STRIKE.

...NEMEN AT ANNFIELD PLAIN.

...y) afternoon, a largely- ... the Stanley and Leadgate ... ty Enginemen's Association ... rative Hall, Annfield Plain, ... hill, being in the chair.— ... by Mr Thomas Hindmarsh ... ham Colliery Enginemen's ... obson, Hetton-le-Hole; Mr ... Wraughton, Beamish, and ... nce of amalgamation, and ... attitude in relation to the ... generally agreed, although ... ed at, to remain firm, and ... tion of wages.

...AFFIN OIL ON THE ...IRE.

...MAN AT CRAGHEAD.

... on Wednesday afternoon, ... Craghead, on the body of ... 33 years, who met with ... r painful circumstances.— ... hat on the 3rd of March ... at 7.30 a.m. to light the ... match to the fuel, she was ... ome paraffin oil out of a ... en the bottle slipped out ... u the fire, causing an ex... ... was that Robson's clothes ... she was burnt upon the ... ill the 13th inst., having ... meantime by Drs Johnson ... g the evidence, the jury ... at death was due to ex... accidentally received by ... the fire.

...Messrs Turner and Bacon, ... pany, are here this week ... nime "Aladdin," before ... Next week, Mr Hopcutt, ... pany, are announced to ... Royal, Consett, in a new ... en by Mark Melford.

...VES & CO., ... RINTORS AND ... URNISHERS. ... Cheapest HEARSES ... NG COACHES. ... for Brakes for Trips ... mmer Months. ... necessary supplied on ... The strictest regard ... ecially observed.

...ges, and Deaths.

...THS ... 11th inst., the wife of M.

...AGES ... hodist Chapel, 15th inst., ... ody Close, to Jeanie ... Office, 12th inst., R. ... E. G. Anderson, Catch- ... Thompson to E. Riley, ... p.—Same day, T. Coul- ... o H. J. Walker, Lan- ... James Marriott to A. ... dley Hill.—17th inst., ... to Betsy Rudd, both of ... nst., Thomas Robinson to ... both of East Lane, Stan-

...THS ... ow, 13th inst., Mary Ann, ... inst., aged 48, Thomas, ... of Elizabeth Redshaw. ... Benfieldside Cemetery ... at 2.30 p.m. Friends ... mation. ... reet, 17th inst, aged 69, ... beloved wife of George ... on Sunday, at Benfield- ... o'clock. Friends please ... 15 years and 9 months, ... son, daughter of S. Done- ... inst., aged 48, Margaret, ... aged 39, Ellen, wife of ... 5 years, E. H., daughter ... and 5 months, M. A., ... st., aged 60, Emanuel ... th inst., aged 10 years, ... of Ann Minto and the ... n, son of Andrew Kerr, ... y Ann, wife of William ... way Street, 11th inst., ... bert, the beloved hus- ... Deeply regretted. ... 14 months, William, son ... 71, Mary, widow of the ... nst., aged 25, Thomas, ... Ann Keenan. ... 57, George Wilkinson, ... h inst., aged 82, John ... th inst., aged 75, Ann ... ge Reid, farmer, Stair ... pe. ... wife of Joshua Green ... ged 16, Annie, daughter ... ed 74, John, husband of ... 82, Thomas Mason. ... es, 10th inst., aged 81, ... ed 76, Frances, wife of ... Street, 6th inst., aged ... cher. Interred at St ... r Moor, on the 9th.

... n, the dearly beloved ... Carrick, East Pontop ... am and Jane Carrick ... 1890, aged 38. ... ll to memory dear. ... r mother, Ann Bell, ... Row, Consett, March ... e so dearly loved, ... so often proved; ... appy spirit's fled, ... with the silent dead, ... DOROTHY. ... kup, of Consett, who ... ged 43 years. ... work is done, ... e victory won, ... e."

... J. HOPE ... ERS IN MARBLE ... RANITE, ... ACKHILL, AND ... ELD. ... in Town or Country ... es on application. ... ERT JACKSON at ... ... 69 Front Street ... th, 1892.

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THE Consett Local Board invite TENDERS for the TEAM WORK required for one year.

Conditions and Specification may be seen at the Board Room on and after Saturday, the 12th inst.

A Form of Tender will be supplied on application, and no Tender will be considered except those on the prescribed Form.

Tenders, addressed to the Consett Local Board, will be received up to 5 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, the 5th day of April next.

The lowest or any Tender will not necessarily be accepted.

A Bond will be required for the due performance of the contract.

By Order of the Board, THOMAS WM. WELFORD, Clerk.

10th March, 1892. 969h

CONSETT INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETY, LIMITED.

TO CONTRACTORS.

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Plans and Specifications may be seen at 40, Roger Street, Blackhill, on and after Tuesday, the 1st day of March next.

Tenders, sealed and endorsed, to be delivered at the Society's Office, on or before Four p.m. on Monday, April 11th, 1892.

The Committee do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any Tender.

WILLIAM S. SHELL, M.S.A., Architect.

February 25th, 1892.

TO CONTRACTORS.

THE BENFIELDSIDE LOCAL BOARD invite TENDERS for LEADING MATERIALS required by the Board, and also Price per Day for Team Work.

Specifications to be seen, and all information to be obtained, by applying to the Surveyor, who will receive Tenders, sealed and endorsed, "Team Work," from the 25th day of March, till the 8th day of April, 1892.

The Board do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any Tender.

By Order of the Board, JOHN DIXON, Surveyor. 34i

TO CONTRACTORS.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH INSTITUTE, STANLEY, R.S.O., DURHAM.

PERSONS desirous of TENDERING for the above are requested to forward their Names and Addresses to the Architects, on or before Tuesday, the 29th inst., to whom Quantities will be supplied.

JOHN SMITH & SON, Architects, Rose Cottage, Shotley Bridge. Co. Durham.

March 23rd, 1892. 31

Found.

FOUND, on the 19th inst., in Blackhill, a PURSE, containing Money.—Apply to Mr W. B. FOGGON, Butcher, Durham Road, Blackhill.

Wanted.

WANTED, a good CARTWRIGHT and JOINER, at once.—Apply, JNO. SOUTHERN, Dipton, Lintz Green. 29j

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TO LET, LODGINGS in Blackhill, for One or Two respectable Young Men.—For particulars apply *Guardian* Office.

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Mr. CARSWELL takes this opportunity of stating that he has had 15 years' experience in Dentistry and for the last 7 years has been partner with Dr. SQUIRE ALLEN (the celebrated American Dentist, of Edinburgh). He has thus thoroughly acquired the experience necessary for the skilful performance of all Classes of Dental Work.

All persons employing Mr. CARSWELL may confidently rely on receiving First-Class Workmanship and careful personal attention.

TEETH PAINLESSLY EXTRACTED. ARTIFICIAL TEETH AND STOPPING. CHARGES STRICTLY MODERATE.

AT CONSETT EVERY MONDAY FROM 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Mrs. McPHERSON'S, 20 Newmarket Street.

AT STANLEY EVERY TUESDAY FROM 11 a.m. TO 5 p.m. At Mrs. ARCHER'S High Stanley).

EASY PAYMENTS TAKEN.

RUDGE CYCLE COY., LIMITED.

ST. JOHN STREET (OFF GRAINGER STREET), NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

CALL AND INSPECT OUR STOCK BEFORE PURCHASING.

LIST FREE.

GOOD CASH DISCOUNT, OR ON OUR NEW EASY PAYMENT SYSTEM.

We are often asked how it is that our Advertising is so small in comparison with other Cycle Firms. Our reply has been to the effect that we consider the best possible Advertisements consist in giving the Public the utmost value for their money.

THIS IS THE RESULT OF 21 YEARS' EXPERIENCE.

In Purchasing a Rudge Cycle you buy a splendid combination, viz:—

BEST MATERIAL. BEST WORKMANSHIP. BEST FINISH.

This is acknowledged generally by Cyclists, hence the big prices obtained for Second-hand Rudge Machines.

SPECIALITIES FOR 1892 SEASON:—

RACING PNEUMATIC .... 25LBS. WEIGHT.
LIGHT ROADSTER PNEUMATIC .... 30LBS. WEIGHT.
"KING COLE" (Solid Tyre) .... Cash £7.
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Complete with Lamp and Bell.

Owing to the recent unfavourable weather, we have decided to extend our

SPECIAL CLEARANCE SALE

of New Machines (91 pattern), also Shop-soiled and Second-hand, TILL MARCH 30TH.

CATALOGUES FREE ON APPLICATION.

See also advertisement in For Sale columns for special value in Second-hands.

3f

Correspondence.

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

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

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

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES' SERVANTS.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—I have been very much amused by the discussion which has gone on for weeks in your paper concerning the closing of stores at noon on Saturdays. The extravagant statements of the two extremes, and the uncalled for remarks of one writer towards another shows plainly that co-operations needs further progress before a fellow feeling can exist. It is natural that opposites will give opposite opinions, and we can generally find a reasonable roadway between two extremes which will prove the best plan to adopt. My opinion in this matter is to keep the stores open as usual, and to give half the *employes* a full day's holiday one Saturday, and the other half the next Saturday. The secretary and cashier to have their turns the same way; and two books could be used for nothing else than the accounts for Saturdays only. This would hinder the secretary and cashier from having access to each other's books. On the Monday these accounts could be transferred to their own respective account books, so that each of them could put their books under lock and key before they went for their holiday, and no one would see them until their return. The manager could adopt this plan as well, for the head counterman would have to take charge of the business every alternate Saturday to enable the manager to get his turn. If less business is done on the Saturdays then half the servants could manage it, especially if the authority of a correspondent can be relied on that only two pounds is taken over the counters after 12 o'clock for sales. But I class this statement along with others the same writer quotes as superfluous, such as men leaving the stores to go back to a miner's life. We all know that these are very exceptional cases, and only proves that some men will not settle anywhere, and the carol-singers at two o'clock in the morning being heard by the shop-men finds its explanation in the fact that they were working their time up for Christmas and New Year's Days, while miners and other classes of workmen could not get the chance to do so, consequently their pay note showed two days' pay deficient, while the store men's wage was the same; and the long hours worked at the beginning of the quarter on account of the credit system finds its solution in the fact that towards the end of the quarter nothing of any consequence were sold, so that this was a time of ease, and overtime was paid for the long hours; but what has these questions to do with the one on hand? It's the position to day that we are dealing with, not years ago, and when it's argued that no inconvenience can accrue from closing the stores at noon on Saturdays. The only true method to find the truth is, how many members have left on this very account? I understand a good number have done so, for actions speak louder than words, and if a member cannot speak to effect, his going elsewhere proves that he is nonsuited by his own store. I hope that ere long unity of purpose will be the order of the day, which is the only safeguard against clamour, envy, strife, and all bitterness.—I am, yours,

WM. SIMPSON.

Beamish Air Pit.

THE CONTEMPLATED NEW CHAPEL AT ALLENDALE COTTAGES.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—When a Christian is going to take action, the first question he ought to ask himself is, will the result of my action tend to elevate or lower the religion of Christ in the estimation of my fellows generally? If he thinks his action is calculated in the least possible way to bar the progress of the religion of Christ from wielding that Christianising influence we all so much desire it to have, he will refrain from acting. There are various ways in which we may act when dealing with the same thing. In the doing of anything in life our success largely depends upon the methods we adopt. It was with feelings of pain that I read Mr Clark's letter in your last issue. Allow me to say I write in the most friendly spirit. "Disagreement should carry no detraction if both are seekers of truth." Instead of rushing his thoughts into print upon so delicate a subject, it would have been far the better way to have called together the neighbouring churches and had a little conference. He would have then got an opportunity of saying all he wanted to say. It is possible that had this been done the Wesleyan friends would have laid matters before Mr Clark in such a manner that he would have realised he was dealing with an intricate and most critical piece of business. According to his idea, it simply means the joining of the Wesleyan church, in the most complete sense, to that of the Primitives. There is a great deal more involved in a step of this nature than Mr Clark appears to be aware of. Let us come to the point. He says the Wesleyan Conference, when receiving deputations from other denominations, expressed themselves to this effect—that where there was a Methodist chapel and accommodation they would not build. This expression of opinion from the Conference does not apply to the Wesleyans at Allendale Cottages. The nature of their circumstances are something like the following: They have worshipped in the colliery reading-room for the past nine years, being placed at grievous disadvantages, and very much inconvenienced, all class meetings, prayer meetings, and all meetings of every description, having to be held in the members' houses, with the exception of the Sunday services. For a long while now, particularly on Sunday evenings, the accommodation has been quite inadequate on different occasions, the preacher having to gain access by the window. All other churches have, in the past, when they found their place of worship too small, taken a step, the force of circumstances making it clear that they felt justified, and were persuaded it was absolutely necessary to procure more and better accommodation. Mr Clark's letter carries this impression with it, though I know he does not intend it, that where there is a Primitive chapel and accommodation all Wesleyans have to become Primitives, and *vice versa*. I honestly think that when he reflects a little he will see clearly that his action has tended to put it into the mouths of the world to say: There they are, they cannot agree amongst themselves; it will be far-reaching and most detrimental to a certain class in this respect. It behoves us to be careful. We always want to keep an eye to home. Allow me, sir, to give one illustration from his own idea. The Free Church at Milkwell Burn was somewhat similarly situated as our Wesleyan friends at Allendale are at the present, Mr Clark being a member at the Free Church. The Wesleyans at Blackhall Mill, or the Primitives at Hamsterley, when our Milkwell Burn friends built their chapel and involved themselves into that monstre debt, entirely uncalled for, could have easily accommodated the congregations Milkwell Burn has had ever since they built their place of worship, except three or four Sundays out of the twelve months. This, of course, is simply the practical meaning of Mr Clark's idea. It would have taken them a little over ten minutes to walk to any of these places of worship. It is no mere matter of fancy the building of this sanctuary. It has been seriously and prayerfully considered; it is to give more facilities, to provide more accommodation for the ever-increasing and over-crowded, over-heated congregations.—I am, &c.,

OUTSIDER.

Westwood, March 22nd, 1892.

P.S.—The population at Allendale being somewhat over 1,000, there is provision at the present for only 350.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—With your kind permission I should like to occupy a short space in your columns in reply to the letter in your issue of the 18th inst., and Mr J. Clark's misrepresentation of facts. Mr Clark lives about one-and-a-half miles from the site of the proposed new chapel, and he has gone a little out of his way to meddle with things he has nothing to do with, or is not asked in any way to help. Without going into the full details of Mr Clark's letter, allow me to state the true facts of the case. At Allendale Cottages there is a population of 1,250 inhabitants, this I learn from the last census taken for the proposed new railway station. There is a Primitive Methodist Chapel, which is in a very good condition and seats about 300, so that leaves 950 unprovided for. The Wesleyan Methodists have not just come to Allendale, as he would intimate; but have had a flourishing church and Sunday-school there for over nine years—worshipping in the Consett Iron Company's reading-room—and for the last six years at considerable inconvenience, having the use of the reading-room for Sundays only; the accommodation being quite insufficient, having sitting accommodation for only 100 at the most, an average attendance of 120 children, and a staff of 16 teachers. At the Sunday night's preaching service we are crowded out. I am informed by the Primitive Methodist friends that they have also good congregations at nights. The public will now see that the remarks of Mr Clark are uncalled for, unjustifiable, and unnecessary. The Wesleyan Methodist Chapel is the light of facts becomes an absolute necessity. In reference to the Wesleyan Conference receiving deputations from other denominations, and having expressed themselves again and again, my friend must be misinformed in reference to this matter. The Wesleyan Conference never pledged itself to any other denomination as to what it would do. There was, I admit, at the London Ecumenical Conference a feeling that there should be no over-lapping. There is no over-lapping in this case; it is an absolute necessity. What would become of the 120 children that are gathered together on the Sunday afternoon? There is no other Sunday-school either at Allendale or Westwood in the afternoon, neither is there any other Nonconformist preaching service on the Sunday morning within three miles of Allendale or Westwood. Were we erecting a house for the purpose of degrading humanity, we might have expected to be insulted by a member of a neighbouring Christian Church. Before closing I must express my regret at having to resort by letter to the public press in defence of this much needed chapel. Hoping that the above facts will be sufficient justification for us appealing to the generous public for support, and thanking you, sir, in anticipation for the insertion of this in your next issue.—Yours truly,

W. HOGG.

Westwood.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—Kindly allow me space in your valuable paper to say a few words concerning the above. A letter appeared in your last week's issue from a Mr Clark, Milkwell Burn, condemning the Wesleyans of Allendale Cottages for their intention of building a new place of worship. Mr Clark thinks this action is far from being right. Now sir, I beg to differ greatly from Mr Clark's ideas. It is quite correct that there is a Primitive Methodist Chapel in the place, and that the members of this church have struggled, both singly and combined, to diminish the debt, and have, I am glad to say, by their heroic efforts reduced it to a very small item, and it is true that there is another place of worship (a Methodist Free Church) at Westwood, three minutes' walk from the site of the proposed new Wesleyan Chapel, but this, I maintain, does not condemn his Wesleyan friends (as he calls them) for having a place of worship of their own. I think that Mr Clark ought not to use this term "friends" in his letter of condemnation. I consider a friend will not begrude what another friend gets, and yet I think Mr Clark is not acting upon this principle in this case. I am convinced that Allendale Cottages has (according to the last census taken) a population considerably over 1,000 inhabitants, and I am sure that the present Primitive Methodist Chapel cannot comfortably seat anything like this number. I am also confident that the population of Westwood is considerably more than the Free Church in this village can accommodate. I now wish to ask Mr Clark what has to become of the remainder of the people? As the place is now situated, I would, if anyone was putting the same question to me, readily say "Not any." As things are now, I admit that there is room enough in the chapels to admit a good lot more people, but I hope Mr Clark has not altogether lost faith in his God. A revival might overspread the district any time, but let me warn Mr Clark that such a thing will not occur so long as this grumbling at each other is in existence, and I am confident that unless there is something done to remedy this state of affairs God's work will never prosper. I say if a man be a Wesleyan let him adhere to Wesleyanism, and if a Primitive let him do likewise, and if a member of the Free Church let him stick to it and not find any fault with what his fellow-workers, either Primitives or Wesleyans, may do for the extensions of God's kingdom. I think that money invested in a cause like this should bring forth much fruit if all denominations would live in harmony with each other. Mr Clark, I understand, being a member of the Free Church, it is his pleasure to meet among the same body of worshippers, and I think that the Wesleyans of Allendale Cottages, being Wesleyans, have a desire of having a place of worship of this kind in their village. I am persuaded that if Mr Clark had himself been a Wesleyan he would never have dreamt of finding any reason of objecting to a Wesleyan Chapel, but, Mr Editor, allow me to say that circumstances alter cases. Again, if this proposed chapel had been erected for a wholesale degradation of humanity I could easily have understood Mr Clark's objection, but the people are about to build this place to uplift humanity, and why object to it? I conclude by saying that I think Mr Clark has done wrong by publishing such a letter, and I hope that ere this is published (by your kind permission) that he will have completely turned round and now say that the Wesleyans are doing a proper thing by building a Wesleyan Chapel at Allendale Cottages.—Yours, &c.,

ANONYMOUS.

THE WESLEYAN BRASS BAND AT TOW LAW.

To the Editor of the Consett Gurdian.

SIR,—In scanning over your issue of March 18th my eye fell on the productions of "Tow Lawite." I saw he took a prominent part in discussing the band question. He has wound up by saying "I did not take the trouble to reply," &c., which is a happy way of siding out when a fellow finds himself beat. I think in taking up with the above question, "Tow Lawite" took too much for granted, instead of having facts to start with. And, wishing to proceed with his pen, he takes up another subject, which may require his siding-out policy to be repeated. In speaking of mining operations he continues—"If a coal-hewer is idle, what need is there for a deputy? If there is no coal coming out, there cannot be any timber to set." The latter clause ought to have read —"If no more coal has to come out, why set timber? But we hope more will be sent out by-and-bye, therefore timber must be set, even when coal hewers are idle." It appears to me he is starting with another subject he little understands. The fact is, in many cases the timber renewing question is more needed in time of idle days than working. To say the least, he is no practical miner, which is very plain from the statements he has made. And he states further: "Some men believe one day that capital is taking too much profit, the next day they go to work and help capital to defeat the man who lives in the same colliery row." Now, sir, every man ought to have, with all fairness, the privilege of explaining his own belief, and not be left to any construction which "Tow Lawite" may think fit to attach to it, considering the possibility of a little feeling in his own mind. Next, motives are called in question, men going to work to defeat their neighbour. Men going to work may help and not defeat his neighbour. He must believe in the destructive policy of—destroy all you can. If wholesale destruction be made in cases of dispute between capital and labour, who's got the piper of that tune to pay but the working man? The better the condition in which everything is maintained the more likelihood is there that each man can be reinstated in his work in a shorter time when the unhappy dispute shall end. And if "Tow Lawite" has any faith in the Book of Books it ought to be appealed to. I don't read if you have a dispute with your master destroy his property. I am against strikes; but seeing we are in the midst of one, let us do our best to avoid the greatest evil. If human passion is to rule the day, woe be to us both now and in the future. So long as any man is conscientious in the action he takes, and can give a Christian reason for his conduct, he can look every man in the face. It is not manly to make too much of what men may say in a friendly chat for the purpose of taking advantage of a fellow behind his back. The contrast was made between getting five loads of coal and none. I would ask is the case not over-stated? I hope the notes I have referred to were not written for the purpose of creating ill-feeling.—Yours, &c.,

I. O. U.

Tow Law, March 21st, 1892.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—Referring to the statement by "Tow Lawite" in your last issue, it is four or five weeks since I repudiated the statement made in your paper by this gentleman about the Wesleyan Brass Band. He, after a month's silence on the subject, says:—"He did not take the trouble to reply to the letter wrote by a Wesleyan on the band dispute," but not a word of apology does he give for the false statement he made in his first letter; neither does he attempt to deny what I said in contradiction, but very lamely tries to shelve the question by saying "He did not take the trouble to reply," and goes on to say, "One thing is certain, he (that is the Wesleyan) evidently knows very little about the case." His next sentence is "now, that the band is done, perhaps he will give us more light on the subject, and not leave us in the dark on such an important matter as this is." Not a very reasonable expectation if, as he says, I know very little about the case. If "Tow Lawite" had said that he, not being a Wesleyan, was not expected to know much about the affairs of the Wesleyan Brass Band, I would have excused his first letter, knowing his special weakness for gossip and spreading news, but for a whole month he has been dumb on the subject. (Such silence is not commendable.) I think, sir, you will agree with me, that if a statement made public is contradicted in next issue, the fact of the writer saying a few weeks after "he did not take the trouble to reply" is a very poor get-out, and does not exonerate him from the blame of making public a statement which, if it had not been contradicted, would have been credited by many as correct. I am sorry "Tow Lawite" should now try to make capital out of the fact of the band being done. I think if he will look at the affairs of his own church, he will find sufficient there to interest him without interfering with the affairs of a neighbouring church. No doubt but what I could enlighten him more fully in the affairs of our late brass band, but see no necessity for it. If "Tow Lawite" is really in the dark about the matter, I trust he will not be without the consolation of knowing that he (at any rate) has no right to be in the light.—Yours truly,

A WESLEYAN.

THE ROADS IN THE MEDOMSLEY DISTRICT.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—Seeing so many complaints from other districts regarding the roads, may I be allowed to call attention to the disgraceful condition of the roads in the above district? Not only are they in such a shocking bad condition, but they are absolutely dangerous. I understand that there are roadmen continually employed on them, but a stranger might easily be forgiven for thinking that they had not been touched for twelve months. I do not know who is responsible for keeping our highways in a decent state, but whoever they may be, some improvement is undoubtedly required.—Yours, &c.,

Medomsley, March 22, 1892. PROGRESS.

MINERS' STRIKE AND THE REV. MR. SMITH, TOW LAW.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—Kindly allow me a short space in your next issue to say a few words on the above question, as I am the miners' secretary that Mr Smith came to in the cattle mart, and quoted the facts and figures to, and having got wrong by the friends of Mr Smith for saying he wanted the men to have a reduction, and by the working-men for not pitching into him, perhaps I may be allowed to say what did take place, and what was said. Mr Smith came up and said, "have you seen this morning's paper," I said "no." He then produced his pocket book which contained figures he had copied, and read out the selling price of coal for year ending January, 1891, and also for the year ending January, 1882, he also gave the number of tons of coal produced in the corresponding periods. The difference in the selling price showed a reduction of over 10 per cent. "These figures," said he, "speak for themselves." My reply was "these figures may be true, but you see, the men think they have little enough wage, and would rather strike than have a reduction," quite a number of men had gathered round, mostly miners. Mr Smith's reply to this was, "Yes, but why strike if you have nothing to strike about." I saw the rev. gentleman with his pocket book out and speaking to other people. What he said, I dont know. The question with the men who heard him is this—what did he mean by saying, "Why strike, if you have nothing to strike about?" There are two ways in which a thing may be said, and whether Mr Smith meant that because coal and coke was selling at 10 per cent. reduction, and therefore the men should work for 10 per cent. less and not strike, I cannot say. I leave all persons to judge for themselves. In conclusion, let me say that I dont think we ought to enter into a discussion in a public place on these matters. As workingmen we ought to know our own business, and do our own work, in our own lodge rooms, unless at a public mass meeting, any of our doings or remarks were called into question; then we would be prepared to defend ourselves.—I am yours truly,

Tow Law, March 19, 1892. JAMES VICKERS.

LAW AND ORDER.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—The events of the past week at Westwood, Medomsley, and other places, set one wondering whether we have gone back seven hundred years to the civil wars in King Stephen's reign, when the Government was too weak to keep the public peace, and therefore men did just what was right in their own eyes (or wrong either), and robber barons waged private wars with each other. The very first condition of national well-being is, that the arm of justice shall prevent one man using force to interfere with another, who is not breaking the law (even if he be loading coals for the Consett Iron Company). And the arm of justice ought to be made strong enough to give this protection to every citizen, supposing it were necessary to bring an army to give it. Somebody should be responsible for seeing that the public peace is maintained. Perhaps Mr Atherley-Jones will get up in the House of Commons and ask the Home Secretary why, in North-West Durham, people are allowed to defy the law with impunity? I suppose he would think it as much as his seat was worth to ask such a question—though it is just possible he might be wrong there, because pitmen, like other civilized men, know perfectly well that the maintenance of law is the first duty of Government. I call myself a Liberal, because I take the root principle of Liberalism to be this, that everybody shall be equal before the law. I have been used to write for a newspaper, and for this I was paid at the market price. Now, supposing somebody else had offered to do my work *below* the market price, I might reasonably have been vexed, but if I had thrown stones at that person and burned his clothes, I am well-assured I should have gone to prison, and serve me right. Now, I fail to see why a hundred people should be allowed to do what one person may not do. Is this equality before the law?—Yours, &c.,

A BELIEVER IN EVEN-HANDED LAW.

Cricket.

The secretary of the Shotley Bridge Red Rose Cricket club has several vacancies, which require immediate attention from any good junior club in the district. Address: John Nixon, The Bothey, Shotley Bridge.

Sporting Items.

THE FOOT-HANDICAP AT LEADGATE.—On Saturday afternoon, the final heats for the £12 10s 120 yards footrace handicap, which was promoted through the enterprise of the Leadgate Athletic Company, were decided in their enclosure at Leadgate, and resulted very successfully. The weather was bright and genial, and about 600 persons paid at the gate. Details:—Heat 1—Haggerstone, Leadgate, 22, 1; Reed, Consett, 23½, 2; Cook, Seaham Harbour, 23, 0; Taylor, Newcastle, 22½, 0. Won by half a yard. Heat 2—Chubb, Byker, 22, 1; Oliver, Leadgate, 24½, 2; Ward, Allendale Cottages, 19, 3; Nicholson, Leadgate, 24, 0. Won by a foot. Heat 3—Thomas, St. Anthony's, 21, 1; Robson, Pontop, 22½, 2; Haggerstone, Ebarpark, 25, 3; Wallace, Consett, 25, 0. Won by a yard. Heat 4—Revell, Newcastle, 9½, 1; Maley, Consett, 22½, 2; Laycock, Newcastle, 22½, 0; Stephenson, Elswick, 22½, 0. Won easily. Final heat—Thomas, 1; Chubb, 2; Revell, 3; Haggerstone, 4. Won by half a yard; a foot separated the second and third. Mr J. McCurley, was handicapper, Mr J. Snaith, referee, and Mr P. Small pistol-firer.

RUPTURES!—WHITE'S MOC-MAIN LEVER TRUSS is the most effective invention for the treatment of Hernia. The use of a steel spring, so hurtful in its effects, is avoided a soft bandage being worn round the body, while the requisite resisting power is supplied by the Moc-Main Pad and Patent Lever, fitting with so much ease and closeness that it cannot be detected. Send for descriptive circular, with testimonials and prices, to J. WHITE AND CO. (Limited), Piccadilly London. Do not buy of Chemists, who often sell you IMITATION of our Moc-Main. J White and Co. have no any Agents.

TOWLE'S PENNYROYAL & STEEL PILLS FOR FEMALES, quickly correct all irregularities, removes all obstructions, and relieve the distressing symptoms so prevalent with the sex. Boxes, 1s 1½d. and 2s 9d of all chemists. Sent anywhere on receipt of 15 or 34 stamps by the Maker, E. T. TOWLE, Chemist, Nottingham. BEWARE OF IMITATIONS.

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

Football.

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

ASSOCIATION.

Annfield Plain Jolly Tars B beat Greencroft Black Watch 2nd by three goals to two.

TOW LAW FELL WANDERERS v CORNSAY TRUE BLUES.—Played at Cornsay, and ended in a victory for the Wanderers by one goal to nil.

LEADGATE PARK v WEST END RESERVE.—Played at Leadgate, the visitors winning by five goals to two.

CROOKHALL WANDERERS v BLACKHILL SWIFTS.—Played on the ground of the former, and after a pleasant game resulted in a win for the Wanderers by five goals to nil.

LINTZ ROVERS v MARLEY HILL ST. CUTHBERT'S.—Played on the ground of the former, and after a well-contested game resulted in a draw, each side scoring twice.

WALDRIDGE CHURCH JUNIORS v PELTON FELL HARRIERS JUNIORS.—Played on the ground of the former on Wednesday week. Result—Waldridge, one goal; Pelton, one goal.

