DRAPERY, HAT, AND CAP STOCK.
SELLING OFF! SELLING OFF!!
BAIN & CO.'S STOCK.
IMMENSE REDUCTIONS.
THIS DAY, AND UNTIL SOLD OUT.
NEW TOWN HALL,
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 287z

The Consett Guardian

DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER
AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM GAZETTE.

THIS DAY, AND UNTIL SOLD OUT.
SELLING OFF! SELLING OFF!!
BAIN & CO.'S
DRAPERY, HAT, AND CAP STOCK.
GREAT BARGAINS.
NEW TOWN HALL,
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

No. 1,442. REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. FRIDAY EVENING, March 30th, 1888. PRICE ONE PENNY.

Money.

SPECIAL BRANCH.—M. L. ROSENBERG, 54 Westgate Road, Newcastle, advances MONEY on Reversionary Interest or Legacies under Wills, on Life Policies for £100 and upwards, on Building Society or other Shares, on Household Furniture without removal, and on deposit of Silver Plate, Jewellery, or any goods at a reasonable rate of interest, and on terms of repayment, all as arranged.—Established 1860. 739v

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

Wanted.

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

WANTED, by a Working Man, a middle-aged Woman as HOUSEKEEPER.—Apply at 4, Foundry Row, Blackhill. 310z

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WANTED it thoroughly known at Consett and the District that, for a short period before the busy season (Easter and Whitsuntide holidays) commences, HIGH-CLASS PORTRAITS, artistically finished, MAY BE HAD at very Reasonable Prices, at VENICE DUNN'S, PHOTOGRAPHER, 15, MEDOMSLEY ROAD, CONSETT. 92z

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

To Let.

TO LET, the EATAGE of about 20 acres of Old Grass Land, on Allendale Farm, Medomsley, to May 13th, 1888.—Apply at East House, Medomsley.

TO LET, COTTAGE and GARDEN at Shotley Field; with out-door workers preferred.—Apply to WILLIAM POTTS, Shotley Field. 289z

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

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

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

TO LET, a Five-roomed HOUSE, pleasantly situated in Delves Lane, Consett. Possession at May term.—Apply to Mrs CHRISTOPHER, North-Eastern Hotel, Blackhill. 312z

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

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

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

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

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

For Sale.

FOR SALE, a quantity of SEED OATS, and CHAMPION SEED POTATOES, at East House, Medomsley. 292z

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

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

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

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

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

Business Announcements.

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

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

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

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

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

What oil is to machinery advertising is to trade.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Delivered in Bags at any Railway Station within 150 miles of Manchester in not less than Four Ton Lots, and within 50 miles in not less than Two Ton Lots, at £3 PER TON.
Will be sold by Analysis if written application be made.
HY. WHILEY, Superintendent,
Health Department, Town Hall, Manchester; or to
W. WOOD, Field Head, Shotley Bridge;
JOHN FATHERLEY, Washington. 799y

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

Business Announcements.

SEND TO THE POST OFFICE
AND get an Order for One Pound, made Payable to WILLIAM STEWARD AND SON, and you will receive in return, Carriage Paid to any Railway Station or Carrier, 16lbs. of the Cheapest TEA in England, or 5lbs. of INDIAN TEA the Finest Tea in the World. Should it be your pleasure, we can forward Half of each kind as you may direct.
WILLIAM STEWART & SON,
83, GRAINGER STREET, AND SCOTSWOOD ROAD NEWCASTLE 3, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD; & CORNER OF FREDERICK ROAD, HIGH STREET, SUNDERLAND.

MARBLE AND WOOD CHIMNEY PIECES.
KITCHEN RANGES
(OVER 60 SET-UP TO SELECT FROM).
STOVES OF EVERY KIND
DINNING AND COOKE,
HOT WATER ENGINEERS, IRONFOUNDERS, &c.,
PERCY IRONWORKS, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
SHOW ROOMS, 91, 93, AND 95, PERCY STREET.

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

JOHN T. POTTS
Begs to announce to his Friends and the Public, that he has PURCHASED the BUSINESS of
T. H. BATCHELOR,
And as soon as the Valuation is completed, the PREMISES WILL BE RE-OPENED with a
GREAT SALE OF STOCK,
Comprising—GENERAL DRAPERY, MILLINERY, MANTLES, READY-MADE CLOTHING, HATS, CAPS, &c, of which due notice will be given.
RESERVE YOUR MONEY FOR THE GREATEST BARGAINS EVER OFFERED.
JOHN T. POTTS,
CONSETT. 296z

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

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

TRY
JOHN HUME & SON'S
CELEBRATED
"GERM MEAL."
SOUTH ACOMB, STOCKSFIELD-ON-TYNE,
June 7th, 1887.
Messrs. JOHN HUME & SON,
GENTLEMEN,
You may recollect that some time ago I purchased several tons of your Germ Meal, and as I keep an accurate account of the food used by our cows, its cost, quantity used, and the amount of milk produced per week, it may interest you to know the result.
During the week preceding the use of the Germ Meal, the cows had maize meal at the rate of 7¾ lbs. per day, and before that they had the same quantity of barley meal. A slightly less weight, 7½ lbs. of Germ Meal was given to each cow per day, with as you will see, the most satisfactory results.—The increase in the milk produced was slightly over 5 per cent., which, with the lessened cost of your meal, showed a saving by its use of close upon 20 per cent. The increase in the return of milk for the week on which Germ Meal was used, over that on which maize meal was used, reached 16¼ gallons; and as the latter cost 24s. per qr. of 34 stones, as against 20s. 6½d. for the same weight of your Germ Meal, the advantage derived from its use has been strikingly demonstrated in my experience.
I am, yours faithfully,
W. TROTTER.

HARPERLEY AND CATCHGATE STEAM AND WATER CORN MILLS
NEAR ANNFIELD PLAIN, *VIA* LINTZ GREEN.
GEORGE HOBSON,
WHOLESALE
MILLER AND CORN MERCHANT, FIELD SEEDSMAN, &c.,
HAS ALWAYS ON HAND A LARGE STOCK OF
PURE LINSEED AND COTTON CAKES, WHOLE OR READY BROKEN.
INDIAN MEAL, PEA MEAL, BARLEY MEAL, BOXINGS, SHARPS, AND BRAN.
OATS, WHOLE AND CRUSHED, and FEEDING STUFFS of every Description.
THE CELEBRATED EXCELLO HORSE FEED
Thoroughly Cleaned by New and Improved Machinery, Spiced, or otherwise, to order.
HOBSON'S IMPROVED CONDIMENT FOR HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP, PIGS, POULTRY, STACKING, &c., Cheapest and Best in the Market.
HOBSON'S AROMATIC CALF FOOD, REARS CALVES WITHOUT MILK.
This Calf Meal is an excellent substitute for Milk, and what is of very great importance to Stock Breeders, it tends greatly to save Calves from that Inflammatory Fever commonly called Quarter-ill or Black Leg.
G. H.'S MIXTURE OF
PERMANENT CLOVER AND GRASS SEEDS has [illegible] tested and approved by the leading Agriculturalists of the district upwards of thirty-eight years.
PRICE LISTS ON APPLICATION. 22?

Business Announcements.

FROM HEAD TO FOOT.
IF YOU WANT A RIG-OUT FROM HEAD TO FOOT,
GO TO
THE 2 W.'S.
BOYS' SUITS, from 2s 11d.
MEN'S SUITS, from 16s 11d.
MEN'S FELT HATS (Newest Shapes), from 1s 11d.
SCARFS, SHIRTS, and HOSE in great variety, for Easter.
NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT, and NEWCASTLE. 305z

W. T. SMITH,
SURGEON DENTIST,
OF 19, ELDON SQUARE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
RESPECTFULLY begs to inform the Inhabitants of Consett and the readers of the *Guardian* that he will visit at Mr. F. JONES', No. 1, MOUNT PLEASANT, EVERY MONDAY, FROM 11 A.M. TO 5 P.M., where he has every accommodation for receiving his numerous Patrons, and is performing the very highest class operations that can be done in the Dental Profession, in all its branches both Operative and Mechanical, (having received a most thorough dental education in America). Also, all diseases of the oral cavity (the Mouth), facial neuralgia, &c.
Decay can be arrested in the Teeth by stopping them with Gold, Silver, and other Materials, whereby they can be preserved to last a lifetime, if proper care is taken by keeping them cleansed from all foreign matter, such as animal, vegetable, and tartar, which is so often allowed to collect round the necks of the Teeth.
Artificial Teeth inserted with all the latest American inventions and improvements. They can be retained in the mouth by Suction (an American Invention), without the aid of springs, wires, or clasps of any description, which so often destroy the remaining Natural Teeth. The mouth is prepared to receive the Artificial Teeth on the American principal, absolutely different from the English, and no cause is permitted to remain which can in any way produce Neuralgia, or effect the eye and ear. As diseased Teeth and roots is one of the principal reasons of the various ailments of these most valuable organs so as when the Teeth are once inserted they fit perfect without the least pain in any way.
Teeth may be extracted by the aid of Nitrous Oxide Gas, and other means by which the operations become painless.
All fees for services will be most reasonable, especially for Artificial Sets. 953x

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

SPECIAL LINES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THOMAS HENRY KIRKUP,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT,
Respectfully announces that he supplies, on the shortest notice, and at the lowest prices, BRICKS, SANITARY PIPES, CHIMNEY TOPS, LATHS, HAIR, CEMENT, PARIS PLASTER, &c. 31z

WHITER THAN SNOW.
What! Why Clothes, Linen, Floors, &c., when Washed with
HARRISON'S
MAGIC ARIZONIC SOAP:
Which does twice the Work of any Soap with half the labour.—It also Cures Scurvy, Ringworm, Corns, and Sores, and when used with
FURNIVAL'S MAGIC WASHING FLUID,
Robs Washing Day of half its troubles.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL OF
J. W. BERRY,
NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

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Original Poetry.

BIG FISHING BY A STANHOPE ANGLER.

The following lines, written in reference to the actual experience of a well-known Weardale angler, in Upper Teesdale, who in one day caught a duck and a bull with his rod and line, have been published:

Come, listen, friends, while I relate
A story of renown;
It's all about a fisher great,
Who lives in Stanhope town.

From Chapel, Weardale, he did steer
O'er moor to Langden Beck,
And little thought that he would there
Run into risk his neck.

This fisher to the Tees did go,
He thought he'd try his luck;
But the first fish he caught, you know,
Happened to be a duck.

To Barkas' public-house he went,
To soothe his inner man;
To cleanse his dusty throat he meant,
And to lay down his plan.

He left his rod beside the door,
And on the hook a worm,
A duck espied it wriggling there,
And, n'er suspecting harm,

Poor wormie duckie gobbled up,
And then made for his mates!
But very soon he had to stop,
Against him were the fates.

Poor duckie made a great "to do,"
The hostess tumbled out;
She kicked up a jolly row,
While duckie flapped about.

But duckie now was safely hook'd,
Its head came off in a crack;
Right down his nose the fisher look'd,
Missing the vanished "quack."

Mourning he straightway left the place,
Bewailing his bad luck;
Little he dreamt that next a bull
Would boldly test his pluck.

He'd fish'd all day, and homeward turned,
His pannier was well filled;
Full to the brim of joy was he,
For many trout he'd killed.

Alas! a bull had him espied,
And made for him outright;
His courage then was sorely tried,
But he fac'd right about.

A flight of hooks was on his line,
His rod was in his hand;
On came the bull with bellow loud,
A-tearing up the ground.

When it came well within the range
Of quiv'ring rod and line;
Dear reader, you may think it strange,
He really hook'd him fine.

His lordly bullship, sore surprised,
When four hooks pierced his hide;
Faced right about and gallop'd off
With many a rapid stride.

With pain and passion he did roar,
Bellowed with might and main;
Bull never made such row before
In memory of man.

The gallant fisher did his best
To land his sixty stone;
Deny it who can, he played the man;
As a hero stood confess'd.

A jerk, a pull, away went bull,
And broke the line in twain;
As big a fish as heart could wish,
To lose it gave him pain.

Trout fishers, ye may now all yield
To Stanhope's angler bold,
And to such fishers leave the field,
Or else be left in the field.

His daring feat he does relate
(He nearly lost his neck),
But with infinite gusto he does prate
Of sport at Langden Beck.

Now I am told; how it makes one stare;
He's burying his talents in the Quaker's Square.

LANCHESTER SCHOOL ATTENDANCE COMMITTEE.

A monthly meeting of this Committee took place at Lanchester Workhouse, on Thursday se'nnight, under the presidency of Mr J. Buckham. Present: Monsignor C. Gillow, Messrs Geo. G. Taylor Smith, W. Brown, and J. Wilkinson.

SCHOOLWARDENS' REPORTS.

The following reports were received and adopted:—

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

GENTLEMEN,—During the month, the very unpropitious weather has very materially interfered with the attendance in this district, the storms of snow having completely blocked the roads on three different occasions, the schools having frequently to be closed for days together, and some have been closed for three weeks out of the four.

In accordance with your instructions, John Collins, Morrowfield; Daniel Richardson, Quaken Houses, South Moor; and William Barnes, John Gillighan, and John Winter, Burnhope, were summoned. Richardson was ordered to send his child to school, and all the others were fined 5s each.

During the month, I have made 127 visits in the parish of Lanchester, 34 in Langley, 161 in Esh, 42 in Cornsay, 4 in Hedleyhope, and 3 in Satley—total, 371, including 431 children.

Also, I have made 30 visits to schools.

Twenty-two notices to attend school under bye-laws have been served.

I have found six children not attending school—five recent comers, and one boy who has left before passing the required standard, and under 13 years of age, and the particulars will be laid before you in the report-book to-day.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant, JOHN GIBSON.

Lanchester, March 22nd, 1888.

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

GENTLEMEN,—During the last four weeks, 93 absentee visits have been made in Iveston parish, 201 in Conside and Knitsley, and 162 in Tanfield—total, 456. This includes the visits made respecting 62 children found in the streets or at their homes during school hours, of whom 15 were not attending any school, viz:—13 who have lately moved into the district, and 2 who have recently reached the age of five years. As usual, sickness is the main cause of absence. Sore throats and sore feet are the chief complaints, although there are several cases of fever and mumps, and also a few of measles. There is no doubt that the want in many cases of suitable boots or clogs, particularly at this season, tends very largely to increase the number of excuses under this head.

The following notices to attend school have been served:—4 at Leadgate, 2 at Crookhall, 5 at Consett, 6 at Stanniforddam, 2 at Blackhill, 9 at Stanley, 2 at Lintz Colliery, 1 at Clough Dene, and 2 at Iveston—33.

Thirty-four visits to schools have been made.

Five cases (including one adjourned from the 6th ult.) have been taken before the magistrates, viz:—One each under sub-sections 1 and 2 of section 12 of the Act of 1876, and three under your bye-laws, when, in the first case, a fine of 5s was inflicted; the second case was adjourned pending arrangements for the boy to be sent to an Industrial School, and the other three cases were adjourned for a month.

Six cases, embracing seven children, are entered in the report book to be submitted to you.

Consett Wesleyan School was examined on the 6th inst. and two following days by Harry Brown, Esq., one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools.

Owing to the severe snowstorm of last week, your bye-laws have been practically inoperative for a few days.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant, WM. WARD.

Iveston, March 21st, 1888.

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.

WEARDALE BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The fortnightly meeting of this body took place at Stanhope Workhouse, on Friday last, under the presidency of Dr Livingstone (chairman).

WEARDALE OBSTINACY AND IMPERIAL CONTEMPT.

It was reported that the Local Government Board had as yet deigned no answer to the assurance of the Guardians that their new collector had been properly ballotted for. The Imperial Department desired a fresh election, which the Guardians have hitherto declined to proceed with, and they now feel that the silence of the Imperial Office is a manifestation of its displeasure at the contumacy of the Guardians.

The CHAIRMAN asked the Clerk if he felt comfortable on the matter?

The Clerk (Mr Lee): I don't think that I am much put about over it.

Mr BLENKIRON gave notice to move for a fresh election a fortnight hence, and Mr MADDISON suggested that unanimity in the matter was very desirable.

Mr BLENKIRON, however, thought the Local Government Board hadn't a leg to stand on.

A TRAMP REFUGE AT TOW LAW.—REMARKABLE CORRESPONDENCE.

Some tramps who had taken refuge in the Weardale Coal and Iron Company's coke-ovens at Tow Law received there burns which required medical treatment at the parish cost, to which the Guardians demurred, with a request that tramps should be excluded from the ovens. Mr J. W. Laverick, the company's manager, however, took another view, and in his letter read to the Guardians on Thursday he said he was aware of the practice. As, however, some of the ovens were empty, and the weather severe, he declined to oblige the Guardians in the manner they desired.

Mr WATSON: Very humane.

Mr MADDISON (Darlington): We have done our duty.

The CHAIRMAN: Go on, Mr Clerk.

Other business was then taken.

RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

The Guardians then sat as the Sanitary Authority, Dr Livingstone still in the chair.

THE UNION WATER SUPPLIES.

The Inspector (Mr Egglestone) brought before the Authority the position in which the proposed Weardale water schemes were standing, and asked the Board for instructions. These schemes were to supply the villages of Westgate, Daddry Shields, to take over the St. John's Chapel supply and improve the same, and to supply the village of Lanehead, and also the Board school there. A resolution was standing to prepare plans for the first three villages, and borrow money for the water supplies; and as to Lanehead nothing was on the books, except that it was to be brought up for consideration. Eastgate was also in the schemes, but had been abandoned for want of co-operation from landlords. For the schemes for the four villages above, the Inspector had prepared plans, and in considering the whole question the Authority had in view the pending County Government Bill; and, after some discussion as to the advisability of spending money on public Works whilst the responsibility of carrying out such works might be transferred to the county, it was agreed by the Authority that the Weardale water schemes stand over for the present.

CHESTER-LE-STREET PETTY SESSIONS.

WEDNESDAY, March 21st.—Before H. W. KERRICH-WALKER, Esq., and LINDSAY WOOD, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

William Armstrong, for being drunk at Lamesley, on the 10th inst., was fined 5s and costs.

James Keenan, drunk at Chester-le-Street, on the 2nd inst., was fined 5s and costs.

George Grafton, for being drunk at Waldridge, on the 4th inst., was fined 7s 6d and costs.

George Wright, drunk at Chester-le-Street, on the 5th inst., was fined 5s and costs.

Robert Punshon, for being found drunk at Chester-le-Street, on the 10th inst., was fined 5s and costs.

Robert Boll drunk at Urpeth, on the 3rd inst., fined 5s 6d and costs.

James Coxon, drunk at Urpeth, on the 2nd inst., was fined 5s and costs.

William Wilkinson, for being drunk at Pelton, on the 3rd inst., was fined 7s 6d and costs.

James Spalding, drunk at Chester-le-Street, on the 3rd inst., 5s and costs.

George Laverick, drunk at Chester-le-Street, on the 3rd inst., fined 5s and costs.

Bridget Keenan, who failed to appear, was fined 5s and costs for being drunk at Pelton, on the 10th inst.

William Leathead and *John Jackson* were charged with being drunk in the Victoria Bridge Inn, at North Biddick, on the 10th inst.—P.C. Johnson said he found defendants both drunk at the Victoria Bridge beerhouse.—Defendants were fined 7s 6d each and costs.

PITCH AND TOSS.

Robert Carr, Robert Belk, Joseph Farrell, John Arther, John Raynor, and *William Charlton*, were charged with playing at pitch and toss at Waldridge, on the 3rd inst. Charlton pleaded not guilty; the others all guilty.—P.C. Patterson said he saw the whole of the defendants playing at pitch and toss. He saw Charlton changing money. When witness went among them they ran away. He knew all of them very well.—Sergeant Fraser said that when the men ran away from the last witness, Charlton ran round a corner right into witness's arms.—Fined 1s each and costs.

IN SEARCH OF CONIES.

Alexander Bradford, Thomas Bone, and *George Clifford*, all of Chester-le-Street, were charged with trespassing in pursuit of conies on the land in the occupation of Robert Ryle, at Chester-le-Street, on the 4th inst.—A gamewatcher named King, in the employ of Col. Fife-Cookson, said he saw all the defendant in a field, and saw them slip a dog at a rabbit. He went to them and met Bone at the gate. He charged them with the offence.—Cross-examined by the defendants: Witness did not see them turn the rabbit down. He was quite sure of seeing all of them in the field.—Joseph Pickles said that he brought a live rabbit from Gateshead for defendants to try a dog with. He afterwards got the dead rabbit again. He could not say that the rabbit run at in Mr Ryle's field was the samd one.—Bone denied being in the field at all. Clifford and Bradford admitted the trespass, but denied the alleged pursuit.—Fined 2s 6d and costs each.

George Pearson was charged with a similar offence on the 12th inst., on land in the occupation of Robert Crawford, at Chester-le-Street.—The gamewatcher King said he saw defendant ranging among some whins with a dog. He saw defendant there for a quarter of an hour.—Defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs.

PEDLARS' ACT.

James Boe, of Sheriff Hill, pleaded guilty to a charge of hawking without a license, at Birtley, on the 28th February.—Fined 5s and costs.

James Chirton, also of Sheriff Hill, a lad of 15, was charged with a similar offence at Lamesley, on the 8th inst.—In answer to the Bench, defendant said he did not know he was doing any harm, as he carried the tins made by his father, who was unable to go with them himself. He had done that since the time he left school three years ago.—Superintendent Harrison said that defendant could not, by reason of his age, have a pedlar's certificate granted to him, and could not therefore hawk at all.—Defendant was cautioned and dismissed on payment of costs.

BREACH OF THE PEACE.

Wm. Redhead and *Thomas Hagan* were charged with fighting with each other, at Chester-le-Street, on the 10th inst.—Bound over to keep the peace for 3 months.

ADULTERATED MILK.

George Muncaster was charged with selling a certain article—to wit, a pint of milk, not of the nature and quality demanded by the purchaser on the 23rd February, at Birtley.—Sergt. Hutchinson said he bought a pint of milk from defendant, and paid three-half-pence for it. He told defendant that he intended to have it analysed, and divided the pint into three equal portions.—Supt. Harrison said he had submitted one of the samples of milk to the public analyist, who stated that it contained 10 per cent of added water.—Defendant said he knew nothing of the matter, as he left the milk to his wife and servant.—Fine 5s and costs.

WIFE DESERTIONS: A DEED OF SEPARATION.

Michael Cain was charged with allowing his wife, Mary, to become chargeable to the Chester-le-Street Union.—Mr Robert Turnbull, relieving officer, said defendant left his wife about four years ago, and during that time she has been relieved by the Union at a cost of £14 11s, for which sum he was instructed to ask the Bench to make an order.—Defendant said he was now in full employment, and if the Court would accept he would pay one sovereign down, and pay the balance at 10s per fortnight.—Mr Turnbull being willing, the Bench made an order in accordance with defendant's proposition.

Henry Nobbs was charged, at the instance of his wife Isabella, with deserting and refusing to maintain her, on the 28th February. Mr J. Turnbull (Chester-le-Street) appeared for complainant, and Mr C. M. Dix (Newcastle) for the defence.—Complainant said she had been married to defendant about twelve months. Shortly after their marriage her husband was taken ill, and in consequence of his illness they went to live with her mother in order to save the house-rent. After her husband got better, witness took ill; and during the time she was in bed, defendant left her, took a house at Chester-le-Street, and sent a cart to her mother's house to take away the furniture. Witness could not go, but said that if defendant would wait until the Saturday she would try then to go. He, however, refused, and said he would have nothing more to do with her.—Cross-examined by Mr Dix: She would rather live with her mother, and have 8s per week from her husband, than return to him if she had to undergo the same punishment.—Mr Dix urged that there was no desertion; his client had provided a house, and had offered complainant a home which she refused to accept.—By the advice of the Bench the parties adjourned, and tried to arrange the matter.—Ultimately, Messrs Dix and Turnbull said they had agreed to draw up a deed of separation, and wished the instructions of the Bench as to what they considered a proper allowance for defendant to pay. Defendant offered 5s per week, and complainant asked 8s.—Without making any order, the Bench said they considered 8s a-week a reasonable amount.

DRUNK ON LICENSED PREMISES.

Mary Hunter was charged with permitting drunkenness upon her licensed premises, the Victoria Bridge beerhouse, at Washington Staiths, on the 10th inst.—P.C. Johnson said that the two men Nelson and Leathead, were both very drunk in the house. He had to get assistance to take them out; they were quite unable to walk.—Fined 10s and costs.

MR. JOSEPH AUDI.

The following short sketch of the career of this gentleman, who is so largely known in the Consett district, and has become highly popular by reason of his entertaining and instructive Oriental lectures, may be read with interest:—

Mr Joseph Audi was born in Ramallah, in Palestine, a town lying between Jerusalem, Mispah, and Bethel, in the year 1860, and is thus in his 28th year. He is the son of the Sheik of Ramallah, and was educated in the Church of England School at Ramallah, in the time of Bishop Goubert's occupancy of the See of Jerusalem. Mr Audi's father was born in Nazareth, and is therefore a Nazarine. His mother owes her nativity to Canaan of Galilee. The tribe to which his father belongs separated before the birth of the subject of our sketch—one section proceeding to the East River Jordan, where it joined the Bedouins of the Desert, another remaining at Nazareth, whilst Mr Audi's father's followers settled at Ramallah, where they engaged in agriculture, of which the cultivation of vineyards formed an important branch. In 1880, Mr Audi, accompanied by his cousin Salim, proceeded to America on a lecturing tour, which lasted nearly two years. On the return journey he visited Scotland, and in Glasgow called upon the daughter of Dr Livingstone. This lady's father had been attended both in Palestine and Africa by Mr Audi's cousin in the capacity of a dragoman, and the Oriental travellers were accordingly warmly received by the illustrious discoverer's relative. She took a great interest in them, and Salim went to Dr Livingstone's school, which he ultimately left to enter the Glasgow School of Medicine, where he now is, expecting to take the degree of M.D. next year, when he will then either go home or into Africa. Mr Audi himself went direct from Glasgow to Palestine, where he stayed a few years; but, finding agriculture languishing for want of Western appliances, he determined to take up his residence in England, graduate as a minister and doctor, and try to gain such a knowledge of our business habits and machinery as might prove of benefit to his fellow-countrymen. Mr Audi come to these shores in 1885, and has travelled extensively in the course of his lecturing tour during that time. He speaks in warm terms of the kind way in which he has been received by the people of this country, and especially by the inhabitants of the North country.

SINGULAR OCCURRENCE AT IVESTON.

AN UNKNOWN MAN FOUND DEAD.

The usual serenity of the inhabitants of the quaint and ancient village of Iveston was greatly disturbed on Monday night, and intense excitement prevailed by reason of a strange and painful occurrence in their midst. It transpired that as P.C. Newton was proceeding through the village, between six and seven o'clock, he observed the figure of a man lying on the roadway almost opposite the old blacksmith's shop in the centre of the place. It was then daylight, and at first he believed it to be an intoxicated person. On lifting the body, however, the constable discovered, to his utter amazement, that life was extinct. The deceased is a perfect stranger in the neighbourhood, and he had nothing in his possession whereby his identity could be definitely established. He carried a silver lever watch and guard, and on the case of the former were scratched the words: "M. Carlton. 1887." From enquiries made subsequently, P.C. Newton ascertained from Mr Henry Brown, auctioneer, that a person called Michael Carlton, hailing from the neighbourhood of Byker, was coming to see him upon business, and he was well acquainted with this person. The man is apparently of middle age, and was attired in a black coat and vest and tweed trousers. A servant girl states that she observed a man closely resembling the deceased walking through the village about a quarter-of-an-hour before the body was discovered by the police. It is therefore conjectured that the man had been suddenly attacked by heart disease, and had fallen down upon the ground, his umbrella being laid close beside him. The body was conveyed to an adjacent public-house to await identification, and the Coroner has been communicated with. The inquest has been fixed to take place at Iveston at 1·30 to-day (Thursday).

The *Newcastle Chronicle* comments in a leaderette:—"The report has reached us from Iveston, near Leadgate, of a stranger having been found dead on the road by Police-constable Newton. The only cue to identification is the inscription on the watch found upon the deceased. It is 'M. Carlton. 1887.' Information from another source leads us to the belief that the decased is none other than Michael Carlton, 'Michael at the Station,' as he has been known for 40 years or more by the inhabitant of Blaydon and for many miles around. His name got to be known farther afield when the lady who called herself the 'Countess of Derwentwater' was in her heyday. Michael threw up his job at the station, followed the 'Countess' as man-at-arms, and guarded her in the encampment at Dilston with a devotion and loyalty worthy of a 14th century retainer. Simple-minded and affectionate, his faith in the 'Countess' was not shaken when misfortunes accumulated upon her. He believed her to be the rightful claimant to the last. The deceased was in his latter years a spiritualist—a healing medium in fact, as many know. Numerous friends and acquaintances will regret the calamity that has at length overtaken 'Michael at the Station.' Enthusiastic, trustworthy, and true as steel, he has played his part well; and it is not every day that a better man enters the spirit-land."

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

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

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

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

TOWLE'S PENNYROYAL AND STEEL PILLS FOR FEMALES quickly correct all irregularities, and believe the distressing symptoms so prevalent with the sex Boxes 1s. 1½d., and 2s. 9d., of all Chemists. Sent anywhere for 15 or 34 Stamp by the Lincoln and Midland Counties Drug Co., Lincoln.—BEWARE OF IMITATION.

SHOCKING RAILWAY FATALITY AT TANFIELD.

A WOMAN CUT IN TWO.

On Friday last, a melancholy accident happened on the Tanfield Mineral Branch Railway. As the wife of Thomas Gedling, engineer, East Tanfield Colliery, was upon the line proceeding home from White-le-Head, she was knocked down by some trucks, three full ones passing over her body, and completely cutting her in two. Mrs Gedling leaves five children, the youngest being about six weeks old. Great sympathy is felt in the district for the husband and family in their bereavement.

On Monday afternoon, Mr Graham, coroner, held an inquiry at the Pack Horse Inn, Tanfield, into the circumstances connected with the sad end of Mrs Jane Gedling. It appears that she was trespassing on the mineral railway on the incline between Tanfield Moor and Tanfield Lea. A set of trucks came running along the line, the unfortunate woman being knocked down, and several trucks passed over her body, the head and an arm being completely severed therefrom, killing her instantaneously.—After fully investigating the matter, the jury came to the conclusion that the deceased was accidentally killed.

CHESTER-LE-STREET AND DISTRICT NOTES.

[BY WEARSIDER.]

