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

ONLY AUTHORISED AGENT for ASSISTED PASSAGES to QUEENSLAND, every Month by Steamer from London and Glasgow; and to CANADA every week from Liverpool. Passages Booked by every Principal Line to America on Lowest Terms.

☞ WANTED TO PURCHASE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE FOR CASH.

NOTE THE ADDRESS:—TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

The Consett Guardian

AND DERWENT VALLEY ADVERTISER.

ADAM BRODIE,
SHARE AND INSURANCE BROKER,
TOWN HALL, CONSETT.
LOCAL GAS, WATER, AND OTHER SHARES BOUGHT AND SOLD.
☞ DEALER IN STEAMSHIP SHARES. ☜

FIRE, LIFE, ACCIDENT, AND PLATE GLASS INSURANCE AGENCY.

ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett, wishes to draw the attention of the public to the fact that Insurances of every description can be effected through his Agency, and that the Offices he represents are noted for prompt Settlement of Claims.
NOTE.—The Oldest Insurance Agency and the only Share Broker in the District.
ADAM BRODIE, TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

No. 1,240 | REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. | FRIDAY EVENING, May 16th, 1884. | PRICE ONE PENNY.

Money.

THE INDUSTRIAL LOAN COMPANY advances Money from £5 to £500 to respectable Householders, at a moderate rate of interest and easy payments. Applications personally or by letter (strictly private), 20, Clayton Street East, Newcastle.—Manager, I. TURNER. Business hours, 10 till 5.

MONEY WITHOUT SECURITIES.—The Monetary Advance Company Lends Money from £20 to £500 to respectable householders, farmers, &c., on their own security, at moderate interest and easy repayments. Applications, personal or by letter, receive prompt attention, with the strictest privacy. Offices, Neville Street, (opposite Central Station Hotel), Newcastle-on-Tyne.—H. S. SCOTT, Manager. 539s

MONEY ADVANCED, in large and small sums in Town or Country, on Personal and Household Security, Farm Stock, Second Mortgages, Deeds, Life Policies, Building Society or any other Shares or Interest, repayable to suit borrowers' convenience, as may be arranged. Write or call on Agent. Mr. JAS. FROSDICK, Rose Mount, Consett, or direct to M. L. ROSENBERG, Cross House Chambers, 54. Westgate Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (opposite Mr. Angus, Coachbuilder.) Established 1860. 696½r

Contracts.

TO CONTRACTORS.

TO LET, the several WORKS required in Erecting Class-room, &c., at Flint Hill National School, Parish of Tanfield. Also, the several WORKS required in repairing the present Buildings, Boundary Walls, &c.

Drawings, Specifications, and Conditions of Contract may be seen and Forms of Tender obtained on and after Wednesday, the 21st inst., at our Offices, Town Hall Buildings, Shotley Bridge.

Tenders to be delivered to us on or before Saturday, the 31st inst.

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

JOHN SMITH & SON, Architects.
May 15th, 1884. 123t

Lost.

LOST, from Shotley Bridge Station, on Tuesday, a Green PARROT.—Finder will be rewarded on returning it to JOHN MAXWELL, Signalman. 117t

Wanted.

WANTED, an APPRENTICE to the Printing Business.—Apply at the *Guardian* Office. 132t

LOUGH'S POEMS.—Wanted, COPIES of any POEM by the late TOM LOUGH.—Address to Editor of *Consett Guardian*. 118t

WANTED, a strong Country GIRL, for Farmhouse: no Milking.—Apply to Mrs. HUNTER, Town Farm, Medomsley. 127t

BOARD and RESIDENCE offered to Ladies and Gentlemen. A comfortable, quiet Home.—Mrs. J. PROUD, Derwent House, Shotley Bridge. 499s

SERVANTS' REGISTRY OFFICE.

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

WANTED, at once, COOKS, HOUSEMAIDS, NURSEMAIDS, and good General SERVANTS.—Apply, Miss SCOTT's Registry Office for Male and Female Servants, 3, Saville Row, Newcastle.

EMIGRATION TO QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA.

WANTED, 500 Female Domestic Servants, Farm Labourers (married or single). Coal Miners, and all classes of Mechanics. Immediate employment upon arrival, at high wages. Free and assisted passages granted by mail steamers every month.—Apply to Local Agents, J. DALY, 2, Shakespeare St., Consett; or J. HILLARY, Auctioneer, Tow Law

WANTED, Ladies requiring SERVANTS, Male or Female, also NURSES, INVALID NURSES, &c., and Servants good Situations, can be suited daily by applying to Miss PHELAN, Servants' Institute, 75, Clayton Street, Newcastle (formerly with the late Miss Leybourne). Hotels supplied from the Bar to the Kitchen.—Wanted, daily, Cooks, Kitchen and Scullery Maids, House and Kitchen Maids, Head and Under Laundresses, General Servants, &c., &c. 15s

FREE AND ASSISTED PASSAGES TO QUEENSLAND. Five thousand Domestic Servants, Farm Labourers, Miners, Mechanics, and good workmen of all kinds Wanted at once. Immediate employment obtained at highest wages.—Apply to THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT EMIGRATION AGENCY (Chief Office for the District), 96, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD. Passages Booked to Canada, Texas, and all parts of America and Australia at exceedingly low rates. 453s

EMIGRATION! EMIGRATION! EMIGRATION.

WANTED, at once, for America, Canada, Australia, Queensland, New Zealand, and South Africa, Mechanics, Artizans, Labourers, Agriculturalists, Miners, Domestic Servants, and others. Assisted Passages to eligible Persons. Free Passages granted to South Australia to a limited number of Domestic Servants. Send Stamped Addressed Envelope for Particulars and Rates to DAVIES & COMPANY, House, Estate, and Emigration Agents, 23, Collingwood Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Handbooks on the different Colonies, price 6d. each, or 6½d. by post.

NOTICE.—Having been able to effect special arrangements with the principal Railway Companies in the United States and Canada, we can book passengers direct from Newcastle to any railway station in either the United States or Canada, at lower rates than any Agents in the North.

To Let.

TO LET, at Castleside, a small, convenient HOUSE, with Garden; Rent, 2s. 2d. a-week.—Apply at the Vicarage, Castleside. 125t

TO LET, a Three-roomed HOUSE and SHOP, situate in Front Street, Consett.—Apply to M. ALMOND, Front Street, Consett. 116t

TENTS TO LET, on reasonable terms, 120ft. by 30ft. and 60ft. by 30ft.—Apply to THOMAS CALVERT, Grocer, Medomsley, Lintz Green. 911s

TO LET, SHOP in Front Street, Consett; for many years occupied by Mr. SCAIFE, Chemist.—Apply to W. R. TAYLOR, Selby Lodge, Consett. 39t

TO LET, at Leadgate, a HOUSE of Three Rooms, and Stable.—Apply to GEORGE HAWDON, Consett. 92t

HOUSE TO LET, at Shotley Bridge, for the May Term, with 6 Rooms.—Apply to EDWARD WESTGARTH, No. 1, Derwent Street, Blackhill. 100t

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

TO LET, from May Term, HOUSE, SHOP, STABLE, COACH-HOUSE, and other Premises lately occupied by the Co-operative Society, Langley Park; suitable for Grocer, Draper, Butcher, or other business requiring good Yard and Out-building accommodation.—Apply to J. G. RUSSELL, 28, Market Place, Durham. 126t

TO LET.
ANNFIELD PLAIN AND DISTRICT MARQUEE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE Members of the above Company will LET their Marquees on the most reasonable Terms, in sizes from 20 ft by 10; 48 by 30; 84 by 30; or 100 by 30. Also, they have a small Refreshment Tent, which can be LET on favourable Terms.—For particulars apply to ROBT. HENDERSON, Catchgate, *via* Lintz Green.

For Sale.

FOR SALE, Two Through-bred FOX TERRIERS.—Apply to Mr. J. W. SCAIFE, Cemetery Road, Blackhill. 83t

TO FARMERS.—FOR SALE, a large IRON ROLLER.—Apply at the *Guardian* Office, Consett. 85t

NITRATE OF SODA, of excellent quality and low price, at Northumberland Dock and Gateshead.—Apply to SCOTT BROTHERS, 2, Queen Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 49t

FOR SALE, RIDING SADDLES and BRIDLES HORSE CLOTHING, GIG APRONS CLIPPING MACHINES, and SINGING LAMPS.—THOMAS OWEN, 67, Side, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

For Sale.

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.

VALUABLE FREEHOLD BUILDING SITES FOR SALE, overlooking the proposed New Park, situate at Mount Pleasant, Consett.—Apply to Messrs. JOHN SMITH & SON, Shotley Bridge; or Mr. WILLIAM AYNSLEY, Middle Street, Consett. 451r

AN IMPORTANT FACT!

£10 AND upwards carefully invested in Options on Stocks and Shares is the safest and most popular way of rapidly making money on the Stock Exchange by the non-liability system. *Explanatory Book (New Edition) giving all details gratis and post free.*—Address GEORGE EVANS and Co., Sworn Brokers, Gresham House, London, E.C. 582s

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

Business Announcements.

SPORTS. — MEDALS, MALTESE CROSSES, CUPS, &c., in Silver and Electro, Suitably Inscribed, from 2s. to 50s. Cap Badges for Bicycle Clubs, &c., from 1s. to 7s. 6d. Designs and Samples on application.—Agent, T. H. KIRKUP, Ridley Street, Blackhill.

CHEAP STATIONERY DEPOT.

JASPER COCKBURN,
STATIONER, NEWSAGENT, PRINTER, BOOKBINDER, CONFECTIONER, AND DEALER IN FANCY GOODS,
13, FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

ACCOUNT BOOKS, DIARIES, POCKET BOOKS, BIRTH-DAY CARDS, And STATIONERY of every Description in Stock.

Books not in Stock to be had on a Short Notice. 613s

JOHN FREEK,
GROCER AND PROVISION DEALER,
23, VICTORIA STREET,
CONSETT.

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

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

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

VALUATIONS made for Probate and Legacy Duties.

Agent for the SALE of BUILDING SITES at the following places:—Benfieldside Estate, Broomhill Estate, Ebchester, Low Pinings Estate, Langley Park, Consett, Leadgate, and Blackhill.

☞ All Business promptly and carefully attended to

R. VON DIX,
THE PHOTOGRAPHER,
MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT.

HALF-DOZEN CARDE-DE-VISITES AND ONE CABINET FOR 3s. 6d. SPLENDID FINISH.

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN THE DISTRICT.

THE
"CONSETT GUARDIAN"
AFTER ATTAINING
A LARGE AND INCREASING CIRCULATION
HAS BEEN
CONSIDERABLY ENLARGED,
AND MAINTAINS ITS POSITION AS
THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER.

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

☞ TO ADVERTISERS.

THE *CONSETT GUARDIAN*

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

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

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AFTERNOON
AT
59, FRONT STREET, CONSETT,
Where Advertisements are received up to NINE o'clock on that morning.

SHEEP DIPS! SHEEP DIPS!

T. MILNER, Dispensing and Agricultural Chemist and Druggist, and Associate of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain,
7, SHAKESPEARE STREET, opposite the Post Office CONSETT,

Is Agent for Consett and District for BELL & RIDDLE's Hexham Sheep Dip, MCDOUGALL's Non-poisonous Sheep Dip COOPER's Sheep Dipping Powder, NESS & Co.'s Tar Elixir Sheep Dip, MORRIS's, LITTLE & Co.'s Chemical Sheep Dip, TOMLINSON's Glycerine Sheep Dip, WILSON and KITCHEN's, BIGG's, &c. Full descriptive Circular for above Dips sent per Post on application.

Luddington's Lambing Oils. Milner's Lambing Oils, excellent for Colic and Gripe in Horses.

HORSE BALLS. ALTERATIVE POWDERS FOR HORSES.

FELLON, CLEANSING, TONIC, AND OTHER DRINKS FOR CATTLE.

Dennis's Pig Powders. Cattle and Pig Spice in Bags 1s. each.

OILS, PAINTS, COLOURS, AND VARNISHES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION

ANTIFRICTION GREASE FOR CARTS, &c. Butter Colouring and Butter Powder.

Milner's Dandelion Podophyllyn Aperient Pills, in combination with the Podophyllyn Sarsaparilla Blood Purifying Mixture, are one of the best Family Medicines at this season of the year. Quinine Wine. Quinine and Iron Tonic. Invigorating Hop Bark, and Calumba Bitters. Corn Solvents. Tooth Ache Drops, Spasm Drops, &c.

TEETHING AND WORM POWDERS FOR CHILDREN.

Milner's Effervescing Saline in Bottles, an excellent substitute for Eno's Fruit Salt.

Agent for Mr. LAMONT'S Magnetic Appliances, the Eureka-tinted and other Spectacles and Eye Glasses.

TRUSSES, BANDAGES, ELASTIC STOCKINGS

NOTE ADDRESS:—
OPPOSITE THE POST OFFICE, CONSETT.

Business Announcements.

SEND TO THE POST OFFICE

AND get an Order for One Pound, made Payable to WILLIAM STEWART AND SON, and you will receive in return, Carriage Paid to any Railway Station or Carrier, 10lbs. of the Cheapest TEA in England, or 5lbs. of INDIAN TEA (the Finest Tea in the world). Should it be your pleasure we can forward Half of each kind as you may direct.

WILLIAM STEWART AND SON,
33, GRAINGER STREET, AND SCOTSWOOD ROAD, NEWCASTLE; 33, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD; AND CORNER OF FREDERICK ROAD, HIGH STREET, SUNDERLAND.

FLOORCLOTHS AND LINOLEUMS
CUT TO ANY SIZE AT MANUFACTURERS' PRICES.

MORGAN AND DAWSON,
FORTH HOUSE, PINK LANE (OPPOSITE CENTRAL STATION),
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
WORKS: KIRKCALDY, N.B. 14s

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. 691n

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

J. McINTOSH,
(Cutter for the late Mr. T. S. Atkinson, of Consett),
HAS REMOVED his Business to JESSAMINE COTTAGE, BENFIELDSIDE EDGE ROAD, BLACKHILL,
☞ ALL ORDERS WILL RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION

THOMAS RAINE,
JOINER, CABINET MAKER, UNDERTAKER, AND GENERAL CONTRACTOR,
DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL,

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

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

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

EMIGRANTS! EMIGRANTS!!

EMIGRANTS Booked to and from all parts of AMERICA and CANADA, also to AUSTRALIA, at the most reasonable rates, compatible with accommodation. Recent Pamphlets on Canada and its Prospects free on receipt of stamp for postage.
JOSEPH WETHERALL, Emigration Agent, Oxhill, Chester-le-Street, Durham. 826r

CARRIAGES.

OLD PARTNERSHIP STOCK.

MESSRS. ATKINSON AND PHILLIPSON, 27, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, being desirous of realising upon their old partnership stock, have decided to offer, during the next month, their entire STOCK OF NEW CARRIAGES at a reduction of £5 per cent., and their
SECOND-HAND CARRIAGES
at a reduction of £10 per cent.

More than 400 Carriages are included in this Stock. The Newest Designs of Landaus, Broughams, Waggonettes, Phaetons, and Two-wheeled Vehicles of nearly every variety finished in the best manner.

N.B.—AS THERE ARE YET 300 CARRIAGES REMAINING MESSRS. A. AND P. HAVE DECIDED TO CONTINUE THE ABOVE REDUCTION FOR ANOTHER FORTNIGHT.

Particulars and Drawings on application. Illustrated Catalogue Post Free. 920s

TRY J. GOODFELLOW,
MIDDLE ST., CONSETT,
For the Best Value in

MEN'S OVERCOATS, at 10s. 6d., 12s. 6d., 16s. 11d., 19s. 9d., 22s. 6d., &c.
BOYS' OVERCOATS, from 4s. 11d., 5s. 6d., &c.
BOYS' SUITS, from 2s. 7½d., 2s. 9d., 3s. 11d., &c.
MEN'S HEAVY TWEED SUITS, from 16s. 11d., 19s. 9d., 21s., &c.
MEN'S BLACK WORSTED SUITS, Well-made and Bound, 22s. 6d., 26s. 6d., &c.
MEN'S TWEED TROUSERS, from 2s. 11d. MOLESKINS, from 3s. 11d.
CHEAP CALICOES, HOLLANDS, FLANNELS, SHIRTINGS, WINCIES, &c.
CHOICE MILLINERY, Lowest Prices in the District.
A TRIAL SOLICITED!
606s

PERSONS WISHING TO MAKE UP THEIR
HORSES FOR SALE OR SHOW,
SHOULD USE THE!
"OPTIMUS" HORSE MIXTURE.
IT IS UNEQUALLED BY ANY OTHER MIXTURE.
PREPARED ONLY BY
JOHN HUME AND SONS
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
BRANCH—MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 583r

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

DONALD BAIN, DRAPERY WAREHOUSEMAN, begs to notify his many patrons that he has removed to his NEW WAREROOMS, 71, WESTGATE ROAD, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, for the express purpose of devoting his whole time and energy to the COUNTRY AND WHOLESALE TRADE only. Wools, Yarns, Smallwares, and every description of Drapery Goods supplied at List Prices.

NO CONNECTION WITH ANY OTHER ESTABLISHMENT.

N.B.—Mr. MATTHEW WILLEY, Iveston Road, Leadgate (late with GEORGE HAWDON, Rate Collector), will be happy to wait upon you, on receipt of Post Card, and submit Patterns and Prices of our well-known Dress and Drapery Goods. All Parcels forwarded at once, CARRIAGE PAID! 879s

Business Announcements.

INDIA RUBBER STAMPS,

FOR Endorsing Envelopes, Cheques, and Postal Cards, Heading Notepaper, Marking Linen and Pigeons, Stamping Monograms, Crests, and fac-similes of Signature.

POCKET AND DATING STAMPS,
Price and Pattern Sheets Free on application.
WILLIAM COLDICOTT,
BRIDGEMAN STREET, WALSALL. 783s

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

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

COOKE'S NEW DRAPERY ESTABLISHMENT,
ANNFIELD PLAIN.

THE Shop beside the railway gates
Has opened been by C. F. COOKE;
So do not any longer wait
But go at once and take a look.
At all the goods therein displayed,
In quality—both rich and rare—
And this much may at least be said,—
Minute inspection they will bear.
Examine well, the prices note,
The quality then criticise;
Mark well the easy fitting Coat,
The Shirts, and Collars, Cuffs, and Ties.
COOKE's Suits are noted near and far,
A ready sale they must command,
For neatness, elegance, and wear,
They are renowned throughout the land.
Some hundreds have been sold, and still
Their sale increases day by day,
For suits like these they must, and will,
In public favour make their way.
If then you want a useful Suit
Or Draperies of any kind;
Go to COOKE's shop and I've no doubt,
Full satisfaction you will find.

HUGHES & CO.'S
PHARMACY,
(From HOOPER & Co.'s., London),
(LATE CURRY)
OPPOSITE THE NEW TOWN HALL.

PURE CHEMICALS OF ALL KINDS IN STOCK.

A VARIETY OF OTHER ARTICLES USUALLY SOLD BY CHEMISTS & DRUGGISTS.

GENUINE PATENT MEDICINES.

HUGHES' BALSAM OF HONEY. An invaluable remedy for Coughs and Colds, especially for Children.

QUININE and Iron Tonic, in Bottles, 1s., 1s. 6d., and 2s. 6d. Curry's Celebrated Stomach and Liver Pills. Hughes' Rheumatic, Cough, and Neuralgic Pills. Savory and Moore, Ridges, and Neave's Food for Infants. Liebig's Cocoa and Extract of Beef. Kepler's & Hoff's Malt Extract. Hop, Dandelion and Mandrake Bitters, in 1s. and 2s. Bottles, a most efficacious remedy for Dypepsia in its varied forms.

EUPHORBIA PILULIFERA the Great Australia Specific for Asthma and Chronic Bronchitis.

Congreve's Preparations for Consumption and all Chest Disorders.

☞ SPECTACLES IN A GREAT VARIETY.

AGENTS FOR THE CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS OPTICAL ASSOCIATION.

☞ ALL KINDS OF HORSE AND CATTLE MEDICINES KEPT IN STOCK.

ALTERATIVE POWDERS FOR HORSES.

CATTLE DRINKS, &c.
OILS, PAINTS, AND COLOURS.

☞ ALL ORDERS PUNCTUALLY ATTENDED TO.

VIDE ADDRESS—
HUGHES & CO.,
54, FRONT STREET, CONSETT

CONTINUED SUCCESS OF THE IMPROVED
MAGNTEIC BELTS

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

THOUSANDS OF CURES have been effected by these Appliances during the past six years, and fresh testimonials are being daily received. The WONDERFUL SUCCESS that has attended their use, and the fact that they are now worn and recommended by doctors, clergymen, and persons in all ranks and classes of Society, conclusively proves their great value as REMEDIAL and PREVENTIVE agents.

THE SPECIAL MAGNETIC BELT at 21s., and SPECIAL LUNG INVIGORATOR at 21s., (formerly sold at 30s.), continues to give unbounded satisfaction. They are, without exception, the CHEAPEST and MOST EFFECTIVE MAGNETIC CURATIVE APPLIANCES ever offered to the public. In sending for Belt, please state WAIST MEASURE OVER FIRST GARMENT. Sent Post Free on receipt of 21s.

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

MAGNETIC BELT FOR BAD BACK.
Clyde Street, Wallsend,
May 6th, 1884.

DEAR SIR,—Seven years ago I met with an accident by which my back was badly hurt. I suffered a martyrdom of pain, as I had fallen on the small of my back and injured the spine. I tried several doctors and every remedy I thought would relieve me, but still I made little progress; and if I was moderately well for a month, I was unable to do anything for another month.

I heard about your Magnetic Belts, but having tried so many things, I was sceptical about their doing me any good. I tried one of them, however, and I am delighted to inform you that it has benefited me in a most wonderful way. The pains are all gone, the feeling of constant weakness in the back and loins is removed, and I can now do work that I dared not think of before. It is fully a year since I got it, and I have not lost more than two or three weeks' work in that time.

I have not the least objection to your using my name in any way that will commend the appliances to other sufferers.—I am, yours truly,

Mr. D. Lamont. ROBERT PEART,

RHEUMATISM COMPLETELY CURED.
9, Milburn Street, Cowpen Quay,
Blyth, April 1st, 1884.

DEAR SIR,—My wife was a great sufferer from rheumatic pains for 22 years. Fully two years ago she was very ill for one month, and not able to get out of bed. I procured a Magnetic Belt from you, and she has been quite free from pains ever since. I send belt by same post for renewal. Please return as soon as possible. You can place this, if you wish, amongst your testimonials.—Yours gratefully,

Mr. D. Lamont. JOHN MAYES.

RECENT TESTIMONY. REDUCED PRICE LIST.
☞ SEE DESCRIPTIVE PAMPHLET, GRATIS AND POST FREE.

D. LAMONT'S MAGNETIC DEPOT, 44A BLACKETT STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
NOTE.—The Appliances are forwarded Post Free. 133s

Business Announcements.

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 920p

ROBERT SAVILLE,
HAIRDRESSER,
13, NELSON STREET, CONSETT.

UMBRELLAS COVERED AND REPAIRED ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE.

☞ GRINDING OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

PRESENTS! PRESENTS!!

THE CHEAPEST HOUSE IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND FOR
CLOCKS, WATCHES, JEWELLERY, ELECTRO-PLATED GOODS,
CUTLERY, AND FANCY GOODS,
IS
BUNN AND DICK,
10, WEST GRAINGER STREET,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. 456s
☞ WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

ROBERT JACKSON'S,
CHEAP PRINTING & STATIONERY
ESTABLISHMENTS,
59, FRONT STREET, and 9 & 10, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

☞ AGENT FOR DIPTON:—MR. THOMAS CLARK, SOUTH MEDOMSLEY COTTAGES.

THE AUCKLAND UNION
PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY.
ESTABLISHED 1857.
Offices—56, North Bondgate, Bishop Auckland.

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

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

PROFITS are divided every three years.

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The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, MAY 16TH, 1884.

WHOEVER is responsible for the vote which the House of Lords has given on pigeon-shooting deserves to be branded as a foe to his order. His act would seem to be designed to place the Peers out of pure wantonness in direct opposition to the sentiment of the people. We are of those—and we freely confess it—who believe that the Upper House should be made, if it were wisely led, a safeguard without danger, its very anomalies contributing something to its strength. We do not wish to be turned aside just now from practical work in order to enter upon such a controversy as would be involved in the proposal to abolish the hereditary principle. There is, we believe, no Minister of the Crown, and there are very few responsible politicians, who would care to face the difficulties of such a constitutional fight. But the Lords seem disposed to force every one of their supporters from them by folly upon folly. There is no reason conceivable to humanity why, when public opinion has condemned pigeon-shooting, after the representatives of the people have declared against it, the Lords should regard it as a British institution which must be preserved along with the Crown, the Church, and the standing army. It offends the highest religious sentiment, the kindest humanitarian sentiment; so that people hate and detest it as they never hated and detested any other sport. The feeling about cock-fighting never ran so high as the feeling runs about pigeon-shooting. For the pugilist we could feel some respect, brutal as he was. For the pigeon-shooter we have only contempt. To put beautiful and harmless doves in a box, perhaps, after maiming them, and then to take shots at them, as they escape through the trap, is sheer brutality. There is no real excitement in the business at all, and there is no risk to anybody concerned. The same sport might be had with glass balls. Yet this is the institution which the Peers seek to sustain by their vote. We have one great satisfaction: not a Bishop voted against the bill. It was the temporal peers who did this work of wanton resistance to a popular movement. We can only regret to find among the opponents of humanity so good a man as Lord Stanley of Alderley, and such a philanthropist as the Duke of Westminster.

FOR much that is interesting in the English edition of the biographical sketches and letters of the Princess Alice most readers have already been prepared by the copious extracts which were published a short time ago. But the volume which is now published deserves far more than a cursory examination. It is not a book to be skimmed like the recent work of her Majesty the Queen, and then put down with a sense of emptiness, and a kind of depressing wonder why such things should ever be given to the world. The life of the Princess Alice, as recorded in these memorials, is in itself a moral education. No woman that we can remember, whose career has been made a matter of history, has left so elevating and refining a heritage of lofty example as the Grand Duchess of Hesse. It is not simply that she was a good woman, and that she led a blameless life. It was a life of incessant activity in good works. It was an intellectual life. The Princess who visited the wretched homes where she was unknown, and nursed the poor ill-fed children, was also occupied with the doubts and struggles from which a mind, at once religious and inquiring, can never escape. But she came victorious through them all. Nothing really dimmed her spiritual sense or her insight into the essence of duty in this world. Though as much troubled by household cares as the wife of an ordinary citizen with small means, she was always revolving plans for doing good. There was not a hospital nor an ambulance committee in the Grand Duchy that did not owe something to her care and sagacity. During the Franco-Prussian war she was untiring in her work amongst the wounded. People who think that the lot of Royal personages is a bed of roses will do well to read this book. The Grand Duke Louis and his wife possessed what, considering their position, were very straitened means. The Princess writes in 1866: "I have made all the summer out-walking dresses, seven in number, with paletots for the girls—not embroidered, but entirely made from beginning to end; likewise the new necessary flannel shawls for the expected. I manage all the nursery accounts and everything myself, which gives me plenty to do, as everything increases, and, on account of the house, we must live *very* economically for these next years." At another time, she tells how disturbed she was by the proposal of the Emperor and Empress of Russia to come to breakfast. She did not know how her "small *ménage*" could provide for the wants of such distinguished guests. When she accompanied her husband in tours abroad, they always travelled incognito. Of a trip from Rome to Naples and Sorrento the Princess writes, "It is a fatiguing journey, and we have so often had people in the carriage, which is very unpleasant—some very rude English, going to Sorrento. They did not know us." All through the book there are similar illustrations of this simplicity of life and character. The closing records are inexpressibly touching. All the world knows the story of the dreadful trouble that fell on the Grand Duke's household; of the unwearied watching of the devoted wife and mother over her stricken husband and children; of her illness and death, from the terrible disease from which she had been trying to save her loved ones. All who read this book will endorse to the full the testimony borne in the preface by the Princess Christian to the virtues of her sister. "The letters in their original form are here given to the English public, and I am sure that all who read them will feel thankful to my mother for thus granting them a closer insight into my dear sister's beautiful and unselfish life. They will see in them also, with satisfaction, how devoted she was to the land of her birth—how her heart ever turned with reverence and affection on the country which had done and was doing for liberty and the advancement of mankind more than any other country in the world. How deep was her feeling in this respect was testified by a request which she made to her husband in anticipation of her death, that our English flag might be laid on her coffin; accompanying the wish with a modest expression of a hope that no one in the land of her adoption would take umbrage at her desire to be borne to her rest with the old English colours above her." There is no household, high or low, in which these words will not find an echo, and in which the noble life of the Princess Alice will not serve as a high and stimulating example.

Parliamentary Summary.

THURSDAY.

Replying to the Earl of ROSEBERY in the House of Peers, Earl GRANVILLE said the Government had no confirmation of the reported cession of Sarakhs to Russia, and did not credit it. In answer to Earl DE LA WARR, the Foreign Secretary declined to discuss the possibility of sending Turkish troops to relieve Khartoum. The Earl of DALHOUSIE introduced a Bill for reform of local government in Scotland and the creation of a Scotch Minister.

In the House of Commons, Mr FORSTER asked weether Her Majesty's Government had any telegrams or messages from GORDON bearing upon his ability to defend Khartoum from attack or to escape therefrom besides those contained in the papers already furnished to Parliament. Lord E. FITZMAURICE said he had already stated in the House that the Government did not propose to produce papers containing confidential information, which, if published, would be a source of military danger to GORDON. With regard to other matters, the papers shortly to be in the hands of hon. members would contain the information alluded to. Mr LABOUCHERE asked whether the MADHI is aware of the readiness of the Egyptian Government to evacuate the Soudan and of the decision of HER MAJESTY'S Government to recognise the independence of that country, and whether it is intended to enter into friendly relations with him. Lord E. FITZMAURICE said the MADHI is probably aware of the intentions as to the Soudan. General GORDON offered him the title of Sultan of the province, but HER MAJESTY'S Government had not entered into relations with him. Mr GLADSTONE said the Government had no further information to give respecting the Conference. The House then went into Committee on the Navy Estimates.

FRIDAY.

In the House of Lords, the second reading of the Cruelty to Animals Amendment Bill, whose object is the suppression of pigeon-shooting matches, was moved by Lord BALFOUR of Burleigh. The rejection of the measure was proposed by the Earl of REDESDALE, who said the bill came before the House under false pretences, and denied that there was any cruelty in shooting pigeons from traps. A long discussion took place, in the course of which the Archbishop of Canterbury stated the objection was not to the actual shooting, but to the brutal cruelty attending a practice which could not be considered true sport. On a division the Bill was rejected by seventy-eight votes to forty-eight. Earl GRANVILLE declined to print the petition of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce against the ratification of the CONGO treaty on the ground that such a course would be contrary to the usages of the House.

At a morning sitting of the House of Commons, Mr GLADSTONE stated that no decision had yet been arrived at as to the meeting-place of the proposed Conference. The Municipal Elections (Corrupt and Illegal Practices) Bill was read a second time. The Attorney-General's proposal to refer the measure to the Standing Committee on Law was opposed by Sir S. CROSS, but carried, on a division, by 206 votes to 149. The Law of Evidence in Criminal Cases Bill was referred to the same Committee. At the evening sitting there was not a quorum.

MONDAY.

In the House of Commons, in reply to Baron de Worms, Lord FITZMAURICE stated that he could not undertake to lay papers on the subject of the recent dispute between France and Morocco upon the table of the House. Mr KENNY asked the First Commissioner of Works if he could state for what reason the public notice attached to the coronation chair in Westminster Abbey had been altered by the omission of all reference to the legend that the coronation stone was first used for the coronation of Irish kings and was carried to Scotland, and if he would cause the ancient legend to be substituted for the present incomplete statement. Mr SHAW-LEFEVRE said that he had ascertained that the internal arrangements of the Abbey were under the control of the Dean of Westminster, who altogether denied the satement referred to in the question. Sir S. NORTHCOTE asked whether the Government had any confirmation of a newspaper telegram with reference to the Mahdi having sent orders to take Dongola, &c., which appeared in that day's journals. Lord FITZMAURICE replied as follows:—"The Foreign Office has not received the detailed information mentioned, but a telegram has been received stating that in the neighbourhood of Dongola there is considerable movement amongst the population," a reply which provoked considerable laughter and ironical cheering. Amongst the notices of motion given in was one from Mr Anderson condemning the existence of the House of Lords. Sir M. HICKS-BEACH, who was received with loud cheers, then rose and moved "That this House regets to find that the course pursued by Her Majesty's Government has not tended to promote the success of General Gordon's mission, and that even such steps as may be necessary to secure his personal safety are still delayed." Mr GLADSTONE followed, and made a long speech in defence of the Government.

TUESDAY.

