The Consett Chronicle

AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM ADVERTISER.

NO 102, VOL. 2. [REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.] FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26. 1897. PRICE. ONE PENNY WEEKLY.

Business Announcements.

THE HOUSE FOR CHEAPEST AND BEST JEWELLERY, WATCHES, CLOCKS, ELECTRO PLATE, DRESS, KEEPER, AND ENGAGEMENT RINGS, &c. &c. SPECS. AND EYEGLASSES.

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and all the Federation Leaders, if the question was submitted to them, would agree that Kirkup

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the iron when it is hot. The public of West Stanley get the benefit of his wide-awake enterprise in Cheap and Reliable Boots and Shoes, such as

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All kinds of Stains, 6d. per bott ir, 5d.
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Dry Colours, blue and green 4d. per lb; red, yellow, and brown, 2d. per lb.
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BEGS to announce that he has commenced a MERCERY, HOSIERY, and GENERAL OUTFITTING BUSINESS, next door to the North-Eastern Bank, and Trusts, by keeping an up-to-date Stock of Goods, to merit a share of public patronage. The Stock comprises a choice selection of

GENT'S SHIRTS, FRONTS, COLLARS, TIES,
SCARVES, HANDKERCHIEFS,
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FELT AND SILK HATS AND CAPS, in all the Latest Shapes.

The prices and reliability of Darney's Goods will be their own recommendation.

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THE GREAT SALE OF THE SEASON NOW GOING ON.

SEIZE this Golden Opportunity, and pay a Visit to

THE NEWCASTLE DRAPERY AND CLOTHING STORES,

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Must be cleared prior to Stock-Taking.

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THE CHESTER-LE-STREET STEAM LAUNDRY COMPANY have OPENED an AGENCY for CONSETT and DISTRICT.

AGENT:—MR. J. COCKBURN,

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PARCELS FORWARDED WEEKLY.

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FANCIERS' SUPPLY STORES,
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And see a full selection of

DOBBIE'S FAMOUS SPECIALTIES.

AGENT FOR COUNTY DURHAM.

From this Fountain I am sure
You'll get a glass both good and pure.

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E. J. BROWN

(Late of the Railway Hotel, Consett),

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SPLENDID MILD ALES & BITTER BEER.

PORT AND SHERRY OF THE BEST VINTAGES.

SCOTCH AND IRISH WHISKIES OF CHOICE BLENDS.

GOOD STABLING.

CONSETT CHRONICLE FOOTBALL COMPETITION.

TWO GUINEA PRIZE

CONSOLATION PRIZE FIVE SHILLINGS.

We offer a prize of TWO GUINEAS to the Competitor who gives the results of the whole of the undermentioned Five matches correctly. Should no one name the whole of the Five results correctly a CONSOLATION PRIZE OF FIVE SHILLINGS will be given to the Competitor who gives the most correct results.

Cut out the Coupon, and write in the space left for the purpose the number of the Goals you expect to be scored by each Club. Write your Name and Address plainly at the foot, and send the Coupon not later than ONE o'clock on SATURDAY AFTERNOON in each week, to

COUPON EDITOR,
CONSETT CHRONICLE,
CONSETT.

COUPON.

(TO BE CUT OUT.)

SATURDAY, November 27th, 1897.

CLUB.	Goals.		CLUB.	Goals.
WILLINGTON		v.	STANLEY	
ASTON VILLA		v.	SUNDERLAND	
HEXHAM		v.	ALLENDALE	
BISHOP AUCKLAND		v.	LEADGATE PARK	
BIRTLEY		v.	GATESHEAD N.E.R.	

On the ground of the first-named club.

NAME ....

ADDRESS ....

The name or names of the successful competitors will be announced in the *Consett Chronicle* every week.

The award of the Editor must be considered final.

Persons in the employ of the Editor are not eligible to take part in the competition.

The matches given in our last week's Coupon resulted as follows:—

LEADGATE EXILES	8	HOWDEN-LE-WEAR	0
STANLEY	2	NEWCASTLE UNITED A	1
ALLENDALE	2	WARDLEY BLUE STAR	1

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

OUR COUPON COMPETITION.

Two of the fixtures given on our coupon last Saturday were unplayed, and the sensational goal scoring of the Leadgate Exiles alone prevented the appearance of a claimant for the two guineas. Mr Charles Graham, of 23, Bradley Cottages, Leadgate, guessed the correct scores in the fixtures between Stanley and Newcastle, and Allendale and Wardley; and he also predicted a victory for the Exiles. A consolation prize of five shillings has been awarded to Mr Graham. Several competitors from the Stanley district **pressed hard on Mr Graham's heels.**

RESULTS.

Appended is a table of results of the principal local games decided on Saturday last:—

Ouston	3	Washington	2
Bearpark	6	Fatfield	3
Washington Rising S.	2	Washington Pl's	2
Tantobie Co-op's	5	Iveston Villa	1
Spen Albion	3	Hobson Wanderers	0
Annfield Plain N.E.R.	1	Blackhill Celtic	2
Shotley Bridge Jun'rs	1	Byer Moor Juniors	0
Dipton St. John's	1	Hobson Reserve	1
Craghead	2	Waterhouses	2
Pelton Fell	2	Woodside	1
Leadgate Park	2	Tynemouth	1
Chester-le-Street	4	Bankhead	0
Bohemians	4	Chester-le-Street	1
Shotley Bridge Rovers	3	Consett Park	1
Stanley	3	Forth N.E.R.	1
Stanley	2	Newcastle U. A.	1
Consett Swifts	2	Prudhoe	2
Bill Quay	3	Dipton Wanderers	0
Leadgate Exiles	8	Howden-le-Wear	0
Crook	4	Stanley United	1
Allendale Park	2	Wardley	1
St. Augustine's	1	Tow Law	1

THE PARK AT THE SEASIDE.

Leadgate Park travelled to Tynemouth on Saturday, to engage in friendly combat with the hitherto invincible representatives of the seaside borough. The teams were well matched, and a hotly contested game ended in favour of the Park by two goals to one. It was not a great victory, but under their present circumstances, it will be very welcome to the faithful supporters of the Park team.

THE MATCH OF THE SEASON.

So far as Stanley, or indeed perhaps the whole of North-West Durham is concerned, the best match of the season up to date came off on Oakey's Oval last Saturday, and resulted in the greatest triumph yet achieved in the history of the Stanley Club. The game was terrifically contested from start to finish, and the Lilies met with a splendid ovation at the finish. The Northerners were lucky in the spin of the coin, and for the first forty-five they played down the hill with a stiff breeze in their favour. It was here that the strength of the Stanleyites was exhibited, for to the delight of 3,000 odd spectators, they not only prevented the Newcastle boys from "piling on the agony," but actually at times forced them to work hard in defence. Jimmy Masterman was "bravest of the brave" in keeping the Newcastle defenders on the alert, but the whole vanguard worked well; though Sam Wood was occasionally very slow. Morris, of course, was far from idle, and a few warm shots were given him which he disposed of in a satisfactory fashion; but at the end of half-an-hour's play, Lennox shot into the net, Morris making no effort whatever to save, but standing with extended arm claiming "off-side," an application which Mr Scott promptly refused. Some of the spectators were unduly indignant at this decision, and showered a heavy flow of adjectives on the devoted head of the whistler-in-chief. What an unhappy position the referee holds. Half-time arrived with Newcastle leading by one to nil.

THE SECOND HALF.

For the first fifteen minutes of the second period, the Stanley boys played very shakily, and more than one of the critics who assembled in the vicinity of the press box expressed the opinion that "The Whites were done." This was not so, however, and, after getting their second wind, the Lilies forced the pace somewhat gaily, giving Kinnear quite a warm time of it. He did his duty manfully for a time, but was at last beaten, and here is the history of that event. The latest recruit from Boldon, who, by the way, has had the misfortune to lose an eye, got possession of the ball about mid-field, sprinted ten yards or so, and then transferred to Jimmy Howe. Lockey tackled Jimmy just as that youth got to the ball, but was worsted in the encounter, and Howe, after running a few yards, banged in a terrific shot, which completely baffled Kinnear. It was a perfect gem of a goal, and well-deserved, mighty cheers went up. Shake hands, Jimmy, over that goal. Of course, the Lilies went at it hammer and tongs after this, and Kinnear was kept extremely busy by the boys of the village. He did his duty right manfully, but at length was fairly tricked, thanks largely to the cuteness of Master Watson. Dover shot the ball in on the grass-cutter system, and it went straight to where Watson stood in an off-side position. Kinnear, thinking Watson was sure to touch the ball, called out for off-side, but Watson nimbly lept over the ball, which passed into the net, and scored the second and winning goal for the Lilies. Lennox was conspicuous for the visitors in the finishing stages, but Stanley maintained the supremacy, and won a grand victory by two goals to one.

PERSONAL COMMENTS.

That the best team won, I will not say, but the homesters certainly played a brilliant game, and on the "It's dogged that does it" lines, they well deserved their triumph. McKever and Wood were the only players who failed to come up to the A1 standard. The Tantobie youth quite failed in his contentions with tricky Lennox and his pal, and Samuel, of cricket fame, was rather slow in his centre forward position. Perhaps the committee will give another "Samuel" a trial in that position. Masterman played the finest game that I have ever seen him play, making numerous fine sprints and passes; and Howe again proved a sound tryer. The shot he scored with would have baffled any goalkeeper in the kingdom. The latest catch, Watson, who is, I believe, capable of playing in almost every position on the field, created an excellent impression. He passed unselfishly and accurately, and was always inclined to rush the goalkeeper when needed. Crute was very tricky and clever, but rather faulty in the goalmouth. The half-backs were a trio of heroes. Fish was, as I have heard him eloquently described, "the daddy of them all," and both Dover and Milburn got through a lot of work. "Scotty" Joyce made but one miskick, his display otherwise being absolutely perfect. His tackling was surer and his kicking truer than ever previously this season. As for Morris, the only fault that could be urged against him was that he made no effort to stop the shot from which Newcastle got their "one ewe lamb." It is all right appealing for offside, but in future, George, try and stop the ball going into the net. Morris had not so much work as Kinnear, but he effected some clinking saves.

NEWCASTLE

were strangers to Stanley, or nearly so, therefore "we took them in," in obedience to the Scriptural injunction. "Oh, what a surprise," was the song of the vanquished heroes as they sped homewards at eventide. The visitors had their strongest team in the field, and played worthy of their reputation. Kinnear did a lot of work between the posts, and was in no way to blame for the defeat. Warburton, the left back, was as cool as the proverbial cucumber, and on the whole proved superior to his colleague, whose kicking was not always reliable. Of the Newcastle vanguard, Lennox was undoubtedly the cleverest, he and Milne giving the Stanley halves and backs some merry runs. Hume was rather faulty in centre; and Lennox, though very sharp, missed at least two easy chances to score. Gillespy and Bartle scarcely got enough work on the left wing. Carr, the left winger, was the best of the Newcastle half-back line.

A BIG SCORE FOR THE EXILES.

The cup tie at Leadgate on Saturday between the Exiles and their visitors from Howden-le-Wear was a one-sided affair. A strong wind which blew from one end of the field to the other had the effect of keeping the game confined almost entirely to one end. The visitors first had the advantage of this, but failed to make use of it. They kept their opponents on the defensive for the greater portion of the first half, and Callaghan very often had some dangerous shots to negotiate. The half-time interval was sounded with the score standing at nothing each. When the teams crossed over it was soon evident that the Exiles would have things pretty much their own way. Nor was this prediction belied, for immediately on resuming, they bore down on their opponents, and although the home men were some time in finding their way to the goal, towards the close the ball never seemed to be out of the net. The score—eight goals to nil—is alone indicative of the decisive nature of the victory. It would be impossible to single out from the home front one or any names for special mention. All of them played a splendid game; the halves gave them every support, while the backs and goal-keeper were also in their best form.

DIPTON AGAIN NO. 2.

The Wanderers paid a visit to Bill Quay on Saturday, to fulfil a Tyneside League fixture, being greatly weakened by the absence of Bobby Coates, their well-known full back, who was injured in the Moor Pit a few days prior to the game. The homesters started strongly, and soon drew first blood, but subsequently play was very even, both teams struggling hard, and being apparently of equal merit. One to nil was the score at the interval, but in the final period, Bill Quay added two more goals, and thus won easily by three goals to nil. It is evident by the result that the evil days of the Dipton Club are not yet ended, and their position on the League table will certainly never be so high as was confidently expected when the season started. Ah, well, every dog has his day, and Dipton apparently have had their's. 'Tis true, 'tis pity, and pity 'tis 'tis true.

STANLEY RUGBYITES IN FORM.

Shield Row Rovers received a visit, on Saturday, from the representatives of ancient Chester-le-Street, and the youngsters "took it out" of the Ancients to the somewhat heavy tune of 20 points to nil. Charley Benson was in rare form for the winners, and three tries were credited to him, whilst "Dot" Benson also crossed the Chester line once. Deverlieze dropped a fine goal for the Rovers. The match was of a one-sided nature throughout, the visitors being obviously outmatched at all points of the game. By the way, Shield Row have secured a very powerful recruit in the person of the ex-county player, Copley, late of Tudhoe. I understand that Copley has played for the North of England against the South, so he ought to prove of great service to the local team. Charley Benson, the local skipper, has been seriously indisposed since Saturday's game. I trust he will effect a speedy recovery.

TOW LAW V. ST. AUGUSTINE'S.

The only Northern League fixture decided on Saturday was that between Tow Law and Darlington St. Augustine's, the result being a draw of one goal each. Tow Law again had the assistance of Allison between the uprights; whilst Macintosh, of Sunderland repute, did duty as centre forward, and the grand old veteran, "Tommy" Waites, reappeared in the ranks. The game was played on the Chesnut Grove enclosure at Darlington, and it was largely due to the superb defence of Allison, Wilson, and Joe Temperley that the sinners from the hill top were able to retire on terms of equality. The home forwards romped round the visiting halves time and time again, only to find the backs blocking their further progress. Gask was the smartest of the Tow Law forwards, Macintosh being a complete frost in the centre.

THE MICKLEY CLUB

had the assistance of Lown, the Hobson crack left-winger, in the cup-tie v. Workington, on the latter's ground, on Saturday last. Mickley played a surprisingly good game, and won by two goals to none. Lown showed up well, and the Mickley executive were very pleased with his display.

AN EXCITING FINISH AT PELTON.

Saturday's game between Pelton Fell and Woodside was full of "go" and excitement, and the 1,000 spectators who lined the ropes were quite satisfied at the result of the game. For the home men, Lawton in goal gave a fair exhibition, and had no chance with the shot that passed him. Usher was not very safe at back, and his partner, Hedley, was not up to his regular form. The halves were the best part of the team, Laverick being a host in himself. His kicking and tackling were superb, and like Nesbitt his shooting proved of great value to the home men. Nesbitt and Meechan were also in good form, the former working like a nigger. The forwards were not equal to the Woodside set, Dobson and Laverick being the pick of the quintette. The former is only a second team lad, but has a better style of playing than any of the other forwards.

WOODSIDE

are running Ouston close for premier honours, and I think that should Ouston be beaten in the League, their victors will be the Woodside eleven. The passing of the forwards was on Saturday very useful, and, together with their sprinting powers, gave the Pelton defenders a warm time of it. They were beaten, but not disgraced. Their custodian only performed moderately, whilst their supporters stated that their backs were a little "shaky." The halves, like the Pelton trio, were also good, Banks and Connolly shining prominently. McGowan was the best forward on the field, his passing and shooting being good. Rogan, Parkings, Simpson, and Robinson also played well. Woodside will give the majority of the League clubs a fright, and I hear they intend applying for admission into the Wearside League next season. Whether this is true or not I cannot say, but they are good enough for that League.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE VICTORIOUS.

Shotley Rovers seem to have the Derwent Valley League well in their hands, adding two more points to their credit on Saturday. Consett Park were their opponents. Scott, the Shotley goalkeeper, played well between the sticks, saving a few of their marvellous shots. Robinson played well as a back, the same with Oliver, both of them doing their share. The halves were strong, Hobday being the pick. The forwards also played a good game, with the exception of Taylor, who was hardly seen on the ball during the second half. Watson and Thompson played a capital game on the right wing, whilst Ned Watson made some dashing runs in scoring his three goals for the visitors.

FOR THE LOSERS,

Jones played a magnificent game, he having some hard work to keep the visitors at bay during the second half. They have a splendid pair of backs in Ellwood and Frosdick, the former always sending out in trying to save. Their halves are moderate, Cooke being the pick. The forwards need not be mentioned, as all of them did their duty.

WARDLEY DEFEATED.

Although Wardley only brought ten players with them, they were plenty for Allendale to manage. The homesters had all the play, but were very erratic in their shooting, when in front of goal. Thompson Walton was again an absentee from the Park ranks, whilst Truman was also off the team. The spectators did not come in such numbers as on previous Saturdays. This was the second occasion on which the teams have met this season, the former meeting resulting in a win for Wardley by 4 goals to two.

THE HOMESTERS

played very wildly, and had they gauged their shooting a little more, would have been the means of a few more goals. Lynop, in goal, was very safe, and stopped some very hot shots, which often seemed like scoring. The backs played well together, Morton Hedley shining prominently. The halves played a defensive, and resolute game. The right wing was rather unsteady in shooting. Landells played his first game in the centre, for the Park, Houston being unable to play. Gillender, on the left, made some speedy runs, and often troubled Aiston, but his partner Robinson was completely off colour.

THE WARDLEY TEAM

had the misfortune to play only ten men. They have a very good combination of forwards, and are "dead shots" at the goal. Aiston performed creditably between the sticks, but he certainly did wrong in drawing back into the goal with the ball in his hands. But for this Allendale would not have had their second goal recorded. The back division was sound, and defended well in time of need. The halves were rather tame in their kicking and tackling. The forwards combined well, passing judiciously, which often enabled them to reach the home citadel.

THE REFEREE.

The referee, Mr Halliday, Newcastle, performed his duties to the satisfaction of everyone present, and no fault could be found with any of his decisions.

DERWENTWATER.

FOOTBALL.

ENGLISH AMATEUR CUP.

AN EASY WIN FOR THE EXILES.

EIGHT GOALS SCORED IN SECOND HALF OF GAME.

The Leadgate Exiles met Howden-le-Wear on their ground at Leadgate, on Saturday. There was a pretty large attendance of spectators. The teams faced up as follows:—

EXILES.		HOWDEN-LE-WEAR.
Callaghan	Goal	Middleton
J. Daly	Right back	Carlin
W. McGee	Left back	Norwood
Monaghan	Right half	Whitton
T. Toole	Centre	Roberts
J. Haggan	Left half	Brothers
J. McGee	Right outside	French
Grant	Right inside	Hird
Doyle	Centre	J. Clarke
Brannen	Left inside	Hepburn
Haley	Left outside	Robinson

Referee: Mr Natlass.

Howden winning the toss, elected to play in the direction of the entrance gate. A stiff wind was blowing towards this part of the field, and it had the effect of keeping the venue pretty much at one end. Doyle got nicely on the track, but his effort was nullified, and Clarke on making another attempt, was nicely pulled up by W. McGee. The sturdy rights of the Exiles next broke away, and seemed to be able to carry all before them, when

BROTHERS TIMEOUSLY ARRESTED

further progress, and kicked down the field. The home men soon, however, returned, and a corner was gained by them. Grant centred well, but the visitors' defence managed to keep their citadel intact, and play was soon transferred to the other end. Nothing resulted, here, however, and some exciting play followed in the Howden goal. A strong scrimmage was ended by Brannen putting narrowly past. A foul against Doyle for hands relieved the visitors considerably, and the front rank succeeded by a bit of neat passing in working the ball to within a few yards of Callaghan's charge. The shooting of the visitors was very erratic, and owing to this more than one good chance was thrown away. Midfield play followed, after which, Doyle, by a piece of good play, succeeded in getting well down the field. He certainly looked like scoring, when he was

ROBBED BY FRENCH,

and play was once more transferred to the home quarters. Monaghan stemmed the progress of the visitors' front rank just in the nick of time. For a few minutes the game was entirely confined to the Exiles' end, but Daly and McGee were equal to every occasion. The play of the home defence at this time was really excellent, and but for their exertions,

THE VISITORS MUST HAVE SCORED.

J. McGee had a fine run up the field, but his efforts were rendered unavailing by Carlin, who tackled well and returned with a long kick. Hird sent in a hot shot which Callaghan negotiated finely. Toward the first half the home custodian had a few sharp shots to contend with, but he succeeded in preventing his opponents lowering the Exiles' standard. The whistle sounded with the score standing—

Exiles	Nil
Howden	Nil

On resuming, it was soon evident that, with the wind in their favour, the Exiles had the best of chances to win. The home men at once made a vigorous assault upon Middleton's keep, a perfect fusilade of shots being poured in from all sides. To score right away seemed to be a matter of no little difficulty, and one or two corners followed in rapid succession. Brannen centred finely, and Middleton was called upon to fist out. The Exiles continued to keep up the pressure, and at last

DOYLE PUT THROUGH THE FIRST GOAL.

The home lefts continued to put in a great deal of good work, and Doyle again was the scorer of No. 2. The visitors tried to get away, but in most cases they were not allowed to go further than midfield. Grant had a fine run all to himself, and one of the opposing backs was compelled to concede a corner. This, however, did not give any immediate advantage to the home team. Shortly after this the Exiles, who were now playing a determined game, obtained a couple of corners, but these were not turned to account. McGee put in a stinging shot, and off this

GRANT SCORED THE THIRD GOAL.

Haley immediately after this rushed through a fourth goal. Grant had a good chance, but he was declared off-side; and Doyle compensated for this adverse decision of the referee by scoring the fifth goal. Up to this time the visitors had been kept entirely on the defensive, but now they managed to break away nicely. Their stay at the other end, however, was only very brief, and the Exiles front returning, with a piece of good combined play, Haggan passed to Grant, who scored the sixth goal. The remainder of the game was entirely confined to the visitors' territory, and two more goals were added, one by Grant, the other by Doyle. The final result was:

EXILES	8 goals
HOWDEN	Nil

DERWENT VALLEY LEAGUE.

CONSETT PARK v. SHOTLEY BRIDGE ROVERS.

[By "The Derwent Lad."]

These teams met on the Park ground, under the auspices of the above League, and before a fair attendance of spectators. The teams were as follows:—

SHOTLEY		CONSETT
Scott	Goal	Jones
Robinson	Right back	Ellwood
Oliver	Left back	Frosdick
Winter	Right half	Carr
Hobday	Centre half	Cooke
Raisbeck	Left half	Corruthers
R. Watson	Right outside	Harker
Thompson	Right inside	Rowe
Nixon	Centre	Young
Taylor	Left inside	Bowen
E. Watson	Left outside	Sisterson

Referee: Mr A. Fletcher, Swalwell.

Shotley won the toss, and elected to play against the wind. Young started the leather for the homesters, and immediately made a rush to their opponents territory, but Robinson saved, the ball going in touch. From the throw-in, the home forwards again visited the high end, but Oliver relieved with a long kick. Bowen and Sisterson now raced away, but a foul to them spoiled an opening. The Rovers now managed to secure, and run down, but the ball was sent past. Again the homesters got up, but were penalised for a foul for charging behind. Oliver put well down to the goal mouth, and after a short scrimmage,

NED WATSON MANAGED TO SCORE

for the visitors. Immediately after the restart, the home men got down, and hovered around the bottom goal for some time, but Nixon headed out amid loud cheers. Taylor took the ball past the centre line, but Rowe sent out into touch. Watson afterwards got possession, and took the ball well down the field, and shot for goal, hitting the bars, and bouncing into touch. After the throw-in, some good head work by the visitors was witnessed, but Thompson was robbed, and the home team again impeded the progress of the visitors. Raisbeck now received and ran down, but Frosdick returned. Another foul against the home team was nearly the cause of their downfall, the ball just missing the bar. The Park now got up, but the leather was returned, Nixon sending by. Time after time the Rovers were well down, but Ellwood always repelled them. Hobday received, and shot, but the goalkeeper fisted away. Hobday again received, and when near the goal-mouth, passed across to Ned Watson, and on Jones rushing out to save, the former player

SENT THROUGH THE SECOND GOAL

which equalised their score. The homesters now rushed up, but Robinson cleared with little difficulty. The Park then put the ball in touch, and Watson receiving, tried to head through, a corner being the result. The home forwards now came away in a body, and a bit of nice play was witnessed by Corruthers tricking a few of the opposing front ranks, but on reaching the backs, was pulled up by Oliver, who sent back with a huge kick. Cooke afterwards took possession, and sent up towards the goal-mouth, but Scott sent over to Winter, this player making a dashing run to their opponents' goal, but Jones fisted out, and Ned Watson taking possession,

SCORED THE THIRD GOAL

for the visitors. From the kick, the visitors were fouled, but play still continued, and Hobday, who sent over to Taylor, put right in the goalmouth, but Jones fisted well out. Play afterwards became very even, when the whistle blew for half-time, with the score:—

Shotley	3 goals
Consett	Nil

After a short interval, Nixon kicked off, and Watson getting hold of the ball, raced away with Raisbeck, but the latter player lost control of the ball. From a throw-in, the visitors broke away, but Hobday was in waiting, and sent into touch after trying to return, and shortly after, the homesters were awarded with a goal, Oliver, one of the visitors backs,

ACCIDENTALLY SENDING THROUGH

in trying to save. This aroused the Rovers, who played with increased vigour, and made matters hot for Jones, but he was true to his charge, and nothing serious resulted. Again the home territory was visited, but Ellwood played a good defensive game. Two corners resulted in succession, but on neither occasion could the Park score, the back division of the visitors being excellent. Long kicking was tried but this had no effect. Watson was now conspicuous for a good run down the field, but was dispossessed by Cooke. The homesters then had an opportunity, and got down, but Rowe missed his kick, and Robinson cleared. The Park again got up, and within six yards off the goal-mouth, a penalty was given to the visitors. This was entrusted to Winter, who banged well up to the goal, but Jones managed to keep them from scoring. Darkness was now setting in, when the whistle was sounded with the final score:—

SHOTLEY BRIDGE ROVERS	3 goals
CONSETT PARK	1 goal

TYNESIDE LEAGUE.

ALLENDALE PARK v. WARDLEY BLUE STAR.

[By "Parkite."]

These teams played their return at Medomsley. The weather was fine, but there was only a moderate attendance of spectators. The home team were without their captain, T. Walton, and Truman, but otherwise had a strong eleven. The visitors could only muster ten players. Punctual to time, the following players lined up:

WARDLEY.		ALLENDALE.
Aiston	Goal	E. Lynop
Purvis	Right back	M. Hedley
College	Left back	M. Watson
Simpson	Right half	T. Forster
Harker	Centre half	J. Bowes
Hall	Left half	M. Hunter
Stuart	Right outside	Jos. Walton
Liddle	Right inside	Jno. Walton
Houldsworth	Centre	Landells
Baty	Left inside	Robinson
——	Left outside	Gillender

Referee, Mr Halliday, Newcastle.

The visitors named the spin of the coin correctly and the Park were placed facing the sun. Houldsworth kicked off, and a spell of mid-field play ensued. The visitors' forwards were often dangerous, Stuart playing a brilliant game, and Hunter was kept busy in nullifying his efforts. Bowes at length received, and threading his way between his opponents, placed nicely for Robinson, who missed a lovely chance. The home forwards hereabouts were very erratic, and their shooting was execrable. Not so the visitors, however, who shot true and often. Houldsworth eluded Forster and Hedley, and, with a lightning shot,

BEAT LYNOP,

who was troubled with the dazzling sun. This reverse seemed to dishearten the home team, and Hedley and Walton were kept busy defending. Responding to the shouts of their supporters, the home team made it hot for Aiston and the backs, but could not pierce the strong defence, and at half-time the score stood:

Wardley	1 goal
Allendale	Nil

Landells started, and the home forwards soon made it known that they meant business, Aiston saving splendid shots from Forster and Hunter. A lot of time was wasted through the visitors' backs kicking out at every opportunity. Shots were rained in on Aiston and his backs, and at length

JOHN WALTON SCORED,

Aiston having no possible chance. Some tricky play was shown by Landells, who had taken to his new position at centre forward and Aiston was lucky to save his final kick. Jos. Walton played strongly, but could not centre, several good chances being thrown away. The visitors were fairly hemmed in, and Stuart and Holdsworth frequently broke away, but they received no support. Lynop saved two stinging shots from Stuart, but the general run of play was in the visitors' goalmouth, where Robinson sent in a lightning shot, which

AISTON IN CLEARING, CARRIED THROUGH,

giving the Park the lead. From the kick-off, the Wardley forwards attacked persistently, and Lynop and his backs had a warm time in staving off further danger. Gillender, however, received, and racing away, was only stopped through Purvis giving a corner, and nearly kicking through his own goal. Landells sent in, but Aiston kicked away, the ball going into touch. From the throw-in, Bowes received, and returning to Forster, the latter only missed by inches. The final tootle from the referee's whistle found the score standing as under:—

ALLENDALE PARK	2 goals
WARDLEY	1 goal

NORTH-WEST DURHAM LEAGUE.

"CONSETT CHRONICLE" CUP COMPETITION.

ANNFIELD PLAIN N.E.R. v. BLACKHILL CELTIC.

This match was played on the ground of the former. The teams lined up as follows:—

N.E.R.		CELTIC
Wiley	Goal	Johnson
Strong	Right back	Robinson
White	Left back	Moss
Riddle	Right half	Harris
Hewitt	Centre half	Richards
Stewart	Left half	Muldoon
E Rutherford	Right outside	Quinn
K Rutherford	Right inside	Coyle
Riley	Centre	Spence
Reay	Left inside	Stokel
Cox	Left outside	Fairley

The Celtic won the toss, and Riley set the ball in motion for N.E.R. Mid-field play followed, Hewitt and Strong playing well for the N.E.R., and Robinson and Harris for the Celtic. The latter made a good run, but White kicked out. From the throw-in, Riddle passed to Rutherford, and that player and Riley made a good run the whole length of the field, Riley missing by inches. A foul relieved the Celtics. Quinn and Coyle raced up the field, the former putting in a good shot, and Wiley making a grand save. The N.E.R. greatly delighted their supporters by the way in which they played against the wind. The Celtic forwards took up the running, and Harris scored with a fast shot, Wiley having no chance. The Celtic forwards were now playing well, and scored another goal. Riley set the ball in motion, and shortly afterwards the whistle sounded half-time, with the score:—

Blackhill Celtic	2 goals
N.E.R.	Nil

The Celtics kicked off, the N.E.R. taking up the running. Robinson played a grand defence for the visitors. Reay missed a beautiful centre by Rutherford. The Celtic then pressed, and White repulsed. Hewitt passed to Rutherford, and he ran along the wing, centring well. Riley put the first goal through for the N.E.R. The last ten minutes of the game was fought out in the Celtic half, their defence being exceedingly good. When the whistle sounded, the score stood:—

CELTIC	2 goals
N.E.R.	1 goal

NORTHERN ALLIANCE.

STANLEY v. UNITED A.

[By "Crossbar."]

The match of the season as far as Stanley is concerned, came off on Saturday on Oakey's Oval, when the home boys assembled to face the famous Newcastle United A team. Prior to Saturday, Stanley had played five Alliance games which had been productive of five points to the Lilies; whilst their opponents stood at the top of the tree with 16 points for nine games, a most brilliant record. The weather was extremely favourable, both for the players and the onlookers; and the ground, though somewhat soft, was not in bad condition. The teams lined up in the following order:—

NEWCASTLE.		STANLEY.
Kinnear	Goal	G. Morris
Lockey	Right back	M. Joyce
Warburton	Left back	J. McKever
Carr (2)	Right half	T. Fish
Forster	Centre half	W. Dover
Carr (1)	Left half	J. Milburn
Lennox	Right outside	C. Crute
Milne	Right inside	Watson
Hume	Centre	S. Wood
Castle	Left inside	J. Howe
Gillespie	Left outside	J. Masterman

Referee, Mr Scott, of Sunderland.

With his usual ill-luck, Skipper Milburn lost the toss, and the visitors started down the hill with a bracing breeze at their back. The Cityites at once got down, but were bravely checked by the home halves, and after a hot struggle in which Joyce, Fish, and Dover worked like Trojans for the Lilies, Howe and Masterman earned well-deserved applause by a fine run along the left. Crute made one fine burst away, but Lockey stopped his advances, only for Dover to again send the sphere into the visiting quarters with

A FLYING PUNT.

Aided by the breeze the visitors again assaulted, but a strong kick by the sturdy "Scotty" again gave the visitors defensive business. Masterman raced at flying speed past the visiting backs, and centred brilliantly, only for Warburton to land the ball back to the Stanley territory. Fighting gallantly against heavy odds, the homesters fairly held their own for a time, but at length Lennox of first team fame eluded Milburn and McKever, and shot for home; Hume, however, assisting the ball just outside the uprights. Fine passing between Masterman, Howe, and Sam Wood endangered

THE NEWCASTLE CITADEL,

and Kinnear had to rush out to save. The visitors responded with a superb exhibition of passing, and Gillespie shooting in, Hume made a rush for Morris. The home custodian, however, knew his business well, and in the fight with Hume he emerged with flying colours, a magnificent save, which was applauded from all quarters of the field. A corner followed to Newcastle, but nothing resulted, and subsequently Stanley were compelled to act on the defensive. Fish, Dover, and Masterman were conspicuous for their sturdy efforts, but eventually the "canny team" representatives got to the goal, and Hume

GRAZED THE UPRIGHT

with a hot shot. Stanley rallied gallantly, and Wood had an opening, but mulled badly. Joyce placed a free kick excellently, and Masterman centred in beautiful fashion. Wood took the ball, and shot for the bull's eye, but Warburton's head came in the road, and thereafter Carr had to kick out to save. Stanley maintained the upper hand, though playing uphill against the wind, and Crute forced a corner amidst applause. Crute centred well, and Wood shot in, but the visitors relieved, and play being carried to the home quarters,

LENNOX SCORED,

the home goalkeeper appealing for off-side, and making no effort to save. The Referee rightly allowed the goal. A portion of the spectators indulged in uncomplimentary references to the Referee at this point. Re-starting, the visitors pressed, and Hume sent in a terrific high shot, which Morris fisted over the cross-bar. The subsequent corner was cleared, but a second was allowed just later through a miss by McKever. Joyce stopped Gillespie when dangerous, but Bartie retaliated by a fine shot, which struck the cross-bar. Milne met it on the rebound, and landed the ball miles above the cross-bar, to the delight of the onlookers. Dover outwitted Bartie in a merry set to, and pushed the ball forward, where the Lilies claimed a corner, but the Referee said "No." Watson fouled Hume, but the ensuing free kick came to nothing, and half-time arrived with the score—

Newcastle	1 goal
Stanley	Nil

Re-starting, the north men, by smart passing, took the ball straight to the home goal, when Morris cooly caught it, and threw well out, amid cheers. Howe called upon the visiting custodian in response, but Kinnear was at home, and just later, he checked a rasping shot from Jimmy Masterman. Lennox raced in grand sprinting form to the home quarters, but Joyce came to the rescue. The "braw Scotch hinnie" mulled badly within a few minutes, and Lennox, getting clean past the backs, shot in, from close quarters,

A MAGNIFICENT SHOT,

which Morris fisted by the posts in wonderful fashion, amid a roar of applause. After an incursion to the Newcastle quarters, Lennox again got away, and shot in brilliantly from the right wing, when Morris again saved well, at the expense of a corner. Masterman relieved the pressure on the home goal, and Kinnear threw out a slow shot from Ward, after which another corner fell to the Tynesiders. Masterman centred neatly to Crute, but Charley mulled a fine opportunity. Joyce then banged in a clinking long shot, and Howe made a commendable effort to complete the business, but could not quite succeed. Crute missed the visiting goal by a few inches, and then a fierce rush on the home goal was defeated by Tommy Fish in the nick of time. Watson got a clean opening, and passed accurately to Jimmy Howe, who eluded Lockey, and sent in

THE BEST SHOT

of the game, which fairly baffled Kinnear, and equalised, amidst the loudest cheering ever heard on the Oakey's ground. Re-starting, amid intense excitement, the Whites attacked furiously, and Kinnear just saved from Watson, a regular battle royal ensuing for the next five minutes in the heart of the visiting goal. Charley Crute missed a fine chance by kicking too weakly, and Kinnear, getting the ball away, a rush was made to the nick end, when Morris punted away. Stanley kept up the attack, and

BILLY DOVER

shot through a daisy-cutter, which Kennedy, who was busy watching Watson, allowed to go into the net. Re-starting, Gillespie ran down, but Joyce stopped his career by punting into the next field. Then the Whites attacked, and Kinnear fisted out splendidly, with Crute almost on him. Lennox broke away for the visitors, but finished by shooting wide, and the Newcastle boys further missed a grand chance from a free kick within twelve yards of the Stanley goal. The game continued to be fought at a terrific rate, each team fighting desperately hard, but no further scoring took place, and the game ended as follows:—

STANLEY	2 goals
NEWCASTLE	1 goal

EDMONDSLEY JUNIOR LEAGUE.

SOUTH MOOR ALBIONS v. GILESGATE MOOR.

These teams met at South Moor before a large gathering of spectators. The Albions were without Handy, but they found a good substitute in Pyke, who partnered Pearson at back, Becket going to centre half. The teams were:—

ALBIONS.		GILESGATE.
Walker	Goal	Glover
Pearson	Right back	Glendenning
Pyke	Left back	Fagan
Morton	Right half	Cunningham
Becket	Centre half	Macpherson
Salvage	Left half	King
Renfrey	Right outside	Bainbridge
Fletcher	Right inside	Morgan
Garnett	Centre	Moven
Robson	Left inside	Proud
Smalles	Left outside	Carr

Referee, Mr J. Beneliff, Edmondsley.