The Chester-le-Street of the past is vanishing. Now there is not a single thatched house, and 20 years ago there were many. The old parsonage was demolished about two years ago, and the site is now occupied by the north wing of the business premises of the Co-operative Society, dominating the front street,; while the same society has built Co-operative Street upon a portion of glebe land. During quite recent days, the house occupied by the Murrays of engineering fame, for so many years, has been pulled down to make room for more business premises. The Murray family were once the mainstay of Chester-le-Street, one branch of the family carrying on what was in those days one of the most important engineering works in the North of England. Another branch was at the head of a large business as grocers, druggists, and extensive farmers. The engine works are now in the occupation of Messrs Davidson, of Gateshead; the huge grocery business is now represented by the Chester-le-Street Co-operative Socity, and the name and fame of the "Murray interest" is all that Chester-le-Street can now boast.

THE LAST BOAR HUNT IN WEARDALE.

There have been numerous indications left of our forefathers hunting the wild boar in the forests and jungles of this country in days long gone by, in the shape of bronze spear heads and boar tusks found in quantities in such places as Heathery Burn Cave, near Stanhope, and now in the possession and preservation of the antiquarian classes, as the very able and interesting correspondent of the *Guardian* who contributes the highly-interesting articles on the "Ornithology of Weardale" well knows. Altars have also been found in Bollihope and other places, with inscriptions on them testifying the fact. But they all date far back into the past, and would almost have though that boar hunts had been relegated to the past, and we had seen the last of them, but not so; one occurred just the other day at Wolsingham Park, well worthy of being chronicled. The Britons of the nineteenth century can hunt the wild boar with equal zest to that of the ancients, as will be seen from the perusal of this article. A certain farmer, who lives not 1,000 miles from Wolsingham, had a pig which wouldn't feed fat, and at the time when other people were killing theirs off, his was a great, lean, gaunt, hungry-looking beast. So after last winter had passed over, and glorious summer smiled once more on the beauties of Wolsingham Park, he turned grunter out into the fields and woods to fend for himself as best he could. So he had a summer's run, and he grew into an ugly-looking beast, with bristles on his hide fully six inches long, and pointing to all parts of the compass. One day a Wolsingham gent went a-nutting into the long stretch of wood which skirts Waskerley and the Tunstall reservoir. It was last autumn as it will be remembered, nuts were plentiful, and there were brown leamers in abundance. He was travelling about the wood when he heard a most curious noise, and on looking in the direction from whence it came, descried the most curious-looking animal he had ever seen. He felt his hair raising his hat, and his limbs trembled under him. On came the beast towards him. He valented, pursued by the devillish-looking creature. He saw his safety did not lie in flight, as the branches retarded his progress, while the animal got through under them much quicker, and was gaining upon him rapidly. He mounted a tree, and in a bough sat secure. The strange-looking animal came to the foot of the tree and looked up, and the young gent thought he was going to try the climbing business, but he thought an ugly beast like that could not follow him very far up the tree. However, he lit his pipe and awaited results, and when placing the match-box in his pocket he accidentally slipped it and it fell. The animal snapped at the match-box greedily as it fell, thereby exploding the matches in its mouth. The yells it set up as it ran down the wood eclipsed pandemonium itself. By its screaming he discovered it to be a pig. However, he got rid of it. During winter again he has been housed up and fed, this time with better success. So it was resolved upon to dispatch him one day quite recently. Two crack butchers were engaged from the old town, and every necessary preparations were made for killing the beast. A rope was fastened around his jaw, and he was dragged from his warm abode by two or three stalwart young fellows. The butcher prided himself on his quickness of despatch, and was anxious to demonstrate his cleverness, so he placed a steel punch with a handle on it to his head, and told his brother chip of the cleaver and the hatchet to yark it into his brain. The man with the hammer let flee, but the brute was thick-skinned and hard-headed, and the blow merely bruised the skin a little, but after this he became desparate unruly, and wagged his head to and fro, two or three stalwart farmers the meanwhile trying to hold him, so that it was difficult to hold the punch still and worse to hit. The next blow missed the punch altogether, and jarked grunter a vigorous blow on the lug. This was more than the beast either could or would endure. Putting forth all his energies, he made a vigorous effort, slipped the rope off his jaw and bolted off down the steep gradients, pursued by dogs and men in full cry, to use a hunting term. The wily butcher slipped into the house, and shouldered the double-barrelled gun, and took a straighter cut to intercept Mr Pig in his mad career. The dogs were hurrying and the men were shouting, and the chase was well sustained. Our hero, a well-known character in the old town, was pretty cute. The experience he had had in his peculiar business gave him a wonderful insight into man and beast and things in general, and he got, by dint of shorter cuts, in the front of the pursuers and the pursued. On came the beast down the hill and through the wood, and like the swine we read of in an old book was running down a steep place into an inland sea, better known as Tunstall Reservoir, when the gallant cracksman took aim and fire. Snap bang! and two loud reports rang through Backstone Bank Woods, and the large game lay panting, bleeding, and dying, and the last wild boar hunt of modern times in Weardale was ended. Like true sportmen, he stepped up to his game and stuck and bled it proper. The country yokels who were chasing it were despatched for a sledge and horses, and ere long the biggest lump of bacon that has been seen in Wolsingham Park for some time hung dangling on a stout cameral (big enough to delight the eye of a Jew), while the actors in the little drama were regaling themselves with spiced cake and laced tea.

"And now it is with delight they tell
How they hunted the boar so well,
And how Wolsingham's crack shot
In a trice nailed grunter to the spot,
The story the farmer did in Bollihope spout,
And that's just how the thing's got out."

—Correspondent.

Trade Notes.

CORBRIDGE TOWN HALL COMPANY.—The second annual meeting of the shareholders of this company was held on Friday night—Dr McLean, chairman, presiding.—The annual report, which was adopted, was of a satisfactory character. The directors pointed out that the revenue account, owing to the whole of the formation expenses being included, instead of being extended over three or four years, showed a large debit balance, but that the actual working since the opening of the premises showed a favourable result.—Messrs F. M. Laing and M. Ellerington, the retiring directors, were re-elected, as were also Messrs A. Carr and G. Wood.—Mr Isaac Baty, jun., solicitor, referred to the improved position in which the company would be if all the shares were taken up, and said that he would be very glad to take other ten shares

NORTH OF ENGLAND IRON TRADE RETURNS.—The report of the accountant, to the Board of Arbitration and Conciliation for the manufactured iron trade of the North of England, showing the sales by the associated firms and the net average selling price during the past two months, was issued on Saturday. The quantities sold were:—Rails, 202 tons; plates, 25,261 tons; bars, 14,889 tons; angles, 6,376 tons—total, 45,740 tons; and the average net selling price of the whole was £4 13s 1d per ton. There is a decrease of 3,000 tons as compared with the previous two months, the total weight invoiced being then 48,810 tons, the average net selling price of which was £4 12s. The decrease in the quantity was chiefly in plates.—The return is not by any means so encouraging as was expected, it being anticipated that, with what has been generally regarded as a great improvement in the finished iron trade this year, the production would have shown a large increase The 46,740 tons production, however, are more than £3,000 tons behind the return for November and December, and 2,700 tons in excess of the return for January and February last year, when there was an output of 44,068 tons. We believe there is one firm less connected with the board, but seeing that it is not a large concern there should not be the difference now shown, especially when the leading manufacturers have been declaring that they have not been so busy for two or three years. The plates show a reduced production by 4,200 tons on the November-December returns, while bars show an increase of 1,200 tons. In the first two months of 1885 there was a production of 62,460 tons, and in the first two months five years since, in 1883, the production was close on 100,000 tons. Since the latter year, however, the production has been going down because of the inroads of steel. In one respect the return shows an improvement, viz., an advance of 1s per ton in the net average price from £4 12s 1d in November and December to £4 13s 1d in the first two monts this years. Even this price is not equal to the net average selling figure of rails, plates, bars, and angles for Jan. and Feb. last year when it was £4 13s 4d. The iron-workers are not like to make any movement for advancing wages on this return.

AN UNEXPLORED MINING FIELD NEAR BLANCHLAND.

One of the best lead mining fields in the North of England that has been unexplored and unwrought is that tract of moorland in the county of Durham which lies between the Derwent Mines at Blanchland and the rich lead mines of Wentworth Blackett Beaumont, Esq., M.P., at Allenheads, which has been reckoned to be one of the best mining fields in England. This tract of moorland is intersected by some of the richest veins which are to be found in the North, and which have been worked outside its boundaries with great success and profit. It is about six miles square. It is bounded on the west by the rich lead-mining field of Mr Beaumont, which yielded such a harvest of lead ore and silver ore in the days when lead-mining was one of the North of England's staple industries. Some of the rich veins which were wrought so profitably run through it, and were even worked close up to its boundary. It is bounded on the South by the lead-mines of the Weardale Lead Company, the richest of which runs through it, and is now being worked by some 200 miners at Grove Rake, Rookhope, and is yielding a large quantity of lead ore. It is bounded on the north by the famed Derwent mines, which were worked as far back as the year 1462, and were wrought successfully until a few years ago, when the price of lead became too low to be profitably worked in this country, with its heavy royalties. Immense quantities of lead ore were got out of these mines during the last three or four hundred years, and some of them were even very rich close up to the boundary. It is bounded on the east by a vast tract of moorland now owned by the Commissioners and the Dean and Chapter, and there are numerous indications to be found even on it of mining operations which have been carried on. It is surrounded by rich mining fields on all sides, and intersected by most of their richest veins, and from its peculiar position promises to be as rich in mineral wealth as any of its surroundings. The rich Pasture Grove Vein so well known to mining experts in Weardale, and which has yielded such a rich harvest of lead ore in the palmy days of lead mining, runs through it. In fact rich veins which are known to be rich ore are running through it in all directions, and it is reckoned to be by practical men who know it well the best mining speculation known of in the county of Durham, if not in the whole of the North of England. Two excellent bearing sills or stratas of rock are to be found in it, known to practical lead-miners as the high grit and the low grit, and most of the lead ore veins which intersect this excellent mining field are calculated to be especially rich in these two stratas. It possesses also another excellent feature, not always found in a good mining field, plenty of water power to drive machinery if necessary. There is also considerable height of hill, and the mines or levels could be set on at very low random, and thereby drain the workings of their surplus water, and also leave considerable height of hill above and ample space for working the mines by lengths or top levels; and thus to get rid of the accumulations of water natural to mines and mining by such an easy process is a fact which in mining is of the utmost importance, as it would thereby save thousands of pounds which otherwise would have to be spent in erecting engines and machinery to pump it out, besides the cost of working such machinery as well. From its geological formation and the numerous veins which intersect it, and the good sills or ore-carrying stratas of rock which are known to be on it is reckoned by thoroughly practical experienced men to be one of the best fields for mining enterprise known in the North. Hitherto it has been unworked and unexplored, and, to use a local mining term, it is whole round. And its surroundings have been successfully tested by different mining companies at different times, from the 15th century up to the present time. Practical lead-miners who know it are sanguine of its rich and valuable mineral treasures hid beneath a surface of little or no value from an agricultural point of view, it being all moorland, where—

"The shrill ton'd plover loud does cry,
And beeking grouse go whirring by."

It also contains any quantity of excellent building stone, so that were a company leasing it and working it they would find first-rate building material to hand on the very spot only awating pick and shovel. Its height of hill is great, and the sills are rising features themselves essential for successful mining. The royalties belong to E. Joicey, Esq., Newbiggen Hall, on the Hunstanworth and Newbiggen estate, a young man of much promise, held in high esteem by his tenantry and universally respected. This splendid field for mining enterprise if properly worked would considerably enhance the value of his property, not only on account of the royalties which would be due to him, but it would also enhance the value of his farms. It would draw around it a mining population which would occupy the empty houses, and the consumption of the tenant farmers' agricultural produce would also be increased, while it would still leave the surface of the moorland little or none the worse for sporting purposes, as it would still be the home of the red grouse, as has been proved by other moorland mining fields in Weardale, Allendale, and Teesdale, and even around the Tyne Head and the mining fields in the Eden valley. It would not only be advantageous to him, but would give an impetus to the languishing mining industry of the North and employment to numbers who are driven hither and thither in quest of it. With the present workable price of lead and a good company or two working the numerous veins intersecting this rich mining field, the district might be a very prosperous one indeed, instead of being the dreary waste it now is.—ELVIRA.—*Hexham Courant.*

Football.

FIXTURES.

Mar. 31.—Consett v Jarrow Church Institute, at Jarrow.
" 31.—Shotley Bridge St. Cuthbert's v Newcastle Rangers 2nd, at Newcastle.
" 31—Leadgate Exiles v Gateshead, at Gateshead.
" 31—Leadgate 2nd v Newcastle 2nd, at Leadgate.
" 31—Hobson Temperance Rangers v Catchgate Red Stars, at Hobson Colliery.
" 31—Hobson Temperance Rangers v Newcastle Swifts, at Hobson Colliery.
" 31—Hobson Temperance Rangers 2nd v Trafalgar "B" team, at Hobson Colliery.
" 31—Burnopfield v East End Swifts, at Burnopfield.
" 31—Medomsley v Tantobie, at Tantobie.
" 31—Swalwell v Elswick Rangers 2nd, at Newcastle.
" 31—Swalwell 2nd v Gateshead St. Joseph's, at Gateshead.
" 31—Swalwell Juniors v Dunston Juniors, at Swalwell.

GOOD FRIDAY MATCHES.

Mar. 30—Swalwell 2nd v St. Bernards, at Newcastle.
" 30—Swalwell Juniors v Guisborough Juniors at Swalwell.
" 30—Birtley 2nd v Coates' Scratch Team, at Birtley.

EASTER MONDAY'S MATCHES.

April 2—Consett v Tudhoe, at Shotley Spa.
" 2—Whitburn v Medomsley, at Shotley Spa.
" 2—Benwell Hill v Shotley Bridge St Cuthbert's, at Shotley Spa.
" 2—Milkwell Burn Royal Blues v Edmondsley, at Edmonsley.

EASTER TUESDAY'S MATCHES.

April 3—Consett v Hamsteels (scratch team) at Shotley Spa.
" 3—Consett 2nd v St. Cuthbert's (Shotley Bridge), at Shotley Spa.
" 3—Medomsley v East End (Newcastle), at Shotley Spa.

ASSOCIATION.

Tow Law beat Cornsay by five goals to one.

Cornsay 2nd beat Tow Law 2nd by two goals to one.

Langley Park Rovers beat Annfield Plain True Blues on the ground of the former by three goals to nil.

SCOTSWOOD HARRIERS v SWALWELL.—Played at Swalwell in two thirties, and resulted in a victory for Scotswood by two goals to one goal.

SCOTSWOOD HARRIERS JUNIORS v SWALWELL JUNIORS.—Played at Swalwell, and resulted in a win for Scotswood by one goal to nil.

HEATON NORTH END JUNIORS v WOLSINGHAM.—Played at Heaton, and a one-sided game ended in a win for the home team by twelve goals to none.

CORNSAY JUNIORS v ESH JUNIORS.—Played at Esh, and resulted in a victory for Cornsay by 3 goals 1. The play of J. Ainsley J. Aston, and R. Aston, for Cornsay, was very good.—Cornsay 2nd played Esh Mixed, and the game resulted in a victory for Cornsay by two goals to nil. The goals were obtained by G. Simpson.

TYNE VILLA v MICKLEY 2ND.—Played on the Seal at Hexham, and resulted in a win for the visitors by two goals to none. In the first period the game was pretty evenly-contested, neither side being able to score. In the second period the visitors soon began to press their opponents, and Hall, after a fine dribble, kicked a goal. Shortly after Henderson repeated, this being the second goal kicked for the visitors. The "Villans" made several attempts to score, but the goalkeeping of W. Harrison was too good for them, this player saving many a hard shot.

DURHAM CUP: SEMI-FINAL.

AUCKLAND CHURCH INSTITUTE v. BIRTLEY.—Played at Darlington, through the Birtley protest last Saturday having been allowed. Play during the first half generally favoured the Institute, the ball lying mostly in the Birtley quarters, though they made some good rushes. Their forwards, however, proved ineffective in kicking for a goal. Out of a combined rush made by the Auckland forwards to the Birtley goal, a shot by Gibson was fisted out by Stephenson, but Walker received, and scored the first for Auckland. Soon after Williams had a good chance for Birtley, but kicked over. Towards the end of the first half Auckland got the ball through again, but it was off-side. Birtley was pressing at half-time. On changing ends, Birtley at once got the ball down, and Downey headed through, but it was given off side. Play was more even down to the close. Burnby scored again for Auckland, and Balam obtained a goal for Birtley, the game being an exciting finish.

RUGBY.

DURHAM CUP SECOND TEAM COMPETITION.

SUNDERLAND 2ND v RYTON 2ND.—These teams met on the ground of the Hendon Church Institute, Sunderland. Result:—Sunderland, one goal and three tries and one minor to nil.

HUMBLEDON 2ND v CONSETT 2ND.—In this encounter, played on the ground of the former at Sunderland, the home team were victorious by one goal, two tries, and six minors to nil. The Consett team was exactly as published in last week's *Guardian*.

Cricket.

MEDOMSLEY CRICKET CLUB.

The following is a list of matches arranged by the representative of the above club at the meeting of the secretaries of Northumberland and Durham on Feb. 4th for the season of 1888. With their new ground and a higher quality of matches, the people of Medomsley are looking forward with great interest to the cricket season. Medomsley hope to turn out a strong team this year, especially in their cup ties. The Medomsley club have joined the Durham County Club, and they intend to enter for the Cricket Challenge Cup, which has just been instituted. In connection with the cricket club a grand ball will be held in the Templars' Hall, Medomsley, on an early date, and the committee takes this opportunity of cordially inviting neighbouring cricketers. The second team have the following dates vacant for local clubs only:—May 5th, June 2nd, 23rd, and 30th, and July 14th. Address:—W. G. Thompson, hon. sec., Medomsley Edge, Lintz Green.

1ST TEAM FIXTURES.

May 5.—Hetton Lyons, at Medomsley.
" 12.—Blaydon, at Medomsley.
" 19.—Peases West (Crook), at Medomsley.
" 21.—(Monday) Burnhope, at Medomsley.
" 25.—(Friday) Durham City, at Medomsley.
" 26.—Tanfield, at Tanfield.
June 2.—East End, Newcastle, at Medomsley.
" 9.—Peases West (Crook), at Crook.
" 16.—1st round of Durham Cup Ties.
" 23.—West End (Newcastle), at Medomsley.
" 30.—Tanfield, at Medomsley.
July 7.—Burnhope, at Burnhope.
" 14.—North-Eastern (Newcastle), at Medomsley.
" 21.—Tyne Dock, at Medomsley.
" 28.—Consett Iron Company's Officials, at Medomsley.
Aug. 4.—Durham City, at Durham.
" 11.—Blaydon, at Blaydon.
" 18.—East End (Newcastle), at Heaton.
" 25.—North-Eastern (Newcastle), at Heaton.
Sept. 1.—Hetton Lyons, at Hetton-le-Hole.
" 8.—West End (Newcastle), at Newcastle.
" 15.—Tyne Dock, at Tyne Dock.

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.

LIVELY TOWNSHIP MEETING AT BENFIELDSIDE.

MR. CARSS AND THE OVERSEERS.

EXTRAORDINARY PROCEEDINGS.

The annual meeting of the rated inhabitants of Blackhill and Shotley Bridge took place on Friday night, in the Board Schools, Benfieldside Edge. Compared to former years, there was only a moderate attendance. Mr Wm. Raw (Blackhill) was unanimously voted to the chair. The proceedings from beginning to end were of the most exciting and entertaining character.

The CHAIRMAN having read the notice convening the meeting, explained that they had to nominate overseers and waywarden for the roads outside the township for the ensuing year.

A TECHNICAL OBJECTION.

Mr CARSS, at the outset, challenged the legality of the meeting. The law of the case was this: An Act passed in the reign of Elizabeth, sec. 43, chap. 2, enacted that the churchwardens of every parish, and 4, 3, or 2 substantial householders should be thought meet, having respect to the proportion and greatness of the parish or parishes, to be nominated as overseers in Easter week. He presumed that was not Easter week. To avoid the difficulty of Easter being a moveable feast, further provision was made in sect. 54 of George III., that the appointment of overseers should be made every year on the 25th March, or within 24 days from that date; but an appointment made subsequent to the prescribed time would not be invalid. Mr Carss further cited references to the duties of the Justices, and contended that, inasmuch as the Magistrates had not power to appoint the overseer prior to the 25th March, then the vestry could not exercise that privilege before the 25th.

Mr J. ELTRINGHAM (assistant-overseer) replied that Mr Carss' contention was based upon an obsolete Act of Parliament, which had been supplanted by a new statute.

Mr CARSS submitted that he was right in his argument.

The CHAIRMAN, referring to the minute book, stated that the parish meeting was held in the Town Hall, Shotley Bridge, on March 24th, 1881; and on the 23rd March in the following year. What had Mr Carss to say to that fact?

Mr CARSS: Well, these were illegal meetings. (Sensation.)

The CHAIRMAN: Here's the minutes in Mr Carss' own handwriting; and now he declares that these meetings were not legal. (Laughter.) During his 21 years' term of office, only five of his meetings have been held within the legal time.

Mr J. DUFFY stated that if Mr Carss acted illegally during his term of office, there was no necessity for the overseers continuing to blunder in regard to this matter.

Mr ELTRINGHAM pointed out that the first portion of the Act cited by Mr Carss was an old one, and had nothing to do with the question at issue. The law specified that the overseers must be appointed on or after the 25th March. The law certified that the Justices made the appointments, and not the vestry. The Magistrates at Lanchester had intimated that they intended to proceed with the appointment of overseers on the following Thursday (to-day). The overseers were consequently obliged to convene the annual meeting for that week, inasmuch as there was not sufficient time to nominate the overseers and get the necessary lists prepared in time for the Magistrates at Lanchester. There must be three clear days' notice of the vestry meeting given, without reckoning Sundays. If the notices summoning the meeting had not been published on the church and chapel doors till that week, then the vestry meeting would have to be held next Thursday morning, before the overseers proceeded to Lanchester to be appointed. That, he submitted, would be a most inconvenient hour.

Mr CARSS now essayed to speak, but Mr ELTRINGHAM begged of him to sit down and allow him to finish. Mr Carss had had his turn, and now he (Mr Eltringham) was entitled to say something. Continuing, he said that it rested solely with the justices to make the appointments. The vestry only nominated the overseers that night, and he (Mr Eltringham) contended that the meeting was a perfectly legal one. (Applause.)

Mr CARSS (warmly): Will the overseers tell the vestry that they have nothing to do with the nomination of the overseers? Why are we called together? (Hear.)

Mr ELTRINGHAM: Simply as a matter of courtesy because it has generally been the custom. (Laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN said that for three or four years, no vestry meetings were held in that township at all. (More laughter.)

Mr CARSS stated that the magistrates at least expected half-a-dozen names to be presented to them, selected by the vestry. The Bench were not bound to accept any of the gentlemen nominated by the vestry as overseers if they had any objections to the candidates, and they could exercise their prerogative by selecting and appointing three other gentlemen as overseers, independent of what the vestry might do.

Mr ELTRINGHAM was now speaking in an undertone to the Chairman, when Mr CARSS exclaimed: Just you keep yourself quiet. I am not going to be bullied by you as you bully your workmen. (Laughter.)

Mr ELTRINGHAM: I am merely speaking to the Chairman.

Mr CARSS: Then you have no right to interrupt me. (More laughter.)

The CHAIRMAN observed that the ratepayers were assembled for to transact business in an orderly and decent fashion. If there was going to be any unruly scenes or disgraceful squabbles, he would vacate the chair and leave the meeting. (Applause.)

Mr CARSS (interposing): Just you keep the assistant-overseer in order, then—(cries of "Order," "Chair," &c.) What are we doing here, I ask, if we have not the power to nominate the overseers? Are we simply dummies? If the magistrates cannot appoint the overseers before March 25th, how can we legally nominate them previous to the 25th?

The CHAIRMAN: Well, the overseers must be nominated before they can be appointed. (Laughter.)

Mr CARSS: This meeting could easily have been held next Monday night, and then it would have been perfectly lawful, and the difficulty would have been removed. I have consulted a lawyer upon this matter, and his opinion is that a vestry meeting called for the purpose of electing overseers is not legal till the 25th or afterwards. I am not giving my own version of the Act. However, I will leave the vestry to judge whether they will proceed with the appointment of the overseers. I will not press the point further, or object before the magistrates; only, had the meeting taken place on Monday night, there would have been reasonable time for to get the people together, and the gathering would therefore have been more representative of the whole township. I trust that in after years the vestry meeting will be held after the 25th, so as to remove any doubts concerning the legality of the matter. I am speaking as a ratepayer, and wish to keep the township right. I must now arraign the overseers for their conduct during the past——

The CHAIRMAN (interposing): We cannot enter upon that matter now. This meeting is summoned for specific purposes, and we must get on to business. Mr Carss had hitherto been regarded as a great authority upon parochial matters, but he had certainly put his foot into it that night. (Laughter.)

Mr J. G. COOKE (Blackhill) thought that Mr Carss was raising mountains out of molehills. (Laughter.) When he was assistant overseer——

Mr CARSS: Take your cap off, sir, when addressing the chair.

Mr COOKE went on to say that when Mr Carss was assistant-overseer, he could call his meetings whenever he liked; but now he had gone out of office, and a new assistant-overseer had been appointed, he came to the vestry meeting and raised frivolous objections. Mr Carss had continually humbugged and pestered the overseers about nothing. Here they had the minutes of two meetings, which he said were illegal—(Mr CARSS: So they are)—and Mr Carss must have been aware at the time that he was calling meetings which were not lawful. If that was the case, Mr Carss deserved their warmest censure. The speaker strongly denounced the inconsistency of Mr Carss, and declared that he had knowingly hoodwinked the ratepayers. (Cheers and dissent.)

Mr CARSS (indignantly): Just call Mr Cooke to order, please. He has no right to assume that I knew as much about this matter a few years ago as I do now. Did I not tell you that I had consulted a lawyer touching this matter? ("Yes.")

Mr ELTRINGHAM thought it would have been better if Mr Carss had consulted a lawyer some years ago. (Laughter.) He had convened two meetings which he admitted were quite illegal, and now he coolly turned round and told the ratepayers what he had done. He (Mr Eltringham) had only been twelve months in office, and if he had made a mistake, they might excuse him under the circumstances, seeing that his learned predecessor confessed, when in the same plight, that he was not aware that he had done anything wrong.

Mr CARSS: But you professed to know everything when you were appointed.

Mr ELTRINGHAM: I did nothing of the sort.

Another passage of arms now ensued between Messrs Carss and Eltringham, and the CHAIRMAN had to restore order.

Mr ELTRINGHAM held that the meeting was quite legal, as that evening's *Consett Guardian* reported the meeting of the Consett vestry on the preceding day. Several other township meetings had likewise been held.

The CHAIRMAN explained that in the Law Courts the judges acted upon precedents. They had a precedent for calling that meeting on the 25th. He hoped they would conduct the business in a courteous and peaceable manner. What odds did it make whether the meeting was held that night or Monday next?

Mr J. S. MURRAY (Blackhill) understood that Mr Carss had waived his objection.

Mr E. TELFORD (Benfieldside) enquired if sufficient notice had been given of the meeting?

Mr ELTRINGHAM replied in the affirmative, stating that the notices were posted on the previous Saturday. The meeting could not have been held previously to Thursday. If the notices had been posted up that week end, they could not have had the meeting before Thursday next, when that would have been too late for to get the appointments certified by the justices.

Mr CARSS observed that the notices could have remained up on two successive Sundays, and the meeting could have taken place next Monday evening.

Mr W. WILSON (Shotley Bridge): You never did that before, Mr Carss.

Mr CARSS: It doesn't matter what I did. (Laughter.) I have taken legal advice touching the matter, and wish to keep you right.

Mr WILSON: You should have taken that advice some years since, and had your meetings legally summoned. It seems that whatever you did in your own office was legal; but whatever anyone else does is quite unlawful.

Mr CARSS: I admit that these meetings were not legally held.

The CHAIRMAN (laughing): Well, if I had made such a mistake as that, I should not have confessed to it.

Mr DUFFY thought it was honourable and straightforward on the part of Mr Carss to confess his error.

The CHAIRMAN said the present overseers had been in office for five years now, and he believed they had conducted the business of the township in an upright and conscientious manner to the best of their ability. However, if the ratepayers considered they had been long enough in office, as far as he was concerned, they could remove them. He thought they had satisfactorily adjusted all rating questions during their term of office. (Applause.)

Mr CARSS averred that the overseers had "sat upon" the ratepayers during the past year, and had treated them in a contemptible and scandalous manner. They had acted in a most insulting way, and it was about time some of them were removed. (Cries of dissent.)

Mr MURRAY: This is not the business for which the meeting is convened.

The CHAIRMAN: Now, let us get on to business, gentlemen. Mr Carss is out of order.

Mr CARSS: I think the overseers have treated the ratepayers in a very arbitrary and disgraceful manner——

The CHAIRMAN declined to allow Mr Carss to proceed till the business of the meeting was finished.

Mr P. TEARE (Benfieldside) wished to know if it was not usual for to read the minutes of the last township meeting?

The CHAIRMAN: It has never been done here before.

Mr CARSS said it was immaterial whether the minutes were read or not. Every vestry meeting was complete in itself, and there was nothing successive in the appointment of overseers.

NOMINATION OF WAYWARDEN AND OVERSEERS.

On the motion of Mr MURRAY, seconded by Mr COOKE, Mr John Drummond, of Hole Row, Allansford, was unanimously re-appointed as waywarden.

Mr CARSS said there were only two parties living in the township eligible for that office—Mr Drummond and the Messrs Annandale. (Loud laughter.)

The nomination of overseers resulted as under:—Messrs Richard Murray, Benfieldside, 12 votes; W. Wilson, Shotley Bridge, 10; W. Raw, Blackhill, 9—these being the retiring overseers; A. E. Turner, Blackhill, 4; Henry Carss, Cutlers Hall, 6; Wm. Robinson, Blackhill, 4; John Brodie, Shotley Bridge, 4; Wm. Brown, Shotley Bridge, 2; and J. S. Murray, Blackhill, 1 vote.

A HINT TO THE JUSTICES.

Mr CARSS next suggested that they should propose a resolution requesting the magistrates to confirm the appointment of the three first-named gentlemen. He would have done so, but none of his nominees were in that fortunate position.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the magistrates declined to be dictated to in that fashion; and Mr MURRAY deemed it best to leave the selection entirely in the hands of the justices.

Mr COOKE proposed, and Mr SURTEES seconded, a proposition that the magistrates be requested to appoint the first three.

Mr CARSS said if their worships were in a good humour, they would perhaps accede to their behests; if they were in a bad one, however, they would kick them downstairs. (Loud laughter.)

Mr MURRAY thought the word "request" rather too strong. Would it not be better to substitute "ask?"

Mr CARSS: What is the difference between "request" and "ask?" (Laughter.)

Mr DUFFY: One means that you go on to your bended knees before the Bench, and the other implies that they should stand up before them. (Much laughter.)