In the House of Lords, the consideration of the Commons' amendments to the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Bill took place. After some discussion they were agreed to, and the Duke of RICHMOND then withdrew his Bill on the same subject. The Earl of CARNARVON asked the FOREIGN SECRETARY for an explanation of the meaning of Mr GLADSTONE'S answer recently given with regard to the basis of the proposed conference. The FOREIGN SECRETARY, he said, had distinctly stated that the object of the conference was to deal exclusively with finance, but Mr GLADSTONE, who was a doctor of casuistry, had intimated that a discretionary power would remain with the powers to raise other questions. Earl GRANVILLE refused to be a party to the cross-examination of ministers from House to House, more especially when these questions were prefaced with offensive personalities regarding a minister of the Crown. Earl CAIRNS, the Lord CHANCELLOR, Lord SALISBURY, and Lord KIMBERLEY afterwards spoke, and the subject dropped.

In the House of Commons Mr TREVELYAN informed Mr GIBSON that he expected to be in a position towards the end of next week to introduce the promised measure relative to the purchase clauses of the Irish Land Act and increasing the facilities and encouragements for the sale of land in Ireland. In reply to Mr T. P. O'CONNOR, Mr FAWCETT stated that he thought the existing law sufficient to protect the public against the "milking" of telegraph messages passing over the wires of the Post Office. It was desirable that similar protection should be given to foreign telegrams sent by private companies, but the question was not free from difficulty. Sir R. CROSS asked Sir A. OTWAY if the Channel Tunnel Bill was to come on to-morrow. Sir A. OTWAY understood that it would come on. Mr MACIVER gave notice that on Thursday he would ask the PRIME MINISTER as to the total loss of life in the Soudan and Egypt since the bombardment of Alexandria. Mr LABOUCHERE intimated that he would ask at the same time what would probably have been the approximate loss of life if the Government had followed the advice of the Opposition, and sent an expedition in the middle of summer to relieve General GORDON. Mr CHAPLIN then resumed the debate on the vote of censure, and blamed the Government for having induced GORDON to undertake an important mission, and for having, at the same time, forced upon him a policy of their own. Mr O'CONNOR POWER denied that the British Government had assumed any responsibility whatever on the present occasion. The only crime of the people of the Soudan was that they were fighting for their country. Lord R. CHURCHILL congratulated the Government on their support by an Irish patriot, whose patriotism would cease with the present Parliament. He contended it was the duty of the Government to second to the utmost the mission of GORDON. They ought at the outset to have considerably increased their force in Egypt, and to have moved British troops up the File. The first appearance of General GORDON in Upper Egypt prevented disturbance, and if troops had been moved up the Nile the first effects of GORDON'S mission would have been permanent instead of temporary. Mr FORSTER was sorry he could not approve of the action of the Government with reference to General GORDON in the past, or their policy as to the immediate future. He had felt it a serious matter to take the course he did on the last vote of censure, and he was sorry he could not take the same course now. He thought the Government were completely ignoring—he might even say disowning—the original intention of General GORDON'S mission. He went on to contend that GORDON'S chief danger was treachery in Khartoum. He might be able to get away, but they might depend upon it he was not the man to slink off by himself. Lord HARTINGTON regretted Mr FORSTER'S personal attacks, and that he had suggested same differences between the conscience of members below the gangway and that which he possessed. Mr FORSTER'S love of peace always exhibited itself in trumpet calls for war. As to GORDON saying it would be an indelible disgrace to abandon the garrisons, the noble lord admitted that if the Government were convinced of the danger of GORDON it would be an indelible disgrace if they failed to do whatever could be done for his safety, but to GORDON'S statement that it would be an indelible disgrace to abandon the garrisons he replied that he did not consider GORDON a bit better authority than the Government themselves. Sir H. GIFFARD continued the debate, which was suspended at 6.30.

On the re-assembling, the debate was continued until early the following morning, when the House divided; for the Government, 303; against, 275; majority for the Government, 28.

WEDNESDAY.

In the House of Commons, Sir EDWARD WATKIN moved the second reading of the South-Eastern and Channel Tunnel Railway Bill. He said that though the bill was nominally a private one, it was really a great national measure, and it involved one of those questions which justified the House in asking the Government what was their policy. The policy of the Government was a mystery on many questions, but with regard to this question, it was especially mysterious. What he wanted to know was whether the policy of the Government was peace with nations or the isolation of this country. Were they in favour of a cordial and intimate alliance with France or a policy of isolation and centralisation, which must end in strained relations, and probably war? If it were objected that private enterprise ought to complete the work, he reminded Mr Chamberlain how earnestly and often he had urged on him that the under-sea portion, which was an extension of the British empire, should be made by the nation, controlled by the nation, and not be the property of private companies. Mr CHAMBERLAIN said there was no mystery in the policy of the Government, which was perfectly clear. He admitted that distinguished men had seen in former times no objection to this project, but all that had nothing to do with the present question. If there was a general opinion held by members of the House that the project, if carried out, would interfere with the security of the country, such persons were bound, if not mad or wicked, to put aside altogether any number of opinions and reject this project. When the matter came before him a few years ago he referred it to a committee to report on it from its commercial side. He proceeded to give an account of the opinion of that Committee and of the Scientific Committee which followed, and lastly, of the joint committee of both Houses who reported on the whole subject. He next gave an account of the numerous appointments he had made between April 1st and July 6th with Sir E. Watkin to inspect the works. Sir E. Watkin had continually put him off, but on July 8th and 15th Colonel Yolland visited the works, and reported that the tunnel was carried 600 yards beyond the live of foreshore, and that not one inch of the extension was necessary for health or ventilation. Under these circumstances he left the House to judge whether he, as representing the Government, could have any confidence in the hon. baronet or could be willing to carry on the experiment any further. He moved the rejection of the bill. In the course of the debate which followed Sir JOHN HAY opposed the bill. At present, he said, the navy could prevent an enemy that landed on our shores from being reinforced, but if the tunnel were made and seized it would be impossible for the navy to defend the country because the enemy could be reinforced by the tunnel. Sir E. WATKIN complained of the personal attack which Mr Chamberlain had made on him. If the bill went to a committee, he could clear up all Mr Chamberlain's charges. Whatever else was said against him, he could not be charged with having risen to fortune by the grossest of monopolies, or with having been blown into office by the breath of the caucus. The House divided when there voted—for the second reading, 84; against, 222; majority against, 138. Mr A. P. VIVIAN moved the second reading of the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday (Cornwall) Bill. He contended that the feeling of the people of the people of the county of Cornwall was intensely in favour of the bill. Sir HENRY FLETCHER spoke against the total closing of public houses on Sunday. Mr WARTON also opposed it, and was speaking at 5.45 when the debate stood adjourned. The Bankruptcy Frauds and Disabilities (Scotland) Bill passed through Committee. Sir J. LUBBOCK brought in a Bill to extend the Factory Acts to shops.

THE NEW ECCLESIASTICAL DISTRICT OF BLACKHILL.

On Saturday, the 26th of April, the Rev T. J. Storey, B.A., curate of St. Hilda's, Hartlepool, was solemly instituted by the Lord Bishop of Durham, in the Chapel of Auckland Castle, to the new district of St. Aidan, Blackhill—named after St. Aidan, first Bishop of Lindisfarne, and head of the Independent Episcopal Mission to Northumbria in the seventh century.

The Venerable Bede gives a most interesting account of the choice of Aidan. King Oswald, of Northumbria, instead of recalling the Roman Missionary St. Paulinus, sent to Iona for a teacher for his people, and the Abbet Seqenius selected for the work a man named Corman, a person of a very stern and austere disposition. He, however, met with no success, and soon returning home to Iona, told the monks that he could not do any good to the Northumbrians, because they were uncivilised men, and of a barbarous disposition. This caused much grief among them, and they anxiously enquired what was to be done under the circumstances. One of their number turned to Corman and said, "I am of opinion, brother, that you were more severe to your unlearned hearers than you ought to have been, and did not at first, conformably to the Apostolic rule, give them the milk of more easy doctrine, till being by degrees nourished with the Word of God, they should be capable of greater perfection, and be able to practise God's sublimer precets." It was at once resolved that the speaker, a man named Aidan, should be sent to King Oswald, "since he showed himself to be a man of singular discretion, which is the mother of other virtues."

The greater part of England was won for the Church by St. Aidan and his followers, and his position as a Bishop is often brought forward as an argument in support of the claim of the Church of England to be independent in the first clause of Magna Charta, and in her Prayer Book. The Bishopric was subsequently removed from Lindisfarne to Chester-le-Street, and finally to Durham.

The Rector of Hartlepool has nominated Mr Arthur McCullagh, of Trinity College, Dublin, to the curacy of St. Hilda's, vacant by Mr Storey's appointment to Blackhill. Mr McCullagh is a son of the President of the Wesleyan Conference, and he will be ordained at Trinity. The Wesleyan Society has of late years furnished a large number of candidates for Holy Orders in the Church of England. Two able members of the Wesleyan body — Messrs Napier and Stephenson, both graduates of London University—were ordained by the Bishop of Durham last September, upon letters dimissory of the Bishop of Winchester, in whose Diocese they are now serving.

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SPECIAL LONDON LETTER

It is thought that the Government will have a majority of 100 on the Vote of Censure. If Mr. Gladstone makes a speech such as is expected, and announces that Gordon will be saved, there will be no disposition on the part of the Liberals to vote against him. No Liberal really wants England to hold the Soudan.

Lady Burdett-Coutts is very anxious to force the Government into an expedition to save Gordon. She it was who offered £5,000 towards making war by voluntary association. She now writes to say that the very poor are sending her money towards this impossible enterprise. "My correspondents are poor, but they offer to intrust to me all they can afford of their small means and to raise their voices in unison with their wealthier fellow-countrymen against a base surrender of a nation's good faith and honour, as well as of a gallant and Christian life—a surrender which has united in a common indignation the French workman of Lyons, who offers you his 20f., with the English lady who, it is stated, has promised £5,000 for Gordon's defence." Her ladyship goes on to say that "although neither for us nor for him, if he be spared, can any movement for his personal safety now wipe out what he justly terms the 'indelible disgrace of abandoning the garrisons,' we, the people, have never assented to an inscrutable policy of repudiation, and it may be some consolation to have recorded, by these emphatic proofs, the deep and wide-spread sympathy which has so stirred the national spirit." Now, "we, the people," don't happen to be in this state of mind at all. I wish some of the London "swells" who talk in this way would try to find out what the people of the country *are* thinking.

Of course, the triumph is with Lord Randolph. He is permitted to caucus the Conservatives, and upon that condition he consents to say kind things of Lord Salisbury and Sir Stafford Northcote. His alliance with the Conservatives is a modification of that of Frederick the Great with his people. "If they will let me *do* what I like, they may *say* what they please," was the King's way of putting the principle of the freedom of the Press. "If you will let me do what I like," Lord Randolph puts it to his leaders, "I will *say* of you what you please." That is the real arrangement.

If we are not careful we shall have another big war in Zululand. What with the factions of the tribes, and the Boers using those factions in order to steal property in land, there is a disturbance every week. Lord Derby may do what he likes, but he will not be able long to avoid responsibilities for the Zulu nation. Sir Bartle Frere's object will finally be attained, he having so completely done the destructive work that the one way to restore Zululand again is for us to become responsible for "order and civil government." First of all, however, those miserable Boers must be driven forth.

Mr. Thorold Rogers, in his article on the new currency in the *Daily News*, effectually disposes of the objections to Mr. Childers's proposal. The people who say that the new half-sovereign will cause suspicion abroad, are asked the simple question—why take half-sovereigns abroad? Nothing is easier than to change your half-sovereigns for sovereigns before you go to the Continent. As for the danger of private coining, Mr. Rogers points out that "it costs the Mint 1s. 4d. an ounce to coin gold. It would cost a private coiner ten times that amount, and the process would be open to detection at every stage—in the purchase of the material, in the acquisition of the machinery, and in the issue of the product." These are the chief objections to the proposal, and they vanish at the slightest application of common-sense.

People in the City have been wont to boast of the wealth of the Corporation, but now the Corporation is threatened with extinction, we are informed that it is very poor. True, it has an income of £130,000 a year, but its expenditure swallows up considerably over £100,000. Perhaps the Corporation has a balance of £20,000 every year, and this, it must be evident to everybody, is a mere bagatelle. Pity the sorrows of a poor Corporation, which has been represented by its friends all these years as the wealthiest body in existence!

Leghorn is become the great shop for wooden pipes. So, at least, our Consul in that beautiful Italian town declares. The industry has been started by a Frenchman, from Carcasonne, who discovered near at hand material for the manufacture. "Selected roots of the heath—preference being given to the male variety—are collected on the hills of the Maremma, where the plant grows luxuriantly and attains a great size. When brought to the factory, the roots are cleared of earth, and any decayed parts are cut away. They are then shaped into blocks of various dimensions with a circular saw set in motion by a small steam-engine. Great dexterity is necessary at this stage in cutting the wood to the best advantage, and it is only after a long apprenticeship that a workman is thoroughly efficient. The blocks are placed in a vat and subjected to a gentle simmering for a space of 12 hours. During this process they acquire the rich yellowish-brown hue for which the best pipes are noted, and are then in a condition to receive the final turning and boring, but this is not done here. The rough blocks are packed in sacks containing 40 to 100 dozen each, and sent abroad, principally to France (St. Cloud), where they are finished into the famous G.B.D., or 'Pipes de Bruyère,' known to smokers in England under the name of 'briarwood pipes.' The production of this article is considerable, four hands turning out about 60 sacks per month." This is an industry which, though it is certain to end in smoke, is likely all the same to be a permanent one.

Mr. Irving tells some stories of the way in which enterprising managers in America tried to anticipate him by producing Shaksperian plays before his arrival. At Cincinnati, for instance, "Much Ado About Nothing" was presented, and nearly 60,000dol. spent in the production. The manager had seen the play at the Lyceum, and thought he understood the whole secret. But he failed dismally. The public could see nothing in the representation. When the Lyceum company played "Much Ado About Nothing" in America, the difference between an intelligent and an unintelligent expenditure of money was apparent to everybody. Moreover, the comedy was well acted, and this consideration the enterprising American manager had overlooked. This little anecdote should be pondered by the people who think that Mr. Irving's success is purely due to his scenery. As a matter of fact, that costs him comparatively little.

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Correspondence.

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

THE CONSETT LOCAL BOARD AND THE OVERSEERS ANAMOLIES.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

DEAR SIR,—The important report published in your last issue relating to the action of the "Town Councillors" and the Overseers has caused some alarm amongst the ratepayers in the district. It now appears that the law of the "Town Councillors" is to over-ride the law of the Overseers and their assistant, who is employed to collect and take care of the monies collected for the poor of the parish. I am ready, sir, to admit that taking a copy of the rate will increase a little the work of those officers, but it must not be overlooked, sir, that the £90 a-year that is paid to these functionaries is not intended as a free gift, but in payment for services rendered; and if that sum is not a sufficient payment for the work involved, then let it be increased by all means. It is in my opinion, sir, absurd and utterly frivolous to say that the Overseers have not a right to keep the poor-rate book where they choose. I was somewhat surprised, sir, when the Chairman at the last "Council meeting," called the attention of the Board to the remuneration of the officers for taking a copy of the rate book. I certainly thought that our representatives were a little lost to their duty, and to the interest of their constituents, to offer more money to the aforesaid; but it appears their sense of honour is of another kind. Scarcely a year has passed since the commencement of the Local Board without having some new mercenary application. No wonder that taxes and poor rates increase, and the poor, instead of being relieved, are tormented!—I am, yours, &c.,

A TAXPAYER.

Consett, 13th May, 1884.

A PLEA FOR THE SHOP ASSISTANTS.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—I wish to ask a favour of the several tradesmen of Annfield Plain on behalf of their shop assistants, male and female, respectively employed by them. Their close confinement and long hours to business every day for six days in the week, without any possible chance of getting any recreation, except indulging in such pursuits on the Sabbath day, and as such arduous toil effects very powerfully the physical constitution, and has a tendency to plunge young men and young women into a consumptive state, and otherwise impair their constitutions and incapacitate them for faithful service to their employers with that energy and zeal that they wish to do and their work demands of them in their several spheres of labour in provisions, drapery, hardware, and butchering establishments. It is well-known that in connection with most of the above-named businesses that certain offensive smells arises from many articles sold, and tend to injure the health; therefore in all fairness to such as earn their living by serving behind the counter. I solicit on their behalf the several merchants in this neighbourhood to show that they are not a whit behind any of the towns or villages who have gentlemanly sympathy and benevolance shewn them by their employers, and are granted one half-day's holiday each week on the Wednesday afternoon, so that they are able to get away from the smoke and noxious vapours from the coke ovens and firing heaps in the colliery villages, and which is allowed to accumulate and consume of their own accord, and is so detrimental to health generally. I sincerely hope that the different tradespeople in this village will without compunction grant this most desirable boon to all those desiring such a *bona-fide* favour, so that they will have an opportunity of occasionally enjoying the pure air of heaven, where it is free from any obnoxious vapours which tends to impair the most robust constitution of men and women, by granting a half-day's holiday every week. This would also afford tradesmen themselves an equal opportunity of enjoyment with their wives and children, apart from the worry of business, and help to freshen their energy and throw life into the whole system. I am sure the public at large would endeavour to get their shopping done, so that if the half-day was generally established there would be no loss or inconvenience to anyone. Such is the rule in very many places and answers admirably well, and I trust that our business men at Annfield Plain will not delay in granting such a deserved favour to all classes of assistants.—I am, yours in sympathy with all those who would enjoy the favour of a half-day's holiday every Wednesday afternoon,

CATCHGATE.

May 6th, 1884.

BENEFACTORS OF CONSETT.

To the Editor of the Consett Gurdian.

SIR,—I am not going to question the importance of the sanitary reformation which our public representatives have effected in Consett. Nor can anyone who is able to appreciate the blessings of well-aired and commodious dwellings for working men ignore the fact that Consett Iron Company both set an example worthy of invitation to the surrounding. But both the Local Board and the Company have had, as it was meet they should have had, the public money to effect their purposes. But a very great boon has been conferred upon Consett by revolutionary exertions requiring a commendable energy, a stout heart to contend against powerful opposition, no small amount of personal trouble, and very frequent descents into their own pockets as well as into those of the public generally. Of course, I refer to those spacious schools provided voluntarily to meet the requirements of the Education Act without the compulsory introduction of School Boards. As a national saving, and we hear of no inferiority imputed to them in comparison with the others, the cost of the voluntary schools is only a shilling or two over the half of Board Schools. In respect of rates the expenditure is hundreds of thousands in Board Schools, in Voluntary Schools it is (Zero). Lately, that is for months past, I have been bringing this under the notice of influential persons and suggesting an appeal to the public for the liquidation of whatever debt may remain on our public schools. I solicit, Mr Editor, a small space in your columns for giving greater publicity to my remarks. Any person disposed to sympathise with this appeal, may have his sympathy practically felt, by working out the following easy sum in simple proportion:—"If the School Board Rate be 6d in the pound each quarter, how much must I pay in eight years upon a house rated at £12 per annum.—Yours truly,

J. TAIT.

May 14th, 1884.

MAN'S NOBLEST WORK.—This is an age of great and works wonderful inventions. Steam, electricity, water, air, all are made to serve man, but unquestionably the greatest inventions are those which preserve man's health and prolong his life, and among the greatest of these are Stanton's Cough Pills. There effects are truly wonderful, and hundreds are happy to-day who once looked forward to an early grave. For Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Asthma Loss of Voice, Hay Fever, Hoarseness, Croup, or any Affection whatever of the Throat, Chest, or Lungs, Stanton's Cough Pills will positively cure. We can cheerfully recommend them to all, and can unhesitatingly say they are the only sure cure for Throat and Lung Affections. Sold by all Chemists in Boxes at 13½d and 2s. 9d Box sent post free on receipt of 15 or 35 stamps. Wm. Mather, Wholesale Druggists Manchester

THE NORTH OF ENGLAND TEMPERANCE FESTIVAL.—Great activity is again being displayed in Newcastle-on-Tyne in reference to this now most popular institution, although this is only the third year of its existence. It must be gratifying to the committee, as it should be to all who have at heart the social and moral welfare of the people, to find that in their work they have the confidence and sympathy of the multitudes for whose pleasure they cater in such an efficient manner. Gigantic in proportions and most successful in its issues as were the festivals of 1882-3, the committee seem determined that on Wednesday and Thursday, the 25th and 26th June, 1884, shall far eclipse anything of the kind hitherto attempted, and judging from the progress they have made they will be more than equal to the occasion. Having profited by the last two years' experience, the committee have thoroughly revised their programme. The military sports will again be a leading attraction. A committee of military, police, and volunteers' representatives has been formed, who have, in conjunction with the committees of the other sports, drawn out an advance programme which will be issued in a day or two. Looking at this preliminary programme one cannot help being surprised at the variety of entertainment offered. The military section includes, in addition to its tent pegging, lemon slicing, running, vaulting, jumping, and sword exercise contests, such interesting events as wrestling on horseback, gun driving competitions and not to leave our soldier boys out in the cold, a trumpeters, race has been arranged for. The committee having under their management the open sports, children's games, bicycle, football, and cricket competitions, not feeling inclined to play second fiddle to their military brethren, are straining every nerve to make their respective arrangements as attractive as possible, an enormous concourse of delighted spectators gathered together for mutual enjoyment on the two days of the festival being the foreshadowed issue of this healthy competition.

NEWCASTLE WESLEYAN MAY DISTRICT MEETING.

The annual Session of the Newcastle District Committee of the Wesleyan Conference, commenced on Tuesday morning in the Wesleyan Lecture Hall, Percy Street, Tynemouth. The Rev Henry W. Jackson, B.A., chairman of the district, presided. After devotional services, the names of the ministers were called, when it was found that about sixty were present. A letter having been read from the Rev J. Shearman, the meeting recommended that in the event of his health being fully established, the Conference find him a suitable circuit. The numerical returns, as read by the Secretary, showed the number of members in the various circuits of this district to be as follows:—

Circuit.	Members.	On Trial.	Increase.	Decrease.	In Junior Society Classes.
Newcastle (Ryton) ..	296	83	—	22	71
Gateshead (Bensham Rd)	575	230	37	—	61
Durham	951	35	—	58	205
Chester-le-Street	802	46	38	—	45
Thornley	528	48	84	—	71
Wolsingham	388	78	—	74	39
Wearlale	552	78	27	—	69
Hexham	930	100	90	—	120
Shotley and Consett..	1,446	81	67	—	145

Four societies with 53 members have during the year been transferred from the Ryton to the Hexham Circuit. The total number of members in the district is 16,628, with 1,412 on trial, showing a net increase of 139 members on the year. 2,036 new members have been received, 1,378 have ceased to meet, 196 have died, and there have been 941 removals. The number meeting in junior society classes is 2,004. The secretary announced that he had received returns from 30 of the principal districts of British Methodism, 23 of whom report an increase and 7 a decrease—the nett gain for the year being rather under 3,000 members. A profitable conversation on the religious state of the societies followed the reading of the Liverpool minutes, in which the Revs G. S. Weston (Sunderland) S. Lord (Newcastle), W. Hare (Consett), and others took part. The following resolution was submitted and passed—"The meeting is gratified to learn that after making up for losses occasioned by deaths, removals, and persons who have ceased to meet, the district is able for the sixth year in succession to report an increase. It further rejoices to hear that there are 1,412 on trial, with upwards of 2,000 young persons meeting in junior society classes."—The Rev D. L. Appleby presented the report of the central examination of probationers held in April, which was accepted.—During the Session, the Rev Robert Cooke of Newcastle, one of the oldest and most respected ministers in the district, referred to this as being the jubilee year of his entrance into the Wesleyan ministry, when the Chairman, in the name of the assembled ministers, expressed the gratification of his brethern that, for half a century, he (Mr Cooke) had been permitted thus to labour in so important a work.—Other business followed and at five o'clock the meeting adjourned.—After the morning Session, the ministers dined in a body at the Bath Hotel, some seventy or eighty ministers and laymen being present.

Business was resumed on Wednesday morning, when in addition to the ministers, there were some sixty circuit stewards and lay officials present. The whole of the morning was taken up with the consideration of the financial and statistical affairs of the district.—The Rev J. H. Grubb read the contributions from the several circuits to the Home Mission and Contingent Fund as follows:—Yearly collection, £236 16s 2d; Home Mission and Contingent Fund, £965 18s 1d, being a slight decrease on the previous year. Certain claims for extraordinary deficiencies were considered and recommended, The Wolsingham circuit not being able to redeem its pledge to take a married instead of a single minister, agreed to pay £20 to the Home Mission Fund. Ordinary grants were made to the following circuits in the district:—Morpeth, £40; Weardale, £20; Haltwhistle, £25; Allendale, £25; Berwick-on-Tweed, £23. A special grant was recommended for the Thornley circuit of £40 in consequence of the stoppage of certain collieries, whereby 1,000 men are thrown out of work.—Mr T. H. Bainbridge presented the report of the District Home Mission sub-Committee, which was of an encouraging character. Special revival missions had been held by the Rev J. George Stuart and the two lay agents, and good spiritual results had followed, particularly at Newcastle, Blenheim Street, Clarence Street; Gateshead, Bensham Road; Consett, and in several of the colliery villages. It was proposed to re-visit some of these places during the ensuing summer. The report was adopted, also the action of the sub-committee inviting the Rev J. G. Stuart to continue his labours as district missionary another year. On a ballot being taken, the Rev Henry W. Jackson was unanimously elected representative to the Stationing Committee of the Conference.—A number of gentlemen were nominated as lay representatives to the ensuing Wesleyan Conference at Burslem, and, on a ballot being taken, the following obtained the largest number of votes:—Thomas Wigfield (Tynemouth), William Smith (Gateshead), Thomas Metcalf (Ryton), Joseph Davidson (Weardale), Edward Sisterton (Corbridge), W. C. Thomlinson (Gateshead), B. H. Frampton and B. Cawood (Newcastle).—The ministerial representatives to the Mixed Conference elected in the same manner were as follows:—The financial secretary (Rev J. H. Grubb), I. Jones, T. Overton (North Shields), G. S. Weston (Sunderland).—The Secretary presented the report of the District Sustentation Fund, which was considered fairly satisfactory.—Mr Robert Robson read the amounts contributed by the several circuits to the Auxiliary Fund which gave rise to inquiry owing to a gradual and serious falling off in the sums annually raised. The Newcastle (Brunswick) and six other circuits showed an increase, whilst eighteen reported a decrease; the total amount due at sixpence per member was £412 4s 6d; the amount actually raised was £373 18s 10d. Three supernumeraries and six widows of ministers reside in the district.—On the motion of Ald. Stephenson, J.P., seconded by Mr Squance, it was unanimously resolved to give a very hearty invitation to the Wesleyan Conference to hold its sessions in Newcastle in the year 1885; the district to provide for 400 ministers exclusive of those who reside in the district. The following were appointed members of Conference Committees:—Home missions, Mr T. H. Bainbridge; extension of Methodism, Mr W. D. Stephens, J.P.; education committee, the secretary and Mr T. Richardson, J.P. At noon the members of the District Committee, 140 in all, dined at the Bath Hotel.—The whole of the afternoon session was taken up with considering a scheme for the proposed division of the Newcastle (Brunswick) Circuit.—Several gentlemen having spoken, the Rev I. Jones proposed, and Ald. Hindmarsh seconded, a resolution that sanction be given to the proposed scheme for division of circuit. Ald Stephenson moved as an amendment "That in the judgement of this committee it is desirable that the Newcastle (Brunswick) circuit should be divided as early as practicable, but in recognition of the fact that the proposed arrangement now submitted has met with considerable opposition on the part of several officially connected with the contemplated new circuit, it is not expedient in the interests of harmony and good feeling that it should be carried into effect at the ensuing conference."—On a vote being taken 17 were recorded for the amendment and 53 against. On the original resolution being submitted 58 voted for and none against. Other business followed.

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

FOR ASTHMA, HAY FEVER, AND CATARRH.—Himrod's CURE was employed under the highest medical sanction in the case of the late Earl of Beaconsfield. The medicine from which his lordship found most comfort and relief was Himrod's Powder. The fumes are inhaled by the patient, and at once afford relief.—Per Tin, 4s. Sample Free. J. M. RICHARDS, 92 and 93, Great Russell Street, London.

BECKELARE'S ROSE SOAP.—The best for the Toilet.

GET A BOTTLE TO-DAY OF PERRY DAVIS' PAIN KILLER.—It instantly relieves and cures severe scalds, burns, sprains, bruises, toothache, headache, pains in the side, joints, and limbs, all neuralgic and rheumatic pains. Taken internally cures at once coughs, sudden colds, cramp in stomach, colic, diarrhoea, and cholera infantum. PAIN KILLER is the great household medicine, and has stood the test of 50 years. Any chemist can supply it at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d.

BECKELARE'S ROSE SOAP.—The best for the toilet.

THE BUTTERKNOWLE MURDERERS.

AGITATION FOR A REPRIEVE.

A great indignation meeting of the inhabitants of North Brancepeth, Brandon, and Browney Collieries was held in the recreation ground attached to the house of Mr Joseph Temperley, the Littleburn Colliery Inn, on Sunday morning, to protest against the sentence of death passed upon Joseph Lowson and William Siddle being carried into execution. There were many hundreds of people present. Mr Thos. Harrison was voted to the chair.

Mr Wm. Dickinson, of Littleburn, moved the first resolution as follows:—

That, in the opinion of this meeting of householders and others of Brandon, Browney, and North Brancepeth Collieries, the evidence given at the trial of Wm. Siddle, Joseph Lowson, and Joseph Hodgson, for the murder of Sergeant Smith, at Butterknowle, on February 23rd, was of a very unsatisfactory nature, and did not warrant the verdict given; and we humbly pray that the Home Secretary will take into consideration the unsatisfactory character of the evidence given by the prosecution; and we further humbly pray that the sentence of death passed upon the prisoners William Siddle and Joseph Lowson be suspended or rescinded, with a view to the reconsideration of the case.

Mr Samuel Galbraith, of Browney Colliery, seconded the resolution, and in the course of his remarks reviewed the incidents connected with the trial. He asked them if they thought the evidence was sufficient to convict these two men. It they thought not, let them hold up their hands. [Instantly the entire company held up their hands]. These men might be executed, and perhaps years afterwards it might be proved that they were innocent of the crime. Sir Joseph Whitwell Pease and others who had at heart the abolition of capital punishment, could adduce many cases of innocent men having suffered the extreme penalty of the law, and cases, too, where the circumstantial evidence was far stonger than that adduced at the Butterknowle trial. Lowson and Siddle might be guilty, but their guilt had not been proved, and when once the executioner had performed the functions connected with his odious calling, and when once the bolt had been drawn, they could not call these two young men back to life if they should be proved to be innocent.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Some hundreds signed the petition; and arrangements were made whereby representatives from each colliery should obtain more on Sunday.

It was also resolved that a relief list be opened for Mrs Lowson and her three children.

A mass meeting was held at Brandon on Saturday afternoon, and similar resolutions were passed.

A correspondent, writing to the *Northern Echo* concerning the condemned men at Durham, says:—"So far as the oldest Durham citizen can remember there has only been one charge of murder tried at Durham Assizes, in which the lives of prisoners have depended upon a button, and if that case can be taken as a precedent, it is favourable to the present culprits. It was on a winter's evening in 1853 that Dr Sterling, whilst riding near to Burnopfield, was most brutally murdered, and two men named John Rain, *alias* "Whiskey Jack," and John Cain, were arrested, having been seen in that locality about the time the murder was committed. The evidence was purely circumstantial, and both prisoners, when arrested, declared that they were never separated that evening. "Whisky Jack" had a vest with peculiar glass buttons, and one of those buttons was missing, but found lying near the body of the murdered doctor. There was no direct testimony against Cain, only his own statement that he was with "Whisky Jack" on that night, and the button theory against the latter was considered strong, but after a protracted trial, and the jury being locked for a lengthened time, they were both acquitted."

THE BLANCHLAND MYSTERY.

A RUMOURED CONFESSION.

