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

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The Consett Guardian

AND DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER.

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☞ DEALER IN STEAMSHIP SHARES. ☜

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

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ADAM BRODIE, TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

No. 1,285. | REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. | FRIDAY EVENING, March 27th, 1885. | PRICE ONE PENNY.

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SANITARY PIPES.—TENDERS given for SANITARY PIPES, BRICKS, and FIRE CLAY GOODS of all kinds.—Apply to R. CURRY & Co., Delves Lane, Consett.

TO CONTRACTORS.

TO LET, the several WORKS required in the Erection of a House, &c., at St. Cuthbert's Terrace, Benfieldside, for Mrs. MARSHALL & SONS.

Drawings, Specifications, and Conditions of Contract may be seen, and Forms of Tender obtained at our Offices, Shotley Bridge.

Tenders will be received by us till 4 p.m. on Monday, April 6th, 1885.

The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.
JOHN SMITH & SON, Architects.
Rose Cottage, Shotley Bridge, March 18th, 1885. 242u

TO CONTRACTORS.

TO LET, the several WORKS required in the Erection of Stables, Coach-house, &c., at the "Crown and Cross Swords" Hotel, Shotley Bridge, for Mr. J. S. MOFFATT.

Drawings, Specifications, and Conditions of Contract may be seen, and Forms of Tender obtained, at our Offices, Shotley Bridge.

Tenders will be received by us up to 4 p.m. on Monday, April 6th, 1885.

The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.
JOHN SMITH & SON, Architects.
Rose Cottage, Shotley Bridge, March 18th, 1885. 243u

LANCHESTER HIGHWAY DISTRICT.

TO LET, the BUILDING OF A BRIDGE, over Pan Burn, at Low Mill.

Plans, Sections, Specifications, and Conditions, may be seen at the Surveyor's Office, to whom Tenders must be sent on or before April 8th, 1885.

The Board do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any Tender.—By order.
WM. DIXON, District Surveyor.
Surveyor's Office, Lanchester,
March 26th, 1885. 294u

Lost.

LOST, a FOX TERRIER DOG (white, with lemon patch on right ear). Anyone returning the same to Mr. J. R. TAYLOR, St. Cuthbert's Terrace, Benfieldside, will be rewarded. 283u

Wanted.

WANTED, a respectable Youth to serve his APPRENTICESHIP to the Tailoring Trade.—Apply to GEO. RICHARDSON, Shotley Bridge. 282u

WANTED, a strong, steady GIRL, as General Servant.—Apply to WILLIAM SURTEES, Joiner and Builder, Benfieldside. 280u

THE Directors of a London Joint Stock Co. require a District MANAGER for Consett. Salary, £120 per annum. A preference will be awarded the Candidate (otherwise eligible) who is prepared to hold Twenty Shares (£2 each), fully paid, in the Capital of the Company.—Address; "CHAIRMAN," 2 and 3, Salisbury Court, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 251u

SERVANTS' REGISTRY OFFICE.

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

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

To Let.

TO LET, Three COTTAGES, at Blackfine.—Apply to J. S. MURRAY, Auctioneer, Benfieldside. 40u

TO LET, Two COTTAGES, at Benfieldside Edge Road.—Apply to WILLIAM ELSOM, No. 40, Benfieldside Edge Road. 204u

TO LET, a HOUSE, with Seven Rooms and Scullery, at May Term, situate in Sherburn Terrace, Consett.—Apply to T. SWAINSTON, Grocer, Middle Street, Consett. 291u

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

TO LET, a HOUSE and SHOP, STABLES, &c., for many years in the occupation of Mr. J. W. Davison, Furniture Broker, &c., Catchgate.—Apply to GEO. HOBSON, Harperley Mills. 293u

TO LET, at the Leazes, Burnopfield, Two Four-roomed HOUSES, with Gardens attached. Possession of one can be had at once, and the other on the 13th May.—For Rent, etc., apply to MATTHEW ADAMSON, Leazes, Lintz Green Station. 281u

For Sale.

WASTE PAPER FOR SALE, at 1d. per lb.—Apply at the *Guardian Office*, Consett.

FOR SALE, a useful COW; due to Calve on April 4th.—For Particulars, apply to R. J., 42, Sherburn Terrace, Consett. 279u

FOR SALE, Three nice Calving HEIFERS, at profit.—Apply to W. C. BOWMAN, Hole House, Lanchester. 259u

FOR SALE, a strong WOOD SHED, 9ft by 12ft., suitable for Stable or Cow Byre.—Apply to JOHN GRANT, Templetown. 217u

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DWELLING HOUSE FOR SALE, situate in East Parade, Consett, containing 12 Rooms, Bath Room, &c., with Stable and Loft at rear. Price £625. Large portion of which can remain on Mortgage if desired.—Apply to J. T. KAY, Solicitor, West Hartlepool. 132u

A GOOD PLAN.

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

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FOR SALE, an unlimited supply of PIANOFORTES, in Black and Gold, Walnut, and Rosewood Cases, by English and Foreign Makers, on our SPECIAL HIRE SYSTEM, from 50s. per quarter for three years, when the Instrument becomes the Property of the Hirer. Every Instrument warranted for seven years. HARMONIUMS from 10s. 6d. per month, on the same system.—DAWSON & Co., Pianoforte and Harmonium Warehouse, and Music Sellers, 1 and Saville Row, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. 178r

JOHN WALKER & CO.,
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GLASGOW,

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

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

Business Announcements.

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

VALUATIONS made for Probate and Legacy Duties.

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

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

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MR. T. C. CAMPBELL,
SURGEON DENTIST,
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Artificial Teeth at reasonable prices.
They are adapted to the mouth on an improved system, guaranteed in every case to fit perfectly, and warranted for five years.
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Operations in Dental Surgery skilfully performed, and all charges strictly moderate.
Country patients visiting Mr. CAMPBELL's Establishment in Newcastle, will have all the advantages of a most complete Dental Apparatus, and, whenever possible, will be allowed their railway fare. 810t

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

TRUSSES OF ALL SIZES.

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ALTERATIVE POWDER FOR HORSES.

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

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NEW LOCAL TESTIMONIALS.

THOUSANDS OF SUFFERERS
Have been effectually
CURED
BY LAMONT'S SELF-CURATIVE
MAGNETIC BELTS,

For Lumbago, Rheumatism, Sciatica, Liver Complaints, &c.
INVIGORATORS for Bronchitis and Asthma.
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CHEST PROTECTORS for Colds, Coughs.
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KNEE CAPS for Sore and Weak Knees.
SOLES for Pains and Cold Feet.
Shoulder, Arm, Leg, Ankle, and Wrist Appliances.

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

SEVERE INJURY TO THE SPINE.
462, Leadgate, near Consett,
February 7th, 1885.

SIR,—Two years ago I happened a severe accident. Whilst at my work in the pit, a fall of stone came down on me and injured my spine a little above the waist. I was knocked fairly useless, could not use my legs, and was unable to do any work. A year ago a friend of mine advised me to see you, and on your advice I procured a Magnetic Belt and Spine Band. I feel proud to say that the Appliances have done me a vast amount of good—so much good in fact that I am now better than I thought I ever would be. I have been able to work regularly for the past six months, and I am certain I could not have done this had I not got your Appliances. Nothing would tempt me to put them off, as I feel I could not follow my work without them.

I have come specially to Newcastle to inform you of the good I have derived from your Appliances, and beg to say further that you may use this as you please for the benefit of other sufferers.—I am, yours respectfully,
Mr. D. Lamont. JOHN SURTEES.

BRONCHITIS CURED IN A WEEK
Newcastle, January 22nd, 1885.

DEAR SIR,—Some months ago, when suffering from a severe attack of bronchitis, I procured one of your Lung Invigorators. I had not worn it many hours before I found considerable relief, and within a week, I was, I am pleased to say, quite well again. Since that time, although frequently exposed to draughts, I have had no return of the ailment—in fact, I have not even so much as had a cold. I am convinced, therefore, that your Appliances, besides being Curative, are also Preventative; and I recommend all persons who are liable to take cold to procure one of your Lung Invigorators.—I remain, faithfully yours,
Mr. D. Lamont THOMAS J. SCOTT.

PAIN AND WEAKNESS IN THE BACK.
Byers Green, near Spennymoor,
January 17th, 1885.

DEAR SIR,—I have worn one of your Magnetic Belts for pain and weakness in the back, from which I have suffered for about two years, and have pleasure in stating that I have derived most satisfactory benefit from it. It is a great support, and comfortable to wear, and I heartily advise all who are troubled with a bad back to try one of your valuable Magnetic Belts.—Yours, &c.,
Mr. D. Lamont. THOMAS NICHOL.

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

☞ CALL OR WRITE FOR DESCRIPTIVE PAMPHLET GRATIS AND POST FREE.

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44A BLACKETT STREET NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
NOTE.—The Appliances are forwarded Post Free.

Business Announcements.

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VELVETEENS, PRINTS OATMEAL CLOTHS.
SEE OUR WINDOWS FOR NEW BONNETS AND HATS, AT ALL PRICES.
SEE OUR WINDOWS FOR NEW JACKETS, MANTLES, DOLMANS, SHAWLS.
NEW CARPETS, OILCLOTHS, RUGS, MATS, GENERAL FURNISHING GOODS.

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Our Stock for Spring Trade now complete, and unrivalled for Cheapness, Variety, and Excellence of Make and Pattern.
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BLACK WORSTED SUITS, 19s. 6d.
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Our Tailoring Department is now busier than for years past, proving its popularity and our ability to give a perfect fit, at reasonable price.

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SUCCESSOR TO J. T. POTTS. 278u

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HORSES FOR SALE OR SHOW,
SHOULD USE THE
"OPTIMUS" HORSE MIXTURE.
IT IS UNEQUALLED BY ANY OTHER MIXTURE.
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JOHN HUME AND SONS
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HALL'S for FINEST NEW PROCESS FLOUR.
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STARCHES, BLUES, PATENT MEDICINES, and all PACKETED GOODS 10 to 50 per cent. Cheaper than the usual Prices.

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SECOND-HAND FURNITURE BOUGHT, SOLD OR EXCHANGED.
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WHOLESALE AND FAMILY MERCHANTS,
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Begs to announce that he has commenced the Business of AUCTIONEER AND VALUER, in conjunction with his present business, which will be carried on as usual. He trusts to receive the support of his friends and the public generally.
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Apply to RICHARDSON, SPENCE, & CO., 17 and 19, Water Street, Liverpool; ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett; E. SLOANE, Postmaster, Blackhill; G. LEADBITTER, Catchgate, via Lintz Green; A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Dipton; WM. ANDERSON & Co., Shipping Agents, Tow Law. 85u

ROBERT JACKSON'S,
CHEAP PRINTING & STATIONERY
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☞ AGENT FOR DIPTON:—MR. THOMAS CLARK
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JOINER, CABINET MAKER, UNDERTAKER AND GENERAL CONTRACTOR,
DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL.

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

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

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

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John Graham Lough	6
John Annandale	7
John Renton	8
Joshua Lax	9
John Surtees	10
Robert Smith Surtees	11

VIEWS, &c.

The Ford, the Seat of M. Kearney, Esq., J.P.	12
Lanchester Church	13
Burnhopeside, the Seat of Geo. Hedley, Esq., J.P.	14
Crookhall	15
Consett	16
Consett Iron Works	17
Greencroft, the Seat of Thomas Taylor-Smith, Esq.	18
Greenhead, the Birthplace of Lough the Sculptor	19
Lough's Milo	20
Shotley Grove	21
Shotley Bridge in 1840, from a Drawing by T. M. Richardson	22
The Bridge at Shotley Do. Do.	23
Shotley Bridge Spa Do. Do.	24
Colpike, the Seat of Edward Taylor-Smith, Esq., J.P.	25
Ebchester Church	26
Ebchester Church before being Restored	27
Medomsley Church	28
Hamsterley, the Seat of the Misses Surtees	29
Hamsterley, from the West	30
Handley Cross Bridge	31
Broadwood, the Seat of Geo. Garry Taylor-Smith Esq., J.P.	32

Mr. ROBERT JACKSON, proprietor of the *Consett Guardian*, has been appointed Sole Agent for the Sale of the above Work in the Consett District, and will send a copy to any address on receipt of a Postal Order for One Guinea. 56

Business Announcements.

MACHINES.

STONE and COAL-BORING MACHINES, STEMMING GEAR, SEWING MACHINES, WASHING, WRINGING and MANGLING MACHINES, PATENT POSSTAFF SPRINGS.—Sold Wholesale and Retail by GEORGE HUNTER, Medomsley, Lints Green. 63t

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Price and Pattern Sheets Free on application.
WILLIAM CODICOTT,
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WE continue to present a Half-Dozen best Nickel Silver TEASPOONS to each PURCHASER of our Standard GOLD WEDDING RINGS.

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WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,
ANNFIELD PLAIN. 920

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FOR
FANCY AND GENERAL STATIONERY OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,
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JASPER COCKBURN,
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☞ London and other Daily Papers supplied to order. Books not in Stock, to be had on a short notice.

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

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

☞ BY STEAMER FOR £7.

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

SECOND CABIN..£21 10s. | THIRD CLASS...£7.
Children under 12 years, half-price. Infants under 12 months, free. Persons not eligible for assisted passages will be taken at the following rates:—Second Cabin, £31 10s.; Third Class, £17.

For further particulars regarding Passages, Land Laws, and Resources of the Colony, apply to GELLATLY, HANKEY, SEWELL & Co., 109, Leadenhall Street, London, and 12, Renfield Street, Glasgow; or to WILLIAM J. JOHNSON, Queensland Emigration Office, 96, High Street, Gateshead-on-Tyne; or to the Local Agent,
ADAM BRODIE,
20u Town Hall Consett.

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THOMAS MILNER,
DISPENSING AND AGRICULTURAL CHEMIST,
THE CENTRAL PHARMACY, CONSETT,
Respectfully draws the attention of Farmers to the
TAR ELIXIR PRIZE MEDAL SHEEP DIP
Prepared by Messrs NESS & Co., Darlington, for which he is sole Agent.
PRICE 7s. 6d. PER 100 SHEEP.
Also, the THYMO CRESOL UNIVERSAL PURIFIER, most excellent as a Disinfectant and Wash for Cattle.
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The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH, 1885.

THE NEW SOUDAN CAMPAIGN.

OUR second campaign in the Eastern Soudan opened vigorously on the 20th inst., and is likely to be prosecuted with unflagging energy by GENERAL GRAHAM'S splendid force. As might have been expected, and as has happened on every occasion when British troops have fought in the Soudan, disciplined valour and scientific armament have proved superior to barbarous courage and wild fanaticism. But yet we do not find that people at home are satisfied with the results of the Soudan campaigning. It is not that British patriotism has cooled, and that the public have got tired of such announcements as "Another British Victory." The successes of the national arms would always evoke enthusiasm if the people could only recognise that the successes were tangible and fruitful. What checks the enthusiasm of the public is—first, the manner of the fighting; and, secondly, the uncertainty as to the ultimate purpose of hostilities. It is not exhilarating to read, that even when in considerably superior force to the enemy, our troops are marched to battle in square formation, as if to receive the charge of multitudinous horsemen or of overwhelming masses of infantry. In saying this, we intend no reflection on the boldness of our commanders or on the bravery of our soldiers. On the contrary, we acknowledge that in this case discretion is at least a very necessary accompaniment of valour. It is quite proper for a military leader to put his men in the best formation for resisting any particular manner of expected attack and for successfully resisting this at the least sacrifice on his own side. But what is no disparagement to our arms is yet an indication of the extraordinary courage and desperate fanaticism of the enemy. We may conclude from actual instances, that if our soldiers in their thousands were to attempt to move through the Soudan in customary marching order, the so-called rebels, springing up from their lurking-places, would throw themselves upon the flanks and rear of the British force, content to meet almost certain death or mutilation if they could first inflict equivalent injury on the foe. The reckless daring of the Soudanese warriors is, indeed, beyond human parallel, so far as we know; and even among the lower animals it can perhaps only be matched by the unconquerable fury of the American peccary. Once a hunter has roused the anger of a herd of these beasts, his only chance is to get into a position beyond reach of their fangs, and to shoot them all down in detail, for no amount of carnage will frighten the survivors into flight. It is not pleasant to think that we may have to do much the same with our fanatical Soudanese foes before we can obtain a complete conquest over them. So far, at least, slaughter seems not to have diminished their ardour for fighting; and our troops, invaders and victors as they are, have to resort largely to defensive tactics. But even supposing that the slaughter of a few more thousands of these misguided fanatics will effectually cow them, it is natural for the people whose blood and treasure are expended on this work to ask, What is to be the ultimate result? We are "smashing" OSMAN DIGNA prepatory to making a railway to Berber, by which we may next autumn send a force to "smash the MAHDI." But if we leave off there, and withdraw from the Soudan, we shall arrive at a lame and impotent conclusion. If our purpose in making this railway were to use it for the permanent opening-up of the Soudan to commerce and civilization; if we meant to hold Suakim permanently, and from thence to establish under our influence friendly native governments in the Soudan provinces; and if, on the other side, we meant to promote communication between Cairo and Khartoum by means of railways or canals to avoid the bends and cataracts of the Nile; then there would be a manifest object in our present fighting. But, as it is, we are incurring real and heavy sacrifices without having any idea what advantage anybody is to obtain in return for them.

Parliamentary Summary.

THURSDAY.

In the House of Lords, Lord Carlingford moved the second reading of the Poisons Bill, which has for its object the further protection of the public. Poisons of every class are to be labelled and not sold to young persons, and the more virulent poisons, such as prussic acid, will be subjected to restriction that buyers must be known to sellers. The Bill passed its second reading. Earl Wemyss gave notice of a motion as to the deficiency of the Auxiliary Forces, and the necessity for attention thereto.

In the House of Commons, Mr Coan gave notice that when the motion for approving the Egyptian Financial Arrangement was brought forward he should move that, inasmuch as the effect of the Convention would be to establish a Multiple Control over the finances of Egypt, and having regard to the sacrifices made by this country, it was expedient that that Government should be a party to any agreement that would interfere with the free exercise of our authority in Egypt. The Lord Advocate said it was intended to introduce a Bill to give effect to the recommendations of the Trawling Commission. Mr Chamberlain, replying to Mr Pulestone, said no replies had yet been received from the railway companies to his recommendation with respect to the Railway Rates Bill. Mr Gladstone declined to answer the questions of Mr Ashmead Bartlett whether the positions occupied by the Russian force were within the Afghan boundaries. Mr Ashmead Bartlett said he should call attention to the subject on the first opportunity. Sir S. Northcote asked as to the Easter holidays, and also whether the Government would defer discussion on the Egyptian Financial Arrangement until after the Easter holidays, as the papers would require the greatest consideration before entering debate. Mr Gladstone proposed that the House should adjourn on Tuesday in Passion week until the 9th April. He would postpone the Egyptian question until the Monday in Passion week. Sir S. Northcote did not think the latter arrangement satisfactory. Lord Hartington intimated that he had no information of the reported advance of General Graham.

FRIDAY.

In the House of Lords, Earl Granville announced that their Lordships would be asked to adjourn for the Easter holidays on Friday next to the 13th April. Lord Thurlow moved that the Natural History Museum at South Kensington should be opened on Sunday afternoons. Earl Cairns, in the absence of Lord Shaftesbury through indisposition, moved as an amendment that the opening should be on week-day evenings and not on Sunday. After a brief discussion their Lordships divided, when the numbers were equal, namely, sixty-four on each side. In accordance with the rule in such cases, the Lord Chancellor announced that the non-contents had it. The amendment was then agreed to. Other business was disposed of, and the House rose at twenty-five minutes to eight o'clock.

In the Commons, Mr Ashmead-Bartlett gave notice of a vote of censure upon the Government in regard to their policy in the Soudan. Mr Gladstone, in reply to a question, said the action of Germany in New Guinea did not amount to annexation, but rather to a protectorate. The right hon. gentleman further informed Sir Stafford Northcote that on Monday and two following it was intended to proceed with the Seats Bill. He held out no hope that more time could be given for the consideration of the Egyptian Financial Convention than he had already signified. Sir Stafford urged that more time was necessary, and said he would repeat his question on Monday in the hope of getting a better answer. Lord E. Fitzmaurice informed Mr Gorst that no information had been received of the hoisting of the German flag on the Samoan Islands. The Government had recognised the belligerent rights of France to search neutral vessels for contraband of war destined for China. The German Government had abstained from recognising the right in reference to German ships. Mr Ashley, in reply to Mr W. Redmond, said that Sir C. Warren having established a satisfactory state of things in Stellaland had proceeded to Goshenland, where it was hoped he would be equally fortunate. Lord E. Fitzmaurice, in response to a question, denied that Lord Wolseley had been appointed Governor-General of the Soudan. The House, in Committee on the Seats Bill, resumed the consideration of the amendments to the first schedule. The Lord-Advocate, to the disgust of Scotch Members, withdrew his amendment for the re-arrangement of the Scotch groups of burghs, on the ground that they were held to be a breach of the agreement arrived at between the two parties.

MONDAY.

In the House of Lords, Earl Granville pointed out to the Duke of Marlborough how undesirable it was that he should express either dissent or agreement in reference to articles which appeared in the public Press. The Hours of Polling Bill was read a second time, on the motion of Lord Carrington. In reply to a question, Lord Dalhousie said it was the intention of the Government to bring in a Bill so established a Department to take charge of Scotch business. He did not think it would include education. The House rose at 7·15 p.m.

In the Commons, Lord E. Fitzmaurice said the British representatives on the proposed Suez Canal Commission would be Sir Julian Pauncefote and Sir R. Wilson. Their instructions would not be laid on the table. In reply to Mr McCoan and Sir M. Hicks-Beach, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said the proposed international guarantee did not involve international interference with the affairs of Egypt. There was no reference to the point in the Convention. Sir S. Northcote again urged that the Convention should not be discussed before the Easter holidays, and moved the adjournment of the House in order that the question might be debated. Mr Gladstone, however, was inflexible on the point, and offered the right hon. Baronet Monday or Thursday for the debate. After discussion, in which Mr Cowen, Sir H. Wolff, Mr Gorst, Sir W. Harcourt, and others took part, Sir Stafford accepted Thursday. Questions were put in reference to the Afghan frontier. Some of them Lord E. Fitzmaurice declined to answer; as to others, he said the agreement as to the position of the Russian and Afghan troops were not embodied in a formal document and signed. The Foreign Office had no information that Russian officers had been inciting to disturbance at Penjdeh. In Committee on the Seats Bill, Schedule 2, which contains the list of the boroughs that lose one Member, was discussed, and finally agreed to.

TUESDAY.

In the House of Lords, in reply to Earl Delaware, Earl Granville said he was authorised to state that there was no difference made in the treatment of neutrals by France in connection with the war with China. The Earl of Northbrook informed Lord Sidmouth that a naval officer had been sent to the United States for the purpose of inspecting a new torpedo boat designed for harbour defence. The House rose at five minutes to five o'clock.

In the Commons, questions were put in regard to the Afghan frontier, but failed to elicit any information from Lord E. Fitzmaurice, who also, as to the Suez Canal Commissioners' instructions, referred Mr Gibson to the despatch of Earl Granville of February 3rd, 1885. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, prompted by Lord George Hamilton's question on the previous day, gave some information in regard to the Egyptian deficit. Mr Gladstone informed Mr Stanhope that the Government were expecting an answer from Russia to Earl Granville's communication of the 16th inst., in reference to the Afghan frontier. In Committee on the Seats Bill, Schedule 3 was again considered.

WEDNESDAY.

The House of Commons went into Committee on the Redistribution Bill. The fifth schedule, which set out the contents and boundries of boroughs with altered boundaries, was further considered, and was under discussion when the Chairman left the chair at a quarter to six o'clock. Sir S. Northcote asked if any important information had been received with regard to Russian negotiations? Sir C. Dilke: No sir. The Cape of Good Hope Advance Bill was passed, and the House adjourned.

OUR LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

LONDON, WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Again the funds droop, and again we are told that a fit of the Russophobia is on the Stock Exchange. The fact is that Capel Court is, like the City in general, profoundly anti-Gladstonian. If it had its way, the G.O.M. would be dispatched in a chariot of fire to his heavenly reward. In any case, the City has no faith in him, and the way the City takes to show its pique is by "bearing" the funds. As to a war with Russia, to be well prepared is our sure defence and best security. Sir Frederick Roberts and an army corps at Queltah can give a good account of any number of Russians. But of the gravity of the situation there can be no doubt. Mr Bosworth Smith's contribution to the *Times* on Wednesday deserves careful reading. The historian of Lord Lawrence is no mean authority; and these are the weighty words with which he closes his letter, "While we are negotiating the Russians are advancing, not perhaps on those few 'debateable or debated' miles which, in accordance with the flimsiest of verbal promises, alone seem to debar them from making their long-mediated spring upon Herat, but, what is much more important and much more formidable, they are advancing in strength on the positions immediately behind. The muster and the march of 24,000 British troops on Quetta is an argument and probably it is the only argument, which the Russian army now concentrating on Askabad and Merv can understand. The reiterated blunders the miserable makeshifts, the absolutely purposeless bloodshed, African and Asiatic, as well as European, which have marked our Egyptian and Soudan campaigns from the beginning, and which seem certain now to mark them to the end, may be best atoned for by a policy which is its exact opposite, a policy firm and well-considered, unaggressive but unflinching, in Central Asia. If we hesitate, we are lost. By preparing with all our strength for instant war we stand the best and probably the only chance for securing and preserving peace. Now is the crisis of the Central Asian question; now, it may well be, is also the crisis of our Indian Empire."

The surprise of our Zareba on Saturday last on the road to Tamai was a painful shock to our military critics, who were beginning to pride themselves that our old friend Tommy Atkins no longer fought with bulldog pluck and daring, but had a dash of German geist in him as the result of his higher training. We have fallen back, however, on our old Crimean ways. Algeria was said to have been the grave of the French military skill. If we do not take care, the Soudan will be the grave of our reputation for skilled soldiery as distinct from mere bulldog pluck.

The press has spoken of the late Bishop Wordsworth in a kindly key, as he deserved to be spoken of. But, after all is said, it can only be reported of him that he was a dry, good, and bookish man of a type unsuited to the work-a-day world in the midst of which he was thrown. Some of his prejudices, as that against cremation or against calling Wesleyan preachers Reverend, show on what narrow lines his thoughts were built up. He grew old, but never ripened, and, in fact, if the phrase is not awkward or conceited, he remained a learned schoolboy to the end of the chapter. Such men may suit a cloister, but scarcely the bishop's palace.

Oh for a Mahdi! is one of those sensational and taking titles with which the *Pall Mall* lures on its readers through the columns of an ordinary leader on the well-worn contrasts between Oriental fanaticism and Western common-sense. It is all very well to dub with so fine a name as faith that blind impulse with which Osman Digna gets his followers to rush on to the fight under the fear of hell; if not the hope of heaven. But what are such motives worth? The truth is, the educated man looks before and after, thinks three times, and is slow to action; but in the end what he does is far more efficiently done. Co-operation is our Mahdi, and when we are united, which is far from the case at present, we should make short work of smashing twenty Mahdis.

The famous old Oriental Bank ought never to have suspended, and I am not at all surprised to see that a new Banking Company, formed chiefly of the most active and influential officers of the old staff, freed from the fetters of an antiquated charter, has, whilst retaining hold of a splendid connection, secured all the advantages of an invigorated new life under fresher and more promising auspices. The Corporation wisely contents itself with pure banking business, such as deposits and Eastern exchanges, avoiding advances on landed property or anything in the nature of block-debts. Many of the Directors have occupied leading positions as Presidents of the Government Banks in India, whose names are guarantees that the bank will be ably and carefully managed. The higher rates of interest it can afford to allow depositors is accounted for by the larger profits Eastern business commands; and just now when five per cent. investments are difficult to obtain the bank circular are especially deserving of attention.

A flower show with snow on the ground—this is one of the amenities of the season which the Royal Botanic Society has had to put up with this week at its Spring Show. Here smiling Spring her earliest visits has paid within the precincts of Regent's Park, and Society has turned out to see the usual display of fashionable flowers. It is amusing how fashion asserts itself as much in flowers as in flounces and frills. Daffodils (I suppose on account of Wordsworth's ode) and the Chrysanthemum are now all in fashion, while Dahlias and Tulips have gone out with other manias. So the world goes round, and so I suppose all get their turn.

Sunday's fall of snow was unexpected as well as heavy. On Saturday a cold wind was blowing; but there were no indications that we were on the eve of the most winterly weather of the whole Winter. Happily, it was soon over. The streets were rapidly cleared, and on Monday there was very little of the slushy mud which usually marks a thaw. In the suburbs wherever there was a patch of grass a little dirty snow remained; but in the central districts there was not enough to afford the Board School boys scope for much more than a pretence at snow-balling. The storm was not, however, without its effects. In thousands of jerry-built houses the roof "wanted attending to." Telegraph wires and posts suffered, too. In Sloane Street I saw a telegraph standard which had descended bodily into the street, knocking off some coping stones in its descent, and reducing the wires attached to it to a state of admired confusion; and round a friend's office-door in Oxford Street the telephone-wire was festooned in a way suggestive of bell-ropes and rabbit-snares. The spectacle afforded an impressive lesson of the dangers attendant upon this latest product of civilization, the wire net-work with which London is covered.

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.*)

"TWO PROPOSITIONS."

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—The first of my propositions has respect to the "House of Uncommons" held in the town of Burn's "Sinkumdodie." I have often been solicited, especially by the leader of the composition, who professes to be on the same side as myself (I dare say truly for he has any amount of "sides") to attend the debates. But I have first of all to do my duty in that station of life which God has appointed me to fill. With great pleasure, however, I accede to the request of furnishing an appropriate motto, to the best of my ability. The members of the House of Commons are all M.P.; if on the Council, the Hon. M.P. But inasmuch as "Uncommons" transcends, and is yet distined to supplant "the Commons," the members of the former should have a higher epithet. I have been at a loss whether to adopt the superlative of the celebrated comparative "Excelsior," but have after due consultation of the premitive meanings, selected "Excellentissimi" (most exalted). The whole motto is "Amici Populi Excellentissimi"—"The exalted friends of the people." The initials A.P.E. is the title which will be proposed next Tuesday evening by "Bryan Boru." who has an undoubted slice of wit, if he refrains from going (which he cannot) the whole hog. A pack is a pack, but a shop is a shop. I don't anticipate the Liberal Leader Gardiner Mutton offering opposition. But if Morgan McLeveller suspects its source he, as Leader of the Irish Party, must object to it as Injustice to Ireland, for a man like myself to supply the motto. However, I hope soon to see him and all the other leading men of the "House of Uncommons" figuring as the Hon. Morgan McLeveller, A.P.E. Success to all the A.P.E.'s, and especially to Roger Highflyer, who "clowns" for every procession, meeting, and institution, and who is chief moulder for all the brazen nonsense in the district.

My second proposition is the necessity of united action among the inhabitants of "Sinkumdodie" to resist ruinous oppression. The "House of Uncommons" must know, if even their knowledge be 50 years behind their pretensions, that surface owners have a right to have that surface intact from subterranean disturbances caused by man. Moreover, that no coal is allowed to be wrought within a fixed distance (I believe 25 yards) of a public road leading to Sinkum or any place else. It seems a poor encouragement to steady, saving men to wreck their dwellings and refuse compensation except at the expense of a long law suit, or dismissal from the Company's service. I am no politician, but if I am wrong in saying that percentage hunters and general managers, whose interest it is to keep down "all numbers" except No. 1, are worth the good opinion and political support of Whig, Tory, or Radical, then daub me,

March 18th, 1885. A.P.E.

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE LANCHESTER DIVISION.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—It appears, according to your issue of the 20th inst., that a certain party intend to nominate Mr Thos Taylor Smith, of Greencroft Park, for the Lanchester Division against whoever else may be nominated by the Liberal party. Mr Smith's views in politics are Whig or Moderate Liberal, I understand. The word "Whig," according to history, sir, was the name given to that party in the State which was opposed to the Tories. This name originated in Scotland, but did not long retain its first meaning. From the middle of the last century, it had been seen, with growing distinctness, that though the Whigs and Tories formed two parties, they were actuated, in the main, by the same principles. After the passing of the Municipal Corporation Bill, and the organisation of a new one, under the title of Conservatives, this party was itself broken up by the Repeal of the Corn Laws; and now it is evident that the parties in Parliament are composed of the followers of the different disputants for place and power, but that all, with the exception of a very few Independent members, are seeking to carry out the same schemes and to establish the same aristocratic principles. I trust, sir, the Liberal party in the Lanchester Division will be able to meet the Whig and Jingo clamour by supporting the great Liberal Leader, Mr Gladstone, that repealed the paper duty, and thus brought newspapers and cheap books, with all the pleasures and advantages of knowledge, within the reach of the poor. He also passed the Education Act, and gave to every child in the kingdom the means of securing an intellectual training. Still pursuing his course in the interests of the poor, he gave the country the ballot to prevent landlords from frightening their dependents into voting as they wished. His Government has done more to prevent bribery, and, by limiting the expenses of elections, more to enable men of small means to gain admission to Parliament, than had ever been done by all other Governments put together. He Disestablished the Irish Church, and took away the wrong of appropriating the property of the country to an ecclesiastical establishment which was an offence and insult to the people. Greatest of all, he passed the Irish Land Act, and freed the tenants of Ireland from the injustice of rack rent. His crowning achievement has been the Extension of the Franchise, the giving to an additional 2,000,000 of Englishmen the privilege of making themselves felt in the House of Commons. In repressing violence he has been firm; in redressing wrong unwearied and resolute; and by such measures as I have named, feats of legislative wisdom and justice, he has been the greatest benefactor of his country. And the Conservative party, the trumpeter of the order, may continue their parody to the end, and finish with exclaiming, "Othello's occupation's gone!"—I am, yours, &c., A WORKING MAN.