Walker won the toss, and kicked down the hill with wind and sun at his back. Moven set the ball in motion, and the home team ran down, Fagan heading out, and Becket missed the mark. The Albions pressed, and Garnett shot. Glover kicked out, and Fletcher missed from easy range. From the goal-kick, the visitors ran up, Pyke putting into touch. Bainbridge and Morgan ran up the right, and looked like scoring, but Morton saved in the nick of time. Renfrey missed with a poor shot, but immediately later sent in a stinger, Glover giving a corner to save. Renfrey placed well, and Glendenning headed out. Garnett put through, but offside spoiled the point. The Albions got two corners in succession, but nothing resulted. Morton sent just a foot wide, Renfrey turning a somersault in trying to reach the ball. Robson put in a long one, and Glendenning gave a corner. Smalles placed splendidly, and Garnett headed across the goal. Renfrey knocked it through with his hand; no goal resulting. The Albions kept their opponents hemmed in, Glendenning giving another corner. Renfrey placed well, and Fletcher sent in, Fagan heading away. Carr made a good run up the left, but Pearson checked him and kicked down the field. Smalles passed into the centre, and Garnett shot through. Restarting, Renfrey received a splendid pass from Fletcher, and scored a splendid goal from the corner flag. The Albions ran down, and Renfrey sent in a shot, Smalles caught the rebound, and banged in along the ground, but Glover cleared, giving a corner to save. Morton scored with a long shot, and from the restart, the Albions ran down. King wilfully handled the ball in his own goalmouth, and the dreaded penalty was given. Pearson took the kick, and placed into the net, Glover never trying to save. The Albions ran down, and Renfrey missed with only the goalkeeper to beat. The Albions again attacked, and Fletcher scored with a soft shot. Moven ran up, and passed to Morgan, but he was slow, and lost to Salvage, who ran down and sent in a long shot. Glover was rushed through before the ball was in, but the referee did not see it, and allowed a goal, half-time arriving with the score:—

South Moor	6 goals
Gilesgate Moor	Nil

On resuming, the visitors attacked, and Pearson sent into touch. Morgan ran down, and Pyke gave a corner, but nothing resulted. The Albions found Glendenning a stubborn block, but Garnett ultimately put through, but was ruled offside. Becket headed to Garnett, who ran half the length of the field, and missed with only the goalkeeper to beat. Morgan was injured, and the visitors continued with only ten men. The Albions ran up, and Garnett spoiled another chance by getting offside. Morgan reappeared, and made a good run down the field, and scored a goal for the visitors, giving Walker no chance. The Albions ran up, and Renfrey scored again. Darkness set in, so that it was hard to tell the players. Smalles then scored, and the whistle sounding, a slow game ended:—

SOUTH MOOR	8 goals
GILESGATE MOOR	1 goal

CHESTER-LE-STREET SENIOR LEAGUE.

PELTON FELL v WOODSIDE ROVERS.

[By "the Bradley Boy."]

These teams met at Pelton under the auspices of the above League, over 1,000 spectators lining the ropes. The Fell team was somewhat disorganised, whilst the visitors were also minus several of their regular players. Punctual to time, the teams took the field as follows:—

PELTON		ROVERS
Lawton	Goal	Mason
G Usher	Right back	Jackson
Hedley	Left back	Alcroft
Meechan	Right half	Connolly
Nesbitt	Centre half	Wilson
Laverick	Left half	Banks
Gordon	Right outside	Simpson
Dobson	Right inside	Rogan
Bryson	Centre	Robinson
Fennick	Left inside	McGowan
Dodds	Left outside	Parkings

Referee, Mr Robson, Fatfield.

Pelton won the toss and elected to play up the hill, with the sun and wind in their faces. Robinson started the ball, and McGowan aroused applause in the first minute by some sterling play. Neddy Laverick forced him to retreat, and after some tusseling on the pit touch line, the Woodside lads were granted a free kick. This was well placed, but Hedley offered a stubborn resistance, and the attack was beaten off at the expense of an abortive corner. Tricky play by Fenwick and Dodds changed the aspect of the game, and for the next few minutes, the Woodside half was the scene of hostilities. Bryson despatched a swift hard shot for the net, but

MASON INTERVENED,

and Woodside made another spirited attack on the Pelton stronghold. Parkings was carrying all things before him, when Nesbitt the Pelton giant, rushed in and despoiled him amid loud and well-earned applause. A mistake by one of the visitors halves let in Dodds, who struck the side of the net with one of his wellknown drives. The goal kick relieved, and play hovered in the home goal mouth, Wilson banged in hotly from close quarters the ball striking the referee's cranium and rebounding.

"HARD LINES"

cried one of the Woodside supporters, which was followed by a roar of laughter. Robson made rings round a trio of opponents, and banged in a splendid shot from a difficult position. Mason succeeded in repelling the attack, and mainly to the exertions of Fenwick, the globe travelled to the Woodside half. Alcroft miskicked, but Jackson came to the rescue, and saved by kicking over the barriers. A similar mistake on the part of Hedley let in Rogan, who sent in a stinging shot, which Lawton saved in an easy-going fashion. Simpson caught the ball on the rebound, and after eluding Hedley, drove in a cross shot, Lawton saving rather luckily, amid cheers. The visitors still kept up the pressure, and had the better of matters, Simpson shining conspicuously on the right. He again eluded Hedley, but the latter recovered himself, dispossessed the Woodside forward, and returned the ball to midfield. Even play followed, but Connolly ultimately broke away, and Lawton had again to act on the defensive. He

SAVED SPLENDIDLY,

and Gordon was pulled up for off-side when in a favourable position. The free kick was placed right into the goalmouth, Nesbitt returning in splendid fashion. Fenwick got away, and gave to Dobson, who grazed the upright with a clinking shot. Nesbitt worked like a nigger, but despite his efforts, the home goal was again in danger. Banks sent high over the bar, and Wilson followed his example a minute later. A foul granted a short respite to the Pelton lads. Fenwick and Dodds, by fine passing, again assailed the Woodside fortress, Jackson having to indulge in kicking out tactics. Wilson sent in a high shot at the other end, which G. Usher rejected. Nothing could keep the visitors' forwards in check, and Nesbitt judiciously gave a corner to defeat an effort by McGowan. This was badly placed, and

BRYSON WAS INSTRUMENTAL

in removing operations to safer quarters. Being opposed by Alcroft, he transferred to Fenwick, who sent quickly across the goalmouth, but as none of the right wingers were up, a grand chance was lost. A foul improved the chances of the Pelton lads, who were, however, driven back, and after some tussling in the Woodside goalmouth,

McGOWAN SCORED.

Play was in favour of the visitors from the start, Rogan missing by several inches with a terrific shot. Lawton had to save twice in succession, and a fine passing movement by the Pelton front rank ended in Gordon shooting wide. End to end play followed, Simpson, McGowan, Connolly, and Rogan playing splendidly for the visitors. G. Usher saved from Parkings, and a corner had just been taken, when the referee piped his whistle for half-time, with the undermentioned score:—

Woodside	1 goal
Pelton	Nil

On resuming, play was taken to the Pelton goalmouth, where Usher had to kick out to save from McGowan. The throw-in enabled Gordon to break away, and centred, Jackson clearing in splendid style. The leather travelled over the centre line once more, and Nesbitt was applauded for some resolute tackling. He succeeded in securing the ball, and drove in a lofty shot from half way. Gordon, Fenwick, and Bryson were quickly upon Mason, and the ball went through. Mr Robson, however, very properly disallowed the point, and the visitors, encouraged by their supporters, made another raid on the Pelton goal. Hedley relieved, and Dodds tricked Jackson, but the latter fouled his antagonist, and a penalty kick was allowed. Fenwick made no mistake, and the

SCORE WAS EQUALISED,

amid deafening cheers. Play became exciting, both elevens doing their utmost to obtain the winning point. Rogan got clean away, and forced a corner, the kick being well taken by Parkings. Nesbitt relieved and tried to obtain a goal, his shot striking the top of the net. Banks and Dodds also essayed shots, none of which proved fruitful. Parkings elicited applause by sprinting right into the home goalmouth. He, however, stuck to the ball too long, and was robbed by Usher. Pelton pressed and had the best of matters, Mason having to come out of goal to save from Fenwick. Connolly helped the leather up the field, and Usher had to adopt kicking out tactics. Some tussling ensued in mid-field, after which Fenwick grazed the crossbar with a splendid shot. A corner was next granted to Pelton, and after Gordon had struck the crossbar,

DOBSON SHOT THROUGH,

but the point was disallowed for off-side, much to the disappointment of the Pelton supporters. Play became fast and exciting, and Laverick sent in a grounder, which Jackson ran to meet. He failed and the ball ran over the line, and after consulting with the Pelton linesman, the referee allowed a corner. Nothing resulted, and McGowan got clean past the backs, and had only the custodian to beat. He, however, banged over the bar to the relief of the Pelton players and supporters. Give-and-take play followed, and two minutes off time,

PELTON SCORED,

amid intense excitement. Nothing resulting up to the whistle sounding when the score stood:—

PELTON	2 goals
WOODSIDE	1 goal

SOUTH MOOR VIOLETS v. SOUTH MOOR UNITED.

These teams met on the Violets' ground on Saturday. The United showed their superiority all through the game, and when the whistle blew time they came off easy victors by three goals to nil. Great credit is due to the victors, as they are just a new team, whilst the Violets are a team of long standing. Of the players, little can be said amiss. Suffice it to say that they all played a very good game.

CONSETT UNITED A v. NO. 1 EXCELSIOR.—Played on the ground of the latter, and resulted in a win for United by three goals to none.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3).

FOOTBALL.

(Continued from Page 2).

WALDRIDGE V. NEWBOTTLE.

This return fixture was played on the ground of the former, before a large muster of spectators. The teams at the call of time lined up as under:—

Waldridge		Newbottle
Tate	Goal	Spence
Potts	Right back	Fox
Batey	Left back	Lowery
Scott	Right half	Robson
King	Centre half	Cooke
Winter	Left half	Coyle
Charlton	Right outside	Scaife
Bennett	Right inside	Miller
Gawman	Centre	Cocklaw
Gardiner	Left outside	Inch
Frazer	Left inside	Walls

Referee: Mr R. Bland.

The homesters won the toss and elected to play down the slope against a strong breeze. Cocklaw set the ball in motion, and the homesters at once attacked, Fox clearing. The visiting left now broke away, but ran into touch. From the throw in, Waldridge again assumed the aggressive, Bennett shooting wide. Some grand play on the part of the visiting forwards now brought operations into the home goal, where Tate had to negotiate with a swift long shot, while Winter gave further relief. Gardiner and Frazer now carried the ball to the other end, where the former gave Spence a long shot to deal with. The visiting forwards again came away in rare style, but Potts was on the alert, and cleared at

A CRITICAL MOMENT.

Still the visitors were not to be denied, and were soon attacking, and Scaife just missed with a brilliant shot. From the goal kick the homesters once more attacked, but met with stubborn defence, Lowery clearing. Some grand play on the part of Scaife and Miller made matters pretty hot for Waldridge. Winter relieved by robbing Scaife when

ABOUT TO SHOOT,

by sending well down the field. Cocklaw was next conspicuous for a fine run, and finished off by giving to Inch, who put in a beauty, which Tate fisted out, and a moment later, Potts, when in the act of clearing,

PUT THROUGH HIS OWN GOAL,

thus scoring the first goal for Newbottle. After the re-start, Waldridge attacked vigorously, and Bennett gave Spence a weak shot to stop, only to be returned by Scott. Charlton put the final touch to it by striking the side of the net. Each side now settled to work, and Inch and Walls came away at a rare pace, the former centring well, while Cocklaw had no trouble in scoring a soft goal. The homesters now began to put a bit of spirit into their work, and Frazer and Gardiner centered well, but Gawman was absent, and missed a grand chance of scoring. Lowery sent well up the field, and the visitors were penalised when in a good position, but made amends for this by forcing Potts to concede a corner. Inch placed well, and Walls was responsible for No. 3. The homesters now began to realise their position, and by a splendid piece of combination, they put the visitors on the defensive, Spence stopping some good shots. The homesters were now penalised through Winter fouling Cooke, and the home backs were called upon to defend, Batey relieving with a long kick. Once more Frazer and Gardiner were seen romping away down the line, the latter putting in a good shot, which Spence had the greatest difficulty in stopping, and the "old horse" catching it on the rebound,

SCORED A BEAUTIFUL GOAL.

Waldridge were now playing a superior game to that of Newbottle, and had it not been for the grand saves by Spence, the homesters would have increased their score. Upon resumption the visitors broke away, but were repelled by King, who sent well down the field, and the visitors were penalised close in. "Pep" took the kick and sent into the net, but having never been played on its way was disallowed. Newbottle now got relief, and were next attacking, Batey conceding a corner. Scaife placed well, and Tate fisted away from a group of heads. The whistle now sounded for half-time, the score reading—

Newbottle	3 goals
Waldridge	1 goal

After having partaken of the usual refreshments, Gawman restarted, and the homesters soon found their way to the Newbottle goal, Fox saving just in time. Miller and Scaife now raced off, but Winter proved too many for them, and landed the ball in front of the visitors' goal, Spence saving from Frazer, while a moment later he just saved in time before being sprawling in the net. The homesters now kept up the form they had shown the latter part of the first half, and kept Newbottle on the defensive. The visiting wings made several attempts to get away, but Winter and Scott were unpassable, while King kept repulsing the efforts of the centre. Relief came to Newbottle by Gardiner shooting wide, but however the homesters were not to be denied, and Charlton was next responsible for a long shot which

GRAZED THE BAR.

Inch and Walls were first to get away, but Potts upset their calculations by sending up the field, only to be returned by Coyle, Tate having to clear from Miller. Newbottle now assumed the aggressive, but were kept at bay by Potts and Batey. However, a corner was forced, and Scaife again placing well, Tate made

A GRAND SAVE.

Gawman was now leading his forwards to their desired spot, when Charlton was fouled by Coyle. Potts took the kick, which was well taken, Charlton being pulled up for off-side when in a fine position. Each side now attacked in turn, Scaife and Miller being well cheered for a brilliant run which, however, came to nothing. The visiting halves, Robson, Coyle, and Cooke, were now playing a strong game, but the home halves soon spoiled the chances they gave to their forwards. Bennett now put in a good shot, but dallying too long, lost to Cooke, who gave to Scaife, this player sending high over the bar. Darkness now began to set in, and Newbottle commenced to play a strong game, Potts sending into touch to relieve. From the throw-in, Walls put in a daisy cutter, which Tate kicked out, but striking one of the home backs, rebounded into the net.

HARD LINES FOR WALDRIDGE.

The homesters now attacked, but could not score, and nothing more occurred till the whistle blew for time, the final reading:—

Newbottle	4 goals
Waldridge	1 goal

BIRTLEY JUNIORS v. CHESTER-LE-STREET RED ROSE.

A match was played at Birtley, between Birtley Juniors and Chester-le-Street Red Rose, before a fair muster of spectators. The home team were represented by Weatherspoon (goal), Allison and Mallebar (backs), Todd, Letch, and Weddle (half-backs), Watson, Forster, Edgar, Knox, and Brown (forwards). Edgar kicked off for the Juniors, and took the leather down the field, but was brought back by a good kick from Nicholson. The Juniors now pressed hard, but were brought to bay by Grey kicking out. Chester lads then had a look in, and their right wing ran up and had a futile try at goal. Chester kept up the pressure, and Mole scored No. 1 for them with an easy shot. This seemed to infuse life into the Juniors, when Brown, Todd, and Edgar, took the ball well down, from which a corner resulted, and proved fruitless. Watson next had a shot at goal, but missed by inches. Knox transferred the sphere to the other end, and after some exciting play, Watson equalised with a beauty. The visitors pressed hard, and Allison saved by a huge kick. The Juniors broke away, and shot after shot was rained in at the Chester citadel, but the defence was too strong for them. Armstrong, however, being a grand goalkeeper, kept them from scoring. The visitors' left had a run up the field, but were beaten by Forster, who was playing a good game. Allison and Forster brought off some grand saves, which resulted in forcing a corner for the Juniors, which, though placed well by Brown, proved futile. Edgar and Knox were playing well together, and both of them tried shots at goal, but were met by too strong a defence to do much harm. The visitors' left wing rushed away, and forced a corner, which was well placed, but proved fruitless. Knox and Edgar running down, forced two corners in succession, but the ball was sent behind. From a goal kick, Edgar received, and scored No. 2 for the Juniors with a beautiful shot. From the centre kick, the Chester lads ran up, but were checkmated by the defence of Allison and Forster. Weddle now shone conspicuously in a grand piece of play, and kept the ball well in the Chester territory. Watson and Letch now took up the running, each having a try, as had also Weddle, Mallabar, and nearly all the forwards, but the defence was too strong for them. The left wing of the visitors now ran up, but the ball was kicked into touch. Midfield play resulted, and a nice shot by Clarke equalised for the visitors. The pressure was now kept up, but Edgar and Knox, passing well, took down the ball, but Armstrong kept them back by a good kick. End-to-end and midfield play resulted, and Weddle, Todd, and Brown all had a try at goal, from which a corner resulted, but proved futile. A nice passing game between Watson, Edgar, Knox, and Brown, was witnessed, but from their grand effort nothing resulted. Half-time score:—

Birtley Juniors	2 goals
Chester-le-Street	2 goals

From the kick-off, Edgar and Knox ran down, but the effort came to nothing. Chester now pressed, but were relieved of the ball by Allison sending well down. Todd and Letch were conspicuous in a nice piece of passing between them. A corner fell to the visitors, which was sent behind. After the ball had been sent into touch, Birtley transferred the sphere, when Knox and Forster shone above all the rest in their effort to score. Brown received and passed to Forster, who was relieved of the ball by Nicholson. Mallabar and Weatherspoon effected some grand saves at the right moment. At this juncture, Watson was lamed, but it did not stop the game. Edgar received, but sent behind. Forster also had a try, and had hard lines in not scoring. Todd played well by helping Brown, who transferred to Edgar, who in turn sent on to Knox, and from him the ball was sent to Watson, the effort, however, proving fruitless. Both goals were now visited in turn, and Watson sent behind with a strong kick. Birtley were now pressing hard, and had hard lines in not scoring. Two corners fell to the Juniors, but the goalkeeping of Armstrong saved his goal from downfall. The Juniors pressed hard, and when the whistle sounded time up, the score stood:—

Chester-le-Street Red Rose	2 goals
Birtley Juniors	2 goals

CONSETT SHAMROCKS v. CONSETT SAXONS.

Played on the ground of the latter. The visitors won the toss, and elected to play with the wind. The Saxons put the ball in motion, but the visitors soon had it in the home territory. Piggins received, but the Shamrocks again pressed, and Dinning scored from a corner taken by Almond. From the centre kick, the Shamrocks' forwards came away with a combined run, and were soon pressing vigorously. Dinning headed through, scoring No. 2 for the Shamrocks. It was now evident that the Shamrocks were by far the better team, their kicking and tackling throwing their opponents completely in the shade. The ball was continually in the Saxons' goal, and it required all the efforts of the home team to keep the Shamrocks from scoring. After some very tricky work by Purvis, McCewn successfully eluded the backs, and scored the third goal for the Shamrocks. A few minutes only elapsed, when Bates shot for goal, and Lanagan missing his kick, the ball rolled through. The Saxons now had a look in, and were becoming dangerous, when Carthy relieved with a huge kick, and Quinn receiving put in a shot which went past. The Saxons again assailed, but were repulsed by the Shamrocks' backs, both Carthy and Welsh making a splendid defence. Boyle transferred play to the other side, and Cain put in a shot which grazed the crossbar. Half-time found the score—

Shamrocks	4 goals
Saxons	Nil

On re-starting, the Saxons pressed, but Welsh relieved, and the Shamrocks' forwards by a combined run, in which Cain figured prominently, forced a corner. The ball was sent into the goalmouth by Almond, and by the united efforts of McCewn and Dinning, it was eventually put through. Encouraged by their repeated success, the Shamrocks pressed, and Purvis beating Lanagan with a low shot, scored the sixth goal for the Shamrocks. The Saxons redoubled their efforts to score, but found the visitors' goal well nigh impregnable. Carthy again relieved the pressure, and Quinn getting possession, placed the ball in mid-field. Bates received, and after some tricky work passed to Dinning, who scored No. 7 for the Shamrocks. Midfield play followed, till Nugent getting possession raced down the field, but was pulled up by Boyle, who sent well up. Kirkup returned the ball into the Shamrocks' goalmouth, but Welsh relieved. Stafford returned, and the Saxons' forwards forced Carroll to save at the expense of a corner, which proved fruitless. From the goal kick, Quinn received, ran down the field, and was in the act of shooting when he was fouled by Piggins. Lanagan transferred play to the other end, and Piggins receiving, shot past. Play was in the Shamrocks' quarters, when the whistle sounded, leaving the score:—

Shamrocks	7 goals
Saxons	Nil

JOTTINGS.

Freddy Hodgson has good reason to brag about the Dipton Wednesday team. Playing against Annfield Plain last week, the Diptonians were a goal in the rear a quarter of an hour from time. In the final fifteen minutes they actually scored five goals, and emerged triumphant by seven to three.

Ben Johnson was almost despairing of victory against Tantobie, but his pets (Stanley Wednesday) managed to secure the verdict by three goals to two.

'Twas a rattling game, and the Lilies just managed to scrape home ahead.

My readers will be sorry to hear of the accident to Bobby Coates, the Dipton full-back, a report of which appears in another column.

Bobby is a genuine all round sports-man, and I hope that he will have a speedy recovery.

Annfield Plain Wednesday have unearthed a clever young player in Billy Wilson.

Billy Starford is anxious that the *Chronicle* readers should know that he has again started training. 'Tis on the old sweet plan; running two miles nightly with a pebble in his mouth.

Saturday's fixture between Annfield Plain and Blaydon was cancelled on account of the death of the sterling sportsman, John Willy Robson.

Stanley had a huge "gate" on Saturday, fully 3,000 spectators lining the ropes. The game was well worthy of the patronage bestowed on it.

Jimmy Howe is the finest goalkicker in North-West Durham. The shot which he bested Kennear with on Saturday quite put Johnny Campbell in the shade.

Dodger Ford was spectatoring at Stanley on Saturday.

Jimmy Masterman played a capital game against the United A. He was trickier than usual, and his speed enabled him to leave the Northmen "miles behind."

Another great improvement noticed in Jimmy's play, was the absence of all traces of timidity.

Sammy Wood was a trifle slow for centre forward, and was often left behind by his wings. He was, however, a thorough tryer.

Jacky Milburn seems evergreen. I quite thought that Lennox and Milne would make rings round the home Skipper, but he stuck to them as closely as a fly sticks to treacle.

Fish and Dover are two splendid half-backs. We expected great things from them, and were not disappointed on Saturday.

Another shining star for the Lilywhites was that slender "Scotty." He played the best game that he has done in the whole of his football career.

Lennox and Milne are a merry couple. They are as tricky as ghosts, but faulty in the goalmouth.

The United A team includes two "J. Carrs." To distinguish them, they are numbered No 1 and No 2.

Kennear kept a brilliant goal for the United.

Jarrow are thankful to the Lilies for Saturday's performance. So are Hebburn Argyle, and a few more clubs anxious for the Alliance championship.

Stanley A did not fulfil their engagement with Beamish Celtic. They preferred watching the Alliance game at home.

Some of the spectators seemed animated by unfriendly feelings towards Mr Scott, of Sunderland, who acted as referee.

Leadgate Park team seems to be dissolving rapidly away. Mr J. E. Parker and Councillor Winter are now enquiring "Where are the boys of the old Bridade?"

The Leadgate wearers of the Green are going better than ever.

Boldon appears to be a happy hunting ground for the Stanley football authorities.

Watson, the latest recruit from the Wearside village, gave a pleasing exhibition against the United A. He had a hand in the scoring of both goals.

Sammy Thompson acted as linesman for Stanley on Saturday.

It is rumoured that George Laws is again to return to the Stanley ranks.

Sunderland A are strong favourites for the Alliance Woodenspoonship.

They were expected to carry all before them at the commencement of the season, but, as we all know expectations are not always realised.

South Moor Albion were again triumphant on Saturday, Gilesgate Moor being the victims.

The Albions are anxious to tackle Stanley Wednesday, Sheffield United, or any clubs of similar calibre.

South Moor cricketers had their annual supper on Saturday evening, when Hostess Dixon again provided a first-class spread.

That ample justice was done to the good things provided goes without saying, as is proven by the interesting confession made by one gentleman on the production of the celery.—"Aa's a lover o' celery, but aa have no room for it."

I was not aware till Saturday evening, that Tom Tindale, the South Moor batsman, had received an invitation to go to Australia with Stoddart's team.

As in the case of the Press Pro., the invitation had to be "declined with thanks."

Dipton Wanderers again went down on Saturday, Bill Quay beating them by three goals to nil.

Dick Palmer has signed on for Stanley Wednesday.

Wonders never cease. Sammy Wood actually defeated Captain Benfold in the billiard handicap.

Leadgate Exiles have signed on Tom Greener, of Blackhall Mill, who is a midget, turning the scales at 12 stone, and nearly 6 feet in height.

Over 3,000 spectators lined the ropes to witness the game between Stanley and United A, and great enthusiasm was manifested at the victory of the Lilies.

It was widely reported on Saturday night, that Lennox admitted being offside when he scored for United.

The game between Blackhill and N. E. R. caused great interest in Catchgate.

On the day's play, the teams were well matched.

In Johnson, the Celts have a good goal-keeper, but he is rather short-tempered.

They have got two backs second to none in the League. Robinson played a grand game. Their half-backs were good, and they know how to play the game. The forwards played well together. They will take some beating.

The N. E. R. goal-keeper, Willey, played a fair game. Of the backs, White kicked and tackled in splendid style.

Strong played a very useful game, and will turn out a good man for the N. E. R.

Hewitt was the best half-back on the field, Riddle and Stewart playing well. All the forwards played a splendid game.

Leadgate Albions defeated the Leadgate Science and Art by two goals to one, on the ground of the former.

The Leadgate Exiles scored an easy victory on Saturday. Eight goals to nil is a sound beating, certainly.

The game, however, was a peculiar one, in that the wind which blew from end to end of the field had the effect of keeping the game almost exclusively to one goal.

There was no scoring in the first half—a fact which is also worthy of note.

In the second half the home front made rings round the visitors; and it was quite amusing to see the frequency with which the ball bounded into the net towards the close of the game.

The Exiles are certainly to be congratulated upon their great victory.

The Shamrocks beat the Saxons by seven goals to nil on Saturday.

The Hibernians were in good form, a fact of which the Saxons will be only too well aware.

Dinning scored three of the goals, McEwen two, Bates one, and Purvis one.

Carroll played well for his team in goal and saved a few dangerous shots.

Piggins was the pick of the Saxon forwards.

The Shamrocks seem to be doing mighty things at present.

Shotley Rovers defeated Consett Park on Saturday by 3 goals to 1.

They now head the Derwent Valley League, and if they keep their place, they will claim themselves champions of that League.

Consett Park should train themselves up again, for they are going down at a fast rate.

Highgate Rising Stars have several dates vacant. (Ages 13 to 16). Apply to T. Gailes.

Allendale had a near shave, and their forwards will have to waken up. Jos. and Jno. Walton combined well, but shot miserably.

Landells played finely in the centre, and Houston will have to play up if he wishes to retain his position.

Robinson played moderately in the first half, but made amends in the second.

Gillender was closely watched, one man being told off to keep him in surveillance.

Notwithstanding this, Bob made some fine individual runs.

There was not a weak spot in the back division, and it is questionable which of them was best.

Tom Forster's absence lately, did not appear to have had any prejudicial effect, and he was often applauded for his judicious feeding of the forwards.

Hedley was brilliant, the referee predicting that his services would be wanting elsewhere.

After an absence of six weeks, the Park will again take up their Derwent Valley League fixtures and Lintzford will visit Medomsley.

A good game is anticipated, as hitherto both teams have been well matched.

Allendale Park are now running three teams and several old Medomsley boys will appear: Mansell, Jack Hunter, Campbell, and——but I had better not let the cat out of the bag, or President Dixon will disappoint Lintzford.

Another old Medomsley player is likely to play for Lintzford—J. E. Taylor, who played a brilliant game against Shotley last season.

Secretary Smith expects his boys to top the Derwent Valley League this season. This will not, however, stop the Ford from playing their usual gentlemanly game.

DERWENTWATER.

FIXTURES.

South Moor Juniors v. Newcastle St. Andrew's.—This fixture is to be played at Newcastle, when the following team will appear for South Moor—Goal, Cook; backs, Cummings and Weatley; half-backs, Walls Brown, and Rutter; forwards, Hodder, Rutherford, Purdy, Brown, and Parkins.

Consett Shamrocks v. Consett United.—On the former's ground. The Shamrocks will be chosen from—M. Carroll, P. Carthy, D. Welsh, J. Purvis, R. Bates, P. Boyle, M. McCewn, F. Dinning, T. Cain, J. Quinn, P. Quinn, and E. Almond.

Stanley v. Willington. — In Saturday's Alliance fixture between these teams which is due for decision at Willington on Saturday, the visitors will be represented by—Goal, G Morris; backs, M Joyce and W Dover; half-backs, T Fish, S Wood, and J Milburn; forwards, C Crute, Watson, S Thompson, J Howe, and J Masterman. Reserve, J. McKever.

Derwent Valley League. — Allendale Park v. Lintz Green.—At Medomsley. The home team will be as follows:—Goal, Bailey; backs, Mansell and Bowes; half-backs, Robinson, Nattrass, and J. Hunter; forwards, Taylor, Walton, Calvers, Truman, and Gillinder. Referee, Mr A. Fletcher. Kick off at 2.30 p.m.

South Moor Albions v. Chester Moor.—The above teams meet at South Moor, on Saturday, to decide an Edmondsley League fixture. The Albions will be represented by the following team:—W. J. Walker, goal; R. Pearson and W. Beckett, backs; G. Morton, B. Handy, and C. Pyke, half-backs; S. Renfrey, R. Fletcher, G. Garnett, J. Snailes, and G. Robson, forwards. Reserve, Ben Tyman. Linesman, E. Brown. Referee, Mr W. Dewhirst, Hedley Hill. Kick off 3 o'clock.

HOCKEY.

Derwent Valley v. St. George's. — The Valley eleven visit Jesmond on Saturday, and will be represented by the following:—T D Dales (capt.), goal; J E Parker and J E Thorpe, backs; H G Young, J M Nicholson, and G G Robson, half-backs; H H Wattsford, J O Todd, R Penton, W Worden, and C T Foreman, forwards. Bully-off at 2.30.

Derwent Valley v. Auckland Castle.—On the former's ground, at Shotley Bridge, in very fine weather. As was to be expected, play ruled fast from start to finish. At half-time, Derwent Valley were leading by one point to nil. On changing ends, the homesters put on two more goals, while the visitors experienced very hard lines in not scoring, as they played a fine all-round game. Derwent Valley backs were conspicuous, but the forwards seemed weak. Final:—Derwent Valley, 3 goals; Auckland Castle, nil.

CRICKET.

LANGLEY PARK CRICKET CLUB.

REPORT FOR SEASON 1897.

1st ELEVEN.

Matches played	Won	Drawn	Lost
18	13	2	3

Total number of runs scored, 1648 for 178 wickets, equal to 9·2 runs per wicket, against opponents' 1370 for 203 wickets, equal to 6·7 runs per wicket.

BATTING AVERAGES.

Name	Total Runs	Times Not out	Most in an innings	Av.
Rev. R. Thornton	293	1	64*	20·9
M. Crawford	233	0	42	14·0
Rev. Hamilton	95	0	29	13·5
H. Ardley	119	5	15*	8·5
R. Peel	138	1	18	7·6
T. Eccleston	115	2	37	6·5
J. Peel	93	3	35*	6·6
J. Lowes	100	0	33	6·0
T. Morland	82	0	24	5·8
J. Plews	93	3	23*	5·3
T. Dixon	33	4	10*	4·7
M. Vickers	17	1	7*	4·2
A. Hollingworth	20	0	9	4·0
T. Elwick	21	2	9	3·0
R. Bell	6	2	4	3·0

*Indicates not out

BOWLING AVERAGES.

Names	Runs	Wickets	Overs	Maidens	Av.
H. Ardley	450	86	302	105	5.23
J. Lowes	441	68	194	42	6·48
J. Peel	106	9	46	17	11·37
T. Eccleston	104	8	36	7	13·00
R. Peel	39	3	16	4	13·00

SECOND TEAM.

Matches played	Won	Drawn	Lost
7	1	5	1

CRICKET NOTES.

[By "Free Lance."]

The annual supper in connection with the Stanley and District Cricket Club proved one of the most successful gatherings in the history of the Club, and the feeling of good fellowship exhibited augurs well for its future prosperity. Cricket is a grand game, the king of all English sports, in my estimation, and I shall be delighted if the hopeful predictions of the future of the local club which were given vent to last Wednesday evening, are realised to the fullest extent. There are far larger towns than Stanley in the county of Durham, but the best cricket teams are not necessarily the production of the largest populations; as for instance the rising village of Norton, which though not possessing the population of Stanley, has yet for many years past had the strongest cricket team in the county of Durham, if not in the entire North of England. In his very sensible remarks last Wednesday evening, Captain Stewart expressed the conviction that if the younger members of the club would practice regularly, and obey the instruction of the Club coach, the Club would ere long win the Junior League Championship and secure admission to the Senior League. I hope that the whole of the Club members will bear the Captain's remarks in mind, and follow them out. By so doing, whether they at once win the Junior League or not, they will certainly improve in their play, and become more capable exponents of a grand old game.

Last season's failure to realise the ambition of the Club, to win the competition for which it was entered, was referred to by Captain Stewart, who stated that he did not blame either himself or his fellow players for their inability to carry off the Junior League "trophy." I feel sure that the Captain was in no way to blame, for a better commander on the field it would be impossible to get, and when the time arrives for the election of a skipper for the season of 1898, Mr Stewart will certainly be unanimously re-elected to the position he has so ably filled for the past twelve months. As for the players, they are in nowise to blame. Like King Robert of Scotland, the Club will have to try again, till its legitimate aspirations are fully realised.

Stanley Cricket Club is fortunate in the possession of a host of willing helpers. Mr Joseph Robinson is an ideal President, and is always eager to do all in his power for the advancement of the Club. He has time and time again rendered financial assistance to the Club in its hours of need, and to him it owes a debt which can never be repaid. To him however, as to other enthusiasts in Stanley and elsewhere, his services to the Club have been a labour of love, and in doing good to the game he loves, he reaps a sufficient reward. There are other worthy supporters of the Club far too numerous to particularise, and this has been proven by the fact that the extensive alterations and improvements to the ground which have been effected since last season have cost the Club nothing. The members have turned up like heroes, and done the work themselves. Mr Robert Walker, who, like all Yorkshiremen, is fond of cricket, has been the foremost figure in this good work, and he well deserved the hearty "For he's a jolly good fellow," with which the mention of his name was received last Wednesday evening. Friends in need are friends indeed, and the gentlemen who came forward at the annual gathering, and promised their assistance in the rubbing off of the debt which has for so many years been a source of regret to the Club officials, are deserving of the gratitude of all connected with the game.

After having said so much about Stanley, it would be unfair not to say a few words regarding the neighbouring Club at South Moor, the members of which, on Saturday evening, enjoyed their annual supper "up to the mark." It is pleasing to find, from Mr Thomas Welsh's report, that the South Moor Cricket Club is now stronger than ever, last season having been the best in the history of the Club. As at Stanley, efforts are being made to improve the ground, and also to strengthen the team. The Club is fortunate in the possession of a president in the person of Mr William Welsh, and also in having an ideal set of officials, and an enthusiastic band of supporters. The Club have my best wishes for greater victories next season than ever before.

SOUTH MOOR CRICKET CLUB SUPPER.

The annual supper in connection with the South Moor Cricket Club was held, on Saturday evening, at the Oak Inn, when about forty members and friends did ample justice to a splendid repast provided by the worthy hostess, Mrs Dixon. After the tables had been cleared, Mr William Welsh, the popular President of the Club, took the chair, and Mr T. Wilkinson was appointed to the vice-chair. Amongst the company present were—Mr Thomas Welsh (Secretary), Mr A. Kuhlman, Mr Dawson, Mr W. Laws, Mr Underwood (Bishop Auckland), Mr Ernest Smith, Mr Edward Smith, Mr W. Robinson, Mr T. Gibbon, Mr T. Tindall, Mr G. Oxley, Mr Brass, Mr R. W. Little (Stanley), Mr Gordon, Mr Jacques, Mr P. Shield, Mr Wilson, and many others.

THE LATE MR HEDLEY.

The Chairman, on rising, said that in the ordinary course, their supper would have been held a month ago. They all regretted the reason of its postponement—the death of Mr Edward Hedley, the respected owner of South Moor Colliery. The Cricket Club had lost a good friend in Mr Hedley, and the same might be said of every man employed at the Colliery. He knew of no gentleman more wishful and anxious to do good to the neighbourhood than Mr Hedley had been. He had been a friend to the friendless and a father to the fatherless. (Applause). His hand was as ready in responding to appeals to his pocket as it was in raising his cigar. He never failed to put his hand into his pocket in response to any deserving case. Mr Hedley took a great interest in the South Moor and Craghead Cricket Clubs; he called them his own Clubs. He (the Chairman) had been the recipient of a card from Mrs Hedley and the family, expressing their gratitude to the members of the South Moor Cricket Club for their kind inquiries and sympathies. He (the Chairman) had been a little nearer in touch with Mr Hedley than most of them. Indeed, very few men had a better chance of judging Mr Hedley's good qualities than he had. He asked them to drink in solemn silence, the "Memory of Mr Edward Hedley."

The toast was honoured in profound silence, after which the usual loyal toasts were given and responded to.

PRESENTATION OF PRIZES.

Mr Ernest Smith, in presenting a Gladstone bag to Mr Thos. Tindall as a prize for the highest batting average last season, said that that gentleman had performed very consistently last season. He played in eleven matches, and scored 147 runs, or an average of 13·36 per innings. It was a very creditable performance indeed. This was the second season that Mr Tindall had had the honour of heading the batting averages. He came off in nearly every match, and he well deserved the prize. (Applause.) He had been invited to go to Australia with Mr Stoddart's team, but had been obliged to decline on account of a matrimonial engagement. (Laughter and applause.)

Mr Tindall said he felt deeply grateful for the valuable present. He could assure all present that he would continue to do his best for the Club in the future as in the past. He would try to win the prize next season, simply because he was now a married man, and therefore an "old chap." (Laughter.)

Mr Smith then presented a handsome pipe to Mr E. Beckwith for the best bowling average during the past season.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Mr Thos. Welsh, in presenting his annual report, said that there could be no question as to last season being the most successful in the history of the Club. During the season, 16 matches were played, 9 of which were won, 5 lost, and 2 drawn. They played several good teams, and always beat the good teams. It was the intention of the committee to enlarge the ground, and they hoped next season to have better matches and to win more. The table of batting and bowling averages for the past season was as follows:—

BATTING.