The mystery surrounding the murder of the unfortunate Blanchland farmer, Robert Snowball, on the New Year's Day of 1880, has not yet been solved, although from time to time, during the four years and a half which have elapsed since the dark tragedy was enacted, many and various rumours as to the discovery of some clue to the mystery have gained considerable currency. One of the most frequently and persistently circulated of these rumours, especially during the past few weeks, has been to the effect that old Mr Snowball, the father of the murdered man, had, when dying, confessed to having himself committed the murder; and such credence has this story gained in various parts of the county, that we deemed it advisable to sift the matter thoroughly, with a view to discover whether or not the story had any foundation in fact. Our Commissioner accordingly visited the scene of the dark tragedy yesterday. The dwelling-house and "onstead" are all contained in one building, which stands in a very lonely situation on the slope of a deep valley which the dwelling-house overlooks. At the end nearest the road is a cow-byre, with a sort of barn or loft above it. The entrance to this loft is at the back side of the building, and from the sudden slope of the ground, is level with the ground, the entrance to the byre being, of course, in the front of the building. The circumstances attending the murder will be fresh in the minds of many of our readers. A young farmer named Robt. Snowball, a single man of about twenty-four years of age, was, at the beginning of 1880, tenant of a small sheep farm called Belmont, situated on the Blanchland Moors, in the extreme north-west of the county of Durham. The household consisted of Robt. Snowball, his aged father, and a housekeeper, named Jane Barron. Robert was away from home on New Year's Day, 1880, and did not return, as expected, that night. Early next morning the dead body was found in the barn before referred to (which, by the way, he occasionally used as a workshop) by Jane Barron. The corpse presented a fearful spectacle, the back of the head having been smashed in, apparently by a violent blow from a stone-breaker's hammer, which stood near, and the jaws having both been fractured, and nearly all the teeth knocked out, by a similar blow from the front. No policeman appears to have been informed of the occurrence for some little time, and in the meantime the pool of blood, &c., in the loft had been mopped up by some of the inmates of the house, thus, probably unwittingly, obliterating the the most likely means of finding a clue to the penetrators of the foul deed. Jane Barron was subsequently arrested on suspicion of complicity in the crime, but at the assizes at Durham she was acquitted and discharged.

Towards the close of last year (1883) the father of the murdered man died at the farm, and thus—one of the principal figures being removed for ever from the scene—the prospect of the solution of the ghastly enigma seems more improbable than ever. Under the circumstances, it is perhaps only natural that various and conflicting rumours should gain credence. With a view to sifting the matter thoroughly, our Commissioner, as already stated, yesterday proceeded to Blanchland, and interviewed several of the nearest neighbours of the deceased, who all concurred in characterising the rumour as utterly devoid of truth. They also pointed out that the absurdity of the *canard* was apparent, since old Mr Snowball, although a strongly-built man to look at, was at the time of the murder quite weak and "tottering," from the effect of having been injured by lightning some time before, when he had his horse killed under him. Mr Murray, of Sandyford, the nearest house to Belmount, who was the first person to arrive at the place after the murder, and who frequently visited the old man during his last illness, stated that he never heard him make any such reference to the crime. Mr L. Robson, whose farm adjoins Belmont on the opposite side to Murray's, also said that he had never heard a word of any statement by deceased, except through seeing some mention of the rumour in a local paper. The most important evidence gathered, however, was that of Mr Geo. Taylor, of Bale Hill, who was the only person beside deceased's son and daughter-in-law who was present during the last hours of Mr Snowball. He said deceased was quite sensible up to the moment of his death, and never made any such statement as alleged; in fact, he never heard the subject of the murder mentioned during the time he was in the house. The deceased spoke to him and shook hands with him when he went into the house. No new facts in connection with the crime have been brought to light, beyond those published at the time, and little or no expectation of any further discovery being made prevails amongst those most conversant with the facts. The general feeling, indeed, appears to be that, unless the actual perpetrators of the crime should at some time confess (presuming, of course, that they are still alive), the Blanchland mystery will remain a mystery to the end.—*Northern Echo*, Thursday.

MINERS' DEMONSTRATION AT WEST STANLEY.

THE FRANCHISE BILL.

A highly-successful demonstration in favour of the Reform Bill was held at West Stanley on Saturday afternoon. The demonstration was held in a field lent by Mr Charlton, and was attended by at least three thousand miners and colliery employés from Stanley (East and West), Beamish, Tanfield Lea, and the surrounding collieries, many of the men having come a considerable distance to be present. A procession formed in the village, headed by the drum and fife band, the Stanley Brass Band, and the Tanfield Lea Brass Band, and marched to the field, the banners of one or two of the local lodges of the Miners' Union being displayed. Mr Wm. Bulmer, of Tanfield Lea, was called to the chair, Mr Jas. Joicey, vice-president of the North Durham Liberal Registration Association, who had been expected to preside, being detained in London by urgent business. Mr W. Crawford and Mr John Wilson, of Durham, were also prevented from attending by pressing business. All three gentlemen wrote expressing the utmost sympathy with the objects of the meeting.

The Chairman briefly opened the proceedings by stating that the object of the meeting was to support the Franchise Bill which their great Prime Minister had brought into the House of Commons, and which he believed would soon be carried. Lord Randolph Churchill held up his hand against it, and for that he would be held in remembrance in years to come. (Hear, hear). He believed that the House of Lords would see that the people of the United Kingdom were bent on having the bill, and would pass it. If, however, they attempted to obstruct it, they would give the Peers their notice, and he did not know whether they would let them work their notice out or not. (Laughter).

Mr John Orr, president of the Mechanics' Association, moved—"That this meeting thanks Her Majesty's Government for bringing in the County Reform Bill now before Parliament, and urges them to pass it through, notwithstanding all opposition; and also expresses its hearty satisfacton with the unanimity which the Liberal party have manifested whilst the bill was passing through the House." In the course of a witty speech, the mover of the resolution created much amusement by saying that he had twice during his life got to be a man, and then lost that dignity again, although he was as well qualified now as ever he was. He lived in a town at the time of an election, and a gentleman waited on him with a cab, and requested him to ride to the booth to record his vote. At the next election he had moved two or three miles away only, but no one came for him with a cab on the polling day, and none of the gentlemen knew him then. (Loud laughter). It struck him very forcibly that the reason certain parties opposed the Franchise Bill so strongly was that they felt if it was passed their vocation would be gone. (Cheers).

Mr Wm. Patterson, of the Durham Miners' Union, in seconding the resolution, remarked that they had evidence before them of the capabilities of the working men since, when they were disappointed in having one of the owners of the neighbouring colliery in the chair, that place was filled by one of his workmen. (Cheers). One of the great charges against the working men was that they were apathetic in the cause of reform. That charge was utterly false. In this county alone, during the past five or six years, an average of four or five meetings each week had been held, at which the voices of the men were unanimously raised in favour of political freedom and emancipation. (Hear, hear). That movement reached a grand climax in the great meeting on Newcastle Town Moor, where men of every rank and persuasion joined in seeking the political rights of those who lived beyond the magic borough boundary. The movement was further carried forward by the great Conference at Leeds, and not less, perhaps, by the great deputation of three hundred representatives of the unenfranchised working men who waited upon the Premier, asking him to pass the bill which had now got successfully through two stages in the House of Commons. (Cheers). No Prime Minister, go back as far as they liked, had ever had such a deputations wait upon him as that which had asked their great Premier to emancipate the hardy sons of toil. (Cheers). One of the greatest things the Tories had against this bill was that it included no scheme of redistribution. Why, how could they redistribute seats until they got an equitable franchise? Those who would be affected by the redistribution should first have votes, that they might be able to say how the redistribution was to be carried out. Another kind of opposition was that offered by their friend Albert Grey. He believed, however, that the Northumberland men had already dealt so effectually with him (Mr Grey) that he had intimated, if not said outright, that he would withdraw his amendment. (Cheers). Having thus repented of his errors and become a wise man, they should now let him off. (Laughter). He had no doubt the bill would pass the House of Commons with a majority of at least a hundred and fifty, and he had not the slightest fear that the House of Lords would fling out the bill, because he believed that they were sensible that such an act would rouse the whole of the United Kingdom into agitation. (Cheers). They were determined to have the bill, the whole bill, and nothing but the bill, and that when they got political power they would use it wisely, nobly, and well for the advancement of their country. (Cheers).

Mr R. Cameron, J.P., of Sunderland, supported the resolution, and likened the advent of political freedom by the Franchise Bill to the emancipation of the negroes in 1839, in that it had been long looked for, and was come at last. (Cheers). Mr James Lowther, that distinguished man, had said that the working classes had no stake in the country, and that their admission to the franchise in such numbers would endanger the agricultural interests. That was a true Tory cry. Mr Lowther was a true Tory. He (Mr Cameron) liked to meet a true Tory, and preferred James Lowther to Lord Randolph Churchill, because the latter was possessed of such an elastic intellect that it could adapt itself to any circumstances, and a conscience so elastic as to take in almost the Radicalism of Birmingham, and yet which in Tory circles could be narrowed to suit the narrowest Toryism. (Laughter and "hear, hear"). There was nothing he had read in this controversy in the past or present that he felt so much disapproval of as the statement that a working man had no stake in the country in which he lived. The working man had his life to live, his bread to win, and his family to bring up in the country; the whole of his property was in it, and what more had the richest lord in the country? (Cheers). He had endeavoured often to refute the fallacy that working men were not qualified to exercise the franchise. He knew well the efforts the men in the eastern part of the county were making to educate themselves by getting up science classes, and in various ways. The miners of Durham were actually taking more prizes in these science classes than the dwellers in towns. To make a distinction between dwellers in the town and in the country was simply nonsense in these days, when education had spread so much, when railways had brought them, so to speak, so close together, and when they had the same literature and the same cheap newspapers in the country as in the town. The admission of the middle class to the franchise in 1832 soon led to the removal of the shackles which fettered industry, and to the passing of great measures for promoting trade and permitting of the bringing in of cheaper bread for the masses of the people. Seventeen years ago, the working classes in the towns were first admitted to the franchise, by a measure which the late Lord Derby called a leap in the dark. What had been the result of that measure? They had not destroyed our glorious Constitution, or pitched the House of Lords into the Thames, or compelled the Queen to fly for safety, as some seemed to expect would be the case. On the other hand, the elections had become much more orderly in the towns. He remembered once rebuking some men for making a disturbance in a political meeting before the passing of the Act of 1867, and they said to him, "Why, it's the only way we can make that man (their member) understand us." (Laughter). The acquisition of the franchise would confer on them a great moral power as well as a great political right. He believed that when they obtained the franchise no great measure could be passed, and no great war entered upon, until the great majority of the people in the United Kingdom had directly sanctioned it. (Cheers). He judged much of the charcter of parties by the heroes they worshipped. The Tories had lately been celebrating Primrose Day in honour of the late Lord Beaconsfield. He was undoubtedly a clever man, but not a man of high principles; he was a man who strove to exalt his party by every art and every trick he could use. The man the working classes almost worshipped, on the other hand, was a man of great learning, of eloquence unparrelleled in modern times, yet possessed of a conscience pure, sensitive, and tender as a child's—a man who had been mocked and laughed at for saying that the working class were of his flesh and blood. (Loud cheers). After strongly urging that this was not the time for the advocacy of fancy franchises, and saying that although he advocated woman's suffrage, he belived it should not be urged on now, to the risk of the whole bill, Mr Cameron resumed his seat amid loud and prolonged cheering.

The Rev W. Bowe, of Stanley, having added a few words, the resolution was carried.

Votes of thanks having been accorded the speakers and Chairman, the gathering separated with cheers for "the whole bill."

Cricket.

MEDOMSLEY v. TANFIELD.

Played at Medomsley on Saturday, and after a pleasant and exciting game, resulted in a victory for the home team. The batting of Messrs Curry and Brown for the visitors was very good; Messrs Wilkinson and T. Murphy doing good service for the home team. Scores:—

TANFIELD.		MEDOMSLEY.	
E. Reay c Murphy b Little	2	T. Murphy b Laidler	20
W. Brown c and b Little	15	E. Milburn c Pringle	2
T. Swinburn b Little	0	A. Little c Bowes	9
T. Curry b Wilkinson	13	M. Milburn c Hancock	5
H. Hancock b Wilkinson	7	R. Wilkinson b Laidler	15
T. Jewit c Murphy	2	J. Adamson b Laidler	0
J. Laidler c Murphy	2	J. Snowdon run out	2
T. Morton not out	3	G. Graham b Jewit	0
C. Pringle b Wilkinson	0	R. Charlton not out	1
J. Bowes c Walton	4	G. Walton c Bowes	0
W. Hetherington b Milburn	0	J. Walton run out	0
Extras	9	Extras	5
Total	57	Total	59

WEST STANLEY v. USWORTH.

This match was played at West Stanley on Saturday, and resulted in an easy victory for the home team by 44 runs. The batting of Mr Dodds, and the bowling of Messrs Mann and Harkness was all that could be wished for. Score:—

WEST STANLEY.		USWORTH.	
R. Knox c Smith b Daglish	4	T. Smith c Curry b Mann	0
I. Harkness b Allsop	1	G. Edgar c Knox b Harkness	11
J. Dixon b Daglish	1	W. Cragg b Harkness	0
W. Dodds c Allsop b Daglish	14	M. Bolham b Harkness	0
R. Gibson b Daglish	0	R. Slee b Mann	2
J. G. Mann b Ellwood	9	R. Ellwood b Mann	0
P. Harkness b Daglish	0	A. Allsop c Gibson b Mann	0
J. Hunter not out	8	F. Daglish lbw b Harkness	2
W. Hutchinson c and b Daglish	0	N. Smith b Harkness	0
J. Curry c Smith b Daglish	3	C. Harrison b Harness	0
E. Dunnweedy b Daglish	8	J. Usher not out	3
Extras	16	Extras	2
Total	64	Total	20

CONSETT AND DISTRICT v. BURNOPFIELD.

In beautiful weather a match between these two teams was played at Burnopfield on Saturday last. The visitors went first to the wicket to the bowling of Messrs Finlay and Lamb, the innings closing for 46. The principal contributor to this score being Mr P. Gibson, who with his brilliant batting succeeded in compiling 22. After a brief interval the home team commenced their innings with Messrs Armstrong and Cuthbertson to the bowling of Messrs J. Costello and Israel Richards. At first it appeared as if the home team would be successful in running off the score, but after disposing of the abovementioned batsmen the rest were eventually got rid of for a total of 34 leaving the Consett team victorious by 12 runs. For the visitors Mr J. R. Richards also handled the leather very effectually, taking 5 wickets at the cost of only 4 runs. Score:—

CONSETT.		BURNOPFIELD.	
I. Richards c Cooper b Finlay	5	R. Armstrong b I. Richards	7
P. Flynn c Cooper b Lamb	0	J. Cuthbertson c Turnbull b J. R. Richards	12
P. Gibson c Armstrong b Lamb	22	Rev C. E. Couchman c and b I. Richards	0
Dr O'Donnell b Hogarth	1	Wm. Hogarth b Costello	1
J. Costello c Cuthbertson b Hogarth	0	T. Southern st Flynn b J. R. Richards	3
J. R. Richards lbw b Finlay	2	G. Cooper c I. Richards b J. R. Richards	0
T. Jameson c Southern b Lamb	6	G. Finlay run out	1
J. H. Turnbull b Hogarth	1	T. Knotts b J. R. Richards	5
J. Dunn not out	2	G. Lamb not out	1
W. Ramsay c Cuthbertson b Finlay	0	J. Curry b I. Richards	1
J. Collinson b Hogarth	0	R. Ferguson b J. R. Richards	0
Extras	7	Extras	3
Total	46	Total	34

HAMSTERLEY v. RAGGY ELEVEN C.C.

The above match was played off at the Spen pic-nic and sports on Saturday, and resulted in a victory for the strangers. Scores:—

HAMSTERLEY.		RAGGY ELEVEN.	
M. Goodman run out	2	A. Henderson b Richardson	0
T. Billclough b Henderson	0	W. Gregory b Chaytor	2
F. Richardson b Emmerson	9	A. Emmerson b Chaytr	0
J. Holden b Henderson	0	J. Harris b Richardson	0
J. Greener b Henderson	5	J. Setery b Chaytor	6
R. Chaytor run out	3	L. Dickinson c Anderson	6
J. Anderson c and b Henderson	1	W. Hodgin b Chaytor	1
G. Storey c and b Henderson	4	R. Forster not out	0
D. Little	1	E. Charlton b Chaytor	0
G. Gardiner	3	G. Setery c and b Chaytor	1
J. Brown not out	1	J. Forster b Chaytor	3
Extras	4	Extras	7
Total	33	Total	26

North of England Iron and Coal Trade.—Tuesday.—On 'Change to-day the attendance was comparatively small, and the amount of business transacted to-day was very meagre. Merchants are not offering iron so freely for forward delivery at lower prices than the makers will take, because they have some difficulty in getting iron from the producers, and the latter keep very firmly together, as they believe that the merchants will have to purchase even at the makers' price seeing that their stocks are only light. The principal makers of Cleveland iron quote 37s 6d yet for No. 3, and obtain that figure also for all they sell. Others, however, will take 37s, and the general price among the merchants is 36s 9d, though reports have been circulated that 36s 6d has been accepted. Few sellers are prepared to accept less than 36s 9d, however, and for forge 35s 3d is the regular figure, with 35s taken for fair orders, while mottled is 3d less. Warrants are not offered for sale, neither are any inquiries made for them. The Continental inquiry for pig iron is very small at present, and is not likely to improve while the stagnation exists in France, Belgium, and Germany. Founders are moderately well occupied. In the finished iron trade the bar manufacturers have a good supply of orders, and are keeping their mills in regular operation at fair prices; but the platemakers complain very much of the depression, and find it next to impossible to secure orders enough to keep their works in employment, except at prices lower than the present unremunerative figures. Common bars are £5 5s; sheets, £6 15s to £7; ship angles, £4 15s; and ship plates, £5 per ton, all less 2½ per cent. at works. Steel rails are £4 12s 6d at works. The coal trade has lost the buoyancy that was noticeable last month, partly because of the warmer weather, and partly owing to the increasing dulness of trade. Prices are, however, maintained.

LANCHESTER RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

The monthly meeting of the above Authority took place on Thursday se'nnight, Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith being in the chair. Present: The Revs Canon Kearney, J. P. De Pledge, J.P.; Messrs T. Siddell, J. Buckham, J. Wilkinson, W. Logan, R. W. Shaw, R. Clark, T. J. Muse, Wm. Shell, Thomas Taylor Smith, J. W. Hodgson, W. Brown, T. Pringle, George Hobson, J. Lax, Jos. Eltringham, Wm. Rutherford, Wm. Bell, John Collinson, W. Cumming, John Bowey, and the clerk (Mr Ritson).

RE-APPOINTMENT OF MEDICAL OFFICERS AND INSPECTOR.

The minutes having been read and confirmed, Mr Logan gave notice to move at the next meeting the re-appointment of the three medical officers and the sanitary inspector for another twelve months.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Inspector (Mr Rounthwaite) submitted the following report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Rural Sanitary Authority.

Gentlemen,—Now that the second contract for the Dipton Sewage Works—the tanks and outfall—is well advanced, I shall be glad to know whether I am to get on with the plans and specifications for the third and final section of the scheme, viz., the sewers for Hill Top and Flint Hill.

Nuisance notices served during the month	16
Letters written with respect to nuisances	52
Plan approval notices sent out	7
Plans received and examined	9
Habitation certificates sent out	2
Villages, hamlets, &c. inspected	42

The following new building is now completed, and habitation certificate is required for the same:—

491.—James Joicey and Co., additions to Plough Inn, Mountsett.

I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
J. Wm. Rounthwaite.

BUILDING COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

May 8th, 1884.

Your committee recommends that the following plans be approved, subject to the matters marked on each plan being attended to, viz:—

522.—Blaydon Industrial and Provident Society, outbuildings to house, Burnopfield.
523.—Thomas Hunter, one house, Medomsley Edge.
524.—James Forster, slaughter-house, West Stanley.
525.—James Bolam, wash-house, Flint Hill.
526.—John Thompson, one house, Medomsley Edge.
527.—Edward Pattinson, house, Lizard's Farm.
528.—William Collier, house, Wilke's Hill.
529.—John Ritchie, two houses, Dipton.
530.—William J. Handcock, two houses, Barcus Close.

THE DIPTON DRAINAGE SCHEME: A DISPUTE.

It appears that some dispute has arisen between Mr Stephen Hall, of Prudhoe, the contractor for the sewage works at Dipton, and Mr Rounthwaite, touching the amount to be paid for extra work involved in connection with the above scheme. Mr Hall claimed £79 odd for the "extras" performed; but the Inspector deemed the charge exorbitant, and considered £21 as reasonable renumeration for such work. The Clerk read several communications he had received from Mr S. Lamb, solicitor, Newcastle, in which he threatened to sue the Authority in the County Court if the amount was not paid within a specified time; but subsequently he wrote to say that, if amount was disputed, Mr Hall was agreeable that the question should be settled by arbitration.

Mr Hodgson said Mr Hall had told him that he wished to avoid legal proceedings, and he was desirous that the whole matter should be submitted to arbitration. Mr Hall suggested that a committee should be appointed by the Authority who—along with Mr Rounthwaite, himself, and a practical engineer—should consider the question, and whatever amount was determined upon as reasonable for the work executed he (Mr Hall) was agreeable to abide by such decision.

Replying to different members, Mr Hodgson did not think that Mr Hall would be willing to sign any agreement to the foregoing effect.

The Chairman observed that Mr Hall had written to him stating that he was wishful for a reference.

Mr Collinson suggested that it would be best to refer the point to an independent arbitrator, but Mr Logan was in favour of a committee of that Authority deciding the question, providing Mr Hall was agreeable.

The Inspector explained that Mr Hall had received a certificate for £30 for the additional work performed. He considered the present claim was exorbitant.

It was eventually agreed to defer the subject until that day fortnight.

MEDICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS.

The following are the monthly reports from the Union Medical Officers:—

Eastern District.

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Rural Sanitary Authority.

Gentlemen,—The health of this district is in a more satisfactory condition than I have known it during the last twelve months.

A few cases of scarlatina of a mild form have come under my notice, all of which occurred in one village.

Excepting the above, I believe the district is free from all zymotic diseases.

The mortality for the month is unusually light, only 23 deaths were registered, being equal to annual ratio o 16 per 1000 on the estimated population.—I remain gentlemen, your obedient servant,
T. Benson, Medical Officer.

May 7th 1884.

Medomsley District.

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Rural Sanitary Authority.

Gentlemen,—By the quarterly returns of births and deaths received since I sent you my last report, 52 births and 31 deaths were registered, and of these deaths three were from zymotic disease.

Several cases of scarlatina of a mild form are still under treatment in the Medomsley district.

Ebchester continues free from zymotic disease and the sanitary condition of the district is very good.—I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
W. T. Bolton.

May 7th, 1884.

Lanchester District.

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Rural Sanitary Authority.

Gentlemen,—The following are the only cases of epidemic disease that have come to my knowledge since my last report:

One death from typhoid fever in the Workhouse.

Twelve cases of diarrhœa at Quebec, and eight cases at Hamsteels Colliery.

Two cases of scarlet fever at Langley Park, and seven cases of diarrhœa.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
John Wilson.

May, 8th 1884.

The Chairman said he was glad to see the reports were so brief, and that the district was almost clear of epidemics.

The members afterwards dispersed.

THE POLLUTION OF STANLEY BURN.

MESSRS HEDLEY BROTHERS AND THE CRAGHEAD SEWERAGE.

At the last meeting of the Lanchester Rural Sanitary Authority—Mr Smith, J.P., presiding—the Clerk (Mr Ritson) read the annexed correspondence from Messrs Hedley Bros., the owners of Craghead and Holmside collieries:—

"We are in receipt of a notice, dated 3rd April, 1884, signed by your Sanitary Authority Inspector, and requiring us within 28 days from the service of the said notice to abate an alleged nuisance at 12 new houses at Craghead Colliery, said to arise from the want of sinks and drains.

"We deny that any such nuisance exists at the said houses; but we are willing and anxious to prevent the possibility of a nuisance arising at some future time, by putting in properly trapped sinks and a good and sufficient drain pipe to the satisfaction of your Surveyor, so soon as the Sanitary Authority shall have provided a sewerage system into which the said drain pipe may discharge, in compliance with your 49th Bye-law.

"We have hitherto declined to lay such drain pipe so as to discharge sewage into Stanley Burn or in any other way to create a nuisance, and we are glad to observe that you so far acquiesce in our view as to have abandoned your requirement for us to drain into the Burn.

"But we venture to point out that by the aforesaid notice you now require us to create a nuisance by the formation of a cesspit into which the drainage of the said houses shall be discharged. That drainage is at present mixed with earth and ashes, and is removed therewith every week, so that no nuisance or danger to health can possibly arise therefrom, but to discharge it into a cesspit or pool, would certainly create a very great nuisance and danger to health. This is conclusively shewn by our experience of a cesspool made in compliance with your requirements at Wagtail Cottages. Notwithstanding every care, the cesspool has become offensive and dangerous and we have been compelled to sever the connection of the drain pipe therewith. We are now engaged in cleaning out the pit, with a view to its being filled up.

"By your 59th Bye-law, it is provided that "no person shall construct a cesspool in connection with any new building in any case except when unavoidable. In that case, the person constructing such cesspool shall construct such cesspool in a suitable situation, and with sound, suitable, and substantial materials." The construction of a cesspool in the present case is *not* unavoidable. It would therefore, be a violation of the bye-law to make such cesspool. The construction may be avoided in either of two ways—by your Board providing the necessary sewerage works for the district, or by the drainage from the 12 houses being removed with the ashes and earth as at present. We would also point out that the plan accompanying the notice requires us to make the cesspool at a place intended to be laid out by us for building purposes. It cannot, therefore, be a "suitable situation" within the meaning of your bye-law.

"By the accompanying notice, we require you to provide your district with sufficient sewers, into one of which we desire to cause our drains to empty, and unless you decide within 21 days from the date hereof to provide such sewers, we shall, under section 299 of the Public Health Act, 1875, make complaint to the Local Government Board that you have made default in providing your district with sufficient sewers, and pray the said Board to make such order as may be necessary to secure a proper system of sewerage.

Dated this 5th day of April, 1884.
Thomas Hedley and Bros.
Owners of Craghead Coll.

We do hereby as the owners of 12 new houses at Craghead Colliery and of 8 new houses at Wagtail, within your Rural Sanitary district, give you notice that we desire to drain the said houses and to empty the drains of the said houses into and to connect such drains with sewers to be provided by you for the said district, under the powers conferred upon you by the aforesaid act; and we do further give you notice that we require you forthwith to provide such district with sufficient sewers for carrying away and disposing of the drainage and sewage of the said district; and we do further give you notice that at the expiration of 21 days from the date of this notice we will make complaint to the Local Government Board that you have made default in providing your district with sufficient sewers and will pray the said Board to order you to provide an efficient sewerage system and sewers for the said district, unless before the expiration of the said 21 days you take steps for providing such sewerage system and sewers as aforesaid.

Dated this 5th day of April, 1884.
Thos. Hedley and Bros.
Owners of Craghead Coll.

The following extract from the Inspector's (Mr Rounthwaite's) report relating to the same subject was also read:

"Notice was served on Messrs Hedley Bros., on the 4th ult., to abate nuisance at 12 new houses at Craghead Colliery, arising from want of sinks and drains to the said houses. The time given in the notice—viz., 28 days—expired on the 2nd inst. I visited the place yesterday but nothing had been done.

"Until lately the slop water from the adjoining hamlet of Wagtail Cottages emptied into a cesspool. Sometime back the cesspool became a nuisance partly owing to its faulty construction and inadequate size and partly owing to the want of frequent periodical cleanings. More than one notice was sent to have the place thoroughly cleaned out, but without effect, until yesterday I found it apparently filled up, the drain disconnected, and the slop water left to run into the roadside ditch, where it is now causing a nuisance."

Mr Siddell: We are rather behind the age. These letters shew a disgraceful state of things on the part of this Authority.

Mr Clark: Why did Messrs Hedley deviate from the original plans passed by this Authority, requiring the houses to be connected with the old drain as shewn thereon?

The Clerk replied that this was a private drain belonging to the Messrs Hedley, and over which the Authority had no control.

Mr Clark: Why the plans were passed subject to that stipulation.

Mr Buckham: Where does this old drain run to?

The Clerk: Into the Stanley Burn.

Mr Logan advised the members not to confound the two questions, which were distinct from each other—viz., the sewering of the 12 houses at Craghead and the pollution of the Stanley Burn. In requesting the Messrs Hedley to drain those cottages, the Sanitary Authority were only asking them to carry out in their entirety the plans prepared by Messrs Hedley, and it was upon the specific understanding that these houses were to be connected with the old sewer communicating with the Burn that the plans were approved by the Authority. He considered, however, that it would be a great pity if Messrs Hedley and the Sanitary Authority came to loggerheads over such a trivial matter, inasmuch as the Messrs Hedley had repeatedly promised to drain these twelve houses. If the Sanitary Authority compelled Messrs Hedley to discharge additional sewerage into the Stanley Burn, and thus further pollute the stream, the Authority was prepared to accept the responsibility of all consequences that might arise therefrom. He thought there was a way of effecting an amicable settlement of the matter. Dr Wilson, their Medical Officer, was intimately acquainted with the Messrs Hedley Bros., and he was of opinion that they could not do better than depute the doctor to lay the whole subject before the firm, and see what could be done to abate the nuisances. He (the speaker) suggested that their clerk should forward to Dr Wilson a copy of the whole correspondence relating to the question, with a request that he will be pleased to deal with it in the best way he could, and report result at a special meeting of the Authority.

After some further observations the Rev J. P. De Pledge said: I would like to ask, Mr Chairman, for the third time, why this Authority does not take steps to provide the necessary outlet? That is the most reasonable method of dealing with this difficulty, and it is of no use shirking discussion, or trying to shelve the matter.

Mr Clark: The reason why we do not provide an outlet is because we have not done so for other colliery owners.

Mr De Pledge: We have laid in new sewers?

Mr Clark: Not for private houses. The Consett Iron Company, Messrs Joicey, and others, have been called upon to lay sewers to their cottages; and the Authority did not desire to deviate from that rule.

Mr Logan remarked that the whole of the houses at Craghead, with the exception of these twelve, were perfectly drained to the satisfaction of the Authority; and they were merely asking Messrs Hedley to drain these 12 houses.

Mr Siddell: Is it not our duty to provide an outlet?

Mr Logan: Not unless it is proved that this Authority has been guilty of some neglect.

Canon Kearney: Where does the outlet for the rest of the houses drain into?

Mr Logan: The Stanley Burn.

Canon Kearney said there would be some legislation before long to prevent the pollution of these streams by sewerage; and moreover it was very objectionable to have these sewers discharging into the Burn. He submitted that this question should not be allowed to crop up over and over again, and he considered Messrs Hedley's request a very reasonable one. They asked the Authority, in effect, to provide a public sewer, and then they promised to drain their houses into that. The existing sewer was not a public drain, when it was not under the jurisdiction of that Authority. He understood Mr Fairley (the manager) had told them that the cesspool had become a thorough nuisance, and he had been unable to get a man to clean it out. The only way of dealing with the question was for the Authority to follow the example of the Consett, Leadgate, and other Local Boards, and provide a large sewer, and then give notice to private proprietors to connect their house drains with it.

Mr Clark explained that Messrs Hedley submitted a plan shewing that these houses would be drained into the existing sewer, which had discharged itself into the river for upwards of thirty years.

The Chairman observed that, although the sewer had been emptying into the Burn, it had been proved on analysis that the Chester-le-Street water was even purer than the Consett Company's water which did not contain any sewerage (laughter).

Rev J. P. De Pledge inquired the probable cost in case the Authority determined to provide a suitable outlet?

The Inspector replied that it depended entirely as to where they fixed the site for the outfall.

Mr Logan: Roughly speaking, will it cost £1,000?

The Inspector: I cannot say.

Mr Buckham: What length of piping will be required to connect these new houses with the existing sewer?

The Inspector: About 50 yards.

Mr Buckham: Then we ought to request Messrs Hedley to run their pipes into this sewer.

Mr Logan embodied his suggestion as to the Clerk forwarding the correspondence to Dr Wilson, &c., into a proposition.

Mr Clark thought it was unnecessary to drag the Medical Officer into the dispute.

The Chairman: It will have to be done sooner or later.

Canon Kearney: Why, the doctor has reported upon the sanitary state of Wagtail Cottages so frequently, that I think our Clerk might have his reports stereotyped. (Laughter).

Mr Collinson asked if all the work the Authority required Messrs Hedley to perform was to connect these houses with the main drain, as indicated on the original plan?

The Chairman: That is all.

Mr Collinson: And they refuse to do so?

The Chairman: Yes.

Mr Collinson: Then why does not this Authority take steps to compel Messrs Hedley to conform with the plans?

Mr Clark: They would have been summoned before now had they been poor people.

Mr Shaw: There is this question; Messrs Hedley would have to run their sewage into Stanley Burn, and the Chester-le-Street people strongly object to that. They are situate between two fires—they have the Authority on one side, and the inhabitants of Chester-le-Street on the other.

Mr Eltringham: Messrs Hedley Bros. have nothing to do with what the Chester-le-Street people may say or do.

Mr Rutherford observed that they were not going to make another sewer to flow into the Burn.

Mr Clark said if the Authority compelled Messrs Hedley to drain into Stanley Burn, the Chester-le-Street people would hold the Authority responsible, not Messrs Hedley.

Mr Eltringham: That is the case.

Mr Lax enquired if it would be wise to incur such a responsibility when the consequences were likely to prove so serious?

The Chairman: If Messrs Hedley simply carry out what they have promised, then this Authority accepts all the responsibility.

Canon Kearney: What was done in the case of the Dipton drainage scheme?

The Chairman: That is a different case altogether. There were a number of houses belonging to different proprietors built by the roadside, which the Authority was bound to drain. At Craghead there were 12 houses which have been erected on private property, and the Authority could not encroach upon it.