Mr CARSS: I'm afraid they don't go on to their knees very often. (Renewed laughter.)

MR CARSS' INDICTMENT AGAINST THE OVERSEERS.

Mr CARSS again called the attention to the fact that the overseers had, during the past year, treated the ratepayers in an utterly disgraceful and abominable manner. He held in his hand a memorial signed by nearly 300 ratepayers, beseeching the overseers to convene a vestry meeting to re-consider the appointment of the assistant-overseer. In the face of this requisition, however, the overseers absolutely refused to call such a meeting. More than that. When 23 ratepayers signed a petition to put Carss out of office, the overseers summoned a meeting directly. (Laughter.) When 260 ratepayers signed a petition to rescind the appointment of Mr Eltringham, the overseers took no notice of it.

The CHAIRMAN replied that the overseers had got on as well as they possibly could.

Mr CARSS said it was a most unprecedented thing for the overseers to refuse to call a vestry meeting when requested to do so by 260 respectable people. Such a disgraceful state of things was never heard of in this country before.

At this period a very animated conversation took place between Mr Carss and other ratepayers, but as the report of such a conversation would tend to disgrace those who took part in the unseemly and disgusting exhibition, we decline to insert it.

The CHAIRMAN at this juncture closed the meeting, and a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr Raw for presiding.

CONSERVATIVE MEETING AT BLAYDON.

On Saturday night, under the auspices of the Blaydon and District Conservative Association, a meeting was held in the Mechanics' Institute, Blaydon, for the purpose of hearing an address from Mr Wm. Touchstone. Mr H. Scott occupied the chair, and there was a fair attendance.

Mr TOUCHSTONE, who was well received, said a statement was frequently made that it was not to the interest of working men to be Conservatives, and one reason was because the Conservative party and Conservative Government had been the great war party of the country. He held that no Government ought to rush into war except the reasons were of the very strongest. After mentioning the circumstances connected with many wars, he said that the Conservative party had a claim upon the working men upon the war question. If they looked back over the past fifty-two years they would find that under Liberal administration there had been twenty-two wars, whilst under the Tory Government in the same period of time there had only been seven. Another statement was that working men should not belong to the Conservative party because they had been the enemy of reform. He then dealt with various Reform Acts, and claimed that there was no evidence that any reasonable man could allege against the Conservative party in that respect. The Tory party had always been anxious to have a broad, comprehensive, and honest Reform Bill. Adverting to the question of free trade, he said that Richard Cobden thought that other nations, seeing our example, would do likewise, but the difficulty was that they had not been acting upon what could be fairly called free trade lines. They should not consider this question of free trade as partisans for party gain, but they should try to combine their intellect and power, first, for the good of our own artisans in this country, and then let the benefit extend to other countries. After referring to perpetual pensions, he concluded by stating that as the principal measures for the benefit of the working men had been passed by the Conservative Governments, they deserved the support of the working-men. Mr Touchstone then proceeded to answer a number of questions.

On the motion of Mr Wm. DODDS, seconded by Mr JAS. MCFADYEN, a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr Touchstone for his address, and a similar compliment having been paid to the Chairman for presiding, the meeting terminated.

NOTES FROM WEARDALE.

In consequence of the severe storm at Wolsingham, the feathered songsters are daily to be seen grouped near to the dwellings, the blackbirds being conspicuous.

Sergeant Hardcastle, of West Hartlepool, has succeeded Sergeant George, who has been removed from St. John's Chapel to Stanhope. The new officer is being well received amongst the dalefolks.

The recent storm has caused heavy loss on the village residents of Westgate, who are in the main depending on the iron company's employment. A number of the cartmen from Newcastle and elsewhere have returned home.

Farmers have many risks to run besides those resulting from weather like the present and the long-continued depression and bad crops. Mr Wm. Vickers, Howl John, Weardale, has, we regret to hear, sustained a series of heavy losses of late, having lost, in addition to many lambs, above half-a-score of calves, two valuable milch cows, and a valuable brood draught mare and foal.

Canon Pulleine, examining chaplain to Bishop Boyd Carpenter, and rector of Kirkby Wiske since 1868, has, we are now able to definitely announce, been appointed Bishop-Suffragan for the Diocese of Ripon, and, we understand, will be offered the vacant living of Stanhope. Canon Pulleine visited the Church at Stanhope on Monday, and was introduced by Dr Arnison to the ratepayers attending the vestry meeting.

It is reported that the Crown has agreed to the appointment of a Bishop-Suffragan for Ripon Diocese. The wealthy living of Stanhope, in the county of Durham, is in the patronage of the Bishop of Ripon, and that living being now vacant, opportunity is thus afforded of making the appointment of Suffragan, the plan having also the approval of those who know best the circumstances of the diocese. With the help of a Suffragan resident in the North, and the creation of the new See of Wakefield, more time will be at the disposal of the Bishop of Ripon for the important work in the large towns of his diocese. It is stated that the newly-appointed Suffragan will be Rev J. J. Pulleine, M.A., rector of Kirkby Wiske and Canon of Ripon.

DURHAM COUNTY CERTIFICATED TEACHERS' ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Durham County Certificated Teachers' Association was held on Saturday evening, in the Church Close Board School, Hartlepool—Mr W. McDonald presiding. There are several members of the Association in the Consett district.

Mr H. C. MARSTON, hon. secretary, stated that during the past year 109 members had joined, and the actual number on the books is now 259. The receipts for the year were £105 3s 1d, and the expenditure £96 18s 6d, leaving a balance in hand of £8 4s 7d.

Mr L. HEWITT (Spennymoor) congratulated the president upon the healthy state of the finances, and was pleased to observe there had been such a ready response to the March call for expenses no less than 250 members having promptly paid.

Mr WM REED (Coxhoe) spoke of the great benefit the society had been to the widows and orphans of four deceased members, who had received during the past 14 months subscriptions amounting to £98.

A letter having been read from a member who is about to emigrate to Queensland, and still wished to remain a member of the society, after considerable discussion, it was decided, upon the motion of Mr C. H. CORBETT (Barnard Castle), that it is not desirable to alter the rule, which confines membership to the British Isles.

Mr WILLIS (Wingate) thought that as the personal canvass made by the president in Sunderland, Gateshead, and Bishop Auckland had proved so effectual, and had resulted in a gain of 35 members, similar visits to other districts might be beneficial, and the PRESIDENT consented, provided the Association paid actual train fares, as all other work in connection with the Association is done gratuitously.

Messrs BUCKLE, COULSON, NORTON, HOWSTON, and PEADON explained the difficulties masters in small country schools and assistants with small stipends had to contend with, and the meeting then unanimously decided that there should be a marked difference in the scale of entrance fees, and for this purpose fixed the admission at 3s for head masters and 1s 6d for assistants.

Mr W. McDonald was appointed president, and Messrs Marston and Wheatley joint hon. secs. for the ensuing year.

The Association, being established for benevolence, is now under the patronage of the whole of the Government and Diocesan Inspectors in the county.

ALLEGED WOUNDING AT CHESTER-LE-STREET.

A serious assault took place at midnight on Saturday at Chester-le-Street. It appears that a man named Thomas Carr went into his house at that time when he had some words with his stepsons, Thomas and John McClosky, aged 18 and 21 respectively. One of them, it is stated, struck Carr with a coalrake over the left arm, breaking the arm, and then the other obtained possession of the coalrake and struck his stepfather twice on the head, inflicting very serious wounds and fracturing the skull. Carr's condition was so serious as to necessitate his removal to the Newcastle Infirmary. The two McCloskys were taken into custody, and on Monday morning were brought before Mr W. H. Kerrick-Walker and remanded till Wednesday, April 4th. Dr W. M. Renton attended the injured man, and Inspector Maxwell described the circumstances of the affray.

STOCK AUCTION MARTS.

BENFIELDSIDE.—Messrs Nicholson and Murray held their usual weekly sale on Monday. There were forward 15 fat cattle, 65 fat sheep, 8 veal calves, 9 pork pigs, 12 cows, a number of poultry, a quantity of harness, potatoes, &c. A large company was present, and nearly the whole were cleared out at fairly satisfactory prices. Fat cattle, which brought from £9 to £15 7s 6d; sheep, 31s to 48s 6d; calves, 16s to 55s; pigs, 42s to 55s; two sows in pig, £5 12s and £6 10s. Quotations:—Beef, 7s 3d to 8s per stone; mutton, 8d to 8½d per lb; pork, 6s 6d per stone.

TOW LAW.—Mr Vickers had forward on Monday:—32 cows, up to £17 15s; 17 fat cattle, up to £18 17 6d; 13 store cattle, up to £7 12s 6d; 65 fat sheep, up to 57s 6d.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—Mr J. Turnbull held his fortnightly sale of fat and other stock on Monday, and had forward a very large supply of cattle and sheep. There was one of the largest attendance of buyers ever witnessed. The quality of stock was prime throughout, both sheep and cattle commanding a quick sale at full market prices. Numbers forward:—92 fat cattle, 13 grazing cattle, 7 in-calving and new-calved cows, 210 fat sheep, 14 pork and bacon pigs, 1 sow in pig, 2 draught horses, potatoes, poultry, implements, &c. Prices were as follow:—Fat cattle, heifers, from £13 to £18 12s 6d; bullocks, from £12 to £28 5s; fat cows, £11, to £16 15s. Fat sheep, shearlings, to 49s; hoggs, from 35s 6d to 54s 6d. Bacon pigs, to £4 17s 6d; sow in pig, to £5 2s 6d. Store cattle, to £9 5s each; incalvers, to £14; new calved cow, to £16 10s. Horses, to £16 10s.

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LOCAL VESTRY MEETINGS.

WEARDALE.

At Heathery Cleugh (Weardale) vestry meeting, Mr Thomas Carr and Mr James Sparke were re-elected churchwardens.

WINLATON.

This meeting was held at Winlaton, on Thursday se'nnight, in the parish vestry. The outgoing overseers were thanked for past services and re-elected. Dissatisfaction was expressed with the change of pulpit and the substituting of chairs for seats.

CROOK.

Rev J. King (rector) presided at this meeting at Crook, on Thursday evening last. Messrs Thos. Hemsley and Jas. Willan were re-elected Overseers of the Poor, and Mr John Pallister was elected waywarden for the ensuing year. The following nine ratepayers were nominated on the Crook Parochial Sanitary Committee:—Messrs J. Hare, E. Milburn, W. Machell, M. Stitt, M. Cundell, W. H. Miller, T. A. Brown, W. Busten, and J. Graham. The Burial Board accounts, which showed a balance of £23 1s 4d in the treasurer's hands, were read and passed. The sum of £800, however, is still owing upon the loan.—Mr J. Willan was re-elected a member of the Burial Board, and Mr J. H. Gowland was elected in the place of Mr R. Bousfield, deceased.—The accounts of the Lighting Committee, which showed a balance in the treasurer's hands of £52 14s 8d, were read and passed, and it was resolved that £130 be expended under the Lighting Act for the ensuing year. Messrs G. Lister and W. H. Miller were elected lighting inspectors.—Messrs R. Dixon and W. Turner were appointed auditors for the parish accounts.

TRIMDON.

The annual meeting of the ratepayers of the Trimdon Parish was held at Old Trimdon on Thursday evening, Mr W. C. Murray presiding. The appointment of waywarden resulted in the re-election of Mr Edward Smith, and the following gentlemen were nominated as overseers:—Mr John Parkin, Trimdon Colliery; Messrs Conkerton, Marley, and Dalkin, Old Trimdon; and Messrs Andrew Young and Thomas Hunter, Trimdon Grange.

CORBRIDGE.

At a meeting of ratepayers in the township of Corbridge, held on Friday night, under the presidency of Mr Thos. Blandford, Mr W. Walton, one of the retiring overseers, was nominated for the ensuing year, and Mr Henry Richley was nominated in the room of Mr J. Vickers, who declined to stand. The Rev F. Richardson, vicar, Mr Thomas Reed, and Mr John Green were nominated as Guardians.

BIRTLEY.

A meeting of the ratepayers of the township of Birtley was held on Friday night, in the committee room of the Co-operative Hall—Mr Thomas Birleson in the chair.—On the motion of Captain Todd, seconded by Mr J. F. Swinburne, it was resolved: "That we discard the idea of Mr Chas. Robson, of Chester-le-Street, holding any longer the position as Guardian for the township of Birtley."—After some names had been put to the meeting, it was resolved: "That Mr J. Fallow Swinburne be nominated as a Guardian, and that this meeting pledges itself to do its best to promote his candidature; and that a public meeting be held as soon as it is known that a contest will ensue." A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting.

STANHOPE.

Stanhope Vestry meeting was held at the Town Hall, to which place it was adjourned on Monday. Dr. Arnison, J.P., presided. The following overseers were appointed:—Forest quarter—Mr T. Lee, in place of Mr W. Robinson; Park—Mr G. Stephenson; Stanhope—Mr John Crawhall; Newlandside—Mr R. Curry, in place of Mr Matthew Ridley (resigned). Mr W. Vickers, Pease Myers, was appointed waywarden for Stanhope, and Mr Thomas Walton, Allergill, in place of Mr Thomas Sanderson, who retires. Mr McCullum was nominated rector's churchwarden, and Mr Martin for the ratepayers. The Burial Board accounts, with a balance of £4 6s 8d, were passed, and Messrs Stephenson and John Tinkler re-elected on the Board being retiring members. The church accounts showed a deficiency of £27 2s 5d.

WOLSINGHAM.

A meeting was held in the Town Hall, Wolsingham, on Monday—Rev Chancellor Espin presiding. Mr J. J. Devey, Mr G. R. Wooler, and Mr Mark Hallimond were re-appointed churchwardens. On the re-appointment of Messrs Curry, Wooler, and Snowball as waywardens for Wolsingham, Mr Fenwick called attention to the state of the footpaths, and said they were in a most dilapidated condition. He thought something should be done by the Highway Board to improve them, as they were liable to do so.—Mr J. P. Dolphin supported, and said he thought that the Board had refused to interfere with the footpath, as their Clerk thought they were not liable; but he thought this was an erroneous opinion. The footpaths needed greatly repairing, and the town lighting.—Mr G. R. Wooler and Mr G. Curry said they had often brought the subject before the Board, but they were always knocked down. Mr Wooler said, according to the opinion of Mr Cunningham Glen, the great authority on highway law, recently given to the Norton Board, the Highway Board were liable to repair the footpaths.—Mr R. G. Wooler proposed, and Mr Wm. Love seconded, that a committee be appointed to attend on the Board at their next meeting, with a resolution passed by this meeting, urging on the Board to at once take up and repair the footpaths, and fully lay the subject before the Board.—This was carried, and Messrs R. G. Wooler, J. J. Devey, W. Love, R. Grimdon, Fenwick, and A. Pickard were appointed the committee. Plans were laid on the table for the proposed re-seating of the Church of St. Matthew, and the building of an organ-chamber and re-building the organ. The matter was fully explained by the Rev Chancellor Espin.—A discussion took place on the re-seating of the church. Mr G. Curry, of Bishop Oak, strongly objected to his seat being removed and placed in the position of facing the wall, but praised the churchwardens for upholding the old appropriation of seats. He proposed that a parish meeting be convened, for to-day (Thursday), when he hoped a final settlement be arrived at.—Mr J. P. Dolphin seconded this proposition, and it was unanimously adopted.—The Chairman consented to call a public meeting for the discussion of the County Government Bill, now before Parliament, early after its second reading.

LOCAL BOARD NOMINATIONS.

CONSETT.

On Friday afternoon, the returning officer (Mr T. W. Welford) issued the following list of nominations of candidates for seats on the Consett Local Board:—*Wm. Aynsley, Middle Street, Consett, grocer; *John Calvert, Sherburn Terrace, Consett, gentleman; *Thomas Siddell, Viewfield, Shotley Bridge, rolling mill manager; Thos. E. Shotton, Cemetery Road, Blackhill, commercial clerk; George Hawdon, Sherburn Terrace, Consett, agent; and *George Wade, Front Street, Consett, butcher. Those marked (*) are the retiring members. There are six candidates for the four seats. The voting papers will be distributed on the 31st inst., and collected on April 5th, the votes being counted up on the following day.

BENFIELDSIDE.

Mr John Booth, of Shotley Bridge, the returning officer, announced on Friday that the undermentioned candidates had been nominated to fill up the four vacancies on the Benfieldside Local Board:—R. Greenfell Barclay, Bank Buildings, Shotley Bridge, bank manager; *Henry Carss, Cutler's Hall Road, mason; *Jacob Dowson, Derwent Street, Blackhill, draper; George Eltringham, Walton Street, Blackhill, grocer; R. Marshall, Highgate, watchmaker; William Robinson Blackhill paper merchant; *Thomas Siddell, Benfieldside, Consett Iron Company's agent; William Surtees, Benfieldside, Edge, builder. Those marked (*) are the retiring members. The fourth gentleman—Mr William Telford, Derwent Flour Mill manager, Shotley Bridge—does not seek re-election. The voting papers will be sent out this week, and will be gathered in on April 5th, the result being declared on the succeeding day.

LEADGATE.

The nominations of members to serve upon the Leadgate Local Board closed on Wednesday evening, Mr George Nicholson being the returning officer.

TOW LAW.

Four nominations have been made for the seats of the three retiring members on the Tow Law Board. The persons nominated are:—J. T. Morton, grocer; *Joseph Ridley, builder; *L. P. Wherly, draper; James Wild, surgeon. *Those were members of the old Board. Dr Wild refused to accept a seat when he was nominated some months ago for the vacancy caused by the removal of Mr White, and it is expected that he will now withdraw, and thus avoid a contested election.

WHICKHAM.

The nominations for Whickham Local Board have been received by Mr Thomas Lambert, clerk to the Board, and are as follows:—Arthur Douglass Carr, land agent, Whickham; Cuthbert Berkley, mining engineer, Marley Hill; Robert Shield, spade and shovel manufacturer, Swalwell; Wm. Stafford, engineer, Dunston; Wm. Blackbird, manager of Co-operative Store, Swalwell; Thomas Elliott, grocer, Swalwell; and Stephen Spoor, builder, Whickham. The first four named are retiring members. On the 31st inst. the voting papers will be delivered, they will be collected on the 4th April, and counted on the following day at the Board Office at Whickham.

NOMINATION OF GUARDIANS.

LANCHESTER UNION.

Elections are arranged to take place this year in four of the townships in the Lanchester Union, and according to the nominations received by Mr W. H. Ritson (returning officer) up to Monday night, contests have fortunately in each instance been averted, the old Guardians having been re-elected without opposition:—

Collierley and Pontop.—Joseph Adamson Curry, pawnbroker and gentleman, Bradley Lodge, Dipton; Wm. Rutherford, mining engineer, Catchgate.

Greencroft.—Robert Mitchison, mining engineer, Catchgate.

Kyo.—Thomas W. Asquith, mining engineer, Harperley; George Hobson, miller and farmer, Harperley Mills, Catchgate.

Tanfield.—Nathaniel Clark, land agent, Beamish Park; Robert Clark, land agent, Lintz Green House; Thomas Pringle, colliery manager, Tanfield Lea; Jos. Watson, butcher and farmer, West Stanley.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

The following gentlemen have been nominated for the under-mentioned places in this Union:—

Biddick and Lambton (united).—aThos. Langton; one Guardian required.

Barmston.—aJohn C. Potts; one required.

Birtley.—aChas. Robson, aW. W. Phillipson, John F. Swinburne, D. Wilson, James Bradford; two required.

Burnmoor.—John Tully; one wanted.

Chester-le-Street.—aJohn Mitchell, G. E. Steele, J. Witherspoon, aP. Hay, aR. J. Coxon, Chas. Robson; three wanted.

Cocken.—aJ. Lowrey; one wanted.

Edmondsley.—aJohn Hodgson, aJohn Humble; two wanted.

Harraton.—aP. Oswald, aG. E. Forster, J. Cook; three wanted.

Lamesley.—aT. Bell, aW. B. Tully, aW. Ironsides, D. W. Robson, J. T. Anderson, H. Wallace, John Heath; four wanted.

Great Lumley.—aThos. Robson, aJohn Crawford, aJ. Chrystal; three required.

Little Lumley.—aW. Jackson; one wanted.

Ouston.—aC. Heppell; one wanted.

Pelton.—aJohn Kirkup, S. Kirkup, aE. Nicholson, jun., R. Ryle; two required.

Plawsworth.—aR. Darling; one wanted.

Urpeth.—aGeo. Ridley; one wanted.

Usworth.—aR. T. Swallow, aJohn Snowball, Wm. Gascoigne; two required.

Waldridge.—aG. Swinburne; one wanted.

Washington.—aJas. Lisle, Thos. Wilson, John M. Snowdon; two wanted.

Witton Gilbert.—aS. Holmes, John Urwin, John Parkin, J. Stevenson, aR. Oliver, P. W. Bell, and M. D. Robinson; two required.

Those marked thus (a) are retiring members of the Board. Mr Chas. Robson has withdrawn his nomination for Chester-le-Street.

WEARDALE UNION.

List of persons nominated to be Guardians for the Weardale Union:—

Stanhope Rural Ward.—Messrs Joseph Featherstone, Dr Thomas Livingstone, William Watson, Matthew Reed, George Stephenson, James Blenkiron, Richard Gibson, Thomas Robinson, Joseph Roddam.

Stanhope Urban Ward.—Henry Maddison, Wm. Rippon.

Wolsingham Ward.—G. R. Wooler, W. Snowball, G. Curry, W. Love.

Tow Law Ward.—Not received.

Edmondbyers.—G. Heppell.

Hunstanworth.—Not received.

DURHAM.

The following nominations for the Durham Board of Guardians' election were issued on Tuesday night:

Bailey North and Castle of Durham (1 wanted).—Rev V. K. Cooper, Durham.

Bailey South and Durham College (1).—aRichardson Peele, solicitor, Durham.

Brancepeth (2).—aP. McLaren, farmer, East Parks; aT. Argument, farmer, Langley Close.

Brandon and Byshottles (4).—aRev J. Lawson, Brandon; aRd. Harle, colliery manager, Browney; Martin F. Holliday, mining engineer, Langley Grove; aRichard Gardner, surveyor, Langley Moor; aJohn J. Lishman, colliery manager, Meadowfield; Geo. Suddess, farmer, Brandon.

Broom (1).—aWm. Cumming, farmer, Esh.

Cassop-cum-Quarrington (1).—Charles E. Bell, mining engineer, Park House; Henry Wilkinson Bell, farmer, Cassop; Archibald Swan, farmer, Old Cassop.

Coxhoe (2).—Wm. Ramsay, colliery manager, Tursdale; aEdward S. Coulson, farmer, Bowburn; J. Fowler, jun., farmer, Park Hill; S. Cross, miller and farmer, Coxhoe; R. Herbert, farmer, Garmondsway; C. Simpson, farmer, Coxhoe.

Crossgate Urban Ward (1).—aJ. Lindsley, Durham.

Crossgate Rural Ward (1).—aJ. Slack, bookseller, Durham; J. Lindsley, Durham (nomination invalid).

Elvet Urban Ward (1).—Thomas Gowland, hotel-keeper, Durham.

Elvet Rural Ward (2).—aMatthew Fowler, grocer, Durham; aWm. Shadforth, auctioneer, Durham; J. Furness, farmer, Houghall (nomination invalid); J. Robson, farmer, Relly (nomination invalid).

Framwellgate Urban Ward (1).—aS. Oldham, engineer, Durham.

Framwellgate Rural Ward (2).—aM. Lee, farmer, High Carr House; aJ. Shie, colliery manager, Sniperley; T. L. Scott, Western Hall, Durham; J. Slack, Durham.

Gilesgate Urban Ward (1).—aR. Sanderson, builder, Durham; Rev R. J. Pearce, Durham.

Gilesgate Rural Ward (2).—aT. Brown, colliery agent; aH. Lawrence, manager, Grange Ironworks; W. Rennie, accountant; G. Fowler, Gilesgate Moor.

Hett (1).—aW. R. Dakers, colliery manager, Croxdale; W. Johnson, colliery manager, Tudhoe Colliery; T. Rivers, Hett.

Kimblesworth (1).—aW. C. Blackett, mining engineer.

Magdalen Place (1).—aJohn Burdon, Durham.

Pittington (2).—M. Atkinson, farmer, Pittington; W. Turner, farmer, Hetton-le-Hill; J. A. Ramsay, colliery manager, Littletown; aM. Tindale, farmer, Pittington; T. Crawford, mining engineer, Littletown.

St. Nicholas' (2).—J. Swinburne, jeweller, Durham; aJ. Fowler, merchant, Durham; aT. R. Richardson, printer, Durham.

Shadforth (1).—No nomination received; R. Blench, farmer, old member, re-elected.

Sherburn (2).—G. Parkinson, grease manufacturer, Sherburn; aT. Crawford, colliery manager; aJ. Smith, farmer, Sherburn.

Shincliffe (2).—aT. Ford, timber merchant, Shincliffe; aS. Oliver, miller, Shincliffe.

Stockley (1).—Wm. Robson, farmer; R. L. Weeks, mining engineer, Willington; aW. Harle, colliery manager, Page Bank.

Sunderland Bridge (1).—W. R. Dakers, Croxdale; aW. Johnson, Tudhoe Colliery.

Tudhoe (3).—aP. Simpson, farm steward; W. Johnson, Tudhoe Colliery; aW. Fleming, land agent, Tudhoe; aA. B. Cowan, steel works manager, Mount Pleasant.

Whitwell House and Sherburn Hospital (1).—G. Parkinson, Sherburn; aT. Crawford, Littletown; P. Raine, farmer.

Willington (2).—aT. D. Stephenson, agent, Willington; aR. L. Weeks, Willington; J. Allison, colliery agent, Brancepeth Colliery.

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SERVICE OF SONG AT SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

"HYMNS AND HYMN-WRITERS."

On Monday evening, 19th inst., a most interesting entertainment was given in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Shotley Bridge, in the form of service of song, entitled "Hymns and Hymn Writers." The author and compiler, Rev A. J. Campbell, son of Mr Wm. Campbell, Shotley Grove, gave the connective readings. The musical illustrations were given by the choir, under the able leadership of Mr W. Urwin. Mr Lax, who presided, after speaking for some minutes on the character and scope of true poetry, said: "I am not prepared to say what part the best hymns take in the literature of our country, nor am I prepared to say how far, or to what extent, they have influenced our national life or affected the morality and spirituality of the people, but I dare say that their influence for good has been very great." Then after speculating as to which of the hymn writers the author would deal with, he went on to say—"That of all hymn writers, perhaps the Wesleys were the most comprehensive class in particular. The Wesleys did not write poetry to secure poetic fame, but with the instinct and inspiration of true religious poets they wrote and sung their great Creator's praise, setting forth in imitable verse the wonders and beauty of Creation, the boundless Providence of the Creator, the Incarnation of the Deity, the Word and World as God manifested in the flesh. His sufferings and death, His resurrection and ascension; and singing in sublimest strain, as their great central thought, the endless glories of redeeming love, and the boundless bliss to which it tends. Their hymns not only set forth the doctrinal truths of the Bible so necessary for man to know, but they appeal to every phase of religious life and experience—strengthening the weak, raising the fallen, cheering the sad, encouraging the doubting, inspiring the tempted, and often dispelling the dark clouds which gather as they sing us into the blessed sunshine of hope, joy, and peace." After a few further remarks, the Chairman introduced Mr Campbell, who spoke most kindly of Mr Lax's influence on the young men of the village and their feelings of regard for him. This "Song lecture" was unique—in that it was not only a few hymns selected at random, but was a history of song. It took us back into the dim past—to the hymns of the Hindoos 3,000 years old, to the hymns of the ancient Chinese, fragments of which are occasionally to be found in our tea chests. The lecture took us back amid the scenes where so many hymns were written—in the silence of the night, on the battlefield, by lonely camp-fires, or in deserted caves. The lecturer also dealt with the songs of the Hebrew nations. Some very fine hymns of the early centuries of the Christian Era were dealt with, and that beautiful hymn, "Jerusalem, the golden," by Bernard, was rendered in praiseworthy style by the choir. On from Bernard, through the centuries, we were pleasantly taken by the lecturer to the days of Luther, and from thence to the creator of English hymns—Isaac Watts. At this point, the hymn-writers of the great Methodist revival of the eighteenth century were alluded to. The characteristics of the hymns of this period were not so much of praise, but of experience—they were mostly born in the fire and passion of a great religious movement. A very fine hymn of Thomas Oliver's "The God of Abraham praise," was sung by the choir to the tune of "Leoni," and an excellent rendering it was. The lecturer then dealt with such hymn-writers as Toplady, Montgomery, Cowper, a prominent place being given to Charles Wesley, the "Sweet singer of Methodism." The latter part of the service was mainly devoted to a review of hymns and hymn-writers of later time, such as the tender Heber, the peaceful Keble, the yearning Faber, the sweet and beautiful Miss Havergal, and the chastened H. F. Lyte. One of the most instructive and interesting parts of the service was that which gave the setting of many of the hymns, the circumstances which gave them birth. One fine hymn of Lyte's, "Abide with me," was said to have been written at the close of life. Lyte had for many years been in feeble health, and his medical adviser recommended him to winter in Italy. But before he left he wished to preach once more to his people. This he did, with feebleness and pain. When he reached home after service, he went directly to his room, and later in the evening when he met his assembled family, he handed them a hymn he had just penned. It was the beautiful

Abide with me!
Fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens:
Lord with me abide.
When other helpers
Fail, and comforts flee;
Help of the helpless,
O abide with me.

This was the last hymn he wrote. It proved his death-song, and shortly after he "sailed into the sunset" of a better life. To sum up the qualities of this lecture, we can unhesitatingly say that it is comprehensive in range, excellent in composition, catholic in spirit, and marked throughout with a correct judgment of the merits, character, and position of each of the hymn-writers with whom it deals. For so young a man as Mr Campbell to do such a work is most creditable, and augurs well for his future. The choir did their part in a most satisfactory manner.—Mr Oley, an old and talented musician, who was warmly received by the audience, spoke in complimentary terms of the excellence of the entertainment.—Votes of thanks to the lecturer and chairman brought a very pleasant and enjoyable meeting to a close.

BRASS BAND CONCERT AT CONSETT.