GRANGE VILLA v PELTON FELL BUSTY LADS.—Played on the ground of the latter, and after a good game ended in a win for Grange Villa by two goals to one.

WALDRIDGE CHURCH JUNIORS v KIMBLESWORTH ROVERS.—Played on the former's ground on Monday. Result—Kimblesworth, two goals; Waldridge, one goal.

CORNSAY TRUE PLEDGES v TOW LAW FELL WANDERERS.—Played on the former's ground on Friday, and resulted in a victory for the Wanderers by two goals to one.

ANNFIELD PLAIN HUNTERS v ANNFIELD PLAIN JOLLY TARS.—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a win for the Hunters by three goals to two.

LEADGATE YOUNG EXILES v CONSETT FELL WANDERERS.—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a victory for the Exiles by six goals to three.

ANNFIELD PLAIN HUNTERS v ANNFIELD PLAIN GRASSHOPPERS.—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a win for the home team by one goal to nil.

WALDRIDGE CHURCH JUNIORS v SACRISTON ST. PETER'S.—Played at Sacriston. The visitors were poorly represented, leaving home with only seven men. The result was:—Sacriston, six goals; Waldridge, nothing.

HOBSON WANDERERS RESERVE v KYO GEMS.—Played on the ground of the latter, before a large number of spectators, and after a fast and good game resulted in a win for the Reserve by two goals to nil. The winners played four first team men.

BURNHOPE ROVERS v STANLEY HEDLEY HARRIERS.—Played at Burnhope in fine weather, when a good game was witnessed. Nothing was registered in the first half, but the Harriers scored from a throw in in the second period. The Rovers had hard lines in not equalising two minutes before the whistle sounded for time. The home team sadly missed the services of R. Press, their extreme left, who was away playing for Dipton Wanderers. Result—

Harriers .... One goal
Rovers .... Nil

BLACKHILL PARK v CONSETT SWIFTS.—Played on the Fell ground. The Swifts elected to play with the wind, and soon after commencing Winter scored the first goal for them from a scrimmage in the goal-mouth. After this play ruled pretty even, the globe travelling quickly from one end to the other. No further scoring took place up to the interval, when the record was—

Swifts .... One goal
Park .... Nil

On resuming, the leather was quickly taken to the Swifts' goal, and was put through, making the scores equal. Allison secured the ball from the kick-off, and after dribbling up the field centred to Eustace, who put on a second goal for the Swifts. The Park then pressed, but were repulsed by the opposing full backs, who were playing a good game. The game ended as under—

Swifts .... Two goals
Park .... One goal

LEADGATE ST. IVES v ANNFIELD PLAIN HUNTERS.—Played at Leadgate in two thirties. The "Saints" won the toss, and played with the wind in their favour. Directly the ball was started, the Hunters sent it down the field, but it was returned by the Leadgate backs. The home team began to press hard, and put the leather through amidst applause. The visitors played with determination after the "Saints" scored, but they could not get away. The homesters had the best of the play, and when the whistle sounded for half-time the score was—

St. Ives .... Four goals
Hunters .... Nil

When the teams crossed over, the "Saints" expected the visitors to make it hot for them, but owing to the splendid form displayed by the Leadgate backs, the Hunters only got one shot in, which Shield saved. The home men continued to have matters all their own way, and succeeded in notching two more goals. Final score—

St. Ives .... Six goals
Hunters .... Nil

The following did duty for the winners:—Goal, A. Shield; backs, T. Rowe and A. Johnson; half-backs, M. Mawson, H. Foreman, and J. Iley; forwards, G. Forster and J. Lock, right wing; T. Lee, centre; H. Devine and W. Crowther, left wing. The home men all played a splendid game, especially Johnson, Foreman, and Forster. J. Orr played well for the losers.

GREENCROFT BLACK WATCH v EAST PONTOP RED STARS.—Played on the ground of the latter, before a good muster of spectators. The visitors won the toss, and decided to face the strong wind. Lemmon set the globe in motion for the home team, who were quickly surrounding the visitors' goal, and experienced hard lines in not scoring. Magee just managed to save in the nick of time by conceding a corner. Ellis took the kick, which proved fruitless. Play was now fast and exciting, and the home team put in several strong rushes, only to find J. Atkinson and Coleman as safe as a wall. The Greencroft defenders played a grand defensive game, and at the interval the score stood—

Greencroft .... Nil
Pontop .... Nil

After a well-earned rest, Thompson re-started play for the visitors, who, with a strong wind in their favour, were soon hovering about the home goal. E. Atkinson drew first blood for the visitors within two minutes from the kick-off. The Black Watch continued to press, and from a splendid corner placed by Roansley, E. Atkinson notched No. 2. The home forwards made every effort to break away, but the Greencroft halves never allowed them to get over the centre line. Proudfoot dropped the ball well into the goal-mouth, and Thompson added the third goal for the visitors. The Black Watch maintained the upper hand, and put on three more goals, one of which was disallowed for off-side. Proudfoot and Boyle sent in some rasping shots, which W. Ellis saved splendidly. Final result—

Greencroft .... Five goals
Pontop .... Nil

The following were the teams:—Black Watch—Goal, Wm. Magee; backs, J. Atkinson and E. Coleman; half-backs, H. Lawson, P. Boyle, and J. Gardiner; forwards, E. Atkinson and J. Proudfoot, right wing; J. Thompson (capt.), centre; J. McEnaney and J. Roansley, left wing. Red Stars—Goal, Wm. Ellis; backs, Burton (capt.) and Thompson; half-backs, J. Bell, R. Coates, and Pickering; forwards, H. Coxon and J. Thompson, right wing; Lemmon, centre; C. Storey and S. Ellis, left wing. Mr Holmes acted as referee.

CASTLESIDE ROVERS v SHOTLEY BRIDGE.—This return fixture was played at Castleside in fine weather, before a good number of spectators. The Rovers won the toss, choosing to play with the wind, which was a great advantage. The leather being set in motion, Lee got the ball and made a splendid dribble down into the Rovers' territory, finishing with a good shot at goal, but the wind carried the ball back. Bell put in some good play, and then Annandale obtained possession and made a capital run, and only the strong defence of the Rovers kept him from scoring, Noble showing up well. Byers here got hold and made a good shot, scoring the first goal for Castleside amidst great enthusiasm. The visitors shortly afterwards equalised, Lee doing the needful. When the whistle blew the score stood—

Shotley Bridge .... One goal
Castleside .... One goal

On play being resumed, Leadbitter got possession and passed to Lee, who put in a splendid shot at goal which scored for the visitors. Shotley Bridge were now pressing, and would undoubtedly have put on a big score but for the grand defence of the home team. Play continued in the home lines, and the visitors scored their third goal, which the Rovers disputed, but the referee allowed it. This was all the scoring, and the game ended—

Shotley Bridge .... Three goals
Castleside .... One goal

The following represented Shotley Bridge:—Goal, W. Iley; backs, H. Watson and Turner; half-backs, J. Leadbitter, Lee and D. Murray; forwards, J. Seed (capt.) and S. Annandale, right wing; Bell, centre; G. Glendinning and J. Pepper, left wing.

MEDOMSLEY v DURHAM UNIVERSITY.—This return match was played at Durham. The visitors had the advantage of the wind in the first half, and at the interval were leading by a goal to nil. In the second half the home team were allowed three points by the referee, Medomsley disputing two of them on the ground that the leather did not go between the posts. The visitors were unable to add to their score, and the game ended as under—

University .... Three goals
Medomsley .... One goal

The following team represented Medomsley:—Goal, G. Lambton; backs, Wm. Mansell (capt.) and Wm. Baron; half-backs, T. Walton, G. Moon, and Robt. Cant; forwards, R. Campbell and R. Wilson, right wing; Wm. Cant, centre; J. Roulton and M. Charlton, left wing.

DURHAM JUNIOR CUP.

FOURTH ROUND.

TANFIELD LEA v SEAHAM HARBOUR.—Played at Seaham Harbour. The weather was fine, and about 400 spectators witnessed the game. Tanfield won the toss, and elected to play with a slight breeze in their favour. After the kick-off, the visitors showed great superiority over their opponents, making it warm for them. After Tanfield had put a couple of goals to their credit, E. Gailes received a severe kick, which was followed soon after by W. Fletcher getting hurt. Holmes (the centre forward) got rather more work than he bargained for after this, and was heartily cheered on adding another goal to the visitors' score. The homesters then began to see the weak points in the Tanfield team, and soon scored from a miskick by McNeil, who had a deep cut in his thigh. Half-time came with the score—

Tanfield .... Three goals
Seaham Harbour .... One goal

After resuming operations, Tanfield Lea were solely depending on Holmes forward and the trio of half-backs, who excelled themselves. Seaham Harbour pressed, and added two more goals, the scores being equal until one minute from time, when Brown was beaten by a high shot. A well-contested game ended as under—

Seaham Harbour .... Four goals
Tanfield .... Three goals

TOW LAW v DARLINGTON ATHLETIC.—Played at Tow Law. The weather was almost all that could be desired, a slight wind marring what would otherwise have been a splendid day. The home side won the toss, and choose to play against the breeze and with the sun behind them. The kick-off took place punctually at 2·30 before over 1,500 spectators. Give-and-take play ensued for the first fifteen minutes, during which time Tow Law should have scored easily. The visitors rallying, carried operations to the other end, and after a little skirmishing Gregory scored with a magnificent oblique shot, the custodian having no chance whatever of stopping it. Again did the visitors press, and Cook sent in a hot 'un which Hildreth caught between his legs and threw away. The game still continued in the visitors' favour, but Hilton and Temperley were in fine trim, and seldom allowed the opposing forwards to pass them. Half-time was called with the score—

Athletic .... One goal
Tow Law .... Nil

Resuming with the wind, it was thought that the home side would easily secure victory, but such was not to be the case. Taking up the running from the kick-off, Tow Law pressed for almost 35 out of the 45 minutes. Darlington were playing a winning game, and defended stubbornly. Corners, which were very numerous for Tow Law, were got rid of in a ridiculously easy manner. During the last fifteen minutes the excitement was intense, the visitors' fortress being expected to fall at any moment, and it was indeed hard lines for Tow Law that they were unable to score. Seeing that they held so great an advantage over their opponents, the fault lay entirely with the forwards, whose play throughout the game was much below that expected, the visitors in the end coming out with a clean sheet. Score—

Athletic .... One goal
Tow Law .... Nil

The following represented Tow Law:—Goal, Hildreth; backs, Temperley and Hilton; half-backs, Blair, Wilson, and Waites; forwards, Coulson and Potts, right wing; Benson, centre; Conroy and Watson, left wing. Darlington—Goal, Barker; backs, Dawes and Calvert; half-backs, Stokoe, Williamson, and Simpson; forwards, Gregory and Soakell, right wing; Backton, centre; Waites and Cook, left wing. Referee, Mr A. Foster, Bishop Auckland.

RUGBY.

BLACKHILL ROVERS 2ND v NORTH DURHAM 3RD.—This match should have been played at Gateshead on Saturday, but owing to North Durham being unable to raise a team, the match was cancelled.

BLACKHILL ROVERS v HAMSTEELS.—This return fixture was played at Waterhouses before a good muster of spectators. The Rovers won the toss, and the home team kicked off with the wind in their favour. Play settled at midfield, but the homesters, by good passing, soon reached the Blackhill "25." From a throw out, Brown received, and making a good run, transferred to Robson, who took play to the home line. From a scrimmage, Brown dropped at goal, the ball going under the bar. The visitors still kept up the pressure, but could not score. The home men at last came away, but were not allowed to become dangerous, the Rovers tackling in fine fashion. Score at half-time—

Rovers .... Three minors
Hamsteels .... Nil

On resuming, play was very even for a while, until the Rovers got away, but when on the line lost the ball. The leather now travelled fast from one end to the other, and some neat passing was indulged in. From a bit of loose play, McTaggart got finely away, but passed wide, the ball being driven back to half-way, and the game ended in a draw in favour of the Rovers. Score—

Rovers .... Five minors
Hamsteels .... Nil

FOOTBALL JOTTINGS.

[BY "OFF-SIDE."]

AN UNSATISFACTORY GAME.

Owing to the miners' strike and other causes, Medomsley were only able to take a moderate eleven to Durham on Saturday to fulfil their return engagement with the University. The visitors, however, played up well, the result, according to the referee's decisions, being a victory for the 'Varsity by three goals to one. I am at all times loath to question the actions of a referee; but the gentleman who acted in that capacity on Saturday (a University man by the way) certainly gave two or three important decisions which were open to grave doubt. Medomsley strongly claim that the first and third goals allowed to the 'Varsity were never through the posts at all, and there is but little doubt that the home team's initial point was a very doubtful one.

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The strong feature of the winning team was their back play. Owen was in splendid form, and there are few better backs in the county—whether amateurs or professionals—than he. Tuson (the well-known back of the Dipton Wanderers) also played a capital game, and seems to have almost entirely recovered from his accident early in the season. The halves were very good indeed, while Turner and Davies were the most conspicuous of five useful forwards. A word of praise is due to Lewis (the University custodian), who saved grandly on more than one occasion. The 'Varsity forwards displayed some nice passing at times, but their shooting left room for improvement.

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For Medomsley, Lambton proved a most able substitute for Beadling, and kept goal in excellent style. Mansell and Baron were a strong pair of backs, the latter showing considerable improvement on his recent displays, while Mansell was always to the fore when danger threatened. The halves worked tremendously hard, and it would be difficult to say which was the pick. They were continually on the ball, and repeatedly broke up the combination of the Durham forwards. The front rank played fairly well, but did not combine so much as they might have done. Wilson (of the 2nd team) showed capital form, while Campbell and W. Cant were often in evidence.

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TANFIELD LEA HAVE HARD LUCK.

Tanfield Lea duly put in an appearance at Seaham Harbour on Saturday to play off their tie in the fourth round of the Durham Junior Cup. The visitors had the hardest of hard lines in being beaten by four goals to three. Tanfield carried all before them from the kick-off until E. Gailes, McNeil, and Fletcher got severely kicked, and were of very little use afterwards. At this time the visitors had a lead of three goals, but owing to the above-named forwards being little better than cripples, Seaham Harbour were enabled to draw level just before time, and they eventually notched the winning point in the very last minute of the game.

Although defeated, Tanfield Lea were a long way from being disgraced. There is but small doubt that if their man had not been injured they would now be figuring in the semi-finals. Brown in goal stopped some splendid shots. Joe Gailes was in his old form at back, defending stubbornly, but Mudd seemed pervous. With more experience he should develope into a good back. The halves were never seen to greater advantage, and fairly excelled themselves. Holmes was the only one of the forwards who maintained his reputation, the others being completely disabled by kicks.

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TOW LAW UNLUCKY.

The Feethams ground at Darlington being taken up with a Northern League match—Ironopolis v Darlington—the Athletic, for a small consideration, were induced to visit Tow Law to decide their Junior Cup-tie. It was intensely galling to the Tow Law supporters to see their team holding a decided advantage over their opponents, and then to be beaten. Combination on both sides was conspicuous by its absence. Only now and again was any attempt made at passing, and these attempts were quickly nipped in the bud by the half-backs, and failing these, the full backs had their measure easily. The whistle was continually blowing for "hands," whilst fouls were almost absent. Thirteen corners fell to the share of Tow Law, whilst the Athletic only secured four; and again, the home custodian had but three shots to deal with throughout the game. From such we may gather that the home side were decidedly unlucky.

—o—

Coming to the players. For the visitors, Barker is well-known throughout the district as a custodian of no mean order, and whilst having a deal more work than his *vis-a-vis*, none were able to pass him. Calvert and Dawes (the latter an old first team man) formed a formidable defence, the former being particularly safe. The half-backs were not so good, generally kicking wildly, but Williamson put in a fair share of work. Of the forwards, no combination to mention was indulged in, following up quickly and always making tracks for the home goal being their especial feature. Gregory and Cook were the pick.

—o—

On the home side, Hildreth had very little to do; the shot that beat him would have beaten almost any goalkeeper in the kingdom, and he cannot be blamed in any way. The backs (Temperley and Hilton) never played better, each tackling fearlessly and putting a great amount of energy into their play, forming a perfect stone wall. The halves worked like Trojans, Waites playing a grand game, albeit the other pair were little behind. The only fault that could be found with them was that they did not feed the forwards at all well. How to describe the front rank I am at a decided loss, for their play was simply wretched. The principal transgressor in this respect was the centre forward. The less said of his play the better. Both outside wing men carried the sphere too far into the corner, instead of letting fly at goal oftener. Conroy played much below his usual form, whilst Potts tried his best, and was unlucky in not scoring on one or two occasions.

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THE RUGBITES DRAW WITH HAMSTEELS.

Blackhill Rovers journeyed to Waterhouses on Saturday last to play the return fixture with the Hamsteels club, the game having been postponed from the previous Saturday. Unfortunately, the Rovers could only muster a very disorganised team, being short of no less than six of their regular fifteen; but they succeeded in effecting a favourable draw, having five minors to their credit, which was a very satisfactory performance. For the home team, the full back saved well, but kicked rather weakly. The three-quarters were in good form, Dodds, if anything, being slightly the best. The halves were a very fair pair, and showed some nice play. The forwards are a lot of hard-working scrimmagers, amongst whom Wallis was very conspicuous.

—o—

Aitken was safe at full back for the Rovers, while the three-quarters played splendidly. J. Brown was the best man on the field, and got away grandly on several occasions. Robson and McElrue were likewise in capital form, tackling finely all through. The halves played up to form, but might watch the opposing couple a trifle more. McTaggart was the pick of the forwards, but all of them, as usual, were in excellent trim. The game was a really good one, and was much enjoyed by the spectators, the teams being very evenly matched. Brown and Robson had hard lines in dropping at goal, the ball in each case going under the bar.

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CONSETT LEAGUE EXPLAINS.

SIR,—In reading the football notes of your valuable paper of March 18th, I saw that the Tow Law secretary complains of the League disappointing them. I think if Tow Law will admit the truth, they will say that the League gave their reasons for the disappointment. I sent word by post and also wired that the players could not finish work in time to play on the date mentioned; also asking to be excused, and at the same time for them to send their earliest vacant date, which Tow Law has not done.—Yours, &c.,

T. KANE,
Hon. sec. Consett League.

[With regard to the above matter, I have received a communication from the Tow Law secretary, in which he informs me that, owing to a misapprehension, he misstated the facts of the case last week, and expresses his regret thereat. He quite admits the truth of the statements made by Mr Kane above, and trusts that the two clubs will yet be able to find a date to bring off the return match.]

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LEADGATE EXILES V. TANFIELD LEA.

DEAR SIR,—Judging from your comments on the above game in your notes of last week, there were some very important points which occurred in the second half of the game, and which your correspondent failed to make you acquainted with. Had he put you in possession of the following facts, it would have taken the cream off their so-called victory:—

1st. The Exiles were not beaten.

2nd. That Christopher fisted the ball over the cross-bar. The action was quite visible, as there was only the goalkeeper and the back in the goal at the time. It was a barefaced decision when Tanfield received a goal kick, as the Exiles should have had a penalty kick.

3rd. The Exiles had two goals disallowed—one for off-side when there were three or four of the Tanfield players under the cross-bar. The second goal that was disallowed would puzzle even the most efficient expert of the game to explain why. The ball was claimed to be in touch, but play continued, and ended in the Exiles putting the leather through. The Exiles came to the centre, but the home backs quietly put the ball down at the goal-mouth to kick off. The referee then said it was no goal.

The Exiles continued the game under protest, thinking it unwise to leave the field before the expiration of time. The matter is now left in the hands of the Alliance committee.—Yours, &c.,

JOHN COSTELLO,
Hon. sec. Leadgate Exiles.

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THE COMPLAINT AGAINST BLACKHILL ROVERS.

SIR,—Kindly allow me a small space in your valuable paper to contradict the statements made by a Hamsteels correspondent in your last issue. He states that we have disappointed the Hamsteels club twice, and that the players were in readiness to start the match, which is far from the truth. On the first date there was not a match played by clubs living at any distance, and being anxious to have a game with Hamsteels, we gave them March 12th; but to our own disappointment, as well as your correspondent's, the storm again appeared, preventing us from going. As to the players, they all knew we were not going, but were on the field ready to commence a practice game, and not a match with the Rovers. The latter have not disappointed any team this season, neither do we intend to do so. Your correspondent must know very little as to showing the white feather, when we gave them three dates just to have a game with them. I hope your correspondent saw the game on Saturday, to judge for himself if the play was above the average. Having a conversation with the Hamsteels men about the matter, they absolved us from all blame, and they say they knew nothing about the report until they saw the *Guardian*, and that it was impossible for us to go in the brake in such stormy weather. Your correspondent must wait till he knows a deal more about football clubs and their engagements before he charges another club with misconduct.—Yours, &c.,

R. W. STOBBS,
Hon. sec. Blackhill Rovers.

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NORTH-WEST DURHAM ALLIANCE.

	Plyd.	Won	Lost	Drn	Goals For	Goals Ag.	Pts
Leadgate Exiles	8	6	2	0	36	11	12
Dipton Wanderers	8	6	2	0	28	11	12
Tanfield Lea	8	5	2	1	34	21	11
Cornsay Rovers	6	3	2	1	19	27	7
Medomsley	10	2	5	3	21	22	7
Hedley Harriers	6	1	3	2	15	24	4
Langley Park R.	10	1	8	1	17	45	3

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MATCHES WANTED.

Medomsley 1st want a match on April 16th, home or away; 2nd eleven have April 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd vacant (for local teams only). Address—W. G. F. Thompson, Medomsley, R.S.O., Co. Durham.

Leadgate St. Ives have all dates vacant. Apply to H. Devine, St. Ives' Road, Leadgate.

THE MINERS' STRIKE IN DURHAM.

PELTON FELL.

At a largely-attended meeting of the Pelton Fell Lodge of the Durham Miners' Association, held on Friday, a resolution censuring the *Newcastle Daily Chronicle* for its "erroneous and insulting statements respecting the miners of Durham in the present strike" was carried.

CHESTER-LE-STREET DISTRICT.

A turbulent disposition is being manifested at many of the villages in this district against the men who are continuing at work. At Fatfield a man's house has been bombarded, the windows smashed, garden rails have been pulled down, piggeries and hen houses destroyed. At Ouston and Urpeth hostile demonstrations have been made against the men at work, the protection of the police having been requisitioned. At Chester-le-Street a man who had been working during last week at Pelton Fell was followed in the direction of his home on Friday and knocked down with a stone from behind. The workmen at the Birtley Iron Company's works at Birtley were all suspended on Saturday, and the consumers of the company's gas received notice that the supply could not be continued.

TOW LAW.

The only establishment working here is Bond's foundry and the Weardale Iron Company's fitting shops. Meetings have been held by the Black Prince Colliery and West Thornley Collierymen, also by the cokemen, but matters do not seem any nearer a settlement, much to the expressed regret all round.

OUSTON COLLIERIES WORKMEN'S INSTITUTE.

A crowded meeting of members was held in the society's large hall, and after various matters affecting the welfare of the society had been satisfactorily disposed of, a discussion took place on the question of the papers to be laid on the tables, when it was unanimously resolved—"That considering the biased and one-sided attitude taken up by the *Newcastle Daily Chronicle*, as shown by several leading articles condemnatory of the Durham miners for the stand they are taking to assert their rights, the six *Chronicles* taken in by this society be discontinued, and that they be replaced by *Daily Leaders* and *Journals*."

SERIOUS DISTURBANCE AT WESTWOOD.

SEVERAL WORKMEN "MOBBED." SILKSWORTH NOTHING TO IT.

On Monday morning, a most wild and exciting scene took place at Westwood Colliery. A number of coal-fillers proceeded from Consett, accompanied by a detachment of policemen, under the charge of Inspector Benzies, for the purpose of filling coal into waggons from the large heaps of coal connected with the colliery, to be conveyed to the Consett Iron and Steel Works, so as to keep operations going. A short time after the workmen had been at work, under the supervision of W. Teasdale, traffic manager, several men known to be spies were seen to walk round the colliery. After a short stay they went away, no doubt to let the inhabitants of the adjoining villages know what was going on. Very soon a large crowd of something like 1,500 people congregated on the pit heap near the colliery, and watched the progress of the men filling the coal guarded by the policemen. The crowd gradually increased, as the news began to spread that "blacklegs," as they termed them, were at work. Very soon another detachment of men, women, and children, accompanied by one of the colliery lodge banners, landed upon the scene, and the banner was very soon affixed on a high position. When something like 18 tons of coal had been filled, the crowd sent forth the cry, which rent the air, "Don't let the 'blacklegs' work," and on several occasions, before rough play commenced, Inspector Benzies appealed to the crowd to use their common sense, and let the men alone. The crowd then commenced groaning and hooting, and the yells of the women could be heard for a great distance around. When our representative arrived a short distance away from the scene, the disturbance assumed fever heat, and stones and other missiles began to be thrown, and seemed to come from all directions. One man remarked that the scenes at the Silksworth evictions were not to be compared with it. One miner, who assumed the position as leader, yelled forth, "let us go for the b——'s; we can scatter these few policemen." Inspector Benzies then reasoned with the people, and asked whether if the men ceased work they would allow them to go away quietly. The Inspector received a ready reply, "Yes," from the crowd, but as soon as ever the workmen turned their backs to the crowd they broke the promise, and commenced to throw stones, pieces of metal, and anything else they could lay their hands on. The men consequently had to take refuge in a joiner's shop. At once a huge wave of human beings rushed forward and commenced to attack the shop by storm. The men had to take to their heels and run for bare life, followed by the policemen, who endeavoured in the best possible manner to protect the men against the savage crowd. The men, women, and children pelted them with stones, mud, and bottles, and exclaimed they would finish the blacklegs. A passenger train from Newcastle had a very narrow escape as it passed by in not having all its windows broken by the missiles that were thrown. One unfortunate workmen left his hat, coat, and scarf lying, which were seized by the crowd and set fire to and burnt. After an exciting chase the bulk of the workmen landed into Ebchester Station, and took the train, which was standing waiting for them, for Consett. Many of the policemen and workmen were severely hurt by being struck with the large stones that were thrown. When Mr W. Logan (chief engineer) and other officials came upon the scene the crowd groaned and hooted at them. After the excitable crowd had seen that the workmen had disappeared they proceeded home, quite content with their victory.

SIMILAR OCCURENCE AT MEDOMSLEY.

In the afternoon, a similar scene took place at the Busty Colliery, near Medomsley. As the crowd were coming to Leadgate to join in the demonstration, the mob set upon six coal-fillers who were busily engaged at the coal heap filling coal, and used them very badly. One of the workmen had to be brought home to Consett in a trap, being very severely injured.

MR ATHERLEY-JONES, M.P., AND THE STRIKE.

SIR,—In my letter to you of last week I ventured to urge the desirability of an attempt being made to bring this calamitous strike to a conclusion, and the friendly spirit in which my observations have been received encourages me to believe that both employers and employed are not indisposed to reconsider their position, and settle the dispute on a basis other than the exhaustion and almost unconditional surrender of one or the other party and irremediable disaster to both.

My long and intimate friendship with the Durham miners and the fact that I am about the only member of Parliament in the county who has no private interest in the coal trade must afford my justification for presuming to intervene in their affairs.

The prolongation of this strike means intense physical suffering to the majority of the population of the county; it means the serious and in some cases irretrievable deterioration of the mines and great detriment to surrounding and dependent industries. For their personal privations in a cause they consider just I am aware the men would care but little, but that solicitude for their families—their wives and little ones—which is so markedly characteristic of the Durham miner—imposes upon them the duty of acting in this crisis with greater moderation and prudence than regard for themselves only would demand.

In their agents and representatives—Mr Patterson, Mr Wilson, M.P., and others, the miners enjoy the services of men whom long experience has familiarised with all the conditions of the coal trade, whose integrity has never been questioned, and whose keen judgment and business capacity render them the equals of the owners in the work of negotiation. It is obvious that the great mass of men cannot possess the knowledge of details and grasp of facts which their agents enjoy. I do not think through my comparatively long experience their agents have ever given them reason to regret the confidence they have hitherto almost uniformally accorded. Actuated by the single desire for the benefit of those to whom I owe my right to express any opinion, I respectfully urge them to give adequate authority to their representatives and agents to effect a solution of a difficulty which otherwise will rapidly become a disaster.

The coalowners, I have some reason to hope, fully realising their responsibilities not merely to their *employees* but to the general trade of the county will meet the difficulties of the situation in a spirit of fair compromise, and render facile the first, which are always the most difficult steps to conciliation.—I am, &c.,

L. A. ATHERLEY-JONES.

4, Paper Buildings, Temple,
21st March, 1892.

MEETING AT LANGLEY PARK.

At Langley Park, on Monday, a meeting of miners was held, and the following resolutions were passed:—

1—That, in the opinion of this meeting, consisting of the four sections comprising the Federation, we ought to do all in our power legitimately to avert the unjust demand made upon us by the owners.

2—That every man be reinstated into his former position before we commence work.

MONSTRE DEMONSTRATION AT LEADGATE.

On Monday afternoon, a mass meeting of miners, mechanics, cokemen, and enginemen connected with the local collieries in West Durham took place in a field at Leadgate. There was a very large attendance, which was presided over by Councillor John W. Winter, Leadgate. The following collieries were represented:—Leadgate, Medomsley, Westwood, Hamsterley Colliery, Delves (Consett), Blackhill Tinmill, and other pits. Amongst those on the platform were:—Mr Ernest Forster, secretary of the Durham Cokemen's Association; Mr Robert Eccles, Leadgate; Mr O. Weaver, Consett; Mr William Indian, West Stanley; Mr Henry Carss, Shotley Bridge; Mr Armstrong, Leadgate; Mr John Orr, Annfield Plain (president of the Durham Colliery Mechanics' Association), &c. The weather being fine some 5,000 persons were present.

Prior to the proceedings the members of the various lodges carrying their banners and accompanied by brass bands, marched through the principal thoroughfares of the town, and were greeted with enthusiasm by thousands of bystanders, the Front Street being completely blocked. Some diversion was caused during the proceedings by the entrance on the field of a contingent of females carrying an improvised banner attached to a couple of clothes props, with a broomstick in the centre, and bearing the following words:—"No reduction, but 20 per cent. advance of wages. Westwood Colliery." The party was accompanied by a brass band, and was followed by an immense crowd. On reaching the ground the women met with a hearty welcome.

