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. 1,242 | REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD. | FRIDAY EVENING, May 30th, 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 £10 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. PRODDICK, Rose Mount, Consett, or direct to M. L. ROSENBERG, Cross House Chambers, 54, Westgate Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (opposite Mr Angus, Coachbuilder.) Established 1860. 696r

Contracts

MASON WORK.

TO LET, the BUILDING of a House at Broomhill. —For particulars apply to THOMAS HUNTER, Broomhill, by Lintz Green. 169t

The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.

TO CONTRACTORS.

TO LET, the Works required in making an addition of about 44 Feet to the Height of Chimney, at Healeyfield Leadworks, for R. Walton, Esq. Drawings and Specifications may be seen at our Offices, Town Hall Buildings, Shotley Bridge.

Tenders will be received by us till 4 p.m., on Tuesday, June 10th, 1884.

The Lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.

JOHN SMITH & SON, Architects.

May 29th, 1884. 172t

TO BUILDERS.

TENDERS are invited for the various Works required in the ERECTION OF A FARM HOUSE, and the Conversion of Old Dwelling-House into a STABLE, for Mr. EDWARD PATTERSON, at the Lizard's Farm, near Lanchester.

Plans and Specifications may be seen, and all other information will be given on and after Monday, May 26th, on application to Mr. W. BURRELL, by whom Tenders will be received up to June 2nd, 1884.

The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.

Lanchester, May 23rd, 1884. 143t

Wanted.

WANTED, an APPRENTICE to the Printing Business.—Apply at the *Guardian* Office. 13t

LOUGH'S POEMS.—Wanted, COPIES of any POEM by the late TOM LOUGH.—Address to Editor of *Consett Guardian*. 113t

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

WANTED, in Shotley Bridge, BED-ROOM and SITTING-ROOM for a Single, Professional Gentleman.—Address, stating terms, W. O. F., *Consett Guardian* Office. 176t

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.

WANTED, a Domesticated GIRL, as General Servant for family of Three. None need apply under the age of Eighteen, or who have not held a situation before.—Apply personally between the hours of Eleven and Two at Mrs. SCOTT'S, East Parade, Consett.

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

ASSISTED PASSAGES to QUEENSLAND for £5, by Ship "Earl Granville," from London, on June 26th, and also to Canada every week at Low Rates. Reduced Fares by all the best Lines to New York and Philadelphia.—Apply to ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett. 187t

AUSTRALIA and AMERICA.—Reduced Fares.—500 Workmen of all classes wanted for Queensland and Canada. Work immediately on arrival at Highest Wages. Assisted Passages granted. Employment guaranteed in Canada. Passages Booked to United States, Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney at specially Reduced Rates.—Apply to the Great Northern Emigration Co. (Queensland Government Agents). 96, High Street, Gateshead. 184t

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 Severent 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.

RESPECTABLE LODGINGS.—Apply Box X, *Guardian Office*, Consett.

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

TO LET, a pleasantly-situated COTTAGE, with Garden, near Castleside; every convenience; rent low.—Apply at the Vicarage, Castleside. 154t

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, with 6 Rooms.—Apply to EDWARD WESTGARTH, No. 1, Derwent Street, Blackhill. 120t

TO LET, a HOUSE of 2 Rooms and 2 Attics, with Yard, &c.; also, 2 Warehouses beneath, situate in Cross Street, Blackhill.—Apply to W. CHARLTON, Dean House, Ebchester. 150t

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. 49t

To Let.

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 30; 48 by 30; 84 by 30; or 0 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 Thorough-bred FOX TERRIERS —Apply to Mr. J. W. SCAIFE, Cemetery Road Blackhill. 83

TO FARMERS.—FOR SALE, a large IRON BOILER.—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, cheap, Fine, Rich-toned, Full-compass Cottage PIANOFORTE, in Beautiful Walnut Case, equal to new.—Apply, after Six at night, to F. W. BRODIE, 17, Sherburn Terrace, Consett. 158t

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.

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

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.

THOMAS MILNER, CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, (By Examination),

Begs to inform the inhabitants of Consett, Benfieldside, and vicinity, that he has BOUGHT THE BUSINESS (recently relinquished through declining health) of Mr. J. W. SCAIFE, Front Street, Consett, which in future will be carried on by T. MILNER, at THE CENTRAL PHARMACY, 7, SHAKESPEARE STREET, CONSETT.

T. MILNER is Sole Agent for Consett, Lanchester, and District for NESS & Co.'s Tar Elixir Sheep Dip, BELL & RIDDLE'S Hexham Sheep Dip, BELL & RIDDLE'S Concentrated Cattle Spice, McDOUGALL'S Non-poisonous Sheep Dip, COOPER'S Sheep Dipping Powder, MORRIS'S, LITTLE & Co.'s Chemical Sheep Dip, WILSON and KITCHEN'S Dips, TOMLINSON'S Glycerine Sheep Dip, &c., &c. Tobacco Juice, Powders, Helleine, and Soft Soap, and all other ingredients used for Dipping Sheep.

Milner's Diarrhœa Mixture, specially recommended for Diarrhœa and Colic.

HORSE BALLS, FELLON, CLEANSING, AND OTHER DRINKS FOR CATTLE. 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 Russia-tinted and other Spectacles and Eye Glasses.

TRUSSES, BANDAGES, ELASTIC STOCKINGS

Insect Powder for the Destruction of Beetles and other Vermin at this Season of the Year.

T. M. specially recommends a good assortment of Furniture Cream, Brass Polish, &c., &c. Ammonia Washing Liquor.

OILS, PAINTS IN TINS, OR MIXED TO ORDER. MAHOGANY, SATIN WOOD, AND OTHER SPIRIT VARNISHES.

Best Oak, Carriage, Copal, Black Japan Varnishes.

BLUE, GREEN, and OTHER COLOURS, of every description.

NOTE ADDRESS:— 163

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

☞ FURTHER EXTENSION OF PREMISES.

TO MEET AN INCREASING DEMAND FOR MILLINERY, BABY-LINEN, AND LADIES' UNDERCLOTHING,

J. GOODFELLOW

HAS OPENED ANOTHER SHOP, BEING No. 19, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT, With a splendid Assortment of Goods,

STRAW HATS, and MILLINERY, nicely Trimmed, at Prices to suit everybody.

CHEMISES, from 1s. 1½d., 1s. 4d., 1s. 10½d., 2s. 3d., &c., beautifully Trimmed.

LADIES' DRAWERS, from 10½d., 1s. 3d., 1s. 4½d., 1s. 11d., &c.

NIGHT DRESSES, from 1s. 10½d., 2s. 11d., &c.

INFANTS' ROBES, FROCKS, PELISSES, TUNICS, HATS, HOODS, PINAFORES, &c.

CORSETS, FEATHERS, FLOWERS, ORNAMENTS, RIBBONS, LACES, COLLARETTES and RUFFLES, SILKS, SATINS, VELVETS, PLUSHES, &c.

☞ Also, at the OLD PLACE OF BUSINESS, will be shown a large Stock of

MEN'S TWEED SUITS, from 16s. 11d., 18s. 11d., 22s. 6d., 23s. 6d., 26s. 6d., &c.

MEN'S BLACK WORSTED SUITS, Bound and Well-made, at 22s. 6d. See them.

BOYS' SUITS, from 2s. 7½d., 2s. 9d., 2s. 11d., up to 18s. 11d.

MEN'S TWEED TROWSERS, from 2s. 11d.

BEST VALUE IN HATS, all Fashionable.

SHAPES, ZEPHYR FELTS, from 1s. 11d., 2s. 3d., 2s. 9d., 3s. 6d., &c.

BOY'S HARD and SOFT FELTS, from 1s. 6d.

CALICOES, from 1½d., 2½d., 3d., &c.

HOLLANDS, 3½d., 4½d., 5½d.

FLANNELS, 5½d., all Wool.

☞ DRESSES, in all the latest Makes and Colourings, from 3½d., 6½d., 6½d., 6½d., 8½d., 10½d.

SHIRTINGS, PRINTS, SATEENS, and POMPADOURS.

OBSERVE THE ADDRESS:—

J. GOODFELLOW, NEAR THE SALVATION HALL, AND 19, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT. 182t

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

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 15 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.

The Interest and Profits paid to members on Completed Shares has averaged 6¾ per cent. per annum.

Any further particulars may be obtained of Mr. GEO. STILLMAN, 56, North Bondgate, Bishop Auckland; or Mr. WILLIAM ELLIOTT, 6, Mount Pleasant, Consett.

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

BROOKS' CELEBRATED FELT 2s. 6d. HAT,

59, CLAYTON STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. 764

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 CODICOTT, 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. 664n

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 Dyspepsia 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

MAGNETIC 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. 133t

Business Announcements.

SPORTS.—MEDALS, MALTESE CROSSES, CUPS, &c., in Silver and Electro, Suitably Inscribed, from 2s. to 58s. Cap Badges for Bicycle Clubs, &c., from 1s. to 7s. 6d. Designs and Samples on application.—Agent, T. H. KIRKUP, Ridley Street, Blackhill.

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

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The Consett Guardian

FRIDAY, May 30th, 1884.

The discussion of Colonel Stanley's amendment to the Franchise Bill is a very useful illustration of the position of the whole question of Parliamentary Reform. It is clear that, as the new voters under the bill will not come upon the register till 1886, the Government will have ample time to redeem their pledge to introduce a Redistribution Bill. If a dissolution took place in the autumn of the present year, the newly enfranchised citizens—supposing the Bill to have been passed—could not use their privilege, because the work of registration would not be completed in time. "Oh," say the Conservatives, "that is very well; but what a strong position the Government will have in any case. If the bill be passed, and the Government introduce their Redistribution scheme, they will be able to force it on the House of Commons; because, whether it be rejected or not, the Franchise Bill will operate after a given time." Here, then, are the alternatives. Either the Franchise Bill must be destroyed because the exigencies of time do not permit the Government to propose their plan of Redistribution now, or else Franchise must be secured and the Government empowered to introduce Redistribution next year. We cannot believe that the country will have much trouble in deciding this issue. It really means that Ministers shall be put in a position to pass both Franchise and Redistribution, or that the Conservatives shall be put in a position to postpone both indefinitely. No doubt the passage of the Franchise Bill would greatly strengthen the hands of the Government in regard to their ideas of Redistribution; but this is not necessarily an evil from the national point of view. It is better that the Liberal party should do the entire work of Parliamentary Reform than that it should not be done at all.

It is a grand thing to be an infant—we mean a legal infant. When you know that on the day you come of age you will receive ever so many thousands of pounds, you have delightfully unfettered ideas of expenditure and of the things which are necessary to a young man of taste. Mr. Guthrie, who came of age last year, thinks that a pocket pistol is necessary to a young man of fortune. Before he attained his majority, he had dealings with one Lang, a gunsmith. Mr. Lang heartily coincided with his views. "One silver and ivory pistol £5" was, in his opinion, an item that no infant should be without. Was not Mr. Guthrie in the habit of travelling, and do not travellers sometimes go to Ireland, and is it not notorious that to travel in Ireland without a silver and ivory pocket pistol is most unsafe? Mr. Guthrie felt the spirit of Nimrod strong within him. He ordered an air-gun, which cost £6. Then he ordered two more air-guns and a target to shoot darts at. These air-guns cost respectively £41 and £31. You cannot learn to shoot darts at a target for nothing, any more than you can travel in Ireland without a silver and ivory pocket pistol. Then Mr. Guthrie found a young lady who shot darts at him with Cupid's air-gun, which, we dare say, is rather more expensive to the target than the weapons sold by Mr. Lang. But the gunsmith had a difficulty in getting his money. The infant, when he ceased to be an infant, put off childish things, or, at any rate, put off paying for them. An action at law was instituted, and the question for the jury was whether an air-gun ordered by an infant is necessary to that infant's happiness; at all events, whether the tradesman who supplies it is entitled to his money. The jury decided against Mr. Guthrie, and we fancy that most people will approve the verdict. A gunsmith is not bound to exercise a moral supervision over an infant, and to prevent him from having the toys for which he hankers.

The annual report of the Registrar-General of births, deaths, and marriages is generally an interesting volume. Birth, death, and marriage are, on the whole, the most important affairs of the human race, Most readers will probably take the deepest concern in the subject of marriage. They may be interested to know that of the 204,405 women who were married in 1882, 186,336 were spinsters, and 18,069 widows. The ages at which people marry fill an important position in these statistics. It seems to be customary for bachelors to marry about the age of 25. Widowers generally marry at 43, spinsters at 24, widows at 39. The Registrar makes a statement which to women will carry a melancholy conviction of truth. "The annual chances of marriage are, as might be supposed, much higher for women than for men in the earlier periods of life, and much higher for men than for women in the later periods." That seems to be a law of nature which cannot be amended even by the most cogent reasoning as to the equality of the sexes. It may be doubted whether Acts of Parliament passed by a Legislature in which women were predominant would be able to alter this feature of the Registrar's report. It is serious to note that the marriage rate declined in 1880-82 compared with the rate that prevailed in 1870-72. It is also serious to learn that there have been more marriages in the improvident than the provident class, though this is not very surprising. If ambition is the last infirmity of noble minds, marriage seems to be the desperate procedure of the impecunious. But the world may console itself with the reflection that if no marriages were contracted except with a prudent regard to providence, the population would shew an alarming decline.

The melancholy end of the Dean of Bangor will be a great shock to all who believe that those who pursue the noiseless tenour of their way along the cool sequestered vale of life are free from the mental infirmities which urge men to take their own lives. What could be more ideally serene than the existence of a Dean? To be sure, he is occasionally troubled by the clash of conflicting parties in the Church, and by the onslaughts of those religious journals which are never happy save when they are imputing the worst motives to ecclesiastics of the party they dislike. But, on the whole, a Dean is usually able to maintain a tolerable equanimity. His duties are not oppressive. He can cultivate literature on more substantial fare than Sydney Smith's oatmeal. Dean Edwards was the author of several theological works. He was not a very prominent man, and is more likely to be remembered for his attack on tea-drinking than for any ecclesiastical exploit. The drinking of tea, he asserted, was injurious to health. In one of Le Fanu's weird stories there is a clergyman who drinks so much green tea that he is haunted by visions which prompt him to blasphemy, and eventually make him cut his throat. It was not tea which drove the Dean of Bangor to suicide. His death will doubtless strengthen the conviction, if it needs strengthening, that tea is the soother, and not the enemy, of this distracted globe, the human mind.

Parliamentary Summary.

THURSDAY.

The inquiry of the House of Lords Committee on the Manchester Ship Canal Bill was concluded, and their Lordships gave their decision on Friday morning.

In the House of Commons, the Lord Advocate informed Sir Lyon Playfair that the Universities (Scotland) Bill would be introduced probably on Saturday or Monday. Mr Chamberlain informed Mr Stanhope that the balance of money now in the hands of the Board of Trade, and formerly held by trustees in bankruptcy, was £388,421. The money was coming in at the rate of £10,000 or £15,000 a week, and the Board of Trade had no reason to doubt that the amount would realise the estimate of the million sterling. Mr J. K. Cross, in reply to Mr Slagg, said, amidst loud Conservative cheers, that the Secretary for India had given his sanction for the construction of the Quetta Railway, and the work would be pushed on rapidly. In answer to Mr Dawnay, Mr Ashley said Sir H. Bulwer still held the office of Special Commissioner in Zululand. In reply to Mr O'Donnell, Mr Chamberlain stated that he had no information that would justify him in assuming the existence of a practice among underwriting and insuring companies of affording undue facilities for the over-insurance of ships, and he did not think that it was to the interest of underwriters to insure ships of an unseaworthy character. He was not aware of any temptation to owners effecting excessive insurance except the temptation afforded by the present law, which was dealt with in the Merchant Shipping Bill. In reply to Mr Gibson, Mr Courtney stated that a supplementary estimate would be necessary for the Irish Land Commission, and a message said the amount required was £23,000, that would be in addition to the original charge of £90,000. Mr J. K. Cross informed Mr A. Bartlett that the Government had no information as to how many miles the Russian forces have advanced from the Caspian towards India since Her Majesty's present Ministers came into office. Mr Childers informed Mr Macfarlane that he could not submit the question of the duties now levied upon tobacco imported into the United Kingdom to a select committee. Mr Trevelyan, replying to Mr Parnell, said he intended to move for a committee to inquire into the condition of Irish labourers soon after Whitsuntide. Mr S. Lefevre, in reply to Sir R. Peel, said he hoped it would not be thought from any want of respect that the Government were unable to carry out the resolution of the House of Lords with respect to the Wellington statue, but they would carry out the arrangements already made. He considered that the whole question had been settled, and could not offer any facilities for renewing it. Mr Gourley asked whether the Government intended sending a flotilla of armed boats to the places besieged on the Upper Nile. Mr Gladstone said what has happened was simply that on the requisition of General Stephenson, and with the full assent of the Admirality, Lord John Hay was at present making arrangements for patrolling by steamboats a certain portion of the Nile. He was not able to state absolutely what that portion was, but he believed that it was above Assiout and below Wady Halfa. These were steamers belonging to the Khedive but there would be a small company of British sailors on board. It was purely an arrangement in the interest of Upper Egypt. In reply to Baron H. de Worms, Lord E. Fitzmaurice said Her Majesty's Government had left to Mr Egerton, the acting agent and Consul-General at Cairo, full discretion as to despatching messengers to Khartoum. In answer to Mr W. H. Smith, Lord E. Fitzmaurice stated, with reference to Admiral Hewett, that the latest information received was to the effect that the Admiral, who left Massowah on April 7th, had reached Adowa on the 6th of May, and was awaiting the arrival of the King, who was expected on the 12 inst. He was accompanied by Mason Bey, the Governor of Massowah, and Captain T. C. Speedy, a gentleman well acquainted with the language and custom of the Abyssinian Court and country. Admiral Hewett stated that he was being treated hospitably by Ras Alowra, and that the officers and others attached to the mission were in good health. The House afterwards went into Committee of Supply.

FRIDAY.

In the House of Lords the Criminal Law Amendment Bill was again considered. Replying to the Earl of Galloway, Earl Granville stated that the Government had no fresh announcement to make respecting the despatch of an expedition to Khartoum.

At a morning sitting of the House of Commons Sir Charles Dilke, replying to Dr Cameron, made a statement respecting the large increase of small-pox in London during the past two months, and as to arrangements for the isolation of infected cases, and the revaccination of persons exposed to infection. Lord E. Fitzmaurice stated to Mr A. Bartlett that no direct communication from General Gordon had been received since April 9 or 10. A further message, of a confidential character, had, he said, been recently forwarded to Gordon. Mr Gladstone added, in reply to Sir S. Northcote, that, though the intelligence lately received in regard to the state of affairs at Berber and Dongola was not of a very definite character, it was, so far as it went, reassuring. The Franchise Bill was further considered in Committee. An amendment proposed to Clause 2 by Sir Henry Wolff, with the view of leaving till a later stage the question of the date at which the Bill should come into operation, was accepted by the Government. Colonel Stanley, disregarding a strong appeal from both sides of the House to postpone the matter, moved an amendment requiring that no election should take place under the extended franchise until after the passing of "an Act for amending the Acts which settle and describe the divisions of counties and the limits of cities and boroughs of the United Kingdom for the purpose of election of members to serve in Parliament." The amendment, supported by the Conservatives generally, was deprecated by Lord Randolph Churchill, Mr Raikes, and Mr Gorst, and opposed by the Government. Sir Stafford Northcote expressed his surprise at discovering any difference of opinion in the Conservative party as to the principle of Colonel Stanley's amendment, which was thoroughly consistent with the attitude he and his friends had from the first assumed in regard to the question of Reform. Lord Randolph Churchill then explained that he differed from the right honourable gentleman on the question of tactics only, believing that the point might have been more favourably raised at a later period and in a different form. On a division the amendment was rejected by 276 votes to 182. Progress was shortly afterwards reported. At the evening sitting Mr Cheetham called attention to the management of the landed property of the Crown by the various public departments charged therewith, and moved for a committee of inquiry. Mr Courtney, speaking for the Government, maintained that no case for inquiry had been made out. The subject was under discussion when the House was counted out at twenty minutes past eleven.

MONDAY.

In the House of Lords, Lord Stratheden and Campbell introduced a Bill for promoting the abatement of smoke in the metropolis. Lord Lamington having called attention to the new Custom House regulations, Earl Granville admitted that they caused annoyance, but in proof that they were justified pointed to the discovery of a large quantity of explosives in an innocent-looking carpet-bag at Dover. In reply to Earl Cadogan, his lordship stated that portions of the Blenheim collection of pictures had been offered for sale to the Government, but that the prices were considered to be excessive.

In the House of Commons, Sir Edward Watkin, gave notice of his intention to move the addition of a clause to the Franchise Bill legalising triennial parliaments. Mr Jerningham asked the Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs if it was possible for him to state to the House whether negotiations had been entered into by Her Majesty's Government with the Governments of Russia and Persia for an early and definitive settlement of the Russo-Persian and Afghan frontiers. Lord John Manners also asked whether the Foreign Office had received any information from Teheran respecting the alleged incorporation of Sarakhs into the Russian Empire. Lord E. Fitzmaurice said communications were taking place with the Russian Government, but they had not yet reached the stage at which it would be desirable for him to make any statement to the House. Her Majesty's Government were informed by Her Majesty's Minister at Teheran that it was rumoured at Sarakhs that the Russian Commander-in-Chief was expected to come there to make over to the Merv Turcomans some land on the right bank of the river. Mr Dixon Hartland asked whether, through the action of France, commerce in the provinces of Southern China would in future be hampered by prohibitive duties, and China had infringed the letter of her engagements with other Powers by her concession of exclusive rights to France. Lord E. Fitzmaurice said the subject was engaging the serious attention of Her Majesty's Government, but it would be premature to express any opinion at present, especially as a treaty commerce between France and China had not yet been concluded. Mr Dodson stated, in answer to Mr Pell, that the Privy Counsel were engaged in giving practical effect to a suggestion made by the hon. member for the better security of districts entirely free from foot-and-mouth disease. Sir H. Maxwell asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he had any information showing whether any works in connection with the Channel Tunnel are being continued on the French shores of the English Channel. Mr Chamberlain said the latest information on the subject was contained in the report by Her Majesty's Consul at Boulogne, dated March 19th, which stated that the working of the gallery at Sandgatte for the proposed tunnel was finally stopped on March 17th, 1883. In reply to Mr Villiers Stuart, Lord E. Fitzmaurice stated that the Government were aware of the grave objections which existed to the forced labour system in Egypt, and would take every opportunity of impressing on the Egyptian Government the necessity of a reform, but this reform, like many others, depended on the finances of Egypt, which was the subject of the Conference. The representation of the People Bill was further considered in committee. An amendment by Dr Cameron, having for its object to abolish minority representation as existing in Liverpool and Manchester, was withdrawn on an assurance being given by the Prime Minister that the subject would be considered in connection with the promised Redistribution Bill. Several other amendments having been negatived, progress was reported, and the discussion on the second read of the National Debt (Conversion of Stock) Bill was proceeded with, Mr Hubbard moving the rejection of the measure. The debate was eventually adjourned.

TUESDAY.

In the House of Lords, the Earl of Carnarvon made some inquiries regarding the forthcoming conference on Egyptian affairs, and asked whether it was the case that arrangements had been made, or promise given, in the negotiations with France to withdraw the English troops at a given time. Earl Granville, in reply, said negotiations with France were still going on in a friendly way, and it was impossible for him to say what the final result would be. When that result had been come to Her Majesty's Government would consult the other Powers, and as soon as that had been done the result of the communications would be communicated to both House of Parliament. He might add that that would be done before they entered into the Conference. The House afterwards agreed to adjourn till Monday, June 9.

In the House of Commons, Mr Chamberlain, in answer to a question by Mr Gourlay regarding the insured values of ships, said he did not think a Select Committee would be the best tribunal to conduct it. He thought it would be much better, to refer the subject to a Royal Commission. Mr Gladstone, answering a notice given yesterday by Sir H. Wolff, who he understood to say would press to-day for some information on the subject of the Conference, observed that he had already stated that the functions and scope of the Egyptian Conference was limited by the invitation, and by the intention of the Government to the pacification of the balance of income and expenditure in the finances of Egypt, which ought not to be the subject of an explanation at the present stage. With reference to a question by Mr Bourke he had to remind the House of what had been already said, which, he hoped, would spare the House considerable trouble. Hitherto the House had known that France had requested an interchange of explanations with Her Majesty's Government as to their general position in Egypt, and that in common with France the Government desired that interchange of communications. These communications were now proceeding, and if they resulted in their arriving at a conclusion Her Majesty's Government would then proceed to consult the Powers upon it, and when that was done a communication would be made to Parliament. That he thought was substantially what was previously stated. He had now to state that he and his colleagues had considered the matter since the notice was given by the right hon. gentleman, and had come to this conclusion that they would undertake and engage that in the event of any common understanding with France and the concurrence of the other Powers the results arrived at should be presented to Parliament before the Conference met. He hoped that the undertaking would satisfy the House. After some further discussion, Mr Gladstone moved that the House at its rising do adjourn until Thursday, June 5th, which gave rise to a long and desultory debate, in which a number of subjects were referred to. In the end the motion was agreed to. Mr Trevelyan then resumed the debate on the introduction of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Bill. Leave was given to introduce the bill, and the House adjourned.

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SPECIAL LONDON LETTER.

Friday's division on Colonel Stanley's amendment is regarded as settling the fate of the Franchise Bill for the Session. It virtually puts an end to the compromise which Mr. Albert Grey offered—that the Franchise Bill should be made dependent upon a scheme of Redistribution. It does more. It enables the Lords to say that they will not have the bill at all. For nothing is clearer than that, if they passed the measure with Colonel Stanley's or Mr. Albert Grey's amendment included in it, they would find their amendment rejected by the House of Commons. The Conservative policy now is to keep the measure as long as possible in the House of Commons, so as to prevent any other legislation being attempted. In that they seem in a fair way of succeeding, seeing that the second clause of the measure is not likely to be carried before Whitsuntide, and there are more than 100 new amendments to be debated after the holidays. But the Government can beat these tactics by the prolongation of the Session. The question whether there shall be a prolonged Session for other legislation or an Autumn Session for this one measure is being much debated. Of course it has not come formally before the Cabinet, for the circumstances have not arisen which call for a division; but it is thought probable that a meeting of the Radical section of the party will be held calling for an Autumn Session.

It is now quite understood that if Sir William Hewett succeeds in Abyssinia, our expedition will go through King John's dominions to Khartoum, striking the Blue Nile at the nearest practical point to the Abyssinian frontier, and marching first to the relief of Kassala. The route is a pleasant one. It passes through the hills where the weather is comparatively cool. It gives the army the Nile for water. Altogether a better route than the Suakim-Berber route, which would need a railway and four months' work upon it. Unhappily, the latest news from Abyssinia is not pleasant. If, however, it be true that the French consul is interfering, we have a subject of complaint against the French Government. I should be inclined to believe, however, that the Mahdi has more to do with King John's behaviour than any French consul.

At Berlin it is believed that no Conference will be held. Should that belief be justified, nearly everybody will rejoice. The rejoicing, however, will be founded upon the idea that Mr. Gladstone will consider that the failure of the negotiations as freeing English hands, and enabling us to carry out our own policy without any further interference. All Liberals who want a firm and decided policy in Egypt will, therefore, begin to work as soon as the Conference is disposed of, to bring Ministers into a firm and decided frame of mind. The Conference no longer before us, the only danger will be indecision.

Lord Randolph Churchill is the most convertible man that ever aspired to be a leader. He may be called a convertible term. He is always being convertible. He made a speech in Edinburgh against the extension of the franchise, and was converted on the spot by a remark which fell *en passant* from Mr. Arthur Balfour. This made him oppose Colonel Stanley's amendment. But Mr. Arthur Balfour made another speech, and the noble Lord was again converted, and he voted against his own speech. Such trifling as this is unusual. It is, I venture to say, laughing at the country. Lord Randolph does not know his own mind now for ten minutes together. Why do not Sir Henry Wolff and Mr. Gorst give him some idea to which he can stick for six months together?

Land Nationalisation is less and less the idea of the Radicals. Mr. Jesse Collings's motion proceeds on precisely opposite lines. Like Mr. Parnell, like Lord Hartington, as regards Ireland, like nearly all reasonable men, he is in favour of peasant proprietary. His resolution is—"That in the opinion of this House it is desirable, in order to increase the productiveness of the land, to arrest the decline of the rural population, and to promote the interests of the commercial industries of the country, that provision should be made by Parliament to facilitate the acquirement by agricultural labourers, tenant-farmers, and others of proprietary rights in agricultural land." Mr. Collings's resolution will be taken on the second Friday after the holidays.

The *Standard* says that "the voice of England, which was once so clear, so distinct, and so dominant in the East, has, under the management of our present rulers, shrunk to the whining falsetto of a mendicant." This is *à propos* of the unveiling of Lord Stratford de Redcliffe's monument. There is no doubt that "the great Eltchie" was supreme at Constantinople, and that the Sultan at that time trembled before him. But did the Sultan tremble before Sir Henry Layard in Lord Beaconsfield's time, or was our Minister utterly unable to make his voice dominant in the East? The fact is that the wishes of Lord Beacons field's Government were systematically ignored by the Porte, and that Sir Henry tried every tone, from the mendicant's to the dictator's, in vain.

The Caucus can do many things, but it is not all-powerful. There is a large constituency represented by two Liberal members who have given great dissatisfaction to their supporters. The Liberal electors would gladly get rid of them, and choose two more eligible candidates, but while the members refuse to resign, the eligible candidates will not come forward, and so the Liberals are bound to their members against their will. Yet there is a strong Liberal Association in the constituency, and the outsider might think that the Caucus there was in the zenith of its authority. As a matter of fact, it is completely helpless.