A grand concert of instrumental music was given on Saturday night, in the New Town Hall, Consett, by the members of the South Derwent Brass Band, from Annfield Plain. The attendance on the occasion was painfully small, a fact much to be regretted, because the concert was a really enjoyable one in every sense of the word. Mr T. Walker, who has a capital style of conducting, kept the instrumentalists well under hand, in many ways proving himself a very capable conductor. The various pieces were all capitally rendered, and were given with precision and that nice regard for expression and attention to piano and forte passages so highly commendable and so often neglected. The following programme was submitted:—Part I—Selection, "Semiramide," band; euphonium solo, Mr C. Dowson; quartette, "Clouds and sunshine," Messrs Walker, Castle, Barker, and Geach; cornet solo, "Jenny Jones," Mr T. Walker; duet, "Will-o-the-Wisp," Messrs Castle and Thompson; trombone solo, "The death of Nelson," Mr W. Burdon; solo (bombardon) "Polonaise," Mr J. Humble; valse, "Estudiantina," band. Part II—Glee, "Shades of heroes," band; euphonium solo, Mr E. Geach; quartette, "Murmuring breezes," Messrs Walker, Castle, Barker, and Geach; cornet solo, "Other lips," Mr J. Thompson; "Hallelujah chorus," band; duet, "Norma," Messrs Thompson and Castle; gallop, "Fox brush," band; "God save the Queen."

During the interval between parts I and II, Mr JOHN ORR, who officiated as chairman, addressed a few remarks to the audience, in the course of which he thanked those present for having patronised the concert, at the same time regretting that so small an audience had assembled. This he attributed to the fact of defective bill posting, and consequently to the entertainment not being very widely known. He trusted that on some future occasion these defects might be remedied so that on a second visit of this—as everybody knew it was—working-man's band, the result would—if he might judge from the signs of appreciation shown amongst those who were present that night—be very different indeed.—The second portion of the programme was then proceeded with.

It would perhaps be invidious to particularise the performances of the soloists, but we may be allowed to say that Mr J. Humble's performance on the bombardon of a really graceful composition, "Polonaise," was admirable; and the same may be said of Mr Burdon's trombone solo. Mr Geach showed some good execution on the euphonium, and the duet from "Norma," by Messrs Thompson and Castle, was very efficiently given. It is much to be feared that artistic and good all round as was the entertainment the receipts will hardly pay the rent of the Hall.

Business Announcements.

SIXTEENTH YEAR OF ATTENDANCE.

MR. H. MARKHAM,

SURGEON DENTIST,

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

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

ADJOINING CONSERVATIVE CLUB, MOUNT PLEASANT. ESTABLISHED 1830.

THE COVENTRY CYCLE CO., LIMITED,

WHITEFRIAR LANE, COVENTRY.

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

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

PRICE LISTS, 3 STAMPS. 876v

WATCHES! WATCHES!! WATCHES!!!

MARSHALL & SONS,

WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,

CONSETT AND BLACKHILL,

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

KINDLY NOTE ADDRESS:—

MARSHALL AND SONS,

WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,

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

SPRING, 1888.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

GEORGE RICHARDSON,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRAPER,

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

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

ALL GOODS SOLD AT LOWEST CASH PRICES.

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

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

J. W. DAVISON AND SONS,

GENERAL MERCHANTS,

FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

DEPARTMENTS.

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

Fireproof Safes at 20 per cent below Market Prices.

GOODS DELIVERED TO ANY PART OF THE DISTRICT FREE.

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

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

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

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

LEAZES, BURNOPFIELD. **JOSEPH MARSHALL,** Watchmaker, Jeweller, & Silversmith, 7, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT, and LEAZES, BURNOPFIELD. 7, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT. 912y

W. RICHARDSON,

BESSEMER HOUSE, BLACKHILL,

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

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

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

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

CALL AND INSPECT FOR YOURSELVES. 235z

MUSIC!

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

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

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

THE NOTED TAILORING, AND MILLINERY ESTABLISHMENT.

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

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

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

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

PRESENTATION BIBLES.

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

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

Public Notices.

60 FULLY-PAID-UP SHARES in the Consett New Town Hall Company, FOR SALE.—Apply at *Guardian* Office, Consett. 283z

THE MINERS of Oxhill will hold their ANNUAL TEA and SPORTS on May 12th, 1888. See Bills. 294z

NOTICE.

LOOK OUT for McCURLEY'S SUPPER and ENTERTAINMENT, to be held in the New Town Hall, Consett, on Easter-Monday night, as announced. 298z

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH, BLACKHILL.

THE ANNUAL TEA and ENTERTAINMENT will be held in the AGRICULTURAL HALL, Blackhill, on Easter-Monday, April 2nd, 1888. Tea on the Tables at Five o'clock. Tickets for Tea and Entertainment, 1s each. 311z

WEST STANLEY WHIT-MONDAY RACE MEETING.

THE Members of the above popular Meeting will hold their EIGHTH ANNUAL RACES and other SPORTS on MONDAY, May 21st, 1888, when over £50 will be given for Prizes.

293z J. TOES, Secretary.

MRS. A. SHIPLEY, FRONT STREET, CONSETT, begs to inform her friends and the public generally, that she has obtained the services of a first-class Milliner, and begs to state that she is now prepared to DO ALL KINDS OF MILLINERY ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE at most reasonable terms.

Note the Address:—FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

CONSETT WESLEYAN CHAPEL.

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

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

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

CONSETT & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT, APRIL 3RD, 1888, "BOHEMIAN GIRL." 305z

NOTICE.

MEMBERS of the First Shotley Bridge and District 370th Starr-Bowkett Building Society are informed that SUBSCRIPTIONS WILL NOT BE TAKEN on Easter-Tuesday evening, April 3rd. Subscriptions will be received on the following Tuesday evening, without fines for that night.—By order,

399z JOHN GIBBINSON, Secretary.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE & CONSETT DISTRICT GAS COMPANY.

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

M. RICHLEY, Secretary.

Public Notices.

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

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

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

THE JAPANESE BAZAAR AT STANHOPE.

THE JAPANESE BAZAAR, in the Wesleyan School, at Stanhope, will be OPENED OUT on Good Friday by T. FENWICK, Esq., of Wolsingham, and on Saturday by W. LISHMAN, Esq. (Witton-le-Wear), and on Easter-Monday by Mrs. ROBERT WALTON (Stanhope House). 307z

MISS CAIRNS,

5, WEST VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT,

HAVING finished her educational studies, is prepared to GIVE LESSONS on the PIANOFORTE, MUSIC, and in the ART OF SINGING at the above address.

Pupils attended at their own residence if required.

285z TERMS MODERATE.

UNITED METHODIST FREE CHURCH, CATCHGATE.

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a separate building, named the Primitive Methodist Chapel, situate at Blackhill, in the Parish of Lanchester, in the County of Durham, in the District of Lanchester, being a building certified according to Law as a place of religious worship, was on the Twenty-second day of March, 1888, duly REGISTERED FOR SOLEMNIZING MARRIAGES therein, pursuant to the Act 6th and 7th, William IV, c. 85.

Witness my hand this 23rd day of March, 1888,
GEO. ALDER,
295z Superintendent Registrar.

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

NOTICE.

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

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

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

Shares 6d. each per week for £100.
GEORGE CAREY, Chairman.
WILL. ELLIOTT, Secretary.
Dated March 21st, 1888. 254z

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CONSETT.

GENTLEMEN,—

Your Local Board Election is again at hand, and I have been requested by a large number of Working Men to offer myself as a Candidate for one of the vacancies.

I need not remind many of you that I have had considerable experience in promoting objects for bettering the condition of Working Men, and, if elected, my especial care would be to look after their interests, combined with the general interests of the Ratepayers.

Soliciting your Vote and Support,
I am, Gentlemen.
Your obedient Servant,
THOS. E. SHOTTON.
Cemetery Road, Blackhill. 286z

EASTER CARDS!
EASTER CARDS!
EASTER CARDS!

FOR THE BEST, LARGEST, AND MOST VARIED STOCK, TRY

ROBERT JACKSON,

"GUARDIAN" OFFICE,
AND 9 AND 10, NEWMARKET STREET,
267z CONSETT.

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

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

For particulars, see Posters.

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

Admission, as usual, 2d each day.

266z WILSON BROS., Lessees.

FARMERS! FARMERS!! FARMERS!!!

CLOVER AND GRASS SEEDS.

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

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

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

At KYO FLOWER SHOW, to be held at Catchgate in September, 1888, G. H. will give:—

5s. for Three of the best Purple Top Swedes (Hobson's Choice).
5s. " " Green Top Swedes (Hobson's Choice).
5s. " " Green Top Yellows (Hobson's Choice).
5s. " " White, Green, or Grey Stone.
5s. for the best White Loaf made from Hobson's Extra Supers.
5s. " Brown Loaf made from Hobson's Whole Meal.
269z

LANCHESTER UNION

APPOINTMENT OF REGISTRARS OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

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

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

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

The Remuneration, payable by the Guardians, is by fees: the value for the Consett sub-district being estimated at £80, and the Lanchester sub-district at £60 per annum.

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

Personal canvassing is prohibited.
By order,
W. HENRY RITSON,
Clerk to Board.
Lanchester, March 22nd, 1888. 274z

Public Notices.

WESLEYAN DAY SCHOOLS, CONSETT.

ON WEDNESDAY, April 4th, 1888, a SERMON will be Preached in the WESLEYAN CHAPEL, Consett, by the REV. TIMOTHY WHEATLEY, of Sunderland. Service to commence at Three p.m.

In the EVENING, the REV. RICHARD ROBERTS will Preach in the NEW TOWN HALL. Service at Seven p.m.

TEA will be provided in the Nelson Street Schoolroom at 4·30 p.m. Tickets, 1s each; which will ensure front seats at New Town Hall Service.

A Collection will be taken at each Service in aid of School Funds. 297z

DIPTON WESLEYAN CHAPEL.

ON EASTER MONDAY, April 2nd, the Rev. DINSDALE T. YOUNG, of Birmingham, will PREACH in the above Chapel, at Three o'clock. A Collection will be taken at the close.

A PUBLIC TEA will be provided in the School at 4·30 o'clock.

In the Evening, the Rev. D. T. YOUNG will give his Popular LECTURE, subject—"William Morley Punshon, the Apollos of Methodism." Chair to be taken at 6·30.

Tickets for Tea and Lecture, 1s. 308z

CONSETT INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETY, LIMITED.

THE QUARTERLY MEETING will be held on Saturday evening, April 7th, at 6·30 p.m., in the CO-OPERATIVE HALL, when the following business will be considered:—

1.—Minutes of last Quarterly Meeting.
2.—Minutes of Adjourned Quarterly Meeting.
3.—Minutes of Monthly Meetings.
4.—Minutes of Committee for Quarter.
5.—Report and Balance Sheet.
6.—Election of two Committee-men.
7.—Dewsbury Congress.
8.—Continuance of Educational Committee, and notice of motion by Mr W. Clayton to pay the Editor of the *Record*.
9.—Notice of Motion from Mr J. Stelling, relative to Cashing Checks.
10.—Notice of Motion from Mr W. Dodds, relative to appointing Honorary Committee-men.
11.—Notice of Motion from Mr W. Elliott, relative to commencing Dairy Farming.
12.—Miscellaneous business. 288z

ANNFIELD PLAIN POULTRY SHOW.

THE NINTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of POULTRY, PIGEONS, RABBITS, and CATS will be held at Annfield Plain on Saturday, April 14th, 1888, in a field kindly granted by Mr Jos. Lumley.

LOCAL CLASSES.

Local Class Rabbits, any variety, within a radius of four miles of Annfield Plain. Entrance fee, 2s. 1st Prize, 9s; 2nd, 6s; 3rd, 3s; 4th, 2s.

Homer Cock, any colour, within a radius of five miles of Annfield Plain. Entrance fee, 2s. 1st Prize, 12s; 2nd, 6s; 3rd, 2s.

Homer Hen, any colour, within a radius of five miles of Annfield Plain. Entrance fee, 2s. 1st Prize, 12s; 2nd, 6s; 3rd, 2s.

Judges:—Poultry, G. HALL, Esq., Kendal; Rabbits, J. E. ALDRED, Esq., Leeds.

FOOTBALL CONTEST.

A Football Contest (Association Rules), open to all comers. 1st Prize, £1; 2nd, 10s; 3rd, 5s., Entrance—each team, 1s; Admission—each player, 6d.

Handicap Footrace, within a radius of six miles of Annfield Plain. 1st Prize, £1 5s; 2nd, 10s; 3rd, 5s. Entrance fee, 6d.

Entrance for Football and Footrace made to G. PACE, Oxhill, Stanley, R.S.O., up to day of Show. Entries for Poultry and Rabbits close April 6th.

A GRAND BALL in the evening. Mr Thomas Walker's Quadrille Band will be in attendance. Gentlemen, 1s; Ladies, 6d.

Entrance to Field, 6d.

FRANK THOMPSON, Secretary,
306r Annfield Plain.

NEW CO-OPERATIVE HALL, CONSETT.

COMMENCING MONDAY, APRIL 2nd, 1888.

CAPTAIN FITZGERALD'S NEW

DIORAMA OF IRELAND,

Illustrated by 40 Magnificent Views, Elaborately painted by the well-known and justly-celebrated Artist, the late THOMAS DUDGEON, Esq., on 12,000 square yards of Canvas.

Each Scene will be accompanied by Grand National Vocal and Instrumental Music, Songs, Duets, Choruses, and Laughable

SKETCHES OF IRISH LIFE & CHARACTER.

By a Select and Powerful

COMPANY OF IRISH MINSTRELS,

Including—Miss EMMA SMITH, Soprano, from the Art Gallery, Newcastle; Madam FLORENCE DOYLE, the eminent Contralto; Professor HARPER, acknowledged to be the cleverest Ventriloquist now before the public; ROBERT HARRISON, the famous Tyneside Comedian; the Two ALLENS, the original "Fun in the Dark," in their Screaming Absurdities; Mr JOHN NEVIN, Irish Character Comedian, Vocalist, and Dancer; Mr ROBERT PEARSON, Guide.

And at each Representation, an Historical and Descriptive Lecture will be given.

Performance every evening at 7·45.

MID-DAY REPRESENTATIONS on Tuesday and Wednesday at Three o'clock.

Doors open half-an-hour previous. Carriages may be ordered for 5 and 10 o'clock. Admission—Reserved Seats, 1s; Second, 1s; Back, 3d.

The Musical arrangements are under the personal supervision of STEPHEN MELVILLE; and the Stage arrangements are under the entire control of PATRICK LEAVER.

OPINIONS OF THE PRESS.

The Newcastle Daily Chronicle says:—"The Diorama, which has been painted by Mr. Thomas Dudgeon, on 12,000 square yards of Canvas, consists of 40 panoramic views of the Emerald Isle. Most of the paintings are very tastefully produced, and from the opening and exquisite views of Belfast, Shane's Castle, and Lough Neagh, the visitors are borne along, as it were *via* the romantic neighbourhood of the Giant's Causeway, Londonderry, Armagh, Downpatrick, Drogheda, the Hill of Tara, Limerick, Cork, and other places. There is perhaps no country in the world richer in rural beauty than Ireland, and it must be said that the artist has succeeded admirably in conveying to the canvas much that is charming, not a little that is picturesque, and many localities that are interesting alike from a historical, and antiquarian, and a spectator's point of view. As a pictorial treat, the diorama will well repay a visit. Mr. Robert Pearson acts as *cicerone*, and this he does in an interesting and humorous way."

The Newcastle Daily Journal says:—"Of the multitude familiar with Ireland, as regards its recent political history, comparatively few are acquainted with the appearance of the cities, hills, and lakes of Ireland; and to this numerous class we recommend a visit to the new Panorama of Ireland. An efficient concert party also took part in the entertainment, which is one well worthy of popular patronage."

The Manchester Examiner and Times says:—"The scenes of interest in Ireland are pleasingly and artistically represented; all risk of tedium being avoided by the various capital songs and dances introduced by this really first-class company."

The Manchester City News says:—"There are forty gigantic pictures which represent with great truth and excellence the principal beautiful and interesting spots in Ireland." 316z

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Phillipson.

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

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

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

SPECIAL EMIGRATION OFFICE.

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

All Emigrants and Luggage taken to the Railway Station Free of Charge; and for the most useful and reliable information and assistance, apply at once to A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer, and Emigration Agent, Dipton. 485z

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

Sales by Auction.

By Mr Joseph Oley.

5, Shakespeare Street, Middle Street, Consett.

MR. JOSEPH OLEY will SELL, on the above premises, on Saturday, March 31st, 1888, the whole of the Household FURNITURE, SHOP FITTINGS, &c. 284z

Sale to commence at Three o'clock in the Afternoon.

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

Monday, April 9th, 1888.—Victoria Sale Rooms, Consett.—Sale of Superior Mahogany and other Household Furniture and Effects, including—Handsome Mahogany Drawing Room Suite, comprising—Couch; Ladies' and Gentlemen's Easy Chairs, and 6 Small Chairs; 6 Mahogany Chairs in Hair Seating; Gentleman's Easy Chair in Hair; Bookcase; Brass-mounted Bedsteads, and Mattresses; Feather and Down Beds; 2 Well-seasoned Floor Oilcloths; Cocoanut Matting; Fenders and Fireirons; and Miscellaneous Effects. Also, a quantity of Superior Well-framed Pictures, including—Oleographs, Steel Engravings, and Oil Paintings; and the remaining portion of the Select Library of Books, including—Matthew Henry's Commentary (best edition), in 9 Vols., handsomely bound; 150 Volumes of Miscellaneous Literature, in best binding; and Superior Fine-toned Full-compass Cottage Pianoforte, in splendid order.

MESSRS. A. and R. J. BRODIE are instructed to SELL BY AUCTION, in the Victoria Sale Rooms, on Monday, April 9th, 1888, the Superior Mahogany and other Household FURNITURE and EFFECTS, SELECT BOOKS, PIANOFORTE, &c., &c.

Sale to commence at Half-past One o'clock. 300z

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

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

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

By Messrs. Nicholson and Murray.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

EASTER-MONDAY, APRIL 2ND, 1888, at Half-past 10 a.m.

Present Entries.

10 Fat Cattle.
60 Fat Sheep.
A number of Veal Calves.
Pork and Store Pigs.
1 Prime Fat Bull; Cows.
2 S.H. Roan Bull Stirks, well bred, about 12 months old.
10 B.F. Shearling Gimmers, in Lamb to Leicester Tup.
1 New Whitechapel Dog Cart; 1 second-hand Do.
Seed Oats, Tares, Poultry, Shovels, Gripes, Chains, Patent Blocks, &c., &c.

SALE TO COMMENCE AT HALF-PAST TEN.

313z NICHOLSON & MURRAY, Auctioneers.

By Mr. John S. Murray.

Red Lion Inn, Greenhead.

SATURDAY, May 5th, has been fixed for the SALE of Mr BRUCE'S FARM STOCK, Household FURNITURE, and EFFECTS.

J. S. MURRAY, Auctioneer.

Parties in the district having Surplus Stock can have it included in this Sale by applying to Mr R. BRUCE, Greenhead; or the AUCTIONEER. 314z

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

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

10 Pigs, 8 weeks old at time of Sale; a good class. Superior Polled Cow, recently calved.
Superior H.B. Cow, time up about April 4th.
Superior H.B. Cow, in Milk, about 3 months gone in calf.
4 Prime S.H. Heifer Stirks, 15 to 21 months old.
Prime S.H. Heifer Finger Calf.
10 Young Cheviot Ewes, in Lamb to Leicester Tup.
Set of Pony Cart Harness; Hay Rakes; Forks; Gripes; Shovels; Cow Bands; Excellent Barrel Churn, nearly new; Milk Bowls, Cans, and the whole of the Dairy Utensils; a quantity of Mells, Hammers, Picks, Hacks, Pinches, and other Quarry Gear.

FURNITURE.

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

Sale at One o'clock. 233z

Royal Auction Mart Sale Office, Benfieldside.

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

By Mr. J. Vickers.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

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

JOSEPH VICKERS Auctioneer.

Grove Villa, Tow Law. 454z

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

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

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

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

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

VALUATIONS EFFECTED FOR PROBATE, ETC. 653y

Business Announcements

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

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

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

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

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

Business Announcements.

THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT
BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY
TOWN HALL CONSETT.

SHARES MAY BE TAKEN ANY DAY.

Advances made on Freehold or Copyhold Property repayable as arranged, or for fixed period.

ADAM BRODIE, F.S.A., Secretary.

MOST MONEY LENT

ON Silver Plate, Watches, Jewellery, Diamonds, other Precious Stones, Plated Goods, Cutlery, &c., &c., at

J. & E. WILSON'S,

Oldest Established and Largest Pawnbroking Business in the North of England. Established 1780

12, PILGRIM STREET
FOUR DOORS BELOW BLACKETT STREET.
PRIVATE ENTRANCE: FIRST SIX DOORS IN HIGH FRIAR LANE,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

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

SEE THAT YOU GET TO THE RIGHT SHOP—No. 12.

OBSERVE PROJECTING ILLUMINATED CLOCK OVER WINDOW. 73y

HIGH CLASS DENTISTRY.

MR. T. C. CAMPBELL

SURGEON DENTIST,
9, GRAINGER STREET,
NEWCASTLE.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH AT REASONABLE PRICES!

COMPLETE UPPER OR LOWER SET
From 30s. to £4 10s.

PARTIAL SETS OR SINGLE TEETH
From 3s. to 10s. per Tooth.

Every Set is adapted to the mouth on the most improved principles, without extraction of Stumps or other painful operation, guaranteed to fit perfectly and warranted.

Teeth painlessly extracted by the aid of Nitrous Oxide Gas.

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 far[e]

TO ADVERTISERS.

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

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

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

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

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

EDITORIAL NOTICE.

Correspondents will oblige by forwarding to this office notices of the Eastertide festive gatherings in their districts as early as possible during the coming week.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

WM. TEBB (London).—A letter from Mr William Young, bearing on the vaccination question, precisely similar to your communication, appeared in the *Guardian* in the 16th inst.

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30TH, 1888.

THE BENFIELDSIDE TOWNSHIP MEETING.

For years the annual gatherings of the ratepayers of Benfieldside township have been distinguished for their personalities, coarseness, and frequently, we regret to say, of low blackguardism. The meeting on Friday evening last appears to have outdone its predecessors in Billingsgate slang and disgusting vulgarity. Indeed, so vile were the words used towards the end of the meeting that we decline to sully our pages with reporting them. Can nothing be done to put a stop to such unseemly exhibitions?

AN EXPLANATION AND A RETRACTION.

In the proceedings at the Consett Petty Sessions, in last week's issue of the *Guardian*, we regret to say that a serious error crept into the report of one of the cases, which casts a reflection upon the character and integrity of one of the most esteemed and respected *employees* under the Consett Iron Company—viz., the well-known horse inspector. The case in question was a summons taken out at the instance of the Lanchester Board of Guardians against George Siddle, of Jarrow, for neglecting to obey an order made by the Court to contribute towards the maintenance of his father, who has become chargeable to the Union. The defendant, it seems, was a grandson of Mr Siddle, and it is a son of the latter who is in the Workhouse. We therefore wish our readers to understand that Mr Siddle is not, nor has he ever been in receipt of parochial relief in any shape or form; that he is still in the honourable service of the Consett Iron Company, and we trust he may long be spared to hold that important position. The statement (which was given without the slightest animus) was published, owing to our representative misunderstanding the circumstances, as related by the relieving-officer, and we therefore take the earliest opportunity to insert this explanation and apology in order to remove any misapprehension which the report may have caused in the minds of anyone. We are extremely sorry to have given publicity to any defamatory statements concerning Mr Siddle, and trust that he has not suffered any annoyance or inconvenience thereby.

HE COULD NOT TELL THE DIFFERENCE.

On visiting M. Grasset's museum of curiosities at La Charité, in the South of France, I expected to see one of those poor collections met with in provincial towns, with three or four stuffed fish hanging from the ceiling; but I was agreeably surprised to find in the very first room magnificent vases by Bernard de Pallissy, and a complete collection of stones and minerals from Mount Sinai—a collection which probably could not be found in the Paris Museum of Natural History. Unfortunately, I was not sufficiently learned in mineralogy to appreciate it properly; accordingly I turned to a quantity of objects of the Middle Ages, and above all some locks and keys, which were carved with a taste and skill they would have done honour to Benvenuto Cellini.

In this manner we went through four or five rooms successively, which were filled with curious objects, the majority of which had been procured for M. Grasset by one of his friends, a learned and brave sea-captain, who had sailed round the world I don't know how many times, and who had arrived from China about a fortnight or three weeks previously, bringing with him a most singular example of the patience of the worshippers of the Great Dragon.

Amongst the different pairs of trousers which the captain had had made for him before leaving Paris, there was one which was considered a masterpiece; it was one of those miracles which sometimes issue from the establishments of Humann or Vaudeau, and which envelop the boots, indicate the calf, abolish the knee, mark the thigh, and deny the existence of corporation. Accordingly, thanks to a predilection which the owner entertained for them, the trousers, after having flourished along the coast, at the Cape of Good Hope, and the Isle of France, arrived at Canton nearly worn out.

Nevertheless, owing to that fashionable cut, which nothing, not even the fact of being new, can supply the place of, they still looked very well, when the sailor who served as the captain's valet let fall half the oil contained in a lamp which he was cleaning, on to the thigh of the unfortunate pair.

In spite of his philosophy, this blow had such an effect upon the captain that he had not quite recovered from it when one of his Canton associates came as usual to smoke a pipe of opium with him. He found him in such a state of vexation that he feared some great misfortune must have happened to him, and accordingly he enquired what had taken place to alter his habitual good humour.

The captain showed him the unfortunate trousers, which he had now thrown aside.

"There!" said he, "just look! The very pair you were complimenting me on yesterday!"

The friend took the trousers and turned them about with most annoying calmness. When he was quite convinced they could not be worn again, he observed:

"Well, you must have another pair made."

"Another pair made!" answered the captain. "And who is to make another pair—some of your Chinese fellows?"

"Certainly; some of my Chinese fellows!" returned the friend with imperturbable coolness.

"Yes, and get a sack sent to me, made in their regular style!" continued the captain, shrugging his shoulders.

"They won't make you a sack," said the other; "and if you only give them the model upon which you want them made, they will turn you out a pair of trousers that Vaudeau wouldn't know from his own."

"Indeed!" said the captain.

"Upon my honour," assured the friend.

"Well, I have heard hundreds of times of the fidelity of the Chinese in imitation."

"And all that you have heard upon the subject has been less than the truth."

"Really, you make me anxious to try them!"

"Do try, especially as it won't cost you much. How much did you pay for these trousers?"

"Fifty-five or sixty francs, I don't quite remember."

"Well, you can see what they're capable of doing here for fifteen."

"And what tailor must I take them to?"

"The first you come to. Mine, if you like; he lives at the gate."

The captain rolls his trousers under his arm, follows his friend, and arrives at the tailor's.

"Now," said the friend, "explain what you want, and I will translate your words to him."

The captain did not want twice speaking to. He spread out the trousers, pointed out their cut, and ended by saying that he wanted a pair exactly like them. The friend translated the order, and laid great stress on the directions.

"Very well," said the tailor; "in three days the gentleman shall have what he wants."

"What does he say?" asked the captain impatiently.

"He says you shall have what you desire in three days."

"Three days! That's a long time," said the captain.

The friend translated the captain's remark to the Chinese, who looked at the trousers again, shook his head, and said a few words in reply.

"Well?" asked the captain.

"He says there's a great deal of work to do, and that three days are not too long in order to have it properly done."

"Well, three days then; but don't let him break his word."

"Oh, as for that, there is no fear. In three days, at the exact time, he'll be at your house."

And the two friends went away, repeating their directions to the artist for the last time.

Three days afterwards, as the captain and his friend were smoking their pipes of opium, the domestic entered and announced the tailor.

"Oh, indeed," said the captain. "Well, let us see if he is as skilful as he is punctual."

"There they are," said the tailor.

"Let's try them," said the captain, as he took the trousers from the hands of the tailor and put them on.

"Why, they fit wonderfully," said the friend.

"I should think so," said the captain; "he has given me my old ones. But where are the others, you stupid?" he exclaimed to the Chinese.

The friend translated the remark to the tailor, who gave the other pair with a triumphant look. The captain changed the trousers.

"Well, I must be mad!" said the captain. "This pair seems to be mine. Where can the new ones be?"

The friend expressed the captain's doubt to the tailor who held out the trousers on which he had just finished operating.

"Well, here is the new pair," said the friend.

"No! can't you see they are the old ones?" replied the captain. "Why, hang it, there's the spot of grease!"

"And there's one on the pair you have on as well!"

"What fool's wit can this be?"

The friend turned to the Chinese, questioned him, and upon hearing his reply, burst into a shout of laughter.

"Well?" said the captain.

"Well," said the friend, "what did you order from this good man?"

"I ordered a pair of trousers."

"Like your own?"

"Yes, like my own."

"Well, he has made them so like that you can't tell the difference, that's all. But he tells me that his greatest trouble has been to wear them out, and spot them in exactly the same places; and that he must charge you five francs extra, because he failed with two pair before coming to a satisfactory result; now, however, he defies you to distinguish one pair from the other. You must allow that that's well worth twenty francs."

"Indeed it is," replied the captain, as he drew a napoleon from his pocket, and gave it to the Chinese.

The Chinese thanked him and asked for the captain's custom so long as he remained in Canton, although, he added, if he always had such difficult work given him, there would be nothing gained by it.

From that day the captain could never tell one pair of trousers from the other, so much were they alike. He brought them both back to France as specimens of Chinese industry, and promised to make a present of them to M. Grasset.

"How ... have ... price sixpence.—To b... d at Robe... J... son, Bookseller, 9 and 10 New market S... Consett.

LADIES' COLUMN.

Studio week has set in in good earnest. Our letter racks are laden with cards of invitation, large and small, naming the days and hours on which the artists will receive their friends. These missives are of every size and in every possible style. Some are merely visiting cards with the date, and the words "At Home"; others are prettily etched, so attractive that the recipient is glad to be allowed to retain the card as an artistic souvenir. Not every great man has time to descend to these details. In fact, it seems to be that the greater the man the smaller is the card. The prettiest invitations come from the gentlemen who are noted as clever illustrators of books and periodicals. The skill they have acquired in rapidly striking off a brilliant idea for a story, or to illustrate a poem, makes the etching of a fancy card mere pastime, and its style serves to remind editors and authors that the artist has a special talent, well cultivated, at their service.

All day and all night long the workmen are hammering and nailing and working hard at the new gallery in Regent-street, once a meat market, in order that the picture exhibition there may be ready for the public as soon as the Royal Academy and Grosvenor Gallery are opened. The electric light by which the men work illuminates the sky for a long way from Regent-street, and frequently strangers have been attracted to the neighbourhood by the glare late at night under the supposition that a fire has broken out somewhere close at hand. The artistic world waits with breath suspended, at least with criticism ready to be evoked at a moment's notice, for the wonders in decorative art which it is rumoured will be revealed when the doors open. We can find room to admire grand vestibules and *salons* if they are shewn to us, for the Royal Academy flouts these novelties, and the Grosvenor Gallery is shewing how ruthless Time can be in dimming splendour.

