prevails in the Lumley, Edmondsley, and Plawsworth districts. Much suffering is experienced by the poor, while the farmers are becoming very anxious about their stock. The day schools are closed.

TOW LAW.

A correspondent, writing on Friday night, says:—The storm has raged all day long, and shows no signs of abating. The accumulation of snow is now serious, and roads are getting almost impassable by any means. Very little railway traffic has passed to-day, the lines north of here having been blocked with snow since last night. In the opposite direction a block was encountered first thing this morning, and not overcome till this afternoon. Two Darlington trains left here for Consett on Monday afternoon, and are stormbound in that quarter, not being able to return last night. The postal telegraphic service has been much disorganised owing to the number of wires broken.

There was a decided improvement in the weather on Saturday as compared with the pitiless snowing and blowing of the previous day, and snow excavating is observable all round. Several country roads, however, are still blocked up. None of the Saltburn and Consett trains got beyond here owing to the line between Tow Law and Burnhill being still blocked. The Tow Law and Consett line, which got opened out late on Saturday, caused considerable trouble on Monday morning in consequence of further falls of snow on Sunday night. Three passenger trains were sticking in the snow between Tow Law and Burnhill for two hours. After they were released the other trains during the day were mostly double engined, such precaution being necessary to get them over the moors.

PRIVATIONS IN THE TEAM VALLEY.

A Chester-le-Street correspondent writes:—Reports to hand from the east side of the river give startling accounts of the state of the roads in that district. At many places the people are out of food, and their dwellings cannot be reached by carts with provisions. The rural letter-carriers, especially those on the west country beats, expressed grave doubts on Friday morning about completing their rounds, after their experiences of Thursday. There is a coal famine at Chester-le-Street, the state of the roads preventing carmen getting to the pits. Snow continued to fall up to a late hour, and the roads that were partially opened out on Thursday morning were rapidly filling up again. From all parts of the Team Valley district reports are coming in of horses and carts being embedded in immense drifts and having to be dug out. All appearances pointed out to a still further continuance of the storm.

DEATH FROM EXPOSURE AT MARLEY HILL.

On Thursday morning, William Storey, a married man, said to belong to Alnwick, was found in an unconscious state in an outhouse at Marley Hill, and notwithstanding that stimulants were administered, and every attention paid to him, he died about eleven o'clock the same morning. The coroner was communicated with, and an inquest will probably be held upon the body.

DURHAM.

The snowstorm of Friday was succeeded on Saturday and Sunday by fine, clear weather, and locomotion was much easier. The roads in the country are still covered with four or five feet of snow, and several of them are still blocked; but gangs of men are engaged cutting roads through them. On the railway the trains are running well, and on none of the lines in the neighbourhood of Durham is there any block.

NOTES FROM WEARDALE.

The Primitive Methodists are going to erect a new chapel and house in Lunedale. Mr G. Race, of Weardale, has prepared plans.

We understand that Mr Wm. Herdman, Weardale, F.R.G.S.L., is again engaged to report upon the strata of the East Coast of Scotland, between Berwick-on-Tweed and Edinburgh, in June next.

Mr John Wilson, ex-M.P., who recently visited the dales, was a boy at Stanhope with his father, who at that time was one out of two victims who died of cholera during the ravages of that terrible pest. After his father's death, he wandered from home towards Durham, an orphan lad in quest of work and friends, and from that occasion until the present he has never been to the classic little country town.

Mr James Sparke, Wearhead, has just retired from public life. Mr Sparke, who has been in business in the valley for nearly 40 years, was forced to retire from the Board of Guardians and the Liberal Committee, of which he was chairman, some time ago, owing to ill-health, and the above step has been contemplated for some time. Mr Sparke will carry with him the goodwill of all.

ORNITHOLOGY OF WEARDALE.

Strix Otus, Linn., Lath., &c:—LONG-EARED OWL, "BEWICK'S BRITISH BIRDS," "SELBY'S BR ORN."—*Otus Vulgaris—Flemm, Br. Anim.*—Not an uncommon species, dispersed in the most of wooded districts in the northern hemisphere. In Britain it appears to be a permanent resident, locating itself in woods where the evergreen foliage, thick and dense, protect it from the light of day, as the bird is of nocturnal habits, only seeking its prey during the hours of the night. It inhabits different parts of the globe, where, contrary to those inhabiting the British Isles, it is apparently migratory, whether in search of food or climatic effects, or a natural instinct separately given to them we can only surmise. Northern India, some parts of Africa, and Europe are frequented, and on the latter continent it is common. It is widely distributed through the United States of America, where it is migratory, reaching high latitudes during the warm season. In Italy and France it is the most common of the Strigidoe, breeding early in the season, almost as soon as any of our native birds, nests having been found with eggs in the early part of April. Like many of this interesting genus, the receptacle for its four white eggs is the deserted nest of some rook or magpie. If it forms a nest of its own—though very rarely it does so—little labour is bestowed upon it, a few sticks and some wool heaped carelessly together forming a rudimentary home. Though in regard to affection shown by the parents to their downy offspring many a human being might learn a lesson. Differing from many of this class, it never emits any cry of pleasure or pain, pouncing upon its prey, which consists of mols, rats, mice, and insects, it does so in silence. No warning cry or noise warns the hapless victim of the approach of this ghastly murderer; no pity is shown as it digs its talons into the quivering flesh and regales on the fast flowing life's blood. As a diurnal protection it esconses itself mid the thick masses of ivy with which the aged trees of the woodland are robed. This is a prettily marked species, black and brown being beautifully intermixed, lending it an attractive appearance. The top of the head is surmounted with two tufts of feathers, which can be elevated at pleasure resembling horny appendages, from which it derives the name of long-eared owl. This is to distinguish it from the short-eared, another species, the tufts of the latter, as the name infers, are only short. The woods in the neighbourhood of Salter's Gate, Wolsingham Park, and Carterway Head and other places on the Derwent are breeding places which I authenticate as having seen specimens. Yorkshire, Durham, and the most of our north and western counties have furnished us with examples. Charles Tinkler, Stanhope, has preserved several Weardale captures from the rugged slopes of Weterhope, in the west, extending over a wide area eastward.

Otus Brachyotus—SHORT-EARED OWL.—This, like the former, is far from a scarce species, inhabiting the high latitudes of both hemispheres, common during their migratory flights, as they recede southward from the inclemency of the inhospitable north. A large migration takes place in the autumn from Northern Europe, accompanying the redwing, fieldfare, and woodcocks, in the southern journey, choosing the moonlight nights for the passage. From this circumstance it is called by some naturalists the woodcock owl. A few years ago, some hundreds of this species perished during a severe storm, the lifeless bodies, literally speaking, being washed up by the tide in the neighbourhood of Hartlepool and adjacent coasts. In the spring, a returning migration takes place to the North, where they breed during the summer months. Though a migrating species, it is not totally so, as considerable numbers are permanent dwellers in our fields and commons. This, unlike the long-eared, is only partly nocturnal, pursuing its prey sometimes during the light of day—seeming to shun the protection offered by woods and thickets—preferring the heathy common, ferny brake, or gorse-covered plain. Its two white eggs are laid or deposited in some hole in the ground, without any preparation whatever. An old veteran naturalist, William Clark, of Stanhope, to whom I shall refer in some future notes, had a pair of these birds shot on Shittlehopeside Moor, flushed by a party of snipe shooters, undoubtedly these birds bred in this locality. Another pair were shot in a corn field in the vicinity of Eastgate, Weardale, flushed by a gentleman while partridge-shooting, late in the season. Inhabiting the open country, it is a hardy species, only seeking the protection of a whin or broom bush, or the clustering heath on the moorland during severe weather. We have had some of these individuals from Weardale and other districts migratory specimens, as well as birds climatised, that is bred in these localities from year to year. Being small in crania development, it is more savage and destructive when in pursuit of prey, attacking birds of large size, as well as leverets, moles, rats, and mice. In times when food is scarce, it will sit or rest patiently by the river bank or mountain stream for some tiny tenant of the liquid element. Regarding this species, Mr Selby says—"I am inclined to think that a few pairs occasionally breed upon the higher moors in Northumberland, as I have repeatedly met with old birds during the summer months, and also on the 12th of August, at which time they were in the moult." Sir Wm. Jardine has ascertained that they breed annually in certain mosses upon the moors in Dumfriesshire. My next notes will describe the screech owl.

Leadgate, March, 1888. THOS. TINKLER.

"HOW TO DO BUSINESS,' price sixpence.—To be had of Robert Jackson, bookseller, 9 and 10 New market Street, Consett.

"ROUGH ON RATS."—Ask Chemists, Grocers, or Oilmen for "Rough on Rats." It clears out rats, mice, beetles, flies, bed-bugs, roaches, ants, insects, ground moles, &c. 6d. and 1s. boxes.

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

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

Business Announcements.

SIXTEENTH YEAR OF ATTENDANCE.

MR. H. MARKHAM,

SURGEON DENTIST,

OF 50, NORTHUMBERLAND STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,

ATTENDS CONSETT EVERY MONDAY, from 1 p.m., to 3 p.m., at Mrs LOWSON'S, 22, MOUNT PLEASANT. ARTIFICIAL TEETH, to suit Youth or Age, inserted with all the latest and Best English and American Improvements, at Moderate Charges. A Perfect Fit Guaranteed.

ADJOINING CONSERVATIVE CLUB, MOUNT PLEASANT. ESTABLISHED 1830.

THE COVENTRY CYCLE CO., LIMITED,

WHITEFRIAR LANE, COVENTRY.

SOLE MAKERS OF THE COVENTRY IMPERIAL BICYCLES AND TRICYCLES, SAFETIES, and TANDEMS.

ALL GUARANTEED MACHINES BEAR THE REGISTERED TRADE MARK OF THE COMPANY.

PRICE LISTS, 3 STAMPS. 876v

WATCHES! WATCHES!! WATCHES!!!

MARSHALL & SONS,

WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,

CONSETT AND BLACKHILL,

BEG to announce that they have opened a BRANCH SHOP in the NEW TOWN HALL BUILDINGS, where they are now showing a fine assortment of CLOCKS, WATCHES, & JEWELLERY. Splendid Silver Patent Lever Watches from 70s. and upwards. Ladies and Gentlemen's Silver Geneva Watches from 20s. and upwards. Timepieces from 5s. All kinds of Repairs will be executed at Moderate Charges, combined with Good Workmanship.

KINDLY NOTE ADDRESS:—

MARSHALL AND SONS,

WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,

NEW TOWN HALL, FRONT STREET, CONSETT, & HIGHGATE, BLACKHILL. 311x

SPRING, 1888.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

GEORGE RICHARDSON,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRAPER,

HAS PLEASURE IN ANNOUNCING THAT HIS STOCK IS NOW REPLETE WITH THE LATEST NOVELTIES IN ALL DEPARTMENTS.

An inspection of his large and varied Stock is respectfully solicited.

ALL GOODS SOLD AT LOWEST CASH PRICES.

207z TAILORS, MILLINERS, and DRESSMAKERS kept on the Establishment.

SKATES! SKATES SKATES!!! LARGE ARRIVAL, FROM 6D. EACH, AT

J. W. DAVISON AND SONS,

GENERAL MERCHANTS,

FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

DEPARTMENTS.

FURNITURE. HARDWARE. GLASS. CHINA.
PAPER HANGINGS. FLOOR CLOTH AND LINOLEUM.
SPORTING POWDER. BLASTING POWDER. OILS AND CANDLES.
PAINTS

Fireproof Safes at 20 per cent below Market Prices.

GOODS DELIVERED TO ANY PART OF THE DISTRICT FREE.

MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT. **WARNING.—NOVELTIES** LEAZES, BURNOPFIELD.

AND NEW GOODS in Clocks, Watches, and Jewellery, at all prices, at the CONSETT JEWELLERY EMPORIUM in great Variety. The Quality and extreme Cheapness of the Goods is noteworthy. New Novelties are being constantly received, and intending Purchasers should see the large Variety before purchasing elsewhere. SILVER GOODS sold at little more than price usually charged for Gilt and Plated Goods. Half-Dozen Best Tea Spoons given to Purchasers of an extra thick 18-Carat GOLD WEDDING RING, from 10s. each.

J. M. wishes to caution the public against taking Watches to inexperienced men to repair, as they do as much harm to a Watch in ten minutes as the owner will do by wearing it ten years. Many people think that when they see "Watchmaker and Jeweller" over the door, they will find a practical man; but this is a mistake, as many shops in the district are kept by men who have no practical knowledge of a Watch whatever.

ALL REPAIRS ARE DONE BY EXPERIENCED MEN ON THE PREMISES; this being an exception to what many so-called Watchmakers do—who send repairs they are unable to do to another man, thus making the public pay a double price for repairs. J. M., not having to send repairs away, saves you the double charge, and GUARANTEES ALL REPAIRS. By the establishment of his two Shops, J. M. entirely obviated the necessity of the public sending their Watches to Coventry and other Watchmaking districts to be repaired.

JOSEPH MARSHALL, Watchmaker, Jeweller, & Silversmith, 7, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT, and LEAZES, BURNOPFIELD.

[illegible] LEAZES, BURNOPFIELD. 7, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT. 912y

W. RICHARDSON,

BESSEMER HOUSE, BLACKHILL,

BEGS to thank his numerous friends for the liberal support they have given him since he opened the above place, and to announce to his Customers that his Shop is now replete with a BEAUTIFUL and VARIED ASSORTMENT.

Having bought largely, and not having room for all the Goods, he is determined TO OFFER THE WHOLE STOCK AT A VERY SMALL PROFIT, as he is determined that no one shall undersell him in the trade.

Several Packages of the Newest Goods and latest Novelties for the opening Season, all carefully selected, are now ready for inspection.

Special attention is directed to the MAGNIFICENT ASSORTMENT of WASHING FABRICS, which for bloom and beauty surpass all former efforts in this class of Goods; in Original Designs and Charming Colours.

☞ CALL AND INSPECT FOR YOURSELVES. 235z

MUSIC!

MUSIC LESSONS given—Pianos, Harmoniums, and American Organs Tuned and Repaired. Dealer in Harmoniums, &c.—T. JONES, 4, Gibson Street, near Co-operative Store, Consett 927w

HONEY! HONEY!!
BEE HIVES! BEE HIVES!!
STANDARD SIZE.

J. J. SINTON, of Lanchester. IS MAKER OF THE BEST BAR FRAME HIVES IN ENGLAND, now ready for Sale at the following prices complete:—Telescope, 6s. 6d.; Association, 7s. 6d.; Sinton, 8s. 6d. Burgess, 10s; Dixon, 10s. HONEY, Finest Sections, 1s. 308y

THE NOTED TAILORING AND MILLINERY ESTABLISHMENT.

A. E. TURNER, 41, DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL, begs to thank his numerous Friends for their esteemed Patronage during the 36 years that he has been in business, and respectfully informs them that by his new arrangements he hopes to give continued satisfaction in all Branches of his Establishment, including TAILORING, DRAPERY, and MILLINERY.

N.B.—A. E. T. has always a good Stock of Black and Fancy SUITINGS and OVERCOATINGS on hand; best quality, at lowest prices; fit guaranteed.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

MRS. FRANCES CHRISTOPHER begs to return her sincere thanks to the Public for the liberal patronage she has received since the death of her husband; and respectfully intimates that she has removed from Delves Lane to the Old-Established Hacking Yard in Front Street, where business will be carried on as usual. HEARSES, MOURNING COACHES, CARRIAGES FOR WEDDINGS and POSTING in all its branches, on most reasonable terms.

Note the Address—
CONSETT LIVERY, HEARSE, AND MOURNING COACH ESTABLISHMENT,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.
FRANCES CHRISTOPHER, PROPRIETRESS

PRESENTATION BIBLES.

Some of them are really MANY VOLUMES IN ONE, and include such Aids to the Student as Summaries of the Books; Notes on the Natural History, General History, Mineralogy, Chronology, &c., of the Bible; also, an Atlas, Concordance, Dictionary, &c., *forming a portable Biblical Library*, so to speak. The contributors are authors of note. Each Bible in this stock contains the Psalms and Paraphrases, and prices range from 1s upwards.

ROBERT JACKSON'S,
GUARDIAN OFFICE, FRONT STREET,
AND
and 10, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT

E. J. SLOANE,

PRACTICAL PIANOFORTE TUNER,
POST OFFICE, BLACKHILL, Co. DURHAM.
ALL ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

MANCHESTER CORPORATION

CONCENTRATED MANURE,
MADE FROM HUMAN EXCREMENT,
BLOOD, BONES, FISH, &c.,
ANALYSING ABOUT

38·66 per Cent.	of ORGANIC MATTER, containing	}
3·60 ,,	of AMMONIA.	
5·08 ,,	of ALKALINE SALTS, containing	}
1·26 ,,	of POTASH.	
8·57 ,,	of TRIBASIC PHOSPHATE.	
2·50 ,,	of SULPHATE OF LIME.	

Delivered in Bags at any Railway Station within 150 miles of Manchester in not less than Four Ton Lots, and within 50 miles in not less than Two Ton Lots, at £3 PER TON.

Will be sold by Analysis if written application be made
HY. WHILEY, Superintendent,
Health Department, Town Hall, Manchester; or to
W. WOOD, Field Head, Shotley Bridge;
JOHN FATHERLEY, Washington. 799y

Public Notices.

40 IS the WINNING NUMBER of the Gun Raffled for at Mrs. DODDS', Broomhill.

IF THE CORK FRAME (Winning No. 70), raffled by N. EDWARDS, South Medomsley, is not claimed within seven days it will be sold. 262z

REMEMBER the CASTLESIDE WESLEYAN SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, March 31st and April 1st, 1888. 250z

CONSETT WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOLS.

REV. RICHARD ROBERTS IS COMING on WEDNESDAY, April 4th. 278z

CONSETT WESLEYAN CHAPEL.

A SACRED CONCERT will be given in the above Chapel on Good Friday (March 30th, 1888), by the Chapel Choir. Conductor, Mr. M. Fawell; Organist, Mr. C. Stelling.

Doors open at 7; chair to be taken at 7·30.

A Collection will be made at the close in aid of the Chapel Trust Fund. 279z

CONSETT & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT,
APRIL 3RD, 1888,
264z "BOHEMIAN GIRL."

TANFIELD.

A LEEK and VEGETABLE SHOW will be held on SATURDAY, September 22nd; radius, two miles. Prize money paid in parts. Special Prizes for Cut Flowers (including Brass Pan for Three Best Gladiolis Blooms). 197z

SHOTLEY BRIDGE & CONSETT DISTRICT GAS COMPANY.

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

Public Notices.

LOOK OUT for the PRIMITIVE METHODIST ANNUAL FIELD-DAY at DIPTON, on Whit-Monday. 211z

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

ON SATURDAY, the 31st of March, an EXCURSION TRAIN will leave CONSETT at 2-0 p.m. (with Bookings from the intermediate stations up to Swalwell inclusive) for NEWCASTLE returning at 9-5 p.m. 248z

UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCH, CATCHGATE.

A GRAND BAZAAR will be held in the GREENCROFT BOARD SCHOOLS on Easter Monday and Tuesday, April 2nd and 3rd, 1888—to be opened at Three o'clock by JOSEPH DENISON, Esq., of Newcastle—when a large and varied Assortment of Useful and Ornamental Goods will be exhibited and offered for sale. Admission—Adults, 6d; Children, Half-price. Proceeds in aid of liquidation of Trust Funds. 268z

GRAND CONCERT.

THE Members of the South Derwent Brass Band intend holding a
GRAND INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT
IN THE
NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT,
TO-MORROW (Saturday), MARCH 24th, 1888.
Doors open at 7; to commence at 7-30.
For particulars see Bills. 253z

WATERHOUSES & ESH FLOWER SHOW.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4th, 1888.

£135 IN PRIZES for FLOWERS, FRUITS, VEGETABLES, HOME INDUSTRIES, DOGS, POULTRY, RABBITS, PIGEONS, SINGING BIRDS, HORSE LEAPING and DRIVING.

SCHEDULES READY MAY 1st.

252z J. G. CROPTON, President.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT (741st) STARR-BOWKETT BUILDING SOCIETY.

NOTICE.

THE CHIEF OFFICE OF THIS SOCIETY on and after Monday, April 2nd, 1888, WILL BE AT No. 5, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT,

And Subscriptions will be taken on the Evening of that day, from 7-30 to 9 p.m., at the New Address.

☞ There are still a number of Shares to be taken up, and Members can be enrolled any day at the New Town Hall, up to March 31st, and at the New Office, No. 5, Mount Pleasant, on and after April 2nd.

Shares 6d. each per week for £100.

GEORGE CAREY, Chairman.
WILL. ELLIOTT, Secretary.
Dated March 21st, 1888. 254z

EASTER CARDS!
EASTER CARDS!
EASTER CARDS!

FOR THE BEST, LARGEST, AND MOST VARIED STOCK, TRY
ROBERT JACKSON,
"GUARDIAN" OFFICE,
AND 9 AND 10, NEWMARKET STREET,
267z CONSETT.

A GRAND
FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT
Will be held in
SHOTLEY SPA GROUNDS,
ON
EASTER MONDAY AND TUESDAY,
April 2nd and 3rd, 1888,

In which over 150 Players, including the well-known exponents—Messrs T. D. DALES, T. K. DOBSON, F. DOBSON, T. JAMESON, HODGSON, and others will take part.

For particulars, see Posters.

THE C.I.C.'S CELEBRATED BAND
Leader—Mr M. HOBDAY.

Admission, as usual, 2d each day.

266z WILSON BROS., Lessees.

FARMERS! FARMERS!! FARMERS!!!

CLOVER AND GRASS SEEDS.

DO not risk buying your Seeds from Agents who never see the stuff sent out, but go to HOBSON'S SEED WAREHOUSE and see SEEDS before you order them. A large and carefully selected Stock to choose from, at the lowest possible price.

TURNIP SEEDS! TURNIP SEEDS!!
TURNIP SEEDS!!!

As good as can be got for money. All from the best transplanted bulbs.

At KYO FLOWER SHOW, to be held at Catchgate in September, 1888, G. H. will give:—
5s. for Three of the best Purple Top Swedes (Hobson's Choice).
5s. ,, ,, Green Top Swedes (Hobson's Choice).
5s. ,, ,, Green Top Yellow (Hobson's Choice).
5s. ,, ,, White, Green, or Grey Stone.
5s. for the best White Loaf made from Hobson's Extra Supers.
5s. ,, Brown Loaf made from Hobson's Whole Meal.
269z

LANCHESTER UNION

APPOINTMENT OF REGISTRARS OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

THE GUARDIANS of this Union will, at their next meeting (to be held on Thursday, the 5th day of April), be prepared to CONSIDER APPLICATIONS for the APPOINTMENTS of REGISTRARS of BIRTHS and DEATHS for the sub-districts of Consett and Lanchester.

