The Consett Chronicle
AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM ADVERTISER.

NO 94, VOL. 2. [REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.] FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1897. PRICE. ONE PENNY WEEKLY.

Business Announcements.

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FRUIT AND LIVER SALTS, in 4d and 8d Tins.
LIME JUICE, LIME JUICE CORDIAL, LEMON SQUASH, &c.
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COVER Accidents of all kinds, as well as Disability arising from Small Pox or Fever, and in addition, provides Free Medical Attendance by the Insured's own Doctor.

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Are issued on unusually favourable terms.

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CABINET MANUFACTURERS AND UPHOLSTERERS
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DAVISON'S FURNITURE IS THE BEST.

SEE OUR Dining, Drawing, and Bedroom Suites. Brass and Iron Bedsteads. Spring, Hair, Flock, and Straw Mattresses. Couches, Bed Couches, Sofas, Sideboards, Cabinets, Drawers, Kitchen, and Household Sundries.

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AT
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TEA.	The Famous 1/8 Blend, which is pleasing Everybody.
PRESERVES.	Five different Makers. Sunderland's Rasp and Strawberry, 9D. Black Currant, 9½D.
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PEAS.	New Season's Marrowfat's, 2½D. per lb. Small Garden Peas, 1½D. per lb.
EGGS.	Remarkable Value—14 and 18 for a Shilling.
VINEGAR.	For Pickling, from 10D. per Gallon.

ESTABLISHED 1845.
MARSHALL AND SONS,
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N.B.—See that you get to the right shop, NEW TOWN HALL BUILDINGS.

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CORN MILLER AND FLOUR DEALER, CONSETT,

BEGS to intimate to farmers and horse and cow keepers that the best and cheapest place to buy Feeding Stuffs of all kinds and of the best quality is at his Mills and Warehouses in Consett. Oil and Cotton Cakes, direct from the Manufacturers, at the Lowest Possible Prices. Dealer in Bibby's Cake and Meals. Hay and Straw in large or small quantities, from 4-stone trusses to 100 tons, at Market Prices. Agent for Gas Lime. Goods delivered to any part of the neighbourhood.

NATHAN ELSDON,
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THANKS his friends for past patronage, and, in soliciting a continuance of their confidence, assures them that it will always be his endeavour to give them the utmost satisfaction in all Branches of his Business.

SALES CONDUCTED ON THE MOST REASONABLE TERMS.

OFFICE:—DELVES LANE, CONSETT.

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FOR GOOD VALUE IN
HOME-MADE FURNITURE BEST SHEFFIELD CUTLERY, and SILVER-PLATED GOODS, try
JOHN LOWES,
JOHN STREET SQUARE, CONSETT
(Back of British School, Medomsley Road).
The House for Musical Instruments by Best Makers.
PIANOS BY PFEIFFER, STRAUSS, LANGE, &c.
AMERICAN ORGANS BY STERLING.
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A Large and Varied Stock of WALLPAPERS.
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CHARLES TURNER,
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Household Furniture in Great Variety, at 10, NORTH ROAD, DURHAM.
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BAKERY GOODS Made to Order.

Established 1854. Workshops—130 Haymarket.

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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,
WOOLLEN UNDERWARE, &c., &c.
FELT AND SILK HATS AND CAPS, in all the Latest Shapes.

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

JOHN ATKINSON,
BUILDER AND CONTRACTOR,

BEGS to inform the Inhabitants of Consett and District that he is prepared to Remove Furniture, Lead Coal, and Clean Ashpits on the most Reasonable Terms.

A HORSE AND TRAP LET OUT ON HIRE.
Apply No. 1, DELVES TERRACE, Consett.

SENSATION AT DIPTON.
THE GREAT SALE OF THE SEASON NOW GOING ON.

SEIZE this Golden Opportunity, and pay a Visit to
THE NEWCASTLE DRAPERY AND CLOTHING STORES,
FRONT STREET, DIPTON.
Must be cleared prior to Stock-Taking.
STARTLING REDUCTIONS.
J. A. CASTLE, PROPRIETOR.