The undue severity of the weather has prolonged the suspension of gaieties first brought about by the death of the Emperor. The shopkeepers feel the depression keenly, both the social depression and the barometrical. No one could look at spring novelties with a keen north wind carrying before it clouds of snow and penetrating the lungs like a sharp sword. Whether it is or is not a north wind, many people doubt. Personal experience suggests that it is an all-round wind besieging every side of a house at once, and trying how far the woodwork of the windows is or is not impervious to the entrance of a keen blast. The Parisian correspondents had prepared glowing descriptions of novelties, all more or less spring-like and beautiful. These letters read like works of fiction, not to be seriously received as containing facts. How eagerly we shall turn back to them for inspiration a little later, when the tyranny of this north wind be over past! The sunshades already arrived are works of art. A great firm of manufacturers has patented the floral sunshade, but it will be difficult for the makers to prevent copyists. The secret of attaching the flowers may be the property of an inventor, but there is no copyright in arranging long trails of flowers over a sunshade. The favourite ground is black silk or satin, white silk or satin, and the flowers are carelessly disposed, as if flung on—some round the edge, others starting from the centre, and crawling about over the divisions in long trails, the whole character of the ornament being borrowed from Japanese ideas of decoration now so popular. The cleverness of the design is seen in the ease with which the flowers fall into their places when the sunshade is closed.

It is a curious fact that when a great public banquet or entertainment is to be given the National School is never heard of. At the famous banquet in the Knightsbridge Riding School, given to Lord Beaconsfield on his return from Berlin, it was pronounced to be impossible to serve any hot viands, not even soup, and this within a short distance of a great cooking school. Even in Dublin, where resources are limited, the banquet given recently to Lord Hartington and Mr. Goschen had every dish hot. As an enthusiastic waiter remarked at the close of the entertainment, they had served sweetbreads hot to 750 guests, which was literally true, everything else being arranged systematically on the same scale. The new arrangements at the school contemplate the teaching of boys, it being now as necessary to look out for means of bread-earning for them as it is for girls. It will be interesting to see if English boys will take to the culinary profession as French boys are eager to do. The class from which the French cooks come is an infinitely better educated one than that from which our women cooks come. In all large institutions economy of time and labour obliges the cooking to be done on a large scale, with appliances specially designed for convenience and despatch. It is quite useless to send boys and girls from such places to learn in theory what they have no opportunity of carrying out in practice.

All the beautiful court trains to which recent allusion was made, prepared to be worn at the Drawing-room which was postponed, cannot be worn on the 24th. This will be a great disappointment to many ladies, who must either have new dresses or wait until May, when the Queen proposes to hold two more Drawing-rooms. No one who is superstitious will like to have a great occasion so often deferred. Those who abstained from the first Drawing-room on account of the inclement weather were disappointed of the second by reason of the Emperor of Germany's death. At the third, where the Princess will take the Queen's place, court mourning will be *de rigueur*. Thus, none of the beautiful shades of yellow, the absinthe, the chartreuse, the pistache, and others, may be worn. Neither can the peach blossom, the golden browns, the pale blue, the old rose, nor any other of the decided shades which are known as colours. The only gleam of comfort the ladies enjoy through it all is the reflection that Court etiquette precluded the holding of the Drawing-room during the first period of the mourning, from the 11th to the 23rd. An assemblage of black dresses, brightened only by white gloves, shoes, feathers, and fans, with pearl, diamond, or plain gold and silver ornaments, would have been lugubrious and monstrous to the last degree. The permission to wear white shoes with a black dress is not likely to be taken advantage of by ladies of good taste, but it is the remains of an old edict, the form of words which it is still customary for the Lord Chamberlain to use when issuing his orders.

The second mourning, which will actually be used on the 24th, is less dismal than that for the first. Black dresses may be decked with coloured ribbons, coloured flowers, coloured feathers, and jewellery with coloured stones. Grey dresses or white dresses may also be worn, but they must be trimmed with black ribbons, black flowers, black feathers, and jet ornaments. The Lord Chamberlain has had a very trying time since he issued his first instructions, as there are many novelties now introduced in manufacture that may or may not be forbidden. For instance, the rich brocaded silks and satins, which have the design outlined in gold or silver, or, in some instances, solidly raised in bullion thread on the surface. What is to be done with the gorgeous trains, which are more like cloth of gold than cloth of silk, and the beautiful silver brocades, dressed in which the charming brides of last season intended to kiss the Royal hand? The impression that prevails is in favour of the silver being permitted, and the gold forbidden. This is a simple rule in itself, but its enforcement will be grievous to many ladies.

AURORA.

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

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CRŒSUS' WIDOW.

BY DORA RUSSELL,

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

CHAPTER XXXIX.—Strathearn Offers a Reward.

While Nellie lay very ill at Castlewood, watched over by the good Samaritans who lived there, in the great city beyond, Strathearn was restlessly wandering to and fro in search of her.

He succeeded after some difficulty in tracing her to Miss Brewis' lodging-house, in Belgrave-road. He did this through the police, as the description he gave of "Mrs. Murray's" personal appearance tallied so closely with the description given by Clayton (Lord Seaforth's servant) of the lady who had disappeared from the house in Belgrave-road that the police naturally concluded that Mr. Campbell and Lord Seaforth must be seeking the same person.

When Strathearn heard there was a suspicion that this lady had destroyed herself, the grey pallor that suddenly spread over his face at once betrayed his secret to the lynx-eyed inspector of police to whom he was talking.

"'Tis only a suspicion, sir," added the Inspector, considerately. "The lady disappeared on such a night, and has not been heard of since, but on the same night a female endeavoured to throw herself off Chelsea Bridge, and was prevented by a man who was crossing the bridge at the time. This man we have found, but the strangest part of the business is, that a carriage drove up just after the occurrence on the bridge happened, and a lady got out of this carriage and took the female who had attempted to drown herself under her charge, and drove her away, and we have not been able yet to discover to whom this carriage belongs."

"And you think this was—Mrs. Murray?" faltered Strathearn, with a sort of gasp in his deep voice.

"The man who saved her described her as a fair-haired young woman with small features. Does this answer to the appearance of the Mrs. Murray you wish to find?" asked the Inspector.

"Yes—perhaps. Can I see—this man?"

"Certainly, sir; and I may tell you that Clayton, Lord Seaforth's servant——"

"Clayton! Lord Seaforth's servant!" interrupted Strathearn with a start. "Has this Clayton been here then?"

"He has carried on all inquiries about this business," answered the police-inspector, "for Lord Seaforth has been laid up with fever, and unable to attend to it; and this Clayton has seen the person who saved the female from drowning, and was convinced from the person's description that the female was the Mrs. Murray Lord Seaforth was seeking; indeed, so much so that he rewarded this man by Lord Seaforth's orders, and no further inquiries have been made by his Lordship since then—in fact, I believe he has gone abroad."

An oath burst from Strathearn's bitten lips after he had heard this explanation. He knew then that Lady Seaforth had lied to him about Clayton, and he guessed the whole of the miserable truth. Seaforth had told Nellie that she had been cruelly deceived, and the wretched girl had wandered out to die in her despair. This had been the secret of Seaforth's sudden illness—his conscience had smitten him.

"If he has murdered her I will kill him," muttered Strathearn in a fierce undertone, turning away his head from the keen-eyed man who was looking at him and inwardly speculating on the nature of his interest in "Mrs. Murray."

"Clayton, as I was saying, sir," continued the Inspector, "saw this man who saved the lady, and he—Clayton, I mean—informed me then that his Lordship was sensible again, and was greatly relieved in his mind to hear that the unfortunate young woman had not succeeded in drowning herself. It seemed from Clayton's story that there had been a quarrel between them, but his Lordship had no idea of forsaking her, and was terribly cut up when he thought she had made away with herself."

"And—and Lord Seaforth knows nothing more—nothing of where she is now?"

"I conclude not, sir, for we have orders to endeavour to trace her; but I heard that Lord Seaforth had gone abroad."

"And Clayton?"

"I cannot tell you, sir; for the last few days we have heard nothing, either from Lord Seaforth or Clayton."

"I must find out," said Strathearn; "in the meanwhile offer two hundred pounds reward for any information—about, about her,—and let me see the man who—"

Strathearn could not complete the sentence. His voice grew husky and then broke, and he quickly turned away his head, ashamed to allow another man to see the overwhelming emotion sweeping like a torrent over his soul.

He drove direct from Scotland Yard to Lady Seaforth's house in South Kensington. It was shut up. In vain he pealed at the door bell; in vain stamped and swore, and knocked with all his might.

"The family are out of town," a policeman, who had been benignly watching his exertions, presently told him, and this was all Strathearn could learn. At the clubs also he could gain no further information about Lord Seaforth.

"He has been terribly ill, and is in no end of a hole," one man told him, "and has vanished until a more convenient season. But they say," added this man, "that he is going to patch up his fortunes by marrying that pretty dark-eyed little woman called Crœsus' Widow—good thing for Seaforth if he does."

This was what the world said; but now let us go behind the curtain, and learn how far the world spoke truth.

A few days before Strathearn had been vainly rapping and ringing at Lady Seaforth's house door; in a darkened upper chamber of that stately mansion her son had been lying prostrate and exhausted, but once more with the light of reason in his eyes.

By his bedside his servant, Clayton, was standing.

"My lord," he was saying, "from the man's account of the lady's appearance, there is no doubt it was Mrs. Murray. Wherever she is, you may make your mind easy about her, for the man said the lady who got out of the carriage was quite a lady—a young, handsome lady—and evidently rich."

Seaforth turned on his bed and sighed restlessly.

"And the police can't trace this carriage!" he said presently.

"They have not been able to do so yet—but indeed, my lord, you can make your mind quite easy, for the man said the young lady to whom the carriage belonged seemed most kind, and took Mrs. Murray in her arms, just as if she had been her sister."

Again Seaforth sighed.

"Poor, poor Nellie," he muttered; "poor, foolish little girl—why could she not trust me!"

Lord Seaforth said these words in a very low tone; in fact, only murmured them to himself, and Clayton made no reply, and a few minutes later Lady Seaforth entered the room, and the confidential servant at once left it.

"You are better, Murray!" said Lady Seaforth, who looked greatly disturbed, glancing anxiously at her son.

"Yes, mother," he answered, "but weary, weary, weary!" And he flung his arms impatiently over the coverlet.

"I have been speaking to the doctor about you," continued Lady Seaforth, "and he thinks an immediate change will do you good——"

"I can't leave town—don't talk of it, mother," interrupted Seaforth.

For a moment or two Lady Seaforth made no reply. She fixed her eyes still more anxiously on her son's face; she opened her lips to speak and yet was afraid to utter the words she felt herself forced to say.

"I don't wish to worry you, Murray," she presently began; "you have been too ill to be worried—but things could be arranged better—some pressing money affairs could be arranged better—by Mr. Cairns if this house were shut up and we were out of the way."

"What!" said Lord Seaforth, looking up. "There's a row then, I suppose?"

"Don't trouble about it," answered Lady Seaforth, "it will be settled—a friend—someone Murray, whom you will never guess" (and Lady Seaforth's proud mouth quivered) "has advanced a sum of money to free us from any very pressing difficulties—and if we were away for a time—if you could exert yourself sufficiently to go Murray?"

Seaforth moved restlessly, and then sighed impatiently.

"I can't go, mother—I must stay to make some inquiries—to learn something I want to know," he said.

"Leave Clayton to make these inquiries—he seems to know all about your affairs," answered Lady Seaforth with a curling lip.

Again Lord Seaforth looked at his mother—this time curiously.

"How long have I been ill, mother?" he said.

Lady Seaforth hesitated; she scarcely dare tell her son of all the weary nights and days that had passed since that terrible night when he had suddenly broken down, and begun raving in his delirium about the hapless girl whom he then feared he had driven to an untimely end.

"It is more than a fortnight now Murray," she said, in somewhat faltering accents, "and—I am sure for many reasons you would be better away."

Lord Seaforth did not speak.

"When you were very ill," continued Lady Seaforth, casting down her eyes, while a sudden flush passed over her face, "I had a strange visitor to inquire after you—Mr. Campbell, of Strathearn."

"Oh! old Strath," said Seaforth, carelessly.

As his careless tone fell on his mother's ear she looked quickly up, some hope and yet deep anxiety being betrayed in her glance.

"Murray," she said, "this Mr. Campbell—insulted me—insulted you—and yet you speak of him—indifferently!"

As his mother said this a faint colour spread over Seaforth's pale, wasted features, for he now remembered what in his illness and weakness he had for a moment forgotten.

"What did he say?" he asked uneasily.

"I cannot repeat what he said," answered Lady Seaforth with some passion in her voice, though she was striving to subdue this on account of her son's prostrate condition; "I do not choose to repeat what he said, Murray" (and the proud woman turned away from her son's bedside, and went to the window); "but he said enough—you are best out of his way—and there is another reason why this house should be shut up, and the servants discharged."

"Well!" said Lord Seaforth, still uneasily.

"When this Campbell could not see you," continued Lady Seaforth, her head yet averted from her son, "he insisted upon seeing Clayton—he would see him, he said—he was rude, impertinent—and I told an untruth to him, Murray—I told him Clayton had left your service, had gone abroad, so you had best send him out of the way."

For a minute or two Lord Seaforth did not speak. Then he jerked out angrily and impatiently:

"It was confounded impertinence of Campbell to come here and interfere with my affairs!"

"Do not excite yourself," said Lady Seaforth, now returning to the bedside; "but I thought it best to tell you, for Clayton ought to be kept out of this Mr. Campbell's way."

"All right—I'll see to it."

"And, Murray, Hugh Marchmont has offered his house to us, to stay as long as we like there—the air is very fine, as you know, at Rye Court, and you want a complete rest—out of the way of all worries—and Rye Court is just the place for you. You are not strong enough yet to go abroad, but you are strong enough, I hope, to go to Hugh Marchmont's—and Mr. Cairns can give out we are abroad until things are arranged."

"You have settled it all, then, mother, it seems! So old Hugh Marchmont has come to the front—a tribute to the old love, eh, mother?"

Lady Seaforth did not speak. She drew up her haughty head and looked almost wonderingly at her son. What, he could jest still, then! she was thinking.

"It is well—well," the next moment she reflected a little bitterly. "I will send Clayton to you now," she said, moving towards the door, "but remember, Murray," she added, emphatically, as she opened it, "that it is absolutely necessary that this house for the present should be closed."

CHAPTER XL.—Uninvited Guests.

Lady Seaforth had good cause to speak in this emphatic tone as she quitted her son's room. No one but herself knew the absolute agonies that she had endured during the miserable days of her son's dangerous illness. And these agonies were not caused alone by the knowledge that her son's life and reason trembled on a balance. A report had got about that Lord Seaforth was dangerously—nay desperately—ill, and a Jew money-lender, to whom the reckless young lord had given a bill of sale on the furniture of the house, on hearing of this illness, had issued an execution, and had obtained possession before the proud mistress, bowed down with her grief and anxiety about her son, had the least idea of what was going on under her roof.

The servants dare not tell her that the bailiffs were sitting in her drawing-room. They sent privately for her old and attached maid, Mrs. Benson, to break the terrible news to her, and to the day of her death this good woman will never forget her lady's cry, when at last she understood the faltering, broken words in which her old servant endeavoured to express her meaning.

Lady Seaforth, in fact, utterly broke down. She had moaned out after Strathearn's visit—after she had heard some sharp truths from his rough lips about her beloved son—that it was "too much, too much!" But now to find herself ruined, homeless—all, too, by this reckless son—seemed more than she had strength to bear. She sobbed, she raved, she cried that she wished that she were dead. Did any dim memories cross her mind in this bitter moment of how she had lived for the world and the world's good fame, which now seemed all suddenly reft away from her? She had married for position only. In her early girlhood she had loved and been very deeply loved by this Hugh Marchmont, whom she had mentioned to her son; but Hugh Marchmont, though a distant kinsman, was but the son of a country squire, and she was the beautiful Alice Guildford, the second daughter of a noble but impoverished family. Hugh Marchmont had considered himself engaged to her, when in an evil hour the young beauty met Lord Seaforth, a man whose reputation even then was such that a woman must have been mad who expected to live a happy married life with him. Yet for the sake of his ancient title, for the sake of his position in the world, Alice Guildford threw over her old love, crushed down the love in her own heart, and went to the altar, proud, calm, and beautiful, to utter her false vows.

And all through her life she had borne herself in the same stately fashion. Her lord had wearied of her before the first year of their wedded life was over, he had left her, dragged down his old name in the dust, but no one had ever seen my lady wince. She had her boy—the handsome bright-faced boy, the gallant youth—on whom her heart and hopes were fixed. She had never loved her husband, and she made no wail after him. He had seriously embarrassed the property before his death, but not quite hopelessly so, and Lady Seaforth and Mr. Cairns, the family lawyer, had done their best for it and for the young heir until the young heir came into possession and flung the care of years away to the winds.

Yet still the mother kept hoping on. "He would marry, he would reform," she whispered to her anxious heart, and to the world and those around her she had always worn her early stately grace.

But when Mrs. Benson broke to her, broke to her already over-burdened heart, that actual and immediate ruin stared her in the face, and that this ruin was all brought by the son on whom she had lavished her heart's best love, she seemed utterly to sink beneath the blow. Then, perhaps, the memory of a love she had flung away rose before her, and Hugh Marchmont's wasted youth and manhood were remembered with bitter regret.

"Oh! my lady, don't cry like that!" whispered her old servant trying to comfort her. "Don't my lady, or those wretches below will hear. Oh! my lady, may I give you a piece of advice?"

"What can you say! What matter is anything now?" sobbed Lady Seaforth.

"But my dear lady, it is not so bad as that," urged Mrs. Benson. "My lord will get well, and things can be all put right—it's only a matter of money you know, my lady, and if I might be bold enough to suggest it, I would ask the rich lady next door to advance enough to get these men out of the house."

"I cannot! I cannot!" moaned Lady Seaforth, rocking herself to and fro in her distress.

"But why not, my lady! People say this Mrs. Trelawn is very fond of my lord, and what are a few thousands to her?"

"This wretched entanglement—" said Lady Seaforth, looking up.

"Don't distress yourself about that my lady. There is no doubt from what Clayton says that this poor young woman is well taken care of now, and you see she has never written or anything. Most likely she has gone home to her friends, and when my lord gets better he will see it is for the best. Clayton says he is sure from the man's description who saved her that it was the poor young woman, and he will tell my lord this as soon as he is well enough to understand. And Mrs. Trelawn knows nothing about this sad affair—no one knows, my lady, but your old faithful servant and Clayton, and Clayton's not the man to tell my lord's secrets. Oh my lady, don't be angry with me, but I feel sure you have only to ask Mrs. Trelawn, and she will advance the money at a word."

Lady Seaforth made no answer. It galled her to her very soul even to think of this—yet where could she turn? Long ago Seaforth had exhausted the patience of her own people, and they had refused to lend him money, only as they well knew to be flung away. But to ask Mrs. Trelawn—a woman not of her own class, a woman whose wealth came to her through trade—it was dust and ashes to Lady Seaforth's proud imperious heart. But as her old servant kept urging the practicability of this step Lady Seaforth at last condescended to listen.

"You see, my lady," said the woman, "if these people are not got away at once, other disagreeable claims may be put in; but if Mrs. Trelawn comes forward and gets the wretches out, there will be no further trouble."

Lady Seaforth quite understood what Benson meant by this; she meant that if the money lenders supposed Mrs. Trelawn were going to marry Lord Seaforth, that he would experience no further annoyance from their hands. And if Mrs. Trelawn advanced this money and got the bailiffs out of the house, that it would seem likely to these men's eyes that she was going to marry him. Yet to have to ask Mrs. Trelawn to lend this money was absolute agony to Lady Seaforth.

"I would rather die than do it," she said to her old servant; yet she allowed her old servant to arrange her dress, and smooth the fair hair that she had flung back from her brow in her bitter distress; and then thickly veiled and accompanied by Benson she left her room, and went down the staircase on her way to Mrs. Trelawn's.

As she passed the drawing-room door, which was wide open, Benson tried to prevent her seeing the men in possession who were lounging there. But Lady Seaforth gave one quick glance, shivered, and ran on. Perhaps this sight nerved her for her bitter task; at all events she went straight to Nora Trelawn's, and was received with unusual kindness and gentleness by that lady.

The reason of this unusual kindness was simply that Nora knew what had happened at her proud neighbour's house. Such secrets are not long kept, and Nora's kind heart felt full of compassion and sympathy when she saw Lady Seaforth enter her drawing-room.

Nora was luckily alone. When Lady Seaforth saw this, and remembered her errand, all her usual grace and dignity of manner seemed to pass away from her. She trembled; she was visibly overcome.

"Lord Seaforth is not worse I hope?" asked Nora gently.

"No, no," answered Lady Seaforth, "but—" And then her voice broke, and she could not speak the hated words she had come to say.

In a moment Nora understood.

"You are in trouble dear Lady Seaforth," she said, taking Lady Seaforth's trembling hand in her own. "Can I do anything for you—anything about money?"

As Nora made this offer Lady Seaforth, who had been struggling to recover composure, lost all control over her emotion, and again began sobbing hysterically, as she had done before she went to Nora's house.

"Hush, dear Lady Seaforth," said Nora, leading her to a seat, "do not distress yourself; if it is about money you know my poor husband left me a great deal, and nothing will please me more than to advance some of it to you or Lord Seaforth. May I send for your man of business? Do not distress yourself Lady Seaforth, indeed you can have what you want."

Then Lady Seaforth tried to thank her.

"Forgive me," she said in a broken voice, "but my son's illness—and other things—have quite unnerved me. I—I—do not know whether you have heard—but Seaforth in some hour of folly—when he was much younger than he is now—gave, it seems, a bill of sale on the furniture of the house to some Jew money lender, and this wretch, hearing of his dangerous illness, has—has—put an execution in the house—and the men are there now, and if you would advance——"

"Certainly," said Nora, very kindly. "These men must be got out at once, Lady Seaforth; it is too dreadful for them to be there when Lord Seaforth is so ill, and you are so much worried and upset by his illness. Will you give me the name and address of your man of business?" she added, going to her writing table. "I will write to him, and send one of the servants with the note at once, so that there may be no delay, and about the money there need be no trouble."

Again Lady Seaforth tried to thank her in her broken tear-choked voice. She told Nora Mr. Cairns' name and address, and Nora wrote to the family lawyer, requesting him to come immediately; and then having despatched her note, she did everything in her power to soothe and comfort Lady Seaforth.

And even in her distress Lady Seaforth tried to exonerate her son as far as possible from any blame.

"He has had no chance," she said. "His father ruined the property before his death, and Murray has had to support a title and position on totally inadequate means. This has made him reckless—he has been placed in a most cruel and trying position by his father's wicked, selfish conduct."

"It will all come right, I hope," said Nora.

"He is the best and kindest of sons," said Lady Seaforth, with quivering lips. Ah, poor mother! This "best and kindest of sons" had nearly broken her proud heart; had bowed her proud head to the dust, and yet she was loving him, scheming for him still! "Who can tell," she was thinking, noting Nora's great kindness and gentleness to herself, "she may actually care for him—perhaps even this misery may bring the marriage about."

So by the time Mr. Cairns arrived at Nora's house (and the lawyer had not dallied after receiving a summons from Crœsus' Widow) my lady had dried her tears, and regained, to a certain extent at least, her composure, and made the best of the situation to the lawyer before Nora, as she had made the best of it to Nora herself.

And Mr. Cairns also quite understood the situation, and was ready to make the best of it, too. He had known Lady Seaforth for many years, and he had pitied her, and though he had been very angry of late with the young lord he was quite willing still to give him a chance of redeeming his fortunes. Being a practical man of business he thought it looked very like having a strong and peculiar interest in Lord Seaforth, if Mrs. Trelawn was so ready to come to his assistance, and the lawyer therefore (as well as Lady Seaforth) made as light as he could of Lord Seaforth's position.

"Young men will do these foolish things," he said, with his hard smile; "they go to these money-lenders, who are so ready to catch the unwary, without ever thinking of the consequences. But we must make the best of it—as Lord Seaforth is too ill to act for himself we must act for him—and the first thing is to get these men out of the house."

And "these men" were very speedily got out of the house. It was a cheque for a very large amount that Nora drew and placed in Mr. Cairns' hand, but Nora was very rich, and Mr. Cairns knew that she was very rich, and the Jew money-lender to whom Mr. Cairns gave Nora's cheque, knew this fact also, and as he looked at it began to be afraid that he had made a false step.

"They said he was so very ill, confound it!" said the money-lender, uneasily.

"You have been a little precipitate it seems," smiled the lawyer; and Nora's cheque did good service to Lord Seaforth that day as well as get the bailiffs out of the house, for people began to believe that she was really going to marry the spendthrift young lord.

Then, as soon as the men were gone, Lady Seaforth returned to her own house. But the shock and the shame that she had gone through made her so ill, that she was confined to bed for the two following days. During these two days Nora went more than once to see her, and never had Nora cared for her proud neighbour so much as she did in Lady Seaforth's hour of trouble. And Lady Seaforth was touched on her part by Nora's generosity, and by her simple kindness. She had long ardently wished that her son might marry Nora for the sake of her money, but she now began actually to wish that he might marry Nora for her own sake, and to believe that if he did marry her he might yet be a happy man.

So as Nora sat by her bedside Lady Seaforth talked to her, as she had seldom talked in her self-contained and haughty existence. She told Nora about her unhappy married life with her faithless careless lord, and she hinted with a smile and a sigh at Mr. Marchmont's early attachment.

"My people would not hear of it," she said, and again she sighed. She did not tell the exact truth; did not tell how she also, as well as "her people," had preferred the worldly advantages which Lord Seaforth apparently had in his power to bestow to the unworldly devotion of Hugh Marchmont's faithful heart.

"He is still a bachelor," she told Nora, "and I have been thinking—Mr. Cairns also thinks—that the moment ... to be moved ... it would be well if ... quiet country ... where he would be ... away from all worries, ... I have almost determined to write to Mr. Marchmont (who always calls to see me when he is in town), ... ask him if we may go to his place."

Lady Seaforth did write to her old love, and told Mr. Marchmont enough of the situation in which her son was placed to excuse her asking the favour of her "faithful friend and kinsman," which she asked in her letter. This favour was that she and her son might go as soon as Seaforth could travel to Mr. Marchmont's quiet, country house, where Lady Seaforth hoped her son would regain health and strength faster than amid the worries and constant anxiety to which he was exposed in town.

Mr. Marchmont duly replied. He would be glad at any time to see Lord and Lady Seaforth, if they would not be very weary of the "humdrum existence led by a contented old bachelor."

Somehow those last three words in her old lover's letter—a "contented old bachelor"—jarred on Lady Seaforth's heart. If once a man has been in love with some sort of women, they like to believe that he always continues in love. Mr. Marchmont had never married, and Lady Seaforth had always thought of him as she had once seen him, with a look of reproachful misery in his eyes. But contented or discontented, it suited her ladyship to accept his invitation. And thus it happened when Seaforth was slowly recovering from the effects of fever that his mother urged him, if possible, at once to go to Mr. Marchmont's house. We have heard the arguments she used; Mr. Cairns could arrange matters better if they were out of the way; and the yet more powerful argument that both he and his servant Clayton were better out of the way of Mr. Campbell of Strathearn.

After his mother left him Seaforth sent for Clayton, and during this interview he arranged with the man to endeavour (but quietly) still to try to trace Mrs. Murray, after her strange disappearance on Chelsea Bridge. Clayton was convinced that the unfortunate young woman who had so nearly destroyed herself there was "Mrs. Murray," and he gradually convinced Lord Seaforth also that this must be the case. This idea was an immense relief to Seaforth's mind. "Poor Nellie" was safe, then, and kindly taken care of, the shallow-hearted young lord was only too glad to think. He had certainly grieved terribly about her; he would have been glad and happy (let us give him his due) to see her again, and to know directly that she was well. But, after all, it would never do to have that "stupid old fool, Strath," come blundering and raging, and taking up the cudgels in her defence.

"She should have trusted me," decided Seaforth. "If I could have helped myself, I would never willingly have cost her a tear—poor little woman; some day I hope she may be happy."

So he gave in to his mother's proposal. He would go to Hugh Marchmont's house in Dorsetshire, and he did go. And the day before he went, when pale, tottering, and greatly altered he dragged himself downstairs, his mother without telling him led a visitor into the room where she was to see him.

"Come in, Mrs. Trelawn," said Lady Seaforth, very graciously; "Murray will only be too pleased to see you."

"Murray" tried to rise, but Nora went quickly forward and took his wasted hand.

"You must not get up," she said smilingly. "I am truly glad to see you down again."

"When you get well, Murray, you must thank Mrs. Trelawn for her great kindness to us—to me," said Lady Seaforth, colouring and casting down her eyes.

"Must I wait until I get well?" answered Seaforth in his old pleasant way.

"There is nothing to thank me for," said Nora, who knew that Lord Seaforth had not been told about the money she had lent; "Lady Seaforth has not been very well, and I have taken advantage of my privilege as a neighbour to see her a little oftener than usual—that is all."

"Then I will thank you now," said Seaforth smiling. "I am very much obliged to you for being kind to my mother, when she has almost been worried to death, I believe, by her graceless son."

There was a sort of charm in Seaforth's manner; an easy, graceful way of saying pleasant words, and Nora thought this as she looked at the smiling, wasted, handsome face.

She stayed and talked to him a little while longer, and when she went away Lady Seaforth could scarcely find warm enough words to praise her.

"She is very well," said Seaforth.

"Well!" repeated Lady Seaforth, indignantly. "Is that all you can say of a woman who has acted as she has done?" And then forgetting her prudence, she told her son about the execution in the house, and in how generous a manner Nora had advanced the money to prevent anything more disagreeable.

Seaforth was terribly annoyed. To be indebted to a woman—a lady—galled him intensely. He bit his lips, he grew pale; he was so agitated that his mother grew very nervous about what she had done.

"Do not worry about it," she said, "She is the kindest, sweetest woman——"

"The very reason we should not impose upon her," interrupted Seaforth.

"But my dearest, she was only too glad to do it," urged Lady Seaforth. "Oh! Murray," and she went up and took her son's hand, "I am sure she cares for you—I am sure you would be happy with her—she is so good, so kind, so gentle, a man could only love her."

Lord Seaforth made no answer. He sighed, and during the somewhat long journey for him to Rye-court, on the following day he was very silent. Of what is he thinking? thought his mother again and again uneasily glancing at him. He was thinking of Nora Trelawn, and as he thought of her ever and anon there passed before his mental vision two shadows. One a white-robed girl standing in the sunlight—the other the frozen look of despair that had haunted him ever since he last saw the face of the woman who had left a message for him that she was "Too miserable to live."

(To be continued).

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HE COULD NOT TELL THE DIFFERENCE.