"If, after the solemn promises it has given, the Government were deliberately to decline to fulfil its pledges—a contingency which we cannot regard as possible—it would have to reckon with the indignation of Parliament and the emphatic disapproval of the country." Thus the *Times* on the intentions of the Government with regard to Redistribution. But when pledges are given about General Gordon, the same authority can see nothing in them.

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[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 LATE DEATH FROM OPIUM POISONING AT BLACKHILL.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

Sir,—I noticed in your issue of last week, the evidence tendered by Mr. Milner, chemist, Consett, at the inquest held at Blackhill on the body of J. Kearney, who died from opium poisoning. His attempt to exonerate himself from blame by introducing my name voluntarily to the jury, as it were, with malicious intent to injure me in my calling and to laud himself on account of his being "registered" as a chemist and druggist.

The following are the facts as far as I am concerned: The deceased man applied to me on the Friday afternoon for laudanum. I told him distinctly that I could not supply him with such a poisonous drug and observing from the man's appearance, that he was not habituated to its use, I had my suspicions aroused, and, urged him not to go to any chemist for it, as he was far advanced in years. This is all I have to do with the case, and I most respectfully ask why my name should be dragged into the sad affair by the witness who supplied the poisonous drug, and who seems to use very little discretion as to the quantity he sells to strangers his intentions evidently being to profit by lowering me in the estimation of the public of Consett and district. Apologizing for the space occupied in your columns.—I am, yours &c.,

Wm. Kelsey.
Late Dispenser at Gateshead Dispensary and Hospital for Sick Children, Newcastle.

[This letter was held over last week.—Ed. C.G.]

A LETTER FROM QUEENSLAND.

The following extracts are taken from a letter from Mr John George Hopwood, a native of Derwent Cottages, who left Tow Law on November 22nd, 1883, the names of course being suppressed. The communication is sent to his father, Mr John Hopwood, of Prince Row, Dan's Castle, Tow Law, under date of

"Gympie, March 13th, 1884.

"I write to inform you that I landed safe at Gympie on March 10. I found —— house, and I knew his wife as soon as I saw her face. . . . They were all glad to see us . . . . We went into the town at night, where we met —— ——; and you may guess there was some shaking of hands—in fact they were kinder than I expected; and better still, we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves without partaking of any drink. We eat different sorts of fruit, and spent a pleasant night —— joined the Templars just after we arrived at Gympie, and if we stay here—and I think that we will—— and me will also join them. A man that drinks is better at home, as everything you get here is 6d a glass. We have not commenced work yet, but we expect to start next week. —— is going to open another mine, and he will want some men; but I have a better chance of being employed at the weighing machine, to weigh quartz, that is stuff they extract the gold from. If I obtain the situation, I shall have a gentleman's life—in fact, the miners are all like gentlemen; they are never dirty; they possess two suits of clothes to work in; and they dress up so when going to the mine, that you would think they were going off to Church. The men are employed for eight hours per day, and earn £2 10 a-week. Sinkers are paid £3, and the "boss" gets £3 10s per week. Everything is as cheap here as it was at home. Young men pay £1 weekly for lodgings; but they live much better than you do in England, faring as well as the richest personage in Queensland. We have our meals three times a day, and it is like Sunday dinner at home every time. —— was down the mine yesterday, and drilled two holes. The rock is very hard; but the men do not work hard. We like the country very well, as much as we have seen of it. —— and —— live in a home by themselves in first-class style for £1 a week. . . . Gympie is very like Tow Law; only a little larger. The town possesses some nice buildings, mostly built of wood; and I like it exceedingly well. There is a number of mines here, all very close to each other. These goldfields are almost exclusively carried on by working men. One person will apply for a piece of ground, and if he happens to secure it, he advertises for shareholders, which consist principally of miners themselves. They begin to work, and when the month expires, they make a call which has to be paid immediately, otherwise the defaulting party forfeits all claim. If a man cannot see his way clear to pay up his call, he endeavours to sell his share, which realises him a small amount of money sometimes. It is all speculation. A man may be poor to-day and rich to-morrow. There is a young man, who came here penniless three months ago, and now he is worth £5,000. We have a peach tree at one side of the house, and a mulberry tree at the other. There is not any hunger in this country, for if you go into a public-house, there is beef and bread and other things set before you to eat free.

I have furnished you with the bright side of things; but now I will relate a few of the troubles people have to contend with when they journey to Queensland. On landing at Rockhampton, the authorities conveyed us to an old shed, which had to be the home of —— and me. We left it, and proceeded to an hotel, where we obtained lodgings. We rose early the next morning, and went to the depot to see after our boxes. We noticed many of our old shipmates; some of them were fearfully bitten by mosquitoes; and most of them were almost broken-hearted. You might observe one woman standing talking to another, and both of them would be crying about leaving home. It is a cruel country to come into, when you have no friends; more especially for people who have a lot of children. It is foolishness for people to come out here, without someone from this side of the water sending for them. It is very difficult to procure employment, except you go right into the bush, or unless you have friends who will speak in your behalf. In a few years' time, however, things will be much better. When the railways are made, it will open the country out. Queensland possesses every kind of mineral to be found in the world. Some time ago, a mineral was discovered which is more valuable than gold. . . . . After applying for a pass to Gympie, which was obtained with considerable difficulty, we were compelled to remain in Rockhampton three days, and it cost us 30s to pay our fare in the boat across to Maryborough. Before we reached Maryborough, however, we landed at a place called Bondanbrugh, and stayed until Monday morning for the train, the railway fare being 7s 6d. We soon arrived at Gympie, and instantly found some kind friends. Work is very good, if you can only manage to get a start; but the people do not care to set strangers on. Queensland is the best country for a working man, after once he finds employment. . . . There is any quantity of mushrooms here; they are growing even on our door-steps! The people I lodge with have lived here 25 years, and they have no desire to return home. I may revisit home at some future day. The people here dress very gay. . . . . We had a pleasant journey out. I kept a record of every day since I left home."

The Derby.—St. Gatien and Harvester ran a dead heat for the Derby race this year. Time by Benson's chronograph, 2 mins. 46 1-5 secs. Time last year, 2 mins. 48 2-5 secs.

"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 95, Great Russell Street, London.

Rickslake's Rose Soap.—The best for the Toilet.

North-Eastern Railway Traffic Returns.—The returns for the week ending May 24th shows an increase of £3,537 compared with last year. Passengers show a decrease of £1,210, and dock dues £116, the increases being merchandise and cattle £4,157, and minerals £706. The total decrease this year is £107,464.

In the House of Commons, on Monday, petitions were presented for the absolute repeal of the C.D. Acts by the Hon. F. W. Lambton from Wesleyan congregations at Wolsingham, East Hedley Hope, Hedley Hill, Thurll, Frosterley, Thornley, Tow Law, St. John's (Weardale), Stanhope, Rookhope, Eastgate (Weardale).

Postal Orders.—A change in the denominatons and cost of postal orders will come into operation on Monday, the 2nd of June. Under the new system a person will be able, by means of not more than two orders, to transmit any sum of shillings and sixpences up to one pound; while by the use of not more than five penny stamps affixed to the back of the order any broken amount may be made. The following are denominations:—1s, ½d; 1s 6d, ½d; 2s, 1d; 2s 6d, 1d; 3s, 1d; 3s 6d, 1d; 4s, 1d; 4s 6d, 1d; 5s, 1d; 7s 6d, 1d; 10s, 1d; 10s 6d, 1d; 15s, 1½d; 20s, 1½d.

The Proposed Reduction of Durham Miners Wages.—The *Newcastle Chronicle* says: "In the Durham coal trade the advice that Mr W. Crawford has given to the miners is the best that they could have. At the present time there are large numbers of workmen laid idle, especially in the cokeing coalfield of South Durham. The effect of this idle labour must be to depress the value of labour generally, and especially in the district where it is least in request. Under these circumstances it is wise on the part of the miners to think of the sliding scale system, which ought never to have been terminated."

Sporting Items.

Pigeon Flying at the Spen.—A pigeon flying match was flown from Barlow to the Spen on Saturday, for £5, between J. Leybourne and J. Ripley's pigeons, when Ripley's bird came in first on account of Leybourne's pigeon alighting in the fields.—A pigeon flying handicap was flown off on Saturday from the low end of Barlow to The Spen, when J. Kitte's "Red George" flew 1st; R. Hood's "Stolen Cock," 2nd; and D. Little's "Dr Colquhoun," 3rd. There was some very good flying, which caused a great deal of excitement. The prizes were divided as follows:—1st, 20s; 2nd, 10s; and 3rd, 5s.

New Quoit Ground, Winlaton.—The handicap promoted by Thomas Forbes was resumed on Saturday between Thomas Forbes, Winlaton, scratch, and Michael Kelly, of Blaydon, 17, which ended in a victory for Kelly by 16 points.

Pigeon Sweep at East Castle.—On Saturday, a pigeon sweep was flown from Castleside to East Castle, distance five miles. Result:—1st, W. Lax's Champion, 4 minutes 40 seconds; 2nd, W. Thompson's Camlet, 5 minutes 4½ seconds; 3rd, T. Pearson's Tam o' Shanter, 5 minutes 21 seconds.

PIC-NIC AND SPORTS AT VICTORIA GARESFIELD.

The members of the Victoria Garesfield Colliery Accident Fund held their fourth annual pic-nic and sports in a field at Low Spen, kindly granted for the occasion by Mr Telford, of Derwent Cottages, on Saturday last, when it was estimated that over 1,000 people paid for admission, and all seemed thoroughly to enjoy the different sports provided for their amusement, and which, thanks to the committee, were exceedingly well managed. The committee are all zealous workers in the promotion of the movement, and everything came off very pleasantly, and great credit is due to the able manner in which they all performed their share of the work. Especial allusion should be made to Mr Sloane, who carried out the laborious task of preparing and cutting-up the ham and bread for sandwiches.

Tea was provided in a large marquee in the field by Mr Simon Rowe, of Consett, when over 600 people sat down and did ample justice to the good fare set before them—in fact one person declared the tea to be so capitally good that he drunk only 20 cups! The following ladies kindly gave their services as waitresses at the different tables:—Misses Eiley and Parker, Poole and Knotts, Connolly and Crinson, Gair and Cutter, Mrs Burtin and Duffy, and a host of other ladies and gentlemen.

In the marquee was displayed a splendid collection of needlework, the committee having offered a prize of 10s for fancy needlework, hand-made, confined to the wives and daughters of workmen employed at the Victoria Garesfield, The Spen, and Rowlands Gill villages. The first was awarded to Miss J. Bewick, for a beautiful crewel-worked tea cosy; and the second prize to Mrs Burt, of Victoria Garesfield, for a crotchet pinafore, which was really a splendid piece of handiwork, and must have taken a vast amount of skill and labour, and throws abundant credit upon the maker. The third prize was won by Mrs M. A. Eltringham for a beautiful crewel-worked apron, which must have been a painstaking and industrious task, the design worked thereon being the wild rose, jesamine, and forget-me-nots. The work of Mrs M. A. Wilkinson, of The Spen, was very highly commended, comprising, as it did, a beautiful sofa rug, executed in six colours. Mrs Veal, of Victoria Garesfield, kindly officiated in the capacity of judge, and we can safely assert she could not have fulfilled that capacity with more ability, or afforded greater satisfaction.

During the afternoon a series of football matches were played in an adjacent field, there having arrived nine clubs to compete for a football presented by the committee. They were drawn to play in the following order, to the satisfaction of all concerned, by Mr P. Duffy. In the first round, the Hamsterley Rangers 1st eleven beat the Mickley Rangers; Boundary F.B.C. beat the Prudhoe Rovers; Dipton Heroes 2nd beat the Hamsterley Rangers 2nd. The Dipton Heroes 1st were afterwards beaten by the Milkwell Burn Royal Blues; which left the Hobson Wanderers as the bye club. In the second round, the Hobson team vanquished the Boundary F.B.C., after which the Dipton Heroes 2nd and the Hamsterley Rangers 1st started to play, but dusk setting in prevented further competition. Eventually the ball was handed to the Hobson Wanderers for them to keep until the other clubs played it out with their opponents at some future date. Each club was allowed fifteen minutes to play. There was advertised a tug-of-war for six men, but on account of there not being two teams it did not come off, Mr Blacklock's team being the only one to enter. Details of the sport:—

100 Yards Handicap for boys of 16 years or under. First prize, 5s, won by M. Ellison, Winlaton Mill; second, 2s, R. Forster, Ryton; third, 1s, J. Laing, The Spen. Six ran, and were well handicapped by Mr T. Duffy.

120 Yards Handicap.—First prize, £3, second, £1, third, 10s. 1st heat—R. Forster, Ryton, won by 2 yds; but on account of the cap snapping the heat had to be run over, and was eventually won by Forster by about 4 yd, in 21 yds start. 2nd heat—1st, John Nevins, 6 yds. A very good race. 3rd heat—1st, M. Ledger, 13 yds, resulted in a walk over. 4th heat—1st, J. Arland, 11 yds. A capital race. 5th heat—1st, M. Johnston, 12 yds. 6th heat—1st, J. Ramsdon, 3 yds. Won by about 12 inches. 7th heat was nearly a dead heat; but was won by J. Thirlwell, 14 yds. 8th heat resulted in a dead heat between Waters, 12 yds, and Hunter, 14 yds. When run over, Hunter got a bad start, the result was a walk over for Waters. 9th heat—1st, Young, of Blaydon, 11 yds. A very exciting race. 10th heat—1st, Murray, 15 yds, walked over. Second round—1st heat—1st, J. Ramsdon; 2nd, J. Nevins; 3rd, M. Oliver. 2nd heat—1st, F. Murray; 2nd, Young; 3rd, Waters. 3rd heat—1st, M. Ledger; 2nd, Thirlwell; 3rd, Arland. Final heat—1st, M. Ledger; 2nd, F. Murray; 3rd, J. Nevins. Messrs T. Duffy, J. Robson, and G. Pooley efficiently discharged the duties of handicappers; Mr J. Pooley was starter and pistol firer, and Mr Minks was referee. Each and all filled their places in a highly creditable manner.

A Race for the Spen Bandsmen, to be run in uniform. 1st prize, 10s, R. Hall; 2nd, 5s, G. Wishart; 3rd, 2s 6d, R. Lowdon.

15 Minutes Go-as-you-Please.—First prize 10s, second, 5s, and third, 2s 6d. 1st, J. Farrage, The Spen; 2nd, J. Urwin, Shotley Bridge; and 3rd, R. Graham, Lintz Colliery. 12 competitors. Mr P. Duffy acted as referee; Mr J. Minks, timekeeper; and G. Pooley, pistol-firer.

Wrestling.—First prize, £1; second, 10s; and third, 5s. The wrestling was exceedingly good, especially between Blacklock and Walker, and J. Tellpel and Charlton. There were eleven entries. In the first round J. Fraser threw G. Bay in splendid style. W. Dikes threw C. Charlton. S. Doyle felled Beard after a good sharp tussle; and Blacklock overthrew Graham in similar form. In the second round, T. Tellpel threw Fraser. Doyle threw Dikes, and Blacklock falling Walker stood as odd man. Consequently the prizes were awarded to T. Tellpel, 1st; S. Doyle, 2nd; and T. Blacklock, 3rd. Messrs Walton and Jamieson were judge and referee.

Skipping Competition for Girls.—First prize, a beautiful swing looking glass; second, a dress piece; and third, a pair of slippers, which were all presented by friends about the neighbourhood. 1st, M. Urwin; 2nd, I. Smith; 3rd, L. Pooley. Some wonderful skipping was displayed. Mr Tucker was judge and referee.

Quoiting: Eight to eleven yards on the sward.—First prize, £2, J. Herron; second, 15s, W. Anderson; third, 5s, T. Cain. A great deal of interest was manifested in the contest, and some very exciting games were played.

The Spen Excelsior Reed Band was in attendance under the leadership of Mr C. Summersides, and performed some capital dance music, and some very choice selections, the chief being the National airs of England and Scotland, which had a very pleasing and sublime effect. In the evening after the tables had been cleared, the Band adjourned to the spacious marquee, where a ball was held, the tent being crowded by dancers; Mr T. Duffy acting as M.C., and was ably assisted by Messrs. Tucker, Charlton, and others. Dancing commenced at eight o'clock and was kept up with great vigour until 11·30. We may only add that from first to last the sports have proved a great success both financially and otherwise, and with the fine weather everybody seemed thoroughly to enjoy themselves.

In our obituary column this week, we record the death of a centenarian—Mrs Elizabeth Smith, of Burnopfield, having attained the great age of 102 years.

NORTHERN LIGHTS.

XX.—JOSEPH COWEN, ESQ., M.P.

It has been said that the English are a nation of shopkeepers; that buying and selling for the sake of money-making is their chief concern; and that they transact all matters in a commercial spirit. There may be a certain amount of truth in the taunt, perhaps just enough to make it unpleasant. We fear that the desire to make a good bargain for ourselves enters too often into our diplomacy with other nations in a way that justifies the sneer, though we generally declare our entire disinterestedness. We must also admit that numbers of our countrymen conduct their affairs for purely selfish ends, and that money-making for the sake of money-getting has a depraving effect upon our moral character. It needs, however, only a glance at the following sketch to find that the British merchant still possesses qualities which enable him to take rank with the foremost men of his time; that the genius, industry, and worth which have brought him wealth, joined to a generous and patriotic spirit, soaring above the petty considerations of self-interest, will make him a prudent and trusted administrator of national affairs, and the benefactor of thousands of his fellow-creatures.

Joseph Cowen was born at Blaydon Burn, in the month of July, 1831. His early education was received at a good local school, whence he proceeded to the University of Edinburgh, which at that time enjoyed something like European fame. Christopher North still lectured, and Lord Macaulay represented the city in Parliament.

With no professional object in view, young Cowen desired only culture, and that he found to more purpose, perhaps, than he could possibly have done elsewhere. Classics were his favourite study, and he soon became president of the University Debating Society.

His chief extramural instructor was the Rev Dr. John Ritchie. Though a preacher, and a Scottish preacher too, he was beyond sophistry, a fearless Radical, and a popular platform speaker. He also met Mazzini in the Scottish capital, and established a life-long friendship with the great Italian patriot. He exposed and denounced Sir Joseph Graham both by pen and tongue for tampering with the illustrious exile's letters. Mazzini was interested in his youthful defender, thanked him by letter, and to Mr Cowen were addressed the dying patriot's last written words. Returning home to Blaydon, Mr Cowen engaged actively in his father's business, becoming a maker of firebricks and gas retorts. At the Blaydon works and pits there have been no strikes, for the simple reason that the "master" is a trusted and beloved trades union leader. His support of the nine hours' movement was from the first of a very pronounced character, and such as evoked the most ardent expressions of gratitude from all classes of workmen. For many years he personally discharged the duties of a teacher in the Blaydon Mechanics' Institute, and as organizing secretary commenced similar institutions all over Tyneside. In order to thoroughly understand the habits and modes of living among the Northumbrian pitmen, Mr Cowen lived for some time in the colliery villages. In 1858 he formed the Northern Reform League, and, in company with Mr R. B. Reed its secretary, he visited every colliery village and hamlet in Northumberland and Durham, teaching the principles of "Christian Democracy."

In the Reform demonstrations of 1867 the League played an important part, bringing out an army of supporters which London itself could scarcely equal.

As a consistent, unflinching, and devoted political reformer, Mr Cowen is readily acknowledged to stand head and shoulders above every other living man in the North of England. Such men as Count Cavour, Abraham Lincoln, Garibaldi, Mazzini, Louis Blanc, Gambetta, and Victor Hugo have ever found in him one of their most sincere admirers and closest friends. In all their efforts to ameliorate their condition, the working classes have never looked to him in vain for encouragement, counsel, and help. He truly belongs to his country, and is ever only too willing to sacrifice his own interests and ease for what he considers the good of his fellow-men. He is said to be the only Englishman who could, if he were so minded, raise a provincial army of his own.

The following lines, entitled "The Keelman's Eppissil te Joe Cowen, Esq," testify to his popularity amongst the working classes of Tyneside:—

"Aw knaa thoo likes nee flattoree,
Yet if its truth be not a lee,
Its aal a poor chap has to gie
Maw Canny Joe!

"Fra mem'ries o' 'the awd lang syne,'
Aw see thaw feythor. Wiv a vine,
Man, aw cood draw his portrait fine
Maw Canny Joe!

"Put 'haw grand titles i' the fire,
Biff a good deeds aal must expire;
What mair dis Tyneside hearts require,
Maw Canny Joe?

"Let ice-shoggil o' coolness melt,
Its Cackus stand out like a Celt,
Aal gan for thoo to wear the belt,
Maw Canny Joe!

"Aw've heard thoo when a wondrous lad
Turn hawf o' awd Newcassil mad
Wiv eloquence ag'yen the bad,
Maw Canny Joe!

"Tom Burt's as nice a chep's can be,
But thoo aw've knawn sae tendorly,
Mun glower ab'yun him like a tree,
Maw Canny Joe!

"Weel yor mouth had the silver spyeun
That ye were born wi'—words to teyun,
Is good like Blaydon burn to run,
Maw Canny Joe!

"Wor world fra Sandgit to 'The Kee'
Knaws not the hawf o' what ye de,
Wiv ye there's nae hippokrisee,
Maw Canny Joe!

"So, when thoo's deed, wor leader chief,
(Good lives like yor's should not be brief)
Tyneside will mourn in radient grief,
Maw Canny Joe!"

Next to Manhood Suffrage, the Education Act was the public measure which enlisted Mr Cowen's most devoted advocacy. When the "Manchester Union" went to Newcastle they found all their efforts paralyzed, and were unable to carry a resolution at any public meeting. Joseph Cowen, as chairman of the Northumberian Education League had already secured the votes of the Northern Counties for "Board Schools." The Newcastle College of Physical Science was first suggested in Mr Cowen's newspaper. It was he who bore the preliminary expenses, and who enlisted the sympathy and enthusiasm of the Dean of Durham, for that scheme. So also Newcastle owes her Free Library, established some five years ago, mainly to his advocacy.

As a member of the Newcastle Town Council Mr Cowen on several occasions declined the dignity of the mayoralty. This did not, however, prevent his brother councillors from securing a local Act of Parliament to enable them to make him an alderman when, by becoming a parliamentary representative, he had ceased to be a member of the municipal body.

Mr Cowen has placed the community under a great obligation to himself for the spirit and wisdom with which he has improved the character and extended the usefulness of our local Newspaper Press. In 1863, there was a weekly paper struggling for existence called the *Newcastle Daily Chronicle*. Mr Cowen bought it from Messrs Lambert. Being himself a powerful and well-informed writer, he wrote many of the leading articles, and personally superintended the paper. In a very short time the circulation sprang from a few thousand to 20,000 a-day. The offices were soon removed to a more extensive building, and a special wire was erected to connect the Newcastle office with a London establishment. When Mr Cowen went to represent Newcastle in Parliament, and sent those "London Letters" to his paper, the circulation doubled in a short while, and to-day it has one of the largest circulations of any daily paper out of London. The *Chronicle* is what, alas! so few newspapers now a-days are, a real political teacher within the area of its own district. It has writers who for range of political knowledge and absolute fidelity to principle have no superiors in or out of the Metropolis. A little over a year ago the train service from London was so arranged that the London papers could be sold in York, Middlesborough, Darlington, and Stockton at an earlier hour than the Newcastle papers. It was evident that unless Mr Cowen made some special effort, his paper would be in danger of losing its circulation in those towns. He was equal, however, to the occasion. He at once arranged with the railway company for a special train at a very early hour. There is now a *Chronicle* train that runs fifty miles just to carry this one newspaper, a thing previously unknown in newspaper enterprise.

There is one other noticeable but almost forgotten publication with which the senior member of Newcastle was closely connected which is worthy of mention. In 1852 on the small estate of Brantwood, Coniston, Lancashire,—now the home of Mr Ruskin—he and Mr W. J. Linton published two magazines which consisted of a series of Republican tracts in prose and verse, pitched in a very lofty key. They were issued for five or six years, as were also a number of revolutionary manifestoes which are said to have made all the despots in Europe tremble, and even toppled some of them from their thrones. Not very long ago Mr Cowen told his constituents that he had not recanted his Republicanism, like Sir Charles Dilke. All the world knows how he has cultivated the friendship of Mazzini, Garibaldi, Kossuth, and other Republican leaders; and how the Poles—Worcell, Darasz, Mieroslawski, Dombrowski, and Langiewicz—have been protected and helped by him when "in trouble," or subsidized for long years to the extent of more than two-thirds of an ample income in their revolutionary enterprises. To him Poland was and is a land of heroes and martyrs; Russia everything that is the reverse. A friend who casually met him one day inquired why he cared most for the Poles. With profound feeling he replied, "Because they seemed the most forlorn." This answer throws a flood of light on the action which Mr Cowen has thought fit to take with regard to both the Eastern and the Irish questions.

We know that there have been some persons who have attributed his support of the foreign policy of the Beaconsfield Government to motives other than disinterested. The true interpretation of his deviation from the common track is quite otherwise. That a man who has for years spent two-thirds of his princely income in aiding the Poles against the White Tsar, should suspect Russian designs on the Bosphorus, and should have been unable to accept Alexander as the Liberator of the Danubian nationalities, seems almost inevitable. The following passage from Mr Cowen's magnificent speech in the House of Commons on the occasion of the supposed Russian advance on Constantinople showed that he was still a Hungarian—a Polish insurgent. He said:—"I ask English Liberals if they have ever seriously considered the political consequence of an imperial despotism bestriding Europe—reaching, indeed, from the waters of the Neva to those of the Amour—of the Head of the Greek Church, the Eastern Pope, the master of many legions, having one foot on the Baltic, planting another on the Bosphorus. When icebergs float into southern latitudes, they freeze the air for miles around. Will not this political iceberg, when it descends upon the genial shores of the Mediterranean, wither the young shoots of liberty that are springing up between the crevices of the worn-out fabrics of despotism?" Apart, however, from what some people term Mr Cowen's deplorable Jingo infatuation," his parliamentary career has been one of no ordinary success. He is recognised by all parties in the House as a speaker of decided mark, and his vote is always to be weighed as well as counted. He entered the Legislature with a body of well-defined principles, and he has stuck to them manfully through evil and through good report.

In 1874, Mr Cowen was elected to fill the parliamentary seat vacant by the death of his father. The Conservatives did their utmost to defeat him. They attempted to stigmatize him as a socialist and an atheist, his friendship to such men as Mazzini being used as a reproach. It was in reply to these jibes he made the famous statement, "I am a Christian;" and it was during this election that he delivered a series of speeches on public questions and political policy which justly arrested national attention. They have been collected, and will abundantly repay perusal. One eminent writer says, "They are without exception the finest electioneering speeches I ever read, and if he had never opened his lips again would have entitled him to no mean place among English orators and statesmen."

It was during this time that a number of Tyneside Tories were travelling from Newcastle to Tynemouth, and the conversation grew hot in denunciation of Mr Cowen's profession of Christianity. "He says he is a Christian, but he never goes to Church," said one. "What denomination does he belong to?" asked another. "I don't believe he ever saw the inside of a Church since he was married." "I beg your pardon, gentlemen," interposed a young lady who sat in the corner, "but I have often been with *my father* to Church." It was Miss Jane Cowen, his only daughter, a young lady, we may add, who contributed the series of articles, entitled "Sketches of Modern Revolutionary Heroes," to the *Newcastle Chronicle*, and who also writes in *Colburn's Monthly* and other magazines. Mr Cowen was elected by 7,356 votes, being a thousand more than Mr Hamond received. Mr Gladstone, however, dissolved Parliament before Mr Cowen had taken his seat, and the whole battle had to be fought over again the following month. The other Liberal member for Newcastle, the Right Hon. T. E. Headlam, now refused to make common cause with Mr Cowen, and the result was that Mr Headlam lost his seat. The remarkable exertions put forth by Mr Cowen in this prolonged double campaign, following closely upon the death of his beloved father, so affected his health as to prevent him for some time from taking any very prominent part in the debate in Parliament. But immediately he did speak he made his mark. It was when the proposition to add "Empress" to the grand old title of Queen was made, that there was such a burst of oratory from the senior member for Newcastle as startled the listening House of Commons. This speech made his reputation. It was the talk of the clubs and drawing-rooms. The discovery that oratory is not dying out was the theme of editorial pens, and Cowen was the hero of the hour.

His speeches on the Friendly Societies Bill, on the County Suffrage Bill, on Mr Plimsoll's Bill, on the County Courts Bill, and the Licensing Boards Bill, have given proof of a varied capacity for legislative work which is not often equalled. Indeed, Mr Cowen is one of the few really great orators in the House of Commons. His style is neither that of Bright, Gladstone, or Beaconsfield. His best periods have an antique, Roman-like grandeur which makes them peculiarly attractive. In their majestic roll they are said to be more like those of the late Ledru Rollin than of any modern speaker.

The following quotation from the *Times* will lead our readers to see that we are not alone in our opinion. Referring to Mr Cowen's last address to his constituents, the *Times* said, "Mr Cowen's address to his constituents is a really remarkable production. Men of literary, no less than men of political tastes, will find it repay attentive perusal. Whether we agree or disagree with Mr Cowen's opinions does not matter in the least, since in either case his speech is stimulating and suggestive. The man must be dull indeed who does not perceive that he is brought into contact with a vigorous and independent intelligence over which the benumbing influence of custom and fashion have no power. Mr Cowen's views may be right or wrong, and for our part we think them wrong on some points, but they are always racy of the soil from which they spring, in that respect contrasting strongly with the second and third hand opinions that make up the staple of ordinary speeches. Mr Cowen does what he hopes working men may do, he 'lifts politics out of the idealess level of hucksterers and drill-sergeants.' His language is a fitting vehicle for his thoughts, as language always is in the mouths of men of original force. It is terse, sinewy, vivid, and picturesque; in a word, it is the organic embodiment of thought. No one with the slightest feeling for literary form can compare it with the cumbrous invertebrate sentences of the ordinary House of Commons speaker without perceiving the vital difference."