Consett, March 23rd, 1885.

ANGLING IN THE DERWENT.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—I see in one of your latest issues that the Derwent is reported as being in good order for fishing, and that nice baskets of grayling are being taken. Whoever has supplied you with this report has been drawing on his imagination, as there are no grayling in the river, and the snow broth that has been in the river is decidedly against fish being taken, not to speak of nice baskets. If no more snow falls, anglers may look forward in a week or so to having decent sport. The following notice appears in the *Fishing Gazette* for March 21st, which gives us an idea what strangers think of our short-sighted policy:—"The hon. sec. of the Derwent Angling Association sends us a long and interesting report of the proceedings at the annual general meeting. In spite of the fact that the river 'is troubled with four great drawbacks, &c.,' the fishing must be very good. 'The fact that four members had caught 2,000 trout by rod and line in the Derwent would astonish a good many of their angling friends in other parts.' We should think so, indeed! especially when they know that the cost of a season ticket is only 5s, including entrance fee. We are glad to see that day tickets are issued to strangers. It will hardly be credited that a majority of the members of the above-mentioned society decided, at the annual meeting, to reduce the subscription; although the Chairman pointed out that 'it would cripple their resources to such an extent that they would be unable to put any further supples of trout fry into the river.' The amount in question was only 1s per member per annum! The only possible result of this petty, short-sighted policy will be that in a very short time the annual subscription will have to be doubled to obtain funds for re-stocking the river. It must be very disheartening to Mr Booth, president, officials, and other members who have worked so hard successfully to improve the fishing, to find their efforts wasted this way. Thousands of London anglers think themselves lucky if, after going 10 or 20 miles, they can get a little roach or perch fishing without paying more than 1s a day for it."

Sir, I am quite aware that some of our anglers think that the river is quite able to support itself, and that no young fry need be put it. With all respect to these anglers, I must say that the opinion of all the best angling clubs in the country is against them. In districts where I know there is good angling, the clubs always make a point of turning fish into the rivers. Only last week, 200,000 Loch Leven fry, from seven to eleven weeks old, were turned into the Gairney and North Queich, feeders of Loch Leven, and 180,000 were put in last season. Gartman Dam, which supplies the town of Alloa with water, has had 1,000 Loch Leven placed in it lately. I could increase the number of instances almost to any amount where the natural resources of the river are assisted by importation. If our members would look at this question properly, they would see that it is a means of greatly improving their sport, and no doubt of giving much satisfaction to the gentlemen who have deputed their waters to the Association. In my opinion it is a very narrow-minded proceeding to take all you can out of a river and put nothing in. Hoping that our members will see the mistake that has been made this year in crippling the resources of the Association, I am, sir, yours,

W. PALLIASER, hon. sec.

Westwood, March 25th, 1885.

THE MISSION AT BLACKHILL AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—"A Methodist," in reply to my letter, came to a wise conclusion not to refer to the subject again; for his defence and "cant" is simply the outcome of a misty "imagination." If evangelists and "big drum" beaters can't get a brighter specimen than "Methodist" to espouse their cause, I fear they will fare badly, and their work be seriously retarded. See how sublimely and with what subtility he starts to sermonize in order to make your readers believe that he alone has the eternal welfare of our fallen race at the bottom of his heart. "Methodist" seems to me to be far worse than the dog barking at the moon. This sagacious animal saw something to bark at, but our friend, "Methodist," seems to see or know very little; as from his remarks I infer that he must only lately have found out that street "Arabs" are human beings. Whoever thought anything else, unless this ex-champion? Mr Editor, to the ordinary beat of a big drum my ears are anything but delicate; but when you meet an unknown individual by the wayside beating a large drum as if he wanted to frighten a lot of wild beasts, do you wonder at anybody's nerves getting unstrung? In the name of common sense and all that is sacred, how can "Methodist" have the "self-assurance" and "audacity" to publicly announce that these drum-beaters and fiddlers are exhibiting more of the Spirit of the Master. Note further, this would-be expounder and revealer of our Lord's will is thoroughly at a loss to know what our Saviour would do if he met these enthusiasts. Sir, I say it with all reverence, that if our Lord was here now he would simply act towards the above-named as he acted to the "Money Changers," and when He gave his reasons for so doing it would make "Methodist" and others of his stamp shout, "Oh, Lord, forgive my ignorance of the way I ought to worship and praise Thy holy name." I wish now to remove any seeming sorrow from "Methodist's" breast. For his information and comfort of spirit, I may say that the very Sabbath I heard these discordant sounds I was really on an errand of mercy and a very solemn and sad one to me. Perhaps this may account for my delicate ears? I have far too great a respect for our beloved Queen and Messrs Moody and Sankey to have made any disparaging remarks regarding them—this is only another jump of "Methodist's" imagination, which you will observe is only transitory. What "Methodist's" lady friends are doing now has nothing to do with my letter. Neither are "Methodist's" other illustrations or explanations any reason why he should come down flat-footed upon several Christian ministers in this district, who undoubtedly are doing good, and for no other reason but because they would not violate their consciences and open their churches, to "run after "Methodist" and his favourites, "clap them on the back," and thus gratify and satisfy their high strung vanity. It is high time this sentimental Christianity was discountenanced, and it is well that "Methodist" should know before rushing into print again that there are some at any rate who have no intention of getting up the steam in "Methodist's" "New fashion." I have been to several revival meetings in the country, and found that nearly all those who conducted them spoke to the people and told them that if they only came up to the penitent form they would get saved; as if the form contained the only virtue needed; and again I have seen the excitement raised to a high pitch like the stormy waves; but, Mr Editor, where are the waves when they beat upon the shore? What about all the impostors who don themselves in clerical garbs and hold forth at street ends. Have I to take off my hat and shout, "Praise the Lord!" Does it not seem the wisest and safest course to attend to those in our midst whom God has called to be ministers of his Holy Word, and thus strengthen their hands and encourage their hearts! What a depressing effect it must have on a Minister going into his pulpit with a well-prepared sermon and see before him only a few hearers, and then to be told "Oh! I have been hearing so and so." Well may ministers go about with solemn faces. There is one redeeming feature, all the world is not like "Methodist." I commend to him and others the words of wisdom and counsel uttered by "Incedo" in your last issue. Apologising for trespassing so much on your valuable space and with thanks for past favours.—Yours,

A NONCONFORMIST.

WISE AND OTHERWISE.

TOOK HIS MEDICINE.

"Pinder," severely demanded Mrs. Fitzgoober, "did you take any medicine last night?"

"Yes, ma," sweetly answered that cherub.

About an hour afterwards the lady found the mixture of compound bitterness that had been intended for Pinder's cold lying snugly under the washstand.

"Pinder!" she yelled.

"Yes, ma."

"I thought you told me you had taken your medicine."

"So I did, ma; but you didn't ask me where I took it to, so I kept quiet on that point."

But he didn't keep quiet at the point of her rod.

WAS BUSINESS DEPRESSED.

They were talking about the depressed state of business when a man who was leaning against a lamp-post with his hands in his pockets softly inquired;

"Is business depressed?"

"Why, of course it is! Where have you been for the last six months that you haven't heard the cry of hard times?"

"In the work house," was the humble reply, "and if there's been any lack of business in this locality I haven't noticed it—really, I haven't."

A CORRECT DIAGNOSIS.

Doctor: "Ah! how de do, Mr. Minks? Come in. You are not sick, I hope. You certainly look well."

Young Minks: "I am well, doctor, and yet I would like your advice. I have always considered a good appetite a sign of good health, but of course I understand there is such a thing as too good an appetite."

"True. A ravenous appetite is often a sign of disease."

"Well, doctor, I am deeply in love with Miss De Bliss, but of course I think it absolutely necessary that a man should not propose to a woman until he is sure she will not be an invalid all her life."

"You are right."

"Well, last evening we took dinner together, and I noticed that she sent her plate back six times. What is that a sign of?"

"It is a sign that she doesn't love you a particle."—*Philadelphia Call.*

Not very humorous, but still a paper full of sharp points.—A paper of pins.

Ambiguous.—"Oh, look, Louis. Fred has just sent me this sweet little puppy. Wasn't he kind?" "Yes, dear; but it's just like him."

He (an old hand): "They have dropped their anchor." She (a beginner): "Serve them right! It has been hanging over the side all day long."

"Are you brothers?" asked a gentleman of two little boys. "Yes, sir." "Are you twins?" "Yes, sir." "How old are you?" "Amos is three, and I'm five," was the astonishing reply.

"Why didn't you put on a clean collar before you left home?" called out an impertinent young fop to an omnibus-driver. "'Cause your mother hadn't sent home my washing," was the extinguishing reply.

A Home-rule editor writes: "It is evident that the apple of discord has been thrown into our midst, and, unless nipped in the bud, it threatens to burst forth into a conflagration that will deluge the whole land."

An aristocrat, whose family had rather run down, boasting to a prosperous tradesman of his ancestors, the latter said, "You are proud of your descent. I am on the opposite tack, and feel proud of my ascent."

"Why do you wear your beard mutton-chops?" was asked a commercial traveller by a friend. "Because," was the philosophical answer, "in the first place it hides my cheek, and in the second place it gives my chin full play."

"Ever had a cyclone here?" asked a Kansas man who was visiting a country aunt in the East. "A cyclone? Oh, yes," said his aunt; "Deacon Brown's son brought one from Boston a spell ago, but, law! he couldn't ride it. Tumbled off every time he tried."

"Will you have some butter or some oleomargarine?" asked the facetious boarder. "What did we have yesterday?" asked the thin boarder. "I don't know." "Well, if we had butter, give me the oleomargarine; and if it was oleomargarine, I'll take butter."

A traveller stopping overnight with a Texan farmer, whose estate was miles and miles in extent, said to him, "You must have begun life very early to accumulate such an estate as this." "Yes," replied the farmer, "I began life when I was a mere baby."

"I thought you took instantaneous pictures," said the man in the photographer's gibbet; "but I verily believe I've sat here ten minutes." "You shouldn't be impatient, sir," replied the camera fiend. "Instant, you know, means the present month, and the month is only half gone."

An attorney, not celebrated for his probity, was robbed one night on his way from Wicklow to Dublin. His father, meeting Baron O'Grady the next day, said, "My lord, have you heard of my son's robbery?" "No, indeed," replied the Baron, with a good deal of surprise. "Pray, whom did he rob?"

During the late cold, Mose Schaumburg laid in a big lot of wood. He encouraged his son to pile it up by saying: "If you vash a good little poy, Isaac, you may pile up dot load of wood." "And ven I vash a pad little poy, fodder, vot den?" "Den you shall pile dot wood up veder you vants to or not."

"Sir," said a barber to a lawyer who was passing his door, "will you tell me if this is a good half-sovereign?" The lawyer pronounced the piece good, deposited it in his waistcoat pocket, adding, with great gravity: "If you'll let your lad run round to my office, I'll send you back the three-and-fourpence change."

At a dinner a very heedless gentleman who talks a great deal forgets that his neighbour, a young lady, is unusually tall, and cries out, "I do not like big women!" The lady bites her lip; the gentleman sees he has made a blunder; and, to repair it as gallantly as possible, he adds, "When they are young, madam!"

At a party given by a great banker, who had made his millions, a lady wit pointed out to her companion, also a banker, the wife of her host, remarking: "What a splendid creature! She ought to be a countess." "Oh yes, beautiful and clever enough," was the reply; "but perhaps she prefers to be a discountess."

The "thought reader" placed his hands on the man's head, withdrew it, and struck him a fearful blow on the nose. When the man got out from under the chair and asked the reader what he hit him for, he replied—"Just as I placed my hand on your head you thought I was a fool, and I don't allow any man to think that."

A young man who had recently been admitted to the bar, and to a partnership with his uncle, came into the office one day and proudly announced that he had settled an old matter that had been in litigation for a long time. "Settled it!" exclaimed the uncle—"settled that case? Why, I have supported our family on that for the last ten years!"

"Mac, I've been reading a summary of mortuary statistics for the past half year, and this thing bothers me. It seems that the death rate is very much greater among the young than among adults. Now, why should it be that more die young?" "Well," answered McGlue in an off-hand way, "I guess it is because more are born young."

A Liverpool man recently attempted to telegraph to his friends in a neighbouring town: "Cannot be down till Thursday—foreman drunk." He went down on Thursday, and was astonished by the hilarious manner in which his friends received him. It came out that the telegram received read: "Cannot come down before Thursday forenoon—drunk."

"I don't see," observed Mrs. Grap, "why, when they are giving away all them offices, they don't let women hold something." "They would, my dear, but the women won't do it," answered her husband. "Well, I should like to know, John Grap, what they'll let them hold?" He took his hat, looked to see that the hall door was open, and in trembling accents murmured, "Their tongues, my dear."

An Irish gentleman, overhearing a Dublin car-driver asking an exorbitant fare of an unsuspecting foreigner, expostulated with him on his audacious misstatement of the tariff, concluding with the words, "I wonder you haven't more regard for the truth!" "Och, indeed, thin, I've a great dale more regard for the truth than to be dhragging her out on every paltry occasion!" was the reply.

At a ball at Folkestone the other day, a Yeomanry warrior, well-known in the saddle, replied to his partner's inquiry as to the hour, "Weally, my valet forgot to wind my watch last night." In a few seconds after, the young lady closed her eyes, dropping as it were to sleep. "Are you vewy tired?" asked he. "Oh, yes," answered the clever girl; "for my maid-of-all-work forgot to close my eyes last night."

He went to dine with a bachelor-friend who prided himself that his few pictures were gems. After having enjoyed themselves well—too well, in fact—at dinner, they adjourned to the picture-gallery, where the host pointed out to his guest a landscape, saying, "What do you think of that, my boy—eh?" The following reply was hiccuped rather than spoken—"Beautiful, old chap—very fine—awfully good; the trees wave about so naturally!"

BAZAAR AT HAMSTERLEY COLLIERY.

The Primitive Methodists of Hamsterley Colliery have just held a successful bazaar, extending over two days, in aid of the reduction of the debt of about £130 at present resting on their recently-opened place of worship. The chapel is a neat and handsome looking structure, situate on the roadside at the north-west end of the village. It is an iron erection, lined throughout with wood, beautifully varnished, and the interior presents a warm and comfortable appearance. Hamsterley Colliery is a village comprised in the recently-established Whitele-Head Circuit, and the members of the society seem to be a flourishing and enterprising body. On the present occasion, the appearance of the chapel was much enhanced by a miscellaneous display of useful and ornamental goods, toys, &c., arranged with much taste on the well-filled stalls. The inaugural ceremony was performed on Saturday afternoon by Mr Joshua Lax, of Shotley Bridge—a gentleman ever ready and willing to lend a helping hand in any praiseworthy and noble project. The proceedings, which commenced about 2·30 p.m., were opened by the company joining in singing the hymn, "Praise ye the Lord, 'tis good to raise;" after which Mr John Buglass offered a suitable prayer.

Mr LAX, who met with a hearty reception, then fulfilled his task. After expressing the pleasure it afforded him in being permitted to participate in that interesting ceremony, the speaker referred to that chapel as an indication of the progress and triumph of the true principles of Christianity. (Applause.) No one could realise the vast amount of good, both to the Creator and society in general, that would accrue by that chapel being placed there. It is said that the man who made two blades of grass grow where only one stood before is a public benefactor; but he ventured to assert that the man or woman who sought to promote the interests of the true religion of Christ was even a greater benefactor to his country. (Applause.) During his younger days, it was his lot, a good while ago, to spend a few years on the other side of the Atlantic, and his eyes were opened when he saw the marvellous change in the new world to the mode of living in the old world. The extensive state of Illinois then numbered but 1,500,000 inhabitants—little more than a quarter of the population of London, and yet the area of the State was as large as the size of England. The people were consequently scattered about, and whenever they came to a backwoods village it was easy to distinguish which places possessed churches or chapels and which had none. On one occasion, Artemus Ward, the great American humorist, was mistaken for a preacher, and he rather enjoyed the manner in which a stranger put the question to him. Artemus replied in the negative; but said that he believed in preachers of the Gospel and the influence of chapels. The famed humorist added, "Point out the place where there are no meeting-houses, and I'll show you old hats stuffed in the windows, where women and children wander about shoeless; where men drink and stain their dirty shirt sleeves with the squirts of tobacco juice." He (Mr Lax) had himself seen such villages where they appeared to recognise no God, no Christ, and no Christian Worship. It is something like a century and a half ago since Wesley and his Methodism was founded at Oxford. Although their numbers were small at first, there were 20,000,000 of Methodists scattered throughout the land to-day (loud applause), besides the millions that have gone to their rest above. No one could estimate the good that will be done between that period and the end of time, and there was no telling how many would be influenced by their work. It might happen that in course of time there would be no more bloodshed. Speaking of the event they were celebrating that afternoon, Mr Lax said the debt resting on their chapel was but a small sum for a body of energetic Christians like them to rub off. (Applause.) He observed that the ladies had been at work, with their usual skill and admirable taste in getting together all those beautiful and handsome articles he saw adorning the stalls, and all those people who had a little money to spare could not do better than spend it; they would thus be assisting a good cause, and he felt sure they would never regret the trifling outlay. (Applause.) He declared the bazaar open, and trusted that the blessing of God would rest upon their efforts, and they would be enabled to bring it to a successful issue. (Loud applause.)

On the motion of Mr J. BUGLASS, seconded by Mr JAMES BECKWITH, a cordial vote of thanks was extended to Mr Lax for his valuable services.

The business of the day was then carried on, the several stalls being ably presided over by the following ladies:—No. 1 (drapery and fancy goods), Mrs Emmerson and Mrs John Buglass, No. 2 (ditto), Mrs Musgrove and Mrs Parker; No. 3 (hardware), Miss Bullerwell and Mrs Patterson; No. 4 (sweets and confectionary), Mrs Wm. Buglass; No. 5 (refreshments), Mrs Ward and Mrs Chaytor. The company was numerous during the early part of the afternoon, but as the evening advanced, the chapel was thronged with visitors.

The bazaar was continued on Monday, when it was re-opened by Mrs ALLAN, who, in the course of a short address, remarked that she felt highly gratified to the ladies and gentlemen who had invited her to open that beautiful bazaar, more especially when she knew the object of the undertaking. It was a blessing when they could do something—if but a little—for their Lord and Master. She expressed a hope that the bazaar will be a great success, and the debt removed off this handsome building, which might ere long become too small to meet their requirements. (Applause.) Without further observations, Mrs Allan pronounced the bazaar open, and the sales were resumed.

During each afternoon, Messrs Long Brothers, of Tanfield Lea, enlivened the proceedings with selections of music. The amounts realised by the bazaar during the two days are as under: Stall No. 1, £7 0s 4d; No. 2, £4; No. 3, £3 10s; No. 4, £1 2s; No. 5, £1 5s; proceeds taken at the door and meeting, £3 15s 6d; total, £20 12s 10d.

A vote of thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who had proffered their aid brought the bazaar to a termination.

The traffic returns of the North-Eastern Railway Company, for the week ending the 21st inst., show a decrease of £4,926 as compared with those for the corresponding week of last year.

A Select Committee of the House of Commons is sitting on the question as to the desirability of shortening the weekly close time on salmon rivers in Ireland. It is proposed to adopt the general English close time—from Saturday night to Monday morning.

THE SEASON.—The April part of this Lady's Illustrated Magazine contains three beautifully-printed coloured plates, 171 illustrations of dress and needlework, 26 flat paper patterns, 12 embroidery designs, nine initial letters, one alphabet, together with a review of novelties and new fancy work richly illustrated. The Season is admirably adapted to the requirements of ladies, while dressmakers will scarcely be able to keep pace with the times without it.

THE UNIVERSITY BOAT RACE.—The Wednesday before the race being generally the last day for really important work, Wednesday morning's practice of the University crews was watched with considerable interest. Cambridge rowed a trial on the ebb from Mortlake to Putney, starting just before half-past ten. The time for the full course was 20 min. 42 secs. The Oxford crew went up nearly to Thorneycrofts against the ebb, and did a good piece of work coming back. The Oxford men are in great favour.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS AND OINTMENT.—Rheumatism and gout.—These purifying and soothing remedies deserve the earnest attention of all persons liable to gout, sciatica, or other painful affections of the muscles, nerves, or joints. The Ointment should be applied after the affected parts have been patiently fomented with warm water, when the Ointment should be diligently rubbed upon the adjacent skin, unless the friction causes pain. Holloway's Pills should be simultaneously taken to diminish pain, reduce inflammation, and purify the blood. This treatment abates the violence, and lessens the frequency of gout, rheumatism, and all spasmodic diseases which spring from hereditary predisposition, or from any accidental weakness of constitution. The Ointment checks the local malady, while the Pills restore vital power.

CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

SATURDAY, March 21st.—Before JAMES ANNANDALE, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

William Bell (25), ironworker, Derwent [...], Blackhill, was brought up by P.C. Symon [...] being drunk and incapable at L[...] (Saturday) morning.—Defendant was fined [...]

VAGRANCY.

James Brockett (65), a tramp, charged [...] Newt[...] with begging at Consett [...] ceding day (Friday), was committed to [...] days' hard labour.

MONDAY, March 23rd.—Before JONATHAN PRIESTMAN, Esq. (in the chair), JAMES ANNANDALE, Esq., and Lieut.-Col. A. B. WILBRAHAM.

DRUNK AND DISORDERLIES.

Daniel Cain, for whom his mother appeared, was charged by P.C. Symon with shouting and swearing whilst in a drunken state, at Leadgate, at 1.5 [...] the 10th inst., and was fined 5s and expenses.

Matthew Swainston, fishmonger, Blackhill, pleaded guilty to a charge of drunkenness.—P.C. James [...] to seeing the defendant, about 11.30 p.m. on Saturday night, the 14th inst., exceedingly drunk and swearing in Middle Street, Consett.—Defendant was mulcted in a penalty of 5s and costs.

Elizabeth Smith, a married woman, of Dipton, failed to respond to a summons charging her with being drunk and disorderly.—About midnight on the 9th inst., Sergt. Thornton heard a noise proceeding from the direction of the Collierley Board Schools, and on going to the spot indicated, he found the defendant drunk and creating a great disturbance, besides using some very bad language.—She was fined 5s and costs, and committed, in default, for seven days imprisonment.

Matthew Hanlon pleaded guilty to a like offence.—P.C. Bell stated that on Saturday night last, about a quarter to 12 o'clock, he observed this man opposite the Bath Hotel, in Church Street, Consett, in a state of drunkenness, both swearing and shouting as loud as he could. As the defendant refused to depart when requested, the officer was obliged to lock him up.—Fined 5s and costs.

DRUNK IN CHARGE OF A HORSE.

John Thompson, of Newcastle, pleaded guilty to being drunk when in charge of a horse and conveyance, on the 3rd inst.—Sergt. Thornton adduced that at eight o'clock on the evening named, he saw the defendant drive through the principal thoroughfare of Dipton in custody of a horse attached to a fish-cart. The man was intoxicated, and he ran the conveyance on to the footpath, and it was overturned. The trap had been brought from Newcastle, and as he considered Thompson unfit to drive and further, he deemed it advisable to detain the horse all night.—Defendant proceeded to explain that the trap was not his own, but belonged to another person, who gave him a 'lift' in his conveyance, as he occasionally travelled from Newcastle to Consett. The other man accompanying him was drunk, and he asked him (defendant) to drive for him as he was better acquainted with the road than the owner of the conveyance. The night was pitch dark, and the trap accidentally ran against the wall and was upset.—The Bench considered that the defendant was guilty of the offence he was charged with, and declined to mitigate the penalty imposed—viz., 10s and costs.

COMPROMISED.

James Hyde was summoned for an assault upon Margaret Harris, at Blackhill, on the 7th March; and *Arthur Doran* was charged with having assaulted Elizabeth McGlade on the same date, at Consett.—As none of the parties appeared when called upon, the magistrates dismissed the summonses, calling upon the complainants to defray the Court expenses.

ALLEGED INDECENCY TOWARDS A YOUNG GIRL: A DEFENDANT "BEWITCHED."

Matthew Brown, mason, was charged with assaulting Ellen Bell, aged 13½ years, the daughter of a platelayer living at Tanfield Lea, on the 3rd March. Mr Welford (Consett) appeared for the defendant.—Prosecutrix deposed that between eight and nine o'clock on the Tuesday morning, the defendant came into their house to get his breakfast. He inquired where her mother was, and she told him that she was out. She sat down at the table and as soon as Brown had finished his breakfast, he said, "Let's have a kiss and squeeze." He took a kiss and then attempted to touch her in an indecent manner. She began to cry, and the defendant desisted.—Replying to the Chairman, prosecutrix said the defendant was not a lodger at the house, but resided a long way down the village. When the defendant entered, her father was at work, and her mother was on a visit to her aunt's, who lived half-a-mile from their house. Her little sister had just gone off to school. Brown brought his own breakfast with him, and sat down by the fire to eat it. Defendant was a friend of their father's, and occasionally visited the house. After the defendant had assaulted her, she ran into the house of Mrs Smailes (the next-door neighbour) and made a complaint.—Cross-questioned by Mr Welford: It was a rough, wet morning when the defendant came to their house. He was working close at hand, and in reality entered their house for the purpose of eating his breakfast. He would be in the house perhaps half-an-hour, during which period Mrs Smailes came in, and talked to Brown. She (prosecutrix) went into the neighbour's house directly after the defendant took his departure. She denied ever telling Mrs Smailes that Brown was a "joking" man, and had been having a "lark" with her. She said to the neighbour that he had rubbed her face over with his hands, but she never asserted that he blackened her face with soot. The first words she uttered when she was inside Mrs Smailes was that "Brown was a bad man." The assault took place after he had got his breakfast. Defendant had been working at their house mending a fire-place a few days previously, and she enquired how it answered. She went to school on the Sunday following, but did not tell the girls that Brown had done nothing to her.—Mrs Smailes spoke to visiting the house about 8.20 on the morning in question, and after having a "crack" with Brown, she went away. Prosecutrix was sitting at the table when witness was in the house. A little after nine o'clock, the girl came to her and made a complaint; but the defendant had returned to his work then. She was flustered and appeared to be in distress. Her face was also dirty.—Mrs Bell said she did not arrive home until eight o'clock on the night referred to, when her daughter made a complaint. When she (witness) remonstrated with the defendant for his misdemeanour he did not deny the charge, but said that he was "bewitched." (Laughter.) She accused him of indecent conduct towards her daughter, and asked him how he would like to have his children similarly treated, when he replied that one of his daughters was attacked in this way a short while ago.—Mr Welford, speaking in behalf of the defendant, averred that whilst Brown was eating his breakfast, the girl was pushing about him, and they got on "larking" together. Brown having dirty hands, he merely rubbed her face. As he was leaving the house, the prosecutrix was standing in his way, and he merely pushed her aside. Nothing else transpired. Defendant had been employed in his present situation about 15 years, and Mr Welford produced letters testifying to the excellent character hitherto borne by the man. Their Worships ought to bear in mind that the girl's testimony was entirely uncorroborated.—The Bench believed the defendant guilty of the offence, and imposed a fine of £2, including costs.

THE EDUCATION ACT.

Mary Judge, of Bottle Bank, Blackhill, was summoned by Alex. McKean, acting upon instructions received from the Benfieldside School Board, for neglecting to cause her child to attend school.—Defendant was fined 5s including costs.

John Morris, cokeman, employed at Pontop Colliery; *Abraham Mason*, *Robert Tweddle*, and *Ann Robson*, a widow, all residing at Dipton, were charged by Mr David Mole, attendance officer employed by the Collierley School Board, for being guilty of the same offence.—Morris and Mason were fined 5s each, inclusive of costs; but in the cases of the two last-named defendants, the schoolwarden did not press for a penalty, as the offenders were in impoverished circumstances.—The Bench accordingly issued orders for their children to attend the Collierley Board Schools.

STREET AFFRAY AT CONSETT: STONING THE POLICE.

Patrick Carey, a youth, was placed in the dock to answer charges of contravening the bye-laws of the Consett Local Board by throwing stones in the public streets, and further with assaulting the police. Dr Carr appeared for the defendant, and both offences were denied.—Sergt. Tate deposed that about 2.30 in the afternoon of Sunday, the 8th inst., he found a person named McCarten drunk in Sherburn Terrace, Consett. The prisoner, who was exceedingly violent, was conveyed to the Police Station by P.C. Bell, and they were followed by a crowd of between 500 and 600 people, amongst whom was the defendant. As they were proceeding along Harvey Street, Carey shouted, "Take him (prisoner) from the b——s," and on immediately looking round, witness was struck by a stone which just caught the bottom of his helmet, otherwise he would have had his eye clean knocked out. The prisoner was escorted down Trafalgar Street and along Victoria Street, and *en route* the constables were assailed by volleys of stones. As the defendant appeared to be the principal ringleader of the mob, witness directed P.C. Jordison to capture the youth. Whilst the officer was pursuing Carey, some one dealt him a severe kick on the legs, and he was obliged to desist, thus allowing the defendant an opportunity of getting away. P.C's. Bell and Jordison likewise received blows from the stones.—In cross-examination by Dr Carr, the sergeant said that the defendant was known by the nickname of "Fad" amongst his companions. He had not made a mistake in regard to the identity of Carey, as the first stone was shied at the police as soon as the prisoner was taken into custody. There were only about 20 persons surrounding them, but on proceeding to the Station House, the crowd largely increased. Some civilians assisted the police to the station, [...] did not think that defendant's [...] Carey's father was in the crowd. He was not a person of ordinary appearance, and he (the officer) would certainly have seen him [...] he visited the Alexandra [...] Arms on the evening in question, [...] but he was not able to discover his whereabouts. [...] frequently complained of [...] stones at them.—P.C. Bell [...] a stone thrown by the defendant in Trafalgar Street, and the missile alighted on his back; and he received another blow near the corner of John Street [...] Carey throw four or five stones in Victoria Street. Handing the prisoner to Sergt. Tate he started in pursuit but receiving a violent kick [...], he was compelled to halt and the defendant [...] away. The first stone thrown by Carey hit him [...] Sergt. Tate an[...] P.C. Bell [...] pretty large stones, and he felt the effect of the blows some time after. Replying to Dr Carr, witness could not say whether the defendant was drunk or sober. Dr Carr submitted a lengthy defence, denying the allegation that Carey was the ringleader, as he did not throw a single stone at the police [...] he was never [...] few yards of his father's house in Trafalgar Street.—Carey, the defendant's father, was sworn, and his evidence went to show that his son never molested the police on the afternoon referred to, [...] one of the younger boys assisted the police to [...] the prisoner to the Police Station. Describing to the Bench the various members of his family, witness stated that the youngest boy generally read *Reynolds's Newspaper* and the *Weekly Budget*.—Sergt. Tate (to witness): Your son was summoned here a fortnight ago for obstructing the footpath?—Witness: Yes.—The sergeant: Did you not then tell the Bench that he had gone up to the Militia?—Carey: I believe I did. I was not on my oath then. Do you always tell the truth, sergeant?—The sergeant: Answer my question, will you? Don't begin to chaff me. Did you not tell the Magistrates a deliberate falsehood a fortnight ago?—Carey: I was not on my oath then. I am speaking the truth now.—The officer asked the Bench after this admission, not to believe the other portion of Carey's evidence.—Mary Carey, the daughter, denied that the defendant ever travelled beyond 40 yards from the house, and he was not in Harvey Street on that particular afternoon.—James Cregan, a youth, and other witnesses, having given evidence on behalf of the defence, the Bench after a brief consultation, fined the defendant 10s and costs for the assault upon the police-officers; or [...] to undergo one month's hard labour. The other offence was dismissed.

ASSAULT AT DIPTON.

Joseph Gibson was accused of assaulting Samuel Westgarth at Dipton.—On the 9th inst., as complainant was walking from the single to the double rows at the Delight Row, he was accosted by the defendant, who enquired if "he was as good a man as he was the night before?" Complainant laughed and replied in the affirmative, whereupon Gibson hung his coat on the railings and dealt Westgarth a blow in the eye, slightly discolouring it.—The complainant's story was substantiated by Joseph Ledger, his nephew.—The defence was that the parties had a quarrel on the night previous (concerning which the complainant, on being questioned, declared that he was ignorant), and on the defendant asking if he was as good a man as he was when he wanted to attack him on that occasion, Westgarth put himself in a fighting attitude and challenged his opponent. Defendant admitted striking at the complainant.—The Justices held that the provocation received by the defendant did not justify him striking the complainant, and he would be fined 9s 6d, including costs.

NON-PAYMENT OF RATES.

Sixteen persons were summoned on the information of Mr George Hawdon for the non-payment of gas and water rates; and also by the Benfieldside Local Board for not paying Local rates.—Most of the cases were settled out of Court, but in three instances the magistrates issued orders for payment or granted distress warrants.

BREACHES OF THE LICENSING ACTS.