The CONSETT sub-district comprises — the Parishes of Benfieldside, Conside, Ebchester, Healeyfield, Iveston, Medomsley, and Muggleswick, containing an area of 25,554 Acres, and an estimated population of 25,000.

The LANCHESTER sub-district comprises—the Parishes of Cornsay, Esh, Greencroft, Hedleyhope, Lanchester, Langley, and Satley, containing an area of 31,583 Acres, and an estimated population of 17,000.

The Remuneration, payable by the Guardians, is by fees: the value for the Consett sub-district being estimated at £30, and the Lanchester sub-district at £60 per annum.

Applications, stating age, and accompanied by three testimonials, must reach me not later than Nine o'clock on the above-mentioned day.

Personal canvassing is prohibited.

By order,
W. HENRY RITSON,
Clerk to the Board.
Lanchester, March 22nd, 1888. 273z

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Phillipson.

1, Wood Row, Pit Hill.—Saturday, March 31, 1888.

MR. A. PHILLIPSON, instructed by Mr Jos. RODHAM, who is emigrating, will SELL BY AUCTION, at the above place and date, all his very valuable Mahogany and other Household FURNITURE, Singers' SEWING MACHINE and Cover, Patent WRINGER, &c. See Bills.

Sale to begin at Half-past One o'clock. 271z

SPECIAL EMIGRATION OFFICE.

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

All Emigrants and Luggage taken to the Railway Station Free of Charge; and for the most useful and reliable information and assistance, apply at once to A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, and Emigration Agent, Dipton 49[illegible]

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

Sales by Auction.

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

ADAM BRODIE and ROBERT J. BRODIE, Members of the Institute of Auctioneers and Surveyors, and of the Institute of Estate Agents, Town Hall, Consett, undertake the Management and Collection of Rents of every description of real Property, and are prepared also to conduct Sales of Farming Stock and Produce, Houses and Land, Household Furniture, Merchandise, and Effects of every description, in the best manner, and on the most Reasonable Terms. Their well-known Sale Rooms in Victoria Street, Consett, are always open for the reception of Goods for absolute Sale, where removal is considered necessary by the owners; and, as a rule, Sales are held there Fortnightly. Instructions by letter or otherwise receive prompt attention.

☞ Sole Agents in Consett for the principal Lines of Steamers to the United States, Canada, and Australia; and also for the Queensland Government.

ADDRESS:—Victoria Sale Rooms. Office: Town Hall, Consett. 662y

Monday, March 26th, 1888.—Smaller Hall, New Town Hall, Consett.—Conclusion of Sale of a Select Library of First-class Books, including Works of Fiction by Rider Haggard, Whyte Melville, Grant Allen, Christie Murray, R. D. Blackmore, Thomas Hardy, and others; and Theological and Philosophical Works by the leading English, German, and French Authors, including—Matthew Henry's Commentary, best edition, in 9 Vols.; together with the Writings of Steele, Addison, and others. Also, 2 Bookcases; Oil Painting, "Eden Woods," by the late R. Dawson, deceased; and two Oil Paintings, "Whitby," and "Cullercoats," by Fairbairn.

MESSRS. A. & R. J. BRODIE will hold the concluding SALE of the above Select LIBRARY OF BOOKS, in the SMALLER HALL of the NEW TOWN HALL, Consett, on Monday, March 26th, 1888, at 7 o'clock p.m. No reserve. 240z

By Messrs. Nicholson and Murray.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY, MARCH 26TH, 1888.

Present Entries.

10 Fat Cattle.
45 Fat Sheep.
A number of Dairy Cows; Calves.
Pork and Store Pigs.
Sows in Pig.
Store Cattle, Poultry, &c.
Seed Oats, Barley, and Tares.
Gripes, Shovels, Harness, Chains, &c., &c.
Sale at One o'clock.

278z NICHOLSON & MURRAY, Auctioneers.

By Mr. John S. Murray.

MR. J. S. MURRAY, Auctioneer, honoured with a commision from Mr R. BRUCE, Greenhead, will SELL, in the early part of May, his FARM STOCK, Household FURNITURE, and EFFECTS.

Parties in the district having Surplus Stock can have it included in this Sale by applying to Mr R. BRUCE, Greenhead; or the AUCTIONEER.

Newlands Grange Cottage; two miles from Shotley Bridge, and one mile from Whittonstall.

MR. J. S. MURRAY, favoured with instructions from Miss MARY SWINBURN, who is declining Farming and Housekeeping, will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on Saturday, March 31st, 1888, the whole of her Superior Household FURNITURE, FARM STOCK, IMPLEMENTS, &c., &c., comprising—

10 Pigs, 8 weeks old at time of Sale; a good class.
Superior Polled Cow, recently calved.
Superior H.B. Cow, time up about April 4th.
Superior H.B. Cow, in Milk, about 3 months gone in calf.
4 Prime S.H. Heifer Stirks, 16 to 21 months old.
Prime S.H. Heifer Finger Calf.
10 Young Cheviot Ewes, in Lamb to Leicester Tup.

Set of Pony Cart Harness; Hay Rakes; Forks; Gripes; Shovels; Cow Bands; Excellent Barrel Churn, nearly new; Milk Bowls, Cans, and the whole of the Dairy Utensils; a quantity of Mells, Hammers, Picks, Hacks, Pinches, and other Quarry Gear.

FURNITURE.

2 Kitchen Tables; Longsettle; Mahogany Press; Painted Cupboard; Swing Looking Glass; 10 Kitchen Chairs; 2 Arm Chairs; Iron Bedstead and Mattress; Camp Bedstead; 3 Paraffin Lamps; 2 Fenders, and Fireirons; Handsome Tea Urn; Pots, Pans, Pails, Tubs, and numerous other Articles.

Sale at One o'clock.

Royal Auction Mart Sale Office, Benfieldside. 233z

Ebchester Mill, March 24th, 1888.

MR. JOHN S. MURRAY, instructed by Mr GEO. MOODY, who is leaving the district, will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on SATURDAY, March 24th, 1888, the whole of his STOCK, CARTS, HARNESS, IMPLEMENTS, DAIRY UTENSILS, part of the Household FURNITURE, &c., &c., comprising—Excellent Dairy Cow, in Milk, due to Calve in July; 1 Pony, about 14 h.h., good in all yokes; Spring Trap; 2 Coup Carts, 1 little worse than new; Pair of Strong Cart Wheels: Iron Arms and Strong Oak Shafts; Set of Cart Gears; 2 Sets of Spring Cart Harness; Riding Saddle and Bridle; Ladies' Saddle; Cart Set; Wheel Barrow; 4 Barrow Wheels; 2 Joiners' Benches, and a lot of Tools, Screws, Stock, Taps, Dies, &c.; Splendid Foot Lathe; Pair of Strong Lathe Heads, with Back Gearing.

Kitchen Table; 10 Chairs; a quantity of Dinner Ware; Pots, Pans, Water Mugs, &c.; Small Barrel Churn; and all the Dairy Utensils; Brass and Wood Tape; Hay Rakes and Forks; Gripes; Shovels; Scythe; a lot of Metal Spouting; Old Iron; Empty Casks and Rain Tubs; Metallic Paraffin Oil Cask, 36 Gallons; Metal Grates, with Hobs; and various other Articles too numerous to particularize.

Sale to commence at Half-past One o'clock.

The Cow and Horse will be Sold at Four o'clock.

Royal Auction Mart Sale Office, Benfieldside. 279z

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

By Mr. J. Vickers.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

A WEEKLY SALE every Monday for Fat and Store Cattle and Sheep, Dairy Cows, Horses, Conveyances, Farm Produce, &c., commencing at 12 o'clock with Cows. Fat and Store Stock to follow. Entries should be sent on Wednesday each week.

JOSEPH VICKERS Auctioneer.
Grove Villa, Tow Law. 454z

Valuable Business Premises and House Property for Sale at Dan's Castle, Tow Law.—To Capitalists, Tradesmen, and others.

MR. JOSEPH VICKERS, instructed by Mr F. E. BELL, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the house of Mr JOHN WALTON, Dan's Castle Inn, Tow Law, on Monday, March 26th, 1888, at 5 o'clock p.m. (subject to conditions as will be then read),

LOT 1.—All that Valuable Copyhold HOUSE and SHOP, situate at Reservoir Place, Tow Law, containing Front and Back Shops, 3 Cellars, Kitchen, and Parlour, 6 Bedrooms, Scullery, and Pantry, Entrance Shed, Gig-house, and Cart-shed, Two-stalled Stable, and the usual Appurtenances behind the same.

LOT 2.—All that Copyhold DWELLING-HOUSE situate in Dan's Castle aforesaid, containing 4 Rooms, with large Yard, and the usual Appurtenances belonging thereto, and now in the occupation of Mr T. D. Holliday.

LOT 3.—All those Two Copyhold COTTAGES, situate in Dan's Castle aforesaid, near to Lot 2, containing 2 Rooms each, with the usual Out-buildings thereto, and now in the occupation of Mr Geo. Wheatley.

Lots 1 and 2 are comparatively new, are well and substantially built, and afford an excellent opportunity for investment. The Shop is well adapted for the business of a Chemist, Grocer, Draper, or Butcher. Part purchase money can remain on. For permission to view, apply to Mr T. D. HOLLIDAY, Dan's Castle.—Further particulars on application to the Owner, Mr F. E. BELL, South Benwell, Newcastle-on-Tyne; or to the AUCTIONEER, Grove Villa, Tow Law. 234z

CHEAP FARES TO AMERICA.—NETHERLANDS AMERICAN STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, carrying the Royal Mails. Regular Weekly Service between NEWCASTLE and AMERICA, *via* Rotterdam. These Steamers have been specially constructed for the Atlantic Passenger Trade, and are well known for the rapidity of their Passages. They are fitted up in the latest and most approved fashion, to ensure the comfort of passengers of all classes. No cattle carried on these Steamers. —For Passage, apply to GEORGE R. HOBSON, Auctioneer, Catchgate, Lintz Green. 127z

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. John Crawford.

Short Notice.—26, Rogers Street, Blackhill.

MR. JOHN CRAWFORD, favoured with instructions from Mr. DAVID COSTANCE, who is declining housekeeping, will SELL the whole of his Valuable Household FURNITURE, BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on Monday First, March 26th, 1888, consisting of Set of Drawers; Mahogany Centre Table; Mahogany Sofa; Card Table; Sewing Machine; Wringing Machine; 3 Iron Beds; Hair Mattress; Beds, &c.; Tables, Chairs, Forms; Kettles; Pans, Fenders and Fire Irons, and other Goods too numerous to mention.

For full particulars see Posters.

Sale to commence at One o'clock.

Sale Office, 25, Victoria Street, Consett. 277z

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

PEOPLE that are leaving the District can have their FURNITURE TURNED into CASH at once, by applying to JOHN CRAWFORD, Auctioneer 25, Victoria Street, Consett. 891c

JOHN CRAWFORD,
AGRICULTURAL VALUER & FURNITURE AUCTIONEER
25, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT
Business done promptly, and on reasonable terms.

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

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

VALUATIONS EFFECTED FOR PROBATE, ETC. 653y

Business Announcements

THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT
BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY
TOWN HALL CONSETT.
☞ SHARES MAY BE TAKEN ANY DAY.
Advances made on Freehold or Copyhold Property repayable as arranged, or for fixed period.
ADAM BRODIE, F.S.A., Secretary.

"The weary find new strength in generous wine."
Homer.

No wine is so generous, so full of nutriment as good Port Wine. It seems, indeed, as if Nature, aided by man's skill, had done its best to produce a wine far above all other wines in richness of body, lovely colour, and elegant flavour.

GLENDENNING'S INVALID PORT
☞ 36s. per Dozen; 3s. per Bottle. ☜

WILLIAM GLENDINNING draws attention to this Wine, which is specially imported and sold by him as the Wine most suited for those who are sick or recovering from sickness. Its characteristics are, freedom from acidity and heat, light fruity flavour, age in wood and richness of body without being heavy and sweet. Carriage paid upon half-a-dozen and upwards.

W. GLENDENNING,
WINE MERCHANT,
9, GRAINGER STREET (between Nun Street and Newgate Street) NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE

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

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

☞ SEE THAT YOU GET TO THE RIGHT SHOP—No. 12.
OBSERVE PROJECTING ILLUMINATED CLOCK OVER WINDOW. 739y

HIGH CLASS DENTISTRY.
MR. T. C. CAMPBELL
SURGEON DENTIST,
9, GRAINGER STREET,
NEWCASTLE.

☞ ARTIFICIAL TEETH AT REASONABLE PRICES
COMPLETE UPPER OR LOWER SET
From 30s. to £4 10s.
PARTIAL SETS OR SINGLE TEETH
From 3s. to 10s. per Tooth.

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TO ADVERTISERS.

ALL Orders for Advertisements for insertion in the *Consett Guardian* must be WRITTEN, and sent in not later then NINE o'clock on Friday mornings to ensure publication.

WE use great care to secure the correct printing of advertisements; but we cannot be responsible for inaccuracies nor from any consequences arising therefrom.

PARTIES making inquiries by letter respecting advertisements must enclose an addressed stamped envelope.

IT is contrary to Post-office Regulations for letters to be addressed to initials or fictitious names at any Post-office. Advertisers are desired to bear this in mind.

APPLICANTS for situations and others who reply to advertisements are recommended to forward copies of their testimonials, and not the original documents.

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, MARCH 23RD, 1888.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

THE STORM.

"We'll get good weather after this" said a workman the other day to his mate, as they passed me on the road. "Aye, no doubt, if we live long enough" was the ready and by no means inapt rejoinder. How long we must needs wait and exercise what patience we may be possessed of is a very different matter. Not long, I should fancy, but then beyond that half-doubtful expression of opinion I am not by any means disposed to go, for I have no ambition whatever to enter the lists with such worldly-wise sages as Captain Newton and others of that ilk. I believe it was Dean Swift of whom a very good story is told, in which the old methods sometimes resorted to in order to acquire prophetic knowledge is strikingly illustrated. It is said that a gentleman—and I believe it was the gifted man of letters referred to above—was riding over a lonely moor, and not being over confident that he was following the beaten track, he drew rein and questioned a herdsman touching the exact direction of the spot which he desired to gain. Having gleaned the desired information, the equestrian was about to resume his journey, when the man of the moors observed: "Make haste, sir, for before you go many miles there will be a heavy rainfall." There was not a cloud in sight, and the scholar regarded the man of the moors with a feeling allied to pity. Before he had ridden many miles, however, huge drops began to patter, to the great amazement of the stranger, who was so surprised at the shrill voice of the herdsman that he rode back forthwith and offered the man five pounds for his secret. Putting the coin into his pocket, this innocent abroad is reported to have said: "D'ye see that red cow? Well, when she turns her tail to the wind it is sure to rain within an hour!" To assert that all weather prophets have no more reliable guage than cows' tails would savour of ungenerosity, but from whatever source or whether from inspiration or from more prosaic methods, the result is very much the same. "The wind bloweth where it listeth," and so lustily has it blown of late that we are already experiencing the lull after the storm. A few more days, not to say weeks, and we will again feel the joyous breezes of fickle April, then will the inconveniences arising from the recent storm be all but forgotten, for on gaining smoother waters the past is frequently tinged with a nimbus of light which distance alone reveals.

VACCINATION.

The Ebchester signalman has at length found a champion, and one, too, who appears to have given at least one side of the subject some consideration. It is by no means difficult to become notorious in these days—very different qualities are needed to make a man famous. The subject of vaccination is one that never disturbed me greatly. In common with the majority of people, I have been taught to believe that having conformed to the law bearing on the point, the disease which the operation is intended to check is shorn of half its deadly effects. The fact that the antidote prescribed by the faculty is assailed by men who profess to see no virtue in it does not in any sense detract from its intrinsic worth. The most perfect codes of laws, moral as well as those relating to the mundane concerns of life, have been subject to irreverent handling. No system having for its object the amelioration of the people has been exempt from cross-fire of this order, and vaccination has certainly had quite its share of detractors. It is too frequently the case, however, that the men who happen to be so very exquisite and professedly more conscientious than other people, are little other than the slaves of erratic ideas, commonly known by the name of whims. One could feel and sympathise with a consistent, all-round man, but crotchety individuals are continually straining at gnats, whilst they swallow camels without a shadow of compunction. I remember that when living in the beautiful village of Shotley Bridge some years ago, small-pox being prevalent in the district at the time, a proclamation, or something pretty like one, went forth, that all persons who had not been vaccinated for seven years would be re-vaccinated by attending at the surgery at Orchard House. It is very questionable whether or not I should have taken advantage of this arrangement had not Dr George Renton personally told me to go across the river. I went, and having bared my arm, the doctor tickled me with a small instrument not unlike a monster needle. I thought then, and I think still, that gentlemen of that particular profession are the best judges of those things, and having no ambition to make an exhibition of myself, I act in conformity with their behests—without compunction.

TRADE.

There is yet happily no dimunition in the trade prospects of the steel and iron industries. The most of the shipbuilding yards on the Tyne and Wear are about as busy as they are likely to be. The enforced delay in consequence of the non-delivery of steel is quite as keenly felt as ever. Hence, it is therefore tantamount to this: that were the berths in the shipyards on the north-east coast better filled than they are, not a whit more work could be gone through. Among the workmen in every shipbuilding centre the outcry is one and the same:—"Laid off for want of material." A man starts on the section of a vessel one day, and not unfrequently goes idle for the next three in succession, and it, therefore, turns out that men are not reaping to the full the advantages which according to the natural course of things ought to be co-existant with busy times. A year ago this defect in our steel plate and angle output was to some extent balanced by the deliveries from the Scotch manufacturers, who at that time held their own with the English steel-maker despite the fact that the cost of transit to the North of England meant something like ten shillings per ton. Sometimes the material came by sea; but latterly the competition has become less keen than heretofore; until, in fact, except for plates of exceptional dimensions, such as is usually used in huge marine boilers, very little Scotch steel is now used in the North. I understand that another large iron company on the Tees is about to erect steel plant on an extensive scale. One of the principals of the firm referred to told me the other day that the time had come when some such step was absolutely necessary.

ROUNDABOUT NOTES.

[BY "RAMBLER."]

I understand that there is a movement on foot in the Consett district to entertain the members of the Fire Brigade to a complimentary dinner in the course of the next fortnight. Seeing the important services which have been rendered by this highly respectable and useful body of men in the fires which have unfortunately occurred in the district, and taking into consideration the slight remuneration which they receive in comparison to the dangers incurred by them, I think they are deserving of every encouragement, and trust that tradesmen and others will assist by their contributions in carrying out this praiseworthy object.

I learn that the members of the Consett Wesleyan Mutual Improvement Society have this week delected the subject as to whether smoking is injurious to health or not. After the *pros* and *cons* of the matter had been fully discussed, a vote was taken, when a decision adverse to smoking

was carried, the majority against being principally female members. Have some of the fair sex began to experiment with a few harmless cigarettes or have they been indulging in a few kisses from the lips of those naughty young men who are addicted to the abominable (?) habit of smoking? With all due deference to the opinions of these good ladies, I think it would have been better had they abstained from voting upon a subject which is not of material concern to them, unless they are unfortunate enough to form an alliance with a confirmed smoker, and his tobacco or cigars have to be purchased with the week's parcel of groceries. Apart from this question, however, how would these self-opinionated females like to hear of young men seriously discussing the question whether they should have their dress improvers at the front or back, or whether they should wear bustles at all? If the gentlemen arrived at an adverse conclusion on *that* point, then—— But stay, what am I thinking about? I shall be catching it from my "missus" when I get home to-night.

In your reports of the Consett British Schools annual concert, I do not think that full justice was meted out to Master Elsdon (a son of Mr Nathan Elsdon), who, for his tender age, is really a remarkable accompanist and promises to attain a high position as a musician. His efforts on that occasion were worthy of the highest commendation.

The people of Shotley Bridge may now congratulate themselves that they can boast of the most efficient and active police-constable in the Lanchester Division. In P.C. Vickers they have a man full of vigour and energy, and whose perseverance and diligence in probing difficult and mysterious cases is little short of marvellous. If he progresses at the rate he has done during the past few months, he will soon be raised to the rank of sergeant or inspector; or he may be destined to become one of the most expert officers in the detective department at Scotland Yard. If I am wrong in my predictions, then it will assuredly not be the fault of P.C. Thomas Vickers.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Friday next being GOOD FRIDAY, the *Guardian* will be published on Thursday.

Advertisers and Correspondents are requested to forward their communications early to secure insertion.

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

Another shower of snow fell in the Consett district this (Friday) morning. The weather is bitingly cold.

FREEMASONRY.—We understand that the members of the "Constance" Lodge of Freemasons on Wednesday evening nominated Dr Geo. Renton to be W.M. for the ensuing year.

CONCERT.—The members of the South Derwent Brass Band intend holding a grand instrumental concert in the New Town Hall, on Monday night first. For full particulars we refer our readers to the bills.

ACCIDENT AT THE CONSETT BLASTFURNACES.—On Monday morning, about nine o'clock, a "slagger" named McGucken, employed at the blastfurnaces at the Consett Iron Works, was badly burnt in consequence of a quantity of molten slag bursting upon him. He had to be conveyed to the Consett Infirmary on an ambulance stretcher.

THE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY AND THE LOCAL BOARD ELECTION.—At a meeting of the members of the Consett Co-operative Society, held in the Lecture Hall, on Saturday night, it was decided to instruct the Store Committee to nominate either one or two candidates and support them at the forthcoming election of four members of the Consett Local Board. The members retiring this year are Messrs Aynsley, Calvert, Siddell and Wade.

THE CASS CASE AGAIN: THE LORD CHANCELLOR AND MR NEWTON.—We understand that it has been decided not to make public the comments of the Lord Chancellor on the conduct of Mr Newton, metropolitan magistrate, in the Cass case. Mr Atherley-Jones was given the opportunity of seeing the document at the Home Office, and he is of opinion that, considering all the circumstances, it would be invidious to publish the details after the lapse of time.—*Sunday Chronicle*.

HONOURS TO A LATE RESIDENT.—We learn that Master John Thomas Smith (son of Mr Joseph Smith, formerly foreman for the late Mr Wm. Shell, Consett), has been successful in the competition for a science scholarship at the High School, Middlesborough. The scholarship is of the value of £36, including the fees for three years. He has attended the Wesleyan Day School, Middlesbro', since he left Consett.