Canon Kearney: How is the Dipton sewerage disposed of?

Mr Logan: We are constructing settling ponds.

Canon Kearney: Why is it not the same here? As Mr Shaw aptly terms it, the Messrs Hedley are placed between two fires, and the people of Chester-le-Street are determined that they will not allow them to run the sewage into the Burn.

Mr Siddell: Is it not the duty of this Board, if the Messrs Hedley refuses to lay in this drain, to instruct their Inspector to do the necessary work and charge them with the cost thereof?

Mr Buckham seconded Mr Logan's proposition, which was supported by Mr Eltringham, and carried unanimously.

The following letters were afterwards read:—

Chester-le-Street Union Rural Sanitary Authority,
Chester-le-Street.
March 24th, 1884.

My Lords and Gentlemen,—I am directed by the Rural Sanitary Authority of this Union to forward you the accompanying copy of a correspondence which has taken place between this Authority and the Rural Sanitary Authority of the Lanchester Union, relative to the pollution by sewage of a stream called Stanley Burn, which flows through both Unions.

Complaints were made to this Authority in the latter part of last year that the sewage from Craghead—a colliery village in the Lanchester Union—had been for some time discharged into the said Burn, from which Chester-le-Street water supply for domestic purposes is chiefly obtained.

These complaints having been confirmed by reports from our Nuisance Inspector, Mr T. Barras (extract No. 1) and Dr Morris (2), the Lanchester Authority were asked to stop this sewage from entering the stream, but, as your Lordships will see from the enclosed copies of letters, only indefinite replies have been received.

I have therefore respectfully to ask your honourable Board to take such action as you deem best to enforce the adoption as soon as practicable of some scheme for the proper disposal of the sewage in question.—I have the honour to be, my Lords and Gentlemen, your obedient servant,
Robt. Dickinson,
Clerk to the said Authority.

The Local Government Board, Whitehall, S.W.

Chester-le-Street, 25th March, 1884.

Pollution of Chester-le-Street Water Supply and Lanchester Sanitary Authority

Sir,—Referring to yours of the 18th ultimo, I have been waiting to see what the Lanchester Sanitary Authority would do in the matter, and I see by a reply sent to the Chester-le-Street Sanitary Authority that they decline to do anything.

The Chester-le-Street Sanitary Authority have therefore decided to send the whole of the correspondence to your honourable Board, and I respectfully ask you to urge immediate steps, as the pollution of the water supply is creating great uneasiness among the inhabitants of Chester-le-Street.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,
John Turnbull.

C. N. Dalton, Esq., Assistant Secretary,
Local Government Board, London.

Mr Shaw did not see why the residents of Chester-le-Street should object to the sewage running into the Burn, seeing seeing that it made their water so much better. It is an undeniable fact that sewage has been flowing into the Burn for a long period, and yet the water was purer than the Consett water (laughter); and it was only natural if a large quantity of sewerage was discharged into the stream, there would be a greater perceptible improvement in the quality of the water (more laughter). He (the speaker) took exception to the remarks of the Chairman relative the the analysis of Consett and Chester-le-Street waters. He had in his possession a copy of both documents, and he supposed the Chester-le-Street people were wrong in their analysis.

Canon Kearney: Then the Consett Water Company have made a great mistake in not utilising the sewage. (Laughter).

Mr Shaw: I suppose doctors will differ as to the respective qualities of water, and the quantity of sewage which tends to make good water. (Loud laughter).

After some discussion, a motion was proposed by Mr T. Taylor Smith and seconded by Mr Buckham, to the effect that the Local Government Board be further communicated with, stating that the Sanitary Authority desire to carry out what the necessities of the case demands; but they feel that a very large expenditure will be incurred thereby, and that the Burn will be only very slightly improved, owing to the stream being polluted to a large extent both above and below Craghead. This Authority is of opinion that an Inspector should be sent down by the Local Government Board to report upon the state of the Burn from its source to its discharge into the River Wear.

This resolution was also agreed to.

One Box of Clarke's B41 Pills is warranted to cure all discharges from the Urinary Organs, in either sex (acquired or constitutional), Gravel, and Pains in the back. Guaranteed free from Mercury. Sold in Boxes, 4s 6d each, by all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors throughout the World; or sent to any address for sixty stamps by the Makers, The Lincoln and Midland Counties Drug Company, Lincoln. Wholesale Agents, Barclay & Sons, London, and all the Wholesale Houses.

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.

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

Business Announcements.

ELEVENTH YEAR OF ATTENDING CONSETT.

MR. MARKHAM, SURGEON DENTIST, of Newcastle, Attends at Miss WILLIAMS', No. 4, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT, EVERY MONDAY, from 1·30 p.m. to 3·30 p.m.

ESTABLISHED 1830. 962p

STEAM TO WEST AUSTRALIA, &c. AMERICA, AND AFRICA.
PLATE GLASS INSURANCE.
E, LIFE, AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE.

WILL. ELLIOTT,

ASSISTANT OVERSEER,
MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT. 771s

BOTANIC BEER.

FOR THE BEST SPARKLING AND NON-INTOXICATING BOTANIC BEER,
APPLY TO

JOSEPH MURRAY,

GROCER AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,
WHO WILL SUPPLY IT IN CASKS AND BOTTLES, TO ANY PART OF THE DISTRICT.

T. C. CAMPBELL,

SURGEON DENTIST,
8, GRAINGER STREET, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

ARTIFICIAL TEETH

With all the greatest improvements of modern Dental Science. They are made of only the best and purest materials, and are not affected by the fluids of the mouth, but retain their natural appearance and colour for a lifetime, and enable those who wear them to masticate their food with ease and comfort. Every set is adapted to the mouth without the stumps being extracted, is warranted to fit perfectly, and guaranteed for five years. The prices are so reasonable they are within the means of all classes.

COMPLETE UPPER OR LOWER SETS FROM 30s. TO £4 10s.
FROM 3s. to 10s. PER TOOTH.

Teeth painlessly extracted by the aid of Nitrous Oxide (laughing gas), and all operations in Dental Surgery skilfully performed. All Charges strictly moderate.

Country patients visiting Mr. CAMPBELL'S Establishment in Newcastle, will have all the advantages of a most complete Dental Apparatus, which a travelling dentist cannot possibly offer.

CHEAP GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS!!!

JOHN HALL,

FAMILY GROCER AND PROVISION MERCHANT,

Respectfully invites those who wish to obtain the BEST VALUE for their Money to visit his ESTABLISHMENT at ANNFIELD PLAIN, noted as being the Cheapest Shop in the District. Prices as below:—

GOOD WHITE SUGAR, 2d. per lb.
BEST CRYSTAL SUGAR, 3d. per lb.
GOOD TEAS, 1s. 4d. and 1s. 8d. per lb.
VERY FINE INDIAN TEA, 2s. per lb.
(Cannot be equalled anywhere at the price.)
COFFEES, from 10d. to 1s. 4d. per lb.
CURRANTS, 4d. per lb.
GOOD SOAPS, 2d and 3d. per lb.
BEST PALE and MOTTLED SOAPS, 1s. per ½ st.
BEST WHITE CURD SOAP, 4d. per lb.
(This Soap is usually Sold at 5d. per lb.)
RICE FLOUR, 2d. per lb.
CORN FLOUR, 4d. per lb.
CANDLES, 5d. per lb.
2 lb. JARS of BLACK CURRANT JAM, 10d. each.
2 lb FANCY JUGS of JAM, 11d. each.
BACON, 6d. and 7d. per lb.
FINEST SALT BUTTER, 1s. 4d. per lb.
CHEESE, 4d., 7d., and 8d. per lb.
PURE LARD, 6d. per lb.
BEST BLADDER LARD, 7d. per lb.

TERMS, CASH.—DISCOUNT, 6d. IN THE POUND.

HARPERLEY AND CATCHGATE STEAM AND WATER CORN MILLS,
NEAR ANNFIELD PLAIN, *VIA* LINTZ GREEN,

GEORGE HOBSON,

WHOLESALE
MILLER AND CORN MERCHANT, FIELD SEEDSMAN, &c.,
HAS ALWAYS ON HAND A LARGE STOCK OF
PURE LINSEED AND COTTON CAKES, WHOLE OR READY BROKEN.

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

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

THE CELEBRATED EXCELLO HORSE FEED
Thoroughly Cleaned by New and Improved Machinery, Spiced, or otherwise, to order.

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

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

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

G. H.'S MIXTURE OF
PERMANENT CLOVER AND GRASS SEEDS has been tested and approved by the leading Agriculturalists of the district upwards of thirty-eight years.

PRICE LISTS ON APPLICATION 427r

STANDARD LUBRICATING OIL CO.
1, DRAPERS GARDENS,
THROGMORTON STREET,
LONDON, E.C
IMPORTERS AND MANUFACTURERS OF LUBRICATING OILS. 713r

THE "CITY OF ROME," STEAMSHIP, 8,415 TONS, WILL SAIL FROM
LIVERPOOL TO NEW YORK,
ON
SATURDAY, MAY 31st, &c.

All going to America should secure Berths in this unrivalled boat.
For TICKETS, &c., apply to WILL. ELLIOT, Assistant Overseer, 5, Mount Pleasant, Consett. 770s

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JOHN W. DAVISON,
CABINETMAKER, FURNITURE BROKER, IRONMONGER, &c.,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT, AND CATCHGATE,

HAS now on hand the largest and best made Stock of FURNITURE in the district.
IRON BEDSTEADS in great variety.
MATTRESSES, FEATHERS, FLOCKS, RABBIT DOWN.
A large Stock of New Patterns in PAPER HANGINGS.
PERAMBULATORS. HARDWARE.
Agent for the HOME WASHER and MANGLING MACHINES.
BURY'S and HARDY'S PATENT PICKS and SHAFTS.
Licensed Dealer in SPORTING and BLASTING POWDER.

J. JOHNSON,
JOINER AND CABINETMAKER,
MEDOMSLEY ROAD, CONSETT,
(Behind the Wesleyan Schools).
Repairs and Alterations to Property on the Shortest Notice. 861s

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STONE and COAL BORING MACHINES from the best makers, from £1 to £7 10s. Also, COPPER GEAR. A Stock always on hand.—Sold by GEO. HUNTER, Medomsley Colliery, Lintz Green. Repairs attended to. 826s

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REVELY AND KELL,
IMPORTERS OF
FOREIGN WINES AND SPIRITS,
WHOLESALE AND FAMILY MERCHANTS,
No. 7, COLLINGWOOD STREET, NEWCASTLE.

POOLEY'S PATENT MALT BREAD.

BREAD being universally consumed in larger quantities than any other food, it is of the utmost importance that it shou'd contain the largest amount of nutriment in the most readily assimitative form.

By the addition of MALT, in due proportion to Wheat Flour, in the process of making, it has been found that the Bread is much more easily digested, the Stomach being saved a portion of the preliminary process of preparing it for assimilation.

INVALIDS are not the only persons interested in the MALT BREAD, as it is not only more readily digested, but it is MORE NUTRITIOUS, MORE AGREEABLE TO THE PALATE, AND WILL KEEP SWEET MUCH LONGER THAN ORDINARY BREAD.

It is highly spoken of by the Medical Profession.

MESSRS. WILSON BRO.'S, SHOTLEY BRIDGE, have secured the right to Make and Sell the Malt Bread, and it can be had also from their Agent, Mr. W. AYNSLEY, Consett and Leadgate.

Public Notices.

NOTICE.—STANLEY FLOWER SHOW will be held on Saturday, September 6th, 1884.
74t G. FORSTER, Secretary.

NOTICE.—The GAME upon Low Bradley, West Billingside, East Billingside, High Stables, and Pontop Hall Farms; and also in Pont and Pike Woods is strictly preserved. All Trespassers will be Prosecuted, and Stray Dogs Destroyed. 15t

SPECIAL.—TO LADIES ONLY.—A Lady having discovered a SECRET invaluable to Ladies generally, will be pleased to forward same gratis to any address on receipt of stamped directed envelope.—Address, Mrs. C., Highland Villa, Totterdown, Bristol.

JOSHUA LAX,
SHOTLEY BRIDGE, CO. DURHAM,
Begs to inform the Public that he has still on hand a few Copies of his Poems, the remains of the Edition of 1,000 Vols., and shall be happy to send, Post Free to any Address in the United Kingdom, a Copy or more at the rate of 5s. each. 72t

THE SCIENTIFIC DRESS CUTTING ASSOCIATION,
Have appointed Miss ELLIOTT, 49, Durham Road, Blackhill, sole Agent for Consett, Blackhill, and District.
Classes daily from 10 to 12, and 2 to 5, or as arranged for. Lessons also given to Classes of Ladies at their Residences if desired. To commence March 31st. Send Address for Circular. 871s

TO FARMERS.
FARMERS will do well to inspect G. HOBSON'S large and carefully-selected Stock of Clover, Grass, Turnip Seeds, &c., before giving their Orders elsewhere.
My Seeds have all been carefully-selected from Samples sent by the most respectable Growers and Importers, and will bear comparison with the best houses in England as to price and quality.

BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL.
MISS COLQUHOUN, late of West Stanley, begs to intimate that she will resume her Classes on Tuesday, May 27th, 1884, at URPETH VILLAS, PIT HILL.
Prospectuses, with Terms for Board and Education, on application to Miss COLQUHOUN, Stanley Hall, Stanley, R.S.O. 37t

MESSRS. JOHN BARRASS and Co., of Gateshead, beg to announce to their Friends and Customers that they have REMOVED their Business to their New Brewery in CORPORATION STREET, BATH LANE, Newcastle-on-Tyne (which has been fitted with an entirely new Plant on the Burton principle, with all the most recent improvements), where their business will in future be carried on.
Please address all communications to
JOHN BARRASS AND CO.,
BATH LANE BREWERY, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

JOHN WALKER & CO.,
BISCUIT MANUFACTURERS TO THE QUEEN, GLASGOW,
BEG particularly to call the attention of the Public to the superior quality of their Biscuits, which are manufactured only from the finest machines.
They submit a few of their Specialties, which are well worthy of a trial, viz:—Alberts, rich Tea, Wine, Shaughran, Water, Ginger Nuts, extra Toast, Digestive (rich and royal); also, their famed Scotch Farls (rich) and Scotch Oat Cakes (plain). These can be had from all Grocers, and from their Wholesale Agents,
CURRY & CO, CONSETT. 119t

NOTICE.
JOHN ROUTLEDGE,
JOINER, CABINETMAKER, AND DEALER IN WOOD GOODS,
GIBSON STREET, CONSETT,
Desires to inform his Friends and the Public that he carries on Business as above, near the Co-operative Stores, and will be glad of a continuance of their favours.
Orders thankfully received and promptly attended to. Orders received after Working-hours at his Residence in Cemetery Road, Blackhill; or by Mr. JAMESON, No. 9, Melbourne Street, Consett. 76t

CONSETT AND DISTRICT UNITED SUNDAY SCHOOL
DEMONSTRATION!
ON WHIT-MONDAY, JUNE 2ND, 1884.
It is expected that 2,000 Scholars and Teachers will WALK IN PROCESSION, leaving Shotley Bridge at One o'clock, proceeding by way of Blackhill, Derwent Street, and Consett—Victoria Street, Trafalgar Street, Sherburn Terrace, and back to Front Street and Middle Street, through Parliament Street to the Field, near the Vicarage
TEA, SPEAKING, SINGING, &c. 89t

TEMPERANCE FESTIVAL.
NEWCASTLE TOWN MOOR, JUNE 25 AND 26.
Advance Programme and Entry Forms now ready. Entries close May 26th, at 16, New Bridge Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
MILITARY SPORTS (Money Prizes).
BICYCLE & TRICYCLE SPORTS (N.C.A. Rules).
OPEN SPORTS (A.A.A. Laws).
CHILDREN'S GAMES.
W. D. STEPHENS, J.P., President.
99t W. M. RICHARDSON, Hon. Sec.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE FLOWER SHOW.
35TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION.
SATURDAY, AUGUST, 16th, 1884.
GRAND CHORAL CONTEST
When £23 10s. will be given in Prizes.
For Schedules and other Particulars, apply to
W. RAMSEY, W. DICKINSON, } Secretaries.
18, Baxton Burn, Benfieldside. 34t

NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT.
PATRONS.

Wm. Jenkins, Esq., J.P., Chairman.	C. P. Douglas, Esq.
Rev. F. Steggall, Vice-Chairman.	G. Ainsworth, Esq.
	Wm. Aynsley, Esq.
	W. Shell, Esq.
W. R. Taylor, Esq.	J. W. Davison, Esq.

John Thurlow Potts, Esq.
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Dr. Renton.	Rev. W. Wilson.
R. Dickinson, Esq., J.P.	Rev. R. Tuson.
Rev. G. H. Ross-Lewin.	Chas. D. W. Balleny, Esq.
Rev. W. Cockin.	P. M. Brutton, Esq.
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W. R. Wilbraham, Esq., J.P	R. W. Shaw, Esq.
Dr. Geo. Renton.	Geo. Nicholson, Esq.
Edwd. Balleny, Esq.	W. Logan, Esq.
Rev. Wesley Farrer.	E. M. Bainbridge, Esq., Eshott Hall, Newcastle.
Thos. Hedley, Esq., Newcastle.	Canon Kearney.
David Dale, Esq., Darlington.	Rev. T. Smith.
Jno. Calvert, Esq.	C. W. C. Henderson, Esq., Newcastle.
W. Dickinson, Esq.	

MR. C. STEPHENSON HAS THE HONOUR OF ANNOUNCING THE GRAND
OPENING CONCERT
IN THE ABOVE HALL,
ON WHIT-MONDAY, JUNE 2ND, 1884,
Under Distinguished Patronage, when the following eminent Artistes, from London, have been engaged to appear, viz:—
MISS ELEANOR FARNOL, Soprano.
MISS HIPWELL, Contralto.
MR. HENRY PIERCY. Tenor.
MR. PYATT, Bass.
M. J. H. BEERS, Solo Violinist.
MR. J. M. PRESTON, Solo Pianist and Accompanist.
MR. STEPHENSON'S CHOIR OF 120 VOICES

ADMISSION—Reserved Seats, 4s.; Second Seats, 2s. 6d.; Third Seats, 1s. For Families—Six Reserved Seats, 21s.; Four Reserved Seats, 14s. 6d; Three Reserved Seats, 10s. 6d. Four Second Seats, 9s. Plan of Hall can be seen and Reserved Seats secured at Mr. CARWITHEN, Singer's Sewing Machine Establishment, Newmarket Street, Consett. Tickets also may be had from Mr. JAMES PALLISER, Blackhill; Mr JOSHUA LAX, Shotley Bridge; Mr. MUSS, Castleside; and Mr. GEO. NICHOLSON, Leadgate.
N.B.—Cloak-rooms on this occasion are provided for the use of Ladies and Gentlemen.
Doors open at 7·15; Inaugural Speeches at 7·30; Concert to begin at 8 o'clock.
Carriages may be ordered for 10·15. 98t

Public Notices.

I, JAMES THOMAS HIRD, beg to contradict the False Report now in circulation against SAMUEL RENNOLDSON, late of Horsleyhope Mill.—Signed,
107t JAMES THOMAS HIRD.

KYO FLOWER SHOW
WILL BE HELD
ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 23RD, 1884. 124t

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.
MESSRS. HODGKIN, BARNETT, and Co.' Bankers, beg to inform their Friends and the Public generally that they have REMOVED from their Temporary Premises in Front Street to their OFFICES in the NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT. 134t

IVESTON VILLAGE SCHOOL-ROOM.
A GRAND BALL will be held in the above School-room, on Friday, May 23rd, 1884.
Admission:—3s. per couple—Gentlemen, 2s.; Ladies, 1s. Doors open at 7·30 p.m., to commence at 8·30 p.m. prompt. Supper provided for each couple.

LOOK OUT FOR THE
WEST STANLEY RACES!!
ON WHIT-MONDAY.
£30 given away for LEAPING, STEEPLECHASING and FLAT-RACING, and FOOT-RACING.
Entries for Foot-Race to close on May 26th, to RALPH JOHNSON, Secretary. 103t

KANGRA VALLEY TEA!!
AS SUPPLIED TO OFFICERS' MESSES IN INDIA.
Packed on Plantations, chiefly in Tinfoil-lined Packets, containing ONE POUND, and guaranteed to be absolutely pure. Can be obtained in any quantity, Wholesale and Retail, not less than One Pound.
The pure Hill Teas of India are superior to the blended China and India Teas, and are acknowledged to excel those of China.
KANGRA VALLEY INDIAN TEA GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.
6 LB. FREE OF CARRIAGE.
NORTHERN AGENCY,
6, MOSLEY STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE
To whom apply for Agencies. 50t

SHOTLEY SPA!
WHITSUNTIDE HOLIDAYS.
GREAT WHITSUNTIDE 110 YDS. HANDICAP.
1st Prize, £4; 2nd, £2; 3rd, £1.
The Trial Heats of which will be Run on Whit-Monday, and the Finals on Whit-Tuesday.
ENTRIES, ONE SHILLING EACH.
To be made to Mr. CHAS. RICHARDSON, Shotley Bridge; or to Mr. J. J. ALLEN, Consett, Handicapper.
CRICKET MATCHES.
WHIT-MONDAY:
CONSETT V. DIPTON.
WHIT-TUESDAY:
CONSETT V. DUNSTON.
THE SPEN EXCELSIOR REED BAND will be in attendance on both days.
REFRESHMENTS ON THE GROUND.
ADMITTANCE, 3D. EACH; CHILDREN, 1D. 106t

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Brodie.

Little Greencroft Farm, near Consett.—Eatage of Rich Grass Land to Let.
ADAM BRODIE is instructed by DAVID BALLENY, Esq., TO LET, BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on Little Greencroft Farm, near Consett, on Wednesday, May 21st, 1884, the EATAGE of 86 Acres, or thereabouts, of good Grass Land on the said Farm, up to November 23rd, as follows:—

Big Stockerley Field	24 Acres.
Quarry Field	17 "
Hop Clover Field	10 "
Horse Field	9 "
Low Far Field	14 "
Cottage Field	12 "
	86 Acres.

Some of the Fields to be named at the time of Sale may be Mown at the option of the Purchaser.
TERMS OF PAYMENT:—2½ per cent. discount for Cash, or Four months' approved bills.
Sale to commence at One for Two o'clock p.m.
Little Greencroft is a Mile-and-a-half from Consett, and Ten minutes' walk from Knitsley Station of the Lanchester Valley Railway.
Auctioneer's Office, Town Hall, Consett. 81t

Victoria Sale-rooms, Consett.—Monday, May 19th, 1884.—Important Sale of superior Mahogany and other Household Furniture, Feather and Down Beds, Pianoforte, Harmonium, 3 Stops, Wringing Machine, and a quantity of Books, together with the miscellaneous Effects and Sundries.
ADAM BRODIE is instructed by the representatives of the late Mr. BARRON, and also under power of Sale, to Remove and SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, in the Victoria Sale-Rooms, Consett, on Monday, May 19th, 1884, the whole of the Superior Mahogany and other Household FURNITURE and EFFECTS, as follows:—Handsome Mahogany Drawers and Bookcase; Mahogany Chest of Drawers; Mahogany Bed-room Drawers; Mahogany Sofa, in Hair-seating; Mahogany Sofa, in Leather; Cupboard and Bookcase; 2 Longsettles; 2 Gentlemen's Mahogany Easy Chairs, in Hair-seating, 6 Mahogany Chairs, in Hair; 5 Birch Chairs; 3 Cane Chairs; Windsor Arm Chair; Iron Bed Chair; Mahogany Centre Table; 2 Round Tea Tables; 2 Square Tea Tables; Oak Chest of Drawers; Washstand and Swing Glass; Kitchen Table; Eight-days' Clock; Alarum Clock; Form; Poss-tub and Staff; handsome Brass-mounted Half-tester Bedstead and Mattress; 2 Iron Bedsteads and Mattresses; Four-poled Bedstead and Mattress; best Feather and Down Beds; Kitchen and Parlour Fenders and Fireirons; together with the whole of the miscellaneous Effects and Sundries. Also, magnificent Cottage Pianoforte, with full compass, rich, mellow tone, and tremolo pedal, in handsome Case, with neat Candelabra, and all the latest concomitants attached thereto. Excellent Harmonium, with 3 Stops and Knee Swell, in good order. New Wringing Machine, and about 200 Vols. of valuable Books, and a Gentleman's Watch.
Sale to commence at One o'clock precisely.
The attention of Furniture Buyers is specially directed to this Sale, as the various Articles are of the best makes, in good condition, and must be Sold without Reserve.

Monday, May 19th, 1884.—Additional Order.—Victoria Sale-rooms, Consett.
ADAM BRODIE will also SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the same time and place as above important Sale, the following excellent FURNITURE, belonging to Mr. STRAKER, who is removing:—Beautiful Birch Desk Bedstead; good Wringing Machine; handsome Screen; Bookcase; Kitchen Table; 8 Pictures; Paraffin Lamp; together with Kitchen Requisites and Sundries. Also, Kidderminster Carpet, Cocoa Matting, 16 yds. Oilcloth, equal to new, and other Effects. Also, Handsome Mahogany Press, and Mahogany Chest of Drawers. 114t
Sale at One o'clock precisely, as the Lots are numerous

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

By Mr. J. Vickers.

Tow Law Auction Mart.
THE NEXT SALE, Monday, May 26th, 1884. Early Entries respectfully invited.
J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.
Partridge Close, Tow Law. 104t

JOHN CRAWFORD,
AGRICULTURAL VALUER AND FURNITURE AUCTIONEER,
14, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT,
Business done promptly and on reasonable terms, 98t

Sales by Auction.

By Messrs. Nicholson and Murray.

Royal Auction Mart, Agricultural Hall, Benfieldside.
MONDAY FIRST, MAY 19th, 1884.
PRESENT ENTRIES:—
4 Fat Cattle.
20 Prime Fat Sheep.
15 Fat Lambs, very grand.
25 Cows and Heifers, Calved and to Calve.
20 Grazing Steers and Heifers, from One to Two Years Old.
Several Geld Cows, Calves, Pigs, &c.
New Barrel Churn.
300 New Corn Sacks.
15 Hens and 4 Ducks.
Sale to commence at Two o'clock p.m.
108t NICHOLSON & MURRAY, Auctioneers.

Sale of House Property, shares, &c., at Royal Hotel' Benfieldside.
MR. JNO. S. MURRAY, Auctioneer, will hold a SALE of HOUSE PROPERTY, SHARES, &c., as above, on Thursday, June 12th, 1884.
PRESENT ENTRIES—
One House, containing Four Rooms, Scullery, and every Convenience, pleasantly situated at Blackhill.
Six Cottages, containing Three Rooms each, Scullery, &c. Further Particulars in future Advertisements.
Ten B Shares in Shotley Bridge Gas Company.
Fifty Shares Consett New Town Hall.
Parties having Property or Shares to dispose of, the Auctioneer will be happy to include them in this Sale. Early Entries respectfully solicited to ensure publication.
Royal Auction Mart, Benfieldside. 112t

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

By Mr. William Raw.

Greencroft Cottages, near Annfield Plain.
MR. WILLIAM RAW, instructed by Mr. ROBERT LAMMONBY, who is going to Emigrate to Australia, will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on Saturday, May 24th, 1884, the whole of his Household FURNITURE, comprising—Excellent Chest of Mahogany Drawers; Mahogany Chiffonier; Desk Bed; Four-poled Bedstead; Camp Bedstead; Kitchen Table; 6 Polished Kitchen Chairs; Arm Chair; Washstand and Dressing Table; Looking Glass; Down Bed; Flock Bed; Bolster and Pillows; Blankets and Quilts; Poss-tub and Staff; Tubs; Pans and Kettle; Set of China; Ware; Glass; Ornaments; Pictures, &c., &c.
Sale to commence at Two o'clock precisely.
Sale Office, Blackhill, Co. Durham. 135t

At Mrs. Graham's, Healeyfield, near Castleside.
MR. WILLIAM RAW, instructed by Mr. GEORGE GRAHAM, who is going to Emigrate to Canada, will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, the whole of his Valuable Household FURNITURE, at the above address, on Saturday, May 17th, 1884, comprising—Beautiful Chest of Mahogany Drawers; Mahogany Bookcase, Glass Front; Mahogany Centre Table; 6 Mahogany Chairs, in Hair-seating; Lady's Mahogany Work Table; Rocking Chair; Kitchen Table; 2 Kitchen Chairs; Couch, in American Leather; splendid Eight-days' Timepiece; a very superior Brass Bedstead, Half-tester, with Hangings; Straw Mattress; Cradle; 13 Yards of Cocoa Matting; Swing Dressing Glass; small Looking Glass; large, good Oil Lamp; Poss-tub and Staff; Hand Churn; Butter Tub; Smoothing Irons; Kettle; 3 Pans; Frying Pan; Girdle; Glass; Ware; Ornaments, &c., &c.
N.B.—The Furniture is all good and nearly new, and must be Sold Without Reserve.
Sale to commence at Half-past Two o'clock in the Afternoon. 113t

By Mr. Joseph Oley.

Front Street, Shotley Bridge.—To Plumbers, Painters, Gasfitters, &c.
MR. JOS. OLEY, commissioned by the Representatives of the late JOHN WILSON, will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on Wednesday, May 28th, 1884, on the Premises, Front Street, Shotley Bridge, the whole of the STOCK-IN-TRADE, PLUMBERS', PAINTERS', and GASFITTING TOOLS, and part of the Household FURNITURE.
The STOCK-IN-TRADE comprises a large quantity of Gas Brackets, Chandeliers, &c., all new; Plumbers' Bench and Tools, including Window Lead Machine, complete, and a quantity of Window Lead; Paints; Oils; Turpentine; Vermillion and other Colours; large quantity of Plate and Common Glass, in various sizes; Oil and Turpentine Cisterns; a number of New Paint Brushes; Alum and Glue; a quantity of Wall Paper, and several Paper Racks; Scales and Weights; 2 Shop Benches, and Office Desk; Office Cupboard; Letter Press; 3 Pairs of Painters' Steps; Painters' Easel; Stritches: Paste Board and Trestles; a quantity of Picture Framing, Beading, &c.; Ladder, 32ft.; Ladder, 21ft.; Ladder, 15ft.; 2 Ladders 11ft. each; an excellent Wheelbarrow, new; large Sign Board; a number of Scaffolding Planks; and a lot of Garden Tools.
The FURNITURE comprises Mahogany Centre Table; splendid Mahogany Secretaire and Bookcase; Mahogany Commode and Washstand, combined; 6 Mahogany Balloon-backed Chairs, in Hair; Mahogany Camp Bedstead and Mattress; Painted Bookcase, with Fancy Glass Front; beautiful Metal Stove and Piping; 2 Kitchen Chairs; Arm Chair; China, Tea, and other Ware; Metal Pans and Pails; and a large quantity of Miscellaneous Articles. Also, 43 Magnificent Pictures, in Splendid Frames, including 7 Views of Shotley Bridge in the year 1840. 123t
Sale to commence at One o'clock in the Afternoon.

Preliminary Notice.
MR. JOSEPH OLEY will hold a great SALE of Greenhouse, Window, and Bedding-out PLANTS, on Saturday, May 31st, 1884, at The Gardens, Benfieldside Lane, Shotley Bridge, the property of Mr. CHARLES MOSLEY. Particulars next week. 128t

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

Mr. H. Brown.

14, Sherburn Terrace, Consett.—Sale of Valuable Household Furniture, Grocers' Sundries. Stationery, Fancy Goods, &c., &c.
MR. H. BROWN is instructed by Messrs. BARRON and GIBSON, who are about to Emigrate, to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the above residence, on Monday, May 19th, 1884, a superior class of Black Oak, Mahogany, and other FURNITURE and EFFECTS, comprising splendid Black Oak Centre Table, with 6 Turned Legs; small Oak Table; Three-quarter Chest Drawers, Oak; Half-chest Drawers, Oak; Eight-days' Clock, Oak Case; splendid Cottage Pianoforte, in Walnut Case, nearly new; Mahogany Couch; 2 Gentlemen's Chairs; Lady's Chair; 6 Sitting-room Chairs, all in Hair-seating; Bookcase; Sofa; 3 Writing Desks; Mirrows; Kitchen Tables; Half-dozen Kitchen Chairs; Half-dozen Cane Chairs; Case of Choice Spar, collected from the Weardale Mines; Stuffed Fox, in Case; splendid Mahogany French Tudor Bedsteads, with Mattress and Hangings; Mahogany Dressing Table, with Marble Slab, 7 Drawers and Mirror combined; Washstand to Match; Iron Bedstead; Camp Bedstead; 5 Excellent Feather Beds, with Bolsters; Kidderminster Carpet, 30 yards; large quantity of Oilcloth, nearly new; 3 Splendid Pictures, by Landseer, Proof Copies; large quantity of other beautiful Pictures; Wringing Machine; Fireirons and Fenders; quantity of Old-fashioned China and Glass; 4 Pairs Scales, Weights' Measures, Scoops, &c.; Counter Coffee Stand and Tea Tins; several Hundred Vols. of Books, including some fine Family Bibles, splendidly bound, and miscellaneous lot of rare and scarce Works by Cruikshank, Wesley, and others; Photographer's Studio, 19ft. 9in., in sections.
Sale to commence at One o'clock prompt. 76t

By Mr. J. Jenkins.