On visiting M. Grasset's museum of curiosities at la Charité, in the South of France, I expected to see one of those poor collections met with in provincial towns, with three or four stuffed fish hanging from the ceiling; but I was agreeably surprised to find in the very first room magnificent vases by Bernard de Pallissy, and a complete collection of stones and minerals from Mount Sinai—a collection which probably could not be found in the Paris Museum of Natural History. Unfortunately, I was not sufficiently learned in mineralogy to appreciate it properly; accordingly I turned to a quantity of objects of the Middle Ages, and above all some locks and keys, which were carved with a taste and skill they would have done honour to Benvenuto Cellini.

In this manner we went through four or five rooms successively, which were filled with curious objects, the majority of which had been procured for M. Grasset by one of his friends, a learned and brave sea-captain, who had sailed round the world I don't know how many times, and who had arrived from China about a fortnight or three weeks previously, bringing with him a most singular example of the patience of the worshippers of the Great Dragon.

Amongst the different pairs of trousers which the captain had had made for him before leaving Paris, there was one which was considered a masterpiece; it was one of those miracles which sometimes issue from the establishments of Humann or Vaudeau, and which envelop the boots, indicate the calf, abolish the knee, mark the thigh, and deny the existence of corporation. Accordingly, thanks to a predilection which the owner entertained for them, the trousers, after having flourished along the coast, at the Cape of Good Hope, and the Isle of France, arrived at Canton nearly worn out.

Nevertheless, owing to that fashionable cut, which nothing, not even the fact of being new, can supply the place of, they still looked very well, when the sailor who served as the captain's valet let fall half the oil contained in a lamp which he was cleaning, on to the thigh of the unfortunate pair.

In spite of his philosophy, this blow had such an effect upon the captain that he had not quite recovered from it when one of his Canton associates came as usual to smoke a pipe of opium with him. He found him in such a state of vexation that he feared some great misfortune must have happened to him, and accordingly he enquired what had taken place to alter his habitual good humour.

The captain showed him the unfortunate trousers, which he had now thrown aside.

"There!" said he, "just look! The very pair you were complimenting me on yesterday!"

The friend took the trousers and turned them about with most annoying calmness. When he was quite convinced they could not be worn again, he observed:

"Well, you must have another pair made."

"Another pair made!" answered the captain. "And who is to make another pair—some of your Chinese fellows?"

"Certainly; some of my Chinese fellows!" returned the friend with imperturbable coolness.

"Yes, and get a sack sent to me, made in their regular style!" continued the captain, shrugging his shoulders.

"They won't make you a sack," said the other; "and if you only give them the model upon which you want them made, they will turn you out a pair of trousers that Vaudeau wouldn't know from his own."

"Indeed!" said the captain.

"Upon my honour," assured the friend.

"Well, I have heard hundreds of times of the fidelity of the Chinese in imitation."

"And all that you have heard upon the subject has been less than the truth."

"Really, you make me anxious to try them!"

"Do try, especially as it won't cost you much. How much did you pay for these trousers?"

"Fifty-five or sixty francs, I don't quite remember."

"Well, you can see what they're capable of doing here for fifteen."

"And what tailor must I take them to?"

"The first you come to. Mine, if you like; he lives at the gate."

The captain rolls his trousers under his arm, follows his friend, and arrives at the tailor's.

"Now," said the friend, "explain what you want, and I will translate your words to him."

The captain did not want twice speaking to. He spread out the trousers, pointed out their cut, and ended by saying that he wanted a pair exactly like them. The friend translated the order, and laid great stress on the directions.

"Very well," said the tailor; "in three days the gentleman shall have what he wants."

"What does he say?" asked the captain impatiently.

"He says you shall have what you desire in three days."

"Three days! That's a long time," said the captain.

The friend translated the captain's remark to the Chinese, who looked at the trousers again, shook his head, and said a few words in reply.

"Well?" asked the captain.

"He says there's a great deal of work to do, and that three days are not too long in order to have it properly done."

"Well, three days then; but don't let him break his word."

"Oh, as for that, there is no fear. In three days, at the exact time, he'll be at your house."

And the two friends went away, repeating their directions to the artist for the last time.

Three days afterwards, as the captain and his friend were smoking their pipes of opium, the domestic entered and announced the tailor.

"Oh, indeed," said the captain. "Well, let us see if he is as skilful as he is punctual."

"There they are," said the tailor.

"Let's try them," said the captain, as he took the trousers from the hands of the tailor and put them on.

"Why, they fit wonderfully," said the friend.

"I should think so," said the captain; "he has given me my old ones. But where are the others, you stupid?" he exclaimed to the Chinese.

The friend translated the remark to the tailor, who gave the other pair with a triumphant look. The captain changed the trousers.

"Well, I must be mad!" said the captain. "This pair seems to be mine. Where can the new ones be?"

The friend expressed the captain's doubt to the tailor who held out the trousers on which he had just finished operating.

"Well, here is the new pair," said the friend.

"No! can't you see they are the old ones?" replied the captain. "Why, hang it, there's the spot of grease!"

"And there's one on the pair you have on as well!"

"What fool's wit can this be?"

The friend turned to the Chinese, questioned him, and upon hearing his reply, burst into a shout of laughter.

"Well?" said the captain.

"Well," said the friend, "what did you order from this good man?"

"I ordered a pair of trousers."

"Like your own?"

"Yes, like my own."

"Well, he has made them so like that you can't tell the difference, that's all. But he tells me that his greatest trouble has been to wear them out, and spot them in exactly the same places; and that he must charge you five francs extra, because he failed with two pair before coming to a satisfactory result; now, however, he defies you to distinguish one pair from the other. You must allow that that's well worth twenty francs."

"Indeed it is," replied the captain, as he drew a napoleon from his pocket, and gave it to the Chinese.

The Chinese thanked him and asked for the captain's custom so long as he remained in Canton, although, he added, if he always had such difficult work given him, there would be nothing gained by it.

From that day the captain could never tell one pair of trousers from the other, so much were they alike. He brought them both back to France as specimens of Chinese industry, and promised to make a present of them to M. Grasset.

"How ... HAVE, price sixpence.—To b[illegible]d of Robe[illegible] J[illegible]son, [illegible]kseller, 9 and 10 New market S[illegible] Consett.

LADIES' COLUMN.

Studio week has set in in good earnest. Our letter racks are laden with cards of invitation, large and small, naming the days and hours on which the artists will receive their friends. These missives are of every size and in every possible style. Some are merely visiting cards with the date, and the words "At Home"; others are prettily etched, so attractive that the recipient is glad to be allowed to retain the card as an artistic souvenir. Not every great man has time to descend to these details. In fact, it seems to be that the greater the man the smaller is the card. The prettiest invitations come from the gentlemen who are noted as clever illustrators of books and periodicals. The skill they have acquired in rapidly striking off a brilliant idea for a story, or to illustrate a poem, makes the etching of a fancy card mere pastime, and its style serves to remind editors and authors that the artist has a special talent, well cultivated, at their service.

All day and all night long the workmen are hammering and nailing and working hard at the new gallery in Regent-street, once a meat market, in order that the picture exhibition there may be ready for the public as soon as the Royal Academy and Grosvenor Gallery are opened. The electric light by which the men work illuminates the sky for a long way from Regent-street, and frequently strangers have been attracted to the neighbourhood by the glare late at night under the supposition that a fire has broken out somewhere close at hand. The artistic world waits with breath suspended, at least with criticism ready to be evoked at a moment's notice, for the wonders in decorative art which it is rumoured will be revealed when the doors open. We can find room to admire grand vestibules and *salons* if they are shewn to us, for the Royal Academy flouts these novelties, and the Grosvenor Gallery is shewing how ruthless Time can be in dimming splendour.

The undue severity of the weather has prolonged the suspension of gaieties first brought about by the death of the Emperor. The shopkeepers feel the depression keenly, both the social depression and the barometrical. No one could look at spring novelties with a keen north wind carrying before it clouds of snow and penetrating the lungs like a sharp sword. Whether it is or is not a north wind, many people doubt. Personal experience suggests that it is an all-round wind besieging every side of a house at once, and trying how far the woodwork of the windows is or is not impervious to the entrance of a keen blast. The Parisian correspondents had prepared glowing descriptions of novelties, all more or less spring-like and beautiful. These letters read like works of fiction, not to be seriously received as containing facts. How eagerly we shall turn back to them for inspiration a little later, when the tyranny of this north wind be over past! The sunshades already arrived are works of art. A great firm of manufacturers has patented the floral sunshade, but it will be difficult for the makers to prevent copyists. The secret of attaching the flowers may be the property of an inventor, but there is no copyright in arranging long trails of flowers over a sunshade. The favourite ground is black silk or satin, white silk or satin, and the flowers are carelessly disposed, as if flung on—some round the edge, others starting from the centre, and crawling about over the divisions in long trails, the whole character of the ornament being borrowed from Japanese ideas of decoration now so popular. The cleverness of the design is seen in the ease with which the flowers fall into their places when the sunshade is closed.

It is a curious fact that when a great public banquet or entertainment is to be given the National School is never heard of. At the famous banquet in the Knightsbridge Riding School, given to Lord Beaconsfield on his return from Berlin, it was pronounced to be impossible to serve any hot viands, not even soup, and this within a short distance of a great cooking school. Even in Dublin, where resources are limited, the banquet given recently to Lord Hartington and Mr. Goschen had every dish hot. As an enthusiastic waiter remarked at the close of the entertainment, they had served sweetbreads hot to 750 guests, which was literally true, everything else being arranged systematically on the same scale. The new arrangements at the school contemplate the teaching of boys, it being now as necessary to look out for means of bread-earning for them as it is for girls. It will be interesting to see if English boys will take to the culinary profession as French boys are eager to do. The class from which the French cooks come is an infinitely better educated one than that from which our women cooks come. In all large institutions economy of time and labour obliges the cooking to be done on a large scale, with appliances specially designed for convenience and despatch. It is quite useless to send boys and girls from such places to learn in theory what they have no opportunity of carrying out in practice.

All the beautiful court trains to which recent allusion was made, prepared to be worn at the Drawing-room which was postponed, cannot be worn on the 24th. This will be a great disappointment to many ladies, who must either have new dresses or wait until May, when the Queen proposes to hold two more Drawing-rooms. No one who is superstitious will like to have a great occasion so often deferred. Those who abstained from the first Drawing-room on account of the inclement weather were disappointed of the second by reason of the Emperor of Germany's death. At the third, where the Princess will take the Queen's place, court mourning will be *de rigueur*. Thus, none of the beautiful shades of yellow, the absinthe, the chartreuse, the pistache, and others, may be worn. Neither can the peach blossom, the golden browns, the pale blue, the old rose, nor any other of the decided shades which are known as colours. The only gleam of comfort the ladies enjoy through it all is the reflection that Court etiquette precluded the holding of the Drawing-room during the first period of the mourning, from the 11th to the 23rd. An assemblage of black dresses, brightened only by white gloves, shoes, feathers, and fans, with pearl, diamond, or plain gold and silver ornaments, would have been lugubrious and monstrous to the last degree. The permission to wear white shoes with a black dress is not likely to be taken advantage of by ladies of good taste, but it is the remains of an old edict, the form of words which it is still customary for the Lord Chamberlain to use when issuing his orders.

The second mourning, which will actually be used on the 24th, is less dismal than that for the first. Black dresses may be decked with coloured ribbons, coloured flowers, coloured feathers, and jewellery with coloured stones. Grey dresses or white dresses may also be worn, but they must be trimmed with black ribbons, black flowers, black feathers, and jet ornaments. The Lord Chamberlain has had a very trying time since he issued his first instructions, as there are many novelties now introduced in manufacture that may or may not be forbidden. For instance, the rich brocaded silks and satins, which have the design outlined in gold or silver, or, in some instances, solidly raised in bullion thread on the surface. What is to be done with the gorgeous trains, which are more like cloth of gold than cloth of silk, and the beautiful silver brocades, dressed in which the charming brides of last season intended to kiss the Royal hand? The impression that prevails is in favour of the silver being permitted, and the gold forbidden. This is a simple rule in itself, but its enforcement will be grievous to many ladies.

AURORA.

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

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CRŒSUS' WIDOW.

BY DORA RUSSELL,

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

CHAPTER XXXIX.—Strathearn Offers a Reward.

While Nellie lay very ill at Castlewood, watched over by the good Samaritans who lived there, in the great city beyond, Strathearn was restlessly wandering to and fro in search of her.

He succeeded after some difficulty in tracing her to Miss Brewis' lodging-house, in Belgrave-road. He did this through the police, as the description he gave of "Mrs. Murray's" personal appearance tallied so closely with the description given by Clayton (Lord Seaforth's servant) of the lady who had disappeared from the house in Belgrave-road that the police naturally concluded that Mr. Campbell and Lord Seaforth must be seeking the same person.

When Strathearn heard there was a suspicion that this lady had destroyed herself, the grey pallor that suddenly spread over his face at once betrayed his secret to the lynx-eyed inspector of police to whom he was talking.

"'Tis only a suspicion, sir," added the Inspector, considerately. "The lady disappeared on such a night, and has not been heard of since, but on the same night a female endeavoured to throw herself off Chelsea Bridge, and was prevented by a man who was crossing the bridge at the time. This man we have found, but the strangest part of the business is, that a carriage drove up just after the occurrence on the bridge happened, and a lady got out of this carriage and took the female who had attempted to drown herself under her charge, and drove her away, and we have not been able yet to discover to whom this carriage belongs."

"And you think this was—Mrs. Murray?" faltered Strathearn, with a sort of gasp in his deep voice.

"The man who saved her described her as a fair-haired young woman with small features. Does this answer to the appearance of the Mrs. Murray you wish to find?" asked the Inspector.

"Yes—perhaps. Can I see—this man?"

"Certainly, sir; and I may tell you that Clayton, Lord Seaforth's servant——"

"Clayton! Lord Seaforth's servant!" interrupted Strathearn with a start. "Has this Clayton been here then?"

"He has carried on all inquiries about this business," answered the police-inspector, "for Lord Seaforth has been laid up with fever, and unable to attend to it; and this Clayton has seen the person who saved the female from drowning, and was convinced from the person's description that the female was the Mrs. Murray Lord Seaforth was seeking; indeed, so much so that he rewarded this man by Lord Seaforth's orders, and no further inquiries have been made by his Lordship since then—in fact, I believe he has gone abroad."

An oath burst from Strathearn's bitten lips after he had heard this explanation. He knew then that Lady Seaforth had lied to him about Clayton, and he guessed the whole of the miserable truth. Seaforth had told Nellie that she had been cruelly deceived, and the wretched girl had wandered out to die in her despair. This had been the secret of Seaforth's sudden illness—his conscience had smitten him.

"If he has murdered her I will kill him," muttered Strathearn in a fierce undertone, turning away his head from the keen-eyed man who was looking at him and inwardly speculating on the nature of his interest in "Mrs. Murray."

"Clayton, as I was saying, sir," continued the Inspector, "saw this man who saved the lady, and he—Clayton, I mean—informed me then that his Lordship was sensible again, and was greatly relieved in his mind to hear that the unfortunate young woman had not succeeded in drowning herself. It seemed from Clayton's story that there had been a quarrel between them, but his Lordship had no idea of forsaking her, and was terribly cut up when he thought she had made away with herself."

"And—and Lord Seaforth knows nothing more—nothing of where she is now?"

"I conclude not, sir, for we have orders to endeavour to trace her; but I heard that Lord Seaforth had gone abroad."

"And Clayton?"

"I cannot tell you, sir; for the last few days we have heard nothing, either from Lord Seaforth or Clayton."

"I must find out," said Strathearn; "in the meanwhile offer two hundred pounds reward for any information—about, about her,—and let me see the man who—"

Strathearn could not complete the sentence. His voice grew husky and then broke, and he quickly turned away his head, ashamed to allow another man to see the overwhelming emotion sweeping like a torrent over his soul.

He drove direct from Scotland Yard to Lady Seaforth's house in South Kensington. It was shut up. In vain he pealed at the door bell; in vain stamped and swore, and knocked with all his might.

"The family are out of town," a policeman, who had been benignly watching his exertions, presently told him, and this was all Strathearn could learn. At the clubs also he could gain no further information about Lord Seaforth.

"He has been terribly ill, and is in no end of a hole," one man told him, "and has vanished until a more convenient season. But they say," added this man, "that he is going to patch up his fortunes by marrying that pretty dark-eyed little woman called Crœsus' Widow—good thing for Seaforth if he does."

This was what the world said; but now let us go behind the curtain, and learn how far the world spoke truth.

A few days before Strathearn had been vainly rapping and ringing at Lady Seaforth's house door; in a darkened upper chamber of that stately mansion her son had been lying prostrate and exhausted, but once more with the light of reason in his eyes.

By his bedside his servant, Clayton, was standing.

"My lord," he was saying, "from the man's account of the lady's appearance, there is no doubt it was Mrs. Murray. Wherever she is, you may make your mind easy about her, for the man said the lady who got out of the carriage was quite a lady—a young, handsome lady—and evidently rich."

Seaforth turned on his bed and sighed restlessly.

"And the police can't trace this carriage?" he said presently.

"They have not been able to do so yet—but indeed, my lord, you can make your mind quite easy, for the man said the young lady to whom the carriage belonged seemed most kind, and took Mrs. Murray in her arms, just as if she had been her sister."

Again Seaforth sighed.

"Poor, poor Nellie," he muttered; "poor, foolish little girl—why could she not trust me?"

Lord Seaforth said these words in a very low tone; in fact, only murmured them to himself, and Clayton made no reply, and a few minutes later Lady Seaforth entered the room, and the confidential servant at once left it.

"You are better, Murray?" said Lady Seaforth, who looked greatly disturbed, glancing anxiously at her son.

"Yes, mother," he answered, "but weary, weary, weary!" And he flung his arms impatiently over the coverlet.

"I have been speaking to the doctor about you," continued Lady Seaforth, "and he thinks an immediate change will do you good——"

"I can't leave town—don't talk of it, mother," interrupted Seaforth.

For a moment or two Lady Seaforth made no reply. She fixed her eyes still more anxiously on her son's face; she opened her lips to speak and yet was afraid to utter the words she felt herself forced to say.

"I don't wish to worry you, Murray," she presently began; "you have been too ill to be worried—but things could be arranged better—some pressing money affairs could be arranged better—by Mr. Cairns if this house were shut up and we were out of the way."

"What!" said Lord Seaforth, looking up. "There's a row then, I suppose!"

"Don't trouble about it," answered Lady Seaforth, "it will be settled—a friend—someone Murray, whom you will never guess" (and Lady Seaforth's proud mouth quivered) "has advanced a sum of money to free us from any very pressing difficulties—and if we were away for a time—if you could exert yourself sufficiently to go Murray!"

Seaforth moved restlessly, and then sighed impatiently.

"I can't go, mother—I must stay to make some inquiries—to learn something I want to know," he said.

"Leave Clayton to make these inquiries—he seems to know all about your affairs," answered Lady Seaforth with a curling lip.

Again Lord Seaforth looked at his mother—this time curiously.

"How long have I been ill, mother?" he said.

Lady Seaforth hesitated; she scarcely dare tell her son of all the weary nights and days that had passed since that terrible night when he had suddenly broken down, and begun raving in his delirum about the hapless girl whom he then feared he had driven to an untimely end.

"It is more than a fortnight now Murray," she said, in somewhat faltering accents, "and—I am sure for many reasons you would be better away."

Lord Seaforth did not speak.

"When you were very ill," continued Lady Seaforth, casting down her eyes, while a sudden flush passed over her face, "I had a strange visitor to inquire after you—Mr. Campbell, of Strathearn."

"Oh! old Strath," said Seaforth, carelessly.

As his careless tone fell on his mother's ear she looked quickly up, some hope and yet deep anxiety being betrayed in her glance.

"Murray," she said, "this Mr. Campbell—insulted me—insulted you—and yet you speak of him—indifferently!"

As his mother said this a faint colour spread over Seaforth's pale, wasted features, for he now remembered what in his illness and weakness he had for a moment forgotten.

"What did he say?" he asked uneasily.

"I cannot repeat what he said," answered Lady Seaforth with some passion in her voice, though she was striving to subdue this on account of her son's prostrate condition; "I do not choose to repeat what he said, Murray" (and the proud woman turned away from her son's bedside, and went to the window); "but he said enough—you are best out of his way—and there is another reason why this house should be shut up, and the servants discharged."

"Well!" said Lord Seaforth, still uneasily.

"When this Campbell could not see you," continued Lady Seaforth, her head yet averted from her son, "he insisted upon seeing Clayton—he would see him, he said—he was rude, impertinent—and I told an untruth to him, Murray—I told him Clayton had left your service, had gone abroad, so you had best send him out of the way."

For a minute or two Lord Seaforth did not speak. Then he jerked out angrily and impatiently:

"It was confounded impertinence of Campbell to come here and interfere with my affairs!"

"Do not excite yourself," said Lady Seaforth, now returning to the bedside; "but I thought it best to tell you, for Clayton ought to be kept out of this Mr. Campbell's way."

"All right—I'll see to it."

"And, Murray, Hugh Marchmont has offered his house to us, to stay as long as we like there—the air is very fine, as you know, at Rye Court, and you want a complete rest—out of the way of all worries—and Rye Court is just the place for you. You are not strong enough yet to go abroad, but you are strong enough, I hope, to go to Hugh Marchmont's—and Mr. Cairns can give out we are abroad until things are arranged."

"You have settled it all, then, mother, it seems! So old Hugh Marchmont has come to the front—a tribute to the old love, eh, mother?"

Lady Seaforth did not speak. She drew up her haughty head and looked almost wonderingly at her son. What, he could jest still, then! she was thinking.

"It is well—well," the next moment she reflected a little bitterly. "I will send Clayton to you now," she said, moving towards the door, "but remember, Murray," she added, emphatically, as she opened it, "that it is absolutely necessary that this house for the present should be closed."

CHAPTER XL.—Uninvited Guests.

Lady Seaforth had good cause to speak in this emphatic tone as she quitted her son's room. No one but herself knew the absolute agonies that she had endured during the miserable days of her son's dangerous illness. And these agonies were not caused alone by the knowledge that her son's life and reason trembled on a balance. A report had got about that Lord Seaforth was dangerously—nay desperately—ill, and a Jew money-lender, to whom the reckless young lord had given a bill of sale on the furniture of the house, on hearing of this illness, had issued an execution, and had obtained possession before the proud mistress, bowed down with her grief and anxiety about her son, had the least idea of what was going on under her roof.

The servants dare not tell her that the bailiffs were sitting in her drawing-room. They sent privately for her old and attached maid, Mrs. Benson, to break the terrible news to her, and to the day of her death this good woman will never forget her lady's cry, when at last she understood the faltering, broken words in which her old servant endeavoured to express her meaning.

Lady Seaforth, in fact, utterly broke down. She had moaned out after Strathearn's visit—after she had heard some sharp truths from his rough lips about her beloved son—that it was "too much, too much!" But now to find herself ruined, homeless—all, too, by this reckless son—seemed more than she had strength to bear. She sobbed, she raved, she cried that she wished that she were dead. Did any dim memories cross her mind in this bitter moment of how she had lived for the world and the world's good fame, which now seemed all suddenly reft away from her! She had married for position only. In her early girlhood she had loved and been very deeply loved by this Hugh Marchmont, whom she had mentioned to her son; but Hugh Marchmont, though a distant kinsman, was but the son of a country squire, and she was the beautiful Alice Guildford, the second daughter of a noble but impoverished family. Hugh Marchmont had considered himself engaged to her, when in an evil hour the young beauty met Lord Seaforth, a man whose reputation even then was such that a woman must have been mad who expected to live a happy married life with him. Yet for the sake of his ancient title, for the sake of his position in the world, Alice Guildford threw over her old love, crushed down the love in her own heart, and went to the altar, proud, calm, and beautiful, to utter her false vows.

And all through her life she had borne herself in the same stately fashion. Her lord had wearied of her before the first year of their wedded life was over, he had left her, dragged down his old name in the dust, but no one had ever seen my lady wince. She had her boy—the handsome bright-faced boy, the gallant youth—on whom her heart and hopes were fixed. She had never loved her husband, and she made no wail after him. He had seriously embarrassed the property before his death, but not quite hopelessly so, and Lady Seaforth and Mr. Cairns, the family lawyer, had done their best for it and for the young heir, until the young heir came into possession and flung the care of years away to the winds.

Yet still the mother kept hoping on. "He would marry, he would reform," she whispered to her anxious heart, and to the world and those around her she had always worn her early stately grace.

But when Mrs. Benson broke to her, broke to her already over-burdened heart, that actual and immediate ruin stared her in the face, and that this ruin was all brought by the son on whom she had lavished her heart's best love, she seemed utterly to sink beneath the blow. Then, perhaps, the memory of a love she had flung away rose before her, and Hugh Marchmont's wasted youth and manhood were remembered with bitter regret.

"Oh! my lady, don't cry like that!" whispered her old servant trying to comfort her. "Don't my lady, or those wretches below will hear. Oh! my lady, may I give you a piece of advice?"

"What can you say! What matter is anything now!" sobbed Lady Seaforth.

"But my dear lady, it is not so bad as that," urged Mrs. Benson. "My lord will get well, and things can be all put right—it's only a matter of money you know, my lady, and if I might be bold enough to suggest it, I would ask the rich lady next door to advance enough to get these men out of the house."

"I cannot! I cannot!" moaned Lady Seaforth, rocking herself to and fro in her distress.

"But why not, my lady! People say this Mrs. Trelawn is very fond of my lord, and what are a few thousands to her?"

"This wretched entanglement—" said Lady Seaforth, looking up.

"Don't distress yourself about that my lady. There is no doubt from what Clayton says that this poor young woman is well taken care of now, and you see she has never written or anything. Most likely she has gone home to her friends, and when my lord gets better he will see it is for the best. Clayton says he is sure from the man's description who saved her that it was the poor young woman, and he will tell my lord this as soon as he is well enough to understand. And Mrs. Trelawn knows nothing about this sad affair—no one knows, my lady, but your old faithful servant and Clayton, and Clayton's not the man to tell my lord's secrets. Oh my lady, don't be angry with me, but I [illegible] you have only to ask Mrs. Trelawn, and she will advance the money at a word."

Lady Seaforth made no answer. It galled her to her very soul even to think of this—yet where could she turn? Long ago Seaforth had exhausted the patience of her own people, and they had refused to lend him money, only as they well knew to be flung away. But to ask Mrs. Trelawn—a woman not of her own class, a woman whose wealth came to her through trade—it was dust and ashes to Lady Seaforth's proud imperious heart. But as her old servant kept urging the practicability of this step Lady Seaforth at last condescended to listen.

"You see, my lady," said the woman, "if these people are not got away at once, other disagreeable claims may be put in; but if Mrs. Trelawn comes forward and gets the wretches out, there will be no further trouble."

Lady Seaforth quite understood what Benson meant by this; she meant that if the money lenders supposed Mrs. Trelawn were going to marry Lord Seaforth, that he would experience no further annoyance from their hands. And if Mrs. Trelawn advanced this money and got the bailiffs out of the house, that it would seem likely to these men's eyes that she was going to marry him. Yet to have to ask Mrs. Trelawn to lend this money was absolute agony to Lady Seaforth.

"I would rather die than do it," she said to her old servant; yet she allowed her old servant to arrange her dress, and smooth the fair hair that she had flung back from her brow in her bitter distress; and then thickly veiled and accompanied by Benson she left her room, and went down the staircase on her way to Mrs. Trelawn's.

As she passed the drawing-room door, which was wide open, Benson tried to prevent her seeing the men in possession who were lounging there. But Lady Seaforth gave one quick glance, shivered, and ran on. Perhaps this sight nerved her for her bitter task; at all events she went straight to Nora Trelawn's, and was received with unusual kindness and gentleness by that lady.

The reason of this unusual kindness was simply that Nora knew what had happened at her proud neighbour's house. Such secrets are not long kept, and Nora's kind heart felt full of compassion and sympathy when she saw Lady Seaforth enter her drawing-room.

Nora was luckily alone. When Lady Seaforth saw this, and remembered her errand, all her usual grace and dignity of manner seemed to pass away from her. She trembled; she was visibly overcome.

"Lord Seaforth is not worse I hope?" asked Nora gently.

"No, no," answered Lady Seaforth, "but—" And then her voice broke, and she could not speak the hated words she had come to say.

In a moment Nora understood.

"You are in trouble dear Lady Seaforth," she said, taking Lady Seaforth's trembling hand in her own. "Can I do anything for you—anything about money?"

As Nora made this offer Lady Seaforth, who had been struggling to recover composure, lost all control over her emotion, and again began sobbing hysterically, as she had done before she went to Nora's house.

"Hush, dear Lady Seaforth," said Nora, leading her to a seat, "do not distress yourself; if it is about money you know my poor husband left me a great deal, and nothing will please me more than to advance some of it to you or Lord Seaforth. May I send for your man of business? Do not distress yourself Lady Seaforth, indeed you can have what you want."

Then Lady Seaforth tried to thank her.

"Forgive me," she said in a broken voice, "but my son's illness—and other things—have quite unnerved me. I—I—do not know whether you have heard—but Seaforth in some hour of folly—when he was much younger than he is now—gave, it seems, a bill of sale on the furniture of the house to some Jew money lender, and this wretch, hearing of his dangerous illness, has—has—put an execution in the house—and the men are there now, and if you would advance——"

"Certainly," said Nora, very kindly. "These men must be got out at once, Lady Seaforth; it is too dreadful for them to be there when Lord Seaforth is so ill, and you are so much worried and upset by his illness. Will you give me the name and address of your man of business?" she added, going to her writing table. "I will write to him, and send one of the servants with the note at once, so that there may be no delay, and about the money there need be no trouble."

Again Lady Seaforth tried to thank her in her broken tear-choked voice. She told Nora Mr. Cairns' name and address, and Nora wrote to the family lawyer, requesting him to come immediately; and then having despatched her note, she did everything in her power to soothe and comfort Lady Seaforth.

And even in her distress Lady Seaforth tried to exonerate her son as far as possible from any blame.

"He has had no chance," she said. "His father ruined the property before his death, and Murray has had to support a title and position on totally inadequate means. This has made him reckless—he has been placed in a most cruel and trying position by his father's wicked, selfish conduct."

"It will all come right, I hope," said Nora.

"He is the best and kindest of sons," said Lady Seaforth, with quivering lips. Ah, poor mother! This "best and kindest of sons" had nearly broken her proud heart; had bowed her proud head to the dust, and yet she was loving him, scheming for him still! "Who can tell," she was thinking, noting Nora's great kindness and gentleness to herself, "she may actually care for him—perhaps even this misery may bring the marriage about."

So by the time Mr. Cairns arrived at Nora's house (and the lawyer had not dallied after receiving a summons from Crœsus' Widow) my lady had dried her tears, and regained, to a certain extent at least, her composure, and made the best of the situation to the lawyer before Nora, as she had made the best of it to Nora herself.