At the outset, the CHAIRMAN, at the request of the press representatives present, took a vote as to whether the reporters would be allowed to remain. The decision was overwhelmingly in favour of the reporters staying on the condition that no account was to be furnished to the *Newcastle Daily Chronicle*.

The CHAIRMAN said his presence that afternoon was simply an indication that his sympathy was with the working men of the county in their struggle, and he trusted that meeting would show that in the terrible conflict they were engaged in they were not actuated by any personal feeling, but would affirm that they were determined to stand shoulder to shoulder until the battle was over, and that they would achieve another victory for the cause of labour. (Cheers.) They considered the wages at present were low enough—(applause)—and they would not submit to any reduction. (Renewed applause.) It took eleven policemen to protect five blacklegs at Westwood Colliery during the greater portion of the forenoon, and yet there was an orderly audience of some thousands of men and women, and not a single police-officer was in sight. (Laughter and applause.)

Mr MCCLENNING (Hamsterley Colliery) proposed the following resolution:—

"That this meeting considers the demand for a 10 per cent. reduction is unjust and uncalled for, and we believe that before the owners ask the men to submit to a reduction they ought in all fairness to seek to reduce the royalty rents, &c.—(applause)—and we consider our present wage is low enough without any reduction whatever, and we pledge ourselves to use every endeavour to retain our present wage as far as lies in our power."

—(Cheers.) The speaker stated that it was unfair that they should suffer a reduction in their wages. The time had now arrived for them, as workmen, to show that a demand should be made on the royalty owners of this country. (Cheers.) The Consett Iron Company was trying to monopolise the whole of the products of that part of the district. Their power was becoming most deadly, and they (the workmen) must stamp this monopoly out of existence. (Applause.) They must do so by every legitimate means. They were trying to deprive working men of their rights by this huge monopoly. (A voice: "They have done so.") The reduction was most unjust and uncalled for. He argued that the men ought to maintain their rights and privileges, for if the Consett Iron Company got the monopoly into their own hands the workmen, when dismissed from the employment of the Consett Company, would have to take a geographical survey before they got work elsewhere. (Cheers.)

Mr CLARK (Milkwell Burn), in seconding the proposition, said they were face to face with a serious question. It was the question of their wages. If the strike lasted for a period of twelve or sixteen months it would not affect his family. (Laughter.) The question at issue was affecting their pockets, and every one of them considered that their wages were low enough. (Cheers.) He denounced the *Newcastle Daily Chronicle* for holding the miners up to ridicule and scorn simply for asserting their own just and legitimate rights and privileges. Because they resisted the masters' demands for a reduction of wages, that paper had said that the "Durham miners were spoiling for a strike." That was a false statement. (Applause.) The strike had been forced upon the miners by the action of the owners themselves, and the men were determined not to submit to any such demands but to secure justice and fairplay at the hands of the masters. (Cheers.) It was said that some men were receiving 9s per day, but there was nothing said about the men who were only earning 4s per day. (A voice: "Some 2s 6d per day.") The employers never mentioned anything about this. (Shame.) Because they were determined to fight so as to get their rights they were ridiculed. Let them never mind this, but on the other hand, let every man do his duty in the struggle. Stand face to face against the foe. Don't let anyone of them turn out to be blacklegs or cowards, but stand firm, and he was sure they would come off with a triumphant victory. (Cheers.)

Mr E. FORSTER, who was well received, spoke at considerable length in support of the resolution. He mentioned that at many places in the county the mines did not get fairplay from the daily press or the local newspapers; but he was glad to find that such was not the case at Leadgate. He recognised the position the press ought to occupy—especially in a crisis like the present, in order that what was said—particularly the utterances of responsible advisers—should be faithfully and accurately reported for the benefit of the public generally. The miners did not want to suppress anything that might be detrimental to their interests; but they asked for fairplay all round, and not to be abused for opposing any reduction in their wages. (Applause.) There was a very grave question embodied in the resolution he had risen to support. It was a fact that there were many "non-associated" collieries in the County of Durham; but so far as the workmen were concerned, there was not a single pit at which the workmen were not connected with the Miners' Union. (Applause.) The *Newcastle Chronicle* had condemned the Union for their "devilish and inhuman action" in wholly stopping the collieries, and declared that the men had no right to do as they had done. However, he (Mr Forster) would tell them that work must entirely cease till the dispute was settled, and he believed they were being guided to the best of their ability in stopping every colliery, and to allowed a single pit to have been in operation, even under circumstances of emergency, would have been wrong, and would eventually have militated against the interests of the workmen. (Applause.) They were not one association, as in 1879; but were now four associations—miners, mechanics, enginemen, and cokemen—federated in one, working hand in hand, and foot to foot. They could not therefore permit any work to be done until this grave question was settled. (Hear.) With regard to the monopoly of the Consett Iron Company, in trying to extract all the wealth and produce in this part of the countryside, he was not afraid to tell them, and let the fact go forth to the world, that the Consett Iron Company were more to blame for the present crisis than any other firm in the County of Durham. Yet, this was a most prosperous and successful firm, and could afford to pay good wages to their workpeople. (Applause). Within the past 12 months this very company had been shipping a large quantity of its surplus coal, and could afford to send coal of equal (if not better) quality from there to Tyne Dock, at 2s 3d less per ton than a colliery company not consuming its own produce and manufacturing its own products. They also had Ald. Jenkins—or rather the gentleman who was an alderman, but now wasn't (laughter)—the general manager of the Consett Iron Company, seconding the resolution, at the coal masters' conference at Newcastle, for enforcing a reduction of wages or giving the men their notices. He (Mr Forster) could, if challenged, bring forward the evidence of a colliery manager who complained of this unfair competition. Some speakers at certain meetings had said that the miners had not confidence in their agents, otherwise the men would have consented to leave the matter in the hands of the Federation Board. The miners' officials, he believed, had done their duty in the past, and the feeling that prompted the workmen to vote as they did was because they were so firmly convinced that the demand for a reduction of wages was so unfair and unjustiable, and under the circumstances they were determined to resist it to the very utmost of their power. (Applause). If the agents had not the confidence of the men, he and his colleagues would willingly stand aside, so that they could get someone else to settle the dispute for them. (Cries of "No, no.") He averred that the Federation Board had not kept anything back from the men. It was true that they, as holding official positions, were obliged to fortify themselves with certain information which the public generally did not get, because the points were probably abstruse, and could not be understood by outsiders; or because it was not expedient to let the information go forth to the world, and play into the hands of the employers. (Applause.) All the information they had, however, if not communicated to the press, was sent to them through their lodges, and the speaker counselled the members not to be so keen of divulging what transpired at their local meetings. If the members told the public everything that happened at their Federation meetings, they would simply be playing their cards into the masters' hands. Coming to the question of a reduction of wages, Mr Forster stated that if they all knew as much as he did there would be a revolution in Great Britain tomorrow. (A voice: "That is what we want.") If they only educated themselves up to that point, then they might gain their ends without spending a shilling or shedding a single drop of blood. (Mr H. Carss: Wait till the next General Election comes round.) Dealing with the sliding scale, the speaker remarked that in 1886 wages dropped as low as they possibly could, and having reviewed the condition of trade up to 1889, he observed that the sliding scale was smashed because the miners were not getting justice through it. He believed in sliding scales if they were only arranged on a proper basis; but the last scale was not sufficiently quick in its operation, and the consequence was that the men did not get fair results for their labours. (Voice: "It was on too low a basis.") Some of the wayleaves and other rents in operation were even far worse than royalty rents. He never questioned the decision of the miners to come out on strike; but he would counsel them, one and all, to consider this serious question calmly and fearlessly, and be guided by justice, law, and order. They should acquit themselves as men belonging to the most perfect organisation existing, not only in the British Isles, but throughout the civilised world. (Cheers.) He would not deny for a moment that prices had fallen very considerably, but they still considered that they were not receiving wages fairly commissionate with their labours. (Applause.)

Mr O. WEAVER (Consett) briefly supported the resolution, and stated that he had always found the Durham miners to be a straightforward class of men. (Cheers.) A serious question was embodied in the present crisis, and they should stand firm together so that they might be able to come off victorious. (Loud cheers.)

Mr ECCLES, Leadgate, moved the second resolution—"That this meeting pledges themselves not to commence work until every man is reinstated in his former position, and we consider the Consett Iron Company ought to give to their workmen their house coal, which was legally due before the notices expired." He stated that it was perfectly true that the Company had kept the house coal from the workmen, which they were really entitled to. This he considered was not right. They were passing through a great crisis, and he hoped every man would stand firm. He knew a certain colliery which turned over £1400 profit in one year—(shame)—and the most of the workmen were only receiving 3s 2d per day whilst the county average was 5s 11d. What did the Company do? After the men agitated to have matters put right they gave every man his notice and closed the colliery, and were going to let it remain closed until they got a better staff of workmen. (Shame.) He was sorry to think that there were men who was black-legging. He made special reference to the engineman employed at a colliery in the immediate neighbourhood who was busily engaged in pumping water day after day. He had conversed with the man and pointed out to him that he was doing wrong, but it was no use. (A voice: "We will boycott him." He hoped every man would fight to the bitter end, and he was sure victory would be on their side. (Cheers.)

Mr CARSS, Shotley Bridge, in seconding, said that at one colliery he found the workmen received 8½d per ton, whilst the company charged him 10s 6d per ton. ("Shame.") They as workmen were only agitating for their rights, and he hoped they would stand firm. (Applause.)

Mr INDIAN (West Stanley) supported, and stated that it was a grand thing to see the different sections united in the present strike. (Cheers.) It behoved them to see that every man was reinstated into his place before they commenced work. He considered it was one of the meanest things for any company to be guilty of in depriving the workmen of their coals. He had seen cases of workmen employed under the Consett Iron Company brought before the Joint Board at Newcastle where they were only receiving 2s 8d per day, and after this matter was fully gone into they succeeded in getting for these able-bodied men two per cent. advance. ("Shame.") Whilst the county average was 5s 11d, there were men who were only earning 4s 6d. After they had come out to fight a great struggle, he trusted they would stand together like men. (Cheers.) He (the speaker) made reference to the "mobbing" of a reporter at West Stanley. (A voice: "We will boycott the *Chronicle*.") (Cheers.) He stated that the reporter was requested to leave the field, when he replied, "I will not; I am sent here to take a report." He was again requested to leave, when he said, "I will not." The questioner then got on to the platform and announced that a *Chronicle* reporter was present, and the affray then commenced. He was sorry to think that the reporter was badly used, and he was much bespattered with mud. (A voice: "Serve him right.") No, it did not serve the reporter right. He was not responsible for what the paper said, and he was only a servant like themselves. He hoped that such an affray would not occur again, and that everyone of them would stand true to their colours. (Cheers.)

Mr JOHN ORR, president of the Durham Mechanics' Association (Annfield Plain), also spoke in support of the motion, and said that he had no hesitation in saying that as bad as the Consett Iron Company were represented to be, they would willingly welcome the news if it was known that they were willing to start work again. The present crisis was forced upon them, and he was proud of the fact that they had manfully met the same. (Cheers.) This was the first occasion the coal-owners had had to fight a struggle with the Federation Board. (Cheers.) The present crisis was an attempt to split them up into sections, but the coal-owners had failed. Seeing they had come out as one body, he hoped they would fight to the bitter end, and when the time arrived, and the dispute was settled, let them all go in again as a body. (Cheers.) The speaker next proceeded to point out the principle upon which the owners had based their claim for a reduction, and shewed why they, as workmen, had so persistently rejected the same.

The two resolutions, on being put, were carried amidst loud cheering, during which the Westwood lassies waved their "No reduction" banner most vigorously.

After the usual votes of thanks, the large assemblage returned to the village, accompanied by their respective bands and banners.

MEETING AT WATERHOUSES.

On Monday, a joint meeting of the collieries in the district was held at Mr Geo. French's, Station Hotel, Waterhouses. The following collieries were represented:—Cornsay, Hamsteels, Esh, Waterhouses, Ivesley, Hedley Hill, East Hedleyhope, Broompark, Sleetburn, and Esh cokemen. A mass meeting was arranged to be held on Friday first at the Recreation Grounds, Waterhouses. Chair to be taken at two o'clock.

A Hamsteels correspondent writes:—All remains quiet in the district, and nothing occurred worthy of note except the officials continue unmolested.

WOLSINGHAM STEEL WORKS.

The notices to the men employed by Messrs John Rogerson and Co., Limited, were withdrawn on Friday, and the workmen were re-engaged from day to day. Should the supply of fuel run short, the works may be closed without notice. In the meantime, with a view to keeping the men employed as long as possible and economising the stock of fuel, the greater part of the works will be run only four days a week.

SERIOUS OUTLOOK IN WEARDALE.

On Saturday, the Lead Company's mechanics at New House Shops got their notices, in consequence of the lack and price of fuel for the engines at the several mines, which are to be stopped pending the coal strike settlement. This will, of course, mean the closing of the whole of the Weardale lead mines, which the company can do without giving notice to the miners. The miners have no union or labour association, and they will thus be without any visible means of subsistence. Such a calamity, coming unexpectedly after the recent chequered working of the dale industries, will be felt with the greatest possible force and suffering. The action of the pitmen in precipitating such a desperate crisis, by refusing arbitration and throwing over their Federation in the present dispute, is strongly criticised. Prayers were offered up on Sunday in the several places of worship for mutual concessions and adjustment.

As anticipated, these mines will be closed on Saturday next. Notice to this effect was posted at the several mines of the Lead Company on Tuesday. Much anxiety is evinced at the announcement owing to the quarries and pits being closed, and no avenues of labour being available to those thrown out of work.

DEPUTIES MOBBED AT TOW LAW.

During the past few days, writes our Tow Law representative, a number of deputies employed at the Black Prince Colliery have met with a warm reception on returning home from their work. On Tuesday afternoon, a crowd of men, women, and children assembled, and with colours, tins, and pans accompanied five or six deputies to their homes from the pit. Some rough play was indulged in, sods, &c., flying about very freely. One of the deputies, who was struck on the shoulder with a stone, retaliated on one of the crowd, and a fight ensued. Owing to the menacing attitude of affairs, the deputies have asked the manager to allow them to remain idle until the dispute is settled.

THE DISTURBANCE AT WEST STANLEY.

We learn that Mr Joseph Cowen, of the *Newcastle Chronicle*, has forwarded the sum of £10 as a gratuity to Mr and Mrs Thompson, of the Commercial Hotel, West Stanley, for the protection rendered to the reporter of that newspaper who was so roughly treated at West Stanley on Thursday week; and a further sum of £2 each to the four brave fellows who rendered assistance.

IMPORTANT DECISION BY BIRTLEY ENGINEMEN.

At a largely attended meeting of the Birtley branch of the Durham Colliery Enginemen's Association, held at the Station Hotel, Birtley, on Wednesday, it was resolved, with one dissentient—"That the best means to be employed for the settlement of the present wages dispute is to place it in the hands of the Federation Board, giving them full power to effect an honourable settlement." The meeting was presided over by Mr M. H. Winter, and representatives were present from Kibblesworth, Ouston, South Pelaw, Ravensworth, Beamish Main, and Urpeth collieries.

MASS MEETING AT CROOK.

Broad as is the market-place and green of the town of Crook, its dimensions were hardly sufficient to accommodate the enormous concourse of people who on Wednesday assembled for the purpose of hearing speeches and passing resolutions in regard to the present struggle. Drawn together by the strains of music from the colliery bands which invaded the town from all directions, there could not have been less than seven or eight thousand miners, many with their wives and children, when the hour of meeting arrived, and during the hour and-a-half which the proceedings lasted, a closely-packed throng of some 3,000 determined men stood most patiently around the brake from which the addresses were delivered. Banners with the words, "Be United," "Stand Firm," and "No Surrender," upon them were numerous. The collieries represented included Stanley, Wooley, Sunniside, West Thornley, Woodfield, White Lee, Howdon, Low Beechburn, Roddymoor, Middle Beechburn, North Beechburn, and others to the number of a score. Besides miners proper, there were a number of mechanics, enginemen, and cokemen present. Mr J. Leonard, checkweighman, of Stanley Colliery, near Crook, presided, and among those on the rolley were Ald. W. H. Patterson, Durham; Mr Ashbridge, Wooley; Mr John Gains, Sunnybrow; Mr Charlton, Enginemen's Association; County Councillor Rudd, Beechburn; Mr Mobbs, Cokemen's Association; Mr Trotter, Mechanics' Association; and others.

CLOSING OF THE LEAD MINES IN WEARDALE.

Consequent upon the strike, the Weardale lead mines are to be closed this week-end for want of coals for the pumping engines, &c. This will throw a number of men out of employment. Much anxiety is expressed at the announcement, owing to the quarries and pits being closed, and therefore no avenues of labour are available for those thrown out of work. At the Wolsingham Steel Works, they have managed so far to carry on the works by leading coals with their own carts from the landsale pits at Harperley, Fir Tree, and other places; but it is expected that the miners from Crook and Tow Law may arrive any day and intimidate the men, which would consequently stop the Steel Works. At most of the ten Weardale limestone quarries there is no work going on, and at one or two of the quarries a day or two a week is all that is being worked. The railway mineral traffic is almost all on the Wear Valley branch, which in ordinary times is one of the best paying lines on the North-Eastern system.

DIPTON AND SOUTH MEDMOSLEY.

In view of the suffering likely to result from the unhappy dispute in the coal industry here, Councillor J. A. Curry has reduced the rents of his cottages one shilling per week so long as the strike continues—to take effect from the present week.

A trifling demonstration took place at South Medomsley on Tuesday night. A mason named Daglish had commenced to brake a winding engine at the colliery, and the crowd broke a few panes of glass in the engine-house, and threw some oil-cans down the shaft.

VICTORIA GARESFIELD COLLIERY.

It is stated that the miners on strike here have stopped men loading trucks with coals, thereby preventing Messrs Priestman, the owners, from fulfilling some important contracts.

FIRE AT PELTON FELL. PONIES ROASTED ALIVE.

About 11·30 on Friday night, a fire was discovered at the Dovecote Farm, Pelton Fell. The farm is in connection with the Pelton Fell Colliery. There were five stacks situated at different positions on the farmstead, and four of these have been totally destroyed, two of them weighing over 100 tons each. A shed, in which was stabled eight ponies, was also burnt to the ground, and the poor beasts roasted to cinders. When the conflagration was first discovered, the shed and the stacks were all ablaze. As many of the farm servants and others who were within call, at once got the hose kept at the farm into operation, but this was found to be of little or no avail, to such alarming proportions had the flames reached. At three o'clock on Saturday morning the fire was still raging. The fire is supposed to be the work of incendiaries, and a reward has been offered for information which will lead to their capture.

THE CONSETT IRON COMPANY. THE STRIKERS AND THE CONSETT PUDDLERS.

On Wednesday morning, between twenty and thirty puddlers commenced operations at coal-filling from a large heap of coals at the Tinmill Drift, situate between Blackhill and Consett, belonging to the Consett Iron Company. It is desirable that coals should be procured so as to keep operations at the extensive works going. Very soon some hundreds of men, women, and children congregated in Park Road with a view of watching the progress of the men, and also for the purpose of witnessing a disturbance, as several of the miners in the adjoining colliery villages had gone as far as to say that the men should not work. A strong detachment of police was on the spot for the purpose of protecting the men under the charge of Supt. James Oliver and Inspector Benzies. During the afternoon, an additional force of Northumberland policemen arrived upon the scene to be in readiness in case of any disturbance. However, nothing unusual occurred, the workmen were kept steadily going filling coals into the waggons, and were never once interfered with by the large crowd. When the time arrived for ceasing operations, the coal-fillers put on their coats and made off in the direction of their homes, and the large crowd quietly dispersed. The good humour of the crowd was taken in the best of spirits by the police, and the only trouble they had to contend with was the great difficulty in keeping the road and footpath clear so that pedestrians and traffic might not be interfered with.

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

STANHOPE PETTY SESSIONS.

FRIDAY, March 18th.—Before C. J. BACKHOUSE, Esq., and V. A. RIPPON, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

Nicholas Watson was charged by P.C. Wallace with being drunk and disorderly on the 28th ult.—Fined 12s 6d.

EDUCATION ACT.

John Wilkinson was summoned by Mr John Peart, attendance officer to the Stanhope School Board, for the non-attendance of his child at school, who had only attended 169 times out of a possible 296 times.—Fined 5s.

ARREARS OF RATES.

John Jacob Vickers, of Stanhope Castle, was summoned by Mr Robert Thompson, collector of rates to the Stanhope Board of Guardians, for arrears of poor rates of £31 12s 1d and £7 6s 9d.—The Bench made an order, with costs.

DISPUTED RIGHT OF COST OF ROAD-MAKING AT STANHOPE.

Charles Emerson and *William Page*, as owners of property in Back Martin Street, were summoned by the Stanhope Local Board to show cause why they, as owners, should not pay costs of a road made by the Board for their benefit. These two cases were taken as test cases, and the other owners will be regulated by their case. Mr J. T. Proud appeared on behalf of defendants. The Board's solicitor not being present, the case was adjourned.

WEARDALE HIGHWAY BOARD.

The monthly meeting of the above Board was held at Stanhope on Friday—Mr C. J. Backhouse in the chair. There were present Messrs G. R. Wooler, W. Vickers, M. Ridley, T. Moffatt, W. Snowball, W. H. Featherstone, J. Dobson, G. Curry, V. A. Rippon, J. Maddison, E. Pickering, J. Vart, and J. Dalkin.

SNOWPLOUGHS.

It was decided to have two snowploughs stationed in future at Stanhope and Helm Park.

REPAIRING A BRIDGE.

It was also decided to repair the bridge at Ireshope Burn by taking down and repairing part of the arch, which has shrunk.

NEW GRATE.

A new grate has to inserted at Durham Road.

AN ESTIMATE.

Some of the members questioned the estimate of the Surveyor for the widening of a road from 10 to 22 feet to cost £125, Mr FEATHERSTONE suggesting that it be tendered for seperately.

This was agreed to, on the motion of Mr WOOLER, and seconded by Mr SNOWBALL.

MISCELLANEOUS.

It was decided to write to Mr Walton, of Aller Gill, again asking him to hand over his rate-book to the Board.

It was also decided to cancel the late Surveyor's bond.

The getting of the two new snowploughs was left over until the autumn.

ROAD CONTRACTS.

The letting of the road contracts was then proceeded with. Some of the members said there were complaints that the Fairless Bros. monopolised all the road contracts, so that it was useless for any other person to tender. Some of the members also spoke of them as being excellent workmen, skilled and practical, but thought their tenders were rather high. On these grounds Fairless Bros. lost several of lengths of road which they have long had. Lot 1 was let to Fairless Bros.; lot 2, Paddinson and Peart; lot 3, Gray Bros.; lot 4, Walton and Son; lot 5, Fairless Bros.; lot 6, J. Lowe and Sons; lot 7, Mr Bardfather; lot 8, Garthwaite and Raine; lot 9, 10, and 11, Gray Bros.; lots 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17, Fairless Bros.

THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN.

MEETING AT CONSETT.

On Thursday se'nnight, the annual meeting of the subscribers to the Consett Aid Committee of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, took place in the Science and Art Room, National Schools, Consett. Rev F. Steggall (vicar) presided, and amongst those present were: Rev C. S. Wilson, Messrs T. L. Gledstone, G. D. Powell, J. Routledge, G. T. Egglestone, T. Carr, &c.

After a few appropriate remarks from the CHAIRMAN, the Hon. Treasurer (Mr T. L. Gledstone), in the unavoidable absence of the secretary, read the 3rd annual report of the Consett Branch for the year ending December 31st. From the financial statement it appeared that the expenses incurred amounted to £90 11s 0d, and the receipts from all sources—subscriptions, donations, collections at meetings, &c.—reached £54 5s 1d. This was a great advance on the previous year's income, but the committee feel that the branch ought to be enabled to meet its own expenditure, without drawing on the resources of the Parent Society. Having referred to the various meetings held in the immediate district, under the auspices of the Society, the report mentioned that a "League of pity" had lately been formed for children, suitable cards and papers had been printed, and it was thought by this means to enlist the sympathy of the young on behalf of their suffering brothers and sisters. During the year, 64 children had passed the "shelter" at Newcastle, of ages varying from three months to fifteen years. These children came from the areas of the Newcastle, Gateshead, Consett, and Durham Aid Committees. Thirty-six children were brought by the Newcastle police (the "shelter" being certified as a "place of safety" under the Act), and of these no further record was kept. Of the remaining 28, 5 were sent to the Abbot Industrial School; 3 to Dame Margaret's Home, Washington; 1 to the Durham Industrial School; 1 to the Gateshead Boys' Brigade; 1 to St. Anne's R.C. Home; 1 to the Ashburton R.C. Home; 1 to the Chadwick R.C. Home; 3 were returned to their parents; 5 to other relatives; 1 was adopted; 1 girl is in service; 2 children are in temporary care in the country; and 3 were still in the "shelter" at the end of the year. To these must be added one boy who came in 1890 and left on January 21st, 1891, and who is now in the Arthog Home of the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society. The Inspector (Mr W. Edwards) reports that 55 cases had been dealt with by the Consett Committee within the year. Seven of these were prosecuted, and in six instances convictions were obtained, the seventh being dismissed; eight parents had been officially warned, and 40 cautioned and otherwise dealt with. The following were the nature of the offences:—Assaults 12, begging 6, neglect 26, starvation and improper feeding 4, immoral surroundings and other wrongs 7. The total number of children affected was over 150, and in 30 cases the children were known to be insured, the average amount obtainable in the event of death being £5 per head. The report also dealt at some length with various other matters relating to the treatment of the young, and concluded by thanking the police for their assistance, and especially Supt. Oliver and Inspector Benzies, the former of whom the committee congratulated on his recovery from a dangerous illness. Thanks were also tendered to all others who had aided the local officers of the Society in any shape or form.

On the proposition of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr G. D. POWELL, the report and financial statement was adopted.

It was resolved, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr W. WILES, to re-elect the general and executive committees, *en bloc* (with power to add to their number). Subjoined is the composition of the committees:—

General Committee—President, Mr Wm. Jenkins, J.P.; vice-president, Rev F. Steggall; Mrs Balleny, Dr Benson, Stanley; Inspector Benzies, Messrs M. T. Black, Hamsterley Colliery; W. Brotherhood, Lanchester; T. Carr, R. Douglass, Rev T. Durant, G. T. Egglestone, Mrs Gledstone, Messrs G. Farnsworth, W. Goudie, G. T. Hyden, W. Jewitt, Allendale Cottages; A. McKean, Benfieldside; T. J. Muse, Castleside; R. Park, Blackhill; A. Phillipson, Dipton; G. D. Powell, W. Raw, J. Routledge, J. Summerbell, J. W. Taylor, W. Wiles, Dr George Renton, Mrs Richardson, Oakfield; Rev T. Stenhouse, Stocksfield; Mrs Steggall, and Rev C. S. Wilson.

Executive Committee—Chairman, Rev F. Steggall, Rev T. Durant, Messrs Black, Carr, Egglestone, Farnsworth, Goudie, Jewitt, McKean, Muse, Wiles, Powell, Summerbell, Taylor, Revs T. Stenhouse and C. S. Wilson.

Hon. Treasurer—Mr T. L. Gledstone.
Hon. Secretary—Mr Wm. Eales.
Inspector—Mr W. Edwards, 6, Allergate, Durham.

PUBLIC MEETING.

Afterwards, a public meeting was held in the same room, Mr Wm. Jenkins, J.P., being in the chair. There was a large and select attendance.

The CHAIRMAN, in his opening remarks, dwelt upon the operations of the society in this district, which he considered had been beneficial to the general welfare of the community, and expressed a sincere hope that the society would go on and prosper. (Applause.) He was glad to see so many females present, believing, as he did, that the work of the society was one of special interest to women. Mr Jenkins then introduced

Mr CLARK HALL, barrister-at-law, London, who attended as a deputation from the Parent Society in the place of Miss Bolton, London, who was announced to speak, but was unavoidably absent. In a concise and lucid manner, Mr Hall dealt extensively with the objects and aims of the society, and the importance and usefulness of its work. He also described at some length what the society aimed to do in the future in the direction of saving and rescuing suffering and helpless children. The address was highly interesting and instructive.

At the close, Rev T. DURANT proposed a cordial vote of thanks to Mr Hall for his able and eloquent address. The rev. gentleman, in his usual characteristic style, offered a few remarks on the local operations of the society.

Rev F. STEGGALL, in a neat and effective speech, seconded the proposition, which was carried unanimously.

Mr HALL briefly acknowledged the compliment, and moved an expression of thanks to the chairman for presiding.

This having been seconded by Rev F. STEGGALL, the enthusiastic meeting terminated.

STOCK AUCTION MARTS.

BENFIELDSIDE.—Mr Murray had forward on Monday, 12 fat cattle, which sold up to £21 10s 55 sheep, to 56s 6d; hoggs, to 48s; 7 pork pigs, to £4 12s 6d; veal calves, to 55s; 13 cows, to £12 7s 6d; geld cows, to £8 2s 6d; 7 stirks, to £6 each. A quantity of poultry, harness, and miscellaneous lots were also disposed of. A large company was present, and trade was fairly good for all classes, fat stock selling exceptionally well. Beef, to 7s 6d to 8s 6d per stone; pork, 7s to 7s 6d per stone; sheep, 8d to 8½d per lb; poultry, 1s 9d to 2s 2d each.