James Burns, the landlord of a beerhouse in Derwent Street, Blackhill, was summoned for keeping open his house for the sale of liquor during prohibited hours—viz., at nine o'clock on Sunday morning, 8th inst.; and *Michael Cain*, a puddler, was charged with being found on the above-named licensed premises during closing time. Both charges were denied by the defendants, who were represented by Mr Dix, of Newcastle.

Sergt. Cruickshank deposed that on the Sunday in question, from complaints received, he concealed himself at 5.30 a.m., in a position commanding a full view of the defendant's back door. P.C.'s Phillipson and Stubbs were along with him. About ten minutes to 8 o'clock, he observed a person named Brown or Browell enter the defendant's house by the back door. He remained inside about five minutes, and on emerging therefrom, he looked cautiously round, and walked away, wiping his mouth with his hand. At twelve minutes to eight witness saw a middle-aged woman walk into the house, and after staying three or four minutes, she went away, carrying a blue quart jug full of something. At 8.30 he noticed a young female, of about 17 or 18 years, with red hair—a daughter of the man Brown—go into the defendant's house. She came out a few moments afterwards carrying a pint pot filled with liquor of some description. At seventeen minutes to nine the sergeant saw Brown pop his head out of the window and warily look about in all directions. He only saw the man's head. (Laughter.) Two minutes later—in fact almost simultaneously—he observed the young woman he had watched before return, this time with a shawl over her head. On sallying forth from the beerhouse, she appeared to be carrying something bulky underneath her shawl. At twenty minutes past nine, witness watched Michael Cain visit the house and knowing that the man was a puddler living in Walton's Row, he considered it is duty to follow him in. Acting upon this idea, he found Cain sitting down, holding in his hand a pint pot, containing some beer. Witness drew the landlord's attention to the fact, and thereafter charged him with keeping his house open for the sale of drink during prohibited hours. Burns made no reply for a few moments—he seemed confused. At length he said, "I have not sold any drink, sergeant. The man was dry and came in, and I gave him a pint."

In answer to Mr Dix, the Sergeant he was not aware that Burns was a cattle dealer and salesman, but he had known him to buy and sell cattle occasionally. The byres were at the back of his premises, and he kept two cows therein. Defendant sometimes went to Ireland to purchase stock, but to witness's knowledge he had not been there lately. He would not swear that Burns had not visited Ireland within the past ten weeks.

Mr Dix: Are you aware that Burns is in the habit of selling milk?—The Sergeant: He may do so.

Did you see anything in the vessels which were carried out of the house by the females?—I did not.

You ventured to say that these thing were full. How did you come to that conclusion?—I know very well they were full.

How did you know that?—By the manner and the peculiar attitude in which the persons carried the vessels. (Laughter.)

What was the peculiar attitude of carrying a pint pot which you supposed to be filled with something?—By the steady gait of the persons holding the vessels, and the upright manner in which they walked across the yard.

No drunkenness I suppose?—I did not suggest that. I saw Cain walk a dozen yards along the street, and enter in at the back door.

Do you know that Cain is in the habit of helping Burns with his cows in the byre?—He is not.

What! will you swear that Cain was not there on the Sunday previous assisting the defendant with his cattle?—I do not think that Cain was ever inside a cow-byre in his life. (Laughter.)

Will you swear that Cain was not assisting the landlord in the byre on the Sunday previous?—I will swear that he was not there.

Will you swear positively that he was not there?—No I will not swear so.

Then you should only state what you know to be perfectly true. Do you know whether Cain was in the byre on this particular Sunday?—I cannot say. He was not in there before I entered the house, and caught him drinking; but I left the place immediately afterwards. There was another man called Shaw in the house at the same time; but as I was informed this person was a lodger, I took it for granted that such was the case. I saw the landlord attend to his cows at twenty minutes past seven; and they were milked about nine o'clock.

In answer to the Chairman, the Sergeant said he had never seen Cain working in a cow-byre in his life. He was a regular customer at Burns's house on the Saturday nights, and occassionally the police had had some trouble with him. When he charged the landlord, he said nothing more than what witness had already stated.

P.C. Phillipson gave corroborative testimony, adding that he saw the man leave the house wiping his moustache, and he watched both Burns and his wife attend to the cattle earlier in the morning.

There was another witness for the police (P.C. Stubbs), but it was deemed unnecessary to call him.

On behalf of the defendant, Mr Dix, whilst admitting that the officer had a *prima faci* case to bring before the magistrates, and was perfectly justified in the course he had adopted; nevertheless he thought that the emphatic manner in which the sergeant gave his evidence showed there was a certain amount of partisanship that ought not to have been exhibited by the police in order to prejudice the minds of their worships. The defendant was simply charged with an offence under the Licensing Act, but a great deal had been introduced into the case which had in reality no important bearing upon it. The facts could be easily understood when it was explained that Burns was a cattle salesman, and as he kept a number of cows, it was customary for him to sell milk. Their Worships being in the possession of facts that the police-officers did not know, he (Mr Dix) would prove that there being no evidence that any of these persons carrying quart or pint pots contained any beer, or spirituous liquors there was really no infringement of the license held by the defendant. These people—women and girls with red hair—merely came to purchase milk for breakfast. The police had made the most out of the details of the case, and the fact of a man wiping his moustache as he came out of the house was a common occurrence—a man had a perfect right to wipe his moustache and will do so after he has done smoking—but the officers at once jumped at the conclusion that he had partaken of some drink. They never saw the man drink any liquor, and they did not see any money change hands. As regards the man Cain, he was in the habit of assisting Burns to attend to his stock, especially when the landlord was away from home; and sometimes Burns recompensed the man by giving him money or supplying him with a drink. When three policemen suddenly entered the house, and charged the landlord with infringing the Licensing Laws, it was judicious on his part not to speak on the spur of the moment, but to think calmly and deliberately before giving an answer. Had his client been asked why he gave the man the beer, he would have replied that he served him because he was accustomed to assist him in tending to the cattle; but as Burns was not interrogated upon that point, he never vouchsafed any further explanations. He (Mr Dix) would call evidence to show that for several Sundays, prior to this date, Cain had been engaged in attending to Mr Burns's stock. There was no evidence to show that the liquor carried from the house was either beer or wine, and the speaker pointed out that it would have been an easy matter for the sergeant to have directed one of his two men to withdraw from their place of concealment and have overtaken and stopped one of the females, then they would have ascertained that it was milk they were carrying home. The explanation was a most reasonable one—an explanation their Worships would not hesitate to adopt. The onus had been thrown upon the defendant—against whom there was nothing against his character—and he was prepared honestly and fairly to defend the charge, and after hearing the evidence for the defence, it would be competent for the Bench to dismiss the case.

Burns was sworn, and in answer to Mr Dix, said he was the landlord of the "Sportsmans Arms," and also a cattle salesman. His business occasionally kept him away in Ireland for weeks together. He had been from home at regular intervals except during the last six or seven weeks. There were two byres at the back of his premises: he kept five cows, and Mr Oxley, fruiterer, had two ponies in one of the byres. He had known Cain about three years—when he occupied the "Scotch Arms" almost opposite his present home, and it was a custom of his to frequent his house and help him with his cattle. Cain fed his cows on Saturday night, and defendant gave him a shilling. On Sunday morning, when the man came into the house, he asked him if he had "done up" the cattle, and Cain replied "No." Defendant thereupon supplied him with a pint of beer, and immediately afterwards the police put in an appearance, and laid a charge against him. He replied, "I have not sold any drink. I gave him a pint of beer;" but did not use the expression that the man was dry. After the officers had departed, Cain went into the byre and cleaned it out, as usual. There might be 10 or 20 customers for milk that morning. Sometimes himself, his wife, and the servant supplied the milk. He had two men—Shaw and McQuade—lodging in the house, but the latter had gone out to church before the officers entered the house.

Sergt. Cruickshank (to the defendant): Did Browell have milk every Sunday morning?—Yes when he is not at his work.

Was there not a man in your house at ten minutes to eight?—No.

How many cows had you in the byre on this particular morning?—Four cows and a calf, but I have since sold two cows.

How many cows had you a week ago?—I suppose I had seven. There were some in both byres.

Did you not go to dress up the cows and give them some hay at 7.30 a.m.?—I fed them with hay at 7.30, and gave them some water at twenty-five minutes to nine. They were milked before that time.

Is it your custom to sell milk before the cows have been milked?—No.

Then the person carrying something out in the jug before that time would not be buying milk?—My wife milked some of the cows before nine o'clock, but I milked two before eight o'clock, and carried it into the house.

Is not this man Cain a regular customer in your bar—

Mr Dix (interrupting): Really your Worships ——

The Sergeant: Don't interrupt me, Mr Dix. I am quite in order. (To the defendant): Was not Cain a regular customer of yours on Saturday evenings, and have you not had a great deal of trouble with him?—Defendant: It is close upon three years since we had any bother with him.

Had you not some trouble with him a fortnight ago?

Mr Dix: I must protest that these questions are quite irrevalent.

The Sergeant: They are important, and I insist upon an answer.

Mr Dix having appealed to the Bench, the Chairman ruled the sergeant to be in order, and the defendant in answer to his query, stated that Cain did not want to fight a fortnight ago, but another person desired to fight with him.

The Sergeant: Is twenty minutes past nine a suitable time for cows to be fed?

Mr Dix again submitted that this question was irrevalent, but the magistrates thought it did bear upon the case.

Defendant retorted that Cain simply came to clean out the byre. He had previously fed the cattle himself.

Michael Cain, puddler, said he was acquainted with Burns for three or four years before he went into a public-house. It had been his custom for some time past to visit Burns's house, and assist in "doing up" the cattle, and clean out the byre. He was there on the Saturday night, and defendant requested him to come up on the Sunday morning. He went into the house, and Burns gave him a pint of beer. Whilst he was sitting there the officers entered. He remained until they had left, when he went into the byre and cleaned it out. No one but himself was supplied with liquor.

By the Bench: Witness was helping to "muck" out the byre on Saturday night, and Burns asked him to come up on the following day, tendering him 1s for his services.

In answer to the police, witness said there were three cows and a calf in the byre that morning. When Sergt. Cruickshank charged the landlord, he said something about "having given him the liquor for cleaning the cows out." He was a pretty regular customer at Burns's house. He was not participating in a fight a fortnight ago, nor did Phillipson request him to leave the house on the night in question. Many a time, when the landlord was from home, he had stayed at the defendant's house the whole of the night.

The Sergeant: What was the colour of the cows in the byre?—One was black and white. (Laughter.)

Will you swear that it was black and white?—No, I'll not be sure. (More laughter.) There was a red cow and a roan one.

Had the animals any horns or none? (Loud laughter.)—Two had horns and one had none. (Renewed laughter.) There were two ponies belonging Oxley in the adjoining byre.

The Sergeant: You say you had no money to pay for drink on the Sunday morning. What became of the shilling the landlord gave you?—I spent it.

How did you spend it?—I don't know.

To the Chairman: Sometimes the landlord gave him money or offered him beer in payment for his services.

The two lodgers—Shaw and McQuade—and Robert Oxley, fruiterer, Blackhill, were called to adduce corroborative testimony. All the witnesses were subjected to a long and searching cross-examination by Sergt. Cruickshank, and he elicited from Oxley the fac that it was nine o'clock on the 8th inst. when he was cleaning his stable out, and he saw Cain busy at work in the cow-byre.

The Magistrates adjourned to consult in private for about a quarter of an hour. On their return, the Chairman said the Bench believed the defendant's house had been kept open contrary to the statute on this particular date, and a fine of 40s and costs would be imposed, the license to be endorsed.

In the charge against Cain, Mr Dix addressed the Bench in mitigation of the offence, and defendant was fined 5s and costs.

Mr Dix gave notice of appeal at the Quarter Sessions.

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LANCHESTER ELECTORAL DIVISION.

CONFERENCE OF LIBERAL ELECTORS AT CONSETT.

On Monday afternoon, a well-attended meeting of the Provisional Committee selected at the recent public meeting held at Consett, took place in the ante-room of the New Town Hall, Consett. About fifty of the most influential Liberals from all parts of the Division were present. The chair was occupied by Mr Wm. Jenkins, J.P. (President of the Consett Liberal Association). Amongst the gentlemen in attendance were the Rev J. P. De Pledge, J.P. Vicar of Satley; Messrs Jonathan Priestman, J.P., Shotley Bridge (President of the Derwent Liberal Association); Matthew Coupland, Westwood House, Ebchester; Joseph Eltringham, Benfieldside (secretary of the Derwent Liberal Association); W. S. Glass, Sunderland (secretary of the North Durham Liberal Registration Association); Geo. Humble, Harperley; John Moore, Catchgate; Adam Brodie, Consett (secretary of the Consett Liberal Association); Henry Carss, Cutlers Hall (representing Edmondbyers polling district); W. Logan, Langley Park; John Forster, Quebec; Thomas Siddell, Viewfield, Shotley Bridge; Geo. Ridley, West Stanley (Liberal Registration Agent); John Cummings, Langley West House. The following were the representatives of the various collieries in the Division: Messrs J. G. Simpson, Byer Moor; W. Knox and T. Armstrong, Burnopfield; Benjamin Wright, Delves Pit, Consett; W. Brown, West Shield Row; Thomas Hall, East Castle Colliery; Wm. Armstrong, East Pontop Colliery; Philip Jones, Cornsay; John Lovell, Hamsteels; Richard Holmes, South Tanfield; J. Fletcher, Beamish Air Pit; W. Sanderson, East Stanley; S. Leighton, East Tanfield; R. Simmonds, Tanfield Lea; Ernest Foster, Esh Winning; Thomas Gates, South Medomsley, Dipton; Thomas Reed, South Pontop; William Indian, West Stanley; James Murphy (cokemen's representative) and Ralph Fenwick, Hamsterley Colliery; James Goddard, Derwent Pit, Medomsley; Joseph Hodgson, Westwood; P. Gallagher, Allendale Cottages. Ironworkers' representatives: Messrs Thomas Hall, Consett; J. G. Cooke, Blackhill; and M. Nugent, Consett Tinmill. The undermentioned gentlemen represented a public meeting held at Annfield Plain on Saturday night: Messrs T. Collinson, Catchgate; Robert Tindall, John Taylor, Annfield Plain; and W. Greener, South Pontop. A few of the collieries failed to send any delegates; and one or two of the ironworkers' representatives were absent.

The CHAIRMAN, having first called out a list of the gentlemen present, and denoted the absentees, then read the circular convening the meeting.

Mr COLLINSON, on behalf of the deputation from Annfield Plain, explained that owing to some misunderstanding, and the receipt of a telegram from Mr Brodie, his colleagues and himself were appointed at a public meeting held at Annfield Plain on Saturday night to attend that conference, being in ignorance of the fact that two gentlemen from that locality had been elected on the Provisional Committee. However, if it was considered they were intruding, they would leave it entirely in the hands of that meeting to say whether they should remain, either to participate in the discussion or refrain from speaking, or to retire altogether.

The CHAIRMAN gave the deputation a cordial welcome, stating he was glad to see them present, and he hoped they would take part in the business of the conference. After speaking in terms of congratulation at having such a large and representative gathering, he dwelt at length on the necessity of having proper machinery and organisation for the purpose of disseminating the principle of Liberalism in the Division, and for duly concentrating the activity and energy of the electors throughout the district. Mr Jenkins next described the nature of their contemplated operations, and alluded to the work that had already been accomplished within the past few weeks. Instead of the Division containing only 1,000 electors as hitherto, they would under the extension of the Franchise number about 10,000 voters (applause), and as a serious responsibility rested upon everyone, it was absolutely necessary, as a party, that they should be united and work in harmony. (Cheers.) The Chairman concluded by moving—

"That it is desirable to form for each county division a separate Liberal Association, whose objects shall be—(a) to spread Liberal opinions among the electorate; (b) to obtain the registration of every qualified elector; (c) to see the return of a Liberal representative for each Division."

Mr TINDALL seconded the proposal.

Mr CARSS suggested the substitution for "each county" of the word "Lanchester;" but the CHAIRMAN explained that, as Liberals, they were desirous of applying the movement to a wider and general basis. The terms of the second resolution, he thought, would cover Mr Carss's objection.

The proposal was tnen, after some discussion, agreed to.

Mr PRIESTMAN moved—

"That such an Association be formed for the Lanchester Division of the County of Durham, and that it consist of all Liberals who signify their adherence to its objects and organisation."

The resolution having been seconded by Mr COOKE, was carried with unanimity.

Mr COOKE next proposed, and it was seconded by Mr REED—

"That until the new Association has been organised, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Council, and Secretary of each polling district, be requested to continue in office, and that Liberals desiring to join the Association communicate with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, or Secretary of their respective polling districts."

As an amendment, Mr LOGAN submitted the subjoined proposal—

"That a meeting of the Liberal electors residing in each of the undermentioned districts, viz.:—*Benfieldside* (comprising Benfieldside and Ebchester townships), 7102 inhabitants, *Catchgate* (Collierley and Kyo), 7921 ditto; *Consett* (Conside and Knitsley, Healeyfield and Muggleswick), 7,944; *Edmondbyers* (Edmondbyers and Hunstanworth), 854; *Lanchester* (Lanchester, Greencrof., and Langley), 6,231; *Leadgate* (Leadgate, Iveston, Medomsley, and Billingside), 8,173; *Tanfield* (Beamish and Lintz Green), 10,282; *Esh*, 6,305; *Cornsay* (Cornsay, Hedleyhope, and Satley), 3,950—be held for the purpose of forming Local Liberal Registration Associations, and electing a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and a representative for each 1000 inhabitants (every fraction of 1000 above 500 counting as 1000) who will become members of the Central Council."

The speaker urged the impracticability of carrying out the terms of the resolution; and he felt assured that the old officials, if they had done their duty in the past, would in the event of his amendment being accepted, be re-elected as officers of the newly-formed Associations. He was quite willing to take his chance of being re-appointed; but if the majority of the people considered that he had not discharged his duties hitherto, they could replace him by someone more capable.

Mr TAYLOR seconded the amendment, which was supported by Mr ELTRINGHAM.

The Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE enquired how they would stand, in case of a general election or a vacancy through death occurring in North Durham prior to the passing of the Seats Bill?

Mr GLASS explained that the North Durham Registration Association, although practically defunct, would in the event of such a contingency be immediately called into existence, and conduct the election as heretofore.

After considerable discussion, it was eventually decided to withdraw the original motion; and Mr Logan's amendment was accepted as a substantative proposition.

Mr BROWN thereupon submitted a modification of the resolution allowing one representative to every 500 electors. He claimed, as his reason for taking this course, that in the event of any of the workmen's representatives being suddenly attacked by illness, or otherwise incapacitated from attending to their duties, the Chairman and other officials of each Association would conduct the business in their own way and ignore the operatives. Such a proceeding, he contended, was not fair to the working classes, who would be inadequately represented upon the Council.

This was seconded by Mr GALLAGHER.

The CHAIRMAN repudiated the allegations of the foregoing speakers that the Liberal party were not allowing the working classes their fair and just privileges in regard to this matter. He pointed out that to adopt such a proposition would almost treble the membership of the Central Council—which was estimated by Mr Logan to number upwards of 70 persons—and, in addition to entailing a vast amount of unnecessary labour, it would prove a cumbrous and costly arrangement.

A lively discussion ensued, in which the CHAIRMAN, Messrs ELTRINGHAM, INDIAN, COLLINSON, GALLAGHER, and others took part; but eventually Mr Logan's proposal was carried.

Mr COOKE proposed, and Mr HULL seconded the following motion, which, after discussion, was agreed to:—

"That a Committee consisting of Messrs J. Priestman, W. Jenkins, A. Brodie, W. Logan, J. Eltringham, and G. Ridley, together with the undermentioned workmen: Messrs T. Williams, E. Forster, J. G. Cooke, J. W. Taylor, J. Hodgson, and W. Indian, be appointed to draw rules for the consideration of the representative Council."

A suggestion to the effect that it be an instruction to the Committee that the rules shall vest the nomination of a Liberal candidate for the representation of the Division in a large and representative body of Liberals was not approved of.

It was proposed by Mr LOGAN, and seconded by Mr TAYLOR—

"That the public meetings provided for under the third resolution, be held during next week, and that the names of the persons elected thereat be forwarded not later than April 7th to Mr Adam Brodie, Town Hall, Consett, who is hereby requested to act a Secretary *pro tem.* of the new Association, and to send notice of the first meeting of the Executive Council to each person so elected."

This was likewise agreed to.

The next resolution, moved by Mr ELTRINGHAM, and seconded by Mr CARSS, was as under:—

"That the following gentlemen be authorised to call the public meetings in their respective districts:—Edmondbyers—Messrs H. Carss and Jasper Stephenson; Benfieldside—Messrs J. Priestman and J. Eltringham; Catchgate—Messrs George Humble and John Moore; Consett—Messrs W. Jenkins and Thomas Hall; Esh—Messrs W. Logan and John Lovell; Cornsay—Rev J. P. De Pledge; Lanchester—Messrs Geo G. Taylor Smith and John Forster; Leadgate—Messrs Gallagher and J. Hodgson; Tanfield—Messrs Geo. Ridley and T. Pringle."

It was recommended that if practicable the meetings in the various districts should be held simultaneously; and in addition to the selection of officials and representatives of the Central Council, the question of nominating a candidate will be considered.

The last resolution, moved by Mr COOKE, and seconded by Mr INDIAN, was carried *nem con.*:—

"That the first meeting of the Executive Council be held at Consett, on Monday, April 20th, for the following purposes:—(a) To consider and approve, either with or without amendment, the rules to be submitted by the Sub-Committee. (b) To appoint officers during the existence of the Council. (c) To discuss the representation of the division and take such steps as seem desirable to obtain a Liberal candidate; and (d) To transact such other business as may be set out in the notice calling the meeting, members of the Executive Council being requested to send to the Secretary, *pro tem.*, notice of any matter they wish to bring before the meeting."

During the course of an animated debate, one of the Miners' delegates objected to the presence of the representatives of the Press, and he charged the Chairman with a breach of duty in not getting the sanction of the meeting at the outset as to whether it was desirable to have the proceedings reported.

At this juncture, Mr SIDDELL, Mr COLLINSON, and about a dozen more gentlemen stood up, and expressed their obligations to the reporters for their attendance. The individual in question was also informed that if he was afraid of his utterances being reported, he was not fit to remain amongst the present company, and had better leave the room.

The CHAIRMAN admitted that he had neglected his duty, but he claimed the indulgence of the meeting. The Liberal party, he said, had been beholden to the Press in the past, and for his own part, he liked to do everything open and straightforward. He did not believe in "hole and corner" meetings. (Applause.) However, he would take the sense of the meeting as to whether the reporters should remain and report the proceedings.

On ascertaining the feelings of those present, it was carried by an overwhelming majority—only the individual referred to dissenting—that the reporters should be allowed to stay.

Another speaker enquired if the representative of the *Newcastle Chronicle* was present; and if so, he hoped he would give a full report of the conference, so that he would have some official information to submit to the Miners' Lodge meeting on the following day.

The conference, which lasted three hours, then terminated with a vote of thanks being passed to the Chairman.

LOCAL BOARD NOMINATIONS.

CONSETT.

The following gentlemen have been nominated to fill the four vacancies created on this Board:—*William Aynsley, Middle Street, Consett, provision merchant; *John Calvert, Sherburn House, Consett, gentleman; Michael McNally, Church Street, Consett, licensed victualler; *Wm. Shell, Barrhouse, Consett, builder; *Thomas Siddell, Viewfield House, Blackhill, ironworks' agent. A * denotes the retiring members. Mr Welford, solicitor, is the returning officer.

BENFIELDSIDE.

The following is a list of the nominations for the above Board:—*Henry Carss, Cutlers Hall Road, assistant overseer; *Jacob Dowson, Derwent Street, Blackhill, draper; George Eltringham, 1, Walton Street, Blackhill, grocer; Samuel Leybourne, Poplar Cottage, Shotley Bridge, agent; Thomas Raine, Durham Road, Blackhill, joiner; William Raw, Durham Road, Blackhill, auctioneer; Wm. Robinson, Durham Road, Blackhill, paper merchant; Henry Rule, Durham Road, Blackhill, grocer; Thomas Siddell, Viewfield, Cutlers Hall Road, ironworks' agent; *William Telford, Cutlers Hall Road, flour mill manager; J. W. Walton-Wilson, J.P., Shotley Bridge, gentleman. Only four are required, and the retiring members are distinguished by an asterisk. Mr John Smith, architect, Shotley Bridge, one of the old members, has steadfastly declined to offer himself for re-election. Several other gentlemen were nominated, but they withdrew. The returning officer is Mr John Booth, solicitor.

TOW LAW.

For the three vacant seats on this Board there are nine candidates nominated, viz:—Messrs F. E. Bell, Dan's Castle, chemist; William Campbell, Tow Law, land agent; John Graham, Dan's Castle, butcher; Robert Rawes, Tow Law, joiner; *Joseph Ridley, Tow Law, builder; *William R. Teasdale, Tow Law, saddler; James Trainer, Tow Law, innkeeper; *Leo P. Wherly, Tow Law, draper; Henry White, Tow Law, mining engineer. A star is appended to the names of the members who retire. Mr W. Ridley officiates as returning officer. The papers will be collected on Monday next.

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

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

Original Poetry.

The subject of this poem, was a poor little Irish boy belonging to Blackhill, of eleven or twelve years of age, and who was found on the Moor, between Derwent and Rookhope, about the beginning of the year 1860. He was lying on the "flue," which takes the sooty exhalation from Derwent Smelt Mill. He was seen about Blanchland, and also at the Baybridge, on the afternoon of a remarkable stormy day of wind and rain; but at what time he took the moor was never ascertained. It was supposed that the wind had blown his cap from his head, as it was found some distance from him. In his pockets were found a crust of bread, twopence of copper, and a woman's thimble. As he was not claimed in time, he was buried in Hunstanworth Churchyard, with the clothes on he was found in. It eventually transpired that the boy belonged to Blackhill; that his mother died a few weeks previous to his accident; and that he had run away from his home, and was supposed to be making for Rookhope in search of employment.

THE LOST BOY.

An unfortunate boy,
Once a mother's sole joy
And father's pride;
Then homeless and poor,
And found on the moor
Where he had died.

Speak of him fatherly,
Dead and alone;
Think of him motherly,
Or as your own.

Can any tell the hour,
When he first took the moor,
And how he tried
To right those steps of his
Where the road broken is,
And if he cried?

Speak of him fatherly,
Dead and alone;
Speak of him motherly,
Or as your own.

None accompanied him;
None for to comfort him,
And no one had met him
On that wild moor;
Wind took his cap away,
Bareheaded there he lay,
Lonely and poor.

Speak of him fatherly, &c.

Did sleep find him weeping,
And death find him sleeping,
And stole him away?
Or did he discover
That all was now over,
And knelt for to pray?

Speak of him, fatherly, &c.

Twopence and a crust of bread,
Hunger he had not to dread,
For one night he might have fed
On that bleak moor.
A cold wind and drenching rain
This wandering boy had slain
But is the loss not his gain?
Troubles are o'er.

Speak of him fatherly, &c.

Those limbs late so nimble,
See there is a thimble,
P'raps his mother did wear;
When of mother bereft,
Was this the last gift
And all that was left
Of a fond mother's care?
Oh! take him up kindly—
Not roughly, or blindly,
No kindness spare.
Wash those cold hands of his,
Do the same to his face,
Smooth his brown hair.

ROBERT CLOSE.

Sporting Items.

PIGEON HANDICAP AT WINLATON.—The final heats of the pigeon handicap promoted by Mr B. Stephenson, Turf Hotel, Winlaton, resulted as under:—Wm. O'Neil's Surprise, 1; Robert Burrel's Despair, 2; David Pentland's Easing Dropper and Jas. Forbes's John the Wire Glen received equal thirds. The distance was from Thornley Bridge to Winlaton, about two and a half miles.

WRESTLING NEAR PRUDHOE.—The second competition promoted by Mr Tulip, for all-weight wrestling, was brought off on Saturday evening, at Half-way House, near Prudhoe. In the final falls, A. Rutherford, Dukeshagg, threw J. Frazer twice in succession, and won.—The wrestling for youths under 16 years, W. Waite, Mickley, won; J. Peel, Prudhoe, second. The prize having been won thrice by Waite, it now becomes his absolute property.

PIGEON FLYING AT BLAYDON.—The pigeon flying handicap promoted by Mr E. Hall, Royal Oak, Blaydon, was commenced on Saturday, and resulted as follows:—Heat 1—J. Foster's Ching Ching beat J. Cleantler's Dark Blue by 20 secs. Heat 2—H. Renforth's Boat Rower beat Welford's Young Alec by 40 secs. Heat 3—Davidson's Spicey beat McKevitt's Raggy Lad by 30 secs. Heat 4—E. Hall's Dean Swift beat Davis's Coal Lad by 30 secs. Referee, Mr D. Ward; starter, Mr John Luckley.

Football.

LOCAL FIXTURES.

Mar. 28.—Dipton Rovers v. Shotley Lily, at Shotley Bridge.
,, 28.—Page Bank 1st v. Tanfield Lea 1st, at Page Bank.
April 4.—Swalwell 2nd and Juniors v. Tanfield Lea 2nd and Juniors, at Tanfield Lea.
,, 4.—Beamish and District v. Chester-le-Street Excelsior, at Chester-le-Street.
,, 6.—Consett v. Northern 2nd, at Shotley Spa.
,, 6.—Hebburn 1st v. Tanfield Lea 1st, at Tanfield Lea.
,, 7.—Consett v. Bishop Auckland, at Shotley Spa.

NEWBURN 2ND v. THROCKLEY 1ST (A).—Played on Ryton Willows on Saturday, in two periods of 30 minutes, and resulted in a draw, both teams scoring one goal.

SWALWELL v. REDHEUGH (A).—Played on the ground of the latter on Saturday, and resulted in a win for the home team by four goals to nil; Blades (2), Wakinshaw (1), and Tate (1).

WEST WYLAM v. MICKLEY (A).—West Wylam Juniors and Mickley Juniors played on Saturday on the ground of the former, and the match resulted in a draw, each side scoring one goal.

DIPTON v. WHITBURN.—In the Durham Football Association semi-final for county medals (2nd teams), between Whitburn and Dipton, the latter pressed their opponents heavily, and made the first and only score.

TANFIELD LEA 1ST v. GLOUCESTER 1ST (A).—Played on the ground of the former on Saturday. The visitors winning the toss elected to play with a slight wind in their favour. In the first half some good play was witnessed, the Camerons and others for the visitors playing in grand style, while the forwards of both teams passed well. After changing ends the ball was confined to the visitors' territory, but the forwards being too hasty in shooting made their work rather defective. Ultimately a most pleasant game resulted in a win for Tanfield Lea by three goals to nil.

ALARMING RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—On Tuesday, a man named Charles Clarkson was driving a horse and rolley across the Weardale Iron Company's Railway at Tudhoe Colliery, when the rolley was struck by a passing engine, and Clarkson was knocked from the rolley, on which he was seated, and severely injured.

It is stated in the report of the Leasholders' Enfranchisement Association that several proprietors are giving their leasehold tenants the right of buying up their leaseholds and converting them into freeholds. The Prince of Wales, as Duke of Cornwall, has set aside a large piece of ground at Padstow for freehold allotments.

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, labelled—"JAMES EPPS & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, London."—Also, makers of Epps's Chocolate Essence.

Business Announcements.

THIRTEENTH YEAR OF ATTENDING CONSETT.

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

ESTABLISHED 1830. 903y

JUST ARRIVED, AT

J. W. DAVISON'S,

FRONT STREET,

5,000 PIECES WALL PAPER!

FROM 2D. A PIECE.

A SPLENDID STOCK OF

LADIES' AND GENTLEMEN'S BAGS,

FROM 3s. EACH. 292u

FOR TWENTY-EIGHT DAYS.

GREAT STOCK-TAKING SALE!!!

COMMENCING ON FRIDAY, MARCH 6th,

AT THE

"BON MARCHE,"

4, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

NOTE.—Every article in our establishment (with the exception of Wool Flageolings, Alloa Yarns, and Grey Calicoes) will be reduced in price. These Goods being sold at Manufacturers' first cost, we are not allowed to sell them at less first prices.

D. BAIN & COMPANY are determined to make this their first sale in Consett in the Highest sense a great success. All Surplus Stock, and any Goods bought for Winter Trade, will be cleared without taking into consideration the original value.

An immense array of Ladies' Corsets, Ladies' and Gentlemen's Umbrellas, which will be cleared out at tempting prices.

D. BAIN & COMPANY hold a tremendous Stock of Alloa Yarns and Fingering Wools in their spacious Warerooms upstairs, fitted expressly for this department, and

FOR VALUE—D. B. & Co. DEFY COMPETITION. SHOPS SUPPLIED.

96 PAIRS OF LADIES' BLACK AND COLOURED (FUR AND LINED, SPRING TOPS) KID GLOVES, Sale Price, 1s. 11½d. per pair, worth 3s. 6d. For Post, 2d. per pair extra.
36 PAIRS OF GENTS' LINED KID (FUR, and SPRING TOPS); 2s. 6d., worth 3s. 9d. per pair.
110 PAIRS OF LADIES' BLACK AND COLOURED MORAVIAN KID GLOVES, 1s. 9½d. per pair,

GREAT DRESS, SHAWL, SKIRT, AND FLANNEL SALE.
GREAT SHEET, QUILT, TABLE CLOTHS, AND COVER SALE.
GREAT FLANNEL, SHIRTING, BLANKET, AND SHEETING SALE.
GREAT LACE, EMBROIDERY, CORSET, AND COLLAR SALE.
GREAT HOLAND, HARN, DIAPER, TOWELLING, AND TOWEL SALE.
GREAT HOSIERY, GLOVE, FRONT, BRACE, AND GENTS' UNDERCLOTHING SALE.