Dipton.
MR. J. JENKINS will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the house of Mrs. ROBERT CLARK, Sportsman's Arms Inn, Dipton, a large quantity of valuable Household FURNITURE, under a power of Sale, and removed to the above place for convenience of Sale, on Monday, May 19th, 1884. See Bills.
Sale to commence at Two o'clock. 131

By Mr. A. Phillipson.

Quaking Houses, South Moor.—Saturday, May 17th, 1884.
MR. A. PHILLIPSON, instructed by Mr. T. WILLS, who is Emigrating, will SELL BY AUCTION, as above, the whole of his very valuable Household FURNITURE, SEWING MACHINE, and EFFECTS, of great variety. See Bills.
Sale to begin at Half-past One o'clock. 83

A. PHILLIPSON,
GENERAL AUCTIONEER, VALUER, EMIGRATION AND HOUSE AGENT, &c.,
DIPTON.
TO AMERICA, £4, BY THE BEST LINES.
FURNITURE, &c., Bought for Cash. Business done Promptly, and upon Reasonable Terms.

Business Announcements.

Peel's Great Northern Horse Repository, Haymarket.
The Oldest Established in the City.
SALES BY AUCTION of HORSES, CARRIAGES and SADDLERY, EVERY TUESDAY, at Two o'clock.
Entries respectfully solicited.
A. T. CROW, Auctioneer
JOHN PEEL, Proprietor

THE NEW
COAL AND STONE BORING MACHINE
From 20s. and 25s. each, complete with Drills; also BURY'S and HARDY'S PATENT STEEL PICKS and SHAFTS, DRILLS, JUMPERS, and STEMMING GEAR, Wholesale and Retail at
THOMAS BOSTON'S,
NUN STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

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

CARRIAGES.
J. COWEN,
CARRIAGE BUILDER,
HEXHAM,
HAS FOR SALE, NEW DOG CARTS and WHITECHAPELS of most substantial make, elegant designs, and fine finish. For quality and price they are the cheapest in the market, and never fail to give satisfaction.
Carriages of any description built to order.
Repairs of all kinds well and cheaply done.
Gentlemen waited on, and Estimates given. 668s

The Consett Guardian,

FRIDAY, MAY 16TH, 1884.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

Critics—appall'd, I venture on the name,
Those cut-throat bandits on the paths of fame:
Bloody dissecters, worse than ten Monroes!
He hacks to teach, they mangle to expose.
BURNS.

It will be seen that the illustrious Scot makes no distinction here as to the relative shade, grade, warp, or woof of criticism. He seems to regard it as the negro did matrimony—all "worser" and no better. Not so my latest and very grandiloquent detractor—Mr W. Shell. This gentleman, while doing his best to belch forth froth and venom, declares that he is not afraid of criticism, conditionally with this proviso—that it be "English criticism."

"If these mortals the critics should bustle,
I care not, not I; let the critics go whistle."

Now, it is generally understood that when a man arrogates to himself the ability to play the [illegible], he will at least practice what he preaches. Hence, when Mr Shell referred to my criticism in terms of abhorrence, I naturally concluded that he was an authority on the matter, and, anxious to improve and perfect my style, I determined to follow the usages of my would-be instructer. In order to carry out this auspicious determination, I turned to Mr Shell's latest speeches. They are far from voluminous, but the wealth of language which they display does more than compensate for the amiable fault of brevity. In last week's issue of this journal are three sentences from which the following specimens of Mr Shell's "English criticism" are in all humility abduced. They may be English, but it is Billingsgate English; and the man who stoops to use them cannot be said to be very exquisite in his choice of expressions. But let the reader judge: "Penny-a-liner," "slimy remarks," "dirty slander," "knavish," "churlish," and last, but most ridiculous of all, is this member of a lost species—"fidginger!" Ye gods! where did this importation come from? Mr Shell must be in truth an accomplished scholar. Verily, the schoolmaster is abroad, armed with his primer. I know of no parallel to this since the days of the worthy to whom Goldsmith refers in his inimitable lines—

"Words of learned length and thundering sound
Amazed the gaping rustics ranged around."

I am anxious to learn, but I cannot conscientiously follow Mr Shell; and English or not English, my criticism is honest, and that is more than can be said of some people's. Did I write to please the public, I should be in the same plight as the country fellows were with the ass, and, as the concluding lines of Byrom's amusing poem on that topic form an excellent motto to the man who determines to pursue the even tenor of his way, I cannot do better than reproduce them here—

"Let talkers talk; stick thou to what is best;
To think of pleasing all—is all a jest.

Having trotted out certain sterling specimens of Mr Shell's style, it would not perhaps be out of place to glance in passing at the *sentiment* of his subject matter. Like all would-be great men who labour to obtain local or extended fame, Mr Shell is scrupulously anxious to gain public notice and regard. He accuses me of slanderous statements, but I am not such an innocent as Mr Shell—takes me to be. He, good gentleman, can change his tune with all the dash and skill of a strolling player; and having to manufacture speeches but once a month, the failing is not so glaring as it otherwise would be. Take, for example, his oration at the last meeting of the Board. Referring to the suppressed speech of which he complained, he remarked that *he merely* observed that the subject had not been reported. Mr Shell must have a short memory. I have not a copy of the report by me, but, if I am not mistaken, he *wanted* to know why the matter had not been reported—and, more than that, he threw out some very ungentlemanly insinuations that "it had come to *his* knowledge that undue influence from certain quarters had been brought to bear on the representatives of the press." That was the reason why he did not publish his famous statistics; but if Mr Shell believed those busybody reports to be true, the more reason had he to advertise his precious facts and figures. Moreover, there has been, upon the whole, "much ado about nothing," and, to the critical observer, it seems marvellous that any member of a committee who had been supplied with an estimate of the cost for repairing roads, and had passed the estimates submitted—thus sanctioning such expenditure — should endeavour to blame others, and seek to shirk

responsibility himself. But it is the way of the world, for as they say in Scotland, the greatest thief is the first to cry—"Fie!"

The oft-recurring subject of privies *versus* water-closets seems to exercise a disturbing influence on the Consett Local Board. The members are anxious to deal with the question, but there are certain legal technicalities upon which they don't seem to be very clear. Opinion seems to be divided as to the relative merits of the existing system of dealing with household refuse—the combination ashpit and privy, and the water-closet. Property-owners very naturally object to be put to what they regard as unnecessary expense; and the Board, on the other hand, is bound by virtue of its position to suppress a public nuisance in whatever shape or form it may appear. There is a section, too, who hold that whatever expense may be entailed by the carrying-out of the proposed alterations, it ought to be borne by others than by the parties to whom the property belongs. It will thus be seen that the question is a somewhat complicated one. The ordinary ashpit, whether open or otherwise, will always be a nuisance, and a fruitful source of annoyance so long as the ashes and the other matter are kept separate. The stench in some back streets where this rule is adhered to is enough to breed the seeds of an epidemic. I see, however, that in Newcastle district an improved style of privies are being introduced, which, for convenience and sanitary requirements, are all that can be desired. The only objection to the system seems to be the limited space available for the deposit of ashes and other refuse; and yet in this seeming defect lies the whole strength of the system. There is, in brief, no ashpit at all, but simply an ordinary privy with double-folding top—the one with an aperture, the other solid and close fitting. It should be stated that the bottom of the place is laid with cement, with a grate in the centre having a connection with an adjacent sewer. Thus it is that by the admixture of the ashes with the more noxious offal the attendant exhalations are kept in check. The recess is, of course, somewhat small, but as the place is cleaned once a-week, no inconvenience is experienced on that account. The cleaning of the ashpits in Consett and district is a terror to the inhabitants, but in the locality referred to it is accomplished so deftly in the early morning that the tenants are not unfrequently oblivious of the fact. I have seen whole streets of new buildings with yards fitted up in this style of out-building, and they are preferable in every respect to the common enclosed dunghill, as well as the more fashionable—W.C.

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

A very successful entertainment was given on Saturday evening, in the Gibson Street schools, by the members of the Wesleyan Sunday School Band of Hope, assisted by a few friends.

A False Rumour.—In the early part of the week a rumour was freely circulated in Consett, Blackhill, Leadgate, and district to the effect that the Consett Iron Company had either obtained, or were on the point of receiving, a large contract for plates and rails, to be used in the construction of new railways in India, and that it would keep the whole of their extensive works fully employed for a period of between five and seven years to complete such an enormous order. The statement, being repeatedly affirmed in certain quarters, was soon accredited by a large section of the community, and speedily became one of the chief topics of conversation—in fact, many of the unemployed workmen in the town and neighbourhood were so anxious that they at once applied to the several masters to be reinstated at the Works. Upon making inquiries on Tuesday, we learn that the rumour has not the least shadow of foundation.

Baptist Chapel.—Special services in aid of the funds of the Baptist College, Brighton Grove, Manchester, were held in the above chapel, on Sunday last, conducted by Mr. J. Fawcett (late captain of the Blue Ribbon Army, Newcastle). On Saturday night, Mr Fawcett addressed a large concourse of people at the Fountain, when he graphically set forth the evils of drink, and the curse accruing therefrom. His manner of address was vigorous and fascinating in the extreme, which was apparent by the way he kept such a large crowd spell-bound, and the impression made on his hearers must have been deep and lasting. He sang several solos during his remarks; and Mr King, of Blackhill, followed him with a very edifying address.—On Sunday, Mr Fawcett preached in the morning and evening, when on each occasion the attendance was good. In the course of each service, Mr Fawcett added much to their interest in contributing some very beautiful solos, while his discourses were characteristic for pathos and earnest zeal, and his labours were attended with marked success.

CASTLESIDE.

School Board.—The monthly meeting of the members of the above body for the United School District of Healeyfield and Rowley took place in the Castleside Schools on Monday afternoon. The meeting was attended by Mr T. J. Muse (chairman), Mr J. Walton, Mr M. Lee, Mr E. Leybourne, Mr J. Milner, and the clerk (Mr Ward).—The Master (Mr Duckworth) reported that, in accordance with the latest Code, the managers were expected to arrange with the teacher to withhold from examination all children who are unfit from various causes. Three or four children had lately been admitted to school, who will be six years of age prior to the inspection, and consequently will be required to accomplish three years work in one-and-a-half years. He had commenced his periodical examinations.

SCHOOL STATISTICS.

The following statistics for the past month were submitted by the master (Mr Duckworth):—

No on Roll: 104 boys; 105 girls. Total 209.
Average in attendance............ 181
Last week............................ 187
Cash banked £10 9s 1d.

No report was forthcoming from the Attendance Officer (Mr Proud), but his son wrote stating that his father would be unable to attend the Board meeting that day, and mentioned the case of Milner's children as being the most irregular attenders.—The school fees being paid for these children, and it was decided to stop further relief.—The Chairman considered the attendance was exceedingly good. There were 193 scholars present that day.—It was resolved, on the motion of Mr Leybourne, seconded by Mr Walton, that Mr Smith, the architect, be requested to commence with the work of enlarging the schools at once.

LANCHESTER.

The Guardians' Dinner. — The customary dinner, given every year by Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P., chairman of the Board of Guardians, to the members of that body, took place on Thursday se'nnight, at the house of Mr Peter Hodgson, Blue Bell Inn, Lanchester. The dinner was attended, with two exceptions, by the whole of the gentlemen at the Guardians' meeting held previously. After the company had partaken of a substantial repast, Mr Smith was voted to the chair, and the usual toasts were proposed and duly honoured.

BLAYDON.

Carriage Accident.—On Wednesday evening, while Mr and Mrs St. Leger Parsons, of Ryton, with a lady friend, were driving home from town, the brougham was capsized when passing through Blaydon, owing to a large manure heap being left in the middle of the road without any light being near, and the night was dark. With the exception of a severe shaking and some cuts, the occupants fortunately escaped without further injury. The driver, however, was flung on to the pathway and got somewhat hurt on the back.

LOOK OUT for the CONCERT in Board Schools, Castleside, on Saturday, 17th inst. 109t

BLACKHILL.

At the last meeting of the members of the Benfieldside School Board, held on Friday afternoon, under the presidency of Mr C. Wilson, the business transacted was of an unimportant character. The school attendance is stadily improving.

LEADGATE.

Death of an Old Resident Abroad.—The death is announced of Mr John Stobbs, for many years a resident at Leadgate, and who left for America about 27 years ago. Deceased was formerly employed in the ironstone and coalmines in this district, and was brother-in-law to Mr Geo. Matthews, of Blackhill. The American newspaper, *The La Salle Democrat Press*, in announcing his death, says: "John Stobbs, a well-known and respected citizen of La Salle for 27 years, departed this life, at his residence on Eighth Street, last Sunday morning, of asthmatic consumption. The deceased was born in Westmorland, England, Feb. 17th, 1824, and came to this city in September, 1857. On Tuesday his remains were interred in Oakwood Cemetery. He leaves a widow, one daughter, and many intimate friends to mourn his death."

BURNOPFIELD.

Church of England Temperance Society.—The monthly meeting of the above society was held on Monday, 5th inst., before a smaller audience than usual. This may partly be accounted for by the fact that the place of meeting was changed—the Burnopfield National School being used instead of the Lintz—and partly because the excitement of the procession in Newcastle acted as a counter attraction. After the meeting was opened with a hymn and prayer, Mr J. Stephenson took the chair, and made a few introductory remarks. The programme began with a chorus sang by the choir, "The homes of old England;" then followed a recitation, given distinctly and clearly by Miss Bell, a young friend from the Hobson. After this a song was sung by Ann E. Wilkinson, of the Lintz. Mr Adam Fail then recited "The convict," with feeling and good taste; and was followed by Johnni Nixon, who gave "The teetotal car." After this, Mr Herron, of Hill Top, an energetic advocate of teetotalism, very good-naturedly sang a song while the performers in the dialogue made the necessary preparation. Mr Herron was called back, but postponed his *encore* until later on. Then came the dialogue, "Cackle," which plainly sets forth the mischief caused by spreading bad reports. The chief characters in the piece are "Mr and Mrs Barkes," a carpenter and his wife. Mrs B it is who is always "barking" and "cackling" about her neighbours. To this bad habit her husband naturally makes many objections. Mr W. Prittie deserves no little praise for the lively way in which he acted the "carpenter." Miss Nixon took the part of "Mrs Barkes," while the other lady gossips were represented by Miss Gladders, Miss Hindhaugh, and Miss Batey; Miss Hall, as "Miss Telicia Treeman," was the innocent person whose good name was being torn to pieces. To many of the audience it was evident that some of the "friendly gossips" did not know their parts. Such a defect can, of course, be remedied only by more trouble being taken in getting them up. The dialogue over, Mr Gibbons sang a song, "Rock me to sleep," which was much appreciated. Mr Herron and his two young friends, Miss and Master Bell, then sang a piece; after which Willie Hindhaugh recited "Johnnie McCall," a long piece which was well and clearly said. Mr Herron here gave his *encore*, and was followed by Miss Batey, who recited "The beautiful snow" very well. Miss Daud then kindly volunteered a song, and the programme ended with a hymn, "Church of God," sung by the choir. Between the pieces the Chairman made some appropriate remarks, and at the end moved a vote of thanks to the performers. After proposing a similar vote to the Chairman, the Rev C. E. Couchman closed the proceedings with prayer. Two new members were enrolled.

DURHAM.

University Intelligence.—At a convocation held on Tuesday the following degrees were conferred:—*Ad eundem* M.A.—H. Rashdall, M.A., New College, Oxford. M.A.—Rev W. J. Lowenberg, Hatf. Hall; C. G. Hall, Univ. Coll.; W. H. Bramwell; D. Moore, Hatf. Hall. L. Th. *in absence*—F. M. Mercier, Codr. Coll. B.A. *in absence*—H. R. Carr, Fourah Bay Coll.; F. M. Mercier, Codr. Coll. The following examiners were appointed:—For the University Classical Scholarship.—The Professor of Greek, Rev A. Robertson, M.A., and F. B. Jevons, M.A. For the University Mathematical Scholarship.—The Professor of Mathematics and the Rev J. Barmby, B.D. For the Final Examination for the Associateship in Physical Science. — Professor George Forbes, F.R.C.S.; Professor Clowes, D.Sc.; Professor Green, M.A.; and William M. Hicks, M.A. The University seal was set to a certificate in Sanitary Science for Joseph Auspicio Simoens.

EAST HEDLEY HOPE.

Primitive Methodist Chapel.—The Primitive Methodists of this place held their anniversary on Sunday last. Mr J. T. Dowson, of Silksworth, preached in the morning, and conducted the children's services in the afternoon and evening. The children recited dialogues and poetry at the afternoon and evening services, and also sung several hymns suitable for the occasion.—On Saturday afternoon a public tea was held in connection with the anniversary, and in the evening the Juvenile Templars from Tow Law gave an entertainment consisting of recitations, singing, &c., in aid of the Sabbath School fund. Mr Dawson ably presided.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

Co-operative Society.—The annual tea meeting was held on Saturday afternoon at which about 1,500 persons were present, after which a public meeting was held, the president, Mr P. Reay, in the chair, who, after a few introductory remarks called upon a party of singers from Shotley Bridge to sing some choice pieces. Mr W. Bell then read the report, which stated that during the year the cash received for goods sold was £59,766, making a gross profit of £12,453; the nett profit on the year's business, after paying all expenses, amount to £10,185 or 17 1-23 per cent, which sum has been distributed as follows: £560 to interest on share capital; £8,745 as dividend on members purchases; £530 to reduction and fixed stock; £290 to the reserve fund and the balance; £60 carried forward to next quarter's profits; the rate of dividend during the year has been 3s 6d in the pound. After the report had been read, Mr Wm. Telford and Mr H. Carrs, from Shotley Bridge, congratulated the members on the societies present attainments, and recommended the members to take up the farming question and try to produce what they know that they could consume among themselves. The night's proceedings was much enhanced by the beautiful pieces sung at intervals.

An Appeal to the Benevolent.—A correspondent writes:—"An industrious workman, named Isaac Newton, of Clavering Place, Annfield Plain, was following his employment as a miner about 25 years ago at Pontop Colliery, when he was injured by a fall of stone, having his right foot broken at the ankle. No doubt it was a severe injury, and if the foot had been amputated at the time it would probably have been better, but the unfortunate man faithfully hoped that the limb could be saved. After many years of suffering, about 18 months ago, Newton became so prostrate that he was confined to bed, and has consulted the most of the medical gentlemen in the district, who agreed that the injured foot could not be allowed to remain, accordingly he consented to have the injured member taken off. On Friday afternoon, Dr Mantle, of West Stanley, with the assistance of three of the medical faculty, amputated the leg at the knee joint, and Newton, although in a much reduced state of health, has undergone the surgical operation with surprising fortitude, and many anxious enquiries have been made respecting him. We are glad to say, for the information all, that he is recovering as well as can be expected under so trying circumstances. Newton is a man about 45 years of age, and of robust constitution after so many years suffering, and it is to be hoped that the public sympathy will not cease until steps are taken to raise funds to procure a cork leg and foot for him. If such a movement is set on foot, it will be liberally responded to."

LOOK OUT for the CONCERT in Board Schools, Castleside, on Saturday, 17th inst. 109t

SPEN COLLIERY.

Prize Fight.—A prize fight took place in a field adjacent to the Spen colliery on Monday evening. Several rounds were fought, both combatants being severely punished, and when the police arrived all was over.

TOW LAW.

At the Durham Bankruptcy Court, on Tuesday, the examination of J. T. Aynsley, timber merchant, Tow Law, was adjourned for a fortnight.

PELTON FELL.

Police Cases.—At the Chester-le-Street Petty Sessions, on Wednesday se'nnight, before Sir H. Pottinger and H. W. Kerrich-Walker, Esq., John Wilson and Henry Forster, for having been drunk and disorderly at Pelton Fell, on the 19th ult., were fined 5s and costs.—Wm. Morpeth and John Wright, drunk and disorderly at Pelton Fell, on the night of April 21st. Morpeth was fined 15s and costs, Wright 10s and costs.—Henry Lafferty, drunk and disorderly at Pelton, on the 19th ult., 5s and costs.—John Welsh, drunk and disorderly at the same place, 5s and costs.—Thomas Edger, for having been drunk and incapable near Pelton, 2s 6d and costs.—Owen Cunningham and William Fenwick, drunk and disorderly near Pelton. Cunningham was fined 5s and costs, and Fenwick, who had been convicted previously for similar offences, 7s 6d and costs.—James Laidler, drunk and disorderly at Pelton, fined 5s and costs.—J. Beeston, Robert Wood, and James Nichol, young men, were charged with bowling stones on the highway, at Hot Hills, near Pelton Fell, on the 19th ult.—Fined 1s each and costs.

ESH COLLIERY.

The New Vicar.—The Rev Charles Francis Dalton Hodge, M.A., has been presented by the Bishop of Manchester to the living of Esh. Mr Hodge graduated at Baliol College, Oxford, where he was second class in Moderations in 1860, and took his B.A. degree (being third-class in law, &c.) in 1862, and was M.A. in 1865. He was ordained deacon in 1866, and priest in the following year by the Bishop of Manchester. His Lordship licensed Mr Hodge to the perpetual curacy of Christ's Church, Pendlebury, near Manchester, and he continued as such from 1866 to 1874, when the Bishop further preferred him in the same parish, the net income of which was £200. The living of Esh is derived from rents of farms, &c., to the amount of £250, to which the Ecclesiastical Commissioners add £100, making the gross income £350. The net income and house is placed at £300. The population of the parish is 3,000.

WEARDALE.

A Scarcity of Servants.—At Weardale May hirings on Saturday only a single servant was for hire, although there was a good demand.

Weardale Cattle Fair.—The May Day fair was held at St. John's Chapel, Weardale, on Saturday. There was a good show of cattle, and what business was effected was at high rates. Young stock sold well, but the market was dull, the same remarks applying to horses.

Accident in a Mine.—Several miners in the Burtree Pasture Lead Mine, Weardale, on Friday, having charged and lighted two holes, retired to a distance. After the explosion they returned, when a second explosion took place, and John Peart, who was a few yards before his fellows, was injured about the face and back of the head by the flying pieces of rock.

Sunday School Anniversaries.—The Sunday School anniversary in connection with High House Wesleyan Chapel, Weardale, was held on Saturday, when the scholars were regaled with tea. In the evening, a public meeting was held, which was largely attended. Addresses were given by Messrs Thompson, Watson (Seaham Harbour), T. Hodgson, and the Revs C. M. Greenway, and Geo. Parker. Mr Wm. Watson, White House, presided. Sermons were preached on Sunday, by the Rev C. M. Greenway. The collections were in aid of the Sunday Schools.—There was also a Sunday School anniversary at Wearhead Primitive Methodist Chapel on Sunday.

THE LANCHESTER AND CHESTER-LE-STREET SANITARY AUTHORITIES.

On Wednesday evening a meeting of ratepayers of the township of Chester-le-Street was held at the Lambton Arms Hotel. The meeting was called for the purpose of "considering the water question, and the grievance at present existing between the Chester-le-Street and Lanchester Sanitary Authorities." The water question has already been the subject of more than one animated town's meeting, and at the ordinary meeting of the Rural Sanitary Authority, a fortnight ago, a motion was brought forward, asking the Board to bring the Consett water to Chester-le-Street, which, however, was lost by one vote. The Chester-le-Street Water Company have also drawn the attention of the Board to the fact that sewage has for some time past been entering into Stanley Burn (from whence their supply of water is derived) from the Lanchester district. The Lanchester Authority has been asked to abate the nuisance, but refused to do anything in the matter, and the whole of the correspondence between the two bodies was forwarded to the Local Government Board. As the Whitehall authorities gave no advice in the matter it was suggested, at the Chester-le-Street Sanitary Authority meeting, that proceedings be taken against the Lanchester Board with a view of compelling them to abate the nuisance complained of. The meeting under notice was convened for the purpose of considering the advisability of taking such stringent measures. The spacious room was filled with the leading tradesmen, not less than 350 persons being present. Mr Charles Robson was elected to the chair.

Mr J. Mitchell remarked that at the last meeting of ratepayers it was agreed that the Consett Water Company be asked to extend their mains to Chester-le-Street. Accordingly, Mr Luccock had accompanied him to Durham, where they consulted the directors of the company, and laid the facts before them. They were informed that the company could not treat with private individuals, but if the consent of the Board of Guardians were given they would supply the township without requiring any further guarantee. The question was brought before the Board at their last meeting, but the motion was lost by a single vote only, several members abstaining from voting. At that meeting objection was taken to Consett water on the ground that it contained a large quantity albuminoid of ammonia, but Mr Pattinson, analyist, had since informed him that the principal ingredient to which the Board had demurred was simply suspended peaty matter, which might easily be removed by filtration. On the other hand, Mr Pattinson objected very strongly to the large quantity of animal matter found in the Chester-le-Street water, which rendered it wholly unfit for domestic use. At the last meeting of the Sanitary Authority they were almost on the point of taking action against the Lanchester Authority to compel them to abate the nuisance at Stanley Burn, and if something was not speedily done this would probably be carried out, at a cost of from £500 to £5,000 to the ratepayers of the town. Supposing they did go to law and won their case, what would they gain? Why, practically nothing, as sewage would still run into the channel from whence they obtained their water supply at several other points. He moved that "the meeting protest against the Chester-le-Street Guardians taking action against the Lanchester Sanitary Authority."

Mr Luccock seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation.

Mr P. Hay further moved that a deputation, consisting of Messrs Hamilton, G. Crichton, A. Wilson, J. Carss, and Luccock, wait upon the Chester-le-Street Guardians for the purpose of strengthening the hands of those members who were in favour of introducing the Consett water.

This was also carried without opposition; after which the meeting dispersed.

"The Northern Athlete."—This popular journal for Northern athletes has recently been enlarged by eight pages. It is, with the striking portraits published weekly, a wonderful paper at the price, and should command a large circulation.

In the House of Commons, on Tuesday, petitions were presented by Mr C. M. Palmer from Ebchester for the extension of the franchise to women; also from Sir Geo. Elliot from Ryton against marriage with a deceased's wife's sister.

LOOK OUT for the CONCERT in Board Schools, Castleside, on Saturday, 17th inst. 109t

CONSETT LOCAL BOARD AND THE PROPERTY-OWNERS.

WATER CLOSETS OR PRIVIES?

Last (Thursday) evening, a public meeting of ratepayers and property-owners was held in the Lecture Hall, Trafalgar Street, Consett, to "take into consideration the action of the Local Board in reference to enforcing the erection of water-closets in the place of privies, and several other matters, and to determine what steps shall be taken to prevent undue and illegal interference with private rights." The meeting was only moderately attended; and Mr M. McNally was elected to preside.

The Chairman, in his opening remarks, alluded to the fact that the Local Board had an efficient Inspector of Nuisances, in whom the members reposed implicit confidence—so much so that last year they increased his salary by £10. It was quite necessary that that official should furnish the Board with periodical reports; and as he was a competent inspector, the same ought to be accepted. The Board also possessed a duly qualified Medical Officer, but he (the speaker) did not consider it the duty of that official to order the removal of nuisances as he thought the Inspector was quite capable of doing that. With regard to the notices served on various property-owners in the district to substitute water-closets in lieu of common privies, he was not surprised such a proposition was adopted at the Local Board, seeing that the proposer of the motion (Mr Carss) was well-known to them all. The Board asked the opinion of its proper legal adviser (the Clerk) as to whether such a resolution was lawful and in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act; but that official informed the members that the proposition was illegal, and could not be carried out. It is a pity the Board did not accept this advice, instead of being led away by an ambitious and self-opinionated individual hailing from Shotley Bridge, who came to the Board meetings simply to dictate to the members. That person was a ratepayer in another Local Board district, and as he had no self-interest at stake, he should not be allowed to sit on that Board (A voice: "We'll have to be done with these foreigners")—(laughter and applause).

Mr John Jenkins, who was called upon by the Chairman, regretted that there was not a union or body of ratepayers in the neighbourhood, to discuss and consider all questions affecting their interests, and not allow the public bodies to rule and tyranise over them.

There were one or two trifling matters which be keenly felt, simply because they touched his pocket. The speaker complained of the inconsistent treatment he had received at the hands of the Local Board and its officials in past years. He observed that when he purchased a block of property in Trafalgar Street, Mr Thompson, the Sanitary Inspector appointed at the establishment of the Local Board, ordered him to remove the existing privies in the yard, and erect instead water-closets in certain places. This was done, at an outlay of nearly £20, to the satisfaction of the Board, but the closets had not been in operation a couple of days before they were completely choked up and became a nuisance. Soon afterwards the frost arrived, and split the pipes, causing the water to burst out in all directions. The Water Company complained, and he had a great deal of trouble with the closets; but he had to manage the pipes the best way he could. Supt. Thompson was succeeded by Mr Dawson, and this inspector requested him to abolish the water-closets, and replace them by privies, and this suggestion was also carried out to the entire approbation of the Board. However, under Mr Dixon's *regime*, he (Mr Jenkins) was called upon to pull down the privies, and convert one of the adjoining cottages into conveniences. This work was likewise performed to the satisfaction of the Board, the privies being properly ventilated, and the system worked satisfactorily until the cholera broke out in Egypt a year or two ago, when there was a great disturbance in the "local camp" at Consett. The Board (through its medical officer) desired him to abolish the privies, and pull off the roof of the place (although the building was sufficiently ventilated by means of the chimney); but fortunately the cholera passed away, and he "saved his bacon." (Laughter). He had endured these grievances long enough; and the pressure brought to bear upon him somewhat hurt his feelings. He did not see the reason why a small property owner should be singled out by the Local Board and requested to erect water closets in lieu of privies, when the largest owners of property were allowed to go scot free. He could show them cottages in Princess Street, where there was not more than 7 feet 6 inches between the privy seats and the pantry shelves. The legislature never intended that Medical Officers of Health should be vested with the powers given to the Medical Officer under the Consett Local Board, although doctors were supposed to know what was really dangerous to health. The ratepayers elected men of common sense to manage their local affairs, and it was not the duty of any official to dictate to members of the Board. He asserted that Dr William Renton did not know as much about water-closets as he did. There were such closets in Consett which were in a filthy and disgraceful condition, and yet the doctor did not order their removal; and if they were not attended to every six hours, they were chocked up, and thus became a public nuisance. Water-closets were not suitable for a thickly populated neighbourhood like Consett. He knew some closets which cost about £30, and yet they were quite useless. (Cheers).

Mr W. Elliott, by request, read the portion of the Public Health Act which defined nuisances, and described the powers relegated to public bodies to order the abatement of the same.

Mr A. Brodie asked who was to decide what work was necessary to be done to remedy any nuisance?

Mr Elliott explained that the Local Board had power to order the removal of a nuisance, but could not give specific instructions as to how the work was to be carried out. If a privy was considered a nuisance, and likely to continue as such, the Local Board could direct the proprietor to erase the privy and substitute a water-closet, but they were not allowed to give detailed particulars as to how or what description of closet should be erected.

Mr Brodie stated the great point to consider was, who was to give directions as to the work necessary to be done?

Mr Elliott then read from the *Justice of the Peace*, the case of "Hargreaves v Taylor," but this decision was over-ruled by Baron Pollock, in the action of "*ex-parte* Whitchurch," wherein the Local Board gave instructions to a proprietor to fill up ashpit, abandon privy, &c., and to erect water-closets instead. The order of the justices was quashed in the Court of Appeal on the ground that the Local Board were not authorised to furnish specific details as to how a nuisance should be abated. This decision also over-ruled the judgment given in the case of "Tinkler v. Wandsworth Local Board."

Mr Brodie: Can the Local Board insist upon the erection of water-closets at all?

Mr Elliott: I think this case assumes so.

Mr Brodie observed that it seemed quite clear to him, according to the ruling of the judges in the above cases, that the public bodies would order water-closets to be erected; and they were also invested with power to reject all plans for houses without these particular conveniences, unless such should meet with their approbation. True, the Local Boards might not be empowered to dictate as to the exact description or particular position of water-closets proposed be built; but as the Board could refuse to pass any plan for new houses if it did not receive their approval, such power as to how and where water-closets should be erected was absolutely left in their hands. He did not think there was a single property-owner in Consett who would wilfully permit any nuisances to exist on his premises, but they always desired to conform with the requirements of the Board. In Thomas Street, for instance, where the proprietors were being compelled to substitute water-closets for privies, the connecting sewer had been opened, and found to be three parts filled with solid filth, and this prevented a possibility of the refuse from the closets being carried away. He had been asked if the Consett Iron Company had not been asked to pull down their nasty, stinking, dirty privies, which were an eyesore both to their tenants and the public generally; or had the Company been asked to cement any of their yards, &c.? What was sauce for the goose, was sauce for the gander. If poor property owners were compelled to mortgage their houses in order to carry out the requirements of the Local Board, surely it was only reasonable that the Consett Iron Company should be forced to comply with the regulations and bye-laws of the Board in respect to their properties.