WEST STANLEY PEOPLE ARE CONTINUALLY ASKING, HOW CAN
KIRKUP
Afford to Sell his BOOTS AND SHOES so much Cheaper than others? Small profits and a big turn-over. That is the secret, my worthy friend.

HART'S DINING ROOMS,
12, RAGLAN STREET, CONSETT
(Opposite Salvation Army Barracks),
HOT DINNERS DAILY.
Refreshments at Moderate Charges.
Good Accommodation.
Parties, Balls, &c., Catered for.

VICTORIA DAIRY, CONSETT.

FRESH MILK, TWICE DAILY.
FRESH CREAM AND BUTTER, ALWAYS ON HAND.

G. T. ROBSON,
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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, October 2nd, 1897.

CLUB.	Goals.		CLUB.	Goals.
BIRTLEY		v.	ALLENDALE	
STANLEY		v.	ANNFIELD PLAIN	
BLAYDON		v.	DIPTON	
LEADGATE EXILES		v.	CONSETT SWIFTS	
LEADGATE PARK		v.	CRAGHEAD	

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:—

EXILES	5	SHANKHOUSE	0
CONSETT SWIFTS	2	WALBOTTLE	1
STOCKTON	2	BISHOP AUCKLAND	0
SUNDERLAND	1	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	0

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

OUR COUPON COMPETITION.

Owing to the fixture between Stanley and Annfield Plain being cancelled, only four of the games on our coupon were decided, and the narrowing of the contest made the final selection of the winner a matter of extreme difficulty. The coupon Editor had selected nine aspirants, and was puzzling his brains to detect any little difference of goals, from which he could fairly give the preference, and give a shilling apiece to five of them, when the coupon of

Mr Thomas Lightle,
85, Joicey Square,
West Stanley,

came to view, and decided the vexed question. Mr Lightle gave the correct number of goals in two matches, and the winning teams in all cases, as is shown by the appended copy of his coupon:

Leadgate Exiles	3	Shankhouse	1
Stockton	2	Bishop Auckland	0
Consett Swifts	2	Walbottle	1
Sunderland	2	Sheffield	1

A word to competitors. It is not necessary to put sixpenny stamps on the envelopes in which the coupons are included, as one competitor has done. Penny ones will do.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS.

Consett Swifts	2	Walbottle	1
Blaydon United	1	Prudhoe	1
Bankhead	2	Waterhouses	2
Sherburn	1	Sacriston Woodside.	1
Wardley	2	Annfield Plain	1
Hamsterley A	3	St. Michael's	1
Usworth Colliery	2	Pelton Fell	0
Leadgate Exiles	5	Shankhouse	0
Rendel	1	Birtley	0
Bearpark	1	Woodside	0
Brandon Albion	0	Newbottle	0
Witton Park	2	Tow Law St. Joseph's	1
Tow Law	1	St. Augustine's	0
Fatfield	2	Craghead	1
Crook	5	Seaham Harbour	1
Mickley	2	Dipton	1
Stanley True Blues	2	Tantobie Juniors	1
Chester-le-Street 2nd	3	Bankhead	0
Waldridge	6	Chester-le-Street	3
Beamish Celtic	1	Burnhope Rovers	0
Tanfield Lea Cæsars	6	Hamsterley	1
Langley Park United	4	Malton Coll. United.	2

DIPTON WANDERERS SURPRISED.

Dipton Wanderers met with a thorough surprise on Saturday. They were playing Mickley, on the Dipton enclosure, in a Tyneside League fixture, and had every hope of success. Indeed, they started the match with flying colours, and at half-time the game stood: Dipton, 1 goal; Mickley, nil. But the second half saw the reverse, for Mickley put on two goals, and thus won the game nicely. Spinks had ever so many shots to save, and it cannot be said but that he played a very fine game between the sticks. The rest of the team were very energetic, but were outmatched in the second half.

TANFIELD LEA VICTORIOUS.

The game between Tanfield Lea Cæsars and Hamsterley, in the Burnopfield and District Junior League, was a game of many goals. Altogether seven points were notched, and, unfortunately for Hamsterley, these were very unevenly distributed, the Cæsars having no less than six to their credit. The match was played at Hamsterley, and the visitors seemed to have done little else but score right throughout the first half. All that can be said is that the homesters never lost heart, and their pluck is proved by their scoring their one and only goal late in the game.