D. BAIN & COMPANY,

4, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

HARPERLEY AND CATCHGATE STEAM AND WATER CORN MILLS,

NEAR ANNFIELD PLAIN, *VIA* LINTZ GREEN,

GEORGE HOBSON,

WHOLESALE

MILLER AND CORN MERCHANT, FIELD SEEDSMAN, &c.,

HAS ALWAYS ON HAND A LARGE STOCK OF

PURE LINSEED AND COTTON CAKES, WHOLE OR READY BROKEN.

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

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

THE CELEBRATED EXCELLO HORSE FEED

Thoroughly Cleaned by New and Improved Machinery, Spiced, or otherwise, to order.

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

HOBSON'S AROMATIC CALF FOOD. BEARS CALVES WITHOUT MILK.

This Calf Meal is an excellent substitute for milk, and what is of very great importance to Stock Breeders, it tends greatly to save calves from that inflammatory fever commonly called quarter-ill or Black Leg.

G. H.'S MIXTURE OF

PERMANENT CLOVER AND GRASS SEEDS has been tested and approved by the leading Agriculturalists of the district upwards of thirty-eight years

PRICE LISTS ON APPLICATION 427r

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN THE DISTRICT.

THE

"CONSETT GUARDIAN"

AFTER ATTAINING

A LARGE AND INCREASING CIRCULATION

HAS BEEN

CONSIDERABLY ENLARGED,

AND MAINTAINS ITS POSITION AS

THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER.

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

TO ADVERTISERS.

THE *CONSETT GUARDIAN*

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

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

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON

AT

59, FRONT STREET, CONSET

Where Advertisements are received up to NINE o'clock on that morning.

Public Notices.

CONSETT INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETY, LIMITED.

THE 57th QUARTERLY MEETING of the Consett Industrial and Provident Society will be held on April 4th, in the Society's Reading-room. For Programme of Business, see Balance Sheets.

J. HALL, Secretary. 270d

Public Notices.

GARDEN SEEDS.

GARDEN VEGETABLE SEEDS. POTATO SEEDS, and CABBAGE PLANTS,

TO BE HAD FROM

MR. JOHN LEE, SERIDEMAN, LEADGATE.

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.

AGRICULTURAL HALL, BLACKHILL.

A CONCERT

Will be given in the above Hall,

ON EASTER MONDAY, APRIL 6th, 1885,

IN

AID OF ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH CHOIR FUND.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATING SOCIETY, CONSETT.

CLOSE OF SESSION 1884-5.

A CONVERSAZIONE will be held in the National Schools (entrance West Victoria Street), Consett, on Easter Tuesday, April 7th, 1885, commencing at Seven o'clock p.m.

Music, Singing, and Refreshments *Ad libitum*. Tickets for Members and Friends—Gentlemen, 1s. 6d.; Ladies, 1s.; may be had from Messrs. R. Park, W. Shiell, jun., Thomas Dunce, James Kelly, T. B. Davies, Williams, Egglestone, and Marshall.

LANCHESTER ELECTORAL DIVISION.

A PUBLIC MEETING

Of the Liberal Electors of the Consett Polling District will be held in the

NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT,

ON TUESDAY, MARCH 31st, 1885,

At Seven o'clock in the Evening, for the purpose of electing a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary, together with Seven Representatives, who shall all be Members of the Representative Council for the Lanchester Electoral Division, and to take into consideration the question of a suitable Candidate.

All Liberals are invited to attend.

W. JENKINS, Esq., J.P., will take the Chair.

LANCHESTER ELECTORAL DIVISION.

A PUBLIC MEETING

Of the Liberal Electors of the Benfieldside Polling District will be held in the

AGRICULTURAL HALL, BLACKHILL,

On Tuesday, March 31st, 1885,

At Seven o'clock in the Evening, for the purpose of Electing a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary, together with Seven Representatives, who shall all be Members of the Representative Council for the Lanchester Electoral Division, and to take into consideration the question of a suitable Candidate.

All Liberals are invited to attend.

J. PRIESTMAN, Esq., J.P., will take the Chair.

HARK LAW NEW SCHOOL.

ON THURSDAY NIGHT, 2ND APRIL, 1885,

DR. WILSON,

OF LANCHESTER, WILL DELIVER HIS

POPULAR LECTURE

In the above Schools, Subject—

"THE VIOLATION OF PHYSICAL & ORGANIC LAWS."

Chair to be taken at Half-past Seven o'clock by the Rev. J. GORNALL, Vice of Collierley.

ADMISSION—Front Seats, 1s.; Second Seats, 6d. Proceeds in aid of Collierley Church Organ Fund.

SUCCESSFUL LIVERPOOL PAPERS.—Messrs. D. Bassano & Son, the Accountants of Liverpool, have examined the books of the Printing and Publishing Department of the *Liverpool Daily Post* for the period January 29th to March 4th, 1885, and have officially certified (on the 18th inst.) the number of copies published of the *Liverpool Daily Post*, the *Liverpool Echo*, and the *Liverpool Weekly Post* to be 1,461,000, an average of 650,093 copies being an indisputable increase of 25 per cent. over the figure of the last official certificate granted just one year ago. Advertisers espec ally will note the fact in selecting a medium for their announcements. 270w

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Phillipson.

5, South Medomsley Cottages, Dipton.—Saturday, April 4th, 1885.

MR. A. PHILLIPSON, instructed by Mr. R. Faoff (who is Emigrating to Australia), will SELL, at the above, the whole of the valuable Modern and other Household FURNITURE and EFFECTS, all of which is of good make, quality, and design. See Bills.

Sale to commence at Half-past One o'clock. 269u

CHEAP EMIGRATION.

GREAT REDUCTION IN FARES TO AMERICA, QUEENSLAND, &c.

Liverpool to America, £2 15s. and £3, by the best Lines.

To Australian Colonies at the Lowest Rates.

For reliable information, apply to

A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, Dipton.

269u

By Mr. Joseph Oley.

Annfield Plain.—Monday, March 30th, 1885.

MR. JOSEPH OLEY, from a Commission from Mrs. William Dawson, who is Emigrating to her Husband in Australia, will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on Monday, March 30th, 1885, at the Residence of Mrs. Dawson, who is Emigrating to Australia, the whole of her valuable Household FURNITURE, SEWING MACHINES, &c. Particulars in Posters.

Sale to commence at One in the Afternoon. 264u

JOSEPH OLEY,

THE AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER AND VALUER,

10, WOOD STREET, SHOTLEY BRIDGE

Mr. H. Brown.

Front Street, Leadgate.

MR. HENRY BROWN, instructed by Mr. Wm. Todd, Front Street, Leadgate, who is about to Emigrate to Australia, will SELL BY AUCTION, on Saturday, April 4th, 1885, all his Household FURNITURE and EFFECTS, including STOCK-IN-TRADE, &c., as follows:—

FURNITURE.—Tester Bedstead; 2 Iron Bedsteads; 2 Camp Bedsteads; Mattresses and Beds to suit; Chest of Drawers; Set of Dining Chairs; Cushioned Chair; Kitchen Chairs; Secretaire; large Mirror; Looking Glasses; Dining, Washstand and Dressing Table; Set of Chamber Ware; Carpets; Hearthrugs; Oilcloths; Kitchen Requisites; Tea Chest; Child's Chair; Round Oak Table; 2 Kitchen Tables; Fender; Fire Irons; Clocks; 2 Alarum Clocks; Half-chest Drawers; Tea Caddy; Copper Cupboard; Metal Bath and Bath Pans; Steamers; Brass Pan; Fender, Tidy; Loose Boards; Lot of Lumber; Kitchen Requisites and Cooking Utensils. Also, excellent Sewing Machine; Wringer and Mangle Machine; Glass and Crockery Ware; Cornice Pole; Towel Rack. Clothes Horse, &c.

FARMING STOCK AND IMPLEMENTS.—2 Plain Leas; 2 Iron Leas; Baths; Dippers; Printing Frame; and all requisites, in good condition, and will be Sold in One Lot.

MACHINERY.—One Horse-power Engine and Boiler; Three-quarter Horse-power Engine, partly fit up; small Engine, in working order; 1 strong-power Lathe and Frame, 5in. Centres, Rests, Chocks, Tools, &c.; 2 Circular Saw Machines, with various Grindstones, Emery Wheels, and Frames; Bread Wheat Mill, for family use; small Circular Saws; strong Bench Vice; Drilling Machine. Also, a quantity of Wood for Turning purposes, Pontaffs, Fisk Shafts, &c.

Sale to commence at Two o'clock.

P.S.—The Barboring Business will be conducted as usual by Mr. BROWN. 267u

Peel's Great Northern Horse Repository, Haymarket.

The Oldest Established in the City.

SALES BY PUBLIC AUCTION HORSES, CARRIAGES and SADDLERY, EVERY TUESDAY, Two o'clock.

Entries respectfully solicited.

A. T. CROW, Auctioneer.

JOHN PEEL, Proprietor

JOHN CRAWFORD,

AGRICULTURAL VALUER AND FURNITURE AUCTIONEER,

24, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT.

Business done promptly and remonstrable terms.

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Brodie.

Front Street, West Stanley, comprising of Valuable and Well-situate Freehold Dwelling-House, Shop, and Building Ground

MR. BRODIE is instructed to offer for SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the House of Mr. JOHN CLARKSON, Commercial Inn, West Stanley, on Wednesday, April 15th, 1885, at Seven o'clock in the Evening precisely, as just to Conditions to be then read, all those Valuable and Well situate

FREEHOLD BUSINESS PREMISES

in Front Street, West Stanley, comprising good Front Shop, with Six Dwelling Rooms, and all Out-offices attached thereto, and good trabling behind, at present in the occupation of Mr. Benjamin Armstrong Newsagent, Mr. Sowburn, Butcher; and another; the whole producing an annual Rental of £37 per annum. Also, will be included in the same Lot, a large Piece of Building Ground immediately contiguous to the said Property, containing 1,200 square yards or thereabouts.

The attention of Capitalists and others is directed to this sale, as the Premises are in the best position in this thriving mining district. Further particulars may be had on application to Mr. JOHN CLARKSON, Grocer, West Stanley; of the AUCTIONEER, Town Hall, Consett; or from—

EDWARD WOOLER,

Solicitor,

245u Sq., Priestgate, Darlington.

Monday, March 30th, 1885.—Victoria Sale-rooms, Consett.—Sale of the Household Furniture, Plant, Utensils, and other Effects of the late Mr. Thomas Dunce, Deceased.—Important Sale of superior Mahogany, Walnut, and other Household Furniture, Pianoforte, and sundry Effects.

MR. BRODIE is instructed by the Representatives of the late Mr. JOHN DUNCE, and others, to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, in the Victoria Sale-rooms, Consett, on Monday, March 30th, 1885, the whole of the valuable Household FURNITURE and Miscellaneous EFFECTS, as follows:—Handsome Walnut Chiffoniere; Polished Birch Press; Mahogany Centre Table; Mahogany Easy Chair, in Hair; Mahogany Rocking Chair, in Hair; 6 Mahogany Chairs, in Hair; Folding Chair; neat Easy Chair, in Cretonne, covered in Leather; Kitchen Table; Iron Bedstead; 2 Brass-mounted Bedsteads; Wash-hand Stands, Mirrors, Fireirons, and Tidies; Feather and Down Beds, Bolsters and Pillows; excellent Brussels Carpet and Hearthrug; superior Fender, Kerb, and Fireirons complete, under Glass Shade; Linen Chest; small Desk Filter; Spade and Shovel; together with a quantity of miscellaneous Articles for household use; and a portion of the very superior Surplus Stock from the Consett Soup Kitchen, including Tinned Bowls, Spoons, Plates, &c. Also, excellent Cottage Pianoforte, by Lewtin, and superior Singer's Domestic Sewing Machine, in perfect order, and Gramophone.

Sale to commence at One o'clock exact time. 295c

Monday, March 30th, 1885.—Victoria Sale-Rooms, Consett.—Close of the Relief Fund.

MR. BRODIE is in-tructed by the Committee, in connection with the closing of the Society, to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, in the Victoria Sale-Rooms, Consett, on Monday, March 30th, 1885, the whole of the very excellent TINNED IRON WARE, Stock of which has been over from Newcastle, by Plane, 60 Basins; 1 Four-Gallon Mug; 3 Large Basins; 72 Gill Pots; 12 Ladles; 1 Wooden Spoons; 12 Dozen Tinned Spoons; 2 Quart Ladles; 2 Pint Ladles; 1 Carpet Grader; Cleaner; Set of Scales and Weights; and India Rubber Stamps.

Sale to commence at One o'clock.

The whole of the above are nearly new, many of them never having been used, and will be sold without reserve.

Saturday, April 4th, 1885.—23, South Medomsley Cottages, Dipton.—Sale of a Portion of Household Furniture, Excellent Domestic Sewing Machine, Washer and Rack, and Miscellaneous Effects.

MR. BRODIE is instructed by Mr. CHARLES BLYTH, who has taken a House in Newcastle, to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at 23, South Medomsley Cottages, Dipton, on Saturday, April 4th, 1885, the whole of the Superior Household FURNITURE and EFFECTS, particulars of which are given in Bills.

Sale to commence at One o'clock prompt.

MR. BRODIE, Auctioneer, Valuer, and Estate Agent, Consett, undertakes the Sale by Public Auction or Private Contract of Live Stock, Farming Stocks, Household Furniture, Merchandize, or other Effects, on reasonable terms. Valuations for Probate, Dissolution of Partnership, and Settlement of Claims under Fire Insurances, Bills of Sale, Fire, Life, and Accident Assurances arranged without delay. Shares of every description bought or Sold on Commission. The Victoria Sale-Room[illegible] are always open for the reception of Goods for Sale.

Postal Address—ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett.

By Messrs. Nicholson and Murray.

Royal Auction Mart, Agricultural Hall, Benfieldside.

Monday, March 30th, 1885.

MESSRS. NICHOLSON & MURRAY will OFFER FOR SALE BY AUCTION—

12 to 15 Cows and Heifers.
2 Fat Cattle.
75 Fat Sheep, including a consignment of very grand Fat Sheep, from Shilford.
2 Veal Calves.
Store Cattle, Calves, Pigs, &c.
5 Tons Scotch Kidney Potatoes, first-class quality.
4 Tons Champion do. do.
25 Prime Hams.
2 Tons of Hay.
1 Cart Nock, Collar and Bridle, and some Harness, &c.

Sale to commence at One o'clock. 290w

JOHN SWINBURN MURRAY,

AUCTIONEER, VALUER, AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT,

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE

By Mr. William Nicholson

MR. WM. NICHOLSON'S PRESENT SALE APPOINTMENTS:—

March 30—Beamish Mains Stock at Sale.
" 30—Durham Auction Mart.
April 1—F. J. Farrow's Farm Stock at Sale.
" 15—Mr. Dixon's Farm Stock at Dean House, Sale.

In April, Mr. Revely's Farm Stock, at Fondley Set, near Dipton.

Sale of Farming Stock at Wolsingham, belonging to Mr. Edward Lawson, Farmer.

Other important Sales will shortly appear. 272u

By Mr. J. Vickers.

Tow Law Auction Mart.

MONDAY FIRST, MARCH 30th, 1885.

PRESENT ENTRIES:—

35 Dairy Cows and Heifers.
6 Gold Cows.
45 S. H. Cows and Heifers, 1 to 2½ years old.
9 S. H. Steers, 3 years old, forward in condition.
2 Fat Cattle.
100 Prime Fat Sheep.
50 Male Hoggets for Grazing.
Calves, Pigs, &c.
Sale of Fat Stock, 12:30; Cows and Store Cattle, 2:30 p.m.

J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.

Partridge Close, Tow Law. 286u

Business Announcements.

THE NEW

COAL AND STONE BORING MACHINE

From 20s. and 22s. each, complete with Drills; also Jumpers, Steels, Hammers, Punches, PICK'S and SHAFTS, DRILLS, JUMPERS, and STEMMING GRASS, Wholesale and Retail.

THOMAS BOSTON'S,

SUN STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

MOST MONEY LENT

On Silver Plate, Watches, Jewellery, Diamonds, and other Precious Stones. Plated Goods, Cutlery, Guns, &c., &c.

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 PRIAN LANE.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

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

Business Announcements.

SAFETY BICYCLES! SAFETY BICYCLES!

THE latest Novelty in Safety Bicycles is the—

NORTHERN,

Manufactured by the NORTH OF ENGLAND BICYCLE Co., 44, High Bridge, Newcastle. Send for Price List Free. Second-hand Step-les from £2 0s. 0d. 229w

THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT

BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY,

TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

SHARES MAY BE TAKEN ANY DAY.

Advances made on Freehold or Copyhold Property, re-payable as arranged, or for Stat periods.

ADAM BRODIE, Secretary.

2 18u

GLENDENNING'S INVALID PORT

Is now recommended by the leading Medical Men in the North, as being

THE MOST SUITABLE WINE

FOR

SICK PERSONS AND INVALIDS.

36s. per Dozen; 3s. per Bottle. Carriage paid on 6 Bottles and upwards.

W. GLENDENNING,

WINE MERCHANT,

9, GRAINGER STREET, NEWCASTLE. 103t

PATENT MEDICINES.

PATENT MEDICINES AT REDUCED PRICES.
PATENT MEDICINES AT REDUCED PRICES.
PATENT MEDICINES AT REDUCED PRICES.
PATENT MEDICINES AT REDUCED PRICES.
PATENT MEDICINES AT REDUCED PRICES.
PATENT MEDICINES AT REDUCED PRICES.
Send for Price List.

J. ROBERTS, 1, NEW BRIDGE STREET, ST. CLAYTON STREET, NEWCASTLE.

SOLE PROPRIETOR OF ROBERTS'S RENOWNED BUCHU BITTERS, Roberts's Patent Blood Tonic, Quinine and Iron Elixir and numerous other Purely Vegetable Compounds. 92u

GOOD FRIDAY.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS, NEWSAGENTS, AND CORRESPONDENTS.

Owing to the recurrence of Good Friday, the *Consett Guardian* will be published, as usual, next Thursday afternoon. All advertisements, items of news, &c., intended for publication in the forthcoming issue, should reach this office by Wednesday evening or Thursday morning at the latest, otherwise their insertion cannot be guaranteed.

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH, 1885.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

Blackhill must now be quite a model town, if aids for the moral status and general well-being of the people may be taken as a criterion. Everything tends to point in that direction for, apart from what will be the standard agencies which operate without ceasing, there are kindred forces at work for the moral advancement of the people. Prominent among these is the "B.S.S.," an erudite, philanthropic institution which, according to the last issues of the *Guardian*, think nothing of sitting in conclave till the short hours of the morning. The Wesleyans—a people who, like the ocean, are ever in motion, have no organisation of a similar character, less aspiring, perhaps, but equally useful. There are other agencies at work for good; but, being of a semi-private character, their existence is not so well known. The latest addition to this class of instruction is the opening of the Mission Reading-room. The situation is central; and a collection of the current literature of this type will, let us hope, be duly appreciated by those for whose benefit the scheme has been originated. Literature is cheap now-a-days, and a few coppers will lift the latch that leads to the domain of knowledge.

I see by the advertising columns that the subscribers to the Consett Floral and Horticultural Society have been called together for the avowed object of electing officers and other matters of a purely business character. This is one of the speculations re-established in Consett last year. Profiting by previous experience, the committee have, doubtless, some new project to unfold. If flower shows pay elsewhere, there is no reason why Consett should fall short of the standard of excellence. In all undertakings of this nature there are certain well-defined lines which conduce to success; and if these happen to be overlooked, the chances of triumph are, of course, correspondingly lessened. The centre of a public thoroughfare, for example, is quite out of place for a floral exhibition. The experience of our Consett friends has demonstrated the truth of this; and, like men who have lived to learn, they will no doubt be inclined to turn over a new leaf. There is no want of pasture land in the suburbs of Consett, and if the committee of the Consett Floral and Horticultural Society care to set the sixpences of the people they must pitch their tent in the country.

It is recorded that an Irishman when taunted that the mighty Nelson made no mention of his countrymen in that brief but comprehensive address, about which the world has heard so much, Paddy, nothing daunted, declared that his countrymen could fight without coaxing; and this seems to be the exact position of the people of Leadgate. They seem to glide along without observation, and with the exception of the ordinary sittings of the Local Board one hears comparatively little of these industrious denizens of the plain. Obscured by the smoke of their coke ovens, they seem to live in a little world of their own. It would appear, however, that they intend to make merry over the Eastertide holidays, and the old-fashioned level style of merry-making, but in the most approved method of holiday observation—tea drinking, together with the popular conversazione. The latter, now so popular in connection with Christian institutions, afford a grand scope for interchange of thought and the diffusion of ideas generally. I knew of no more amusing species of public entertainment than the bazaar. The ladies assume their sweetest smiles and, lured by delightful, there is no lack of willing victims. In this way, then, do the good folks worshipping at St Ives intend to spend their Easter holidays. Mr Jenkins, of Consett Hall, will lift the veil and set the machinery in motion, and if he could impart aught of his own energy and force of character to the company, the success of the project would be sure.

The outlet for feminine labour is slowly but surely being widened; and in the near future the radius of woman's usefulness will extend far beyond the limits of the domestic circle. In several of the shipyard offices on the Tyne female clerks are employed, but the masters complain that just when they are becoming useful it usually happens that some gay Lochinvar steps upon the scene and carries off the smiling beauty. Besides clerkship, however, there are other duties which devolve upon the ladies. It was only the other day that my attention was drawn to two commercials in petticoats. They represented an American house, and depend upon it they looked as if they meant business. The employment of women in this particular walk of business is worthy of the creative genius of our American cousins. A few such representatives would soon establish the fame of the most obscure house in existence. None but a perfect boor could withstand the sophistry of the fair commercial. She will go on conquering and to conquer, and the man in whose beaming cranium the idea originated had an eye to business.

The wholesale slaughter of the Arabs in the Soudan has set the young people thinking and wondering, no doubt, what is the shades of the departed warriors have found a habitation; a little fellow asked me the other night if there were any black angels. The question is a puzzler, for white people are apt to associate everything that is beautiful and good with whiteness as an emblem of purity; but our sable contemporaries present the other side of the picture.

"Good tidings, good tidings, come with solemn pace and slow." Everybody is complaining—working men for lack of work, and tradespeople for lack of money. There can be no doubt but the present ordeal through which the working classes are now passing will be a lesson to many; and if the winds of adversity have had that effect they will not have piped in vain.

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

THE DISTRESS.—Circulars are forwarded to state that the soup kitchen at Consett will be closed this week.

We are asked to state that all County Court Offices will be closed on Good Friday, the Saturday next after Good Friday, Easter Monday, and Easter Tuesday.

The members of the Consett Iron Company's Workpeople Brass Band have, we learn, decided to attend the public park one evening each week during the summer months and perform choice musical selections. Wednesdays or Saturdays are mentioned as the most appropriate, but the night has not yet been fixed.

THE RECENT YEAST PROSECUTIONS.—In our report of these proceedings at the Consett Police Court, a fortnight ago, we inadvertently stated that supt. Oliver paid 4d for the yeast purchased from Mr Raie, and 5d for that obtained from Mr Walton. The prices should have been 3d and 4d respectively.

A ball was given in the Victoria Assembly Rooms, Consett, last (Thursday) evening, and dancing continued until nearly three o'clock this morning. There were sixteen couples present. Mr J. Shotton acted as M.C.; and the music was furnished by Mr A. Parker's band.

EMIGRATION TO QUEENSLAND.—We note that the Agent General has issued instructions that single female servants and farm labourers will in future be entitled to free passages to this thriving colony, if otherwise approved, up to 35 years of age; and has given instructions to the local agent, Mr Adam Brodie, of the Town Hall, Consett, to secure as many of this class of emigrants as possible.

VAGRANCY.—This (Friday) morning, at the Police Courthouse, before Mr Jas. Annandale, J.P.—a tramp, named *Thomas Grand*, who gave his address as Pipewilgate, Gateshead, was brought up on this charge.—P.C. Newton saw the prisoner, on the previous afternoon, begging from door to door at Consett. When arrested in Middle Street, about a stone of bread, part of which he longed the soup kitchen, was found upon him.—He was committed for 14 days' hard labour.

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATING SOCIETY.—The members of this flourishing and highly successful society intend, we see, to close the first session of the House by a conversazione, in which music and recitations, furnished by the members and others, together with other attractions—and first-class refreshments *ad libitum*—form the leading features. As the conversazione is to come off on Easter Tuesday, we have no doubt the honourable gentlemen will, with their friends, muster in large numbers to enjoy themselves after the arduous duties of the Session.

LANCHESTER ELECTORAL DIVISION.—We observe from our advertising columns that a public meeting of the Liberals in the Consett polling district is to be held in the New Town Hall, on Tuesday first, for the purpose of electing representatives to the Representative Council for the Lanchester Division, and considering the question of a suitable candidate to represent the constituency, at which Mr Wm. Jenkins is appointed to take the chair. We also see that a meeting with the same objects, to be presided over by Mr Jonathan Priestman, is to be held in the Agricultural Hall, Blackhill, on the same date.

FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of the members of the above Society took place in the Arts-room of the New Town Hall, Consett, on Wednesday evening, under the presidency of Mr Wm. Shell, sen.—The Chairman read the statement of accounts for the financial year, which showed that the amount received by subscriptions was £43 6d; cash taken at the door, £6 14s 6d; total, £50 1s. The expenditure had been £39 14s 9d, leaving a balance in hand of £10 6s 3d. (Applause.)—On the motion of Mr J. Cant, seconded by Mr W. Aynsley, the statement of accounts was received and adopted.—The Committee reported the first show of the society, held in August last, was a most successful one; and, it was anticipated that a better exhibition would even be provided this year.—The next business was the election of officers, which resulted as under:—President: Mr W. Jenkins, J.P.; Vice-Presidents: Mr F. Stegall, Messrs G. Ainsworth, W. Aynsley, T. Brown, J. Calvert, J. Collinson, J. Cant, W. Davison, R. Evans, T. L. Gledstone, R. Murray, W. Shell, jun., T. Murray, Dr Wm. Renton, and W. R. Taylor. Treasurer: Mr William Shell. Auditors: Messrs A. Brodie and W. Niles. One-third of the members of the Committee, according to the rules retired by the rotation, and after some discussion, the Committee was composed as follows: Messrs John Allison, G. Aynsley, J. Bullock, J. Cant, R. Dick, Eggleston, J. Gledhill, Thomas Harrison, James Hardy, G. T. Hyde, Thomas Supt. Oliver, Petrie, C. Parnaby, E. Parnaby, E. Stephenson, J. Scott, Sleeswright, D. Smith, Wm. Shell, jun., J. Thirlwell, A. Trotter. Messrs G. T. Hyde and Wm. Shell, jun., were chosen to act as hon. secretaries vice Mr G. Ainsworth resigned.—On the motion of Mr Aynsley, seconded by Mr Eggleston, a cordial vote of thanks was given to Mr Ainsworth for his past services; and that gentleman, in acknowledging the compliment, promised to render whatever assistance he possibly could to his successors.—It was resolved, on the proposal of Mr Cant, seconded by Mr Noble, that the rules enforced last year be adopted in their entirety, and that it be left in the hands of the Committee when and where the forthcoming show shall be held, who are empowered to make any modification in rule No. 7 as may be deemed desirable.—A vote of thanks to the Chairman closed the proceedings.

BLACKHILL.

It will be observed, from advertisement, that the meeting of the Liberals for the Benfieldside polling district will take place in the Agricultural Hall, next Tuesday night, and will be presided over by Mr J. Priestman, J.P., Chairman of the Derwent Liberal Association.

BIBLE STUDENTS' SOCIETY.—On Saturday evening, Mr I. Richards opened the conversation with a well-written and well-uttered paper on the "Personality of Satan." Commencing with his supposed incarnation in the serpent of paradise, Mr Richards gave a rapid *resume* of Satan's development under the later monarchy of Israel; then a sketchy outline of his prophetic relations and aspects closed with the highly picturesque and grandly dramatic Satan of the book of Job. To those Old Testament sketches of the Evil Spirit succeeded the fuller conception of His person and work in the Gospels, the epistles and the apocalypse, in the last of which his lurid surroundings can be put dimly shadowed, even by the poetic soul of Milton, by Goethe's "Faust," or by the genius of Michael Angelo.—After the reading, a rapid and general interchange of thought and opinion was entered upon, in which the age and authorship of the "Book of Job" was perhaps the most interesting part. But although highly interesting (and we are indeed intensely interested in this part of the Biblical criticism), we really do not see that there has been much advance upon this matter during the last two hundred years; say, from "Father Simon's" great work (Catholic) upon the age and authorship of the Hebrew book, down to the very excellent "Lecture upon the book of Job" by the present Dean of Westminster (Dr Bradley). We perceive that as in 1685 so in 1885, some hold Job to be the work of Moses; some that it is patriarchal; others that the book is subsequent to the captivity of Judah in Bablyon. For ourselves we can only say (in this matter) with Pope, "We are not formed for high, or great affairs; but pay our debts, believe, and go to prayers."

WESLEYAN METHODIST QUARTERLY MEETING.—The Wesleyan quarterly meeting of the Shotley Bridge and Consett Circuit was held on Monday at Blackhill, and was numerously attended. The superintendent (Rev W. Hare), supported by his colleagues, took the chair at the local preacher's meeting at one p.m. After singing and prayer, the usual somewhat lengthy business programme was entered upon, which was disposed of by tea time. One local preacher was provisionally received from another church; and it was decided that three young men should receive "notes of permission" from the superintendent of the circuit.—At the circuit quarterly meeting, which assembled immediately after tea, the superintendent presided, and his chairmanship, as usual, was both able and humorous.—The circuit stewards presented the financial statement, showing that after meeting all expenditure, there was still a balance in the hands of the stewards of £13 2s 8d; also a balance in hand, belonging to the horse hire fund, after meeting all claims, of £9 13s 2d. The meeting considered the accounts very satisfactory.—The superintendent gave the numbers in society. There are 1,432 full members, being a decrease of 10 on the quarter, and 14 on the year; with 144 on trial, and 150 junior society class members. The Rev W. Hare, who leaves at Conference, was thanked in a very appreciative manner for his capable services as superintendent during his three years' residence in the circuit.—The rev gentleman acknowledged the vote in characteristic fashion.—His successor is to be left with the Conference.—The Revs W. Taylor and W. Douglass both recived invitations to remain in the circuit another year, and in both cases the invitations were accepted.—Several of the promoters of the circuit bazaar from various parts of the circuit stated the work to be progressing.—The circuit stewards, Messrs T. J. Muse (Castleside) and John Oliver (Stanley) intimated their intention of attending the district meeting in May.—Thanks were given by the meeting to the ladies and friends at Blackhill for their generous hospitality, which was very suitably responded to by Mr Reed, the society steward.—The next quarterly meeting was invited to Consett.

ESH COLLIERY.

PRESENTATION.—On Saturday night, a pleasant gathering took place in the Committee Room of the Co-operative Society, Esh, the object being to present the manager of the society, Mr J. B. Reah, with a testimonial, which had been subscribed by the members and a few friends. Mr G. J. Thompson occupied the chair. Mr Brewell (president of the society) made the presentation, which consisted of a gold watch, albert, and purse of gold for Mr Reah, and a diamond brooch, earrings, and ring for Mrs Reah. The President referred to the valuable and efficient services of Mr Reah during the 15 years he had been connected with the society, and to the way in which he had gained the respect and esteem of all classes in the district.—Mr Reah responded on behalf of Mrs Reah and himself in a neat and feeling speech.—Mr Hemy presided at the piano, and altogether a most enjoyable evening was spent.

LANGLEY MOOR.

CONCERT.—A successful concert was held in the School-room, Langley Moor, on Monday evening, in aid of the temperance brass band recently established. The chair was occupied by Mr M. F. Halliday. There was a fair attendance. The band played two or three pieces in a very creditable manner, while the glees by the Choral Society were rendered in capital style. Mr D. Whitehead sang in his usual good form, and re-established his reputation as a favourite in the district. The "Echo" duet, by Miss Beatrice Bowden and Mr Whitehead, was the piece of the evening. The cornet solo by Mr T. Snowdon, Spennymoor, is also worthy of special mention. Miss Bowden presided at the pianoforte.

IVESTON.

During the past month we are informed that the ground just below the village schools at Iveston has been gradually sinking, and several dwelling-houses—notably those occupied by Messrs W. Ward, Stokoe, and others—have sustained serious damage owing to the continued subsidence.

HARE LAW.

LECTURE.—Dr John Wilson, of Lanchester, is announced to deliver his popular lecture on "The Violation of Physical and Organic Laws," in the Hare Law National Schools, on Thursday evening next. The Rev John Gornall, Vicar of Collierley, will preside, and the proceeds will be devoted to the Parish Church New Organ Fund.