Name of Batsmen	No of inns.	Times not out	Most in inns.	Total runs	Av.
T. Tindall	11	0	39	147	13·36
T. Welsh	15	0	26	145	9·3
T. Gibbon	16	2	38	117	8·35
E. Smith	10	1	32	71	7·1
W Robinson	15	0	53	111	7·4
J. Morton	10	0	25	73	7·3
E. Beckwith	12	0	18	72	6·0
J. Ashcroft	6	3	10	15	5·0
G. Purdy	7	1	19	27	4·5
H. Joyce	11	0	13	42	3·81
J. Moss	7	2	10	16	3·2
J. Nicholson	4	1	4	5	1·6

BOWLING.

Bowlers	Runs	Wickets	Av.
E. Beckwith	222	50	4·44
G. Purdy	145	34	4·35

THE CAPTAIN.

Mr Ed. Wilkinson submitted the toast of "The Captain." They could not, he said, have a better man for the place. Mr Smith had always done his best to keep the Club going, and under him it had improved every year. If they kept going on as they had done during the past season, they would win, not the Cup, but the Durham Senior League. (Laughter and applause.)

Mr Smith, in acknowledging the toast, which had been drunk with musical honours, said that he had always done his best for the Club, which, he might say, had had a rather queer existence for some years. But they had always struggled through, and he hoped that next year they would show an even better record than last year. All that he had done for the Club was not much, but it had been done with the best of intentions. The whole of the playing members showed better form last season in every department, and in his opinion, cricket was on the improvement throughout the district. (Applause.)

PROSPEROUS SOUTH MOOR.

The Vice-Chairman submitted the "South Moor Colliery Company," coupled with the names of Messrs Jas. Fairley, A. Kuhlman, and Parkinson, and

Mr Kuhlman, in responding, said that so far as the immediate vicinity of South Moor was concerned, there had never been a better or more prosperous year in the coal trade than the present. (Applause.) There never had been a season or a year in which they had carried on a more prosperous business.

Mr Parkinson also responded, and

The Chairman read a letter from Mr Jas. Fairley, of Shaftoe House, regretting that the state of his health prevented his being present.

THE PRESIDENT.

Mr Ernest Smith submitted "The President." Mr Welsh, he remarked, had been a most worthy supporter of the Club. He had been with them many years, and had always supported the Club. Indeed, had it not been for him, the probability was that there would not have been a Club at South Moor. He had not only assisted the Club himself, but had got others to do so, and they relied very much on him to keep the Club going. (Applause.) "For he's a Jolly Good Fellow" having been sung right heartily,

Mr Welsh thanked them kindly for the manner in which they had received his name. They had many struggles formerly to keep the Club together, or even to get a game of cricket, but things were much better now. He was very willing at all times to do what he could to assist the Cricket Club, and hoped that they would accomplish greater things next year than ever before, and that they would win all before them. (Applause.)

TRADESMEN OF THE DISTRICT.

In submitting the toast of "The Tradesmen of the District," Mr Welsh said that the Club had been very well supported by the tradesmen of South Moor.—The toast was briefly responded to by Messrs Thomas and George Oxley. In the course of the evening, songs were given by Messrs Wilson, Gibbon, Dawson, Underwood, and Rawes. Other toasts were given, and the proceedings terminated by the singing of the "National Anthem" and "Auld Lang Syne."

BILLIARDS AT WEST STANLEY.

WOOD v. BENFOLD.

[By "Free Lance."]

Billiards has increased in popularity in West Stanley by leaps and bounds during the past few years, and as the proof of the pudding is in the eating, so the truth of the statement is demonstrated by the fact that there are now no fewer than eleven public billiard tables in the town, all of which come in for unstinted patronage. A billiard handicap is in progress at St. Andrew's Institute, and in response to frequent invitations to "give us a lift in the *Chronicle*," I wended my way to the Institute last Thursday evening, and was fortunate enough to enter the room at a very interesting stage, Messrs Jimmy Benfold and Sammy Wood being in the act of commencing their heat as I entered. Both men started on equal terms in a game of 100 up and the Press Pro. was at once installed a hot favourite; it being generally felt that the Stanley Cricket Coach had but little chance against his redoubtable opponent.

Skipper Benfold did not make an encouraging start, for, on losing the toss, he missed the "ginger" completely, and shopped his own ball. Three for Sammy. Apparently alarmed by this catastrophe, Jimmy took his coat off, amid some laughter. The advantage of playing coatless was quickly demonstrated, for by some splendid strokes, equal to any ever made by John Roberts, Benfold ran up 10, but then collapsed badly at an easy cannon. At this point, Mr John McGregor, the well-known local vocalist, exclaimed "Hard lines for a fluke, Jimmy," but he was promptly silenced by the Skipper, who sturdily exclaimed, "No, it is not hard lines at all." Benfold then shopped the "pink un," but again mulled an easy cannon; and after annuel had also potted the ginger, the numbers were called as follows — Benfold 20, Wood 11. The Skipper continued his successes by scoring a fluky 3, and a well-earned 8; and his opponent, who had hitherto been playing very poorly, came ahead with two fine breaks of 8 and 11 respectively. Benfold made a brace of glaring misses, and profiting by these, Sammy came to the front for the first time since the commencement with a 9 break. Benfold potted the red neatly, and, aided by a lucky 5, and a neat 7, Wood brought his score to 75, as against his opponent's 63. At this point, Benfold knocked his tip off, and a claim was made that half-a-dozen should be added to his account for that reason, but the marker rightly refused to accede to the request. The Skipper, indignant at the refusal, or at something else, said that he would try no longer, and would allow his opponent to win. Sammy then went ahead in brilliant fashion, and won easily by 100 points to 71. It is understood that the loser has challenged John Roberts to play a game of 24,000 up on level terms.

TANFIELD LEA SILVER MODEL BAND.

The Tanfield Lea Band is one of the oldest and best known in the North of England, but like other notable combinations, it has not been its luck to possess a substantial balance at the bankers. At the present time the Band is greatly in need of a building for the purpose of practicing in, whilst a debt of some £31 exists upon the new instruments. Thanks, however, to the energy of Mr Swallow, the popular manager of the Tanfield Collieries, and other well-wishers, a grand evening concert was arranged for Wednesday evening, in the Stanley Co-operative Hall, the proceeds being devoted to the purposes aforementioned. It may be stated that under the capable leadership of Mr E. Keskeys, the Band has added greatly to its former laurels during the season just past.

The Rev. T. H. Archdall presided on Wednesday evening over a very large company, and in his opening remarks he said that he did not know what the people of Stanley thought of the various institutions of their important town, but the people of Tanfield were very proud of their Band. The Tanfield Lea Band was, he would not say the best—for he was prevented from saying that by the excessive modesty possessed by all Tanfield people—but it was second to none. (Laughter and applause.) The members of the Band raised about £300 some five years ago for the purchase of instruments, &c., but they were now desirous of erecting a hall in which to practice. Such a place was absolutely necessary, and in addition there was a debt of something above £30 existing on the instruments. It was for these purposes that the concert was being held, and he believed that all present would sympathise with the object. (Applause.) Personally he felt greater sympathy with the objects than he would otherwise have done, owing to a story he had heard of one of the most prominent bandsmen who recently walked to Stanley to see one of the doctors of that important city. He was puffing greatly after the climb up the hill, and the doctor professing not to know him, told him that his science had revealed to him the fact that he was a bandsman, and that his puffing was due to his blowing the windy instruments. (Laughter.) The man responded by informing the knowing physician that he did not blow any windy instrument, but was in the habit of beating the big drum. (Renewed laughter.)

The following programme was then proceeded with:—

Part I.

Song .... "Trankadillo" ......Mr Duncanson
Song ......"My Dearest Heart" ......Miss Pattison
Mandoline solo ....Miss Asquith
Song..."A song of Thanksgiving" ...Mrs Hodges
Song .... "Asthore" ....Mr Heenan
Song (comic)..."What the folks call Love" ...... Mr D. T. Anderson
Violin solo "Mazurka Caprice" Mr T. Swainston
Duet "The Moon hath raised her Lamp above" ... Messrs Heenan and Duncanson
Dramatic recital "The Newsboy's Debt" ...... Mr D. T. Anderson
Song........"The Donovans"..........Mr Duncanson
Song........"A May Morning"..........Mrs Hodges
Violin solo..."Il Trovatore"...Mr T. H. Swainston
Song..............."Serenade"...........Miss Swallow
Song..........."Good Company"..........Mr Heenan
Song......"An Andalusian Maid"...Miss Pattison
Song (comic)..."Sandy Saft a Wee" ...... Mr D. T. Anderson
Duet "Excelsior" Messrs Heenan & Duncanson
Humorous recital..."Mike O'Royle's Faith" ...... Mr D. T. Anderson

Mr A. W. Hinckley, of Pickering Nook, officiated at the piano with his usual excellence, and the whole programme was very brilliantly rendered.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT AT PLAWSWORTH.

SHOCKING DEATH OF A KIMBLESWORTH WOMAN.

On Wednesday afternoon, in last week, an alarming accident occurred at Plawsworth Station, by which a woman, named Bridget Mullaghan, wife of Patrick Mullaghan, met with her death. It appears that deceased, who was conveying some friends to the 3.10 train for Newcastle, and after it had left, crossed from the up to the down platform. She, however, did not notice the Leeds and Liverpool express approaching, and before she had reached the platform, the buffers of the engine caught her, and she was thrown against the abutment of the bridge with great force. Death was instantaneous, and the body was conveyed to the waiting room. The accident created quite a gloom over the Sacriston and Kimblesworth district, where deceased was well known. Coroner Graham held an inquest at the Station last Tuesday afternoon, the foreman of the jury being Mr Moore, of Kimblesworth. Inspector Hurst watched the proceeding on behalf the North-Eastern Railway Company. Patrick Mullaghan identified the body as that of his wife, who, he said, left home to convey some friends to the station. Isabella Smith, Gateshead, one of the passengers of the ordinary train; Charles Forster, Tyne Dock; and Wm. Pattison, driver of the express engine, also gave evidence. During the course of the inquest, Inspector Hunt stated that the bridge, which had been partitioned some months ago, would shortly be erected, as the plans were now passed. A verdict of "Accidentally killed by the Leeds and Liverpool express whilst crossing from the up to the down platform at Plawsworth Station" was returned. The Coroner and the jury instructed Inspector Hunt to convey to the North-Eastern Railway Company their expression of opinion as to the necessity of having a bridge erected as soon as possible. The interment of deceased took place at Sacriston, a large number of people following the remains to the graveside.

THE VOLUNTEERS IN CONSETT

PROPOSED FORMATION OF A CORPS.

A meeting to consider the advisablity, and also the posibility of founding a Volunteer Corps for Consett, was held in the smaller hall of the New Town Hall, Consett, on Friday evening. Mr J. Petherick presided, and those presented included Dr Grainger, Messrs C. Weaver, D. Balleny, G. Aynsley, G. T. Hyden, A. Robson, A. Russell, M. Cowen, W. Ramsay, T. Raynor, Rev. C. S. Wilson, and others.

The Chairman, having expressed his pleasure at seeing so many present, remarked on the fact that all efforts which had been made in the past to form a Volunteer Corps in Consett, had not been met with that degree of success which was likely to induce those seeking to promote the undertaking to proceed further with their work. However, he hoped that the outcome of that meeting would be that a Volunteer Corps would be established in Consett. (Applause.)

A gentleman from Newcastle gave to the meeting a great deal of information relative to the Volunteer movement, and remarked that there was no doubt a Volunteer Corps was just the thing they wanted in Consett. In answer to various questions, he explained the various details which are connected with the inception of a new corps.

Mr Cowen related the steps which had been taken with the view to forming a Volunteer Corps in Consett. The commanding officer of the 3rd Durham (Sunderland) Battalion had been communicated with, and he had promised to have an interview with them after they had secured officers.

The Chairman mentioned that they had plenty of eligible men in the district who, he was sure, would be willing to join a corps if formed, but the great difficulty they had experienced was in the way of getting officers.

Speeches in support of the formation of a corps were delivered by Messrs Weaver, Rayner, Ramsay, Wilson, Parker, Hyden, and others—all of whom took the view that the forming of a corps was a most desirable thing, and that it should not be an undertaking which was difficult of accomplishment.

The following committee was appointed to try and secure officers and carry out other necessary details:—Mr Geo. Ainsworth, J.P., Mr H. Holliday, Mr W. Aynsley, J.P., Mr H. Palmer, J.P., Mr T. J. Muse (Castleside), Mr J. Petherick, Mr G. T. Hyden, Mr G. R. Ramsay, Mr R. G. Kinsopp, Mr E. G. Kirkhouse, Mr G. R. Aynsley, Mr W. J. Foreman, Mr J. E. Parker, Mr G. G. Robson, Mr J. Ross, sen. (Medomsley), Mr James Scott, Mr S. Raynor, and Mr E. J. Colman, with Mr A. Russell and Mr Cowen as secretaries.

MEDOMSLEY SCHOOL BOARD.

The first meeting of this Board, as reconstituted by the recent election, was held on Thursday evening, when there were present Rev. W. Cockin, Messrs G. Starford, W. Hogg, R. Moffitt, W. R. Cooke, W. Robinson, H. Palmer, with J. H. Coupland (Clerk.)

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN.

Mr Cooke proposed that Mr Palmer be appointed Chairman, expressing the belief that the appointment would give satisfaction outside. In doing this, the Board would be selecting a man who was most suitable for the office.

Rev. W. Cockin seconded, and the motion received the approval of the meeting.

Mr Palmer having taken the chair, thanked them for the honour they had thus conferred upon him. The appointment had taken him largely by surprise, for he thought Mr Cockin would have again occupied that position. Mr Cockin, however, had declined the honour. He had not in the slightest degree sought that appointment, and he had never canvassed any person to vote for him. He trusted the business would be conducted with the utmost impartiality.

Mr Robinson proposed that Mr Cooke be appointed to the Vice-Chair; and this having been seconded by Mr Moffitt, was unanimously confirmed by the meeting.

Mr Cooke, in reply, expressed the hope that the Chairman would not be absent from any of the meetings, and said he would also endeavour to conduct the business on the most impartial lines.

REPORTS.

Mr J. W. Daniels, headmaster, reported that the number of children on the roll was 345; number admitted, 5; number left, 5; average attendance, 299; average percentage, 86. The attendance had not been quite so good as last month.

Miss M. J. Watson reported as to the number attending the Infants' School at Westwood as follows: Number on books, 195; number admitted, 2; number left, 5; average attendance, 151; average percentage, 77·4.

DERWENT COTTAGES.

The Institute.—The £40 recently collected here is not, it seems, to be appropriated towards purchasing a billiard table, as was recently stated in the *Chronicle*, it being understood that the amount which the Committee agreed to give, was to go towards defraying part of the general expenses incurred during the recent alterations. We understand that final arrangements have been made for holding a ball.

QUEBEC.

No. 3 Yearly Fund.—The annual supper in connection with this Society was held on Saturday at the house of Mr W. Walls, Hamsteels Colliery Inn. About fifty sat down to a most excellent supper. Mr Thos. Lowdon presided at the post-prandial proceedings. The balance sheet showed that there was £12 8s 4d in hand. The chairman proposed the health of the Society, which was heartily drunk. The remainder of the evening was spent in a convivial fashion. A most interesting programme was commenced by Mr J. Kinsello with a pianoforte solo. Mr T. Ward (of Brandon) sang during the evening "Come back to your Irish home," "Bonnie Annie Laurie," and "Gentle Annie," &c., very creditably indeed. Mr G. Collinson gave a fine rendering of "The Death of Nelson." Mr S. Franks sang "Through knocking up at half-past five;" Mr Keighley gave "Napoleon;" Mr. B. Roberts sang "The Shabby Genteel;" Mr James Lynes sang "If I was the Man in the Moon;" and Mr Hedley sang "I knew what it was to be there." A very pleasant evening was brought to a close with a vote of thanks to the chairman, and host and hostess.

Business Announcements.

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ESTABLISHED 21 YEARS.

MATTHEW KIRKLAND
(Successor to MR. THOMAS BARRY),
HAIRDRESSER,
VICTORIA STREET,
CONSETT.

UMBRELLAS RE-COVERED & REPAIRED.

THE NEW WOMAN is very much in evidence at

KIRKUP'S

(WEST STANLEY) Cheap Boot and Shoe Mart. That's easily accounted for. She is a firm believer in having up-to-date value for money.

MARTIN BECK.
BILLPOSTER,
21, RAMSEY STREET, STANLEY,
GOOD PRIVATE STATIONS.

ROBERT MILBURN,
BUTCHER,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT,

BEGS to inform his customers, and the public generally, that he is removing to newer and more commodious premises, adjoining Mrs. Christopher's Livery Stables, where he trusts to receive a continuation of the patronage which has been so liberally bestowed upon him in the past.

LUMLEY'S
IS
THE NOTED SHOP
FOR
CHEAP SUITS.

6, SHERBURN TERRACE, CONSETT.

WHEN YOU ARE IN NEWCASTLE,
Call and see your old friend
T. HOFFMAN
(THE HUMORIST),
AT THE
THREE TUNS HOTEL,
NEWGATE STREET.

Ales and Wines of the Finest Quality.
Cigars of the Choicest Brands.

JAMES PALLISER,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
TEA MERCHANT,
47 & 48, PARK ROAD, BLACKHILL.

THE NOTED GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS STORES AND FLOUR WAREHOUSE.

JOHN SWINBURN MURRAY,
THE
AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER,
VALUER AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT,
ROYAL AUCTION MART SALE OFFICE,
BENFIELDSIDE.

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

FOR BEST VALUE IN
BACON, FLOUR, CHEESE, TEA, and BUTTER, GENERAL, LARD, GROCERIES
TRY
G. D. POWELL,
CASH PROVISION STORES,
4, PARK ROAD, CONSETT.

THOS. SWAINSTON,
Complete House Furnisher,

WISHES to Announce to all Furnishing or Replenishing their Homes for the Holidays, that he has a

LARGE STOCK
OF
SITTING ROOM SUITES
AND
BEDROOM FURNITURE,
Bedsteads, Mangles,
CARPETS,
HEARTHRUGS,
Oilcloths, Fenders,
BRASSES,
AND
General Furnishing Hardware,

At Lowest Prices and to suit all Classes.

ALL GOODS MARKED IN PLAIN FIGURES.

2s. in the Pound Discount for Cash.

An Early Call and Inspection is Cordially Invited.

Business Announcements.

JOHN CRAWFORD,
AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER, VALUER,
COMMISSION AND EMIGRATION AGENT
AND HOUSE AGENT
VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT.

ALL CLASSES OF SALES TAKEN.
PROMPT SETTLEMENTS.
BAILIFF under the Law of Distress Amendment Act.
Sale and Emigration Office, 25, Victoria Street, Consett.

W. LEE.
BUTCHER
(Late Manager to River Plate Co.),
Has commenced Business in
NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT
(Next Door to Mr. Simon Rowe's),

AND invites Attention to his First-Class Stock of

PRIME BEEF, MUTTON, PORK, &c.

All Orders promptly attended to.

WILLIAM NICHOL,
SADDLER AND HARNESS MAKER
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

NEW PREMISES NOW OPEN.

ALL KINDS OF SADDLERY AND HARNESS.
REPAIRS NEATLY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY EXECUTED.

FIRE! FIRE!! FIRE!!!

SCOTTISH UNION AND NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

FIRE. — ESTABLISHED 1894. — LIFE.

Capital	... ...	£6,000,000 (Six Millions).
Funds	... ...	£4,000,000 (Four Millions).

Insurance effected on Property of every description at equitable rates, corresponding to the class of risk, on the most favourable terms and conditions.

For Prospectus and Proposal Forms apply to Local Agent,

W. RAMSAY,
North-Eastern Bank, Blackhill.

Tuition.

LADIES' ART STUDIO,
WEDE PARK HOUSE, DIPTON.

LESSONS in PAINTING and DRAWING will be given by Miss COMPTON, at Consett, Blackhill, Stanley, and Pelton, Commencing November 4th. Further Information at Studio. Miss COMPTON will be at home every Tuesday.

MUSICAL TUITION.

MISS F. L. STELLING, A.L.C.M.,

GIVES LESSONS on the Pianoforte and in Theory. Pupils prepared for Examinations.

Terms on application.
ROGER STREET, BLACKHILL.

VIOLIN PUPILS WANTED.

T. H. WOOD, CONDUCTOR,
NEW THEATRE, CONSETT.

FOR TERMS AND PARTICULARS
APPLY 3, FOSTER STREET, DELVES LANE.

MUSICAL TUITION.

GEORGE DRYDEN, A.L.C.M., SILVER MEDALLIST (Organist of Medomsley Church), gives LESSONS on the ORGAN, PIANOFORTE, HARMONIUM, and THEORY OF MUSIC.

G.D. devotes particular attention to the Preparation of Candidates for Examinations, his Pupils having gained over 50 Certificates, including THE SILVER MEDALLIST for 1890; also FIRST, SECOND, and THIRD-CLASS HONOURS IN EVERY GRADE.

TERMS ON APPLICATION.

ADDRESS:—No. 40, Sherburn Terrace, Consett.

Sales by Auction.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY, November 29th, 1897.

10 to 15 FAT CATTLE.
120 FAT SHEEP and HOGGS.
VEAL and KEEPING CALVES.
DAIRY COWS and HEIFERS.
1 Dales MARE COB, about 14 h.h., a very clever Saddle and Harness Mare, and Fast.
LADDERS, ROPES, POULTRY, &c.
1 Ton Up-to-Date POTATOES.
Sale at One o'clock.

J. S. MURRAY.

CHRISTMAS SALE AND SHOW, December 20th. Money Prizes £33 3s. A Meat Tea, same as last year. Proceeds in aid of St. Aiden's Hall Building Fund.

J. S. MURRAY.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

MONDAY, November 29th, 1897.

40 to 60 DAIRY COWS and HEIFERS.
11 FAT CATTLE.
125 FAT SHEEP and HOGGS.
4 STORE CATTLE.
9 FINGER CALVES.
Strong SPRING ROLLEY, in good condition.

Entries to day of Sale. Sale at 10-30 a.m.

LAST SPECIAL SALE of the Season for STORE CATTLE, Thursday, December 2nd.

The ANNUAL PRIZE SHOW and SALE of FAT CATTLE and SHEEP will be held on Monday, December 13th. Prize Lists now ready. Early Entries for above Sales solicited.

J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.

EXCELLENT BUSINESS PROPERTY AT LANGLEY PARK, Near DURHAM.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, at the Langley Park Hotel, Langley Park, near Durham, on Wednesday, December 1st, at 7 in the Evening (subject to Conditions of Sale to be then and there produced), Excellent Substantial COPYHOLD PROPERTY,

THOS. WATSON & SON, AUCTIONEERS,

Comprising—All that SHOP and DWELLING-HOUSE, situate at Langley Park (within ten minutes' walk from Witton Gilbert Railway Station). The Shop is fitted with plate glass windows, in modern style, and behind it is Warehouse, cemented Yard, Carthouse, two-stall Stable, and Outbuildings. The House contains Dining and Drawing Rooms, Kitchen, Scullery, and Wash-house, 4 Bedrooms, and Box Room. The Shop is fully fitted with Counters and Shelving; these belong to the Owners of the Property, which has been well maintained internally and externally, and is in good repair throughout. Mr Ritchie, the tenant, has the Post Office Appointment, and the premises are situate in the midst of a populous and thriving Colliery District.

For further particulars apply to Mr Ritchie, the tenant, who will allow the property to be viewed at reasonable hours and times; Mr G. Scott, Sunderland Street, Houghton-le-Spring; Mr R. Stewart, Trinity Terrace; and the Auctioneers, Northumberland Street, Darlington; or J. F. LATIMER, Solicitor, Darlington.

LANCHESTER STOCK MART COMPANY, LIMITED.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH, at 1-30 p.m.

Mr. JACKSON GREEN, Auctioneer.

40 to 50 FAT SHEEP and HOGGS, consigned from Moor Leeses, Langley House, Upperhouses, Newbiggen, &c.

Further Entries to time of Sale to

JOHN GIBSON, Secretary.

JOHN CRAWFORD'S SALE ROOMS, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT.

SALE of Valuable Mahogany and Household FURNITURE and EFFECTS, on Monday First, November 29th. Beautiful Dining Table, with two large Leaves, Bedsteads, &c.

Sale to commence at One o'clock.

Sales by Auction.

CONSETT.

N. ELSDON will Sell, on Monday, November 30th, 1897, on his own Premises, the Contents of Two Houses of FURNITURE, removed for convenience of Sale, comprising Drawers, Chairs, Clocks, Bedsteads, Beds, Bedding, Ware, Pots and Pans, and every requisite in connection with Housekeeping, the whole to be sold without reserve.

Time permitting, there will also be a quantity of UNREDEEMED PLEDGES.

Sale at One o'clock to a minute, on account of the large quantity of Lots.

Office, Delves Lane, Consett.

Public Announcements.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

President — GEO. AINSWORTH, Esq., J.P., Consett.

Hon. Treasurer—R. KIRSOPP, Esq. (Messrs. Hodgkin, Barnett, Pease, and Spence, Consett.

FIRST CONCERT—Mendelssohn's "ST. PAUL," DECEMBER 15th.

SECOND CONCERT — Handel's "ACIS AND GALATEA," with Miscellaneous Second Part. Date not fixed.

THE Ballots for Choice of Seats for these two Concerts will be held in the Small Hall, New Town Hall Buildings, Consett, on Wednesday Evening, November 24th, at 7 p.m., for Patrons; 7-30 p.m., for Vice-Presidents; and 8 p.m., for Subscribers, who are all invited to be present.

The undermentioned ladies and gentlemen have already signified their intention of taking advantage of the Ballot System:—Miss Hodgson, the Misses Whelden, Mrs J. Whitehead, Mrs Imeson; Messrs Jas. Annandale, R. G. Barclay, Barber, Rev. W. Cockin, J. Davies, George Dryden, junr., Jos. Dent, Jos. Eltringham, D. Elliott, N. Elsdon, Thos. Elsdon, G. Egglestone, J. V. Faber, Dr. Grainger, J. Heymer, W. H. Hooper, T. Hodgson, Robt. Harlow, Jas. Inglis, R. Jackson, Thos. Jones, James Joicey, W. Knifton, E. Lockey, Robt. Marshall, J. McCartan, Geo. Maxwell, Jas. Maxwell, Jos. Murray, John Moon, Geo. McCann, J. T. Muir, Frank Priestman, C. Parnaby, Stanley Raw, G. J. Robinson, Dr. Reed, E. Sloane, J. A. Williams, Rev. C. S. Wilson, G. Wade, J. R. Wood.

Any other lady or gentleman wishing to participate in the Ballot can do so by making application to the Secretaries, Treasurer, or any other member of the Committee, before November 24th, at the undermentioned terms:—

Patrons, £2 2s., which entitles them to Four First Reserved Seats for each Concert, and First Ballot.

Vice-Presidents, £1 1s., which entitles them to Three First Reserved Seats, for each Concert, and Second Ballot.

Subscribers, 10s. 6d., which entitles them to Two First Reserved Seats for each Concert, and Third Ballot.

Any further information can be obtained by application to the Hon. Secs.,

W. E. BROWN,
Wesley Terrace, Blackhill,
T. HESLOP,
Sherburn Terrace, Consett.

NEW THEATRE, CONSETT.

Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.

(Also of the Royalty Theatre and Opera House, Barrow-in-Furness, and Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.)

Resident Manager, Mr. LLOYD CLARANCE

LAST THREE NIGHTS of Mr ARTHUR GIBBONS' Company in the Drama—

MEN O'WAR.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER, 29th, SIX NIGHTS ONLY.—Important Engagement of Messrs STARR and DIPPLE'S Company, with strong Musical Specialities, headed by that most versatile Character Actor Vocalist, HARRY STARR, and Miss ETHEL DANBURY, the accomplished American Star Soubrette, in the Musical Comedy-Drama, entitled—

CARL THE CLOCKMAKER

Written by HARRY STARR.
Songs, Dances, Novelties, and Musical Gems.

Seats may be booked for dress circle at Archibald Ramsden's Piano Warehouse, Town Hall Buildings, Consett, by letter or telegram.

Prices of Admission:—Private Boxes, £1 1s; Single Seats, 3s.; Dress Circle, 2s.; Back of Dress Circle, 1s. 6d.; Side Boxes, 1s.; Pit, 6d.; Gallery, 4d.

Box Plan at Ramsden's.

Doors Open at 7 o'clock, Commence 7-30. Early Doors Open at 6-45.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY.

LESSEE AND MANAGER.........MARK H. LINDON.

FRIDAY and SATURDAY—Last Nights of

THE INDIAN MUTINY.

MONDAY, November 29th, and Five Following Nights—

THE SLAVE GIRL.

THE SUPPER AND SOCIAL OF THE SEASON.

LOOK OUT for the CONSETT IRON CO.'S WORKMEN'S PRIZE BRASS BAND'S

PIE SUPPER AND SOCIAL,

In ST. AIDEN'S HALL, Blackhill, on SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27th, 1897.

Supper to commence at 5-30 p.m.
Dancing ,, ,, 7-30 ,,

TICKETS ONE SHILLING EACH.

Proceeds in aid of Silver-plating Instruments.

TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR CONSETT.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	1400	16	6
Utrick A. Ritson, J.P. Newcastle	5	0	0
Mrs Annie Potts, Park Road, Consett	1	1	0
Mr. Jesse Hall, Consett	1	0	0
Rev. F. Steggall, Vicar, Consett	1	0	0
Mr Joseph Kirk, Blackhill	1	1	0
Mr Edward Harris, Consett	0	2	6
Mr Septimus Brodie, East Parade, Consett	5	5	0
Mr Daniel Williams, Cemetery Road, Blackhill	1	1	0
Rev. A. Baillie, The Manse, Blackhill	1	0	
Mr Bernard Ward, Constance Street, Consett	0	10	6
Councillor E. Sloane, Blackhill	2	2	0
Councillor J. Costello, Leadgate	0	10	6
"A Friend," per Mr G. T. Hyden	1	0	0
Dr Macintyre, Consett	5	0	0
Mr James Inglis, Blackhill	1	1	0
Councillor William F. Lane, Leadgate	0	10	6
Mr Geo. J. Robinson, Blackhill	1	1	0
Mr Thos. Tinkler, Plantation Street, Leadgate	0	2	6
Councillor John Heymer, Benfieldside	5	0	0
Thomas Pickering, Esq., 2, Charlotte Square, Newcastle	5	0	0
Mr J. T. Muir, Blackhill	0	10	0
Leadgate Co-operative Society	10	0	0
Mr William Eales, Consett	0	10	6

Subscriptions may be paid to

Mr T. L. GLEDSTONE (Hon. Treas.),
North-Eastern Bank, Consett,

or further information obtained from the Hon. Secs.,

Mr W. S. DAVIES,
Brynglas, Consett.
Mr G. T. HYDEN,
Blackfyne House, Blackhill.

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PRIVATE STREET WORKS ACT, 1892.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Urban Council for the Urban District of Stanley, in the County of Durham, have, in pursuance of the Private Street Works Act, 1892, by resolution, approved of, certain Specifications, Plans, Sections, Estimates, and Provisional Apportionments prepared by their Surveyor, in respect of certain Streets or parts of Streets, known as Laxey Street, Forster Street, Scott Street, George Street, and Alfred Street, Stanley, in the aforesaid Urban District, and that such Resolution is in the following terms, viz.:—That the Plans, Specifications, Sections, Estimates, and Provisional Apportionments prepared by the Surveyor to this Council for Private Street Works in Laxey Street, Forster Street, Scott Street, George Street, and Alfred Street, Stanley, and which are now submitted to this Council, be and are hereby approved under the Common Seal of the Council.

Dated this 10th day of November, 1897.

JOHN GEO. RIDLEY,
Clerk to the said Council.

Public Announcements.

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF STANLEY.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875, 38 & 39 VICT., C. 55, SEC. 176.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Urban District Council for the Urban District of Stanley, in the County of Durham, in pursuance of the Public Health Act, 1875, is about to undertake the Scavenging and Removal of the House Refuse of the said District, and for the purpose of depositing the Refuse, the said Council require the land, the boundaries of which are stated in the Schedule hereunder, and which contain by estimation 4 acres 2 roods.

A plan of the proposed undertaking has been deposited at the Office of the said Council, Stanley, and may be seen at all reasonable hours.

SCHEDULE.

The land intended to be taken is bounded on the North by the Parish Boundary of Stanley, on the South by the Old Wagon Way leading to Pea Pit, on the East by the Private Wagon Way of Messrs Dickinson & Co., on the West by the Parish Boundary of Stanley.

Dated this 10th day of November, 1897.

JOHN GEO. RIDLEY,
Clerk to the Stanley Urban District Council.
Stanley, R.S.O.

DRAUGHTS.

A GENTLEMAN will give Three Valuable Prizes for Handicap, open all games, to be played at Mr Hart's Cocoa Rooms. Entrance Fee 6d. each, to be added to Prizes. Handicap closes November 30th. J. Alderdice, Handicapper. Tuesday's Post in Time, to Secretary, Shakespeare Hotel, Consett.

DERWENT VALLEY PLOUGHING ASSOCIATION.

THE Fifth Annual Competition will be held at Medomsley, on the Farms of Messrs W. and J. Hunter (Town Farm), and J. Hunter (Grange Farm), on Wednesday, December 15th. Prize List, Rules, and Forms of Entry on application to the Secretary. Last day of Entry, Monday, December 6th, 1897.

GEO. BELL, JUN., Secretary.

HOMING CLUB FOR BLACKHILL AND DISTRICT.

A MEETING will be held in Mr George Cancick's Station Hotel, Blackhill, on Saturday First, at 7-30 p.m., to consider the best means of forming a Homing Society for the District. All lovers of the Fancy are requested to attend.

---

51 IS the Winning Number of Stereoscope and 23 Views drawn for at Blackhill.

NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

A GRAND

BAZAAR & FANCY FAIR

In aid of the CONSETT BAPTIST NEW CHURCH BUILDING FUND, to be opened

On WEDNESDAY, December 8th, 1897,
BY
LADY DALE, OF DARLINGTON;
And on THURSDAY, December 9th,
BY
MRS. PATHERICK FAIRDALE,
Supported by Several local Ladies and Gentlemen.

OPENING AT 2-30 EACH DAY.

The Bazaar will be continued on Friday and Saturday, December 10th and 11th, at 5 o'clock each day.

GREAT ATTRACTIONS. SEE BILLS.

DUTCH AND ENGLISH IN AFRICA.

A MEETING under the auspices of the North-West Durham Conservative Association will be held in St. Aidan's Hall, Blackhill, on Friday Evening, the 26th November, when an Address on the above subject will be delivered by

J. DAVIS ALLEN, Esq., M.A. (a Ten Years' Resident of South Africa).

Chair to be taken at 7-30 o'clock by R. PARK, Esq.

Admission Free. All are cordially invited.

ST. IVES LEADGATE.

PUBLIC TEA and ENTERTAINMENT. Wednesday, December, 1st, at 6 and 7-30.

NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, December 1st, 1897.

GRAND WINTER SOCIAL & PROMENADE CONCERT (under the auspices of the Consett and District Cricket Club).

BRILLIANT MUSIC.
TALENTED ARTISTES.

Admission 6d. Tickets can be had of any member of the Club, or at Messrs Ramsden's, Consett.

REFRESHMENTS IN THE HALL.

BURNHOPE, LANCHESTER, STANLEY AND DISTRICT PLOUGHING ASSOCIATION.

THE Third ANNUAL COMPETITION will take place on Wednesday, December 8th 1897, on Moor Edge Farm, near Burnhope. The following Prizes will be offered for competition, confined to five-miles radius.

CLASS 1.—Swing Plough (for men who have never won a first prize), First, £3; Second, £1 10s.; Third, 10s.

CLASS 2.—Wheel Plough (for men who have never won a first prize), First, £3; Second, £1 10s.; Third, 10s.

CLASS 3.—Wheel Plough (for lads under 19 years of age), First, Gold Medal, value 30s., and £1; Second, £1; Third, 10s.; Fourth, 5s.; also a Special, value, 7s. 6d., for the best work done by a lad under 17 years of age.

CLASS 4.—Best groomed Horses, and best kept Harness (New Harness disqualified), First, value £1; Second, value 10s.

CLASS 5.—Neatest decorated pair of Horses, First, value 10s. 6d.; Second, value 5s.

CLASS 6.—Best pair of Horses on the ground, First, value £1; Second, value 10s.

Entrance Fees:—Five per cent. on the First Prize Money in each Class. Entrance Fees to be paid time of entering.

Entries to be made on or before November 29th, 1897, at 6 o'clock. Ballot Drawn at 6-30, at Maiden Law.

Rules on application to the Secretary,

JOSEPH INNES,
High Burnhopeside, Lanchester.

Tenders.

TENDERS are invited for the Plastering, including Concrete Floors, of Two Houses at Lanchester, either Labour only or including Materials.

Apply to F. W. BUCKHAM, Saw Mills, Lanchester.

TO BUILDERS.

PERSONS desirous of TENDERING for the erection of several Brick Houses at Cronnewell are requested to send their names to the undersigned not later than the 29th instant. Quantities supplied.

J. E. PARKER.

Post Office Chambers,
Newcastle-on-Tyne.

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

THE above Council invite TENDERS for the providing and laying down of about 320 yards of 18-inch, 150 yards of 15-inch, and 80 yards of 12-inch Stoneware Sanitary Pipes, together with Manholes and Lampholes, at Shield Row.

Plans and Specifications may be seen, and Forms of Tender obtained, from Mr Joseph Routledge, Surveyor, Council Offices, Stanley, R.S.O., on Monday, 29th inst.; Thursday, 2nd December; and Monday, 6th December, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Sealed Tenders, endorsed "Shield Row Sewer," to be delivered to the undersigned on or before One o'clock p.m., on Wednesday, the 8th December, 1897.

The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.

By Order,
JOHN GEO. RIDLEY,
Clerk to the Council.
Stanley, R.S.O., Nov. 25th, 1897.

Excursions.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

EXCURSION TRAINS will be run as under:—

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5TH.