TOW LAW.—Mr Vickers had forward on Monday 48 dairy cows and heifers, 25 fat cattle, 22 store cattle, 13 calves, 156 fat sheep and hoggs. Calved cows made up to £17; cows to calve, to £18 10s; fat cattle, to £19 10s; store cattle, to £13; fat sheep, to 54s; fat hoggs, to 52s.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—Mr James Turnbull held his fortnightly sale on Monday, and had forward 90 fat cattle, 25 grazing cattle, 9 milk cows, 2 fat bulls, 2 calves, 120 fat sheep and hoggs, 4 pork and bacon pigs, 1 sow in pig, 10 young pigs, harness, poultry, &c. There was a large attendance of buyers present. Trade for cattle was slow at less money than recent rates, which is, no doubt, on account of the strike and stagnation in the district, and also to the Newcastle market being closed to stock from this country. Sheep trade brisker and dearer. Fat cattle: Bullocks, to £24 5s—top, the Birtley Iron Company; heifers, to £20 17s 6d—top, the Earl of Durham, Pictree Farm; cows, to £18 12 6d—top, Mr W. L. Walker, North Moor Farm, Sunderland; bulls, to £21 10s—top, Messrs Bolam, Lady Park. Fat sheep: Shearlings, to 48s—top, Birtley Iron Company; hoggs, to 63s—top, Mr Young, Broomyholme; BF ewes, to 22s—top, Mr Heslop, Urpeth. Calves, to 16s. Horses, to £10. Sow in pig, £3 10; pork pigs, to 31s; young pigs, to 20s. Hens, to 1s 7d each. Harness to £3.

METHODIST QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

WEARDALE.—The Wesleyan quarterly meeting of the officials of Weardale Circuit was held at High House on Saturday, Rev Joseph Gibson presiding. The numerical returns showed the number of members to be 609, an increase of 73 on the year. According to the financial statement there was a balance of a few shillings against the circuit. The two ministers, the Revs J. Gibson and A. Dickinson, were unanimously invited to remain another year. In both cases the invitations were accepted. Votes of condolence were directed to be sent to Messrs Jos. Dulkin, Joshua Dawson, and Thos. Dawson, local preachers, who are suffering from illness.

THE RIVAL RAILWAY PROJECT IN WEARDALE.

Two rival railway projects are now before Parliament, or rather will come before Parliament soon after Easter, asking for powers to extend on the one hand the North Eastern railway from Stanhope to Wearhead, and on the other for constructing a railway from St. John's Chapel to Alston promoted by Mr Baker. Some of the local newspapers last week contained a report that the latter was thrown out of Parliament. This is incorrect. The facts of the case are these. Mr Baker asked for a private consultation with the chairman of Private Bills Committee to see if the extension from St. John's Chapel to Alston could be added to the Bill from Stanhope to St. John's Chapel, so as to make one Bill of the through railway, which would save expense. But it was considered too large a section to add to the Bill, and therefore if the St. John's Bill is passed an additional Bill will have to be got. The Bill is not therefore thrown out. There has not been any Parliament Committee yet on the Bills, and will not be until after Easter. Mr J. Lowther and other influential gentlemen have promised their support to the St. John's and Alston Bill, and it is more than probable it will pass, as is will be a benefit the country at large vastly more than any extension which stops in the dale.

THE ACTION AGAINST SUPT. OLIVER, OF CONSETT.

At the Durham Assizes—before Mr Justice Wright—the action in which the next friend of Mary Ann Baxter, a girl of seventeen, sought to recover damages from Supt. Oliver and Sergt. Jackson, for alleged assault in the baton charge following on the evictions at Silksworth in Feb., 1891, was tried this week. The defendants denied the assault, and said that if there was an assault they were justified in making a police charge. Mr Waddy, Q.C., M.P., Mr J. Lawson Walton, Q.C., Mr S. T. Evans, M.P., and Mr Ince (instructed by Messrs Dix and Warlow (Newcastle) were for the plaintiff; and the Solicitor-General for the County Palatine (Mr E. Tindal Atkinson, Q.C.), Mr John Strachan, and Mr Simey (instructed by Messrs W. Bell and Sons, Sunderland) were for the defendants. The case lasted four days, and the court being crowded on each occasion, great interest being manifested in the proceedings.—On Tuesday evening, the Jury, after a short absence from court, returned with a verdict for the defendants.—Judgment was given, with costs, accordingly.—A discussion took place with regard to other cases of a similar nature against the defendants—Mr Waddy intimated than an appeal against the case just heard would probably be laid.—His Lordship thereupon ordered that the other cases stand over till the appeal is heard. If no appeal be lodged in a month, then leave to be given to the defendant's to move any judge for judgment.

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D. ORMEROD, Chairman.

28i J. GIBBINSON, Secretary.

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Public Notices.

THE WINNING NUMBERS of the Watch, Blankets, and Boots drawn for at Lanchester, are 417, 589, and 609. 371

COME AND HEAR JOHN URWIN, Esq., of Hollingside Hall, deliver his interesting and Instructive LECTURE, on "The Three-fold Nature of Man," in the Wesleyan Chapel, Consett, on Wednesday, March 30th, at 7·15 p.m. Mr. JOHN BUCKHAM, of Lanchester, will preside. Collection in behalf of New Chapel Building Fund. 391

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

JOHN COULTHARD, DRAPER and OUTFITTER, Front Street, Dipton, begs to announce that he has removed to his larger and more convenient NEW PREMISES, facing the Board Schools, where he will have greater facilities for meeting the demands of his increasing Business.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

"VENICE IN LONDON."

ON MONDAY, the 28th of March, an EXCURSION TRAIN will leave Newcastle at 12·5 a.m. (with bookings from Consett Blaydon, &c.), for LONDON, for TWO DAYS. See Bills.

Superintendent's Office, Newcastle. 36

MISS J. A. HEWITSON,

(PUPIL OF MISS SLOANE.)

having passed with Honours in Theoretical Knowledge; also, with First Class Honours in Junior Division, and Honours in Intermediate Division, is prepared to give LESSONS upon the PIANOFORTE and in Theory. Terms Moderate.

ADDRESS: 27, CORT STREET, BLACKHILL.

WASKERLEY FLAG AND SANDSTONE QUARRIES.

THE above QUARRIES, which were carried on by the late Mrs ELIZABETH KELL, of Castleside, will in future be carried on by me. All Orders, &c., addressed to Mrs LEYBOURNE, Post Office, Castleside, will receive prompt attention.

JASPER KELL.

53, North Road, Durham. 999b

THEATRE ROYAL, CONSETT.

LESSEE AND MANAGER - - R. J. BRODIE.

MONDAY, March 28th, and during the Week, Special Engagement of Miss CRANSTON'S First-class Company in the Popular Dramas, "THE WORLD AGAINST HER," "JUDGE NOT," and "THE WORKMAN."

Tickets at Tyler's Boot Shop, Middle Street, Consett. 57i

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEWCASTLE, GATESHEAD, & DISTRICT BAND OF HOPE UNION.

TOWN HALL, NEWCASTLE.

SATURDAY, March 26th, 7·30 p.m. DR B. W. RICHARDSON (London), ALD. W. D. STEPHENS, J.P., CHAIRMAN, LORD BISHOP OF NEWCASTLE.

MONDAY, March 28th, MONSTRE TEA PARTY and DEMONSTRATION. Sir WILFRID LAWSON, and Rev CANON BARKER (London). Chairman, THE MAYOR OF NEWCASTLE. Tea from 4·30 to 6·30. 30i

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

GOODS AND MINERAL TRAIN SERVICE DURING MINERS' STRIKE.

THE NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY COMPANY beg to give notice that in consequence of the Miners' Strike in the County of Durham, the usual service of Goods, Live Stock, and Mineral Trains may be interfered with and only such trains run as may be required to carry the diminished volume of traffic.

Every effort will be made to ensure the punctual transit of traffic, but the Company cannot be responsible during the continuance of the strike, for any delay which may occur, and, until further notice cannot accept Goods for conveyance to Colliery Sidings in the County of Durham, except by special arrangement.

GEORGE S. GIBB, General Manager.

York, 23rd March, 1892. 331

CONSETT INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETY LIMITED.

THE QUARTERLY MEETING will be held on Saturday evening, April 2nd, 1892, in the Co-operative Hall. Chair to be taken at 6·30 p.m., when the following Business will be brought forward for consideration.

1. Minutes of last Quarterly Meeting.
2. Minutes of Special Meeting.
3. Minutes of Committee for past Quarter.
4. Report and Balance Sheet.
5. Election of Two Committee-men.
6. Notice of motion: re-Revision of Rules.—W. S. Davies.
7. Report of Committee re-Reading Room at Westwood.
8. Report of Committee re-Manager and Secretary.
9. Miscellaneous Business. 40i

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. J. Vickers.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

MONDAY, MARCH 28th, 1892.—60 to 80 Dairy Cows and Heifers, 18 Fat Cattle, 165 Fat Sheep and Hoggs, including some prime lots, 6 Store Cattle; 9 Finger Calves.

Entries to day of Sale. Sale at 12 noon owing to alteration of train service.

SPECIAL SALE for STORE CATTLE and SHEEP, Friday, April 1st, 1892. Early entries solicited. All sold by ballot.

51 J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

SPECIAL SALE, Thursday, March 31st, 1892. Present entries:—100 to 150 Store Cattle, various ages; 25 Geld Cows; 5 S.H. Bull Stirks; 100 B.F. Ewes in Lamb to Leicester Tup from Harthope; 50 to 100 Grazing Hoggs. Further entries solicited Ballot drawn Wednesday Evening. Sale at 12·30 a.m.

53i J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.

By Mr. John Crawford.

John Crawford's Sale Rooms, Victoria Street, Consett.

MR CRAWFORD will SELL at the above Rooms, on Monday, March 28th, 1892, a lot of Handsome New and Second-Hand FURNITURE.

Anyone disposing of their Furniture can have Cash for it, or Sold at the above Rooms at any time.

Sale to commence at One o'clock. 50i

Farm Stock Sale.

MR JOHN CRAWFORD, favoured with instructions from Mr JONATHAN CLARK, Sunniside, who is leaving the district, will SELL the whole of his FARM STOCK, &c., at an early date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

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

By Mr James Turnbull.

Barcus Close, Burnopfield.

MR JAMES TURNBULL, honoured with instructions from Mr W. J. HANDCOCK, will SELL BY AUCTION, on Wednesday, April 13th, 1892, the whole of his Valuable FARMING STOCK, &c. Particulars in due course. 995h

JOSEPH OLEY

THE AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER AND VALUER

10, WOOD STREET SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

SPECIAL EMIGRATION OFFICE, &c.

A. PHILLIPSON, Dipton, by Lintz Green Station. AUCTION SALES will be conducted in the best style, and upon most reasonable terms. LETTERS by Post will have prompt attention, and all Sorts of GOODS, FURNITURE &c., can be bought right out for Cash.

Sales by Auction.

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

Monday, March 28th, 1892.—Victoria Sale-Rooms Consett.—Sale of Superior Mahogany, Walnut, and other Household Furniture and Effects.

MESSRS. A. & R. J. BRODIE are instructed to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, in the Victoria Sale-Rooms, Consett, on Monday, March 28th, 1892, the whole of the remaining portion of the very Superior House FURNISHINGS, belonging to a Lady deceased and removed from Lanchester for convenience of Sale (and left over in consequence of the inclement weather) including Handsome Bedroom Suite Complete, 2 Kitchen Presses, Bedroom Drawers, Dressing Chest, Mahogany Couch in Hair, Pair of Easy Chairs, Feather and Down Beds, Silverplate, Glass China and Earthenware, 6 Mahogany Hair-seated Chairs. A quantity of Gentlemen's Superior Ready-Made Clothing, Vienna Regulator, Ladies' Silver Watch, Wringing Machine, Long Case Clock in first-class order.

Sale to commence at Half-past One o'clock. 54i

Monday, April 4th, 1892.—Sale of Valuable Freehold Dwelling-House and £200 Appropriation in the 741st Consett Starr-Bowkett Building Society.

MR. ADAM BRODIE is instructed by the Vendors, to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the house of Mrs. BROWN, on Monday, April 4th, 1892, at 7·30 p.m., subject to conditions to be then read, the following Valuable lots:—

Lot 1.—The Well-built FREEHOLD DWELLING HOUSE, pleasantly situate at No. 4, Mount Pleasant, Consett, as at present occupied by Mr. Cress, as Tenant thereof, and containing Five Rooms with every Convenience.

Lot 2.—An APPROPRIATION of £200 in the 741st Consett Starr-Bowkett Building Society.

Further particulars may be had from the Auctioneer, Town Hall, Consett. 55i

FOR SALE, a quantity of BRONZE ORNAMENTS, including Warriors, Marly Horses, Hunters, Figures, Busts, &c.—Apply, BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett. 55i

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

ACCIDENT ASSURANCE.—Assurance against Accidents of every kind in the following Offices, noted for prompt settlement of claims—Scottish Accident Assurance Company, Imperial Union Accident Assurance Company.

By Mr John S. Murray.

J. S. MURRAY'S SPRING SALES.

Monday, March 28th—Royal Auction Mart, Benfieldside.

April 5th—Property at Consett and Blackhill.

April 4th—Royal Auction Mart Special Sale of Store Cattle, in conjunction with the Weekly Sale of Fat Stock, &c.

Late in April—Carribees Farm Stock & Implements.

Early in May—Low Bradley Do. do.

May 4th—Grey Mare Hill, Harness, Carts, and Mining Plant. 46i

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY, MARCH 28TH, 1892.

12 Fat Cattle.
50 Fat Sheep.
Veal and Store Calves.
Pork and Store Pigs.
Geld Cows, Stirks, Calving Cows.
Poultry, Splendid Dog Cart, nearly new.
Hay.
1 Two-years-old Half-bred Horse.
Pony, 5 years old, 12 hand 3 inches, good worker and quiet.

FURNITURE, &c.,

Comprising—Chest of Drawers, Case Clock, Table, 6 Chairs, Arm Chair, Iron Chair Bed, Cupboard, Looking Glass, Good Feather Bed, &c.

Sale at One o'clock with Stock, Furniture last.

47i J. S. MURRAY.

A SPECIAL SALE of STORE CATTLE, on April 4th. Early entries solicited.

47i J. S. MURRAY.

IMPORTANT SALE of BUSINESS and DWELLING-HOUSE PROPERTY in Consett and Blackhill at the Royal, on Tuesday, April 5th, 1892.

LOT 1.—All that Large and Commodious FREEHOLD SHOP and DWELLING-HOUSE, together with Covered-in Yard and Conveniences, situate in Victoria Street, Consett, in a capital Business Street, and right in the midst of a dense thriving Population, lately in the occupation of Mr WM. BRAND.

LOT 2.—Copyhold DWELLING-HOUSE and BLACKSMITH'S SHOP, and Conveniences, situate in Durham Road, Blackhill, in the occupation of Mr ROBERT McDONALD, together with Building Site adjoining.

LOT 3.—TWO Newly-erected FREEHOLD DWELLING-HOUSES, situate in Thomas Street, Blackhill, containing 3 Rooms and Scullery each, and Let to respectable Tenants.

LOT 4.—ONE Excellent FREEHOLD DWELLING-HOUSE, situate in Queen Street, Blackhill, containing Four Rooms, and every Conveniences.

Further particulars can be obtained by applying to the Auctioneer, J. S. MURRAY, or JOHN G. MURRAY, Solicitor, Consett and Newcastle. 48i

Important Farm Stock Sale, Carribees, near Consett.

FAVOURED with a commission from Mr JOHN TOWNS, who is declining Farming, MESSRS J. S. MURRAY and W. NICHOLSON, who are jointly concerned in this SALE, will SELL BY AUCTION, about the latter part of April, 1892, the whole of his Superior FARM STOCK, HORSES, IMPLEMENTS, &c. Particulars and date in future issues. 49i

JOHN SWINBURN MURRAY,

AUCTIONEER,

AGRICULTURAL VALUER, AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT.

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

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE

Business Announcements

THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT

BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY

TOWN HALL CONSETT.

SHARES MAY BE TAKEN ANY DAY

Advances made on Freehold or Copyhold Property Money received on Loan at 4½ Per Cent. Interest, repayable at Three Months' notice.

ADAM BRODIE, F.S.A., F.A.I., Actuary and Public (Incorporated) Accountant, Secretary

GLENDENNING'S BEEF & MALT WINE,

Composed of Liebig's Extract of Beef, Kepler's Malt Extract, and old Port Wine. It is therefore a concentrated nutritive digestive food, blood-making, flesh-forming, and strengthening. Of the utmost value to children, invalids, and those who require strength

PRICE: 3s. 9d. PER BOTTLE; 2s. PER HALF-BOTTLE.

Prepared only by W. GLENDENNING, Newcastle.

LOCAL AGENTS:—

CONSETT.—RICHARD MURRAY, WINE MERCHANT. T. D. DRYDEN & Co., FRONT STREET. THOMAS MILNER, CHEMIST.

WITTON GILBERT.—J. HODGSON, STATION HOTEL.

MEDOMSLEY.—R. M. RUTHERFORD, ROYAL OAK HOTEL.

DIPTON.—ROBERT ARMSTRONG, WINE MERCHANT.

STANLEY.—WM. CHARLTON, STANLEY HOTEL.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.—WM. TAYLOR, RAILWAY HOTEL.

BURNOPFIELD.—WM. STONES, BURTON HOUSE.

TANFIELD.—JOHN IRWIN, PACK HORSE INN.

BLACKHALL MILL.—T. ARMSTRONG, WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT.

SOUTH MOOR.—R. DIXON, THE OAK INN.

TOW LAW.—J. MOSES, POST OFFICE, HIGH STREET.

LEADGATE.—JOHN SNAITH, QUEEN'S HEAD HOTEL. 892i

Auction.
R. J. Brodie.
—Victoria Sale-Rooms
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RODIE are instructed
LIC AUCTION, in the
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REEHOLD DWELL-
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Building Society.
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of BRONZE ORNA-
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—Apply, BRODIE, Town
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-A. & R. J. BRODIE
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PROPERTY of every
C AUCTION or other-
FORTNIGHTLY
onday, at the Victoria
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will be Purchased for
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Amendment Act, 1888.
— Assurance against
the following Offices,
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Murray.
SPRING SALES.
Auction Mart, Ben-
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rt Special Sale of Store
conjunction with the
of Fat Stock, &c.
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Do. do.
Harness, Carts, and
46i
BENFIELDSIDE.
H 28TH, 1892.
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Horse.
3 inches, good worker
&c.,
Case Clock, Table, 6
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Bed, &c.
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J. S. MURRAY.
ORE CATTLE, on
ries solicited.
J. S. MURRAY.
BUSINESS and
PROPERTY in
Royal, on Tuesday,
Commodious FREE-
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a capital Business
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LING-HOUSE and
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F.A.I., Actuary and
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It is therefore a
food, blood-making,
Of the utmost
those who require
; 2s. PER HALF-
NING, Newcastle.
URRAY, WINE
RYDEN & Co.,
OMAS MILNER,
GSON, STATION
RFORD, ROYAL
TRONG, WINE
ON, STANLEY
TAYLOR, RAIL
NES, BURTON
PACK HORSE
STRONG, WINE
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HE OAK INN.
OFFICE, HIGH
TH, QUEEN'S
869h

Business Announcements.

MOST MONEY LENT
On Silver Plate, Watches, Jewellery, Diamonds, and other Precious Stones, Plated Goods Cutlery, Guns &c., &c., at
J. & E. WILSON'S,
The Oldest Established and Largest Pawnbroking Business in the North of England.
Established 1780
12, PILGRIM STREET
FOUR DOORS BELOW, BLACKETT STREET)
PRIVATE ENTRANCE: FIRST SIX DOORS IN HIGH FRIAR LANE
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
N.B.—A Large Stock of New and Second-hand WATCHES Gold & 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. 739

THE STRIKE!
NOTICE:—
DURING THE CONTINUANCE OF THE PRESENT UNFORTUNATE DISPUTE AT THE DURHAM COLLIERIES, IT IS HEREBY INTIMATED THAT THE CELEBRATED QUININE AND IRON TONIC PREPARED BY J. ROBERTS, THE WELL KNOWN NEWCASTLE CHEMIST, WILL BE SOLD AT 1s. AND 2s. PER BOTTLE, AND MAY BE OBTAINED FROM MR. W. AYNSLEY, GROCER, AND WINE MERCHANT, CONSETT, THUS SPARING THE USUAL POST CHARGES OR RAILWAY JOURNEYS, AS FORMERLY.

KOPS ALE!
KOPS ALE.—The author of this invaluable non-alcoholic beverage, in a long and interesting letter, published at length in the *London Daily Telegraph* of Friday, May 29th last, thus refers to the Name and Title, "KOPS ALE."
"I then, at the expenditure of nearly £50,000, caused a model brewery to be built at Wandsworth Bridge, Fulham, capable of producing about 75,000 pint bottles of pure, wholesome, palatable, non-alcoholic ale per day. I christened the baby "Kops Ale," in order to distinguish it from the unsatisfactory "Hop Ale" in the Market, and still retain a name as near "hops" as possible—the chief component part of Kops Ale being best Kentish hops. The beer is brewed on a similar method to honest English home-brewed Ale, and yet it is free of alcohol, and this is the great invention. *In fact it contains less alcohol than ordinary ginger beer or lemonade.* Dr. Jas. Edmunds, M.D., M.R.C.P., the eminent temperance advocate, and other competent authorities, pronounce Kops Ale to be a "pleasant, wholesome, non-alcoholic beverage, marvellously like ordinary ale, both in appearance and taste." The official organ of the Cyclists' Tourist Club, an institution numbering nearly 30,000 members, recommends, after a year's trial, Kops Ale to all its members, and pronounces it to be the only thirst-quenching non-alcoholic beverage that has ever come under their notice."
NEWCASTLE AGENCY AND DEPOT,
JOSEPH ROBERTS, 17, BIGG MARKET.
CONSETT & DISTRICT:
MR. WILLIAM AYNSLEY.

'AFGHAN' INSECT DUST.
THIS celebrated POWDER, imported by Mr ROBERTS, The Newcastle Chemist, may be now obtained from Mr W. AYNSLEY, CONSETT, and most respectable DEALERS and STORES.

WEATHER CHART FOR MARCH.

Mr B. G. Jenkins, F.R.A.S., London, gives the following as the probable weather for this month:—A dry month. Boisterous weather round the 3rd and at the close. Generally a quiet month with high barometer and frequent fogs. Snow about the 31st.—Temperature: The generally high barometer keeps the mean temperature below the average, the cold nights reducing the high day readings. Warmer during the 4th week, with sharp weather about the 28th.—Rain: Less than an inch; chiefly on the 3rd, 11th, 19th, and 29th. [Average rainfall: London, 1·3in.; Glasgow, 2.4in.; British Isles, 2·8in.] — Prevailing winds: N.E., N.W., and S.E. Easterly winds predominate.

EDITORIAL NOTICES.

REPORT of Rev Alex. Baillie's sermon on Sunday evening last held over until next issue.

The Consett Guardian

FRIDAY, MARCH 18TH, 1892.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

"INCEDO" AND THE TEMPERANCE PARTY.

If Mr Thos. F. Foster is to be recognised as the mouthpiece of the temperance party located in the Consett party, it may be assumed that they are not the friends of their humble servant and fellow mortal "Incedo." It cannot surely be possible that the temperance party have, in the quaint language of Holy Writ, taken counsel together and said: Let us fall upon him ("Incedo") and slay him, inasmuch as he has reviled us, and set our counsel at naught. If that has been the result of their deliberation I am sorry for them, and still more sorry for their champion elect—Mr Thos. F. Foster. If "Incedo" has "sneered" at the work of the temperance party, it would be interesting to the public of Consett and district to know what Mr Thos. F. Foster has done to advance the interests of that body. It is an open secret in the district that Mr Thos. F. Foster must be the be-all and the end-all, the head and the tail of every project with which he happens to be connected, otherwise he will shake the dirt from off his feet, and labour in that particular cause no more forever. Such, my reader, is the public verdict touching the peculiarities of Mr Thos. F. Foster, and as my method of procedure has all along the line been to advocate truth for its own sake, irrespective whether it brought me applause or favour, it will at once be understood that I have nothing in common with a gentleman of the proclivities of Mr Thos. F. Foster. It ill becomes a would-be public man to herald his own approach under the wing of a falsehood. I have never written a single line against the principles which the temperance party seek to inculcate, although I have on many occasions expressed my disapproval of the means by which its advocates sought to achieve them. I have an idea all the same that I have done more in the course of a year to advance the cause of temperance than Mr Thos. F. Forster has (with all his clamour) done all the days of his life.

THE STRIKE IN THE COAL TRADE.

I need hardly point out that the unfortunate dispute in the coalmining trade is the burning question of the day and hour. It is on the tip of the tongue of the casual passer-by, and to not a few the subject is one only too closely related with their nearest and best interests, that is to say, their bread and cheese. It is very much to be regretted that such a jar should occur in the last decade of the 19th century, but so it is—the more is the pity. I am not going to express an opinion at the moment as to who is right, or who is wrong; but of this I am assured that there is something wrong, and very far wrong, somewhere, and the sooner the wavering balance is adjusted the better.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

A controversy has been for weeks past progressing in the columns of this journal on the subject of closing Co-operative Stores in the Pelton district on Saturday afternoon. Opinion is divided on the point at issue, and it will evidently be some time yet before the rival sides "sheath their swords for lack of argument." Personally, I lean very strongly to the opinion that every shop should be closed on the evening of Saturday, and at noon in all towns and villages in which workmen are paid their wages on Friday night. That it will eventually come to that before many years come and go, I have not the least misgiving, and the best way to clear the atmosphere and cut down the thorns and thistles which at present grow thickly on the roadway thither, is to ventilate the proposal on the lines now being followed weekly in the correspondent's column of the *Guardian*. As an illustration that such a change could be carried into effect in a practical way, I may say that while on a holiday tour in Scotland, some ten years ago, I arrived in Aberdeen shortly after noon on a Saturday, and found that with the exception of the bookseller's shop, every establishment was closed. Mrs —— had made up her mind to lay in a stock of Scotch yarns and Aberdeen winsey; but as there was not a draper's shop open within the borders of the city she was denied the pleasure—and to the majority of gentle sex shopping is a real treat—of investing in the direction indicated. My readers will, I think, agree with me that if the shops can be closed on Saturday afternoon in one of the principal cities in the United Kingdom, the same rule could surely be carried into effect in an obscure mining village.

BUILDING PLANS.

At the last meeting of the Benfieldside Local Board extreme, but not undue caution was shown by the members in examining the plans submitted to them for proposed new buildings. Several were rejected in consequence of being traced in pencil, and in other respects incomplete. The Board acted with decision and unusual firmness, and the desirability of adopting such a course will be made more apparent by the perusal of the following incident. In a growing town, distant some twenty miles from Benfieldside, a firm several years ago presented plans to the district Local Board for a street of workmen's dwellings. The plans were passed in the usual order, and about ten years elapsed, when the Board thought fit to serve a notice on the proprietors, to the fact that the time had at length come when the street must be macadamised, kerbed and cemented. It should be noted that up to this date there had simply been a footpath in the centre, with pretty flower gardens in front of the doors. The owners of the property refused to carry out the proposed change, and the Board was on the eve of doing the work at the expense of the proprietors, when the members of the body referred to learned to their dismay that they could neither carry out the proposed change themselves, nor compel the proprietors of the property to do it. The fact was that they had passed the plans without observing that at both ends of the street the line of a wall was distinctly traced. They had been trapped with their eyes open; but the proprietors of the dwellings were gentlemen, and they made the street one of the prettiest as well as one of the quietest in England. They maintained their rights by erecting a wall that would have graced the environments of a palace. The centre of the street was cemented, and lamps erected, each garden being enclosed by a low wall of dressed blocks of stone surmounted with ornamental trellis work, the effect of the whole being remarkably fine.

FROSTERLEY.

In connection with the young men's bible class, at Frosterley, Mr John Robson gave an excellent essay on "The legal infant," which was much appreciated by the members.

WESTWOOD.

NORTH-WEST DURHAM WOMEN'S LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.—On Wednesday night, a meeting, under the auspices of the above, was held in the Co-operative Hall, Low Westwood, for the purpose of forming a branch of that organisation. Addresses were delivered by Miss Gibson (secretary), Mrs Pumphrey (president of the the North-West Durham Liberal Women's Association), and others.

BIRTLEY.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.—The balance-sheet for the 112th quarter of the Birtley Co-operative Society was issued to the members on Wednesday. The total sales during the quarter have amounted to £22,125 16s 4d, an average of £1,580 8s 4d per week, a decrease of £68 11s per week compared with last quarter. There is a disposable balance of £3,958 10s 4d, which the committee have divided as follows:—To dividend on members' purchases, £3,723 7s 9d; to other matters, £235 2s 7d. During the quarter 83 members have joined and 87 withdrawn, and 24 were struck off, leaving a total of 1,571 on the books, a decrease of 28. The *employes* have obtained a 48 hours' week.

BEATTY'S PIANOS AND ORGANS.—Hon. Daniel F. Beatty, the great Organ and Piano manufacturer, is building and shipping more Organs and Pianos than ever. In 1870 Mr Beatty left home a penniless plough boy, and by his indomitable will he has worked his way up so as to sell so far, nearly 100,000 of Beatty's Organs and Pianos since 1870. Nothing seems to dishearten him; obstacles laid in his way, that would have wrecked any ordinary man forever, he turns to an advertisement and comes out of it brighter than ever. His instruments, as is well-known, are very popular and are to be found in all parts of the world. We are informed that during the next ten years he intends to sell 200,000 more of his make, that means a business of $20,000,000 if we average them at $100 each. It is already the largest business of the kind in existence—Send to Daniel F. Beatty, Washington, New Jersey, for Catalogue. 801h

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

On Saturday afternoon, Mr Robt. Charlton, nurseryman, Benfieldside, caught on his stall in the Market Place, Consett, a Queen wasp which was killed and inspected by a great number of persons. It is very early in the year for wasps to be astir.

DEATH OF AN INNKEEPER.—On Saturday afternoon, the remains of Mr Thos. Redshaw, of the Commercial Inn, Consett—who died on the previous Thursday, after a short illness—were consigned to their last resting-place, in the Benfieldside Cemetery, in the presence of a large number of relatives and friends. Mr Redshaw was well-known in sporting circles, and was generally respected in the district. He leaves a wife and family.

TOWNSHIP MEETING.—At the annual meeting of the ratepayers of the townships of Conside and Knitsley, held on Thursday at the Local Board Offices, Consett, the old overseers (Messrs C. P. Douglas, W. Aynsley, Joseph Murray, and Geo. Wade), together with other committeemen, were again nominated.—The salary of Mr W. Elliot, assistant overseer, was raised from £75 to £100 a year; but a portion of the money will be recoverable from the County Council.—It was agreed that in future, the townships meetings should be dated for 7·30 p.m.