SMOKING v. NON-SMOKING.—The weekly meeting of the Consett Wesleyal Mutual Improvement Class took place at the Nelson Street School-room, on Monday evening. There was a large attendance, presided over by Mr R. C. Forster. The subject of debate was "Should we smoke?" Messrs T. Foster and C. Lumley spoke in favour of smoking, whilst Messrs V. Dunn and J. Allison expressed an adverse opinion. On a division, the non-smokers were victorious by six votes, the majority being female members.

PRIMITIVE METHODISM.—During the present week the special revival services commenced a fortnight ago by Mrs Philipson, the popular "singing evangelist," in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Consett, have been continued with unbounded success. On Sunday night, the spacious chapel was crowded to excess to hear the eloquent discourse of this renowned evangelist. During each service Mrs Philipson renders selections of sacred music in a sweet and melodious manner, and fully retains her reputation as a singing evangelist. The services have been well-attended throughout, and much good has been done.

ANNUAL TOWNSHIP MEETING.—Yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, the annual ratepayers' meeting was held in the Local Board-room, Consett—Mr C. P. Douglas presiding. The retiring overseers, Messrs C. P. Douglas, Wm. Aynsley, Jos. Murray, and T. R. Dolphin, together with Messrs Robert Jackson, Adam Brodie, and Jesse Hall, were nominated for the office for the ensuing year. The assistant-overseer, Mr Wm. Elliott, applied for an advance of his salary, on the ground of increased work, between £3,000 and £4,000 more having to be collected by him owing to the newly-acquired additions to the township, and an advance of £10 per year was granted. He was also, with the permission of the waywarden, requested to collect the rates for the Highway Board district. The meeting requested the overseers to hold the township meeting next year in the evening.—Votes of thanks to the overseers and waywarden for their past services, and to the chairman, terminated the proceedings.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT 741ST STARR-BOWKETT BUILDING SOCIETY.—The third annual meeting was held in the small hall of the New Town Hall Consett, on Wednesday se'nnight.—Mr Thomas Swainston (Consett) in the chair. A very favourable balance sheet showing that the society's debt was reduced from £46 14s 5½d to £19 19 11d was presented to the meeting and adopted. The following five directors were elected for the next term—Messrs C. Lumley, C. W. Almond, T. Swainston, C. Davison, and C. Allison. The auditors (Messrs Fawell and Willey) were re-elected. It was decided at the close of the annual meeting, that the offices of the society will in future be at No 5 Mount Pleasant, Consett, and as will be seen from our advertising columns that this change takes place on Monday, April 2nd. The tenth appropriation subsequently took place.—Mr Swainston was also chairman of this meeting. Messrs J. Whitfield and R Lowrie acting as scrutineers. Mr Adam Brodie kindly consented to draw the balls. No 256 was drawn, representing Mr J. W. Harker, stationmaster, Blackhill, and he is entitled to an advance of £200 free of interest for 12½ years.

BLACKHILL.

A MAN MISSING.—An old man named Joseph Blackburn, living at Blackhill, wandered away from his home on Wednesday night, and has not since been heard of. He is 87 years of age, and is of weak intellect. It is believed some ill has befallen him.

UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCH.—Miss Johnson, a lady evangelist, is at present conducting a series of mission services in the above named place of worship at Blackhill.—A successful meeting was also held on Monday night, being addressed by various speakers.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

A PROLIFIC SHEEP.—Mr Henry Elsom, of East Law Farm, near Shotley Bridge, has on his premises a sheep which has had 24 lambs in eight years.

FLOODS IN THE DERWENT VALLEY.—In consequence of the rapid thaw which has set in, the River Derwent was on Wednesday and yesterday (Thursday) very much swollen.

LEADGATE.

The effects of the late snowstorm have been severely felt in the Leadgate neighbourhood, some of the roads being totally blocked. The local surveyor, Mr T. Longstaff, considers the storm to be worse than the one experienced a couple of years ago.

WEARDALE.

The quarterly meeting of the Weardale Circuit of Wesleyans was held at High House Chapel, when the ordinary routine of business was transacted. There is a slight increase in the membership.

DEATH OF AN OLD STANDARD.—There was interred at Frosterley Church last week, one of the old standards of Frosterley, Margaret Halliwell, over 70 years of age. At one time she was well-known in the village; but latterly she resided at Witton with her daughter, at which place she died. Her husband, it will be remembered, "Old Jimmy" Halliwell, died at Frosterley, four years ago.

ENTERTAINMENT AT FROSTERLEY.—On Saturday, an entertainment was held at the Bridge End School-room, under the auspices of the Frosterley Primitive Methodist Band of Hope. Mr A. Proud, Hill End, presided. The large room was packed, and an enjoyable evening was spent with songs, duets, readings, recitations, and a speech on temperance work by Mr John Gardner, leadminer, Hill End.

SPRING TIME COME AT LAST.—Wednesday was a beautiful day in Weardale—warm, genial, and sunny. The little wind there was was in the north-west. The heat of the sun, which shone all day in a clear, cloudless sky, melted the snow in the valley. In the evening it rained. Yesterday (Thursday) morning, the crows were building, and the thrushes were also singing merrily amid the melting snow.

GREAT WESLEYAN REVIVAL IN ROOKHOPE.—The Wesleyans in Rookhope are having a grand revival. Two evangelists are labouring among them—Mr and Mrs Wrestol. The services are crowded each evening, and upwards of 100 persons have been reclaimed from the bonds of sin and iniquity. Mrs Wrestol is a splendid singer, which is an attractive feature in the services. Mr Wrestol accompanies her on the violin in a most pleasing manner. They leave on Saturday for Westgate, Weardale.

ANGLING IN THE WEAR.—Several of the Wolsingham anglers had excellent sport with worm fishing in the Wear on 10th inst. The day being fine, and the weather genial and spring-like, consequent upon the thaw and melting snow on the Weardale hills, the river was in flood and in excellent condition. One angler killed 50 during the day, another 40, one about 30, and another 25. Mr J. Wallace the same day killed 33 in the Wear at Stanhope, and 20 on the Friday.

LANGLEY PARK.

SACRED CONCERT.—On Monday night, in the British Schools, Langley Park (kindly lent for the occasion), a successful cantata, entitled "Under the Palms; or, The Jewish Flower," was given by the Primitive Methodist choir, Langley Park, assisted by a few friends, numbering 50 voices. Mr Ritchie, Langley Park, presided. The soloists were:—Sopranos, Misses E. Thompson and E. Jackson; altos, Masters W. Cox and N. Anderson; tenor, Mr J. White; bass, Mr J. Anderson; harmoniumist, Mr R. Davis; and conductor, Mr J. B. Cox. Subjoined is the programme:—"Wake, captive, wake!" choir; "How does the city?" Mr White; "Thus saith Cyrus," J. Anderson, who was heartily *encored*; "Hear, hear, to Jerusalem," Mr J. Anderson; "We're marching home,' choir, was well received by the audience; "When the Lord turned again," Miss Jackson; "With joy we leave our captive state," choir; "Rest, pilgrims, rest," Mr J. Anderson. The poem, "Ahaba river," was recited by J. Wilkinson, receiving an enthusiastic *encore*; "The shepherd who biddest," Miss Jackson; "Little ones of God are we," choir; "The hostile way," Mr White; "When the soul draws near to God," Mr White; "Come, let us rejoice," choir; "Uplift your thankful eyes," Mr J. Anderson; "By the dark Euphrates," Messrs J. Anderson, J. White, Harker, and Haswell, which was very appropriately sung; "We remember the graces of our fathers," Miss Thompson; "He is a help to the helpless," Mr White; "Praise ye the Lord," Miss Jackson, which was sweetly sung. A cordial vote of thanks was tendered to the chairman and singers. The Chairman returned his compliments, and thus concluded an interesting and satisfactory entertainment.

HEDLEY HILL.

HEDLEY HILL TERRACE WESLEYAN CHAPEL.—On Saturday, Mr J. Wardle, Gateshead, delivered his popular lecture, entitled "What makes or mars the man?" Mr J. J. C. Allison occupied the chair.—On Sunday, Mr Wardle preached two powerful sermons to good congregations.

TOW LAW.

Rev W. B. Cooper, M.A., Durham, occupied the Tow Law Presbyterian pulpit on Sunday. In the morning he preached an appropriate sermon on "The treasures of the snow."

Concerts were given in the Tow Law Mechanics' Institute, on Saturday night, by Clifford's company, and on Monday and Wednesday evenings, by the De Vere family.

On Tuesday evening, the Presbyterian Church Mutual Improvement Society, Tow Law, held their fortnightly meeting, when an interesting paper on Charlotte Bronte was read by the vice-president, Mr J. Dodd.

ACCIDENTS AT BLACK PRINCE COLLIERY.—Wm. Simpson, a miner employed at Black Prince Colliery, Tow Law (belonging to the Weardale Iron and Coal Company), on Monday sustained severe injuries to his back and neck, owing to a heavy fall of stone. The doctors have some doubt as to his recovery.—A youth was also hurt at the same pit on Monday forenoon, and had to be taken home.

INCIDENTS OF THE STORM.—A funeral arranged to be held at Wolsingham, on Friday, had to be postponed, in consequence of the huge snowdrifts on the Wolsingham road. Traffic on the railways has been very seriously delayed and impeded—the line west of Tow Law, beyond High Stoop, has been blocked again and again during the week, and large gangs of snow-cutters have been employed daily. On Sunday, the Sunniside branch railway, which had been blocked since the Friday, thus preventing traffic being got to or from West Thornley and Sunniside Colliery, was opened out. On the same day (Sunday), a large number of men were engaged in the hazardous work of dis-lodging the immense quantities of snow which had fallen and rested on the sides of the very deep cutting a short way below Tow Law Station, making it dangerous for the trains running below. Nearly 150 truck loads of snow were rolled down the cutting sides and conveyed away further down the line.

IN PREPARATION FOR THE *CONSETT GUARDIAN*.

NEW AND INTERESTING LOCAL STORY.

A FATEFUL NIGHT:

A TALE OF A BERRYEDGE METHODIST MAID AND HER PITMAN LOVER.

BY RALPH FAIRLEY.

☞ SEE FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS. 155

BIRTLEY.

Sergeant Hutchinson apprehended Michael King, miner at Wardley Colliery, on Friday, charged with deserting his wife and child at Birtley on the 10th November, 1884. He was brought before Mr Newall and remanded until the 21st at Chester-le-Street police court.

WITTON GILBERT.

Mr Joseph Audi son of the Shiek of Ramallah, near Jerusalem, gave a lecture in the Wesleyan Chapel, Witton Gilbert, last week, on "The Holy Land and her people." Mr Urwin, Sniperley, acted as chairman.

WATERHOUSES.

BENEFIT CONCERT.—A successful concert for the benefit of three widows, who are in very straitened circumstances, was given in the Co-operative Hall, Waterhouses, on Wednesday se'nnight. Mr J. Morris, Esh, presided, and the members of Waterhouses Choral Society, conducted by Mr W. Harrison, accompanied on the harmonium by Mr J. Bowes, gave their services. The programme consisted of vocal and instrumental music, rendered in a very creditable manner. The pieces given by the full company were excellent, and the part songs, "King Cole," "The lass of Richmond Hill," trio, "Hot cross buns," round, "Tommy Day," song by Messrs Ward, Roberts, Harrison, Galley, and Taylor, were very highly appreciated. A duet, "The cottage by the brook," by Misses Moron and Taylor, was very sweetly sung, and "Our darling sleeps," and "The blind boy," by Miss Morton, were given in good style. Miss C. Griffith's rendering of her song, "The very worst girl in school," was excellent. A song, "Please, God, make room for a little boy," by Miss C. Chrissop, who has a very sweet voice, was much appreciated. "Fears ne'er daunt," by Mr J. Galley, was well executed; while Mr D. Roberts was *encored* each time for his rendering of the two comic songs, "He's still got the same old walk," and "The trotted me off to church." Mr G. C. Ward gave a very interesting reading in the Yorkshire dialect, entitled "Dawdles," which elicited much laughter, and a recitation was given by a little girl, Jane Johnson, entitled, "The maiden's lament," in fine style. Votes of thanks were accorded to the chairman and the performers, after which the National Anthem brought to a close an enjoyable evening.

RIDING MILL.

BROOMHAUGH AND RIDING MILL HABITATION (1747).—A meeting was held under the auspices of the above-named habitation on Thursday se'nnight, when an address was given by Mr W. H. A. Worsley, district agent of the Primrose League for Nort Northumbria—Mr Deputy-Ruling Councillor Lowry in the chair. Mr Worsley chose for his address the leading objects which should guide members of the league, and exhorted his hearers to remember that liberty, loyalty, and religion were the main planks in the platform of the Primrose League. Songs and glees were given by Messrs Greener, Swinburne, and Armstrong, the ladies parts being taken by Miss Lowry, Miss A. Armstrong, and Miss A. Richardson. Miss Fanny Wilson played the piano accompaniments in her accustomed excellent style. Readings were given by the Deputy Ruling Councillor, Mr E. Lowry, Broomhaugh, and Councillor Watt.—On the motion of the hon. secretary, Dr Maclagan, a hearty vote of thanks was proposed to Mr Worsley.—This was briefly seconded by Mr Watt, and carried by acclamation.—Mr Greener, in a very fitting manner, proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, Mr Deputy Ruling Councillor Lowry.—Mr Councillor T. Townsend seconded Mr Greener's proposition, and on its being put to the meeting it was enthusiastically carried.—To the hon. treasurer, Mr Councillor C. J. Bowster, every credit is also due for his efforts in connection with the Habitation. There was a fairly good attendance at the meeting, in spite of the severe weather.

SPEN COLLIERY.

CONCERT.—Mr T. J. Robson's Excelsior Comic Concert Company, from Newcastle, gave a concert in the Miners' Hall, Spen, to a very large audience. The programme was a long and appreciative one, and the audience were thoroughly satisfied with the talent displayed.

MINSTREL ENTERTAINMENT.—On Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in last week, the Newmain Family paid a visit to the Miners' Hall, Spen Colliery, with their minstrel company, and were received by only a moderate attendance. The Newman company deserve every credit for their entertainment. The weather was very unfavourable, and that doubtless would prevent the attendance being larger.

WYLAM-ON-TYNE.

SOCIAL GATHERING.—The members of the Spen Excelsior Reed Band held a supper at the house of an old and esteemed friend, Mr John Philipps, Bird Inn, Wylam. Twenty-six persons sat down to partake of a substantial supper, which was provided by the worthy host and hostess, the viands being of the choicest quality. After all had full justice, the cloth was removed. Mr John Appleby (Wylam) occupied the chair, and Mr Luke Murray (Prudhoe) the vice-chair. "The health of the host and hostess" was proposed by Mr C. Summerside, and responded to in the usual way. The remainder of the evening was occupied by the band playing selections of music, which were well rendered. At intervals there was singing by the following gentlemen:—Messrs G. Hewison, J. Veal, G. Summerside, W. Laing, C. Summerside, S. Moreland, R. Lowdon, and A. Spears, jun., the last-mentioned being greatly applauded for his songs. After all were well satisfied with the evening's entertainment, the best thanks of the company were tendered to Mr and Mrs Philipps for the kindness which they have always shown to the members of the Spen Band. Mr Philipps, in responding to the compliment, said he felt it his duty to return thanks, and he sincerely hoped that the friendship which now existed between the members of the Spen Band and himself would never be rent asunder. The proceedings terminated by the band playing "Auld Lang Syne," and "Wylam away."

WEST STANLEY.

CONCERT.—On Saturday evening, a grand concert was held in St. Joseph's Roman Catholic school-room, West Stanley—the place being packed to the door. The programme was as follows:—Solo, entitled "surely," by Miss McDermott; duet, "Irish knock-abouts," by Messrs Young and Doyle, which was *encored*, and "Soldiers in character" was given in response; solo, "Give me the man with an honest heart," Mr J. Hughes, *encored*, and he gave "Erin's Isle" in answer; solo, by Mr M. Connell, "That's what the old man said; solo, "I am going to Ameri-ka," by Mr P. Doyle, *encored*, and "Still upon guard" was given; solo, "Killarney's lakes," Miss McDermott; Mr J. Hughes, "I won't hear old Ireland run down; solo, by Mr C. Young, "Lovely day" (Dutch), *encored*, for which "Song and dance" was given; solo, "Caller herring," by Miss McDermott; solo, "School-board man," by Mr P. Doyle, *encored*, and "Might be clever, but she can't do that," was given in response; solo, "Golden Wedding," by Mr P. Doyle. Mr Rowell presided at the pianoforte, and was accompanied by Mr G. Forster's string band, who ably performed their part. The concert was brought to a close by Messrs Young and Doyle, from Newcastle, who did a roaring business in the Irish comedians.

CASTLESIDE.

Our readers will see in referring to our advertising columns that the Castleside Wesleyan Sunday School anniversary takes place on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

DISTURBING DIVINE SERVICE.—At Chester-le-Street Petty Sessions on Wednesday, *Jane Healy*, a woman of weak intellect, was charged with disturbing divine service at the parish church Chester-le-Street on the 6th inst.—Mr Kerrich Walker, from the Bench, said the rector had agreed to withdraw the charge against defendant if she would promise not to offend again. He had also paid the costs for her.—Jane said she had been advised by ministers to go to the church, "but she would not do it again."

THE "OJIBBEWAYS."—In spite of the unfavourable weather, the Ojibbeway Minstrel troupe attracted a crowded audience at the Co-operative Hall on Saturday night, large numbers being refused admission for want of room. The minstrels introduced several new items for the first time, including a new song, composed by Mr C. Fisher, entitled "Lucinda loved a Chinaman," which was excellently sung by Mr R. J. Fisher, and the other corner men, Messrs J. H. Woods, D. McPherson, H. J. Morrison, A. Hutchinson, and J. Lauder were successful in their efforts to please. The whole programme was gone through in capital style.

FUNERAL OF SERGT.-MAJOR HORNSBY.—On Sunday afternoon, the remains of Sergt.-Major Joseph Hornsby, late of the 25th Regiment, and for five years drill instructor to the Chester-le-Street Rifle Corps, were interred at Chester-le-Street. Deceased was a man of Herculean build, and stood 6ft. 2½in. without his shoes. He was a man of indomitable courage, with an iron will, and most assiduous and painstaking in the discharge of every detail connected with regimental duties. Possessing great experience, gained during his 21 years' service with the colours, he showed at all times great administrative talent. Deceased at the time of his death was 47 years old; he joined the army when he was 17, enlisting in the 1st battalion of the 25th Regiment, or the King's Own Borderers. He acted as sergeant-major of the regiment during the last four years he was with the colours, the regiment being then stationed in India. After leaving the regiment he served nine years on the staff, acting as sergeant-instructor to the Felling Detachment for four years, and as sergeant-major to the regiment and instructor to the Chester-le-Street Detachment the last five years. The loss of Sergt.-Major Hornsby will be severely felt in the regiment, and the news of his death was received with sorrow and regret by all classes. At the express wish of deceased there was no military funeral, and it was conducted as privately as possible.

PRUDHOE.

UNIONIST MEETING.—On Thursday night, under the auspices of the Newcastle and Northumberland Liberal Unionist Association, a meeting was held in the National Schools, Prudhoe, for the purpose of hearing an address on the Irish question by Mr Arthur Patton, barrister, Dublin. Mr Owen C. Wallis, Bradley Hall, occupied the chair, and amongst those present were Mr T. Bates, Prudhoe Grange; Mr Jos. Wormald, Mr J. Davison, Mr T. M. Falconer, Mr R. Wardle, Mr J. W. Robson (secretary of the Newcastle and Northumberland Liberal Unionist Association); and Mr Ed. Sisterson, Corbridge. Taking into consideration the very stormy weather, the attendance was most satisfactory.

HAMSTERLEY COLLIERY.

The Hon. J. P. Vereker has left the Langham Hotel for Hamsterley Hall, where he is now sojourning.

STANHOPE.

The Stanhope Band of Hope held an entertainment on Saturday in the Temperance Hall, Stanhope—Mr W. Burn presiding. A choice selection of recitations, songs, &c., was rendered.

A POPULAR CLERGYMAN.—Rev J. W. Rees, curate-in-charge, preached an excellent sermon to a large audience on Sunday evening, in Stanhope church. The rev gentleman is very popular with the good people at Stanhope, and many are the wishes that he may permanently become curate in the very place where Butler made himself immortal.

WESLEYAN METHODISM AT STANHOPE.—The Wesleyan Methodists at Stanhope are launching out. They are to have a Japanese fair, an exhibition of curiosities and inventions, and a grand bazaar for the sale of useful and ornamental goods. Monster tea meetings and coffee suppers as well. They are also trying to arrange with the North-Eastern Railway Company for a special train up the valley and down each day, and if they are only successful in running a special train up and down on the four days the success of the affair is ensured.

INCIDENT OF THE STORM.—A Stanhope limestone quarryman lost a shilling down among the snow one night last week in the street. He searched hard and long for it with a candle, but unsuccessfully. Not to be outdone, a bright idea struck him; he went home and soon landed back with a shovel and a sack, and filled a sackful of the snow where the coin fell, took it home, and melted it, but unlike the women in the scripture, although he searched diligently, yet he did not find it.

CATCHGATE

We regret to hear that one day this week, Mr Geo. Hobson, of Harperley Mills, Catchgate, fell on the ice and hurt his side.

ROWLEY.

BAPTIST CHURCH.—The annual members' tea and *reunion* meeting was held last (Thursday) night, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather and the almost impassible state of the roads. There was a goodly number of members in attendance. After tea, a hymn was sung, and prayer offered, and the pastor (Rev E. W. Jenkins) gave an address on the requirements and qualifications of a successful church. In reviewing the past year, he spoke affectionately of several members who in that period had left the Church Militant for the Church Triumphant, but whose influence would not soon be lost, nor their devotion and loyalty to the Captain of their Salvation be forgotten, and in forecasting the future, said that their theology was scriptuaal theology. They were fully satisfied with that, and with that alone. Their theology was as broad as the New Testament, and that was broad enough for them. This made their future bright with hope, and radiant with promise, because they were fulfilling the conditions necessary to the full enjoyment of the covenant of God's promises.—Mr Elliott Leybourne, senior deacon, then gave the financial and statistical accounts. Several new appointments were made. As the chapel-keeper is about to remove from the district, a new chapel-keeper was appointed, and new collectors were also appointed.—The meeting was a long one, and a good deal of church business was transacted. The greatest unanimity prevailed in the meeting, and all proved clearly that pastor, officers, and members are working unitedly, lovingly, and earnestly in the grace of God the Father, the love of Jesus Christ, and in the fellowship and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

BURNHOPE COLLIERY.