WHITES V. CELTS.

A record gate is expected at Stanley, on Saturday, when the Lilywhites meet their old friends "The Lizzies" in the first round of the Durham Senior Cup. The Whites are strong favourites for the event. Spectators are expected from all parts of the globe to witness the game, but there are a few odd millions who will be unable to secure admission to Oakey's Oval. The said millions cannot do better than read "Crossbar's" report of the game in next weeks' issue of the *Chronicle.*

EXILES ROUT SHANKHOUSE.

Seldom has a match aroused more interest in this locality than the cup-tie between the Exiles and Shankhouse, which was brought off on the Brooms ground, on Saturday last. The weather was exceedingly fine, although the players found it a little too hot for football. Shankhouse came with a splendid reputation, having won the Northumberland Cup on several occasions. The last occasion on which the teams opposed each other was on Easter Monday, when the "Blacks" romped home visitors by six goals to nil. The Leadgate lads were very weakly represented on that date, and they determined to leave nothing undone to wipe out their defeat. The start was greatly delayed owing to the non-arrival of the referee (Mr Douglas), and half an hour after the advertised time, Mr W. Foreman was asked by the Shankhouse captain to officiate, and consented. There was a slight change in the composition of the home team, Hill being given a trial at left half vice Haggan. The ground was in splendid condition, and over 400 people would be present when the game commenced.

THE WINNERS

ought to be complimented on their display, which is the best they have given this season. Not a single mistake was made by any of the players, who combined and tackled well throughout. Captain Callaghan had a fair amount of work to get rid of between the sticks, but he always managed to clear in finished style. The shot which he saved from Willis in the initial half of the match was a regular "teaser," and would have beaten the majority of goalkeepers. He has only been beaten once so far this season, and he alleges that the shot which beat him never passed over the line. This speaks volumes for the goalkeeping abilities of Callaghan, who has received several tempting offers from League clubs. The backs were, as usual, very safe, McGee being the better of the two. His tackling was all that could be desired, the Shankhouse left wing seldom beating him. His heading proved of great use when the home team were hard pressed, but his kicking was greatly inferior to Daly's. The latter is now one of the best backs in North-West Durham, and had it not been for an accident which he received two years ago, he would undoubtedly have found a place in some of the leading teams in the country. His long kicking was again the point at which he was seen to the best advantage, the ball generally travelling three parts the length of the field. The home halves were far superior to the Shankhouse trio, Hill being the best half on the field. He played with great judgment, and shot well, whilst he completely bottled up the visiting left wing several times. His display, on Saturday, was the best that he has ever given in connection with the club, and again justified his selection in the team. McGrachan was also in splendid trim, his fine headwork completely dazzling the Shankhouse players. Tommy had many exciting tussles with Bobby Willis, the ex-United player, but the home centre generally proved one too many for the Shankhouse centre. He fed his forwards well, and not a single foul was allowed off him. Monaghan has seldom been seen to greater advantage, his resolute tackling being much appreciated by the crowd. He kicked well in the first quarter of the game, and it was mainly owing to his efforts that the second goal was scored. He did not show a liking for a kick in the chest, and Endean who fouled him thrice in succession, was greatly hooted.

THE FORWARDS

were the best part of the team, and their display is all the more pleasing when it is brought to mind that Shankhouse is one of the best amateur clubs in the North. To begin with, the right wing, Grant, appeared to be a little nervous, when he was forced to come into contact with the burly backs of the "Blacks." However, he gave a good exhibition of the dribbling code, and his tricky play evoked much laughter from the spectators. Jimmy McGee scored the second goal—a real beauty. He had to elude the Shankhouse backs, and this he was successful in doing. His goal was scored from a difficult angle, Gardiner being deceived with the course of the ball. Doyle was again to the front in the centre, and his shooting was a marked improvement on his Bill Quay form. Ord was completely left in the cold more than once, this being due to some tricky work on the part of the home centre. Haley and Brannen were the best wing on the field, their passing and shooting being A 1. They proved a bitter pill to Robson and Briggs, and the pair very often engaged in some rough play, Robson also taking a prominent part. More fouls were awarded against these three than any of the players in the enclosure. Both were in deadly shooting form, Haley having a couple of goals to his credit, whilst Brannen's first goal was the result of some hard play, in which he took a prominent part. Jimmy missed a "dead" goal in the last half, putting the leather over when only a yard off the goal. Needless to say, the incident caused much laughter, as Brannen shot with commendable accuracy and swiftness during the match.