We beg to call the attention of our readers to the announcement made in our advertising columns of a lecture which is to be delivered in the Wesleyan Chapel, on Wednesday evening next, by Mr John Urwin, of Hollingside Hall, on "The threefold nature of man." The subject is one well worthy the attention of the thoughtful and intelligent amongst us, and as the lecturer has made himself familiar with his subject, and has delivered it in other places with very marked success, it is earnestly to be desired that his efforts to inform and instruct his fellows will meet with that success which they very well deserve. The lecture is to be presided over by that most genial and warm hearted methodist, Mr John Buckham, of Lanchester.

THEATRE ROYAL.—The attraction offered here this week is a drama in four acts, entitled *Secrets of the Police*. It is written by Mr Mark Melford, a writer well-known in the theatrical world, and is replete with interest from start to finish. A very able company, under the management of Mr T. Hopcutt, are producing it, and so far with encouraging results. The following is a strong cast: — "Happy Armstrong," Mr Valentine Cooke; "George Jarman," Mr W. Forster; "Osmand Hare," Mr T. Williams; "Frank Grey," Mr T. Hopcutt; "William Jarman," Mr Guy Morville; "Inspector Downing" and "P.C. Doon," Messrs H. Steed and T. Garrick; "Rev W. Garland," Mr W. Hassan; "Rosa," Miss K. Carriden; and "Laura Grey," Miss F. Edgar. Next week one of Frank Harvey's celebrated companies, under the management of Miss Ellen Craston, is announced to appear.

BLACKHILL.

MEASLES.—Measles are so prevalent at Blackhill that it has been decided to close the Benfieldside Board Schools. St. Mary's Roman Catholic Schools have been closed for some time owing to the same cause.

SUCCESS OF A LOCAL MUSICIAN.—It is with pleasure we have to note the success of Mr E. Williams, formerly of Blackhill, and now of Melbourne, Australia. According to accounts from the journals of that country, he is a member of the Melbourne Baptist Church Brass Band, and during the past year he has won several valuable prizes for cornet playing. At various contests he has competed against some of the noted players of the day, and has succeeded in carrying off the best honours.

PRESBYTERIAN BAND OF HOPE.—On Monday night, a magic-lantern and miscellaneous entertainment was given in the Sons of Temperance Hall, Blackhill. The chair was occupied by Mr T. Hill. There was a crowded house. A number of views of places of local interest where thrown on the screen by Mr Samuel Nicholson, who manipulated the working of the lantern. The proceedings were closed with a dialogue given in admirable style by six young men.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

ST. CUTHBERT'S, BENFIELDSIDE. — Sunday, March 20th, being the twelve-hundred-and-fifth anniversary of the death of St. Cuthbert, sixth bishop of the diocese, then called Lindisfarne, notice was taken of the fact at St. Cuthbert's, Benfieldside.

LEADGATE.

LEADGATE WESLEYAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL. — The fortnightly meeting in connection with the above band of hope, was held on Saturday night, the chair being filled by Mr N. Parker. The programme, which was a varied and interesting one, consisted of the following:—Recitation, Miss Irwin; solo, Mr E. Hobday, Consett; reading, Mr Allison, Consett; recitation, Mr Ross, Dipton; duet, Miss Dawson and Miss Williamson; dialogue, Miss Fawcett and Miss Irwin; recitation, Miss M. A. Graham; reading, Mr W. Hardy, Bradley Cottages. Two selections were given by the band of hope choir. Both the pathetic and the humerous were represented in the foregoing, Mr Ross reciting the story of "Ostler Joe" in a very feeling manner, while Mr Hardy kept the company in a roar with his reading. The whole of the *artistes* acquitted themselves creditably; but a word of praise is due to the youngest, viz., Miss Graham, for her recitation, every word of which could be distinctly heard throughout the large building. Mr Hobday addressed the meeting, in the course of his remarks protesting and deploring the practice of parents sending their little ones to seek drink. He also spoke strongly against moderate drinking, and tried to impress upon his hearers that it was the duty of Christians who were in the habit of taking "a little drop," to give it up for the sake of example. There was a large company present, as usual, and six pledges were taken.

CASTLESIDE.

We regret to announce the death of Mr William Charlton, of Oliverford, which took place on Monday last. Deceased was born at Broad Oak Farm, near Ebchester, now occupied by Mr R. Dixon, on December 24th, 1795, thus being in his 97th year. He lived in the neighbourhood of Ebchester nearly all his life. His remains were laid to rest yesterday (Thursday) in Castleside Churchyard.

WEST PELTON.

THE BACHELORIES.—On Tuesday night, something like 100 couples assembled in the Co-operative Hall, West Pelton, to show their respect to the "bachelors," on the occasion of their last dancing night. A table on the large and spacious platform, was covered with presents, consisting of a beautiful timepiece, a gold brooch, two gold rings, and four beautiful silk handkerchiefs. It was easy to see that something important was about to take place. About 9 o'clock, amidst considerable excitement, Mr P. McDonald ascended the platform, and in a neat and humorous speech, made the following presentations:—To Mr and Mrs Stockburn (caretakers of the hall), a beautiful alarum timepiece; to Miss Appleton (the kind and courteous lady who manages the refreshment department), a beautiful gold brooch; to Misses Meggie and Alice Rowell, Pelton Fell, and Misses Lizzie Lumsden and Nellie Watson, Pelton, for services rendered to the "party," a beautiful white silk handkerchief each; to Mr R. Lumsden, the respected secretary of the bachelors' assembly, and to Mr W. Stoddart, the good old treasurer, a splendid gold ring each. This completed Mr McDonald's task, and he was greeted with rounds of applause as he left the platform. The recipients of the presents were congratulated by everyone in the hall. The Victoria Orchestral Band, excelled all their previous efforts. Dancing commenced at 7 o'clock, and finished at 11 p.m. The officiating M.C's. were Dr Simpson, W. Allen, H. Gray, R. Dorling, J. Robson, and P. McDonald. There was no charge made for admission, the committee standing all the expenses themselves. Votes of thanks were passed to the M.C's for the manner in which they conducted the dances during the season. The company all sang "Auld lang syne," which brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.

LANCHESTER.

The ratepayers' meeting was held on Wednesday, when the old overseers were again nominated. Mr W. Gray was appointed waywarden for Holmside, and Mr Jos. Towns for Lanchester.

The annual meeting in furtherance of Church Missions was held in the Lanchester Schools on Friday night.

STANHOPE.

Miss Johnson, of Lanchester, preached to a crowded audience in the High Street Chapel, on Sunday, at Stanhope.

ENTERTAINMENT AND COFFEE SUPPER.—On Saturday evening, an entertainment and coffee supper was held in the High Street Chapel, under the auspices of the Quarrymen's Association, its financial object being the purchase of a new banner. Mr Fenwick Coulthard presided at the entertainment. The *artistes* were Miss Johnson, of Lanchester; Miss Elliot, Stanhope; Miss Hogarth, Stanhope; Mr W. Denham, and Masters McCallum and Wilkinson. The company was good, and a large number partook of supper.

The Stanhope High Street Mission have secured the services of the popular and talented lady evangelist, Miss Johnson, of Lanchester, as their mission worker. This well-known mission has had some very able workers these late years, conspicuous among whom were the late Mrs Parnarby, Miss Bulmer, and others.

The proposed Weardale Quarrymen's Permanent Sick and Benefit Fund appears to be a step on the lines of the proposed national insurance. Entrance fees are in accordance to age, and each member has to pay 6d per fortnight, to be deducted from his pay at the quarry office, when the owners have agreed to contribute to the funds of the society, but the payment is 7d when owners do not contribute. It is certainly to the advantage of both men and masters that the men are kept healthy, and if extra assistance is rendered during sickness the sooner quarrymen may be expected to resume work. The amount of sick pay proposed is 7s 6d per week for 26 weeks, and after that period 5s per week.

On Saturday night, a concert was held in the Miners' Lodge Room, for the purpose of raising funds to purchase a new banner. Mr Coulthard presided. There was a very good company, and a capital programme was well rendered. The lodge has already raised about £8 towards the proposed banner.

WEST STANLEY.

TRADESMEN'S BALL.—On Monday evening, a ball was held in the Co-operative Hall, West Stanley, which was got up by some of the Stanley tradesmen and a few friends. Upwards of 80 couples were present, and soon after nine o'clock the majority were enjoying themselves on the "light fantastic" to the melodious strains of Mr Forster's string band. The committee entrusted the catering to Miss Cunningham, who thoroughly satisfied all present that she was equal to the occasion. The hall was tastefully decorated under the management of the committee, assisted by the Misses Chaytor. Too much praise cannot be given to the M.C.'s, Messrs Steven, Swinburne, Turner, and Parker, for the admirable way in which the programme was carried out. Dancing was indulged in till 5·30 the following morning.

BAND CONCERT.—The West Stanley Reed Band held a most successful concert in the large hall belonging to the Co-operative Society, on Wednesday se'nnight, Mr Wm. Indian being in the chair. The programme was contributed in faultless style. The overture on the pianoforte—"Zampa"—by Mr T. Wilkinson, was efficiently executed. The song, "Good-bye my darling," was sweetly given by Miss Tina Royal. A piccolo solo ("Keel Row" with variations), by Mr J. R. Robson, fully satisfied the audience, while "The song that reached my heart," by Madame Healy, was admirably rendered. The next song, "On the banks of the Shannon," was agreeably sung by Mr Armstrong. A clarionet duet by Messrs Waugh and Smurthwaite was well received. The song, "I am not its father," was allotted to Mr Barrow, and a selection from "Martha," by Mr T. Wilkinson, formed an attractive pianoforte solo. The song "Vesper bells," was skilfully contributed by Miss Tina Royal. Mr J. R. Robson in his piccolo solo "Home, sweet home," created quite a favourable impression, whilst in the song "Poor wandering one," Madame Healy installed herself as a popular musician. The song "The factory lad," by Mr Armstrong, was well rendered, and was succeeded by a solo on the clarionet by Mr Waugh. Next was a song "Hear the gentle lark," by Mr Robson and Madame Healy, and "Up to date," was efficiently sung by Mr Barrow. The clog dance, by Tina Royal, was one of the features of the entertainment. A song, "The tickling machine," by Mr Barrow, caused much amusement to the audience. This brought a pleasant evening to a close.

WITTON GILBERT.

LECTURES FOR MINERS.—On Monday evening last the Rector of Witton Gilbert, the Rev Arthur Watts, began a course of lectures especially intended for the pitmen of the parish on "Political Economy." The Reading Room was uncomfortably crowded. The lecture was followed most eagerly, and an animated debate after showed that the object of the lecture was fully secured. Mr C. Mole was in the chair. At the request of the members Mr Watts has promised to give two such lectures weekly so long as the men are off work. The subject of the first lecture was "Wealth and Money."

WATERHOUSES.

MATTHEW BURNETT AT WATERHOUSES.—This indefatigable worker in the cause of temperance arrived at Waterhouses recently from Scarborough, and was honoured with a public welcome from all the churches and temperance societies in the valley. Mr T. Y. Greener, who represented Pease and Partners, presided. The Vicar of Waterhouses (Rev G. W. Smith, M.A.), Rev W. Fern (Wesleyan), and Mr Thomas Binns (home missionary), took part in the meeting. Mr Burnett has since held two or three evangelistic meetings daily, which have resulted in much good. Mr Burnett's Saturday night meetings for working men have attracted crowds of people to hear his "Gold-field Pictures of Real Life in Australia and New Zealand."—On Monday afternoon, a united gathering took place of all the churches in the open-air. The vicar of the parish (Rev G. W. Smith, M.A.) presided. Rev J. M'Phail (Primitive Methodist), Mr Thomas Binns (home missionary), and Mr Burnett addressed the working men, and assured them of their deep sympathy, and expressed the hope that the strike would soon be ended. Owing to the importance of the work going on Mr Burnett has promised to remain over next Sabbath. No less than 140 persons have taken the pledge.

GREENSIDE.

RATEPAYERS' MEETING.—On Wednesday night, a meeting of the ratepayers of the township of Ryton-Woodside was held in the School-room, Greenside. Mr Forrest occupied the chair.—Mr Thomas Todd, farmer, Greenside, and Mr Foster, farmer, Greenside, were unanimously appointed overseers, and Mr Ridley Surtees was appointed Guardian for the next three years.—On the motion of Mr R. Surtees, seconded by Mr Foster, it was agreed that the Local Government Board be petitioned to appoint Mr Owen C. Wallis, Bradley Hall, Wylam, as *ex-officio* Guardian.—Mr Surtees then presented the overseers' accounts for the half-year ending 29th September, 1891, which showed that the total receipts for the half-year amounted to £356 7s 8½d, and the expenditure to £345 10s 5d, leaving a balance of £10 17s 1½d.

CROOK.

MASONIC INSTALLATION AND FESTIVAL. — On Wednesday afternoon, the brethren of the Crook Lodge, together with a large number of visiting brethren from the neighbouring lodges, met at the Freemasons' Hall, Church Street, for the purpose of installing Bro. George Emmerson, S.W., as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. The lodge was opened in due form by Bro. J. Joel, P.P.G.Std., the retiring W.M. At the conclusion of the ordinary business the W.M.-elect was presented and duly installed in the chair of K.S. according to ancient custom, the ceremony being performed in a very creditable manner by Bro. W. Arrowsmith, P.M., Bro. George Emmerson, W.M., appointed and invested his officers as follows:—Bro. J. Joel, I.P.M.; Bro. A. Y. Talbot, S.W.; Bro. Myles Taylor, J.W.; Bro. the Rev F. Newsome, P.P.G.C., chaplain; Bro. R. Proud, treasurer; Bro. George Smith, secretary; Bro. W. T. Wanless, S.P.; Bro. W. Turner, J.P.; Bro. T. Hall, D. of C.; Bro. J. Hughes, organist; Bro. T. Walton, almoner; Bro. J. H. Pollard, I.G.; Bro. T. Linton, S.S.; Bro. T. D. Buston, J.S.; Bro. John Dowson, tyler. The brethren subsequently retired to the lower room and partook of an excellent banquet, in celebration of the annual festival, provided by Mrs Young. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were proposed and responded to, after which a handsome Past Master's jewel was presented to Bro. J. Joel, the retiring master, which was appropriately acknowledged.

WOLSINGHAM.

Probably the oldest inhabitant in Wolsingham was Nancy Halliday, whose death, in her 97th year, has just occurred. She was an expert needlewoman up to within a few days of her demise.

Miss Maidment delivered a lecture at Wolsingham, on Tuesday evening, on "The management of a dairy, and how to make it pay." Councillor J. Vickers presided. The lecture was illustrated by magic lantern views. She dwelt on modern and ancient dairying, and shewed the contrast. She also dwelt upon the best breed of cows for milking purposes.

LECTURE.—A lecture, under the auspices of the Durham County Council Technical Education Scheme, was delivered at Wolsingham Town Hall, on Friday evening, by R. Greig Smith, B.Sc., of Edinborough. Mr J. Vickers, of Frosterley, presided. The subject was "Artificial manure." A good company was present. This lecture was the 5th of the series delivered at Wolsingham.

LIBERAL ASSOCIATION.—Under the auspices of this association, Mr R. Hanmer, barrister-at-law, gave a very excellent and highly-appreciated lecture in the Town Hall, Wolsingham, on Monday night; subject, "Ireland under Balfour." The lecture was well illustrated by the aid of a magic lantern. The scenes during the eviction period, with battering ram accompaniments, were exceedingly realistic. The frequent outbursts of applause testified to the interest taken in Ireland by the audience. Mr C. J. Backhouse occupied the chair. Votes of thanks to the lecturer and chairman were lustily carried. A very unanimous vote of confidence was passed in the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone.

TOW LAW.

"Ireland under Balfour," illustrated by numerous limelight views, was the title of a lecture delivered in the Mechanic' Institute, Tow Law, by Mr R. Hanmer. Conn. Vickers was in the chair.

The Tow Law Hotel, which has had three or more owners during the last dozen years or so, was put up for sale by auction last week by the executors of the late Mr W. Munoch, of Gateshead. Bids not going beyond £1,500, the property was withdrawn.

WESLEYAN METHODISM.—The quarterly meeting was held at Tow Law last Saturday—the Rev J. R. Cleminson in the chair, the vice-chairman being Rev A. Smith. About 40 representatives were present from various parts of the circuit. The financial statement, as read by the steward, showed a balance in hand of £16 1s 3½d. The numerical returns were 454 in full membership, with a good number on trial and in junior society classes. Mr Steel reported 909 Sunday scholars in the circuit, and 1,116 volumes in the different libraries; the total expenditure of the Sunday-schools for the last quarter beingly £80. There are 243 Band of Hope scholars in the circuit. During last year about £100 was raised on behalf of the foreign missions. The juveniles collected about £12 for home missions, &c. A very excellent tea was provided by Councillor Vickers and Mrs Vickers, to whom a very enthusiastic vote of thanks was accorded, as well as to the ladies who poured it out. Both ministers were invited to remain another year, but it is not known as yet whether the invites will be accepted or not.

WEARDALE.

EVANGELISTIC.—Miss Leonard from the United States, has been preaching special sermons and holding services for the Frosterley Wesleyans these last three weeks, with marked success.

Mr Herdman, of Westgate, an eminent geologist, and a fellow of the Royal Geological Society, has just been appointed manager-in-charge, of the Cow Green leadmines in upper Teesdale, close to Caldron Snout.

WEARDALE GUARDIANS.—The fortnightly meeting was held at Stanhope on Friday, Alderman Livingstone presiding.—The Guardians resolving themselves into the Assessment Committee, the mines and quarries were reassessed upon the output of the year ending December 31, 1891.—The Weardale Iron and Coal Co.'s rates were reduced under a new arrangement with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

TO-MORROW'S FOOTBALL.

TO-MORROW'S FIXTURES (SATURDAY, MARCH 26TH.)

Consett Fell v Brighton (Newcastle), at Newcastle.
Blackhill Rovers v North Elswick 2nd, at Newcastle.
Medomsley v Cornsay Rovers, at Medomsley (N.W. Durham Alliance.)
Lintz Rovers v Pelton Fell Harriers, at The Lintz.
Langley Park Rovers v Stanley Hedley Harriers, at Langley Park (N.W. Durham Alliance.)
Leadgate Exiles v Blyth, at Blyth.
Blackhill Rovers 2nd v North Durham 3rd, at Blackhill.
Tow Law v Darlington St. Augustine's, at Tow Law.
Blaydon 2nd v Northborne, at Blaydon.
Byer Moor v Lintzford, at Byer Moor.
Stanley Hedley Harriers 2nd v Dipton Wanderers 2nd, at Dipton.
Tow Law Athletic v Willington Albion, at Willington.
Esh True Blues v Shotley Bridge, at Esh.
Consett Y.M.C.A. v Consett Stocktakers, on the former's ground.
Greencroft Black Watch v Allendale Park, at Greencroft.
Marley Hill St. Cuthbert's v Malton Colliery, at Marley Hill.

NORTH-WEST DURHAM ALLIANCE.

MEDOMSLEY v CORNSAY ROVERS.—These teams will meet at Medomsley to play their return Alliance fixture, when a capital game is looked for. The following will represent Medomsley:—Goal, G. Beadling; backs, M. Charlton and Wm. Mansell (capt.); half-backs, T. Walton, W. Baron, and G. Moon; forwards, R. Campbell and R. Wilson, right wing; Wm. Cant, centre; R. Cant and J. Roulton, left wing. Linesman, W. G. F. Thompson. Referee, Mr J. Vickers, Langley Park.

STANLEY HEDLEY HARRIERS v LANGLEY PARK ROVERS.—This game will be brought off at Langley Park, when a good game should be witnessed. The following will do duty for the Harriers—Goal, Potts; backs, Rowell and Benson; half-backs, Theobald, Armstrong, and Forster; forwards, Brown and Coxen, right wing; Bolam, centre; Brydon and Charlton (or Atkinson), left wing.

LEADGATE EXILES v BLYTH.—These strong teams will meet at Blyth. The Exiles will be represented by the appended team:—Goal, H. Callaghan; backs, W. McGee (capt.) and J. Haggan; half-backs, J. Monaghan, T. McGrachan, and Peter Hughes; forwards, O. Hughes and Day, right wing; J. Costello, centre; Jas. McGee and Hill, left wing.

BLACKHILL ROVERS v NORTH ELSWICK. — To be played on the Elswick ground. The following will do duty for the Rovers:—Full back, T. Elliott; three-quarter backs, E. McElrue, J. Brown, and T. Robson; half-backs, G. Smailes (capt.) and J. Anderson; forwards, G. Hewitson, A. McGhee, A. Taylor, G. Davison, R. Stobbs, W. Brown, J. Aitken, G. Sayers, and J. Askew. Reserves, G. Aitken and L. McTaggart.

TOW LAW v DARLINGTON ST. AUGUSTINE'S.—Tow Law receive a visit from the Cleveland Cup-holders of 1888 and 1889, and winners of the Northern League in 1889-90, when a capital exposition of the game may be expected. The following team will in all proability represent Tow Law:—Goal, Hildreth; backs, Temperley and Hilton; half-backs, Blair, Wilson, and Waites; forwards, Potts and Coulson, right wing; A. N. Other, centre; Conroy and Watson, left wing. Kick-off at 2·30.

CONSETT Y.M.C.A. v CONSETT STOCKTAKERS. — To be played on the ground of the former. The Y.M.C.A. will be represented by the following team:—Goal, A. Wilson; backs, G. Siddle and W. Hagon; half-backs, C. Lumsden, R. Sanderson, and P. Mellon; forwards, J. Hull and W. Surtees, right wing; C. Cooke (capt.), centre; J. Brady and J. Jones, left wing.

LINTZ ROVERS v PELTON FELL HARRIERS.—To be played on the Rovers' ground. The home team will be as follows:—Goal, C. Nevin; backs, H. Nevin and W. Haywood; half-backs, T. Watson, T. Hedlin, and W. Johnson; forwards, A. Hughes and J. McGurk, right wing; J. Gannon, centre; M. Watson and J. Weedy, left wing. Reserves, J. Lee, J. Dunning, and R. Fail.

HEDLEY HILL TERRACE RED RANGERS v HAMILTON SCRATCH TEAM.—Played on the ground of the former on Wednesday, the result being a win for the home team by one goal to nil.

MEDOMSLEY WHITE STARS v KYO GEMS.—The Stars journeyed to Kyo on Wednesday to play the return match with the Gems. The Stars had the best of the game all through, and won by three goals to one.

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION.

TANFIELD DIVISION.

Yesterday (Thursday), Mr John McCartan, solicitor, Consett, attended at West Stanley to receive the nominations of councillors for the vacancy caused by the election of Mr W. H. Patterson as alderman. The following were nominated—Mr Hy. Curry Wood, manager of the Burnopfield Co-operative Stores; and Mr Thomas Forster, butcher, West Stanley.

Mr Wood addressed meetings at West Stanley on Wednesday afternoon, and at Tanfield Lea in the evening.

NOTES FROM TOW LAW.

[BY "TOW LAWITE."]

The lecture on "Ireland under Balfour," given in the Mechanic's Hall, by R. Hanmer, Esq., with limelight illustrations, was a great treat to those who attended. The pictures showing the poor peasant's cottage, before and after the battering ram had been applied, Mr Pike's receipt for rent paid for seaweed, and Mr Plunket's telegram to shoot them if needs be, did a lot to strengthen the Home Rule cause. Councillor Vickers presided. At the close of the lecture, the usual votes of thanks were carried.

I am sorry if my notes last week—*re* Mr Smith in the cattle mart—have given any offence. It has been circulated that after Mr Smith showed his figures, &c., he said the miners ought to suffer a reduction. Allow me to say, that he said:—"Why strike, if we have nothing to strike about," and not "the men should suffer a reduction, because the prices in this morning's paper, show prices to be 10 per cent. down."

We have got one new policeman imported into the place, and although things look dark, I dont expect his presence will lighten things up any better. There is nothing for him to do.

CHURCH TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

BEAMISH BRANCH.

The tone of the meeting of the above society on Monday evening was very hearty and genial. There was a very fair audience present, and the interest throughout the programme was well sustained. Miss F. Robinson renders her selections on the pianoforte with great taste and superior execution. Miss Storey's rich voice and feeling manner fairly captivated the hearts of the listeners in "Robin Adair" and "Comin' through the rye." Mr Possgate's speech contained several good points, as also, did that given by Mr J. Lumley. Master Surtees gave two solos on the violin with considerable *eclat*; and Master Bell with great relish recited "The mysterious guest." Mr Oliver's three songs, "I cannot ha'ad my jaw," "I've left the barrel," and "The Ship at Blackhall Mill," caught the spirit of the audience exactly, whilst the three recitations, "The drunkard's palace," "A spirited wife," and "The summer's cleaning," by Mr Thomas, seemed specially suited to the object of the meeting. After a silence standing over many weeks Mrs Witty's voice was welcomed again in the touching songs, "What is home without a mother" and "The night bird is wailing." Although pledges are not taken in as large numbers as we would like to see, we are convinced that the value of these meetings is not to be tested solely by that criterion, but also by their tendency to strengthen social bonds, and to cultivate a good taste in recreations, free from the deteriorating influences of the public-house.

MARLEY HILL BRANCH.

The usual monthly meeting of the above was held in the school-room on Tuesday evening. There was a large attendance. Mr Gilchrist occupied the chair. An excellent and varied programme was gone through in a pleasing manner. The Rev G. T. Dunne, vicar of Burnopfield, gave an excellent address on temperance, and also a reading. Misses Brabban and Bowman sang solos, and were well received, Miss Brabban being *encored*. Duets were given by Misses A. Dewhurst, F. Bowman, and W. Dewhurst. Miss A. Dewhurst gave a pianoforte solo, and Mr Dewhurst a reading. Master Mervyn Archdall, of Tanfield, gave several songs, accompanying himself on the banjo. He plays remarkably well for the short time he has practised on the banjo. Mr F. W. Bone sang and recited in his usual manner, and was evidently a great favourite from the amount of applause given him. Messrs W. Young, W. Reed, J. Davison, and Fred Randall gave a most amusing nigger dialogue in character in a telling manner. The Rev J. A. Bridges, an old favourite, gave two of his well-known recitations. A vote of thanks brought another pleasant and successful meeting of this prosperous branch to a close.

"BELSHAZZAR'S FEAST" AT BLACKHILL.

On Wednesday evening, the sacred cantata, "Belshazzar's Feast; or, The Fall of Babylon," in ten scenes, by Mr George F. Root, was rendered by the Blackhill Wesleyan choir, assisted by several friends from Consett, Shotley Bridge, Leadgate, &c., making the chorus something like 80 voices. The chapel was well filled by a large and appreciative audience. The chairman was the Rev J. V. Sutton, Shotley Bridge, who gave the connective readings with good effect. The following were the impersonations:—

Belshazzar, King of Babylon (*bass*)...Mr R. Frankland, Blackhill.
Nitocris, Queen (*soprano*)...Miss Weaver, Consett.
Daniel (*tenor*) ....Mr C. Stelling, Blackhill.
Jewish Maiden (*contralto*) Miss Harwood, Consett.
An Angel (*soprano*) ......Miss Shimmin, Blackhill.
Hananiah (*baritone*) ...Mr W. T. Gillies, Blackhill.
Lord and a lady of the court. Jewish men and maidens (and companions of Daniel.)
Full chorus of Jews, chaldeans, and soldiers.

The scenes supposed to be depicted were as follows:—"The palace hall," "The Queen's apartments," "Jewish place of assembly," "The walls of Babylon," "The feast," "Jewish quarters—evening devotion," "Jewish place of worship," "The interpretation," "The camp of Cyrus," and "Within the city." With regard to the rendition of this good, sound musical work, it could not fail to give every satisfaction. It is unnecessary on our part to particularise each item throughout the cantata, and if we were disposed to do so, to do justice to the work it would be necessary to commence at the opening chorus, "With high sounding pæans," representing a national anthem of the Babylonians, and finish with the grand chorus, "Magnify, glorify." The whole was given in a manner which reflects the very highest praise upon the choir. Although the cantata was somewhat critical in parts, yet it contained some charming music, and was highly characteristic of the story it so vividly illustrated. Several of the pieces were enthusiastically *encored*. The different soloists sustained their parts in splendid style, their singing being all that could be desired, and on several occasions they came in for rounds of applause. Mr John Davison (Consett) presided at the organ, and played the martial prelude and the various other instrumental selections allotted to him with great ability. Mr S. Gradon (Blackhill) conducted, and proved that he had spared no pains in getting the various parts of the choir well balanced, so that the work might be rendered as perfectly as possible.

CART HORSE SHOW.—The annual show of entire cart horses was held in the Cricket Field, Chester-le-Street, in fine weather, and in the presence of a good attendance. The secretary (Mr James Brewis) had secured an entry of 15, all of which were shown, quality being extremely well represented. The judges were Messrs H. Potts, Harbour House; W. W. Oxon, Pictree; and Ed. H. Wilkinson, Ouston. The choice of the judges lay between Thistle Yet, a powerful dark brown seven-years old horse, 17.3 hands, the property of Mr William Kirkaldy, Anstruther, and Corsewale's Grandson, rising three years, the property of Mr James Drummond, Pitcorthie, Perthshire. Both horses were submitted to a searching and careful examination at the hands of Mr William Temple, M.R.C.V.S., after which the judges awarded the premium to Mr Kirkaldy's horse, a decision which met with popular approval.

VALE OF DERWENT NATURALISTS FIELD CLUB.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of this society was held in the Temperance Hall, Burnopfield, on Saturday evening. The president of the society occupied the chair. After the usual address from the President, the secretary and treasurer (Mr Wm. Johnson) read the financial report, which showed that the society had been very prosperous during the past year. The income from subscriptions was double that of previous years. The officers for the present year were elected, after which the excursions for the summer were fixed as follows—Stella Hall, Fountains Abbey, and Studley Royal, in Yorkshire; Dilston Castle and Consett Ironworks, with Hewen's Gill in one. Four, instead of five as previously. It was resolved that steps be taken towards publishing a second volume of papers read by the society. A paper, by Mr J. W. Fawcett, on "Women as students of natural history" was read by the President.