CONCERT AND PRESENTATION.—On Saturday evening, the workmen and friends of at Burnhope Colliery met together to present Mr William Stephenson with a testimonial in recognition of his services as fore overman for the past seven years.—After a somewhat lengthy programme had been gone through, consisting of vocal and instrumental music, Mr A. Bartley was called upon to make the presentation, and in doing so, said he had great pleasure in presenting, on behalf of the workmen, to Mr Stephenson a handsome silver watch and gold albert, and also to Mrs Stephenson a diamond ring, and he felt sure they would not value them so much on account of their real worth as they would consider them as tokens of esteem and respect.—Mr Stephenson replied concisely, and in a few well-chosen remarks expressed his thankfulness for the benevolence they had bestowed upon Mrs Stephenson and himself. Songs were sung during the evening by Messrs Shotton, Hovells, Richardson, Jackson, Peel, and Wallace, who were accompanied by Messrs Costello and Hovells, violinists; and Mr J. H. Sloane, violoncello. A vote of thanks to the performers, who had rendered their services spontaneously, brought a most delightful and enjoyable meeting to a close.

TANFIELD.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.—The monthly entertainment of the Tanfield branch was given by the members on Tuesday evening, in the National school-room, Tanfield, and although the weather was not very inviting, the attendance was very good. The chair was taken by Mr Jas. Gilchrist, of Marley Hill.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

Y.M.C.A.—The usual Saturday nights' services of the above were held in the Board School, Annfield Plain, on March 17th, and was, notwithstanding the inclement weather and the absence of the speakers from Sunderland, a decided success. The meeting was ably presided over by the vice president, Mr P. Reay. Suitable addresses were given by Messrs J. Down and J. McPherson. Solos were sung by Messrs Wm. Greener, and Armstrong Forster. The Mission Band also enhanced the service by playing several beautiful pieces. A supper, to which about 100 sat down, brought the meeting to a close.

LANCHESTER.

A ewe belonging to Mr Jos. Leybourne, of Margery Flatts, Lanchester, has dropped three lambs.

ELECTION OF GUARDIANS.—Under the triennial service of Guardians, the Returning Officer (Mr W. H. Ritson) notifies that elections will take place in the Lanchester Union this year in the undermentioned places:—Parish of Collierley and Pontop, 2 Guardians; Greencroft, 1; Kyo, 2; and Tanfield, 4. The nominations must be sent in by the 26th inst, and a list of the candidates will be issued on the 27th March. The voting papers, in the event of contests, will be delivered on the 7th proximo, and collected on the 9th, and the votes counted up on the 10th April.

WOLSINGHAM.

BAPTIST CHAPEL.—Rev R. Herries, of North Shields, gave a lecture in the Wolsingham Baptist Chapel, on Monday night, on "A holiday on the mountains of Norway." The lecture was followed by a coffee supper and entertainment. Rev R. Scott, pastor, presided.

BAPTIST CHAPEL.—The last social gathering of the season in connection with the Baptist Chapel, Wolsingham, was held on Monday evening—Rev R. Scott presiding. The meeting began with a lecture by Rev R. Herries, North Shields, on "A holiday on the mountains of Norway." A supper, generously given by several members of the church and congregation, was partaken of by a large number. An excellent programme was then entered upon, consisting of solos, duets, trios choruses, readings, and recitations, all the artistes acquitting themselves creditably. Mr C. Lacey presided at the harmonium.

SERIOUS QUARRY ACCIDENT AT FROSTERLEY.

FALLING SIXTY FEET.

On Wednesday, Mr Joseph Craig, jun., of Kiln House, Frosterley, accidentally fell over the quarry face at the limestone quarry of Messrs Ord and Maddison, known as the "Midge and Fly" quarry, a distance of 60 feet. He was conveyed home, and the aid of Dr Robinson was summoned. There were no external bruises, but it was feared he was bruised internally. Grave fears are entertained respecting him.

THE LANCHESTER ASSISTANT-SURVEYOR.

Yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, the members of the Castle Eden and Seaham Highway Board proceeded to fill up the vacancy of district surveyor, caused by the death of Mr Clarke, of Cherryknowle. A large amount of interest has been centred in the appointment, and the fact that there were originally over 120 applicants, proved that the competition was keen. The number was reduced to six, and, eventually Mr Dixon, son of the highway surveyor of Lanchester, was appointed. The salary is £165 per annum, inclusive of travelling expenses.

LATE FOOTBALL.

The Tanfield Swifts will be glad to arrange matches with any good first or second teams. Any clubs that are in want of matches please write to M. Webb, sec. to the Swifts, Tanfield Lea, No 1, George Street, via Lintz Green.

MICKLEY v HOBSON RANGERS, AT MICKLEY.—The following will represent the home team:—G. Young, goal; R. Best and W. Middleton, backs; E. Henderson, T. Stokoe, and J. Wilkin, half-backs; G. E. Middleton, jun., G. Crowe, G. Bailey, J. R. Charlton, and J. Tiffin, forwards.

CONSETT 2ND v HUMBLETON 2ND.—The following team will represent Consett in the first ties of the Durham Rugby Cup (second teams) to be played at Sunderland to-morrow (Saturday):—Back, A. Kempster; three-quarter backs, Wood, Atken, and T. Grey; half-backs, Wm. Gibson and J. Askew; forwards, F. Moss, J. Lancaster, J. W. Robinson, A. Wilson, T. Lumsden, G. Smiles, J. J. Smart, M. Williamson, and Sam Brodie (captain).

FATAL ACCIDENT AT VICTORIA GARESFIELD COLLIERY.

ONE MAN KILLED AND THREE OTHERS INJURED.

On Wednesday, a fatal accident occurred at Victoria Garesfield Colliery new drift, by which a man named Anthony Laws, rolleywayman at the above colliery, lost his life, and three other workmen—Campbell (deputy), Wilkinson (joiner), and a young man named P. Newton—were injured, the latter seriously, by a fall of stone. Newton was unable to speak for some time after he was got out of the drift, having had his collar-bone broken, and likewise some of his ribs. The other two men were not so seriously hurt. The drift is worked on the endless rope system, and the accident was caused by a set of tubs running amain drawing some timber, the result being that a fall of stone took place. These men afterwards went to clear the fall away, when a second fall of stone occurred, burying the unfortunate man Laws underneath it, and killing him instantaneously. Newton also narrowly escaped death. The stone was of a considerable size, and took the men a long time before they could get the man extricated from his perilous position. The drift was laid idle yesterday (Thursday) until the Mines Inspector attends to inspect the place. The colliery belongs to Messrs Priestman and Sons.

THE PRINCESS CHRISTIAN, whose interest in nursing is so well known, will contribute an article, on "Nursing as a profession for women," to the April number of the *Woman's World*.

SHOOTING AT WINLATON.—A large company assembled in a field at Winlaton to witness a pigeon shooting match between John Greener, Path Head, and James Aitcheson, Winlaton, who shot at seven birds each, for £5 a-side, when Greener won by grassing four birds to his opponent's three birds.

WE learn that the new novel, "Mr Barnes of New York" will be given away—as extra gratis supplements—with Nos. 235 and 236 of *Cassell's Saturday Journal*, published on March 27th and April 4th respectively. In No. 235 (which will form the first number of a new volume), two new serial stories will be commenced, viz., "Lady Biddy Fane," a tale of adventure, by Frank Barrett, illustrated by J. Finnemore, and "An American Penman" (from the diary of Inspector Byrnes, Chief of the New York Detective Force), by Julian Hawthorne.

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

"ROUGH ON CORNS"—Ask Chemists, Perfumers, or Grocers for "Wells' Rough on Corns." Quick, complete, permanent cure for hard or soft corns, warts, bunions, [illegible]

STANHOPE PETTY SESSIONS.

FRIDAY, March 17th.—Before Dr ARNISON.

SCARCITY OF MAGISTRATES

There being only one magistrate present at this court on Friday, on account of the storm, only two drunken cases were tried; all the other cases were adjourned.

THE DRUNKEN LIST.

Thomas Urwin, quarryman, Martin Street, Stanhope, was charged by Sergeant George with being drunk at Stanhope, on the 10th inst.—Fined 0s. including costs.

William Porter, quarryman, Frosterley, was charged with a similar offence at that place, on the 12th inst.—Fined 7s 6d, including costs.

LEAVING WORK WITHOUT GIVING NOTICE.

Four Newlandside quarrymen were summoned for leaving work without proper notice, by the manager, Mr James Smurthwaite.—Adjourned till next week.

CRABS, which are supposed to shed their shells every year, do not often shed them after they have attained their full size, and the creatures become victims to barnacles and all sorts of marine growths that fasten themselves upon the shell.

GLAD LIVES.—Few things are so conducive to a cheerful spirit as that habit of mind which takes delight in the common and ordinary things of life. The songs of birds and the fragrance of flowers, the bright sky and the fresh grass, the mirth of children, the interests of home, the society of friends, the day's vacation when a longer one is denied, the little gift where a costly one is impossible, the thousand little acts of kindness and courtesy, of charity and benevolence, that cost so little and mean so much—such things—and their name is Legion—may, if they are permitted, fill up the life with gladness and the heart with cheerfulness. But, when they are pushed aside as not worth attention, and every nerve is strained to the utmost after costly and far-off illusions, it is no wonder that the starved capacity for happiness should dwindle away, and that a gloomy discontent, born of hope long deferred, should drive the smile from the lips and the cheer from the heart.

SHOD WITH GOLD.—In the year 1855 a store-keeper, named Donald Cameron, carrying on business at Woolshed, was elected first member of Parliament for the Ovens District, and he had the honour—unique in the history of the colony—of being driven in triumph from the Woolshed into Beechworth in a gig, with tandem team, the leading horse of which was shod with gold. An old resident of the district writes the following particulars of the occurrence:—"Just before the election an eccentric individual known as 'Tinker Brown,' who had made a lot of money on the diggings, suddenly purchased a circus, with tents, horses, waggons, &c., complete, and coming into Beechworth with his company, he offered to drive the newly elected member and supply golden horseshoes for the occasion. The Woolshed 'bosses,' who were greatly elated at the result of the election, warmly took up Brown's idea, and they resolved, in addition, to present their member with a diamond scarf pin. The horseshoes were made by a working jeweller named Tofield, and weighed nine ounces each. The team was driven from Woolshed to Beechworth.

LOVABLE FRIENDS.—There are friends who are simply beings to love and admire—people who fill your heart with tenderness, for whom you feel the most entire admiration, whose very faults are so harmonious to their general characters that you are fain to love them too, and would be unwilling to see them other than what they are. These friends have the divine use of calling forth your love. In their presence you have never an angry feeling, never a bitter thought. They are morally like some cool green flower-scented arbour where you rest on a burning summer day and get refreshment for the onward climb in the fiery open. You cannot analyse your situation—you only know that you feel. When you go to them, you go into peace. You hear no bitter judgments, no harsh words, no uncharitable surmises. Ridicule is an art unknown to them, and anger follows the fate of ridicule. They think that men are better than bad, and that people as a rule try to do their best. When things are patently evil, and even charity finds her cloak too short and small for the covering, they prefer not to speak. To others belongs the task of condemnation; to them only that of excuse when they can, of charitable silence when they cannot. Such sweet and gentle-hearted people are priceless.

A FAMOUS LITERARY PARTNERSHIP.—In a preface to "Ready Money Mortiboy," which is the first to appear in the literary edition of the novels of Messrs. Besant and Rice, as it was the first to be written, Mr. Walter Besant tells the story of the partnership that resulted in the production of so many deservedly popular works. The acquaintance between the two writers began in a singular manner. Mr. Besant, in the winter of 1867-8, sent to *Once a Week* a paper containing an account of a visit to the island of Réunion. Hearing nothing in reply, he began to think of writing for the return of the MS. when he found that the article had already appeared. He had not seen the proofs, and a number of exasperating mistakes were made. He therefore wrote to demand an explanation, and received a note signed "James Rice," begging him to call, and explaining that the article had been found among other matter in type and passed for press, without any indication as to the name of the author or that it had not been corrected. Mr. Besant says he found his editor "a pleasant and friendly creature, anxious to set himself right" with him, and desirous of hearing from him again. At that time Mr. Rice had just bought the ill-fated journal, intending to make it a means for the employment of his superfluous energies while reading for the Bar. For two years Mr. Besant was an occasional contributor, and a friendship sprang up between himself and the editor, which culminated in the latter asking him, in the autumn of 1871, to join in writing a novel, for which he (Mr. Rice) had in his mind a central figure and a leading situation. Mr. Rice had already written a serial for the journal, but without bestowing adequate pains upon it, and Mr. Besant had had, in 1866, a MS. returned from a publisher with the report—"a work of promise." He had also written Christmas stories. The joint novel was agreed upon and written, "but," says Mr. Besant, "we did not get rich by the success of Dick Mortiboy." "My Little Girl" followed, and was better appreciated at the libraries. After this Rice had to give up *Once a Week*, and he addressed himself to the Bar for a time. But the two authors once more joined forces in "With Harp and Crown," which came out in 1874, and then other novels and a play followed in quick succession until 1881, when Rice was seized with fatal illness. It is interesting to read that just before the issue of "When the Ship Comes Home," the authors discovered that its leading incident, or one exactly similar, had done service in Charles Reade's "Foul Play." It was too late, however, to alter it, and, fortunately, no one accused them of plagiarism, which, it is stated, if committed, was at least unconscious.

An individual applies to the cab company for a situation. "Do you know how to drive?" "Yes, sir." "You know that you must be polite with all your passengers?" "Ah!" "And honest. For example, what would you do if you should find in your cab a pocket-book containing £5,000?" "Nothing at all. I should live on my income."

A young lady lately asked a gentleman the meaning of the word "surrogate," and the gentleman explained it to her as "a gate through which parties have to get married." "Then I imagine," said the lady, "that it is a corruption of sorrow-gate." "You are right, miss," replied her informant, "as woman is an abbreviation of woe to man."

An ancient Bohemian, who had come into a snug fortune, is felicitated warmly by an old acquaintance. "Yes," said the new Crœsus reflectively, "it is a pleasant thing to have money. And do you know what is most agreeable about it? You feel, sir, that you are appreciated; you find friends who esteem you for your own qualities alone."

Last night the doorbell of a tradesman in Toxteth rang violently several times in succession, and on going to it he found a green Irish girl who put the following questions to him—"Duz me sisther live here?" "What is your sister's name?" asked he. "Ca-athrine," said she. "No," said the tradesman, and shut the door. In half an hour she came again, in like manner, and asked, "Kaint ye tell me where she lives?"

THE NEW HIGH SHERIFF OF DURHAM.

The new High Sheriff of Durham, whose name was pricked by the Queen at Windsor on Saturday is Mr David Dale, J.P., D.L., of West Lodge, Darlington. The distinguished honour thus conferred on one of the most far-seeing and public spirited of the social and political leaders of the North comes as a natural enough incident in a career of no ordinary distinction.

While Mr Dale's high standing amply qualifies him for an office essentially aristocratic in form and mode of appointment, he has, as has not infrequently been the case with our High Sheriffs, preserved keen sympathies with the masses of the population of the county of Durham. The appointment may carry with it a necessity for some temporary abridgement of the manifold public duties in which Mr Dale has long been an acknowledged leader and guide. But, indeed, had not the English custom of separating executive authority from party politics dictated this course, some relaxation will seem to be needful to make room for new duties in the crowded daily life of Mr David Dale. There are limits to the capacity for work even of a captain of industry whose powers of getting things done are the envy of necessitous business men. Probably only Mr Dale himself could tell how much labour is entailed on him by the vast mineral and manufacturing concerns in which he is partner. The huge industries at Consett rehabilitated and to a large extent created by his foresight and insight, with its vast estates at Bilbao, its collieries and furnaces and railway at home, and its industrial cohorts of skilled workmen, is still under his active supervision. Appointed managing director on the formation of the company in 1864, Mr Dale only retired from that position to undertake directorial responsibilities. On the death of his old friend, Mr John Henderson, formerly M.P. for the city of Durham, Mr Dale was elected to the chairmanship of the Board. Public opinion persists in attributing to his business talents a large measure of that success which still makes Consett the envy of the northern capitalists. Antedating by some years the Consett chairmanship Mr Dale had become a partner in the firm of Messrs Joseph Pease and Partners and Messrs J. W. Pease and Co. now amalgamated as Pease and Partners (Limited.) He is also a director in the Barrow Hematite Steel Company, of the Owners of the Middlesborough Estate (Limited), Robert Stephenson and Co. (Limited), and Chairman of the Directorates of the Consett Spanish Ore (Limited), of the Lindd[illegible] and Ousby Iron Company (Limited), Orconera Iron Ore Company (Limited), and of the Weardale and Shildon District Waterworks Company. The recreations of Mr Dale, it will be seen, take the form of change of occupation. Caring little for the ordinary amusements and sports that are so much affected by laborious idlers, he has found in public work a rest from private business. Vast as are Mr Dale's business engagements, his public labours are perhaps more various still. No movement in his neighbourhood, or in the north generally, whose object is laudable, but has enjoyed the advantages of his clear exposition, forcible advocacy, and singular power of reconciling differences of opinion.

It is hardly possible to hear Mr Dale, from the presidential chair of public assemblies he fills so often and so well, without feeling that his felicity of phrase, calm temper, admirable impartiality, and exactitude of expression mark him out as a man who would have adorned the bench of judges. The ability to master quickly and thoroughly the smallest details of business, and to pierce right to the root of their meaning, is probably the gift which of all others has conduced to Mr Dale's commercial as well as social eminence. But that gift has been as ungrudgingly used for others' services as for his own. When that time comes — which we all trust and humanly speaking have reason to believe is far distant—when the life of Mr Dale shall have to be reviewed as a whole, it will then be seen to have moulded in large measure the new era of arbitration and conciliation which has happily displaced the barbarities of industrial warfare. Twenty years ago the principles of arbitration and conciliation were expounded to the North by Mr Dale; and mainly through his instrumentality it was that the beautiful theory became translated into beneficent fact. In the fulness of time he became the initiator of his own great work, as first-elected President of the Board of Conciliation for the Northern Iron Trade—a position for which he proved himself to be ideally fitted. His very presence at the Board always seemed to impose calmness and patience and a judicial attitude on his brother members. It will be in the recollection of many readers how in 1881, on his retirement from the presidential chair, Mr Dale was made the subject of one of the most remarkable demonstrations that ever fell to the lot of a public man. A splendid portrait by Ouless, which had adorned the National Gallery that season, subscribed for by operative and capitalist members of the Board alike, was presented to him in Darlington Central Hall, in the presence of a multitude of representatives of every class of industrial enterprise and social improvement. Employer and workman alike vied with each other in bearing testimony to the services Mr Dale had rendered to each by decisions which satisfied both. At that Board, from which he then nominally retired, his influence still survives. Hardly a meeting takes place without the mention of his name or the citing of his authority on some interesting precedent. With the advancement of popular culture the new High Sheriff has been all his life honourably associated. The carrying of the Education Act of 1870 was aided by his counsels; its administration had the help of his invaluable practical service. The primary and secondary education of a great district, supplemented by the University Extension work of more recent years, has had no firmer friend or more faithful supporter. In this connection we may be excused for regarding it as an incident worthy of "honourable mention"—interesting alike to the public and the press—that, a few months ago, our new High Sheriff acceded to the unanimous wish of his colleagues in accepting the chairmanship of a local Newspaper Company.

In the railway world the High Sheriff of Durham is a prominent figure. Formerly head of the executive of the first passenger railway, the old Stockton and Darlington, he is now one of the most experienced of the many able men who form the Board of Directors of the great North-Eastern system. When a few years ago the first Government of Lord Salisbury issued a Royal Commission under the chairmanship of the late Lord Iddesleigh to investigate the state of trade throughout the country, Mr David Dale was one of the few prominent experts not possessing seats in either House of Parliament selected to conduct the onerous inquiry. The work was one in which he took great interest, and his connection with it elicited features of utility and importance well known to the industries of the North. It has often been regretted that he was not in the House of Commons. At the Political Economy Club and elsewhere his name is familiar as an expert on subjects in which legislators ought to be adepts. But it has been otherwise decreed. Mr Dale is better known as a student than as a propagandist. In Darlington, in South East Durham, in the Barnard Castle Division, and in Richmondshire, he has rendered splendid services to the Liberal cause. But his high regard to the important duties devolving upon him outside the portals of St. Stephen's has had the effect of leading him successively to decline invitations from York and Scarborough, from Consett, Durham, and Darlington, eagerly pressed upon him by these constituencies. It has been said of Mr Dale, and truly said, that he has had to take as much pains to keep out of Parliament as many members of the House of Commons have had to secure a coveted seat in the British Legislature. Political opponents will probably not regret the Queen's appointment of Mr Dale to be High Sheriff, because, in the event of a general election, it rusticates a Liberal Chief in order to produce a model Returning Officer. Anxious as we naturally are to see Lord Salisbury and Mr Balfour arraigned at the bar of public opinion in the ancient Palatinate, we are not unwilling they should both be respited to the shrievalty of a successor of the newly-elected Sheriff. Come what else may, in the interval between now and then, the prerogatives and dignity of the office will suffer no disparagement by the tenure of its occupancy by Mr David Dale.—*Northern Echo.*

Cricket.

Wolsingham Cricket Club.—At the annual meeting of the members of this club the following officers were elected:—President, Mr J. E. Rogerson; captain, Mr R. Wilkinson; vice-captain, Mr John Vasey; secretary, Mr Geo. Herron, jun.

Daisy Hill Royal Blues Junior Cricket Club have several vacant dates, and would like to arrange matches with other clubs.—W. Graham, secretary, 25, Hunter's Terrace, Edmondsley, *via* Chester-le-Street.

Football.

FIXTURES.

Mar. 24.—Consett v West Hartlepool, at Hartlepool.
,, 24.—Shotley Bridge (St. Cuthbert's) v Ryton 3rd, at Shotley Bridge.
,, 24.—Leadgate Exiles v Auckland Lilies, at Bishop Auckland.
,, 24.—Leadgate v Percy Iron Works, at Leadgate.
,, 24.—Burnopfield v Gateshead (St. Mary's), at Gateshead.
,, 24.—Hobson Temperance Rangers v Hebburn Argyle, at Hebburn Colliery.
,, 24.—Hobson Temperance Rangers 2nd v Gallowgate Leather Works 2nd, at Newcastle.
,, 24.—Tantobie v West End Reserve, at Newcastle.
,, 24.—Mickley v Harp, at Newcastle.
,, 24.—Swalwell v Scotswood Harriers, at Swalwell.
,, 24.—Swalwell 2nd v Postal Telegraph, at Newcastle.