If with all these endowments Mr Cowen should fail in the not distant future to achieve great things for his country, many observant sympathisers will feel just cause for sore disappointment.

The subject of the next sketch will be Dr Parker.

HISTORICUS.

CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

MONDAY, May 26th.—Before J. PRIESTMAN, Esq. (in the chair), and ROBT. DICKINSON, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

A young man, named *Nicholas Boyle*, pleaded guilty to being drunk at Leadgate about 12·20 p.m. on the 13th inst.—The case was stated by Sergeant Norman, and the defendant was fined 5s and costs; with the alternative of seven days' hard labour.

Clement Mason, who was represented by his mother, was charged by P.C. Hudson with being drunk and causing a disturbance at Hamsterley Colliery, at eleven o'clock on Saturday night, 17th May.—Defendant was mulcted in 5s and expenses.—It was remarked that Mason is a cripple, having had the misfortune to break his legs some twelve years ago.

Edward Keenan, an old pensioner, employed at High Stables, and residing at Leadgate, also pleaded guilty to a charge of being drunk and disorderly.—P.C. Hurworth deposed that about half-past ten o'clock on Saturday evening, 17th inst., he found the defendant in Middle Street, Consett, in a very intoxicated condition. He was shouting and swearing, and appeared desirous of fighting everybody he came in contact with. The officer was eventually compelled to lock him up.—Defendant pleaded in mitigation of the penalty, that his brain was always affected when he partook of any drink. He was an old soldier belonging to this neighbourhood, and he only returned to his native heath in January last.—As the defendant had been once convicted since that date for the same offence, the Chairman said they could not take into consideration any circumstances in mitigation of the penalty. He would have to pay the usual fine of 5s and 5s 10d costs.

DEGRADING POSITION FOR A MARRIED WOMAN.

Alice Hardy, a married woman, living at Milkwell Burn, Northumberland, was placed in the dock on a charge of drunkenness. Defendant, who repudiated the charge, appeared in court with her face and cheeks frightfully swollen, and a mass of scabs literally surrounding her mouth.—P.C. Hudson adduced that on Saturday night, May 17th, about 9·30 o'clock, he observed this woman exceedingly drunk at Ebchester. He requested her several times to go away; but she persistently refused to leave, and he had to engage several parties to take her home.—In reply to the Chairman, the constable stated that the defendant was an utter stranger to him.—Defendant replying to the Bench, stated that she had been married about six months. She knew nothing of what transpired on the night in question. She was suffering acutely from her swollen face, and was now receiving medical treatment at the hands of Dr Renton.—The magistrates, after considering all the circumstances, decided to dismiss the case.

"BROTHERS IN ARMS."

Frank and *Peter Loy*, brothers, each pleaded not guilty to committing a breach of the peace by fighting.—Sergeant Tate testified at a quarter to eleven on Saturday night, 17th inst., he noticed the defendants fighting in Sunderland Street, Consett. The younger defendant (Frank) was divested of his coat, and his nose was bleeding profusely. He captured this youth, whereupon the elder defendant sought refuge in his house.—By the Bench: There would be a crowd of about 100 people gathered around the combatants. He watched them for two or three minutes. Both men were quite sober.—By the defendant Peter: Witness saw him strike his younger brother, but did not lock him up simply because he ran into the house.—Peter declared that he was standing in his own doorway the whole of the time. The police arrested his brother for being intoxicated; but when they got him to the station and ascertained their mistake, they let him go, and preferred the other charge against him.—Sergeant Norman, who was present at the time, substantiated the statement of the previous witness.—Defendant said he expected he could "rule his own house." His other brother came home, and gave him some of his "old gob" as young ones will do sometimes. He struck at his brother, when the latter ran outside without his coat, and was "collared" by the police, as they thought he was inebriated.—The Chairman: You are not charged with being drunk.—Defendant: I know very well what we are charged with.—Peter further explained that when his lesser brother became angry or excited, he appeared to loose his senses, and act in a strange and peculiar manner.—The Bench decided that the defendants were guilty, and bound each over in the sum of £5 to keep the peace for six months, and defray 7s a-piece as the court expenses.

"A JEREMY DIDDLER."

Anthony Hartley, a young fellow, not exactly right in his mind, was brought up on a charge of vagrancy.—P.C Davidson attested that on the preceding (Sunday) morning, between twelve and one o clock, he found the prisoner sleeping in a pigstye, belonging to a miner at South Medomsley Cottages. He was lying down on the straw, and had a stick and a lighted candle in his hand.—Answering the Chairman, the policeman stated that the prisoner would not work, but preferred to wander about "cadging" or begging. He was supposed to be a little "soft"; but he was often "too sharp" for the pitmen round about the district. Prisoner had on several occasions been in the Workhouse, but he always escaped by scaling the walls.—Prisoner (who commenced to shake and tremble, and to act the "old soldier"): I cannot work, as I am too weak in the legs. If you will only send me to the Workhouse, I'll be a better lad. (Laughter).—The Chairman: You have been convicted here before. You will have to go to prison for fourteen days, with hard labour.—Prisoner (on leaving the dock): Oh! by gum; I canna stand that!

P.C. Cox gave evidence to the effect that on the day referred to, there was a quoit handicap played on his premises, when defendant gave a home-fed ham, the value of £1 10s, for the first prize; second, £1.—Mr Dix, for the defendant, pleaded ignorance of the law.—He agreed to pay the costs, if the Bench dismissed the case, amounting to 7s.

BREACH OF THE PEACE.

Joseph Maddison, of Dipton, and *Alexander Watson*, of the Spen, were summoned by P.C. Farrar for having committed a breach of the peace at The Spen, on May 12th.—Defendants were bound over for three months and pay costs. [This case is the one which appeared in the *Guardian* as a "Prize fight at The Spen." It was in reality no prize fight at all; but an ordinary public-house affray].

GATESHEAD COUNTY POLICE.

TUESDAY, May 27th.—Before U. A. RITSON, Esq. (chairman), and J. M. REDMAYNE, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

John Simpson, of Westwood, was summoned by P.C. Pattison on a charge of having been drunk at Blackhall Mill, on May 17th.—He was fined 1s and costs.

James Simpson, also of Westwood, was charged by P.C. Pattison with being drunk and disorderly at Blackhall Mill, on the same date.—A fine of 1s and costs was imposed.

George Atkinson, of Winlaton, charged by P.C. Harkess with being drunk and disorderly at Winlaton, on May 17th, was fined 1s and costs.

William Parker, of Winlaton, was charged by P.C. Harkess with having been drunk and causing a disturbance at Winlaton, on the 19th May.—He was fined 1s and costs.

Florence Haggerty and *Mary Armstrong*, both of Swalwell, were summoned by P.C. Lambert charged with being drunk and disorderly at that village, on the 17th inst.—Each offender was fined 1s and costs.

John Bell, of Swalwell, charged with being drunk and causing a disturbance at Whickham, on May 17th, was mulcted in a penalty of 2s 6d and costs.—P.C. Green stated the case.

Anthony Flannighan, of Swalwell, was summoned by P.C. Green on a charge of having been drunk and disorderly at Whickham, on May 17th.—Defendant was similarly fined.

Matthew Hails, of Swalwell, was brought up by Sergeant Benzies on a charge of having been drunk and disorderly at Blaydon, on the preceding day (Monday).—Prisoner was fined 2s 6d and expenses.

William Nicholson, of Blaydon, charged by Sergeant Benzies with having been drunk and disorderly at Blaydon, on May 17th, was fined 1s and costs.

Samuel Shannon and *Henry Kayne*, of Blaydon Haughs; and *Michael Higgins*, of Blaydon Bank, were severally charged by Sergeant Benzies with having been drunk and causing a disturbance at Blaydon, on the 17th inst.—Each defendant was ordered to pay a fine of 5s and costs.

John Lenner, of Blaydon, charged with being drunk and disorderly at Blaydon, on the 17th inst., was fined 1s and costs.—P.C. Harper proved the charge.

Thomas Shield, of Blaydon, for having been drunk and disorderly at Blaydon, on May 17th, was fined 1s and costs.—P.C. Harper stated the facts.

William King, of Blaydon, was summoned on a charge of having been drunk and creating a great disturbance at Winlaton, on May 19th.—Fined 2s 6d and costs.—P.C. Farrar stated the case.

REFUSING TO QUIT.

Mark Higgins, of Blaydon, summoned by P.C. Harper on a charge of refusing to quit the licensed premises of Samuel Robson, Blaydon Terrace Inn, on May 24th, was fined 2s 6d and costs.

OBSTRUCTING THE HIGHWAY.

James Hewison, of Blaydon, was summoned by the Blaydon Local Board for having obstructed the highway at Blaydon, on May 14th.—Sergeant Benzies and P.C. Harper proved the case.—Mr Hawdon, the Board's Inspector, spoke to having cautioned Hewison on several occasions.—It transpired in the evidence that a carriage, which contained Mr Parsons, of Newcastle, was upset, and Mr Parsons was much shaken.—Mr C. M. Dix appeared in defence.—A fine of £1 3s 6d, including costs, was inflicted.

WILFUL DAMAGE.

Edward Latimer and *Hugh Latimer*, of Winlaton, summond by P.C. Taylor on a charge of doing wilful damage to underwood, the property of the executors of Colonel Townley's estate.—Fined 6s 6d each, including costs.

PUBLIC HEALTH PROSECUTION.

Thomas Armstrong, residing at what is known as "Buggy Lane," Blaydon, was summoned under the Public Health Act on a charge of keeping a lodging-house, on May 18th, without a license.—Sergt. Benzies and Mr Hawdon, the Local Board Inspector, proved that the defendant had fourteen people stopping at his house on the date named.—Defendant, who used some strong language when in court, was fined 10s and costs.

GAMBLING ON LICENSED PREMISES.

Isaac Reay, landlord of the Fox and Hounds, Crawcrook, was summoned for allowing gambling on his licensed premises, on May 10th.—Sergeant Benzies and

ALLEGED BIGAMY AT CONSETT.

Yesterday (Thursday), intelligence was received at the Police Headquarters at Consett that James Henry Russell, a young man, who had been "wanted" at Consett for some weeks, had been apprehended in London on a charge of bigamy. Accordingly, P.C. Raine, of the Durham County Constabulary, was immediately despatched to the Metropolis to take the prisoner into custody and convey him to Consett. Russell, it appears, married his first wife at York, in 1870, to whom he had five children. Subsequently he deserted his wife and family, and the mother and children are at present inmates of the Middlesborough Workhouse. Since then, the prisoner has been travelling about the country with a "Cheap Jack" auctioneer, under assumed names. During this period he has been cohabiting with different young females, one of whom, it is alleged—serving as a barmaid at Stockton-on-Tees—he ruthlessly decoyed to Consett; and he has moreover been declared to be the father of one or more illegitimate children. At the latter part of 1883, Russell opened a shop in Middle Street, Consett, where he carried on the business of a clock and watchmaker. In April last, he was privately married at the Register Office at Lanchester to a young woman of the name of Howie, who resided at Crookhall, Consett. On the Thursday previous to Good Friday, the newly-wedded couple suddenly disappeared, and their whereabouts remained a mystery until the prisoner made a written application to his father-in-law for some money.

THE BUTTERKNOWLE MURDER.

EXECUTION OF LOWSON IN DURHAM GAOL.

STATEMENT ON THE GALLOWS.

At eight o'clock on Tuesday morning, Joseph Lowson (25), miner, was executed within the precints of Durham Gaol for the murder of Acting-Sergeant William Smith, at Butterknowle, on the 23rd of February last. The beautiful summer morning was in striking contrast to the work which had to be carried out inside the prison. As early as seven o'clock people began to assemble on the prison green, but nothing could be seen beyond the flagstaff over the prison gateway, upon which would shortly be hoisted the ensign of death to show that the majesty of the law had been vindicated. At intervals those whose duty it was to be present entered the prison. The three representatives of the press were admitted at twenty minutes to eight o'clock, and were conducted to the Governor's office there to await the procession filling past to the scaffold, and in which they were to join. Since the execution of Peter Bray some alterations have been made in the prison, and from the window of the Governor's office could be seen much that the reporters had not had the privilege of seeing before. Whilst waiting, Chief-Warder Allison was observed to despatch two warders to the condemned cell, and a moment afterwards Berry passed by on his way to the pinioning room, which on this occasion was the chief clerk's office. On entering the Governor's office, the prison chaplain (Rev J. C. Lowe) was putting on his surplice, and, the Governor addressing the reporters, said the regulations in regard to the press would be very strict, and on no account were they to ask any questions of the warders and those taking part in the work of death. At about six minutes to eight o'clock the tramp of feet was heard in the corridor, and a moment or two later Lowson was seen to enter the pinioning room. He looked around him, smiled, and did not seem in the slightest way disconcerted. He was dressed in the brown-coloured suit he wore at the trial, and had his hat on, budged in at the top, in precisely the same condition as he made it when trying to put it on the wrong way during the memorable scene in the dock. Indirectly we had heard that he had passed a restless night, but Lowson bore no trace of it. His cheeks were ruddy, and he was cheerful even to laughing. Berry was quick in adjusting the body strap, which differs from that of Marwood. There are two extra straps in front attached to the main strap, and these he securely fastened around the wrists of Lowson bringing the hands together in front, and not causing such a projection of elbows, as in case of Marwood's pinioning. This method prevented any such mishap occurring as that witnessed when Burton, the Silksworth murderer, was executed. Having completed this portion of the pinioning, the procession was formed to the scaffold. This was headed by Mr Shadforth (sheriff's officer) and Chief-Warder Allison; following these came the culprit with Warders Wanless and Wilson Dodd on his right and left. In front was the Chaplain reading the burial service, and immediately behind Berry, who held firmly on to the body-strap at the back. The reporters then joined in, and the Governor (Lieutenant-Colonel Armstrong), the Surgeon (Mr William Boyd), the Under-Sheriff (Mr J. G. Wilson), his attendant (Inspector Webster), and a couple of warders brought up the rear. As he passed the reporters, Lowson, who was wearing his hat jauntily on one side, nodded familiarly, and laughing, said "Good bye, lads." Warder Macklane replied, "Good bye, Lowson." On turning the angle of the prison buildings, when the scaffold came full in view, Lowson never flinched, and walked on without paying the slightest attention to the prayers of the chaplain. He was noticed to turn round twice or thrice and speak to Berry, smiling at the same time. On reaching the scaffold he continued to smile, and gave every assistance in placing himself in position. Whilst Berry was buckling the ankle straps, Lowson, in a firm voice, said "I might as well tell you. Hodgson struck the first blow, and I struck the second, and we did the job betwixt us, Siddle is an innocent man, and I hope the Crown and country will see him safe home." Berry then drew the white cap over his face, and stepping back spoke to the warder in charge to make certain about the lever, and then drew the bolt. The body of Lowson instantly shot out of sight, and in a second the rope was tightened and steady. Death was instantaneous. Berry adopted a method with the rope which we have never seen before. Instead of any slack hanging down the back or the side, the loose part was in coils above the culprit's head. The length of drop was eight feet, and the rope used was the same one that Berry hung Vickers with at Edinburgh. The thud of the drop was distinctly heard outside. The whole operation did not last more than a minute. Immediately the drop fell the black flag was hoisted over the gateway of the prison.

We afterwards had an interview with Berry, and asked him what Lowson said to him on the way to the scaffold. Berry said he had never heard a man use fouler language, and that he laughed and literally died with an oath upon his lips.

After hanging an hour the body was cut down, and an inquest was held before Mr Coroner Graham at ten o'clock. Berry was in attendance to give evidence if required, but he was not called. The Under-Sheriff, Mr Chief-Warder Allison, and Dr Boyd gave formal evidence that sentence of death had been duly carried out, and the usual verdict was returned. The body of Lowson was afterwards buried within the precincts of the prison, and the usual notices were posted outside.

"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.

Cricket.

CRICKET FIXTURES.

May 31st, Consett v. Burnhope at Burnhope.
June 2nd, Consett v. Dipton, at Shotley Spa.
,, 3rd, Consett v. Dunston, at Shotley Spa.
,, 7th, Consett v. Medomsley, at Medomsley.
,, ,, Consett 2nd v. Medomsley 2nd, at Consett.
,, 14th, Consett 2nd v. Crook 2nd, at Crook.
,, 21st, Consett v Whickham, at Consett.
,, 28th, Consett v. Langley Park, at Consett.

GREENSIDE v. SCOTSWOOD.—Played at Ryton. Score—Greenside, 52; Scotswood, 32.

DERWENT VALLEY 2ND v. DUNSTON WANDERERS 2ND.—Played on Saturday. Score:—Derwent Valley 2nd, 21; Dunston Wanderers, 20.

WINLATON AMATEURS v. ST. AIDAN'S.—Played at Winlaton on Saturday. Score:—Winlaton, 92; St. Aidan's, 17.

PARK ROAD v. DERWENT VALLEY.—Played on the former's ground, and resulted in a win for Park Road by 20 runs. Score:—Park Road, 43; Derwent Valley, 23.

GLOUCESTER 1ST v. BLAYDON.—Played on Saturday on the ground of the former and ended in a victory for the home team by 18 runs. Score:—Gloucester 1st, 87; Blaydon, 69.

WYLAM HALL 2ND v. CLOSE HOUSE 2ND.—Played at Close House on Saturday, and ended in a victory for Wylam Hall by 26 runs. For Wylam, C. Atkinson batted splendidly for 18 (not out), also Yeats bowled well, taking six wickets for 26 runs. Score:—Wylam Hall, 78; Close House, 52.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT v. RYTON.

The above match was played on the ground of the former on Saturday last, and after a very pleasant game ended in a victory for the home team by 39 runs. The home team first occupied the wickets, and with the excellent play of Messrs James Richards, T. Jameson, J. Costello, and Israel Richards (21, 19, 12, and 10 respectively) the innings realised 93. After the usual interval the visitors continued the game by sending in Messrs Lumley and Simpson, who for a time scored very fast. After their dismissal the only other batsman to make a score was Mr W. Siddle who carried out his bat for 17, but not without giving several chances. For the home team the fielding of Mr Jameson is worthy of special mention, the catches with which he is credited being splendidly taken. Mr Murphy also did great destruction among his opponents' wickets, taking 6 wickets at the cost of 17 runs. Score:—

CONSETT.		RYTON.	
I. Richards c Snowball b Simpson	10	W. Lumley c and b Murphy	10
P. Gibson c and b Simpson	8	F. R. Simpson b Murphy	11
P. Flynn b Lumley	7	E. Siddell run out	4
J. R. Richards b English	21	T. Maughan b O'Donnell	2
J. Costello b Simpson	12	J. English b Murphy	3
Dr O'Donnell b English	0	W. Siddle not out	17
S. Templeton b Lumley	0	M. Snowball c Jameson b J. R. Richards	0
T. Jameson c Maughan b Lumley	19	B. Snaith c Jameson b Murphy	0
J. Oliver b English	3	W. Jackson run out	0
J. Murphy not out	8	J. Lancaster b Murphy	0
R. W. Smith b English	0	J. G. McLean st. Is. Richards b Murphy	2
Extras	5	Extras	5
Total	93	Total	54

CONSETT AND DISTRICT 2ND v. CONSETT WHITE STARS.

This match was played on Saturday last, on the ground of the latter, and ended in an easy victory for the visitors by 47 runs. Score:—

CONSETT.		WHITE STARS.	
J. H. Turnbull b Adamson	3	J. Willey b Askew	3
T. Jackson b Adamson	4	J. Maxwell run out	5
O. Heymer c Welsh b Cockburn	16	J. Welsh c Collinson b Askew	0
J. Collinson b Adamson	2	T. Adamson b Askew	0
M. Gibson b Adamson	2	J. Wright b Turnbull	12
J. Askew b Willey	10	J. Turley b Askew	3
P. Surtees b Willey	7	T. Cockburn lbw b Turnbull	0
F. H. Kirkup not out	18	J. R. Maxwell b Askew	4
W. E. Gough b Adamson	0	J. Harwood not out	16
H. Nicholls b Willey	5	J. Malpass b Turnbull	6
A. Russell c Cockburn b Adamson	3	E. Walker b Askew	1
Extras	34	Extras	8
Total	105	Total	58

MEDOMSLEY v. HAMSTERLEY COLLIERY.

Played on the Medomsley ground on Saturday last, and resulted in a victory for Hamsterley by 9 runs. Score:—

MEDOMSLEY.		HAMSTERLEY.	
A. Little b Mason	8	R. Chaytor b Wilkinson	3
M. Milburn b Richardson	10	F. Richardson c and b Little	23
T. Murphy c Chaytor b Richardson	0	T. Billicliffe c Murphy b J. Walton	9
R. Wilkinson b Richardson	0	T. Storey lbw b Little	7
G. Milburn b Mason	3	I. Holdon b Wilkinson	2
F. Robinson b Mason	8	I. Greener c Snowdon b Wilkinson	7
E. Charlton run out	11	W. Mason b Wilkinson	1
J. Snowdon b Richardson	0	J. Anderson b Little	3
J. Walton b Mason	0	M. Goodwin b Wilkinson	0
G. Walton c Brown b Richardson	5	J. Brown not out	4
J. Adamson not out	0	B. Hunter b Milburn	0
Extras	20	Extras	15
Total	65	Total	74

BURNHOPE v. TANFIELD.

Played at Burnhope on Saturday, last, and resulted in an easy victory for the home team by 46 runs and 3 wickets to fall. Score:—

TANFIELD.		BURNHOPE.	
E. Reay b Gair	0	W. Dyson b Newman	10
W. Brown c March b Gair	9	T. Burnett b Laidler	0
Rev C. H. Newman b Gair	9	J. Gair b Newman	2
T. Curry b Gair	16	H. Young b Laidler	24
H. Nicholson b Dyson	4	H. Knowles lbw b Curry	21
T. Morton run out	10	J. Watson run out	0
J. Laidler b Gair	1	G. March not out	31
C. Prinse c Knowles b Gair	1	H. Hovvles b Curry	0
J. Bowes b Gair	2	G. Turton not out	22
T. Swinburn b Robinson	5	J. Robinson to bat	
W. Hetherington not out	0	J. Knight ,,	
Extras	17	Extras	11
Total	74	Total	120

BURNOPFIELD v. MARLEY HILL.

A match between the above clubs was played at Marley Hill on Saturday last, and after a pleasant game resulted in a victory for the visitors by 14 runs. Messrs Cooper and Cuthbertson played well for the victors, while Mr W. F. Clark tried hard to avert defeat. Score:—

BURNOPFIELD.		MARLEY HILL.	
J. H. Rogers c Saunders b Robson	0	J. Morton c Cooper b Finlay	3
J. H. Cuthbertson c and b Robson	9	W. F. Clark b Finlay	10
W. Hogarth lbw b Robson	2	E. Saunders c Curry b Finlay	7
T. Southren b Hutchinson	2	J. Hutchinson b Finlay	5
G. Cooper b Morton	13	T. Robson c Southren b Lamb	1
R. Armstong run out	0	J. B. Clark b Finlay	0
G. Lamb b Hutchinson	3	J. Thirlaway b Lamb	0
J. Curry run out	5	E. Reed run out	3
T. Knotts b Hutchinson	5	G. Robson b Lamb	3
G. Finlay b Hutchinson	2	G. Charlton c Hegarth b Lamb	4
W. Dobie not out	8	J. Robson not out	3
Extras	13	Extras	9
Total	62	Total	48

RATEABLE VALUES OF DURHAM UNIONS.—The following are the rateable values of the several Unions in the county of Durham fixed by the County Rate Committee in 1882, and the rateable values returned by the Clerks to the Union in 1884:—

	1882 £	1884 £	Inc £	Dec £
Auckland	370 669	383,817	13 148	—
Chester le-Street	194 591	191,990	—	2,601
Darlington	277,584	272,608	—	4,976
Durham	309,931	285,616	—	24,315
Easington	173,114	161,120	—	11,994
Gateshead	390,308	382 914	—	7,394
Hartlepool	201 819	209,671	7,852	—
Houghton-le-Spring	143,436	156,051	12 615	—
Lanchester	253,594	251,904	—	1 690
Sedgefield	121,537	111,297	—	10,240
South Shields	398 087	432,682	34,595	—
Stockton	247 415	298,100	50,685	—
Sunderland	497,910	503,698	5,781	—
Teesdale	107 451	103,668	—	3,763
Weardale	87,151	84,491	—	2,660
			£124,683	£69,653

WEARDALE BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The fortnightly meeting was held at the Union Workhouse at Stanhope, on Friday last, under the presidency of Mr C. Bainbridge (chairman).

SEDGEFIELD COUNTY ASYLUM.

A letter was read from the Asylum Visiting Justices requiring that relieving officers, before conveying patients to the asylum, must be provided with a certificate that such patients have not within the space of twenty-one days last past been exposed to infection. The asylum authorities write that only acute cases of insanity can be admitted until further notice, the other department of the asylum being already full.

THE EXTENSION OF THE TRAMP WARD.

The Surveyor (Mr Egglestone) stated that his estimate of the cost of eight new tramp wards to the workhouse was £300, and it was resolved to proceed with the undertaking.

INMATES OF THE HOME.

The Master reported the number of casuals admitted during the fortnight has been 64, against 25 last year. The number of inmates during the week is 64, against 68 in the corresponding week of last year.

THE DEPRESSION IN THE IRON TRADE.

PROPOSED FURTHER REDUCTION OF WAGES.

Owing to the depression in the manufactured iron trade, including a very largely reduced output and a decline of prices, the iron manufacturers have again given notice of a reduction of wages in the finished iron trade. It will be remembered that from the end of March the employers claimed a reduction of 10 per cent., but on going before Dr R. S. Watson at Newcastle, the arbitrator, he only awarded a reduction of 2½ per cent. This award was given about two months since, and a further notice of reduction to take effect from the end of June is now given, the claim being again 10 per cent. The men are receiving at the rate of 6s 9d per ton for puddling and a corresponding rate for mill and forge work, only 2½ per cent. above the lowest wages rate in the very depressed times of 1879. They will, therefore, stoutly contest the large claim now asked for, especially as the iron trade, whether in the extent of the production or the price, has not declined to the very low ebb of the year mentioned. The following notices were last night sent out from the office of the Board of Arbitration at Darlington:—

"To the Operative Representative of Works.
Board of Conciliation and Arbitration for the Manufactured Iron Trade of the North of England

DEAR SIR,—I herewith forward you copy of notice received from Mr J. R. Winpenny, the employers' secretary.—Yours truly,

E. TROW, Operative Secretary.

"Royal Exchange, Middlesbrough,
May 24th, 1884.

"MR TROW,—DEAR SIR,—I am instructed by the employers to give you notice that at the termination of the present wages agreement, on the 28th June, 1884, they claim a reduction of 1s per ton on puddling and 10 per cent. on all other forge and mill wages to take effect from that date.—Yours faithfully,

"J. R. WINPENNY."

"8, Grange Road, Darlington,
May 26th, 1884.

"MR WINPENNY.—DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of notice for a reduction of 1s per ton on puddling and 10 per cent. on all other forge and mill wages after the 28th June next.

"It is important that the full Board should meet at an early date to consider what action is to be taken in regard to the said notice.—Yours truly,

"E. TROW."

WAGES IN THE FINISHED IRON TRADE.

On Friday night, Messrs Winpenny and Trow issued to the members of the Board of Arbitration and Conciliation Mr Waterhouse's report for the two months ending 30th April, 1884, which shows that the average net selling price of rails, plates, bars, and angles has been £5 8s. 11½d. during the above period. As the wages of the operatives are not regulated by a sliding scale at present the report does not affect them. The ascertainment is as follows:—

SALES DURING THE TWO MONTHS ENDING 30TH APRIL, 1884.

Description	Weight invoiced T.	C.	Q.	L.	Percentage of Total.	Average Net Selling Price per ton £	s.	d.
Rails	703	11	0	8	·93	5	2	3·95
Plates	48,959	10	1	20	65·24	5	9	1·83
Bars	13,025	3	1	15	17·36	5	14	1·94
Angles	12,355	16	0	18	16·47	5	3	0·32
Total	75,044	1	0	5	100·00	5	8	11·41

REDUCTIONS OF WAGES.

Alike in the coal, the iron, and the shipbuilding trades of the North, the employers have put in claims for reductions of the wages of the workmen; and it cannot be said that these claims have no basis of reason. Taking the manufactured iron trade, for instance, we find that within two months the selling price has fallen by 4s 7½d per ton, and the quantity sold is less. The employers find that their productions are less in demand, and it is natural that they should find that the price is less; and that being the case they are driven to attempt to reduce the wages of the workmen. Moreover, as there is less iron of that kind sold, there is less demand for the labour that is needed in its production; and the laws of demand and supply come inexorably into force: and as there are, say, three workmen to do the work of two, the consequence is that labour falls in its market value. In the north of England, in the great industries of shipbuilding and of the iron manufacture, this is notably the case; there are thousands of unemployed workmen, and as the immediate prospect is no better, the workmen must take such wages as they can get. It is an alternative that is distressing, but it is one that cannot be gainsaid. For about two years, in one or other of our industries, the downward tendency of prices and consequently of wages, has been noticable. Some who notice this ask how it is that the fall in prices does not bring in an accession of orders; but this inquiry betrays a superficial acquaintance with the laws that govern trade. When the prices of commodities are rising, sellers and users of those commodities increase their stocks; when the prices are falling, they lessen the stocks and work from hand to mouth. In consequence of this, it often happens that in times when prices are falling, and stocks are being used up, the demand is less than when prices were higher. But the consumption goes on, and when it is felt that the lowest price has been reached, and when stocks have been brought to a low level, there is a fuller inquiry. It often happens that this gives the first impetus to prices, and brings in a flood of orders from those who wish to take advantage of the very low rates and of a market that is believed to be rising. It is evident that the fall of stocks in the hands of the sellers is now in progress, and that the prices of many commodities are now at about their lowest ebb. They are so low that in many instances goods cannot be made to profit at those rates, and production is contracting in consequence. It is impossible to say how long this will go on, the time being defined to some extent by causes such as national credit, agricultural prosperity, and like causes. But every cheapening of the cost of production assists in the recovery, and as the rates of wages are now in many instances near the minimum of recent years, it may be hoped that the reductions of wages now in course of arrangement, may be the last that the labour market may have to know for some time.—*Daily Chronicle*.