The following address was delivered by the President:—It is with much pleasure that I make the few observations due from me by the rules of our society. I am happy to congratulate you, not only on our continue existence as a club, but also on our continued prosperity. The past year has been the most successful one we have had, and it is not only with pleasure but with some pride that I can say that our financial transactions this year total up to the respectable sum of £24. Our subscriptions are double the amount they have ever been before. During the year the society has published a small volume, entitled "Notes on the history, geology, and ornithology of the Vale of Derwent." Copies were distributed free to members, the remainder been sold to the public at the charge of one shilling each. The number printed was soon exhausted, and numerous enquiries are received yet for copies. Very favourable notices were made of the book by the local press, and there is every reason to think that a second edition would be well received. Copies were sent to all the National Libraries in compliance with the Copyright Act. So the transactions of our society find a place in the National Archives. Notwithstanding this, our balance is larger than it was at our last annual meeting. A large number of new members have joined during the year. The first field meeting of the season was held at Axwell Park, on Whit-Saturday. Although snow fell during the afternoon, the meeting was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. The members were kindly entertained to tea by Sir Henry Clavering, to whom the thanks of the society are due for his hospitality. The park gardens and grounds were visited; the party were shown over the house. A paper on "The Clavering family" was read by Mr Burns, of Whickham. The following month an excursion was made to Barnard Castle, where the members were shown over the Bowes Museum, afterwards paying a visit to Egliston Abbey, the scene of some parts of Scott's "Rokeby." An enjoyable day was spent. The month following a visit was paid to Chollerford, and the Roman remains at the Chesters. Through the kindness of N. G. Clayton, Esq., Mr Tailford, the excavator of the ruins, was sent to show the company over the remains, with which they were much interested. After dinner at the George Hotel, a walk of three miles was undertaken by some of the members along the line of the Roman wall, where, although the afternoon was rainy and unpleasant, those who braved it saw much to interest them for their extra trouble and exertions. On the return journey Hexham Abbey Church was visited. Lanchester was the scene of the next field-day, when, under the guidance of Mr J. W. Fawcett, a thorough inspection was made of the interesting old church. Greenwell Ford, the ancient seat of the Greenwells and the birth-place of the poetess, Dora Greenwell, was also visited. Then the company was kindly and hospitably entertained by G. Horsley, Esq., the present tenant of the Hall, to whom also the thanks of the society are hereby tendered. The remains of the Roman Station were visited and examined, after which, during a heavy downpour of rain, a move was made for the Queen's Head Inn, where an excellent tea, prepared by Mrs Towns, was enjoyed. After tea, a specially-bound copy of the "Notes on the Derwent" was presented to Mr Fawcett on his leaving for Australia to fulfill a scientific appointment under Government. Mr Fawcett since then writes that the present is much appreciated in Australia. Our last meeting was to the Museum at Newcastle, when the treasures therein contained were explained by the courteous curator, Howes, Esq. Such then is the history of the year's proceedings, and it is to be hoped in conclusion that many more of the dwellers in the Valley of Derwent will join our ranks, and enjoy with us the pleasures of the pursuit of nature's beauties of the vale.

The following resolution was passed at the meeting:—

"That this society learns with regret that it has been the practice of the Derwent Angling Society to encourage the destruction of herons in the upper part of the valley. The society's thanks are due to the president of the angling club for calling attention to the matter, and has pleasure in learning that the practice has been discontinued by the society of the anglers."

"WOMEN AS STUDENTS OF NATURE."

[By J. W. Fawcett.]

The study of the sciences, all of which are parts of natural history, from the earliest periods have by no means been confined to the sterner sex. Certain it is that the greater part of the facts discovered and arrived at in each separate science have been searched out by man, yet, though they stand predominant, much has been made known by woman. Man, standing as he does at the head of all created nature, the crowning piece of organic life, endowed with varied mental qualities, and possessing the most ambition and perseverance peers further into the deep unfathomable depths of science and working with more unwearying energy, attains greater results than the opposite sex, yet in all these works of research how often is he assisted and cheered in his labour by the feebler yet far-seeing help of a weaker though often firmer mind. As we study the biographies of the greatest naturalists and scientists, those men who have toiled hard in the vast storehouses of nature, bringing forth and advancing doctrines and theories of the natural sciences, frequently do we find them receiving assistance from the weaker sex. Sometimes it happens these women are content to hide their important productions beneath the name of their husband, wishing only to render him their often very valuable assistance, and to share with him the praise, if any be accorded. At others we find them striking out for themselves and winning by their own persevering energies a name in the niche of fame. Up to almost recent years, woman, thinking it was out of her place, cared little to exert herself in sciences that by length of time belonged to the stronger sex, but a breach having been made and the way laid open numbers are beginning to climb the paths of science, vieing not only with others of their own sex but with those whose prerogative, if it may so be called, the field of erudition had so long been. Besides the thought of woman that it was out of her position to appear as one cultivated and learned, it had long been regretted that the cultivation of the mind in a woman was a mark of mental or moral obliquity, and any one who did happen to leave the centre of the beaten track of the very common-place erudition of a common-place clique of society was looked upon with a mixture of pity and dislike. Happily, in these days of advanced education, woman finds that the way to success is not barred so much as it was formerly, and, though there are one or two obstacles in the way, she can raise herself by honest heroic endeavours to be one of the "upper ten thousand of erudites," and to occupy a position well up in the scale of cultivation and learning. Having surmounted what was for a long time considered an impregnible barrier we now have women occupying important positions, and almost all the professions can now boast of a female as one of its members. In this brief paper of mine I wish to say something of woman as a student of nature. We are passionately fond of flowers and this passion ought not to be restricted to one, for it should lead us on to be full of enthusiasm for all that Dame Nature so liberally spreads out for the delectation of her worshippers and to become ardent lovers of nature. This would increase our mental powers for nature throughout the extent and variety of her productions and processes as man's great teacher, and because she is man's great teacher she is also woman's great teacher, for are not we one of another. Apart from the study being peculiarly healthy and ennobling, it leads to practical results of utility, and as nothing exists for nothing it leads and tends more towards the effectual training of intellectual powers as the deeper we go into it. And now let us see what woman has done and is doing in the great world of natural history. In it she chiefly excels as an authoress and as the greater part of her writings are the outcome of experience, many of them have become works of much importance. Zoology and ornithology are not subjects which have taken up much of her attention. Chief amongst them are Mrs London, Mary Howitt, Miss Bood, and Maria Ellen Catlow, writers of no small repute. Maria Catlow also holds an important position as an etymologist and is not lacking her knowledge of other sciences, and Miss Omerod, the consulting etymologist of the Royal Agricultural Society, is well-known for her researches in etymology. Botany, the science treating of our wild flowers, is the one which finds most students and writers. Amongst the latter are Anne Pratt ("Haunts of the wild flowers"), Agnes Catlow ("Garden and greenhouse botany"), Lady Wilkinson ("Weeds and wild flowers"), Mary Roberts ("The woodlands"), Anna Maria Libert (a cryptogamic botanist), and Mrs Gatty ("British seaweeds"). Besides the many who have given the result of their labours to the public at large there are others who have rendered great help to the botanical world by their discoveries of various plants. These are found more frequently in our colonies and especially Australia. In that great island continent a great help has been afforded towards enlarging the flora of Australia by such women as Amelia Districh, perhaps the greatest of female Australian botanists; Mrs Ellis Rowan, Miss H. Testor, Mrs Mulloy, Mrs Louisa Atkinson, Mrs Forde, Miss Scott, Mrs Hodgkinson, Mrs Calvert, Mrs Glendinning, Mrs Parker, Mrs F. Spencer, Mrs J. W. R. Stuart, Miss Bowkett, and several others. But we need not look so far away for female botanists of note, for in the county of Durham amongst others two deserve especial notice. One is Miss Deborah Wharton, of Old Park, Durham, whose *hortus siccus* or collection of British plants made in the county of Durham, A.D., 1760, 1802, is now in the University Museum, Durham; the other is Mary Eleanor, Countess of Strathmore, of Streatlam and Gibson, who died 1800, and who was wife of Lieutenant Stoney, afterwards the notorious "Stoney Bowes." Geology and its kindred sciences find female writers of no mean repute in such a one as Margaret Pieus ("Geology for the million"). Such then is, I think, sufficient proof that woman is not lacking in knowledge and power in the study of natural history.

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The fortnightly meeting took place at Lanchester of Thursday week, Mr Wm. Logan (chairman) presiding. Present: Mr W. B. Van Haansbergen, J.P., Rev P. C. Fortin, Coun. J. A. Curry, Messrs J. Lax, Wm. Aynsley, T. J. Muse, C. D. W. Baileny, Geo. Hobson, T. Longstaff, L. Nicholson, W. Gray, N. Clark, R. Robson, and the Clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson).

THE UNION EXPENDITURE: INCREASE OF POOR-LAW RATE.

The Clerk, in presenting his estimate of the probable expenditure of the Union for the half-year ending September 25th, 1892, said it was somewhat difficult to calculate the expenses, as there was no telling how long the strike might last. If the strike continued for several weeks there would be a heavy draw upon the resources of the Union call for in-door and out-door relief. The present rateable value was £274,115; a rate of 6d in the pound would realise £6,852; 5d in the pound would raise £5,710; and 4d in the pound would come to about £4,600. The rate in the previous half-year was only 2d in the pound. There would be a balance of £3,400 at the end of March 25th, the Guardians having received the grant of £1,262 from the County Council before the end of the current half-year. He estimated the expenditure to amount to £7,364. Of course, if that was not sufficient, the Guardians could draw on the balance.

Mr Nicholson thought a rate of 5d was more easily calculated than either 5d or 4d.

On the proposal of Mr Aynsley, seconded by Mr Hobson, it was agreed to issue precepts on the overseers for a poor rate of 5d in the pound.

THE WORKHOUSE CONTRACTS.

The undermentioned contracts for the coming half-year were let:—

Coal, Col. S. A. Sadler, Malton Colliery, Lanchester; milk, Mr Hy. Oliver, Hurbuck Farm, Consett; groceries, Mr Jas. Walton, Lanchester; flour, Mr Wilson, Wallnook Mill, Witton Gilbert; tinned beef, Mr Walton, Lanchester; butcher meat, Mr J. Green, Lanchester; coffins, Mr Ed. Clarkson, Lanchester; cartage of limestone, Mr B. Whitfield, Cornsay Colliery.

RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

A special meeting of this body was held subsequently, under the chairmanship of Mr Logan.

THE COKE-OVEN DWELLINGS.

The Clerk (Mr Ritson) mentioned that he had written to the various colliery owners in the Annfield Plain neighbourhood to take immediate steps to put an end to the occupation of coke-ovens as dwellings, in such a manner as to prevent the recurrence of the nuisance complained of.

Mr W. Rutherford, manager of the South Derwent Colliery, replied to the effect that these coke-ovens, which had not been knocked down, had been re-built and closed about ten days ago. There were no men sleeping in the ovens at the time of the meeting of the Sanitary Authority the previous week.

Mr R. Mitchison, Pontop Colliery, replied that all their ovens not burning were sealed up, except five or six, which were undergoing alterations or rebuilding. They did not wish any coke-ovens to be used as dwellings, and would use their best endeavours to prevent such occurring in future.

It was stated in the discussion, that in view of the miners' strike, the coke-ovens would be laid in for some time to come; but a resolution was passed directing the Inspector (Mr J. E. Parker) to visit the coke-ovens frequently, and if he found any occupied as dwelling, to take immediate proceedings against the defaulting colliery owners.

This concluded the business.

LANCHESTER JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

The regular meeting was held on Thursday afternoon week, Mr W. Logan being in the chair.

ENLARGEMENT OF THE LEADGATE HOSPITAL.

Mr J. W. Rounthwaite, architect, Benfieldside, attended with a drawing showing the four additional wards proposed to be added to the Leadgate Infectious Hospital. The drawings were approved of, and Mr Rounthwaite was empowered to complete the plans, specifications, &c., by next month.

PATIENTS IN THE INSTITUTION.

Dr George Renton reported that a patient from Benfieldside had been admitted to the Leadgate hospital suffering from scarlet fever, on the 12th inst., and was doing well. Maud Harlow was discharged on February 28th and Florence on March 12th.

WHERE WAS DR MACINTYRE?

In the absence of Dr A. D. M. Macintyre, Mr L. Nicholson moved the following resolution:—

"That in future all patients removed to the Leadgate Hospital for Infectious Diseases, shall have the right to continue in the hospital, if they so desire, the attendance of treatment of their family medical attendant, this Board taking no responsibility for the payment of services rendered by medical men, other than their appointed medical officer."

There was, however, no seconder to the resolution. Mr Lax suggested that the subject be referred to a committee, but the Chairman deemed it advisable to let the matter drop.

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

STANHOPE PARISH

The compliment paid Dr Livingstone by his brother councillors last week in making him an alderman has necessitated the choice of a successor, and on Monday a numerously signed requisition was laid before Mr George Race, of Westgate, asking him to come forward in their interest. Mr Race is well-known and highly respected in Weardale, and is the most likely person in case of an election for winning the seat, as he has the confidence of the bulk of the ratepayers in Weardale. He is well-known throughout the dale as a preacher of marked acceptance and ability; a lecturer on ancient and modern literary luminaries; well-known as an architect and builder, of excellent business capacity; and has served on the Parish Boards. He will command almost the entire nonconformist vote in the dale, and likewise the bulk of the working classes vote. He has issued his election address. Others are also spoken of as likely for coming forward, but in Mr Race they will find a very formidable rival.

TANFIELD DIVISION.

At Tanfield Lea, on Saturday, a meeting was held to select a candidate for County Council for the Tanfield Division in place of Mr Patterson. A very large number of representatives were present from the various sections of the division. Mr Green was in the chair. It was agreed unanimously that Mr Curry Wood, of Burnopfield, be the selected candidate. Committees were elected, and a series of public meetings arranged.

HUMAN LIFE.—Fifty years' record of Facts, Principles, and Discoveries relating to the Origin and True Treatment of Disease, and the preservation of Human Life on Earth. By Dr Samuel Birley, M.D., Ph.D.; author of "Patriarchal Longevity Reattainable," "Earth-Life," &c., &c. A series of most valuable articles in 52-paged books, containing Diet Rules—what to eat and what to avoid in various complaints, together with other useful and valuable information. Invaluable to every Sufferer. Sound and Practical. Write to-day for presentation copy from the publishers, Messrs Gordon, Murray, and Co., 18, Theobald's Road, Holborn, London, W.C.

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

EDDA'S BIRTHRIGHT.

By Mrs. Harriet Lewis,

Author of "Her Double Life," "Old Life's Shadows," "Lady Kildare," etc.

CHAPTER XIII.

ANOTHER DISAPPEARANCE.

The letter of the Earl of Charlewick, breathing insolent triumph and menace, was like a trumpet sound of alarm to Lord Ronald Charlton. He had had no fears for Hellene's safety; the worst persecutions he had dreaded for her had been the urgent pleadings of her father, and the repeated solicitations of Lord Charlewick to induce her to consent to a marriage with the latter; but now as in a flash of light he saw that she was threatened with actual personal peril should she persist in her rejection of her unwelcome suitor. The earl had not scrupled to attempt Ronald's life; he was not one to be balked in the gratification of any wish upon which he had set his heart. The young man's soul thrilled with sudden and terrible apprehensions.

He placed the letter in Hartson's hand. The old lawyer read it, and then ensued a discussion between Lord Ronald and his adviser, during which the probable situation of Miss Clair was considered with all its possibilities.

"It is true we do not know where Miss Clair now is," said Hartson, reflectively, "but she must be easily found. She is probably stopping with her father in London at some quiet hotel, and Lord Charlewick has without doubt domiciled himself under the same roof, and is paying her every attention. It's odd that she has not written to you; but she may know that you are ill, and she would not want her letters lying about to await your recovery. I dare say she's all right and safe, Lord Ronald. A spirited young woman of rank and wealth cannot be hidden away like a dumb statue."

"She would have written to me if she had not been deprived of her liberty," said Ronald. "I do not believe that she has ever heard of my illness. She may have written and her letters have been intercepted; but I believe that the earl has written to me the truth. She is in some remote fastness—but where?"

"That remains to be proved," said Hartson, again perusing the letter. "You are right, Lord Ronald. There's an insolence and triumph in this letter that proclaims its truth. Miss Clair is shut up somewhere by her father, and Lord Charlewick and the baron are trying to force her into an unwelcome marriage."

"While I am chained here by physical weakness."

"Oh, you'll be out again in a fortnight, Lord Ronald. Don't fret and worry. You want to regain your strength as soon as possible. While you are getting well I will search for Miss Clair, so that when you are able to travel I can place her exact address in your hands," said Hartson, cheerfully, "and you and I can go together to her rescue. Miss Clair will never yield to her importunate suitor, and she cannot be married without her own consent; so cheer up! We'll find her, and if necessary for her future safety, you two will have to make a runaway match of it in Scotland."

The lawyer spoke with a confidence and cheerfulness he did not quite feel, but his aim was attained. Lord Ronald became more cheerful and hopeful, his face brightening, and a faint flush creeping back into his pale, thin cheeks.

Soon after the lawyer took his departure to enter upon his quest for the missing maiden or for Lord Charlewick.

The great house of Charlewick-le-Grand for the first time in two generations was found to be absolutely closed, being left in charge of one old gardener, who slept in an attic at night, and worked about the lawn during the day. The housekeeper, the butler, all the five-and-twenty servants comprising the under strata of the household, had departed.

Mr. Hartson made inquiries of the gardener, a stolid, stupid person of limited perceptions, but discovered nothing. The earl had gone up to London. Miss Clair had gone away some weeks previous with her father and her maid. That was all that the gardener knew. Hartson next applied to Mr. Graham, the land steward, who lived in a pretty cottage set in the midst of a garden at Little Charlewick. Mr. Graham was the only person who had been employed by the late earl who was retained in the employment of the present earl, and the probable reason for his retention was that, although he was stiff, reticent and uncompromising, devotedly attached to Ronald, and by no means an admirer of the new peer, he understood his business thoroughly, was shrewd, honest and conscientious, and his place could not be easily filled.

Mr. Graham knew nothing of the earl's movements, could not tell where he had gone, or whither Lord Clair and his daughter had preceded him.

Hartson sought out some of the discharged servants who belonged to families upon the estate or in its vicinity, but continued equally unsuccessful in his attempts at investigation.

The next morning he rode over to Crediton and made inquiries at the station. He discovered that Lord Charlewick had booked for London, as had Lord Clair and Miss Clair, a fortnight previous to the earl's departure.

"I believe that they are all up in London," thought the lawyer, "and that the talk about a remote fastness is all bluff. The 'fastness' is probably the earl's town house."

He wrote a note to Lord Ronald Charlton, dispatched it, and took the first train up to London. He went to Charlewick House, Belgravia, but the house was closed, and it was evident that the earl had not occupied it. He instituted careful inquiries at the various private family hotels at the West End, and was fortunate enough to discover one at which "Lord Clair, Miss Clair and servant" had been registered some three weeks before.

Closer inquiry, however, revealed the fact that Lord Clair's party had remained at the hotel only three days, and had then departed ostensibly for a country seat belonging to Miss Clair, and situated in Dorset.

Mr. Hartson posted immediately to Dorset, and to the seat in question. He found the place occupied by a tenant who had seen nothing and heard nothing of Lord Clair or his daughter.

The lawyer comprehended that he had been tricked, and that the baron's pretence of going to Dorset had been merely a cover to some deep and nefarious scheme. Miss Clair had been spirited away to some secluded spot by her father, and Lord Charlewick had joined the baron.

But where was this "fastness" in which they had found refuge?

The question appeared impossible of solution.

Hartson returned to his London hotel, and to his little upper chamber in it, and sat down with maps to study out the question. He knew the names of Miss Clair's estates and their whereabouts. He knew also that they were all leased during the period of her minority, and that she could not domicile herself in any of them. He had a list also of the estates belonging to the Charlewick property, and to this he gave the larger share of his attention.

"There are two or three leases belonging to the Charlewick estates that have expired, or are soon to expire," thought Hartson. "There's Racket Hall, on a Yorkshire moor, so bleak and dreary that it will be difficult to again find a tenant for it. Graham consulted me about the late tenant, Nizbit, who owes two years rent, and by my advice Graham ejected him, it being clear that Nizbit never intended to pay a penny so long as he should occupy it. Racket Hall is empty, that I know. What more natural than that Lord Charlewick should have put the place at Lord Clair's disposal?"

He acted upon his new idea at once. He travelled by express to Yorkshire, and to Hebden Bridge. He hired a fly and proceeded to Racket Hall, by way of Moor End. At that little hamlet he stopped to bait his horses, and entered into conversation with the garrulous little landlord, who, being skilfully drawn out, told the story of the departure of the tenants of Racket Hall, garnishing the tale with expressions of his own wonder and surprise.

"Why, you might have knocked me down with a feather, sir," said the innkeeper, "when Mr. Nizbit drove up in a fly that had come from Hebden Bridge to fetch him to the station along with his boxes. The poor gentleman was that outrageous with his vital organs that he moaned and groaned and smelled his salts and took his draughts, and you'd have thought he was on his way to a hospitile, which he wasn't, being as he was going up to London to his friend. The poor gentleman may have died on the way, being as he told me his liver and lights was all gone, and his lungs was a shadder. He was ejected from the house where he'd lived over twenty year, because he couldn't pay rent any longer. Did you come up to see about his sticks of furniture, sir? They wouldn't bring a f'-pun note, sir."

"I daresay not. But I've nothing to do with Nizbit. I am not Lord Charlewick's land-steward or house agent."

"No! Nizbit went off owing everybody," said the aggrieved landlord, venturing to speak more freely. "He's had twenty kegs of ale out of my cellars, and never paid me for 'em, sir. He was a powerful ale drinker for a man that had no stummick and likewise no congestion, as he told me himself. Perhaps, then," he added inquisitively, "you came up to see about Miss Brend,—she as was called Mr. Nizbit's niece, which she didn't favour him, and no one knows rightly, in my opinion, who she is!"

"I know nothing about Miss Brend. I came up to see if the Hall is now occupied. Do you know if any new tenants have entered into possession?"

"I know there's no one now at the Hall," declared the innkeeper. "Tenants for Racket Hall won't be easy found. It stands alone in the midst of a wild and lonesome moor, and few people would be willing to bury theirselves alive the year round in such a place, without they were poor and proud or fugitives in hiding. I hear that the old earl is dead. The new earl will have to keep Racket Hall for a shooting-box, I fancy. Is it true, sir, that Lord Odo Charlton wasn't murdered at all twenty years ago, and that he has come back and entered into possession?"

Hartson replied in the affirmative, and directing his questions yet more skilfully ascertained that no strangers had been seen at Moor End recently, and that no one could give him any information whatever on the subject in which he was interested.

But he did not relinquish his design of visiting Racket Hall, and presently resumed his journey.

He had no difficulty, having received explicit directions, in finding the quaint old French-looking house in the midst of the dreary moor. He drove into the grounds and alighted. There was no sign of life about the premises. The doors were locked, the windows closely shuttered. The stables were empty and appeared to have been long unused. Hartson knocked loudly upon the house-doors for admittance, and his knocks echoed forlornly through the dwelling. He managed to effect an entrance through a kitchen window, and thoroughly explored the house.

It was unoccupied. The furniture remained as Nizbit left it, and was meagre, ricketty, and threadbare. Hartson found legions of empty wine and brandy bottles in the cellar, all of which had been industriously emptied by Mr. Nizbit in his search for health. The larder was empty. The drawing room was a picture of forlornness; the dining room was dreary and barn-like. The lawyer shivered and went upstairs.

When he came to a little whitewashed room on the second storey, with bare floor, narrow iron bedstead, and one narrow slit-like window, he started, believing that he had found traces of Miss Clair's recent presence.

A girl's hair ribbon of bright scarlet lay on the bare deal table that had served as a dressing-bureau, and beside it was a small glove. But the ribbon had been worn to flimsiness, and the glove had been patched and mended many times, and was now ragged beyond repairing.

A small wardrobe closet opened off this nun-like cell. The lawyer looked in it. He discovered a faded brown cotton gown, a girl's pair of small worn-out boots of coarse leather, and a battered old hat—all of Edda's personal effects not contained in the little bundle she had carried in her hand when she went away. The articles were poorer and cheaper than most servants wear, and Hartson decided that they had belonged to a former housemaid of Nizbit's.

He ascended to the triple row of attics, one row stretching back above another, but the rooms were all bare and empty.

"Well," he said, when his explorations were ended and he descended the stairs, "I've learned one thing, and that is that they are not here. I might have known that Lord Charlewick would not have Miss Clair brought here for security; Graham or I would be sure to look for her here first of any place. They may have gone to Ireland, Scotland or Wales."

He re-entered his vehicle and drove back to Hebden Bridge, and returned to London.

He pursued his search zealously but cautiously. Believing himself upon the right track, he followed a party to Scotland, and came upon them at a hotel at Dundee, to find that he had pursued a London tradesman, who, with his daughter, was making a holiday trip to the highlands.

Upon another false scent he made a fruitless excursion into Wales, returning to London discouraged and disheartened.

His next move was to visit the various metropolitan railway stations. He talked with porters and guards and station-masters, but found no trace of those he sought. He visited the offices of steamers plying between London and the Channel ports. All in vain. The Clairs and the Earl of Charlewick seemed literally to have been blotted out of existence.

The lawyer was now in a state of intense alarm. All these researches had occupied him over a fortnight, and all that he had discovered was that Miss Clair, with her father and Lord Charlewick, had indubitably disappeared—and the young girl's disappearance bore a decidedly sinister aspect when coupled with the earl's insolently triumphant letter to Lord Ronald Charlton.

The case was not one, Hartson felt, that could be submitted to a detective. Miss Clair was with her father, and was therefore presumably safe. And Hartson, knowing the chivalrous delicacy of Lord Ronald's nature, knew that the young man would never bear to make Miss Clair the subject of speculations in the minds of hired strangers, except under circumstances of the most absolute necessity.

"Lord Ronald is not the man to tell even a detective that the father of his lordship's betrothed wife is a villain," thought the lawyer as he sat one morning in his upper room at his London hotel, perplexed and greatly troubled. "I am at my wits' end. I've written hopefully every second day to Lord Ronald, but what am I to write now?"

He opened his dispatch box and prepared to write a letter.

He had scarcely penned the date when a knock was heard upon the door. Hartson raised his eyes and bid the intruder enter. The door opened and Lord Ronald Charlton entered the room.

The old lawyer sprang up in surprise and delight, and extended his hand in greeting.

Lord Ronald looked pale and thin; but his manner was full of energy, and his step had its old springiness, and the eyes their olden fire. His recovery had been retarded by his anxieties in regard to Hellene, and his physician had prohibited his leaving Little Charlewick until this very morning. The prohibition being removed—because he would not submit longer to inaction—he had hurried up to London, and had come directly to Hartson.

"I am glad to see you looking so well, Lord Ronald," said the lawyer. "Sit down in this easy chair here. I had just begun a letter to you."

"With good news, I hope, Hartson," said the young lord, anxiously.

"I am sorry to say that I have no news of any kind," declared Hartson. "I can't get any trace of Lord Clair or of Lord Charlewick. We have pitted against us, Lord Ronald, a mind of unusual keenness, foresight, and suspicion."

"The earl! Yes, I know. But a young lady cannot be hidden away beyond recovery, Hartson. You wrote me of your trips to Yorkshire, Scotland and Wales. You wrote also of your visits to the railway stations and shipping offices in London. Have you thought that Miss Clair may be in London, perhaps shut up in lodgings? Lord Clair may even have taken a house somewhere in the suburbs."

"I had not thought of that," acknowledged Hartson. "I took it for granted that Miss Clair had been conveyed to some lonely place in some remote district. But your suggestion is valuable, and we will act upon it. You look tired with your journey, Lord Ronald. Let me ring for brandy and water. Did you come up to London alone?"

"No: I've got a very faithful fellow on the estate to attend me," replied Ronald, as the lawyer rang the bell and ordered the refreshment mentioned. "He was barman at the Marquis of Granby, at Little Charlewick, and I find him a prince of valets. You may remember him—John Diggs."

"Diggs!" said Hartson with a start. "You've not got John Diggs for a valet, I hope, Lord Ronald. You couldn't have found a man in all Devonshire so unsuitable for your service as that same Diggs."

"Why so, Hartson?"

"His father was butler at Charlewick-le-Grand before Delaney, and was a secret sort of fellow, moody, morose and sullen, with bad streaks of temper at times. His mother was a Spanish woman, a lady's maid of the first Countess of Charlewick, and nurse to Lord Odo Charlton, the present earl. This Mrs. Diggs was devotedly attached to her mistress, and actually adored Lord Odo in his infancy, boyhood and youth. She is living still, as you know, although her husband is dead. She lives with her eldest son on the Ingle Farm. Now if her son is in your service, he is likely to be the spy and ally of Lord Charlewick."

Lord Ronald smiled as he sipped the brandy and water which had now arrived.

"It is well to be guarded," he said, "but it is not well to allow one's guardedness to degenerate into suspiciousness, Hartson. Diggs has not lived at home since his early boyhood, and he and his mother have quarrelled over the father's property, and he does not even speak to his brothers. He showed me a great deal of attention during my illness, and I have faith in his affection for me. I've known John Diggs all my life, and I have reason to believe that he is faithful to me. I have benefited him in many ways, and he has come to me often for assistance which I have always given him. No, Hartson, my faith in Diggs cannot be shaken. Whatever prejudices his mother and brothers may have, he does not share them."

Hartson did not urge the point, having faith in Ronald's own shrewdness of perception; nor was he altogether at his ease in regard to the young lord's valet.

"Where is Diggs now, Lord Ronald?" he asked.

"In my room, near this. I ordered a room, but have not entered it, being impatient to see you. I am come to London for good, Hartson; or if Miss Clair is not here, I shall make London my headquarters while I search for her. I am impatient to begin my search at once. Two heads are better than one, according to the old saying. While you are searching one quarter of the town, I will be searching a second; and Diggs, who is very shrewd and keen, will explore a third. I am persuaded that Miss Clair is in or near London, and we shall find her—unless you are unable to devote more time to my unprofitable affairs."

"I shall not give over the search until Miss Clair is found," said Hartson decisively. "I am willing to take a rest from business cares, and I am anxious about her. But where are we to look for her? It is pretty much like looking for a needle in a haystack!"

They discussed the subject for an hour or more, considering plans and possibilities, and deciding upon a course of action. They were finally interrupted by the appearance of Lord Ronald's valet, who came to announce that his master's room was ready.