Mr J. H. Hudson observed that in the North of England there was not any other local authority that shewed any preference to either privies, earth-closets, or water-closets. The two former could be kept clean, but the Consett Board had selected the latter for a place which was mostly exposed to the frost in winter time. People living in cottages were not used to water-closets, as they were accustomed to throw all their house refuse down the receptacles and choke them up. The speaker next compared the action of the Board towards the small property owners in the district, in asking them to substitute water-closets for privies, take up the bricked surface of the yards, also dig out the subsoil, and replace it by fresh ballast, and finally cover the yards with bad cement. The Local Board had passed plans for hundreds of houses lately erected by the Consett Iron Company, in every instance allowing them to put up privies, the soil or ballast remaining in the yard, and (in some cases) uncovered ashpits. During the past winter, some of the tenants of these new houses were obliged to place stepping-stones to walk across the yards, as the surface was a complete puddle; and yet the Medical Officer could run about here and there, and recommend the Board to compel small householders to erect water-closets instead of privies, and to pull up good bricked pavements in order that the yards should be imperfectly cemented.

Mr John Crawford related his experience of water-closets, which was similar to that described by Mr Jenkins, and affirmed that one building speculator at Blackhill, who had erected 18 water-closets which had become nuisances, had been compelled by the Local Board to erase them and put up common privies instead. He suggested that it would be a saving to the ratepayers if they abolished the officer of Inspector, and allowed Dr Renton to fulfil both offices.

Mr Brodie observed that if the Board wished to relegate the work to their officers, then allow the officials to resolve themselves into the Board and let the whole of the members resign. The speaker next animadverted to the arbitary action of the Board in reference to Mrs Chattoe's property in Medomsley Road, compelling a poor widow to mortgage her property for the purpose of carrying out the "improvements" demanded by them; and when the houses were thus burdened, one of the members of the Board came and offered to buy the property, simply because he thought he would get it very cheap.

The Chairman, in the course of a long speech, advised them as ratepayers, to elect twelve sensible men to conduct the business of the Board, and if they happened to make a mistake—well they would have to endure it for three years. He considered a great blunder had been made when Mr Carss was appointed on the Board—a man whose sole aim was to stir up class against class, and who strived to put the ratepayers to unnecessary expense. He hoped the members of the Consett Board would not be misguided by a foolhardy and selfish individual like Mr Carss (applause); inasmuch as he sat on the Board merely to carry out his own peculiar ideas, but for what reason he (the Chairman) did not know. Mr Carss dictated to the rest of the members of the Board, and endeavoured to thrust his opinions down their throats (laughter). Although water-closets might be adapted to certain localities, he strongly condemned their erection in public yards where they would be used by several different families.

After the subject had been debated for some time longer, the following proposition was moved by Mr Crawford, seconded by Mr Jenkins, and unanimously adopted:—"That this meeting, believing that in many cases the erection of water-closets will rather increase than abate the nuisances existing in many parts of the district, would earnestly ask the Consett Local Board to reconsider its decision in regard thereto, and not put property owners to unnecessary expense."

Mr Elliott was deputed on behalf of the meeting to forward the foregoing resolution to the Chairman of the Local Board; and the proceedings closed by passing a vote of thanks to Mr McNally for presiding.

THE ATTEMPTED SUICIDE AT USHAW MOOR.

At the Lanchester Petty Sessions yesterday (Thursday), the youth, Matthew Pinkney (19), miner, of Ushaw Moor, was again brought up (on remand from Consett) charged with attempting on take his life by hanging himself, on Saturday last.

George Wm. Pinkney, aged 11 years (step-brother of the prisoner), living with his parents at Ushaw Moor, said that he went with the prisoner to an old quarry situate about 200 yards away from the colliery and heard him say that he would hang himself. Prisoner tied the scarf around one of the beams in the quarry, and fastening the rope (produced) to the handkerchief, he attached the rope around his neck. Prisoner then climbed upon a projecting piece of timber, about 4ft. from the ground, and after securely fastening the rope, he sprang down into the pit below; but the rope suddenly gave way, and he fell to the ground.

The Magistrates' Clerk (Mr Granger): Did the prisoner say anything before he jumped down?—Witness: No.

The Chairman: And you watched him all this time?—Witness: Yes.

The Chairman: And you never spoke to your brother at all?—Witness: No.

The Clerk: Were you afraid?—Witness: Yes.

The Chairman: You ought to have gone straight off home and told your parents.

Witness (continuing): stated that the prisoner made another attempt to hang himself by affixing the hope to a chain which he placed round the beam but he did not succeed, again falling with great force into the quarry beneath, and lay there for a considerable time. Witness then ran off home, and told his mother what had transpired.

P.C. Garbutt deposed that he proceeded to this particular place about three o'clock on Saturday afternoon and saw the prisoner just coming out of the quarry. As soon as the latter espied him, he ran into an adjoining wood. Witness pursued the prisoner and apprehended him at Sleekburn, when he charged him with attempting to commit suicide by hanging himself. He replied, "I was going to do away with myself. My sister hung herself about four years ago; and I am going to hang myself." The officer then informed the prisoner he would be locked up, but he made no reply.

Prisoner pleaded guilty to the charge.

Mr Pinkney, sen., addressed the Bench in language similar to that used by him at the Consett Court on Monday, adding, in reply to the Chairman, that he could not exactly say whether his son was right in his mind, but he had looked somewhat queer during the past fortnight.

The prisoner was committed for trial at the Quarter Sessions, the Chairman remarking that it was a most serious offence.

The police were also directed to keep a strict watch over the prisoner's movements while in the cells, and Supt. Oliver said he had attended to these instructions.

Hymns for Sunday School Anniversaries, &c. printed on the shortest notice, and at the *cheapest* rate, by Robert Jackson, Consett.

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

CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

Monday, May 12th.—Before Jas. Annandale, Esq. (in the chair), and W. B. Wilbraham, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

John Foyle was charged by P.C. Garbutt with being very intoxicated at Blackhill, about eleven o'clock on Saturday night, 3rd inst.—Defendant admitted the offence, and was fined 5s and 5s 6d costs.

Thomas McCluskey, a puddler, who was represented by his wife, was accused of being drunk and incapable.—The case was proved by P.C. Hall, who testified that at 10·30 p.m. on the 3rd May he found the defendant helplessly drunk at Blackhill.—A similar penalty was imposed.

John Fergus pleaded guilty to a charge, made against him by P.C. Newton, of being inebriated in Church Street, Consett, on the preceding Monday night, and was fined 5s and expenses.

TRESPASSING.

Richard Young, aged about 20 years, was summoned for trespassing in a field belonging to George Nicholson, a coalminer, at South Medomsley Cottages, on the 25th ult.—Complainant spoke to seeing Young travelling through his pasture field, doing damage to the herbage to the extent of 1d. He had previously cautioned the defendant.—Replying to the Chairman, complainant admitted that there was a footpath running across the field, but the defendant was a distance of more than 20 yards off this path.—Defendant was fined 1s, besides ordered to defray the damage and costs.

EXTRAORDINARY ATTEMPT TO COMMIT SUICIDE.

Matthew Pinkney, a youth of 19 years, residing with his parents at Ushaw Moor (who appeared to be in a weak and exhausted state), was brought up charged with attempting to commit suicide on Saturday last.—From the statement of a little boy, the prisoner, it transpired, had illtreated one of his younger stepbrothers, and being afraid that his father would severely punish him, he proceeded to an old quarry about 200 yards away from the house, in which he found two or three large beams, about ten or twelve feet from the ground, which were formerly utilised for drawing the stone waggons from the bottom. He fixed his scarf around one of the beams, and tying a stout rope about his neck, which he attached to the scarf, he mounted a projecting ledge, about four feet in heigh. [Both the scarf and the rope were produced in court]. After securely adjusting the rope, the prisoner jumped into a steep declivity; when luckily, after being suspended a few moments the scarf gave way, and he was precipitated a considerable distance below, falling heavily upon the rough surface of the quarry. The youth remained in an unconscious state for nearly an hour, when he awoke and observed his little brother standing by his side. He afterwards made a second attempt to terminate his existence, by affixing the rope to a chain, fastened round the beam, but he did not again succeed, as P.C. Garbutt made his appearance, and Pinkney ran into the adjacent wood. The officer gave chase, and after an exciting race over the country for about two hours, the prisoner was captured at Sleekburn, near Durham.—Prisoner wept while in dock, and stated that he was afraid his father would "rib" him for what he had done.—The young man's father explained that his son was not right in his mind, and that he had to watch him constantly. He had a sister who committed suicide by hanging herself, and the prisoner had made several attempts to end his career in a similar fashion. He (the father) had to work most industriously to support himself and a large family, and the prisoner occasionally found employment under his direct surveillance. He watched his son's movements as closely as he could, but he deemed it extremely harsh that he should be answerable for all his actions.—Replying to the Chairman, the father explained that the prisoner had whipped a child belonging to his second wife, and of course he knew that he had done wrong.—The Superintendent of Police (Mr Oliver) applied for a remand, and the Bench deemed it advisable to adjourn the case in order that further inquiries might be instituted.

WOLSINGHAM PETTY SESSIONS.

Tuesday, May 6th.—Before the Revs Robert Gray and J. P. De Pledge.

DRUNKENNESS.

George Maw, moulder, charged with being drunk on the highway at Wolsingham, on the 12th ult., was fined 10s, including costs.

James Curry, labourer, was charged with being drunk at Wolsingham, on the 19th ult., and was fined 10s, including costs.

James Stephenson, labourer, charged with being drunk on the highway at Wolsingham, on the 26th ult., was fined 15s, including costs.

John Williams, blacksmith, for being drunk on the highway at Welsingham, on the 26th April, was fined 5s and costs.

James Malone, labourer, drunk on the highway at Tow Law, on the 5th ult., was fined 10s, including costs.

Bridget Doran, a married woman, was summoned for being drunk on the highway at Tow Law, on the 18th ult.—Defendant was fined 10s, including costs.

Thomas Taite, miner, charged with being drunk on the highway at Tow Law, on the 5th ult., was fined 10s, including costs.

Hugh O'Neil, beerhouse-keeper, charged with being drunk at Tow Law, on the 8th ult., was fined 15s, including costs.

George Dinah, miner, charged with being drunk at Tow Law, on April 17th, was fined 10s, including costs.

Edward Miller, miner, charged with being drunk on the highway at Tow Law, on the 18th ult., was fined 10s, including costs.

Robert Irvin, miner, drunk at Tow Law, on the 26th ult., was fined 10s, including costs.

George Pybus, agent, charged with being drunk at Tow Law, on the 12th ult., was fined in the same amount.

Barnard Duffy, labourer, charged with being drunk on the highway at Tow Law, on the 16th ult., was also fined 10s, including costs.

George Storey, blacksmith, charged with being drunk at Tow Law, on the 19th ult., was fined 10s, including costs.

THEFT OF TREES.

Anthony Robson, labourer, was charged by the Rev G. P. Wilkinson, with stealing young trees out off Helm-park, on the 1st inst.—The charge was proved by P.C. Higginson and defendant was fined 2s 6d costs, and 1s damage, or seven days to prison. He went to goal.

DRUNK IN CHARGE OF A HORSE.

Dayman Patterson, carrier, was charged with being drunk whilst in charge of a horse and waggon at Tow Law, on the 19th ult.—The charge was proved by P.C. Crabb, and defendant was fined 7s 6d and costs.

PITCH AND TOSS.

Robert Raw, Michael Jamieson, William Moor, Joseph Urwin, and *James Spence*, miners, were charged by P.C. Crabb with playing at pitch and toss at Tow Law, on the 6th ult.—They were each fined 5s and costs except Urwin, who did not appear, and he was mulcted in 10s and costs.

WEARDALE BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The fortnightly meeting of this Board was held at the Workhouse at Stanhope, on Friday last, under the presidency of Mr C. Bainbridge (chairman). The members present were Messrs G. R. Wooler, W. Rippon, Henry Maddison, M. Reed, Wm. Watson, Geo. Curry, T. Crawhall, and the Clerk (Mr Lee).

TREAT TO THE INMATES.

Permission was given to the Stanhope Wesleyan Choir to give a service of song to the inmates in the Workhouse.

ADDITIONAL CELLS FOR CASUALS.

The Surveyor (Mr W. M. Egglestone) was instructed to prepare an estimate for the cost of eight additional cells in the workhouse, and further directed to invite contracts for carrying out the work, the same to be laid before the next meeting.

A CARELESS RATE COLLECTOR

The Clerk submitted the Collector's periodical statement of rate collection, which

The Chairman said was a most unsatisfactory one. The Auditor had before found it necessary to speak plainly to Mr Morley, but expostulations and complaints seemed to have no effect. This irregularity had placed the Board in an awkward position with the bank, as the Treasurer had refused to credit the Board with money which had not been paid in time to go to the credit of the Board for the half-year for which the money was due.

After a good deal of dissatisfaction had been expressed, the Clerk was directed to make strong representations to the overseers, in whose name Mr Crawhall, as one of those officials, promised to call an overseers' meeting.

The Chairman, with the concurrence of the Board said that if this sort of irregularity were persisted in—and this was not the first time the subject had occupied the attention of the Board—the present Collector would have to be suspended, and replaced by some one else.

THE WATER SUPPLY OF FROSTERLEY.

After the meeting had formed itself into the Rural Sanitary Authority, the Inspector's (Mr Egglestone) report relative to the water supply of Frosterley was again considered. He pointed out a method of forming a district, over which a water rate could be levied. The members, however, discussion, decided to adhere to their original after resolution of contributing £36 to the cost.

OUR LADIES' COLUMN.

The month specially beloved by the poets has passed but dully. Whether May owes somewhat to the convenient sound of the word for which rhymes abound, or whether, in times earlier than these, the weather was more genial than it now is, it would be impossible to say, but more pretty things have been said and sung of May than of any other month of the whole twelve. When we read of maidens going out into the meadows on May Eve, to seek yarrow sprays to give them dreams of future lovers, and enthusiastic villagers dressing May-poles in readiness for the morrow's dance, we give a little shiver and think that all that must lie very far indeed behind us. Gradually all these old customs are dying out, and when School Boards have reigned for another decade many of these old superstitions will have died out, their memories only surviving in books and some very out-of-the-way villages. Of all the spells for May Eve, the travelling snail was, perhaps, the most uncomfortable for other people. A large black snail was secured at sundown on May Eve, placed upon a tray, and covered with a dish-cover. Next morning the tracks backwards and forwards upon the tray of the unhappy prisoner in endeavouring to escape were eagerly scanned to trace initials, or try to discover what kind of path the young woman was likely to have through life. As a general rule the snail managed to escape during the night. No matter how heavy the cover placed over the tray, the snail seemed to be able to compress itself sufficiently to creep away. In the case of a household in which two or three members desired to peep into futurity by this very primitive method, the idea that two or three black snails were at large, wandering promiscuously about the interior of a dwelling-house, was unpleasantly suggestive. They might turn up in the larder, in the best bedroom, or even in the drawing-room, when least expected. The next most uncomfortable observance of the season was the abolition of sitting-room fires on the first of May, which our grandmothers considered to be good management. Some of us can remember still, as children, the chilly feeling of the print frocks which were substituted for woollen ones, on May Day. There were other housekeepers, who were still more slaves to certain Medo-Persian customs, who took off as many carpets as possible early in May, and kept them off until October. This was probably a remainder of some economical consideration, born of that far away time when carpets were luxuries, and so far beyond the reach of middle-class people that they were taken off at the season when the family were supposed to live much out of doors. It may also be added that in those days carpets were expected to last a lifetime, and many of them to do duty over again for a second generation. We have certainly gained in securing more comfort in the present day, retaining our drawing-room fires and carpets so long as they are necessary for warmth, even at the charge of our being wasteful and extravagant.

"The dullest private views that ever were known." Such is the unanimous verdict passed by the visitors to the opening of the art galleries this week. The Royal Academy view cannot be noticed in time for this week's gossip, but we have already had the Grosvenor, and two watercolour exhibitions, and crowds of visitors on all these occasions. The Royal mourning has indeed done much harm to the milliners in deferring for a few weeks longer the purchase of all those pretty little decorations which do so much to make an ordinary toilette look something quite unusual. While warm wraps are absolutely essential, and throats are protected by fur, there can be no demand for lace ties and collars, and even ruffles for the wrists are superfluous when concealed from view. It is not to be wondered at that the trade journals report dulness, and add "lace for trimmings in little demand. Curtains asked for." Even the bonnets lag behind this year and shew very little advance from last year and singularly little varieties of style. The most remarkable feature of the new bonnets is their height in front, the appearance being given, not by the bonnet itself, but by the bows of ribbons or flowers being placed very high up on the crown, so as to stand far above the bonnet itself. There were at the private views this day week a few of these remarkable arrangements, which do credit to the constructive skill of the milliners. Only a very experienced hand could give the proper twist to the ribbon, or velvet ribbon, which would make it stand up erect and retain its position when, like the lyrical flag of England, it braves the battle and the breeze. The hats with the high crowns, the Welsh hats as some people call them, are also trimmed with plumes and ribbons intended to stand erect. For young people these tall hats are stylish, but there is a decided hesitation in middle-age to crown a face no longer young with so hard and trying a head covering. If hats and bonnets proceed in this direction, growing large by degrees and beautifully larger, we shall all have to purchase new bonnet boxes. Our old ones will be found much too circumscribed to contain the tall ornaments, and thus a new demand will be made upon purses slenderly lined. The discarded boxes will be worse than useless, for they will add yet other additions to the miscellaneous properties which accumulate in our bedrooms. As rents rise higher and higher, and people of limited incomes are driven into yet smaller suburban villas, it is found impossible to fit in these delightfully capacious wardrobes in which our mothers kept their clothes. There is no wall space which can be spared in the bedrooms in small houses; still less is it possible to drag the monsters up the narrow staircase.

From time to time London has witnessed the destruction by fire of pantechnicons, in which private owners stored surplus furniture. Within the last ten years there have been three of these misfortunes, which affected a very large number of people of whom the world never heard. As a general rule the pecuniary loss of these things is covered by insurance, but the articles valued for certain associations—domestic treasures—can never be replaced, nor compensated for. To the student of social history there is a good deal to learn in the individual histories of those who are losers on these occasions. The fire at Whiteley's Pantechnicon is only the same general chapter repeated over again, which unfolds itself at intervals, recurring again with fatal exactness in different districts of London, or under some other circumstances. Women have a great regard for small portable possessions. Men covet land, houses, stocks, shares, &c., but women will centre their existence round a few chairs and tables and cling even to old mirrors as if of inestimable value. It was, it may be remembered, a woman who dreaded starting across the desert to make life anew without her household gods stowed away in the packs of the camels. Her husband had left home and crossed over Jordan with only his staff in hand; but the woman was then pretty much what she still shews herself to be in ages long after, even as she is at our own day. At present there is a great loosening of old customs which bound down our parents to one neighbourhood for their whole lives. The mania for travelling, and seeing foreign countries can be more easily gratified now than formerly, railroads taking the place of the more costly posting. People give up their houses and go abroad, meaning to return at some future day and settle down again. To sell off the contents of a house by auction seldom realises much of the value. First there is the depreciation from wear and tear, and the difference in the prestige of new and second-hand goods. Advertising and expenses connected with the sale absorb a good deal of the proceeds, so that 25 per cent. may be deducted from the receipts as a fair calculation before money is pocketed. Books are almost given away at a household sale, and the price realised for modern works—what may be considered current literature—is not much more than from one penny to sixpence a volume. A few years ago a shilling a volume was a fair price to realise by sale of books, but only standard works at a household sale bring now so high a price.

SOMETHING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

PRESENTS FROM BABY.

The baby in a family is generally a great favourite with the other children, though it sometimes happens that when they are told for the first time that they have a new brother or sister they do not feel at all kindly disposed towards the fresh arrival. The youngest especially, who has been "baby" hitherto, is apt to regard the little stranger as a usurper who deserves to be pinched rather than kissed. A writer in *Little Folks* tells us how Dutch fathers and mothers get over this jealousy among their children.

The good parents of Holland, who are very fond of their children, and try to spare them all unnecessary pain, have hit upon an excellent plan to make baby welcome. As he lies in his cradle, which is like the English one, they fill his little arms with trumpet-shaped bags brimful of comfits, and these are distributed among the children as baby's presents. Baby continues to present these tiny comfits — which the children eat on bread and butter, and are very fond of —for the space of six weeks, when he is supposed to have established his right to exist. Babies are dressed very much as in England, except that, in some cases, an old custom is adhered to of wrapping up their heads in three caps, one of cambric, another of silk, and the third of lace. The christening always takes place on a Sunday, and after the christening there is a grand dinner, to which all the relations are invited.

FUNNY MISTAKES OF CHILDREN.

After they have taken great pains to explain some matter to their scholars and are flattering themselves that they have made it all as clear as daylight, teachers are often sadly disappointed and disheartened by finding that their meaning has been misunderstood entirely. Sometimes the children get very funny ideas as to their teacher's meaning.

A country schoolmaster, of the old time, was coaching up his pupils for the examination by the clergyman of the district. He had before him the junior geography class. "Can any little boy or girl tell me the shape of the earth?" was the question. No answer. "Oh, dear me! well, this is sad. What will the minister think of this. Well, I'll give you a token to mind it. What is the shape of this snuff-box, in my hand?" "Square, sir, said they all." "Yes, but on Sabbath-days, when I change my snuff-box, I wear a round one. Well, you mind that." Examination day came, and the class was called up, and thought intelligent. "Can any little boy or girl, tell me the shape of the earth?" "Yes, sir." Every hand was extended. Every head thrown up. Every eye flashed with excitement. "You, my little fellow. You tell me," said the examiner. "Round on Sundays, and square all the rest of the week, sir."

In giving a Bible lesson to her Sunday-school class, a young lady had occasion to explain the meaning of the word "faith." She felt a little puzzled as to how she should set to work, till happening to look out of the window she saw, floating along the river, which passed near the schoolhouse, a boat, at the bottom of which was some object covered with a piece of sack-cloth. Calling the young folks' attention to the boat, she said, "Now, you cannot see for yourselves what it is that is lying in the bottom of the boat because it is covered up, but if I knew, and were to tell you that it is a leg of mutton you would believe my word, would you not?" "Yes, teacher." "Well, that's 'faith.'" The next Sunday, the teacher feeling sure that her illustration had made the matter quite plain to them, asked the children to tell her what "faith" was. Up went all the little hands. "Well?" "A leg of mutton in a boat, teacher!"

A TRUE BABY STORY.

I know a merry little girl,
Her name is Baby Blue;
She cannot walk,
She cannot talk,
But she can creep and coo.

A pretty shawl was spread,
So soft and warm and gay;
With blocks and ball
And rubber doll
We left her there to play.

Something round lies on the shawl;
Perhaps 'tis good to eat!
She goes to see
What it can be
On both her hands and feet.

Baby tries to take it up;
She picks and pulls again—
Stares in surprise
With big blue eyes,
Then tries—but all in vain!

Baby Blue knows what to do;
With sudden roll and spring
Over she goes
Upon her nose,
And tries to bite the thing!

Alas, for you, sweet Baby Blue,
Determined little soul!
Don't tug and try!
Don't kick and cry!
'Tis nothing but a hole.

THE SCHOOLMASTER'S PROMISE.

"Boys," said an old schoolmaster smiling, one day, "I am about to bargain with you for good conduct. I desire that you will behave yourselves with decorum for one week, and I will promise to shew you a curiosity—what no man ever saw, and, having shewn it to you, what no man will ever see again." An anxious week followed—a week of curiosity, bewilderment, hope, and pleasure in embryo. Out of school it was all the talk—"What could it be?" Another and another day, until at last Saturday dawned upon our gladdened young hearts. Nine o'clock came; every urchin was at his post; books and slates all in readiness; every task fully committed to memory. Altogether a charming state of affairs. "Tinkle, tinkle!" sounded the bell—that bell had a voice as well as a tongue. Mr. Birchem entered, seated himself then raised the lid of his desk, and drew the wonderful thing forth—adjusted his ominous-looking spectacles astraddle his nasal projection, and proceeded to the solemn ceremony, saying, "The hour has at length arrived. Behold in my upraised finger a single filbert. In this filbert is a kernel," ceremoniously breaking the shell and exposing the tiny thing to view, he continued, "This, no man ever saw"; then opening his capacious jaws he thrust in the mysterious kernel, crushed and swallowed it! "Boys!" exclaimed he, with great emphasis, "boys, you will never—I shall never—no man ever will see that kernel again. To your lessons, you rascals, every dog of you!"

NUTS TO CRACK.

1.—I am a word of nine letters, and my *whole* is a famous Egyptian queen. My 5, 6, 7 is to tap; my 8, 9, 7 is a little animal; my 2, 3, 6, 5 is to jump; my 1, 6, 7 is a domestic pet; my 7, 9, 8 is sometimes used in paving.

2.—My *first* is the cause of much misery and woe,
And dreaded by mothers and wives;
For by it they lose their husbands and sons,
Who gallantly yield up their lives.
My *second* is used in the forests so green,
And oft by an orator bold.
My *whole* has brought ruin on thousands of homes,
And miseries never yet told.

3.—Buried Proverb.—First Hebe stood with Rowdero, her cold withering look at her admirer as carved ice; then, foolishly toying with Rowdero's feelings, the minx finally saw a youth devoted to her.

4.—My *first* is mightier than the sword; my *second* is myself; my *third* is a mineral; my *whole* an English town.

5.—Beneath my *first's* huge spreading arms
A merry party meet;
The tables spread in due array
To appetise the treat.
And at one and my *next* is found
In midst of other bounty.
My *whole* is but a little town
That's in a little county.

6.—Hidden Christian Names.—Lottie, the late scholar is you. I met Alice Brown yesterday. Yes, tell Arthur to get the book. Herbert I entered with a firm step. The wounded lamb rose from the ground. Ada is yonder with Harry. Jam, Esther is very good. Ring the bell and order the supper.

7.—Two R's, two A's, two N's, and one C;
Two T's, two I's, two O's, and one P;
Place these aright, including an S;
What do they spell? Can any one guess?

LAST WEEK'S KERNELS.

1. Sloth is the mother of poverty. 2. Catastrophe. 3. Burns. 4. Aginsourt. 5. Assassin.

(6.)
READ
ELLA
ALEC
DACE

(7.)
PINK
IDEA
NEAT
KATE

(8.)
G
DEB
DINAH
GENERAL
EARLY
HAY
L

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FROM RICHES TO RUIN.

BY
JAMES S. BORLASE,
Author of "Darker than Death," "Beth Princess and Police Spy," "Nina the Nihilist," "The Black Hand," "Who Killed John Cameron?" "Major McDragon's Wards," "Pride's Perils," &c.

CHAPTER XX.

THE MARQUIS OF SCAMPERTOWN RECEIVES A THRASHING AND A WARNING.

Lord St. Vincent had retreated from the merchant's study upon the entry of the bailiff with the natural instinct of one who hates a scene, and shrinks from the slightest chance of being brought into publicity.

On returning to the public rooms he had discovered every one taking flight, whilst the four men in possession looked grinningly on, like four ragged jackdaws amongst a flock of startled and gaily-plumaged paroquets.

As panic-stricken as any of the others, mostly through a not unnatural fear that the affair would be made fun of in the "Society" papers, and that his own name would appear in the thick of it, he made his escape as quickly as he could, and springing into his carriage was driven rapidly away Londonward.

He had not proceeded very far, however, when the ignoble part that he was playing struck him very forcibly, and made him feel thoroughly ashamed of the course that he had taken.

"Roscorla has been a kind friend to me, and if he had had in hand the amount that I seem to owe him, he might have been able to stave off this disaster, and save himself from the accompanying expense and disgrace. By Jove! I have been a cur to leave him to fight the battle alone; I might have lent him my countenance, at any rate. I think I'll go back even now. He may not have discovered yet that I've even started."

He had put his head through the window to shout out the necessary directions to the coachman, when someone called at the top of his voice:

"Hi! St. Vincent, thank goodness you've pulled up, for now you shall give me a lift as far as the Marble Arch. I didn't think the infernal affair would have been over before the first morning train from Twickenham to town. There was no staying there as things have turned out though, for it would have been as much as a fellow's reputation was worth. As it is, I hope to goodness those scribbling rascals won't get hold of *our* names. Come, take us aboard!"

This running fire of remarks, delivered in a succession of gasping utterances, evidently owing to his running having somewhat pumped him, brought the speaker up to the carriage door, which his friend at once opened to admit him, suffering all his previous good resolutions to rush out therethrough, and dissolve in air as he did so, though not without just one sigh of regret.

The coachman whipped up his horses afresh, fancying that his master must have called out to him to stop through catching sight of the marquis posting up the steep hill behind, for it was Scampertown who had demanded rather than petitioned the lift as far as the Marble Arch, and who now sank exhausted into the most cosy corner of the sumptuously-fitted carriage, and, drawing a gold, jewel-studded snuff-box from his pocket, refreshed himself with a prodigious pinch.

When he had returned the box to its abiding-place, the marquis indulged in a prolonged chuckle, clapped his hands loudly together once or twice, and finally burst into an uproarious peal of laughter.

"Why, St Vincent, you're as mum as a mummy," exclaimed the volatile young peer when he had recovered himself in some measure. "I hope *you* haven't been bitten that you look so down?"

"Bitten, what do you mean?" demanded the earl in no very amiable tone.

"Mean? Why that you haven't paid court to that bewitching little siren, the bankrupt merchant's daughter, to the extent of putting your foot in it, and inviting a breach of promise case wherein the damages would be heavy enough to re-establish her dad again, and all *that* kind of thing."

"No, I've done nothing of *that* kind," replied the earl, hating himself for the weak answer.

"Then, if you haven't, I'll wager that you have to thank me for the little fancy picture that I called up at breakfast the other morning, for I don't mind confessing that 'twas wholly a fancy picture now that it seems to have hindered you from making an ass of yourself. He! he! he! I didn't paint it with that intention though, for I meant it to scratch you for the race, old fellow, in order that I might come in first at the winning post myself. I was ready to put up with the cup for the sake of the sovereigns that I made sure it held, d'ye see; but, by Jove, what an escape I've had in not being saddled with the gal and, after all, not a blessed money bag!"

"I'm glad that you're pleased," muttered St. Vincent, keeping his anger down by a tremendous effort; but he could not help adding—"Some fellows would think Rose Roscorla quite sufficient prize in *herself* unweighted by *any* money bags."

"Yes, but I was actually thinking of *marrying* the girl—making her my wife."

"You couldn't very well marry her *without* making her your wife," retorted the earl, scornfully; "and, 'pon honour, had you done so, I think she would have been the most to be pitied of the two—I do, indeed."

"Bah! a girl of that class will put up with anything, in order to get a handle to her name."

"*Some* girls of that class may, but I incline to the belief that Miss Roscorla is an exception to the rule."

"Not she," laughed the marquis. "She was ready to jump down my throat this very night."

"I beg leave to doubt that statement, even more strongly than I do your previous supposition."

"Hang it, St. Vincent, surely I should know. She laid herself out to win me in every way, I tell you. Never did a hungry pike snap at a plump little trout more eagerly than she several times snapped at me. But I wasn't caught. Like Major Bagstock, I was devilish sly."

"Confound it all, let us change the subject, Scampertown," said the earl, abruptly.

"No, why should we?" retorted Scampertown. "I can't think of a pleasanter one. I am quite fascinated with the little fairy, 'pon honour I am, and now that her dad has gone a smasher, I'll have her at my own price instead of his, don't you see? Oh, Joe is sly, dee-vil-ish sly, you may take his word for it. Bankrupt stock always sells at an immense reduction, or at an enormous sacrifice, and I am going to bid for one lot and store it in a certain villa at——"

"Hold," exclaimed St. Vincent in the low, deep tones of intense wrath. "I have *advised* you to change the subject, Scampertown. This time I *warn* you to do so. Miss Roscorla is a young lady for whom I entertain a respect—a very great respect, and so sure am I that it is well deserved, that I will permit no one to speak disrespectfully of her in my presence. Not one man in a thousand who had ever spoken to her could be blackguard enough to do so."

"Eh, what is this? Do you dare to call *me* a blackguard, St. Vincent?" cried the marquis.

"I should think you one at any rate, Scampertown, if I was sure that you were quite sober."

"Bah, I tell you that this delicious little siren shall within a week be my mis——"

Before he could finish the word the earl had him by the collar, and choked the final syllable back into his throat.

Then, opening one of the carriage doors with his disengaged hand, he quickly brought it to the assistance of the other, and hurled the marquis out of the vehicle into the middle of the roadway, where he fell with a splash into an immense puddle.

The coachman, hearing the sound, and the accompanying cry, at once reined up his horses, fancying that someone must have fallen out of the carriage, and this gave the marquis time to rise, pull himself together, and approach the still open door in a threatening attitude.