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.

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.

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. 2d. 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

R. VON DIX,
THE PHOTOGRAPHER,
MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT.
HALF-DOZEN CARDE-DE-VISITES AND ONE CABINET FOR 3s. 6d. SPLENDID FINISH.

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

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

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

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

FURNITURE AND HARDWARE SOLD UPON THE CO-OPERATIVE SYSTEM.
DISCOUNT 2s. IN THE POUND FOR CASH ONLY

WILLIAM WILKINSON,
CATCHGATE,
BEGS to inform his friends that owing to the great increase of business he has had to take the whole of his premises to meet the demands of his customers, and is now prepared with a well selected Stock of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, in all its Branches. Also, HARDWARE, GLASS, CHINA, CLOCKS, WATCHES, JEWELLERY. WEDDING RINGS from the best makers—Wholesale and Retail.
Agent for the New Patent Table Wringing and Mangling Machine, Hickman and Claris Coffin Furniture, and Patent Horse Nails. 371r

Public Notices.

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

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

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. 87ts

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

SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND CONSETT DISTRICT GAS COMPANY.
ANY Person Removing, Altering, or Tampering with any Meter, Pipe, or other Property of the above Gas Company, or Consuming Gas upon any Premises without first having obtained permission from the Secretary to the said Company, will be prosecuted as the Law directs.—By order,
M. RICHLEY, Secretary.
Gas Office, Shotley Bridge. 148t

ROBERT SAVILLE,
HAIRDRESSER,
13, NELSON STREET, CONSETT.
UMBRELLAS COVERED AND REPAIRED ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE.
☞ GRINDING OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—PARTICULARS TO FOLLOW.
☞ NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT.
SUNDAY OPENING by the SALVATION ARMY.
(48th Corps). On the 8th JUNE, 1884, when
MAJOR DOWDLE, Captain RAPKIN, Captain DAVIS, and Lieutenant BULMER will be present, and the Rev. F. STEGGALL, Vicar of Consett, has promised to deliver an Address in the Afternoon. All are invited. 159t

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 condection with his Business, Ladies wanting Servants would do well to give him a call. 384s

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. 67t

JOSEPH ELTRINGHAM,
BUILDER, CONTRACTOR, & UNDERTAKER,
9, RAILWAY TERRACE, BENFIELDSIDE,
(Adjoining the Railway Station),
Begs to return his sincere thanks to the Public for their patronage during the Twenty years he has been established, and hopes to receive a continuance of their support.
J. E., having made a large addition to his already extensive Yards, has always on hand a large Stock of Builders' Goods of all kinds, including Sanitary Pipes, Sinks, Grates, Gullies, Chimney Tops, &c., &c.
Undertaking carefully attended to. Men's and women's Robes always ready from 3s. 6d. upwards.
Coffins at all Prices, from 2s. 6d. to £10.
☞ J. F. ELTRINGHAM, Agent for Sanitary Goods.
Special Quotations for 2 and 4 ton Lots. 163t

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.
(Directors of New Town Hall Company, Limited.)

Jas. Annandale, Esq., J.P.	Rev. W. Featherstonhaugh
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.
W. H. Hedley, Esq.	W. Annandale, Esq.
W.R. Wilbraham, Esq., J.P	R. W. Shaw, Esq.
Dr. Geo. Renton.	Geo. Nicholson, Esq.
Edwd. Balleny, Esq.	W. Logan. Esq.
Rev. Wesley Farrar.	E. M. Bainbridge, Esq., Eschott 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. MUSE, 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. 98

Public Notices.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE.
MR. R. CHRISTOPHER will RUN A BRAKE to STAGSHAWBANK FAIR, on Saturday, May 31st, 1884, leaving the Stables in Delves Lane at Six o'clock a.m 155t

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.
THE CONSETT CO-OPERATIVE TEA and PUBLIC MEETING will be held in the National Schools, on July the 19th, 1884.
149t J. HALL.

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

A PUBLIC TEA and CONCERT will be held at Muggleswick, on Saturday, June 7th. Tea at 4·30 p.m. in the Vicarage Grounds; Concert at 7 p.m. Tickets, Tea and Concert, 1s. each: Children, Half-price, obtainable only at the door.—On Sunday Evening, June 8th, at 6·30 p.m., a Special Service will be held in the Parish Church of Muggleswick. Special Preacher. Offertory for Annual Expenses. 180t

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

WEST STANLEY CATHOLIC SPORTS.
THESE ANNUAL SPORTS will be held on Saturday, June 14th, 1884. HORSE RACING, FOOT HANDICAP (120 Yards and Quarter-of-a-Mile), QUOITING, and a grand RABBIT SWEEPSTAKE. Entries for Foot Races to close on the 10th, June.
JOHN McDONALD, Secretary,
146t 12, Allen's Square, Tanfield Lea.

☞ LOOK OUT FOR
OXHILL BAZAAR!
TO BE HELD IN THE
PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL, ON WHIT-MONDAY AND TUESDAY NEXT.
When a choice Selection of Goods will be offered for Sale, to be opened at Two p.m. each day. Tea and Refreshment will be provided in the Marquee. 178t

SHOTLEY BRIDGE ROSE SHOW.
THE SECOND ANNUAL
EXHIBITION!
WILL BE HELD IN THE
TOWN HALL, SHOTLEY BRIDGE,
ON SATURDAY, JULY 19TH, 1884.
For Schedules, apply to
W. RAMSEY, W. DICKINSON, } Secretaries.
18, Baxton Burn, Benfieldside. 177t

FIRST SHOTLEY BRIDGE AND DISTRICT 370TH STARR-BOWKETT BUILDING SOCIETY.
THE THIRD ANNUAL MEETING will take place in the Sons of Temperance Hall, Blackhill, on Monday, June 9th, at Seven p.m. Members admitted by Subscription Book only. Balance Sheets will be at the Office for Members on the Subscription Night, prior to the Meeting, Tuesday, June the 3rd being Whit-Tuesday. The Subscription Night will be on Thursday, 5th June, 1884. After the Meeting, the Thirteenth APPROPRIATION will be Drawn by Ballot.—By order of the Board.
174t J. GIBBINSON, Secretary.

WEEKLY HALF-HOLIDAY.
WE, the undersigned Tradesmen of Consett, agree to CLOSE our respective PLACES OF BUSINESS, at TWELVE O'CLOCK EVERY WEDNESDAY, commencing on WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11th, 1884, excepting the weeks in which occur Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday, and the Easter and Whitsuntide Holidays:—
ENGLISH & MILBURN, Middle Street.
FOSTER BROS., Front Street, and Middle Street.
THOS. H. BACHELOR, Middle Street.
J. GOODFELLOW, Middle Street.
McDONALD & Co., Shakespeare Street.
JOHN COLLINSON, Middle Street.
EDWARD TAYLOR, Shakespeare Street.
HENRY LONGSTAFF, Middle Street.
TYLER BROTHERS, Middle Street.
T. A. GRAY, Middle Street.
JOHN CALVERT, Sherburn Terrace.
J. BARROW, Church Street. 173t

JONATHAN WARD, DECEASED.—Pursuant to the Act of Parliament, 22 and 23 Vict., cap. 35, intituled "An Act to further amend the law of property and to relieve trustees" NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands against the estate of JONATHAN WARD, late of Iveston, in the parish of Leadgate, in the county of Durham, shoemaker, deceased (who died on the 15th day of December, 1883, and whose will was proved on the 3rd day of April, 1884, in the District Registry at Durham, of the Probate Division of High Court of Justice, by THOMAS WARD and WILLIAM WARD, the executors therein named) are hereby required to send the particulars in writing of their claims and demands to us, the undersigned, the solicitors for the said executors, on or before the 28th day of June, 1884, after which date the said executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims and demands of which they shall then have had notice; and they will not be liable for the assets of the said deceased or any part thereof so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands they shall not then have had notice.—Dated this 26th day of May, 1884
CLAYTON & GIBSON, Newcastle-on-Tyne,
Solicitors for the said Executors. 167t

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.
Close to Mr. J. J. ALLEN, Blackhill, Handicapper, on or before Wednesday, May 28th.

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.

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

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Brodie.

Monday, June 8th, 1884.—Victoria Sale-rooms, Consett.—Important Sale of superior Mahogany and other Household Furniture, including handsome Mahogany Press; Mahogany Drawers and Bookcase; Mahogany Three-quarter Chest of Drawers; Mahogany Sofa, in Hair; Mahogany Centre Table excellent Painted Drawers; Iron Bedsteads and Mattresses; Mahogany Four-poled Bedstead and Mattress; best Feather and Down Beds; Fender and Fireirons; and Sundry Effects.
ADAM BRODIE is instructed by Mr. OWEN and others, who are leaving the Neighbourhood, to Remove and SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on Monday, June 8th, 1884, the superior Mahogany and other FURNITURE. Particulars in Bills.
Sale to commence at One o'clock. 186t

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. Joseph Oley.

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, comprising a large and varied Stock of Fuchsias, Geraniums, Pelargoniums, Petunias, Coleus, Begonias, Ferns, Single and Double Dahlias, Stocks, Asters, Phlox Drummondi, Calceolarias, and a number of Foliage and Succulent Plants.
Mr. Mosley's fame as a Florist for half a century is a sufficient guarantee of the genuine quality and excellence of the above Valuable and Extensive Collection.
The Annuals and other Bedding Stock will be thoroughly hardened off by the time of Sale.
☞ Sale to commence at One o'clock in the Afternoon, and continued in the Evening. 139t

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

By Messrs. Nicholson and Murray.

☞ Royal Auction Mart, Agricultural Hall, Benfieldside.

WHIT-MONDAY, JUNE 2nd, 1884.
4 Fat Cattle.
30 Fat Sheep.
15 Fat Lambs.
1 Pork Pig and 1 Veal Calf.
25 Dairy Cows and Heifers, Calved and to Calve.
1 Cow, in dispute.
3 Very Superior Roan Bull Stirks, 12 to 20 months old.
15 Cheviot and 10 B.F. Ewes, with their Followers, very fresh.
40 Three-parts Bred Hoggs, very fresh, and a grand class.
Several Geld Cows, Young Cattle, Pigs, Calves Poultry, &c.
300 Corn Bags, new.
Sale at One o'clock.
181t NICHOLSON & MURRAY, Auctioneers.

Important Sale of Freehold House Property, Shares, &c., at the Royal Hotel, Benfieldside.
MR. JNO. S. MURRAY, Auctioneer, will SELL 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., at Blackhill.
Several Cottages, situate at Consett, particulars of which will be given in future Advertisements.
One House, in Cemetery Lane (unless previously disposed of), containing 5 Rooms, with Conveniences, large Garden, Hot House, &c., belonging to, and in the occupation of Mr. Scaife, who is leaving the neighbourhood.
Ten B Shares in Shotley Bridge Gas Company.
Fifty Shares Consett New Town Hall.
The Auctioneer will be happy to include in this Sale other Properties, Shares, &c., particulars of which should be sent to him as soon as possible to ensure publication.
Full Particulars next week.
Royal Auction Mart, Benfieldside. 160t

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

By Mr. J. Vickers.

Tow Law Auction Mart.
NEXT SALE, Monday, June 9th, 1884.—Early Entries respectfully invited.
J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.
Partridge Close, Tow Law. 168t

Mr. H. Brown.

Iveston Road, Leadgate.
MR. H. BROWN will SELL BY AUCTION, at the House of Mr. JOSEPH NOBLE, Commercial Inn, Leadgate, on Tuesday, June 10th, 1884, all that ancient Copyhold PROPERTY, situate at Iveston Road, Leadgate, belonging to Mr. ROBERT GREGGS, who is about to Emigrate.
The above comprises One House, with Three Rooms and necessary Out-buildings, well built, and in excellent repair, together with 26 yds. Frontage, and 30 yds. front to back, suitable for Building Sites or other purposes. The present owner will, on application, show the premises, and give all necessary information respecting the same.
Sale at Seven for Eight o'clock prompt. 179t

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

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.

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

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.

Business Announcements

THE NEW
COAL AND STONE BORING MACHINE
From 20s. and 25s. each, complete with Dies; 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.

The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, MAY 30TH, 1884.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

Is the monstre Sunday school demonstration to be an annual observation, or is it an arrow shot at a venture? The district Sunday schools used to muster annually on a grand scale, under the auspices of the Band of Hope, but the superstructure, undermined by self-centred individuals, gradually dwindled till it finally became a mere shadow of its former self. There were teachers in a certain district school who were not what is known as avowed teetotalers, and they, of course, could not walk under the same banner as their saintly brethren; and had, as a matter of course, to take "the left-hand road." It is to be hoped that the coming demonstration will be characterised by that breadth of soul which is the only true standard of excellence. Temperance is a commendable virtue, but its votaries are sometimes inclined to make too much of it, to the overlooking of other sterling traits of character. The man whose life is not regulated by the golden cords of principle falls far short of the "be-all and the end-all" of existence; but Pharisaicalars are a sorry indication of greatness. One feels quite uneasy in the society of people who habitually parade their pet notions. I have met with people who, but for their scriptural quotations, would have passed for anything but exemplary Christians. The voice of encouragement would come with a bad grace from such did they care to practice the virtue, but the genius of human brotherhood forms no part of their composition. The tenor of their lives seems to be regulated by means of a force pump, and unless the machinery is kept going at high pressure speed they fall victims to what is known as the "dumps," and sink morally and intellectually to a very low ebb indeed. Every teacher of men has a goodly sprinkling of this tribe in his flock; and every temperance advocate can count them by the score. In the latter, their zeal usually takes the form of "none-such," and their cry is, "those that are not with us are against us." But it does not necessarily follow that it is so, for it has been well said that the devil, pious soul, can cite scripture for his purpose. It would, at any rate, be more in keeping with modern etiquette were people of this order to reserve their wisdom.

A consciousness of superiority may be natural enough, but the man who prates his inflated ideas is a fool. I remember being present at a meeting in Consett, when one of the speakers, who seemed desirous of showing up his own party, told a very juvenile story about a clergyman who, being called in to minister to an invalid, had recourse to his prayer-book. The point of the anecdote was that the speaker and the sect to which he belonged could pray without a book, and was, of course, so much cleverer than the parson. The story fed the vanity of the people, and, consequently, met with a demonstrative reception. There is nothing more detestable than the spirit of self-glorification, and the pleasure which it affords is but short-lived, and leaves, moreover, a sting behind. The story literature of our country is not so meagre that anecdotes of a rancorous character need be introduced, and the tinsel polish which they lend to a discourse is, after all, but a mushroom sort of brilliancy. I was present at another public meeting in Consett, when the rev speaker, labouring for an illustration of the effect of conversion on the human heart, told a story of an old woman who, returning from revival services, sent the whiskey bottle whistling out at the window. The moral was that Christianity was so straight-laced that John Barleycorn must needs be kept at a respectable distance. If the heroine had a weakness for the society of the "cratur," the sooner they part company the better; but if, on the other hand, she happened to be a modest-going dame, and simply kept a drop in the house to be like her neighbour, who, although they had it by them, never thought of tasting except on a high day, there was no need to throw away the bottle. The Scottish peasantry were a purely religious people, and there were few of them who did not keep what they called "a drap in the bottle." The modern teetotaler may smile, but there was no ostentation about the lives of those doughty Scots. They thumbed their bibles well, and did not, like the church-going Christian of to-day, put the much-prized volume into the window for show. The world teems with similitudes, and orators would do well to eschew the self-indulgent, and lean to those which tend to foster sentiments replete with sympathy and genuine cordiality.

There is a danger, too, that at these monstre gatherings where everybody knows everybody that the seeds of jealousy and mistrust are gendered by the innate craving for place and power. If there are those who think that such fears are more imaginary than real, I am in a position to assure such that the danger is tangible enough. It has been said that honour is, withal, so brilliant a possession that it sparkles with undimmed lustre among thieves, but there is no need to go far afield for an illustration of how sensitive most people are on that point. Omit or mis-spell somebody's name in a local report so that the identity of the good Samaritn is lost, and see how they will stand it. The ladies go into hysterics as a matter of course, but their more calculating lords wait upon the editor. Profiting by past errors, let us hope that this grand pic-nic and juvenile review will pass over without leaving a single shadow behind. Whatever the more sedate seniors may think or say of the pageant display, there can be no doubt but the children will enjoy it to the full. Gratitude is a peculiar characteristic of the young heart, and a day on the bright green lawn will people many a hearth and home with pleasant thoughts for many days.

ROUNDABOUT NOTES.

BY "RAMBLER."]

As we are on the eve of the Whitsuntide Holidays, the character and object of the different festivities and sports provided in this part of the district are being eagerly sought after by intending

pleasure-seekers. The first event, of course, is the Brass Band Contest to be held to-morrow (Saturday) in a field near the Vicarage grounds at Consett; and that will doubtless receive the lion's share of public patronage. According to the latest accounts, some half-dozen purely local bands have entered the competition; and in addition, sports, dancing, and football matches have been arranged. I confidently anticipate an exceptional treat for the community at large. On Whit-Monday, there is the monster Sunday-school Demonstration, which is fully elaborated in another column. On the Monday and Tuesday, Mr C. Richardson caters for the enjoyment of the public by providing the usual sports in the far-famed Spa grounds at Shotley Bridge, the Spen Reed Band being engaged for each day. There will be, in addition, a host of other festivities, such as Sunday-school treats, anniversaries, bazaars, laying of foundation stones, &c.—in fact, all that is required to ensure success to each gathering is fine and genial weather.

⁂

The chief attraction in Consett, however, will be the opening of the new Town Hall on Whit-Monday. The Chairman of the Board of Directors (Mr W. Jenkins, J.P.), has invited each of the local shareholders to attend a private banquet to be given sometime during the afternoon; and in all probability there will be a hearty response to his generous solicitation. The grand concert promoted by Mr Charles Stephenson succeeds the dinner; but previous to the introduction of the programme—which, by the way, is a varied and most attractive one—it has been definitely arranged that Mr Jenkins and the Rev F. Steggall shall deliver pointed addresses, neither of which shall exceed a period of ten minutes.

⁂

The question of the alleged pollution of the Stanley Burn by the sewerage running from Craghead and other colliery villages is a subject which is fraught with considerable difficulty, and causing much fear and alarm in the neighbourhood of Chester-le-Street; therefore it was with wonder and astonishment that I came across the following declaration in the *Chester-le-Street Times*:—"The Lanchester Sanitary Authority have unanimously agreed to take such steps as will prevent sewage entering the Stanley Burn from their district. As this will entail extensive operations, they intend asking the Local Government Board to send down inspectors to examine the place before carrying out the proposed alterations." I have carefully perused the whole of the discussions at the Lanchester Sanitary Authority relating to the pollution question, and closely watched the movements of that body with regard thereto; but I am bound to confess that I never came across a single sentence which would imply that the Authority even proposes to carry out such a sweeping scheme as that mentioned in the foregoing paragraph.

⁂

The drapers and shoedealers of Consett have speedily acted upon the suggestion mooted in the *Guardian* of last week, and have decided to close their places of business every Wednesday afternoon, in future, commencing on the 11th June.

⁂

A miner, living not far from Winlaton, who had imbibed a little drink, the other day entered a public-house to get another drop, but the landlord refused to supply him with liquor. The thirsty applicant, after a great many unsuccessful attempts to procure drink, at length became angry, and turning to the landlord, said: "Wey hinney aa wish ye ne harm; but as just wish that ye may hev two fits, and that ye may dee in th' forst."

⁂

At the pic-nic held at Victoria Garesfield on Saturday last, a man who had recently joined the Salvation Army strolled up to a company who were speaking about the £500 reward for the recovery of Osman Digna, when the new salvationist chimed in with, "What d'ye think, lads; a've fund Jesus Christ!" At this, one of the party turned round to him and said: "Wey, man, if ye had only fund Osman Digna, ye wad heve getten £500!"

⁂

A lark's nest, which contained three young ones, miraculously escaped being crushed to pieces at the Miners' sports, at Victoria Garesfield, on Saturday. The nest was fixed just where the men were playing at quoits, at the bottom of a small whin bush in the grass. Hundreds of quoit players were sitting and standing round about, but nevertheless the old larks were dropping down a little way from the nest and running up to the young ones with the food the whole time the games were being played off. Some Dicky Bird members at the Low Spen, however, were exceedingly anxious that the nest with its young larks should be saved, and they were much pleased after all the people had gone away to see the old lark covering over her brood with her wings at mid-night. On Monday morning I had a peep at the birds, and they were quite fresh.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* states that there is no ground whatever for saying that the 24 directors of the Bank of England regarded the whole scheme of Mr Childers as detestable.

THROAT IRRITATION AND COUGH.—Soreness and dryness, tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use Epps's Glycerine Jujubes. In contact with the glands at the moment they are excited by the act of sucking, the Glycerine in these agreeable confections becomes actively healing. Sold only in boxes, 7½d., tins, 1s. 1½d., labelled "JAMES EPPS & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London." A letter received: "Gentlemen,—It may, perhaps, interest you to know that, after an extended trial, I have found your Glycerine Jujubes of considerable benefit (with or without medical treatment) in almost all forms of throat disease. They soften and clear the voice.—Yours faithfully, GORDON HOLMES, M.D., Senior Physician to the Municipal Throat and Ear Infirmary."

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST A LODGER.—Yesterday (Thursday), at the Newcastle Police Court John Haddrick (56), was charged on a warrant with stealing a looking-glass, a dressing table, kitchen table, a bedstead and a feather bed, a chest of drawers, a sofa, and other articles of furniture, value in all £10, the property of Wm. Ray.—Mr Clarke prosecuted and Mr Dix defended.—Mr Clarke said the prisoner had lodged with the prosecutor (a man about 70 years of age) and his wife, at 35, Turner Street, Newcastle. A few weeks ago it was agreed that the prosecutor and his granddaughter should go to live at Workington, and accordingly the furniture was labelled and placed upon a cart, and the prisoner was engaged to take it to Forth Banks Station. The prisoner did not take it to the station, but took it to a house in Gateshead. He had not only taken away the furniture, but had also taken the prosecutor's wife and cow and pig, but he was not charged with these. When the prisoner was arrested he said he had taken the goods to Gateshead. He had sold part of them to the broker, and given the prosecutor a portion of the money. The latter assertion, however, was untrue.—In defence, Mr Dix stated that the prosecutor and his wife had agreed to live apart, and had divided the furniture.—On the magistrates intimating that the case ought to be tried by a jury, Mr Dix said it was in his power that the prisoner did execute his baileeship.—The case was then adjourned until to-morrow (Saturday.)

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

The County Court Offices, Consett, will be closed on Whit-Monday, June 2nd.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY SERVICE.—The service for the summer commences next Monday. Alterations will take effect on the Darlington and Consett branch; and the 5·45 p.m. from Stanhope to Darlington, on Sundays, will leave at 5·40.

C.E.T.S.—Last evening (Thursday) the concluding entertainment for the present season held under the auspices of the local branch of the Church of England Temperance Society, took place in the National Schools, Consett, and was largely patronised.

THE WEATHER.—The weather, which for the previous fortnight had been so remarkably fine, was very much duller and colder on Tuesday, Wednesday, and yesterday (Thursday), but there has not yet been the refreshing rain which agriculturalists have been hoping for. Certainly a spell of cold weather will not improve matters for the farmers, and they are all anxiety for rain, followed by such warmth as was previously enjoyed.

THE CONSETT BIGAMIST.—P.C. Raine, along with the prisoner Russell and his newly-wedded wife, reached Durham shortly after nine o'clock last (Thursday) night; but they did not arrive at Consett until the 8.15 train this (Friday) morning. An immense crowd thronged the precincts of Consett Railway Station late last evening in the hope of catching a glimpse of the prisoner and his wife upon the arrival of the nine o'clock train, as Russell has gained notorious fame in the district.

OPENING OF NEW TOWN HALL.—This handsome structure, standing at the corner of Middle Street and Front Street, which has been erected from designs prepared by Messrs Newcombe and Knowles, architects, of Newcastle, the contractor being Mr Westgarth, will be opened on Whit-Monday, by a private dinner given by the chairman of the Board of Directors (Mr Wm. Jenkins, J.P.), and an inaugural concert promoted by Mr C. Stephenson, of Benfieldside.

RE-OPENING OF THE PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.—This place of worship, which has been closed for some weeks, in consequence of undergoing extensive alterations and improvements at the hands of Mr Knox, of Consett, was re-opened for divine service on Sunday last. The Rev G. H. Heeley, of Scarbro', preached in the morning and evening to large and attentive congregations; while the Rev A. J. Campbell, of Shotley Bridge, occupied the pulpit in the afternoon.—On Saturday a tea party and entertainment took place in the schoolroom.—On Monday night, a public meeting was held, presided over by Mr W. Telford, circuit steward; and on Tuesday evening, Mr Beeley delivered his popular lecture on "Our Times." Mr Adam Brodie occupied the chair. The whole of the proceeds were in aid of the chapel restoration fund.

BLACKHILL.

ST. AIDAN'S.—The Rev Thomas J. Storey, B.A., incumbent of the new district of St. Aidan, Blackhill, has already commenced his pastoral duties. It is intended to hold services (commencing on Whit-Sunday) in the Sons of Temperance Hall, until a more suitable edifice for the divine worship has been erected.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

ROSE SHOW.—It will be perceived, on reference to our advertising columns, that the Committee of the Shotley Bridge Floral and Horticultural Society propose to hold their second annual rose show in the Town Hall, Shotley Bridge, on Saturday, July 19th, next. We hope that the exhibition will be attended with more favourable circumstances on this occasion than last year.

EBCHESTER.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARIES.—The Wesleyan Methodists of Ebchester celebrated their Sabbath school anniversary by a public tea and meeting, on Saturday afternoon; and the customary services on Sunday.—The week previous, the Wesleyans at Allendale Cottages held their Sunday school anniversary.

LANCHESTER.

SOCIAL DINNER.—The annual dinner generously provided by Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, J.P., the chairman of the Lanchester Board of Guardians, for the Poor Law officials and a few friends, was served at the Queen's Head Hotel, on Thursday se'nnight. A magnificent repast was furnished by the host and hostess (Mr and Mrs Towns), which was partaken of and relished by about 30 persons. After the removal of the cloths, Mr Smith occupied the chair, and the usual list of patriotic, loyal, and local toasts were duly proposed and warmly pledged. Songs were contributed at intervals by different members of the company, and everyone present spent a most harmonious and joyous evening.

RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.—At the meeting of the members of the above authority on Thursday week—Mr Geo. G. Taylor Smith, presiding—the clerk (Mr Ritson) produced a draft agreement prepared by Mr Lamb, of Newcastle—who is acting as solicitor on behalf of Mr Stephen Hall, of Prudhoe—in reference to the dispute between the Inspector and himself regarding the remuneration for "extra" excavating performed in connection with laying the pipes for the sewerage scheme at Dipton, and which is proposed to be referred to and settled by arbitration. Mr Hall nominated Mr Hebert Laws, of Clayton Street West, Newcastle, as his arbitrator.—The agreement was considered to be too much one-sided, and the members refused to sign it.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

BAZAAR.—A bazaar will be opened in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Oxhill, on Whit-Monday, by Dr Alfred Mantle, of West Stanley, in aid of the chapel funds.

BENEFIT TEA AND CONCERT.—On Saturday afternoon, through the liberality of the public, a tea party was held in the Co-operative Hall, Annfield Plain, of which a goodly number partook of a splendid repast. In the evening there was a concert held in the same place—Mr William Rutherford kindly presided—when the following ladies and gentlemen gratuously gave their services to sing and recite:—Misses Thirlway (pianist), Settrey, Thirlwell, Armour, and Wilson; Messrs. John Savage, P. Surtees, Telford, G. Arkless, J. McDonald, Wilson, L. Urwin, and others of Shotley Bridge. A very enjoyable evening was spent, inasmuch as some of the best talent was concentrated and ably displayed in the performance of the several pieces sung and played upon the pianoforte. A most amusing stump speech was also given, the whole of the performers being most enthusiastically applauded and repeatedly called forth roars of laughter. The weather being very fine, a large number of people assembled together. The concert was promoted for the benefit of Mr Isaac Newton, of Clavering place, Annfield Plain, an appeal on whose behalf was published in these columns a fortnight ago. The committee have succeeded in realising in this deserving case a very large sum towards assisting a brother under so trying a ordeal as he has been called to pass through in the amputation of one limb, and we are happy to relate that Newton is recovering extremely well. He is able to be up out of bed, and great credit is due to Dr. Mantle, of West Stanley, for his painstaking skill in this case. The public feel most desirous for this patient to have a cork leg and foot, and the net proceeds from this gathering realised the handsome sum of £12, for which Mr Newton and family tender their best thanks to all who have in any way assisted him at this precarious moment. A hearty vote of thanks was given to the different ladies and gentlemen for their services, likewise to the Chairman for so ably presiding, and to Mrs Dodds for the loan of the piano on this occasion.

WEARDALE.

The entries for the Frosterley Poultry Show have closed as follows:—Poultry, 329; pigeons, 58; rabbits, 33; cats, 16; butter and eggs, 19; writing and needlework, 26; total, 580. Last year's total was 526.