Hartson bestowed a keen scrutiny upon this new attendant of Lord Ronald, and his dissatisfaction with him increased into actual and downright distrust.

John Diggs was ten years older than his young master, and was a tall, slim, sleek person, with black hair plastered smoothly to his head, a pair of small, downcast eyes; a low forehead; dark complexion; and thin, tightly-compressed lips. He was dressed in a complete suit of black, and moved softly with a cat-like stealthiness. His voice too was low and soft, and his glances were sidelong and furtive.

A Lavater would have avoided John Diggs as he would avoid a deadly snake; but Lord Ronald was frank and unsuspicious; he had known Diggs all his life; he had heaped favours upon him; and Diggs had always professed to love him with a dog-like devotion. Despite the man's unpleasing and unprepossessing appearance, Ronald believed Diggs's heart to be true and honest, and he—Ronald—would have despised himself if he could have allowed what he believed to be Hartson's unreasonable prejudice to come between his valet and himself.

Lord Ronald took possession of the room that had been prepared for him, partook of luncheon, and soon after went out alone in a hansom, bent upon his researches.

He returned before night, tired and worn and unsuccessful.

Diggs helped him to bed, brought him a strengthening drink, and waited upon him with a gentle unobtrusiveness that disarmed Hartson's dislike of him, and which went to Ronald's heart. Diggs's hand on Ronald's forehead was soft and cooling, his cat-like movements almost noiseless, his attentions timely and not officious.

"I've done the fellow an injustice," thought the lawyer, who had just come in, also tired and disheartened, "and nature did him a worse injustice still. I suppose that this is not the first time a warm heart has been hidden under a villain-like exterior."

Thanks to the care of his valet, Lord Ronald slept well that night, and awoke the next morning with renewed strength.

Upon the third day he walked out to Maida Hill and walked about for an hour or more, calling upon house-agents, and then returned to his cab and rode slowly up and down the suburban streets, eyeing keenly every one whom he beheld.

It was his theory that Lord Clair had hired a furnished house near to London, and had imprisoned Hellene in it. Hartson shared this idea, and while Ronald was at Maida Hill the old lawyer was interviewing house-agents at Kentish Town and in that vicinity.

Upon the fourth day Ronald visited other house-agents in the northern suburbs, and at night compared his experiences with the old lawyer and with Diggs, who showed great zeal in the cause, and was exploring Camberwell and other regions on the south side of the Thames.

The fifth, sixth, and seventh days were similarly spent, and with uniform result—a complete want of success. Once or twice they fancied themselves upon the right track, but found themselves mistaken. All this fatigue would have told cruelly upon Lord Ronald but for the unremitting care of his valet, and the fact that with the exception of an hour's walk, which he deemed beneficial, he rode everywhere.

The eighth day proved eventful.

Hartson went out first in the morning directing his steps to New Brompton. After he had departed Lord Ronald studied his map of London, and Diggs respectfully inquired where his master was going upon that day.

"Mr. Hartson and I have pretty well narrowed the search of the northern suburbs," sighed Lord Ronald. "My anxieties are growing insupportable, too. I ordered my letters to be forwarded to me from Little Charlewick, and though hosts of letters have come breathing condolence of friends for my grandfather's loss, and invitations for me to visit, and all that sort of thing, no letter has come from *her*. You will still keep among the house-agents on the south-side, Diggs."

"Yes, my lord; and if I may make so bold as to suggest, sir, I've an idea of my own which may strike you favourably. You see, my lord, you have visited all the fashionable and middle-class suburbs. Now if Lord Clair and Lord Charlewick really wanted to evade your lordship, wouldn't they seek a house in a more humble quarter—Hackney, for example. If I might suggest Hackney, my lord—"

"Your idea is good. I'll visit Hackney, though I've no hope that any good will result from it. I fear we have not gone the right way to work. Perhaps they are not in London after all. If to-day's search proves fruitless also, I shall be forced into another course of action."

Putting his map in his pocket, Lord Ronald descended to his waiting cab and departed for Hackney.

Diggs set out for the Surrey side, sleek and smooth and cat-like as usual, and with a peculiar contentment in his manner.

A long drive brought Lord Ronald to the suburb suggested as the scene of his day's labours. He found a house-agent or two, but no information. Dismissing his cab at a favourable spot about the middle of the afternoon, and stating that he would return to London by train, Lord Ronald walked slowly up a quiet street in the direction of Hackney Downs.

That night he did not return to his hotel, and no message came from him. Hartson was greatly distressed, and Diggs the valet seemed wild with excitement.

The next day passed and Lord Ronald was still absent.

"He has been attacked by thieves," said the old lawyer, with a desperate sort of calmness. "He may have been murdered. Why did I allow him to go alone? Do you know in what direction he went, Diggs?"

"No, sir," was the smooth response; "but I believe Kensington way, sir. He was saying that if he didn't make a discovery soon, he should go to work in a different way. Oh! what can have become of him? My poor Lord Ronald—my poor young master!"

Another day passed and still no tidings came of the young missing lord.

Hartson secured the services of a detective in the search for Lord Ronald. It was discovered that the hansom in which he had gone out on that fatal morning did not belong in the neighbourhood, and could not be traced from the adjacent cab-stands. It had been passing along the street, on its return journey, and Diggs had hailed it from his upper window. Efforts were made to trace it. An advertisement was published in the daily papers, and hand-bills were circulated calling upon the cabman who drove a gentleman upon such a morning in August, and from the Blank Hotel to some unknown point, to apply at a certain address and receive a handsome reward; but though several cabmen appeared, the right one did not come.

Nothing could be discovered of the whereabouts of young Lord Ronald, and a pall of deepest mystery began to enshroud his fate. Where was he? Was he in hostile hands, or had thieves plundered and killed him?

(*To be continued.*)

THE GREAT INFLUENZA REMEDY.

This disease only exists when the blood and body are much reduced. Handyside's blood purifier builds up the system and prevents and cures influenza and all other diseases. Influenza is a dreadful thing, and thousands of people have been thrown into consumption by it. It is given free, to all who are unable to pay for it at Handyside's Rooms, 124, King's Cross, London, also at Newcastle, Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow, and Carlisle. Anyone who has any doubt about it curing Cancer, Lupus, and all other diseases, can go to the rooms and see the patients cured before their eyes. If they cannot come to the rooms, they should get some of their friends to go and see, and report to them. Free medicine cannot be sent, but their friends can get it and send it to them, and as much medicine will be given as they need, to effect a cure.

This is the medicine that has obtained the great name for the cure of Fits, Costiveness, Indigestion, Dizziness of the Head, Fainting Fits, Piles, Want of Blood, Loss of Appetite, Bronchitis, Asthma, Sleeplessness, and is the most marvellous thing for Change of Life. But for Cancer, Consumption, Lupus, and Skin Diseases, you require Handyside's Consumption Cure. It has never failed to cure Lupus and Cancer. If it cures those, it will cure Consumption, if the lungs are not eaten away. If they are it will only give ease and prolong life.

Seven thousand people have been rubbed for Sciatica and Rheumatism, and all have been cured some of fifty years' standing, and it has only come back in one in a hundred. But is can at any time be taken away in half an hour with Handyside's Liniment and Handyside's Blood Purifier. In slight cases the Liniment will take away the pain, but in bad cases Handyside's Blood Purifier should be taken to purge it out of the system.

Thousands of people wish to reform from the degrading influence of alcoholic drink. Handyside's Nerve Restorer is a perfect cure. It is no use anyone writing for it for another, for it will not disgust anyone against it, it will only destroy the desire. Anyone can get a dose free at Handyside's Rooms, or Carriages, and they can then feel what it does.

The Blood Food prepared by G. Handyside contains no medicine; it is simply a decoction of herbs, which a weak stomach can easily assimilate, and thereby build up the system. Those who wish to enjoy good health and a vigourous old age should all take it.

Those who take pills should take Handyside's pills. No. 1 are grand dinner pills—two or them will remove any bad effect from eating or drinking anything that has disagreed with the stomach; but to build up the system, No. 3 are the best pills, they will not purge and ruin the constitution like common pills. Those who notice the improvement of their health when they take them, will soon find out which pills are worth a guinea a box.

In order to give confidence when there is so much misrepresentation, the medicine is sent without money with a note enclosed that if they think it does not do more good than any other medicine the money will not be required. All medicine sent from the manufactory, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Beware of vile imitations, hundreds have lost their lieves by them.

The medicine will be given away every Saturday at Bentinck Crescent, Newcastle, to all who are unable to pay for it, between 2 and 4 o'clock.

PRINTING OF EVERY DESCRIPTION at the *lowest* possible prices by ROBERT JACKSON "Guardian" Office, Consett. Estimates furnished.

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

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

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

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

VALUABLE DISCOVERY FOR THE HAIR.—If your hair is turning grey or white, or falling off, use "THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER," for it *will positively restore in every case Grey or White hair* to its original colour, without leaving the disagreeable smell of most "Restorers." It makes the hair charmingly beautiful, as well as promoting the growth of the hair on bald spots, where the glands are not decayed. Price 3s. 6d. —For an Oil to make the Hair soft, glossy, and luxuriant, ask for "CARTER'S COLOGNE OIL." Price 1s. of all dealers. Wholesale depôt, 33, Farringdon Road, London.

THE UNEMPLOYED IN EAST LONDON.—At a time when much thought is being given to this matter, a practical suggestion may be of service. Last year more than £300,000 worth of foreign matches were purchased by inconsiderate consumers in this country to the great injury of our own working people, so true is it that "evil is wrought by want of thought, as well as want of heart." If all consumers would purchase Bryant and May's matches, that firm would be enabled to pay £1,000 a week more in wages, and large numbers of the unemployed in East London would thus be provided with work, instead of swelling the ranks of pauperism. 755g

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

MRS. S. A. ALLEN'S WORLD'S HAIR RESTORER never fails to restore grey hair to its youthful colour. It acts directly upon the roots of the hair, invigorating them, cleansee the scalp, removing dandruff, rendering the hair soft, silky, and glossy, and disposing it to remain in any desired position. Its has hosts of admirers, male and female, young and old. Sold by Chemists and Perfumers. 875

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

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

CONSETT UNITED TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday evening, another interesting and appreciative gospel temperance musical service was held in the Co-operative Hall, Consett. The building was crowded to excess. The proceedings were opened with hymn and prayer, after which the chairman (Mr J. W. Swainston, Consett), said they were often asked how it was they were always speaking against the drink traffic. The late J. B. Gough was a man whom everyone had read more or less about, but yet at one time he was a drunkard, and through some good influence he was persuaded to sign the pledge, and he resolved to spend his time and talents in the cause of temperance. They all knew the useful work he was the means of accomplishing, and the speaker was glad to say that there were men on the present platform who were prompted by the same motive, and were standing forth on their behalf. They were fighting against the drink traffic. Their work was an interesting one, but yet some people sneered at it. They admitted that they were not as perfect as they should be, but they were determined that such would be the case before long. (Applause.) What he wanted them to do was not to sneer at them, because they were engaged in a noble work. If they had another method in their own minds which would help forward the work, they had nothing to do but bring it forward, and such a course would in all probability be adopted. (Applause.) Most of them present would have read the recent case at the Durham Assizes, where the judge placed a publican in the dock along with the prisoner who was charged with manslaughter. The judge said he should have felt more satisfied if the jury had found the prisoner not guilty, and had found the publican guilty of causing the death of the man, for no one who had heard the evidence could doubt for a moment that the death of the man was caused by him, because the publican had served both men with drink when they were intoxicated. The judge afterwards urged upon the magistrates to be more careful whom they granted licenses to. He (the speaker) thought if the authorities who went about from shop to shop taking samples of pepper, coffee, cocoa, &c., in order to find out adulteration would turn their steps in another direction, and go from public-house to public-house, and see who the landlords were that kept filling men with drink when intoxicated, they would be doing a very good work towards the diminution of drunkenness. (Applause.)

Two capital selections were rendered by Mr M. Fawell's amateur string band. The recitation, "Arouse ye men of England," was ably recited by Master J. Reece Davison, Consett. Messrs J. Hope and J. W. Heslop favoured with the violin duet, "Home, sweet home," in splendid style. The song, "Where shall the Christmas harp be strung?" by Mr Bell (Blackhill) was highly appreciated. Mr Frankland (Blackhill) fully acquitted himself in the song, "Arm! arm, ye brave," and was greatly applauded. Mr Davison (Blackhill) acted as accompanist.

Mr Geo. W. Bloomfield (Tanfield Lea) then addressed the meeting. He was glad to say a word for the cause which he had at heart. He thought the time had arrived when the drink traffic should be put down. If the men of England would arouse themselves and declare against the cursed liquor, it would very soon be put down. He did not believe in moderation, and his motto was total abstinence. Drink had caused wretchedness and misery in their country. He (the speaker) condemned the action of people partaking of whiskey, &c., and said that after such had done their work it left those who partook of spirits considerably weaker. He was a coal-hewer, and he would say that he could do his work ably and well without intoxicating liquors. What they wanted was the total abolition of the liquor traffic, and he trusted everyone present would sign the pledge and help forward the good cause. (Loud applause.)

Mr E. W. Bailey (London) delivered a short address. He said that there were some present who did not believe in having the truth pointed to them. People were telling him that he was wearing his life away too fast, but he would tell them that he had spent 46 years in the work. (Applause.) There were thousands of homes in this country which were darkened by the curse of drink. There was no place like home if the demon of drink was outside its walls, but if it got into the homes the beauty and purity of home life departed. He was glad to think that the name of J. B. Gough had been mentioned. Forty years ago he made the acquaintance of that gentleman. He was the means of doing a grand and noble work in America and on their own shores. He urged the workers to go forward and keep on fighting against the drink traffic. For 60 years he had not tasted intoxicating drinks—(cheers)—and he was anxious to persuade his fellow-men to leave the drink alone. He wanted them to sign the pledge, and do something in their day and generation. If they did this, Consett would be a happier place, and their homes would be bright and joyous. (Applause.)

The service was concluded in the usual way.

THE HEALTH OF BENFIELDSIDE AND LEADGATE LOCAL BOARD DISTRICTS.

The following is extracted from the annual reports compiled by Dr G. Renton, medical officer:—

BENFIELDSIDE.

To the Chairman and Members of the Benfieldside Local Board.

Gentlemen,—I have the honour to submit to you my report on the health and sanitary condition of your district for the year ending December 31st, 1891. I may preface my remarks by saying that it will be only hypercritical persons who will cavil at the returns which I shall, in the course of this report, place before you. Throughout the kingdom, the year 1891 has been marked by an unusual amount of sickness and death. Your district has participated in the universal sickness which has prevailed, but not in the high death-rate which has been so common elsewhere. There has been no extensive outbreak of any of the more common infectious diseases with which we are familiar, but, like other districts, we have a dual invasion of influenza, the latest addition to this class of disorders. The death-rate, which might have been expected to be much higher than usual, is only fractionally higher than that of 1890. The birth-rate, however, has risen to something approaching its normal proportions, and is the highest recorded since 1886. The zymotic death-rate is lower, and the infantile mortality is only a fraction of a degree higher.

Vital Statistics.

During the year 1891, there were registered in your district 202 births and 114 deaths, shewing an increase of 23 births and 6 deaths over those of 1890. As was the case last year, you are fortunate in having the lowest death-rate in the immediate neighbourhood, and, at the same time, the highest birth-rate. The four tables which I have prepared, and which will be found below, are given for convenience of reference and comparison, and will be found to bear out my opening remarks.

LEADGATE.

To the Chairman and Members of the Leadgate Local Board.

Gentlemen,—I have the honour to submit to you my report on the health and sanitary condition of your district for the year ending December 31st, 1891. On the whole, it will contrast favourably with that for 1890, as it will be seen that the birth-rate shews a remarkable increase; the general death-rate is lower; the zymotic death-rate is decidedly on the descending scale, whilst the infantile mortality is only slightly increased. Although there has been a very great amount of sickness during the year, notably in the first three and last three months (owing to influenza and its concomitants) the death-rate has somewhat decreased. It is a noteworthy feature that, with the exception of influenza, there has been no general outbreak of any infectious disease, and there is the significant sanitary fact to record that I have not had a single case of enteric fever reported to me, and that with regard to at least two of these disorders—viz., scarlet fever and measles, we have been indebted to their importation from without the district. Taking it altogether, the sanitary condition of the district has, to say the least, been satisfactory, and but for the dual invasion of influenza, which cannot be said to be other than accidental and not depending upon an insanitary state of things, I should have had a more than usually satisfactory report to make. That this statement will be borne out the statistics and remarks which will be found below, will, I think, be freely admitted. As I have not been favoured by receiving the census returns for 1891, I have been compelled to base my calculations upon the same estimate of the population which I made last year—viz., 4,950.

Vital Statistics.

During the year, 186 births and 91 deaths were registered. As compared with 1890, we have an increase of 31 births and one death less. The birth-rate is the highest ever recorded by me, and may be taken as significant of the general prosperity of the district. The death-rate, although lower than last year, is much above the average of the last five years immediately preceding, due, no doubt, to the causes which have already been noticed. From my long personal and intimate acquaintence with your district, I am in a position to declare it one of the healthiest in the county, notwithstanding its high altitude, the rigour of its climate, and that it is planted on a clay sub-soil.

LANCHESTER SCHOOL ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting was held at Lanchester on Thursday se'nnight, when the following reports were received from the school wardens:—

Eastern District.

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

Gentlemen,—The variable weather we have lately experienced has adversely effected the attendance, and measles, which have been epidemic in a neighbouring district, are now rapidly spreading at Consett with the same result.

During the month, 580 absentee visits have been made in the parish of Conside and Knitsley, 163 in Iveston, and 5 in Ebchester; total, 748. Nine notices to attend school were served at Consett and 3 at Leadgate.

On the 29th of last month, three parents, representing nine children, were summoned before the magistrates. Proceedings were taken under your bye-laws, and the full penalty was inflicted in each case. Seven cases, embracing eight children, are entered in the report book to be laid before you.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
Wm. Ward.

Iveston, March 17th, 1892.

Southern District.

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

Gentlemen,—The following table shows the number of visits made in each parish, and the number of children dealt with during the month:—

Parish.	No. of visits made.	No. of children dealt with.
Cornsay	63	70
Esh	136	154
Hedleyhope	23	26
Lanchester	164	174
Langley	6	6
Satley	2	2
Totals	394	432

I have also made 29 visits to schools. Notices under your bye-laws have been served as follows:—1 at Langley Park, 1 at Lanchester, 3 at Hedleyhill, and 1 at Hedleyhope; total 6.

By your directions John Heslop, of Hedleyhill, was summoned before the magistrates for a breach of your bye-laws, and was fined 5s.

I have entered in the report book for your consideration and direction six cases, embracing seven children.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
J. Gibson.

Lanchester, March 17th, 1892.

ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATION AT CONSETT.

Few days are more highly honoured amongst the Irish in the Consett district than the festival of the patron Saint of the Emerald Isle. Owing to the general strike amongst the miners, it was the means of throwing a number of workmen out of employment—especially those employed in connection with the blastfurnaces of the Consett Iron Company. In consequence of this the streets of the town were thronged all day, and many were the twigs of shamrock that were displayed in many a button-hole and breast. On Thursday evening week, a high-class concert was held in the New Town Hall. The spacious building was crowded to excess, many of the *elite* of the district being present, including Councillor Rd. Murray, Benfieldside House; Mr and Mrs Foster, Blackhill; Dr Geo. Renton, Blackhill; Dr O'Brien, Catchgate; Dr Shannon, Consett; Dr Bibby, Blackhill; Mr and Mrs Wm. Aynsley, Consett; Mr and Mrs Harker, Blackhill, and others. The chair was occupied by Rev Father Foran, Blackhill. The artistes were:—Madame Stitchbury, soprano, of Jarrow; Miss C. Bellas, contralto, Newcastle; Miss A. C. Harker, violinist, Blackhill; Mr Jos. Siddle, tenor, and Mr P. E. Surtees, basso, Consett; and Mr Richie Thom, comedian, Newcastle. The platform was richly decorated with coloured drapery, which gave it a unique appearance.

The Chairman, in a short speech, stated that he was pleased to see so many gathered together to celebrate a day which they all reverenced, from the youngest to the oldest amongst them. He had to state that Miss Cairns, of Jarrow, was absent, but they had procured an able substitute in Madame Stitchbury, who to the most of them would be an entire stranger; but he had no hesitation in saying that she would do full justice to the pieces on the programme that were allotted to Miss Cairns. There was no doubt but the most of them present would like to see a curiosity he had had sent to him from Ireland. (Applause.) This was a most beautiful shamrock, which he exhibited, and stated that it was plucked from the grounds of the Duke of Devonshire's Irish residence. It was termed a "creeper," and was a very old one, inasmuch as it had something like 160 stalks, and he knew the place from which it was taken very well. (Cheers.) It was his duty to congratulate the young lady who would preside at the piano on that occasion upon having been so successful in securing her recent honour. (Applause.) Miss Harker was now a member of the Associate London College of Music, and would appear in her college robes for the first time. (Cheers.) He hoped those in the back part of the building would give every attention, and that they would have a pleasant evening.

The first part of the programme opened with a quartette, "Let Erin remember," in which Madame Stitchbury, Miss Bellas, and Messrs J. Siddle and P. E. Surtees acquitted themselves in grand style, and were vociferously applauded. The instrumental duet on the piano and violin, "The harp that once," by Misses M. and A. C. Harker, was a rich treat, and never were these two young performers heard to better advantage. The piece was undoubtedly one of the musical gems of the evening. The performers were awarded an enthusiastic *encore*. Madame Stitchbury received a well-deserved hearty applause for the rendering of that popular song. "The shamrock of Ireland." "The Irish emigrant" received full justice at the hands of Mr Surtees, and was given in his best manner. Miss Bellas, who was accorded an enthusiastic reception, and who has become quite a favourite in this district, sang "Kathleen Mavourneen" with exceptional ability and received quite an ovation. Mr Jos. Siddle rendered with much taste and effect, "Anchored," and was re-demanded. In response he favoured with "When other lips" with equal success. The song, "Hail to thee," by Madame Stitchbury, was followed by Miss Bellas singing "In the chimney corner" in capital style, and met with rounds of applause. The sketches from "The drama, concert-room," by Mr Richie Thom, were well appreciated. In fact, Mr Thom proved himself to be a master in each department. The vocal, instrumental, and histrionic parts were an unqualified success. He was awarded an enrapturous *encore*. In acknowledging the same he gave "The private still," which caused roars of laughter.

Part II commenced with the quartette, "The Cruiskeen lawn," by Madame Stitchbury, Miss Bellas, Mr Siddle, and Mr Surtees, in a manner very creditable to themselves and delightful to the audience. The instrumental duet, "Hope told a flattering tale," by Misses M. A. and A. C. Harker, was given in a way that was deemed to be the height of perfection. The playing of the violinist was much admired. The young *artistes* were re-demanded, and they favoured with another of their popular selections. Mr Richie Thom, who appeared dressed in a sailor's attire, amused the audience immensely with his rendering of "The mate fell down the funnel." Mr Thom received a re-call, and responded by a representation of "Silly Billy," which occasioned endless fun and merriment. Miss Bellas sang very sweetly "Dermot Asthore," and was much applauded. "The crookit bawbee" was admirably performed by Madame Stitchbury and Mr J. Siddle, followed by Mr Surtees singing, "Kitty Tyroll." Madame Stitchbury fully acquitted herself in the song, "Come back to Erin," and won a spontaneous *encore*. Mr Jos. Siddle next appeared and sang "Alone on the raft" to the satisfaction of one and all. The character song, "McKie comes in," caused considerable fun. The concert was brought to a conclusion by the company singing "God save Ireland." The accompanist was Miss Harker, A.L.C.M., Blackhill, who manipulated the instrument with great ability.

During the interval, the St. Mary's Brass Band, under the leadership of Mr W. Peacock, rendered several selections, which were well appreciated.

The concert, which was a financial success, was in aid of purchasing new instruments for the brass band.

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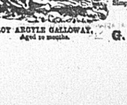
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SAD SUICIDE OF A CONSETT YOUNG LADY.

On Tuesday, quite a sensation was caused in the district of Blackhill when it became known that a young woman named Georgina Hannah Bell, daughter of Mrs M. Bell, grocer, Sherburn Terrace, Consett, had committed suicide by poisoning herself. The case is a very mysterious one, as there is nothing left behind to give any reason why the young woman should put an end to her life. Yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, Deputy-Coroner A. T. Shepherd held an inquiry at the Derwent Hotel, Durham Road, Blackhill, touching the death of deceased. Mr Reid was appointed foreman of the jury.

The first witness called was Matthew Bell, clerk, in the employment of the North-Eastern Railway Company at Blackhill, and living at Delves Lane, Consett. He stated that deceased was his half-sister, whose age was 20 years, and was a single woman. Deceased had been at service in Newcastle until a fortnight ago, when she came home to her mother's residence at Consett. Witness saw her last alive about the back-end of last year at her home. Deceased left service for the purpose of going out to Australia to a situation. The arrangements were all made, her passage booked, and would have sailed on the following Saturday morning, the 26th of March. There was no trouble that he was aware of, and she was not in low spirits.

By the Foreman: Witness stated that he had not seen her lately, and therefore could not throw any light on the matter.

Frederick James Bell, employed as an engineer, living at Stoddart Street, Tyne Dock, deposed that deceased was his sister, and saw her last alive a fortnight gone Wednesday at Tyne Dock. Deceased came to see him on a friendly visit, and she was in first-class health, and was very cheerful. He did not see any despondency about her. Deceased came to bid him good-bye prior to going to Australia. After leaving his home she came to Consett to see her mother. Deceased wished to go to Australia for the purpose of bettering herself, because she always had the desire, for years, to go abroad. Witness received a letter from deceased stating that she had arrived at Consett all right. It was a cheerful letter, and the next news he received was about the sad occurrence. Witness did not know any reason why she should take her life. He never heard her threaten to do so. Witness had enquired into the case, and he had no reason to doubt but what she took the poison herself. Deceased never had any quarrel with her mother, or with any of her friends. On Tuesday, she was going to Shotley Bridge to see her youngest sister and a lady friend. Deceased left home about ten o'clock, and was to have returned home again about dinner-time.

By Mr Turner: She had not seen her sister. Deceased was merely on the road.

By Mr J. G. Cooke: He was at Tyne Dock when the affair occurred.

By Mr Turner: Perhaps the doctor will be able to inform us if deceased took the poison anywhere near Mr Dowson's shop would it have time to take effect.

Dr Bibby: Oh yes; plenty of time.

Mr Cooke: How many are there left at home?—Witness: There are five.

By the Coroner: Witness stated that there was no trouble at home. There was no grievance, and she left home this particular morning in the best of spirits.

Mr G. Eltringham: Had deceased any friends out in Australia?—Witness: No, but she knew some acquaintances.

Mr Cooke: It seems a queer case.

The Coroner: It is. It seems rather strange for the young woman to commit suicide.

The Foreman: There is some reason for it.

The Coroner: There can be no doubt about that.

Jacob Dowson, draper, Derwent Street, deposed that about ten minutes-to-one on Tuesday he was in the sitting-room adjoining his shop, when he heard someone come into the shop. He went to attend deceased, who was sitting upon a chair resting her elbow on the counter. When he got near her deceased said, "Oh, send for a cab to take me home." He asked deceased if she was ill, and all she said was "Send for a doctor; send for a cab." Deceased never attempted to get up, because she said her legs would not bear her. Witness ran out to get a cab, and for the purpose of sending someone for the doctor, and when he returned deceased was lying on her face on the floor, evidently having slipped off the chair. Deceased was conscious, and he knelt down by her side and gave her a drink of water. Deceased said she was dying. He got a neighbour into the shop named Mrs Walton, and they assisted deceased on to the chair again. They applied warm water and mustard, because deceased requested them to make her sick. Deceased asked to be laid down again. They administered the mustard and water with a teaspoon, because she could not drink it. They asked deceased if she had taken anything, and she replied she had, but would not tell them what it was. They applied brandy to her lips, and kept giving her mustard and water until the doctor came. Deceased shortly afterwards expired in the presence of himself and Dr Bibby. Deceased told the doctor that she had taken poison. Deceased was flushed when he came in, but talked all right.

Thomas Milner, chemist, of Shakespeare Street, Consett, stated that he knew the deceased, who came into his shop between ten and eleven on Tuesday morning. Deceased said she wanted something to kill rats for Mr Wiles, as she was staying with him. Witness supplied deceased with a packet of "Battle's Vermin Killer," and she paid him 6d for the same. Witness never saw her again alive. He warned deceased to be very careful with the powder, as it was poison. Witness wrote the address, and handed her the book. Deceased was cheerful and quite rational. Deceased gave her name as "Annie Mathieson, Consett," but he always understood her name to be Bell, but he was not quite sure that was her name, and he thought that he might be mistaken.

By the Coroner: Witness stated that there would be about two drams in the packet. He had never seen her in the shop before for a considerable period. Witness was not positive with regard to deceased's name.

James Richard Bibby, Bachelor of Medicine and Master in Surgery, certified as follows:—At about 12·30 p.m. on March 22nd, I received a summons to go at once to Mr Dowson's shop, as a girl there had taken suddenly ill. I obeyed the summons, and on my arrival found the deceased lying on the floor. From her general appearance my first impression was that she was in an epileptic state; but a second glance showed that the symptoms were referable to poisoning of strychnine. These symptoms were:—Tonic spasmodic movements of the muscles throughout the body, clenched jaws, but relaxing at intervals; opisthotones: *i.e.*, arching of the back and nape of the neck, largely dilated pupils, and staringness of the eyes. The pulse was then in a flagging condition. Mustard and water had been prepared, and this I endeavoured to administer to produce vomiting. I also tried the administration of the charcoal to prevent further absorption of the poison. The deceased was even then quite conscious, and stated in answer to my inquiring that she had taken poison, and that I was to make her sick as quickly as possible. The spasmodic movements continued, and were very violent. Five minutes after my arrival the pulse ceased, death resulting from paralysis of the heart, in my opinion due to the injection of strychnine in some form. On March 24th, I made a *post-mortem* examination of the deceased, with a view to examine the stomach and its contents. The body was in a healthy well nourished state, with no external signs whatever of any disease. After removing the stomach and opening it, I found it to contain about four ounces of grumous-looking fluid of a dark yellowish colour. There was no evidence of food having been taken for some three or four hours before death. The lining of the stomach itself was in a state of chronic catarrh, no doubt due to dyspepsia. The other organs had a perfectly healthy appearance. The uterus was of normal size and empty, *i.e.*: there were no signs of pregnancy.