DURHAM ASSOCIATION CUP.

Semi Final.

Bishop Auckland Church Institute v. Birtley.—These clubs met in the semi-final round for the Durham Challenge Cup, at Feethams, Darlington. After the recent stormy weather, it could not be expected that the ground would be in condition to permit of anything like first-rate play, and, as a matter of fact, the turf was covered with hard snow, some inches deep. It was a bitterly cold day, which, of course, militated against a good "gate," many persons refraining from paying the admission because they did not believe the match would be considered a cup tie. Result:—Bishop Auckland Church Institute, seven goals; Birtley two. We understand that Birtley entered a protest, first, because of the state of the ground, and, second, because of the inability of several of their own team to put in an appearance on account of the storm.

FOOTBALL NOTES.

The whole of the football fixtures in the Consett district had to be abandoned on Saturday, on account of the severe snowstorm prevailing.

Ouston have Saturday first and Good Friday vacant, and would like to arrange with good first teams (home ground preferred). — Address, T. Nelson, Ouston, Chester-le-Street.

Mr T. D Dales, hon. secretary of the Medomsley Club, thus writes to a contemporary:—"I am sorry I have again to write to you complaining of the conduct of city football clubs towards clubs in the country. At the beginning of the present season we arranged fixtures with West End Reserve, and played the first game on their ground. The return was fixed for Saturday week, and we had everything ready for them. On Friday morning the hon. sec. (Mr High) wrote saying they couldn't raise a team, and 'hoped we should be able to get another match.'"

Trade Notes.

Pelton Fell and the Coal Dues.—A largely attended meeting of the workmen of Pelton Fell Collieries was held in the Colliery School-room, at Pelton Fell, on Thursday night. Mr R. Cramond in the chair.—The Chairman said the meeting was to protest against the renewal of the London Coal Tax. He moved "That this meeting regrets that any attempt should be made by the Metropolitan authorities to induce Parliament to pass a Bill, during the present session, for the further continuance of the London coal dues beyond the year 1889, believing such tax to be injurious to the mining industries and also detrimental to the manufactories on the Thames, and presses on the poor of London. And this meeting humbly prays that Parliament will not sanction the same; and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Right Hon. W. E Gladstone."—Mr John Pyle seconded the motion, and dealt exhaustively with the subject.—The resolution was carried unanimously.

DURHAM MINERS' AND THE NEW SPECIAL RULES.

The Durham Miners' Association agents on Tuesday issued to the Press a statement respecting the posting-up at several collieries of special rules for the guidance of the employees of the collieries. The rules, as framed have the effect, it is stated, of shifting nearly all the responsibility of the collieries from the managers and under-managers, who, under the new Mines Bill, are certificated men, and placing it upon the shoulders of the overmen, deputies and minor officials. Under the Mines Act of 1872 the rules were submitted to a committee of owners, managers, Government inspectors, and representatives of the workmen, and great surprise is felt that that course had not been followed on the occasion. The agitation thus aroused has been somewhat allayed by the issue of a circular from the Association to each of the lodges in the county, advising them to make all their objections to the managers, and to the officials of the association at Durham. The circular states that the Government Inspectors, on behalf of the Home Secretary, will object to the rules as now framed. The enginemen in various parts of the county have also complained to their agents that the rules have been drawn up in such a way as to throw upon them what in their opinion is an undue and unfair amount of responsibility.

Action Against the Miners' Relief Fund.—At the Durham County Court before His Honour Judge Meynell—Patrick Joyce, Neville's Cross, Durham, sought to recover from the Northumberland and Durham Miners' Permanent Relief Fund the sum of £23, on a contract of insurance entered into by the defendants with Thos. Joyce, son of the plaintiff. Thomas Joyce became a member of the Permanent Fund, rule 36 of which stated "members or persons claiming through them shall be entitled only to relief for accidents which may happen in the mine or at their way to or from their work. Such journeys shall be deemed to commence on leaving home and ending on their return." Some months ago Thomas Joyce, who was employed at the Framwellgate Moor Colliery, left his work about five o'clock at night and went to a public-house, where he remained till ten o'clock. He was accompanied towards his house by a friend, but both men were very drunk. Joyce was left lying on the footpath near a bridge which crosses the railway at Red Hills. On the following morning his dead body was found on the rails underneath the bridge, and this was claimed on plaintiff's behalf to be within the meaning of the rule providing for relief in the case of accidents occurring to members on their way to or from work.—In defence it was alleged that plaintiff had in various ways violated his part of the contract, but in the result judgement was given for the plaintiff. At the outset Mr Dix, who was for the denfendants, objected to the jurisdiction of the Court, and His Honour in the event of any appeal stayed execution for 28 days.

Holloway's Pills.—Teachings of Experience.—The united testimony of thousands, extending over more than forty years, most strongly recommends those Pills as the best purifiers, the mildest aperients, and the surest restoratives. They never prove delusive, or give merely temporary relief, but attack all ailments of the stomach,—lungs, heart, head, and bowels in the only safe and legitimate way, by depurating the blood, and so eradicating those impurities which are the source and constituent of almost every disease. Their medicinal efficacy is wonderful in renovating enfeebled constitutions. Their action embraces all that is desirable in the household medicine. They expel every noxious and effete matter; and thus the strength is nurtured and the energies stimulated.

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CRŒSUS' WIDOW.

BY DORA RUSSELL.

Author of "Footprints in the Snow;" "The Vicar's Governess;" &c., &c.

CHAPTER XXXVII.—Conscience.

Miss Brewis' shriek as Lord Seaforth fell forward alarmed the whole household. Clayton (Seaforth's servant), who had followed him to Belgrave-road, heard it, and ran at once into the dining-room, for he had been waiting in the hall in anything but a happy condition of mind.

"Oh! my lord!" he said, and he knelt down and raised the head of the prostrate and insensible man. "What has happened?" he asked of Miss Brewis, who was standing with uplifted hands.

"It's his conscience," answered Joannah, grimly; but the next minute she hurried out of the room and brought some water, and began bathing Seaforth's cold hands and brow.

"We had best send for a doctor," she said, and Clayton agreeing to this, one of the maids was despatched at once to bring a doctor.

Before the doctor arrived, however, Seaforth began to recover. Then Joannah produced a brandy bottle and (sparingly) poured a little in a glass, which Seaforth drank.

"Give me more," he said the next minute hoarsely, looking wildly round, but Joannah snatched away her brandy bottle.

"Too much is not good for you, young man," she said, but Clayton interfered.

"Let him have it, Miss Brewis," he said, and very unwillingly Joannah allowed Clayton to take her brandy bottle out of her hands.

After he had taken the spirit, Seaforth tried to rise, assisted by Clayton. He was trembling in every limb, and terribly shattered, but after sitting silent for a few minutes, he spoke collectedly enough to his servant.

"We must find her," he said. "Ask at what hour she disappeared!"

"His lordship wishes to know, Miss Brewis, the particulars about Mrs. Murray leaving your house?" asked Clayton, in a semi-undertone, to Miss Brewis. "Don't speak loud—just tell me quietly, and I'll tell his lordship."

"His lordship knows all I know," answered Joannah. "I left her, as I supposed, safe for the night, and in the morning she was nowhere. I have nothing more to add."

But Clayton was not content with this. He beckoned Miss Brewis out of the room, and questioned her closely; and seemed very much overcome by Miss Brewis' story.

"Don't mention it, Miss Brewis," he said, when Joannah had finished. "In all probability this poor young lady has only run away, and in that case we'll find her. His lordship is terribly upset—it's a bad business at best." And Clayton shook his head and sighed.

"It's murder," said Joannah.

"Not quite as bad as that I hope. However I'll go down to one of the private inquiry offices at once—she had no money you say!"

"Not a penny—she left all behind her—and you'll please pick up the notes and count them that his lordship threw on the floor before he took the faint, for though I can depend on my own honesty I can't on other people's."

After this Clayton returned to Lord Seaforth, and whispered a few words in his ear.

"It will be best to do this, my lord," he said aloud the next moment, and Seaforth nodded his head, and, then leaning on Clayton's arm, he quitted Miss Brewis' house.

He drove directly from thence (still accompanied by Clayton) to a private inquiry office. Here Clayton got out of the cab, and had a somewhat lengthened interview with the manager, who promised to let them have some news in a few days.

"If she has committed suicide," said the manager, "her body will probably be washed up. But she may merely be hiding—though not taking any money with her has an ugly look."

When Clayton returned to Lord Seaforth in the cab he did not repeat this last remark of the private inquiry man. He tried to speak hopefully to Seaforth, and Seaforth tried to take comfort from his words. But all the day afterwards a haunting dread followed Seaforth. He sent Clayton to the street near Regent's Park where Major Blythe lived to make inquiries at the shops in the neighbourhood, as it occurred to them that Nellie might have returned to her old home; but Clayton soon found out that this was not the case. Each post that passed Seaforth hoped would bring him some letter, but no letter, no word arrived all the day.

Then when night came on he shrank from its gloomy prospect. He was quite unnerved, and kept drinking, hoping to forget for an hour or two the ghastly vision which his conscience had conjured. But even in his dreams, a white, despairing face seemed to loom shadow-like from the darkness. And as the grey dawn broke and the mists cleared from his brain, Nellie's last message came back and struck again like a sharp sword upon his soul.

"Tell him I am too miserable to live."

He started up, he groaned aloud. Then he tried to reason with himself, but all in vain. Before him was the hand-writing on the wall—the fiery letters of death and doom—the warning that had come too late.

Though it was yet early morning he summoned Clayton, and ordered him at once to go to Scotland-yard and apply to the police. The man hesitated.

"Hadn't we better wait a day or so my lord?" he asked.

"No," said Seaforth imperiously, "go at once—I can bear it no longer—offer any reward you like, tell anyone—anything is better than this hell!"

He looked so excited and utterly miserable that Clayton did not dare further to oppose his wishes. But Clayton impressed upon the police, as he had impressed upon the manager of the private enquiry office, that the affair ought to be kept as quiet as possible.

"Don't let it get into the papers," urged Clayton. "They are ready to seize on any scandal about a noble family, and in all probability this young lady has only run away."

"But was there any reason for her running away?" asked the Inspector, to whom Clayton was speaking.

"My lord and she had quarrelled, I understand," answered Clayton, casting down his eyes.

"Well, we must do our best," said the Inspector, and he then inquired all the particulars about Nellie's flight, and promised to keep the affair quiet until he communicated further with Lord Seaforth.

After Clayton had made these arrangements with the police he returned to the house at South Kensington. Here he found Lord Seaforth even more excited than when he left him. And all through the day it was the same thing; and during the evening after dinner Lady Seaforth's anxiety about her son's strange manner and appearance grew so great that she broke through her usual reserve, and going up to him she laid her hand upon his shoulder.

"Are you ill, Murray?" she said. "What is the matter with you? Are these wretched money troubles worrying you more than usual?"

Then Seaforth broke into a hollow laugh, and his eyes had a strange wild glitter in them.

"Exactly!" he said, and he threw up his arms excitedly. "These wretched money troubles—yes they did it—they have caused it all—have damned my soul!"

"Oh! Seaforth, hush, hush!" said the shocked mother.

"But it's true," he went on still more excitedly. "The devils are laughing now mother—this was their trap, and I plunged into it, and dragged down a sweet soul with me—a sweet lost soul!" And Seaforth burst into sudden and passionate sobs.

The mother put her arms round him, and laid her hand upon his burning brow.

"My darling," she said, soothingly, "hush, hush—you have fever on you, Seaforth—you are very ill."

"Yes," he said, and the alarmed mother at once sent for medical advice, for she saw now how really ill he was.

Before the night was over he grew dangerously so. The fever had attacked his brain, and the miserable strain and anxiety he had gone through during the last two days, augmented by the quantity of wine he had taken to drown the voice of conscience, had proved more than his mental strength could bear. He grew violent as the night advanced, and raved and called for Nellie; then shrieked out that he saw her, pointing with his hand to some fancied object in the room.

"Nellie! Nellie! Nellie!" he kept calling in appealing accents; and his proud mother sitting by, bowed her head and stopped her ears to shut out that piteous cry.

She seemed to understand it all as she sat there watching her only son; the dark struggle that had gone on in his heart; the tragedy in which he had played a part; but she spoke no word, and gave no sign of her secret thoughts.

"[illegible]; he was very ill," she told N[illegible] after the young lord, having heard a report of his dangerous illness. And what Lady Seaforth told Nora Trelawn, she told all who went to ask after her son. She did not tell how one name was always on his lips; she did not tell how her late maid, Mrs. Benson, came to her in secret, and told her, with many tears, of the disappearance of "Mrs Murray" from Miss Brewis' house; for Mrs. Benson after many doubts about the propriety of doing this, and after learning of Lord Seaforth's dangerous condition, had decided that it was right that his mother should know, particularly as the police had been to Miss Brewis' house, and that lady had declared "it was more than she could stand."

So after Benson's visit to her "Ladyship," her ladyship knew everything. She said very little to Benson. Her pale, clear skin, flushed, and she cast down her large, prominent blue eyes as she listened to her late maid's story.

"Young men will do these things, I suppose," she said, coldly. "Ask this person — your friend who has the boarding or lodging-house—to keep this unpleasant affair a secret, and I will give you fifty pounds to give her Benson."

Ill could this proud lady spare this fifty pounds. Joannah Brewis, to whom she was sending it, was a great deal richer than Alice Elizabeth Viscountess Seaforth. And Joannah was furious when Mrs. Benson produced the bribe.

"Thank you, Mrs. Benson!" said Joannah in her tartest tones, tossing her head indignantly as she spoke, "Thank you, but I want no blood money all the same, or hush money, if you like that name any better!"

"You shouldn't take it in that way, Miss Brewis," said Mrs. Benson, "my lady only meant—"

"I know quite well what she meant," interrupted Joannah. "She meant to stop my tongue—to take my natural rights of speaking away from me! But, thank you, I prefer my tongue, and wouldn't part with it for a hundred pounds, let alone fifty!"

"Well, you see in noble families——" mildly suggested the old servant.

Joannah snapped her fingers.

"Don't care that for noble families!" she said contemptuously. "Noble families don't care that for me, and I return the compliment. If I say nothing about this sad business it will be for my own sake, and the sake of future lodgers, and not for noble families, I can tell you!"

But for her own sake Miss Brewis decided it was wiser to hold her tongue about "Mrs. Murray's" disappearance, and she accordingly did hold it. But she would have nothing to say to Lady Seaforth's fifty pounds. Benson duly returned this to her ladyship, and my lady raised her eyebrows in surprise.

"I thought these kind of people were always ready to take money," she said, and Mrs. Benson felt a little hurt by the remark.

"If—if you hear anything more, Benson," continued Lady Seaforth, casting down her proud, blue eyes, and speaking with a certain hesitation of manner that was unusual to her, "will you let me know? I can depend upon your prudence—and there may some further annoyance arise to Lord Seaforth about—this unfortunate entanglement."

"Yes, my lady," answered Benson, and then she took her leave; but before the day was over Lady Seaforth had another visitor about "this unfortunate entanglement."

This was Strathearn. Lady Seaforth was sitting by her son's bedside watching his restless, broken slumber, when a card was brought to her, on which was engraved the name of Mr. Campbell, of Strathearn.

"I cannot see Mr. Campbell," said Lady Seaforth. "Tell him Lord Seaforth still continues very ill."

The servant took down her ladyship's message, but returned after a few minutes' absence with another card of Strathearn's, on which he had written in pencil,

"*I must see you on urgent business.*"

Then Lady Seaforth went down to receive Strathearn, who was standing waiting for her in the drawing room. She knew him slightly, and when he turned his face round as she entered the room, she noticed how pale and agitated he was.

"So," he said, in his rough way, advancing to meet Lady Seaforth, "Seaforth is very ill, I hear!"

"He is dangerously ill," answered Lady Seaforth, very gravely.

"Humph," said Strathearn, "then I can't see him, I suppose!"

"Certainly not—he would not understand anything that you said to him."

"Humph," again muttered Strathearn, and then he began walking up and down Lady Seaforth's drawing-room, in his old impatient way.

"I am sorry I cannot remain with you, Mr. Campbell," continued Lady Seaforth, "but my son's health——"

"Lady Seaforth," now interrupted Strathearn, without much ceremony, "I came to see Seaforth on a matter that concerns both his honour and mine! Last autumn he brought down to my place in Scotland a lady——"

"Mr. Campbell," said Lady Seaforth, with grave courtesy, though her pale face grew crimson, "you must pardon me for reminding you that these are subjects unfit for discussion with a lady."

"The lady in question, Lady Seaforth," answered Strathearn bitterly, and with a shrug of his broad shoulders, "was an innocent young girl, who believed herself to be your son's wife."

"His wife!" repeated Lady Seaforth, lifting up her eyes in utter astonishment. "Impossible, Mr. Campbell!—you are completely mistaken."

"I did not say she was his wife," continued Strathearn, yet more bitterly, "but that she believed herself to be so—and Seaforth had shamefully deceived her."

"I cannot listen to abuse of my son."

"Let us leave him alone then, but I want to learn the truth. This girl, Mrs. Murray, left Strathearn after an interview with me. In this interview—your ladyship must pardon me if I speak unpalatable truths—in this interview then, for the first time, she learned, and from my words, what I believe to be her true position. She was shocked, indignant, and she left my house the day after, and has never returned. I have waited and waited, how impatiently I cannot tell you, to hear something of her from Seaforth. I had given him perhaps just cause for anger, and I expected when I found Mrs. Murray had left Scotland, or at least Strathearn, that he would have written to me. But I waited in vain—and now I want to know two things, and then I shall trouble him no more."

"I cannot answer for my son, or meddle with his affairs, and I must beg of you, Mr. Campbell, to end this interview," said Lady Seaforth.

"I *must* learn something before I go," said Strathearn, passionately. "Is your son going to marry the rich woman they call Crœsus' widow, and what has he done with the innocent girl he has so cruelly and shamefully wronged?"

Strathearn's face was quite pale with passion as he asked these questions. He stood there facing Lady Seaforth, fierce and indignant, and the polished woman of the world shrank back, and cast down her haughty eyes.

"I am astonished, utterly astonished, Mr. Campbell, that you should ask me such questions," she said, "and you must know that even could I do so, I would decline to answer them—when my son recovers—"

"And in the meanwhile this poor girl may starve," interrupted Strathearn.

"I cannot discuss the question."

"No!" said Strathearn, with great indignation, "but Seaforth shall answer for all this to me. But if he is not fit to see me," he added, "he had a servant—a confidential servant, I understood—called Clayton, who came down once to Strathearn, and who was present—so she told me—at the ceremony in Edinburgh, which this poor, wronged girl believed to be her marriage—Now, Lady Seaforth, can I see this man?"

For a moment Lady Seaforth hesitated. Then, in her usual cultured, haughty manner, she told a deliberate falsehood to serve her son.

"That man Clayton," she said, "had left my son's service some little time ago."

"Where has he gone, then? Surely, you can find out that?" asked Strathearn, eagerly.

"I really cannot,—my son dismissed him for some impertinence or other, I think, and I fancy I heard Seaforth say he had gone abroad."

Strathearn gave an impatient ejaculation.

"And this is all, you know?" he said. "*All*—and the unhappy girl may die in her despair!"

Lady Seaforth grew a little pale. She knew at this very moment what terrible fears were entertained about "the unhappy girl's" fate; she knew that she had disappeared, that there was no one to look for her now that Seaforth lay ill—and yet for her son's sake, for her pride's sake—she would not speak the truth to Strathearn.

"I can, of course, say nothing," she repeated; and Strathearn turned to leave the room as she spoke.

"Then I may as well go," he said, almost rudely. "Good-day, Lady Seaforth—I might, perhaps, have known you would show no pity——" And muttering, frowning, and indignant Strathearn quitted Lady Seaforth's house.

As he went out, he made a vow.

"I will find her," he said, clenching his hands, "if she is alive I will find her." And yet he knew not which way to begin his search. Since Nellie had quitted Strathearn the fiercest passions by turns had racked this man's unruly heart. He loved Nellie—for the first time in all his life, he loved with an absorbing passion which had overpowered all his other feelings. In the last interview he had had with her at Strathearn he had told her this, and in spite of his pride in his old name, he had asked this nameless woman to be his wife. When he first heard that she was gone; that she had gone without a word, a line for him—gone back he naturally supposed to Seaforth—he fell into the most violent and ungovernable paroxysms of rage. He swore that he would forget her, that he hated her, that he would never think of her more; yet his very efforts to accomplish this only seemed to fix her image more indelibly on his perturbed and restless heart.

For some time after Nellie left the Glen he expected each day to receive an indignant letter from Seaforth. He would have given anything to have received such a letter. He would have heard something of her at least then—this miserable silence and doubt would at least have ended. But no letter came, and Strathearn heard not a word either of Seaforth or Nellie. At last, after weeks and weeks, he could bear the suspense no longer, he came up to town; he made inquiries about Seaforth at his club. He then heard two pieces of news about the man who had once been his friend. One was that Lord Seaforth was about to marry Crœsus's widow; the other that he was seriously ill.

Strathearn then went to Lady Seaforth's house, as we have seen, and insisted upon seeing her. There was a sort of wild, bitter joy in his heart when he heard that Seaforth was about to marry Mrs. Trelawn. He remembered how he had told Nellie this at Strathearn, and how this marriage would of course separate Nellie for ever from Seaforth. Then, when he heard of Seaforth's dangerous illness, a sudden fear struck chill and cold upon his heart. Could anything have happened? Where was she? He must know, and so he went to Lady Seaforth, and the result of his interview with her was that he knew nothing more than he had known before.

After he had left her, Lady Seaforth returned to her son's bedside and stood for a few moments gazing at his altered face. Deeply, tenderly, almost passionately, had this proud woman loved her only son. All her hopes, all the joys of her life, had been centred on him. For his sake she had held her place in the world, and schemed and struggled with the difficulties of her position. And to-day—what had she heard? she thought bitterly—what had she done? She stood there looking at the fever-stricken face, and then hastily turned away and left the room; hurrying to her own, and scarcely had she got there when she fell down by the bed, utterly overcome and broken down with emotion and shame.