WEST STANLEY.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.—The report of the West Stanley Co-operative Society, for the twelve weeks ended March 11th is as follows:—The sales for the quarter are £8,653 15s 4d, being an increase of £265 17s 11d over the last twelve-week quarter. New members admitted, 120; withdrawn, 112; increase, 8; total number, 913, of whom 858 have sent in checks. The share capital is £8,749 2s 2½; average per member, £9 11s 8d; average purchases per member, 16s per week. The nett profit for the quarter is £1,397 2s 1½d, which it is proposed to divide as follows:—To dividend of 3s in the pound on £8,503 10s checks sent in, which will amount to £1,275 10s 6d; £20 to reserve fund, £10 to extra depreciation of property and fixed stock, and the balance of £91 11s 7½d to next quarter.

WEST PELTON.

WILFUL DAMAGE.—At Chester-le-Street Petty Sessions, on Wednesday, a number of boys, named J. W. Argyle, J. W. Throld, Henry Owens, R. Greenwell, Henry Theobold, John Barrass, and G. Trotter—the latter failing to appear—pleaded not guilty to a charge of pulling down a wall at West Pelton, on the 25th Feb.—Sergt. Smith proved seeing them do the damage, and knew them all and took their names.—Robert Weir, mason, said he had been rebuilding the wall, and the damage done was 3s 6d.—Defendants were fined 1s each, with costs and damage.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.—On Saturday night, a lecture was delivered in the above place of woaship by Miss Ridley, to a very appreciative audience. The subject of the lecture was—"The reminiscences of my life," the whole of which, from beginning to end, was both interesting and instructive. Miss Ridley has for three weeks previous been conducting a series of revival services, during which time many have given heed to her earnest and impassioned pleadings, and are, it is hoped, steadfastly and lastingly converted. It is fervently trusted that she will have success in her evangelistic labours, and thereby be the means of effecting much good in the world.

LEADGATE.

LOCAL BOARD ELECTION.—The list of nominations of gentlemen to fill the vacancies created on this Board will not be finally ascertained until to-night (Friday). It is expected, however, that a contest will be avoided.

INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETY.—The 59th report, for the quarter ending March 7th, just issued, shows the sales for the three months to have been £3,428 5s 2d; cash paid for goods and carriage, £2,844 16s 11d; subscriptions received, £98 16s 5d; withdrawals paid, £505 16s 0d; dividends, £490 1s 0d; interest, £53 7s 5d. The total receipts amount to £5,979 2s 10d. The balance in hand at the end of the quarter is £115 14s 3½d. No. of members, 386; 8 having entered and 8 left during the quarter.

GREENCROFT.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST PREACHING ROOM.—Two sermons were preached in this place of worship on Sunday afternoon and evening by Miss Agnes Brand, of Consett. Large congregations were present on each occasion to hear that lady's stirring discourses. The able manner in which she handled her subjects displayed a great amount of previous study and diligence. Collections were taken after each service in aid of the Stanley circuit demonstration.

DURHAM.

The Bishop of Durham, who is leaving England for a few weeks, requests that all letters of importance may be addressed either to the archdeacons, or to Mr R. Peele, The College, Durham, till the end of April.

SUICIDE.—Yesterday (Thursday) morning the body of a man named Simpson, a miner at Framwellgate Moor, was found in a bye-lane about three miles from Durham. He had committed suicide by tying a piece of twine round his neck and fastening it to a stake in the hedge, then allowing the weight of his body to tighten it.

DEATH FROM CHLORAL.—An inquest was held on Tuesday, on the body of Sarah Isabella, wife of Mr Archibald Thomson, brewer, who was found dead on Monday morning at her residence, Church Street, Durham. The evidence showed that the deceased was in the habit of taking chloral hydrate, and on Sunday night she had taken two doses. Dr Milburn, who made a *post-mortem* examination of the deceased, stated that death had resulted from cardiac syncope, accelerated by the action of the chloral hydrate. The jury were of opinion that the doses had been self-administered, and returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

DIOCESAN SOCIETIES.—The annual meeting of the Durham Diocesan Societies took place yesterday (Thursday) in Bishop Cosin's Library, Durham. The Ven. Archdeacon Watkins presided, and was supported by the leading clergy of the diocese.—The annual reports of the Durham Diocesan Training College for Schoolmasters and Schoolmistresses was read and adopted. The balance-sheet showed a deficiency of £437 17s 7d against the Training College for Schoolmistresses. The male training college was in a more satisfactory condition, there being a balance of £504 18s 8d in its favour. The new additions to the male training college are estimated to cost £2,000, of which £1,700 is at present in hand.

TOW LAW.

Special services were conducted in the Salvation Army Barracks on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, on the occasion of Staff-Captain and Mrs Machin visiting the Tow Law corps.

On Thursday se'nnight, in the Mechanics' Institution, Tow Law, Alderman Charlton, of Gateshead, and Mr Edward Grubb, of Manchester, gave temperance addresses. Rev W. C. Hughes occupied the chair.

SACRED CONCERT.—In the Mechanics' Institution, Tow Law, on Saturday night, over twenty members of the Crook New Connexion choir were engaged in representing the sacred drama, "Joseph and his brethren." The proceeds of the entertainment go towards the Crook chapel funds. The Rev R. Gillender, Primitive Methodist minister, Tow Law, occupied the chair.

ACCIDENT AT BLACK PRINCE COLLIERY.—A marvellous escape from death occurred to a man named Wm. Parker, Dan's Castle, Tow Law, on Monday. Parker is a locomotive fireman, employed at Black Prince Colliery, and on the day in question he was riding on the front truck of an empty train, which was being pushed along one of the colliery roads. This truck got off the way, throwing the man on to the rails below, off which he fortunately rolled. Two trucks passed over him, but he was not very seriously injured. Parker got some bones of his fingers broken, his body bruised, and his clothing all torn.

WEARDALE.

THE UPPER WEARDALE RAILWAY.—There is a rumour current in the dale that this project will assume a tangible shape early next month.

LOCAL MEN IN THE SOUDAN.—There are at present six natives of the Chapelry of St. John in the army commanded by General Graham at Suakim. The keenest interest is manifested throughout the valley in all news from the seat of operations.

PAINFUL SCALDING CASE.—At a Weardale school during the dinner hour on Tuesday, a boy named John Carrick, nine years old, of Ireshope, placed a tin bottle containing tea on the fire to heat, and while removing it from the fire the cork was blown out and the boiling liquid rushed out, scalding the poor little fellow fearfully about the eyes and head. In great agony he was taken to Mr Harrison's, Wear Villa, from which he was afterwards taken home in a cart. It is feared that his eyesight will be impaired.

THE FAILURE OF A SOLICITOR.—At the Durham Bankruptcy Court on Tuesday—before Mr W. Marshall, registrar—Mr John Thompson came up for his first public examination.—In reply to questions put by the Official Receiver (Mr Longden), the debtor said he resided at Stanhope, where for many years he had carried on business as a solicitor. He was also a farmer, steam plough proprietor, clerk to the magistrates, and clerk to the Gas Company at Stanhope. He could not say what capital he had when he commenced business, but in 1873 he had about £300. His assets were such that he expected he should have a surplus on all except his partnership account. As a farmer he kept a wages and cash book, and as a steam plough proprietor a cash book and journal. He had nothing at his banker's at the time of filing his petition. His total indebtedness amounted to £1,227, including secured creditors. The cause of his insolvency was losses in connection with his partnership in the firm of Thompson and Harbottle. He estimated his income at £500 or £600 pev year, and his expenditure at £400 or £500. It was his intention to offer a composition to his creditors.—Mr Nichols, the accountant, was preparing his deficiency account.—The further examination of the debtor was adjourned for a week.

BLAYDON.

DERWENT RIFLE CLUB.—On Saturday, the fortnightly handicap sweepstake competition in connection with this club took place at the range, Bues Hills, Blaydon. There was a good muster of competitors, the first prize being won by Private Robinson, Corbridge, with 58 points, a most excellent score under the circumstances. The following were the highest scorers:—

	Tl.
Priv. Robinson, 1st VBNF, Corbridge	58
Lieut. Downie, 3rd DAV, South Shields	54
Priv. Gay, 3rd VBNF, Newcastle	53
Sergt. Herbert, 3rd VBNF, Newcastle	52
Sergt.-Major Symons, Gateshead EV	51
Priv. D. Bain, Gateshead Rifles	51
Corp. Gardner, 3rd VBNF, Newcastle	51
Sergt. A. Forsyth, 4th DRV, Felling	50
Priv. Stafford, 1st VBNF, Hexham	50
Colour-Sergt. Marley, 4th DRV, Felling	50

WOLSINGHAM.

The Rev Francis Hy. Eales, M.A., successively second master of the Grammer Schools at Kattering, Northants, and of Halstead in Essex, and lately curate of Washington, has been appointed head master of the Grammar School at Wolsingham.

WEARDALE HIGHWAY BOARD.—At an adjourned meeting held in Wolsingham Town Hall on Tuesday—Mr C. J. Backhouse, J.P., in the chair—the contracts for the maintenance of roads for next year were let; and a deputation appointed to meet the Ecclesiastical Commissioners' agent with reference to the encroachment on the road between Stanhope and Westgate.

STANHOPE.

EMPLOYERS' AND WORKMEN'S ACT.—On Friday, at the Stanhope Town Hall, George B. Kell, who is the owner of a whinstone quarry, was ordered to pay £5 3s 6d and 21s costs on a claim by workmen for wages.

LANCHESTER.

Special sermons were preached in Lanchester Parish Church on Sunday by Canon Tristram, M.A., D.C.L., of Durham Cathedral. The edifice was well filled both morning and night.

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE ELECTORAL DIVISION.—The *Durham Chronicle* strongly urges (as stated in our second edition of last week) upon the electors of the Lanchester Division to adopt Sir Farrer Herschell, Q.C., M.P., Her Majesty's Solicitor-General, as a candidate for the representative of the division.

PROPOSED MEMORIAL TO THE LATE VICAR.—A public meeting, which was well-attended, of the parishioners of Lanchester, was held in the schoolroom at Lanchester, on Wednesday evening, to consider the best means of perpetuating the memory of the late vicar, the Rev J. Dingle, M.A. Mr W. Logan, Churchwarden, Stobbilee House, Langley Park, was unanimously voted to the chair, and after he had briefly set forth the object of the meeting, the following resolution, proposed by the Chairman, and seconded by Mr Cummings, was passed—"That a subscription list be opened for the purpose of raising a fitting marble memorial tablet to be placed in Lanchester Church, to the memory of the late Rev J. Dingle, M.A., and that a Committee be appointed for soliciting subscriptions for that purpose"—On the proposal of Dr J. Wilson, seconded by Mr J. Buckham, it was likewise resolved to fix a headstone at the grave of the deceased gentleman.—Before the close of the meeting the amount of subscriptions promised amounted to over £27; including a donation of £10 10s from Mr Geo. Hedley, J.P., Burnhopeside Hall. It is not intended to confine the subscriptions within the present parish, and it is hoped that a liberal response will be given to the efforts of the Committee.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

SHOW OF ENTIRE CART HORSES.—On Saturday, the above show was held under most auspicious circumstances in a field belonging to Mr Parkin, Garden House Farm. The local animals entered for competition were Messrs Jas. Elliott and Sons' (Springwell House, Sunderland) "Crusher," Messrs N. Clark and Jos. Watson's (Stanley) "Sovereign," Mr Jos. Watson's (Stanley) "Beamish," Mr W. A. Weightman's (Silksworth) "Silksworth Hero," Mr G. Turnbull's (Twizell Hall) "General Gordon," Mr J. Thompson's (Burnopfield) "The Pride o' Derwent." Scotch and other horses:—Mr Drummond's (West Pitcortchie) "Cracker," and Mr D. Riddell's (Paisley) "Royalty." Six members of the Chester-le-Street and District Farmers' Club and a veterinary surgeon acted as judges, viz.:—Messrs T. Hall, R. Richardson, J. Snowball, Jas. Brewis, H. Potts, S. Howdon, and J. Nesbit. The splendid condition in which the competing horses were marshalled justly merited the approbation of the judges and spectators, and the task allotted to the former was not by any means light; and, after much careful deliberation, their selection was "Royalty," a beautiful horse, rising 4 years old, 16·3 hands high; sire His Majesty, dam by Prince Charlie, the property of Mr David Riddell, Black Hall, Paisley, who thus is awarded the premium of the society, £20, subject to the rules and conditions being duly observed. Many of the leading agriculturists in the county attended.

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The fortnightly meeting was held yesterday (Thursday) morning, at the Union Workhouse at Lanchester, under the presidency of Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P. The following Guardians were in attendance: The Revs J. P. De Pledge, J.P., and Chas. Gillow; Messrs. J. Wilkinson, Wm. Logan, W. H. Hedley, Thos. Siddell, W. M. Annandale, Thos. Taylor Smith, Geo. Hobson, R. Mitchinson, N. Clark, T. J. Muse, H. Hornsby, J. Eltringham, Wm. Shell, John Collinson, John Nicholson, W. Rutherford, W. Bell, W. Cumming, and the Clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson.)

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and adopted, a good deal of time was occupied in the consideration of the relief business.

A BLACKFINE IMBECILE.

It was agreed to offer a grant of £10 to the Managers of the Royal Albert Asylum to take in an imbecile, named Ruth Vivian, aged 16 years, residing at Blackfine. She is the daughter of an ironworker who is incapacitated from following his employment, and as he is in receipt of parochial relief, the Managers of the Institution cannot admit the applicant except through the medium of the Guardians.

The Chairman understood that the Consett people had established a fund of their own for the purpose of assisting the deaf and dumb or imbecile children of poor parents.

Mr SIDDELL believed that such a fund was in existence at Shotley Bridge, but the people at Consett were not yet wealthy enough as to be able to start such a fund. (Laughter.)

ANOTHER STOPPAGE.

The Local Government Board wrote intimating that the Order issued by them for the transference of a portion of the parish of Tanfield to the township of Urpeth in the Chester-le-Street Union at Mayday next had been formally objected to, therefore the Order became Provisional to be confirmed by Parliament.

THE LATE MR DINGLE.

The Clerk having mentioned the death of the Rev J. Dingle, who had for a period of 30 years officiated as chaplain to the Workhouse, the CHAIRMAN proposed that Mr Ritson should be authorised to write a letter of condolence and sympathy with the widow and family of the deceased gentleman.

The motion was seconded by Mr NICHOLSON, and agreed to.

Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE enquired if it was not the usual course, whenever there was a vacancy through death or removal of the officials, to advertise for a successor?

The CHAIRMAN replied that such was the case; but he pointed out that the Chaplain could not exactly be regarded as an official of the Board. Moreover, he had heard an opinion expressed more than once, that at the demise of Mr Dingle, the clergyman succeeding to the vacancy would either be asked to perform the duties for nothing, or be paid, as is the case at Stanhope, the nominal salary of 1s per annum.

Mr SIDDELL thought it was soon enough to consider the question, when the application came before the Board.

The Clerk was deputed to acquaint the Local Government Board of the vacancy.

The Clerk, in reply to a question, said the Guardians were bound to provide a Chaplain for the Workhouse, but they were not obliged to pay him any salary.

The Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE pointed out that the vacancy might not be filled up for six months hence, and in this case, were the inmates of the Workhouse to be deprived meanwhile of the services of a Chaplain?

The CHAIRMAN understood it to be the duty of the Overseers to provide for such an emergency.

Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE: Oh, no.

Mr LOGAN, as one of the Churchwardens, and a Sacristan of the parish, explained that his colleague (Mr John Cummins) and himself were taking steps to engage the services of a clergyman until Mr Dingle's successor was appointed, and that gentleman would probably enter upon his duties at Easter. He would undertake to see that this gentleman temporarily attended to the spiritual needs and requirements of the poor people in the House. They had arranged for special preachers on Sunday next, and as Easter Sunday was not for distant, he thought that Mr Rich should be allowed to fulfil the duty of Chaplain in the meantime.

This met with the approval of the members, who thanked Mr Logan for his trouble.

INMATES OF THE WORKHOUSE.

Week ending Mar. 18th	175
Corresponding week of last year	163
Week ending Mar. 25th	179
Corresponding week last year	157
Vagrants relieved during past fortnight	7
" " corresponding fortnight last year	26

This concluded the business.

THE SINGULAR GUN ACCIDENT AT BLACKHILL.

DEATH OF THE INJURED MAN.

An inquiry was held yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, by Mr Coroner Graham, at the Rose and Crown Hotel, Blackhill, into the circumstances attending the death of Thomas Harris (34), an ironworker, living at No. 66, Derwent Street, who, after enduring great agony, finally succumbed at three a.m. on Wednesday from the frightful injuries received by him on Tuesday, the 17th inst. Mr W. Raw having been appointed foreman, and the jury having inspected the body of the deceased, the following evidence was elicited:—

Grace Harris, the wife of the deceased, deposed that on the morning of the 17th March, her husband arose about seven o'clock, and said he was going to clean out the chimney of his dwelling-house. He intended firing the pistol up the chimney to bring the soot down. He had done so many a time before, both at his own house and at other people's residences. He kept the "pistol" (produced) in a closet in the house, and never had it loaded.

The Coroner: What did your husband call this weapon?

Witness: He always said it was his pistol.

Proceeding, Mrs Harris stated that she saw him take the weapon (then in two pieces) out of the closet on this particular morning, and load the barrel whilst it was unscrewed. He put in powder out of some paper, not supplying it from a flask, and rammed the powder down with the rod produced. Witness did not observe her husband fix a cap on; but she watched him screw the barrel end of the weapon to the part containing the lock. He afterwards went to the fireplace and pulled the trigger, and the weapon went off all right, bringing down a large quantity of soot, of which he took about seven pailfuls outside. She did not see her husband in the act of re-loading the pistol, but he was standing at the table where the powder was, and was working on with the gun. She saw him busy with some lucifer matches, and he attempted to fire the pistol the second time. He touched the nipple with a lighted match, but as the weapon missed fire, he borrowed a hairpin, and was engaged in cleaning the nipple, with the muzzle pointing in the direction of his left thigh, when it suddenly exploded in his own hands.

The Foreman: You call this weapon a "pistol?" Is that the name your husband used to apply to it?—Yes.

The Coroner: I pressed that question, and the woman declares that Harris called it a "pistol."

The Coroner proceeded to state that this was what was termed a "walking-stick" gun, generally used for the purposes of poaching. He explained his theory as to how the accident occurred. The percussion cap had forced the powder just beyond the division of the nipple, and Harris having previously applied a lighted match to the powder, it was almost certain to explode when he was "poking" the end with a hairpin. Addressing the witness, the Coroner enquired: When the police-sergeant questioned you as to how the accident happened, why did you stoutly deny that your husband had not a fire-arm in the house?—[No answer.]

The Coroner: It was a well-known fact that the affair was caused by a fire-arm or some sort of weapon, and why did you deny the fact? Were you afraid of the law, and had you some object in concealing the facts?—Witness: I never denied it.

Sergt. Cruickshank: When I asked you, did you not distinctly tell me that your husband had the powder wrapped up in paper, and used no gun at all?—Witness: Well, if I did tell you so, I was not aware of what I was saying.

The Coroner: Was it because you had not a license, and you were afraid of getting into trouble that you said so?—He had not a license.

What did he use the gun for?—Just for cleaning out the chimney.

For no other purpose?—Nothing else.

The Foreman: They will surely not grant a license for a fire-arm of that discription?

The Coroner: Yes, of course; it's a fire-arm.

Mr H. Carss (a juryman): Oh they will license almost anything.

The Foreman (to witness): Do you mean to say that your husband always cleaned the chimney by letting off that weapon?—Yes, always.

The Foreman: Well, he was a tenant under me for a long time, and I never even suspected such a thing. As long as Harris has kept a house, I wonder he did not know better than this. It is nothing else but a dangerous practice, and ought to be stopped. You run the risk of blowing the fire-place down, damaging the house and its effects, and also endanger your own lives. If you engage the services of a sweep you will save all this trouble and expense.

The Coroner: If Harris had only confined his operations to damaging furniture, we should not have been under the painful necessity of enquiring into the cause of death to-day.

John Young, the landlord of the Rose and Crown Hotel, Blackhill, said he was acquainted with the deceased. Shortly after Harris met with his accident on the 17th inst., witness went in to see him about eight o'clock and found him suffering from a gun-shot wound in his left thigh. He (witness) enquired how it happened, and Harris replied that he was "blasting" the chimney, and as he had not a cap, he took an old one, and placed the end of a match into it, but it did not explode. Afterwards he procured a pin, and was poking the nipple, when the weapon unexpectedly went off and severely injured him.

The Coroner: Did Harris tell you what he wanted with the weapon?—Witness: No, I did not see the gun that morning at all.

The Coroner: It was not shown to you?—No.

The Foreman: Was the man conscious, Mr Young, when you went in?—Yes; he told me how the accident happened. He had all his clothes on, and I assisted to take everything off but his shirt, and put him into the bed. Harris knew me and spoke to me several times.

The Coroner enquired if Harris was ever convicted of poaching?

Sergt. Cruickshank believed that he had once being convicted of poaching; but he had also been charged with other offences. Harris was a sly, cunning man, and it was difficult to ascertain his movements, or to catch him at work poaching.

The Coroner: The weapon resembles a walking stick, and it has been cut short to render it portable so as to be carried about in the pocket.

Mr Carss: This is quite a new feature to me

The Coroner: They generally manufacture these sort of weapons now-a-days as breech-loaders. I once investigated the case of a man who committed suicide by shooting himself with one of these guns. They are similar to the weapon produced, being loaded with conical-shaped bullets, and are just the proper length to be used as an ordinary walking-stick. This weapon, however, in an old-fashioned one. There is not the least doubt that it has been used for poaching purposes.

Mr Carss: It is a very handy thing for knocking down a pheasant.

The Coroner: And it would not make a loud report, you know.

Mr Carss: No, indeed. That is the value of the weapon

The Coroner: It may have provided some good sport in its time, but at whose expense I cannot tell.

Dr Geo. Renton, of Blackhill, said that when he was called to see the deceased on the morning of the 17th inst., he was lying on the bed, quite exhausted, and suffering very much from the shock. There was evidence of great loss of blood. He found an oval-shaped wound, about the size of a florin, on the inner part of the left thigh. The edges of the wound were blackened, and there was a strong smell of burnt powder. It was deemed advisable to remove the injured man to the surgery at Consett for the better treatment of the case. When there, the wound was enlarged, and an extensive cavity to the injury to the thigh was revealed. There was a large cavity, extending almost through the thigh, the muscles and other tissues being shattered and burnt severely. The main artery of the leg was laid bare, and although it was not severed, the circulation of blood was arrested, thus cutting off the principal supply of blood to the limb. As there was a fair collateral circulation, it was decided, at the express desire of the relatives, not to amputate the unfortunate man's leg. The patient progressed favourably until one a.m. on Monday last, when bleeding from the wound was noticed (second hæmorrhage). The loss of blood so weakened the already impaired nutrition of the limb that mortification set in on the next day. The man grew gradually worse, and died at three a.m. on Wednesday. The immediate cause of death was exhaustion caused by the mortification and subsequent blood poisoning. Dr Renton explained that the wound was a remarkable one, penetrating close to the main artery for about six inches without even cutting it. The doctor added a statement made to him by Harris, which was similar in effect to the the story of the previous witnesses, the only addition being that the man had the muzzle end of the gun resting on his thigh when he was prodding the nipple with the pin, and the quantity of powder Harris alleged he used was just about as much as would cover a sixpenny piece. In examining the man's trousers, witness observed that a clean slit had been made made at the place indicated, and not, as he expected, a piece of cloth cut right out.

After the members of the jury had severally examined the weapon, a verdict was returned to the effect that Harris had inadvertly met with his death from exhaustion and mortification, and blood poisoning, arising from a gun-shot wound fired by his own hands.

A brother of the deceased subsequently claimed the weapon, but as he did not possess a gun license, the Coroner handed the same over to the custody of Sergt. Cruickshank.

LANCHESTER JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

This body met at Lanchester yesterday (Thursday) afternoon—Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P., in the chair. Present: Revs J. P. De Pledge and C. Gillow, Messrs W. H. Hedley, Geo. Hobson, Thos. Taylor Smith, J. Collinson, J. Eltringham, and W. H. Ritson (clerk).

OUTBREAK OF SMALLPOX AT USHAW MOOR.

Dr Wilson, Medical Officer of Health, attended personally, and reported the outbreak of a case of smallpox at Ushaw Moor Colliery. The patient was a young woman, housekeeper to a pitman; but he had failed to ascertain the direct cause of the outbreak, as the woman had not been away from the place. He (Dr Wilson) had adopted the usual steps to isolate the case by taking the rest of the inmates of the house to another dwelling, and he had also removed the tenants from the cottages on either side thereof, and had barricaded them off. He proposed, in case of the epidemic spreading, to convey the other patients to this house, as there did not appear to be a detached cottage within a considerable distance of the village.

The Clerk read a letter from Mr Hill, agent to Mr Hy. Chaytor, asking if the Board would allow, in the event of further cases appearing, the patients to be removed to the Infirmary at the Workhouse?

The Chairman said they could not permit such a proceeding; and the Clerk stated that he had replied to Mr Hill informing him that he would lay his communication before that meeting, and it was likely the Board would recommend the same system as had been adopted at Cornsay and other places,—viz., the conversion of a detached cottage into a temporary hospital.

Dr Wilson was requested to see the manager, and obtain his sanction to utilise a house for this purpose, and was authorised to take all precautionary measures to prevent a spread of the epidemic.

Dr Wilson stated that he had seen Mr Oliver, the manager, and had asked him to pay especial attention to the cleaning out of the privies, ash middens, &c.

CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION.

A note was read from Henry Starforth, mason, of Cornsay Colliery, claiming £2 as recompense for beds, bedding, &c., destroyed in consequence of his house having been used as a cottage hospital, and also for providing rations for the nurse.

Dr Wilson, in answer to questions, said he did not actually order the bedding to be destroyed, but as it was worn-out and dilapidated, that course would eventually have to be adopted.

It was decided to pay the amount claimed, and the doctor was directed in future to furnish written orders in similar cases.

PROPOSED INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL NEAR ESH.

Just as the members were dispersing, Mr COLLINSON said he understood, from what the Chairman had previously stated, that he intended to move that the Board should consider the advisability of proceeding with the erection of an infectious hospital in the Esh district, and that was one of his principal reasons for attending that day. The Chairman, however, had not even mentioned the subject, and yet, in the face of the facts brought before them, he (the speaker) urged that something ought to be done, and they ought not to allow such a pressing and important question to be deferred from time to time.

The CHAIRMAN replied that he never intended to move such a proposition that day, but he proposed to submit his resolution when the amended plans for the Consett Hospital were laid before the Board, and then the same plans would answer for each of three contemplated hospitals.

Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE agreed with Mr Collinson that something ought to be done, and he complained of the policy of delay pursued by the Board.

Mr HEDLEY explained that the modified plans had already been received by the sub-committee appointed to consider them, but the unfortunate remarks of the Chairman had occasioned the delay, inasmuch as Mr Logan, the convener, had not called the Committee together, but preferred to await the issue of the Chairman's proposal that day before proceeding further.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that his motion would not in the least interfere with the consideration of the plans for the hospital at Consett.

Mr HEDLEY: Then you did not intend to intercept the progress of the hospital near Consett?

The CHAIRMAN: Not at all. My idea was that as we were continually having cases of fever, &c., appearing in the Esh district, it was highly necessary that we should think about building a hospital similar to the one at Consett forthwith; but many people have complained of the expense at the present moment.

Mr COLLINSON said there was no hurry in pushing forward the operations in regard to the hospital at Consett; and there was really more need for such an institution in the Esh district at the present moment. He suggested that a Committee, consisting of the Chairman, Messrs. T. Taylor Smith, W. Logan, and W. H. Hedley, be appointed to select a suitable site, and report to the Board.

Rev C. GILLOW said his idea was to have the hospital at Cobey Castle; and the CHAIRMAN remarked that he was well acquainted with the locality, and had his own opinions as to where the erection should be built, if only a convenient site could be procured.

After considerable discussion, the subject was deferred for a month, and the Board adjourned.

The Prince of Wales and Prince Edward arrived at Brussells yesterday (Thursday) morning.

"FAUST" IN IRISH POLITICS.—*United Ireland* cartoon this week depicts the jewel scene in "Faust." Egan, as Marguerite, holds the jewel box, with compliments, from Albert Edward, and says "What have I done that this stranger should insult my poverty with his wretched trinkets?" The Prince of Wales as "Faust," and Earl Spencer as "Mephistopheles," counselling him, are behind a tree.

SERIOUS LEAP FROM A WINDOW.—About noon yesterday (Thursday), a young man named Robert Laws, who resides at 49, Percy Street, Newcastle, jumped from the window of his residence, a distance of 25 feet. His head struck with frightful violence on the curb stone, and on being conveyed into the house he was found to be in a precarious condition. Drs Hodgson and Baumgartner were soon in attendance, and deemed it advisable to have him removed to the Infirmary.

THE USWORTH DISASTER.—RECOVERING THE BODIES.—Early on Tuesday morning, the bodies of eight more victims of the explosion at Usworth Colliery were found in the workings. Six had died from after-damp, but decomposition rendered recognition difficult. One was lying on the ground, his face resting on his jacket, doubled up to serve as a pillow. Others were lying on their backs, and others again on their faces. From the position, it is believed that they had assembled to eat of their food. The bodies of 47 horses, much mutilated were found.

RUSSIA AND ENGLAND.

EXTENSIVE WAR PREPARATIONS.

20,000 RUSSIAN TROOPS FOR AFGHANISTAN AND 15,000 FROM ENGLAND.

CALCUTTA, WEDNESDAY.

At a conference at Allahabad between the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief, it was resolved to send 25,000 men to the Bolan Pass, under the command of General Roberts. Another force of the same strength will subsequently advance from Rawul Pindi. A reserve force of 10,000 men will be formed, and be placed under the command of the Duke of Connaught. Reinforcements to the number of 15,000 men are to be drawn from England.

The *Daily Telegraph's* Berlin correspondent telegraphs on Wednesday:—20,000 Muscovite troops are on their way from the Caucasus to the Afghan frontier. The military party is doing its utmost to promote the fall of M. de Giers.

The Persian newspapers announce that five battalions of Russians infantry and three batteries of artillery are on their way from Bokhara to Merv.

BOMBAY, THURSDAY.

The Duke of Connaught's return to Europe has been indefinitely postponed. Should the negotiations between England and Russia fall through, Sir Donald Stewart will take command of the Quetta division. The difficulty of transport which arose, owing to the number of camels sent to the Soudan, is being overcome by a supply of mules obtainable from Burmah.

Upwards of seventy officers left London yesterday (Thursday) to rejoin their regiments in India, in obedience to peremptory orders from the India office. Nearly as many more will take their departure within the next few days. Almost all the express cars on the various continental mail routes have been taken up by officers who are to leave by the first Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamer from Brindisi.

Yesterday (Thursday) morning the Mercury, steel despatch vessel, at Portsmouth, was ordered to be put into commission on Monday next, and the Devastation, Colossus, and Bacchante are likewise to prepare immediatedley for service, the Bacchante shipping her crew on the 14th prox. Other vessels in the first division of the steam reserve at this port are daily expecting similar orders. The Active, which was ordered for sea on Wednesday, is still pushing forward the work.

Orders have been received at the Ordnance Department at Chatham, to prepare for the immediate shipment to India of all Martini Henry rifles in store there. The work of packing has already commenced.

Orders have been issued to all armourers in the Kingdom for the return of the whole of the Martini Henry rifles in stock to the Tower of London for examination, prior to despatch to India. Fourteen thousand rifles stored at Portsmouth will be forwarded to-day (Friday).

THE RESERVES AND MILITIA TO BE EMBODIED.

Mr Gladstone announced in the House of Commons last (Thursday) night, that the Russian troops had advanced within about eight miles of Pend-jeh. He did not think the movement could be described as a *coup de main* with the intention of reaching Pend-jeh.

Mr Childers brought up a Royal message, which was read by the Speaker, calling out the reserves and militia; the reserves to be embodied for permanent service. The Lord Chancellor read a similar message in the House of Lords.

The announcement in the House of Parliament of the Government's decision to call out the army reserves and militia created a considerable amount of excitement in London. It is expected that the carrying out of this step will enable the War Office to despatch substantial reinforcements to India in response to a request from the Viceroy for more British troops. These reinforcements would be employed to fill places in the garrisons of the Indian Empire, vacated by concentration of army corps at Quetta and Rawal-Pindi.

THE SOUDAN CAMPAIGN.

ATTACK ON A CONVOY NEAR SUAKIM.

A detachment of commissariat and transport corps left Portsmouth yesterday (Thursday) morning for Woolwich, where they embark for Suakim.

SUAKIM, THURSDAY.

The Grenadier Guards, the Shropshire and Surrey Regiments, and two battalions of Indian troops, started at seven o'clock this morning to escort a convoy to the zebera on the Tamai Road.

The War Office has received the following telegram from Lieut.-Gen. Sir G. Graham:—

SUAKIM, THURSDAY, 2·20 P.M.

Just arrived with large convoy. Was attacked by the enemy about two miles from here. Enemy charged head of square and were repulsed with considerable loss. Our casualties were three wounded. I have not lost a single camel. Several slight cases of sunstroke have occurred, but the men otherwise are healthy. The Marines suffer most.

ZAREBA, ON THE WAY TO TAMAI, THURSDAY.