LECTURE ON GUTHRIE.—On Saturday evening, the Rev E. Phillipson, of Stanley, delivered an interesting lecture at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, St. John's, on "Thomas Guthrie, the Scotch Philanthropist," the Rev S. McKinley presiding. The Rev W. Greenaway was also present. On Sunday, Mr Phillipson preached the anniversary sermon.

BUTSFIELD.

SPECIAL SERMONS.—On Sunday, two earnest and impressive sermons were preached in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Butsfield, to good congregations, by Mrs Thomson, Ripen, who based her remarks in the afternoon on Isaiah xxxiii. 16-17; and in the evening on Isaiah lvii. 17. Her remarks were listened to with rapt attention.

WOLSINGHAM.

A LOCAL ADMINISTRATION SUIT: LOVE v. LOVE.—On Thursday se'nnight, at the Durham Court of Chancery, the Chancellor, the Hon. Jas. Flemming, had before him the application for the administration of the estate of the late Mr Harrison Love, a brewer at Wolsingham.—Mr Grainger, who appeared for the plaintiff, said his Honour would remember that he made an application to him some time ago in London, but his Honour refused the order for sale on the ground that there was not sufficient evidence before the court. Since then he had examined the will, and there was full power given to the trustees to sell after the children had attained the age of 21, and there was also a power for them to sell at any time during the trust. The liabilites of the estate had been taken, and there was no doubt the estate was insolvent.—His Honour: I cannot order a sale unless there is an enquiry.—Mr Grainger asked for the case to be adjourned until there had been an enquiry.—His Honour:—Very well.—Mr Grainger said the late Mr Harrison Love left a very valuable estate, comprising a great number of tied public-houses in various places. The trustees, however, had mortgaged the estate, and wasted it in a most extraordinary manner. He further applied that all accounts be taken and an enquiry made, and that the trustees Thos Mainprise, R. A. Brown, and W. Brown be added as defendants, and that summonses be issued to these gentlemen to show cause why they should not be added as defendants.—Mr Shafto was instructed to consent to the sale and the appointment of a receiver.—Mr Grainger said there was a receiver already appointed.—The application was granted.

BLAYDON.

Mr Currie, of Blaydon, has been elected to the post of surveyor and inspector of nuisances to the Shildon Local Board.

DERWENT RIFLE CLUB.—On Saturday, the usual fortnightly handicap sweepstake competition in connection with the above club took place at the Bucs Hills range, Blaydon. The conditions were as usual. Snider or Martini-Henry rifles, the latter being penalised 10 points. There were a large number of competitors, but owing to the bright sun and a troublesome "haze," the shooting was below the average, although some good scores were made, the highest possible being made at 500 yards by Private Robinson. Private W. J. Coulson, 1st V.B.N.F., one of the oldest volunteers in the district, won the first prize.

THE LATE MR SAUL.—The recent death of Mr N. P Saul (son of the much-esteemed minister, the Rev W. Saul, of Blaydon), has caused deep and wide-spread regret in the young student circles of this district. To these circles the deceased was an ornament, and in his case death has cut short a career of unusually great promise. He had been really ill for some months with lung disease; but, though knowing himself in serious danger, had kept about and at work, thus no doubt hastening his end. I understand that he ultimately succumbed in consequence of the congestion of one of the blood vessels of the brain. He was an enthusiast in all good and progressive work, and was an active and influential member of the Tyneside Students' Association, and was on its committee, as well as being a member of the committee (local) for controlling the Cambridge and Durham University extension scheme. He was one of the first suggesters of the Sunday Lecture Society, and was on its committee, and from first to last was one of its most active and enthusiastic supporters. He was about five or six and twenty, and made friends with all sections whoever he went. He had passed several science (botany, physiology, and other) examinations at Bath Lane. Latterly he had lost his voice and could only speak in a whisper, but he still worked bravely on, and literally died in the harness of good work, beloved and regretted by all who knew him.—"Elfin" in to-day's (Friday) *Newcastle Chronicle*.

STANHOPE.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of the Stanhope Agricultural Society was held at the Town Hall—Mr J. W. Roddam presiding.—A balance-sheet presented showed the receipts for the past year to have been, balance and interest, £99 7s 9d; subscriptions, £95 17s 2d; special donations for plate and other prizes, £57 9s; admission to grounds, £110 10s 8d; and other items made a total of £405 13s 10d. Prizes paid, and value of plate so given equalled £260 5s; sundry working expenses, £86 4s 3d, leaving a balance of £119 4s 9d, showing a gain on the year of over £19.—Mr Moseley resigns his office as secretary to the society.

ESH COLLIERY.

At the Durham County Petty Sessions, on Wednesday week, John George Young and Robert Young were charged with having been drunk and refusing to quit the licensed premises of Samuel Coxon, at Waterhouses, on the 10th inst.—Fined 10s and costs each.

LECTURE.—On Monday evening, the Rev W. Baitey, of Durham, delivered a lecture, on "Wit and humour," in the old Iron Schoolroom. Mr John Morris, of Esh, occupied the chair. The attendance was very good, and the proceeds were for the Esh Primitive Methodist Society.

WITTON GILBERT.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—On Wednesday, Mr John Graham, coroner, held an inquest on the body of John Wright, who was killed in the Witton Gilbert pit on Monday. From the evidence adduced it appeared that the deceased was aged 36 years, and was employed as a coal hewer in the Witton pit. At three o'clock on Monday afternoon, whilst working he was caught by a fall of stone, under which he was found by a putter, and died shortly after being extricated.—The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

FOURTH DURHAM RIFLE VOLUNTEERS.—On Thursday se'nnight the Durham companies visited Chester-le-Street. The men—numbering 162—were under the command of Capt. Armes, and on passing down the main thoroughfare of Chester-le-Street, on their way to Vigo, the fine martial appearance of the men on the line of march created a very favourable impression upon a numerous body of spectators. On their arrival at Vigo they were joined by companies from Beamish, Chester-le-Street, Birtley, Felling, and Washington, when they were put through a smart drill by Colonel Rowlandson. The chief evolutions practiced were the attack formation, skirmishing, and march past in quick time. The whole of the men acquitted themselves remarkably well, the recruits being very steady. Since then, the companies have been drilled at their respective headquarters, the manœuvring indicating clearly that the battalion—which forms part of the attacking force on Whit-Tuesday—will take, as skirmishers, a very prominent part in the review.

FRANCHISE MEETING.—On Thursday se'nnight, a well-attended meeting of the inhabitants of Chester-le-Street was held in the Long-room of the Lambton Arms Inn—Mr Geo. Pickering presiding.—The Chairman said he believed in the present Government they had the very best one that had ever existed. The bill must be passed in its entirety. They must not allow it to be strangled. (Cheers.)—Mr Cramen (Pelton Fell) moved the first resolution expressive of confidence in the general policy of the Government. The speaker said they did not mean to use violence or set fire to any dwelling, nor yet to pull any railings down, but they meant to have the bill by argument, by patience and perseverance; they meant to Liberalise the counties, to destroy the preserves of the lords and dukes, and to take their fair share of their duties and responsibilities.—Mr Robert Clark, in seconding the resolution, said he rejoiced in the present bill, because by its service clause so many deserving ministers and others would be enfranchised.—The motion was carried unanimously.—Mr Dodds (Murton Grange) moved that the county members be requested to support the bill in its integrity.—Mr John Baitey (Pelton Fell) seconded the motion, which was carried, with only two dissentients.—The meeting closed with the usual votes of thanks.

ROWLANDS GILL.

On Wednesday se'nnight, Mr John Jewitt, the well-known bee breeder, of Rowlands Gill, had two swarms of bees, both of which he secured.

HAMSTEELS.

PRESENTATION TO AN INNKEEPER.—On Tuesday evening last a complimentary dinner and presentation was made to Mr John Cockerell, of the Hamsteels Colliery Inn, who has recently left this district for West Hartlepool. The dinner was held at Mr Thomas Gowland's, Hare and Hounds Hotel, New Elvet, Durham, the chair being occupied by Mr W. R. Waddingham. A capital dinner was placed before the guests.—The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were duly honoured, and after a number of songs had been sung by several of the gentlemen present, the chairman made the presentation to Mr Cockerell, which consisted of a marble timepiece for himself and a gold brooch and earrings for Mrs Cockerell. The chairman wished him every success in the hotel he had taken, and hoped he would do as well there as he had done at Hamsteels.—Mr Cockerell thanked the company for the honour they had done him. He had always done his best to give his customers a good dinner and good drink when they had honoured his establishment, and he should continue to do the same in his hotel at West Hartlepool, where he should be glad to see any of his old friends give him a call. The presentation was supplied by Mr S. Hume, the timepiece bearing the inscription—"Presented to Mr John Cockerell by a few Durham friends, May 27th, 1884."

HEDLEY HILL.

DEMONSTRATION.—On Saturday last a demonstration was held in a field at the above place, kindly lent for the occasion by R. Crow, Esq. The weather was fine, and a large variety of games were gone through. One attraction was a football match, for which the Hedley Hill Association Football Club gave a ball, value 10s 6d, for the first prize, and a pair of shinguards for second prize. Four teams entered, and in the final tie the Hedley Hope team carried off first prize. At four o'clock tea was served on the field, when about four hundred people sat down to partake of it. After tea the usual vote of thanks were proposed to the band and the choirs, as well as to the ladies and gentlemen who had in various ways rendered assistance in the demonstration. The proceedings of the day realised £22 18s, which is to be divided amongst four old men who have not been able to work for a long time.

TOW LAW.

AUCTION MART.—Mr J. Vickers sold at this mart on Monday last 20 cows, calved and to calve; 9 geld cows; 34 steers and heifers, nine months to two years old; 2 finger calves; 35 black-faced ewes, with mule lambs. Cows made from £13 to £21; geld ditto, £9 15s to £15 10s; steers and heifers, £4 2s 6d to £16 5s; calves, £1 10s to £2 10s; ewes, with their lambs, 30s to 39s; 3 sow pigs, due in a month, averaged £3 17s; young pigs made 17s to 21s. A very large company was present, bidding proved spirited, but prices had a downward tendency.

Re JOHN TOM AYNSLEY, TIMBER MERCHANT.—At the Durham Bankruptcy Court, on Tuesday, before Mr Registrar Marshall, the Official Receiver (Mr Longden) said this case was adjourned in order to enable the bankrupt's solicitor to furnish him with particulars about the bankrupt's grandfather's estate, and also as to how his aunt came to receive £150 out of the estate. It appeared the solicitor had made a mistake as to the day of hearing. Therefore he proposed, if there be no objection, that the bankrupt be allowed to pass his examination, because the Act compelled the bankrupt to give any further information to the receiver.—The bankrupt having sworn to and signed the usual declaration, the registrar declared the examination in this case concluded.

DURHAM.

ROYAL OAK DAY.—Yesterday (Thursday) being "Royal Oak Day, or Restoration Day, so-called from its being the day whereon King Charles II. entered London, in 1660, and re-established royalty which had been suspended from the death of his father," it was observed, as in former years, by the choir of the Cathedral, at the conclusion of the afternoon service, ascending the Langthorn tower and singing the anthems, "Give peace, O Lord" (Calcott), "Therefore with angels" (Novello), "Lord, for Thy tender mercy's sake" (Farrant).

DIOCESAN CHARITIES.—The Charity Commissioners give notice that they intend on the expiration of a month from the 7th May, to prepare a scheme for the future regulation of the charities of the Hon. Shute Barrington, Bishop of Durham, E. Woodcock, Margaret Dingworth, and others under the management of the Durham Diocesan Sons of the Clergy Society for the relief of distressed clergymen, their widows and families, in the Diocese of Durham. They propose that the capital shall be divided into two equal parts, and applied to the purposes of the society in the dioceses of Durham and Newcastle. They also state that the trustees proposed to them are the bishops and archdeacons of the two dioceses, to act in their own dioceses.

ALLEGED HIGHWAY ROBBERY BY PITMEN.—At the Durham County Petty Sessions on Wednesday, two young men, miners, named Charles Turnbull and George Hutchinson, Sacriston, were charged with stealing a silver lever watch and chain, with a gold key and other appendages, from the person of James Donnelly. The prosecutor had treated the prisoners in a public-house on the outskirts of Durham, on the night of the 13th May, and they proceeded to set him on his road to Sacriston, where he resided. On reaching the Wharton Park gates Hutchinson threw Donnell down, and Turnbull held him down whilst Hutchinson stole his watch and attachments.—They were committed for trial, and bail was refused.

THE SLIDING SCALE.—For the past day of two Mr Wm. Crawford, of the Durham Miners' Association, has been actively engaged in arranging to have a meeting of the masters and representatives of the workmen engaged in the Durham Coal Trade, with the object if possible of amicably concluding arrangements for the future conduct of questions affecting wages. Yesterday (Thursday) he visited Newcastle in reference to the matter.—During the week the men who are at present out of employment at a number of the Durham collieries were paid a further sum of 7s 6d each as relief, that being the remaining portion of the grant of £2,000 made by the association a fortnight ago.

THE BUTTERKNOWLE MURDER.—Superintendent Dunn begs to acknowledge the receipt, from the inhabitants of the city of Durham and neighbourhood, of the following sums on behalf of the fund now being raised for the widow and children of the late Sergeant Smith:—Durham City, per Sergeant Burrell, £52 18s 0d; Durham City, per Mrs Mitham, £4 10s 10d; New Durham and district, per Sergeant Hall and constables, £43 16s 6d; Brandon and district, per Sergeant Thompson and constables, £30 14s 0d; Sacriston and district, per Sergeant Cowen and constables, £29 10s 0d; Tudhoe and district, per Sergeant Elliott and constables, £24 1s 3d; Coxhoe and district, per Sergt. McDonald and constables, £15 6s 0d; Willington and district, per Sergeant Taylor and constables, £11 13s 0d; Officers and constables of Durham Division, £6 4s 0d; Officers and constables of Durham City Police, £1 1s 0d; total, £219 14s 7d.

DEPRESSION IN THE COAL TRADE.—"Elfin," writing in to-day's (Friday) *Newcastle Chronicle*, says:—The distress which has so strongly laid its iron grasp on the iron-manufacturing centres, and upon those industries dependent thereon, appears to be fast overtaking the coking portion of the Durham coal trade. Colliery after colliery has been closed, until there are now over a dozen standing idle, and the reduction of hands at other collieries has raised the total number of men out of employment to a rather imposing total. These, added to the numbers suffering from lack of employment in the iron-producing districts would very considerably raise the taxes for the relief of the poor and distressed in the county to a very serious figure, and that, too, when slackness of trade makes tradesmen's receipts low. At such a time the action of the Durham Miners' Association in devoting their funds to the alleviation of the distress amongst the families of 4,000 or 5,000 of their members, and preventing them from becoming chargeable to the parish, must be most welcome news. The association named had spent in seven years up to January last something like a quarter of a million in aid of distress, and saved the rates to full that amount, and they now enter the field on the same mission.

DEATH OF A CENTENARIAN AT BURNOPFIELD.

REMARKABLE CASE OF LONGEVITY.

Longevity has long been a notable characteristic in connection with the village of Burnopfield, and this is strikingly substantiated in the death of its oldest inhabitant, Elizabeth Smith, who in March last attained the great age of 102 years. The deceased lady was born near Winlaton, in the month of March, 1782, her father's surname being Richardson. On arriving at the age of 24, she married Mr Thomas Smith, of Crookbank Farm, Burnopfield, and the devoted couple had an issue of three daughters and four sons, all of whom she survived, excepting two daughters and one son. Her husband, who was well-known and universally respected for miles around, died 30 years ago at the advanced age of 91, and from that time deceased (who was his second wife) carried on the farm up to six years ago, when, after residing at Crookbank for a period of 70 years, she had to go and reside with her daughter, Mrs Gray, at the Mill, Burnopfield, owing to the enfeebled condition of her frame. It is singularly wonderful to relate that in the whole course of the deceased's prolonged career, she hardly knew what a severe headache was, but on the other hand had always enjoyed exceedingly good health, being hale and hearty in spirits. In her younger days, through her geniality and general affable disposition, she won the esteem of all who knew her, and this trait has been observed right up to her death. For many years she attended divine service at the Wesleyan Chapel, and was devoted to her Creator. Up to the moment Mrs Smith left her old homestead, she had been nimble on her feet, strong in constitution, and vigorous in mind; and it was always pleasing and profitable to have a "crack" with her upon the incidents which had occurred during the past century, concerning which her mind was so clear, and to do so gave her unbounded pleasure. She took much delight in visiting her children, grandchildren, great grand-children, and great, great grand-children, although it was almost impossible to see them all at her advanced age. Some time ago she visited her grand-son, Mr Thos. Longstaff (the respected surveyor of Leadgate Local Board), at Leadgate, but lately she had become so weak that she could only walk about the house and grounds with assistance. A fortnight ago, she wished to be taken from her daughter's house to her grand-daughter's (Mrs Urwin), at Burnopfield, and Dr Mantle, who had been attending the former, kindly took her in his carriage to her destination. Since then, Mrs Smith gradually weakened, and it was found she was unable to rise from her bed on Saturday last, where she slowly declined and subsequently submitted herself peacefully to death's rigid call. Sorrow is manifest throughout the neighbourhood, and condolence has been expressed to the bereaved and much-respected relatives by all the admirers of one who has been throughout life a true model of woman. We understand that the deceased will be interred in Tanfield Parish Churchyard on Saturday next, to which all friends are invited. The remains will doubtless be followed by an excessively large number of people.

LANCHESTER PETTY SESSIONS.

THURSDAY, May 29th.—Before MATTHEW KEARNEY, Esq. (chairman), HENRY SMITH, Esq., the Rev J. P. DE PLEDGE, GEO. G. TAYLOR SMITH, Esq., and GEORGE HEDLEY, Esq.

DRUNK AND DISORDERLIES.

John Wild failed to appear to answer a summons charging him with being guilty of this offence at Esh Colliery, on the 9th inst.—P.C. Raine stated that the defendant was very intoxicated, and wished to fight with another man called Crosby.—A fine of 10s and costs was imposed, with the alternative of a fortnight's imprisonment.

Henry Donnolly was charged by P.C. Cockburn with being drunk and causing a disturbance at Cornsay Colliery, on Friday night, 9th inst.—Defendant did not appear, and he was likewise mulcted in the sum of 10s and costs; or 14 days' hard labour, in default.

John Holker and *John King* were both summoned by the above-named officer for being drunk and disorderly at Cornsay Colliery, on the 10th of this month.—Holker was fined 5s; and King 10s and costs for non-appearance.

William Borrow, Robert Young, John George Young, William Clish, William Grant, and *Thomas Gray*, all pitmen belonging to Waterhouses, were severally charged by P.C. Cockburn with being drunk and guilty of disorderly behaviour by fighting in a field on the Rowley Farm estate, on the 12th of this month.—The officer, in reply to the magistrates, said the defendants came from Waterhouses to Cornsay Colliery with the express intention of "having a spree." They visited Mrs Lakey's public-house, but were turned out for misconduct, and they straightway proceeded to this field, and fought and quarrelled amongst themselves.—Gray and Clish appeared to answer the charge, and pleading not guilty, were let off on payment of a fine of 5s and expenses. The rest of the defendants were fined 10s and costs; or undergo 14 days in goal.

Samuel Hoyle, an old man, pleaded guilty to a charge of being drunk and disorderly.—Sergeant Nicholson adduced that on the 17th inst., he observed a large crowd going past his house at Quebec, and on looking out of the window, he saw the defendant laid in the gutter fearfully intoxicated, and he was "pummelling" away at another man as hard as he possibly could.—Defendant was also fined 5s and costs.

William Rowley was fined in the same amount for having been drunk and incapable at the same time and place.

Thomas Stephenson, summoned by Sergt. Tranmer for being incapably drunk at West Stanley about 11 p.m. on the 10th inst., was fined 10s and expenses.

William Brown, of West Stanley, having been found by the same officer very intoxicated at Shield Row, and fighting with his coat off, on May 17th, was fined in a like amount.

William Hughes, drunk at Shield Row, on same occasion, was ordered to pay 5s fine, and the usual costs.

Edward Benson was found guilty, on the evidence of Sergt. Tranmer, of being drunk and riotous at Kip Hill, at 8·30 p.m. on the 18th May, and was fined 10s 6d, which includes the costs.

Emanuel Taylor pleaded guilty to a charge of being drunk and disorderly.—It will be remembered that at the last court Sergt. Tranmer summoned a certain man for being drunk and incapable whilst in charge of a horse attached to a waggon-load of furniture. On the same date (20th April) the officer met the defendant—who was the owner of the furniture—in a beastly state of intoxication on the road between Sunniside and the Causeway.—Defendant was fined 5s and pay the costs.

P.C. Robinson charged *William Brown*, of Oakey's Cottages, with being drunk at West Stanley, on the 17th inst.—Defendant pleaded guilty, and was fined 5s and costs.

William Cozon, accused by the last-named constable of being drunk and fighting at at West Stanley at 10 o'clock in the evening of the 17th inst., was mulcted in the same fine.

John Smith, for having been drunk and riotous at West Stanley, on the same night, was fined 10s and the costs.

THE PITMAN'S BOTTLE OF WHISKEY.

George Clark, a miner, failed to appear in response to a summons charging him with drunkenness.—Sergt. Nicholson testified that on the 17th of this month, he was journeying from Quebec to Lanchester, when on approaching the Quarry House Farm, he noticed the defendant lying on the roadside in a helpless state of inebration. Witness lifted the man up, and found in his coat pocket a large bottle filled with gin. [The officer produced a quart bottle containing gin, in Court, causing a considerable amount of laughter.] The Sergeant proceeded further to state, amid some merriment, that three persons had tasted the liquid to discover what it really was, but they were not satisfied with it. If it was gin, they came to the conclusion that it must be adulterated with water. Defendant informed witness that he procured the liquor at Marley's public-house.—The Bench imposed a penalty of 10s and costs.

WILFUL DAMAGE.

James Green, miner, was summoned for committing wilful damage to coals, to the amount of 2d, the property of Messrs Ferens and Love, owners of the Cornsay Collieries.—P.C. Cockburn spoke to seeing the defendant carry away, on the 11th inst., a quantity of coals from the coke ovens in the brick-yard attached to the above collieries.—Defendant explained that he was entitled to coals from the colliery, but as these did not burn very well, he went out and picked up a few pieces of coal near the coke-ovens.—Prosecutors did not wish to press the case, but merely to show their workpeople that they had no right to touch these coals.—Defendant was let off on payment of a nominal penalty of 6d, in addition to the damage and costs.

William Hall was summoned for wilfully damaging grass, to the extent of 1d, the property of John Gibb, farmer, near Esh.—Complainant stated that on May 12th, the defendant was passing through his fields, when he stopped him and inquired where he was going to. Defendant replied that he wished to get to Witton Gilbert, whereupon complainant informed him that he had better retrace his steps; but he still persevered on his journey.—Defendant admitted the offence, adding that he had travelled along that road on several occasions, and was not aware that it had been stopped up.—The Chairman, in fining the defendant 1s and costs, observed that there had been several parties convicted for trespassing on this private thoroughfare.

John Wilson and *Oxley Winfield*, boys, charged by P.C. Raine with trespassing in a pasture field in the occupation of Mr John Walker, which is the property of Major E. L. Smith, of Flass Hall, on the 18th May, were fined 1s each, and ordered to defray 1d damage and costs.

John Bradley, living at Ushaw Moor, and employed at Hamsteels Colliery, pleaded guilty to trespassing in the same field on the 20th inst., and was similarly fined.

Six youths, named *Henry Ross, William King, Joseph Bowden, Dennis* and *John Cairns*, and *John Gardner* were severally charged with wilfully damaging a field, which is owned by Mr George Rippon, the damage being laid at 2d each.—P.C. Rogerson said that between seven and eight o'clock on the 13th inst., he was on duty at Hanging Stones, when he espied the whole of the defendants enter an enclosed fell, and commenced to beat down the whin bushes with thick sticks.—Each offender was fined 7s 8d, which amount includes the damage and Court expenses.

William Swinton, John Elliott, and *Michael McShane*, three more boys, were accused of doing damage to a grass field, belonging to Messrs Hedley Bros.—On the 19th ult., P.C. Hadwin watched the defendants travel through this field, and McShane was firing at the birds in the hedge with a catapult. The damage was assessed at 1d each.—A fine of 1s and costs was imposed.

TRAVELLING OVER A PRIVATE ROAD.

John Herdman, grocer, of West Kyo, was summoned on a charge of wilfully damaging a certain private road, leading past the Stanley Burn Farm, the property of Messrs T. Hedley & Bros.—Mr W. H. Oliver, of Durham, appeared to prosecute; whilst Dr Carr defended.—Mr Oliver briefly stated the facts of the case, and explained that the road in question led from Stanley Burn Lodge to South Moor, then crossed the railway, and passed by some of the workmen's cottages, and finally terminated at Stanley Burn Farm. It was the "nearest cut" for the defendant to get home. The damage was estimated at 1d.—P.C. Hadwin was called, and deposed that on the 2nd May, about six o'clock in the evening, he was on duty beside the Stanley Burn Farm, when he saw the defendant in charge of a horse and cart, delivering groceries. He proceeded through the second gate, passed the Quakem House, where he called; and afterwards travelled beyond the Stanley Burn Farm, but did not stop at the house. Witness interrupted the defendant, and asked him if he was aware that he was travelling over a private road, consequently he was a trespasser. Defendant replied that it was not a private thoroughfare, inasmuch as he had used it for 18 years. Witness thereupon told Herdman that, acting upon instructions, he would stop him, and not allow him to proceed further. Defendant delayed about two hours, but eventually he turned back again.—Cross-examined by Dr Carr: Two of Messrs Hedley's workmen came up at the time, and persuaded the defendant to return. He stopped at the Farm, but he never said he had any business to transact there. He obtained some money off the man on the road. The road had been sadly cut up by the narrow wheels of the defendant's trap, and it would take 2s 6d at least to repair the damage thoroughly.—Dr Carr submitted that his client was delivering goods for the Messrs Hedley's workmen, and he called at the Farm on business. Defendant was willing to pay a small acknowledgement for permission to travel over this road; but he disputed that there should be any conviction.—The Chairman thought the defendant was disputing the right of way; but Dr Carr Denied that such was the case, and added that his client had no desire to create any mischief.—Mr Oliver intimated that he had further witnesses to call, if necessary. The prosecutors did not press for a heavy penalty, but they merely wished the defendant to understand that he had no right there at all.—Defendant's father informed the Bench that he had travelled over that particular road for a period of 47 years, and had never been interfered with in his life. He wished to know how he was to accept orders for groceries from the workmen, and he be debarred of the privilege of going with a horse and cart to deliver the goods. He thought it strange that the Messrs Hedley should erect houses, and then endeavour to prohibit persons from travelling thereto for the purpose of supplying the tenants with the needful articles they required.—Mr Oliver objected to the elder Herdman giving evidence, unless the case for the prosecution was fully gone into.—The Chairman observed that the Messrs Hedley only desired to establish their rights.—Defendant was ordered to pay a nominal penalty of 6d and costs, amounting to 7s in all.

GAME TRESPASS.

Frederick Hewson and *John William Bell*, youths, pleaded guilty to trespassing in pursuit of game on land in the occupation of Mr Thos. Taylor Smith, of Greencroft Hall.—Sanderson, the gamekeeper, stated that on Sunday, 11th inst., about 4·15 in the afternoon, he observed the defendants standing on the turnpike and throwing stones at some young rabbits in a wood near to Greencroft Park. Afterwards, the youths scaled the wall, and entering the plantation, they thrust their arms down the holes for the purpose of drawing out some of the rabbits. At this moment, however, the keeper appeared on the scene, and the delinquents instantly ran off. The groom, coming out of the stables at the time, turned the youths in another direction, and thus witness succeeded in capturing him.—The Chairman, after duly cautioning the defendants, inflicted a fine of 2s 6d and costs upon each.

NEW SAFETY CATCH FOR PIT CAGES.—New safety catches for pit cages are probably almost as numerous as new safety lamps for mine workings, and in some cases they are not characterised by any specially great merit. An excellent arrangement of the first-named class, specially designed to prevent accidents to pit cages by the breakage of the winding rope, invented by Mr Thomas Brown, of Walkden, and Mr William Brown, of Little Hulton, has, however, just been introduced, and has met with considerable approval. To secure the object in view, loose levers are placed on each side of the cage, and turn on pins and form the centres on which the levers work. The ends of the levers are provided with hinged joints from which extend upwards suitable rods, having rollers extending outwards with flat circular to ensure an effectual grip on the guide rods which are fixed to the sides of the cage. The opposite ends of the levers are secured by a hinged joint to connecting rods joined together above the cage by tie rods to which a link is attached to the winding rope. When the cage is suspended, the rollers are drawn away from the guide rods, and the whole weight is supported on the connecting rod, as well as the pins or centres of the levers. In the event of a breakage, the whole weight of the cage is thrown upon the centres, causing the suspended ends of the levers to fall and the opposite ends to rise with the rollers into the inclined plane, and grip the guide rods by which the cage is held, supported by its own weight acting upon the rollers in the inclined planes, thus preventing it falling down the shaft when unattached to the rope. Springs are also attached as an additional safeguard, in the case of accidental breakage of the rope. A model of this new safety catch has been submitted to a number of mining engineers, and it has been highly commended as an ingenious and effective arrangement for the special purpose for which it has been designed.

OUR LADIES' COLUMN.

The Health Exhibition is daily growing in interest as the arrangements approach completion. It must be admitted that at first, before order succeeded to the confusion incidental on bringing in such a vast number of packages, the difficulty of finding one's way about was very great. One day at the exhibition is really of very little use to a visitor in search of information, for the distraction consequent on having a choice of subjects, prevents him thoroughly working up any particular one. Food, clothing, and education are all interesting subjects, bearing upon our daily lives, and to these are added a variety of minor considerations, distant relations to the three great ones.