By the Coroner: Witness stated that deceased told him that she had taken poison, but gave no reason.

Mr Cooke stated that he was inclined to think that the poison was taken prior to entering the shop. It was thought that deceased had taken the poison at the fountain situate in Durham Road.

The Coroner said that it was an extraordinary case. There was nothing to show why deceased should have taken the poison. They had evidence of deceased purchasing the poison, and deceased's own admission of taking the same. The mystery as to the cause of deceased ending her life would very likely remain unsolved, because there was nothing in the evidence to show deceased's motive for committing suicide. Deceased was on the best of terms with those at home, and seemed to be all right. There must have been something preying on her mind which the family knew nothing about. It seemed that after deceased had taken the poison she had evidently changed her mind, or else she would never have requested the attendance of a medical man. It was a clear case of suicide. There did not seem to be much to show that she was insane. The time arriving for her departure for Australia might have caused some excitement, or perhaps she had suddenly changed her mind about going abroad. He might point out that there was always a weakness on the part of an individual who took poison.

Mr Cooke intimated that he thought Mr Milner ought to be more careful in selling poison.

The Coroner stated that they ought not to be too hard upon Mr Milner. There was no blame attaching to that gentleman, and he only thought that deceased's name was Bell.

Several of the jury testified that Mr Milner was always very careful, and made the most searching inquiries before supplying any person with poison.

After a consultation, the jury returned a verdict that deceased committed suicide by taking strychnine contained in a packet of "vermin killer."

THE MINERS' STRIKE.

SERIOUS DISTURBANCE AT BURNHOPE.

There was a serious uproar at Burnhope Colliery, near Lanchester, on Wednesday night. Crowds of people began to assemble about 10 o'clock in the morning, the throng consisting of men, youths, women, and children. They paraded the streets, rattling tin cans, &c., and indulging in threatening language against certain "blacklegs"; but as no damage was done, the police did not interfere with the people. About 10 o'clock at night, a gang of some 200 persons collected at the Fell Pit, where the men ride to work; some being under the influence of liquor. Nothing would satisfy them but they would have a "blackleg" driven away from the place. There are a certain number of officials and men kept at work pumping water out of the mine, and the hostility of the people seemed to be manifested against a particular individual who was formerly employed as a weighman by the colliery owners, but is now working as a fireman. The throng declared that they would "go for" this man, and threatened to kill him. Stones and other missiles were freely thrown about, the engine-house being entered, and the man badly used, while P.C. Pemberton was struck with a stone on the private parts, and was rather seriously injured. Eventually, Mr J. T. Forster, colliery manager, and P.C. Jameson appeared on the scene, and by about midnight the crowd had dispersed. In the meantime, a telephone message was despatched to Consett, and Supt. Oliver, Inspector Benzies, and about 18 police officers repaired to the village, but on their arrival at an early hour yesterday (Thursday) morning, they found the place comparatively still, and consequently returned home.

CONSETT DISTRICT.

The men at the Consett works re-commenced to fill coals at the pit-heap at the Blackhill Tinmill Drift, on Wednesday morning. They was a large crowd on the roadway, but so far the men have not been interfered with. Only two police officers were on duty along Park Road yesterday (Thursday).

MASS MEETING AT FLINT HILL.

Yesterday (Thursday), a mass meeting of the men on strike was held at Flint Hill, Dipton. The local reporters were warned that they were not wanted, and therefore did not attend. The proceedings passed off quietly.

CORNSAY COLLIERY.

Yesterday (Thursday) morning, two clerks from the Durham office of the firm of Messrs Ferens and Love, Cornsay Colliery, came out to the last-named place; but were chased and pelted with stones right to Waterhouses Railway Station, and had to return home. Some slight disturbance also took place on Wednesday night.

LANGLEY PARK.

Yesterday (Thursday), at Langley Park Colliery, which is owned by the Consett Iron Company, men were busy filling coals from the pit heaps into trucks. Towards evening the place was in a rather disturbed state, a crowd lying in wait for the men to return home after ceasing work. Four extra police were sent to the colliery to prevent any outbreak.

APPOINTMENT OF OVERSEERS FOR THE LANCHESTER UNION.

At the Lanchester Petty Sessions yesterday (Thursday), the magistrates were occupied for more than an hour in appointing overseers of the poor for the several townships in the Union. In some instances where the mining interest overwhelmed the agricultural interest, the justices selected farmers, the chairman (Col. E. Leadbitter-Smith) remarking that the landed community was entitled to a fair share of the representation. It was also decided that the overseers should produce the rate-books in future. The vestry meeting for Tanfield parish on Wednesday night resolved to elect four overseers instead of two, as heretofore, on account of the increased population and rateable value. The justices, however, agreed to appoint the two old overseers, and the clerk (Mr A. W. Granger) will ascertain by another year whether the court has authority to create additional overseers, or whether application should not in the first instance be made to the Local Government Board for such powers.

Messrs W. Elliott, Consett, and J. T. Milburn, Ebchester, were re-appointed assistant-overseers for their respective townships at advanced salaries.

The following gentlemen were chosed as overseers for the coming year:—

Benfieldside—Messrs Wm. Wilson, R. Murray, and W. Raw.

Conside and Knitsley—Messrs Charles Prattman Douglas, Wm. Aynsley, Joseph Murray, and Geo. Wade.

Cornsay—Messrs Joseph Suddes and John Storey.

Collierley and Pontop—Messrs Geo. Murray and John Coulthard.

Esh—Messrs Thomas Lowden and Joseph Wilson.

Ebchester—Messrs William Charlton and Wm. Dodds.

Greencroft—Messrs Thomas Smith and Lancelot Hunter.

Healeyfield—Messrs William J. Scott and Elliott Leybourne.

Hedleyhope—Messrs Joseph Helroyd and John J. C. Allison.

Iveston—Messrs T. Longstaff, John Parker, and Wm. Robson.

Kyo—Messrs Joseph Lumley and George R. Hobson.

Langley—Messrs William Logan and Andrew Hall.

Lanchester—Messrs John Buckham and William Leybourne.

Medomsley—Messrs John Allison, jun., John H. Morris, and Thomas Simpson.

Muggleswick—Messrs John Sherlock, and John S. Newton.

Satley—Messrs Nicholas Walker and John Disberry.

Tanfield—Messrs Joseph Watson and George Ridley.

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

CONSETT LOCAL BOARD NOMINATIONS.

Yesterday (Thursday), Mr T. W. Welford, the returning officer, issued the following list of persons nominated for the four vacant seats on the Consett Local Board:—Messrs W. Jenkins, J.P., general manager of the Consett works; George Ainsworth, manager of the Consett steelworks; J. W. Davison, furniture dealer; Jas. Daly, grocer; Thomas Barry, hair-dresser; Nathan Elsdon, mineral water manufacturer; Geo. Wade, butcher; Simon Rowe, confectioner; Thomas Beattie, innkeeper; and James Frodick, billposter. The first four are the retiring members of the Board.

NOTES FROM WEARDALE.

[By "Stanhope."]

The announcement that the Weardale mines are to be closed on Saturday first has come upon the dale as a surprise. Few people thought that the lead mines were dependent upon coal to any great extent. Yet notices were posted up on Tuesday that the lead mines would be closed on Saturday next. Consequent upon this step much anxiety is evinced owing to the quarries and pits being closed, and no avenue of labour available to those out of work. There are few dales in the United Kingdom where the people have been so hardly dealt with from one source and another for a long period; even while other parts of the country were prosperous and work plentiful, Upper Weardale especially has been a constant sufferer. With coal at a phenomenal price, no employment, and a poor prospect in the future, many innocent and well-meaning people will suffer keenly. The outlook in Weardale was never less cheering than it is to-day.

The railway project looms in the distance. It has long been agitated for and is still to come. It has served as an election cry for a long time and answered its purpose. It is to be hoped, however, that this time it is something better than that, although I have my fears. The speeches of the directors at the St. John's meeting did not inspire much hope. They seem to think that the dale ought to furnish the capital required—poor as it is—and yet they have even more cash than they know what to do with. The railway extension from Stanhope into Upper Weardale is to them a mere fleabite.

Amid the gloom which has settled upon Weardale there is one cheering bit of news. One of the quarry companies at Stanhope have just acquired a large tract of land, in close proximity to their quarry, full of splendid limestone of excellent quality, with little or no baring on, there being beneath it some seventy feet of the best limestone in the dale. The company have furnaces of their own and require a large quantity of this valuable flux daily, so that there is a prospect here of plenty of work for many long years.

A report was current in some of the local papers last week that the railway scheme of Mr Baker—of a through route from St. John's Chapel to Alston—had been thrown out of Parliament. The fact is neither the North-Eastern Company's Bill nor Mr Baker's has yet come before the Parliamentary Committee, nor will they until after Easter. What was attempted to be done by Mr Baker, in a private consultation with the Chairman of Private Bills, was to see if the extension from St. John's to Alston could be added to the Bill from Stanhope to St. John's, so as to make one Bill of the through railway. But it was considered too large a section to add to the Bill, and, therefore, if the St. John's Bill is passed, an additional Bill will have to be got from St. John's to Alston. This is intended to be done, and due notice of it will be given at the time required.

What is wanted is a through route from Stanhope to Alston, and nothing short of that will be of any permanent or practical good, irrespective of companies. It will not matter much which company carries a line through, provided it is done. It would open out to us the western markets, probably bring the express down through the valley, and give a fillip to the waning industries on both sides of Killhope.

Many people blame the pitmen for trying to maintain their present wages. It is only natural that they should; they go into the bowels of the earth day by day, with their lives in their hands as it were. There's is a risky and dangerous avocation, and they are a class of men who deserve to be well paid. Look at the awful colliery explosions which take place every now and then, when hundreds of them, without a moment's warning, are launched into eternity. The owners only risk their capital, but the poor pitmen risk their lives, their health, their all. This is a fact which the coal-owners ought to take into consideration in a crisis like the present. There is no class of the English speaking race that has produced more true heroes than the miners. Not even our soldiers on the field of battle have exceeded the heroism, courage, daring and pluck displayed by the colliers in their heroic attempts to rescue and save their unfortunate comrades at a colliery explosion. At imminent risk of their own lives, band after band of explorers have descended the dark shaft to save life, and have displayed a self-sacrificing spirit in order to benefit their fellows of which any nation might be justly proud; and in the annals of the history of this country their heroism should have a conspicuous place.

The collier class has given the world some of its noblest heroes. There are some splendid men among the miners, and at a time like the present, when sympathy is denied them in their struggle for what they consider their rights, they should be borne with. They are fighting a battle, not only in their own interests, but in the interests of the wage-earning classes generally. If they suffer a reduction, other classes may also expect it soon after; and if it comes on the miners it will come on others as well.

One great lesson may be learned from the strike, and it is this—the necessity of doing away with the middlemen. These parasites "who neither toil nor spin," but who live out of labour and capital combined, come good times or bad; these blood-suckers who know nothing of the carking cares of the capitalist, or the pains and toils of the labourer, reap an infinitely bigger reward than both—from the enterprise of the one and the industry of the other. A miner stated at one of the meetings, with figures to prove his contention, that in the colliery in which he was employed, whilst miners received an average of 11½d per ton for the arduous and dangerous toil of hewing coal, the royalty owner received an average of 1s per ton. Such a condition of things is more than anomolous; it is monstrous.

A Cleveland ironmaster, writing to the *Gazette*, points out the effect of these same royalty rents, thus: "My furnace produces 50,000 tons of pig iron yearly. The royalty rent paid to landlordism for iron ore, coal, and limestone, to produce the 50,000 tons of pig iron, is 6s per ton, or £15,000 per annum to landlordism for this furnace in one year. The wages to all the men employed at the furnace is 3s per ton, or £7,500 per annum. The men work hard for their money, and deserve every penny they get, but what does the landlord or lord of the manor do for his money? The colliers, at great risk of life and limb, and also the quarrymen, produce coal and limestone, and they ought to be well paid. Then why call upon the pitmen for a paltry five per cent. reduction in wages, and stop all trades and industries to secure it? There ought to be a strike against mineral lords for a reduction of the royalty rents. Why don't some of our M.P.'s introduce a bill for their reduction, if not for their extinction altogether? If these were dispensed with, and also the middlemen, and masters only dealt with consumers direct, then wages would be higher, and masters' profits as well.

"If right proved might in every fight,
The world would be better for it."

A firm of quarry owners at Stanhope have succeeded in securing a large tract of land adjoining their quarries at Stanhope full of splendid limestone, some 70 feet in thickness, and which will make an excellent quarry for many years to come.

SAD DEATH OF A WOMAN NEAR BURNOPFIELD.

On Tuesday afternoon, Mr A. T. Shepherd, deputy-coroner, held an inquest at the Traveller's Rest, Burnopfield, touching the death of Agnes Hanrathy (36), wife of Peter Hanrathy, coke-drawer, of Syke Lane Leazes, who was found dead in her own house on Saturday evening last. Mr W. Smith, Burnopfield, was appointed foreman of the jury.

Peter Hanrathy deposed that deceased was his wife, and he saw her last alive on Saturday evening about six o'clock in his own house. When he left home he went to a club, and returned home again about ten o'clock, and he found her lying on the kitchen floor dead. Two of the children, aged 6 and 13 respectively, were present. When he left home deceased was quite well and in her usual health, but was expected to be confined in a few days, and she had made every preparation for the same. There was a quantity of blood lying on the floor. There was nothing unusual in the appearance of the kitchen except a pail, which stood near the door. He sent for assistance, and he went for Dr Greensill, assistant to Dr Attwater. He had made inquiries to ascertain if anyone had been in the house, and he was satisfied that there had not been. Deceased was never out according to the statement of one of the little girls. He was not aware of any person having any ill-will against deceased. She was always cheerful and happy, and there had been nothing to trouble her. He was not of opinion that she had done away with herself, and he had no reason to suspect that any one had done anything to her.

Lizzie Ann Hanrathy, aged 6 years, deposed that she was sent into the house when her father left along with another sister and brother. She was in the house all the night along with her mother. Witness saw her mother fall on the floor, and she never spoke. Her brother (Peter) and sister (Mary Ellen) carried her mother on to the hearthrug, near the fire, where she laid till her father arrived home. The co-operative waggon-man and boy were the only ones that came to the house. Deceased was busy ironing all the night, and never complained of been unwell.

Mary Ellen Hanrathy (13) stated that she left the house about seven o'clock to go an errand for her mother. When she arrived home about nine o'clock, she found her mother lying behind the door near a pail. When she left deceased was ironing clothes. When she found her mother lying she was not aware that she was dead. Witness, along with her brother, took up deceased and placed her on the hearthrug near the fire, and she remained there until her father arrived. Deceased never spoke, and there was a lot of blood lying on the floor.

By the Coroner: Witness did not go for the neighbours, because she thought her mother was in a fainting fit, and she would soon be all right. They got her a drink of water, but she would not drink any of it. Deceased took a fainting fit about a week ago.

Dr Attwater, Whickham, deposed to examining deceased, and found no marks of violence. Taking into consideration the history of the case, and the condition deceased was in, he came to the conclusion that she died from hæmorrhage, caused by the bursting of a bloodvessel.

The Coroner said that when the case was first reported to him he thought it was a serious one, but after hearing the evidence of the doctor, he was quite satisfied with the cause of death.

The Jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony.

THE GREAT LONDON ORATOR AT CONSETT.

On Saturday evening, Rev E. W. Bailey, the great orator of London, commenced a series of lectures in the Co-operative Hall, Consett. Mr G. T. Egglestone, Consett, occupied the chair. There was a fair audience present, though the place ought to have been filled to excess to hear the able lecturer, who possesses such a commanding appearance, a voice full and musical, a freshness, power, and sincerity in his utterances, which fairly captivated his audience. Mr Bailey's fervour and pathos seemed to sweep like a current, and his style was fluent, forcible, and most effective, and he could grapple with scientific and psychological difficulties with all the ease imaginable. The lecture was on "Nuts for sceptics to crack," and was one of the most able that has been given in this district for some time. At the conclusion, the lecturer was vociferously applauded.

On Sunday, Mr Bailey delivered three discourses to large congregations. The subjects were:—Morning, "God—what He is, and what He does;" afternoon, "Happiness, and how to secure it;" evening, "A city wonder; or, a man to be seen."

On Monday evening, the second lecture was on "The bible the standard of all truth." Mr John Summerbell, Consett, occupied the chair, and there was a fair attendance. The lecturer dealt with his subject in a most wonderful manner. The rounds of applause that were given to the practical allegory—consisting of wit and humour, and truthful facts in defending the bible as the standard of all truth—was cheering.

On Tuesday evening, Mr Bailey gave another of his interesting lectures on "Giants and giant killing" to a fair company. The chair was taken by Mr G. J. Robinson, Blackhill. The lecturer gave a very eloquent description of the giants of the olden times—viz., Goliath of the Philistines, and showed how he was killed, not by the king, officers, or trained men of war, but by the stripling of a youth—David, and stated it was done in God's way, and not man's. He then most effectively referred to the giants of the present day, and who had to kill them. There was the giant of immorality, which was more gigantic and colossal than many people imagined. The giant of infidelity, which also was a colossal giant. Though its king was dead, yet its withering, blighting, baneful, cursed influences were abroad. Then there was the giant of intemperance, the most colossal giant of our times—lowering, disgracing, degrading, ruining, killing the body, and damning the souls of their families, friends, and neighbours round about them. Who were to kill these great giants, by whom they were surrounded? The soldiers with their coats of red? No; though their soldiers were an honour to their English name. The sailors in their coats of blue? No; though they have ploughed the mighty ocean and gained laurels of fame that will never fade in the history, for Britons rule the waves. He believed that it was the Almighty who destined that Britons should be the supreme power in the earth. The ministers in their coats of black? No. Had they been as honest in their duty as their soldiers and navy, immorality, infidelity, and intemperance would have been dead long ago, but instead of teaching the narrow way they had broadened it out a little, so as to take in a little immorality, a little infidelity, a little intemperance, and so forth. Who has fought immorality? Who has fought infidelity? Who has fought intemperance? He had known church doors shut against men that had stood firmly out against those evils. The men that are paid, like the trained men of war in Goliath's time, seldom lift their weapons against these enemies. The lecturer spoke against Trades' Unions and similar organisations, and showed up that they were in the main selfish, and unless such were governed by the standard of the bible they would be unsafe and dangerous.

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

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

NOTES FROM THE STEEPLE.

[By the "Old Crow."]

There is very little, unhappily, to speak about this week of more import than the momentous question in the mouths of everybody. Turn east or west, north or south, the subject is one engaging the attention of a watching and anxious public. It is much to be feared—judging from present appearances, that this state of things is destined to last for some time to come. So far, there seems little disposition on either side to give way. The masters seem determined to stand firm, whilst the men show a spirit no less resolute. In some quarters it is true the men's representatives have advocated the acceptance of a slight reduction as the best way of ending the struggle. The move is conciliatory, but the approval with which it meets is by no means uniform. Before these notes see the light the position may be very different, of course, but the fact at the moment remains that the cry of "no reduction" distinctly holds the field.

It may not be without interest to my readers to give here the opinion of Mr David Dale, who, as is well-know, never speaks without an authoritive voice:—

"He was inclined to attribute," so the report goes, "the Durham dispute to a departure from the policy which had secured peace for so many years, and to there having arisen during the last fifteen or sixteen years a younger generation who did not know the folly of a strike, and had yet to learn how much better was the method their elders some fifteen years since adopted in order to avoid it."

It is not difficult to imagine that this will not meet the views of that "younger generation" referred to who feel—and rightly feel, that their present position is the outcome of a general and natural advance. It is useless and simply idle subterfuge to represent that the working man of to-day, with all his increased facilities for educating himself, is less able to understand his position than was his grandfather who lived at a time when the working man was sometimes little better than a slave, never daring to give expression to his views—if indeed he was ever allowed to have any! Those days are past and gone, and not likely to return.

The incident at West Stanley last week has been a trifle overdone. Unless we are to look upon Stanleyites as absolute barbarians, it is the only conclusion at which one can arrive. Personally I decline to believe anything of the sort. I have the best reason for thinking that the reports of the affair were much exaggerated, and the incident much enlarged upon. From what has come through my hands since I have very decent foundation for the statement, I can assure you. The most was made of the incident, and it secured more publicity than, in the writer's opinion, the occasion warranted. There is no attempt here, mind, to underrate the cowardliness of the attack made upon an inoffensive reporter, who had been simply sent out by his employers to perform certain specified duties, and who had no more feeling on the one side or the other than the man in the moon. It was a mean and contemptible thing to have done, and those who had any hand in the business will long ago have regretted their share in it. But what I object to is the attempt made to show that the moment the hue and cry was set up there was a mad rush after the poor reporter, speech-making was stopped, platforms deserted, and the great body of auditors rushed after the poor inoffensive gentleman like a pack of hungry wolves eager for prey. The report in the *Guardian* proves this to be downright nonsense. It is quite correct that a large number did follow in their excitement in the wake of the "pursuers," but the greater number remained to listen to the speakers who had attended for the purpose of addressing them on the subject touching them all so closely. Let reflections be passed as they may in quarters outside, the men of Stanley are as a body as intelligent and inoffensive as any the County Durham can boast of.

The strike is bringing other matters to the front, and it is well. Amongst others who have been "doing duty" in Durham during the past fortnight is the special correspondent of the *London Daily Telegraph*, who descants on the miners' cottages here and there. These cottages, he says, are reckoned in with the men's wages bills, and figure in all arbitration cases at £22 a year. In his opinion they would be dear at half the price, that many of them are dear at any charge, and that the tenants would be better in health and pocket to absolutely vacate such insanitary homes. The best of the miners' dwellings, he goes on, are inferior in size, comfort, or area of land attached to the poorest of the Irish labourer's cottages recently built in Limerick, Waterford, and other counties, which are rented at less than a fourth the value placed upon the Durham miners' houses. This is a heavy impeachment! One wonders what the same writer would have said of the use made of coke-ovens as dwelling-houses in our midst.

UNIONISM IN NORTH-WEST DURHAM.

On Monday evening, Mr H. S. Neale, of Newark, addressed a meeting in the Infant School-room, Leadgate. Mr W. McIver (secretary to the Consett Mechanics' Association) occupied the chair, and briefly introduced Mr Neale, who spoke at some length on the social and other legislation of the Government. At the close discussion was invited, and Councillor Winter (Gladstonian) asked several questions. On the motion of Mr J. Royston Booth a cordial vote of thanks was accorded Mr Neale, who suitably acknowledged it and proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, which was seconded by Councillor Winter, who bore testimony to the impartiality of the chairman and the fair and temperate manner in which the speaker had stated his case.

On Tuesday evening, a largely-attended meeting was held in Foster's Long Room, Stanley. The audience chose Mr W. Anderson from among their number to preside, and he appropriately introduced the speaker.—Mr Neale dealt exhaustively with the various phases of the Unionist Government's work more directly affecting the working classes. The lecturer was accorded a most patient and encouraging hearing, and at the close four or five of the audience took advantage of the opportunity for discussion.—Mr J. R. Booth, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr Neale, said the meeting was the best he had attended at Stanley.—The motion was seconded by a Radical among the audience.—A vote of thanks to the chairman closed a successful meeting.

Cycling Notes.

At a meeting of the Winlaton Amateur Cycling Club, held at Mr H. Rayne's, Commercial Hotel, Winlaton, the following officers were elected:—President, Lieut. J. W. Thompson; captain, R. Gray; vice-captain, R. Oliver; secretary and treasurer, H. Crane; bugler, Frank Thorburn. It was decided to have the opening run to Morpeth on Good Friday.

Blaydon Amateur Cycling Club.—The members of this club held their second smoking concert at the headquarters, Black Bull Inn, Blaydon, on Saturday night, when there was a large attendance of members and visitors, several of the Frudhoe club being present. Mr J. Bell occupied the chair, and Mr R. Hudson the vice-chair. In the course of his remarks the chairman said the club was in a satisfactory condition, both in point of finance and membership, and announced that the opening run would be to Hexham on Good Friday.

Holloway's Pills are admirably adapted for the cure of diseases incident to females. At different periods of life women are subject to complaints which require a peculiar medicine, and it is now an indisputable fact that there is none so suitable for such complaints as Holloway's Pills. They are invaluable to females of all ages, young and old, married or single. They purify the blood, regulate the secretions, correct all suspended functions, give tone to the stomach, and clear the complexion. The first approach of disordered action should be met with appropriate doses of these Pills; whilst taking them no restriction need be placed over the patient. They contain nothing which can possibly prove injurious to the system. They act by purifying the blood and regulating every organ.

STANHOPE LOCAL BOARD.

The monthly meeting of this Board was held on Monday evening—Mr J. W. Roddam occupying the chair.

A COMPLAINT.

A complaint was sent in by Mr R. Walton, of Stanhope House, that no sewerage was passing into the settling tank in his field.

The Surveyor was ordered to attend to the matter, and likewise to get The Butts drain put right.

A SHEEP DROWNED.

A sheep had been drowned in the race belonging to the Board, which leaves the reservoir at East Lane top, and the owners claimed £1 for the animal.

It was thought the Board were responsible, and allowed the claim.

NUISANCES.

Notice was to be given to the residents at The Butts to abate a nuisance; one of them had refused, and he will be served with a notice for the same.

THE SNOWPLOUGH.

It was also decided to charge the Railway Company for each time for the use of the snowplough down to the station, and also for making a road to the kilns.

A CLAIM BY THE SURVEYOR.

The claim of the Surveyor to poundage on the £40 sent by Mr Richardson, of Darlington, for a stand in the market-place during the last fair was disallowed.

A DISPUTE.

The case of the Local Board and the Back Martin Street owners was also discussed.

EXPENSES OF THE BOARD.

Dr Livingstone found fault with the heavy expenses of the Board from month to month, and said the Board was not doing its duty to the ratepayers in using economy. The expenses of late had been getting ahead of the income of the Board.

CHEQUES.

Cheques were signed for the month's paybill, and the Board adjourned.

THE EGGLESTONE CLAIMANTS.

On Wednesday afternoon, a large and influential meeting of claimants of the Egglestone family was held at Mr Robt. Hart's Dining Rooms, Raglan Street, Consett. Mr J. Hall, Vearecroff Hall, Leeds, occupied the chair.—The minutes of the last meeting were read by the secretary (Mr G. T. Egglestone, Consett), and confirmed.—Various letters and correspondence were read and discussed by several members of the family, who came from various parts of England, and the prospects complimented.—It was resolved that counsel's aid should now be obtained to recover the properties and coal leases. It was agreed that steps should be taken to recover the great Featherstonhaugh wealth lying unclaimed, seeing that it had been clearly proved that they were the direct descendants of the Featherstonhaugh Castle line of Northumberland, and that they rank as the next-of-kin to the vast wealth, and that claimants next-of-kin have been advertised for up to 1875. They find in tracing their genealogy that they are in direct line of the last male heir of the Castle line of Northumberland. Further subscriptions were contributed, and a handsome present was made to the secretary for the able assistance he has rendered up to the present time.—The meeting was accordingly adjourned until counsel's advice had been obtained.—Votes of thanks to the chairman, committee, and secretary concluded a most successful and enthusiastic meeting.

Magic Lantern Entertainment.—Messrs A. Pickard and R. W. Wraith gave a very interesting treat in Wesleyan Day-school, Wolsingham, on behalf of the school funds, last Thursday week. The pictures were well shown and described in a very graphic manner.

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

Blackhill—4, St. Aidan's Street, 19th inst., the wife of T. J. Jackson, of a daughter.

Leadgate—9th inst., the wife of John Purvis, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

Blackhill—Baptist Church, 24th inst., Mr Richard Mullen, of Puddlers' Row, Consett, to Miss M. B. Routledge, daughter of the late John Routledge, of Cutler's Hall, Blackhill.

Lanchester—Register Office, 19th inst., C. Turnbull to E. Lamb, both of Consett.—Same day, P. Winter to E. Walton, both of Consett.—Same day, J. G. Vasey to S. A. McHatton, both of Cornsay Colliery.

Stanhope—Primitive Methodist Chapel, 19th inst., John Forster, Stanhope to Miss Angus, Castleside.

DEATHS.

Consett—62, Sherburn Terrace, Georgina Hannah Bell, beloved daughter of Margaret Bell. To be interred at Benfieldside Cemetery this (Friday) Afternoon, at Three p.m. 431

10, Ark Street, 21st inst., aged 76, John Rogers.

Rowley—Oliverford Farm, 21st inst., in his 97th year, William Charlton, farmer.

Waskerley—20th inst., aged 78, Ann, wife of John Liddell.

Satley—23rd inst., aged 67, Elizabeth, widow of the late William Towns, Raredean. To be interred at Satley, on Saturday First, at Three o'clock p.m. Friends, kindly accept this intimation.

Stanley—23rd inst., aged 55, Esther, widow of the late Thomas Emmerson.

Blaydon—23rd inst., in her 20th year, Lizzie, daughter of John Parkin.

Marley Hill—18th inst., aged 14, Julia, daughter of Matthew Keenan.

Birtley—South Terrace, 16th inst., aged 63, Thomas Cummins.

Dipton—18th inst., aged 37, William, son of the late William Lawson.

Stocksfield—20th inst., aged 76, Ann, widow of the late Robert Heslop.

Fellside—17th inst., aged 27, Jessie, widow of the late Thomas Stones.

Chester-le-Street—Lady Scarborough's Convalescent Home, 19th inst., aged 22, Phœbe Barker, daughter of the late Edward Barker.

West Pelton—20th inst., aged 52, Richard Robinson.

In loving memory of my dear brother, John Thirlwell, who died March 18th, 1890.
"Gone, but not forgotten." 431

In Memoriam.
In loving memory of Hannah, beloved wife of Wm. H. Colling, and daughter of the late William Richardson, of Tanfield Lea, who died March 27th, 1890, aged 24 years.
"Gone, but not forgotten." 451

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Special Designs and Estimates on application.

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