The convoy which started from Suakim at seven o'clock this morning arrived here safely this afternoon. A small force of rebels attacked the convoy, but were repulsed all round with considerable loss, about 100 of the enemy being killed. On the British side there were three wounded. The rebels attacked with the greatest bravery, advancing singly to within 20 yards of the square.

SUAKIM, THURSDAY 9·10 P.M.

The troops despatched this morning to the zareba on the Tamai Road returned here this evening. The Scots Guards have also returned. The general advance on Tamai is expected to be made in about three days. The Queen's message to the troops has been much appreciated by all ranks.

LIBERAL MEETING AT MARLEY HILL.

Last (Thursday) night, Mr Lloyd Jones addressed a crowded meeting of electors and non-electors of the Chester-le-Street Division of this County in the Board Schools, Marley Hill.—Mr John Johnson, who presided, believed at all times in having a fair field and no favour, and strict fairplay to all. But in doing so he wished it clearly to be understood what his position was in this contest. He concurred with the majority of the Marley Hill meeting of Saturday night last as to the feeling of the district. Mr Jones had done signal service to the cause of the working classes, and for a long time he had been in touch with them in their aspirations and desires. Still, he did not appreciate the way in which Mr Jones had been put before the constituency. He had expected Mr Jones would have allowed his interests to be safe in the hands of the working men, and to have submitted to a test the same as the other candidates. However, he asked for Mr Jones a patient hearing as an old friend of theirs.—At the close of Mr Jones's address, and questions having been answered, Mr Jas. Hall proposed that Mr Jones was a fit and proper person to represent the division in Parliament.—Mr John Thirlaway seconded the motion.—Mr Walter Fenton moved an amendment to the effect that Mr Lloyd Jones was not a fit and proper person to represent that division. He would like to ask them who was the real friend of the working men? For his part he thought that Mr Joicey was the man to represent them. He was a man who had been down the pits, and where would they be if it were not for their Joiceys and Palmers and men of that kind?—The Chairman put the amendment to the meeting, when there were some six or seven hands held up for it. Upon putting the resolution to the meeting a forest of hands was immediately held up and he declared the resolution carried.

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

A LETTER FOR LADIES.

The first Drawing-room of the season cannot be said to be either so important or so interesting as those that take place later on, nevertheless it has a certain value of its own, as striking the keynote of what will be worn in spring. The Corps Diplomatique must, of course, be present, but with regard to *débutantes*, the more wily mothers bide their time, and do not allow their daughters to be presented until more people are in town.

A wonderful flutter of life takes place on the day or two before a drawing-room. Town (even at this time of year) gets suddenly full, and Bond-street is thronged with carriages, a sensible impetus is given to trade, and milliners are nearly at their wit's end to provide new materials and novel combinations of colour. Many of the West-End shops have a kind of private view of the Court dresses on the day before the drawing-room, the beautiful gowns are placed on stands in one of the upper show-rooms, and carefully guarded by a rope, whilst an envious crowd of invited ladies regard them with longing eyes across the barrier.

One of the most beautiful dresses worn on Thursday was that of the wife of the Servian Minister. The train was of the richest brocade, the pattern being in lemon on a pale pink ground. The petticoat was of pink *poult de soie*, with a drapery of the same at the top, and a deep net flounce most beautifully embroidered in scallops in opal beads, the centre of each scallop being filled with a spray of flowers worked in silk and outlined here and there with beads to match the silk. A coquille of pink and lemon silk edged the bottom of the petticoat, whilst bunches of pink and lemon ostrich feathers were placed at intervals on the train. The bodice was made of the brocade, with a narrow edge of bead passementerie to match the skirt. The whole dress was admirably thought out, and looked deliciously fresh and pretty.

A very *recherché* dress was worn by Mrs. Goschen, and may almost be said to be the finest of the black toilettes present. The petticoat was made of black duchesse satin, covered with a black net tablier, embroidered in jet, the train was of very beautiful brocade—a pattern of white magnolias raised on a background of black and white stripes—each stripe not more than a thread in width. Lady Rayleigh, being also in mourning, wore a very refined mixture of black and silver-grey. The train was of silver grey satin, trimmed with passementerie of smoked pearls, whilst the petticoat and bodice were of black bengaline. The Hon. Mrs. Peake wore a cream satin train, covered with a beautiful pattern of feather screens, puffings of tulle edged the train and there were bunches of ostrich feathers at intervals. The front of the petticoat was entirely of pearls, whilst the bodice was of cream-coloured satin. As in the case of nearly all married ladies, the train fell from the shoulders instead of from the waist. Mrs. Delacampo's dress was very much admired. The petticoat was of pale pink satin merveilleux, covered with drapery of pink *crêpe de Chine*, and bordered with deep chenille fringe. The train (which fell from the shoulders) was of ruby velvet, lined with pale pink satin. Clusters of pink and ruby feathers were placed on the train at intervals, tied with bows of velvet ribbon in the same colours.

There were a number of *débutantes*, many of them having been prevented from being presented last year by the regulations of Court Mourning. One of the prettiest was Miss Batt, whose simple white dress was highly becoming to her lovely face and figure. The train was of white *poult de soie*, worn over a skirt made entirely of festoons of tulle, caught up at short intervals by little bunches of snowdrops. The white silk bodice was cut on the cross, so as to make it fit more closely to the figure. It was edged round the neck with pleatings of tulle, while a V-shaped vest was filled up entirely with snowdrops. Another very pretty dress was worn by Miss Mildred Davey. The train was of white *faille Française*, edged with a full deep puffing of tulle, which gradually widened as it approached the end. The petticoat was of plain white tulle, with an elegantly arranged drapery of fine white lace. Charming little clusters of pink tipped daisies were placed carelessly at intervals on the puffing at the edge of the train, while a garland of the same simple flowers was arranged across the front of the skirt, so as just to come at the edge of the white lace tablier. Formal bouquets were not much in favour, but were superseded by sheafs of long-stemmed flowers, tied up with ribbon.

It is difficult to convey in words the impression created on the mind by Munkacsy's picture of "Calvary." It rivets the attention and haunts the memory to a degree that is almost painful. The Crucifixion is not idealised in the least, but is treated in a somewhat unconventional manner—the crosses not being placed in a row, as one often sees them, but at different angles. The group of despairing women at the foot of the cross is very fine—the attitude of the Virgin Mary being especially true to nature. St. John stands silently by, a red draped figure with his back to the spectators. The greater part of the crowd are hurrying away, looking behind them as they go. Large as the canvas is, the unity of feeling is remarkable, the cross being the centre of everyone's attention, the object of every eye. The stolid figure of the executioner stands out prominently in the centre—his is the only unmoved face in all the crowd. The dark sky makes an effective background for the figures, and harmonises particularly well with the helmets and armour of the Roman soldiers. For colour and drawing, and for originality of conception, this picture has seldom been equalled; in fact, it is one of the few pictures of the present day that deserve the title of great.

Whilst Michael Munkacsy's picture is holding its levee at the Egyptian Hall, a new work by Mr. Holman Hunt is being exhibited at the Fine Art Society, in Bond-street. The "Triumph of the Innocents" is one of the most singular works that ever left the studio of a modern painter. The colouring, though beautiful, is strange beyond expression, and the picture is more like a piece of Limoges enamel than anything else one can compare it to. The subject chosen is that of the Flight into Egypt, but it is treated in a manner which is strikingly original. The Mother and Child are seated on an ass, which is being led through the desert by Joseph. They are accompanied by a procession of the spirits of the newly-murdered Innocents, to whom the Christ-child holds out a hand of blessing. Some of them are depicted with slashes in their dresses, as if they had just been cut with swords, and some holding palms and garlands, and others censers. In the foreground a lovely child is looking at the slit that has been cut in the bosom of his garment, wondering that the wound has gone. Round his neck is a necklace of red beads—the string is broken, and he is intent on saving the beads before they fall. Whilst the Innocents at the back of the picture are weeping and covering their faces with their hands as if full of the horror of death, those who are more advanced look calmer, whilst the foremost ones are full of joy, and lift their faces upwards in triumph. The children are walking on an ethereal atmosphere, which is supposed to represent the water of life. It is pure and blue and transparent, pink flowers fall in it here and there, and are mirrored in its deep blue depths—here and there it grows into a large transparent globe in which the events of the future are seen mirrored. The painting is so miraculously fine and smooth that it will bear inspection through a powerful magnifying glass. It is a work that repays a great deal of study, and it is impossible to grasp all the painter's meaning at once. Not insignificant is the figure of Joseph, so intent on tracing his way by the sight of the distant watch-fires that the fairy vision passes him unperceived.

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SOMETHING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

THE WORK OF SUFFERING.

"What a strange head-line!" some boy or girl may exclaim. "Suffering is one thing and work is another, and a very different thing." Not quite so fast, young folks! There are numberless instances in history, and in everyday life, in which as great a work has been accomplished by the patient endurance of pain, or even death, in some good and noble cause, as has often resulted from years of toil.

Visitors to Rome are shewn the grand ruin of the Coliseum, a vast building, which covered six acres of ground. It was erected for the exhibition of games and sports, and very cruel games and sports they were. Eighty thousand people, men and women, among whom were the rich and delicate ladies of the city, used to crowd into this immense theatre to see savage beasts, made furious with hunger, tear each other to pieces, or to see men fight and kill and wound each other. The men who took part in these fights were called gladiators and were generally slaves, or prisoners taken in war, or criminals. On the spread of the Christian religion, these games became less cruel and less frequent, but though the Roman nation came at last to call itself Christian, it still, at intervals, continued these cruel practices, till about 400 years after Christ, when a noble deed of self-sacrifice gave the death-blow, once and for all, to the gladiatorial combats. A victory had been gained over the Goths, and the games were to be held to celebrate it. The beasts had fought, and now the gladiators were drawn up in the vast arena in two parties, opposite each other, ready to fight. Their sharp swords glanced in the sun. The people waited impatiently for the blood to flow. Suddenly a man, roughly clad, with bare head and bare feet, rushed between the two ranks of armed men, and called aloud on the people to cease from shedding innocent blood and delighting in murder. "Back, old man!" "On, gladiators!" "Down with him!" sounded on all sides, mixed with groans and howls. The gladiators, enraged at being interrupted, cut him down, and trampled on him. He lay dead. But he had done his work. The fight was stopped, and there was never another such fight in the Coliseum. The people, ashamed and horrified at the crime they had committed, rose and dispersed, and desired no more combats of gladiators. This noble man was a pious hermit, who had come to Rome to keep Christmas. His name is uncertain. It is believed to have been Telemachus.

In the United States of America, at the present time, there is not one human being kept in slavery; but not so very many years ago, millions of negroes were held as slaves, and their owners had so much power in the country that even to speak against slavery was enough to put your life in danger. Yet, at that time, one man rose up and spoke strong words against it. The name of that man was William Lloyd Garrison.

Garrison went to Baltimore, a slave owning city, and then spoke publicly against the crime of holding our brother man in slavery. He was seized and put in prison, and kept there for two years. Then he was let out, as they supposed that he had learnt his lesson and would be quiet from that time. But this was not his way. He went to Boston, his native town, and there set up a newspaper, called the *Liberator* (the setter free). The whole purpose of this paper was to attack slavery. When Garrison set up his paper he was so poor that he had to do it all himself, assisted only by one negro boy; and he often lived on bread and water. But when his paper was sent out through the land it produced a great effect; and the slave owners and their party were so enraged that the Government of one State offered a reward of more than £1,000 to anyone who would bring Garrison to them dead or alive. It is wonderful that he escaped with his life. He was abused, laughed at, and hated. Once in Boston he was seized by a furious mob, and dragged through the streets with a rope round his neck. They dragged him past the house where he lived, and his young wife looked down at him from the window. But like the hermit who laid down his life under the blows of the gladiators, he felt no rage against those violent men, and the look that he gave his wife, as they dragged him by, was a look of trust and love and courage, though mingled with agony. He would have been killed by the mob had not the police saved him by shutting him up in prison. One man on that day seized him in an insulting manner, and held his head fast for a minute. Garrison bore it quietly, and when released said only, looking steadfastly at the man, "Are you satisfied?" "Yes," replied he. "I also am," Garrison answered. He might well be satisfied. The man would never forget the steadfast look and calm voice of him who was suffering all this for the sake of the oppressed and miserable. Garrison did not labour and suffer in vain. Men and women, of noble mind and purpose, came forward; more and more joined, and at last the whole country divided into two parties, one for slavery, the other against it. Four years of dreadful war followed, but, in the end, freedom gained the day. The South has been conquered and the slaves are all free.

DIGESTING SCRIPTURE.

Dean Swift, in "Gulliver's Travels," tells of a country where the schoolmasters taught their pupils by writing the lessons on wafers and making the boys swallow them. He adds, however, that the plan did not seem to answer, and most people would think it very strange if it did. To be sure, one of the collects in the Prayer Book contains a petition for help that we may "inwardly digest" the Scriptures for our good, but every child of ordinary intelligence knows better than to suppose that knowledge is to be digested in the same way that bread and butter is. Yet we are told by Dr. Moffat, the celebrated missionary, of a negro who made just this mistake.

When Dr. Moffat was in Africa, a poor black man came to him with a sad tale that his dog had torn a copy of the New Testament to pieces and had eaten some of the leaves. The man said the dog had been of great use to him, for he kept off the wild beasts and would hunt them well, but that was over now; the dog was spoilt and would do so no more. Dr. Moffat asked how that could be; and as for the Testament, he might be able to get a new one.

"But," said the man, "the words of the Testament teach love and peace; the dog ate them up, and now he will not hunt, he will not fight any more."

We may be sure the man would soon find his dog was made no worse, and could be no better, by eating the words. Unfortunately many people who frequently read the beautiful lessons and precepts contained in the New Testament seem to come no nearer to "inwardly digesting" their meaning or getting any good out of them than if in place of taking them into their minds they had, like the black man's dog, taken them into their stomachs instead.

NUTS TO CRACK.

1.—How can five persons divide five eggs so that each man shall receive one and still one remain in the dish?

2.—A spirit half wicked recal to your mind,
That's somewhat in trouble, I think you will find;
Next something unusual, aye, even the spelling,
Whole's here at hand, so what's the use telling.

3.—BURIED PROVERB.—The remarks this drunken man yelled in my ear were: "Wit rue the low; order glasses; poke not the fire; have some gin," and was jesting when a bobby appeared.

4.—My *first*, the pride of every English dame,
Over to England in my *second* came.
My *whole* of every household forms a part;
Thou art not science, but thou teachest art.

5.—I am a compound word; my *second* receives my *first*; my 6, 5, 2, 1 is part of a fisherman's gear; my 7, 8, 1, 3 is a fastener; and my 4, 2, 9, 4 is a passage.

6.—My *first* a river will disclose;
For *next* transpose a measure;
An animal my *total* shews,
Pray find me at your leisure.

7.—*First* defiles; *second* pierces; and my *whole* is an implement of husbandry.

8.—My *first* is black; my *second* is of many colours; and my *whole* is a wild fruit.

9.—In kick, not in blow.
In glare, not in glow.
In sick, not in ill.
In Jack, not in Jill.
In cab, not in hack.
In white, not in black.
In barque, not in ship.
In nose, not in lip.
In pack, not in bind.
In brain, not in mind.
The hero of a famous poem
Is my *whole*, I hope you know him.

LAST WEEK'S KERNELS.

1.—Phosphorescence. 2. Livingstone. 3. Clover, lover, over. 4. Whale, hale, ale. 5. Bark.

6.
G
ALE
PLANE
READING
GLADSTONE
BATTERY
DRONE
ANN
E

7.
W
DIE
FELON
COMBINE
PENTECOST
WILBERFORCE
MANIFESTO
THEOREM
MARSH
ACE
E

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THE BLACK SHAFT:

OR,

THE MINER'S DAUGHTER—A MYSTERY.

BY

HENRY FRITH.

Author of "The Mystery of Moor Farm," "On the Wings of the Wind," "The Lock-keeper's Secret," &c. &c.

CHAPTER XIII.

SIMON DUNCOMB BEGINS TO GROW UNEASY.

The wounded Hosea remained under Doctor Ashton's care, excluded from the outer world. If he news of Bessie's intended departure displeased him, no one knew it. The kind-hearted young doctor undertook to arrange matters. He had advised Bessie to go when she asked his opinion, but neither he nor anyone, except Susan—not even Simon Duncomb—was aware of her actual departure. Mr. and Mrs. Bunett left by an early train the day after Bessie had seen the patient. Bessie Calton accompanied them on their way to the Far West, where they hoped to make better terms with Fortune than they had been able to do in the old country.

Simon felt in a measure relieved when he eventually heard of Bessie's departure, though his guilty conscience would not let him rest. Since Miss Askenhurst had left the "Wolds"—though the quarrel had been made up—Simon and his sister, Jessie, had been good friends, but no more. Mr. Duncomb was anxious for his son to marry, and would have been glad had he chosen Kate Askenhurst. Mr. Askenhurst had been lately created a baronet, and there was unfortunately no heir to the title. Sir Edward Askenhurst would surely marry again, it was said, and the baronet urged a marriage between Simon and Kate, for he would then be free to wed a second time without any fear of "clashing" between daughter and step-mother.

Mr. Duncomb pressed this alliance upon his son.

"Simon," he said, "you are 'getting on,' my boy; it is quite time you thought of marrying. You are now—so far as we can tell—the heir to this property. All attempts to find poor Mervyn have failed. Until Hosea is in a condition to explain matters we must remain in the dark. But your unfortunate cousin is, no doubt, deceased. So, my boy, you must really consider your future."

"I don't want to be married," replied the young man. "Why can't I wait?"

"You can wait, but I want you to look round and endeavour to make a choice. You need not marry immediately; but I confess I wish you would endeavour to gain Kate for your wife."

"Kate Askenhurst! Well, I do like her, I must say; but I rather doubt whether she will marry me."

"Have you asked her?"

"Well, in a fashion, I did when she was here."

"What did she say?" inquired Mr. Duncomb.

"She declined the honour," replied Simon, "and declined it pretty firmly. But, then, I was not the heir, and she was the daughter of a cotton baronet So the chances are about equal, I suspect."

"Simon," said Mr. Duncomb, "I have always been an indulgent parent to you. You have had your fling. I make no reproaches, mind: nor do I want to enquire too closely into any arrangements you may have made." (Simon's heart beat loudly at this point). "But," continued his father, "you must, as a gentleman—as the heir to the property—settle down and marry. This I will insist upon. I can alter my will now, you know; and, by George, I'll do it if you won't please me. By George I *will!*"

Simon perceived his father was in earnest, and found himself between the horns of a dilemma. If he married Kate, and Bessie returned to denounce him, he knew full well that, even did she fail in proving her marriage, his position in the county would suffer, or be entirely lost. If she returned with the necessary evidence in her possession he would be found guilty of bigamy, and then what would Miss Askenhurst's position be? He deeply condemned himself for having been so foolish as to yield to Bessie's entreaties as to marriage by a minister. He never regretted the girl's anguish; he only felt galled by his own chains.

But Mordaunt would never turn up! He had performed the service in a condition which would have precluded any recollection of the incident. Simon had taken care to ply him with brandy before and after the hurried ceremony which had satisfied simple and trusting Bessie, who had given her whole heart to her lover long before. The wretched wreck of a teacher of the truth had gone away, tramping to the nearest port with gold in his pocket to spend as he listed, and we need scarcely ask how the money, the wages of sin and mockery, had been expended en route to America.

On the whole Simon felt pretty safe, and after some minutes spent in reflection, he said—

"Well, father, I think you are right. I will do as you suggest. I will endeavour to win Kate; that is, provided you and her father are quite agreed upon the match."

"Sir Edward has already notified to me his consent to the union, should his daughter's acquiescence be obtained," said Mr. Duncomb, pompously. "You must gain Kate's free consent, of course."

"I will do my best," replied Simon. "Where is she now? In Manchester?"

"No; staying with her aunt and cousins in Devonshire. I daresay they will be glad to see you down there. The weather is still delightful, and you may have a better opportunity in such a quiet place."

Simon Duncomb asked for no better employment than wandering through Devonshire lanes with a party of young ladies, and he approved highly of the suggestion.

"I will walk part of the way," he said, "and 'pop in,' as it were, accidentally. These little surprises are sometimes the best way to please."

"Yes; if the people are not *too much* taken by surprise! I dare say we can arrange it for you. You can walk down from Exeter, and look about you, either north or south. I forget where they are, somewhere near Lynton, I think. I will write to Sir Edward, and find out."

So it was arranged that Simon should lay siege to Kate Askenhurst, and he made his preparations for the little tour in Devonshire, which seemed to promise him such a pleasant return.

"You are going to Devonshire, I hear," said Mr. Ashton one day, soon after the conversation above recorded.

"Yes, for a walking tour. Some friends of min are there."

"Miss Askenhurst, I understand, is there with your friends, too," remarked the doctor.

"Who told you that?" inquired Simon; "and what if she is?"

"Your sister, Miss Duncomb, told me," replied the doctor; "and nothing if Miss Askenhurst is there. What reason could there be for your going, except a tour?"

"None whatever," replied Simon, blushing angrily when he thought of his sister's chattering; "who said there was?"

"Nobody, since you are asking riddles," replied Ashton; "only the idea of your marrying rather—a——"

"Amused you, eh?" said Simon, with a scarcely contented laugh. "I am not so *very* old, Mr. Ashton, after all."

"Oh, I was not so much amused as surprised," replied the doctor, as he moved on. "It seemed rather—well, but perhaps I ought not to say anything."

"What the devil do you mean?" cried Simon, angrily, but in fear nevertheless. "What are you driving at? I think your remarks are exceedingly impertinent. Mind your own business, and stick to your gallipots. That is my advice, *gratis*, too!"

"I will endeavour to profit by it," replied the young doctor calmly, but flushing hotly as he spoke. "I will mind my business, depend upon it, and my patients also."

"How is Hosea getting on?" asked Simon, in a more friendly tone. "When will he be out again? I should let him out a bit, I think."

"You must excuse me, Mr. Duncomb, that is *my* business, and I cannot take your *gratis* advice upon a medical case. Good morning. I trust I did not *alarm* you in any way by my remarks upon your intended visit. Good morning." chap 13

Simon made no answer. The word "alarm" in connection with his matrimonial scheme aroused a fear in his guilty mind that the doctor had heard something from his patient concerning Bessie which had put Mr. Ashton on his guard. But such an idea was almost immediately rejected. Hosea had no notion that anyone but Mervyn—the missing, the dead Mervyn Duncomb—had been to blame. Thus Simon had little doubt that Hosea had killed the young man in revenge for his wrongs or Bessie's. If Hosea told tales, so would Simon, even though he perished himself in the telling.

"I see it all," said Simon to himself. "I see it all. Old Hosea has confided in Ashton, and the doctor is hiding him till the fate of Mervyn is forgotten. A good plan; but why should Ashton lend himself to such a course? He must have a reason which I cannot fathom. That he is after Jessie, I'm sure. He comes here pretty frequently. Well, I'll tackle him."

"Jessie," he said, "I don't approve of your being so much with that doctor."

"What doctor? Do you mean, Mr. Ashton?"

"Certainly, what other doctor could I mean? Now, once for all, I won't have you 'spooning' about with him. I'll tell the governor if you don't mind, and he shall speak to the 'apothecary' himself."

"How vulgar you are, Simon! 'Spooning,' indeed! Your language has not improved. I am afraid somebody has taught you a good deal of low-class language. By the by, have *you* heard what has become of Bessie Calton?"

"How should I know," retorted Simon, utterly taken aback by this question. "What have *I* to do with Bessie Calton? Look here, Miss Jessie, I'll trouble you to keep a civil tongue in your head. Do you understand?"

"No, I do not," replied his sister. "Will you kindly explain? *I* have said nothing rude or uncivil."

"Yes you have. You said I 'spooned' Bessie Calton. That was uncivil and rude!"

"I never said so. I said someone might have taught you low language. I meant that word. You accused me of improper conduct, or unladylike behaviour. Tell papa by all means. I can explain the *whole* matter to him. But I wonder where Bessie is; I must ask Hosea Calton when I see him where the girl has gone."

"It's no business of yours where every village girl goes. You had better keep out of such company, I can tell you."

"She's fit company apparently for you, Simon; at least, she was, you thought."

Simon waited to hear no more. With a muttered oath he turned round, and banged the door after him.

"How cross he is," solilliquised Jessie, "and how very stupid! Poor Mr. Ashton, he is about the very last man to come and—'spoon' upon me. There is something though in his manner which I cannot quite understand. Has he any news concerning Mervyn, I wonder. Oh, what would not I give to hear of him; poor, dear Mervyn—my dearest, my love! Mervyn, Mervyn, my darling, come back to me; come back to me again!" chap 13

* * * * *

"You are restless this evening," said Mr. Ashton to his patient an hour later. "You must lie quiet, or you will have a relapse. What has disturbed you?"

The sick man whispered a few words as the doctor bent down his head, and smiled.

"Nonsense man, all nonsense. I will go again to-morrow and ascertain. Now lie down, and don't think of 'the voice' any more."

He went down stairs, and asked Susan whether Miss Duncomb had called again, or whether any news had come about Bessie.

Both questions were answered in the negative.

CHAPTER XIV.

JESSIE DUNCOMB SEES A GHOST.

The search for Mervyn Duncomb relaxed by degrees. The old squire had done all in his power to find his nephew, and the mysterious disappearance had been mentioned in the local newspapers. But beyond the immediate neighbourhood, very few people cared much, nor did the public attention withdraw itself from the termination of the great struggle in America to interest itself in the fate of Mervyn.

So the young squire disappeared in a way which, coupled with the continued inability of Hosea Calton to give any information as to his own injuries, excited public curiosity for a while, but it would have died away had not other circumstances arrayed themselves, and indicated some foul play against Mervyn. The neighbourhood was very superstitious, and by degrees tales of the ghost of the dead man having appeared at night in the path leading to the BLACK SHAFT, gained credence.

Then other things leaked out, and more mystery was engendered. "Some one" said that he had seen Hosea Calton, on the evening before the accident, in close and mysterious confabulation with a certain Swede, who owned a trawler named the "Christina." Others then whispered that in the dead of night, the same night on which "young squire" was missing, some fishermen, or more likely some demons, had been dimly perceived flitting up the broken and haunted cliff path which led to the weird smugglers' cave. They never came down again, it was said; they vanished!

Yet another rumour—a girl had been kept awake that night by toothache, and in her pain had risen and walked about her chamber. She had heard steps treading softly and warily, and had for a moment glanced out. The moonlight showed her some phantoms carrying something heavy. But whether the package was smuggled merchandise or not, the girl could not say, and indeed in the morning she scarcely realised the incident. She rather fancied she had dreamt it under the influence of the laudanum she had taken to lull her pain.

One fact was patent: the "Christina" had sailed after the other trawlers and had never returned. Then came a sturdy mariner and his sturdy crew, consisting of two men and a boy, who had a strange legend to relate. The Swede, Arnaldsen, had been seen sailing in a newly-painted craft, moulded on the lines of the old Christina, and recognised as similar by old and practised hands and eyes. The Christina was no more; the new black craft suggested the colour of Arnaldsen's master and *his* craft, and the Swede was feared accordingly.

More mysteries yet. The Christina's owners never returned to the bay. Their fishing was carried on elsewhere now. Why did not Petersen, who was accused of tender passages with the young girl who had suffered from toothache, why did he not return to his love?

But all these events were put in the shade by the rumour that the young squire's ghost was "walking" round the Black Shaft. A pedler had seen it one evening, and had hurried, frightened, to the nearest inn, where he required several "drinks" to revive him—a prescription which scarcely succeeded, inasmuch as they rendered him almost insensibly drunk! But he had seen the muffled figure of the dead man. That he would swear to!

Simon Duncomb heard all these rumours, and became more and more uneasy. Although he derided the idea of a ghost, he was not sufficiently strong-minded to deny the possibility of its appearance. The band of phantoms carrying away the chest he could believe; he remembered seeing Hosea go down to the village by the sea that afternoon on which the compact had been made concerning the *working of the mine*. He had little doubt that Hosea had doggedly carried out his revenge, and had murdered Mervyn for his supposed betrayal of his daughter, Bessie; a belief which Simon had carefully fostered in Hosea's mind.

The man was still a prisoner in the doctor's house. The recovery of his eyesight necessitated his detention under the doctor's own eye, and Squire Duncomb was willing this should be so. Miss Duncomb also called to enquire concerning Hosea, and the patient was particularly gratified by these attentions, the doctor said.

"When may I see her, doctor?" he would say.

"When you can use your eyes," was the joking reply which Doctor Ashton always returned.

The patient seemed upon very good terms with his medical man, and learned with much satisfaction that many little delicacies came from the "Wolds" for his use and benefit. The doctor or the faithful nurse, Mrs. Mordaunt, kept the sick man informed of all the village gossip. Mrs. Mordaunt especially was a favourite, for she frequently encountered Miss Duncomb, and learned from her particulars concerning the family, which the invalid delighted to hear, no doubt believing himself already allied with the Duncombs. Had not the young squire married his niece?

The doctor also paid frequent visits to the "Wolds"—sometimes of a warm evening accompanied by his patient muffled up. These visits excited Simon's anger, for the young man hated Ashton, he knew not why. By reviling him he hoped to annoy Jessie. But she remained quite unmoved under all the sarcasm and veiled abuse. Then the wretched Simon began to wonder whether "Ashton had killed Hosea yet," and openly scoffed at the idea that the man was ill, or unable to leave the house, except attended by Ashton.

"I should think Mr. Ashton the better judge of his patient's condition," said Jessie, one day after dinner, when Simon had been sneering at the doctor as usual.

"Oh, of course *you* think so," retorted her amiable brother. "Of course, dear Mr. Ashton can do no wrong in *your* eyes."

Jessie laughed merrily, but was in no degree confused; not the least blush rose on her cheek as she answered:

"Really, Simon, you are very stupid or very malicious. What injury has the poor doctor ever done to you?"

"He's a fool—a meddler—a busy-body. What does he want here so often, prying about the house?"

"Eh! who is prying?" exclaimed the squire, suddenly waking up from his nap. "Who is prying about you, Simon?"

"No one about *me*; they have nothing to pry about," replied his son. "But that doctor is always calling, and people are already talking about him and Jessie."

"Well?" inquired the squire, sleepily.

"It isn't well!" continued Simon. "Ashton has no business here, and only wants a wife with money. Jessie can't see that. I think you ought to forbid him the house."

"Jessie, my dear, is this the fact? Have you permitted this young man's attentions?"

"No, father; Mr. Ashton has paid me no attentions of the sort Simon so very kindly has invented."

"Invented! I like that! Invented your meeting in the shrubbery yesterday! Invented your curious accidental meetings on the cliff path! The 'assignation' was by 'accident,' of course! Oh, yes!"

Jessie blushed a little, and then said quickly—

"I had no idea you were quite so mean as to spy on me and others, Simon."

"Then, Jessie, Simon is correct," said her father. "This must cease. I am utterly astonished. Clandestine meetings!"

"Father!" exclaimed Jessie, "you have no right to say such a thing. I have *never* met Mr. Ashton clandestinely—never; nor has he ever addressed any words to me of—of the kind you fancy. It's ridiculous!"

"Then why see so much of him"

"I can't help meeting him sometimes," re[plied] Jessie, weakly. "We meet because the place is small, and my duties take me about in the same neighbourhood. I must walk."

"All very fine!" muttered Simon; "but I should say 'Walker!'"

"You would say anything vulgar naturally," returned Jessie. "But I will take your advice, father, and avoid Mr. Ashton. I can assure you, however, your ideas have no foundation. I only called on Mrs. Bunett to inquire for Bessie, who, I understand, has now gone away with the Bunetts. Some people say she was secretly married to a man who has deserted her—the coward!"

"Poor thing," replied Mr. Duncomb. "Bessie is a nice girl, and the scoundrel must have been a mean, pitiful wretch. I wish I had him within reach of my stick. I think I would take the law into my own hands! Does anyone know who he is?"

"Yes," replied Simon, suddenly rising, and affecting indignation; "yes, *I* know—at least I have *heard*. But for own sakes I would rather not divulge the secret. Bessie was, I daresay, bribed to leave the neighbourhood and—well, never mind."

"What do you mean, Simon?" said his father. "For our sakes! What can this young woman's disappearance have to do with our family? 'Bribed to leave the neighbourhood!' I confess I do not understand you, sir!"

"I will tell you all I have heard, father, but some other time. The circumstances——"

"Never mind the circumstances. You must have some reason to speak as you do. Go on."

"Before Jessie, I think——"

"You spoke of the *family honour*. There is no shame, I'll be bound! Our family can hold up its head. Simon, as your father, I command you—tell me what you have hinted at."

"Well, then, if you *must* hear it," said Simon reluctantly. "People say—only say, mind—that Bessie Calton has been privately married to——"

"Go on, sir," repeated his father sternly. "Go on, or I will find means."

"All right," replied Simon doggedly. "Only don't blame me for the consequences." chap 14

Simon hesitated; and before the old squire could again tell him to proceed his daughter rose and quickly quitted the room. Her brother filled his glass and waited until she had closed the door.

"Well, what consequences?" said the squire. "What are you shaking your head about? Don't make a fool of yourself, sir. If you have any remarks to make concerning your cousin, say them out like a man. No cock-and-bull tale, mind!"