THE LOSERS

are a very heavy lot, and they do not forget to use their weight. Gardiner is a first-rate custodian, but is lacking in height. Robson and Briggs were the mainstay of their team, although the former's display was greatly marred by the number of fouls recorded against him. The half-back line was inferior to that of the Leadgate lads, Endean being the pick of a moderate set. The front rank is very strong, and had it not been for the splendid defence of the home lads, they would have scored several times. Bobby Willis is an ideal centre man. He has plenty of speed, passes well, and can shoot when he gets an opportunity. He was, however, closely watched by McGrachan, and was seldom seen to advantage with individual play. Gibson is a flyer, and one of his dashing runs nearly brought about the downfall of the Exiles' citadel. Browell and Jeffrey got through some hard work on the right, but they had a Tartar opposing them in Monaghan. Consett Swifts are the visitors to the Exiles' enclosure next Saturday, when a splendid game is sure to take place.

ANOTHER WIN FOR CONSETT SWIFTS.

Habitues of the Vicarage field (the new ground of Consett Swifts) were doubtless prepared to witness their pets annex full points in their League encounter, but, although their anticipations ultimately proved correct, he must have been a faithful partisan indeed, who, at the conclusion of the first half of the match, could have predicted a win for the Swifts. The advantage of playing with the wind was a lucky stroke for the homesters, but they were unable to locate the ball in the proper quarter, though the run of play was in their favour. When the visitors broke away, and scored a somewhat easy goal, it is not too much to say that consternation reigned in the Swifts' camp. Time and again did they endeavour to retrieve their position, but without effect. The visitors presented a defence equal to all emergencies, and the interval arrived with the Swifts one goal to the bad. This state of matters occasioned gloomy forebodings among the Swifts' supporters, but these were dispelled, and an altogether different feeling prevailed ere the first fifteen minutes had elapsed. It that time, the homesters had not only equalised, but were in the satisfactory position of leading by a goal. That the success of the homesters was deserved will hardly be denied, their dashing, go-ahead, forward play fairly outwitting their opponents. During this half, the home men had the pull of matters, and they eventually won, after a good, hard struggle, by two goals to one. The

PLAY OF THE SWIFTS

must be termed satisfactory all round. Certainly, in the initial portion of the game, they did not altogether make the most of their opportunities; but, in extenuation, it can be urged that the effect of the wind against accurate shooting was an important factor indeed. For the match, the Swifts had their full strength out, with the exception that Russell acted as goalkeeper in Stokoe's absence. The first appearance of Russell did not prove a great success, as he appeared rather slow and undecided. The backs did well, the palm, however, belonging to Laidler. The latter's placing of free kicks was indeed admirable, and in this respect he will probably prove a valuable player. Allison gave such an exhibition at half as to prove once more that he is one of the most accomplished members of the team. The next best was, perhaps, Barney McKie, with Finnigan well up. The forwards deserve congratulation for giving such a plucky exhibition when to all appearance, they were destined to accept defeat. Invidious as it is to make distinctions, it is but justice to acknowledge the large share Turley had in the victory. His dribbling and shooting were of a very high order of merit. The others in the forward rank—Smith, Dempsey, Eustace, and Harkness—were all worthy members of the attacking part of the team.

THE VISITORS

were an eleven of no mean order, and must not be held too lightly. Their performance in securing a point against the wind soon after the start was most creditable, and their whole appearance leads one to expect great things of them. Their custodian was first-class, and their backs were also of a passable order, especially Careless, whose height proved useful on many occasions. The halves were fair, but Bates exhibited some rather questionable tactics. Of the forwards it may be said that they were no novices at the game, and where their want of success lay was in not infusing more dash into their play. Undoubtedly their most prominent forward was Soulsby, on the extreme right, and had he been properly supported, there is no knowing what he might have done. As it was, Joe Allison held the pair pretty safely.