SMITHFIELD CATTLE SHOW AT THE AGRICULTURAL HALL, ISLINGTON.

From BLACKHILL, at 8-20 p.m. (with bookings from Blaydon, &c.), to PETERBOROUGH and LONDON, for 2, 3, 4, 5, or 8 days. Passengers holding 2 days tickets return from King's Cross Station, London, at 11 p.m., on December 7th, and those holding 3, 4, 5, or 8 days tickets at 8-45 or 10-30 p.m. on December 8th, 9th, 10th, and 13th, respectively.

For further particulars see bills.

GEORGE S. GIBB,
General Manager.

York, November, 1897.

Public Announcements.

NOTICE, that JENIE SHIELD, who apologised a short time ago to John Todd and Selina Mason, does not reside at No. 2, Edith Street, Consett.

MR. THOMAS HOLLAND, the pleasing Tenor Singer, is OPEN FOR ENGAGEMENTS at Concerts, Bazaars, Socials, Sacred Concerts, or Oratorial Works. Pupil of Mr. Jeffery, Cathedral Organist and Choir-master at St. Nicholas's, Newcastle. Address—

17, PROSPECT TERRACE,
ANNFIELD PLAIN.

Wanted.

WANTED, YOUTH for Milk Cart. Must be Steady.—Apply Stanley Hall Farm, West Stanley.

WANTED, FIFTY YOUNG LADIES, who wear Sizes 2 and 3 in Boots, to purchase 50 Pairs of Lady's 7s 6d Kid Boots for 4s 11½d the pair.—PHILIP H. KIRKUP, Front Street, Stanley.

WANTED, YOUTH, for Surveying and Bill Work, at Colliery in West of Durham.—Address letters to Box 25, *Chronicle* Office, Consett.

WANTED, HOUSE and SHOP in good position in Chester-le-Street. — Address *Chronicle* Office, Consett.

WANTED, 1,000 LADIES to send a Postcard to the Huddersfield Manufacturing Company, Huddersfield, for Patterns of their Latest Dress Fabrics; All-wool Flannel, 6½d. per yard.

WANTED ENGAGEMENTS.—Mr. H. CARLYON; Miss CISSY CARLYON, the Champion Top-boot Dancer; Masters H. CARLYON and E. CARLYON, the two Juvenile Macks, Knockabout and All-round Comedians, Double Turns, Single Turns, and Expert Dancers; Skirt Dancing, High Kicking, and Splits. Our Artists have received repeated success in our line of business. Terms Moderate. — The CARLYON FAMILY, 87, Poplar Street, South Moor, by Chester-le-Street, County Durham.

To Let.

TO LET, COTTAGE and GARDEN, at Springfield House, Shotley Bridge. Possession 11th December. Apply to Mr A. HOULISTON, Builder, Shotley Bridge.

TO LET, FOREST LODGE; 4 Rooms, Garden, Stable, Byre, &c. The Hythe Farm House and Garden.—Apply to Mr CRAGGS, Red Houses, Woodlands.

TO LET, a Three-Roomed COTTAGE, with Garden, situate close to Rowley Station.—Apply at The Sycamores, Rowley.

For Sale.

FOR SALE, Two HOUSES in Sherburn Terrace, Consett. Yearly Rent, £31 4s. One HOUSE in Stephen Street, Consett. Yearly Rent. £24.—Apply J. S. MURRAY.

FOR SALE, Six ST. BERNARD PUPS.—Apply P. H. KIRKUP, Front Street, Stanley.

FOR SALE, several PONY MARES, 10 to 11 hands.—Apply West Stanley Colliery.

FOR SALE or to LET, HOUSE of Seven large Rooms, Wash-house, &c., situated in Medomsley Road, Consett. Price, £475; or Rent, £27 per annum.—For particulars apply to J. T. HESLOP, New Market Street, Consett.

FOR SALE, Six pleasantly-situated New HOUSES, with Streets and Footpaths made, situated in Bell View Terrace, Consett. Price £300. Also, HOUSES in Elsdon Terrace, No. 1, Consett. Price £240. Other Properties in good situations.—For further particulars apply N. ELSDON, Auctioneer, House and Estate Agent.

FOR SALE, PIANO, splendid Instrument nearly new, Iron Frame, decorated Walnut Case; sent for private sale, very cheap; must be sold.—Apply C. WEAVER, 2, Rosebery Terrace, Consett.

FOR SALE by Private Treaty, the FREEHOLD CORNER HOUSE and SHOP, in best position in Annfield Plain, suitable for any business. Offers will be received by R. ROBSON, No. 8, Stone Row, South Pontop, or R. PRINGLE, Front Street, Annfield Plain.

FOR SALE, Twelve PIGS, 8 weeks old.—Apply to GEORGE NICHOL, Braeside, Near Castleside.

Lost and Found.

LOST, on Tuesday Afternoon last, about 2 or 3 p.m., between Consett and Dipton, a ROLL OF PLANS for the Red Lion Hotel, Dipton. Anyone returning same to Mr MAXWELL, Park Road, Consett, or Mr W. YOUNG, Dipton, will be suitably rewarded.

LOST, on Saturday night in Consett, a FAWN DOG, answers to the name of "Jack." Finder please return to 21, Consett Terrace. Detention after this date will incur prosecution.

FOUND, a BLACK-FACED EWE. — The Owner can have the same by paying expenses to W. WILSON, Maiden Law.

Business Announcements.

GLENDENNING'S BEEF AND MALT WINE.

3/9 per Bottle. 2/- per Half-Bottle.

Wm. Aynsley, Grocer & Wine Merchant, Consett, Blackhill, Leadgate, and Stanley.
T. Milner, Chemist, Consett.
Jos. Murray, Grocer & Wine Merchant, Consett.
Geo. Pattrick, Chemist, Consett.
Dryden & Co., Grocers & Wine Merchants, Consett.
N. Elsdon, Wine Merchant, Consett.
Richard Murray, Wine Merchant, Blackhill.
J. Snaith, Blue Bell Inn, Lanchester.
Mrs. Glendinning, King's Head Inn, Shotley Bridge.
Mrs. Temperley, Commercial Hotel, Leadgate.
Mrs. Cawthorne, Colliery Hotel, Hobson Colliery.
J. Irwin, Pack Horse, Tanfield.
T. Lumley, Railway Inn, Annfield Plain.
G. R. Hobson, Wine Merchant, Catchgate.
T. Armstrong, Wine Merchant, Blackhall Mill.
Turnbull Bros., Grocers, Burnopfield.
W. Wright, Burton House, Burnopfield.
T. Calvert, Grocer, Medomsley.
W. Dixon, Oak Inn, South Moor
J. Robinson, Chemist, Stanley & Annfield Plain.
R. Browell, Miner's Arms, Spen.
J. Moses, Post Office, Tow Law.
S. Leighton, Craghead Hotel, Craghead.
J. Whitfield, Forester's Arms, Frosterley.
W. Young, Red Lion Inn, Dipton.
J. Curry, Wine Merchant, Stanhope.
Dover & Co., Wine and Spirit Merchants, Belle Vue House, Dipton.
J. Gladders, Oak Tree Inn, Tantobie.
T. Gatiss, Earl Grey Inn, Kyo.
W. Oyston, Wine and Spirit Merchant, Esh.

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THE
Consett Chronicle
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1897.

THE RIGHTS OF PROPERTY.

THE property owners of Annfield Plain seem determined to obtain redress for a grievance which is a long standing one. Time, indeed, has served but to accentuate it; and the pity is that the law of the land cannot be made so as to put an end to an anomaly which is almost an outrage upon one's sense of abstract justice. We have every regard for the inviolate rights of private property; we favour neither the Anarchist nor the Socialist cult which is known as levelling down. But there are rights and rights. The man whose stone-and-lime property has been razed to the ground, or swallowed up by some revulsion of Nature in the shape of an earthquake, may appeal to these myterious forces in vain for anything in the way of a recoupment for his loss; but when property is ruined, not by the uncontrollable forces of Nature, but as the result of the workings of man, there must be something wrong with the law of a civilised land which does not allow compensation to the party who has sustained the loss. In these days, compensation is quite a venerable word, as Walpole said of that little word "patriot," which in his time was mouthed by almost everybody who attempted to speak. At the meeting of property owners at Annfield Plain on Tuesday, the opinion of counsel on their claims for compensation in name of the damage which is done to property by the undermining of the coalowners, was read. A doubt was expressed as to the legality of their claim to compensation; the thing was not definitely clear; and the hope was expressed that the grievance under which many of them labour will soon be remedied. The law is such an elastic thing that sometimes it can be twisted any way. In this case, however, the Act has been framed in a manner which does not permit of its being turned quite readily in favour of the property owner. We wish good speed to the new association which has been formed; they have justice on their side; and now that the members have put their hands to the plough, we should not like them to turn back until they have achieved the end which they have set themselves to attain.

WORKMEN'S DWELLINGS.

THE HOUSING of the working classes in and around Consett is a subject which has always been attended with difficulty. When people were first attracted to the district by the formation of the Iron Works, and the opening out of the local coal measures, a class of cottage property was built which was deemed sufficient to meet the needs of the early residents. Sanitation was not a science in those days, nor, we fear, was the morality of the community taken much into account. For the most part, the houses consisted of a single room with a pantry downstairs, and an attic above. If there happened to be a convenience at the rear, it was generally placed close to the back door. During recent years, however, the Consett Iron Company have provided houses more in keeping with the times, and in many instances the older cottages have been so re-constructed as to be fairly comfortable. But much still remains to be done in this direction. In Consett itself, private enterprise has altered and improved the appearance of the town, but the retention of one or two rows of old-time cottages in the leading thoroughfares still stamps it as an overgrown village. In a progressive place like Consett, which is everywhere regarded as the Metropolis of North-West-Durham, this is to be regretted. During the management of the late Mr JENKINS, whole streets of excellent houses were built at Blackhill for the Company's workmen, and we believe that we are right in saying that the directors at one time contemplated pulling down the old cottages that at present disfigure Front Street, and erecting more suitable ones in their places. But the scheme, as we know, was never carried out, and, probably, the Company's failure to carry it into effect will in the end be advantageous to the town, since, instead of cottages, elegant public buildings and shops are likely to adorn that side of the street in the near future. Already our spirited townsman, Mr DUNNE, is erecting a commodious Post Office on the site of two of the old cottages, and before the close of the century we may hope to see equally imposing buildings occupying both sides of the street. Of late, there has been some talk of building a Public Market, but although markets may be desirable in large towns, we fear that the experiment would not succeed in a place like Consett; and we are inclined to think that speculators would find a safer and more permanent investment of their capital by providing suitable business premises in the main thoroughfares of the town. We notice that at the last meeting of the Leadgate Council, Mr WINTER drew attention to the need which exists there of more houses for the Consett Iron Company's workmen. Two years ago, it seems, the existing houses were so overcrowded that a Committee was appointed to consider means for preventing the evil; but, as Mr ROBSON explained, through the apathy of the Committee, the inquiry was never completed, although Mr LANE states that in one instance no fewer than seventeen persons were found inhabiting two rooms. Mr WINTER expressed himself strongly on the impropriety of so many people being huddled together, and as a remedy suggested that the Company should be encouraged to proceed with the adding of back-kitchens to the houses. It appears to us, however, that by far the best plan would be that which was suggested by the Chairman of the Council. The adding of a back-kitchen to each house costs about £80, but this, as Mr PALMER points out, gives no extra sleeping accommodation; and instead of patching up the old property he is in favour of building new houses altogether. As an earnest of his anxiety to provide better accommodation for his workmen, he has already submitted to the Iron Company a scheme for building twenty four-roomed cottages, at a cost of £100 each, which he thinks will go far to relieve the congestion complained of. We are glad that the Manager of the Company's coal mines is showing such practical sympathy towards his workmen. He came here with a reputation for straightforward manliness, and we feel certain that his present endeavour will be appreciated to the full by his workmen and those wishful to see them comfortably housed.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

A DAY'S DRIVE.

Next week, we propose giving the first of a series of amusing and interesting articles from the pen of Mr W. J. Scott, of The Sycamores, Rowley, descriptive of a day's drive on the moors of North-West Durham.

WEST STANLEY.

The other day, a commercial traveller alighted at Shield Row Station and asked for West Stanley. On reaching the top of the hill he was told that he was at Stanley. This naturally puzzled him, as it does most people who see the place for the first time. They are are as much bewildered as strangers used to be when they arrived at Consett Station and found themselves at Blackhill. Readers of the Obituary Annals will notice that even down to 1865, Consett is described as High Conside. Low Conside, or the Consett of the olden time, was further down the hill, the name High Conside being given to that portion of the district which sprang up contemporaneously with the Iron Works. Gradually, as the town grew, it lost its distinctive appellations, and now it is Consett, and as such is known all over the world. To borrow a simile from Mahomet, there is but one Consett, and that is the Metropolis of North-West-Durham. There is no fear of letters addressed to Consett being sent to some obscure, out-of-the-way little place which has had the presumption to stick itself on the side of a hill. But with Stanley it is otherwise. Even the Vicar's letters occasionally go astray, as he himself told us in the *Consett Chronicle* a few weeks ago, one important missive having just recently gone by a circuitous route Crookwards. With no fewer than three Stanleys in the field, it seems to us that a general re-christening is needed. There ought to be only one Stanley, and we need hardly point out where it should be. Some people, with a hazy idea of topography, believe that West Stanley was so named to distinguish it from the Crook Stanley. But this comes of our School Boards neglecting to teach local geography. A sixth standard youth can tell us all about a country which he is never destined to see. He will name all the craters of Kamchatka, but if a Greencroft boy were asked to point out the position of Gorcock, he would tell you that it is not on the map. With regard, however, to the surmise that the town which is on the point of receiving a new magistracy was called West Stanley to distinguish it from the little place near Crook, this is a mistrke that only a second standard lad could make. As a matter of fact, it takes its name from the old West Stanley Pit. No objection can be taken to the name West Stanley, except that it gives outsiders the impression that it is only a suburb of Stanley itself. Stanley United might do well enough as a name for a football team, but it would scarcely be a dignified appellation for the rising town which is fast becoming a rival to the Metropolis of North-West-Durham. However, it is for the Stanley people themselves to decide whether the place shall be known to future generations as Stanley or West Stanley. It ought to be one or the other.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Several of our correspondents seem anxious to have the last word in the Christianity v. Secularism controversy. First and foremost is Mr Horatio Johnston, of Annfield Plain, who thinks that Christianity stands in greater danger of falling than the cause which he champions. He says that it is impossible to annihilate truth, so that Secularism stands no danger of being snuffed out. Whatever may be said of Horatio's philosophy, we must admit his smartness in replying to his opponents. He denies that the Secularists have backed out of any challenges, and informs Mr Reed that if he can get any Christian sect in Stanley to put him forward as their candidate, he can certainly be accommodated. After a reference to Mr Bartram, Mr Johnston deals with Mr Lowery. The latter, he says, misrepresents him in saying that he charged him (Mr Lowery) with being insane. "I did nothing of the kind," writes Mr Johnston, "but all the same, if he admits that he is in this serious condition, I pity him, and would urge him to seek medical aid as soon as possible." Mr Reed, of Newcastle, writes to say that Mr Bartram's boiled down letter lets everyone see how galled his party is that the Christians have not so far forgotten themselves as to write libellous statements. "Is it any wonder," he asks, "that most Christians shun these low, coarse, vulgar Infidels as they would poisonous vipers?" Infidelity, he adds, is neither flesh nor fowl, but very bad red-herring. Mr Reed's concluding words are—"The rope of Atheism is a rope of sand." All this is no doubt very amusing to our readers. Just before going to press we have received a letter from a correspondent, who signs himself "One in Doubt." The letter is a very intelligent and intelligible exposition of one who is apparently harassed as to the why and wherefor of the mutability of things in the natural physical world. He seeks also to point out certain apparent inconsistencies in the teachings of orthodoxy. In looking upon the universe in all the glory of its summer garniture, he says, there was a time "I said to myself this could not have been done without the guiding hand of some Almighty Supreme Being;" but now he finds out that "Nature has its dark as well as its bright side," and goes on to speak of the apparent heartlessness of the order of things which permits a hawk to devour a harmless thrush; that earthquakes, floods, calamities, and other serious eventualities should happen, that innocent babes should undergo so much suffering before they have become conscious they are in the world at all, and so on. "If God," he says, "is responsible for all this, where does the divine wisdom, and gentleness, and mercy come in? . . . . These are the things that puzzle the true seeker after truth," and it is because he is unable to "solve these problems" that he becomes an Atheist.

TANFIELD SCHOOL BOARD AND THE LANCHESTER MAGISTRATES.

It will be remembered that in our report of the last Lanchester Police Court, Mr Meddick, Attendauce Officer to the Tanfield School Board, appeared in support of a summons against a man named Joseph Thompson for failing to send his girl regularly to school. The mother of the girl averred that she was over thirteen years of age, while the Attendance Officer, whose contention was based on the school register, maintained that she was under that age. His Honour, Judge Greenwell, one of the magistrates present, in the absence of any evidence as to the girl's age, said the case must be adjourned, and added that the onus of proving the point in dispute lay upon the School Board. This seemed to come as a surprise to the Attendance Officer, who reported the decision of the Court at Wednesday's meeting of the School Board. The discussion which ensued will be found fully reported in another column. Judge Greenwell should know the law much better than either the Attendance Officer or the Board, and although several of the members seem to think that he is wrong, there is not the shadow of a doubt but that he is right. To expect the defendant to prove the case for the prosecution was unreasonable, to say the least of it. But this was practically what the School Board asked Mrs Thompson to do. We must express our surprise that the Board, in instructing the Attendance Officer to take proceedings in the case, did not arm himself with evidence as to the child's age. The expenditure of sixpence-halfpenny would have settled the matter beforehand. To talk of producing a school register in proof of a child's age is ridiculous. All the bother might have been avoided by the Attendance Officer applying (as Officers in other districts do) to the Superintendent Registrar for a copy of the child's age. As we have said, the expenditure of sixpence-halfpenny would have settled the point. Evidently the members of the Tanfield School Board and their Attendance Officer are sadly in need of somebody to keep them right.

THE LEADGATE POISONING CASE.

Rumour, like a little knowledge, is a dangerous thing. Last week, a boy, fourteen years of age, died rather suddenly and under circumstances which are of a singularly painful kind; and the story at once was bruited about that the poor lad had met his death by narcotic poisoning. In view of this rumour, to which credence seemed to be so readily given, it was deemed advisable by Coroner Graham to hold an inquest. The facts of the case are briefly these. The boy had been suffering from neuralgia, and went to the doctor, who extracted one of the affected teeth. The unfortunate lad did not derive the desired assuagement of his pain from the operation, and he was given a box containing 40 grains of sodium salicytete, of which he was to take half at bed-time. The boy's mother advised him when he reached home to rub his aching gums with a little of the powder. In order to relieve the sufferer, the doctor had previously given him one-eight of a grain of morphia, and it was this which, acting on a much debiliated system, had been the cause of death. It is well known that morphia is a most insidious sedative, but the dose was almost an infinitessimal one, and it was never for a moment dreamt that it would at all have a prejudicial effect. The boy had previously complained of illness, and had been ordered by another medical practitioner te stay in bed. The verdict of the jury was to the effect that death had been due to misadventure; and the Coroner did right in complimenting Dr. Boland upon the straightforward way in which he had given his statement at the inquest.

THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT IN CONSETT.

A meeting, called for the purpose of urging the desirability of forming a Volunteer Corps in Consett, was held on Friday evening. The Chairman of the meeting spoke of efforts which had been previously made in this direction, and the nugertory results of such endeavours. It does seem strange that the promoters of such a movement should meet with any obstacle in the way of consummating that upon which they have set their hearts. In far less likely and far less populous communities than this, the Volunteer movement is quite one of the favoured institutions. We hope that this, the latest effort which has been made, will be favoured with more success than those which have been previously put forth. There are those, of course, who sneer at Volunteers as amateur soldiers, and so on; but it must be remembered that the movement had its origin in the desire to fill a very commendable mission at a time when a feeling of patriotism was the prevailing sentiment of every true Britisher. "Haugthy Gaul" may not now invasion threat; but other likely enemies are not far from our gates, and the Volunteers are as necessary a part of our military equipment as ever. There is a very old aphorism that to be forewarned is to be forearmed; and how imperative is it, therefore, that in all districts where there are good men and true, there should also be Volunteers. It is to be remarked that the difficulty in Consett in regard to the formation of a corps has not been for lack of men who were willing to shoulder the rifles, but for the paucity of officers, who were willing to come forward and command the men. Such a state of things induces a parody of an old jingo song—and we do not confess to be all quite effervescent with the jingo spirit—which was sung many years ago:—

We don't want to fight,
But, by jingo, if we do,
We've got the men, but want the men to officer us through;
'Tis a pity that this lack
Should keep the movement back,
For establishing the Volunteers in Consett.

OUR OBITUARY ANNALS.

A perusal of the Obituary Annals this week will recall to the minds of our readers the small-pox visitation in the Tanfield Registration District during the year 1864. The disease appeared at Lintz Colliery in February of that year, the first death being that of a yonng girl named Mary Bell. Nine days afterwards, on the 17th, Mary, wife of Mr Henry Weedy, also succumbed. A fortnight previously, the wife of Mr Weedy's brother, Mr William Weedy, had given birth to a son, and she died the day after her sister-in-law, the child itself dying four days later from the disease. All these deaths took place at Lintz Colliery, and a fifth occurred during the following month. Altogether, between the 8th of February and the end of the year, sixteen deaths resulted, Annfield Plain contributing six of the cases, Low Bushblades one, North Pit two, Quaking House one, and Oxhill one. A most regrettable circumstance connected with the outbreak was the death of Mr Henry Watson, chemist, of Annfield Plain. Mr Watson was registrar of births and deaths, and it is supposed that he contracted the disease while discharging his official duties. He registered deaths from small-pox on the 7th and 10th of November, his own death occurring eight days after the last-named date.

ANOTHER SMALL-POX VISITATION.

In tracing the history of similar visitations in the Lanchester Union, it is a remarkable fact that they have as a rule been confined to particular districts. In 1864, the Lanchester District, which then included the large centres of Consett, Blackhill, and Leadgate, suffered but slightly. But in the more serious epidemic which carried off so many people all over the county of Durham in 1871-2, no fewer than fifty-three deaths occurred in the Lanchester District between May 1871, and April 29, 1872; while there were only eight fatal cases in the neighbouring District of Tanfield. The Smiddy Shaw Reservoir was then in course of construction, and the disease seems to have originated there. The first case occurred on the 12th of May, and there were two other cases on the 19th and 22nd. A fourth took place on the 7th of June, and a fifth on the 23rd. The disease rapidly spread to all parts of the Lanchester District, scarcely a single village escaping its ravages. Quebec suffered most, ten fatal cases occurring there, and there were five at Cornsay Colliery. Smiddy Shaw contributed seven, Consett five, Lanchester six, and Hamsteels Colliery four. There were two at Ushaw Moor, two at Greencroft, three at South Pontop, and two at Leadgate; while West Shields, Castleside, Blackhill, Esh, Holmside, Burnhope, and Esh Winning each contributed one fatal case. The epidemic was at its height in December, 1871, and the month following, but it finally disappeared at the end of April.

SHOPKEEPERS' HOURS IN CONSETT.

We publish in another column a letter which has been sent to us by a correspondent, dealing with the above matter. We are glad to see that attention has been drawn to the matter; we are aware that many, although not all, shop assistants are subject to many disabilities in the way of long hours at the hands of over-exigent employers. Twelve o'clock on a Saturday night, or rather a Sunday morning, is certainly too late, and therefore unconscionably too early at which to keep the female assistants especially. At the same time, we are afraid that the customers are almost entirely to blame for this. "Much evil is wrought from want of thought, as well as from want of heart"; and no doubt the people who make their purchases late on Saturday nights do so without thought for the lot of those who serve them. If there were no customers, merchants would close their places of business at an earlier hour; and while there are customers to serve, it cannot be expected that shopkeepers will close their places of business. Perhaps if the public will take notice of our correspondent's letter, some remedy may be forthcoming. The fact should not be lost sight of that while the shopkeepers' assistants are kept to a late hour on Saturday evenings, they have a half-holiday on one day in the week—a boon which is not enjoyed by their brothers and sisters in many other towns.

THE CO-OPERATIVE FIRE.

Fires in Consett are happily rare occurrences. We do not suggest that the residents of Consett and district are not accustomed to fires—for is not the lurid glare which throws itself across the local horizon a sight to be seen at fitful intervals, any dark night—but fires which are disastrous in so far as they mean the loss of much property, and of course necessitate a great deal of inconvenience. One of these latter contingencies occurred last week, by which, as would be seen from the *Consett Chronicle* of last week, damage to the extent of £20,000 was sustained. The ruins of the burning pile have been viewed since by great crowds of interested onlookers. On Sunday, in particular, the walls which remained must have felt that, though only inanimate matter, they had some difficulty in keeping themselves in a perpendicular position by reason of the numerous pairs of eyes which were levelled at them. Anxiety was at first felt for the safety of the safes—to use a repetition which may be pardoned—and though the rescuing of these was an undertaking of no small difficulty, the work was at length safely accomplished. It was also discovered that the contents of the safe—which included the Society's books—had been fortunately preserved, even after having been subject to an element the extent of which could only be equalled by the burning marle itself.

LEVEL CROSSINGS.

That level crossings, as a rule, are dangerous cannot be denied. There are some places where they are particularly so: in others, the menace to human life and limb is not so apparent. In Consett and district there are many level crossings, but the precautions taken to obviate danger to pedestrians are so thorough and complete, that we seldom hear of any accidents at all. Still, where there is at all the least likelihood of danger, it is the duty of the members of any authority to call attention to the matter, with the object, if possible, of having the danger lessened. At a recent meeting of Medomsley Parish Council, reference was made to a level crossing at Medomsley Depôt. We are not in a position to say precisely whether there is any very crying danger at this particular point; but the Chairman submitted that it would be well to communicate with the District Council on the subject. One remark, which was made by Mr Armstrong, however, is deserving of notice, because it illustrates a policy which is too often pursued when anything has to be done in protecting the public. This gentleman very pointedly asked whether they had to wait until some one was killed before some measure of protection was forthcoming. As to the merits of the case, as we have said, we are unable to express an opinion, but the policy of allowing the horse to be stolen and then locking the stable door is certainly not one which finds favour in many quarters.

POSTAL GRIEVANCES.

The people of Consett, it seems, are not alone in the grievance they feel in regard to the postal service. One complaint generally made is that the Post Office is in perhaps the least convenient and most inaccessible part of the town, but this will soon be remedied, when the new Post Office now in course of erection is completed. So far the people of Consett have the immediate prospect of something being done to have a more central Post Office. But, unhappily, there does not seem the same likelihood of another grievance, which comes from the Cornsay Parish Council, being so readily dealt with. At the last meeting of the Lanchester Rural District Council, a communication was read from the parish authority already named, asking if the District Council would assist to "obtain a postal delivery for the population living west of the Almshouses." District Councils, both rural and urban, may be able to do many things, but when it is a question of forcing the hands of the Departments at Westminster, in many cases their impotence is as pronounced as the great reputation which has already been gained by the powers that be in London for delay. The officials themselves seem to be so tightly bound up by that proverbial ligature of red tape that they are positively unable to stir themselves. Mr Kirkup said he had been in communication with the postal authorities, but could get no further satisfaction than that "the matter was under consideration." Just so, Mr Kirkup, but you may console yourself with the fact that your experience is the lot of thousands who vainly seek to attempt to obtain redress for many grievances in the same way; and who, when they ask for bread are offered as a substitute a mere stone. Mr Kirkup further mentioned that the people living in the neighbourhood referred to had had to depend entirely upon the school children for the delivery of their letters, and very often the letters were lost. Mr Muse was even more amusing than Mr Kirkup. He reminded the meeting that the Postmaster General had stated that every house in England had a right to a postal delivery. We know that all statesmen deal in hyperboles, and are frequently given to giving utterance to queer things. However, this proposal, or rather contention, of the Postmaster General's should not be so wildly impracticable as it might at the first blush seem. We can only hope that the aggrieved residents of the district beyond the Almshouses—and that they labour under a decided disadvantage, every one will admit—will soon have their letters delivered by a real man wearing a certain familiar uniform, just as well as their more privileged fellow-citizens.

HYGIENIC.

It is the lot of members of Parish and District Councils to deal with and discuss many subjects which are not of the most savoury kind. In a debate upon the respective merits of Tweedledum and Tweedledee there is very often scope for a display of argumentative power, although the issue is of no importance either to the individual or the nation. But the authorities already alluded to—Parish and District Councils—are the guardians of the health of their respective communities, and it is their lot, we have said, to discuss certain sanitary matters at such length that there is very often just a suggestion of the room being pervaded by certain maladorious smells of the matter which is being referred to. At a meeting of the Lanchester Rural District Council last week a letter was received from the Medomsley Parish Council complaining of "offensive smells" in the village. Happily, the Chairman (Mr Logan) is of opinion that his district is more favoured than that of Medomsley, for he declared that they did not "appear to have got the proper microbe cultivated as at Medomsley." It may not be so much the microbe as the keenness of the olfactory organs of some people. There are those, we know, who seem to live and move and have their being in a continuous smell of something which is a menace to the health of the whole community. We do not mean to suggest that the people of Medomsley have such individuals among their number as those to whom we have referred. Smells, especially those which come from any defect in the sewage arrangements of a community, are not only disagreeable but dangerous, and everything should be done that is possible to abate such nuisances. The Lanchester authority has ever been remarkable for the commendable zeal which they have manifested for the public health, and we have no doubt this matter which has been complained of at Medomsley will receive due attention.

MEDOMSLEY SCHOOL BOARD.

The first meeting of the Medomsley School Board, as re-constituted by the recent election, was of purely a formal character. Mr Palmer was unanimously elected to the chairmanship of the body, and the heartiness with which the appointment was endorsed indicates that feeling which is expressed by a sentence now particularly trite—but in this case no less true by reason of its triteness—namely, that Mr Palmer is "the right man in the right place." In the course of a few words in reply for his appointment, Mr Palmer took occasion to mention that he had been sought by the honour, and not the honour by him. He had also won his seat on the Board without having canvassed a single vote. All honour to those gentlemen who in this way seek places on public bodies without urging the voters to compromise the secrecy of the ballot. We hope that the Board will have a pleasant reign of office under their new and capable Chairman.

THE APPROACH OF CHRISTMAS.

We have been fortunately favoured with a wonderful immunity from "chill November's surly blasts." Indeed the weather of the last few days has been of that etherial mildness which is associated by the poets with the sweet season of spring. Of course, the weather so persistently maintains its reputation in the way of changeableness, that before these lines are printed the fine weather of this week may only be a happy memory. With the approach of the close of the penultimate month of our calendar, the thoughts of most people turn to Yuletide, with its social and family rejoicings. The bookstalls are already laden with those certain harbingers of the festive season—the Christmas Annual. O, to think how these publications, which are supposed to remind us of the season when the air is charged with a piercing iceness, and the rooms within gladdened by the suffusing warmth of the Yule log—to think, we say, how these publications should have been printed with all their garish covers, so very, very far in advance. One cannot fail to observe a disagreeable sameness about these annuals, which are gradually becoming as hardy as those other annuals of the garden. Nor can we be drawn to doubt that they will work their own destruction. Dickens is claimed by some to have been the founder of our Christmas, and where in all the army of writers of the most tastefully bound Christmas books can we find one to equal the matchless carols of the great master? When we think of the mean, misanthropic Scrooge, the shade of his partner, Marlow, and the beautiful picture of the humble clerk in the bosom of his happy, albeit numerous, family, we are led to believe that there is only one Christmas story, which has been read with delight by millions, and will be read by millions more, long after the ephemeral productions of others have been consigned to the limbo of things that are forgotten—that one story is Dickens' Christmas Carols.

STANLEY & DISTRICT GOSSIP.

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

A DESERVING CASE.

A benefit concert is to be given in the Co-operative Hall, Annfield Plain, on December 1st, the proceeds being devoted to the benefit of Mr Isaac Newton, who some thirty years ago was a prominent figure in Trades Union business, and a hard fighter on behalf of the rights of workingmen. About 28 years ago, Mr Newton was severely injured whilst following his employment, and Dr. Hooper then told him that in 21 years it would be necessary to amputate his leg. The prediction proved startingly correct, the leg having to be taken off within a few days of the time fixed by the Doctor. Mr Newton was subsequently engaged as a clerk by the local Co-operative Society, but over three years ago he sustained a stroke, and since then he has been incapable of doing any work. This is a most deserving case, and it is to be hoped that there will be a bumper house on the evening in question. The whole of the artistes have proffered their services free for the occasion.

QUESTIONS FROM STANLEY.

A correspondent, signing himself "Undercurrent," sends the appended queries. Personally, I am unable to give any anwers to the questions, and would advise my correspondent to communicate with the District Council on the subjects in which he is interested. The questions are:—Is it true that the Surveyor and Inspector is the boss of the Board? Is it true that the roadmen work only 42 hours per week? Is it true that from two to three hours a day are spent when horses and carts are employed travelling to and from their work? Is it true that a horse with three legs gets the same pay as a good one? Is it true that certain roadmen can either work or drink? Is it true that the Surveyor and the Board are laughing at the ratepayers?

MR J. W. ROBSON.

The funeral of the late Mr J. W. Robson was one of the largest ever seen in the district, and the relatives of deceased are desirous of expressing their thanks for the sympathy shown to them in their affliction by the bandsmen of the South Derwent Band, the members of the Annfield Plain and Stanley Football Clubs, and the general public.

MORE LIGHT.

Councillor Armstrong did a public duty right manfully at Wednesday's deliberations of the Stanley District Council by calling attention to the somewhat faulty manner in which the lighting arrangements of the district are carred out. Apart altogether from the manner in which the lamps are, or are not, kept lighted, it certainly appears to me, as to most of the residents in Stanley, that our gas supply is rather lacking in power. Some of the lights are scarcely equal to an ordinary rushlight. The lamp at the corner of Towneley Street and Clifford Road is a notable offender in this respect.

A GENEROUS COUNCIL.

Stanley councillors were in a generous mood on Wednesday, and actually decided to give "Old John" an increase of wages of one shilling a week. Well done, ye liberal councillors.

MULTUM IN PARVO.

Councillor Warwick, of Tanfield, is a regular spectator at the Stanley football matches, and his voice frequently rings forth with the same eloquence as in the Council chamber.

STANLEY CRICKETERS

appear likely to open next season clear of debt. In addition to the eight gentlemen mentioned in last week's *Chronicle*, Messrs R. Walker and R. Noble have each promised to raise a guinea for the Club's funds; and a syndicate, consisting of Messrs R. Gibson, T. Jewitt, L. Errington, and A. N. Other, have promised to collect another guinea.

TANFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

have a rather slow mode of conducting their business. Might I suggest to the Board the advisability of holding the Attendance Committee meetings at the conclusion of the principal business, or on some other day?

MR SEYMOUR MEDDICK

believes that dirt is a creator of disease. The merest tyro in the laws of hygiene will not take this, of course, as a startling pronouncement. Dealing with a remark by Mr Green, at a recent meeting of the Tanfield School Board, that a certain family were very delicate; Mr Meddick responded by saying, "Yes; but, mind you, I believe that a lot of the delicacy is caused by dirt."

THE LION AND THE LAMB.

Who shall say that the time when the lion and the lamb shall lie down together is far distant, seeing that at Tuesday evening's gathering of the Tanfield School Board, Mr Archdall presented Mr Bulmer with a cigar? The "People's William" accepted the gift with quite a royal graciousness, and actually put down his favourite pipe to smoke the parson's Havannah.

MEDOMSLEY.

DERWENT VALLEY PLOUGHING ASSOCIATION.—A meeting of the members of this Association was held on Saturday evening, at Mr Jos. Robinson's, Stag's Head, Medomsley. Mr R. Moffitt presided. In the course of the evening, it was decided that the ploughing competion be held on farms belonging to Messrs W. and J. Hunter, Town Farm, and Mr J. Hunter, Grange Farm, Medomsley. Judges were nominated for ploughing, and Messrs R. Swinburn, Hedley, and Gray, Sherburn Towers, judges for horses.

CONSETT.

THE THEATRE.—"Men-o'-War" is ths title of the piece which is being played in this popular place of entertainment thie week; and the management are to be congratulated once more upon having provided a real treat for their patrons. The theatre has been fairly well patronised. The piece is well staged, the scenery is bright and attractive, and all the members of the company are capable exponents of their various parts.

YOUNG MEN'S DEBATING SOCIETY. — On Tuesday evening, a lecture, illustrated by lantern views, entitled "John Wesley," was given in the New Church and School Hall, by the Rev. H. R. Jecks, B.A., Medomsley. The hall was crowded to its utmost capacity. Songs were sung by Mr Symington, Mr Cant, and Miss Nicholson. At the close of the lecture, the Vicar, Rev. F. Steggall, moved a hearty vote of thanks to the lecturer. Mr G. Dawson seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

MALTON COLLIERY.

CRICKET AND FOOTBALL CLUB. — The members of the above Club held their annual supper, on Saturday, at Mr J. Humble's, King's Head Hotel, Lanchester. Upwards of thirty sat down to a very excellent repast. On the removal of the cloth, Mr D. Champney was voted to the chair and Mr G. Shipley to the vice-chair. The first toast was "The Chairman."—Mr Champney, in responding, said he would at all times support the Malton Club, and trusted it would have a successful season.—Mr Shipley, in an interesting speech, showed the rapid growth of Malton Colliery. Some ten years ago, it was a very small place, but since then, and during the last five years, plant to the amount of £100,000 had been put down, and it was now fast becoming a big concern. He had much pleasure in proposing "The health of Colonel Sadler and family."—Mr J. Peacock proposed "Success to the Malton Colliery Cricket and Football Club," and in doing so, said he hoped that the Club would have a very prosperous and successful future.—Mr W. D. Ramsay responded, and briefly gave an outline of the Club's doings. The first team had played fourteen matches, won five, lost nine; but considering that they had opposed almost the best talent in the district, the results were very gatifying. The second team had played eight matches, won seven, and lost one, which was a very creditable performance. Mr James Wilson won the cricket bat, but for the best average in the first team: Mr J. Williamson got a similar prize for the best average in the second team.—Mr Humble responded to the toast, "The Host and Hostess."—The following contributed to the harmony of the evening: — Messrs Aynsley, Stephenson, Jopling, Cooper, Finnigan, Kirtley, Wilson, Peacock, and Champney. — Messrs Aynsley and Stephenson ably presided at the piano. —A very pleasant evening terminated in singing "Auld Lang Syne."