"It is too much, too much," she sobbed. "That man to come here and insult me as he did—better had you died, Murray—died when you lay in my arms an innocent child than have lived to have cost me what you have done to-day!"

CHAPTER XXXVIII.—Mrs. Tom.

A crowd swaying backwards and forwards—strange voices—a rush, a whirl of overwhelming emotion, were the last impressions that the miserable, broken-hearted woman—girl no longer—whom we have of late called Mrs. Murray, received on the bridge at Chelsea before her senses became deadened to everything around.

When she recovered consciousness she found herself borne swiftly along in a carriage, her head resting on soft cushions, and the kind, sympathetic voice of a woman, who was seated beside her, sounded in her ears.

"Are you a little better now?" said this kind voice. "You are quite safe; don't look so startled; before long we shall be at home."

When Nellie heard these words she lifted her head and tried to think, looking with her frightened eyes at the face of the woman who was speaking to her; and then, as her fuller consciousness returned, a moan broke from her lips.

"Don't," said the kind voice, which had before spoken, "don't worry—things will all come right—I am so glad I saw you." And Nellie felt her hand taken in a warm little palm, and held in a friendly grasp.

How Nellie found herself in this carriage, seated beside a good-looking young woman, with a fresh, happy face, and brown hair, in which there were flowers, is very easily explained.

The wretched girl, who had left as her last message, that she was "too miserable to live," had scarcely been rescued from her self-sought death, when a carriage approached the little crowd which had sprung up like magic on the bridge. The coachman drew up his horses when he reached the crowd, and inquired the cause of the excitement. Then a dozen voices replied. A young woman had tried to throw herself off the bridge—that was the young woman they were holding there,—and so on. Upon this a lady, who was seated alone in the carriage, put out her flower-crowned head.

"Poor thing, poor thing!" she said, and as the lamps fell on Nellie's white face, which looked even now so young and child-like, the lady in the carriage was moved to yet deeper compassion.

"I must get out and see if I can do anything for her," she said to her coachman, and she did get out. The crowd readily gave way before a lady dressed in shining satin, with a white cloak wrapped round her dainty shoulders, and so a moment or so later the lady found herself face to face with the quivering, panting creature, struggling in the arms of the man who had just refused to let her die.

To speak softly to Nellie, to take her hand, to look at her with kind, sympathetic eyes, was as natural to this young lady who had just left her carriage as it was for her to draw her sweet breath. But the quivering, panting creature, who had summoned courage in her agony to face the threshold of the eternal, neither understood the kind words nor looks. Strange noises seemed in Nellie's ears, the crowd around her grew indistinct, the lights faded, and darkness and blackness fell upon her soul. Then, as she fell back insensible in the arms of the man who was holding her, the lady in the satin dress, and flower-crowned head, took Nellie in *her* arms, and pillowed the dishevelled head of the poor stranger on as kind and womanly a breast as ever beat on earth.

"Let me hold her," she said. "Oh, poor girl, poor girl! And I see she is married," she continued, as her eyes fell on the wedding ring on Nellie's hand, which one of the crowd around was now chafing. "I dare say she is some unhappy young wife who has run away from some bad, cruel husband—for there are bad, cruel husbands, I believe—and I think—yes, I am sure, it will be best for me to just drive this poor creature home, and get her a doctor, and see after her, and I am sure my husband will be quite delighted to have her."

The crowd around made no objections to this plan. No policeman had yet appeared, and the crowd as a body felt that it was kind of the lady, and that they were well rid of the trouble of looking any further after the poor young woman who had tried to drown herself. The man, however, who had caught her by the arm first came forward and put in a peculiar claim.

"I'm a poor man," he said, rubbing his greasy coat pockets with a disconsolate air, "and I don't know but it's my duty to get the peelice—and there would be a reward then you see for saving her."

The lady acted upon this hint.

"Don't call the police," she said, "fancy how dreadful for this poor young lady if she were to find herself in the hands of the police—here are two sovereigns—will that do?"

The man thanked the lady, pocketed the sovereigns, and helped to assist to carry the insensible Nellie to the lady's carriage. Nellie was lifted in; the lady ordered her coachman to drive on; and as the carriage was vanishing a policeman arrived on the scene, and learned to his great disappointment that he had came too late, and that "a case" had slipped out of his hands.

Thus when Nellie began to recover consciousness she found herself alone with the lady in her carriage. The lady held her hand, and kept talking to her in her sweet, pleasant way.

"I've not told you my name even yet," she said. "Well, I must tell you now—I'm Mrs. Tom Bertrim—my husband's called Tom, you know; and as his father and mother are alive, I go by the name in the family of Mrs. Tom. It is not a pretty name, is it?" and Mrs. Tom laughed a sweet, happy laugh. "But I would not change it for all the world—because it's my husband's."

In these simple words Mrs. Tom told the whole history of her married life. She loved her husband with all her heart, and he truly returned her affection. They were a young couple well off in this world's goods; Mrs. Tom being the only child of a wealthy city merchant, and Mr. Tom Bertrim had been considered a lucky man when Dossie Barrett accepted him. She brought him ten thousand pounds at the time of their marriage, and the prospect of many more thousands depending on future contingencies. But she brought him something better than all these thousands—a true, honest and loving heart. She had been the joy and sunshine of her old home, and she was now the joy and sunshine of her husband's. And as this sweet, kindly creature held the poor twitching trembling hand of a woman whose name she did not know, as she neared her home, she felt no fear (as some wives would have done) about her husband's reception of this unfortunate stranger.

When the carriage entered the avenue of Castlewood Lodge, where she lived, Mrs. Bertrim again pressed Nellie's hand re-assuringly.

"See," she said, pointing to the open hall door of the house, where a tall, rather good-looking man, with one foot swathed in flannels, was standing waiting, "that is my husband. I will get out first, and just run in for a moment to speak to him," she continued, and as she spoke she jumped out of the carriage and ran up to her husband, and slid her arm into his, and began whispering in his ear. Mr. Tom Bertrim listened, nodded good naturedly, and then went limping after his wife to the carriage door.

"This is my husband," said Mrs. Bertrim, now addressing Nellie. "Tom, dear, help out the lady. My husband has gout, you see, poor old man, and that is how I was dining with his father and mother without him. Lean on me, please dear, I am very strong. Tom, darling, run and get a bottle of champagne—she wants something to keep her up."

While Mrs. Tom Bertrim was uttering these disjointed sentences she was at the same time assisting her husband to lift the prostrate and trembling woman whom she had befriended, from the carriage. Nellie felt powerless; she leaned against the kindly creature who was supporting her, and her head fell on Mrs. Bertrim's shoulder.

"Poor darling," said Mrs. Tom, speaking of Nellie and treating her as though she were a little child. "She's quite tired out, Tom. Let us carry her in here; and now, dearie, get the champagne."

Tom limped away to get the champagne, and Mrs. Tom bent over Nellie, and lifted her head on the pillow of the couch on which they had laid her, and tried in every possible way to be kind to her. But the poor broken-hearted creature never spoke. She lay there white and tearless—her blue eyes wide open and full of unutterable pain.

The happy woman who knelt by her, who tried to make her drink the wine her husband had now brought, who spoke so gently and kindly to her, could not realise this mute and terrible despair.

"Oh, don't look like that!" prayed Mrs. Tom, her own eyes growing a little dim. "Tom, dear, bring baby—perhaps if she sees baby it may do her good."

The obedient "Tom" at once limped away to fetch "baby," and returned in a few minutes with a lovely, rosy boy, in his little nightdress, crowing and doubling his small fists in his father's arms.

"There!" said Mrs. Tom, embracing the child, and carrying it towards the couch where Nellie lay. "This is my boy; he's a fine fellow, isn't he? Look at his legs!"

Master Bertrim's legs were fat, chubby, infantine. No one but the fond young mother would probably have seen anything particular to admire in them. But as she kissed the little pink, curled up toes, the expression of her face was touching from its intense maternal love. Then she looked round at her hapless guest. Nellie had never raised her head; never even looked at the baby. When she saw this Mrs. Tom gently put back the child in its father's arms.

"Tom," she whispered, "she must be very ill, she has never looked at baby; we must send at once for the doctor."

They did send at once for the doctor, and when the doctor saw Nellie he looked very grave.

"She has had some severe nervous shock," he told Mrs. Tom, "and must be kept perfectly quiet, and I would advise you to send for her friends."

Then Mrs. Bertrim was obliged to confess that she knew not where to send; that the "poor lady" was a stranger whom she had found wandering about apparently in despair (for some gentle instinct in Mrs. Bertrim's heart forbade her to tell of Nellie's misery-driven attempt on her young life), and the doctor, as he listened to the half-told tale, smiled, and good-naturedly shook his head.

"It was just like you," he said. "My friend Tom will have to start an hospital some day for the waifs and strays collected by his wife. But my dear girl" (the doctor had known Mrs. Tom all her life) "without jesting I think you had better send this poor creature at once to some hospital. She is very low—may be ill for weeks."

Dossie Bertrim's face suddenly flushed at this proposition.

"You are a horrid man, doctor!" she said, half in jest and half in earnest. "Quite horrid! What, send her out among strangers to be questioned and worried and tormented when she is broken-hearted and so ill! I don't know what you call *that*, doctor, but I don't call it Christian charity."

"What a rage the little Samaritan is in," laughed Mr. Tom, patting his wife on her pretty shoulder.

"I'm not in a rage, Tom," answered Dossie, "but I must say I think it is cold-blooded; yes, doctor, cruel and cold-blooded to bring a poor young creature home, and then talk of turning her out because she is going to be ill. If Tom does not object" (Mrs. Tom knew quite well Tom would never think of objecting) "I will nurse her and take care of her until she is well, and it will be quite time enough to talk of sending her away *then*."

"'I was a stranger and ye took me in,'" quoted the doctor who had been smiling all the while that Mrs. Tom had been scolding him. "Well, my dear, it was my duty to tell you what you are doing—but all the same, if, as you say, Tom here does not object—I shall be glad to have this young lady as a patient."

"I don't object," said Tom, in his hearty way, and as he spoke Mrs. Tom threw her arms round his neck and kissed his cheek.

"There!" she said. "Didn't I tell you Tom would be delighted to have her? In fact it was to please Tom, I think, that I brought her," she added, with a little laugh. "And now, doctor, let us all try to do our best for her, and if you do I'll forgive you again." And Mrs. Tom held out her kindly hand to her old friend.

But though these good people did everything they could for Nellie during the next few days, she still lay drifting lower and lower, the shadow of her grief and shame lying like a black cloud athwart her life.

(To be continued).

A LITTLE MAIDEN.

I know a little maiden who can knit and who can sew,
Who can tuck her little petticoat, and tie a pretty bow;
She can give the thirsty window-plants a cooling drink each day;
And dust the pretty sitting-room and drive the flies away.
Can fetch papa his dressing-gown, and warm his slippers well,
And lay the plates and knives and forks, and ring the dinner-bell;
She can learn her lessons carefully, and say them with a smile,
Then put away her books and slate, and atlas in a pile.
She can feed the bright canary, and put water in his cage,
And soothe her little brother, when he gets into a rage,
She can dress and tend her dollies, like a mother, day and night,
Indeed, one half the good she does I cannot now recite;
And yet there are some things, I'm told, this maiden cannot do;
She cannot say an ugly word, or one that is not true;
Who can this little maiden be? I wonder if it's you.

—*F. E. Weatherley.*

A country youth came to town to see his intended wife, and for a long time could think of nothing to say. At last, a great snow falling he took occasion to tell her that his father's sheep would be undone. "Well," said she, taking him by the hand, "I'll keep one of them."

"It is commonsense and not education that makes a woman," said an old man mournfully. "I spent a little fortune educating my daughter, and when her education was completed she went off and married a dude who died of blood-poisoning caused by sucking the head of his cane.

The Cautious Farmer.—Hotel clerk to farmer: "Will you register, please?" Farmer: "Will I do what?" Clerk: "Register, sign your name in this book." Farmer: "Not much, young fellow. Ye don't git me to sign my name on no paper. I've been beat once, and that's 'nough."

The late J. B. Gough desired that the following words should be cut on his tombstone as his epitaph:—"I can desire nothing better for this great country than that a barrier as high as heaven should be raised between the unpolluted lips of the child and the intoxicating cup."

SOMETHING FOR YOUNG FOLKS

A LEAP-YEAR BOY.

"To-morrow is my birthday!" said Robby to Bobby.

"What is your birfday?" said Bobby to Robby.

"What's to-morrow, silly!" said Robby.

Now Bobby was nearly six years old, and a person of great importance.

"I don't mean that," said little Bobby, who was not yet five. "I mean, what is our birfday? Is it good to eat?"

"Why! why-ee! Bobby Bell! don't you have birthdays?" cried Robby, opening his eyes.

"No!" said Bobby, opening his mouth, "I neber saw one."

"You don't see them," said Robby, in a patronising tone. "You have them; it is the day you were born, and you have a party and presents, and a birthday cake with frosting, and your name on it in pink letters, and candy and oranges, and a gold dollar with grandmamma's love to her dear little boy. Do you really mean that you never had one, Bobby Bell?"

Little Bobby looked very grave. "Perhaps I wasn't born," he said. "I's going to ask mamma." So he trotted in to mother.

"Mamma," he said, "was I born?"

Mamma looked at him a moment in mute surprise. "Were you born, dear?" she repeated. "Yes, certainly, you were born, dear. Why do you ask me that, little boy?"

Bobby's lip began to quiver, and his blue eyes filled with tears. "Den why—why don't I have birfdays?" he asked.

Mamma looked very sorry. "Dear! dear!" she said. "Now, who has been telling my leap-year boy about birthdays? Come and sit on mamma's lap, and tell me all about it, and then I will tell you all about it."

So Bobby climbed up on to mamma's lap and hid his face in her dress, and sobbed out his little story about frosted cake and pink letters, and gold dollars with grandmamma's love to her dear little boy. "And I neber—I neber had any," he said, piteously.

Then mamma told Bobby a funny little story. It was about the years, and it told how they came along, one after the other, and how each year had just the same number of days in it.

> Three—hundred—and sixty-five;
> So many days I've been alive.
> Storm and shine, and sorrow and cheer,
> Really there never was such a year.

That is what each one says before it puts on its nightcap and goes to sleep.

But every fourth year there comes one who is bigger than the rest. He has one day more, and he is very proud of it, and holds his head very high, and says—

> Three—hundred—and sixty-six;
> One more day for frolicsome tricks.
> One day more for mirth and for play;
> Look at me! look at me! One more day!!!

"And so, four years ago," said mamma, "there came one of those extra days, and it was the very best day that any year ever brought, for on that day my Bobby was born. Think of that!"

Bobby laughed and clapped his little fat hands.

"And so" continued mamma, "of course my Bobby couldn't have another birthday till another long year came round, with another extra day. And now—whisper Bobby—now the long year has come; and next Wednesday is your birthday, dear; and you are going to have—oh! but I mustn't tell."

Mamma laughed and shook her head, and didn't tell any more, but her eyes told a great deal; and that was all Bobby wanted, for he was very fond of surprises and secrets.

He hugged mamma, and then he hugged himself, and then he went and hugged the kitten, and told her all about it, and what he thought he was going to have.

Well, and it all came true, and a great deal more; for Bobby had the finest birthday that ever any little boy had, or any little girl either. In fact, it was so very fine that I couldn't possibly write about it in common black ink on white paper. I should have to take silver paper and gold ink; and the editor says I cannot do that; so I shall have to stop now. Isn't that too bad?

OPEN TO REMONSTRANCE.

It would be well if boys and girls could always pay as much attention when spoken to as was once shewn by a pack of wild dogs which the late Mr. Gordon Cumming chanced to encounter in the course of his travels in Africa.

"While waiting at a water hole," says Mr. Cumming, "I heard the most unearthly sounds, and on raising my head, to my utter horror I saw on every side nothing but savage wild dogs chattering and growling. There were at least 40 of them, which kept dashing backwards and forwards across my wind, within a few yards of me. On beholding them I expected no other fate than to be instantly torn to pieces and consumed. I felt my blood curdling along my cheeks and my hair bristling on my head. However, I had the presence of mind to consider that the human voice and a determined bearing might overawe them, and, accordingly, springing to my feet, I stepped on to the little ledge surrounding the hole. Then, drawing myself up to my full height, I waved my large blanket with both hands, at the same time addressing my savage assembly in a loud and solemn manner. This had the desired effect; the wild dogs removed to a respectful distance. Upon this I snatched up my rifle and commenced loading, and before this was accomplished the entire pack had passed away and did not return."

A VERY GOOD GIRL.

> Our merry little daughter
> Was climbing out of bed—
> "Don't you think that I'm a good girl?"
> Our little daughter said;
> "For all day long this lovely day,
> And all day long to-morrow,
> I haven't done a single thing
> To give my mother sorrow!"

—*St. Nicholas.*

INSECT BATTLE.

Insects must live, like the rest of us, and many of them are by no means vegetarians. Indeed, they may be said to be, as a class, peculiarly bloodthirsty, the mosquito being a notorious example. Many of them, also, feed upon each other. Spiders catch flies, and, on the other hand, here is a description of the manner in which wasps, or creatures resembling wasps, make a prey of large spiders. Says a writer in a San Francisco paper:—

One day, while travelling through a rocky part of Calaveras County, I dismounted and sat down to rest. Scarcely had I touched grass when I was entertained beyond all expectation by witnessing a battle between wasps and a tarantula.

I call them wasps, though in reality they were not such, being much larger and heavier about the body, which was held together in two separate parts by a scarcely visible coupling. Their waists seemed even smaller than that of the common wasp, and they swung themselves about on the coupling with lightning-like dexterity. The insects seemed to be very much excited, and acted as if looking for prey.

Soon a large tarantula crept from under a dry log, and apparently started for his house with all possible speed. The wasps had been dashing in all directions about the log, but the moment they saw their victim, which had evidently been hiding, they fell upon him furiously with quick darts, and at every dart seemed to inject a poison which put the tarantula in agony.

The tarantula fights like a bear, resting on his haunches, and using his paws and legs as weapons of defence. He fought for his life, and, while doing so, seemed to be conscious that at all hazards he must make for his house as the only hope of safety.

The wasps seemed by instinct to understand what was going on in the mind of the tarantula, and redoubled their merciless attacks; but he fought desperately to the last. Finally, the fierce conflict ended; the wasps had stung and poisoned the tarantula to death.

After the battle was over, I took a glance at the body of the victim. It bore evidence of a terrible struggle. When I approached it the wasps flew away; but they did not fly far, and were evidently watching me; and on my leaving they returned, and immediately commenced tearing the dead tarantula to pieces. In a short time they had carried off the body piece by piece, either to feed their young or to lay in a supply of food for the winter.

I made particular inquiries concerning the habits of the monster wasps, and learned from some of the old settlers that the vicious insects were "regular tarantula killers," and that the spiders seldom survived their murderous onslaughts.

A little boy while playing fell down the steps and hurt himself severely. His mother scolded him for his carelessness, and he sobbed out: "Mamma, please don't scold me till I get done hurting."

Little John witnessed a military drill. One of the officers rode horse which was very unruly, and in some of his antics nearly threw his rider; whereupon John exclaimed excitedly: "Mamma, mamma, Mr. Fissel's horse don't fit him!"

A little girl was not feeling well, and her parents suggested that she might be about to have chicken-pox, then prevalent. She went to bed laughing at the idea, but early next morning went into her parents' room, looking very serious, and said: "Yes, it is chicken-pox, papa. I found a fedder in the bed."

LADIES' COLUMN.

Germany has furnished all the drawing-room conversation for the last week to the exclusion of all other topics. A new chapter has been added to the history of Europe in the 19th century; and those who are the children of to-day, hearing all the discussions upon the death of the German Emperor and the political situation in Europe, will tell the tale to their children in turn when another century has dawned on the world, and all the present actors in the scene have passed away.

Apart from the interest English people took in the new Empress as the daughter of our own royal house, the interruption to the festivities in honour of the Silver Wedding in London invested the occasion with peculiar features. Our most popular Princess it was hoped would have had all the pleasure so auspicious an occasion ought to afford. As things turned out the celebration was only commemorated by the relatives and immediate circle of friends. The soft-eyed Princess Maude had good reason to regret the compulsory change in the programme, which was to have included her presentation at Court and her introduction to society. Opinions differ as to the respective charms of the three Princesses, but it is quite unnecessary for general admirers to declare a preference. Rumours afloat for some days previously prepared the public for special announcements of coming changes in the family of the Prince of Wales, but the absence from the family party of any guests who might be construed to be accepted suitors for the young ladies rather disproved the gossip. Had the betrothal actually taken place of one or of two Princesses, it is reasonable to suppose that the happy *fiancés* would have come to England for the celebration of the Silver Wedding. As an indication of the feeling with which the Princesses are regarded it is remarked that no rumour contemplates an alliance below the rank of heir to a ruling sovereign. Greece is not perhaps a great country as yet, but its respectable position in the map of Europe and the tie of blood between its king and our future queen count for something in public estimation. The general feeling on the matter seems to be that no future, in the opinion of the English nation, would be too exalted for the graceful daughters of England, who have grown up in public life in one sense, in being always objects of attention, yet in another, so simply as to habits and luxuries that not a few English mothers have learned a lesson from the example given.

Bond-street was a curious study the day before the Lord Chamberlain announced the postponement of the Queen's Drawing Room. The Imperial patient still breathed, though rumours to the contrary had prepared every one for the end except those sanguine young people who hoped against hope yet to wear their pretty dresses. Every milliner's showroom was thronged with visitors to see the dresses before they were sent home. Every inch of floor at the disposal of modistes was covered with the long trains, richly trimmed, attached to the dresses mounted on stands. Some of the sightseers were those for whom the Court dresses were intended; others were their sympathising friends. Several found dreary consolation in having their dresses tried on, just to see the general effect of the whole, and strutting up and down as much showroom as was available. The attendants systematically continued to pack up the dresses in cases, and send them out to the vans waiting in the street to receive the boxes. Whether the Drawing Room went on or not, the dresses must go home all the same. The greater number of these magnificent toilettes were intended to be worn at Marlborough House at the Silver Ball. The trains were made removable, each dress below being quite completed for dancing in.