St. Vincent immediately closed and fastened it, then seated himself quietly down.

"Step out into the road and receive the thrashing that I intend to give you," roared the marquis.

"Thank you, but I don't care about either splitting my gloves or soiling my boots, added to which it is stated on very good authority that it is impossible to touch dirt without being defiled thereby. Good night, Scampertown, and may a long walk in the cool night air teach you honour and prudence. If you dare to set one word of scandal afloat concerning the young lady about whom we have been conversing, it will assuredly reach my ears, and the result will be that I shall give you a tremendous horse-whipping whenever I next chance to encounter you—aye, though it should happen to be in the very throne room of the Queen. I have warned you. See that you profit by the advice."

St. Vincent then shouted to his coachman to drive on, and the man taking him at his word, away dashed the horses, so suddenly that the hind near wheel went over the marquis's right foot before he had time to withdraw it, leaving him swearing with agony as much as with rage.

The earl reached his chambers in the Adelphi very much more satisfied with himself than he had been on leaving Mount Rose.

He was delighted with the way in which he had served the lying, vaunting, titled cad, and felt that in vindicating Miss Roscorla's honour he had to some extent atoned for the wrong he had done her.

Had he but heard Scampertown's continuous oaths and mutterings during his many miles' long tramp, or rather limp, through the mud and slush of rough country roads, he might have been led very gravely to doubt whether he had done the dear girl a real service, or instead brought down upon her the danger of a bad man's malignity.

CHAPTER XXI.

LORD ST. VINCENT DECLINES AN INVITATION AND TAMES A BULLY.

The morning was too far advanced to permit of many hours' sleep, and it is questionable whether the earl would have been able to obtain any, even had he had more time at his disposal for doing so.

Instead of dreaming he lay awake, and formed his plans for the future.

His pride of birth and of position still held him back from asking Rose Roscorla to marry him, and though he caught himself wishing again and again that he was a poor man for her sake, he shrank from the possibility of his children mingling the blue Norman blood of the St. Vincents with the ruddy Saxon of a Roscorla.

He resolved, however, that he would go over to Rose Mount in the afternoon, and with apologies for his abrupt departure the night before, tell the merchant that if the eighty thousand pounds which he owed him would tide him over his difficulties, he would tell his father, the duke, the whole facts of the case, and beseech him at once to meet his liabilities and set matters straight.

The earl did not take this resolved-upon journey at once, because he expected to receive a hostile message from Scampertown, who could not very well overlook the rough treatment that he had received at his hands, and who, he knew, had an amiable little weakness of inviting those with whom he had had a difference to meet him in Paris and settle it in the Bois de Boulogne.

Not that St. Vincent intended to oblige him in any such manner; for he could see no manner of sense in consenting to stand up to be shot at for merely giving a fellow creature a lesson in manners. He would rather have bestowed upon him a whole course of such without a word of thanks.

As no friend of the marquis *did* call, he, after luncheon, took the train to Twickenham, and from thence walked to Rose Mount. But he arrived just a quarter of an hour after Mr. Roscorla and his daughter's departure; and though he questioned everyone on the premises as to whither they had gone, not even the repentant Ned Jacobs could give him as much as a clue.

The consequence was that the earl returned home both disappointed and annoyed, yet comforting himself with the reflection that it was not at all probable that a man to whom he owed so much money would try for long to conceal his whereabouts from him.

"No, no, such were the tactics of a debtor, not of a creditor," he argued, "and the merchant would be sure to look him up ere long."

Hardly had he got back to the Adelphi, comforted with the conviction that as long as he owed her father money Rose Roscorla would always be at the very least *findable*, when an emissary from the marquis, a certain Captain Hawk, *did* call upon him and sent up his card.

St. Vincent tore up the card and tossed the fragments into the fire, after which he ordered his visitor to be shown upstairs, and greeted him very courteously on his appearance.

Captain Hawk was a tall, blasé-looking man, of about thirty years of age, and evidently belonged, or *had* belonged, to the cavalry branch of the service.

He was a perfect model of military deportment, for his chest was puffed out like a pouter pigeon's, and his shoulders thrown back to such an extent as to suggest the idea that the blades had been stuck fast together with giant cement.

The hollow of his back was a wondrous thing to behold, and when at the earl's invitation he took a chair, he stretched his long legs out with such a degree of rigid straightness that it was difficult to imagine he would ever be able to unbend them again.

However, he speedily commenced to tap at one with his cane, to keep up the circulation perhaps, whilst his disengaged hand seemed to be striving to bring into a condition of equal length and stiffness the cosmetiqued ends of his enormous mustachios.

"To what am I indebted for the honour of this visit?" inquired the earl, hardly able to repress a smile.

"My lord, I come as the representative of the most noble, the Marquis of Scampertown, who, in return for the compliment which your lordship paid him at an early hour this morning, would be happy to meet your lordship on the sands of either Calais or Boulogne at an equally early hour of any morning next week, in order that he may reciprocate your politeness;" and here Captain Hawk indulged in an elegant wave of the hand and a carefully studied bow.

"You may tell your *employer*, Captain Hawk, that I require no return whatever for the lesson in manners and good breeding, which I felt a hearty pleasure in giving him; and that as regards his invitation to meet him at a French watering-place next week, I have no predilection for the seaside in December, and therefore decline his flattering proposal with many thanks."

"My lord, I would beg to remind you that this is no subject for jesting. The most noble marquis considers that he was most grossly insulted by your lordship, and in plain language he now demands that satisfaction which from all ages one gentleman has had a right to expect from another;" and the captain looked as though he had swallowed a black draught and mislaid the sugar-plum.

"Which in plain English means that, being a dead shot, which I *know* him to be, he expects me to travel upwards of a hundred miles, at the most inclement season of the year in order to be stood upright on a damp patch of sand at the rawest and chilliest hour of a winter's morning, so that he may enjoy the intense satisfaction of putting a bullet or two through me, and then of smoking a cigar whilst the rising tide carries me comfortably out to sea. I thank you, very much, Captain Hawk, but the picture that I have conjured up does not seem at all an inviting one."

"Your lordship is aware that it is no longer lawful to fight a duel in England?"

"A fact which I think declares us to be a most sensible people," laughed the earl.

"Can it be possible that your lordship avoid this encounter through—*nervousness?*" ejaculated Captain Hawk, with a peculiar and most pronounced stress on the last word. "Your lordship will have as good a chance of shooting the most noble marquis as he will have of shooting you."

"Pardon me; there you are incorrect. I have such a disgust for pistols that I have never handled one, whilst the Marquis of Scampertown has always made them his special hobby, and I know for a fact can spot the ace of clubs with a bullet twice out of three times at twenty-four paces. Consequently, were he to kill me in this meditated duel, it would be a clear case of murder, and yet he has the consummate cheek to ask me to put myself to a hundred inconveniences in order to get to a spot where he can comfortably commit this murder and escape all chance of being hanged for it."

"Your lordship looks upon the old and time-honoured code of the duello in a very different light to what brave men and men of honour usually regard it," sneered the captain, who by this time had arrived at the conclusion that he had a coward to deal with. "I really would advise your lordship to think twice over the matter, for if the most noble marquis were to post you as a poltroon——"

"Post me as a *what?*" exclaimed the earl, for the first time knitting his brows and biting his lip.

"Well, in plain words, as a *coward*, my lord. A step which I myself shall advise him to take."

"Which *you* shall advise him to take? Will you have the goodness to repeat those words, sir?"

Far from repeating them, the gallant captain commenced to wish that he had never uttered them, for he could not at all understand the sudden change in Lord St. Vincent's look and manner, and began to fear that he had made a mistake in his man.

In another minute the earl had quite *convinced* him on that point.

"Oh, you *won't* repeat them," said he. "Well, between you and I, the most noble the Marquis of Scampertown won't have the pluck to *post* me either, for it is one thing to shoot at a man who you know to be no marksman, and quite another to face that same man at closer quarters when he grasps a hunting whip that he knows how to use. There, sir, I have condescended to open the door for you, and if you haven't passed outside it before I have finished speaking you will descend the flight of stairs beyond, with the willing assistance of my boot, a great deal quicker than you would be able to manage it in the ordinary way. And harkye, you may tell your employer that I am not the fool that he evidently takes me for, and that though I strongly object to putting myself out of the way in order to get murdered, yet if he doesn't place a strong curb both upon his tongue and his actions in regard to all ladies whom I myself honour and respect, the lesson that I gave him last night shall be a short and easy one indeed compared with the one that I shall set him in the future. Can you remember all that?"

"Yes, my lord. Certainly, my lord," answered Captain Hawk, with cringing politeness, as he shuffled uneasily past the earl, and began to descend the stairs, with every bit of starch and stiffness completely taken out of him, while St. Vincent returned into his chamber, muttering:

"A rascal who was kicked out of the army and society a year ago for playing with marked cards. I'm glad I recollected him before he went. I must keep an eye on the scoundrel, for doubtless he's Scampertown's *fidus achates*."

(*To be continued.*)

A THRILLING ALPINE STORY.

Upon a certain day in August, now a good many years ago, I arrived in Chamounix with one companion, an Englishman, like myself. We had been about five weeks in Switzerland, and had acquired some experience in glacier work, having ascended the Aletsch Horn, whose summit had been reached for the first time by a member of the Alpine Club only two months before.

As few climbing travellers leave Chamounix without visiting the Mer de Glace, we arranged to make the excursion. We left in the evening, and slept in the Montanvert, a solitary little mountain inn on the edge of the Mer de Glace. We were up betimes and started with our guide. It was a glorious morning, and promised well for our expedition. Our road, for half an hour or so, was along an uneven path skirting the glacier, which lay below us to our left. It then came to an end, and we had to descend on to the glacier, and thread our way among the numerous crevasses. The excursion to the Mer de Glace not being looked upon as a regular glacier expedition, used not to be made with the attendant precautions of axes and ropes. We had neither. We were in high spirits, and went along at a great rate; so quickly, indeed, that our guide, who had fallen behind, cautioned us, and requested us to allow him to take, and keep the lead. Just then our progress was arrested by a wide crevasse, which terminated, some twenty feet from us, in a steep slope of ice, which I thought I could easily climb, and I determined to try this rather than go round by the other end. Using my alpenstock as an axe, therefore, I began making foot-holes in the ice. The guide had now come up, and looking at the slope and the wide crevasse, said very seriously, "It's dangerous; let us go round." By this time I had climbed about half-way up the slope, and had come to the conclusion that it was too steep to scale without an axe, and thereupon determined to retrace my steps. So I carefully stretched back my right leg, feeling for the last hole I had made in the ice. My foot went past the place, and I felt that I was slipping. There was not the least projection that I could grasp, and the slope becoming perpendicular, I fell headlong into the yawning chasm below.

I heard a loud cry of despair from my fellow-traveller and the guide. My own sensations I cannot describe or even distinctly separate from the whirl and shock. I felt that I was being bumped from side to side between the two walls of ice; that I was being hurled to utter destruction—to a horrible death. Suddenly I felt that something had caught me—that I hung suspended. I was then able to catch my breath and call out, "A rope, a rope!" By a most extraordinary chance my fall had been arrested by a little ledge of ice which spanned the crevasse like a bridge. On this frail structure I had fallen, so that my head hung down on one side, my legs on the other. Instinctively, by some means which I cannot recall, I raised myself from this dreadful position to a standing one on the ledge, in which there was a little niche sufficiently wide to admit one foot; and was so far collected that I could hear my companion saying from above, "For God's sake, take heart. The guide is running to the Montanvert for men and ropes, and will soon be back."

My position was an awful one. The ledge was so narrow that I could not get both feet on it. It was, in fact, supporting myself on one leg, half-leaning against one side of the crevasse, and my hand pressing against the other. It was perfectly smooth, and there was nothing to grasp. A stream of water poured over my shoulders, drenching me to the skin, and freezing me with its icy coldness. Overhead I could see the long narrow strip of blue sky, bounded by the mouth of the crevasse. There was a terribly stolid, unrelenting look in the intensely blue ice which surrounded me on all sides. Numerous rills of water poured down the crevasse, but in the whole sixty yards of its length I could see no projection except the little ledge I had so miraculously chanced to fall on. I ventured to look down, only for an instant, into the fearful chasm in which I was suspended. At the depth to which I had fallen it was barely two feet wide, but downward it narrowed rapidly, and about two hundred feet below me the sides appeared to join. If I had fallen six inches on either side of the little ledge I must have inevitably been jammed in head downwards, at a depth where no ropes that could have been brought could possibly have reached me.

I had now been about twenty minutes standing in this perilous position, straining every nerve to prevent myself from giving way, looking at the blue sky above, but not daring to glance into the abyss below. Blood was trickling from a cut in my cheek and I felt that my right leg (fortunately the idle one) was badly bruised. My left leg also was becoming exceedingly painful from the strain upon it, and I was afraid of losing my balance if I tried to relieve myself by changing to the other. I felt that I was growing benumbed by the intense cold of the ice against which I was leaning, and of the stream of water from under which I durst not move. I called to my friend to know if anyone was in sight. There was no answer. I called again, but no human being appeared to be within hearing. A dizziness came over me as the thought struck me, "He has gone to look if help is coming, and cannot find his way back; I am lost." I had to strain every nerve to keep myself from sinking; I almost gave up hope, and felt inclined to throw myself down, and have the agony over. At that miserable time I suddenly heard my friend shouting from above. He had gone to look if he could discern the guide, and when he turned round to retrace his steps had been thunderstruck to see the surface of the glacier intersected by numerous crevasses, all so similar in appearance as to leave him no landmark by which to know my living grave. Thank Heaven! he had caught sight of a little knapsack left at the mouth of the crevasse by the guide. It is no figure of speech to say that by this time I felt the blood freezing in my veins. I called to him to know if any one was in sight.

It was thirty-five minutes since the guide had started, but not a soul was visible. Indeed it was hardly possible he could have been back so soon, for we ourselves had taken three-quarters of an hour in coming thus far.

I felt that I could hold out a very short time longer, and besides that, I did not know at what moment the little ledge, which was my only safety, might give way under my weight. I suddenly remembered that I had a large clasp knife in my pocket, and I determined to try and rescue myself with its aid, and I called to my friend that I was going to make the attempt. He implored me not to try. I began by making a little hole in the ice, as high up as I could reach, large enough to admit one hand. My next endeavour was to cut a deep foot-hole, about two feet above the ledge. I succeeded in this, and found that by placing my foot in it, and holding fast by the place I had made for my hand, and at the same time pressing my back against the opposite side with all my strength, I was able to raise myself, and stand firmly in my new position. I again let myself down on the ledge, and commenced cutting another foot-hole, about two feet above the last. It seemed possible that in this manner I might escape, but I knew that if I made one single slip or false step, I must be precipitated down into the depths below.

I was diligently at work at the second foot-hole, when I heard a joyful shout from above—"They are in sight—three men with ropes—running as fast as they can!" I steadied myself on my terribly narrow and slippery footing in order to be able to seize and attach the rope when thrown to me. I saw the end of it dangling over my head! "Merciful heaven! it will not reach me! It is too short!" "We have got another," was answered from above. This was knotted on, and the rope again lowered, and I caught the end, tied it firmly round my waist, and, grasping it above with both hands, I gave the word. The strain began; I felt I was safe, and in another minute I was standing on the glacier. I had been fifty minutes in the crevasse, during which time I had not lost consciousness for a single instant.

When I felt myself once more upon firm footing, an all-pervading sense of gratitude for my wonderful escape came over me, and made me faint, and I should have fallen had they not held me up. This was soon over, and we prepared to start for the Montanvert. Before leaving I took a last look at the mouth of the crevasse which had been so nearly my sepulchre. I then saw that it would have been utterly impossible to have climbed up, as I had been trying to do. The mouth was so wide that, as I approached it, I could have no support from behind; and without that, not even a cat could have scaled the perpendicular wall. With the assistance of my deliverers I was able to walk back slowly to the Montanvert. Here I was immediately put into a comfortable bed, where the injuries I had received (which were insignificant considering the distance I had fallen) were carefully dressed. I dreamed, with unspeakable dread, of what had happened to me, when lying in that bed, and I have dreamed of it in many beds since. I believe that nothing would induce me to go among ice and snow again without a long and strong rope, and I offer this caution to all climbers in Switzerland out of a great experience and a great escape.

Sneezing in Africa.—Among the savage tribes of Africa it is a common notion that kind or hostile spirits make their presence manifest in any particular person by his sneezing. Mr. Callaway, in his *Religion of Amazulu*, tells us how, when the Zulu sneezes, he exclaims, "I am blessed! The ancestral spirit is with me; it has come to me. Let me hasten to salute it, for it is it which causes me to sneeze." The sorcerers, too, are accustomed to sneeze, regarding this act as an indication of the presence of the spirits by whose instrumentality they are supposed to work their magic.

An Enthusiastic Soldier.—Count de la Lippe Birkembourg, one of the bravest and ablest officers of his day (1720-1774), amused himself with military manœuvres and experiments in his own territories in Germany. One day he invited his little court and visitors to dine with him after a review. The dinner was served in a tent on the ground; and towards the latter end of the repast the count was observed to look several times at his watch and put it up again, and call for another bottle. At last some one asked the reason of this. "Why," said he, "I have ordered this tent to be mined by a new method; it is to be blown up at a certain minute, and I am anxious to go out and see the explosion." The tent, it will readily be believed, was soon cleared, without waiting for the other bottle.

"With the Author's Compliments."—When Ferrier, who afterwards became Professor of Moral Philosophy at St. Andrews, was a young man, with slender patrimony, no practice as an advocate, and very meagre emoluments as a *litterateur* chiefly in the pages of "Blackwood," he fell in love with one of the three daughters of John Wilson. The lady reciprocated the favour. Her mother was dead, and she and her inamorate both feared that her father would prohibit, or at least postpone the nuptials. She advised her lover to call the next day, and "ask papa." He did call, saw his lady-love, but could not muster up courage enough to go into the library and provoke the dreadful interview with the father and hoped for father-in-law. The brave girl then said, "Then I'll go." She went and stated the purport of her mission. Dear old dad, my dear old ethical instructor at the University of Edinburgh, said, "Tell Ferrier to come in." While she was away, he wrote something on a largish sheet of paper. When she came back with her bashful, though ardent and devoted wooer, Wilson pinned what he had penned on to the skirt of his daughter's dress and thrust her into Ferrier's arms. The paper had these words inscribed on it—"With the author's compliments." This is authentic.

A Hindoo Boat-Race.—At last there is a hush and every eye is turned up the river. The boats turn and come drifting down; there is a minute of backing and fussing about to get them straight and the bows level, and then, with a loud shout, they are off by mutual consent. A roar comes up from the crowd all the way down the banks to the grand stand, and then swings back again like a wave on the flat sea sand. Served by their magnificent boat and their younger strength, the Myan-oung crew jump off with the lead and continue to draw away until half way down the course, where they are clear and have a bit of daylight to spare. The backers of the Peacock are wild with triumph, but the Thohn-Kwa party are perfectly composed, and declare that things could not be going better. A quarter of a mile from home old Koh-Kyahgyee lets out a yell and, though there is no apparent quickening of the stroke, the gap, which for the last few hundred yards has remained unaltered, suddenly disappears. The Three Fair Flowers creep steadily up the Peacock's thwart. Oung Zahn, the Mayan-oung bow, sees the enemy's boat for the first time since the start, and a few seconds later the nose of the Three Fair Flowers shows in front. Incoherent shouts of despair, encouragement and delight burst from every throat. Old women tear down their scanty hair and work with their arms as if they themselves were in the race. Girls rush to the water's edge heedless of the mud and splashing that will ruin their silken skirts forever; young men and boys rush up to their necks in water and yell with frenzied eagerness, for it is only a few yards to the winning post, and Thohn-Kwa leads by a foot. Old Oo Ohn can stand it no longer; for the last minute he has been shaking all over, as if he were in a palsy, and his tongue and throat are as parched as if they were choked with lime. He rushes forward with his hands up in the air and shrieks "Youk-kya!" in a key that cuts through the din like a steam whistle. "Youk-kya!" the cry is taken up; "Youk-kya bah-thah!" every mother's son of you; the Peacock! the Flower! away lay lay! row for your lives; row for your unvanquished name! The two boys fling their paddles from them and rise for the struggle, the wink of an eye too soon and he will miss his grasp; the flick of a finger too late and there will be nothing to seize. A great hush falls on the vast crowd as if all were stricken dead and then both men disappear in the water, clutching simultaneously at the rattan. An agonizing five seconds and then Oung Zahn comes to the surface brandishing the rattan on high; the Thohn-Kwa bow felt the scratch of it on his palm as it disappeared through the tube! The scene that follows is beyond description. The victorious crew spring up to dance, but the relief is inadequate and they can only escape frenzy by plunging into the river. Oo Ohn tucks up his waistcloth and dances around in mad delight till his stiff old legs can bear him no longer. Pompous old fellows caper and plunge and shout; younger men can only relieve their feelings by plunging themselves down and rolling about in the mud; girls who at ordinary times would hardly dare to raise their eyes to look about them, dance and shout in ecstasy, and their married guardians join in the rout, while the bands from the villages round about strike up, and the professional dancers who came to perform in honour of the victors are fain to look on as their intended audience go through unpremeditated figures.

True freedom demands stern self-discipline, and in nothing so much as in finding and keeping our right places and doing our right work.

There is in all kindly intercourse an exchange that is beneficial on both sides.

Youth and age, riches and poverty, learning and ignorance, sickness and health, each has its separate discipline and its special lesson.

Contentment produces, in some measure, all those effects which the alchemist usually ascribes to what he calls the philosopher's stone; and, if it does not bring riches, it does the same thing by banishing the desire of them.

HOLIDAYS.—All workers, says a medical contemporary, if they are to last, must have holidays. For some persons and for some occupations frequent short holidays are best; with other natures and in other circumstances, only comparatively long periods of release from routine are of service. Few real workers, if any, can safely continue to deny themselves at least a yearly holiday. Mere rest, that is mere cessation from work, while it is better than unbroken toil, does not recreate the fairly vigorous so thoroughly as does a complete change of activity from accustomed channels. For the stronger worker, either with brain or muscle, diversion of activity recreates better than rest alone. The whole body feeds as it works and grows as it feeds. Rest may check expenditure of force, but it is chiefly by expending energy that the stores of energy can be replenished. We mostly need holidays because our ordinary daily life tends to sink into a narrow groove of routine exertion, working and wearing some part of our organism disproportionately, so that its powers of work and its faculty of recuperation are alike worn down. In a well-arranged holiday we do not cease from activity — we only change its channels; with such changes we give a new and saving stimulus to assimilation and the transmutation of its products into force. As a rule, the hardest workers live longest; but only those live long who sufficiently break their wonted toil by the recreating variety of well-timed and well-spent holidays.

CRYING AND LAUGHING.

The approach of age shews itself first about the eyes. Lines come, faintly at first, then deeper and deeper, until the incipient crow's feet are indicated, developed, revealed. None of us, men or women, like to feel youth—that precious possession—slipping away from us. But we should never be on the lookout for crow's feet or grey hairs. Looking for them is sure to bring them, for thinking about them brings them. Tears form a part of the language of the eye, which is eloquent enough when sparingly used, and which should be sparingly used for other reasons than that of adding to their mute eloquence. Tears are a disfiguring expression of emotion, and those who get into the habit of weeping over every small vexation do much toward acquiring a careworn, miserable expression, and are sure to look old before their time. Excessive weeping has been known not only to injure, but actually to destroy the sight. Few women look pretty, or even interesting, in tears, though it has long been a pleasant fiction in poetry and romance to suppose that they do. Many women some men, and most children make most disfiguring and distorting grimaces while crying; and the lady who thinks she can work upon a man's feelings by a liberal display of tears should carefully study a becoming mode of producing them before her looking-glass. Grimaces soften no hearts, and tears accompanied by the usual distortion have a hardening effect, if not a visible one. Grimaces of a somewhat similar order are frequently made during the action of laughter. Care should always be taken with children to prevent their falling into this habit. It frequently reaches such a pitch as to render the laughter positively unsightly. The face is distorted and out of drawing, the eyes disappear, and the lips are drawn up, revealing half an inch of pale pink gum. This peculiarity sometimes runs in families, partly from unconscious imitation. We know one family whose grimaces during laughter are most ludicrously alike. When they are all assembled at the dinner-table, and a joke goes round, there is not a single eye left in the family. Much, if not all, of this could be prevented by due care in childhood. The laugh can be cultivated as much as the voice. Actresses take lessons in laughing with occasionally very charming results. We do not, however, advise that such teaching should begin in early childhood, lest it might destroy spontaneity and produce an effect of artificiality; but we very strongly recommend mothers to check a disposition to make grimaces during their children's indulgence of mirth.

In the school of C——, Aberdeenshire, one day a dull boy was making his way to the master for the third time with an arithmetical question. The teacher, a little annoyed, exclaimed, "Come, come, John, what's the matter now?" "I canna get ma questin richt," said the boy. "What's wrong with it this time?" "I've gotten auchtеenpence ower muckle." "Never min," said a smart boy in a loud whisper (with a sly glance at the master), "keep it tae yersel', Jock."

"I say, Jim, what are you doing there with those cards?" observed a gentleman to his coloured gardener. "I is doin' some tricks." "Give me a specimen of your ability," said the gentleman. Thereupon the coloured man shuffled up the cards in true magical style and performed some very clever work with them. The gentleman dropped a quarter into the man's hand and said to him: "Jim, you are quite a juggler." "Oh, no, massa, I am only a negro-man-sir."

A trouble had arisen among the singers of a certain chapel and one Sabbath morning the good preacher found himself without a choir. He read the old familiar hymn commencing "I love to steal awhile away." In the absence of the choir one of the deacons threw himself into the breach and undertook to lead off. He pitched the tune and sang "I love to steal," but had it so high that he broke down. He tried it a second time, and again broke down at "steal," it was so low. Not discouraged he tried it a third time and sang "I love to steal," and then went down as before. At this point the audience became amused, and the minister rose and said "It is greatly to be regretted. Let us pray."

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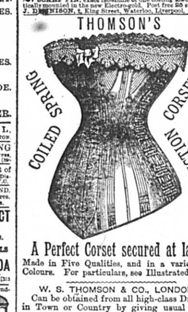
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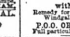


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THIS DAY'S NEWS.

"Guardian" Office, Friday, 4 p.m.

PRINCE BISMARCK AND GENERAL THIBAUDIN.

[Central News Telegrams.]

Paris, Friday.

General Thibaudin was desirous of inserting in the Paris papers a denial of Prince Bismark's statement affecting him. The War Minister, however, refused to permit its publication.

BOILER EXPLOSION NEAR BATH.

A boiler exploded this (Friday) morning at the Bathfield Paper Mills, near Bath. Five men were seriously injured thereby, two of them being in a critical condition.

A STACKYARD DESTROYED.

Eighteen corn stacks were destroyed by fire last (Thursday) night at Binbrook, in Lincolnshire.

THE FAILURE OF A BANK.

At the High Court of Justice to-day (Friday) Mr Justice Chitty made an order directing the Oriental Bank to pay to the Joint-Stock Bank £88,000 deposited with them, also to pay interest on loan due to the bondholders.

THE IRISH LANDLORDS AND THE LAND QUESTION.

At a meeting of the Irish landlords in Dublin to-day (Friday), resolutions were passed calling for prompt and earnest attention of the Government to the existing deadlock in the land market, and distress which it occasions; and appointing deputations to await upon the Premier or Irish Secretary at the earliest convenient date.

THE TONQUIN DIFFICULTY.

A *Times* Shanghai telegram to-day says: Admiral Lespes will arrive at Tronken to-merrow (Saturday) to prepare commercial treaty. Deplomatists and native officials are surprised at the easy terms. Oflamed negotiations were unknown at Pekin until concluded.

HORRIBLE TRAGEDY IN LONDON.

A FATHER HACKS HIS CHILDREN IN PIECES.

A Central News telegram received at 3 o'clock this (Friday) afternoon states:—A middle-aged man named William Morris, murdered his two young children in Kincross Street, Bermondsey, this morning. He had only a few days previously been released from prison, after serving his sentence for housebreaking. The wife worked to support the family, and the man kissed her early this morning before she started for business. He afterwards stunned his children with a rolling pin, and then cut their throats until their heads hung only by a shred of skin. Norris subsequently gave himself up to the custody of the police.

SINGULAR AFFRAY IN AN ASYLUM

BRUTAL ILLTREATMENT OF A LUNATIC BY THE KEEPERS.

A lunatic named Hall, who escaped from Dumfries Asylum, last week, died shortly after his re-capture by two of the keepers. An examination of the body showed that the deceased had several ribs broken. The arrest of the two keepers was consequently ordered, but one of them had in the meantime committed suicide, and the other effected his escape from the institution.

A STEAMER COMPLETELY WRECKED.

The Leyland steamer "Illyrian," from Liverpool for New York, has run ashore on the rocks near Cape Clear Lighthouse. The crew and passengers were saved, but the vessel will become a total wreck.

THE MERCHANT'S SHIPPING BILL.

The Middlesbro' shipowners to-day (Friday) unanimously resolved to recommend that the whole subject of the Merchant Shipping Bill and functions of the Board of Trade should be thoroughly investigated.

THE FINANCIAL CRISIS IN AMERICA.

[Reuter's Telegram.]

New York, Friday.

Messrs Fisk and Hatch, whose failure was announced yesterday, state that their suspension is due to the long-continued decline in the market prices of securities, the general weakening of confidence in financial matters, and to the heavy drainage of deposits.

Mr Hatch has resigned the presidency of the Stock Exchange. A semi-panic prevailed in the Oil Market yesterday, arising from the difficulties on the Stock Exchange, and also from the failure of a bank in the oil district.

ALLEGED NIHILIST PLOT IN POLAND.

Cracow, Thursday Evening.

The recent explosion in the mail van of a train, on the Cracow-Lemberg Railway, it is believed to have been the outcome of a Nihilist plot, the direct object of which was to destroy some documents of a compromising character which were being conveyed in the van.

TERRIBLE RAILWAY DISASTER.

LOSS OF 20 LIVES.

A *Times* Philadelphia correspondent says:—Two trains collided on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, in Western Pennsylvania, yesterday. One was a construction train, carrying 50 labourers, of whom 20 were killed, and several others injured. The wreck caught fire, and the dead bodies were consumed.

TO-DAY'S MARKETS.

London Stock Exchange.—Consols sixteenth lower. Wheat dull.

Newcastle Potato.—The arrivals at Trafalgar Station were large, but there was little demand, and prices were considerably lower. Quotations:—East Lothian champions, 75s to 80s per ton; Fife and other champions, from 60s to 72s per ton; Magnum Bonums, 64s to 68s per ton.

Newcastle Fish.—There was a large supply at market. The demand was brisk at the following prices:—Ling, 2s to 5s each; skate, 1s to 3s each; large haddocks, 6s 6d per basket; small haddocks, 2s 6d to 3s per basket; mackerel, 6s to 7s per score.

North Shields Fish.—There is a fairly good supply of fish at market. Prices:—Large haddocks, 4s to 2s; plaice, 7s to 9s; picked whitings, 12s to 14s; witches, 18s; lemons, 10s to 12s per basket; halibut, 6s per stone; turbot, 8d to 10d per lb; salmon, 1s 3d per lb; cod, 2s to 3s 6d; ling, 5s to 6s 6d; skate, 2s 6d to 4s each.

The Queen paid another visit to the Duchess of Albany at Claremont to-day.

The weather on the coast this (Friday) morning is bright and warm. A moderate breeze blows.

LEADGATE LOCAL BOARD.

On Wednesday afternoon, the monthly meeting of this Board was held in the Reading Room at Leadgate. In addition to the Chairman (Mr R. W. Shaw), the members who attended were Messrs George Nicholson, Wm. Brown, J. Davison, J. J. Hedley, W. Keenleyside, E. Todd, J. H. Hudson, T. Lammonby, M. Robson, and the clerk (Mr M. Coupland).

The minutes of the last regular meeting, as also of the annual meeting, were read and approved.

THE MARKET HALL QUESTION.

The Clerk announced that he wrote to the Consett Iron Company, as directed at last meeting, calling their attention to the subsidence of the ground fixed upon as the site for the contemplated market, public buildings, &c., and had received a reply from the manager to the effect that the question would have the careful consideration of the Company in due course.

With respect to the communication read at the previous meeting from the Local Government Board asking for full particulars relative to the proposed Market Scheme, prior to sanctioning powers for borrowing money for the purpose, the Clerk was instructed to reply to their Lordships stating them that he would furnish the required information when the question had assumed a more definite shape.

FINANCIAL.

The Clerk reported the balance in hand to the credit of the Board to amount to £234 15s 8d. The whole of the general district rate had been collected.

Cheques representing a total sum of £75 2s 6d (which includes £58 9s 7d due to the Gas Company for street lighting) were ordered, on the motion of Mr Brown, to be paid, thus reducing the balance to £179 13s 2d.

LIGHTING THE VILLAGE OF IVESTON WITH GAS.