BALL AT CHESTER-LE-STREET.

The members of the Chester-le-Street Cricket Club held their annual ball in the Church Institute on Monday evening last. The room was very tastefully decorated by the members, and the floor was in excellent condition. Dancing was commenced shortly after eight o'clock, and was kept up with great vigour until mid-night, at which hour the proceedings terminated. Invitations were sent out by the committee, and over 40 couple put in an appearance. The secretarial duties were ably carried out by Mr Alderson, who is already making active preparations for carrying off the cup next season. The refreshments were given by the members and supporters of the club, the ladies in charge being Miss Potts and Miss Middleton, ample justice being done to the good things provided. The music was supplied by Mr R. Smith, Newcastle, whilst the duties of M.C.'s were carried out by Messrs T. R. Hall, J. W. Cuthbertson, and E. Watson. Everybody appeared to enjoy a pleasant evening, and the proceedings concluded with the singing of the National Anthem. Amongst those present were—Miss Anderson, Chester-le-Street; Misses Armstrong, Chester-le-Street; Misses Burn, Chester-le-Street; Mr F. C. Bullock, Chester-le-Street; Mr F. Bolam, Chester-le-Street; Mr J. W. Cuthbertson, Chester-le-Street; Mr and Mrs W. Clarke, Chester-le-Street; Mr G. Clarke, Chester-le-Street; Mr C. Clarke and Miss Clarke, Mr and Miss Dormand, Mr G. Dixon, Miss Ferguson, Dr and Miss Garson, Sacriston; Mr and Mrs F. Gibson, Chester-le-Street; Mr T. R. and Mrs Hall, Chester-le-Street; Mr W. J. and Mrs Hall, Chester-le-Street; Mr E. F. and Miss Hutchinson, Chester-le-Street; Dr. and Mrs Ingram Johnson, South Moor; Mr W. and Miss Lawson, Miss Lamb, Mr W. McLane, Mr W. Morris, Mr Marshall, South Moor; Miss Mitchell, Sunderland; Mr and the Misses Nicholson, Mr and Miss Oates, Misses Quinlan, Mr and Miss Ridley, Mr J. Y. Robson, Miss Simpson, Birtley; Mr and Miss Sheraton, Dr Smith, Birtley; Mr W. Speed, Misses Steele, Mr F. and Miss Thompson, Mr Tom Welch, South Moor; Mr E. and Miss Watson, Mr E. Wilson, Mr J Wilson, and the Misses Wilson.

FOOTBALL.

DERWENT VALLEY LEAGUE.

Result up to date—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals For	Goals Agst	P.
Shotley	5	5	0	0	13	4	10
Tantobie	7	4	2	1	19	8	9
Leadgate Reserve	5	3	1	1	18	4	7
Spen	4	2	1	1	8	6	5
Allendale	4	2	2	0	11	5	4
Iveston	6	2	4	0	10	15	4
Lintz Rovers	4	1	3	1	7	14	3
Consett Park	6	0	6	0	4	33	0
Lintzford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

BUURNOPFIELD JUNIOR LEAGUE.

Results up to date—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals For	Goals Agst	P.
Tanfield Lea	7	6	0	1	22	7	13
Byer Moor Jnrs	9	5	2	2	19	14	12
Hobson Juniors	7	3	2	2	24	13	8
Shotley Bridge	6	3	2	1	17	6	7
Dipton St Johns	4	2	1	1	10	7	5
Hamsterley Stars	7	2	4	1	17	18	5
Marley Hill	3	1	2	0	9	6	2
Consett Swifts	1	1	0	0	6	0	2
Whickham	1	1	0	0	2	1	2
Lintzford	6	1	5	0	10	18	2
Blackhill R	1	0	1	0	0	6	0
Tantobie	6	0	6	0	1	41	0

W H Dawson, Sec.

BIRTLEY.

LITERARY INSTITUTE.—The committee of this Institute are taking into consideration the advisability of securing more larger and commodious premises, as their rooms at the top of the Co-operative Stores are too small for the use of the members, the number of which are steadily increasing.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.—The 140th quarterly meeting of the Chester-le-Street Co-operative Society was held on Saturday night last in the large hall, Mr Richard Hamilton, president, in the chair. After the minutes of the last meeting had been read and confirmed, the secretary, Mr John Pringle, read the report and balance sheet, which, after a few questions had been answered, was accepted and passed. The annual election of officers resulted in the re-election of Mr Richard Hamilton, who has held the position for some years now. Messrs. E. and W. Sparks, chartered accountants, were re-elected auditors for the ensuing year. In the election of three committee-men for the next twelve months, Mr Thomas Lowery was elected for Chester-le-Street in the place of Mr Geo. Boult, retiring, Mr T. Hamilton for Harraton district in place of Mr T. Dixon, and Mr Peter S. Cole for Chester Moor district in place of Mr Geo. Marshall. The usual annual donations to Whitley Convalescent Home, Newcastle-on-Tyne Infirmary, Sunderland Infirmary, and Durham Hospital were granted, but an appeal from the National Lifeboat Institution was negatived. A recommendation from the Committee to invest a further sum of £50 in the Birtley Iron and Tinplate Productive Society was carried. It was also decided to give an advance of 10s per week to Mr John Pringle, secretary to the Society.

TELEGRAPHIC FACILITIES AT CASTLESIDE.

The following letter has been addressed by Mr Wm. J. Scott, Clerk to the Castleside Parish Council, to the authorities in London, with reference to the unsatisfactory telegraphic arrangements at Castleside:—

Healeyfield Parish Council,
November 23, 1897.

SIR,—I am directed by the Healeyfield Parish Council to again call your attention to the question of the non-existence of satisfactory telegraphic communication for the Parish, and to express their profound regret at the nature of your reply to my letter of July 30th last. I am further directed to remind you of the question contained therein relative to the amount of guarantee you would require in the event of your conceding the Council's request. Would you kindly notify me respecting the matter, so that I may lay it before the Council at its next meeting? I am also requested to state that the Council regard as of paramount importance to the Parish the establishment of an efficient telegraphic service in the Village of Castleside. The present service is totally inefficient, and practically useless inasmuch as the present telegraph office — Rowley Station — is a mile distant from the bulk of the inhabitants, and there is no delivery from this Office. Under existing circumstances, the number of messages forwarded and received ought not to be taken as a criterion of what business would result from the location of a telegraph office in the village. The Council wish also to point out that, with an increasing population, cases of sickness are much more frequent, and Consett, where our nearest medical doctor resides, is at least three miles away, and this distance has repeatedly to be traversed three and four times before the necessary aid can be procured. This was the case when the last fatal accident occurred, and the sufferer succumbed to the effects of an operation, which might have proved effective if performed an hour earlier. In conclusion, I have to suggest for your consideration a means by which a very effective telegraphic communication might be established. It is this. A wire might be brought from that which you have now running along the North-Eastern line from Consett to Bishop Auckland, to Castleside Post Office. One of your main lines of wire, north and south, passes within 200 yards of the Post Office, and crosses the former at Rowley Station. Hence, only additional wire to cover one and a quarter miles at most, and a small number of poles, would be required.—Awaiting your favourable reply, I am, sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM J. SCOTT.

To the Secretary, General Post Office, London.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

THE ACCIDENT ON THE HIGHWAY.—Mr George Daventry desires us to correct an erronious impression which appears to have been conveyed by the paragraph in reference to the accident which happened in this village last week. It was stated that a waggon, driven by a man named John Allen, had collided with a motor car belonging to a theatrical company. Mr Daventry wishes us to state that there was not any collision, and asks us to explain that Allen fell from the cart when the motor car was forty yards away. It is Mr Daventry's opinion that the wagon ran on to one of the boulders which is placed there to keep the drivers off the pavement. The off wheel ran down about three and a half feet of the declivity. The road is only 13 feet wide.

OBITUARY ANNALS

OF

NORTH-WEST DURHAM.

[ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.]

In these papers it is proposed to give some account of the most remarkable occurrences in the whole area of the Lanchester Union during a period of sixty years. It is believed that they will be of interest to the readers of the *Chronicle*, and their co-operation is solicited in making the records as complete as possible. The utmost care has been taken to give nothing that would be likely to cause offence or give pain. Many of the events chronicled will be within the recollection of some of our older readers, and we shall be glad to receive additional facts relative to any of the events or people mentioned. The record has been compiled with great care, and the names and dates may be accepted as absolutely correct. With a view to making this department of the *Chronicle* interesting, the Editor will be glad to answer, free of charge, inquiries respecting the date of the death of any person in North-West Durham during the period covered by the record.

1864.

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

1 Oct., Thomas Little, Annfield Plain, aged 38.
4 Oct., Henry White, Leadgate, aged 70.
7 Oct., Elizabeth, wife of William Miller, Leadgate, aged 52.
7 Oct., John Hewitt, publican, Highgate, aged 38.
11 Oct., Michael Gibson, Low Bushblades, aged 62.
13 Oct., Ann, wife of Robert Simpson, Dipton, aged 28.
20 Oct., Ann, daughter of Robert Laws, farmer, Wester Lea Farm, Tanfield, aged 69.
20 Oct., Matthew Dodds, Shield Row, aged 72.
20 Oct., Jane, widow of Samuel Simpson, musician, Lanchester, aged 47.
20 Oct., Ann Scott, Ebchester, aged 72.
20 Oct., Mary, wife of Patrick Gannon, South Moor, aged 31.
21 Oct., George Wear, High Conside, aged 35.
22 Oct., George Oxley, brewer, South Moor, aged 71.
24 Oct., Elizabeth, wife of George Trippet, Annfield Plain, aged 29.
25 Oct., Eleanor, wife of Henry Hobday, plate-roller, Blackhill, aged 25.
26 Oct., Ann, wife of Thomas Brown, beer house keeper, Blackhill, aged 57.
28 Oct., Margaret, daughter of George Wall, Cornsay, aged 21.
1 Nov., Hannah, widow of William Miller, Greenland, Esh, aged 70.
8 Nov., Matthew Dickinson, aged 56, master shifter, Kyo, found drowned in a horse trough in South Derwent Pit. He was supposed to have fallen into the trough while in a fit, to which he was subject.
10 Nov., Henderson Smith, coach-driver, High Conside, aged 37.
10 Nov., Margaret, widow of John Cane, High Conside, aged 68.
13 Nov., Dinah, wife of James Emery, banksman, Medomsley Edge, aged 54.
15 Nov., Richard Ritson, Leadgate, aged 87.
16 Nov., Sarah, widow of John Herron, mason, West Butsfield, aged 57.
19 Nov., Isabella, widow of William Binks, Esh, aged 81.
19 Nov., Marshall Lee, Sheep Hill, aged 37.
21 Nov., David Kelly, aged 10, grocer's boy, killed at Dipton by a cart going over him, horse having run away, and deceased not having hold of the reins.
22 Nov., George Cook, master shoemaker, Blackhill, aged 75.
27 Nov., Henry Watson, chemist, and registrar of births and deaths, Annfield Plain, aged 48, died of small pox.
29 Nov., Alice, wife of Francis Carbary, Leadgate, aged 48.
29 Nov., Cuthbert Wilson, Oakey's Houses, aged 37.
30 Nov., Sarah, widow of Matthew Maudling, farmer, Medomsley, aged 81.
30 Nov., Margaret, wife of Thomas Moses, shoemaker, Leadgate, aged 36.
5 Dec., James Kirkup, Quaking House, Kyo, aged 38.
5 Dec., John Temperley, overman, High Conside, aged 73.
6 Dec., James Agnew, shoemaker, High Conside, aged 51.
8 Dec., Alexander Thompson, toll collector, Conside Iron Works, aged 66.
8 Dec., Robert Foreman, Redwell Hills, aged 68.
9 Dec., Joseph Gelley, forgeman, Derwent Cote, aged 50.
14 Dec., Alice, widow of John Martin, Blackhill, aged 68.
16 Dec., William Watson, Leadgate, aged 43.
18 Dec., James Sellars, Shield Row, aged 44.
18 Dec., Catherine, wife of Peter McCuy, Stobswoodhead, aged 40.
19 Dec., Francis Murphy, High Conside, aged 70.
21 Dec., Mary Ann, wife of James Shaw, engine fitter, Waskerley Park, aged 51.
30 Dec., John Griffith, aged 18, clerk, Blackhill, accidentally burnt to death by an explosion of mineral turpentine.
31 Dec., Henry Green, farm bailiff, Blackhill, aged 65.

1865.

1 Jan., John Ray, High Conside, aged 55.
1 Jan., Elizabeth, widow of John Robinson, Dipton, aged 70.
2 Jan, Thomas Moses, master shoemaker, South Pontop, aged 37.
4 Jan., George Wheldon, Craghead, aged 61.
6 Jan., Robert Walker, shoemaker, Nursen Field, Langley, aged 31.
7 Jan., Joseph Jackson, blacksmith, Beamish Red Row, aged 89.
13 Jan., Robert Heslop, Dipton, aged 21.
14 Jan., Jane, widow of John Orr, Burnopfield, aged 72.
15 Jan., Mary Ann, wife of Thomas Murphy, Blackhill, aged 23.
16 Jan., Ann, widow of William Robinson, farmer, Lanchester, aged 75.
17 Jan., Adam Wilkinson, aged 32, shifter, Kyo, killed by a stone falling on him in South Derwent Coal Mine.
17 Jan., Robert Hardy, farmer, Knitsley, aged 92.
18 Jan., George Nicholson, White-le-Head, aged 79.
19 Jan., Bridget, wife of Edward Dorkin, Hill Top, Collierley, aged 50.
19 Jan., Francis Mee, High Conside, aged 22.
20 Jan., John McLaren, High Conside, aged 33.
22 Jan., Alice Hornsby, daughter of Robert Petty, schoolmaster, Low Burnhopeside, aged 22.
22 Jan., Eleanor, wife of George Bowman, Craghead, aged 55.
23 Jan., Mary, daughter of John Sherlock, farmer, Gold Hill, aged 16.
23 Jan., William Milburn, police officer, Castleside, aged 25.
23 Jan., Elizabeth Cameron, Blackhill, aged 71.
25 Jan., William Pearson, joiner, Stobswoodhead, aged 78.
4 Feb., Sarah, wife of Thomas Robson, Leadgate, aged 39.
4 Feb., Laurence Gillhespie, Stobswoodhead, aged 70.
5 Feb., Elizabeth McGurk, High Conside, aged 43.
8 Feb., Frances, wife of Matthew Ayre, Greenfield Cottages, aged 27.
9 Feb., Mary Ann, wife of William Juell, Snows Green, aged 41.
10 Feb., Matthew Adamson, master butcher and innkeeper, Burnopfield, aged 38.
15 Feb., Thomas, aged 8 years, son of Joseph Surtees, coal agent, Conside, accidentally killed by a cart passing over him.
16 Feb., William Shield, Oxhill, aged 67.
18 Feb., Patrick Duffy, Blackhill, aged 78.
19 Feb., Mary Ann, wife of Joseph Bessford, High Conside, aged 24.
21 Feb., Isabella, wife of James Riddell, Shipley's Houses, Kyo, aged 37.
21 Feb., Charles Whitfield, aged 30, carrier, Shotley Bridge, died from being run over by his wagon on the 17th February.
22 Feb., Patrick Teague, 19, and John McNany, 23, killed by wagons falling on to them at Consett Iron Works, the cog wheel of the engine having broken, causing the wagons to run amain.
22 Feb., Jane, wife of Robert Ford, Leadgate, aged 53.
23 Feb., Joseph Musgrove, Craghead, aged 35.
25 Feb., Robert Hope, aged 62, shoemaker, Collierley, accidentally shot himself by having a loaded gun barrel in his pocket.
26 Feb., Samuel Myers, Dipton, aged 58.
1 March, Robert Mossom, aged 33, Shield Row, died from shock to system by burns caused by an explosion of gas in West Stanley Pit on the 10th February.
5 March, Margaret, wife of James Caddle, Blackhill, aged 49.
7 March, Thomas Shipway, High Conside, aged 49.
7 March, William Robley, miller, Castleside, aged 81.
8 March, Hannah, wife of Thomas Forster, master mason, Fines House, aged 62.
9 March, Mary, wife of John Scott, woodman, Springwell House, Greencroft, aged 52.
9 March, Catharine, wife of George Roberts, iron roller, Blackhill, aged 46.
9 March, Jane, wife of Michael Ruddy, High Conside, aged 49.
9 March, Isabella, wife of William Scott Pace, Flint Hill, aged 21.
11 March, Jane, wife of Anthony Tate, Shield Row, aged 54.
13 March, Catherine, widow of Thomas Watson, shoemaker, Busty Bank, aged 64.
14 March, Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Parker, ale and porter merchant, High Conside, aged 36.
14 March, Edward Nicholson, farmer, Broomshields, aged 49.
17 March, Margaret, wife of Joseph Wilson, quarryman, Castleside, aged 45.
21 March, Edward Martin, Leadgate, aged 55.
21 March, Ann, wife of Alexander Young, woodman, Dene Cottages, aged 44.
26 March, Jane, widow of John Barron, Maiden Law, aged 84.
29 March, Thomas Tripp, Hobson Colliery, aged 70.

LANCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The monthly meeting of this authority was held on Thursday at Lanchester, Mr W. Logan presiding. There were also present Messrs. T. J. Muse, W. Gray, P. Kirkup, H. Palmer, J. Oliver, T. Wilkinson, W. Robinson, R. Burleigh, T. Collier, E. J. Wardle, J. Pumphrey, J. Hunter, and W. H. Ritson (Clerk).

MALTON SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

The CHAIRMAN reported that a committee of which he was a member had seen Mr Sadler regarding the sewage disposal works, and he had agreed to allow the use of sufficient land at a nominal rent. An alternative site was offered by Mr Todd for £50 a year.

Mr WILKINSON: They don't want us.

It was agreed to make formal application to Messrs. Sadler for terms, &c.

HAMSTERLEY SEWERS.

The following tenders were received for sewers at Hamsterley:—D. Champney, Lanchester, £39 15s.; A. and R. Davis, Burnopfield, £43 11s.; Edward Taylor, Durham, £42 15s.; Joseph Wardlaw, £52 12s.; G. T. Manners, Durham, £50.

Mr PALMER said that the Medomsley Parish Council had not heard anything about the proposed sewers. They had not even had a plan before them.

The CHAIRMAN said that it was necessary that the Medomsley Parish Council should see the plans. The Parish Council had a right to receive the plans, for they had to pay the piper.—It was decided to accept Mr Champney's tender subject to the appoval of the Medomsley Parish Council.

POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS.

A communication was received from the Cornsay Parish Council asking if the District Council would assist the Parish Council and the District Councillors to obtain a postal delivery for the population living west of the almshouses.

Mr KIRKUP said that he had been in communication with the postal authorities, but could get no further satisfaction than that the matter was under consideration. The people living beyond the armshouses had to depend entirely upon the school children for getting their letters.

Mr MUSE: That is not carrying out the postal regulations. The Postmaster General said in a recent speech that every house in England had a right to a postal delivery.

Mr KIRKUP said he felt quite sure that many letters were lost by the children. He proposed that the Clerk communicate with the Postmaster General on the subject.

Mr WILKINSON seconded, and the proposal was agreed to.

CASTLESIDE MANHOLES.

A communication was read from the Healeyfield Parish Council stating that numerous complaints had been received respecting the abominable stenches arising from the manholes at Castleside; and expressing an opinion that there was a lack in the not too frequent flushings.

Mr MUSE said that the stench was abominable. There had been a great number of complaints, and he himself had previously brought the matter before the Council, and spoken to Mr Parker about it.

Mr Lupton said that since receiving the complaint, he had flushed the whole of the manholes, and with one exception, they were all right. He would prepare a special report regarding the matter for the next meeting.

Mr Lupton's suggestion was agreed to.

MEDOMSLEY MANHOLES.

A letter was received from the Medomsley Parish Council regarding the offensive smells arising from manholes in the village, and asking the District Council to have the matter remedied as soon as possible. The Parish Council were desirous of knowing what the Council intended doing with regard to the flushing.

The CHAIRMAN: They do not appear to have got the proper microbe cultivated at Medomsley. (Laughter.)

Mr PALMER: It seems to thrive there. (Laughter.)

Mr KIRKUP: It refers back to Mr Parker's fad of manholes on public roads. They are an abomination.

The CHAIRMAN: It is not the fad of one engineer, but of engineers all over the country, and cannot be done without.

Mr PALMER: It would be as well to know how many automatic flushes there are.

Mr J. S. Parker: One.

Mr PALMER: There have been complaints from the whole of Medomsley Village and Medomsley Edge.

Mr MUSE: As a matter of fact, the ventilating shafts do not take the smell away.

Mr PALMER: They have not done the slightest good at Medomsley. They have been placed over the gratings, and look like lamp posts. Mr Parker fixed up two, but they have not realised expectations.

The matter was referred to Mr Lupton.

MEDICAL REPORTS.

Dr. Bolton reported that there had not been any cases of infectious disease to register in the Medomsley or Ebchester districts during the past month.—Dr. Wilson reported that 70 cases of infectious diseases had occurred in the Lanchester district during the past four weeks. Forty cases of whooping cough occurred at Hedley Fell.

WATER FOR HOUSE AT TRY-EM-ALL.

Mr GRAY drew attention to the necessity of providing a water supply for the house at Try-Em-All, inhabited by Mrs Robinson. The house was situated about 75 yards from the present main drain, and Mrs Robinson and her family were wishful to contribute £5 towards the cost. The total cost should not be much above £5, and he therefore proposed that the water pipe be laid down.

The CHAIRMAN: The estimate of cost that I had heard was £20.

Mr Lupton said that he had visited the place, and thought the original estimate was excessive. He went to the Consett Water Company's Offices, and was informed that they objected to laying down lead pipes on account of the danger of lead poisoning. He suggested that they should lay down an half-inch iron pipe, and was told that that could be done for £7 10s. A two-inch metal pipe would cost £9 10s.

Several MEMBERS expressed objection to the laying of a lead pipe, but

Mr GRAY said that he had no objection whatever to a lead pipe.

Mr KIRKUP: If you would drink from a lead pipe, Mr Gray, I would not.

Mr GRAY: I have drunk many a gallon. (Laughter.)

It was agreed to put down a 2-inch metal pipe.

Mr Philip Reay, of Annfield Plain, was re-engaged as Clerk of Works, at a salary of £2 per week.

LIGHTING AT LANCHESTER.

Communications were received from the Lanchester Parish Council respecting the lighting of Kit's Wells Lane and Victoria Terrace, Lanchester; and it was agreed to receive a deputation from the Parish Council at the next meeting of the District Council.

ADJUSTMENT OF ACCOUNTS.—STANLEY IN DEBT.

On the application of the Clerk of the Annfield Plain Urban Council, a committee, consisting of the Chairman (Mr Logan) and the Vice-Chairman (Mr Muse), was appointed to confer with the Annfield Plain representatives regarding the re-adjustment of accounts between the two bodies.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Stanley District Council had not yet paid the £150, or thereabouts, due by them at the time of the formation of the Stanley Urban Council, and on his suggestion, the Clerk was instructed to communicate with the Stanley Urban Council on the matter.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Mr J. R. Lupton reported that during the month, he had made inspection of the district, and called attention to several matters requiring attention. He had flushed the sewers at Templetown, Castleside, Medomsley, and Esh Winning. On inspecting at Templetown, he found the sewer was completely blocked, causing the sewage to overflow into the yards. He engaged some men to open the sewer, and found a brick and other small articles had been put down the lamp-hole, and caused the stoppage. The sewer has previously been stopped in a similar way. He had had a man-hole, with close cover, put in. According to instructions, he had the drain from Messrs Wilkinson s and Kipling's new houses, at Lanchester, opened out, and found the drain was not properly laid. Mr Wesley Whitfield has submitted plans for the houses mentioned in my last report. He had made an inspection of the sewers at Burnhope, with a view of providing proper flushing and ventilation for the sewers. He suggested an automatic flushing chamber be put in and ventilation shafts erected at various places. His attention had been called to a house at The Hold, Try-em-all, owned and occupied by Mr Robinson, which is without a proper and sufficient supply of wholesome water. The Consett Water Company's mains are carried along the highway about seventy yards from the house. He had received communications from the Durham Rural District Council in regard to the sewage of this district being connected to their sewers, and asking for the proposals of the Council. He would call attention to the fact that he had not been provided with an office, and he would be pleased if the Council would consider the question. Habitation certificates will be required for two houses at Lanchester, four at Hamsterley, and one at Ushaw Moor.

It was agreed to put a number of ventilating tanks at Burnhope, as recommended by Mr Lupton.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that it would be better to defer consideration of the office question until the forthcoming Local Government inquiry had been held, and the suggestion was unanimously adopted.—The report was adopted.

A CRAGHEAD COMPLAINT.

Mr John Wilkinson, Clerk to the Craghead Parish Council, wrote asking the District Council to attend to the road leading to the sewage works, it being in a very bad condition.—The matter was referred to the Surveyor.

MILKWELL BURN COTTAGES.

A letter was read from the Consett Iron Company in reply to a communication from the Council, which stated that they had the houses at Milkwell Burn examined, and could not find that there were any such defects in the roof as were mentioned in the report. They also had received no such complaints from the tenants. There were several points of error in the Inspector's report to which they thought it desirable attention should be drawn. It was mentioned that in the bedrooms there was only one small window, whereas there are two windows in each room, and there is therefore the opportunity for through ventilation. With regard to the plastering of the roofs, all the cottages, except five, were flush pointed. Their attention would be directed towards these cottages with a view to remedying any complaint the tenants may have to make in respect of them.

It was agreed that the committee appointed for the purpose should examine the premises, and report thereon.

HIGHWAY REPORT.

Mr Cumming reported that Mr John Scott, contractor for the new reservoir, near Waskerley, asked permission to lay a tramway across the main road near Edmundbyers, for the purpose of getting clay. The rolling of the new road at Hedley Fell was completed during the month.—It was decided to inform Mr Scott, that if he could arrange with the Surveyor for the laying of the tramway, the Council would offer no objection.

SNOW PLOUGHS.

The following tenders were submitted for snow ploughs:—John Buckham, Lanchester, £5 2s 6d; J. J. Sinton, Lanchester, £6; William Hall, Lanchester, £5 6s; M. Buckham, Satley, £6; and Wm. Johnson, Cornsay, £4 18s.—It was decided to purchase three ploughs from Mr Johnson at £4 18s each.

BRIDGE REPAIRS AT MAIDEN LAW.

The following tenders were submitted for the repairing of the bridge at Maiden Law:—Wesley Whitfield, Leadgate, £211 15s 11d; D. Champney, Lanchester, £229 0s 5d; J. T. Manners, Durham, £250 5s; and John Atkinson, Delves Lane, £222 1s 6d.—Mr Whitfield's tender was accepted.

FENCING IN OF AN INKERMAN POND.

Mr Bolam wrote as follows:—Referring to your letters respecting the fencing in of the pond at Inkerman, near Tow Law, I find that it will be an expensive business to enclose the whole of it. I have, however, given instructions for the side next the public road to be fenced off, which is, I take it, all that my client can be expected to do.—Yours, W. F. BOLAM.

The Council expressed satisfaction with the offer.

ENCROACHMENT AT FINES' LANE.

A communication was received from the Medomsley Parish Council, asking the Rural Council to advise the owner of certain property that it was an encroachment.

The CHAIRMAN: All that the Medomsley Council ask is that we as a District Council should advise the owner, Mr Hunter, of Coldstream, and tell him that there is an encroachment at Fines' Hill, and ask him what he proposes to do.

Mr PALMER: That is what we want.

The CHAIRMAN: He has encroached on the road, and the encroachment is used as grass land.

Mr PALMER: Some of the land is simply waste land; part of a plantation.

The CHAIRMAN: There is not a single building on the land.

The Clerk was instructed to communicate with Mr Hunter.

LANCHESTER POSTS.

It was decided that the posts across the footpath leading to Lanchester Station should be painted white, and increased six inches in height. This concluded the business.

MEDOMSLEY PARISH COUNCIL.

The monthly meeting of this Council was held on Wednesday evening of last week, in the Board Room, Medomsley, Mr H. Palmer presiding. There were also present—Messrs J. Walton, W. R. Cooke, J. Armstrong, J. Crawford, J. T. Storey, G. Starford, T. Ridley, W. Walton, O. Clark, J. W. Anneson, T. Milligan, and the Clerk (Mr Milburn).

MEDOMSLEY DEPOT CROSSING.

The CHAIRMAN, in bringing this matter before the Council, said that he thought they had no power to spend money over it.

Mr ARMSTRONG: Have we to wait until someone gets killed, before we get some kind of protection?

The CHAIRMAN: I think we had better call the attention of the District Council to this matter.

On the motion of Mr ARMSTRONG, seconded by Mr CRAWFORD, it was agreed to adopt this course.

STONE HOUSE AT ALLENDALE.

It was decided that the Council approach Mr Charlton with a view to obtaining the piece of ground formerly used by the Drum and Fife Band, and in the event of them coming to a satisfactory settlement, that the Clerk communicate with Mr N. Clark, Beamish, on the matter.

THE VILLAGE GREEN.

The Finance Committee submitted the following report:—Messrs Moffitt and Thompson's account amounted to £16 10s. Half of this has been taken from the rates, and £5 17s 6d was raised by private subscription, leaving a total deficiency of £2 18s 6d.

The CHAIRMAN said the Finance Committee had had this matter before them, and were rather at a deadlock, owing to the lack of funds to carry out the proposal. The trees had already been planted, and he thought it was a pity not to proceed with the work, so he (the Chairman) advanced the necessary amount wanted, being £2, and would take his chance of getting it back. (Applause.) All the accounts in connection with the Village Green have now been cleared off.

THE WESTWOOD STATION.

A letter was read from Mr C. N. Wilkinson, secretary of the North-Eastern Railway Company, acknowledging the Council's petition, and stating that the matter had been laid before the directors. It seems that the Company think that the erection of a station, and keeping employees at it, would make them out of pocket. There would only be business at the week-end, and perhaps none through the week. It was agreed that the Council still keep pressing the Company for the erection of the station.

TELEGRAPHIC FACILITIES.

A letter in respect to the telegraph facilities at Medomsley was read from the General Post Office, London, pointing out that the conditions had changed since last June, and also stating that they regretted their wants could not be granted.

Mr ARMSTRONG said they should have taken the matter in hand when they had the chance.

The CHAIRMAN thought the new regulations had spoiled their chance. He said that the Post Office authority seems to think that they are favouring the people at present by not charging anything for porterage, but he (the Chairman) thought it was not the porterage that was bothering them, but the sending of the telegrams. He would suggest that a committee of three be appointed to wait upon them, and in some measure try to settle this important matter. Mr Vasey took an active part in the matter, and he should suggest that he be appointed one of the committee.—The suggestion was adopted, and the Chairman, Mr Cooke, Mr Vasey, and the Clerk were appointed to form the deputation.

THE RIVERSIDE FOOTPATH.

A letter was read from Mr M. Cawthorne stating that the footpath along the riverside was finished, and was awaiting their inspection. After some discussion, the matter was referred to the General Purposes Committee.

SPENCER'S QUARRY.

A lease containing thirteen pages of foolscap was received from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, in respect to the handing over of the above quarry, at Derwent Cottages.—This matter was also referred to the General Purposes Committee.

MEDOMSLEY PARK.

Mr ARMSTRONG said he thought that Council would feel much indebted to Mr and Mrs Palmer for their kindness in connection with the planting of the trees in the above Park. He moved the Clerk be instructed to write to Mrs Palmer, thanking her for her kindness in providing the shrubbery.

Mr COOK seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN said he would take the opportunity of returning thanks on behalf of his wife, who was always willing to do anything in respect to the beautifying of their village. It was a labour of love with Mrs Palmer, who was fond of flowers, plants, &c., and he was sure she would be very much pleased when she heard that her efforts had been so much appreciated.

THE HOUSES AT HAMSTERLEY.

Mr STOREY again drew the Council's attention to the unceiled houses at the low end of Hamsterley. He remarked that he had read in the papers the Inspector's report in regard to the insanitary condition of them. He also further stated that Mr Watson had promised to repair the houses. When they remembered that in some houses there was sometimes eight or nine in a family, it was a most serious matter. He had been striving at this matter for over two years, and still nothing had been done. He would suggest that the District Council should take steps in the matter.

The CHAIRMAN: I heard that what could be done to the houses at Derwentside would be at once proceeded with.

Mr ARMSTRONG spoke in support of Mr Storey's motion, and said that there were some houses at the high part nearly as bad. They should try some means, so as to make the owners of the property put the houses into proper repair, and so make them habitable.

On the motion of Mr STOREY, seconded by Mr ARMSTRONG, it was decided that the Clerk write to the District Council, asking them to draw their attention to the state of the houses, as nothing had been done since the Inspector's report.

CHEQUES.

Cheques to the amount of £39 6s 6d were passed.

This concluded the business, and the Council afterwards rose.

STRANGE DEATH OF A BOY AT LEADGATE.

DANGEROUS RUMOURS CONTRADICTED.

Some rumours having been set afloat as to the circumstances attending the death of a boy, named Robert Smith Dickson (14), a mason's apprentice, and considerable credence having been given to the same, Mr Coroner Graham held an inquest at the Reading Room, Leadgate, on Saturday afternoon.

Mrs Mary Dickson, the mother of deceased, said her son came home from work about four o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, and complained of toothache. He afterwards went to the surgery to see the doctor, and returned some time afterwards with a box of powder. He gave his mother the box, and asked her to put a little of the powder on his teeth. She told him to dip his finger in the box, and put the powder on his gums, and afterwards to rinse out his mouth. She observed that there had been very little powder taken out of the box, as it was almost full. She tasted the powder herself, and said it was just like water.

The Coroner at this stage mentioned that the information he had received was to the effect that the boy had informed his parents that he had swallowed some of the powder.

P.C. Dixon asked the witness whether she had not stated that her boy told her he had swallowed some spittle after he had rubbed a little of the powder on his gums.—Mrs Dickson denied this, and her statement was substantiated by other members of the family.

While the relatives were being appealed to on this point,

Mr J. W. Winter, one of the jurymen, asked if it would not be better to keep all the witnesses in the case outside of the room.

The Coroner, in reply, said he did not think it was necessary, as it was not a criminal investigation. If the boy had swallowed a quantity of powder, it had just been by accident. He wanted, however, to get at the facts, and was anxious that nothing should be kept back.

The mother of deceased, continuing her evidence, stated that the boy became drowsy, his eyebrows were contracted, and his teeth clenchtd together. Deceased had vomited a great deal.

Mary Dickson, sister of deceased, said she noticed that her brother was unwell when he came home from work. In answer to her inquiries, he said, "Oh, I am sick; don't tell mother."

Mrs Anne Clarke, a neighbour of the Dicksons, spoke to having been sent for by Mrs Dickson. Witness found deceased then being held on a chair by his father. He was very drowsy looking. She got some water, and washed deceased's hands. The boy had been off work about a fortnight before with a bad back, and the doctor had advised him to stay in bed.

Dr. H. F. Wynne Boland, Leadgate, read a written statement, from which we take the following extracts:—"On Tuesday evening, the 16th inst., about 6:40, Robert Dickson visited me at the surgery. He seemed about fifteen years of age, and presented no obvious morbid appearance. He complained of neuralgia and toothache. I extracted a tooth for him. After this, he seemed to suffer great pain, and asked me to relieve him. I packed the tooth cavity with a small piece of cotton wool soaked in carbolic acid and chloroform. He seemed no better than before. Then I administered a sedative, containing one-eighth of a grain of morphia. I gave him to take home a small box, containing forty grains of sodium salicylate, of which he was to take one half before bedtime. About half-an-hour after he left me, I was hastily summoned to see deceased at his residence, 69, Plantation Street. I found him in a semi-unconscious state, but he could be roused with some difficulty. His pupils were much contracted. Breathing was prolonged and easy. There was no elevation of temperature. The pulse was acting strongly. He certainly presented, what appeared to me, the first stages of morphia poisoning. I accordingly commenced to treat him for morphia poisoning. I gave him a strong emetic, but this would not act. I therefore washed out the stomach. He was kept walking up and down, but gradually became incapable of doing this. Cold water seemed to stimulate him best, and it kept him awake for a long time, but ultimately, when the patient was unable to walk, and was only being dragged, he was brought into his house. During the time that the patient was being walked about, he was made to swallow large quantities of strong coffee, and I also administered to him tincture of belladonna to counteract the poison. In the house, he was laid upon a settle. Here artificial respiration was rendered necessary. He was alternately stimulated with hot and cold water and massage. The face and hands were slapped, and he was vigorously shaken. Hot coffee was administered in large doses. Hypodermic injections of atropine, strychnine, and ether were given, and served to stimulate the patient. About twelve p.m., his pupils were dilated; he was shouting vigorously, but yet could not be roused. During this time, I could not imagine how so small a dose as I had administered had produced such alarming symptoms. It then occurred to me that this might be one of those rare cases of uraemic poisoning, where coma may come on without convulsions. I immediately put the patient to bed between hot blankets, and put hot bottles in the bed. Stimulants were administered, and all that could be done for the condition was done. I returned a few hours afterwards, between ten and eleven o'clock the following morning, and found the boy had opened his eyes, and had partaken of stimulants. On examination, patient was still unconscious, and I was unable to rouse him. He was breathing quickly and stertorously. His skin was moist and temperature raised. His pupils were dilated, but did not re-act to light, showing either a kind of blindness, which sometimes accompanies this condition, or exceedingly profound coma. His pulse was fast and weak. But, on the whole, I thought there was a slight improvement in the patient. I administered stimulants, and then left, to obey an urgent call to Iveston, and I must say that when I left, I had much better hope of the patient's life than the preceding night. On returning, shortly before one o'clock, I found that the patient had just expired. On questioning his mother, I find that for this past few months, the boy has been complaining of pains and weakness in the back, and has exhibited a general look of weariness, which had previously not been noticed in the boy. A few months ago, he was under the care of Dr. Wilson for the above symptoms, and was advised to stay in bed for some time, and be treated. The boy stayed a day or two at home. The boy having kidney disease, it was quite possible that the small dose of morphia which was given has caused acute congestion of the kidney, and from this has arisen the uraemic symptoms."