For those who desire to be amused at the cost of very little trouble, the historical costume gallery is a perfect paradise. To walk slowly round the corridor and stare at the wax figures, artistically dressed in the costumes of different periods dating back to the days of William the Conqueror, is English history made easy and exceedingly pleasant. The latest group is of four figures of George III.'s time, a lady and gentleman, a maid, and a working man, the last of the days of Wilkes, and in the artisan's clothes of a century ago. A group of early Victorian dress—say the time of her Majesty's coronation—would have been an interesting addition to the gallery, but the line has been drawn at George the Third's reign.

Fancy dress balls are no longer a novelty, for the fashion, when once introduced, spread with great rapidity from London to the provinces. Beginning with the ladies of the peerage it found followers in lower ranks of life, not even excepting very young people still in nurseries and schoolrooms, who were bitten by the masquerading mania, and imitated their elders. It cannot be said that all this zeal was tempered with sound knowledge. Hazy ideas prevailed as to the details of the various dresses, and the designers filled them up according to taste rather than with regard to historical accuracy. The modern copies of ladies of the last century were generally anomalies, heads of one date, dresses of another; and the Elizabethan period received the same free treatment, the widest interpretation being given to the colours and forms adopted. At the Health Exhibition no rein is given to fancy, every dress being an exact reproduction of one of the time represented, as copied from some picture or engraving of the period, and produced under the direction of the Hon. Lewis Wingfield. The most monstrous conceptions are both of the last century. In the *Spectator* the assertions have been looked upon as jests, mere pleasantries of the essayists, that head-dresses rose to be a yard in height. The biographies of the ladies of that day allude to the "commode," and we know that it was something in which horsehair and hair-powder played prominent parts. Looking at the waxen representations of the ladies of that time, we are face to face with the genuine article, the stupendous erection which obliged the wearers to have sliding panels in the roofs of their carriages to let the tower stand erect on the way to an entertainment. With one of old we are driven to exclaim that the half had not been told unto us. Nothing but seeing these "commodes" will give a conception of the imposition which fashion laid upon our great-great grandmothers, and great-great grandfathers. Addison tells us that there is not so variable a thing in nature as a lady's head-dress, which rose and fell in his own memory above thirty degrees. In 1711 the same author remarks that "the whole sex is now dwarfed or shrunk into a race of beauties that seem almost another species. I remember several ladies who were once very near seven foot high, that at present want some inches of five. How they came to be thus curtailed I cannot learn; whether the whole sex be at present under any penance which we know nothing of, or whether they have cast their head-dresses in order to surprise us with something in that kind which shall be entirely new, though I find most are of opinion they are at present like trees lopped and pruned that will certainly sprout up and flourish with greater heads than before."

The other enormity is the fardingale—the enormous, inconvenient, and ridiculous barrel skirt, which preceded the hoop proper of the days of George the Third. The exhibition shews a lady of Queen Anne's day dressed in a white satin skirt, distended by a fardingale. In Sir Roger de Coverley's picture gallery his great-great grandmother is said to have on "the new fashioned petticoat, except that the modern is gathered at the waist." The old lady was evidently in the wheel fardingale, which projected all round, like her wax representation at Kensington, for the knight adds, "My grandmother appears as if she stood in a large drum, whereas the ladies now walk as if they were in a go-cart"; the whalebone petticoat, on its first introduction, presenting a triangular rather than a hooped appearance. In the month of July in that same year, we find it was swollen out to an enormous size, so that what the ladies had lost in height they made up in breadth; and a correspondent speaks of the unfashionable country ladies who lived at sixty miles distance from London as quite behind the times, for they can absolutely walk in their hooped petticoats without inconvenience. Fashions lived longer in those days than now and died harder. The hoop maintained its post from Queen Anne's time to George the Third's, though it frequently changed its fashion. Sometimes it projected all round like the wheel fardingale, the petticoat short and the gown without a train. In 1745 the hoop increased at the sides and diminished in front, and a pamphlet was published in that year entitled "The Enormous Abomination of the Hoop-petticoat, as the Fashion Now Is." Ten years later it is scarcely discernible in some figures, and in 1757 it re-appears, expanding right and left into the shape which the court dress of George the Third's reign has rendered familiar. We have a general idea that the goddess of fashion is not of new creation, but has always ruled the feminine world. This is a mistake, for though there were modifications of dress, the national costumes of other countries brought over to England by Royal marriages, we had not really a succession of caprices until George the First's time. The first dawn of absurdities was in Queen Anne's time, when England settled down to domestic life after the long wars, but the real reign of Fashion came with the Guelphic or Hanoverian kings. The Puritanical crusade against long hair and rich dress left a plain order of dress prevailing among the middle classes. The Restoration brought back court dress for the upper classes, but the middle classes remained with little attempt at richness in attire until more than one hundred years later. It has been reserved for the nineteenth century to level the distinctions between classes in costume, and the maid is a cheaper and less advanced copy of her mistress in attire. The daughter of the tradesman studies the fashion plates and constructs her dress from them according to her taste, and the same office is performed for the countess by her milliner and dressmaker. Only for presentation at court is there now a distinct costume, a walking skirt with a train over it four-and-a-half yards in length. Our present dresses approach nearer to those of George the Second's time than any other period of English history, the short walking skirt for morning wear and the slightly bunched skirt. Even the short sleeves for morning wear which make long gloves a necessity are revivals of that period.

Newcastle Farmers' Club.—Silos and Ensilage.—A meeting of members of Newcastle Farmers' Club was held in the Club Room, Town Hall Buildings, Newcastle, on Saturday, when Mr C. Hunting, of South Hetton, read a paper on "Silos and Ensilage." There was a good attendance. The chair was occupied by Mr J. A. Armstrong, of Bays Leap.

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

SOMETHING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

WHAT A LITTLE WREN ONCE DID.

The following is related as a true story, and it may well be so, for the smallest incidents have often led to the greatest results:—

Many years ago two armies were arrayed against each other in Ireland, and fought what is known as the battle of the Boyne. It was the 1st of July, a hot summer's day. Just before the battle, the sentinels of King William's army felt uncommonly tired and sleepy, and very much inclined to take a nap, notwithstanding the near neighbourhood of the enemy. Of course, if grown-up soldiers fell asleep, a little drummer-boy could not be expected to keep awake.

While he slept, his companions nodding around him, a little wren spied some crumbs upon his drum-head, and straightway hopped upon it to pick them up. The noise of her little feet and her beak tapping on the parchment woke the lad, who spied the enemy advancing, and instantly gave the alarm. But for this little bird, the sleepers might have been surprised, and the events of the day altered. As it was, the skill of William won him the victory, and James fled, beaten, from the field.

A TALE OF TEN TRAVELLERS.

In these days of board-schools the boys and girls are, of course, too sharp to allow themselves to be beguiled by such a plausible narrative of "facts" as they are here presented with. The truth of the last verse they will at once dispute in toto, and will readily discover where the attempt is made to trick them.

Ten weary, footsore travellers,
All in a woeful plight,
Sought shelter at a wayside inn,
One dark and stormy night.

"Nine beds—no more," the landlord said.
"Have I to offer you,
To each of eight a single room,
But the ninth must serve for two."

A din arose. The troubled host
Could only scratch his head,
For of those tired men no two
Could occupy one bed.

The puzzled host was soon at ease—
He was a clever man—
And so to please his guests devised
This most ingenious plan:—

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I

In room marked A two men were placed,
The third he lodged in B,
The fourth to C was then assigned,
The fifth retired to D.

In E the sixth he tucked away,
In F the seventh man,
The eighth and ninth in G and H,
And then to A he ran,

Where the host as I have said,
Had laid two travellers by;
Then taking one—the tenth and last—
He lodged him safe in I.

Nine single rooms—a room for each—
Were made to serve for ten;
And this it is that puzzles me
And many wiser men.

JOHN DUNCAN, THE WEAVER BOTANIST.

A good example of what genius and industry can effect in spite of the most sordid and depressing surroundings, is afforded by the career of John Duncan, the Scotch weaver botanist.

Duncan was a hand-loom weaver, whose life was a perpetual struggle for bread. He did not learn to read until he was sixteen, and he was past thirty before he could write. Yet this hard-working weaver became a noted botanist, whose valuable herbarium Aberdeen University was glad to accept. The spirit of the man, his devotion to his favourite study, and the way he overcame the difficulties of his position are set forth in the following description of the "den" in which he slept and studied:—

He slept above a thatched stable at the mill, in a loft reached by a ladder directly from the highway. This apartment was merely the triangle formed by the sloping roof, seven feet in length, with sufficient height to stand up in the centre.

It was lighted only by an opening, three feet by two and a half, in the small door that gave entrance to it. This hole for light was without glass, being closed by means of a sliding piece of wood; so that when it was shut the place was in darkness, and when it was open, the wind had free entrance, even in the wildest winter day.

John's bed was at one side of the space, under the sloping thatch, his chest containing his clothes and books being at the other, with a narrow passage between them.

From his studious habits, which soon became the talk of the village, this close, miserable hovel obtained the name of "the philosopher's hall," or "philosopher's den," or, more curtly, "the philosopher," which it retained for many years after he had left it.

Here he kept his books and instruments, and wrote his letters and papers on the lid of his chest; here he used to sit for hours, reading and thinking and studying; and to this chilly hole, without a fire, and always in the dark in winter (for a candle would have been dangerous), he retired nightly to rest.

On winter mornings, when it was of course impossible to read, John rose very early and went down to the shop.

He worked diligently at his loom till breakfast, by the light of the weaver's oil lamp. After dinner, about noon, he retired to "the philosopher."

He first made his bed and then studied for two or more hours, returning after daylight failed, to work once more by lamplight. By this exemplary diligence he traversed a wide field of reading and thought, in spite of his slow and laborious style of study.

But when asked, "Are you not often wearied, doing the same thing over and over again?" "Oh, na," briskly returned he; "the wark wud be gey an' wearisome gin the min' were till't. But the min's free, like the shuttle an' sae it can rin aboot here an' there, back and forth, ding dang."

NUTS TO CRACK.

1.—My *whole* consists of sixteen letters, and means boastfulness. My 8, 14, 5, 3 is a covering; my 6, 10, 13, 4 is a sound; my 2, 8 7, 3, 14 is to set down in detail; my 12, 7, 3, 7, 5 is the Prince of Darkness; my 5, 9, 13, 4 is a number; my 16, 7, 8, 9, 5 is a species of glossy silk cloth; and my 15, 8, 10, 5, 14 is a monument.

2.—Such a very useful article I am, to be sure;
Indeed, I'm so much handled, it's a wonder I'm not sore.
Young ladies love to gaze at me—sometimes old ones too.
I condescend to smile at them whene'er at me they do.
I do not want my poor remains to number with the dead;
So, friends, I'll give you liberty to just chop off my head.
Oh: what do you see? a female, I declare!
Cut off her head! Well, well, you need not stare;
For what now stands before you, I know you've often seen.
'Tis but a poor animal, like to a horse, I ween.

3.—Buried Proverb.—Hazlitt left Nebo at sunrise for Alsadamus, to take epistles written early, towards Horeb. Ignorant of route, took ship, sailed to Majuma. Yearning after adventures, he had more than enough.

4.—All is my *first*; so is my *second*, and also my *whole*.

Missing Letter Puzzle.

5.—I -o-d -t -r-e -h-t-'e- b-f-l;
- f-e- i- w-e- I -o-r-w -o-t;
'-i- b-t-e- t- h-v- l-v-d -n- l-a-
T-a- n-v-r -o -a-e -o-e- a- a-l.

6.—My *first* is a Roman Catholic; people must do my *second* or die; my *third* is a preposition; and my *whole* is an English town.

7.—I consist of letters nine,
And an M.P.'s name is mine.
My 1, 3, 5 gives us a light;
My 2, 3, 4 is oft in sight;
You will find that 6, 7, 8,
Though looking small, is of great weight;
My 6, 9, 3, you'll all agree,
Is often supped by you and me.

LAST WEEK'S KERNELS.

1.—Atmosphere. 2. Sandringham. 3. When Poverty comes in at the door Love flies out of the window. 4. Plant-age-net. 5. Foot-ball. 6. Oxford. 7. Honeymoon.

MY IDEA OF WHAT A BOY OF FIFTEEN SHOULD BE.

A PRIZE ESSAY.

The subjoined original essay, which gained the half-guinea prize offered to competitors under twenty-one years, by the Sunday School Union, 56, Old Bailey, was composed and written by a young man of nineteen years, residing at East Castle, near Annfield Plain, and is published in these columns by special request:—

"Good qualities are like berries on a hedge eight feet high, very difficult to secure while bad qualities appear at our feet. Perhaps we might better tell what a boy of fifteen should *not* be, than what he *should* be. We see more bad qualities displayed than good ones. Every day we may see the conceited youth strutting about like the gaudy peacock trying to shew off his good points! The selfish, sullen youth, whose countenance betrays a lack of sympathy and true nobility; and the irritable youth with contracted eye-brows and sulky mouth, who is always flying into a rage at trifling inconveniences. We may see all these ugly qualities displayed close at hand, without looking for them; indeed, they grow so luxuriantly that we cannot avoid seeing them, go where we may. But what about the good qualities, the "should be's" of youthful character? These are more sparse, and we have often to look a little a-head to see them; but still they are there. Yes, we can find them, though we may have to search a-while. Now, let us suppose that, after having looked among many bad boys for our ideal of fifteen, we have at last secured the object of our search, and setting him down in our midst, we begin to analyse his character, or pick out all the good traits which, in our eyes, made him the model boy of his age.

"We should, first of all, find him to be *strong and healthy in body*. Of course, it is not in our power to make our bodies healthy if we have inherited weak constitutions from our parents: but we think that most young people who have pale faces, narrow chests, and feeble muscular power, have the primary cause in themselves. They do not value their health; eat all manner of sweetmeats and other unwholesome food; and eat and sleep very irregularly, therefore, it is no wonder if their roses die, and the pale hue of disease supplant them. If you would be strong and healthy, you must be active; fond of outside fun and frolic; going abroad into the sunshine and fresh air. The pale-faced sickly youth, who is almost always indoors, shutting himself out from all youthful society and outdoor games, is on the verge of disease; and perhaps, unconscious to himself, is preparing his own shroud and coffin. Far better burn his books than cut short his life. Not that we would disparage education and school duties. Far from it. Whilst in school be diligent in acquiring knowledge. Never shirk appointed lessons. Do your mental labour first, and do it earnestly and creditably; then take care that the body receives due exercise and training. To be healthy in body we must strenuously avoid all bad habits, such as smoking, drinking, ball, and theatre-going, and many other evils. All these pernicious practises tend more or less to destroy the health of body and soul. The Good Book says, "Flee youthful lusts." Flee, parley not with them. Flee from them as you would from a serpent in your path. Our ideal boy is vigorous and full of vivacity. His eye sparkles. His whole deportment betokens a good supply of spirits. He has never smoked the nauseous weed; never tasted the bitter cup of intoxicants; never stayed out till the small hours of the morning at some frivolous entertainment. His health has been guarded, and consequently he is what a boy of fifteen should be—vigorous and healthy. As a natural sequence, the healthy boy is *cheerful*. If you want to be a melancholy dyspeptic, we can give you an excellent recipe to secure it. Keep indoors continually; brooding over your apparent troubles, instead of shaking them off by healthy fun and laughter; avoid all company, especially young boys like yourself; eat a great many sweets and tarts, and rigorously abstain from that horrid brown bread and butter, and our recipe will soon prove itself a good one. If we would be like our ideal boy we must do the opposite. But, while cheerful, our ideal boy does not forget to be *kind*. A kind heart is no mean accomplishment. This virtue graces the name of our beloved Queen, and gives her such a lofty place in the affection and esteem of all her subjects, young and old. To be kind is to be manly. That boy is to be pitied, who, after reaching his fifteenth year, thinks himself too big to assist the old blind man over the dangerous crossing; to pick up the ragged urchin who has fallen upon the hard flags, and bruised himself severely; or do an unselfish act in any way. Yes, boys; we should be kind to all we meet, dumb animals included. Our ideal boy is no *coward* remember. Some boys imbibe the erroneous idea that in order to be courageous, they must be like some heavy-browed, eagle-eyed, stern-looking, old general, ever with a frown upon the face, and never deigning to notice inferiors. It is just the contrary. To be brave means to link courage with chivalry. The great Duke of Wellington was a man of this type. His last words, "If you please," were an index to the noble and generous spirit that dwelt within. So to be like our ideal boy of fifteen we must have this true courage. Be bold in denouncing wrong-doing and all falsehood. Never be a sneak, nor tale-bearer; but still do not throw a mantle over sin when, by exposing it, you can help to put it away, and adjust the wrong.

"Our ideal boy is *dutiful to his parents*. He hears his father command him to do something, and, like the true soldier on the field of battle, he obeys without a murmur; or the gentle mother calls him to her side, and, like a chivalrous knight at the beck of his fair lady, he hastens to do her bidding. The cricket bat and ball are thrown a-side, because superior things claim his attention for the time being. He loves his parents sincerely, and does all in his power to please them. The boy who loves his parents and speaks respectfully of them as "Father and mother," and takes their counsels and opinions to heart, will get on in the world. Very few disobedient, wayward children prosper. Very often they turn out drunkards and profligates. If we would be a fit companion of our model boy, we must love and obey our parents.

"But our boy of fifteen is also *a regular attender at the sanctuary*. He does not desecrate the holy Sabbath by keeping bad company and seeking after false pleasures. As the Sabbath light dawns upon him he remembers that is the emblem of that Great One Who said, "I am the light of the world," and at Whose feet he must worship that day. As the hour appointed for church, chapel, or Sabbath school arrives, he hails it with delight, and seeks with others to worship the Great King of heaven and earth.

"He possesses *ambition*. He desires to be good in the eyes of God, and that is the best way to become *great*. A boy should have ambition, but he should take care that his desires are of the right kind, and based upon sound principles. If he would be what our ideal boy of fifteen is, he will possess the chain of virtues we have mentioned, with perhaps, an additional link or two which we have not named, but none less. And now with our hero before our eyes, decked with this chain of precious jewels, we cannot forbear from exclaiming, "How good, how noble is he. O that there were more like him!"

A Friend of Youth.

There was a party of five persons on the wharf waiting to take the boat for St. Clair Flats, and each man had fishing tackle and other preparations for a good time. After looking the crowd over from his seat on a salt barrel, an old cynic of a dock loafer approached one of the gentlemen and inquired: "Goin' a-fishin'?" "Yes, sir." "Expect to catch any?" "I hope so." "Goin' to lie about their size?" "Sir!" "Goin' to lie like blazes about their size and number?" "Sir! I am a truthful man." "Oh, you are, eh! Then you'll let the other fellows do the lying and you'll swear to it! I see—I see!"

"Brother Smith, what does this mean?" "What does what mean?" "Bringing a nigger to this church." "I took him into my own pew." "Your pew? Is that any reason why you should insult the whole congregation?" "But he is intelligent and well educated." "Who cares for that? He is a nigger." "But he is a friend of mine." "What of that? Must you therefore insult the whole congregation?" "But he is a Christian, and belongs to the same denomination." "What do I care for that? Let him go and worship with his fellow-niggers." "But he is worth five million dollars." "Worth what?" "Five million dollars." "Worth five million dollars! Brother Smith, introduce me!"

A miner living a few miles west of Durham was engaged to be married. Shortly before the eventful day, something of an unpleasant character concerning the bride reached his ears. The result was that he became doubtful as to whether he should marry the girl or not. The appointed day arrived, and it was necessary that Geordie should resolve one way or the other. As that part of the marriage ceremony where the clergyman asks "Wilt thou have this woman to be thy wedded wife?" the bridegroom replied, "Had on thor, mistor; wad thoo tyek hor to be thy wife?" "No," replied the clergyman; "I would not." "Wey, then," rejoined Geordie, "aa's not gannen te hev hor neither!"

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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 McDrogon's Wards," "Pride's Perils," &c.

CHAPTER XXIV.

ROSE, IN THE CHARGE OF A POLICEMAN, ENCOUNTERS HER AUNT AND COUSIN.

Benjamin was a sleek, oily-looking Jew of about thirty, dressed very flashily, and vulgarly handsome, and in addition he considered himself a very fascinating individual, and quite a lady's man.

Putting on a most irresistible leer he greeted poor Rose with "Pray walk inside, Miss, and sit down where you won't be seen by everybody that comes into the place. This is in general a slack hour, but still anyone might pop in, you know—aye, into the very box that you're standing in now, and without a moment's notice, or a 'with your leave' or 'by your leave' as the saying is, and it aint nattrel that ladies should like to be seen in such a place as this; no, not at all."

As he concluded he lifted up a portion of the counter for Rose to enter.

She did so most thankfully, for she panted to hide away anywhere out of sight.

Poor girl, she was by no means prepared for what was about to follow, for the sleek Jew lost not an instant in throwing an arm around her and roughly snatching half-a-dozen kisses at the least.

"Cad! Beast!" ejaculated the outraged girl, panting with combined terror and passion. "Your master shall be informed of this. How dare you? Unhand me this instant, sir."

"Tut, tut, you bewitching little thief," laughed the fellow. "You should think it a great honour instead of a disgrace to be saluted by an honest and handsome young man like me, I can tell you. But as you're as beautiful as an angel, which there's no denying, I'll promise to stand your friend if you'll only let me, and pet and spoil you besides, all to rights. Sam has gone for the perleece, but if you'll swear you'll be my missis, stick to me like cobbler's wax, and not be too extravagant, I'll hide you and say you runned away, and that I couldn't catch you. Then, come night, I'll let you out on the quiet, and away we'll cut to my place, and there we'll live in clover until you plays me a shabby trick or I get tired of you, which ever happens first. Come, seal the bargain with a kiss, and I'll know that you're in earnest."

"Let me go. I command you to let me go. I will tell my father of this. How dare you imply that I am a thief?" wailed Rose, whilst struggling bravely to free herself.

"Come, don't be a fool," exclaimed the cowardly ruffian, rapidly losing his temper. "You won't find such a friend every day of your life, I can assure you of that, and a prison cell isn't such a comfortable place, neither, that you should hesitate between it and me for so long."

"Prison cell? What do you, what possibly *can* you mean?" stammered Rose, confusedly.

"What do I mean? Why, that no one but a born idiot will believe Eliza Jones, of no place, Dalston, to be the lawful owner of such a bracelet as you brought here to try and dispose of, and that if you don't at once accept my very generous offer you'll go straight from here to the police-court, and just as straight from the police-court to the prison; and if they let you come out again this side of seven years I shall be more surprised than ever I was in all my life. Anyhow, when you *do* come out you'll have left all your youth and health and beauty behind you, you may make precious sure of that, and your name and your life will be blasted for evermore. *Now* what do you say to my offer? Will you be my missis as long as I chooses, or won't you?" and the villain gave a triumphant chuckle as though he was quite sure what her answer would be.

But it by no means took the form that he expected, for Rose wailed forth:

"No—no—no, a thousand times no! Oh! let me go! Let me escape! Do not be hard on me. I didn't steal the bracelet, but how can I convince them? Oh! don't let me be sent to prison—don't—don't!"

"There is no way out of the scrape except by consenting to my proposal. Be quick. The police may be here at any moment now, and then it'll be too late. Come, this way—this way. Silence means yes."

He tried to drag her along with him, and to rifle yet another kiss on the way. But at the act Rose's passion and indignation overcame even her fears, and clenching one of her little fists she dashed it into his face with all her might, striking him so hard as to cause him to relinquish his hold.

The instant that he had done so she darted away from him, and endeavoured to make her escape from the shop, for her only thought now was of flight.

Too late, however, for the next moment she was confronted by Sam and a policeman.

"Hullo, young woman, you didn't expect to meet with *me*, I suppose?" said the officer, as he laid a hand gently upon her arm. "Why, what are you in such a precious hurry for, and what's all this fuss about a bracelet? Was you afraid you'd never see it again, eh?"

"She was quite willing to leave *that* behind her, as long as she got away herself," said Mr. Benjamin, with a malicious grin. "Seeing her intent on slipping away without a with yer leave or by yer leave, I had to lay hands on her, and then, by George, she laid hands on me. Just look at the mark, Sam. It's plain as print and almost as black, isn't it? She'd have got clean off if you hadn't turned up when you did—the vicious young tiger cat."

"Oh, what a wicked tissue of falsehoods," exclaimed Rose, bursting into a flood of tears.

"Tissue of falsehoods, is it?" retorted Benjamin, in accents of virtuous indignation. "Tissue of falsehoods, eh? Perhaps you will kindly explain for what reason you *did* strike me, then?"

"I would do it did I see the smallest chance of my being believed," replied Rose, almost hysterically; "but as I do not, it becomes me better to hold my peace," she added.

"Knowing that whatever you said might at your trial be put in evidence against you, eh? Well, quite right too, and I should have given you the straight tip to that effect, as in duty bound, hadn't I seen with half a hye that you was a fly 'un, and so didn't need it," laughed the burly policeman, as though he had given utterance to something remarkably witty.

Then, turning towards the two pawnbroker's assistants, he added in his grimmest official tones:

"You gives this young woman in charge for offering for sale a valuable article of jewellery, which from her contradictory and roundabout answers when questioned thereabouts you had good reason to believe was stolen. Eh, is that about the mark?"

"Yes, that's about the sum and substance of it," retorted Benjamin, jauntily.

"Be so good then as to hand me over the article what was offered to you for sale."

The beautiful diamond bracelet was thereupon immediately given to him.

He gazed at it critically for an instant, and then wrapped it carefully up in paper and placed it in his most secure pocket. Lastly, turning to poor weeping Rose, he said.

"If you can rise a bob and a tanner, I'll be able to take you to Bow-street in a cab, but if not we must do it on Shank's mare; that is to say, tramp it a-foot, my lass."

"I—I haven't a farthing about me," stammered Rose. "I walked all the way here from Dalston because I hadn't enough money even to ride in an omnibus. I did indeed."

"And yet owned a bracelet that must have cost at first hand close upon two hundred pounds. Umph! extraordinary, very," sneered Benjamin, still rankling 'neath his smart.

"Well, young 'un—for you're young in years if you're old in wice—we must be jogging, anyhow. If we don't let grass grow under our feet, which aren't altogether likely any way along the Strand, perhaps we'll be at Bow-street in time for your case to be heard to-day, and that'll save you from lying in suspense a matter o' two-and-twenty hours in the cells, don't you see?" said the officer.

"Oh," moaned Rose, "must I walk by your side through the streets of London?"

"Yes, my lass, you must: and you may thank my good nature for not handcuffing you, too."

"And how far is it to the place we have to go to—Bow street, I think you called it?"

"Yes, I did call it Bow-street: and I daresay you know Bow-street every bit as well as I do, so don't put on the innercent, because I can tell ee that it won't wash—oh, dear no, not at all, it won't wash," [illegible] policeman, with a chuckle; and, [illegible] hold of his prisoner by the shoulders, he [illegible] urged her out before him into the street.

If great had been the poor girl's shame at entering the pawnshop, what were her agonised emotions at being forced to quit it in such a manner as this?

Her brain was in a whirl, and she really felt as though she was going mad. Her legs, also, almost refused to support her; there was a murmur as of rushing waters in her ears, her eyes suddenly became dry and tearless, though they remained burning hot, and she kept muttering over and over again to herself such expressions as "Oh, what have I done?" "Where will all this end?" "Oh, my poor father!" until even the policeman began to fancy that she must be going out of her mind, and not being at heart a bad-natured man, he said to her kindly—

"Now, as long as you rubs elbows with me, and don't make no move to get away, nobody will notice as we're together. I don't mind being so far accommodating, only don't go and attempt to take no manner of mean advantage of my good natur, you understand."

"Thank you very, very much; that indeed I will not," Rose managed to say, and, one of the chief causes of her shame removed, she began to feel a little more composed.

But what was her horror as they approached Rimmel's, the great perfumers, to observe her Aunt Rachel and her Cousin Seraphina gazing in at the window at the Christmas cards.

They were stylishly, and even sumptuously dressed, and the older lady wore a pair of gold-rimmed *pinch-nose* spectacles, whilst the younger led a pug-dog by a blue ribband. The world seemed to have dealt very kindly by *them*. How differently Rose thought it had treated her.

The next instant she was earnestly praying that she would be able to glide past them unnoticed; but it was not to be, for suddenly they both turned round and confronted her.

Instinctively poor Rose tried to dodge behind her blue-coated custodian, so as to escape their observation; but he, not perceiving the cause, very naturally interpreted the action as an attempt to give him the slip, and wheeling round also, he quickly seized her by an arm.

"Come, come, young 'un," he said reproachfully, "I did think that you'd a little more honour than *that*. You'll have to walk *this* way now," and he began to urge her roughly along.

"Oh, ma!" exclaimed Seraphina. "There's a girl taken up by a policeman. What fun! I wonder what she's been up to. Goodness gracious, ma, if it ain't Rose Roscorla!"

(To be continued.)

THE WEDDING-RING.

"Louisa," said a gentleman to his daughter, returning to the room which he had quitted a minute before, there is a woman waiting to see you down stairs—go to her at once." "La, papa! I daresay she is in no hurry," replied the young lady, without rising from the easy-chair into which she was sunk. "My dear, do not keep her waiting; the time of a workwoman is her capital, and you have no right to defraud her of it." "Defraud, papa; what hard words you use! I am sure I always pay them their bills—what more can they ask?"