STANLEY TRUE BLUES

are a promising set of juniors, and on Saturday last, I had the pleasure of witnessing their first victory of the season, which was obtained over Tantobie Juniors in a Burnopfield League fixture. Some very smart play was exhibited, the passing at times being superior to that shown by many of our much-vaunted senior teams. So far as the True Blues are concerned, much of the credit of their two to one victory was due to the superb back play of Herron and Wheatley, and the splendid runs initiated by Purvis and Brown on the left wing. Purvis is particularly clever, and the Tantobie halves appeared quite mystified by his dodging. Richardson scored both goals for the winners, and Nicholson did the trick for Tantobie. The losers have a capital goalkeeper in T. Powell, and two sturdy backs in Hunter and Golightly, whilst Nicholson and Houghton are the best forwards.

UNFORTUNATE BIRTLEY.

Misfortune, pure and simple, lost Birtley their fixture with Rendel, which was brought off on Saturday. The game was looked forward to with great interest, and it was hoped that Birtley would be able to make a good show—to wipe away the bitterness of the previous Saturday's defeat. When the circumstances attending the match became known among the home supporters, however, every sympathy was expressed, and the only hope was that the expected beating would not be too thorough. Birtley's team comprised several from the reserve. These players showed a fine spirit, and I must give them their due measure of praise. But, after all, if a club is to find itself, at the end of the season, with its victories a long way ahead of its defeats, as consistent a team must be played as possible. Players tumble to each others' idiosyncracies, and a spirit of united effort prevails which it is difficult to introduce when strangers are in the fold. Misfortune No. 1, therefore, was a motley collection of players. Misfortune No. 2 was the loss of the spin of the coin, which resulted in Birtley facing a stiff breeze, which took the fancy of disappearing in the second half, so that Birtley had all the disadvantages, with none of the advantages. Misfortune No. 3 was the downfall of Rutherford, and his subsequent withdrawal from the field of battle. Rutherford is Birtley's pet. He is a fine, energetic, honest young player, and the rest of the team took his absence as thorough hard lines. He was off for the major portion of the game, and the players worked so pluckily that one can almost say with the utmost confidence that had Rutherford been with them, they would at least have played a draw. Rutherford has a weak ankle, and last week he was advised to take a rest, when he would be fit to play with safety on the Saturday. Instead of following this advice, however, Rutherford, I am told, was down at practice every night. This does not sound like taking a rest. He has promised to abstain this week, and Birtley hope to include him for the match on Saturday first.

AN ANXIOUS GAME.

It was, in truth, a very anxious game. At first, Birtley were altogether off-colour. Being against the breeze, and playing up-hill, disheartened them, I fancy. But after about ten minutes, they began to warm to their work, and commenced the hill-climbing in deadly earnest. Away up they went, time after time, and only the strong defence of the visitors kept them from scoring. Rendel had indeed a strong and vigilant defence, and Armstrong, when he could do nothing else, did not hesitate to ruthlessly kick into touch. I think he did a little too much of this; once, at any rate, I noticed that nothing but idleness prompted his action. If the ball gets a few yards ahead of an opponent, one must either go for it, or kick into the spectators. The latter course, I always maintain, should be the extremity. If one is to draw a hard and fast line, it is not real football to kick out. The team must play the ball; but of course cases of necessity do arise, and players have to use their discretion. The habit, however, often has its origin in laziness to tackle. The ball had been in play half-an-hour on Saturday before the visitors had notched the first, and, as it proved, the only point of the match. Birtley had had a good share of the play, and had made several attempts to score. At the end of the first half, however, they began very naturally to tire. It was very heavy work for the team. The second half was very peculiar. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the Birtley lads for their energy, their indomitable perseverance. Both goals were visited in succession; corners came and corners went; free kicks innumerable fell to both sides, and yet not a point was notched. The visitors wasted a lot of time, and indulged in a good deal of ruthless kicking, but their defence could not be penetrated.