In reply to the Coroner, witness said that death had been accelerated by morphia which had acted upon a debilitated system.

The Coroner, in summing up, remarked that the jury would be perfectly satisfied that the boy's death was due to misadventure. This was one of those cases where it was necessary to have the strictest investigation, as it was quite evident that something had hastened the boy's death. It was alleged to have been caused by narcotic poisoning, and in order to satisfy all concerned, he considered it necessary to hold that inquiry. He spoke highly in favour of the open and straightforward way in which Mr Boland had given his evidence.—The jury returned a verdict of "Death by misadventure."

ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The monthly meeting of this Council was held in the Burial Board Office, Hare Law, on Tuesday evening. Present—Mr J. W. Taylor (chairman), and Messrs W. Fitzpatrick, W. Down, J. Mason, Wm. Young, W. Eltringham, W. Johnson, G. Winter, J. Storey, R. Hall, J. G. Taylor, with Mr T. J. Trewsdale (surveyor), and Mr T. L. Watchman (clerk).

BYE-LAWS COMMITTEE.

The report of the Bye-laws Committee was as follows:—

"The Committee have considered the alterations suggested by the Local Government Board in regard to the proposed bye-laws with respect to new streets and buildings. The Committee recommend the adoption of the Local Government Board's suggestions with regard to the alterations in the bye-laws. As the alterations in Model Bye-laws No. 6, 10, 11, and 66 are merely 'alterations in the phraseology to make the expression clearer, the Committee recommend the adoption of the "Board's" suggestions. Model Bye-law No. 8.—The Committee recommend that the proposed bye-law read as follows:—'Every person who shall construct a new street over 100 feet in length, shall provide at both ends of such street an entrance of a width equal to the width of such street, and open from the ground upwards; provided always that every person who shall construct a new street not exceeding 100 feet in length, shall provide at one end of such street an entrance of a width equal to the width of such street and open from the ground upwards.' Bye-law No. 15.—That the suggestion to retain the model bye-law be adopted. Bye-laws 19 and 20 (model series).—With regard to the thickness of walls, the Committee do not think it advisable to make any alteration to these proposed bye-laws. Having regard to the high altitude of the district, and this being an exposed part of the country, it is desirable, in the interests of the community, that these bye-laws, as proposed by the Council, be adopted. Bye-laws No. 75 and 80 (model series).—The Committee do not think it advisable to make any alterations in these bye-laws, as the bye-laws proposed by the Council will allow a person to erect a wash-house within the ten feet specified, but would prevent any part of the dwelling-house being built within ten feet of the privy. Bye-law No. 81.—The Local Government Board suggest that "forty cubic feet" be altered to "twenty cubic feet." The Committee uphold "forty cubic feet" as proposed.

Mr JOHNSON moved as an amendment that No. 8 bye-law in the model series be adopted, instead of the amended bye-law recommended by the Committee. In support of his contention, he stated that the bye-law as amended would not do a great deal of good. It had been said that they wanted all the open spaces they could possibly get, but by the model bye-law they were not pinching such spaces. The model bye-law, he submitted, gave quite enough width to the street for all purposes.

Mr WAILES seconded the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN said this was a matter that had been discussed before and been settled.

Mr JOHNSON: We have never discussed it before.

The CHAIRMAN replied that the matter had already been before the Council.

Mr WAILES contended that the recommendation of the Committee would have the effect of making buildings more costly.

Mr ELTRINGHAM did not agree with this, and asked where they would find a piece of land just to put 100 feet of streets up.

The CHAIRMAN: It is a very convenient way of getting people into houses round a corner. We want the streets so that they can get air. He suggested that Mr Johnson might alter his amendment to "a street of 200 feet in length." It seemed to him that a street of five houses was very little. He referred to a case with which they had had considerable difficulty already, where a person had shifted his plans to evade them. They were now trying to prevent that sort of thing. They were there to protect the health of the people.

Mr JOHNSON: Whatever expense you put upon buildings, you have the more rent to pay.

The CHAIRMAN: Well, we cannot expect to get the thing at both ends.

Mr TAYLOR: I think we ought to protect the health of the people at every turn.

On a division, the recommendation of the Committee was adopted by seven votes to three, the minority for Mr Johnson's amendment being the mover, Mr Young and Mr Wailes.

BUILDING COMMITTEE.

The following are the minutes of this Committee:—Plan for proposed alteration to slaughter-house and premises, at Annfield Plain, for Mr George Winter.—That the further consideration of this plan be adjourned for a week.—Plan for proposed wooden wash-house, at Queen's Parade, submitted by Mr Joseph Dunn.—That this plan be rejected, because the proposed erection would be of combustible material.—Plan, submitted by Mr Joseph Dunn, for two houses at Kyo, for Mr George Atkless and Mr Thomas Armstrong.—That the plan be approved, subject to an open space of not less than six feet being left between the wash-house and outbuildings.—Plan, submitted by Mr Joseph Dunn, for proposed alteration to premises at Annfield Plain, belonging to Mr Joseph Bainbridge.—That the plan be approved, subject to a re-arrangement of the sanitary conveniences; substitute two water closets and ashpits instead of earth closets.—It was agreed that a deputation of Messrs Wailes and Eltringham, with the Surveyor, wait on Mr William Porter, of Carrmyers, with a view of purchasing a piece of land in the field in front of Hare Law Church, on which to erect public offices, store yard, &c., and report to the Council meeting on the 23rd instant.

THE PROPOSED NEW OFFICES.

Mr WAILES, on behalf of the Committee, appointed to interview Mr William Porter with regard to the purchase of land for the new offices, reported that Mr Porter would not sell the land desired on the opposite side of the road, but that he was willing to offer them a site adjoining the Vestry, at a price per yard which was mentioned.

Mr DOWN moved that the Council negotiate with Mr Clark, land agent for Mr James Joicey, with a view of purchasing a piece of land in the field in front of Mr Miles Handy's public-house, on which to erect offices, &c. In support of this, Mr Down went on to say that the site would be a central one, and that it was a good piece of land.

Mr HALL seconded.

Mr ELTRINGHAM proposed an amendment, and said he would certainly go in for purchasing the land adjoining. It was also central, and seemed to be a nice piece of land in every shape and form.

Mr TAYLOR seconded the amendment, believing that it would be the most suitable for the whole district.

Mr DOWN said they would be able to get a field not far away, and at a cheap rate, which he mentioned.

The CHAIRMAN: Would we as a public body be able to buy that land at the price?

Mr DOWN replied that it had been offered to him at the price.

The CHAIRMAN: You are not a public body.

Mr DOWN: If they will sell it to one man, they will sell it to a public body.—The CHAIRMAN: Would they?

The CHAIRMAN suggested that they might negotiate with both Mr Clark and Mr Porter to see what price was asked by each.—This suggestion was adopted by the meeting.

HIGHWAYS AND LIGHTING COMMITTEE.

The minutes of the Committee are as follows:—The Committee recommend that the tender of Mr Francis Dover, of Dipton, be accepted for cleaning, trimming, lighting, and extinguishing the twenty oil lamps on Hare Law and Flint Hill Road, for the sum of 10s 6d a week.—Surveyor's report:—Complaint from Mr Crisp respecting the main road improvement at Annfield Plain. Resolved—That the Surveyor be instructed to obtain further information as to the liability of the Council in this matter and report.—Footpath Improvement from Shield Row Lane End to Annfield Plain. Read letter from Mr Crozier, County Surveyor. Resolved—That the further consideration of this question be adjourned for a week, and that the Surveyor be instructed to submit the plan, specification, and particulars, copies of which were forwarded to the Stanley Council.—Footpath from Morrison Cottages to South Moor: That the Surveyor wait on Mr Marley again, and ascertain how far that gentleman is prepared to meet the Council in this matter.—Fines House Stile: That Mr Clark, of Beamish, be requested to repair the stile near Fines House.—South Pontop Colliery subsidence: Read, letter from Mr Greener. The Committee recommend that the offer of the Colliery Company be accepted, and that the repair of the road be proceeded with.

AN ADDITIONAL LAMP.

Mr HALL proposed that an additional lamp be erected at the end of the Low Row, Greencroft, on the way to Esp Green.

Mr STOREY seconded.

Mr MASON pointed out that the Council had previously passed a motion to light up this road.

APPOINTMENT OF AN ASSISTANT OVERSEER.

With reference to the appointment of an assistant overseer for Collierley and Pontop, the Clerk was appointed temporarily until March, 1898.

THE MEDICAL OFFICER'S SALARY.

On consideration of this matter, the Clerk was instructed to write to the Local Government Board, stating that the Council had considered the question, and were of opinion that the doctor was sufficiently paid.

NAMING OF STREETS.

Mr HALL proposed—"That the street immediately at the back of and parallel to Queen's Parade, Annfield Plain, be named Dunn Street, and that the cross street adjoining be named Syke View, and that street-name-plates be ordered for these streets, and Queen's Parade and Victoria Terrace, and that the people of these streets be asked to number their doors."

Mr STOREY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

ANOTHER FOOTPATH QUESTION.

Mr STOREY proposed that the Council petition the North-Eastern Railway Company to construct a footpath alongside the railway from Annfield Plain Passenger Station to Greencroft; and that an additional exit be provided on the south side of the railway from the Station to the main road.

After some discussion, the resolution was amended to the effect that a deputation of the North-Eastern Railway Company be asked to meet a deputation of the Council at Annfield Plain, the deputation from the Council to consist of the Chairman, Mr Storey, and Mr Wailes.

FINANCE.

The Finance Committee recommended the payment of accounts amounting to £230 18s 4d.

This being all the business, the Council rose.

TANFIELD SCHOOL BOARD.

The monthly meeting of the above Board was held on Tuesday evening, at Tanfield, when there were present—Messrs J. Green (Chairman), Rev. T. H. Archdall, M. G. Armstrong, W. Bulmer, B. Mason, W. Severs, W. H. Ritson (Clerk), and Seymour Meddick (Attendance Officer).

USE OF SCHOOLS.

The minutes having been read,

Mr ARCHDALL pointed out that no reference was made to the decision of the Board to allow no socials in the schools.

The Clerk said that the Board considered the fees to be fixed for concerts, meetings, &c., but no resolution was adopted to the effect that socials should not be allowed in the schools, although the feeling of the members seemed to be that no socials should be allowed.

Mr BULMER thought that the Clerk was quite correct, so far as his recollection went.

The minutes were then adopted.

TEACHERS' REPORTS.

Mr J. Anderson (East Stanley) reported that the classes were making good progress in their work. The attendances were excellent, the average for the month being 93 per cent. The accommodation for girls' cloaks, &c., was insufficient.

Miss Burnip reported that sickness among the children had adversely affected the attendances at East Stanley Infants' School.

Miss B. Storey (West Stanley Infants) reported that the attendances had improved during the month. The measles epidemic had abated, but sickness still prevailed in the district. The caretaker had not given proper attention to the heating apparatus.

Mr E. Dawson reported that the attendances during the month had been moderate.

Miss Middleton reported that there had been a few cases of measles during the month, but the attendances continued exceptionally good at Tanfield Lea Infants' School.

Mr R. Abbott (Leazes) reported that Mr W. H. Crompton, H.M.I., had visited the school, and had made an entry to the effect that the school work was progressing in satisfactory fashion, and the attendances were good.

Mr Farney reported that owing to illness among the teachers, and the two P.T.'s being at the Central Class, the management of Stanley Central School had been very trying indeed.

Mr J. A. Hodgson reported that the attendance at Causey kept poor owing to the prevalence of whooping cough. Mr Ward, H.M. Inspector, had visited the school, and, with the exception of Standards I. and II., found no fault whatever.

ATTENDANCE OFFICER'S REPORT.

Mr Seymour Meddick reported that since the last meeting, he had made 53 visits to schools, 510 absentee visits, served 11 bye-law notices, one official warning, and reported 50 children to other officers.

The attendance during the past month had been fairly satisfactory, but there were still a few cases of measles at West Stanley; and there were also three cases of scarletina at White-le-Head, and one at Upper Lintz.

On Thursday, the 11th inst., Joseph Thompson, of Kip Hill, was summoned before the Lanchester Bench for not causing his child to attend regularly at school; and the case was adjourned for a month in order that the correct age of the child could be ascertained.

The average number of children on the registers for the quarter, over 5 years of age, was 3,020; average attendance 2,681; being an attendance percentage of 88·7. These figures gave an increase of 33 in the average number on the register; an increase of 46 in the average attendance; and an increase of 6 per cent. in the percentage of attendances.

The report was adopted.

THE JUDGE V. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In the case of the recent prosecution for non-attendance before the Lanchester Bench,

Mr Meddick stated that Judge Greenwell had ruled to the effect that the responsibility of proving the age of the child lay with the Board, and not with the parents.

Mr ARCHDALL said that it appeared to him that there was a need of more magistrates.

Mr BULMER: Mr Meddick has done all that he can do in the case, and I move that he be instructed to engage a solicitor.

Mr SEVERS: What?

The CHAIRMAN said that as a matter of fact, he did not agree with the idea of the Board going to the expense of proving the age of the child. That should be left to others.

Mr BULMER: Then I move that the case go off the board.

Mr SEVERS: I second that.

Mr ARMSTRONG: I think that Mr Meddick should try to get sufficient evidence locally to go on with the case.

Mr MASON: It is not much use taking the case down to Lanchester again.

The CHAIRMAN: There will only be a few weeks longer that it will be necessary to go to Lanchester.

Mr ARMSTRONG: I propose that the Attendance Officer be instructed to go to the Catholic School, get the register, and try to satisfy his lordship at Lanchester.

The CHAIRMAN seconded the amendment, which was carried by four votes to two, the minority consisting of Messrs Bulmer and Severs.

Mr MEDDICK: If the magistrates object to the admission of the registers as evidence, shall I ask for an adjournment?

Mr BULMER: I move that if the Bench don't accept the registers as evidence, that the case go off the board altogether, and the child be exempt from going to school.

Mr MASON seconded.

Mr ARMSTRONG: I move that Mr Meddick ask for an adjournment to consult the Board, if the Bench refuse to accept the register as evidence.

Mr SEVERS: What do these adjournments cost?

Mr ARMSTRONG: Not so much as a solicitor.

The CHAIRMAN: The costs of the court. If the court rule that the witnesses have to be paid, it will cost a good deal more.

Mr BULMER: A question has been asked. Answer it.

Mr SEVERS: Every witness that goes into the box makes the costs higher. The magistrates charge for Mr Meddick going into the box every time. If you have three witnesses down there, you have to pay 1s 6d. I do know that.

Mr ARMSTRONG: I am well, not with the idea of making the costs higher, but to prevent the woman beating us. The costs will be a trifle compared with the matter that is to be decided.

Mr SEVERS: It is not the woman that is beating us. It is the magistrates who are putting obstacles in our way.

Mr ARMSTRONG: The woman is beating us by lie-telling, I believe.

Mr SEVERS: Does not the Education Department say that the proof of the age ought to be given by the parents?

Mr MEDDICK: Yes; but Judge Greenwell says that the responsibility is with the Board.

On a division, Mr Armstrong's proposition was carried by the casting vote of the Chairman.

THE CENTRAL CLASS.

The Clerk said that he had received the following letter in reply from Mr Ward, H.M. Inspector:—

DEAR SIR,—I am given to understand that some dissatisfaction has been caused by my apparent omission in returning no answer to your last letter (dated September 20th) regarding the Tanfield pupil teachers' centre. If you will be kind enough to read the copy of your letter of the 20th to the Board, I think it will be evident that it is not so framed as to suggest that an answer is desired. Your earlier letter of inquiry was answered by a counter query. You asked for my approval for the transference of the centre of the Tanfield School. I asked in return what had become of the schemes for retaining it at Tanfield Lea and building a new school. In reply to this, I am informed that "it is the intention of the Board to utilize the present Mixed School at Tanfield Lea." That surely renders a reply to your former letter unnecessary; and it, does not ask for my approval or opinion of the course which the Board intend to adopt. Perhaps it will save further discussion if I say that I am quite satisfied with the Board's decision to utilize the present Mixed School at Tanfield Lea for the purpose of the pupil teachers' central class. I believe, moreover, that this project, which has been more than once in contemplation, has long received the approval of the Inspector of the district.—Yours faithfully, H. WARD.

The letter which he (Mr Ritson) had written to Mr Ward was as follows:—

DEAR SIR,—I am obliged for yours of yesterday. The resolution confirmed in my letter of the 3rd inst. was passed with the intention of removing the pupil teachers' central class to Tanfield School temporarily, that is until the present Mixed School at Tanfield Lea is available for the purpose. If you are willing to sanction the removal, or if you think it unwise for the present arrangement to be changed before the Mixed School is available for the purpose, kindly let me know.—Yours truly, W. H. RITSON.

Mr Ward's further reply was as follows:—

DEAR SIR,—I fear I cannot yet offer an opinion on the proposed temporary transference of the Central Classes from Tanfield Lea to Tanfield School. I hope to pay a visit to Tanfield Lea before long to see if any other arrangement is possible.—Yours faithfully, H. WARD.

Mr BULMER: Has Mr Ward ever seen Tanfield Lea?

The CHAIRMAN: I don't think he has ever been there.

Mr BULMER: Then the sooner he is there the better. It is high time he was there and saw how things are conducted.

The CHAIRMAN: We will have to wait till he gets there.

Mr BULMER: I move that the Central Class be removed from Tanfield Lea to Tanfield Village. I move that they leave Tanfield Lea next Monday.

The motion was defeated.

THE QUESTION OF SOCIALS.

Miss Ramshaw, on behalf of the members of the Central Class, made application for the use of Tanfield Lea School for a social.

Mr SEVERS said the teachers ought to be no more to the Board than the ratepayers, and they had no right to get the use of the school on any easier terms. If socials were not to be allowed to the public in schools, they should not be allowed to the teachers.

Mr ARMSTRONG said that half the countryside would be invited to the social. He was quite willing to allow the use of any school for a teachers' social on the condition that the whole of the teachers under the Board were invited, with the understanding that only one should be held annually. He could not support the application unless they had some guarantee that they would content themselves with one social per year. He suggested that enquiry should be made of the teachers to ascertain if the Board was to understand that this was the annual social to be held for the whole of the teachers under the Board.

The CHAIRMAN: You can take it as granted that it is not intended as such.

Mr MASON: We have as much right to allow the ratepayers to have the schools for socials as the teachers.

Mr ARMSTRONG: I don't quite take it that way. I think we might allow the teachers a school for one social, but I cannot go in for allowing them to have the use of schools for social after social.

Mr ARCHDALL proposed, and Mr BULMER seconded, that the school be allowed for the social on payment of 5s.

Mr SEVERS: Is this on the understanding that any other who may apply for the use of schools for socials, will have their application allowed on the same terms?

The CHAIRMAN: No.

Mr ARMSTRONG: Certainly not.

Mr SEVERS: Then I move that it be not granted.

Mr MASON seconded, and the application was thereupon refused.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

It was decided to grant the usual holiday—a fortnight—for the Christmas holidays of the schools under the Board.

This concluded the business.

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THE EARL'S SECRET,

BY

J. MARSDEN SUTCLIFFE,

Author of "Romance of an Insurance Office," "By Mutual Consent," "A Martyr to Justice," &c., &c.

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CHAPTER XXIV.

When Brian, Earl of Traxford, met his violent death within the precincts of his own park and almost within sight of his princely castle, it was early days with the Land League agitation. But when once the movement was fairly started, it took rapid hold of the minds of a highly imaginative and sensitive people, and spread amongst the peasantry with the celerity of a prairie fire.

In the winter of 1879 and the months immediately following the condition of the peasantry, especially in the Western districts, was deplorable in the extreme. The worst harvest that Ireland had known since the disastrous famine year was reaped, to afflict "the disthressful counthry," and of the smaller tillers of the soil thousands were brought to the brink of starvation and threatened with the worst horrors of the famine year. With a soil of disaffection so admirably adapted for the purpose there is little wonder that the Land League flourished and throve again, or that when landlords embarked on a policy of eviction, crime and violence stalked through the land, and the number of agrarian outrages periodically furnished to the Government by the officials of the Royal Irish Constabulary showed a steady and alarming increase.

How matters have fared since in Ireland, torn by civil broils and seething with an agitation almost Protean in its shape, has passed into history and must be left to other hands to describe. The attention of the reader is invited to fasten for a moment on this phase of later Irish history only so far as it bears on the unravelling of our story.

Michael Delaney's conversation with Mr. Stopher, recorded in a former chapter, furnished a brief description of the condition of the local Land League at Traxford, and delineated in a few touches its possible developments under the new policy inaugurated by Lord Foyle when he succeeded to the Earldom on the death of his father.

In the lifetime of the old Earl the attempt to stir up disaffection amongst the Traxford tenantry resulted in a ludicrous fiasco. The greater number of the tenants were a thriving body of men, who until the fall of prices occurred were satisfied with the terms on which they held their holdings; and the local Land League under the leadership of Tonkey Dick was only able to boast of a limited membership. But when the new Lord Traxford began his reign by issuing eviction notices upon all tenants who had not paid the rents due at the last November gale; and when, moreover, it became understood that the steps to be taken against refractory and impecunious tenants was the beginning of a policy of extensive clearances and the prelude to a general raising of rents, Tonkey Dick became a man of importance, the membership of the local League was speedily quadrupled and funds in preparation for a stern fight began to flow in. The new Earl had provided the disaffected with what their souls had been thirsting for—a reason for combination that would appeal to the more influential amongst the tenantry.

Until this period the Traxford branch of the Land League had confined itself to offering a few polite attentions to Miss Julia Dunregan, who, with the daring of an Irish girl, bravely set them at defiance and insisted on managing her brother Pat's little patrimony in her own way without seeking the consent of the League. But now the League had a wider theatre for its operations.

Hitherto the Barony in which Traxford is situated was known for its absolute freedom from agrarian crime. But when the significance of the new departure came to be better understood, and the League prospered, some of the more daring spirits began to act after the manner of their kind. Agrarian outrages, principally taking the form of threatening letters, became common; and in the course of a few months darker schemes of vengeance were planned and executed.

In such a state of society it was not unnatural, therefore that the authorities should regard the assassination of the Earl of Traxford as an agrarian crime, due to the deadly hostility which the Earl had incurred by his new policy. It was remembered that his life had been threatened not many weeks before in a manner that seemed to admit of no other conclusion than that the outrage proceeded from some exasperated tenant, and though the police failed to discover any evidence connecting him with the attempt, suspicion had fallen upon McBrogue. It leaked out, too, that on his return from his brief honeymoon the Earl had found a threatening letter, decorated with the customary artistic devices of a death's head and cross-bones, with a rudely-drawn coffin beneath.

Bertram Henley, too, as the agent responsible for carrying out the Earl's wishes, had received so many warnings professing to come from a friendly hand, telling him that his life was in jeopardy, that he had begun to surround himself with precautions against sudden attack, and he never ventured abroad without carrying a revolver, and keeping a brisk look-out whenever his duties carried him past a spot that afforded cover to a concealed assassin.

Some of the more respectable amongst the local Leaguers protested warmly against the agitation to which they had recently joined themselves, being made responsible for the Earl's murder, but these men did not enjoy an influence in the counsels of the party, corresponding with their position in the neighbourhood. The noisier and more imprudent members of the League seemed rather to encourage the idea that the crime was due to agrarian motives, giving their opinions freely that "some of the farmer's boys," from whose ranks Captain Moonlight recruited his forces, had had a hand in the deed.

Chief amongst this section of the agitators was Tonkey Dick, who unobtrusively but not the less effectually strove to foster the prevailing opinion. Tonkey's motives for this proceeding were twofold. For want of a better occupation he had become what he termed "an out-and-out pathriot." Agitation was his trade, profession, or calling in life, for want of a better; and Tonkey judged that the power of the League would grow if it was able to make an appeal to the element of terror. In his opinion it was a stroke of policy that the murder of a young nobleman in the midst of his disaffected tenantry should be set down to "the myrmidons of the League;" as was done by the organs of the press which represented the party of "law and order."

But the strongest of all Tonkey's motives was to shield the true culprit, and prevent any suspicion attaching to his friend, Michael Delaney. He rubbed his hands with glee when he heard the murder attributed to the agitation. So long as the police kept their noses to this scent, he thought, Michael Delaney was safe.

A stranger who happened to be present, mingling with the little crowd of idlers that were standing in knots near the Traxford Arms on the morning of the adjourned inquest on the body of the Earl of Traxford, the day following his funeral, would have found it impossible to learn in what direction popular opinion was leaning. The demeanour of the crowd was orderly and respectful but undemonstrative. They discussed the event and the probable finding of the jury in twos and threes, but in tones that were low and guarded. It was the second time within a few months that they had seen a Lord of Traxford borne to his rest, but beyond an occasional exclamation, "God rest his soul," they showed no signs of emotion.

The attraction that drew the crowd to the spot was not the mere fact of the inquest alone, but a rumour that had gone abroad to the effect that Mr. Delaney had made important discoveries relating to his birth, by which it was expected that he would be able to lay claim successfully to the Earldom. No one could trace the origin of the rumour to any particular person. It had been whispered and spread abroad until all Traxford was more alive with expectation excited by this rumour, than profoundly concerned in the pending inquiry into the cause of the late Earl's death. The curious sightseers at the funeral on the previous day had noticed that Delaney was present at the funeral and that he took the place of chief mourner, which in the popular judgment lent some countenance to the rumour.

As the hour drew near for the commencement of the inquest, which had been adjourned after a merely formal identification of the body until after the funeral, the jury began to arrive, followed by Mr. Septimus O'Grady the coroner; the body having been found in his district and not in the district within which Jeremiah Cleason had jurisdiction—a circumstance for which Jeremiah was unfeignedly glad since the inquest brought a large amount of custom to the inn that kept him more profitably employed than in presiding over the court, which was held in a large room upstairs.

The Coroner had just passed within when a mail-phaeton dashed up the street, pulling up sharp as it reached the inn-door. This was the great sensation of the morning for which the crowd of idlers had waited, for the phaeton deposited at the inn no less a person than Michael Delaney, who was dressed in a suit of mourning, and looked pale and stern, accompanied by Mr. Randal Dale. They remained talking together on the pavement until the burly form of Bertram Henley was seen advancing up the street.

As soon as Bertram Henley arrived the three men went within and took their places within the inquest room, where Randal Dale held a long conversation with the Coroner in a low tone, at the end of which the Coroner rose and stretched forth his hand to Michael Delaney, who was sitting apart, looking the picture of dejection and stern resolve.

"I am pleased to see you amongst us again, sir," he said, shaking Delaney warmly by the hand, "and I hope the good news is true and everything will turn out as you wish."

When the Court was formally opened, Mr. Randal Dale rose to say that he appeared at the inquiry as the legal representative of the next-of-kin to the deceased Earl.

"It may not be generally known," he said, "that Mr. Delaney, who is present to-day, has important documents in his possession that have been submitted to the highest legal authorities, who are of opinion that they indubitably establish his right to succeed to the Earldom and the estates as the eldest son of Richard Delaney, Earl of Traxford, who died last autumn. Lord Traxford, as I may now call him, for he will not hesitate to assume the title which belongs to him, is fully determined that no stone shall be left unturned to bring the author, or it may possibly be the authors, of this dastardly murder to justice; and it is in pursuance of that intention that he has instructed me, Mr. Randal Dale, of the firm of Stopher and Dale, of Crutched Friars, the well-known family solicitors to the Earls of Traxford, to appear on this occasion, in order to assist the coroner and jury in sifting the facts that are to be laid before them, with a view of bringing the guilty to the doom justly incurred by this atrocious crime."

Having delivered himself of this oration in his most impressive manner, during which every eye was turned on Delaney, who bore the scrutiny with dignified composure, Randal Dale sat down. A buzz of conversation filled the room, but was promptly silenced when the Coroner called for order.

Formal evidence of the finding and subsequent identification of the body of the deceased Earl having been given by Bertram Henley on the former occasion, the Coroner asked him if he had anything to add to his evidence, and on receiving a reply in the negative, the next witness was brought forward.

"This witness is able to give important evidence," said the Coroner, pointing to McBrogue, who took the book and was duly sworn, giving the testament a smack that was heard all over the court, when told by the police-officer to kiss the book.

Sandy McBrogue, who was placed under arrest on the night of the Earl's murder, had been released from custody, the police having been unable to procure any evidence to associate him with the tragedy. They had examined his gun carefully, but there was no sign of its having been recently discharged. The bullet which had been extracted from the body was an ordinary revolver bullet and could not possibly have been discharged from Sandy's weapon.

McBrogue's evidence was very short. He admitted that he was near the old oak bridge, leading to the Grotto Farm, on the night of the tragedy, and he declared without any reserve that he was there on a poaching errand. He described the coming of the stranger upon the scene, wearing a light-brown overcoat, followed by the arrival of the Earl. He stated that there was a quarrel, and that the Earl struck the stranger several blows with a stick he was carrying, and having flung him to the ground walked away. He described how the murderer sprang to his feet and fired, and he finished by declaring that he did not stay to see any more.

Sandy McBrogue was subjected to a close cross-examination by Randal Dale, who elicited that his reason for his precipitate flight was that if he remained he would get taken, as he had been suspected before when the Earl was shot at; and here McBrogue broke out into a passionate declaration of the entire innocence of that offence, sealing his statement by calling down upon himself the most awful curses which might "strike him dead" if he was not telling the truth, and appealing to every saint in the calendar to witness his oath. When asked whether the murderer appeared to be a labouring man or a gentleman, he said that he could not say. "He might have been a gentleman, or a farmer's son; plenty of farmers' sons about here wear brown overcoats," he said. On being further pressed he admitted that he had stated that the murderer was about the height and figure of Mr. Tom Dalton; but that he had never said that it was Mr. Dalton. There was nothing to be made of Sandy McBrogue, though he remained under examination for some time longer, when he gave place to the doctor.

Dr. McShaen described the situation and character of the wound. The deceased Earl had been shot in the back and the bullet had penetrated the heart. Death must have been instantaneous. In his judgment the murderer must have been as near to the deceased as ten paces when he fired the fatal shot. There were no other marks of injury on the body.

Inspector John Royce was the next witness. He stated that he had made a strict examination of the ground, but there was no sign of any struggle, though the grass was trodden down in places. He produced the lappel of a brown overcoat which he had found near the bridge, near the spot described by the witness McBrogue as the scene of the fracas where the Earl had inflicted personal chastisement on the murderer; also a malacca cane which he found lying near the body. There was nothing peculiar in the texture and pattern of the cloth of the lappel. Plenty of farmer's sons wore coats made of a similar material. He had not discovered any of them wearing a brown overcoat without a lappel, he wished he had; but no doubt the owner of the coat would take good care not to appear in it again, the officer added shrewdly.

At the request of one of the jury, McBrogue was re-called and asked if he had heard any of the words of the conversation that passed between the Earl and his murderer. But McBrogue shook his head in the negative.

"Shure they talked so fast that I could not make out what they said, at all at all," he added explanatorily.

"Is this all the evidence you have?" asked the Coroner of the police when McBrogue was dismissed.

"I am sorry to say that it is, sir," the inspector replied.

"It is very strange that the Earl should leave the Castle at that time of the night," remarked the Coroner reflectively. "Have you no evidence on that point?"

"It is quite possible that his lordship may have thought of something that he wanted to see about and was on his way to the Grotto Farm," said Bertram Henley.

"True," said the Coroner, "I had not thought of that."

"I should like to say a word, Mr. Coroner," cried Jeremiah Cleason, who was standing near the doorway.

"By all means," said the Coroner. "Come up to the table and be sworn."

"I only wish to say that Mr. Tom Dalton, who arrived by train that night, was staying here, at the Traxford Arms, and that after he had his dinner he went out to see Lord Traxford. He spoke to me at the door as he went out, and I watched him go out down the street."

"Well, what next?" said the Coroner. "I don't see that this helps us much, Mr. Cleason."

"Only that he was not wearing a brown overcoat when he went out, and he did not return to seek one. I thought I ought to mention it, as Mr. Tom Dalton's name has been brought up at this enquiry."

"We have enquired into that," said the inspector. "Mr. Dalton wore no overcoat that night; neither when he left the Traxford Arms nor later on in the evening."

"Well, gentlemen," said the Coroner, turning to the jury, "I don't think that we can carry this inquiry any further. The death of Lord Traxford appears to be due to one of those dreadful agrarian crimes for which our unfortunate country is so often held up to the scorn of other nations; and as often happens, the murderer appears to have left no trace behind him which could serve as a clue, unless the lappel torn from the coat is to be called a clue. The value of that you can judge for yourselves. There seems to be nothing remarkable in either the quality or the pattern. The case must now be left in the hands of the police, who will not slacken in their diligence to bring the guilty to justice. If the evidence of McBrogue is to be believed, and I think it is as far as it goes, the murder is evidently the work of one man, and your verdict will be wilful murder against some person unknown."

The jury turned round in their seats, and after laying their heads together for a moment, returned their verdict in accordance with the Coroner's instructions.

When this was done Delaney rose to address the court. He was looking pale, as though suffering from deep sorrow, but otherwise calm and collected.

"If you will pardon me, Mr. Coroner, I would like to express my thanks to you and the jury for the manner in which this inquiry has been conducted. I wish evidence could have been brought before you tending more distinctly to inculpate someone in particular of this dreadful deed; and I take this opportunity of saying that I shall be pleased to give a reward of £500 for evidence which will bring the guilt home to the man who has slain my unfortunate brother." And bowing to the Coroner, Delaney made a dramatic exit from the room, followed by Bertram Henley and Randal Dale.

CHAPTER XXV.

Michael Delaney's sudden descent on Traxford Castle proved to be a brilliantly executed manœuvre, that, for the time at least, made him completely the master of the situation.

He arrived unannounced on the eve of the murdered Earl's funeral, accompanied by his legal adviser, Mr. Randal Dale. His popular manners and winning courtesy during the long period of his residence at the Castle, when he was treated by the old lord as a son, had ingratiated him with the household servants. He had no reason, therefore, to fear that his entrance to the Castle would be resisted.

On the contrary, all the servants from O'Mally, the Earl's butler, down to the grooms in the stable, welcomed his arrival as an event that was likely to put an end to the confusion that had reigned since the Earl's violent death. Now, they had a master to whom they could look for orders.

After enquiring from O'Mally, who had grown grey in the service of the Delaneys, which wing of the Castle the widowed Countess was occupying, Delaney chose a suite of apartments in the opposite wing for himself and Randal Dale, and having given instructions for a meal to be served in the library, despatched a messenger to the Grotto Farm in search of Bertram Henley.

When the agent arrived he at once entered upon a long conversation with Randal Dale, to whom Delaney left the task of explaining his altered fortunes. Bertram Henley was not unprepared for the revelation that the London lawyer had to make. His mind naturally went back to the altercation between the old Earl of Traxford and Lord Foyle in the Gresham Hotel at Dublin, when the Earl virtually acknowledged in his own hearing the legitimacy of Michael Delaney. When, therefore, Randal Dale proceeded to state the position of matters and produced the certificates of Michael Delaney's birth and the marriage of his mother to the Earl of Traxford, Bertram Henley acknowledged that the claim was irresistible, and proceeded to relate the admission that Delaney's father (as we must speak of him) had made in his presence to Lord Foyle. Randal Dale was not slow to perceive the importance of this evidence as a further corroboration of his client's claim.

"I will take down your statement in writing," he said, addressing the agent. "It is a piece of testimony of extreme value and importance. I don't expect the other side will show fight," he added. "There is really nothing to fight about. Mr. Delaney will have to make good his claim before the Committee of Privileges of the House of Lords, and Lady Mary Dalton, to whom the evidence has been submitted, has consented to abide the issue of that event; and the probability is that an expensive and useless litigation will be saved."

In making this statement Mr. Randal Dale truthfully described Lady Mary Dalton's attitude, though Bertram Henley expressed his surprise that her ladyship was disposed to acquiesce in the new state of things so quietly.

"The fact is," said Randal Dale, "that her attention is so completely taken up with her efforts to unravel the fate of her eldest son, Sir Francis Dalton, that she has no leisure and does not appear to have much heart for this business."

"It is very strange," said Bertram Henley, "how persistent the rumours are that several of our men succeeded in escaping from the massacre at Cabul, and yet there is nothing heard of the fugitives."

"There is not really time for that, I am thinking," replied Randal Dale. "If they escaped the massacre they would have new perils to face. Everything depends on the course they took. If they made for Merv, as some seem to suppose, they have probably fallen into the hands of the Russians, and goodness only knows when they will be heard of again."

"The likeness between Mr. Delaney and his mother is very extraordinary," remarked Bertram Henley after a pause in the conversation, as he sat gazing at the miniature portrait of the Honourable Mrs. Delaney.

"It is indeed. As a collateral proof it is of great importance. Now, please add your signature to this statement," Randal Dale continued, handing Bertram Henley a sheet of brief-paper on which he had written down his evidence.

"Shall I see Mr. Delaney?" asked the agent. "The arrangements for the funeral are complete, but I should like to have his approval."

"Oh, of course. We shall dine presently, and I am sure Delaney will be pleased to see an old friend again. We must begin, however, to address him by his right title now. In the face of these documents he is Lord Traxford, you know."

"Exactly," returned Bertram Henley, "but old habits are rather strong," he added smilingly.

"Just so; we have all to learn to get accustomed to the change. And, by-the-bye, there is another matter that I ought to mention. It is his lordship's wish that you will take an early opportunity of informing the Countess how matters stand. Lord Traxford is extremely anxious that her ladyship should continue to reside at the Castle in the apartments she is at present occupying until everything is settled. Afterwards she will probably take up her residence at the Lodge, which is her dower-house under the marriage settlement. Lady Mary Dalton will of course make her home in future at Rathminning. Lord Traxford will be pleased to pay a formal visit to the Countess when her grief has subsided and she finds it convenient to receive him."

And so it came to pass that Michael Delaney took possession of the family honours and remained under the same roof as Anne, Countess of Traxford. The effect of this propinquity on the mind of Michael Delaney was immediately to banish the memory of the voluptuous beauty of Julia Dunregan, which had temporarily intoxicated him in Paris, and to revive his former passion for the beautiful Countess in all its former intensity.

His old resolve to leave no stone unturned to make her his wife returned, and his brain was now active in hatching schemes by which he could bring this result about.