Her father had not waited for the conclusion of the sentence; and Louisa, seeing he was gone, proceeded with her breakfast, intending, when she had done, to send for the woman, whom she knew was bringing her some artificial flowers to inspect. An hour passed, when interrupted by the entrance of some young friends, whose visit of course detained her in the drawing-room. After a great deal of lively but rather empty chat, one of her visitors observed that there was a woman in the hall as they passed with a basket of the most exquisite fancy flowers she had ever seen. She longed to examine them all. With a slight blush Louisa, recollecting her father's words, rang for the forgotten tradeswoman; and the next hour was consumed by the young ladies in turning over the beautiful specimens contained in the baskets, trying them on their heads before the glass, and wishing earnestly that they could afford to purchase them. Finally, having disarranged the whole of her stock, one of them discovered that it was now time to go to the portrait painter, to whom she was sitting, as that gentleman never waited a moment, and she should lose the only hour he could give her. Louisa made some trifling purchase, for she had changed her mind on the subject and now desired some other ornaments.

Little as these careless girls were disposed to bestow a thought upon the artificial florist, it is our intention to follow her to her home, where, fatigued and disappointed, she arrived about two hours after she left the mansion of Louisa's father. It was a low and narrow garret, lighted only by a window in the roof, which threw down a gleam of sickly sunshine upon one corner of the nearly empty room, and lighted up an old and comfortless bed, which seemed placed there that its occupant might derive some warmth from a source which at least cost nothing. Reclining on the bed, and supported by a broken chair back, slightly covered by an old shawl—for the luxury of pillows was beyond their reach—was a much younger woman; but, like the first-mentioned, she, too, wore a widow's cap, and such clothing as she had bore the traces of mourning.

"Ah, mother, dear!" said she, as the elder widow entered, "I thought you long in coming; but I hope you have sold the flowers, and brought me all I want?" Her mother silently shook her head as she set down her basket, and with tearful eyes gazed on her daughter's disappointed face. "Miss Frizell detained me nearly two hours," replied the mother, "tossed over all my things, and then bought a two-shilling sprig; and as I was an hour after the time appointed at Mrs. Dashwood's, she was angry, and would be pleased with nothing. Indeed it is quite true; the flowers, were so much tumbled by Miss Frizell and her friends, that, until they have been all fresh done up, they are hardly worth looking at." "And Miss Singleton's wedding wreath?" said the daughter; "how can I finish that, unless I have the materials I require? Only two shillings for four hours' walking and waiting! Ah, mother, mother, how little they know the value of time to us! Will you buy the white and green silk with that money?" "I spent it, my child, in buying food. I knew we had nothing in the house, and your poor boy will be wanting his dinner presently. Is he asleep?" "Yes; see how soundly he sleeps," answered the young woman; and removing a slight covering, she exhibited on the bed beside her a small fair boy, apparently about a twelve month old, who peacefully slumbered in the happy indifference of infancy.

Both gazed at the child till the tears brimmed to their eyes; but after a few minutes the young mother turned away, and said, "What can we do? This wreath must be finished, or in another week we shall all be houseless." She paused a moment, and a crimson spot, which told, of some internal struggle, appeared upon her cheeks, whilst her thin lips grew paler than before; then drawing from her finger her wedding-ring, she held it out to her mother. "It is but for a short time!" she murmured; "and what matters it?" Why should I feel so bitterly at parting the symbol, when the reality has been torn from me? For our child—his child's sake—it must be done! And what does it signify what is thought of me?"

The elder widow, with weary steps and heavy heart, pursued her way to fulfil this painful errand; but so deeply was she engrossed in her own mournful reflections that she scarcely noticed where she was wandering, until she found herself at the door of a large jeweller's shop in a fashionable street. She entered timidly, and waiting until she saw one of the shopmen disengaged, she ventured to explain her errand, and exhibit the ring. "It is not our practice, madam, to buy second-hand goods," was the reply; "and if we do, we can only give you the value of the gold." "And what may that be?" faltered she. "I suppose about half a crown," he carelessly answered. "And is that the utmost you can give me?" replied she in a pleading tone. "I am in great distress, and have not another sixpence in the world." "Are you not the person who sells artificial flowers?" inquired a gentleman who had been for some minutes watching her, and was interested by the sweetness and propriety of her manners. She replied in the affirmative. "And did you sell nothing this morning?" again asked he. "One young lady purchased a two-shilling flower," replied the poor widow; "but she detained me so long that I displeased an excellent customer by failing in punctuality." The gentleman bit his lip; and hastily crossing the shop he returned in another minute, leading Louisa; for he was her father, and she had been occupied in selecting a new pair of bracelets for herself at the opposite counter. "Repeat what you have just said to my daughter," said Mr. Frizell; "I ask it as a favour for her sake entirely." "Excuse me, sir, and forgive the young lady," replied the widow firmly; "she was probably not aware of how much value an hour is to a trades person; but I do not wish to complain of her for that." "Permit me at least to rectify her errors," continued the father; "but as our business can be better transacted in a more private place, suffer me, in the first instance, to convey you home. You have probably walked far this day." It was in vain that she offered any opposition; and in another minute she was seated beside Louisa in Mr. Frizell's elegant equipage, to the great mortification of that young lady, who flung herself into a corner, and did her utmost to conceal herself from view, lest anyone should recognise her with such a companion. They could not approach the lodging very closely in the carriage; but Mr. Frizell, nothing daunted by the narrow street or dirty staircase, resolutely drew on his reluctant daughter; and the child of wealth and luxury—the gay, the elegant, the fashionable Louisa Frizell—for the first time stood face to face with the worn and wasted sufferers from want and disease.

Never could she forget the thrill with which she glanced round the miserable room, and eyed the feeble sufferer stretched upon that bed. Poverty! Till then she had not known what it was; and yet this was poverty in its least repulsive shape; for though bare and desolate, the room was clean; and though feeble and emaciated, the invalid was tidy in her person; whilst the beautiful little boy who sat behind her, bending his dark pensive eyes on the strange visitors, as if to question their object, gave a degree of grace and elegance to the group. When Louisa saw the gratitude with which her father's purchases were acknowledged, and the satisfaction with which the sum of only 20s. was received, she began to understand a little of the value and the power of money. But the glow of still deeper feeling which the restoration of the wedding-ring occasioned was so touching, that she felt for the moment that she would willingly sacrifice half her trinkets to be the author or receiver of such a glance as that.

Happy as was this encounter for the two poor widows, it was eventually a far happier one for Louisa Frizell herself. The widows were materially assisted in their difficulties, and, in fact, raised from a situation of most depressing and heart-breaking poverty to a degree of comfort which, to their moderate wishes, seemed like affluence. But the widow was aroused from a far more lamentable state—from a poverty of feeling, a dearth of compassion, a want of kindly charity to her neighbours, which, but for some such lesson as this, might have starved and destroyed every amiable sentiment in her nature. But the lesson was effectual; and the once thoughtless Louisa Frizell ever after set an example both of consideration towards the tradespeople she employed and of moderation and self-denial in the use of the ornaments and expenses which her station in life appeared to justify or require.—*Chambers' Journal.*

A man, who is either a great simpleton or a wag, was cited to give evidence to character at one of the local courts in Berlin. He was told that he must swear before giving his evidence; but he was so impervious to the arguments addressed to him by the counsel of the party in whose interest he had been brought forward that the President of the Court was obliged to take the conduct of the business into his own hands. "Witness," said the President, "I must now have you sworn. Lift up your hand high, as I do—I swear!" The witness was silent. The President, raising his voice, said again, "I swear!" The witness was still silent. The President grew a little angry. "Do you not hear me?" he asked. "Yes, yes, Herr President," replied the man; "I hear that you swear." "My good man," said the judge, "it is you who must swear." "Oh, that is quite another thing!" said the placid witness. "I thought you wanted to swear yourself; but, if you require me to swear in the name of the law, it is of course my duty to comply."

WHICH ONE?

One of us, dear—
But one—
Will sit by a bed with a marvellous fear,
And clasp a hand
Growing cold as it feels for the spirit land—
Darling, which one?

One of us, dear—
But one—
Will stand by the other's coffin bier,
And look and weep,
While those marble lips strange silence keep.
Darling, which one?

One of us, dear—
But one—
By an open grave will drop a tear,
And homeward go.
The anguish of an unshared grief to know—
Darling, which one?

One of us, darling, it must be;
It may be you will slip from me;
Or, perhaps my life may just be done—
Which one?

VISITORS.

There are two classes of visitors as everybody knows—the invited and the uninvited. When the last writes us that we may expect her—which usually happens on the very most inconvenient moment in the year—she takes the precaution to follow her letter too quickly for us to put her off; or she drops down on us without any premonition, quite as a matter of course, like a poor relation, and proceeds to make herself thoroughly at home without more ado. Naturally we do not expect any great amount of diffidence on the part of a person who is bold enough to intrude upon the privacy of another without special request, and we are therefore but little surprised when we find her investigating the upper storey of the house, or devising means for invading the rooms that have been closed to her, or interviewing the servants when she asks for eatables not upon the table, and tells us about the luxurious surroundings of her last hostess; when, knowing the breakfast hour, she wilfully lies in bed till that meal is spoiled, till all the delicacies prepared for her delectation have lost their relish and become indigestible; when she is impatient if something is not being done for her entertainment; when she complains of the temperature of the dining-room in warm weather and the torment of the flies, without seeming to realise that they are annoyances to which she has voluntarily subjected herself; or when she is curious about our work. At the same time that she aggravates us with her peculiarities, her audacities interest and amuse us; we find ourselves wondering what she will do or say next, and if she has exhausted her impertinences. The guest, on the other hand, who writes us that she cannot come to us at the date we arranged, and instead of taking it for granted that we may have made other plans later, mentions another day for her appearance, understands nothing of the etiquette of visiting, and shews a lack of good-breeding, which she would be loath to confess. But to make amends for the shortcomings of these visitors, there are those whose genial presences make us forget the offenses we have suffered, who believe that the hostess has some privileges in her own house, who like to take pot-luck with us, who have the tact to make everybody comfortable so long as they are under the roof, and who make us wish that life were one long visit—people who disguise the *ennui* which happens to afflict them, and who make visiting such a fine art that we are obliged to acknowledge time spent with them is a holiday, "a feast of reason and a flow of soul."

Virtue is the beauty and vice the deformity of the soul.

Beware of little expenses; a small leak will sink a great ship.

Not standing on trifles.—"Say, Dan Pelter, what will ye take fur dat watch chain?" asked Pete, as he leaned his whitewash brush against the fence. "Dunno; reckon 'bout five dollars." "Five dollars! I'll gib ye ten cents." "Yer may have it. I won't stan' fur four dollars an' ninety cents on a chain trade," said Dan.

The student and his inamorita were discussing Thackeray's "English Humorists." "Who was it, Miss Cutting, that said 'True wit never produces a smile'?" "I really can't tell you, Mr. Quotation, but it seems to me he must have heard a good many of you college men telling jokes or he'd never have taken such a dismal view of life."

A lodger was eating more butter than biscuit, while the landlady looked on and fidgeted and hinted until she fairly went into a nervous fit. Finally she said, "Do you know butter is up to 1s. 6d. a pound?" The hungry lodger reached out and took what there was left. "Well," he drawled approvingly and reassuringly, "good butter is wuth it."

WIT AND HUMOUR.

A MAN in the write place—An editor.

SOUND investment—Purchasing a pianoforte.

WHAT holds all the snuff in the world?—No one nose.

WHY is a hatter measuring caps like a ship overturning?—Because he's cap-sizing.

OUT in the far West, toys being very scarce, the inhabitants hang cattle thieves to the Christmas trees.

DESCRIBING it effectively—An Irishman, speaking of a relative who was hanged, said that he died during a tight-rope performance.

AFTER a man has slipped down on a piece of orange skin, if he can talk, you will speedily learn whether he is a profane man or not.

AN enterprising reporter, writing of a wreck at sea stated that no less than fourteen of the unfortunate crew and passengers bit the dust.

WHEN Fogg was asked regarding the latest additions to the English language, he said he would ask his wife. She always had the last word.

A YANKEE genius has invented an umbrella which cannot be stolen. The dickens! have we got to add another item to our bill of personal expenses?

TASTES consist in the power of judging; genius in the power of executing. According to this, then, a judge is a tasty fellow and a hangman is a genius.

A STUDENT riding being jeered on the way for wearing but one spur, said that if one side of his horse went on, it was not likely that the other would stay behind.

WHEN Jones heard it remarked that the less a man drank in warm weather the cooler he was, he wanted to know how much drink he would have to go without in order to freeze.

"YOU'VE got a new hat, I see," said one man to another, who was noted for his love of the flowing bowl. "Yes—hic—got a new hic—hat; but it's got the—hic—same old brick in it."

DOLLS are now made that cry and say papa and mamma, and now all that is really needed to make a childless home supremely happy is someone to smear sweetmeats over carpets and furniture.

"HAVE you confidence in me for a sovereign?" asked a fellow-journalist of Douglas Jerrold when Mrs. Caudle was still in embryo. "I have all the confidence, but I haven't the sovereign," was the reply.

WHAT a highly-cultured modern young lady knew—She knew music and painting and style, and possibly knew how to flirt; but—saints of the kitchen!—she asked for a gridiron to iron a shirt!

THE Burmans believe that when a man is critically sick the best thing to do is to give the patient a mixture of everything in the medicine chest. A good many doctors in this country seem to have the same idea.

A TILER and his man were together at work upon a house, when the rafters breaking, his man fell down through the roof. The tiler looking after him, said, that he liked a man who would go through his work.

"POOR fellow, he died in poverty," said a man of a person lately deceased. "That isn't anything," exclaimed a seedy bystander. "Dying in poverty is no hardship. It's living in poverty that puts the screw on a fellow."

AN idle spendthrift, having nothing left to maintain his humour of good fellowship but his bed, sold that; for which being reproved by some friends, he answered, that he could never be well so long as he kept his bed.

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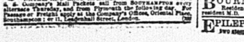
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SECOND EDITION.

THIS DAY'S NEWS.

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

PRINCE VICTOR'S VISIT TO ENGLAND.

[CENTRAL NEWS TELEGRAMS.]

PARIS, FRIDAY.

Prince Victor leaves here to-day for England to visit the Empress Eugenie.

ABANDONMENT OF THE POOLE ELECTION PETITION.

A telegram from Poole to-day (Friday) says that it has been definitely decided to abandon the election petition. The Conservatives have been advised to proceed against the Liberals for maintenance, it being alleged that others than the petitioners have subscribed towards the law costs.

THE DUCHESS OF EDINBURGH.

The Royal Yacht *Osborne* arrived at Sheerness this (Friday) morning. She will embark with the Duchess of Edinburgh for Cronstadt on Monday next.

EPSOM SUMMER MEETING.

THE OAKS STAKES.

EPSOM, FRIDAY MORNING.

Although favoured with a beautiful morning, there is a great falling off of visitors on the Downs to see the fillies do their final canters for the Oaks, for which there will not be more than nine runners.

FRIDAY, 2 P.M.

A large number of spectators have gathered on the Epsom Downs to witness the race for the Oaks Stakes. The bright sunshine favours sight-seers, but the wind still blows strongly. Among those in the select enclosures are the Duke of Portland, the Duchess of Manchester, Earl Cadogan, and Lady Brassey. The course is in good going order.

THIS DAY'S CRICKET.

AUSTRALIANS V. GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND.—The Australians innings closed this (Friday) morning for 135; against 277 for the Gentlemen players. The Australians second innings follows on.

SHOCKING TRAGEDY IN AMERICA.

MURDER OF SIX CHILDREN BY THEIR MOTHER.

SUICIDE OF THE MURDERESS.

[REUTER'S TELEGRAM.]

NEW YORK, FRIDAY.

A German woman, residing at Albany, having become insane through the loss of her bank book, killed five of her children, and seizing another threw herself with the child in front of a passing train.

THE PRESIDENCY OF THE UNITED STATES.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY.

The National Greenback Convention at Indianopolis has nominated Mr Benjamin Butler as its candidate for the Presidency of the United States. [General Butler was born in 1818, and was appointed a General of Militia at Annapolis on the outbreak of the civil war in 1861].

WRECK OF A BARQUE.

ST. JOHN'S, NEW BRUNSWICK, THURSDAY.

The Norwegian barque *Albertine* has been wrecked off this port. The crew were saved.

THE CONSETT BIGAMY CASE.

At the Shotley Bridge Courthouse this (Friday) forenoon—before Mr Jas. Annandale, J.P.—James Henry Russell, watchmaker, was brought up on a charge preferred against him by Ralph Howe, of Crookhall, of unlawfully marrying his daughter, at Lanchester, on the 26th April last; his first wife then being alive. After some formal evidence had been adduced, the prisoner was remanded until Monday. It is probable that the offence will be admitted by the prisoner.—As Russell was being escorted through the streets of Blackhill in the custody of P.C.'s Raine and Stubbs, he was jeered at by large crowds, who called him "Brigham Young."

A CALAMITY NARROWLY AVERTED.

This (Friday) morning, two of the steam tramways at Gateshead narrowly averted a dangerous collision that might have been serious in its consequences. Owing to some misunderstanding, two cars got on to the same line, and approached each other in opposite directions, one coming up Hills Street towards the High Level Bridge, and the other leaving the Bridge end to go down Hills Street. As there is a sharp turn at the corner of Hills Street and West Street, neither of the engine-drivers could see the other car. Both cars were going at a moderately fast rate of speed, and, as both reached the corner almost at the same time, a collision appeared inevitable. However, the drivers managed to draw up suddenly, though not until the cars were within half a dozen yards of each other, thus nearly avoiding an accident. One of the cars put back to the High Level Bridge to allow the other to pass.

TO-DAY'S MARKETS.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.—Consols are unaltered. Wheat is slack.

NEWCASTLE POTATO.—The arrivals at Trafalgar Station this morning were plentiful. The demand was not great. Prices:—East Lothian champions, from 60s to 64s per ton; Fife and other champions, from 40s to 50s per ton.

NEWCASTLE FISH.—There was a very large arrival of fish at the Close Market this morning. Four trawlers came up the river, each with a large cargo of fish. The demand was good, and the sales were rapid. Good prices were realised for all sorts.

NORTH SHIELDS FISH.—The market was fairly supplied this morning. Prices:—Haddocks, 2s to 4s; pickled whitings, 6s 6d to 7s 6d per basket; cod, 1s to 2s; ling, 3s to 5s each; skate, 2s 6d each; halibut, 5s per stone; turbot, 10d per lb.; salmon, 1s 3d to 1s 6d per lb. Fresh herrings, 2s 7d to 3s 4d per hundred.

The weather on the coast this (Friday) morning continues cold and damp. The wind is light from the north-north-east. The sea is slight, the sky entirely overcast, and the atmosphere thick with damp mist. The barometer is falling.

A GIRL'S SACRIFICE.

Agatha Trenton was the daughter of a Brakeshire clergyman, and was the eldest of a somewhat numerous family. Her mother, for several years, had been a complete invalid, and on Agatha's shoulders rested the burden of household management. It was not a light one. The vicar of Hiltworth had no private means, and his income from tithes and endowment was not large.

Roderick Dalling was a good match. He was proprietor of the mill which had just been opened at the north of Hiltworth, and which was destined—or local opinion was wrong—to revolutionise the hitherto quiet midland town. When he spoke to Agatha on the subject of his love he was told to call on the morrow and see her father.

The morrow came, but the vicar of Hiltworth could answer no questions of human lips. In the night-watches the Master's messenger had visited the bedside of the faithful toiler. Francis Trenton had gone home. It was heart disease, the physician said, from which, unsuspected even by himself, he had probably been in danger for many years. The outlook for Agatha was entirely changed. When the last sad offices for the dear one had been fulfilled, it was necessary to look the future fairly in the face; and this forecast was far from agreeable. An insurance policy for no very large sum represented the resources of the bereaved family. Mrs. Trenton was in despair. Fortunately, Agatha possessed a genuine talent for painting. She had already earned a slender store of gold by utilising it, and now resolved to make a more extended and determined effort to conquer the appreciation of paying patrons. She must become, in a sterner sense than ever, the stay of the helpless household.

With an instinctive delicacy, Roderick Dalling refrained, during these days of trial, from even the remotest reference to the offer he had made. He expressed sympathy; he afforded unostentatious assistance where an opportunity disclosed itself. But of love he said nothing. Yet the girl knew that, though silent, he was simply biding his time. Sooner or later it was inevitable that her ordeal should arrive. Alone, in the solitude of her chamber, not seldom on her knees, she groped her way to a decision, and having reached it, she held it fast. She would give Roderick up.

A whole month went by, and then Roderick ventured to speak. "Agatha, dearest," he said, "can you not give the promise for which I am waiting? I hope this is not too hasty an appeal, but I hear that Dr. Royal is about to remove from Brighton Villa, and—and, if you give me permission, I will take the house; it is a commodious one." It was the largest and best in Hiltworth, and the suggestion showed very clearly that Roderick Dalling desired to surround his wife with every comfort, and even luxury. But Agatha was firm. Duty demanded the sacrifice of sweet young hopes, and though now and again her heart died within her at the thought of the lonely life-time that might lie ahead, the imperative claim should be obeyed. "I thank you very much for the honour you have done me, Mr. Dalling," she replied, with the faintest perceptible quiver in her tone; "but I must refuse. I told you there were obstacles; they are quite insuperable." "Quite! May I not help you to overcome them?" "No, no!" she cried, hastily; "indeed, it cannot be. If—if you care as you say—and as I believe—leave me; look for someone else. Probably I shall never marry. There are other girls." "To me there is but one in the wide world," he answered, hoarsely; "still, I will not annoy you; I will wait. Good-day, Agatha." The conflict was over now, and the victory won. In the refuge of her own room a flood of tears came to the maiden's eyes. But something of thankfulness for a vanquished temptation mingled with that bitterness of renunciation. All was not gloom, though the lights of earthly ambition had gone out. In the exercise of unselfishness, Agatha Trenton found a deep and abiding peace.

On learning of the vicar of Hiltworth's decease, and of the straitened circumstances of his family, certain friends in a southern centre exerted themselves to obtain admission for the two eldest lads into a high-class charitable institution, established for the sons of clergymen. The endeavour was successful, and it seemed to both Agatha and her mother that it would be best to remove into the immediate neighbourhood of the school. The abandonment of the vicarage was in any case inevitable. There were few ties to bind the Trentons to Hiltworth, and so the project of departure was quickly carried out; at Melbury, within sound of the city hum, the wrestle with poverty was continued under slightly less strained conditions. A correspondence was naturally maintained between Agatha and several of her midland acquaintances. But in all her letters the girl was exceedingly careful to avoid even the most distant and enigmatical reference to Roderick Dalling. His life and hers had drifted apart, and it was better that a thick veil of oblivion should cover the bygone episode of love-making. But before the summer was over a fragment of intelligence had come, which Agatha tried her hardest to receive with equanimity. "By-the-way, there was quite a fashionable marriage here last week," wrote the unsuspecting friend; "Mr. Dalling and Mabel Sutton have gone into bonds of matrimony—isn't that the proper expression?" And then followed details of the bride's dress and behaviour, which only a feminine pen could have mirrored so exactly, and only a lady's eyes could have been expected to peruse with interest and with the orthodox admiration. "It is all ended, then—all!" murmured Agatha, with a sigh and a stray tear; "I hope they will be—happy." She went upstairs, sat down by her mother's sofa, and read with even voice and unwonted pathos. She would crush down unlawful repinings at the very outset.

Very nearly two years had gone by in this placid, humdrum manner. Agatha's painting had prospered, and the heavy breathing of the gaunt old wolf was no longer audible at the family door. Moreover, Mrs. Trenton was distinctly improving in health and spirits. The change to Melbury had accomplished what medicine could only feebly attempt. The boys were doing well with their studies; and the three younger children were becoming day by day more helpful. Their horizon was decidedly brighter than at any date since the death of the reverend father, and the good fortune—so far as Agatha was concerned—had not yet reached its climax. Strange stories had recently drifted to Melbury respecting the doings at Hiltworth. It was said that coal had been discovered in the vicinity; that a mining shaft had been sunk in a field in the rear of Messrs. Dalling Bros.' mill, and that nothing short of an industrial revolution was before the entire district. Agatha longed to explore for herself these wonders, but scarcely dared to venture as yet into the possible presence of her ancient lover, even if she could easily have spared the time; she had to be content with the reports of her correspondents for awhile.

It was a hot August day, and the silence of the summer noontide seemed to have penetrated into every cottage and homestead in Melbury. The ticking of the corner clock was the solitary sound that troubled the repose of Agatha's trim little kitchen. The girl was pausing in her task of setting in order some sketching materials. Suddenly a ring came at the bell. She hurried through the passage and opened the door. "Agatha in person? Surely a good sign!" said Roderick Dalling, impulsively, with outstretched hand. The girl had paled, and with difficulty repressed a cry of eager joy. Her surprise betrayed her unquenched affection. "Mr. Dalling? Where is—your wife?" she faltered. "My wife?" "Yes; I heard of your marriage many months ago." A sudden light broke upon him. "That was my brother," he answered; "Dick fell in love with Miss Sutton, and the engagement was a very short one. You did not think me so fickle, Agatha?" What could she say? The reproach in his tone had gone to her heart, and stirred strange depths of passion and of happiness. She was silent, and her eyes refused to meet Roderick's earnest gaze. The visitor was standing in the old-fashioned parlour now, and without resistance he had drawn Agatha to him. "I have waited as I said I would," he whispered; "I knew the cause of your objection, and I honoured you for it. I meant to make a fortune and then come to you again, if it were years hence. But you have given me wealth, and all I have to do is to ask that you will share it." "I?—how?" "Instead of taking Brighton Villa I bought the Moorfield. You have heard the result?" "Coal has been discovered." "That coal would belong to-day to another but for your decision of self-sacrifice. Half of it is fairly yours, Agatha. Will you [illegible] Roderick had no need of a spoken reply. "But how did you find me out?" she asked some minutes later. "Through Alice Frowde—I should suppose your leading correspondent; I have really never lost sight of you, Agatha." Before the harvest sheaves had vanished from the Brakeshire hill-sides there was a wedding in Hiltworth, and faithful patient waiting and service received their due reward.—W. J. Lacey, in the *Quiver* for November.

General News.

One gains courage by showing himself poor; in that manner one robs poverty of its sharpest sting.

Money in your purse will credit you; wisdom in your head will adorn you; and both in your necessity will serve you.

We may not be always able to see how our work or our actions are to endure, but, if they are of high and noble quality, they will never die. Some of the best things that men of genius or of character accomplish are never traced home to them.

SETTING the old lady right—"Now, Johnny," said a venerable lady to her six-year-old nephew, who was persistently denying an offence of which she accused him, "I know you are not telling me the truth; I see it in your eye." Pulling down the lower lid of the organ that had so nearly betrayed his want of veracity, Johnny exultingly replied, "You can't tell anything about it, auntie; that eye always was a little streaked!"

STEALING A CASK OF WHISKY.—At the Newcastle Police Court yesterday (Thursday), Robert Davidson, late checker in the employment of the North-Eastern Railway Company, was charged on remand with stealing a cask containing 54½ gallons of overproof whisky, value £45 13s, the property of Mr Jonathan H. Dawson. Mr Hannen, from the office of Mr Gibb, York, prosecuted, and Mr Dix defended.—The prisoner was sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

THE NEW IRISH LAND BILL.—Commenting on the Land Bill introduced on Tuesday night the *United Ireland* says:—Mr Trevelyan's, "positively the very last," Liberal Land Bill will do as little to settle the question as any of its predecessors; whether it passes or whether it drops makes very little difference. If the Bill becomes law it will neither work nor be worked, and if it drops stillborn in the legislature the tenantry of Ireland can well afford to wait a year or two longer.

NORTH OF ENGLAND IRON AND COAL.—TUESDAY.—Some improvement was noticeable at to-day's market both in demand and prices, the latter more than in the former, and so far from prices falling, in order to equalise the values of Scotch and Cleveland iron, there is more reason to believe that Cleveland pigs will rise. They are scarce in merchants' hands, and especially is this the case with No. 3, which has been heavily shipped of late. Merchants have found it extremely difficult to get even moderately large lots of No. 3, and in more than one case have had to send away steamers with part cargo only. Makers, knowing this, are very firm in their prices, and will not sell under 37s for prompt deliveries of No. 3, and as they are sticking together very well they are obtaining the price—in fact, a considerable tonnage had been sold at it during the past few days. There are offers on the part of merchants to sell at 36s 9d, but only small quantities will be disposed of at that rate, and the offers to try at less are made in vain. Merchants appear to have delayed purchasing until they have got "hard up" for iron, and the producers are able to realise their own prices. Sales have been made for delivery the same day. Forge pigs are also not plentiful, as the makers have been turning out more No. 3. For grey forge 35s 6d is now the price. Warrants are still unsaleable, and no price is ever mentioned. Shipments are very encouraging, and are likely to be better than in the corresponding month of any past year. No change can be reported in finished iron, the demand is very quiet and prices are maintained, because less cannot be taken without loss to the sellers. Thus for several weeks prices have been stationary, £5 being asked for ship plates and £5 5s for common bars. The application for another reduction of wages after the statistics of Mr Waterhouse appeared was not unexpected, more especially as the next ascertainment will also show lower figures in all probability. The coal trade is fair, considering the season, and the demand is as good as it was in the later winter. Prices show no change. Acting on a requisition signed by many of the frequenters of the Exchange, it has been decided to hold our weekly market next week on Wednesday instead of Tuesday.