"Well, then, ask Hosea; he will soon be out again. *He* will tell you something about Mervyn's fate. Ask *him!*" chap 14

"Good heavens!" exclaimed the squire; "you cannot mean——"

He stood upright, his hands resting on the arms of the chair as he glanced at his son.

"Simon, you don't suspect——"

"Father, I suspect more than I dare say. If all be true—mind, if *all be* true—Hosea would have very good reasons for dealing roughly with Mervyn. They were alone in the mine. If by any chance the old man had got an inkling of the circumstances he would most likely 'tackle' Mervyn with the facts. Then——"

"I see, I see," muttered the squire. "You think Hosea when he came to hear how his daughter had been treated has taken Mervyn's life! Murdered him!"

"I do," whispered Simon. "I am sadly afraid that the poor fellow——"

"Poor fellow, indeed!" echoed the old squire. "Poor, mean, pitiful fellow. To think that Mervyn would act so. I can scarcely credit it. I cannot understand such a thing. The soul of honour, apparently——"

Simon smiled, and his father noticed the sneer which accompanied it.

"What do you mean?" he inquired.

"Well, I mean that Mervyn did not hesitate to make fierce love to Jessie not so long ago, and even tried a flirtation with Kate, when all the time he was married—or as good as married—to that cottage wench."

"Simon, you are very bitter. You don't like Mervyn."

"I do not like hypocrites who cant about affection and marriage, who pretend to leave here because they want to seem romantic. Mervyn left because he fancied Kate liked me instead of him!"

"But if he *were* married——"

Simon shrugged his shoulders. "Who married them?" he said. "If he *be* married we can easily ascertain. I do not believe he is legally, or was married, at all. I am sorry for Jessie. That fool of a doctor will be here presently, and you must shut him up, too. He knows too much."

"Too much. How do you mean?" asked the squire, dreamily.

"My dear father, cannot you understand it? It's as plain as possible. Hosea has killed poor Mervyn, I'm almost sure, for there is no proof; but in the terrible struggle Calton is much injured. The doctor is told the tale, pities the man, and hides him from justice. What's that noise?"

"Nothing, nothing, go on, go on," groaned the squire. "It sounds terribly, horribly probable. Go on!"

"Bessie tries to see her father, and when she sees him she bolts. He has killed her man—well, her husband. Do you see? The doctor knows all this, of course. He likes Jessie, and thinks he will, under the circumstances, win her if he consents to hold his tongue."

"Simon, Simon, you are putting a very mean construction upon Mr. Ashton's motives."

"Mr. Ashton! An apothecary who make up his own stuff, to presume to marry Jessie! He must have some hold over us, and he thinks this will assist him. If Jessie refuses him he will 'split.' You'll see!"

"You have rather a low estimate of human nature I must say. I cannot understand it. It is incredible!"

"It may be true for all that," replied Simon. "Yet I agree with you. Mervyn was the very last man to behave so—one would have fancied so, at least. 'Still waters,' you know."

"We must keep this quite quiet," said the squire. "We must take no notice of anything until some definite facts arise. I am rather afraid of the doctor."

"Yes; that Doctor Ashton is——"

"Is here," interrupted a manly and yet stern voice, as the young man entered the room. "What of him, Mr. Simon? What do you think of him that you speak so?"

"I think very little of him," retorted Simon, rudely.

"Were you not in your father's house, young sir, I would teach you a lesson in manners. I have an account to settle with you already."

"Send in your bill, then. My father will give you a cheque. You may close your books, so far as I am concerned."

"Simon, Simon! hold your tongue," cried his father. "Well, Ashton; what is it?"

"Mrs. Mordaunt has something to say to you, squire, when next you pass our way; or she will come up here at any time you prefer. She wishes to set some inquiries on foot, and wants your advice—as a magistrate."

"Tell her to come to-morrow at noon. I will see her. What's her business; do you know?"

"She has a son, I believe; rather a *mauvais sujet*, and he has disappeared suddenly."

Simon stood petrified. The name of Mordaunt struck home. Her son! The secret would be divulged. The truth would be investigated. What should he do?

"What about your patient, doctor," inquired Mr. Duncomb. "Any news of his daughter?"

"He is better—drove up with me here. Bessie Calton had gone to America with the Bunetts."

"So I understand she—she is married?" hesitated the squire.

"I have heard as much," replied Mr. Ashton.

"And is already a widow, poor thing—though I can never forgive *him*—the dead."

"Forgive," interrupted the doctor, "the dead? What dead man?"

"The real culprit—my nephew," replied the old squire, sadly, and in a low tone.

"Who says he is dead?" asked the doctor.

"Simon thinks he is—and his reasons are plausible."

"Indeed," said Mr. Ashton. "How did he die, Mr. Simon?"

"You didn't attend him or you wouldn't need to ask," retorted the angry man.

"Hold your tongue, Simon. Be civil—be silent."

"Perhaps Mr. Mervyn, when he returns, will tell us all."

A chill struck upon Simon at these words.

"When Mervyn returns!" exclaimed the squire. "Have you any information — What's that?" he cried, as a sound as of something falling became audible in the hall. Then a door latched, and all was silent.

The three men paused a moment, and then the doctor, who was the first to recover himself, opened the dining-room door, and, closely followed by the others, looked out.

On the floor lay Jessie Duncomb, to all appearance lifeless!

Doctor Ashton at once hurried forward and raised her up gently. The servants were summoned, and the girl was carried upstairs. Mr. Ashton then quickly succeeded in restoring her to consciousness.

"What caused this attack, doctor? Can you give us any clue?" asked the squire, when Jessie had recovered her senses.

"No, unless some sudden shock occasioned it."

"Could she have overheard our conversation, and become alarmed in any way?"

"No, I fancy not," began the doctor. "The mention of your nephew——"

"I have seen him," cried Jessie, suddenly. "I have seen his spirit. It came to bid me farewell. He is dead—he is dead!"

Then, with a low cry of pain and terror, she relapsed into insensibility.

(To be continued.)

HINTS FOR THE HOME.

RISING IN THE WORLD.—There is a glare about success which is apt to dazzle men's eyes. When we see a man rising in the world, a foolishly high opinion is formed of his merits. It is said, "What a wonderful man this must be to rise so rapidly!" forgetting that straw, dust, and feathers—things without value or weight—rise the soonest and easiest. It is not always the good and great man who rise rapidly into wealth and notice.

KINDNESS.—The humanizing power of kindness may be exercised in every relation of life; in our intercourse with our fellow-creatures, whether in the church, in the assembling together for the promotion of a benevolent or social object, or any other link that binds men together in the chain of brotherhood; kindness should hallow our friendships, pervade our demeanour throughout the common usages of society, and influence our conduct as kinsmen, husbands and fathers.

JUSTICE AND LOVE.—The idea that justice is superfluous where love reigns is a worm that has dwelt at the core of many a fair household and many a warm friendship, and has gradually wrought in them decay and bitterness. The unfair use of power, the sharp criticism, the light banter which disparages our intellect, our capacities, or our motives, the tone of distrust and suspicion, the readiness to see and to magnify faults and errors—these and similar unjust thoughts, words, and acts are the shadows that too often hide real affection in a gloom so thick and impenetrable that it emerges no more for ever.

RIGHT PLACES AND RIGHT WORK.—True freedom demands stern self-discipline, and in nothing so much as in finding and keeping our right places and doing our right work. It was once said of an ambitious man who had left a good trade to study divinity that he had spoilt an excellent shoemaker to make a very poor preacher; and this kind of work is constantly going on in various directions. Youths who might have made their mark as masons, carpenters, or machinists, sink into utter insignificance as pettifogging lawyers, incompetent physicians, or inferior tradesmen. The man who had it in him to become a scientific farmer turns himself into a third-rate bookkeeper, and the other, who might easily have worked his way up to the head of a large manufactory, struggles with poverty in an attic, writing what no one cares to read.

THE ART OF MAKING GIFTS.—In giving gifts let us consult minds and moods. It is not always literally the thing itself which is given that tells. It is the temper and domain of its reception. If there is not the proper breadth in the mind or potentiality for it, we must mediate to the condition with which we are to communicate. We can prompt and stimulate the slow mind, but we must not go beyond its possible approach. In gifts, as in eloquence and thoughts, the pearl of value lies in adaptation. One must mingle his thought and his personality somehow and in some way with his successful gift. He cannot stand aside and expect that the few shillings that he expends are themselves sufficient. Gifts are not alone valuable to the recipient. They have a mission to perform upon the donor, too. They recall to him the doctrine that he is not alone in the world.

MEN AND WOMEN.—Plato said, women are the same as man in faculty, only less in degree. But the general voice of mankind has agreed that they have their own strength; that women are strong by sentiment; that the same mental height which their husbands attain by toil, they attain by sympathy with their husbands. Man is the will, and woman the sentiment. In this ship of humanity, Will is the rudder and Sentiment the sail; when a woman affects to steer, the rudder is only a masked sail. When women engage in any art or trade, it is usually as a resource, not as a primary object. The life of the affections is primary to them; so that there is usually no career that they will not—with their own applause, and that of society—quit for a suitable marriage. And they give entirely to their affections, set their whole fortune on the die, lose themselves eagerly in the glory of their husbands and children.—*Emerson.*

GOOD MANNERS.—Good manners are more than mere artificial accomplishments. Surface politeness may be chillingly perfect, but it lacks the warmth and heart which constitute real manners. Where suavity and kindness blend, geniality and goodwill combine, we have the essence of proper manners. The stately but heartless dignity put on by some, passes for courtliness of manner, but its very frigidity makes it repulsive. On the other hand, there may be less of stateliness, but more of magnetic kindliness, and the latter is far more highly appreciated. The essence of good manners is to produce a kindly, pleasant impression, which will remain after the event has passed. Some do this with a quiet dignity, which makes little pretence, but is ever proper and right. Others are more ostentatious, but equally proper. In all cases the same result is reached, the production of a pleasant, kindly impression.

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For Training Young Gentlemen to become Officers in Mercantile Marine. The Queen gives annually a Gold Medal and Cadetship in R.N.; the Admiralty give Commissions in R.N.R.; Appointments given to the Hooghly Pilot Service. Prizes are given by the Geographical Society, Meteorological Department, Elder Brethren of Trinity House, Peninsular and Oriental, and other large Shipping Companies. Terms, 50 and 60 guineas, which includes School Books, Paper, Best and Second Uniform, &c. For Prospectus, with full particulars, apply to W. M. BULLIVANT, Esq., 72, Mark Lane, London, E.C., or to Capt. J. HENDERSON SMITH, on board. The Ship is fitted with all the requirements of a first-class College. [476

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EASY TERMS.
Catalogue Free.
Write to
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MURRAY'S EXTRAORDINARY 2/- TEA Acknowledged by all to be unsurpassed for purity, strength and flavour. 2lbs. sent free for P.O.O. 4/3. MURRAY, GREEN & Co., TEA MERCHANTS, 48, Lime Street, London, E.C.

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THE WORST COUGH is instantly STOPPED by DR. LEBAUD'S BRONCHIAL PASTILLES, a modern tonic remedy, without any poisonous or nauseous ingredient, and an incomparable voice lozenge. Of all Chemists, 1/1½ per box. Depôt—R. GRAHAM, Charlemont Place, Dublin.

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Sample collections, with directions for growing.
List gratis.
Sample No. 1 contains 20 packets of Flower Seeds, Hardy Annuals, easily grown.
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No. 3. 8 packets of Perennials and Biennials.
No. 4. 16 packets of Vegetable Seeds for sowing now, either post free for 13 stamps, or the 4 for 4s., from the PLANT & BULB CO. (late J. Watson), Gravesend.

TO OUR YOUNG MEN.—OPOBUANIA, OPOBUANIA, OPOBUANIA.—The most marvellous discovery of the age for producing Whiskers and Moustachios, after a few applications, post free on receipt of Postal Order for 2/6, securely packed from observation, with full instructions for use, from T. H. CURTIS and SON, Sleaford.

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SILVERINE
OR
INSTANTANEOUS SILVER-PLATING POWDER. For re-silvering articles plated on Copper, Brass, or Alloy, and restoring worn plated goods to their original appearance. A COATING OF PURE SILVER GUARANTEED. NO MERCURIAL COMPOUND.
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AGENTS WANTED EVERYWHERE. Liberal Terms.
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(Largest Brewery in Ireland but one.)

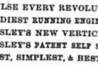
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Consumption of Gas 25 to 75 per cent. Less than in any other Engines.

CROSSLEY'S PATENT TWIN ENGINES.
IMPULSE EVERY REVOLUTION.
STEADIEST RUNNING ENGINE MADE.
CROSSLEY'S NEW VERTICAL ENGINES.
CROSSLEY'S PATENT SELF STARTER.
SAFEST, SIMPLEST, & BEST YET MADE.
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NERVOUS and PHYSICAL DEBILITY. A gentleman, having tried in vain every advertised remedy, has discovered a simple means of self-cure. He will be happy to forward the particulars to any sufferer on receipt of a stamped and directed envelope. Address, J. T. SEWELL, Esq., Montrose Lodge, Chiswick, Middlesex.

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CAUTION.—THE QUEEN v. LAMPLOUGH.— The unanimous Verdict of the Court was in favour of Pyretic Saline being sold without the usual Medicine Duty; this has induced several Chymists and other dealers to put up effervescing powders, worthless & in many instances containing Caustic & injurious ingredients. It is important and imperative that in all cases of Sickness, Fevers, & CHOLERA Symptoms, the genuine Pyretic Saline should be purchased bearing my name only, HENRY LAMPLOUGH, 113, Holborn, London.

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FREE BY POST OR RAIL
COLLECTIONS OF VEGETABLE SEEDS

For small Gardens	5/-, 7/6, and 10/6 each.
For medium-sized Gardens ...	12/6, 15/-, and 21/- each.
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For extra large Gardens ...	105/- and 210/- each.

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For the Gardens of Ladies and Amateurs.
2/6, 5/-, 7/6, 10/6, 15/-, and 21/- each.
UNITED BOXES OF VEGETABLE & FLOWER SEEDS
At 10/6 and 21/- each.
Illustrated Catalogues gratis and post free.
Prices 20 per cent. lower than other Houses.
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A few doses quite effectual.—Caution.—The extraordinary medical reports on the efficacy of Chlorodyne render it of vital importance that the public should obtain the genuine, which is protected by a Government stamp, bearing the words "Dr. J. Collis Browne's Chlorodyne."

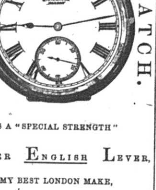
See decision of Vice-Chancellor Sir W. Page Wood, the *Times*, July 16th, 1864.
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Sold in Bottles, 1/1½, 2/9, & 4/6, by all Chemists.

SUDDEN DEATH by SANFORD'S RAT POISON.—"In my wheat ricks I found 180 rats killed by one dressing with it."—J. U. PAINE, Farmer, Caxton. "Sanford's Rat Poison answers well; I found 210 killed by one dressing with it."—W. RAMPLY, Manor Farm, Houghton, Hunts. It is, without doubt, the best ever introduced. Price 1/- per box 1/2 with postage, of SANFORD & SON, Sandy, Beds.

PAINTS mixed ready for use, best quality, 3d. per lb. or 24s. per cwt. Carriage paid on 1 cwt. Send for List of Colours. MORGAN & SON, Colour Merchants, Blackfriars Rd., London.

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What is your Disease—What is your Remedy?
For Answer—Read the
Book of Positive Eclectic Remedies for Self-Treatment.
GRATIS and Post Free to any part of the World, on receipt of two Stamps to prepay postage.
THE BOOK OF POSITIVE REMEDIES FOR THE CURE OF ALL DISEASES EVERY HOUSEHOLD, EVERY MAN AND WOMAN SHOULD POSSESS A COPY.
GUIDE-BOOK gives Instructions for Developing and Strengthening the Body. How to Regain Lost Health.
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GUIDE-BOOK OF POSITIVE REMEDIES treats on Wasting Diseases, and gives Positive Remedy for all Diseases. It is a Guide-Book of Positive Medicines, and should be kept in every house as a Guide to the Cure of Diseases. SEND FOR A COPY OF ONE—GRATIS. Two Stamps must be sent to pay the postage.
May be had Direct from the Publishers.
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NEW PATENT (No. 468)
SIL £5 5s. GOLD £12 12s.
"LUDGATE" WATCH.

IS A "SPECIAL STRENGTH"
SILVER ENGLISH LEVER,
MY BEST LONDON MAKE,
WITH
THREE-QUARTER PLATE MOVEMENT,

JEWELLED THROUGHOUT.
CHRONOMETER BALANCE, WITH DAMP AND DUST PROOF PATENT RING BAND, AND EXTENDED BARREL, IN MASSIVE STERLING SILVER DOME CASES, WITH CRYSTAL GLASS FRONT,
WINDS & SETS HANDS & OPENS AT BACK, MAKING IT A BETTER WATCH THAN ANY £10 WATCH IN THE MARKET, ITS ADVANTAGES OVER THE OLD AND FAULTY FULL PLATE BEING ENORMOUS, AS THE "LUDGATE" WATCH WILL LAST ONE HUNDRED YEARS; IT NEVER BREAKS, AS IT CANNOT BE OVERWOUND, AND NEVER NEEDS EXPENSIVE REPAIRS.
IS A BETTER TIMEKEEPER,
IS A BETTER WATCH, AND
IS BETTER VALUE THAN ANY OTHER WATCH
SOLD FOR £10 IN TOWN OR COUNTRY.
WILL STAND ROUGH USAGE OF ALL KINDS, AND
IS THEREFORE THE BEST WATCH, AND EQUALLY SUITED FOR WORKMEN, RAILWAY MEN, MINERS, GENTLEMEN, BOYS, AND ALL WHO REQUIRE A PERFECT WATCH OF EXTRA STRENGTH FOR HOME, INDIAN, OR COLONIAL USE, MADE IN THREE SIZES, AS UNDER:—
WORKMEN'S, LARGE SIZE,
MINER'S AND RAILWAY MEN'S EXTRA LARGE SIZE, AND
FOR GENERAL WEAR, MEDIUM SIZE,
SENT FREE AND SAFE AT OUR RISK TO ALL PARTS FOR £5 5s.
CASH, OR P.O.O., PAYABLE AT G.P.O.
PRICE IN 18-CARAT GOLD, CRYSTAL GLASS CASES, TWELVE GUINEAS.

SPECIALLY NOTE that J. W. BENSON is the only Maker of a Three-quarter Plate English Watch for £5 5s., and that our Patent "Ludgate" Watch cannot be had throughout or of any Watchmaker in the Kingdom. Any infringement of the Patent Rights will be proceeded against. A Book explaining the advantages of this Watch over the Full Plate English Watches sold by all other makers, will be sent Post Free on application to

J. W. BENSON,
WATCHMAKER TO H.M. THE QUEEN
THE STEAM FACTORY,
62 AND 64, LUDGATE HILL, E.C.,
AND 25, OLD BOND STREET, W., LONDON.

Illustrated Pamphlets of Watches from £2 to £500, Gold and Silver Jewellery, Clocks (House, Chime, and Turret), and Musical Boxes, Free on application.

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CAPE of GOOD HOPE, NATAL & EAST AFRICAN STEAMERS.—The UNION S. S. Co.'s MAIL PACKETS sail from SOUTHAMPTON every alternate Thursday, and from PLYMOUTH the following day. For Passage or Freight apply at the Company's Offices, Oriental Place, Southampton, or 11, Leadenhall Street, London.

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

[Business] Announcements.

THE
CELEBRATED
Easy-running Noiseless Lock-stitch
"WHITE" SEWING MACHINES
The Latest Improved and Most Perfect
Ever introduced to the English Market.
MANUFACTURED BY THE
White Sewing Machine Co.
At CLEVELAND, Ohio, U.S.A.

Simple in Construction. Large and High Arm.
Self-Setting Needle. Very Easy Running.
Never Soils Work. Perfection of Finish.
Finest Workmanship. Warranted for Five Years.

Agents and Wholesale Dealers Wanted.
Send for Circulars to the
WHITE SEWING MACHINE CO.,
19, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.
For Sale by J. M. STELLING, Derwent Street, Blackhill Co. Durham.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."
CLARKE'S
WORLD-FAMED
BLOOD MIXTURE
Trade Mark, "Blood Mixture."
THE GREAT BLOOD PURIFIER AND RESTORER.
For cleansing and clearing the blood from all impurities, cannot be too highly recommended.
For Scrofula, Scurvy, Skin Diseases, and Sores of all kinds its a never-failing and permanent cure.
It Cures old Sores.
Cures Ulcerated Sores on the Neck.
Cures Ulcerated Sore Legs.
Cures Blackheads, or pimples on the Face.
Cures Scurvy Sores.
Cures Cancerous Ulcers.
Cures Blood and Skin Diseases.
Cures Glandular Swellings.
Clears the Blood from all impure matter,
From whatever cause arising.
As this mixture is pleasant to the taste and warranted free from anything injurious to the most delicate constitution for either sex, the Proprietor solicits sufferers to give it a trial to test its value.
THOUSANDS OF TESTIMONIALS FROM ALL PARTS.
Sold in bottles, 2s 9d. each, and in Cases containing six times the quantity, 11s. each—sufficient to effect a permanent cure in the great majority of long standing cases—by all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors throughout the United Kingdom and the World, or sent to any address on receipt of 33 or 132 stamps by
THE LINCOLN & MIDLAND COUNTIES DRUG COMPANY, Lincoln.

ALLAN'S
LIST OF NEW YEARLY VOLUMES FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR YOUNG AND OLD, AT REDUCED PRICES.

The Girls Own Annual, containing 832 pages of interesting and useful Reading, profusely Illustrated. 7s. 6d., for 6s.
The Boys' Own Annual, containing 832 pages of Tales of School-boy Life, and of Adventures on Land and Sea, with Coloured and Wood Engravings. 7s. 6d., for 6s.
The Leisure Hour, the Family Journal of Instruction and Amusement; Illustrated by eminent Artists. 7s., for 5s. 10d.
The Sunday at Home, the Family Magazine for Sunday Readings; Coloured Plates and Wood Engravings. 7s., for 5s. 10d.
Routledge's Every Boy's Annual contains Tales by Jules Verne, Henry Frith, &c.; Drawing-room Conjuring by Hoffmann; Coloured and Wood Engravings. 6s., for 4s. 6d.
Routledge's Every Girl's Annual contains Tales, Poetry, Puzzles, &c.; 12 Coloured Plates. 6s., for 4s. 6d.
Little Wide Awake—Stories, Pictures, and Puzzles, for Young Readers. 3s. 6d., for 2s. 9d.
Little Folks (Christmas Volume), with Pictures on nearly every page, forms most charming Gift Book for Children of all ages. 3s. 6d., for 2s. 9d.
Our Darlings, the Children's Treasury of Pictures and Stories; a most attractive and cheap volume. 3s., for 2s. 3d
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Sunday-Reading for the Young, with 250 Pictures. 3s., for 2s. 4d.
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Band of Hope, Adviser, Child's Own Magazine, &c. 1s., for 10d.
Children's Books, with Coloured Pictures. On Paper, 1d.; Cloth, from 6d., great choice.

CHRISTMAS CARDS!! CHRISTMAS CARDS!!!

The great Novelty of the Season. Christmas Cards, with beautiful Photograph Views of St. Nicholas' Cathedral, High Level and Swing Bridges, Grainger Street, the Castle, and Tynemouth Priory, from 3d. to 1s. each.
Christmas Cards, in Packets containing about 12 and 24 choice Chromo, Christmas, and New Year's Cards, only 6d. and 1s. each (by Post, 2 stamps extra), worth three times the amount charged.
Christmas Cards, Silk Fringed, Hand Painted, Plush, &c. All Prices. Large Stock to select from. 3d. in the 1s. discount allowed on Printed Cards. Wholesale Buyers supplied at Dean Street, at old prices.
Albums! Albums (to hold 200 Cards) with leaves beautifully ornamented, from 4s. 6d., suitable for presentation.
Albums, small size (to hold 50 Cards), from 1s. each.
Scrap Books, New and Handsome designs, 6d. to 10s.
Boxes of Drawing Instruments, for School, Class, and Presentation, from 11d. to 90s.
Scraps for Screens, in endless variety, from One Penny
Oleographs for Screens and Framing, great choice, very cheap.
Playing Cards, from 9d.; Snap Cards, 6d. and 1s.
Bibles, Prayer Books, Hymn Books, Text Books.
Children's Coloured Picture Books, all prices.
Birthday Cards, Easter Cards, Birthday Text Books.
Account Books, Time Books, Club Books.
Books Bound, Strong, Neat, and Cheap.

ALLAN
BOOKSELLER, &c.,
DEAN STREET, COLLINGWOOD STREET
AND BLACKETT STREET,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

THIS DAY'S NEWS.

"GUARDIAN" OFFICE, FRIDAY, 4P.M.

THREATENED WAR WITH RUSSIA.

[CENTRAL NEWS TELEGRAMS.]

PARIS, FRIDAY.

The *Figaro* to-day (Friday) publishes an interview with the Russian General Abramoff, who has just arrived at Nice. General Albramoff declares that Russia ought to seige Herat before England can fortify it. So good an opportunity as the present was not likely to recur.

THE FRANCO-CHINESE WAR.

THE DEFEAT OF THE FRENCH ARMY.

French papers to-day (Friday) comment strongly upon the reverse in Tonquin. M. Rochefort's paper says the Ministers should not be interpellated to let the guillotine be invoked.

MRS WELDON'S LITIGATION.

Mrs Weldon resumed her cross-examination of Dr Riviere to-day (Friday). Both the judge and jury said that Mrs Weldon could not prove her case by reading correspondence. Mrs Weldon, however, continued to read, stating that she would take her own course.

THE GREAT FINANCIAL FRAUDS.

In the alleged financial frauds of Shickle against Hoare and Lawrence, judgment was to-day (Friday) given for the plaintiffs for the full amount claimed.

THE SOUDAN CAMPAIGN.

A telegram this (Friday) afternoon states:—Quarters are being prepared at Chatham for a large force of the Army Reserves. Men are working overtime preparing the ships for sea.

TOWNSHIP MEETING AT CONSETT.

The annual meeting of the ratepayers of the township of Conside and Knitsley was held this (Friday) afternoon, at the Local Board Offices, Consett, under the presidency of Mr C. P. Douglas.—It was decided to submit the following list of gentlemen nominated as overseers for the Magistrates to select four, viz., Messrs C. P. Douglas, W. Aynsley, T. R. Dolphin, T. Dunne, J. Murray, T. Swainston, J. Collinson, R. English, John W. Davison, and Wm. Shell.—On the motion of Mr Jackson, seconded by Mr Aynsley, Mr T. R. Dolphin was re-elected waywarden.

A letter was read from Mr W. Elliott, assistant-overseer, stating that they would be aware that the Representation of the People Act, 1884, was in full force, the result being that from 1,200 to 1,300 people in this township would be added to the register. The number of voters on the last list was about 70; the new Act provided for lodgers or those parties taking a portion of a house being put on to the register, necessitating (according to the new form of rate-book) the addition of two extra columns thereto. It is also necessary for the Overseers to send to each occupier a paper, duly filled up, asking if they had any lodgers. In this township, it would be necessary that 1,500 papers should be delivered from house, and subsequently collected. The names of the lodgers being eventually inserted in the two additional columns in the rate-book. His work had been considerably increased, and he asked for an increase of £10 to his salary. Since his appointment two years ago, the rateable value of the township had increased £2,000, and the number of inhabitants 150.—The Chairman enquired if the whole of these papers would be sent out every yea, but Mr Elliott replied that it would depend on the overseers.—Mr Mr Shell thought it would be unnecessary, except in cases where there were lodgers furnished rooms.—Mr Shell and Mr Collinson regarded the application as premature, as the overseers had no idea of the amount of extra work to be done.—Mr Collinson thought an advance of £5 would be sufficient; and Mr Aynsley said the overseers were of the same opinion.—It was resolved that Mr Elliott be re-appointed assistant overseer, at a salary of £65 per annum.—Mr Elliott accepted the amount.

SAD FATALITY TO AN URPETH MAN

This (Friday) morning, about a quarter to six o'clock, the dead body of a man was found on the Teams Valley Railway, opposite Tyneville Terrace, Gateshead, by a goods-guard named John English, in charge of a train for York. The body was brought in the train to Gateshead West Station, and handed over to Sergeant Thompson, N.E.R. Police. Deceased was fearfully crushed about the head, and seemed to have been dead for some time. From papers in his possession, it wrs gathered that he was named Matthew Maddison, and his age 65 years. He had been living at Urpeth Colliery for the last ten years.

DURHAM MARCH FAIR.

The annual fair for the sale of horses and ponies commenced in New Elvet, Durham, on Monday last, and was brought to a close to-day (Friday). There has been a good show of horses generally, as well as a good attendance of dealers. Draught horses sold from £30 to £50; ponies varying from £15 to £25. Throughout there was a good supply of horses, and it was stated that many animals were bought on behalf of the Government in anticipation of difficulties abroad.

SUDDEN DEATH OF A PRIMITIVE METHODIST MINITSER.

The Rev Henry Youll, sen., Carlisle, is reported to have passed away, after a very brief attack of pleurisy. Though very infirm during the last six years, whilst he resided at Carlisle, no apprehension was felt about a fatal termination of the complaint, aggravated as his infirmities were by the failure of his sight through cataract in his eyes. Commencing to be worse on Tuesday, the venerable gentleman expired yesterday (Thursday), at the age of 71, having been in the ministry about 48 years, the last six being spent in comparative retirement as a supernumerary. Few men were better known in this district, he having travelled in Newcastle, South Shields, Hexham, Blyth, Sunderland, Crook, Berwick, Rothbury, Thirsk, Whitby, Barnard Castle, Kendal, Brough, Westgate, Allendale, Carlise, Whitehaven, and Alloa in Scotland. Deceased leaves a widow, and a son and daughter by his former wife. His much-esteemed son is also in the Primitive Methodist Ministry, residing at Consett, and travelling in the Shotley Bridge Circuit, having passed into that station last July from Newcastle East Circuit, in which he laboured efficiently for five years. Entering the itinerancy nearly half a century ago, the late Mr Youll was called to "endure hardness as a good soldier," persecution, and sometimes personal insult, marking the career of the early ministers in the stations they laboured in, thus illustrating the ignorance and moral destitution of the country at large. His ministry was attended to in many of his circuits with success, and besides being cordially welcomed by the people, his work tended greatly to the stability and permanency of the congregations and societies which he assisted in forming.

TO-DAY'S MARKETS.

NEWCASTLE POTATO, FRIDAY.—There has been little change in the market since Tuesday. Prices: East Lowthian Champions, from 48s to 64s per ton; other champions, from 38s to 48s per ton; magnum bonums about the same.

NORTH SHIELDS FISH, FRIDAY.—There was a small supply of fish at Market; a great demand, and high prices were obtained. Plaice, 13s; lemons, 27s; large haddocks, 8s to 9s; small do., 7s; whitings, 18s per basket; ling, 6s to 8s; cod, 6s to 8s each.

At 3·30 this (Friday) morning, the House of Commons went into Committee on the Army Annual Bill, which passed through that stage, and soon afterwards the House was counted out.

THE CHESTER-LE-STREET DIVISION.

MR LLOYD JONES AT THE SPEN.

On Saturday night, Mr Lloyd Jones addressed a crowded and enthusiastic meeting in the Miners' Hall, at the Spen. Mr Jones was met at the entrance to the village by the colliery band, and was conducted to the place of meeting by a large gathering of friends. Mr John Wishart (the Spen) presided.

The CHAIRMAN said there was no need for him to introduce Mr Jones to an audience at the Spen, and he merely wished to assure Mr Jones that the people knew their friends, and especially those who had worked so many years on their behalf. He said the miners at least would make it a duty to recognise that fact, and would return Mr Jones at the head of the poll.