For several weeks he remained under the same roof with her without obtaining a glimpse of her face. At last the long-looked-for hour arrived when he received a message that the Countess would receive him in her apartments.

A pale, pensive expression sat on the pale but lovely face of the Countess of Traxford, as attired in the deepest mourning she sat in her private boudoir waiting the entrance of Michael Delaney, of whose claim to the title worn by her deceased husband she had been informed several weeks ago by Bertram Henley.

The widowed Countess found herself in a situation of a most painful character, and one difficult to contend with—enough indeed to press a stronger nature than hers to the earth, in the thoroughly isolated position she was left by the sudden and untimely death of her husband, and without a friend near her to advise or to condole with her in her misfortune. She had received a touching and sympathetic letter from Lady Mary Dalton, commiserating her on the terrible blow that had fallen upon her, promising her that as soon as the business with regard to her son, Sir Francis Dalton, was in a more satisfactory state she would return to Ireland and receive her again at the Lodge, meanwhile urging her to restrict herself to her own apartments at the Castle, and upon no account to suffer herself to be misled by Delaney's wiles.

The Countess's marriage, brief though its duration, had failed to bring with it the happiness that she looked for. The violent temper of her husband, who was soon cloyed with possession, broke out on several occasions during her honeymoon, disclosing an aspect of his character from which she recoiled, and whose existence she had no reason to suspect, until her retreat was cut off, and she was without opportunity for repairing her grievous mistake.

She spent many miserable hours after these scenes alone in her chamber, shedding bitter and unavailing tears, which again formed new subjects for complaint when the bridegroom returned to find her eyes red with weeping. In the early days of her widowhood painful recollections of the unhappiness she had experienced at Rathminning, which led to the abbreviation of her honeymoon, recurred to her mind, bringing with them a shuddering sense of horror. Even on the day after their return to the Castle, and only a few hours before her husband went forth to his death, a scene of more than usual violence had taken place, that left her completely prostrated with sorrow and wondering how she was to bear her life and struggle through the years that were before her. Her anguish became keener, as her sorrow appeared to her as a retributive punishment for her want of loyalty to the man whose long attachment to her and patient waiting seemed to have deserved a better reward.

A settled melancholy had consequently seized upon her, plunging her into deepest despondency, and it was with a face that was only too faithful an index to her mind that she rose to greet Michael Delaney as he entered her room.

She waited with some amount of trepidation the issue of this visit, for though she felt constrained out of courtesy to grant him the interview he asked for, seeing that her continuance at the Castle was a matter of grace on his part rather than that of right on hers, she felt that his visit boded no good to her.

But Delaney's manner was skilfully adapted to set her at her ease. His bearing was deferential and courteous. He seemed touched with her distress, and in a few aptly chosen words contrived to convey his sympathy with her. If there was a hollow ring in "the vacant chaff, well-meant for grain" with which he condoled with her, the ears of the widowed Countess were not quick enough to perceive it. He adroitly contrived to draw her out to speak of the better side of the deceased Earl's character, on which they could both speak without insincerity on either side, and not until he felt secure in his position did he venture to open his battery upon her.

"You are aware of the great change that has taken place in my position and prospects," he began, as his visit drew to a close.

"Yes; Mr. Henley informed me that Brian had no right to the title; that you are the eldest son, and are consequently the Earl of Traxford."

"That is so," said Delaney; "so you see Brian and I were half-brothers."

The Countess bowed assentingly.

"In that case," he continued, "I trust that you will believe that if I have to speak of some circumstances which I would prefer not to mention, if it could possibly be avoided, it is out of no want of respect to my dead brother's memory, or from want of consideration for your feelings."

"Speak plainly, my lord. I do not understand riddles," said the Countess, haughtily. The suspicion which Delaney's reverential bearing had temporarily laid to rest was once more aroused in her breast.

"I hesitate to approach the subject," he said. "It is a very delicate matter: but, since you urge me so far, pardon me saying that you were not legally married."

"That is a cruel and wicked falsehood, which you take advantage of my present isolated position to utter," said the Countess, indignantly.

"It is the truth, however," said Delaney. "I warned you of it before your marriage."

"Ah!" exclaimed the Countess, "a light dawns upon me. You are referring to your scandalous accusation against my husband made by you in Mr. Stopher's office. There was some woman whom you wished me to ask about."

"You are right; Lillas Leigh was the woman's name. Are you aware that he went to keep an assignation with Lillas Leigh on the night of his death?"

"I do not believe it. You simply wish to ruin my happiness or you would not bring forward such a cruel invention."

"On the contrary," replied Delaney, "my chief wish is to ensure your happiness. You appear to forget that I once loved you."

"You adopt a strange method of proceeding to remind me of the fact. Such a reminder in my helpless widowed condition is a profanity. I do not believe a word you say."

"Read for yourself," said Delaney. "I found the letter lying in the drawer of the writing table in the library. There is no doubt that it was to keep the appointment referred to in the letter that Brian went abroad on that fatal night. The letter is undated, but there are only two nights for it: the night of his return from his honeymoon, or the night following when he was murdered."

The Countess took the letter from Delaney's hand, and rapidly glanced through it.

"God help me," she cried, sinking back into her chair, as the letter fell from her nerveless fingers and fluttered to the ground, whilst Michael Delaney looked on her misery with gratified triumph.

"I have a plan to propose, as soon as you are calm enough to listen," Delaney went on, after a pause. "Things are never so bad but what they might be worse; and when they can be mended why worry?"

"Go on; let me hear your plan," exclaimed the Countess, rousing herself from her despair to listen. "Some point may be gained by allowing you to unmask the whole of your villainy."

Michael Delaney shrugged his shoulders with deprecating pity.

"If you persist in thinking evil of me, I am dumb," he replied. "But think what you will of me, you cannot deny that I love you."

The Countess shrank back with a perceptible shudder of disgust.

"My love for you is a pledge that I entertain no design which is not for your good and consistent with your honour," he went on. "I am weary of this interview; let me know your plan," cried the Countess, interrupting him with an impatient gesture.

"Let me explain the position then. Lillas, Countess of Traxford, still lives. A rumour of her death was circulated, but the rumour was false. She is a passionate, vindictive woman, eager to proclaim her own wrongs, who is likely to give you much trouble. When her story is told the world will not be slow to cast a stone at you. You will be under Society's ban. Marry me and you will occupy a secure position from which you can defy the world and her."

"Marry you! I am to mate with my late husband's half-brother! Is that your plan?" exclaimed the Countess, scornfully. "Such a marriage would be an outrage against the laws of God and man."

"Nothing of the kind," answered Delaney. "I see you do not understand the situation yet. As Brian had a wife living when he went through a marriage ceremony with you, it follows that you were not his wife, and cannot be his widow. A decree annulling the marriage can be easily obtained and that would be a wise step to take. The advantage will lie with the person who takes the first step. Will you take it, or will you leave the widow of the man whom you call your husband to take it? If you are prudent you will take the bull by the horns and obtain a decree of nullity. When that is obtained it will be as though you had never been married, and you will be free to marry whom you please."

"The suggestion of such a marriage is the grossest insult that a bold, bad man ever dared to offer a defenceless woman," cried the Countess, her blue eyes flashing with anger.

"I was prepared for this sort of outburst," said Delaney, rising to take his leave. "When you have had time to think over your position you will not think that the man who proposes to take for his Countess a woman without name, whose reputation suffers from the taint of an illegal marriage, means to insult you."

And with this parting shot Delaney quitted the room, laying the flattering unction to his soul that if he allowed the Countess time to reflect on her position he would find her more pliable in his hands when next he sought an interview with her. In this hope, however, he was doomed to disappointment. When Lady Traxford found herself alone she rapidly ran over in her mind the points of the interview. Towards Delaney she felt an unutterable loathing. But stronger even than her loathing was the fear with which he had inspired her. She dreaded to remain under the same roof with him, and swiftly decided to lose no time in placing herself under the protection of Lady Mary Dalton.

When Michael Delaney enquired for the Countess next day he learnt to his astonishment that she had left the Castle, accompanied by her maid.

(To be Continued.)

SOCIAL DANCE IN CONSETT.

On Tuesday evening a highly-successful and enjoyable dance was held in the New Town Hall, Consett. The affair was largely patronised, as will be seen by the list of names which is annexed. The Ms.C. were Messrs E. Robson and S. Judge, jun.; and the stewards, Messrs. Joseph Lynn, R. T. Davey, Joseph Ayton, J. Hamilton, J. Wardle, W. McFeggan, T. Lynn, G. Robson, and J. Leath. Excellent music was supplied by Mr F. Barron (piano), Mr T. Dixon and Mr G. Robson (violins), and Mr Joseph Ray (cornet). The proceedings passed off most harmoniously. Appended is a list of those who were present:—

Ayton, Mr H. A. and the Misses, Blackhill.
Anderson, Miss, Elm Park.
Askew, Mr I. and Mrs, Blackhill.
Adamson, Miss, Stanniforđam.
Anderson, Miss, Blackhill.
Ainsley, Miss, Lanchester.
Atcheson, Miss, Cornsay.
Ainsworth, Mr P., Consett Hall.
Atcheson, Mr and Mrs, Blackhill.

Bell, Mr George, Consett.
Brodie, Mr and Mrs F., Blackhill.
Beck, Mr, Blackhill.
Burnip, Messrs and Misses, Leadgate.
Brown, Mr G., Consett.
Buckham, Mr and Misses, Lanchester.
Bowen, Mr, Blackhill.
Bellinger, Mrs, Blackhill.
Barron, Mr J. and Misses, Shotley.
Bell, Miss, Consett.
Bell, Mr and Misses, Edmundbyers.
Black, Miss, Leadgate.
Best, Inspector and Mrs, Police Station.
Bruce, Mr J., Shotley.
Barrass, Messrs, Highgate.
Bumphrey, Miss, Shotley Park.
Bradley, Mr T., Consett.
Brown, Mr and Mrs, Ebchester.

Charlton, Miss, Palmerston Street, Consett.
Charlton, Mr Robert, Medomsley.
Crawford, Mr J., Consett.
Chatt, Mr George, Consett.
Coulthard, Mr and Miss, Dipton.
Cuthbertson, Mr D., Leadgate.
Carrick, Miss, Consett.
Collin, Miss E., Consett.
Cawthorne, Misses, Hobson.
Cassidy, Miss, Blackhill.
Cuthbertson, Mr F., Consett.
Cant, Mr J., Consett.
Carruthers, Mr T., Bridge Hill.
Charlton, Mr R., Templetown.

Davison, Messrs and Misses, Blackhill.
Dodds, Misses, Medomsley.
Dixon, Mr J., Broad Oak.
Davey, Mr R. T., Blackhill.
Dent, Mr James, Consett.
Downs, Mr Wheatley, Shotley.
Dent, Messrs W. and J., Castleside.
Davison, Mr J. and Misses, Consett.
Davidson, Mr T., Castleside.
Divine, Miss.
Dolphin, Mr.

Ellison, Miss, Blackhill.
Eltringham, Misses, Blackhill.
Eltringham, Mr F., Blackhill.
Elliott, Misses (2), No. 1 Farm.
Elliott, Mr and Lady, Blackhill.
English, Mr, Consett.
Elsom, Miss, West Law.
Elsdon, Mr, Snods.
Elliott, Mr A., Consett.

Forkin, Mr Thos., Consett.
Fixter, Mr Wm., Blackhill.
Freek, Miss, Blackhill.
Fox, Miss, Shotley Bridge.
Foreman, Messrs and Miss, Leadgate.
Forster, Miss, Leadgate.
Forster, Messrs T. and R., Consett.
Fawkes, Miss, Shotley Park.

Green, Misses, Blackhill.
Gibb, Mr, Consett.
Gilley, Miss, Shotley Bridge.
Gardner, Miss, Consett.
Gorman, Mr W., Shotley.

Hodgson, Miss, Blackhill.
Hedley, Mr G. N., Menomsley.
Harrison, Mr Wm. and Mrs, Blackhill.
Hewitt, Misses, Consett.
Hunter, Miss L., Dipton.
Hardy, Mr J., Dipton.
Henderson, Miss, Shotley Bridge.
Hunter, Misses (2) and Friend, Medomsley.
Hutchinson, Misses, Blackhill.
Hogg, Miss, Blackhill.
Harrison, Miss.
Harker, Mr and Misses, Blackhill.
Hobday, Mr and Mrs J., Blackhill.
Hall, Mr C. and Miss, Cutlers' Hall.
Hamblon, Mr, Consett.
Hull, Mr J., Consett.
Hutchinson, Misses, Consett.
Harris, Mr, Medomsley.

Ingram, Mr W., Blackfine.
Irwin, Mrs, Blackfine.

Jeffreys, Miss, Consett.
Jamieson, Misses, Blackfine.
James, Messrs and Miss, Blackfine.

Kershaw, Mr, Leadgate.
Knowles, Miss, Shotley.
Kirkland, Mr N., Consett.
Kershaw, Miss, Dipton.

Lowdon, Mr M., Consett.
Leath, Messrs J. T. and W., Medomsley.
Little, Misses (2), Fell House.
Lambert, Mr and Miss A., Dipton.
Lovat, Mr. W., Medomsley.
Lumsden, Miss, Consett.
Linton, Miss, Blackhill.
Longworth, Mr T., Consett.
Lishman, Mr H., Benfieldside.
Leybourne, Mr W. and Miss, Blackhill.
Lowes, Mr E., Newcastle.
Lowes, Mr, Waskerley.

Mackie, Miss, Blackhill.
Marshall, Miss, Blackhill.
Moses, Miss M. M., Blackhill.
Miner, Mr L., Castleside.
Murray, Misses, Dipton.
Murray, Miss G., Consett.
Moss, Mr J., Consett.
Maddison, Mr J. and Miss.
Maxwell, Mr and Miss, Consett.
McTaggart, Mr and Mrs J., Shotley.
Mathieson, Mr A., Templetown.
Moore, Miss M., South Shields.
Mulholland, Misses, Consett.
McMillay, Mr J.
Murray, Mr J., Ebchester.
Moody, Miss E., Ebchester.
Makepeace, Miss, Leadgate.
Milburn, Mr J., Westwood.
Maughan, Messrs, Ebchester.

Nicholson, Mr J. T., Consett.
Newbolt, Mr N., Blackhill.
Nixon, Mr F., Consett.
Nutt, Mr F., Consett.
Nixon, Miss, Snows Green.
Nicholson, Misses, Consett.
North, Mr J., Consett.

Oliver, Mr W., Shotley Bridge.
Oswell, Miss, Shotley Bridge.

Potts, Miss, Consett.
Phillipson, Mr F. and Mrs, Blackhill.
Potts, Mr T., Castleside.
Postle, Mr J. and Mrs, Consett.
Pattinson, Messrs and Misses, Waskerley.
Prior, Mr C., Consett.
Power, Miss, Leadgate.
Priestman, Miss, Blackhill.
Pinkney, Mr M., Blackhill.
Pratt, Mr E., Consett.

Robson, Mr A., Consett.
Ramsay, Miss, Blackhill.
Robinson, Mr Jos., Medomsley.
Rawes, Messrs, Consett.
Robinson, Messrs and Misses, Bessemer Street.
Robinson, Mr J. G., Blackhill.
Richley, Miss, Blackhill.
Robson, Mr W. D., Mrs, and Miss, Blackhill.
Robson, Miss, Dipton.
Robinson, Mr G., Blackhill.
Ramshaw, Mr.
Robertson, Mr, Consett.
Robinson, Mr, Consett.
Raine, Mr C., Castleside.
Reid, Miss, Castleside.
Rowe, Messrs R. and V., Consett.
Raisbeck, Miss, Shotley.
Redshaw, Mr and Miss, Consett.
Robinson, Miss, Shotley Park.
Robson, Mr W., Consett.
Robson, Mr, Hexham.
Robson, Miss, Castleside.
Robson, Mr W., Leadgate.

Stephenson, Misses, Blackhill.
Smith, Mr A. and Miss, Blackhill.
Strachan, Mr and Mrs, Blackhill.
Shell, Mr and Mrs, Blackhill.
Surtees, Messrs G. and H., and Misses, Blackhill.
Siddle, Mr and Mrs J., Blackhill.
Sawyers, Miss, Blackhill.
Skelton, Messrs T. and S., Consett.
Sessford, Miss, Blackhill.
Smailes, Mr and Mrs C. H., Blackhill.
Scott, Mr C. F. and Miss, Newbell.
Spark, Miss, Consett.
Sawyers, Mr and Mrs J., Blackhill.
Salisbury, Miss, Consett.
Sinclair, Mr Alf. and Misses, Blackhill.
Snowdon, Mr J., Blackhill.
Stoker, Mr J. and Mrs, Blackhill.
Sedgewick, Mr W., Consett.
Scott, Mr J., Shotley.
Simpson, Mrs.
Stephenson, Mr, Castleside.
Siddle, Miss F., Consett.
Surtees, Misses, Shotley.
Stephenson, Mr and Miss, Leadgate.
Surtees, Mr E., Consett.
Scales, Mr J., Blackhill.
Stephenson, Mr Geo., Consett.
Stephenson, Mr J., Westwood.
Surtees, Mr T. and Miss, Consett.
Smith, Mr W. and Misses, Jarrow.

Turner, Mr and Mrs J., Blackhill.
Tindale, Mr E., Blackhill.
Thompson, Misses, Delves Lane, Consett.
Thompson, Mr and Misses, Consett.
Temperley, Mr and Miss, Stanniforđam.
Turner, Mr and Miss.
Turnbull, Mr J., Leadgate.
Teasdale, Miss, Consett.
Trotter, Misses, Blackhill.
Telford, Mr and Mrs, Blackhill.
Turnbull, Miss, Shotley.
Time, Mr J., Leadgate.
Teasdale, Mr and Mrs, Consett.

Vasey, Mr Wm., Ebchester.
Veitch, Messrs and Miss, Medomsley.

Walker, Misses, Durham Road, Blackhill.
Walton, Mr J. and Miss, Blackhill.
Willey, Misses, Ebchester.
Wood, Mr and Mrs J. G., Consett.
Warwick, Mr F., Blackhill.
Warn, Mr J., Benfieldside.
Williamson, Mr Issac, Consett.
Wood, Messrs and Misses, Consett.
Walton, Messrs and Misses, Lanchester.
Wood, Mr T., Sherburn Terrace, Consett.
Williams, Mr Morris and Miss, Blackhill.
Wade, Messrs and Misses, Consett.
Weaver, Miss, Consett.
Willey, Mr G., Leadgate.
Wardhaugh, Misses, Shotley.
Walton, Mr Jos., Medomsley.
Wild, Mr C. R., Shotley.
Wilkinson, Mr M., Consett.
Walton, Mr and Mrs J., Blackhill.
Watson, Mr and Miss, Blackhill.
Witton, Miss, Blackhill.
Wiggins, Mr and Miss.
Wake, Mr E. and Miss, Consett.
Whitfield, Mr J. R., Elm Park.
Wheatley, Mr T., Medomsley.
Wylam, Mr R. and Miss, Consett.
Ward, Mr Willis, Consett.
Wood, Messrs J. and H., Consett.
Wirth, Miss, Consett.
Whittaker, Miss, Consett.
Waggott, Mr W., Ebchester.
Winter, Mr, Leadgate.

Young, Misses, Blackhill.
Young, Mr T. S. and Miss, Blackhill.
Young, Mr T., Consett.
Yates, Mr R., Castleside.

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The monthly meeting of the above authority was held on Wednesday afternoon in the Council Chamber, Mr J. Green presiding. There were also present Messrs G. Forster, M. G. Armstrong, R. Kay, W. Indian, J. Smith, Dr Thomas Benson (medical officer), Jos. Routledge (surveyor), and J. C. Ridley (clerk).

BUILDING COMMITTEE.

The Building Committee recommended (1) that the plan for warehouse for the Stanley Co-operative Society be passed subject to a block plan being provided and sent in; (2) that the plan of street for the Miners' Hall, South Moor, be referred to the Highways Committee; (3) that the plan of two houses at Oxhill for Mr J. Palmer be passed subject to the sinks being removed to the back, and ventilating pipes being let into the wall flush, and that the road at the west end of the building be half of a 18ft. street in width; (4) that the plan of iron paling and retaining wall at No Place for the West Pelton Co-operative Society be passed; (5) that the plan of 15 houses at South Moor for the Stanley Co-operative Society be passed subject to earth closets being constructed according to the surveyor's instructions; (6) that the plan of stables at Stanley for Mr J. Green be adjourned.—The report was adopted.

THE ALLEGED SLIDING ON THE CEMENT FOOTPATH.

Mr John Rowe attended in response to a charge that he had been found sliding on the cement footpath in Front Street.

The Chairman: Now, young man, the sergeant informs us that you were sliding in the street. What have you to say?

Mr Rowe: I was not wilfully sliding. I was running after my brother as far as the tin Chapel, and as I was checking myself, I slipped, and slid a bit.

The Chairman: We have had a great deal of trouble in these matters. The Council don't want to proceed against you, as we all know you. If you are willing to promise that it will not occur again, we are willing to let the matter drop.

Mr Armstrong: Your contention is that you slid in running after somebody.

Mr Rowe: Yes.

Mr Armstrong: The police might think you were sliding.

The Chairman: We will give you the benefit of the doubt. We have no reason to think that what you say is not correct, though the sergeant, or one of the policemen, says you were sliding. We hope that it will not happen again.

Mr Rowe: I am sure that it will not, because I was not sliding.

The matter then dropped.

IN DARKEST STANLEY.

Messrs Armstrong and Smith drew attention to the fact that some of the lamps at South Moor, East Stanley, and Oxhill had not been kept burning regularly. Mr Armstrong, referring to a charge for lighting till twelve o'clock at night on one occasion, said that they in Stanley were marvellously soon out compared with other places.

POOR OLD JOHN!

John Atkinson, roadman, made application for an increase of his wages, which at present are 18s.

Replying to Mr Kay, Mr Indian stated that the man was employed for seven days.

The Chairman thought that John did not live in a rented house, but

Mr Armstrong said that he did; he lived next door to the Curate. (Laughter).

It was decided to grant an increase of 1s per week to John's wages.

FINANCIAL.

Cheques were ordered to be issued in payment of accounts to the amount of £638 8s 6d. The present balance in the bank is £1345 12s 3d.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

Mr Joseph Routledge reported that the workmen had been employed during the month in effecting road improvements at East Stanley. They had also extended the sewer from the main road, High Stanley, up to Beaconsfield Terrace. As requested, he had prepared plans and specifications for extending the sewer at Kip Hill. The contractor for the South Moor Towneley Building Estate had commenced to put in the sewer for Tempest Terrace and Standish Street, South Moor. In carrying out the sewer extensions, it would be necessary to take it through certain private lands. It would be necessary for the Council to give notice to the owners and occupiers. Several plans had been laid before the Building Committee, and reports thereon would be submitted. Mr Joseph Watson had agreed to let the Council have the stand for urinal on condition that it was removed when the land was required for other purposes. The lamps for lighting Jolcey Square and East Stanley were now to hand.

The consideration of the urinal site was deferred, the remainder of the report being adopted.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Mr Joseph Routledge reported that eight houses were ready for habitation certificates, the owners being Messrs G. Forster, Usher, Forster, and Errington, and the owners of West Stanley Colliery.

Mr Rutherford, on behalf of the owners of South Derwent Colliery, had made application to have the six houses recently closed in Scott's Houses, reoccupied.—He (Mr Routledge) might point out that the whole of the notice had not yet been carried out. The back of the houses remained unspouted, and the earth still remained against the back wall. The upstairs rooms were still unceiled. The houses recently closed at Havanna' on the Beamish estate, had become both dangerous and a nuisance to the public. The West Stanley Colliery Company would require notice to put in the branch drains to their property in Maux Street, and connecting them with the main drain.

Dr. Benson, replying to Mr Indian, said that the houses were at present dry, large fires having been kept burning.

Mr Routledge explained that the ceiling of the houses was not mentioned in the notice.

The Chairman said that the houses had been closed, and were practically in the same position as new houses. He rather thought that the houses had not been put in habitable condition. He suggested that the Council should have a conference with Mr Rutherford.

The Chairman proposed, and Mr Armstrong seconded, that the Council should have an interview with Mr Rutherford on Wednesday, Dec. 8th. This was agreed to.

On the proposition of Mr Armstrong, seconded by Mr Green, it was agreed to forward to Mr Clark a copy of the Inspector's remarks regarding the house at Havanna.

The report was then adopted.

MEDICAL REPORT.

Dr Thomas Benson reported that three cases of scarlatina and one of enteric fever completed the whole of the cases of notifiable diseases reported to him during the month. The latter occurred at Kip Hill, and the former at Old South Moor, and East Stanley pit. Excepting in one case where a second case of scarlatina followed, there was no apparent cause for the outbreak. Measles had re-appeared near the locality originally infected; but the fresh cases had not exceeded a dozen. So far as regarded infectious diseases, the present was not unsatisfactory. The month's mortality was much higher than usual. Nineteen deaths were returned, giving a death-rate of 22·5 per 1,000 per annum. This increase was not due to preventable disease, as only two deaths resulted from those maladies.

The report was adopted.

COLLECTOR'S REPORT.

Mr Hewison reported that he had collected £1,233 7s 7d during the month.

FIRE PLUGS.

The Surveyor was instructed to put in twelve fire plugs on the highways.

Mr Smith said that this was very necessary.

Mr Armstrong: Yes, after the Consett fire.

The Clerk: Or London.

Mr Armstrong: Oh, all Stanley would be destroyed by a fire like that.

CONSETT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.

It was decided to accept a visit from the committee of the Consett Technical Institute on Dec. 8th.

SCAVENGING AND REFUSE REMOVAL.

In regard to the scavenging and refuse removal for the urban district of Stanley, Dr. T. Eustace Hill, County Medical Officer of Health, reported as follows:—"In a letter dated August 2nd last, the Clerk stated that the question of deposits for house refuse was still receiving the careful attention of the District Council, and that they expected to be able to report to the County Council in a short time the agreement for two or more public deposits. No further communication has been received from the District Council, but there is no ground for any further delay in the Council undertaking the scavenging and removal of house refuse as regards their district."

SEWAGE WORK.

Mr Joseph Goldsborough tendered to do certain sewage work at Havanna for £107 2s, and further sewage work at Shield Row for £147 7s 6d.—The tenders were accepted.

Mr Routledge's estimates were respectively £102 and £148.

SUGGESTED LIGHTING OF LAMPS DURING THE NIGHT.

Mr Armstrong again referred, in a lengthy speech, to the necessity of keeping a number of lamps burning for the convenience of the night shift men. He intended the matter to be decided—either that the Council would or would not have a certain number of lamps kept lighted. He thought that a committee, consisting of members interested in the matter, should be appointed to confer with Mr Carr, but he would not mention the names of those members to compose the committee, as he wanted to be on himself, and did not like to propose himself.

The Chairman: You might leave it to the entire Council to put you in.

Mr Armstrong complained that the committee appointed at a previous meeting had not met. It was through no fault of his that they had not met.

The Chairman: Is this the only committee that has failed to do its work?

Mr Armstrong: No, it is not; there are far too many that fail to do their work. Continuing, Mr Armstrong said that he would be no party to strangling the movement.

Mr Indian said that the whole district would have to be lighted if any part of it was. The Committee ought to meet about midnight to experience for themselves the pleasures of travelling in the dark.

Mr Smith said that the lights were not worth arguing about. They could not get any light at South Moor even when the lamps were there.

The Surveyor suggested that it would be advisable to have beacon lights. (Laughter).

Mr Indian (smiling at the *Chronicle* representative): Yes, we will have the beacon lights on the top of the hill.

A committee, consisting of Messrs Armstrong, Indian, Forster, and the Chairman, was appointed to inquire into the probable cost, and report thereon.

This concluded the business.

CASTLESIDE BOARD SCHOOL.

The monthly meeting of this body was held in the School-room, Castleside, Mr J. W. Golightly presiding. There were also present—Messrs T. J. Muse, W. Pattinson, T. C. Elliott, Rev. J. Wallis, and the Clerk (Mr J. Proud).

ATTENDANCE OFFICER'S REPORT.

The Attendance Officer reported that he had made 73 visits to absentees. There were two cases of measles in the district.

Mr Muse moved, and Mr Pattinson seconded, that the report be adopted.—Carried.

MASTER'S REPORT.

The following report was submitted by the headmaster, Mr E. Duckworth:—There were on the register, 107 boys, 91 girls, making a total of 198, average 175, percentage 87. A bill of 10s. from Archibald Ramsden, for the cost of tuning the harmonium, had been received, but the master stated that the cover wanted repairing. The Rev. J. Wallis had visited the school, and examined the register. Miss Bewick and Miss Muse would be commencing on December 15th. They desired to have a week at home for preparation, the week before the teachers' examination. They would esteem it a favour if the Board would grant the same.

It was agreed that the teachers have the week for preparation.

In respect to the attendance, Mr Elliott said he thought they should have a better attendance, when the village was so clear of any epidemic.

Mr Muse: Have any families left the district?

The Clerk: None.

It was suggested that the Master see that the children attend better in future.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The yearly report of H.M. Inspector was as follows:—Mixed School—"Much trouble is taken in planning out and recording the work of this School. The general effectiveness of the teaching would be much increased, however, if the classes in the main room worked in a quieter way, and if a tendency to discursiveness in oral lessons were checked. A movable glazed partition in the main room would greatly assist the teaching. The cloak room accommodation does not appear to be sufficient, and the hat pegs are in need of repair." Infant Class—"The teaching of the infants is full of difficulties, owing to the large increase of the numbers during the summer months, which has led to the over-crowding of the room. The difficulties were partly met by the tranference of a teacher from the mixed department. The teaching is bright, and the children make very fair progress. Steps should be taken to provide proper cloak room accommodation, and to relieve the over-crowding."

It was agreed that the Clerk be instructed to get a joiner and mason to do all the necessary repairing of the School, and in regard to the partition, the matter was left over until next meeting.

A SAFE FOR THE BOARD.

Mr Elliott suggested that the Board get a box, or some kind of safe, in which to keep the documents, deeds, receipts, letters, &c.

It was agreed to get a box, at the cost of about £3, and to keep it in the Board Room.

There was no other business of importance, and the Board rose.

SOUTH MOOR.

Primitive Methodist Activity.—The Rev. W. Gelley lectured in the Primitive Methodist Church, on Saturday evening, on "Gold in the Gutter," and at the conclusion of the lecture a coffee supper was held. Mr Gelley preached twice on Sunday to large congregations.

LANGLEY PARK.

Service of Song.—A repetition of the Newcastle service of song by the united choirs of Langley Park and Sacriston took place in the Wesleyan Methodist Schoolroom on Tuesday evening. The chair was occupied by the Rev C. Holman, and over 50 artistes were in attendance. Solos were rendered by Miss M. Hepburn, Mr Peel, Mr Todd, Mr Willis, and Mr Hepburn, the artistes being accompanied on the organ by Mr R. Peel. There was a good attendance, and the proceeds were in aid of the Choir Fund.

LETTERS to the EDITOR.

MR. BARTRAM AND SECULARISM.

SIR,—It seems unfortunate that the "boiling down" process should begin immediately after your publication of such a vile attack against Secularism as that made by your correspondent Truth. I wish to state briefly that his first position having been proved false by his own figures, he sets up another in his ignorance, which is more false still, when he says "there are not half the branches in existence there were six years ago," &c. This is only a second tissue of falsehoods to try and back up the first, as may be seen by any of your readers who care to look up the National Secular Society's almanacks from 1889, when there were forty-nine branches; in 1890 and 1891 there were fifty-three; and in 1897 they will find there are sixty-five; and this is the only authoritative information obtainable, and may be had almost through any newsagent. Your readers will at once see the rottenness of such tactics as your correspondent, who pretends to know so much, and tries to mislead them with information (?) from a hostile source. I now wish to correct one or two errors in the copying of my letters. The first was in reference to the time of reduced subscriptions of individual members of the N.S.S., which was in 1890, and not in 1896 as stated, which makes the reduction of all subscriptions about one-fourth since 1890. The next is in Mr Lowery's letter where he says I cut another Secularist into "mince meat." Unless this is a mistake, Mr Lowery must have imagination very largely developed. The last is in connection with the quotation from Professor Tyndall in the "Fortnightly Review" of November, 1877, and not the current issue as stated. In reference to your correspondent's challenge to debate, let me say that I, who am responsible for the management of our lectures, offered to give him equal time with the lecturer, if he cared to come. Since then there have been eleven lectures in the neighbourhood, but he has considered discretion the better part of valour, and never once dared to show his face; and now he has the audacity to boast about who he is prepared to meet. I can only say, in reply, that as soon as he can find any respectable Christian congregation to acknowledge him as their representative, we will then appoint an executioner; and until he can gain the confidence of his friends for such a purpose, he need not hope to get an advertisement by meeting a representative exponent of Secularism; and even when he does, he will not be allowed to dictate the conditions. I would suggest in conclusion, that should the Rev. Mr Parkyn, the Curate of Lumley, care to show Mr Cohen the hollowness of his "clap-trap," in a public discussion, I should be very pleased to try and help to arrange such—Yours, &c.,

J. G. BARTRAM.

117, Morley Street, Newcastle.

[What Mr Lowery said in his letter was that Mr Reed, and not our correspondent, had cut a Secularist into "mince meat." So far as Mr Bartram and his critics are concerned, the correspondence must now cease. —ED. C.C.]

CONSERVATISM V. LIBERALISM.

SIR,—Having noticed with pleasure on Saturday evening last, at the Town Hall, Consett, such a large number of apparently enthusiastic Conservatives, I beg to submit that it may be turned to advantage if the following suggestion could be carried out, namely, that the Conservatives and Liberals of this constituency should meet together, in a thoroughly friendly way, in the Town Hall, and hold a discussion or debate on the following or other subject:—

Which policy applied, tends most to national progress. The House should be formed exactly as in St. Stephen's, and the debate conducted on recognised Parliamentary lines.

This, I think, can be easily done under the guidance of a competent and well-informed speaker, and by previous mutual arrangements. I think such a debate would tend to do away with that malice and bitter personal feeling that exists in some minds, which blinds the judgment in connection with politics, and would also be a means of education, enabling many of us to obtain a better comprehension of those principles we profess to follow.

I merely offer this suggestion to the leaders of each party in this constituency, and if they have the "courage of their convictions," I trust they will accept it.

The long winter evenings are fast approaching, and I am quiet sure it would attract a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen, not only to see the mode in which the debates are conducted in the House of Commons, but help us "to see ourselves as others see us," correct our prejudices, and strengthen our well-founded convictions.

I shall be favoured if any gentlemen belonging to each party will reply through your columns to this suggestion, after which, if endorsed, a consultation could take place, when all the necessary preliminaries could be arranged. I feel sure it would be a most instructive and pleasant evening, and would be enjoyed not only by those who may take part in the debate, but by those also who listen. In the meantime, I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

ESPRIT-DE-CORPS.

"LET THERE BE LIGHT."

SIR,—In the report you gave of Consett Urban Council's deliberations in your last issue, I find that the above-mentioned question of lighting our streets came up for discussion, and Councillor Dunne's suggestion to keep the Bray lamps burning a little longer than the ordinary lamps was adopted. Now, Sir, my object in writing is to call the attention of our Council to one very important matter, which they have overlooked. Hundreds of workmen use Berry Edge Road to and from the Works, and it is disgraceful to think that the lights are turned off in the mornings just at the time they are wanted most. And allow me to point out that to have the lamps burning until seven o'clock in the morning would be a boon to hundreds of workingmen. Last Friday morning was so dark that on several occasions workmen collided, causing great annoyance, and sometimes causing men to lose their temper. I feel convinced that if our Councillors knew what a boon it would be, they would one and all grant this extension of time, especially for those roads contiguous to the Works. Councillor Ainsworth spoke of the rates. Now, my own idea would be to put the lights out earlier in private streets, and leave them burning an hour longer in the morning where they would be of the greatest public benefit. In conclusion, my hopes are that some of our worthy Councillors will look after this important matter. Let us have more light, and they will deserve the thanks of the workmen, including yours, &c.,

A SON OF THE FORGE.

Nov. 9th, 1897.

SHOPKEEPERS' HOURS IN CONSETT.

SIR,—I was very sorry to learn by visiting your respectable and flourishing district that shop assistants, male and female, were confined at their business on Saturday nights longer by two or three hours than at any other towns. I think, Sir, it is very hard and out of all reason to have these assistants confined at business from nine o'clock in the morning till eleven o'clock, and in some cases till nearly twelve o'clock on a Saturday night.

It seems sadly out of place, even for young men, to be just finishing their work at such a late hour, but the idea of young women having to set out for their homes at such a time is without doubt an infringement on the more decent law of their protection, and an over due amount of confinement. And while they are thus deprived from all the attractions of the Saturday, I fancy it must in many cases interfere greatly with those who are wont and accustomed to attend places of worship on the Sunday. In the cities of Durham and Newcastle most of the best places of business are closed at nine o'clock, a time which is respectable, though I fancy if such places were even closed an hour or two sooner, they would find, week in and week out, that just as much business was done. The purchasers only need to be educated to it.

Hoping those who have interest and influence in the matter will do something to bring about a much-needed improvement in this direction.—I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

HARRISON LASHLIE.

Belmont, Durham, Nov. 18th, 1897.

[This letter is noticed in our editorial columns.—ED. C.C.]

GREENCROFT.

CONCERT. — Mr Tom Holland's popular musical company appeared at the Greencroft Primitive Chapel, on Saturday evening, and rendered an excellent programme in the presence of a large company. The programme included "The tar's farewell" and "Anchored" by Mr Holland; "Mary of Argyle" by Miss Hodgson; "The Soldier's Request" and "The little hero" by Mr Hosking; "Welcome, ever welcome" and "Death of Nelson" Mr Laws; with "Ora Pro Nobis" and other duets by Messrs Holland and Hosking.

STANLEY

PRESBYTERIANISM.—The members of the local Presbyterian Church have given an unanimous call to the Rev. H. King, of Haltwhistle, Northumberland, to accept the pastorate of their Church.

AN OLD OFFENDER. — Charles Chase, a familiar figure at the Stanley Police Court, was charged before Mr Ridley, on Tuesday, with sleeping in a coke-oven at Stanley Colliery, and was committed to jail for fourteen days.