THE INDIVIDUAL PLAY

was of a very good order. The home forward line was, of course, one player short during the second half. Palmer was perhaps the pick, and it was wonderful to note the pressure he put upon the game. Longridge and Lawson were very good supports, but McAvoy was weak. We all know what a reputation stands behind Paddy's honoured name, and as I understand he has not played for some considerable time, it was natural that he would not be in very good form. Bolam played well in the forward ranks during the first half, and appeared equally at home at centre half during the second. Laws and Ryle were splendid supports on the half wings. Bell and Gray were in fine fettle at back, and Collins was quite up to his usual standard. For Rendel, my Birtley readers will have noticed that Molloy was very active in the forward rank. Barbour is a very likely lad, and on Saturday he distinguished himself more than once. Pearson and Simm worked well in harness, and Kennedy was a capital support to Molloy. These players are good in the open field, but they should show better style when in front of goal. The half-back line and the backs played thoroughly fine games, and deserved all the credit which even the Birtley supporters could not help but bestow upon them. Hettick and Armstrong are invincible backs. But for their smartness, Birtley would have run through.

A CHANCE FOR BIRTLEY.

Birtley are going to redeem their character on Saturday first. They are to meet Allendale Park, at Birtley, I understand, in the Durham Cup competition, and the Committee are hoping to be able to put their proper playing team on the field. Birtley have hitherto had to change their team almost every week, so far, but they now hope to settle down.

DERWENTWATER.

FOOTBALL.

TYNESIDE LEAGUE.

CONSETT SWIFTS v. WALBOTTLE.

[BY "QUIDNUNC."]

In their third League fixture, Consett Swifts encountered Walbottle, at home, on Saturday. The weather, except for a rather high wind, was of the pleasantest description, and, consequently, there was a very satisfactory attendance on the Swifts' new ground. The teams lined up in the following order:—

SWIFTS.		WALBOTTLE.
Russell	Goal	Chapman
J. McKie	Right back	Oxspring
Laidler	Left back	Careless
Finnigan	Right half	Stewart
B. McKie	Centre half	Bates
Allison	Left half	Murray
Turley	Outside right	Soulsby
Smith	Inside right	Blackburn
Dempsey	Centre	Anderson
Eustace	Inside left	Charlton
Harkness	Outside left	Short

Referee: Mr J. C. Ellrington, Gateshead.

The homesters were lucky enough to win the toss, and, of course, took advantage of the considerable breeze that prevailed, Walbottle kicking off towards the entrance goal. The opening was in favour of the Swifts, who had the first try, and, following this, some interesting play was witnessed, both sides putting in some good touches. Consett became the aggressors mainly by the aid of the wind, and obtained a corner. This ended fruitlessly, and Walbottle immediately changed the scene of play by rushing in dashing style towards Russell, a goal kick resulting. Keeping at it, the visitors obtained a free kick in a good position, and this being well played, was piloted past the backs. Russell failed to reach the ball, and Charlton lying handy, performed what was in this instance the very easy task of heading the ball home. This point to the visitors was gained in less than ten minutes from the start, and, under the circumstances of having to battle against the wind, was decidedly creditable. The effect of the reverse was at once apparent on the Swifts' play, which became of an aggressive character, and two hot shots from their front rank were decidedly good, though unproductive. The wind spoiled play to some extent, the leather being too frequently in touch. Joe Allison at length infused some life into the game by showing his forwards the way towards the goal, but his effort was

NOT QUITE SUCCESSFUL.

Laidler stopped a rush, and the Swifts then received a free kick. Turley got possession of the ball from Dempsey, and shot for goal. The Swifts claimed a point, whilst their opponents denied it; and as some doubt existed in the referee's mind, he consulted the linesmen, and gave his decision against the Swifts. After Finnigan had checkmated one of the periodic rushes of the visitors, Allison and Turley were both conspicuous in attacking. Play became more accurate, as the players continued to gauge the wind. Dempsey gave Chapman a stinger to deal with, and a corner was granted; but the visitors packed their goal, and Careless gave relief with a serviceable header. Another corner was headed past by Turley. The visitors, when they did get away were invariably dangerous, and once at least the home goal was threatened, Russell missing his kick. However, the ball rolled harmlessly out of play, and the Swifts proceeded to make matters warm at the opposite end, several corners indicating the severity of their attack. Some needless kicking into touch by the visitors was duly noted by the referee, and time allowed. Dempsey tried his hand from a throw-in, and put a very good shot in as his final effort. Though the remainder of this half was in the homesters' favour, as far as attacking went, their efforts were not accurate enough to enable them to secure the equaliser, and Walbottle led at the interval, the score being—