Mr JONES, on rising, was received with loud cheers. He said: I am anxious in addressing you, as in addressing other portions of the Chester-le-Street constituency, to tell you why I have come among you. As you are aware, I have not come here as a stranger. You all know my name, and you are acquainted with the work which on your behalf I have been trying to push forward. We are not strangers to each other. Nobody can question the right of any number of this new constituency to ask me to come here; and being here, nobody ought to question my right to come. I have been asked, and I have come, and now that I am here it is better that I should speak out plainly and tell you the things that are honestly in my mind in regard to general politics and social and industrial questions, than that I should first listen to any body of men, repeat what they think I ought to believe and advocate, if returned to Parliament, and take my acceptance or dismissal from them, whatever you may think of my fitness to serve this constituency. On my own behalf, I object to this; on your behalf I object to it. I prefer meeting you face to face, saying to yourselves what I have to say, and permitting you to decide in accordance with your constitutional rights, whether I am or whether I am not fit to serve you. I have urged that there is no party before the country with principles or with a policy, and I wish to caution you against men who desire to establish over you authority, without any principles which it is to embody and carry out. When the two old parties held possession of power alternately, as the fortunes of the struggles went, you, the great body of the workers, were shut out. And in this state of things you got what you did by making demands and putting a pressure on when opportunity offered. You are not in that position now. (Hear, hear.) Now you are the deciding and determining electoral power. What you can demand and obtain now is not what you can wring from one side by throwing your weight on the other. Now you can embody your own thought in the principles you formulate, and sustain your own interests by the policy you carry out. (Cheers.) You have few old questions to fight for, but you have several new questions to shape. You have social questions to decide on and industrial questions to insist on as necessary practical questions demanding immediate attention. These questions are your own. They have hitherto been neglected because neither of our political parties liked them, and because you had not power to force them on the attention of the country; and, therefore, though they are vital questions to you, they have been put aside and postponed even to the present moment, though to you and yours they are matters of life or death. When the two old rival parties were in conflict they were so evenly balanced that, above all things, they feared to be disturbed with questions upon which they were not agreed among themselves, and they were not agreed on labour questions. As Whigs and Tories they knew how to fight each other; but if a labour question was put forward neither side liked it, and both sides were anxious to thrust it out of the way. (Hear, hear.) Let me illustrate what I mean by a case which may arise at any moment in connexion with one of the industries of your district, and which in several of our most populous districts is one of the chief industries, and in its aggregate one of the most important interests we have to deal with. I mean coal. I have not the returns under my hands, and shall, therefore, not trouble you with minute particulars. We all know how necessary coal is as an agent in production. We know that a large army of producers are constantly engaged in extracting it from the bowels of the earth and sending it out for the use of the community. And it must be painfully and sadly admitted that the occupation is disagreeable and dangerous. Naturally, therefore, the question arises, what provision can be made for those who suffer, and those who are dependent on the sufferers, whilst following so dangerous an occupation? (Applause.) Some time ago I raised this question in the columns of the *Weekly Chronicle*. I pointed to the fact that widows and orphans are abundantly created by mining accidents; that large numbers of these, not being adequately provided for, fell into the ranks of the poverty-stricken and pauperised; and I urged that it was a primary and pressing duty to look after these and see that the death of the father, the husband, or the son should not, in addition to the agony attending the loss of the beloved, bring with the helplessness and hopelessness of poverty. (Cheers.) I pointed out that a penny a ton on the coal raised would not only provide for these, but would also do much for the old miners disabled by age or sickness. Our present amount of coal raised would beget a revenue of £700,000 annually, and I ask what more equitable, more necessary, or more Christian tax was ever levied? (Hear, hear.) Coal is taxed by a royalty. It is taxed in profits. The landowner and the coalowner are paid by charges on the coal. The miner has his wages, but when disaster and death come, he and his have to accept the misery they bring. I am not discussing the merits of this plan now. I am simply indicating a kind of legislation that may be looked for, and suggesting that neither of the old parties will find it convenient or favour it. If I am sent to Parliament and get a bill framed on these lines, you may depend both sides will be opposed to it, because it will be inconvenient to both on the old party lines. (Cheers.) This is a labour question, and there are many of them. In fact, it is impossible to examine the newspapers in the most cursory way without stumbling on them; but there is no people's party to see their importance and take them up. We have only Government parties, and they, as a rule, follow where they are led. We want a people's party; a national party, higher and more general in its aims, and bolder in its designs. Will the people, now that they have the opportunity, insist on this, or will they follow on the old party tracks, continue the old party conflicts, ending in emptyness and noise, with the old results of disappointment and discontent to the masses of the people? I have already declared my intention to fight this electoral battle, and I put it in your hands locally, as electors, to see that I win. (Cheers.)

A number of questions were put by Mr D. HARRIS and answered by Mr JONES to the entire satisfaction of the meeting.

Mr W. WHITFIELD (miner) proposed, in a speech of much energy and friendliness,

That, in the opinion of this meeting, Mr Lloyd Jones is a fit and proper person to represent the Chester-le-Street Division in Parliament.

Mr JOHN TUCKER (miner) seconded the resolution, and condemned in emphatic terms, amid loud cheers, the action of the Miners' Executive in overlooking the well-earned claims of their long-tried friend, Mr Lloyd Jones. He contended that they were not their masters with power to control or direct them outside the business of the association.

Mr WELLS (mason) supported the resolution, and said he had opposed Mr Jones at Winlaton, but was now entirely converted to Mr Jones's views.

Mr JOS. ROBSON (miner) also strongly supported the resolution, and said that whatever orders came from the wire-pullers at Durham or elsewhere, the miners could not forget Mr Jones's services, and would place him at the head of the poll. He then proceeded to criticise severely the Miners' Executive for entering into any compact whereby the return of Mr Lloyd Jones might be endangered.

An amendment was called for, but as no person came forward to propose one, the vote was taken and declared to be unanimous, amidst loud cheering.

Mr JONES, in replying, said he hoped most sincerely that anything that had taken place would not create any kind of ill-feeling between the miners and the officers of their association.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the meeting to a close.

Mr Lloyd Jones on Monday night addressed a meeting in the Victoria Hall, Washington—Mr G. Pickering in the chair—and a resolution in his favour was carried unanimously amid cheering.—On Tuesday evening, a crowded meeting was held in the Board School, Swalwell—presided over by Mr Jos. Cowen, jun.—when a similar resolution was passed.

On Tuesday night, Mr Lloyd Jones addressed a crowded meeting of the electors and non-electors of the Swalwell district, when a resolution was passed accepting him as a fit and proper person to represent the Division in Parliament.

Last (Thursday) night Mr Jones spoke at Marley Hill.

An adjourned meeting of Liberals called by the Winlaton Liberal Association was held on Tuesday night in the Drill Hall, for the purpose of instructing the delegates to the Gateshead conference with respect to the selection of a candidate. After it had been resolved to proceed with the selection of a candidate, the names of Mr Joicey and Mr Jones were put to the meeting; but the voting was so close that the chairman declared "the meeting dissolved because we cannot come to any decision."

MR JOICEY'S CANDIDATURE.

Mr James Joicey addressed a public meeting on Saturday evening in the Drill Hall, Winlaton. The Rev A B. Tebb occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance. At the close of Mr Joicey's address, a large number of questions were submitted from the audience. Eventually, after a lively discussion, Mr Armstrong (Spen) moved, and Mr Hurst (Winlaton) seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr Joicey for his address and for his frank answers to the questions put to him. The resolution was carried with only a few dissentients. A vote of thanks was passed to the chairman, and the meeting terminated with cheers for Mr Gladstone, for Mr Lloyd Jones, and for Mr Joicey.

Last night, Mr James Joicey, one of the candidates for the Chester-le-Street Division, addressed a meeting in the Miners' Hall, Spen. Dr Colquhoun presided, and there was a crowded attendance. Mr Joicey, who was well received, delivered an address and answered many questions, the only new point being his statement that he was in favour of a cottager being eligible for election to a Board of Guardians and would have all disqualification removed.—At the close of Mr Joicey's speech, Mr Harris (tailor) proposed a cordial vote of thanks to Mr Joicey for his address.—This was seconded by Mr Weatherly (miner), supported by Mr Armstrong (teacher), and unanimously agreed to. The meeting, an enthusiastic one, broke up with three cheers for "Gladstone."

LIBERAL MEETING AT CHESTER-LE-STREET.

An adjourned meeting of the Liberals of the Chester-le-Street polling district (called by the local Liberal Association) was held on Monday night at Chester-le-Street, for the purpose of deciding which of the gentlemen at present before the division should be supported at the meeting of Liberal representatives at Gateshead for the selection of a Liberal candidate. The meeting was advertised to be held in the long room of the Lambton Arms, but the apartment was found utterly inadequate. Large numbers of men had come in from the outlying colliery districts, one group from Pelton Fell being headed by the colliery band, and altogether there must have been several hundred persons in attendance. It was, therefore, resolved to hold the meeting in the open space in front of the hotel, and to utilise the balcony as a platform. When the proceedings began, at 7·30 p.m., darkness had set in, but the whole of the business was got through in about half an hour. Mr George Pickering (chairman of the Liberal Association) was voted to the chair.—Mr R. Crammond, miner, Pelton Fell, proposed the nomination of Mr Lloyd Jones, which was seconded by Mr J. Bruce, Waldridge Fell. Mr Joseph Witherspoon (Chester-le-Street) said he would nominate a man whom they all knew, namely, Sir Farrer Herschell. Mr J. W. Locock (Chester-le-Street) seconded the latter nomination. Mr Munroe (Pelton Fell) moved, and Mr Short (Pelton Fell) seconded, the nomination of Mr James Joicey. The names of the three gentlemen nominated were submitted to the meeting in the order in which they were proposed. On Mr Jones's name being put nearly the whole of those present held up their hands. In favour of Sir Farrer Herschell only about half a dozen hands were held up. On Mr Joicey's name being put only a few hands here and there were shown in support.

MEETING OF THE LIBERAL PARTY.

On Wednesday, the adjourned meeting of the Chester-le-Street Division Liberal Association was held at Gateshead for the purpose of selecting a candidate. There was a good attendance, 96 being representatives.—The Secretary (Mr Thomas Lumsden), at the outset, intimated that only representatives would be allowed to speak or vote.—Councillor Heald, one of the non-representatives, objected to this, what he termed, peremptory action, and was informed that he must either refrain from taking part in the meeting or walk out.—Mr Heald, amid much laughter, said he would accept the invitation to walk out.—Mr Harris, of the Spen, said he was there to vote entirely against his personal convictions, having, as a delegate, to follow his instructions. He then created great merriment by nominating all the three candidates who are before the division.—Mr John Lucas, of Gateshead, nominated Mr James Joicey, and Mr Bell, secretary of the Newcastle Farmers' Club, seconded the nomination.—Mr C. Simpson, of Burradon, moved, and Mr Moody, miner, seconded Sir Farrar Herschell's nomination.—Mr Cramond, Pelton, moved, and Mr J. Bruce seconded that Mr Lloyd Jones be the candidate.—The Winlaton and Blaydon delegates informed the meeting that they were not empowered to vote, and one of the latter asked if the meeting would proceed to vote under the circumstances.—The Chairman said they must act according to their instructions.—Mr Elliott complained that the meeting at Swalwell that had adopted Mr Jones as the candidate on the previous night had been packed with Blaydon people.—Mr Appleby, a Chester-le-Street representative, having voted for Sir Farrer Herschell, Mr Pickering called attention to this fact, and Mr Appleby said that a large number of the majority in favour of Mr Jones at the meeting at Chester-le-Street on Monday night were juniors and not electors, and he considered he was justified in voting for Sir Farrer Herschell.—A vote was then taken with the following result:—Joicey, 61; Jones, 17; Herschell, 7.—The result was received with loud cheers.

The voting was as follows:—

For Mr Joicey.—Pelton and Urpeth district—Major Joicey, John Humble, Edward Nicholson, jun., Charles Ritson, Mark Richardson, J. B. Turnbull, Elias Wood, Robert Ratcliff, Thomas Robson, William Bell; Lamesley—Thomas Bell, James Riddell, Thomas Smith, William Smith, Thomas Chambers, David W. Geddess; Gateshead—J. W. Robinson, E. S. Hindmarsh, William Swinburne, John Lucas, Joseph Thompson, Thos. McDermot (Mayor), L. T. Penman, Geo. Charlton; Whickham—Jos. Burne, James Snowball, Joseph Gardner; Marley Hill—James Gilchrist, John Johnson, Robert Clark, Thomas Brabban, junior, Charles Harrison, Walter Fenton, James Brabban; Swalwell—Edmund Carr, Thomas Elliott; Dunston—Captain Carr-Ellison, John W. Lawson, Robert Winship, William Burnett, Cuthbert Coulthard; Usworth—R. T. Swallow, L. B. Hancock, John Dodds, John Nixon; Washington—Geo. Burnett, George Lislie, John Patterson, David Gardner; Eighton Banks—James Milburn, James Hunter, John Wakefield; Birtley—Captain Kay, J. A. Haswell, John Todd, T. Birleson, Wm. Simpson, Jos. Cockburn, James Innes, R. Elcoat, T. Hindmarsh—61.

For Mr Jones.—Ryton—T. Bright; Chester-le-Street—George Pickering, Joseph Brown, John Mitchell, Peter Hay, J. W. Luccock, Robert Crammond, Robert Clark, Joseph Bruce; Pelton—William Stoker, George Grey, Wm. Pickforth, William Maddison, John Rogers; Birtley—W. Melving; Spen—D. Harris, T. Armstrong—17.

For Sir Farrer Herschell.—Ryton—E. Glaister, R. Moody, W. Forster, James Gibson; Chester-le-Street—G. B. Appleby; Birtley—F. Eley, James Simpson—7.

Did not vote.—Winlaton—Messrs Tebb, Howdon, Scott, and William Armstrong; Blaydon—Messrs Paxton, Plender, H. Atkinson, Parker, Hepple, Marshall, and W. Jones—11.

LANCHESTER HIGHWAY BOARD.

The general meeting of the Waywyrdens was held yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, at Lanchester Union Workhouse. Owing to the continued indisposition of Mr Geo. Alder (chairman), Mr W. Logan presided. The following gentlemen were in attendance:—Revs J. P. De Pledge and C. Gillow, Messrs W. H. Hedley, Geo. Ridley, J. Towns, J. Drummond, Geo. G. Taylor Smith, M. Coupland, Geo. Hobson, R. Robson, W. Fawcett, R. Errington, T. Copeland, the Clerk (Mr C. Maynard), and the Surveyor (Mr W. Dixon.)

The minutes of the last ordinary meeting, and also of the intervening Finance Committee, were read over and confirmed.

THE STATE OF THE ROADS AND FOOTPATHS.

The Surveyor reported that the frosty nights during the past few weeks had greatly prevented the loose stones from firmly bedding on many roads. A good deal of attention had been paid to the highways, but they were generally rough and uneven. The ashed footpaths are considerably affected by the frosts, being hard in the mornings, and in the middle of the day soft and sticky, and most uncomfortable to travel upon. The roads at Collierley Dykes and Dipton had been in a bad state, partly due to the fact that they had been disturbed for the purpose of laying junctions in the main sewers. After consulting with the waywarden for the township, he had had 20 cubic yards of slag covered upon the road, and 10 wagon loads of ashes distributed upon the footpaths in that locality. He had placed ashes on the footpath at Annfield Plain, to which attention was called at the last meeting.

The CHAIRMAN, referring to the roads at Dipton, said the traffic generally was exceedingly heavy, and as many complaints had been made regarding the defective state of the roads, he thought the Surveyor ought to lay extra metal thereon, and pay a little more attention to them.

The action of the Surveyor in procuring the slag and ashes was confirmed; and it was suggested that as ashes were not the best and most suitable material to put on the footpaths, it would be better to try slag screenings.

COLLAPSE OF A FOOTBRIDGE AT ALLANSFORD.

The Surveyor further reported that a wooden footbridge across the burn at Allansford had collapsed through decay, and the waywarden and himself had decided to replace the structure by a new one, at a cost of about £3.

On the motion of Mr DRUMMOND, the action of the Surveyor was approved of in this instance.

SUBSIDENCE AT SOUTH MEDOMSLEY.

Regarding the subsidence of this road, the Surveyor reported that the owners of South Medomsley and East Castle Colliery blamed each other for it.

The Surveyor had received an application to take over the portion of the road over the railway bridge at Annfield Plain, but, as he considered there was insufficient metal laid upon it, he declined to entertain the request.

ESTIMATES FOR THE ENSUING YEAR.

The Surveyor had prepared estimates of the expenditure in the various townships during the ensuing year, and the same were handed to the different waywardens for perusal prior to the next meeting, a fortnight hence.

THE BRIDGE AT LOW MILL.

With reference to the proposed bridge over the burn at Low Mill, the Surveyor desired instructions as to whether he should execute the work himself or get it done by contract. He felt convinced that the bridge could be erected at the estimate he had previously formed; although the tenders received last autumn were much higher than his figures.

It was resolved to invite fresh contracts for performing the work.

Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE enquired if anything was being done towards the contemplated diversion of the road?

The CHAIRMAN said that the question was *in statu quo* at present.

After dealing with other topics, and examining and passing the Surveyor's monthly accounts, the Board arose.

THE CHURCH ESTATE COMMISSIONERS AND THE LEASEHOLDERS.—The *Northern Echo* writes:—As usual, when the Ecclesiastical Commissioners are brought into publicity, they succumb to the claims of justice. Chiefly through the persistent labours of Mr J. C. Heath and Mr Wallis, the Commissioners conceded equitable terms to the Shields leaseholders. Their recent action *re* Naboth's Vineyard near Darlington has been exploitered in the *Northern Echo*, then debated at No. 10, Whitehall Place, for half an hour, in the presence of Lord Stanhope and Mr Goschen, and is now on the point of surrender. The Commissioners having committed themselves to an act of justice at Shields will be shamed into enforced consistency at Aycliffe. The following *Jeu d'esprit* was improvised by one of the gentlemen present at the late interview:—

It may be said of the Commissioners' peculiar line,
'Tis far other than rectilineal or clear,
For that which they've chosen to do on the Tyne,
They refused to extend to the Tees and the Wear.
Thus the holders of Church lands on Wear and on Tees
Are victims to the Commissioners' zeal and caprice;
On a so-called "lapsed" farm land they impiously seize,
Notwithstanding its ever renewable lease.

—The *Leeds Mercury* says:—It is stated in the report of the Leaseholders' Enfranchisement Association, that several proprietors are giving their leasehold tenants the right of buying up their leaseholds and converting them into freeholds. Among others, Mr Heneage is offering terms to the leaseholders at Grimsby, and Sir John St. Aubyn at Devonport. The Prince of Wales, as Duke of Cornwall, has also set aside a large piece of ground at Padstow for freehold allotments.

"Doctor, I want to thank you for your great patent medicine." "It helped you, did it?" asked the doctor, very much pleased. "It helped me wonderfully." "How many bottles did you find it necessary to take?" "Oh, I didn't take any of it. My uncle took one bottle and I am his sole heir."

A youth, ambitious of acquiring pugilistic skill, some time ago waited upon a professor of the "noble art," with the intention of taking lessons. "Now, what do you consider the best posture of defence?" asked the aspiring young hero. "Why, to keep a civil tongue in your head," was the judicious reply.

A lady named Mary Magui-ah
Had trouble in lighting her fi-ah;
The wood being green,
She used kerosene—
(Pause. Then continued solemnly.)
She has gone where the fuel is dry-ah.

"John," said a gentleman the other day, "I am going to church, and if, as it now has the appearance, it should rain, I wish you to come with the umbrella for me. However, you need not come unless it should 'rain downright.'" The gentleman went—it did rain; but, according to John's construction of his orders, it was not necessary, from the appearance of the rain, to go with the umbrella. While standing at the door, watching the weather, he was not a little astonished to see his master approaching the house with drenched clothes and a look of implacable anger. "John, John," said the good man, "why didn't you bring the umbrella?" "Because, sir," replied John, "it rained slanting."

"Hail, Columbia!" is the cry in the United States, and "Rain, Britannia!" in England.

A showman was making a great noise at the front of his exhibition of the wonders he had to shew. A man standing in the crowd, with a little boy beside him, cried out—"I'll bet you a sovereign you cannot let me see a lion." "Done," said the showman, eagerly. "Put down your money." The man placed a sovereign in the hand of a bystander, and the showman did the same, "Now, walk this way," said the showman, "and I'll soon convince you. There!" said he triumphantly, "look in that corner at that beautiful Numidian lion." "I don't see any," responded the other. "What's the matter with you?" asked the showman. "I'm blind," was the reply; and in a few minutes the blind man pocketed the two sovereigns, and went away.

DRINKS FOR THE SICK.—Orange-whey: The juice of one orange to one pint of sweet milk. Heat slowly until curds form, strain and cool.—Egg-lemonade: White of one egg, one tablespoonful pulverised sugar, juice of one lemon, one goblet water. Beat together.—Sago milk: Three tablespoonfuls sago soaked in a cup of cold water one hour; add three cups boiling milk; sweeten and flavour to taste. Simmer slowly a half-hour. Eat warm.—Baked milk: Put a half-gallon of milk in a jar and tie it down with writing paper. Let it stand in a moderate oven eight or ten hours. It will be like cream, and isvery nutritious.—Punch without liquor: Take the juice of six oranges and six lemons, adding sugar to suit the taste. Put to this a quantity of pounded ice and some sliced pineapple, pouring over it two quarts of water. This is an agreeable summer beverage for anybody, sick or well.

WIT AND HUMOUR.

IT'S a nil wind that blows nobody good.

A NEW name for tight boots—a corn crib.

BARBERS always thrive where other men dye.

THE business that goes altogether on tick—Telegraph.

WHAT is the greatest curiosity in the world?—A woman's.

CONSOLATION for old maids—"Misfortunes never come singly."

WINTER-Clothing—A mantle of snow and a coat-ing of ice.

WHEN was beef the highest? When the cow jumped over the moon.

WHY is a potato a great anomaly?—You must take off its jacket to dress it.

A HORTICULTURAL wag says that the language of flowers is uttered by tu-lips.

IT is said to be misprision of treason to ask a soldier to take dinner and dessert.

WHEN men are long indifferent towards us, we grow indifferent to their indiff-rence.

WHEN is a young man in danger of being beaten? When he belongs to a club.

DON'T take too much interest in the affairs of your neighbours. Six per cent. will do.

IF a young woman's disposition is gunpowder, the sparks should be kept away from her.

WHY ought slander to be made chief of detectives? Because it gets the most foldling.

PHILOSOPHERS tell us that Nature never errs. They certainly cannot mean human nature.

A BARGAIN—A ludicrous transaction, in which each party thinks he cheated the other largely.

WHAT is that which never asks any questions, but requires many answers? The street door.

A MAXIM at the maximum—The man who makes hay while the sun shines at times gets sun-struck.

WHY is the man who beats his wife like a thoroughbred animal?—Because he is a perfect brute.

A HANDSOME young lady being asked if she ever gave a kiss, replied, "No; but I often have one stolen."

THE man who "kept his word" gave serious offence to Webster, who wanted it for his dictionary.

SOME people are very dull when perfectly sober; like a wafer, they must be well wetted to be good for anything.

LATIN is not only a dead language, but also a *deadly* one when an inexperienced druggist's shopman fools with it.

A WOMAN'S tears are generally more effective than her words. In such cases, wind is a less powerful element than water.

A YOUNG lady who was blamed for allowing her glove to be discovered in a young man's pocket stated that she had no hand in it.

IF a beautiful woman lets her heart rest upon her lips, the first enterprising young man she meets may kiss the sweet prize away.

MR. PARVENU: "James, how many t's in Brixton?" Clerk: "Only one, sir." Mr. P.: "So I supposed. Hand me a penknife."

SOME rich men keep cross dogs around their houses, so that the hungry poor who stop to "get a bite" may get it outside the door.

SHOOT the Maxim-Maker!—A miss is not as good as a mile, for a miss has only two feet, while a mile has five thousand two hundred and eighty.

"A DISAPPOINTED wife" is the name of a new book. She probably found a letter addressed to her husband in his pocket, and it turned out to be only a bill from the milliner's.

PAPA: "Yes, Harry, it is supposed the moon is inhabited and is largely populated." Harry: "Mustn't the people be dreadfully crowded, 'specially when it's half-moon?"

CONSOLATION Under the Adulteration Act—If you live in London or one of the large towns, do not cry over spilt milk. Examine it closely, and you may find that it is not milk, after all.

"COME here, little fairy, and sit on my knee,
While I talk of my happiest dream!"
"I'll give no encouragement, sirrah," said she,
"To such a knee-farious scheme!"

A BORDEAUX wine-merchant, after stating the price per cask and bottle of "the most varied and superior growths of Bordeaux and Burgundy," concludes by saying that he has also a stock of natural wine to sell by private treaty.

SPEAKING of a certain general whom he professed to admire, a political orator said that on the field of battle he was always found where the bullets were thickest. "Where was that?" asked one of the auditors. "In the ammunition-waggon," said another.

THE Orthodox Bird—Sydney Smith, returning thanks in a letter to a friend who had sent him some game, humorously added that a fowl would do very well for a Dissenter, but that for the orthodox dignity of the Church of England there was nothing but "the pheasant, the pheasant."

A GRAND jury in the county of Tipperary once passed the following resolutions—"Resolved: That the present gaol is insufficient, and that another ought to be built. Resolved: That the materials of the old gaol be employed in constructing the new one. Resolved: That the old gaol shall not be taken down until the new one is finished."

HE had caught it—"My darling, you do not bestow upon me so much attention as you did before we were married," remarked a pouting bride of four years to her husband. "Don't I?" he replied. "No, Charles, you do not; you pay very little attention to me," said his wife. "Well, my dear," observed the wicked husband, "did you ever see a man run after a tram-car after he had caught it?"

How "the great musician" was lately answered—Herr Franz Lachner, until lately director of the Munich court orchestra, was asked by his successor, Hans von Bülow, after a concert, if the orchestra had not done well. "Why shouldn't it?" was the reply. "An orchestra which I have directed for thirty years could scarcely be spoiled by you in two months."

THE Duke of Nemours once sent his steward to call upon an artist on whom he wished to confer a snuff-box as a mark of his approbation, to ascertain if such a present would be acceptable. The offer was received with enthusiasm. "Where shall I send it?" enquired the envoy. "Oh, if you would be kind enough," replied the grateful artist, "to pawn it on the way, you can let me have the money!"

A GREAT billiard-match was being played between two famous "professors," and, the contest exciting the liveliest interest among the spectators, one of them, the better to watch the execution of an extremely difficult stroke, imprudently leaned forward from his seat a little too far, receiving from the butt of the player's cue a blow upon the nose which made him cry out. "It is of no consequence," said the "professor" graciously, "I have scored all the same!"

WITH pardonable pride, a lady displayed a very ancient piece of house-linen to her servant, saying as she held it up for inspection, "Look, Bridget, at this table-cloth; it has been in our family for over two hundred years." Bridget eyed the article in question carefully, and then, stepping close up to her mistress, remarked, in a most confidential tone, "Shure, never mind, Mrs. Arthur dear. If you just kape quiet about it, and don't let on to anybody, who would know but what it was bought bran'-new out of the shop?"

AN old minister in the Cheviots used, when excited in the pulpit, to raise his voice to a loud half whimper, half whine. One day a shepherd had brought with him a young collie, who became so thrilled by the high note of the preacher that he also broke out into a quaver so like the other that the minister stopped short. "Put out that collie!" he said angrily. The shepherd, equally angry, seized the animal by the neck, and, as he dragged him down the aisle, sent back the growling retort at the pulpit, "It was yersel' begoud it!"

EXAMINATION blunders—The *Journal of Education* prints the following samples of examination blunders—"What are the mineral products of Australia?" "Tinned meats." "What is the feminine of cock-robin? Give similar instances of gender in English." "Jenny Wren; mare, maress, church, chapel." A boy of eleven, on entering a middle-class school, was told to write out the Lord's Prayer. He began, "Our Father witch art in even, Harold be thy name," and, turning to the master, who was looking over his shoulder, remarked, with a self-satisfied air, "That's my name too!" "Francis Bacon was a Black Friar who invented gunpowder and the new orgon: He was imprisoned in Jame's reign for the gunpowder plot, where he wrote his celebrated essays. He was a very learned man, and wrote a book about Greek augments."

LANCHESTER PETTY SESSIONS.

MONDAY, Mar. 23rd.—Before M. KEARNEY, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

Peter Gallagher, of Newcastle, was charged with being drunk and incapable at Colepike Hall, on the preceding day (Sunday).—The case was proved by P.C. Yeandle, who lodged the man in custody.—He was let off with a fine of 5s 8d, including costs.

THURSDAY, Mar. 26th.—Before M. KEARNEY, Esq. (in the chair), and the Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE

ALLEGED ROBBERY.

Israel Morris, a Polish Jew, was brought up to answer a charge of stealing £2 10s, the moneys of Owen Conlan, who lives at Railway Terrace, Lanchester.—Prisoner, it appears, had been lodging for a short while with the prosecutor. A day or two ago the latter discovered that the sum of £2 10s had been abstracted from his waistcoat pocket, then hanging in his bedroom, to which no other person save the prisoner could have access at the time. Suspicion being directed against Morris (who had decamped), he was arrested in Sunderland, on Wednesday night, by Sergeant Nicholson, and brought to Lanchester that morning.—The Magistrates did not think the evidence sufficiently strong to justify a remand, and the prisoner was accordingly discharged.

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS.

BENFIELDSIDE.

The annual meeting of ratepayers took place last (Thursday) night, at the Benfieldside Edge Board Schools. There was a fair attendance.—The old Overseers—Messrs R. Murray, Wm. Raw, and W. Wilson—were all re-elected; and Mr J. Drummond, Hole House, Allansford, was re-appointed Waywarden.—An application from the Assistant-Overseer (Mr H. Carss) for an increase of salary, in consequence of the extra work devolving upon him by reason of the anticipated adoption of the Seats Bill by Parliament, was discussed at great length. It seems that the salary of Mr Carss was increased to the extent of £10 some years ago; and when Mr Hawdon undertook to collect the Queen's taxes, this additional sum was not deducted; therefore it was considered that Mr Carss ought to perform the extra labour without a further increase.

STANHOPE.

On Wednesday, the following parish officers were re-elected for the incoming year at the Stanhope vestry meeting—the Right Rev Bishop Ryan, rector, presiding. Overseers for the parish:—Stanhope quarter—Mr Thos. Crawhall. Newlandside—Mr M. Ridley. Park—Mr F. Collingwood. Forest—Mr Wm. Robinson. Waywardens:—Stanhope township—Mr F. Brown. Newlandside—Mr W. G. Reed. Churchwardens—Mr D. M'Callum, for the rector; Mr Robert Martin, for the parish.—The parish and Burial Board accounts were passed, and Messrs J. Crawhall and T. Phillipson were re-elected auditors to the Burial Board.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

On Thursday se'nnight, the annual meeting of ratepayers was held in the long room of the Lambton Arms Hotel—Mr Charles Robson presiding. The following were nominated overseers:—Messrs T. Thompson, J. Jopling, W. Clark, and W. Stoddart, the two former having acted in that capacity last year. Two only are required. Major R. F. Gibson was appointed Waywarden. Messrs W. Longridge, J. Mitchell, P. Hay, G. E. Steele, J. Pick, J. W. Lucock, and Dr Duncan were proposed as Guardians.—Mr Hay again introduced the question relative to the disgraceful state of the footpaths in the main street. The meeting adjourned, and another meeting will be held to decide the question.

SUCCESSFUL LIVERPOOL NEWSPAPERS.—The aphorism, "nothing succeeds like success," has, happily for the proprietors, never been so fully realised in Newspaper property as in the case of the *Liverpool Daily Post*, the *Liverpool Weekly Post*, and the *Liverpool Echo*. Those who take an interest in such matters (and who now-a-days does not?) have the advantage of consulting in another column the certified figures of the actual publication of these enterprising and spiritedly-conducted papers. It will there be seen stated on the indisputable authority of Messrs Harmood Banner and Son, the well-known accountants, that the average weekly circulation of these papers has reached, in so far as Liverpool papers are concerned, the unprecedented number of 650,092 copies. The mere weight of paper consumed in the printing of the papers would certainly astonish the uninitiated, and even the contemporaries of these eminently successful journals may realise what energy and enterprise may accomplish. The managers of the papers referred to are to be congratulated that their efforts to supply their readers with the latest authentic news, whether from the seat of war in the Soudan, the proceedings in Parliament, or the news of their own district, has been so largely appreciated by the reading public.

GUEST: "I shan't come here again. Those sausages were quite mouldy, and not fit to eat." Landlord: "Beg your pardon, these very sausages obtained first prize at the health exhibition last year but one!"

A MAN advertised for the worst dog in the city. His idea was that people are so fond of their own dogs that they wouldn't bring a single animal to him. But he lost his bet. Thousands called, each bringing his neighbour's dog.

MR. SMITH to Mrs. Parvenu, who has been telling him about her new house:—"I suppose you will have dumb-waiters in the house?" Mrs. P.:—"No, I sha'n't. I had a deaf cook once, and I vowed then never to have another crippled servant."

DOMESTIC colloquialism—"Ain't you almost boiled?" inquired a little girl of a gentleman visiting her father and mother. "No, little one, I can't say that I am. Why do you ask, Daisy?" "Oh, because I heard mamma say your wife always kept you in hot water!"

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

TOW LAW.—Grove Lodge, 21st inst., the wife of Geo. Johnston, M.D., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

WEST PELTON.—St. Paul's Church, 25th inst., by the Rev J. Mathwin, B.A., Robt. J. English to Annie Arkless, both of Beamish.

STANHOPE.—Parish Church, 21st inst., Mr Henry Tweddle to Miss Mary Jane Elppon, both of Stanhope.

DEATHS.

CONSETT.—Masons' Arms, Middle Street, 26th inst., aged 45 years, Joshua Whitfield.—Interment at Benfieldside Cemetery, on Sunday First, at Two o'clock. Friends, please accept this intimation.

WEST STANLEY.—20th inst., aged 55, the wife of Thos. Rowe, of Consett.

BURNOPFIELD.—21st inst., aged 33, Catherine, wife of John Mein.

BLAYDON.—Cuthbert Street, aged 35, Robert Buckham, nearly 20 years in Co-operative Store.

Close Head, 22nd inst., aged 13, after a short illness, Mary, only daughter of Matthew Parkin.

CRAWCROOK.—21st inst., aged 64, Hannah, wife of John Armstrong.

HIGH MICKLEY.—19th inst., aged 70, Surtees Newton, late of Roe House.

MICKLEY SQUARE.—22nd inst., aged 68, George Johnson.

WINLATON.—Front Street (at the residence of her daughter), 24th inst., in her 80th year, Catherine Hall.

CRAWLEYSIDE—24th inst., aged 15, Margaret Jane, daughter of Mr Thomas Ritson.

WITTON GILBERT.—24th inst., aged 78, Mark Shanks.

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