MR THOMAS RIDLEY, son of Mr George Ridley, J.P., and an articled pupil with Messrs Wilson, Ornsby and Cadle, solicitors, Durham, passed his intermediate examination in the law examination held in London on November 3rd.

BAND OF HOPE TEA.—About thirty children connected with St. Andrew's Band of Hope were regaled to a substantial tea, on Saturday afternoon, in the Church Institute. The Rev. C. H. Fleetwood and Mrs Fleetwood were present at the tea, and the reverend gentleman delivered an interesting address to the children.

DEATH OF AN OLD RESIDENT.—Mrs Barbara Rodham, of Shield Row, died on Thursday morning at her residence, Shield Row. Mrs Rodham, who was about 80 years of age, was accidentally burnt about the body some ten days ago, since which she had been attended by Dr Benson. Deceased had lived at Shield Row nearly the whole of her life.

AN ADDITIONAL CURATE.—Mr P. Duckworth will be ordained as curate of St. Andrew's Church, on December 19th. With a steadily increasing population, and two Mission Churches, as well as St. Andrew's Church, the Vicar and the present Curate have been kept hard at work, and the presence of an additional helper will be greatly appreciated.

WESLEYAN TEA MEETING.—A public tea was held in the Wesleyan Chapel on Wednesday afternoon, at which the tables were presided over by Mrs Jos. Welch, Miss Welch, Mrs Willey, Miss A. Willey, Miss Herron, Mrs Oliver, Mrs Humble, Mrs Hardy, Miss Hartley, and Mrs W. Green. In the evening, Mr A. Norman lectured to a large gathering on the "Story of my life." Mr R. Piggs, of Dipton, presided.

SUNDAY EVENING CONCERT. — Mr Tom Holland's company appeared before a crowded audience, at the Co-operative Hall, on Sunday evening, and gave a splendid selection of sacred solos, trios, hymns, &c. "Nazareth," by Mr Holland, created a great impression, and Miss Haw sang "The Children's Home" very sweetly. "Nearer my God to Thee," as rendered by Messrs Holland and Hoaking, Miss Haw and Miss Collicott, fairly took the audience by storm. Mr George Potter, jun., occupied the chair.

BILLIARD HANDICAP.—The second round of the billiard handicap at St. Andrew's Institute, resulted as follows:—J. Grundy (owes 5) beat H. Curry (scratch) by 100 to 68; W. Benson (owes 25) beat T. Lynn (scratch) by 100 to 90; Geo. Harrison (scratch) beat M. Shield (9) by 100 to 70; D. W. James (30) beat J. Robinson (20) by 100 to 84; R. Lewis (owes 17) beat N. Summerbell (scratch) by 100 to 90; H. Hughes (10) beat Isaac Harkness (13) by 100 to 88; G. Clough (13) beat J. McGregor (20) by 100 to 68; S. Wood (8) beat J. H. Benfold (8) by 100 to 71. J. Surtees a bye. The draw for the third round resulted as follows:—Surtees v. Lewis, Benson v. James, Clough v. Harrison, Wood v. Grundy, H. Hughes a bye.

DIAMOND JUBILEE LEEK AND VEGETABLE SOCIETY.—The first annual supper in connection with the above Society, was held on Saturday evening, at the Shield Row Inn, when about forty members and friends sat down to a splendid repast, served by the courteous hostess, Miss Watson. Mr Nichol, Jarrow, presided at the after proceedings, the vice-chair being occupied by Mr Cockburn. The annual report was presented by the Secretary. Mr Robert Grieveson, and showed that the prospects of the Society were exceedingly bright, the membership having increased by twenty during the past twelve months. The income for the year amounted to £13 17s 0½d, and the expenditure to £11 1s 3½d, leaving a balance of £2 15s 9d in hand. The toast, "Success to the Society," was submitted by the Chairman, and responded to by Messrs Cockburn, Daglish, and Brown, all of whom spoke hopefully of the future of the Society. In the course of the evening, songs were given by Messrs H. Hughes, Harvey, Weldon, R. Grieveson, Bell, Daglish, Maddison, and Day, of Leadgate. Mr Grieveson delivered an amusing stump speech, and a comic duet by Messrs Kenrick and Richardson created much laughter.

CATHOLIC CONCERT.—An enjoyable concert was held in St. Joseph's School, Stanley, on Saturday night. There was a large and enthusiastic audience, intensely excited over the kinetoscope. Miss Blythe sang with great sweetness and expression, and received hearty encores. Her voice is rich and fluent. Mr H. Tomkins was well received, and convulsed the audience with laughter. Misses Flynn and Wheatley and Mr J. Gates were at their best in the operatta. Miss B. Fiddess rendered her songs with her usual good taste, and Mr W. Rowell and Mr W. Cranston supplied the instrumental portion of the entertainment in good style. The proceeds will, it is expected, prove very satisfactory, and are to be devoted to the New Church Fund. The following was the programme:—Part 1—Glee, "Come where my love lies dreaming," choir; song, "The river of years" (encore, "By the Fountain,") Miss E. Blythe; duet, "Mr and Mrs Turtle," Miss E. Wheatley and Mr J. Gates; song, "English as she is spoke" (encore, "One-legged family,") Mr Harry Tomkins; song, "Come back to me," Miss B. Fiddess; duet, "Angels' whispers," Misses M. Flynn and E. Wheatley. Part 2—The animatograph, exhibited with explanations by Mr H. Tomkins. Part 3—Song, "Courting the widow," Mr H. Tomkins; duet, "A.B.C.," Miss E. Wheatley and Mr J. Gates; song, "The better land," Miss E. Blythe; song, "Kathleen Mavourneen," Miss B. Fiddess; finale operetta, "Have your own way," Misses M. Flynn and Wheatley and Mr J. Gates.

THE INDIAN MUTINY AT THE VICTORIA THEATRE.—One of the greatest treats that Mr M. H. Lindon has ever afforded his patrons has been given to them this week in the production at the Victoria Theatre of Mr George Daventry's great military drama, "The Indian Mutiny." This is the first occasion that Mr Daventry's popular drama has appeared in Stanley, but it is safe to predict that it will not be the last, for it has taken the town by storm, and is certain of a hearty re-welcome on any return visit. The scenery is splendidly appropriate; and the performers to a man are capable exponents of this truly "noble art." The chief characters in the play, those of Nebu Singh, the rebel leader; and Ghuznah, the half Hindoo and half British heroine; are most brilliantly sustained by Miss George Daventry and Miss Clare Howard, the latter of whom it is almost safe to assert is the most accomplished actress that has ever appeared before a Stanley audience. Mr Daventry's representation of the hateful character he adopts, is so realistic, as to elicit hisses from every part of the house. Mr Louis Egerton and Mr Wallace Moir fill their respective roles of Abul Khan and Ra Goonga with all the success that long training and great abilities can command. So far as the English characters in the piece are concerned Messrs Ernest R. Abbot, C. A. Chandles, and A. Ryeland Leigh all sustain their military parts in very accomplished styles. Mr John Hignett is very amusing as Terry O Brien, and Miss May Relph created much genuine fun as the lady warrior, Mrs Major Ingleby. At the conclusion of the play, the curtain rises on two splendid tableaux, "Relief of the fort" and "Victory." As proving the realism of the piece and the staging thereof, it may be stated that Mr Daventry has been the recipient of a letter from an officer who went through the Mutiny; congratutating him on the perfection attained in the performance of the drama; and its likeness to the real thing. Thanks to the splendid billing under supervision of the accomplished advance agent, Mr Lawrence, the public of Stanley were led to expect an exceptional treat in the performance of the Indian Mutiny. They have not been disapointed.

DIPTON.

PRIMITIVE METHODISM.—A grand evening concert was given in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, on Saturday evening, by the members of the Tanfield Lea Primitive Choir, under the leadership of Mr J. Milburn. Mr R. Hindmarsh presided at the organ. A well-attended ham and coffee supper was given at the conclusion of the concert. Special sermons were preached on Sunday by the Rev. M. A. Drummond, of Lanchester.

SACRISTON.

POLITICAL MEETING.—Mr J. Wilson, M.P. for Mid-Durham, addressed his constituents in the Co-operative Hall, on Thursday evening. Mr Needham, checkweighman, Witton Colliery, presided, and the other speaker was Mr P. Carling, of Blaydon.

SONS OF TEMPERANCE FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—The members of this Society held a successful entertainment in the National Schools, kindly lent for the occasion by the Vicar, on Saturday evening. Bro. Thomas Clough, of the "Guardian Division" presided, when a series of temperance stories, illustrated by a helioscopic lantern, were given by the members of the Society, who were assembled in strong force. An efficient string band was also in attendance, and rendered selections of music at intervals. A successful children's entertainment was held in the afternoon.

PRESENTATIONS.—On Monday a pleasing ceremony took place at the house of Mr Geo. Greenwell (Robin Hood Inn), when Mr Jos. Greenwell, bugler, of the Cycling Club, was made the recipient of a handsome timepiece, on the occasion of his recent marriage. The vice-captain of the Cycling Club (Mr Appleby) made the presentation, and in the course of his remarks, dwelt on the work Mr Greenwell had done in connection with the club. Mr Greenwell thanked the members for the present, which, he said, would be a remembrance of the many happy days he had spent with the members of the club. Miss Dodds, one of the servants at the above hostelry, was made the recipient of a gold brooch in recognition of the services she had rendered to the club. The remainder of the evening was spent in harmony, songs being rendered by Messrs Appelby, Cockbean, Cousins, Johnson and Hirds.

CYCLING CLUB.—The members of this club held their sixteenth annual ball in the Victoria Assembly Rooms, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr J. Lowes, on Friday evening. The room was tastefully decorated by the members of the club, and over 30 couples danced to the strains of music supplied by an efficient string band, consisting of five performers. The ball was led off by the worthy captain, Mr Geo. Greenwell and Miss Pate, and dancing was kept up with great vigour until five o'clock on Saturday morning. A programme of 26 dances was gone through, Messrs Appleby and Cockbean officiating as M.C.'s. Refreshments were provided in an adjoining room by Mrs Farrow, which were liberally partaken of by the guests. The proceeds were in aid of the club, which is at present in a very flourishing condition.

YEARLY FUND SUPPER.—The members of the Three Horse Shoes Yearly Club, which has recently been removed to the house of the treasurer, Mr George Greenwell, Robin Hood Inn, held their annual supper and "smoker" on Saturday evening last. Forty-five people sat down to a splendid repast, and after ample justice had been done to the good things provided, an adjournment was made to the smoke room. Twenty applications were received for affiliation, only five of which were successful. Mr Hunter was voted to the chair, and Mr Johnson the vice-chair. A dividend of 10s was made to each member, which was considered satisfactory. Songs were contributed by Messrs Watt, Dawson, Greenwell, Robson, and Dent, and after the toasts of the "Royal Family," "Success to the Yearly Club," and the "Host and Hostess," had been proposed and responded to, the gathering concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

CONCERT.—The members of the Annfield Plain and Tantobie Wesleyan choirs gave a grand concert in the Wesleyan Church, the proceeds being devoted to the organ fund. Mr J. Humble presided, and the proceedings proved very enjoyable.

Y.M.C.A.—Under the auspices of the local branch of the Y.M.C.A., a grand evening concert was given in the Co-operative Hall on Wednesday evening, by the Blackhill Glee Party. Mr Henry Greener occupied the chair, and an excellent programme was rendered to the delight of a large audience.

ACCIDENT AT THE MOOR PIT.—On Thursday afternoon a fall of stone occurred in the Moor Pit, by which a hewer named Robert Coates sustained injuries which rendered him unconscious for several hours. It appears that Coates was coming out-bye, and hearing the tubs behind him, he stepped into a manhole. The tub, however, ran off the rails near to the manhole, and upset the props, causing a quantity of stone to fall from the roof. Coates, who is familiarly known throughout the district as "Bobby" Coates, plays football for the Dipton Wanderers Football Club, and, as a cricketer, is connected with tpe South Tanfield Club. General regret is expressed at his mishap.

SUPPER. — The members of the Jubilee Yearly Fund held their annual supper, on Saturday evening, at the Railway Hotel, where a most ample and seasonable repast was served by the genial hostess, Mrs Aitchison. After the cloths were removed, Mr T. Wilson presided, and the vice-chair was occupied by Mr J. Bulmer. The Secretary, Mr J. Henwood, read the yearly financial statement, which was deemed highly satisfactory, a dividend of 9s 1d being received by each member. The next business was the election of officers for the ensuing year. Mr T. Wilson was chosen President, and Mr T. Graham Vice-Chairman. Mr J. Henwood was re-elected Secretary, Mr W. Aitchison Treasurer, and Mr J. Jobling and Mr J. Elliott Stewards. Thirteen new members having been enrolled, the remaining part of the evening was most enjoyably spent in toast and song, those contributing being Mr W. Dodds, Mr T. Wilson, Mr M. Black, and others. Mr Joseph Bulmer (Stanley) accompanied. The singing of "Auld Lang Syne" brought a most enjoyable evening to a close.

FUNERAL OF MR J. W. ROBSON. — On Thursday afternoon last the remains of Mr John William Robson, of South Pontop, were interred in Hare Law Cemetery, amid general manifestations of sorrow. At the request of the Annfield Plain Celtic Football Club, with which deceased was intimately connected, the *cortege* travelled round Front Street, and thence to the Cemetery, instead of taking the shorter route by the Greencroft Schools. The Wesleyan Choir attended at deceased's residence, and sang an appropriate hymn, and the South Derwent Band, under the leadership of Mr Cooper, played the "Dead March" at the head of the procession. The members of the Foresters Club also occupied a place in it, as did numerous local footballers, the total number present at the graveside being fully fifteen hundred. The underbearers were Messrs McDonald, G. Green, Robinson, and T. Elliott; and Messrs Heslop and Errington acted as bidders. The service at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. John Gornall, Vicar of Collierley. The members of the Annfield Plain Celtic Football Club sent a beautiful wreath as a token of respect to their late colleague; and others were sent by Mrs Bulmer, Mrs Forster, Mrs Martin, and Mrs Garraway (sister of deceased), and many others. Amongst the relatives and friends present at the graveside were Mr J. Robson (father), Mr Thompson Robson and Mr Thomas Robson (brothers), Miss Robson (sister), Mr and Mrs Martin, Mr and Mrs Eoaster, Mr and Mrs Garraway, Miss Garraway (niece), Mr and Mrs Welsh, Durham; Mrs Welsh, Mr and Mrs Bewicke, Mr John Welsh, Mr Wm. Welsh, Mr and Clayton, Hebburn; Mr and Mrs Summerbell, Consett; Mrs Bell (aunt) and Miss Bell, Consett; Mrs Robson, Mrs Coates, Miss Robson, Mr and Mrs Watson, all of Consett; Mr and Mrs Jones, Allendale; Mr and Mrs Watson, Whickham; Mrs Baker and family, Tanfield Lea; Mr and Mrs Baker, Tantobie; Mrs Garthwaite and family, Crook; Mr and Mrs Grinling, Consett; Mr Stobhart (father-in-law), South Pontop; Mr and Mrs Stobhart, Leadgate; Mr Henry Greener and family, South Pontop; Miss Baker, Newcaster; Mr Johnson, Mr Thompson, Mr Beatty, Mr Heslop, Newcastle; Mr T. Alderson and Mr J. Alderson, Crook; Mr Gair, Mr and Mrs Stephenson, Birtley; Messrs George Lee, James Masterman, George Whitfield, J. Drancy, J. Coyle, E. Nicholson, R. Brown, Sergeant Vickers, and numerous others representative of Annfield Plain Celtic and Stanley Football Clubs, together with an enormous number of friends and neighbours. There is said to have been the largest attendance at this funeral than at any known in the district for many years.

MARKETS.

CHESTER-LE-STREET, Nov. 22ND.—Mr James Turnbull held his usual fortnightly sale on Monday, and had forward 25 S.H. incalving and new-calved cows, 12 fat cattle, 140 fat sheep and lambs, 60 S.H. and Kyloe grazing steers and heifers, pony and sundries. There was a good attendance of butchers, and both cattle and sheep met a good trade, and bidding brisk. Milch cows were slow, but a fair clearance was effected. Trade for grazing cattle was also good, excepting for a lot of twenty Kyloe heifers, which were unsold. Prices as follows:—S.H. incalving and new-calved cows to £23 10s for a very grand cow from Mr R. Walker, High Grange, Darlington; Mr Bellwood, of Thirsk, also sold a very good cow for £22; S.H. grazing heifers to £11 15s; Kyloe cattle to £7 10s; fat cattle, heifers, to £15 12s 6d; fat cows to £15, top Mr E. J. Weightman, Middle Herrington; fat lambs to 38s 6d, top Mr R. Stothard, Carr House Farm. Fat sheep: Mule shearlings to 46s, top Mr Jos. Thornton, Tribley; half-bred shearlings to 45s 6d, top Mr R. Darling, Plawsworth; fat ewes to 45s, top Mr R. Darling, Plawsworth. The Christmas show and sale will be held on December 6th. Entries close on November 30th.

BENFIELDSIDE, Nov. 22.—There were forward at this mart, on Monday, 13 fat cattle, 2 cows, 4 calves, 7 stores, 147 sheep, 4 horses and ponies, &c. Fat heifers from Mr Jas. Teasdale, The Ridding, £14 to £15 5s; from Messrs Graham, Wittonstall Hall Farm, £13 5s to £15 15s; fat cows to £17 5s, Mr Thomas Bushby, Hole Row; £9 15s to £11, Mr H. Oliver, Hurbuck; £10 15s, Mr Bell, Medomsley; bullock, £11 to £11 17s 6d, Mr Strickland, Ebchester Hall; calves, 12s to £6 7s 6d for a sucker from Mr W. Potts, Shotley Field; stirks, £3 14s 6d to £4 15s; young sheep to 4ls from Mr Willie; lambs to 32s; Scotch wedders 32s 6d; Scotch ewes to 30s 6d. There was a good company, and prices were similar to recent markets. The Christmas show will be held on Monday, the 20th December. The prize lists, amounting to over £35, are now ready.

TOW LAW, Nov. 22.—Mr Vickers had forward 48 dairy cows and heifers, 10 fat cattle, 6 calves, 135 fat sheep and hoggs. Cows made up to £21 7s 6d; fat bullocks to £16 2s 6d, from Mr J T Morton, Tow Law; calves to 56s; fat hoggs to 31s, from Mr T Nichol, West Shield; from Messrs Pease and Partners, Limited, Crook; to 20s, from Mr R Hall, Old Park; fat mule shearlings to 37s 2d, from Mr J Hand, The Heugh; to 35s from Mr R Hall; fat blackfaced wethers from Mr T Robinson, Shield Ash; fat BF ewes to 25s 3d, from Mr J T Morton, Tow Law.

TOW LAW.—SPECIAL SALE OF CATTLE.—Mr Vickers held a special sale for store cattle and sheep on Thursday last, when there were forward 525 shorthorn and blue-grey cattle, 95 Highland kyloe heifers, and a few small lots of sheep. The cattle presented a grand and imposing appearance, being mostly two and three year olds of superior quality and forward in condition, consigned from Allendale, Teesdale, and Weardale. Buyers were not so numerous as usual. The sale opened with the sheep, followed by the farrow cows, for which a fair demand was experienced at about £1 ahead less money than last sale here. Then came the blue greys, a fine lot, half of which passed the ring unsold. The same remark applies to the several lots of exceedingly good shorthorns, which were completely neglected, and only about half of them sold at prices altogether in favour of buyers. A better lot of cattle was never seen at this mart. Not an inferior beast was to be found in the pens, and yet a more complete stagnation and cessation of trade was never experienced at the mart. Geld cows realised from £6 to £14 12s 6d; shorthorn heifers to £13 10s; do. steers, £9 10s to £11 17s 6d; yearlings, £4 10s to £8 15s; kyloe heifers, £5 to £6 15s. Blackfaced weathers, 19s to 23s 6d each.

TOW LAW.

RECHABITISM.—The celebration of the 6th anniversary of Hand in Hand Tent, 2103, took place on Saturday last. It commenced by a procession of members at 3 o'clock, headed by the S. A. Band, through the principal streets of the town, to the S. A. Barracks, where a good substantial tea was provided for members and the public, at which upwards of 150 sat down. At night, a public meeting was held in the same building, presided over by the Rev. G. Samuel, M.A., and two good interesting and instructive addresses was given by Dr. Tiplady, (tent surgeon), and Bro. J. Clark, P.D.S.J.T., of Stockton, which were much appreciated by those present. After a few remarks by the tent secretary, Bro. W. H. Chubb, who proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers and Chairman, brought the meeting to a close.

OXHILL.

ACCIDENT.—On Friday afternoon, an accident occurred in the Busty Seam of the South Tanfield colliery, by which a man named Joseph Dodds (46), employed as a shifter, received severe injuries to the legs and lower part of the back. Dodds accidentally undermined a prop, thereby causing a fall of stone. The unfortunate man was attended by Dr. Anderson. He is a married man, with a large family.

MARRIAGE. — A pretty wedding was solemnised at Lanchester Register Office, on Saturday, between Mr Forster Lewins, of Oxhill, and Miss Eliza Middleton, of Dipton. Mr Martin Lewins acted as best man, and Miss Nelly Lightburn, cousin of the bridegroom, acted as bridesmaid. The bride was attired in a maroon silk skirt, white nun's veiling, and bodice trimmed with cream lace, and white picture hat. The bridesmaid was attired in a dress of heliotrope serge, with velvet bodice to match, and white picture hat. Many valuable presents were received by the happy couple.

TANFIELD LEA.

PRESENTATION. — On Tuesday night in laat week, a deputation from the Primitive Methodist Society waited upon Mr John Brewis for the purpose of making a presentation to him, for his successful efforts in connection with the roasting of a whole ox for the liquidation of the Chapel debt. This being the third time Mr Brewis has superintended a similar effort to raise money for the above society, the members and friends thought it a fitting opportunity to show their appreciation of his services. The presentation took the form of a black ebony walking stick, silver mounted, and beautifully engraved. It bore the following inscription. "Presented to John Brewis by the Primitive Methodist Society, 1897."

CRAGHEAD.

PRIMITIVE METHODISM. — A successful concert and supper was held in the Primitive Methodist Chapel and Schoolroom, on Saturday night, the proceeds being devoted towards the reduction of the chapel debt.

AGED MINERS' FUND.—A concert in aid of this fund was held in the Hedley Memorial School, on Saturday night, Mr E. J. Wardle presiding. There was a crowded attendance, in fact so crowded that the chairman, in the course of his remarks, referred to the great need of an institute or hall of some kind for the holding of similar gatherings, and promised to assist any tangible movement in that direction. Amongst the artistes were Mrs Brookfield Fox, Craghead; Miss Welsh, South Moor; Mr H. and Master Porter, Shildon; Mr M. Bradley, Pelton Fell; Mr J. Hovells, Burnhope; and Messrs J. Lawson, M. Walton, S. Murray, T. Lawson, and A. Whittaker. Mr J. Bell, of Lanchester, acted as accompanist.

BEAMISH.

SILVER MODEL BAND.—The members and friends of this Band, to the number of about forty, sat down to a supper at the Shepherd and Shepherdess Inn, on Saturday evening last. It was served in Mr and Mrs Edgell's usual style of excellence, and after the tables were cleared, the chair was taken by the respected manager of Beamish Colliery, Mr M. Starford, Mr L. Kay occupying the vice. Messrs G. Corker, T. Grey, J. Carr, W. Young, W. Roddham, J. Roddham, G. Lewis, and W. Hardy contributed very materially to the harmony, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL. — The anniversary of Wesleyan Foreign Missions was held in the Wesleyan Chapel on Sunday, when appropriate sermons were preached by the Rev. J. W. Lord, circuit minister, who has spent a few years abroad as a missionary. Mr Lord also visited the Sunday School, and gave a very instructive and amusing address on his reminiscenses of his labours as a foreign missionary. Services were continued again on Tuesday night, the speakers being the Revs. G. E. Waterhouse, of Sunderland, J. H. Slack, and J. W. Lord. Councillor Mitchell presided. Collections were taken on behalf of Foreign Missions which were considered very satisfactory.—A correspondent writes:—The Wesleyans are again to be the recipients of the repeated kindness of their much esteemed friend, Miss Nicholson, of Osborne Villa. It is really pleasing to note the keen interest these good people, Mr and Mrs Nicholson and family, display in this particular Church. The members, I am sure, tender their sincerest thanks. It is customary to have a sale of work on New Year's Day, and to help forward the work, Miss Nicholson has decided to give a tea in the vestry on Wednesday next, after which a miscellaneous entertainment will be held, the total proceeds to be devoted to the trust fund of the Church.

PROPERTY OWNERS' MEETING AT ANNFIELD PLAIN.

"STAGNATION OF SPECULATION."

A meeting of property owners was held in Mr Lumley's Room at Annfield Plain on Tuesday, for the purpose of considering the advisability of forming themselves into a Property Protection Association. There were present Messrs G. R. Barclay, G. Setree, J. F. Smith, G. Hobson, John Russell, C. F. Cooke, James Strawbridge, Jos. Dunn, Wm. Taylor, Robert Pringle, John Humble, Wm. Copley, and Wm. Pigg (secretary). Mr Russell was called to the chair on the motion of Mr Pigg.

The CHAIRMAN said he was glad to see so many present that afternoon. They wanted to try as far as they possibly could to protect themselves against the coalowners for letting their property down. They had very glaring cases round about them, and it was for them as property owners to try to do the best they could to assist each other. There was an association of that kind in existence about 22 years ago shortly after he came to that place. The secretary who was appointed at that time was present to-day, and he was wishful to give them the benefit of his information, and also the opinion they got from counsel at that time.

Mr BARCLAY before proceeding to read the opinion of counsel, said that there was a balance of about £20 in hand, and he should be pleased to pay it in aid of any bona-fide effort which might be made to do something in the way of settling the long vexed question.

The CHAIRMAN asked whether it was the desire of the meeting that the business should be conducted in private or whether the reporters should remain.

Mr STRAWBRIDGE: By all means let them stay. We don't want to do anything in an underhand way.

Other gentlemen took the same view, and the representatives of the press were accordingly permitted to remain.

Mr BARCLAY then proceeded to read the opinion of counsel, when

Ms PIGG objected to this going out to the public until they saw what course they intended to take.

Mr STRAWBRIDGE replied that they only represented a tithe of the owners, and it would be well if the opinion were published in order to give the other owners an idea of what had been done in the matter.

Mr PIGG said that the publication of that opinion was like shewing their hands to their opponents.

The CHAIRMAN said the opinion had only been obtained for private information, and it would be as well if it did not go to the press.

Mr STRAWBRIDGE still maintained that they should not do anything in private. He did not see why there should be any secrecy.

It was subsequently agreed that the Council's opinion should not be published in the newspapers.

Mr BARCLAY having read the opinion,

The CHAIRMAN reminded them, that Mr Atherley-Jones had advised them to get the opinion of counsel, and if that went against them, he would at once endeavour to frame a short bill, and get it introduced in Parliament, with the object of getting them compensation. He also had reminded them, however, that this was a very slow process of legislation, as the bill might very easily be blocked.

Mr BARCLAY, having quoted at some length from the Lanchester Common Act,

Mr STRAWBRIDGE said he did not blame the colliery owners, for they were working for what they got; but the commissioners were not working for what they got.

Mr HOBSON: They are getting too much.

Mr COOK asked whether there was any possibility of them obtaining a rate, in order that those who lost money should be recouped; but

Mr HOBSON did not think they should tax themselves.

Mr STRAWBRIDGE thanked Mr Barclay for the trouble he had taken in the matter, and suggested that they should try to induce the property owners in every hamlet and village in Lanchester Common to hold meetings in their respective districts, and elect a delegate from each place. These delegates could meet at a central place and form themselves into a committee who would devise means to further the object they had in view.

The CHAIRMAN said they should first ascertain whether they were satisfied with the information they had received.

Mr PIGG thought that the opinion which had been expressed was doubtful, and if that were so, they were no further than when they commenced. The question was should they go in or not? If they decided to go on they should form themselves into an association and try to work the various districts.

Mr STRAWBRIDGE said the deputation to Mr Jones might take with them counsel's opinion which had just been read, and shew it to him. Plenty of people, he added, were almost shelterless, and others dare not build in some places, because the surface was rotten. The present system was stagnating speculation over the whole North-West of Durham.

Mr HOBSON pointed out that the difficulty they experienced was in the way of getting people to take an interest in the matter. The people would not subscribe anything or do anything. They had had some difficulty to contend with in this direction before. One of the greatest drawbacks was that they could not get people to assist.

Mr PIGG pointed out several difficulties which would have to be faced if Mr Strawbridge's resolution were passed. They would have to attend all the meetings in various district, or they would fall through.

The CHAIRMAN favoured the idea of electing a committee; and

Mr PIGG proposed that they form themselves into an Association.

Mr STRAWBRIDGE having seconded this, it became the finding of the meeting; and after some further discussion, it was agreed that those present should resolve themselves into a provisional committee, to make arrangements for a future meeting.

CHESTER-LE-STREET POLICE COURT.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 24th.—Before Col. SHEPPEE, Esq. (in the chair), HENRY KERRICH-WALKER, Esq., C. F. FORSTER, Esq., and F. S. NEWHALL, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

The following persons were convicted for drunkenness, the fine carrying costs in each case—John Clifford, labourer, Chester-le-Street, 2s 6d; Jas. Lockey, miner, 5s; John Hawley, miner, 5s; Wm. Humes, miner, 7s 6d; Adam Dickinson, mason, 7s 6d; Andrew Charles, miner, Birtley, 5s; Geo. Robinson, miner, Chester-le-Street, 5s; Wm. Hutchinson, miner, 5s; John Greenwood, miner, 2s 6d; Mary Proctor, married woman, Pelton Fell, 7s 6d; John Matthews, miner, 2s 6d; Henry Stones, miner, 5s; Thos. Dinning, mason, 2s 6d; Geo. Jobling, miner, 5s; and Fred. Greeves, miner, 7s 6d.—A case against Adam McKean for refusing to quit was adjourned for 14 days.

BREACH OF THE PEACE.

Wm. Harker, John Gladson, John Halliday, and Thomas Simpson were each bound over to keep the peace in the sum of £5, and to pay the costs.

GAMING WITH CARDS.

John Sanderson, George Hall, Joseph Wailes, Thos. Appleby, Henry Hours, Geo. Henderson, Joseph Hills, John Hall, Wm. Taylor, Pearson Fairley, and Wm. Dickinson, miners, were charged with gaming with cards at West Pelton. Henderson, Geo. Hall, Wailes, Hills, Taylor, and Dickinson were fined 2s 6d and costs, Appleby, Hours, and Fairley 1s and costs, whilst the case against John Hall was dismissed.

PITCH AND TOSS.

Isaac Hall, Joseph Hawkins, Joseph Anderson, and John Coupland, miners, were charged with playing pitch and toss at Chester-le-Street. Hall and Coupland were ordered to pay 2s 6d, whilst Anderson and Hawkins had to pay 1s and costs.

WILFUL DAMAGE.

Stephen Hall, John Willis, and Joseph Fairley, were proceeded against for doing wilful damage to a fence at West Pelton. Defendants were fined 1s damages and costs.

TRAVELLING ON THE RAILWAY WITHOUT A TICKET.

John Gordon, John Hindmarch, and Isaac Cowen, race card vendors, were fined £1 and costs for travelling from Newcastle to Chester-le-Street without a ticket.

THEFT OF A DOG.

George Ingram, *alias* David Robson, miner, was charged with stealing a dog, the property of James Logan, of Chester-le-Street, and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

NIGHT POACHING.

Joseph Persual, miner, was charged with night poaching on land in the occupation of the Earl of Ravensworth, at Lamesley, on Sunday evening last. Defendant was sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment, and was ordered to find securities of £10 in himself, and two of £5 each, for his good behaviour during the next twelve months, or in default he would have to remain in prison for six months.

OTHER CASES.

John Fallon was charged under the Industrial School Act with non-payment of arrears, and was sent to prison for a month.——Robert Glassey, Smith Blackburn, Edward Adamson, Francis Holliday, Thos. Hope, Wm. Evans, and John Telford, were each proceeded against under the Education Act, and the whole of the cases were adjourned for fourteen days.——Thomas Simpson and Geo. Graham were charged with a contravention of one of the clauses of the Poor Law Act. Simpson was dismissed on payment of arrears and costs, whilst Graham was committed to prison for a month.——Wm. Charles, was fined 5s and costs for not sending his child to school regularly.——Michael Mullen, miner, was sentenced to one month with hard labour for not contributing to his family.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

ACCIDENT.—On Friday afternoon, a man, named Woodward, was injured by a fall of clay whilst engaged in the re-building of the Crown Inn. Woodward had to be removed to his home in a cart, and is progressing favourably.

FUNERAL OF MR T. R. FARROW.—The funeral of this gentleman, whose death was recorded in our last issue, took place, at the Cemetery, on Friday afternoon, the officiating minister being the Rev. R. Crookhall. The pall bearers were Mr Peter Hay (Chairman of the Institute), Mr Gray, Mr Thos. Bowen, and Mr A. Thompson (Secretary of the Institute) Mr J. G. Farrow, of Newcastle (brother of deceased), was the chief mourner.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

CANINE NOTE.—During the Dog Show held this week at the Royal Aquarium, London, under the auspices of the Chow Chow Club, Mrs J. V. Faber, Derwent Dene, Shotley Bridge, secured the following prizes:—"Yum-Yum": Two first prizes, two specials, one bronze medal, two silver medals, and a large silver medal as best bitch in the show. "Singapore Boy": Second prize and special in open class. "Singapore Boy," in the strongest class ever shown, was only beaten by "Champion Chow VIII," which dog is now acknowledged as the most perfect Chow in England. The last-named dog was, after the judging, bought by Mr Faber.

IN MEMORIAM NOTICES.

The charge for Inserting an "In Memoriam" Notice in the *Consett Chronicle*, with one verse of poetry, is 1s. When there are two verses, the charge is 1s. 6d.

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Births, Marriages. & Deaths

BIRTHS.

At Swalwell, on the 20th inst., the wife of T. Robson, butcher, of a daughter.

Marriages.

ERRATUM.—In last week's *Chronicle* it was stated that Mr Robert Blackburn and Miss McKenna, were married in the Wesleyan Chapel, Stanley, by the Rev. J. A. Dixon. The announcement should have read, "in St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Stanley, by the Rev. James Thompson." We are sorry that the mistake occurred, and have to thank Father Thompson for calling our attention to it.

MORRIS AND NICHOLSON.—At St. Cuthbert's Church, The Brooms, on the 22nd inst., by the Rev. A. Magill, John Morris, of Flint Hill, to Jane Nicholson, of White-le-Head.

ROURKE AND KELLY.—At St. Cuthbert's Church, the Brooms, on the 22nd inst., by the Rev. A. Magill, James Rourke, of Dipton, to Mary Kelly, of Hill Top.

McGUIRE ANE McKEVER.—At St. Joseph's, Stanley, on the 20th inst., by the Rev. J. Thompson, David McGuire, of Tanfield Lea, to Sarah McKever, of Shipley's Houses.

LEWIN AND MIDDLETON.—At the Register Office, Lanchester, on the 20th inst., Foster Lewins to Eliza Middleton, both of Kyo.

PROUD AND MILBURN.—At the Register Office, Lanchester, on the 20th inst., Joseph Proud to Harriet Milburn, both of Blackhill.

GRANT AND BELLAM.—At the Register Office, Lanchester, on the 20th inst., John George Grant to Alice Bellam, both of Consett.

HEDWORTH AND CAWTHORNE.—At St. Mary's Church, Whickham, by the Rev. Arthur Allwork, Joseph Hunter Heworth, of Dunston, to Annie Cawthorne, of Whickham.

CLARK AND DAVIS.—At the Register Office, Lanchester, on the 24th inst., William Clarke to Emma Davis, both of Hill Top.

RAISBECK AND EVANS.—At Shotley Bridge Primitive Methodist Chapel, on the 24th inst., George W. Raisbeck to Margaret Evans, both of Blackhill.

HUNTER AND THIRLWELL.—At the Register Office, Lanchester, on the 24th inst., James Hunter, of Tanfield, to Mary Ann Thirlwell, of Barkus Close.

Deaths.

At Dipton, on the 18th inst., aged 46 years, Matthew Blair.

At the house of John Glenwright, Dipton, on the 19th inst., aged 57 years, Joseph Robinson.

At Dipton, on the 21st inst., aged 60 years, Elizabeth Ann, wife of Frederick Crosby.

At Chester-le-Street, on the 20th inst., aged 79 years, Hannah, widow of the late James Sugden.

At Esh Winning, on the 5th inst., aged 60 years, Elizabeth, wife of James Carvan.

At Langley Park, on the 10th inst., aged 1 year, Joseph, son of William Raper.

At Langley Park, on the 12th inst., aged 21 months, Thomas William, son of Robert Angus.

At Craghead, on the 10th inst., aged 24 years, William Auld.

At Lanchester, on the 11th inst., aged 35 years, Hannah, wife of James Walton.

At Lanchester, on the 13th inst., aged 69 years, James McCormick.

At Quebec, on the 14th inst., aged 64 years, George Clarke.

At Annfield Plain, on the 16th inst., aged 33 years, John William Robson.

At Lanchester, on the 20th inst., aged 56 years, William Hartney.

At Annfield Plain, on the 22nd inst., aged 67 years, Robert Simpson.

At Esh Winning, on the 23rd inst., aged 71 years, Catherine, widow of the late John Bailey.

At 4, Ramsey Street, Stanley, on the 22nd inst., aged 21 months, William John, son of Walter Parsons.

At Kip Hill, on the 20th inst., aged 8 years, Barbara, daughter of George Henry Harrison.

At Kip Hill, on the 24th inst., aged 20 months, Thomas Morton, son of Edward Hill.

At 69, Plantation Street, Leadgate, on the 17th inst., aged 15 years, Robert Smith, son William Dixon.

At 3, Princes Street, Consett, on the 21st inst., Maud, infant daughter of Henry Redshaw.

At 291, Watling Street, Leadgate, on the 22nd inst., Sarah Helen, infant daughter of Samuel Coombe.

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of my dear Mother, ELLEN MUDD, late of Tanfield Lea, who died Nov. 24th, 1893.

Gone from sight, but still to memory dear.

ELIZABETH HAWES.

JAMES HOPE,
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