And Mr. Cairns also quite understood the situation, and was ready to make the best of it, too. He had known Lady Seaforth for many years, and he had pitied her, and though he had been very angry of late with the young lord he was quite willing still to give him a chance of redeeming his fortunes. Being a practical man of business he thought it looked very like having a strong and peculiar interest in Lord Seaforth, if Mrs. Trelawn was so ready to come to his assistance, and the lawyer therefore (as well as Lady Seaforth) made as light as he could of Lord Seaforth's position.

"Young men will do these foolish things," he said, with his hard smile; "they go to these money-lenders, who are so ready to catch the unwary, without ever thinking of the consequences. But we must make the best of it—as Lord Seaforth is too ill to act for himself we must act for him—and the first thing is to get these men out of the house."

And "these men" were very speedily got out of the house. It was a cheque for a very large amount that Nora drew and placed in Mr. Cairns' hand, but Nora was very rich, and Mr. Cairns knew that she was very rich, and the Jew money-lender to whom Mr. Cairns gave Nora's cheque, knew this fact also, and as he looked at it began to be afraid that he had made a false step.

"They said he was so very ill, confound it!" said the money-lender, uneasily.

"You have been a little precipitate it seems," smiled the lawyer; and Nora's cheque did good service to Lord Seaforth that day as well as get the bailiffs out of the house, for people began to believe that she was really going to marry the spendthrift young lord.

Then, as soon as the men were gone, Lady Seaforth returned to her own house. But the shock and the shame that she had gone through made her so ill, that she was confined to bed for the two following days. During these two days Nora went more than once to see her, and never had Nora cared for her proud neighbour so much as she did in Lady Seaforth's hour of trouble. And Lady Seaforth was touched on her part by Nora's generosity, and by her simple kindness. She had long ardently wished that her son might marry Nora for the sake of her money, but she now began actually to wish that he might marry Nora for her own sake, and to believe that if he did marry her he might yet be a happy man.

So as Nora sat by her bedside Lady Seaforth talked to her, as she had seldom talked in her self-contained and haughty existence. She told Nora about her unhappy married life with her faithless careless lord, and she hinted with a smile and a sigh at Mr. Marchmont's early attachment.

"My people would not hear of it," she said, and again she sighed. She did not tell the exact truth; did not tell how she also, as well as "her people," had preferred the worldly advantages which Lord Seaforth apparently had in his power to bestow to the unworldly devotion of Hugh Marchmont's faithful heart.

"He is still a bachelor," she told Nora, "and I have been thinking—Mr. Cairns also thinks—that the somewhat [illegible] to be moved [illegible] it would be well if [illegible] quiet [illegible] where he would be away from all worries. [illegible] I have almost determined to write to Mr. Marchmont (who always calls to see me when he is in town), and ask him if we may go to his place."

Lady Seaforth did write to her old love, and told Mr. Marchmont enough of the situation in which her son was placed to excuse her asking the favour of her "faithful friend and kinsman," which she asked in her letter. This favour was that she and her son might go as soon as Seaforth could travel to Mr. Marchmont's quiet, country house, where Lady Seaforth hoped her son would regain health and strength faster than amid the worries and constant anxiety to which he was exposed in town.

Mr. Marchmont duly replied. He would be glad at any time to see Lord and Lady Seaforth, if they would not be very weary of the "humdrum existence led by a contented old bachelor."

Somehow those last three words in her old lover's letter—a "contented old bachelor"—jarred on Lady Seaforth's heart. If once a man has been in love with some sort of women, they like to believe that he always continues in love. Mr. Marchmont had never married, and Lady Seaforth had always thought of him as she had once seen him, with a look of reproachful misery in his eyes. But contented or discontented, it suited her ladyship to accept his invitation. And thus it happened when Seaforth was slowly recovering from the effects of fever that his mother urged him, if possible, at once to go to Mr. Marchmont's house. We have heard the arguments she used; Mr. Cairns could arrange matters better if they were out of the way; and the yet more powerful argument that both he and his servant Clayton were better out of the way of Mr. Campbell of Strathearn.

After his mother left him Seaforth sent for Clayton, and during this interview he arranged with the man to endeavour (but quietly) still to try to trace Mrs. Murray, after her strange disappearance on Chelsea Bridge. Clayton was convinced that the unfortunate young woman who had so nearly destroyed herself there was "Mrs. Murray," and he gradually convinced Lord Seaforth also that this must be the case. This idea was an immense relief to Seaforth's mind. "Poor Nellie" was safe, then, and kindly taken care of, the shallow-hearted young lord was only too glad to think. He had certainly grieved terribly about her; he would have been glad and happy (let us give him his due) to see her again, and to know directly that she was well. But, after all, it would never do to have that "stupid old fool, Strath," come blundering and raging, and taking up the cudgels in her defence.

"She should have trusted me," decided Seaforth. "If I could have helped myself, I would never willingly have cost her a tear—poor little woman; some day I hope she may be happy."

So he gave in to his mother's proposal. He would go to Hugh Marchmont's house in Dorsetshire, and he did go. And the day before he went, when pale, tottering, and greatly altered he dragged himself downstairs, his mother without telling him led a visitor into the room where she was to see him.

"Come in, Mrs. Trelawn," said Lady Seaforth, very graciously; "Murray will only be too pleased to see you."

"Murray" tried to rise, but Nora went quickly forward and took his wasted hand.

"You must not get up," she said smilingly. "I am truly glad to see you down again."

"When you get well, Murray, you must thank Mrs. Trelawn for her great kindness to us—to me," said Lady Seaforth, colouring and casting down her eyes.

"Must I wait until I get well?" answered Seaforth in his old pleasant way.

"There is nothing to thank me for," said Nora, who knew that Lord Seaforth had not been told about the money she had lent; "Lady Seaforth has not been very well, and I have taken advantage of my privilege as a neighbour to see her a little oftener than usual—that is all."

"Then I will thank you now," said Seaforth smiling. "I am very much obliged to you for being kind to my mother, when she has almost been worried to death, I believe, by her graceless son."

There was a sort of charm in Seaforth's manner; an easy, graceful way of saying pleasant words, and Nora thought this as she looked at the smiling, wasted, handsome face.

She stayed and talked to him a little while longer, and when she went away Lady Seaforth could scarcely find warm enough words to praise her.

"She is very well," said Seaforth.

"Well!" repeated Lady Seaforth, indignantly. "Is that all you can say of a woman who has acted as she has done?" And then forgetting her prudence, she told her son about the execution in the house, and in how generous a manner Nora had advanced the money to prevent anything more disagreeable.

Seaforth was terribly annoyed. To be indebted to a woman—a lady—galled him intensely. He bit his lips, he grew pale; he was so agitated that his mother grew very nervous about what she had done.

"Do not worry about it," she said, "She is the kindest, sweetest woman——"

"The very reason we should not impose upon her," interrupted Seaforth.

"But my dearest, she was only too glad to do it," urged Lady Seaforth. "Oh! Murray," and she went up and took her son's hand, "I am sure she cares for you—I am sure you would be happy with her—she is so good, so kind, so gentle, a man could only love her."

Lord Seaforth made no answer. He sighed, and during the somewhat long journey for him to Rye-court, on the following day he was very silent. Of what is he thinking? thought his mother again and again uneasily glancing at him. He was thinking of Nora Trelawn, and as he thought of her ever and anon there passed before his mental vision two shadows. One a white-robed girl standing in the sunlight—the other the frozen look of despair that had haunted him ever since he last saw the face of the woman who had left a message for him that she was "Too miserable to live."

(To be continued).

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SOMETHING FOR YOUNG FOLKS.

AN ADVENTURE WITH A MERMAID.

It's not many people who have ever seen a mermaid, but a story-teller in "Young England" solemnly declares that he has, and he goes on to relate how it happened.

It was a goodish time back, when I was a young fellow of 20, and first hand aboard the fishing boat Neptune.

Well, I got courting our old man's daughter—that's our master, old Tom Pepper, you know, who owned the boat. His girl was the prettiest lass in Suffolk. Well, I'd saved a pretty penny, as the saying is, and old Pepper, he says:

"You've served me boy and lad for nigh ten year, and if you like to take a share in the Neptune, why, you might do worse; and when you marry Mary you shall have my share in the old boat too, and that'll be something good for you to begin housekeeping on."

So I thought I couldn't do better, and the long and short of it was that I became part owner of the Neptune, and if we made a lucky voyage I was to marry my lass when we came back. I was all agog to be off. We'd bought new nets and gear, and spent nigh all our money in refitting the old boat, and sure we were she'd do wonders. The weather had been bad for a longish time, but at last the wind changed, and one Friday morn dawned as clear and bright as you could wish for; so we settled we'd sail at once.

All the folks shook their heads and tried to persuade us to wait till Saturday, but old Pepper laughed at their fears about Fridays being unlucky, and off we went. Hows'ever, that night it came over nasty again; we were riding by our nets when all of a sudden our old man yells out, "What's that?" and here, bearing close down on us, was a huge, big ship—we could just make her out looming through the darkness. We screamed as hard as we could, but never a light or sign of life did she shew, nor altered her course one bit. "Cut away the nets, lads; it's our only chance;" shrieks our old man; and away they went. However we were saved I don't know, but the next minute we slipped back, and the big ship passed clean over the very spot where we were riding—almost touched us, too, with her huge black sides as she went towering past into the darkness. Very thankful we felt for our safety, though we had paid so terribly dear for it. Well, we got our sails up and cruised about for hours, hoping to pick up our lost gear, but not a trace could we see; and to make matters worse the wind was rising every minute, and we felt we were in for a terrible bad night. Well, our old man and I were at the helm, when all at once he cries: "What's that now?" and sure enow I see something white gleaming in the waves astern.

"What in the world is it?" I said, snatching the lamp from the binnacle. Oh! never shall I forget the horror I felt, for there, riding quietly through the stormy waves, was a lovely mermaid, with her long black hair streaming in the wind. She was playing softly on a harp, and singing a wild sort of song. She seemed to glance up at us as she passed with a hard, pitiless stare, as though she knew only too well that never again should any of our crew set foot on shore. Yes, and you could see her tail, too, lashing the water as she swam.

Our old man gave one awful yell, and fell down in a faint, and just then she rode over a wave and disappeared from sight. The hands came tumbling along to knew what was up, and foolish-like I told 'em what we'd seen. They all turned as pale as death—as white as I was—for you could still hear her singing—now high, now low, and pretty frightened I felt.

I pulled myself together and stuck to the helm; but a precious hard time of it I had to get the men to work, for they seemed scared like. Our old man fared so bad he kept below; and how we got through that awful night I never could tell. But we did somehow, and next morning we reached home, and that was about all we had to be thankful for; because you see the nets were nearly all new, and their loss alone pretty nigh ruined us.

During the night the wind went down, and next morning our old man and I went along the beach to pick up drift wood or what not. Just as we turned home by the pier, we saw something or other rising right up out of the sea like.

"What ever's that?" says we; so we hurries along towards it, and there—would you believe me now?—was our mermaid. She was just an old ship's figure-head—probably as not belonging to the one that passed us. She was still sticking to some of the ship's timbers, that seemed cut and wrenched away as if by a collision, and these had served to keep her floating upright in the water while two of them made what we thought was her tail; and a tangled mass of sea-weed caught over her head we had taken in the darkness for her hair.

Well, the most extraordinary part of it was that we found twisted round and round the bits of timber all our nets safe and sound! They were a little torn here and there, but really not much damaged—not more than a day's boating could put right.

A hearty laugh we had over it, and have had many a time since; and we found out too, that what we all thought was the mermaid's singing, was just the wind howling as usual in the rigging; but I suppose the ropes being new made us notice it more than we ever did before. Well, we got a good round sum for salvage of the figure head; for she was a beauty and no mistake, and we started the very next day on one of the best voyages we ever made. I got back in good time for our wedding day; and though I've been on many a long voyage since then I've never come across another mermaid. But if ever I do I only hope she'll prove as kind and turn out as profitable as my first.

THE ROBIN AND THE CHICKEN.

A plump little robin flew down from a tree,
To hunt for a worm which he happened to see;
A frisky young chicken came scampering by,
And gazed at the robin with wondering eye.
Said the chick, "What a queer-looking chicken is that;
It's wings are so long, and it's body's so fat!"
While the robin remarked loud enough to be heard:
"Dear me! an exceedingly strange looking bird!"
"Can you sing?" Robin asked, and the chicken said, "No,"
But asked in his turn if the robin could crow;
So the bird sought a tree, and the chicken a wall,
And each thought the other knew nothing at all.

SHARING HIS PAY.

The Marquis de la Scales, a very wealthy nobleman, had invited his neighbours to a grand entertainment, and proposed that the feast with which he served them should lack no delicacy that could be obtained. Some of the guests who had arrived early for the purpose of paying their respects to the Marquis were present in his chamber when his steward came in and said that a fisherman had brought some of the finest fish in all Italy, but demanded a most extraordinary price.

"No matter about the price," said the Marquis; "buy the fish, and pay him his money."

"So I would," said the steward, "but he refuses to take money."

"Then what does he want?"

"A hundred strokes with a whip, and he says he will not throw off a single blow." The whole company hereupon ran downstairs to see what sort of a fisherman it was who demanded so singular a price for his fish.

"These are beautiful fish," said the Marquis. "Come, my man, how much money do you want for them?"

"Not a penny, my lord," said the fisherman. "I will not take money; if you wish to have the fish you must order me a hundred lashes on my bare back, otherwise I shall apply elsewhere."

"Rather than lose the fish," said the Marquis, "we must let this fellow have what he asks. Here!" he cried to one of his grooms, "pay this man his hundred lashes which he so honestly demands, but don't lay them on too hard; don't hurt him very much."

The fisherman stripped for the whipping, and the groom prepared to do his master's bidding.

"Now, my friend," said the fisherman, "keep the account correctly, I beg of you; for I don't want a stroke more than is my due."

The whole company were astonished at the bravery with which the man bore the infliction until he had received the fiftieth lash.

Then he cried out:

"Hold, my friend; I have had my full share of the price now."

"Your share," exclaimed the Marquis; "what do you mean?"

"I have a partner, my lord, to whom I promised a full half of whatever I got for my fish; and I think your lordship would say that it would be a shame to deprive him of a single stroke."

"Who is your partner?"

"Your porter, my lord, who keeps the outer gate; he refused to admit me to the grounds until I had promised him half of what I should get for the fish."

"Ho, ho!" said the Marquis; "that is the sort of business, is it? Well, you have had your pay, and now, indeed, your partner shall have the other half."

The dishonest porter received the payment in full measure, and the Marquis sent the fisherman away with twenty sequins.

RELIGION AND MODERN SCIENCE.

God vanished long ago, iwis,
A mere subjective synthesis,
A doll, stuffed out with hopes and fears,
Too homely for us pretty dears,
Who want one that conviction carries,
Last make of London or of Paris.
He gone, I felt a moment's spasm,
But calmed myself with Protoplasm,
A finer name, and, what is more,
As enigmatic as before;
The men who labour to revise
Our Bibles, will, I hope, be wise,
And print it, without foolish qualms,
Instead of "God" in David's psalms;
Noll had been more effective far,
Could he have shouted at Dunbar,
"Rise, Protoplasm!" No dourest Scot
Had waited for another shot.

And yet I frankly must confess
A secret unforgivingness,
And shudder at the saving chrism
Whose best New Birth is Pessimism.

Our dear and admirable Huxley
Cannot explain to me why ducks lay,
Or, rather, how into their eggs
Blunder potential wings and legs
With will to move them and decide
Whether in air or lymph to glide.
Who gets a hair's-breath on by shewing
That Something Else set all agoing?
Farther and farther back we push
From Moses and his burning bush;
Cry, "Art Thou there?" Above, below,
All nature mutters *yes* and *no*!
'T is the old answer: we're agreed
Being from Being must proceed,
Life be Life's source. I might as well
Obey the meeting-house's bell,
And listen while Old Hundred pours
Forth through the summer-opened doors,
From old and young. I hear it yet,
Swelled by bass-viol and clarinet,
While the grey minister with face
Radiant, let loose his noble bass.
If heaven it reached not, yet its roll
Waked all the echoes of the soul,
And in it many a life found wings
To soar away from sordid things.
Church gone, and singers too, the song
Sings to me voiceless all night long.
Till my soul beckons me afar,
Glowing and trembling like a star.
Will any scientific touch
With my worn wings achieve as much?

—*James Russell Lowell in the Atlantic Monthly.*

AFGHAN BOUNDARY COMMISSION IN A STORM.

It was, in fact, just all that man and horse could do to struggle against the violence of the wind. It was then proposed to halt and camp in the first sheltered spot come to. For some inexplicable reason, it was decided to go on to Chashma-i-sabz. Had they camped in the Au-safid Pass many lives would have been saved. Starting from Gulran at 7.30, the cavalry reached Chashma-i-sabz early in the afternoon. Arrived there, they and all the officers, the native *attachés*, and others with them, found themselves without servants, without food, without tents, and nothing to drink but muddy water. Captain Heath and Lieutenant Wright started back with sowars and ponies to bring in helpless stragglers. They went back three or four miles, and having then picked up as many men, utterly powerless and some dying, as the ponies could carry, they returned to camp. The men of the 11th Bengal Lancers behaved admirably throughout. A number of them came into camp almost paralysed with cold, and were tended and cared for by their comrades with the greatest kindness. Many men were seen to deprive themselves of the warm clothing they so much needed to give it to their suffering fellow-soldiers. They had but one tent among them, and throughout the night, it is said, they took it turn about by tens at a time to sit in this tent. Sleep there was none, neither for officer nor man, except the sleep of death, and that was only vouchsafed to a few. That many natives prayed for it, I have little doubt. Britons are not so fond of death as all that. Such servants and syces as had come in were either prostrate and numbed—in fact, crumpled up—with cold, or, as it was graphically expressed, shivering and chattering idiots. . . . The cold was intense, the floors of the tents were puddles, and the violent wind repeatedly drew the pegs. Almost every dog in camp died that night. Nine, it is said took refuge in one of the officers' tents, thereby preserving their own lives and keeping their owners warm. As for those poor fellows who had no tents, they lay down anywhere in a poshtin blanket or a numdah, or in their ordinary clothing, and passed the night as best they could. The animals stood starving and shivering, saddled as they came in and without jhools, some wandering away in the night in search of food and getting lost. Those that were securely picketed turned their tails to the snow and biting blast; next morning their tails were a bunch of icicles. In the morning those poor fellows who had to pass the night in the open air were found covered with snow. General Lumsden was out at 5 a.m. on the 5th to see what could be done, both to aid and rescue stragglers and succour those who had lain out all night in the cold. As one of the officers said, when they first went round in the early morning among the figures lying motionless on the ground, some silent, some moaning, they shuddered to think that half of them might be dead. General Lumsden did all in his power to assist and relieve the miserable natives. Subadar Mahomed Husain Khan managed to collect wood, light a fire, and make some tea. Here all in distress were welcome, and having had a warm and a cup of tea, retired in favour of the next batch. Three men were found dead in the morning, and many others were, it is feared, frostbitten. Large numbers were missing, including some sowars. Many horses were found dead. —*Travels with the Afghan Boundary Commission. By Lieutenant A. C. Yate Bombay Staff Corps.*

THE AMERICAN MARQUIS.

The author of this clever little book has broken new ground in his vivid sketches of certain phases of Parisian life which will have the charm of novelty to many English readers. His descriptions of the manners and customs of a certain section of the American Colony in Paris are written with much humour and apparent truthfulness. The Dentist Marquis, with his shoddy Château of Monplaisir, his shoddy guests, and shoddy entertainments, deserves to rank as a creation; so, too, does Mr. Flossage, the delightful correspondent of a London daily, who concocts his Parisian letters in a café, with the aid of a file of French newspapers and a dictionary. There is plenty of incident in the book, and the plot is sufficiently enthralling, including a pretty love interest and a tragic element in the life history of the fine old Polish nobleman, who sinks to the position of a painter's model and first violin in a Montmartre orchestra, but "The American Marquis" is a long way ahead of the average shilling thriller, in respect to its literary style and clever character studies. It is a book that will attain considerable notoriety, and many thousands of copies, we are informed, have already been sold in London and Paris.

THE STROUD WATER COMPANY.

The Advertisement of this Company appears in our Advertising columns. A full prospectus will be sent to any one applying at the offices of the Company. Relative to this necessary and important undertaking the following appears in "The Capitalist" of Mar. 3rd: "We are informed that numerous subscriptions have been received for the capital of this undertaking. It does not offer the fascination of a gold mine or the attractions of beer, but it is a very solid undertaking and one of a kind that will certainly outlive the first and is absolutely necessary to the second. The chances are that an investment of £1,000 put in a good water company, a gold mine, and a brewery at the same time, and compared after a lapse of ten years, would show the water company investment to have proved the best. The Stroud Water Company is a genuine plodding undertaking organised by highly respectable and business-like gentlemen. It will afford a fair return and give satisfaction to those who may embark in it. The subscription lists are to be closed shortly. Applications for shares should be made without delay. All Water stocks have advanced this week."

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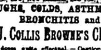
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"RENAN AND MOSES."

Mr Jon. C. Wylie, schoolmaster, Blackhill, has the following letter in Wednesday's issue of the *Newcastle Daily Journal*:—

SIR,—I may presume that every literary reader of your journal felt, and feels under great obligations to you for your late articles on Renan and his recent works on "Israel." The articles were especially pertinent to the present time, when agnosticism of every hue and form, literary, historical, and theological, permeates and pervades the whole atmosphere of thought. Yet after all this, pervasive agnosticism has its comic side; as those same agnostics of our common doctrines of resurrection are themselves engaged in resurrecting all the negations of the past centuries. Those galvanised skeletons of a long sepulchred unbelief wriggle for a few days their wierd and grizzled forms, and then again, like legendary vampires, hurry to their tombs. To any one versed in the "encyclopædian" infidelity of the last century, commencing, say with Voltaire, and terminating with Volney and Dupuis, it will be no new thing to have not only a mythical Moses, but even a mythical Christ gibbering at them through the dead centuries. Those unbeliefs, pulverised by the giant intellects of Lardner, Butler, Paley, and the German Christian school of the last age, were again resurrected in England in the early part of the present age by the Rev Robert Taylor and his henchman, Richard Carlile. Taylor, in his "Astro-theological Lectures," and Carlile in his "Republican," follow in the wake of Dupuis in his "Origines de tous Religiones," and disembody not only Moses and Christ, but also the patriarchs and apostles; consigning all of them to the sun and the twelve signs of the Zodiac. To Taylor and Carlile succeeded Charles Southwell, Mrs Emma Martin, Logan Mitchell, and the "German Jew," who was the first English translator of Strauss's "Leben Jesu." Southwell in its brochure "Christianity proved Idolatory," and the German Jew in the "Existence of Christ Disproved," and the last galvanisers in England of that astronomical mythos. If I mistake not, Thomas Cooper's very excellent book, "The Bridge of History," was written against the school of Taylor (chiefly). No doubt many of your *old* readers will have heard Mr Southwell in Newcastle well-nigh forty years ago. His lithe form, ready wit, and merry smile made him quite a fovourite with the sceptical party, both male and female. He figured under the name of "Snowball" in an "odorous" novel called the "Merry Wives of London," published in London in 1850. Reading the novel at that period, I thought the Snowball Southwell perfection in its literary embodiment. Poor "Charlie" died in Australia some thirty years ago holding a Wesleyan secretaryship. "Alas, poor Yorick; I knew him well, Horatio: a fellow of infinite jest." When in London I occasionally visited his lecture room in Blackfriars Road to hear his "lively" thunder, which was not the Alpine "live thunder" of Byron leaping "from peak to peak;" not the thunder of Jove, but the much pleasanter thunder of Puck and of Bottom.

It may interest your literary readers to know that the Jewish reviewers place the present work of Renan upon a low platform, and have given it a severe scathing in their reviews. Some very pertinent utterances upon it have occasionally appeared during the past few months in the pages of the *Jewish World*, to which I may direct the attention of your readers.

And here, by the way, I might suggest the service that an exhaustive book upon the varied forms of unbelief during the last three ages would effect, as showing the utter want of originality in our modern sceptical writings and modes of thought. Such a work would be a service in preventing mere book-makers from galvanising long defunct deliriums, and thus subject themselves to a painful "running the gauntlet" of a literary scourging.

APPOINTMENT OF OVERSEERS.

The Lanchester Bench are to-day (Thursday) proceeding to confirm the selection of the vestries in regard to the appointment of overseers for the several townships in the Union for the incoming year. In consequence of having to go to press a day earlier with this issue, we are unable to publish the details this week. We have also been compelled to omit several of the township meetings, several only taking place last (Wednesday) night or to-day.

THE EVANGELISTIC SERVICES AT CONSETT.

[BY A VISITOR.]

Having occasion to be walking in the direction of the Fountain at Consett on Sunday evening, I observed a group of men and women singing. There was a large crowd of onlookers. Wondering within myself what could be taking place, I came to the conclusion that it was the Wesleyan choir discoursing their favourite pieces to the world at large. But on drawing near, I saw that it was the Primitive Methodist body with a female speaker in their midst. I learned that they were putting forth an extra effort towards "converting" the inhabitants. Standing for a short while, I heard the lady evangelist deliver an exhortation to those that had assembled, warning them to "flee from the wrath to come," and seek salvation, and she felt assured that if we did this it would make us better men and women. Upon the advice given, I wended my way with the crowd to the chapel, where we arrived about service time, and thinking there would be plenty of room, I was in hopes of getting a good seat. But on entering the door, I found the place was packed. Imagining I was doomed to disappointment, I persevered until I reached the landing of the gallery, and was on the point of consoling myself with a standing position, when one of the brethren kindly placed me in a comfortable seat. While seated there, I looked upon the vast concourse of people who had assembled to hear the woman preach, I thought what an attraction there must be about a lady-preacher, in order to draw this great congregation together. If an ordinary minister had been announced to preach that night, there would not have been one-half of that number present. The good lady was not long in entering the rostrum, and opened out the service by giving out one of Sankey's beautiful hymns, which was heartily sung, "I am thine, O Lord." After the hymn, the lady evangelist called upon one of the members to engage in prayer. Devotional exercise being over, another hymn was sung; then followed a lesson from Isaiah liii. After one or two ceremonies, Mrs Phillipson then gave out the text: "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?" In the course of her opening remarks, she said she was not going to preach a sermon; but if she did not preach she certainly made a very strong appeal to her hearers to accept Christ as their Saviour. She certainly excelled in the simplicity of her language as she placed the gospel before her hearers, and during the course of her exhortation she held the congregation spell-bound, and closed the service by singing that well-known solo, "Pray, brethren, pray."

THE RECENT SNOWSTORM AND THE PRICE OF BUTTER.—On Tuesday, there was a larger quantity of butter and eggs for sale in Hexham market than usual, and butter was sold at from 10d to 1s per pound; indeed, a quanity was bought as low as 9d per pound. Eggs sold at 12 to 13 for 1s.

WELDON'S LADIES' JOURNAL.—The April number of this useful monthly is brimful with spring designs, a paper pattern of a new French gored skirt and a coloured plate of spring mantles and costumes are given away, the number being most profusely illustrated with spring mantles, costumes, jackets, bridal toilettes, bridesmades' dresses, French bodices, millinery, &c., with practical instructions how to cut out and make up at home. Paper patterns made be had of any of the designs by the aid of which our fair readers should not have any difficulty in making their dresses at home; quite a host of topics of interest to ladies are discussed in this number.

No. 28 OF WELDON'S PRACTICAL NEEDLEWORK is devoted to netting being beautifully illustrated with fine wood engravings with practical instructions how to net 32 articles for home and personal adornment. This is a most useful magazine, entirely devoted to fancy work, each number being complete. We commend this publication to ladies as being thoroughly practical and useful. Both magazines are published by Weldon and Co., 7, Southampton Street, Strand, London.

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

THE GOWER ELECTION.—The result of the election for the Gower Division of Glamorganshire was declared on Wednesday as follows:—Randell (G), 3,914; Llewellyn (C), 3,358; majority, 606.

FATAL RESULTS OF A PIT ACCIDENT AT TANFIELD.

On Monday afternoon, Mr John Graham, district coroner, held an inquest at the hostelry of Mr John Urwin, the Pack Horse Inn, Tanfield relative to the death of a youth named Robert Greener, aged 18 years, living at No. 7, John Street, Tanfield Lea. It appears that the deceased was a putter at the Ann Pit—Shield Row Seam—at Tanfield Lea. On the 10th Dec. last, he was waiting for the hewer named Matthew Black, filling his tub. Greener was sitting by the wayside, when a large stone fell from the roof, crushing the boy very badly on the back. He lingered for 15 weeks, and expired on Saturday last, being attended by Dr T. Benson, of West Stanley.—A verdict of "Accidental death" was recorded by the jury.

FORTHCOMING FOOTBALL.

The Leadgate Exiles seem to have a large programme this Eastertide, as they have no less than six matches on hand, viz:—Two with Newcastle North-Eastern, on Good Friday; two on Saturday with Gateshead St. Mary's, and on Easter Monday, they will try conclusions with the Sunderland Sands' Rovers.

BIRTLEY V. SCRATCH TEAM.—A match will be played on Birtley ground on Good Friday, between Birtley 2nd and J. W. Coates's scratch team, consisting of 15 players. Teams:—Scratch team—J. Adams, J. Kennair, H. Burn, J. Render, B. McDonald, T. Rock, W. Harle, M. Chrisp, W. Joyce, R. Render, J. W. Coates, J. Coutt, J. Little, T. Roxby, and T. Summers. Birtley 2nd team—P. Carr, G. Halliday, J. Thompson, J. Hunter, J. Burn, P. Potter, R. Edgar, T. Knox, A. Williams, W. Williams, and J. Means.

TOURNAMENT AT SHOTLEY SPA GROUNDS.

In keeping with the spirit of energy and enterprise displayed by the lessees (Messrs Wilson Bros.) in former years, various attractions are to be provided at the Shotley Spa Grounds this Eastertide; and if the weather only keeps fine and open, doubtless large attendances will be the result. The chief items on the programme embrace the Rugby and Association football tournament, in which such well-known exponents of the game as Messrs T. D. Dales (Medomsley), T. K. Dobson and F. Dobson (Whitburn), T. Jameson (Consett), and Hodgson (Tudhoe), will take part. The following are the matches arranged to be played:—Easter Monday—Consett v. Tudhoe (R); Whitburn v Medomsley (A); Benwell Hill v Shotley Bridge St. Cuthbert's (R). Easter Tuesday—Consett v Hamsterlis (scratch team) (R); Consett 2nd v St. Cuthbert's, Shotley Bridge (R); Medomsley v East End (Newcastle) (A). It is understood that the lessees offer balls to be competed for; therefore some really scientific play may be anticipated.