COLLAPSE OF THE SCHEME.

This meeting was set apart for the further consideration and finally determining whether the village of Iveston and the road leading thereto from Leadgate should be illuminated with gas. The question, it will probably be remembered, was frequently discussed at various meetings during last summer, and was eventually postponed until the spring of the present year.

The Chairman, at the outset, explained that, as a director of the Shotley Bridge and Consett Gas Company, he would not be in a position to vote on the question, but nevertheless he was not debarred from taking part in the discussion or expressing his opinion thereanent. (Hear, hear). He would like to see the members approach the question in a harmonious and friendly spirit, and discuss the point carefully and conscientiously. They should remember that this was a question which, if approved, would entail a vast amount of expenditurer So far as he was concerned, however, he thought that if the ratepayers of Iveston, as individuals, were desirous of having the village illuminated, they were as much entitled to be provided with gas as the residents in Leadgate proper. But then, on the other hand, if they extended this privilege to Iveston, the inhabitants of Boggle Hole, Happy Land, &c., might desire to have these places lighted with gas. Of course, as Iveston was the largest village, and as the inhabitants generally were in favour of the proposal, they would have to be considered first of all. Whatever their decision might be, he could assure them that the Gas Company would be glad to treat the Board in a fair and reasonable manner.

Mr Robson: It is quite necessary that the village should be lit up; but there is no cause why the road should be illuminated.

Mr Hudson: I consider there is more necessity for the road to be lighted than the village itself.

The Chairman here reminded the members that the rateable value of the district was steadily diminishing, and if they increased the expenditure at the same time, they would be pulling, as it were, in opposite directions.

Mr Hudson: But the rateable value might increase at some future period.

The Chairman: I don't think it ever will, even if trade prospects improve.

Mr Hudson: This undertaking is only going to cost us a very small sum—just about 1½d or so in the pound.

The Chairman pointed out that if they increased the rates 1½d only and the rateable value decreased 3d in the pound, that would make a difference of 4½d to the ratepayers.

Mr Brown observed that there were the Red and Blue Rows at Crookhall, equally as large as Iveston, which might require to be lit up next.

Mr Hudson replied that there was no public road to Crookhall, as it was surrounded by slag heaps and old pit banks; and moreover he objected to spending public money on private property. He thought the Consett Iron Company should be asked to put up a few lamps at Crookhall.

Mr Robson: Let us stick to the Iveston question now.

Mr Nicholson: Has there been any petition from the residents of Iverton presented to this Board in favour of the gas scheme?

Mr Hudson: Yes, we have had a petition which was read at the Board.

The Clerk, after examining the minutes, ascertained that the petition from the inhabitants of Iveston was read at the Board meeting on the 12th September, when it was referred to the Building and Lighting Committee.

Mr Todd believed that the leading inhabitants of Iveston did not think that gas would be of much use to them.

Mr Nicholson observed that if the people of Iveston were desirous of having the village illuminated with gas, then the Board could not stand in the way of granting such a concession. It must be understood, however, that it would be impossible to light up the whole of the Local Board district; and if the people desired to have the benefit of the gas they must come to where it was, as of course the light would not go to them.

Mr Hudson: But, you see, we go to them for our rates.

Mr Nicholson: Yes, that is so. If the villagers of Iveston wish to have gas, I shall not object to them getting it.

Mr Lammonby thought it desirable to light up the village, but declared it would be a waste of money to erect lamps along the road.

Mr Hudson: A great many people are in the habit of using this particular road, and I think every highway with such a vast amount of traffic along it ought to be lit up.

Mr Todd: There is just as much traffic to East Castle or Happy Land.

Mr Hudson: I don't think there is. I will admit that as many people travel as far as Redwell Hills, but then at that point there are three lane ends, which separates the traffic.

The Surveyor: I understand the Board will be asked to include Stoney Heap in the lighting scheme.

Mr Hudson: According to the proportion of traffic, I think it would be almost senseless for us to erect lamps along that lane. It bears no comparison to the Iveston district.

The Clerk: The fact is, Happy Land is not situate in the Local Board district; and Stoney Heap only consists of seven or eight houses.

Mr Hudson: I am of opinion that if the road to Iveston was lit up, this Board will receive the credit for it afterwards.

Mr Nicholson enquired the cost of the proposed scheme?

The Chairman said that it had been roughly estimated to involve an expenditure of about 1½d in the pound.

The Surveyor stated that it would take 34 lamps to properly light the village and the road.

Mr Hudson understood that the Gas Committee arranged for 31 lamps, situate about 75 yards apart, as being quite sufficient for the purpose.

Mr Davison remarked that there were some lamps in the Benfieldside district that were more that 100 yards apart.

Mr Hudson thought the Gas Company might put up 31 lamps, and not ask the Board for any compensation. They were erecting lamps in the Consett district 80 yards apart, without any complaint, and he believed the Company would treat that Board in the same manner.

Mr Nicholson: How far do you propose to proceed down the Iveston Bank with the lamps?

Mr Hudson: As far as the trough opposite Mr Hethesington's.

Mr Nicholson: That is a most suitable place.

Mr Lammonby: I think we might try the experiment by illuminating the village first, and then light up the road subsequently if deemed necessary.

Mr Hudson: In that case, the Gas Company will not feel disposed to assist this Board. They will only agree to lay in their mains on condition that both the highway and the village are lit up.

Mr Lammonby: I understand there is an old pipe laid up to the village.

Mr Hudson: But I question whether this will be sufficient to meet our requirements.

The Chairman: I think there is a small pipe laid down, but it is not sufficient for our purpose, and it would have to be tapped somewhere near the Iveston Pit.

After further discussion, Mr Hudson moved that the Board authorise the Gas Company to erect, at equal distances, 20 lamps in the village of Iveston, and 11 along the highway.

Mr Lammonby contended that many residents signed the petition under the impression that the village only was to be lit up.

The Chairman once more pointed out that the Gas Company would not favourably entertain a scheme for lighting up the village without the road thereto.

Mr Robson maintained that the ratepayers should not be called upon to bear the expense of lighting the highway.

Mr Brown said they should not forget that they had to struggle with the hard times. He had been informed, on very creditable authority, that the Brooms Drift would be laid in shortly; and that the Iveston Pit would only be kept going for a few years longer.

Mr Robson: If that is the case, then I do not see it is of any use for us to consider such a question at all.

Mr Nicholson seconded Mr Hudson's proposal.

Mr Robson, as an amendment, moved that the village be lighted only, and not the road.

Several members explained that, under the circumstances, it would be impossible to carry out the amendment, if adopted.

Mr Nicholson said if there were 25 private consumers of gas in Iveston, the Gas Company would entertain such a proposition. If, however, the people objected to gas—if they shut their doors against it, and refused to have it—then the Company would not defray the cost of laying their main pipes into the village.

The Chairman stated that the Secretary of the Gas Company (Mr Richley) had canvassed the village, and ascertained how many private individuals were willing to consume gas.

Mr Nicholson: Was the result favourable?

The Chairman: Well, to a certain extent.

Mr Hudson replied that the people of Iveston could not yet understand or appreciate the utility of gas. If the pipes were only laid right into the village, and the place nicely illuminated, then he believed many of the residents would use gas instead of parrafin lamps.

The Chairman suggested that Mr Robson should resolve his amendment into a direct negative to the resolution; but the latter did not appear disposed to agree to this.

The original proposition was then put to the meeting, with the following result:—*For the motion* (2), Messrs Nicholson and Hudson; *against* (6), Messrs Brown, Davison, Hedley, Keenleyside, Todd, and Robson; *neutral* (2), The Chairman and Mr Lammonby.

The decision caused considerable merriment, Mr Nicholson remarking: Are you satisfied now, Mr Hudson? (Laughter).

Mr Hudson: Yes.

The Chairman: There is nothing else, Mr Hudson, than for you to bring the matter up at some future period, when trade is more prosperous.

Mr Nicholson (jocoosely): You will have to get some new blood on the Board. (Renewed laughter).

Mr Hudson: Yes; we shall have more Iveston people elected. (Loud laughter).

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The Surveyor (Mr Longstaff) read the subjoined report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Leadgate Local Board.

Gentlemen,—Accounts will come before you to-day for the undermentioned manual and team labour done from March 26th until the month ending April 30th, 1884:—

Durham Main Road.—Loose stones gathered off, and part water-tabling done; also loose stones and parings carted off.

Other Roads.—Loose stones gathered off Stockerley, Iveston, and Burnhouse Lanes; the whole of Redwell Hills Road water-tabled, and small slag carted on to fill up the horse tracks; old bricks broken, carted, and laid on Annfield and Pontop Pike Lanes; also ashes carted on to Iveston village footpath.

I hope that your Highway Committee will fix their annual inspection before next Board day.

Annexed are the monthly pay bills:—

	£	s	d	£	s	d
Durham Main Roads:						
Manual labour	3	17	0			
Team labour	10	13	6			
				14	10	6
Other Roads:						
Manual labour	7	14	10			
Team do.	4	14	6			
				12	9	4
Total				£16	19	10

The total cost of your highways for the year ending March 25th, 1884, is as follows:—

	£	s	d	£	s	d
Durham Main Roads:						
Manual labour	48	19	6			
Team do.	25	2	1			
Materials	30	11	9			
Tradesmen's bills	0	18	11			
				105	12	3
Other Roads:						
Manual labour	83	1	0			
Team do.	40	2	11			
Materials	22	6	5			
Tradesmen's bills	21	7	7			
				166	17	11
Total				£272	10	2

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
Thomas Longstaff.

CURTAILING THE EXPENDITURE.

The Surveyor, in reply to the members, said the amount expended was slightly in excess of the previous year.

The Board instructed the Surveyor to curtail the expenditure during the coming year *pro rota* according to the dimunition of the rateable value.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT

The Inspector submitted the following monthly report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Leadgate Local Board.

Gentlemen,—Since your last monthly meeting, I have inspected your district on several occasions, and I find your ashpits, privies, &c., well cleaned out.

I expect the Consett Iron Company will start soon with their improvements at Crookhall Red and Blue Rows; but they desire the Leadgate street improvements to stand over.

The following plans have been before your Building Committee, who will report to you thereon, viz:—From Mr Henry White for a dwelling house in Durham Road; Messrs Parks for two dwelling-houses in Plantation Street; and from Mr Robert Bell for the erection of pantries to his two cottages at Iveston Lane ends; Mr W. H. Meddison for a porch and pantry to the Jolly Drover's Inn, Redwell Hills; also from Miss Hunter for a bath-room to her new house in Durham Road.

Gas burnt during the month of April, 122½ hours.

I beg to remind you that this is the day for considering the Iveston gas question.

The total cost of your sanitary work, including water and cartage, for the year ending March 25th last has been £139 0s 10d.—I am, yours, &c.,

Thos. Longstaff.

BUILDING COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Leadgate, May 13th, 1884,

Gentlemen,—Your Building and Sewerage Committee beg to report that they have examined the undermentioned plans, and find the following in keeping with the bye-laws:—Miss Hunter, Durham Road, new bath-room; Messrs Parks, Plantation Street, two four-roomed houses; Mr W. H. Meddison Jolly Drover's Inn, Redwell Hills, porch and pantry, and recommend the same to be stamped. We further suggest that the proposed pantries for Mr Robert Hall, at cottages in Iveston Lane, be allowed to be built. With regard to Mr White's plans, so far as the structural work is concerned, we agree to the plans; but as the road is prospective of a carriage drive, we consider that it ought not to be less than 36ft. wide.

(Signed) Geo. Nicholson.
Jno. J. Hedley.
M. Robson.
W. Keenleyside.

The Chairman moved that the whole of the plans with the exception of that submitted by Mr White, be stamped with the seal of the Board; and also if Mr White's plan be so modified as to be in accordance with the bye-laws of the Board, the Building Committee be empowered to approve of the same. He remarked that it would be a pity to keep Mr White waiting for another month, if he was desirous of pushing on with his building operations.

This was agreed to.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

The Leadgate Local Board of Health.

Gentlemen,—During the quarter which ended March 31st, 1884, there were registered in the Leadgate Local Board District, 22 deaths and 43 births; an excess of 21 births over deaths. The average mortality for the quarter is at the rate of 19·2 per thousand per annum of the population, being the highest that has occurred since the first summer quarter of 1882, when it was 21. In analysing the various causes of death, it does not appear that the sanitary condition of the district is in any way responsible for this increased rate of mortality, (two deaths only being ascribed to diseases of an infectious character) but rather that it is due to causes without the control of the Sanitary Authority.

Although scarlatina has been prevalent throughout the quarter and still continues to manifest itself, yet, considering the low mortality attending it, and the almost complete absence of other forms of zymotic disease, the health of the district may be said to have been of a satisfactory character.

The large number of 44 cases of scarlatina has come under observation—one case only having proved fatal. With regard to the probable duration of this disease within the district, I have observed that the number of cases has gradually diminished throughout the quarter, and that it would appear to be slowly exhausting itself.

One case of diptheria (which proved fatal) has occurred. It is fortunate that the preventive measures adopted have been successful in cutting short an epidemic of this terrible malady.

Measles is the only other form of zymotic disease presenting itself, 4 cases having been recorded.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

G. Renton, Medical Officer of Health.

Leadgate, April 12th, 1884.

With the exception of the death-rate, the report was commented upon as being highly satisfactory.

IMPROVEMENTS AT CROOKHALL.

It was agreed, on the motion of Mr Nicholson, seconded by Mr Hudson, to permit the improvements at Bottle Bank to stand over for the present, and thus allow the Consett Iron Company an opportunity of proceeding with the works necessary at Red Row, Crookhall.

The remainder of the business was unimportant.

PAINFUL SUICIDE AT BLACKHILL.

INQUEST ON THE BODY.

Yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, Mr John Graham, coroner for Chester Ward, held an enquiry at Mrs Jameson's Commercial Inn, Blackhill, into the circumstances attending the death of a man named John Kearney, aged 61 years, who resided with his son-in-law, at Bottle Bank, Blackhill, which occurred on Tuesday morning last.

The jury having appointed Mr P. Osborne their foreman, Sergt. Cruickshank conducted them to view the body, and on returning the following evidence was heard:—

Jane Ann McNally deposed that she lived with her husband, John McNally, at Bottle Bank, Blackhill. Deceased was her father, and up to the time of his death had been residing with them. About nine o'clock on Friday evening, her father was upstairs in bed, when she heard him call her name. She went up immediately and asked what he wanted, when he replied, "I do not want you now; you can go back again, and God bless you." Observing a bottle in his hand which he had just taken from his lips, she took it from him, and then ran off to Dr George Renton's with it to see if he had been taking poison.

To the Coroner: My father has been a liquor drinker ever since I knew him, but he was not drunk on the night in question. It was the first time she had known deceased take laudanum.

Mr Moon (a juror, to witness): Did your father ever tell you that you would not be likely to see him very much longer?

Witness: Yes; he said that before he took the laudanum on Friday evening, about six o'clock.

Mr King (a juror): Was there any quarrelling between you and him?

Witness: Yes; on the previous Saturday night, he "fell out" with me first, and then with my husband, who told him we had been long enough tormented with him.

The Coroner: After that, did he commence to drink?

Witness: He was drinking on the Sunday and Monday.

James Boyd was next sworn, and he said: I live at No 17, Bottle Bank, Blackhill, and was acquainted with the deceased. About nine o'clock on Friday evening last, he came into my house, and drew from his pocket a gill bottle containing a pot of rum, of which he asked me and my wife to drink, saying "I wish to give you a glass a-piece now, as I shall never give you any more." I asked him if he was going on tramp, and he replied "I am going on a tramp where they will not overtake me." While saying this, he began to weep, but I never thought he was going to do anything rash.

To the Coroner: Deceased had been drinking, but the effect was hardly perceptible; he was sensible as I am now. I did not take any notice of his remarks, as he has often been on tramp, and I thought he was going away just as usual.

Thomas Milner, registered chemist, Shakespeare Street, Consett, said that about seven o'clock on Friday night, deceased came to his shop and asked for a shilling's worth of laudanum. This he refused to give him. Deceased then told him he had been in the habit of getting laudanum from the late Mr Routledge, who had an establishment directly opposite to where witness's Pharmacy was, and since his death he had got it from Mr Kelsey, of Blackhill, but as the latter had such a small stock in, which he had promised to reserve for a woman, he could not get it there; and, therefore, wished witness to let him have the quantity asked for. Witness then told deceased that Mr Kelsey was not a registered chemist, and had no right to sell him laudanum; but thinking from the story he had told that he was a habitual laudanum drinker, he eventually sold him two ounces, the amount he asked for.

Dr George Renton was the next witness sworn, and he said: At about half-past nine on Friday night, 9th inst., Mrs McNally, daughter of the deceased, called upon me with the phial (produced), and it was labelled "Laudanxm—poison." It contained twenty drops of fluid, which I recognised as laudnaum. Mrs McNally wished to know if it was poisonous, as she had discovered her father with the bottle to his lips. I told her it was poisonous, and went as quickly as possible with her to her house in Bottle Bank, Blackhill, where I found the deceased in bed upstairs. He was undoubtedly under the influence of drink and inclined to sleep, although quite conscious and coherent. He refused to say what he had been taking, but he soon very rapidly developed symptoms of poisoning by opium. I adopted the usual remedies in such cases, but he gradually grew worse, and about two o'clock on the morning of May 10th, I left him, believing him to be in a dying condition. He, however, seems to have rallied, and when I again visited him at half-past eight o'clock a.m., he was much improved, although still unconscious. By degrees consciousness returned, and on the 11th inst. he was quite sensible, and answered questions quite coherently. He remained in this condition until the evening of the 12th inst., when he gradually became worse, and died about half-past eight o'clock on the 13th inst. In my opinion, death was the result of an overdose of laudanum.

In answer to a question made by some of the jurymen, Dr Renton explained the reason why deceased lingered so long after taking the laudanum was on account of the means he (the doctor) used to check the poison's influence; and further added that if he had been a young man, the means adopted would have saved him.

The Coroner, in summing up the evidence, said it was quite clear, both from what deceased's daughter and Boyle had said, that the act had been premeditated, making it a clear case of suicide, and that would have to be their verdict. He also complimented Sergt. Cruickshank for the able manner in which he had got up the case.

The jury returned a verdict accordingly.

Local Cricket.—*Blaydon v Consett White Stars:* Played at Blaydon on Saturday, and ended in favour of the visitors by 11 runs. Score—Blaydon, 60; Consett, 71.—*Cornsay v Langley Park:* Return match played on Saturday, at Cornsay, and was won by the home team. Score—Cornsay, 73; Langley, 63.—*West Pelton v Harraton:* Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a victory for the home team, owing to the excellent batting of H. Humes. Score—Pelton, 85; Harraton, 39.

General News.

Brown rats have practically ousted the old English black rat from the entire kingdom. Till very lately the black rat held his own in one solitary domain—on Lundy Island; but his ship-going brown rival has now got the better of him even there, and he is fast disappearing altogether.

About Stockings.—Few of the ancients wore stockings. The people of the northern nations were the first who had hose or trousers. The stockings were made of pieces of cloth sewed. It is not known in what country the art of knitting originated. The discovery is claimed by France, England, Spain, and Scotland. Some believe it had its origin in the latter country as late as the sixteenth century. The invention is also attributed to a Spaniard, on the strength of Mezeral, who asserts that silk stockings were worn by Henry II. of France, at the wedding of his sister in 1559; but before that Edward VI. had graciously accepted a pair from the merchant prince, Sir Thomas Gresham, who imported them from Spain, the land where they were first manufactured. The story goes like this: A loyal grandee, the happy possessor of one of the first pairs made in Spain, thought he could not do better than present the novelties to his Queen, and to that end placed them in the hands of the First Minister to the Crown, greatly to the discomposure of that modest man, who astonished the innocent-meaning noble by returning him his stockings, and bidding him remember that "the Queen of Spain had no legs." Queen Elizabeth of England, not ashamed to own that she had legs, received a similar gift in a very different manner. In the third year of her reign (1561) her silk woman, Miss Montague, tendered her as a New Year's gift a pair of black silk stockings—the first pair of the kind made in England. Elizabeth lost no time in putting the gift on her "limbs," and was so pleased with the result that she sent for Miss Montague, and inquired where she procured such comfortable foot gear, and if she could get any more of them. "I made them very carefully on purpose only for your Majesty," replied the silk woman, "and seeing these please you so well, I will presently set more in hand." "Do so," said the Queen; "for, indeed, I like silk stockings so well, because they are pleasant, fine, and so delicate that henceforth I will wear no more cloth stockings."

Sense of Horses.—The horses connected with fire companies become very sagacious under their course of training. They are obedient to every tone and gesture. A few mornings ago some evidences of the understanding were witnessed, and are well worth detailing. One horse, "Charlie," had received no food since the night previous, and, when he was given his morning's supply of oats, he began eating with great zest, but the words "Charlie, come here," spoken in a low tone from the rear of the stable, caused him instantly to stop eating his tempting breakfast, and to back from his stall and walk to the person calling him. Each of the horses did the same thing without hesitancy, and at the command, "Go back," each trotted to his stall. The harnesses were removed from the horses, and each one was told in succession to go and put on his collar. The collars were placed on end, so that the heads could go through, and each horse walked deliberately across the floor and wriggled his head into the collar without the slightest aid. After this they poked their heads into their bridles, which were held for them, each horse opening his mouth and taking his bit voluntarily. The main part of the harnesses can be hung in any part of the room with the assurance that at the word of command the horses will walk to the exact spot and place themselves in such a position that the harnesses can be readily dropped into place. The endeavours of the animals to secure a position favourable to the easy adjustment of the collars almost compel one to believe that they are endowed with reason.

Newfoundland.—Newfoundland, the oldest British colony, was first sighted at daybreak on the 24th of June, 1497, when the welcome cry of "Land ho!" came from the mast-head of the *Mathew*, a little Bristol ship of not more than 200 tons, manned by West-Country sailors, having for its captain John Cabot, father of Sebastian Cabot. It is said that the warning look-out was responded to by a round of British cheers from the deck below. The first officer on board was Sebastian Cabot. John Cabot was probably born in Venice; but Sebastian was born and bred in Bristol. In the following February, the king, Henry VII., granted a new patent to John Cabot, authorising him to sail with six ships, thus giving to him a supplementary commission to that which he had first received. But John did not go on the second expedition, which was entrusted to Sebastian, then a young man only 23 years of age. The king was evidently greatly delighted with the discovery. It was however on the 5th day of August, 1583, eighty-six years after Cabot's discovery, that, no attempt having been made to colonise Newfoundland or any of the neighbouring lands—four English war-ships being in the harbour of St. John's and thirty-six fishing-vessels of all nations at the same time—Sir Humphrey Gilbert read a royal patent on shore amidst a goodly company of officers and others who had assembled there, authorising him to take possession of Newfoundland on behalf of Queen Elizabeth, and exercise his jurisdiction over it and all other possessions of the Crown in the same quarter. This grant gave Sir Humphrey Gilbert jurisdiction over two hundred leagues in every direction, so that the limits included Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, part of Labrador, as well as the islands of Newfoundland, Cape Breton, and Prince Edward Island. The brave Devonshire knight, Sir Humphrey, was the first settler in Newfoundland, and had come thither on that August day, with some two hundred and fifty followers from his native county, with the view of making the western wilderness a home for Englishmen. In this enterprise he was encouraged and supported by his distinguished half-brother, Sir Walter Raleigh. Sir Walter himself had embarked on the same expedition; but a contagious disease broke out on board his ship, and compelled him to return.

The Late M. Thiers.—A lively French writer has given the following interesting account of the late M. Thiers:—"Louis-Adolphe Thiers was born at Marseilles, on the 26th Germinal, year 5 (16th of April, 1797). On his mother's side, he belonged to an old family of merchants, who had been reduced to extreme indigence; and, on his father's, to the class of labourers. The father of M. Thiers pursued the trade of a blacksmith. At the time of the reorganisation of the university, young Thiers, by the intervention of some of his maternal relatives, obtained a scholarship in the Imperial Lyceum of Marseilles, where he went through his studies with brilliant success. In 1815, when eighteen years old, he repaired to Aix, to attend the lectures of the faculty of law in that town. There he encountered another child of the people, who had recently left the Lyceum at Avignon, between whom and himself an intimate friendship was soon formed. This was M. Mignet, who has since earned so distinguished a reputation as an historian and publicist, and whose name is inseparable from that of M. Thiers, as much by a community of talent, as in consequence of that touching community of sympathies and affection, which was constantly maintained between the two schoolboy friends. Having been admitted to the bar, M. Thiers after some insignificant attempts in Aix discovered that in so aristocratic a city, and at a period when a name and birth were still important requisites for the appreciation of an individual, it would be difficult for him to emerge from the obscurity in which he had been placed by fate. He therefore determined to go with his friend Mignet, and seek his fortunes in Paris. The two adventurers entered the metropolis rich in talent and hope, but poor enough in cash. The first months of their sojourn were by no means brilliant, if we may believe a writer who thus describes their modest abode:—'Many years have passed since I climbed, for the first time, the endless stairway of a furnished hotel, situated at the end of the dark and dirty Passage Montesquieu, in one of the most populous and bustling quarters in Paris. It was with a lively feeling of interest that I opened, on the fourth storey, the besmoked door of a little chamber, which is worth the trouble of describing: a modest chest and a bedstead of walnut wood, with curtains of white calico, two chairs and a little black table, which could scarcely keep on its legs, composed the whole furniture of the room. Such was the apartment occupied by the future President of the French Republic. As may be easily seen, it bore little resemblance to the beautiful establishment in the Place Saint George's, where M. Thiers was afterwards wont to refresh himself with literary studies, amid the fatigues of political life.'"

Sporting Items.

Stanhope (Association) Football Club.—This club has finished playing for their first season, and has been very successful, playing 23 matches, winning 7, drawn 10, and lost 6.

New Quoit Ground, Winlaton.—The fifth heat of the handicap promoted by Mr Forbes at these grounds came off between J. Forbes, of Winlaton, 9 start, and E. Turner, of Swalwell, 17 start, Forbes winning by 10 points. James Gardner, of Winlaton, was referee. The sixth heat of the handicap was played on Monday between John Wood, of Ouseburn, 3 start, and Michael Knowles, of Winlaton, 14 start. After a most exciting game Wood won by one point. Thomas Forbes, of Winlaton, was referee.

Pic-Nic and Sports at The Spen.—The members of the Spen Lodge of the Durham Miners' Association held their annual pic-nic and sports in a field kindly lent by Messrs Errington, on Saturday, when there was a remarkably good attendance of visitors, who witnessed the sports with great interest. Tea was provided in a large marquee, when a great many people sat down. During the afternoon, 120 yards handicap—1st prize, £2; 2nd, 15s; 3rd, 5s—was run off; the winners of the different heats being 1, J. Farrage, 9; 2, Watson, 7; 3, Murray, 7; 4, G. Brooks, 5. In the final heat Watson was 1st; Brooks, 2nd; and Farrage, 3rd. Afterwards there was a 15 minutes "Go-as-you-please"—1st prize, 10s; 2nd, 5s; 3rd, 2s 6d. The result was G. Wishart, 1st; J. Grey, 2nd; and J. Farrage, 3rd. A cricket match was also played between the Spen Baggy Eleven and the Hamsterley Cricket Clubs, the 1st prize being a splendid cane-handled bat; 2nd, a cricket ball; and resulted in a narrow victory for the Hamsterley eleven by seven runs; the scores being 26 and 33 respectively. There was quoiting and throwing at cocoa-nuts and other games, which were all very well appreciated. The Spen Excelsior Reed Band, under the leadership of Mr C. Summersides, attended and played several splendid selections during the afternoon; and in the evening, after the tables were cleared away they adjourned to the marquee and held a grand ball, which was attended by a great many people who fairly crowded the tent. Dancing was commenced at eight o'clock, and was kept up with great spirit until 11·45 p.m., Mr J. Richardson acting as M.C.

Bicycle Sports at Pelton Fell.—The weather which favoured the adjourned meeting of the Whitehall Bicycle Club meeting, whose head-quarters are at Pelton Fell, was the antithesis of that which attended the opening day. As a result, something like 1,000 spectators passed the gate. Mr J. W. Pattinson, the secretary and manager, with Messrs Jas. Ritson and Robert Ferguson, the judges, Mr C. Pattinson, starter, and Messrs E. Jones, T. Harrison, and T. Ritson, utility men, all deserve the utmost credit for the manner in which they discharged their duties. The results were as follows:—One mile novice (confined) handicap. Two prizes, Final—Geo. Stanger, 160, 1; Wm. Lowther, 210, 2; Wm. Parnaby, 190, 3. Lowther made it very warm for his pursuers for two-thirds of the distance, when Stanger, who had run into second place when a quarter of a mile had been done, run up to the leader. Lowther struggled on, with the inside berth, a trifle in front of his opponent, but as they commenced the sixth lap he was "all out," and Stanger then drawing away, won easily by twenty yards, a similar interval separating second and third.—One mile handicap, (confined to the late members of the Rovers ABC); silver cup, to be won twice in succession, or three alternate times; present holder, Mr G. Stanger; handicapper, Mr Jacob Robson.—Heat 1—J. Pearson, 20, 1; J. Weatherley, scratch, 2; R. Barras, 250, 3. Heat 2—G. Stanger, 60, 1; R. Anderson, 115, 0. Heat 3—W. Lowther, 60, 1; W. Dunn, 20, 2. Final heat—Pearson, 20, 1; Stanger, scratch, 2; Lowther, 60, 3. Won by thirty yards.

Sports at Prudhoe.—The annual picnic and sports of the Prudhoe Amateur Rowing Club were held on Saturday in a field pleasantly situated near the railway station. The officials were:—Starter, T. Johnson, Eltringham; referee, J. Forster. Appended are the results of the principal events:—Hurdle Race, 120 yards, over five flights of hurdles; first prize, £1; second, 10s; third, 2s 6d.—Final heat: J. W. Thompson, Mickley, 1; J. H. Hope, Hexham, 2; J. Forster, Hexham, 3; W. Johnson, Whittonstall, 4.—Handicap footrace, 120 yards; first prize, £2 10s; second, 15s; third, 5s.—Final heat: M. Lennox, 1; J. White, 2; W. Reed, †; W. Hall, †; F. Kane, 4. Quarter-mile Race; first prize, £1; second, 10s; third, 5s.—H. Dawson, Blaydon, 1 yard, 1; J. W. Thompson, Mickley, 36, 2; T. Brown, Blaydon, 80, 3; 10 ran.—Half-mile Race: first prize, £1; second, 7s 6d; third, 2s 6d.—W. Small, Stella, 40 yards, 1; J. Baty, Hexham, 40, 2; J. H. Hope, Hexham, 15, 3; H. Dawson, Blaydon, scratch, 4.—Football Competition: first prize, a football; second, 4s.—First round; Prudhoe Rover Juniors beat Mickley Juniors by one goal to nil; Hexham Juniors beat Ovingham Juniors by one goal to nil; West Wylam (West End) a bye. Second round: West Wylam (West End) beat Hexham Juniors by one goal to nil; Prudhoe Rover Juniors a bye. The final was not played.

Holloway's Pills.—Weary of Life.—Derangement of the liver is one of the most efficient causes of dangerous diseases, and the worst prolific source of those melancholy forebodings which are worse than death itself. A few doses of these noted Pills act magically in dispelling low spirits, and repelling the covert attacks made on the nerves by excessive heat, impure atmosphere, over-indulgence, or exhausting excitement. The most shattered constitution may derive benefit from Holloway's Pills, which will regulate disordered action, brace the nerves, increase the energy of the intellectual faculties, and revive the failing memory. By attentively studying the instructions for taking these Pills and explicitly putting them in practice, the most desponding will soon feel confident of a perfect recovery.

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

Beamish.—10th inst., the wife of Robson Riddell, of a daughter.

Aldin Grange.—9th inst., the wife of Mr. Brodie Cochrane, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Collierley Church.—15th inst., by the Rev. R. Tuson, William George Mackay, to Elizabeth, youngest daughter of the late Joseph Slater, farmer, Medomsley.

Lanchester Register Office.—10th inst., Mr. M. Dufton, to Miss E. English, both of Hedley Hill.—Same day, Mr. R. Hall, to Miss S. J. Blackburn, both of Blackhill.—12th inst., Mr. T. Witham, Westwood, to Miss Isabella Walton, Hole House.—Same day, Mr. J. Burnip, Consett, to Miss M. Soldier, Blackhill.

Moy, Co. Tyrone.—14th inst., by the Rev. Edward Hobson, W. H. Healey, of Medomsley, to Geraldine Katherine, eldest daughter of the Rev. M. Beattie, chaplain, Seaman's Mission, Belfast.

DEATHS.

Blackhill.—13th inst., 20, Durham Road, aged 83, Mary Green.

Pelton Fell.—9th inst., aged 62, John Turnbull.

Crawcrook.—7th inst., aged 65, Isabella, widow of the late John Forster, Gallowgate, Newcastle.

Waterhouses.—9th inst., Cuthbert, infant son of Mrs Robert Bell.

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