PROMOTION OF MR GEO. CULLEY.—We are glad to be able to announce the promotion of Mr George Culley, J.P., of Greencroft West, Darlington, from the post of Local Government Inspector for the North-Eastern Poor-Law District to the office of Commissioner of Woods and Forests. Mr Culley succeeds Sir Henry Locke, who has resigned on his acceptance of the Governorship of the Colony of Victoria in succession to the Marquis of Normanby. Mr Cully's appointment was only made public on Tuesday, and will be received with general gratification, not only in Darlington, where he has resided for the past two years, but throughout the wide district over the Poor-Law Administration of which he has had the oversight. Mr Cully's district comprises the counties of Durham and Northumberland and the North Riding of Yorkshire, and contains in all forty-five Poor-Law Unions. Prior to coming to Darlington, Mr Culley occupied Fowberry Tower, the seat of his family, near Wooler, in Northumberland, at which he was born. His father, Captain George Darling Culley, was accidentally killed in the hunting field when Mr Mr Culley was a mere youth. His mother died only last week at an advanced age, and was interred in the family burial-ground at Chatton. Mr Culley, as a boy, attended the Sunderland High School, and afterwards [illegible] Trinity College, Cambridge, where, we believe, he was a fellow-student with the ill-fated Lord Frederick Cavendish for some time. Here he matriculated, taking the degree of B.A. Soon after leaving college he obtained an appointment in the Home Office, and subsequently became Private Secretary to the late Sir George Grey. He was appointed Assistant-Inspector of the North-Eastern District under the late Mr Hedley, and succeeded to the post of Inspector eleven or twelve years ago. He is a Justice of the Peace for the county of Durham. His removal from the North will be a source of regret to a wide circle of acquaintances.—*Northern Echo.*

THE CO-OPERATIVE CONGRESS AND LOCAL STATISTICS.—Among the documents submitted to the annual Co-operative Congress at Derby, on Monday next, will be a report and statistical statement as to the position of co-operation in the North of England. In this pamphlet, which bears the signatures of Mr George Fryer, chairman, and Mr H. R. Bailey, hon. secretary to the Northern section, it appears that in Cumberland the number of societies in 1862 was 3; 1872, 19; 1882, 20; and 1883, 21. The number of members in the same years was, 1862, 430; 1872, 6,358; 1882, 11,689; and 1883, 11,762. The trade was, 1862, £13,605; 1872, £222,644; 1882, £383,232; and 1883, £379,055. The profits were, 1862, £566; 1872, £20,725; 1882, £42,847; and 1883, £36,605. With regard to the county of Durham, the returns for the same periods are—Societies, 1862, 19; 1872, 46; 1882, 51; 1883, 54. Members—1862, 2,561; 1872, 24,645; 1882, 53,044; 1883, 56,250. Trade—1862, £55,666; 1872, £843,239; 1882, £1,857,335; 1883, £1,965,918. Profit—1862, £3,150; 1872, £80,411; 1882, £218,466; 1883, £247,774. There has been subscribed towards the establishment of a lifeboat, to be stationed at Cullercoats, £871; and as the cost will be £650, the surplus will be devoted to the foundation of another co-operative lifeboat. The question of a proposed co-operative flour mill still remains in abeyance, and the subject of co-operative farming has, during the year, engaged the attention of several conferences. The Sectional Board are of opinion that the question of farming is one which can be managed by a large society, rather than by a federation of societies. At the same time, if a union of societies, within easy geographical position, can agree to form an agricultural association, the Board shall be glad to lend their aid to its formation. The amount expended in educational work during the past year in the Northern section amounted to £1,460, Blaydon, Sunderland, Durham, Chester-le-Street, and Consett taking the lead. The affairs of the old Ouseburn Engine Works are not yet finally wound up, caused, the Board are informed, by the Taxing Master not having completed the examination of solicitor's costs.

Market Reports.

NEWCASTLE FLOUR, Saturday.—Hungarian, 2s 10d; American, 2s 1d; No. 1 superfine, 2s 1d; superfines, 1s 11d; fines, 1s 9d; households, 1s 7d; seconds, 1s 7d; ryemeal, 1s 9d; wheatmeal, 1s 9d; oatmeals, English, 2s 2d; Scotch, 2s 0d per stone; 4lb loaf, 7d.

NEWCASTLE FRUIT AND POTATO, Saturday.—Scotch potatoes, 6d to 8d; English do., 6d; onions, 1s 6d to 2s per stone; figs, 5d to 10d per lb; apples, 1s to 1s 6d per stone; grapes, 1s to 2s per lb; cauliflowers, 2d to 4d each; oranges, 9d to 1s per dozen; cabbages, roots, and other classes at late rates.

NEWCASTLE MEAT AND POULTRY, Saturday.—

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Prime large beef	0	9 to	1	0	Pigeons, per couple	1	8 to	2	0
Prime mutton	0	11	1	0	Turkeys, per lb	0	0	0	0
Small Pork	0	9	0	11	Turkeys, poults	0	0	0	0
Veal	0	8	0	11	Partridge, brace	0	0	0	0
Lamb per qr	0	0	0	0	Pheasants	0	0	0	0
American beef	0	2½	0	7	Geese, per lb	0	0	0	0
" mutton	0	5	0	9	Goslings, each	0	0	0	0
" lamb	0	0	0	0	Hares, each	0	0	0	0
" veal	0	7	0	9½	Leverets	0	0	0	0
" pork	0	8	0	9	Rabbits, couple	2	9	3	3
Hens, each	1	0	1	9	Ptarmigan, couple	0	0	0	0
Ducks, per couple	0	0	0	0	Black Game, brace	0	0	0	0
Ducklings, per cp.	7	0	8	0	English fresh butter, per lb	1	3	1	6
Chickens	5	0	6	6	Fresh eggs 14 for 1s				
Wild ducks, brace	0	0	0	0	Salmon, per lb	1	8	2	0
Quails, per couple	0	0	0	0	Do. trout	0	0	0	0
Grouse, per couple	0	0	0	0					

HEXHAM PROVISION, Tuesday.—Butter, 0s 11d to 1s 1d per lb; eggs, 14 to 15 for 1s; black game, 0s 0d to 0s 0d per br.; grouse, 0s 0d to 0s 0d; hares, 3s 6d to 4s 6d; rabbits, 2s 10d to 3s 0d per couple; chickens, 2s 9d to 3s 6d; ducks, 3s 0d to 3s 6d; potatoes, 7d per stone; apples, 1s 4d to 1s 6d per stone; onions, 2s per st.; carrots, 8d per stone; geese, 0d to 0d per lb; pears, 0d per lb; lemons, 1d to 4d; cabbages, 1d to 2d each; flour, extra superfines, 2s 0d; superfines, 1s 10d; fines, 1s 8d; maslin, 1s 6d; oatmeal, 2s 4d per stone.

DURHAM PROVISION, Saturday.—Beef, 8d to 10½d; mutton, 8d to 10½d; veal, 8d to 10d; pork, 8d to 9d; bacon, 6d to 6½d; ham, 7d to 8d; cheese, 6d to 8d; lard, 8d per lb; chickens, 2s 6d to 3s 3d; ducks, 3s 0d to 3s 6d; hens, 1s 6d to 2s 0d; hares, 0s 0d to 0s 0d each; pigeons, 1s 4d to 1s 6d per couple; rabbits, 2s 9d to 3s 3d per couple; butter, 1s 4d to 1s 6d; do. salt, 1s to 1s 2d per lb; eggs, 12 to 13 for 1s; apples, 2s 0d to 2s 6d; onions 2s 3d to 2s 6d per peck; potatoes, 6d per stone; new, 2d to 3d per lb.

NEWCASTLE CORN, Tuesday.—Arrivals into Newcastle for week ending May 27, 1884:—Coast and rail—Wheat, 2,309; maize, 25; barley, —; malt, —; oats, 1444; rye, —; beans, 298; peas, 26; flour 1450 qrs. Foreign—Wheat —; maize, —; barley —; malt, —; oats, 735; rye, —; beans, —; peas, —; flour, 19,475 qrs. With continued fine weather the growing crops make good progress. The arrivals of wheat from the coast are small, with nothing fresh from abroad. Flour imports are, however, very heavy. At this day's market there was only a small attendance, and the demand for wheat being extremely limited, holders had to accept a reduction of 1s per qr to effect sales. Maize scarce, and made rather more money than last week. Scotch oats, with small supplies, sold at an advance of 3d per qr: foreign very firm at full prices. Beans and peas steady. Stout feeding barley 1s dearer. Flour, with large arrivals, sold slowly at rather under last week's prices.

HEXHAM, Tuesday.—Again a thin attendance at market, only barley being on offer from the farmers, and business almost nil.

NEWCASTLE HAY AND STRAW, Tuesday.—Old land hay, £3 16s to £4 10s; this year's growth, £0 0s 0d to £0 0s 0d; new land hay, £4 0s to £4 12s; this year's growth, £0 0s to £0 0s; clover hay, £3 10s to £4 0s per ton; wheat straw, 2s 0d to 2s 3d; barley straw, 1s 6d to 1s 8d; oat straw, 1s 8d to 2s 0d per thrave; carts of hay at market, 87; carts of straw, 34.

NEWCASTLE CATTLE, Tuesday.—The arrivals from a distance consisted of 99 head of cattle, and 339 pigs from Aberdeen and the districts in the North-East coast of Scotland; 1,670 beasts and 819 sheep from foreign countries.

584 beasts and 432 sheep were despatched from Newcastle by rail yesterday for Manchester.

Respecting quality, every description of stock was a good seasonable average.

The supply of beef comprised 3,048 head. There was a better feeling in the beef trade to-day, and all moved off at extreme currencies.

The number of sheep and lambs shown was 4,120. The mutton trade was easier to-day, although late rates were fully supported.

The number of pigs shown was 504. The pork trade was dull and part left over.

PRICES FOR THIS DAY SINKING THE OFFAL.

Beef, prime heifers, per stone	9s 9d	to	10s 0d
Secondary sorts	9s 3d	..	9s 6d
First-class oxen	9s 6d	..	9s 9d
Middling	9s 0d	..	9s 3d
Cows and inferior	6s 9d	..	7s 6d
Pigs	5s 0d	..	7s 6d
Sheep, small, per lb	9d	to	9½d
" large fat, per lb	8½d	to	8¾d
Lambs, per lb	1s	to	1s 2d

Nos. shown:—Cattle, 2,046; sheep 4,120; pigs, 504.

Railway Time Table.

CONSETT BRANCH.

WEEK DAYS.

STATIONS.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
NEWCASTLE Dep.	6.10	9.40	11.0	12.20	2.30	5.30	7.30
Scotswood "	6.17	9.47	11.7	12.27	2.37	5.37	7.37
Swalwell "	6.24	9.54	11.14	12.34	2.43	5.44	7.44
Rowlands Gill "	6.34	10.4	11.24	12.44	2.53	5.54	7.54
Lintz Green "	6.40	10.10	11.30	12.50	2.59	6.0	8.0
Ebchester "	6.53	10.20	11.40	1.0	3.12	6.10	8.13
Shotley Bridge "	6.59	10.24	11.44	1.4	3.18	6.14	8.19
CONSETT Arr.	7.5	10.30	11.50	1.10	3.23	6.20	8.25
CONSETT Dep.	7.10	10.32	...	1.12	3.26	4.35	6.33
Knitsley "	7.21	10.43	...	1.23	3.36	4.46	6.44
Lanchester "	7.30	10.53	...	1.32	3.45	4.55	6.53
Witton Gilbert "	7.38	11.1	...	1.40	3.53	5.3	7.1
Aldin Grange "	7.45	11.9	...	1.47	4.0	5.10	7.9
DURHAM Arr.	7.50	11.15	...	1.52	4.5	5.15	7.15

	A.M.		A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
DURHAM Dep.	7.25	...	11.37	2.35	3.30	5.10	8.10
Aldin Grange "	7.32	...	11.43	2.41	3.37	5.17	8.17
Witton Gilbert "	7.40	...	11.50	2.48	3.45	5.25	8.25
Lanchester "	7.50	...	12.0	2.55	3.55	5.35	8.35
Knitsley "	8.2	...	12.10	3.8	4.5	5.45	8.45
CONSETT Arr.	8.12	...	12.20	3.18	4.15	5.55	8.55
CONSETT Dep.	8.15	9.10	12.35	3.25	...	5.56	9.2
Shotley Bridge "	8.20	9.15	12.40	3.30	...	6.0	9.7
Ebchester "	8.24	9.19	12.44	3.34	...	6.4	9.12
Lintz Green "	8.34	9.29	12.52	3.44	...	6.14	9.22
Rowlands Gill "	8.39	9.34	12.57	3.50	...	6.20	9.28
Swalwell "	8.47	9.42	1.5	3.57	...	6.27	9.36
Scotswood "	8.54	9.49	1.11	4.4	...	6.34	9.43
NEWCASTLE Ar	9.5	10.0	1.20	4.15	...	6.45	9.55

SUNDAYS.

	A.M.	P.M.		A.M.	P.M.
NEWCASTLE	7.30	7.20	CONSETT dep.	8.35	8.20
Scotswood	7.37	7.27	Shotley Bridge	8.40	8.26
Swalwell	7.44	7.34	Ebchester	8.44	8.29
Rowlands Gill	7.54	7.44	Lintz Green	8.54	8.39
Lintz Green	8.0	7.50	Rowlands Gill	8.59	8.44
Ebchester	8.13	8.0	Swalwell	9.8	8.53
Shotley Bridge	8.19	8.4	Scotswood	9.14	8.59
CONSETT arr.	8.25	8.10	NEWCASTLE ar.	9.25	9.10

MARKET TRAINS ON SATURDAYS.

First, second, and third class return tickets will be issued on Saturdays by the following trains:—

	A.M.	P.M.		A.M.
NEWCASTLE	7.10	4.15	DURHAM dep.	7.55
Scotswood	7.17	4.22	Aldin Grange	8.1
Swalwell	7.24	4.30	Witton Gilbert	8.9
Rowlands Gill	7.34	4.40	Lanchester	8.20
Lintz Green	7.40	4.46	Knitsley	8.32
Ebchester	7.53	4.59	CONSETT late a	8.45
Shotley Bridge	7.59	5.5	Benfieldside d	8.50
CONSETT late a	8.5	5.12	Shotley Bridge	8.55
Benfieldside d	9.20	...	Ebchester	8.59
Knitsley	9.32	...	Lintz Green	9.9
Lanchester	9.41	...	Rowlands Gill	9.15
Witton Gilbert	9.50	...	Swalwell	9.22
Aldin Grange	9.59	...	Scotswood	9.29
DURHAM arr	10.5	...	NEWCASTLE dp	9.40

SALTBURN, STOCKTON, & DARLINGTON BRANCH

WEEK DAYS.

STATIONS.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
NEWCASLE dep.	...	...	9.40	...	...	...	5.30
CONSETT	...	8.20	10.37	...	2.0	...	6.25
Rowley	...	8.30	10.46	...	2.10	...	6.34
Burnhill	...	8.40	10.55	...	2.22	...	6.43
Tow Law	...	8.53	11.8	...	2.33	...	6.56
CROOK arr.	...	9.5	11.20	...	2.45	...	7.8
" dep.	7.25	9.7	11.23	1.5	2.52	5.30	7.12
Bishop Aukland	8.0	9.31	11.43	1.29	3.12	6.3	7.37
Darlington	8.30	10.0	12.10	2.0	3.45	6.45	8.8
Stockton	8.56	10.31	12.35	2.29	4.13	7.18	8.26
Middlesbro'	9.5	10.41	12.50	2.38	4.30	7.31	[illegible]
SALTBURN	9.2	11.15	1.25	3.12	5.5	8.5	[illegible]

WEEK DAYS.

STATIONS.	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
SALTBURN dp.	5.50	8.5	9.52	...	1.40	3.45	5.40
Middlesbro'	6.27	8.40	10.25	12.50	2.13	4.20	6.5
Stockton	6.37	8.48	10.32	12.57	2.21	4.28	6.23
Darlington	7.8	9.18	10.52	1.22	3.0	4.54	6.55
Bishop Aukland	7.49	9.56	11.21	1.56	3.26	5.33	7.48
CROOK arr.	8.10	10.16	11.42	2.16	3.47	5.55	8.10
" dep.	8.13	...	11.44	2.20	...	6.5	...
Tow Law	8.25	...	11.56	2.32	...	6.20	...
Burnhill	8.40	...	12.8	2.45	...	6.35	...
Rowley	8.50	...	12.17	2.55	...	6.45	...
CONSETT arr.	9.0	...	12.25	3.5	...	6.55	...
NEWCASTLE	10.0	...	1.20	...	...	...	...

ADVICE TO MOTHERS!—Are you broken in your rest by a sick child suffering with the pain of cutting teeth? Go at once to a chemist, and get a bottle of MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP. It will relieve the poor sufferer immediately. It is perfectly harmless and pleasant to taste, it produces natural, quiet sleep, by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes "as bright as a button." It soothes the child, it softens the gums, allays all pain, relieves wind, regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for dysentary and diarrhœa, whether arising from teething or other causes. Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup is sold by Medicine dealers everywhere at 1s. 1½d. per bottle.

COLLIERY MANAGERS AND "LAMP STATIONS."—IMPORTANT DECISION.

At a special sitting of the Gateshead County magistrates on Friday, twenty-nine miners of Usworth Colliery were charged, on adjourned summonses, with breach of contract by absenting themselves from work without lawful excuse on the 8th, 9th, 12th, 13th and 14th inst. Messrs W. W. Pattinson and L. W. Adamson were on the Bench. Mr Cooper, of Newcastle, appeared for the owners (Messrs Bowes and Partners), and Mr Bentham, of Sunderland, for the men. It was agreed to take one case—that of Robert Bolam—as representative, and to let the decision in that settle the other twenty-eight.

Mr Cooper said the question which would be raised was one of some importance to the coal trade generally. Usworth Colliery was about 35 years old, belonging originally to Sir George Elliot, Bart., and was sold by him in 1882 to Messrs Bowes and Partners. With the exception of Mr S. B. Coxon, who left at the change of ownership, the same system of management as had previously existed was carried on. Mr John Robinson, who had been the certified manager of the colliery for many years, continued in his position until three months ago, when he was succeeded by Mr Lindsay, who had been assistant with Mr John Daglish, and had had considerable experience in Durham, Yorkshire, and South Wales. Since 1873, all collieries had more or less been regulated by the Coal Mines' Regulations Act, which provided for special rules for each colliery, as distinguished from the general rules of the Act. The special rules were settled between the owners of the colliery and the Mines Inspectors in England, and were made applicable to the details of management. He submitted that the question which would be raised by the men had nothing whatever to do with the present proceedings, because whether or not there had been a correct interpretation of those special rules by the manager or any one man, that could be no reason or lawful excuse for deliberately breaking their contract and laying the colliery idle as they had done for the past fortnight, the result of which had been considerable pecuniary loss to the owners. The Act of Parliament provided that if any agent or manager did not observe the rules the Mines Inspector or the Home Secretary should take cognizance of his conduct. The particular rule, an alleged breach of which had given rise to the present proceedings, set forth that in such districts of the pit as the manager might direct there should be fixed lamp stations and caution boards, on the in-bye side of which no unauthorised person should, on any pretence, take any unlocked lamp, naked light, or lighting materials. Another rule provided that if anybody should loose his light, he should take it to one of those stations, and have it unlocked, relighted, and relocked by some person autherised by the manager. Usworth was a mine, and practically no naked lights were allowed. There was a caution board and bank station near the shaft, and there were others established by Mr Robinson at various points in the workings. On the 4th May, one of the miners whose light had gone out, came to Mr Lindsay at the Fourth Lamp Station, near the Hylton district of the Low Main Seam, and had his lamp relighted by Mr Lindsay in the ordinary way. This lamp station had been constituted some months before by Mr Robinson, he having chalked "lamp station" on the beam overhead. Nothing more was heard about the matter until ten o'clock in the morning of the 7th May, when the men held what they called a meeting, and complained that Mr Lindsay had lighted a lamp on the in-bye side of a lamp station, and so had not complied with the rules of the colliery. On the evening of the same day, before it was time for the night-shift to go in, Mr Lindsay, from a praiseworthy desire to preserve peace, put up a caution board close to the place where he had lighted the lamp. Notwithstanding this the foreshift men refused to go to work, although the pit was perfectly safe and prepared for them, and since then the colliery had been laid idle in consequence of the whole of the men persistently refusing to go down. The associations—both miners' and owners—had used every effort to have the difficulty removed, but without success. The men called in the inspector, Mr Willis, on the 9th, but the inspector said the matter was too trivial for his interference, and advised them to go to work. The men then suggested a reference to the Home Secretary, and he (Mr Cooper) believed that such a reference had been made, but with what result he did not know. Mr Lindsay was a zealous, clever young man, and, if anything at all, it was his zeal in managing the colliery, which had secured him the men's unpopularity. Whether or not the manager had rightly interpreted the rule, was not a matter for the Bench, but for the Mines' Inspector; and even if the Home Secretary had ordered an investigation into his conduct that was not the slightest excuse, as a matter of law and common sense, why the men should not go to work. No one had suggested there was the slightest danger in lighting a lamp at that point. Unless the men could satisfy the Bench that there was positive danger to life and limb in going to work they had been guilty of breach of contract.

Mr Lindsay, manager; Mr Robinson, former manager; and Messrs Lishman, Richard Forster, Wm. Henry Wood, Hall, and George May, colliery managers of great experience in the county of Durham, all of whom had visited the point of the Usworth workings in question, gave evidence to the effect that Mr Lindsay had acted quite within his duty in lighting the lamp at that lamp station in question, and that there was no danger whatever.

Mr Bentham, addressing the Bench, argued that until a caution-board had been put up at a lamp station it was not a proper lamp station, and that, therefore, Mr Lindsay had no right whatever to light a lamp at the point in question, there not being, when he did so, any caution-board fixed up. The men's case was that up to the time in question that place had never been used as a lamp station, and the man, whose lamp had gone out, was on his way to the nearest station where there was a caution-board, when he was met by the manager, who unlocked and lighted his lamp. There was no doubt Mr Lindsay had committed an error which he subsequently endeavoured to rectify by placing a caution-board at the point. Where a man was in charge, and where, if even only once, he committed an error by which, in the opinion of the men, the rules were broken and the safety of life and limb endangered, the men were justified in refusing to work until his conduct was investigated.

The defendant, Bolam, said that at the third lamp station there was on the day the manager committed the alleged breach of rules a caution board stating that no naked light had to be carried beyond that point, and the miners contended that such a caution showed there was danger beyond that point. Since the alleged breach of the rules that caution board had been moved to where Mr Lindsay lighted the lamp on the day in question, and another board put at the third station. The Government Inspector (Mr Willis) had said that simply chalking a beam was a loose way of making a lamp station. There ought also to be a caution board; and, further, the "fourth station" was scarcely suitable for the purpose. Witness considered there was danger in using a naked light at this "fourth station." His experience of the past was that wherever there was a lamp station there was also a board.

Cross-examined: The boards he referred to were black boards, with "lamp station" painted in white paint on them. The difference between those words being in white paint on a black board and white chalk on a black beam was that the former was placed facing the eye, and the latter was over the head. Their only objection to going to work was that Mr Lindsay had lighted a lamp 250 yards beyond the furthest caution board, although for nine years previous to those proper caution boards being put up, lamps had been lighted at places where simply "lamp station" was painted on a black board. He himself had fired shots in-bye of lamp stations.

Mr Cooper pointed out that the boards bearing the caution as to the naked lights had been introduced by Mr Lindsay. Previous to his coming to the colliery, the only boards up were black boards bearing the simple words "lamp station." It was the absence of Mr Lindsay's caution board of which the men complained.

Mr Bentham said that if the old black board with the white letters "lamp station" had been put up, the men would have had no complaint.

Mr Adamson said the witness had stated, in so many words, that he considered the painted words "lamp station," on a black board, to be a caution board.

Mr Robinson (recalled) said he always understood the words "lamp station" to mean a caution not to take naked lights beyond that point.

Several other miners, including some deputies, corrobated the evidence of Bolam.

One of the deputies said he did not think the chalked "lamp station" at the fourth station meant anything, for he understood that the caution boards had done away with the chalked stations. He had never had any orders with regard to this supposed lamp station. The whole of their evidence went to show that the place where Mr Lindsay lighted the lamp had never been pointed out to them as a lamp station, and that they had never known it used as such. They did not consider it a lamp station on the day in question, and they therefore considered that Mr Lindsay had committed a breach of the colliery rules.

One witness, Thomas Walton, a back overman, said that Mr Robinson told him he had chalked up "lamp station" at the place in question and he would have some coal taken out and the place made suitable for a station. Mr Robinson autherised him to light lamps there, and he had seen one lighted there a few months ago.

This was the case for the defendant.

The magistrates, after a few minutes' private consultation, expressed the opinion, through Mr Adamson, that the case was one of considerable importance both to employers and employed. The men appeared to have jumped to a wrong conclusion when they took the law into their own hands and inflicted considerable loss on their employers. The Bench were of opinion that, though the lamp station might have been slightly irregular as to the mere chalking, the manager was perfectly justified in lighting a lamp in that particular place. The next question was whether the men were justified in taking the law into their own hands and leaving work, even supposing the manager to have lighted the lamp in the wrong place. If the manager had persisted in doing wrong day after day after his attention had been called to the fact, it might have been deemed such an infringement of the spirit of the rules as might have justified them to a certain extent in taking the law into their own hands. In this case, however, there was no justification for their leaving their work in the manner they did. If it was a question of danger, they had the evidence of almost the most skilled men in the profession, and they all said there was not a shadow of danger in working in this particular part, and that, had they had the laying of the lamp stations, they would have similarly laid them. The damages claimed—5s a day for each day's absence, charged in the summonses—was fair and reasonable, and they would have to be paid in each case. The costs of one case would have to be paid by the defendants.

The hearing of the case occupied three hours.

DEATH OF SIR BARTLE FRERE.—Sir Bartle Frere died yesterday (Thursday) morning, at his residence, at Wimbledon. He had been ill for some months, and although he sometimes seemed in a fair way to recover, in each case the temporary improvement was followed by a relapse. Lady Frere and the members of the family were with him at the last. He died without pain.

CRICKET.—*Hamsteels v. Cornsay.*—Played at Hamsteels, on Saturday, and resulted in a victory for the home team. Score:—Hamsteels, 30; Cornsay, 19.—*Henderson's Workmen (Durham) v. Esh Winning White Star.*—Played on the ground of the former, on Saturday, and resulted in a victory for the home team. Score:—Henderson's Workmen, 55; Esh Winning, 41.—*Browney Blue and White v. Edmondsley White Star.*—Played on the ground of the latter, on Saturday, and resulted in favour of the visitors. Score:—Edmondsley White Star, 69; Browney Blue and White, 72.

CROOK AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—A meeting of the the council was held on Wednesday night, Mr S. T. Jones, vice-chairman, presiding. Further alterations and additions were made to the schedule of prizes for the forthcoming show, particularly in the classes for poultry, pigeons, and rabbits, which have been thoroughly revised, and will add considerably to the success of this department of the show, which will be held for the first time in a large tent. The council for some time past have had under their consideration the adding of prizes for the industrial and elementary school department, and it was carried unanimously that an amount of money should be devoted to these classes this year, and a sub-committee be appointed to prepare a list of classes most suitable for the show, special prizes being offered by Mr Joseph Lax, Mr Kettlewell, and others. Messrs A. Mackay, R. Keillan, and J. Joel were appointed a sub-committee to arrange for the show field.

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

VIEWLANDS, BLACKHILL.—23rd inst., the wife of Geo. Renton, M.D., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.—Primitive Methodist Chapel, on the 17th inst., by the Rev T. Elliott, Mr J. Brown, of Consett, to Miss Bowman, of Blackhill.

SATLEY.—24th inst., by the Rev J. P. De Pledge, Mr Edward Reed, of East Hedleyhope, to Miss Janey Wallee, East Hedleyhope, late of Dipton.

MUGGLESWICK.—Parish Church, 27th inst., Mr John Gowland, of Waskerley, to Miss Annie Sherlock, of Gold Hill.

DUSSELDORF.—The English Church, 29th inst., by the Rev E. Godfrey, M.A., William, son of Dr Med. Rachel, to Eliza, only daughter of Joseph Marshall, of Burnopfield, formerly of Alnwick.

DEATHS.

BLACKHILL.—2, Prospect Terrace, 25th inst., aged 1 year and 2 months, Edmund Grieves.

DIPTON.—South Medomsley Cottages, 27th inst., aged 19 years and 6 months, Mary Ann, the beloved daughter of Joseph and Mary Jane Thompson. To be interred at St. Ives, on Sunday First. Friends please accept this intimation. 171t

BURNOPFIELD.—28th inst., aged 102 years, much respected, Elizabeth, relict of the late Thomas Smith, farmer, of Crookbank. To be interred at Tanfield, on Saturday, at Four p.m. All friends please accept this intimation. 170t

25th inst., aged 78 years, Isabella Radcliffe, wife of the late Thomas Radcliffe, of Beamish.

STANLEY.—Oakey's Houses, 25th inst., aged 37 years, Thomas, the son of Thomas and Jane Hunter.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.—(At the residence of his son-in-law), 25th inst., aged 80 years, Robert Hewitt.

BROOMHILL, EBCHESTER.—25th inst., Elizabeth Smith, wife of Henry Smith.

ESH WINNING.—23rd inst., Lydia, daughter of George Haddon, bricklayer, aged 3 years.

CROOK.—Goods Station, 24th inst., William Armstrong, aged 69 years.

STOCKSFIELD.—Newlands Grange Cottage, 23rd inst., aged 72 years, Elizabeth Green, the wife of Joseph Green.

DUNSTON.—(At the residence of her son, George Falthorpe), 24th inst., aged 64 years, Mary Pescod Purdey, relict of the late Thomas Purdey, of Swalwell.

VICTORIA GARESFIELD.—Aged 18 years, Sophia Bell.

BARCUS CLOSE.—27th inst., aged 72 years, Jane, relict of the late William Handcock, timber merchant, Burnopfield, and youngest daughter of the late Joseph Gray, agent, Garesfield Colliery.

ESH VILLAGE.—Cross Keys Inn, 29th inst., aged 33 years, Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Brown.

GIBSIDE PARK.—29th inst., aged 77 years, Christopher Bell, for upwards of 50 years in the service of John Bowes, Esq.

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