MARRIAGE.

[CONTRIBUTED BY "INCEDO."]

Much has been said under this head of late, some very good things and not a few foolish ones. The decrease of marriage has given rise to no little criticism, such as it is; but it is doubtful whether the scribes have been able to throw much light on the evil complained of. I have examined in detail the utterances of the gentlemen who have thought fit to enlighten the world on the reasons why, in their opinions, fewer men marry in these days than in former times; and if there is one characteristic of the controversy more strikingly defined then another, that feature is the utter absence of spontaneous feeling. Marriage is spoken of in the light of a purely business transaction. In short, it is put as plain as it can well be expressed in words, that some men imagine that they must needs choose a wife just as they would choose a horse or dog. Affection, the keystone of the sacred union known by the name of marriage, is so much ignored that the general reader is apt to conjecture that this mysterious influence, which knits society together as with an unseen chord, has disapeared from the world without having left even a trace behind. It is to be regretted that such ideas, which are certainly very much at variance with facts, should have commanded so much attention. A woman is not a beast of burden that she must needs be placed in the balance, and so many points placed to her credit, as the prospect of her usefulness may, or may not, influence the man who sets himself the task of wife hunting. The old song says:—"Its love for love that I like best," &c., and true it is, whatever may be said to the contrary, that if happiness in wedlock is the end desired, it must flow through that channel, and that alone. The man who is devoid of sentiment in the interesting transaction of marriage had better avoid it altogether if he values his peace of mind. I am led to assume from the tenor of the views expressed by certain bachelors, that the decrease of marriages is due to the fact, as stated, that woman-kind is not what the sex used to be. There may be some truth in the observation; but the stricture is equally true in its application to the masculine sex. It is the old story of physician heal thyself. Woman has been ever regarded as the weaker vessel, a kind of tender plant of more than earthly fragrance, that having become linked to an object it had learned to love, clung to it through the manifold changes of changing time. Such, in brief, is woman; but in unison with a common law, it follows as "night and day," that this gem of "purest ray serene" must be treasured, or its lustre may become tarnished. I mention this simply because there is seemingly an opinion abroad that the gain should all be on the side of the "Lord of creation"—hence the cry, the young women of to-day are so-and-so. Let me counsel the gentlemen who hold such ideas, that if they have no nobler views of the position which a wife should occupy in her home and in the world, let such men remain for ever in a state of single blessedness. For a man to go fishing for a wife is a downright insult to womankind. The man who proceeds on the lines indicated will learn when it is too late that he has made a fatal error. A woman worthy of the name will submit to discomforts of the most trying description, conditionally that she holds the place, however humble, of counsellor and friend; but should she learn that she has been selected as a mere factotum, it is not to be supposed that the man who has taken a wife under such conditions will never know to the full the intrinsic worth of a woman's love.

Sporting Items.

WRESTLING AT PRUDHOE.—Another of the series of competitions for the silver cup for 10st. men was brought off at Mr Tulip's, Half-way House, as follows:—Finals—J. Robson, West Wylam, threw Kilrale, Prudhoe, twice, and won.

RABBIT COURSING AT DIPTON.—The sweep promoted by Thomas Gibson, at the house of Thomas McKenna, Hill Top, resulted as follows:—First round—What's That beat Little Jim, Wandering Willie beat Tip the Button, Brandy beat Last Sixpence, Little Jim beat What's That, Tip the Button beat Wait for Me, Tim Bobbin beat Nellie, Watch her go off beat Jennet, Bonnie Mary beat Polly on the Way, Barmaid beat Puffer, Last Sixpense beat Watch her go off, Barmaid beat Blunt One, Bonnie Mary beat Puffer. Second round—What's That beat Wandering Willie, Little Jim beat Brandy, Tim Bobbin beat Tip the Button, Watch her go off beat Wait for Me, Barmaid beat Wait for Me, Last Sixpence beat Barmaid, Bonnie Mary a bye. Stake divided.

WRESTLING COMPETITION AT CONSETT.—The first wrestling competition for men of all weights commenced on Saturday night at the house of Mr Henry Lee, Coach and Horses Inn, Consett, the proprietor offering a valuable prize to be contested for. There was a numerous company present. Results:—First round—John Young, Bulgill, threw J. Blacklock, Lintz Green; Wm. Turnbull, Blackhill, threw T. Milcer, Castleside; W. Lochrane, Consett, odd man. Second round—Lochrane threw Turnbull; Young, odd man. Final falls—Lochrane threw Young in the first and third, and won.—Messrs Laidlaw and Miller officiated as umpires, while Mr John Graham was referee.

MISSION ENTERTAINMENT AT STANHOPE.

On Saturday evening, a very successful entertainment, followed by a ham-and-coffee supper, was held at High Street Chapel, Stanhope, in connection with Miss Earl's mission. Mr W. M. Egglestone presided, and Mr J. J. Collingwood (harmonium), Mr C. F. Tinkler (cornet), and W Collingwood (violin), rendered the instrumental parts, and Miss Johnson and Miss Gowland also rendered accompaniments on the harmonium to those friends from Frosterley, who contributed so much to the evening's success. These Frosterley friends, in addition to the two ladies referred to, were Mr J. Gardner, Mr J. Gowland, and Miss Rowe. The Misses Stephensons, (2) of Bolihope, were also present. The chapel was crowded to the very door, and some could not get in, and had to go away. The proceedings were opened by a hymn sung by the whole company, and prayer offered by Mr W. Jackson, who has been conducting the mission for a few weeks, whilst Miss Earl was labouring in other parts of the country.—The Chairman, in a few brief remarks, stated that Miss Earl had during the last few weeks been labouring in connection with the Wesleyan society at Page Bank, Willington, with marked success, as a large number had been added to the society, and a most pleasing feature of her labours was the establishment of a Help-myself Society, which promised to be a great blessing, as nearer 200 than 100 adults had already signed the pledge, with a view of becoming members. (Applause)—The first piece was a solo, "Rose of Allendale," nicely given by Miss A Gowland, followed by a humorous reading, "Nancy in a barrow," given by Miss Rowe. A song "The Friar of Orders Grey" was the next piece, and was exceedingly well rendered by Mr W. Waller, who, on being *encored*, sung "Every bullet has its billet" in his usual good style. "The log-cabin in the lane" was next sung by Mr J. Gardner, and received applause, and this was followed by "The drunkard's child." This piece was well sung by Miss Meggie Stephenson, of Bolihope, as to bring forth continued applause. "Waiting for pa" was next sung very charmingly by Miss F. Collingwood; and Miss Gowland and Miss Johnson followed with a duet, "Waiting for me," nicely rendered. Mr Waller gave another good song, "The tar's look-out," and was well applauded. This was followed by Miss Polly Stephenson singing "No tears in heaven," being so well rendered that this singer had to come back on to the boards to satisfy the audience and sing it again. Another reading, "A set fight" was given by Miss Rowe; this was followed by a nice song, "The log cabin in the dell,' which was very well given by Mr Gowland. The programme was closed by a glee, "Peace be still," by the Frosterley party. The programme was highly satisfactory, and the Chairman proposed, and Mr Jackson seconded, a vote of thanks to the Frosterley party for rendering such service towards the entertainment, and the thanks, on the behalf of Miss Earl, were duly accorded, and included those other friends who had rendered assistance.—At the close, a ham-and-coffee supper was helk, and Miss Young, of York, was present at the supper; and on Sunday this lady opened a series of services at High Street Chapel, continuing each evening.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC JOTTINGS.

[BY THE "OLD CROW."]

One of the most delightful concerts I have attended for a very long time past was that which formed part of the programme in connection with the recent Home Rule demonstration at the New Town Hall, Consett. Messrs Sloane, Kelly, and the rest of the committee are to be congratulated warmly on its financial as well as its artistic success; and also on having introduced to Consett so accomplished a vocalist as Madame Whatford, whose charming rendering of Arditi's melodious vocal waltz, "Il Bacio," placed her at once head and shoulders—if the expression may be used—above all soprano vocalists who have previously appeared on the platform of the New Town Hall. This is, I am aware, high praise to give, and if it were not warranted to the full, it would not be given. But it is more than warranted, as all who had the pleasure of hearing this accomplished lady on the occasion referred to will, I am sure, be ready to vouch for. Madame Whatford is the fortunate possessor of a soprano voice of delightful purity, mellowness, and power, and, what is perhaps quite as important, understands the artistic handling of it. It is really a pleasure to write in her praise.

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But in addition to this lady we were introduced to another stranger on the occasion referred to—viz., Mr J. L. Campion who, judging from the favour with which his various songs were received, will not long remain a stranger to Consett audiences. Mr Campion has a really rich sonorous bass voice of good compass. And then there was an old Consett favourite in the person of Mr Whitehead who, on his re-appearance, was well received. Mr Whitehead may almost be designated a veteran tenor, but that "There is life in the old dog yet" was very significantly shown, and his various efforts were deservedly and warmly applauded.

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Miss Cairns, who of course must be called "our own particular star," was as successful as ever, and as usual was *encored* vociferously for each item. The programme went briskly from beginning to end; there were no awkward "waits," and the audience kept enthusiastic to the last. A more successful concert, or one more enjoyable, I have seldom attended.

—o—

The Consett and District Choral Society announce their performance of Balfe's "Bohemian Girl" for Tuesday first. When, some six months ago, it became known that "The Bohemian Girl" was the item for rehearsal, it was hazarded in this column that the selection was a happy one, that we had had somewhat too much of oratorio, and that patrons were anxious for a change. I have no reason whatever to alter the opinion then expressed. The coming production has been quite the talk of the town since the date was fixed; tickets are going well, and everything points to, at any rate, a thoroughly financial success. I have reason to know that the Committee regret being forced to increase the prices for the occasion. They would much have preferred, if they could have seen their way clear, to have kept them at the old figures; but in view of the heavy expenses, amounting, I am informed, to over £40, this was found to be impracticable. The principal vocalists engaged are—Madame Clara Marie Whatford (soprano); Mr J. L. Campion (bass), of whom I have spoken above; Mr Nutton (baritone), and Mr Welch (tenor), whose abilities need no comment here, both of them being so well-known amongst us. These are to be supplemented by Miss Cairns (soprano), and Mr C. Stelling (tenor). The chorus will number some 150 voices. It may reasonably be expected that the chorus having had a very fair amount of practice, will be pretty perfect, and that with the assistance of an orchestra, numbering something short of twenty instrumentalists—many of them from Mr Amer's well-known orchestra at Newcastle—their part of the opera will be efficiently rendered. I hope this may prove a correct conjecture. Of the professional vocalists sufficient is known to warrant the assumption that in their quarter all will be well; there need be no apprehension on that score. I hope, and firmly believe, there will be a crowded house on the occasion, as for the rest—well, "The rest remains behind." So now ye choral members, man and maiden alike, see that ye do well your duty!

—o—

I was really sorry to see so poor an audience at the New Town Hall, Consett, on Saturday evening, when the members of the South Derwent Brass Band gave an excellent instrumental concert. There may be something in what the Chairman (Mr J. Orr) said as to defective advertising; but may not the night have had something to do with the attendance? It is proverbial that Saturday is a bad night here at all times. On their next visit let them select another, and I prophesy a different result.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CHESTER-LE-STREET UNION.

From the annual report of the Chester-le-Street Rural Sanitary Inspector (Mr Barrass) we find that the accounts received from the managers of the several collieries in the Union, show the following expenditure for sanitary work during the year:—

West Pelton, Twizell, Handen Hold, and Beamish Collieries.—To erecting and improving privies and ashpits, making new channels and sewers, and providing disinfectants and scavenging—£211 15s 8d.

Harraton and Lumley.—To laying new drains at Lumley, Fatfield, and Portobello, with gullies and traps complete, opening, cleansing, and re-laying old drains, building new privies at Nova Scotia and other sanitary works—£200 2s 1d.

Sacriston and Nettlesworth.—To scavenging and cleansing ashpits and channels, including Byron Row, Edmondsley—£155 7s 0d

Pelton Fell.—To building ashpits and privies, cleansing and repairing channels, &c.—£80 0s 0d.

Washington.—To completing the erection of ashpits and privies at New York, cleaning and repairing channels, &c.—£58 11s 0d

Ouston.—To repairing and cleansing sewers, and building privies and ashpits—£32 0s 0d.

Waldridge.—To repairing channels, and re-laying water pipes from the wood to the cistern at the Low Row—£20 8s 7d.

Springwell.—To building new ashpits, cleansing and flushing drains and sewers, removing the contents of ashpits, and other nuisances—£46 0s 0d.

Showing a total expenditure by the colliery owners of—£804 4s 4d; and by the Sanitary Authority of—£1790 16s 10d. Total—£2595 1s 2d.

GUARDIAN NOMINATIONS.

CHESTER-LE-STREET UNION.

For the first time the ratepayers of this Union will be called upon, this year, to elect their Guardians for a term of three years, in accordance with the result of a poll taken last year, which decided in favour of triennial elections, contests are threatened in seven townships, much interest being centred in those of Chester-le-Street and Birtley. In the township of Chester-le-Street the three retiring Guardians are again nominated, but there is an opposition directed against Mr Mitchell, against whom Mr Joseph Witherspoon is brought out. At Birtley, one of the sitting members, Mr Chas. Robson, is the subject of attack, and an indignation meeting decided to run Mr John Falion Swinburn against that gentleman. There are also other candidates in that township. The full list of nominations is given in page 3 of this issue.

HEXHAM UNION.

The nominations of Guardians for the Hexham Union have been received by Mr Isaac Baty, jun., clerk to the Union, and the Returning Officer, which show that there will be a contested election in the case of Corbridge township, the following three gentlemen having been nominated:—Mr Thomas Reed, farmer, Town Farm; Mr C. G. Young, Dunkirk Terrace; and Mr Thomas Forrester, farmer, Hampstead—in addition to the two retiring Guardians, viz., the Rev F. Richardson, vicar, and Mr John Green, farmer, Heron's Hill. Three were nominated for Chollerton township, viz., Mr J. W. Nichol, Park House; Mr J. Fenwick, The Armitage; and Mr J. Robson, Middle Farm. Only two being required, a contest has been avoided by the withdrawal of Mr Robson. For Prudhoe, three Guardians are returned in case of one previously. These are Mr T. Bates, colliery owner, and Mr John Tulip, in addition to the old Guardian, Mr S. Little. For Hexham, in addition to four old Guardians who are re-elected, viz., Mr Jos. Alexander, Mr J. Wray, Mr J. Pearson, and Mr T. Davison, Mr J. Gregg, Market Place, and Mr T. W. Welford, solicitor, are returned in place of the late Colonel Nicholson and Mr J. Oswald Head, the last-named gentleman being now a magistrate, and therefore an *ex officio* member. Two Guardians instead of one as previously are returned for Warden—viz., Mr D. Brown, Paper Mill, and Mr T. Heslop, farmer; two in place of one are returned for Mickley—viz., Mr S. Pattinson and Mr Fenwick; and two for Newbrough instead of one previously—viz., Mr Thompson and Canon Cruddas, and an additional Guardian is returned for Haydon in the person of Mr Michael Gibson, East Mill Hills.

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS.

IVESTON.

The vestry meeting of the ratepayers of the township of Iveston was held in the Reading-room, Leadgate, on Tuesday evening, for the purpose of nominating overseers for the ensuing year and appointing a waywarden. Mr Wm. Brown, of Prospect House, occupied the chair.—It was proposed by Mr Brown, seconded by Mr Hetherington, and carried unanimously, that the retiring overseers be re-elected, viz:—Messrs T. Longstaff, J. J. Hedley, and Jas. Shearer. Mr Longstaff was also re-appointed waywarden.—A vote of thanks accorded to the chairman, brought the meeting to a close.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

The annual ratepayers' meeting for the Chester-le-Street township was held in the National School, on Thursday se'nnight—Mr Chas. Robson in the chair. There was a large attendance, much interest being manifested in the proceedings. The two retiring overseers, Messrs John Jopling and Thomas Thompson, were nominated for re-appointment, and along with them the names of other six ratepayers were ordered to be sent up to the Justices. Mr John Mitchell, retiring waywarden, was unanimously re-appointed for the ensuing year. Messrs Robert James Coxon, John Mitchell, and Peter Hay, the retiring Guardians, were each separately nominated for the ensuing three years. Messrs George Crichton, Thomas Burn, Joseph Witherspoon, Thomas Gray, Robert Pyle, and Charles Robson, were also nominated, but as the nominations remained open until the following Monday, and as it was understood that there would, in any case, be a poll, no vote was taken.

On the motion of Mr MITCHELL, it was resolved that he, as waywarden, be empowered to ask the sanction of the Highway Board to spend £150 for footpath improvements in the township during the year.

On the suggestion of Mr GEO. PICKERING, a small committee was appointed to undertake the formation of a fire brigade for the town.

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

Volunteer Intelligence.

DERWENT RIFLE CLUB.

The thirteenth and final handicap competition of the winter series was held on the Bucs Hills range, near Blaydon, on Saturday. The weather was fine, and there was a large attendance of members. Conditions:—Ranges 200 and 500 yards, seven shots at each distance, and one sighting shot at the longer range, any position; Wimbledon (1887) targets and scoring. Comp.-Sergt.-Major R. Catton, 1st N. and D.E.V. (Newcastle wing), was in command of the range. The light was strong, and the wind was left. Highest scores:—

	200	500	Start.	Tl.
Private J. M. Strafford, Gateshead	30	31	3	64
Private T. S. Magnay, Newcastle	30	27	—	60
Private C. Rumford, Newcastle	30	27	3	60
Sergt. C. Mossop, Gateshead	32	25	3	60
Lieut. P. Richardson, Gateshead	32	27	—	59
Sergt. R. Chilton, Newcastle A.V.	31	25	3	59

The number of competitors in the winter series just concluded is much less than in the corresponding series 1886-7. The above shoot is the last which will be held on the Bucs Hills range, which has been the shooting ground of the club since leaving the range on the Derwent at Lock Haugh, near Swalwell. The new range of the club is at Hartley Moor, near Tyne Dock.

THE LATE ACCIDENT AT VICTORIA GARESFIELD COLLIERY.

On Friday, an inquest was held at Victoria Garesfield Schools, on the body of Anthony Laws, aged 46, who lost his life under circumstances reported in these columns last week.—After hearing the evidence, a verdict of accidental death was returned by the jury.—The deceased man leaves a widow and seven children to mourn his loss. Two of his sons are working at Victoria Garesfield Colliery.

THE ACCIDENT TO A POLICEMAN AT BLAYDON.

A sad accident happened recently to P.C. Scurrah, removed from Heighington to Stargate Colliery, Blaydon, a short time ago. The unfortunate officer was knocked down and run over by some waggons on an incline, almost severing one of his legs. After the accident, Scurrah (who had received ambulance training at Darlington) grasped the fractured limb and directed the men about him where to fasten the cord, and how to twitch it to stop the bleeding. On the arrival of the doctor (who lived two miles away) he said that the officer had saved his life without a doubt. So serious was the injury to the limb that amputation had to be performed. We are glad to say that Scurrah is doing well.

THE BISHOP OF NEWCASTLE AND HEXHAM.

VISIT TO USHAW COLLEGE.

On Wednesday, the Right Rev Dr O'Callaghan visited Ushaw College for the first time. His lordship, who was accompanied by the Very Rev Canon Wilkinson (vicar-general), arrived at the college shortly after five p.m., and was received by the Very Rev Dr Lennon (president of the college) and Rev Thomas Tatlock (vice-president). This being Passion Week the occasion was not marked by any special reception ceremony, and no addresses were given. The only duty which his lordship will perform will be the consecration of the holy oils to-day (Thursday). The present visit extends until Saturday, when his lordship will return to Newcastle, in order to officiate at St. Mary's Cathedral on Easter Sunday.

CHESTER-LE-STREET AND DISTRICT NOTES.

[By WEARSIDER.]

Some time ago, the ratepayers and property owners in the Chester-le-Street Union decided, by vote, to elect their Guardians triennially; that vote has been confirmed by the Local Government Board, and a few weeks hence the Guardians returned will hold office until 1891. In Chester-le-Street township several fresh candidates are nominated, and it is understood that all the sitting Guardians will offer themselves for re-election. A spirited, but it is hoped not spiteful, contest may be looked forward to in that township.

The popular and prevailing item of interest in Chester-le-Street and the district just now is the result of the forthcoming Guardians' election, which is to be the first of the triennial series, demanded by a majority, and sanctioned by the Local Government Board. There are to be contests in seven townships—Chester-le-Street, Birtley, Lamesley, Pelton, Usworth, Washington, and Witton Gilbert, the contests in Birtley and Chester-le-Street being looked forward to with special interest. At Birtley a set has been made against Mr Charles Robson, who has sat on the Board for nine years, and at an "indignation" meeting held last week, it was decided to discard him. Mr Robson has, however, issued his address, and is again in the field with his colleague, the Rev W. W. Phillipson, against three nominees of the "indignation" party.

At Chester-le-Street, all the three retiring members are again in the field, so is Mr George Edward Steele, a former Guardian, but who had not a seat last year. Mr Joseph Witherspoon is also nominated, and he, along with Mr Peter Hay, one of the old members, have formed a coalition to defeat Mr Mitchell, who has been on the Board five years. In addressing the ratepayers, Mr Witherspoon says he relies, to a great extent, upon the fact that he is a native of the town, and speaks of himself as a "Chester Lad." He also says that he has not taken any interest in public affairs for some years, and consequently knows nothing of parochial matters, but promises to learn all about them. All the candidates are prosecuting a vigorous canvass, and the whole mass of greasy electoral machinery is lumbering along in its usual style. Excitement, however, is none the less intense, and all the usual stock jokes are again brought to the front. Among the chaff, one of the best jokes is that Mr Witherspoon, who is an enthusiastic admirer of Mr Gladstone, has written to that gentleman for an expression of opinion respecting the election! Whether the right hon. gentleman has replied or not the jokists do not say.

The road between Pelton Fell and Chester-le-Street has for a long time been in a very bad state, but during the last spell of bad weather it has been worse than ever, and loud and deep have been the imprecations heaped upon the heads of those who are supposed to be responsible for its keeping. A change is, I am glad to say, to be made. Mr Mitchell, who has been re-elected as waywarden, informs me that he had, previous to the expiration of his term of office, arranged for a series of improvements and alterations to be carried out over the full length of the road. The footpaths are to be put in good order, and the dangerous Burnt House Bank is to be improved at a considerable cost. The energetic waywarden hopes before the advent of next winter to have every cause for grumbling removed from that portion of the roads under his control.

Public servants, in a usual way, "get more kicks than ha'pennies," and oftener have fault found with them than the slightest mead of praise bestowed upon their efforts. It was quite refreshing, therefore, to hear a large and influential ratepayers' meeting thanking, by vote, Mr McGregor, the surveyor for the Durham and Cheste-le-Street Highway Board. This was done at Chester-le-Street on Thursday se'nnight, when Mr McGregor's ability and energy were spoken of in the superlative degree.

During the recent snowstorm, a son of Mr James Green, fishmonger, Chester-le-Street, found a purse containing £4 15s. After having had the purse in his possession for upwards of a hour, he saw, on his return journey over the road, a man who appeared to be looking for something. On enquiry, the lad learned that the man had lost a purse. "I have found it," said the boy, and forthwith handed it over. The man looked inside the purse, put it into his pocket, and walked off without saying a single word! Whether young Green has been rendered any more verdant by this conduct, will probably be known when he finds another purse.

WARNING TO MINERS.—The following warning was issued yesterday (Wednesday) evening:—Since the close of the last week, the barometer has remained very low over the British Isles. A new cyclone from the Atlantic has caused a further decrease, and on Wednesday the mercury was below 29in. In nearly all parts of the country. Under these conditions, miners should carefully note any changes in the state of the gas, and especially if the barometer rises quickly.

THROAT IRRITATION AND COUGH.—Soreness and dryness tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use Epps's Glycerine Jujubes. In contact with the glands at the moment they are excited by the act of sucking, the Glycerine in these agreeable confections becomes actively healing. Sold only in boxes, 7½d., tins, 1s.1½d., labelled "James Epps & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London." Dr. George Moore, in his work on "Nose and Throat Diseases," says "The Glycerine Jujubes prepared by James Epps and Co. are of undoubted service as a curative or palliative agent," while Dr Gordon Holmes, Senior Physician to the Municipal Throat and Ear Infirmary, writes: "After an extended trial, I have found your Glycerine Jujubes of considerable benefit in almost all forms of throat disease." 21Oa

Correspondence

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

THE LANGLEY PARK CONCERT.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—Would you kindly correct the report in your last week's paper, with respect to the sacred cantata given at Langley Park by the Primitive Methodist choir, on Monday, Mar. 19th. The particulars are incorrect, especially with regard to the encores. They are out of the question, as there was no intermission from beginning to end. Kindly do this, and you will much oblige.—Yours, &c.,

JAS. HARWELL (on behalf of the choir).

Langley Park, Mar. 25th, 1888.

THE TOWNSHIP MEETING AT BENFIELDSIDE.

Mr Henry Carss, of Benfieldside, writes the subjoined communication in this (Thursday) morning's *Newcastle Leader*:—

"In your issue of yesterday (March 26th) is a report of a township meeting held at Benfieldside. Permit me to say that your reporter has drawn largely upon his imagination to make the affair as dramatic as possible. I happen to be a teetotaller, and don't give reporters cigars and whiskey. Strong things were said, I admit, but behind strong things is a history.

I know Raw, Wilson and Murray well; know their genealogy and career through life. I have great reason to keep them in my "book of remembrance." Several years ago, with others, they prosecuted me for alleged tampering with voting papers, costing me between £40 and £50, which the Liberals generously paid. These gents fully expected to have got me imprisoned for one year and nine months, but failed. Then Murray, after abusing me in the local press, brought an action against myself and the proprietor of the *Consett Guardian*, one for writing, and the other for publishing an alleged libel. He failed to get a verdict. Raw, Wilson, and Murray next tried to deprive me of the office of assistant overseer by memorialising the Local Government Board to revoke my appointment. The answer to their efforts was a public meeting to denounce their conduct, and a memorial seven-and-a-half yards long from the ratepayers, praying the L.G.B. not to accede to their request. Then an ex-publican got up a memorial to call a vestry meeting to revoke my appointment, but the ratepayers, by a majority of about 300, confirmed my appointment. I think, sir, I have much reason to say strong things to these gentlemen. Unfortunately I am a Radical—they are Tories—and that accounts for their persecution of Carss. I can afford their spite, and especially the reporter's.

CONSETT LIVERY STABLES.

T. C. RAWES & Co.,

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☞ Horses and Carriages of every description for Hire.

HEARSES & MOURNING COACHES.

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

BIRTLEY.—Morris House, the wife of G. Simpson, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

LONDON.—On the 24th inst., at Holy Trinity Church Bessborough Gardens, S.W., Wm. Jalland, second son of Henry Tournay Stiles, Esq., M.D., of Spalding, to Ethel Maud, second daughter of of the late John Annandale, Esq., of St. Cuthbert's, Shotley Bridge.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—Register Office, on the 24th inst., Francis Henry Pope to Edith Moralee, both of Stanley Colliery.

AUSTRALIA.—Queenstown, Adelaide, 7th January, John Stamp, second son of Peter Allan, of South Shields, to Lilian Mary, eldest daughter of Ralph Allan, late of Dipton.

DEATHS

CONSETT.—Middle Street, on the 26th inst., aged 17 years, Elizabeth, beloved daughter of Robert Fraser, postmaster. Interment at Benfieldside Cemetery, on Good Friday, March 30th, at Three o'clock. Friends please accept this intimation. 304z

6, West Victoria Street, 26th inst., aged 24 years, Rachel Jane, wife of Thomas Nichol, and fifth daughter of the late George Davison, Castleside.

CASTLESIDE.—Wesley Cottage, on the 28th inst., very suddenly, Anthony Hall, the beloved husband of Ann Maria Hall. To be interred at Castleside, on Saturday, March 31st. Friends please accept this intimation.

MEDOMSLEY.—On the 28th inst., aged 49 years, Elizabeth, dearly beloved wife of John N. Ballantyne. Interment on Saturday, at Three o'clock. Friends please accept this, the only intimation. 309z

IVESTON.—26th inst., aged 75 years, M. Carlton, of Byker.

EAST TANFIELD.—23rd inst., killed on Tanfield Moor Incline, Jane, beloved wife of Thos. Gedling.

VICTORIA GARESFIELD.—Accidentally killed while at his work by a fall of stone, 21st., aged 46, Anthony Laws, husband of Sarah Laws, formerly of Bill Quay.

TANFIELD LEA.—William Street, 19th inst., aged 76, Luke Thompson.

24th inst., aged 18 years, Robert, son of Jos. and Dorothy Greener.

TOW LAW.—23rd inst., John Ridley, for more than 30 years in the railway service.

WOLSINGHAM.—16 inst., Jane Ann, wife of Ralph Curry, late of Stanhope.

WEARDALE.—Brotherlee, 16th inst., aged 70, Hannah Fairless.

Westgate, on the 17th inst., aged 50 years, Mrs Kidd.

FROSTERLEY.—14th inst., aged 53, Mr Stout.

WITTON-LE-WEAR.—13th inst., aged 70, Margaret Halliwell, late of Frosterley.

KIBBLESWORTH.—24th inst., in his 87th year, George Rowell, servant of the Springfield and Kibblesworth Collieries for upwards of 60 years.

19th inst., aged 8 years, John Wm., son of George Anderson.

BLAYDON.—Cuthbert Street, 25th inst., aged 6½ years, Barbara Ann, daughter of Wm. and Ellen Brown.

USHAW MOOR.—Flass Inn, 26th inst., aged 28, Robt. Dawson.

OUSTON.—On the 16th inst., aged 64 years, John Richardson.

DURHAM.—Sutton Street, 16th inst., aged 29, Thos. R. Atkinson.

New Elvet, 16th inst., aged 85 years, Charles Gowland.

Crossgate, on the 16th inst., aged 44 years, John Holland.

TUDHOE.—15th inst., aged 12, Maria Jane, daughter of John Bradley.

AMERICA.—Roscoe, Washington County, Pennsylvania, on the 20th Feb., aged 29 years, John, youngest son of the late Robert Harrison, Pelton Fell.

MOURNING GOODS.—HUGH MORTON and CO., 55, Grainger Street, Newcastle, directs attention to their Immense Stock for Men, Youths and Boys, ready for immediate wear, in all the Newest Materials and Latest Styles. Men's Black Worsted Suits, from 21s. to 49s. 6d.; Youths' Suits from 16s. 11d.; Boys' Suits, from 6s. 11d. Single Garments at proportionate prices. Suits made to order in a few hours.

GEORGE AND J. HOPE, MONUMENTAL SCULPTORS IN MARBLE STONE, AND GRANITE, CEMETERY ROAD, BLACKHILL, AND BURNOPFIELD.

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