The magnificence of the brocades of this season was much heightened by the lavish use in the looms of gold and silver threads. This is a return to the rich old Spanish, Venetian, and French brocades of the middle ages which figure in the costumes of the great ladies handed down to us by the portrait-painters of their time. These old brocades were hand-loom woven, but the cloths of gold and silver of to-day are of power-loom origin. Some of the designs are in satin relief, outlined with gold thread; others have the floral patterns wrought in solidly. These magnificent brocades were chiefly used for the Court trains, the dresses below them being made of faille Française, crêpe de chine, or with front tablier of silver or gold and pearl embroidery. A new feature in the embroidery of this season is the introduction of tiny crystals like dewdrops which sparkle in a strong light. Another is the introduction for sleeves of pendant fringes of silver and gold lace, such as is used for military and naval epaulettes. The decided advance in the restoration of sleeves rather than shoulder straps is matter of congratulation. The Princess of Wales shares the Queen's dislike to seeing uncovered arms coming out of armholes untrimmed, so the sleeve of this season is short, and cut sufficiently ample to be drawn up on the shoulder, and caught with flowers, ribbons, or diamond stars.

In the list of the Silver Wedding gifts to the Princess of Wales, the Czar's magnificent parure of sapphires and diamonds cannot have escaped observation. With it came from the Czarina a dress made up in Paris trimmed with Zibeline fur. This term is merely the French designation of marten sable, but it is conventionally understood in England as applying to the very finest skins only. The dress was of very rich cream satin, cut *à la princesse*, with gold embroidery on front of the skirt, a broad band of fur round the hem, and corresponding bands on sleeves and corsage. A long boa of the same costly fur accompanied the dress. With all due deference to the taste of the Imperial donors, and full appreciation of the costliness of the gift, fur is a very heavy and unbecoming trimming for an evening dress, and however it might suit a dowager, suggests the lapse of time more than any one is disposed to accept for our charming Princess.

The disappointment that fell to the lot of the young ladies in London who expected to be presented was severe, but not nearly so trying as the Dublin experiences. One of the Marchioness of Londonderry's popular Castle balls was fixed for Thursday evening, and when the condition of the German Emperor was telegraphed the arrangements were suddenly suspended. So unexpected was the change in the intentions of the Lord Lieutenant that there was not time to notify it to the guests individually, and many came up from the country, having driven long distances ready dressed. The supper-table which was laid and set out with the viands, was by order of the Lord Lieutenant quickly cleared, packed up, and sent off to different hospitals.

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BENFIELDSIDE LOCAL BOARD.

The last meeting of this body prior to the annual election took place at the Bank Buildings at Shotley Bridge on Wednesday night, under the presidency of Mr James Annandale, J.P. The members in attendance were Messrs J. Eltringham, Wm. Wheatley, J. Lax, A. E. Turner, J. Dowson, [illegible] Carss, the clerk (Mr J. Booth), and the surveyor (Mr J. Dixon).

FINANCE.

The Finance Committee recommended the payment of the Surveyor's monthly paybill of £63 0 4d, and other accounts amounting to £73 16 4d.

On the motion of Mr WHEATLEY, seconded by Mr LAX, the accounts were ordered to be paid.

THE DIVISION OF THE PARK.

A SLIGHT MISUNDERSTANDING.

The Clerk read a long communication he had transmitted to the Local Government Board with reference to retaining the clause in the bye-laws relating to the commission of nuisances in the Park being permissible under the bye-laws, but he had not received any reply thereto.

The report of the Parks Committee at their meeting on March 1st, contained a resolution that the respective Boards be asked to give their decision as to the division of the Park.

The CHAIRMAN believed the Consett Local Board had not arrived at any distinct resolution on the subject.

Mr CARSS was under the impression that the Consett and Benfieldside Boards would continue at sixes and sevens until there was a meeting of the two Boards to consider the whole subject. They would be discussing these fragmentary details month after month.

The Clerk explained that the present position of things was thus: The Parks Committee recommended a certain course of action, the Consett Board refused to accept the suggestion, but the Benfieldside Board were disposed to accede to the recommendations of the Committee. The Parks Committee would not further the matter unless the Consett Board were agreeable. From the report of the last meeting of the Consett Board, as published in the *Guardian*, they seemed to throw the onus of the disagreement upon the Benfieldside Board. The question simply stood thus: The Parks Committee had recommended a course of procedure which was rejected by the Consett Board. He (the clerk) did not think the matter of sufficient importance that the Park should be separated, but that Board were prepared to endorse the recommendations of the Committee. Until that Board came to the determination that it was desirable to divide the Park, it would not be necessary to have a meeting of the joint Boards.

Mr ELTRINGHAM thought the Board had already agreed to this recommendation.

The Clerk stated the minute to that effect was passed in the belief that if certain steps were taken by the Consett Board, that Board would not be adverse to acceding to the same course of action.

Mr CARSS thought if the recommendation was not carried into effect, their bye-laws would become a technicality.

The CHAIRMAN explained that the subject was fully discussed at the Nov. meeting, when it was resolved that the recommendation of the Parks Committee be adopted, and that the Clerk be instructed to apply to the Consett Iron Company for their approval of separate bye-laws for the management of the Park, and on receiving the Company's approval, the Benfieldside Board to take charge of the portion of the Park within its own district.

The Clerk pointed out that the Consett Company's reply was adverse to this proposal. In some further correspondence, however, the Company did not object to this Board having separate bye-laws for their own portion of the district, but they objected to the two Boards taking charge of the respective portions of the Park in their own district, and there the subject dropped. As soon as they heard from the Local Government Board that their bye-laws were approved of, they would only affect that portion of the Park comprised within their township boundary. The regulations adopted by the Consett Board would similarly apply to their own part, and the general care of the entire Park would be rested, as originally, on the two Boards. If it appeared desirable, however, to alter the arrangements, then they had better have a joint conference of the Boards to settle the matter.

Mr ELTRINGHAM said the representatives on the Parks Committee were satisfied that by dividing the Park it would be beneficial all round. There would be no necessity for calling any further meetings, and the work relating to the Park could be relegated to one of the Board's Committee Each surveyor should take charge of the different portions of the Park, and the Board would have the management of their part so far as expenses were concerned They would by this means avoid special Park meetings, and do away with the necessity of keeping a clerk and having a separate set of books, as at present the Park meetings were of little use, because they could do nothing.

Mr CARSS enquired if the Consett Iron Company were not putting their veto upon this idea?

Mr TURNER contended that it was not that Board that originally desired the separation, but the idea simply sprang out of a communication from the Local Government Board with reference to a separate code of bye-laws for each district. The Parks Committee were unanimously in favour of a division of the ground. Touching the report of the Consett Board, as appearing in the *Consett Guardian*, the members seemed to be of opinion that that Board did not intend to lay out any more money on the Park, and therefore wanted a separation; but no such design ever entered their heads.

Mr ELTRINGHAM remarked that the Consett Board only postponed the settlement of the question a few months ago, by the casting vote of the Chairman. That was the reason why Mr Ayndley wanted the subject re-opened. From the account of the last meeting, there was a good deal said about the Benfieldside Board not wishing to expend any more money on the Park. Well, they had already spent as much as the Consett people, and had moreover a balance in hand.

The Clerk said that he gathered from the report that the objection of the Consett Board to the division is this: That the Benfieldside Board would acquire that portion of the Park which would be least expensive to keep up.

Mr TURNER: That is not the case.

Mr ELTRINGHAM: We shall have the largest portion to maintain. The Consett Board were showing a little selfishness in their course of action.

Mr WHEATLEY was of opinion that the lower part of the park would entail the heaviest expenditure, as it required draining.

Mr ELTRINGHAM observed that he had the greatest difficulty in getting the Consett people to understand that they did not aim at a division of the ground, but merely a separation of the management.

Mr LAX: Of course all parts of the Park will be equally accessible to the people of both the townships.

Mr WHEATLEY: Do our representatives attend the Parks Committee as well as the Consettonians do?

Mr TURNER: They don't.

Mr WHEATLEY: Then I want to know the reason? We appoint members on a Committee, and they don't attend regularly. We must have some fresh ones on.

The CHAIRMAN: At the next Board meeting, you will have the privilege of appointing new members, Mr Wheatley.

Mr WHEATLEY: Then the sooner the better. (Laughter.) There have only been one or two who have attended a meeting at all during the year.

Mr ELTRINGHAM: I don't think I shall serve on that Committee again unless there is some change.

Mr TURNER: I attended as long as there was any business to transact. At length, I was thoroughly disgusted in going there and sitting for an hour doing nothing.

Mr LAX believed their representatives had done as well as they possibly could under the circumstances.

Mr WHEATLEY: I beg to differ from you. (Laughter.) Some of our representatives have not attended a single meeting.

Mr ELTRINGHAM did not think it was profitable for any of the members to attend the Parks Committee.

Mr WHEATLEY continued to express his dissatisfaction at the negligence of certain members of the Parks Committee, and Mr LAX jocularly suggested that he should move a vote of censure in regard to their conduct. (Laughter.)

Mr CARSS said that, as the Consett Board desired to throw the onus of separation upon that Board, they should pass a motion which would clear any misapprehension on that score.

Mr ELTRINGHAM: Its a great mistake that we ever had anything to do with the Park.

Mr CARSS proposed, and Mr LAX seconded, the following proposition:—"That the Consett Board be asked to assent to a division of the Park, each Local Board to take charge and maintain the portions thereof within its own district, with a view to saving the cost of maintenance, as recommended by the Joint Parks Committee; it being understood that this change will not effect the full enjoyment of the whole Park by the inhabitants of both districts."

This was carried unanimously.

Mr CARSS said the question of separation would remain *sub judice*.

Mr ELTRINGHAM enquired if the Clerk to the Parks Committee had forwarded a statement to that Board showing the receipts and expenditure during the past year?

The Clerk replied not.

Mr ELTRINGHAM said he would bring his request before the Clerk at the next meeting. It was desirable that the Board should have some knowledge as to how the money they contributed was being spent. The Clerk had also to prepare a statement showing the expenditure up to the 25th March next for the Committee.

THE NEW RATE.

On the proposal of Mr CARSS, seconded by Mr ELTRINGHAM, the rate of 1s in the pound recommended at the last meeting was sealed and ordered to be collected.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS' ACT.

The subjoined report was submitted:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Benfieldside Local Board.

GENTLEMEN.—As Inspector of the above I now give you the dimensions and conditions of the cowbyres in your district:—

Mr James Burns.—Byre, size, 24 feet long, 13 feet wide 8 feet high. Light good; drainage, cesspool; requires whitewashing; ventilation fair, but not in accordance with the regulations issued. Water in yard. 2 cows kept at the time of inspection.

Mr James Lovatt.—Byre, size, 14 feet long by 13 feet wide, 8 feet high. Light moderate, drainage good, kept clean; cross ventilation; water in yard. Four cows kept at the time of inspection.

Mr P. Brannigan.—Byre, size, 12 feet long by 11 feet wide, 7 feet high. Light moderate, drainage good; requires whitewashing and cleaning, ventilation bad; water in byre. Three cows kept at the at the time of inspection.

Mr T. Robinson.—Byre, size, 15 feet by 14 feet wide, 8 feet high. Light and drainage good; water in yard; ventilation fair, but not according to regulations. One cow kept.

Mr W. Raw.—Byre, size, 17 feet by 15 feet wide 8 feet high. Light good; drainage moderate; kept clean: ventilation not according to regulations; water in yard. One cow kept.

Mr Johnson.—Byre, size, 13 feet 6in. long by 11 feet wide, 8 feet high. Light good; drainage moderate; kept clean; cross ventilated; water in yard. One cow kept.

Mr W. Reed.—Byre, size, 14 ft. 6in. long by 11 feet wide, 8 feet high, Light good; drainage to cesspool; kept clean; ventilation moderate; water outside of byre. Three cows kept.

Mr J. Christopher.—Byre, size, 15 feet long by 15 feet wide, 8 feet high. Drainage moderate; light fair; ventilation moderate; kept clean; water outside. One cow kept.

Mr W. Watson.—Byre, size, 23 feet long by 15 feet wide, 8 feet high. Light good; drainage to cesspool; kept clean; ventilation moderate; water outside. Three cows kept.

Mr Jopling.—Byre, size, 29 feet long by 14 feet wide, 8 feet high. Light good; drainage to cesspool; kept clean; ventilation moderate; water outside. Two cows kept.

Mr Askew.—Byre, size, 20 feet long by 16 feet wide, 9 feet high. Light and drainage good; kept clean; ventilation good; water outside. Five cows kept.

Mr Fiddes.—Byre, size, 48 feet long by 15 feet wide, 9 feet high. Light bad; drainage to cesspool; ventilation good; kept clean; water outside. Three cows kept.

Mr Robson.—Byre, size, 15 feet long by 14 wide, 9 feet high. Light good; ventilation fair; drainage good; kept clean; water outside. Two cows kept.

Mr Hetherington.—Byre, size, 18 feet long by 15 feet wide, 7ft. 6in. high. Light good; ventilation bad; drainage bad; requires whitewashing; water outside. Two cows kept.

Mr W. Eltringham.—Byre, size, 16 feet long by 12 feet wide, 9 feet high. Light good; drainage bad; ventilation fair; requires whitewashing; water outside. Two cows kept.

Mr Robson Heslop.—Byre, size, 18 feet long by 14 feet wide, 8 feet high. Light bad; drainage to cesspool; ventilation moderate; kept clean; water outside.—Five cows kept.

Mr W. Brown.—Byre, size, 14ft. 6in. long by 12 feet wide, 7 feet high. Light moderate; kept clean; drainage to cesspool; ventilation from door. Three cows kept.

Mr W. Wheatley.—Byre, size, 15 feet long by 7 feet wide, 8 feet high. Light bad; drainage to cesspool; kept clean; ventilation from door.

Mr Glendinning.—Byre, size, 15 feet long by 10 feet wide, 8 feet high. Light moderate; drainage good; ventilation bad; water outside; kept clean. Two cows kept.

Mr Moffitt.—Byre, size, 14 feet 6 inches long by 13 feet wide, 8 feet high. Light fair; ventilation good; drainage good; water outside; kept clean, One cow kept

Mr Hall.—Byre, size, 21 feet long by 15 feet wide, 8 feet high. Light good; ventilation good; drainage to cesspool; kept clean; water outside. Four cows kept.—Byre No. 1, size, 28 feet long by 13 feet wide, 7 feet 6 inches high. Light good; drainage good; ventilation moderate; kept clean; water outside. Six cows kept.—Byre No. 2, size, 25 feet long by 11 feet 6 inches wide, 7 feet 6 inches high. Light fair; drainage good; ventilation moderate; kept clean; water outside.—Byre, No. 3. size, 19 feet long by 9 feet wide, 9 feet high. Light fair; drainage good; ventilation good; kept clean; water outside.

Mr W. Wilson.—Byre. size, 16 feet long by 12 feet 6 inches wide, 7 feet high. Light from door; ventilation good; drainage to cesspool; kept clean; water outside. Two cows kept.

Mr W. Young.—Byre, size, 12 feet long by 11 feet wide, 9 feet high. Drainage to cesspool; light good; ventilation required. Two cows kept.

Mr J. Clark.—Byre, size 15 feet long by 12 feet wide, 7 feet high. Light moderate; ventilation good; drainage to cesspool; water outside. Two cows kept.

Mr Towns.—No. 1 byre, size, 24 feet long by 15 feet wide, 7 feet high. Ventilation good; drainage to cesspool; light moderate; whitewashed; water outside. Seven cows kept.—Byre No. 2, size, 15 feet long by 12 feet wide, 7 feet high. Drainage to cesspool; light good; whitewashed; ventilation good; water outside. Four cows kept.

Mr M. Ridley.—Byre, size, 46 feet long by 15 feet wide, 7 feet high. Ventilation good; whitewashed; drainage to cesspool; light required; water outside. Seven cows kept.

Mr J. Wilson.—Byre, size, 21 feet long by 12 feet wide, 7 feet high. Drainage to cesspool; light required; ventilation moderate; water outside. Four cows.

Mr Robson.—Byre, size, 15 feet long by 19 feet wide, 9 feet high. Ventilation good; drainage to cesspool; light required; whitewashed; water outside. Four cows.

Mr Nixon.—Byre, size, 30 feet long by 23 feet wide, 12 feet high. Drainage good; light good; ventilation good; whitewashed; water outside.

Mr Carter.—Byre, size, 75 feet long by 20 feet wide, 12 feet high. Drainage good; light good; ventilation good; whitewashed; water outside. Fifteen cows.

Mr J. Surtees.—Byre, size, 15 feet long by 12 feet wide, 9 feet high. Drainage good; light good; ventilation moderate; water outside. One cow kept.

Mr Ramshaw.—Byre, size, 15 feet long by 10 feet wide, 6 feet high. Drainage to cesspool; light wanted; ventilation good; water outside. One cow kept.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
JOHN DIXON.

It was proposed by Mr CARSS, and seconded by Mr ELTRINGHAM, that the foregoing report be referred to the Sanitary Committee, who should be empowered to instruct the Surveyor to serve notices upon those parties possessing defective cowsheds and dairies, and if the necessary alterations were not effected, they should be proceeded against.

The CHAIRMAN and Mr LAX thought that the Board ought to be consulted prior to any legal proceedings being taken, but Mr CARSS replied that the notices only referred to whitewashing, drainage, &c. The strictures were tolerably satisfactory.

The resolution was adopted *nem con.*

The Inspector stated there were 36 cowkeepers in the district, but he had forgotten to insert the name of Mr R. Murray in the list. He had the dimensions and other particulars at home. He would also report upon the dairies at some future date.

THE BLUE BRIDGE.

The Clerk read some correspondence between himself and Mr Walton-Wilson with reference to the repairs to the Blue Bridge. Mr Wilson suggested that the new structure should be raised 4 feet at the Benfieldside side, and 2 feet on the other side; and as this would be for the benefit of the ratepayers of Benfieldside, the Board ought to bear the cost. He also complained of the difficulty of getting the ratepayers of Shotley township to understand that they were liable, and asked to be furnished with the observations of counsel thereanent. The Clerk had sent negative replies to all Mr Wilson's requests, and observed that he had delayed taking out summonses because he believed that the matter would be amicably settled, but this object had failed.

Mr WHEATLEY explained that the ratepayers had offered, if Mr Wilson repaired the bridge this time, to take over the structure and keep it in repair from henceforth. Mr Wilson had evidently refused, and the speaker strongly denounced both that gentleman and the Board for sitting still and doing nothing in the matter. It was a disgraceful state of affairs. There were five footroads branching off from the bridge on the Shotley side of the water, and if Messrs Annandale's closed their bridge, all connection with that part of the country would be cut off. He (Mr Wheatley) had almost "flayed" the Shotley parson to death—(laughter)—and he had attempted to have the bridge closed.

The Board adopted a resolution authorising the Clerk to institute legal proceedings against the parties liable forthwith, as it was absolutely necessary to have the bridge put in order by the spring.

THE PENDING ELECTION.

It was announced that the voting papers would be delivered on the 31st inst., collected on the 15th prox., and counted on the succeeding day. The first meeting of the new Board would be held on the 15th April. The retiring members are Messrs Carss, Siddell, Dowson, and Telford.

THE INSPECTOR'S SALARY.

COLLAPSE OF MR. CARSS' MOTION.

In accordance with notice of motion. Mr CARSS proposed that the minute passed by the Board in January, granting the Inspector an increase of £10 per annum, for extra work devolving upon him by virtue of his appointment as Inspector under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops' Order, be rescinded. In doing so, he said it was rather an unprecedented mode of procedure to ask for a motion passed by that Board to be rescinded, but the peculiar circumstances under which this was carried was his justification for re-opening the subject. The fact of nine members being present at the meeting, and only three voting for the proposition, was a most unprecedented state of affairs The assumption was that the majority of those present were adverse to an advance being granted to Mr Dixon. There was a decided feeling against this increase amongst the ratepayers outside; and besides Mr Dixon's present salary was given at a very high rate, although the terms of labour had very much lowered since the salary was advanced. The increase of work through the operation of the Cowsheds and Milkshops Act was not so great as to justify an extra £10 being conceded to Mr Dixon. The fact that the salary was given when remunerations were high, and when trade has become depressed, wages reduced, and tradesmen and others were struggling, the expenses were increasing in many cases, whilst assets were diminishing, he submitted that under the circumstances they were not warranted in giving any increase. The time was most inopportune; but apart from this fact, he thought the case should be judged upon its own merits, and he certainly hoped that some gentleman would second the proposition, so that the subject could be fully tested at that meeting, and determine whether Mr Dixon's salary should now remain at £150 a-year. He was sorry Mr Siddell was not present, or he would have his supporter.

Mr LAX pointed out that Mr Siddell was one of the gentlemen who originally recommended an increase of salary.

Mr CARSS: He did not vote for it, however.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the minutes did not show that only three members voted for the resolution; only Mr Carss was mentioned as dissenting.

A desultory conversation ensued as to the number of members who voted for the proposal, Mr LAX claiming that those who were neutral did not oppose the motion.

Mr CARSS said that several gentlemen who did not vote upon the question had since expressed opinions outside that they were not in favour of the proposal.

Mr TURNER stated that he was obliged to leave the meeting when the question cropped up in January. He was not disposed to under-value any man's labour but he desired every person to be fully remunerated for his services. He was convinced, however, that the people outside were very much against the proposal Considering that Mr Dixon had hitherto discharged his duties ably and efficiently, he would not like to see him replaced by any other man. In order, therefore, to test the sense of the meeting, he would second the resolution.

Mr LAX remarked that there were two sides to every question. There was a good deal of reason in the arguments advanced by the preceding speakers, still at the same time it was easy to see that Mr Dixon's additional work absolutely required an extra £10 being paid for his services. Consequently he hoped the Board would not stultify itself, after giving a position of considerable importance to Mr Dixon—an office which was fully worth £10 per annum—and then annulling its decision. Mr Dixon had a hard life of it, and never swerved from discharging his duty. When he was appointed 10 years ago, the rates were 1s 4d in the pound now; they were never more than 1s. Mr Dixon had done for that Board several thousands of pounds of permanent work, and he had 30 miles of roads to look after in his district, whilst there were only seven miles in the Consett district, whilst the drainage in the two districts were about similar. He (Mr Lax) considered the Board were justified in granting Mr Dixon an increase of salary. He felt strongly bound to uphold his previous vote touching the matter.

Mr CARSS replied that the reference to 1s 4d in the pound was rather objectionable. When that Board adopted the Local Government Act, the district was in a very poor sanitary condition. When the rate of 1s 4d in the pound was levied there were some extremely heavy items of general work to be executed and therefore that fact ought not to be quoted as an instance of good management. He concurred in many of the remarks which had been made respecting Mr Dixon, but it was hardly fair to the old surveyor to put the matter in that form.

Mr LAX believed that special rates were made at the time for carrying out their sanitary work. He remembered one rate of 1s 6d in the pound being levied.

The CHAIRMAN explained that there were nine members present when the resolution was adopted, and only eight attending that meeting. They must have as many or more present that day as when the motion was carried. therefore Mr Carss' motion could not be submitted that day. It was only a matter of one-thirteenth of a penny in the pound per annum, and that would not ruin any ratepayer. To a person paying £3 the advance would only cost him [illegible] per annum.

The Clerk stated that the Local Government Board had sanctioned Mr Dixon's increase of salary, and half that amount would accordingly be recoverable from the Imperial Authority.

Mr CARSS stated that it was very nice looking at the subject in that form—one-thirteenth of a penny. It was the aggregate of rates in the township that ought to be taken into consideration.

The CHAIRMAN: It is only £5 spread over an aggregate rateable value of £15,650.

Mr CARSS: I may speak, with regard to the township, that the last straw would break the camel's back, so the last one-thirteenth of a penny may break the ratepayers' backs. (Laughter.)

Mr LAX: As a matter of fact our rates are 30 to 40 per cent less than they were some years ago. This extra £5 will not make any perceptible difference to a human being. There is hardly a single district which has not given its Inspector an advance for the same purposes.

Mr CARSS: There is not another Sanitary Authority paying such high wages according to their rateable value.

The CHAIRMAN: The work will have to be paid for somehow or other if Mr Dixon declines the office.

Mr CARSS answered that there were thousands of men who would be willing to undertake the duties.

The CHAIRMAN said that only thoroughly efficient and competent persons could enforce the provisions of the Act, as it was highly essential that the public should be supplied with pure and genuine milk.

The subject then dropped.

RITSON'S ROAD.

Mr TURNER enquired who was responsible for the repair of Ritson's Road?

Mr WHEATLEY: It is in a wretched condition just now. It had better be closed. (Laughter.)

Mr ELTRINGHAM said that the owners did not understand that after the thoroughfare had been made they ought to have made application to the Local Board to take it over.

The Surveyor asked the Board to authorise him to execute the necessary repairs at once.

The Clerk said that the Board could not do the work till the thoroughfare had been dedicated a public road.

Mr TURNER instanced a similar case, past the old quarry, where the Board took over the street and repaired it. after it had been first constructed, and had been allowed to lapse into a dilapidated condition.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Appended is the Surveyor's (Mr Dixon) monthly report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Benfieldside Local Board.

GENTLEMEN'—During this month I have repeatedly inspected your district, and I find the ashpits well cleaned out. There have been two of your main drains blocked up—one in Back Derwent Street, which drain is ten feet deep, and has very little fall. This is the third occasion the drain has been opened out within the last three years. I have put down a man-hole this time, so that we will be better able to clean it out if it stops again. I consider that a portion of this drain ought to be taken up and re-laid at a better gradient before it will work satisfactorily. The other drain is in front of Messrs J. Annandale's cottages near the Wheat Sheaf Inn, Shotley Bridge. This drain was stopped, and the sewage was running into the sitting-room of the Bridge End public-house. I found this to be an old stone drain, which was cleaned out and put right. I would suggest that this drain be laid with pipes.

The alterations to Dale Street are in progress, and will be completed as soon as the weather will allow.

Mr Houliston's plans have been stamped, duplicates having been supplied.

I have received a letter from Mr P. Osborne, calling my attention to what he considers a nuisance. This letter is now laid before you. I wish to have the instructions of the Board with regard to the matter.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
JOHN DIXON.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

Mr Dixon submitted the following monthly report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Benfieldside Local Board.

GENTLEMEN.—During the month your workmen have been employed on your different highways and streets laying-on materials, scraping roads, and cutting snow. The most of your roads have been blocked up during the present storm. They were opened out promptly.

As instructed, I sent the account to the Consett Iron Company for the formation of the road in front of The Vicarage, Cemetery Road, Blackhill. This amount has been paid by the Company. As further requested, I made the demand for Mr Heslop's rate to the Official Receiver (Mr Maples.) I have not had any reply to this demand.

I was asked for a tracing of the portion of Queen Street made by the Board, and sent a sketch to the party who applied for it—one of the North-Eastern Company's agents. Since then I have received the amount due for the making of this street. As previously directed, I have repaired a portion of the footpath in Cemetery Road. This footpath will be completed as soon as the weather will allow.

The contract for team labour expires this month. I would suggest that the Board advertise this work.

I have collected and paid to treasurer the following sums:—

	£	s.	d.
General district rate	16	4	6
County appointment	161	15	6
Mr Moore	6	0	0
North-Eastern Railway Company	21	16	6
Consett Iron Company	32	13	9
Total	238	10	3

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
JOHN DIXON

The Board resolved to advertise for tenders for the team labour.

DERWENT STREET DRAIN.

It was resolved on the motion of Mr CARSS, seconded by the CHAIRMAN, that the Inspector furnish the Board with a plan showing the alteration to the gradients required to the drain in back Derwent Street.

A PRIVATE MATTER.

The Inspector explained that the water from coal-houses and privies of two houses above Mr Osborne's houses was the cause of complaint.

Mr CARSS considered the subject a private grievance, but the Clerk held it to be a matter which came within the scope of the Board.

STEAM BOILER EXPLOSIONS.

The Clerk read a communication from the Board of Trade drawing attention to the fact that persons had been fined for neglecting to communicate to that authority the fact that steam boilers in their possession had exploded.

THE EXPENSE OF ATTENDING CONFERENCES.

A letter from the Eccles (Manchester) Urban Sanitary Authority drew attention to an Act passed in 1885 authorising the personal expenses of members attending Public Health, Poor Law, and other conferences, and the cost of producing necessary books, reports, and other reasonable expenses, being defrayed out of the public rates, but the Local Government Board had not yet given their sanction to such a Bill.

Mr WHEATLEY moved that the letter lie upon the table for six months. It was a perfect nuisance. (Laughter.)

The Clerk considered, in view of the possible adoption of the Local Government Bill, it might be useful for that Board to avail themselves of the provisions of this Act, and on the motion of Mr CARSS, seconded by Mr LAX, the Clerk was directed to communicate with the Local Government Board touching the point.

THE DERWENT AND SHOTLEY TURNPIKE TRUST: LIVELY DISCUSSION.

The Treasurer to the above-mentioned trust made application for payment of £15, being the Board's moiety towards the expense of maintaining the Derwent and Shotley Turnpike Trust for the past year. It was intimated that the Trust would cease to exist on the 8th Nov. next, and therefore the repairs of a portion of that particular road would devolve upon that Board.

The Clerk said he had received a letter from the Statistical Department of the Local Government Board enquiring the conditions upon which this payment was annually made, and he had replied that it was merely done in accordance with precedent. As the road was in sad need of repair, perhaps they might obtain the consent of the Local Government Board, subject to some arrangement with the trustees, for to expend some money on repairing the road, and getting it into a decent state previous to that Board taking it over. It would be a stitch in time.

Mr ELTRINGHAM and others questioned whether the money paid by that Board had ever been expended on the road.

The CHAIRMAN (as treasurer to the Trust) explained that the money was spent in accordance with the Act of Parliament. All the moneys received from that Board had been laid out on the road.

Mr WHEATLEY considered the road in a disgraceful condition, and objected to the Board granting any more money.

Mr CARSS said they had no alternative but to pay the demand and the trustees had absolute control over the road.

The CHAIRMAN stated that if the Board declined to pay the demand it would be an easy matter for the trustees to apply to the County Justices at Gateshead, and thus obtain an order compelling them to pay. They had to adopt that course every year before they could get any money from the Blaydon Local Board.

The Clerk thought that their Chairman might use a little pressure, and see that the money paid by the Board was spent upon the portion of the road embraced within their township. Heretofore they had certainly not had full justice done to them.

The CHAIRMAN answered that he was only treasurer, and not surveyor over the roads.

Mr WHEATLEY declared that nobody would ever dream that this road was in a proper state to be taken over by that Board. The idea was simply ridiculous, as the road was in a disgraceful and deplorable state. There were holes a foot deep. (Laughter.) In travelling over it they might think they were dropping down into the world below. (Roars of laughter.)

Mr ELTRINGHAM concurred with Mr Wheatley that the road was in a wretched condition.

Mr WHEATLEY asserted that £15 had never been spent in repairing that road from between Shotley Bridge and the gate-house during the past 5 years. (Laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN: That is only an assertion. It cost more than £15 a year to keep their portion of the road in repair. There was only eight months to go before the Board would have control over the road.

Mr CARSS: Let the thing hang back till the time comes.

Mr WHEATLEY averred that there was nothing but a few loads of slag ever put on the road.

Mr CARSS reminded Mr Wheatley that he was casting reflections upon their Chairman.

Mr WHEATLEY: What do I care about the Chairman or anybody else. (Loud laughter.) The road and footpath is in an abominable state.

The CHAIRMAN said the trustees were not bound to have a footpath at all. The Act of Parliament, whereby the trustees required the road, was a very stringent one.

The Clerk also complained that the dirt scraped off the road was left lying on the sides.

Mr CARSS: If there is a nuisance our Surveyor can deal with it.

The Clerk urged the Chairman to induce the Trustees to pay a little more attention to the portion of road within their boundary.

The CHAIRMAN said the trustees gave very little attention to their duties, and he was everything except Surveyor. (Laughter.)

Mr LAX believed that the moneys paid by that Board had been honourably spent.

Mr WHEATLEY: Hoots! Hoots! Nothing of the sort. Only a few loads of slag is ever laid on. (Laughter.)

Mr ELTRINGHAM: Mr Wheatley is perfectly right. There are some places which require 12 inches of material upon the road.

Mr WHEATLEY deemed it extremely hard that they should be called to contribute towards the maintenance of the road, and also pay tolls at the gates for travelling over it.

The CHAIRMAN stated, in answer to Mr Carss, that the statutory balance sheet was published every year, but little information could be gathered from it. The road had not been a profitable speculation, as it only realised 2½ per cent for the past 21 years upon the capital originally subscribed, and this money would eventually be forfeited.

At length, the Board agreed to pay the amount due, with an instruction to the Surveyor to the Trust that he should see that the money was expended upon that part of the road in the Benfieldside township.

SNOW ACCUMULATION IN THE STREETS.

Mr ELTRINGHAM enquired who were the proper parties responsible for clearing the snow off the streets? The footpath on one side of Derwent Street, Blackhill, was completely blocked with snow.

Mr CARSS replied that the duty of clearing the snow off the footpath devolved upon the abutting proprietors.

The Surveyor said the Board had laid down a precedent in the past by permitting their own roadmen to clear the snow off the streets. As his men had been fully engaged in opening out the roads, this work had been neglected.

The Board authorised the Surveyor in future to call upon all parties to clean the snow from the front of their premises.

Mr ELTRINGHAM considered it would be better for the Board to spend £50 in clearing the snow off the streets rather than lay out the money upon the Park.

The Board then dispersed.

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The fortnightly meeting of this body took place yesterday (Thursday) forenoon, under the presidency of Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P. The Guardians present were: Rev J. P. De Pled, J.P., Monsignor Chas. Gillow, Rev Wm. Cockin, Messrs T Siddell, J. Wilkinson, J. Buckham, W. Hedley, J. Lax, T. J. Muse, J. A. Curry, J. Collinson, R. Robson, T. Taylor Smith, J. Watson, W. Brown, N. Clark, J. T. Todd, T. Nichol, and W. Cumming.

ILLNESS OF THE CLERK.

In the absence of the Clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson), who was seriously ill, Mr W. H. Hedley consented to officiate in his stead.

AN OBJECTION TO THE MINUTES.

Mr SIDDELL said that before the minutes were signed, he wanted to make some explanation with reference to the Consett Relief Committee. He objected to the minutes being signed so long as there was the resolution thereon concerning the Consett Relief Committee——

The CHAIRMAN (interposing) ruled that Mr Siddell was out of order.

Mr SIDDELL protested that he was justified in bringing the subject forward, as the Consett Committee——

The CHAIRMAN said he should not allow Mr Siddell to proceed, and appealed to the Guardians if the minutes should be signed? He was determined to maintain order in that room.

Mr SIDDELL replied that that was just what he wanted—that things to be done in order, and this was the reason he was taking objection to the minutes in regard to the Consett Committee.

The Clerk *pro. tem.* pointed out that there was nothing on the minutes of the last meeting relating to the Consett Committee.

The minutes were thereupon signed.

INMATES OF THE HOUSE.

Week ending Mar. 14th	183
Corresponding week of last year	186
Week ending Mar. 21st	184
Corresponding week of last year	193
Vagrants relieved during past fortnight.	13
Corresponding fortnight of last year...	14

THE WORKHOSE CONTRACTS.

The special Committee appointed for the purpose of investigating the contracts for the supply of groceries, provisions, fuel, &c., to the Workhouse for the ensuing half-year, recommended the acceptance of the undermentioned contracts:—Leading limestone, Mr J. Wall, Lanchester; gas coke, Mr C. Puckering, Lanchester; coal, Mr J Hall, Lanchester; coffins, Mr W. Hall, Lanchester; beef and mutton, Mr J. Parker, Leadgate; Australian beef, Mr J. Walton, Lanchester; flour, Mr W. R. Wiggen, Wallnook Mill, Witton Gilbert; and groceries, Messrs T. D. Dryden and Co., Consett.

The foregoing contracts were accepted.

SURCHARGING AN OVERSEER.

A communication was read from the Local Government Board intimating that the district auditor (Mr Hockin) had surcharged the assistant-overseer of Cornsay in the sum of £102.

It was reported that the treasurer had received that amount from Mr Alder.

THE REGISTRATION OFFICES.

THE APPOINTMENTS TO BE ADVERTISED.

The CHAIRMAN read a mass of correspondence which had been forwarded by the Registrar General of England and Wales, wherein he assented to the division of the Lanchester district for the purposes of facilitating the registration of births and deaths, consequent upon the resignation of Mr J. J. Thompson. He declared that from and after April 1st there should be two districts, viz.—the Consett sub-district and the Lanchester sub-district. The boundaries of the two divisions were defined in last week's *Guardian*. The Registrar-General also authorised the Board to proceed with the election of two registrars for the respective sub-districts of Lanchester and Consett.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that the question was whether the Board should advertise for applications for the vacant offices, or whether they should confirm their action of that day month, and appoint Mr Ritson (clerk) and Mr Moon (relieving officer) to these positions.

Mr SIDDELL stated that it would be more satisfactory to the ratepayers and the representatives of the Western District if the two appointments were advertised in the newspapers. He moved to that effect.

Mr HEDLEY seconded the proposition, and Mr CURRY also expressed his belief that it would afford greater satisfaction to the public at large that the offices should be advertised.

Mr LAX said there was no doubt a very strong feeling existed in the Western division in favour of the appointments being advertised. This feeling was shared by the responsible people, and Mr Siddell and Mr Collinson could bear him out in what he said.

Mr WILKINSON: We cannot act upon sentiment and feeling, but should look after the ratepayers' pockets.

The CHAIRMAN said he should not allow any Guardian to make any more than one speech on the subject.

Mr LAX (proceeding) stated that this feeling existed on the part of responsible ratepayers, and the letter from Mr Wm. Jenkins read at a former meeting reflected the views of the capitalists as well as of the general body of inhabitants. He (Mr Lax) had not the slightest objection to Mr Moon, who was a most able and experienced officer, and if he was chosen for the office, he would discharge the duties to the satisfaction of everybody. He contended, however, that the feeling on the part of the large body of ratepayers should carry some weight. There was nothing degradatory in having to advertise for applications for the offices, providing there was no pandering to the interests of any particular class. He heartily supported the proposition that they should advertise.

Mgr. GILLOW enquired if the Board could take any decisive action in the matter for another fortnight?

Mr HEDLEY replied that they could not proceed with the election of officers that day, but they could decide to advertise the positions.

The CHAIRMAN: It is simply a question whether we advertise or carry out our determination of this day month.

Mgr. GILLOW: But we could not elect Mr Ritson or Mr Moon to the officers to-day without notice?

The CHAIRMAN: No.

Mr COLLINSON: Are we bound by results, or can we not pay a fixed salary to these offices?

The CHAIRMAN: We have nothing to do with the salary. The remuneration is according to results.

Mr HEDLEY believed there were certain perquisites or emoluments attached to the offices. If the registrars were paid for their services, why could not these emoluments be dispensed with? Why should the members of Friendly Societies be called upon to pay certain fees if they required extra certificates?

Mr COLLINSON understood that the emoluments were regarded as a portion of the registrar's salary, according to law.

Mr BUCKHAM likewise supported the motion, which on being put was carried without opposition.

Mr HEDLEY entered a strong objection to candidates personally canvassing the Guardians. It was not fair that they should be bothered with applicants for the posts day after day.

The CHAIRMAN stated that for to object to canvassing would be rather unjust, as he had already six or eight different applications made to him. (Laughter.)

Mr BUCKHAM hoped that none of the Guardians had been so foolish as to commit themselves.

Mr SIDDELL: I haven't done so yet.

It was eventually agreed that the applications should be forwarded to the Clerk before this day fortnight, accompanied by three testimonials of recent date. At the next meeting, a dozen of the most suitable candidates will be selected and asked to attend the following meeting, and the appointments will be finally determined on April [illegible]. Personal canvassing will disqualify a person for the offices.

Mr COLLINSON was afraid that if the appointments were not made till a month hence it would be too late. He understood that the vacancies must be filled up within a specified time.

The CHAIRMAN: There is no necessity for that. The deputy-registrar is doing the work at present.

A BOY SENT TO AN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

The School Attendance Committee recommended that a boy named Hugh Hynes be sent to the Hardwick Memorial School, Newcastle, and that the Guardians pay 3s per week towards his support.

This was agreed to.

THE HALF YEAR'S EXPENDITURE.

The CHAIRMAN mentioned that the Clerk had prepared an estimate of the probable expenditure of the Union during the forthcoming six months, his calculation amounting to £7,450; whilst it was £[illegible]522 in the corresponding period of last year. The large increase was accounted for by the difference in the County rates.

It was resolved to issue calls upon the overseers of the various townships for a rate of 7d in the pound, which was the same as was levied in the corresponding half of the preceding year, the CHAIRMAN remarking that the Board then ran short of money, but now they had a balance of £1,800 in hand.

This was all the business before the Board.

LEADGATE LOCAL BOARD.

An adjourned meeting was held in the Board Room, yesterday (Thursday) afternoon—Mr Luke Nicholson in the chair. Present: Messrs J. J. Hedley, John Davison, Matthew Robson, the Clerk (Mr Coupland), and the Surveyor (Mr Thomas Longstaff.)

FINANCES.

The CHAIRMAN said that the adjourned meeting was called to pay over the accounts due before the 25th March.

Cheques were signed and handed over for the sum of £84 8s 11d.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The Surveyor (Mr Longstaff) submitted the following report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Leadgate Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—From the beginning of March up to the present time your workmen have been engaged with the snow the whole of the time, and I have had the large snow-plough out with six horses several times; also the smaller ones have been out a good many times.

Durham Main Road was to open out the whole way from Leadgate to Woodside, and had more snow on than any others.

Other Roads have all needed great attention during the snowstorm; but now the thaw has set, and I hope the snow won't be long before it has all disappeared.

Accounts for the snow-cutting, ploughing, &c., will be before you to-day; also joiner's and blacksmith's bills, and for a six-feet wide snow-plough I bought at a sale.

Annexed are the monthly paybills:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Durham Main Road:						
Manual labour	11	4	9			
Team labour	3	7	6			
				14	12	3
Other Roads:						
Manual labour	11	1	6			
Team labour	3	3	0			
				14	4	6
				28	16	9
Tradesmen's bills				3	19	8
				£32	16	5

I am gentlemen, your obedient servant,
THOMAS LONGSTAFF.

Leadgate, March 22nd, 1888.

INSPECTOR'S PAYBILL.

The above bill was presented, which included scavanger's salary, water for urinals, brushes, &c., amounting to £19 2s 6d.

COLLECTOR'S REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,—I have collected and paid over to the treasurer on account of District Rate, 12s; market tolls, 3s.

The whole of the District Rate is now collected.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
T. LONGSTAFF.

Leadgate, Mar. 22nd, 1888.

The whole of the foregoing reports were read and adopted.

CONSETT LIVERY STABLES.

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Have Removed to their New Premises, opposite New Town Hall, Consett.
Horses and Carriages of every description for Hire.
HEARSES & MOURNING COACHES.
UNDERTAKERS AND FUNERAL FURNISHERS. 711y

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

SPENNYMOOR.—On the 18th inst., the wife of Mr W. B. Holland, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

LANCHESTER.—At the Register Office, on the 17th inst., Thomas Pearson to Ann Jane Jones, both of Westwood.—Same day, Thos. Pearson, Blackhill, to Esther Marian Bell, Consett.—22nd inst., Robert Wilkinson to Hannah Murphy, both of Consett.

RYTON.—19th inst., by the Rev Canon Chester, Jos. Wood, of Easington Village, to Elizabeth Tilly, of Ryton.

DEATHS

HAMSTERLEY COLLIERY.—21st., aged 24, Robert Ward, son of Mary Wardle (late Mary Bowman). To be interred at Ebchester, on Sunday, 25th, Four p.m. Friends, please accept this intimation. 265z

TANFIELD LEA.—19th inst., aged 76, Luke, husband of Catherine Thompson.

SWALWELL.—15th inst., aged 9 years. George Scott, son of the late James K. Taylor.

(At the residence of his son-in-law, Thomas Gardner), 20th inst., aged 78, Samuel Burns, late of Whickham.

PRUDHOE.—On the 21st inst., aged 69 years, Thomas Robinson.

RIDING MILL.—Broomhaugh, 19th inst., aged 33, James S. Richardson.

BLAYDON.—Robinson Street, 17th inst., aged 58, John Forster.

OUSTON.—16th inst., aged 64, John, husband of Isabella Richardson.

NEWCASTLE.—30, Harvey Street, Byker, 17th inst., aged 33, Esther, wife of Henry Mewton, eldest daughter of the late Robert Robinson, Holden Hall, Wylam.

MOURNING GOODS.—HUGH MORTON and CO., 55, Grainger Street, Newcastle, directs attention to their Immense Stock for Men, Youths and Boys, ready for immediate wear, in all the Newest Materials and Latest Styles. Men's Black Worsted Suits, from 21s. to 49s. 6d.; Youths' Suits from 16s. 11d.; Boys' Suits, from 6s. 11d. Single Garments at proportionate prices. Suits made to order in a few hours. 94w

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