Walbottle	1 goal
Swifts	Nil

The prospects of the homesters at the re-start of the game were none too bright, being a goal down, and having to face the wind, which, if anything, had increased. The Swifts went off with a bang, and in the twinkling of an eye had landed themselves in the vicinity of the visitors' citadel. Turley essayed a shot, which, however, only yielded an unfruitful corner. An exactly similar movement was executed by Walbottle, in return, with a like result. Thereafter, play opened out, and proceeded briskly. Laidler was called upon to place a foul kick in the visitors' quarters, and this he did in really magnificent fashion, gauging the distance and wind to a nicety. The outcome was that Turley secured the leather on its re-bound off the upright, and tipped it into the net—a well-merited point, and one greatly to the liking of the spectators. This did not satisfy the Swifts, who again made designs on their opponents' stronghold. Turley and Smith, in conjunction with Dempsey, initiated the raid, these players taking the sphere down in clever fashion. The reward was soon obtained, as some scrambling in the goalmouth was capped by Matt Eustace putting on the final touch. The crowd cheered their success in no uncertain manner, and well they might, for such plucky play was deserving of all encouragement. The visitors aroused themselves after this second disaster, and paid a visit to the opposite end, but the Swifts were not in a mood to play the part of defenders, showing great fighting form. Turley had another try, followed by an effort by the home left. The visitors became the attacking party, thanks to Soulsby and his partner, the former ultimately sending past. A period of quietness followed, and Bates tried to improve matters for the visitors by sending in a likely shot, their prospect being further improved by a bad header by Joe McKie.

A RATHER DANGEROUS ATTACK

was at length beaten off, and the homesters made off down the field, only to be called back through B. McKie fouling Anderson. Walbottle took the opportunity of making their presence felt, two corners providing opportunities, which, however, were not fully taken advantage of. Laidler gave them the right-about, and the home right commanded attention, Turley shining conspicuously in shooting, though he did not quite reach the desired haven. The Walbottle lads were not done yet, and made an effort which bade fair to bring fruit. They were, however, compelled to retrace their steps, and the spectators were put in good humour by reason of a fine run by the home left wing, Harkness winding up with a good shot into goal. Turley was up, and headed the leather to Dempsey, off whose cranium it went quietly into Chapman's safe hands, and was cleared. In midfield, Bates fouled Dempsey, and received an admonition from the referee, in addition to being penalised. The homesters were then called upon to defend, and Joe McKie made matters worse by needlessly incurring a foul by jumping. The home defence proved equal to the occasion, and the forwards had an opportunity, which, however, they lost, and thereby gave the visiting right wing a possible chance. Allison got back in time to cover the slip, and neatly transferred play. Bates was penalised again—this time for his illegitimate interference with Peter Smith. A free kick did not altogether mollify the injured Smith, however, and he had the tables turned on him for paying Bates back in his own coin. This little unpleasantness over, the game assumed a quite tone, and shortly afterwards the full-time whistle sounded, the final score reading:—

CONSETT SWIFTS	2 goals
WALBOTTLE	1 goal

DIPTON WANDERERS v. MICKLEY.

This match was played on the Dipton enclosure, before a good company of spectators. The teams were as follows:—

DIPTON.		MICKLEY.
J. Spinks	goal	G. Charlton
W. Thompson	right back	J. Bailey
R. Cunningham	left back	J. R. Charlton
M. Evans	right half	T. Blackburn
E. Buck	centre half	E. Bailey
J. T. Willey	left half	R. Paisley
R. Coates	right outside	J. Slack
S. Evans	right inside	W. Steel
M. Temple	centre	T. Talbot
H. Walker	left inside	E. Best
T. Walker	left outside	R. Wilkin

The visitors were half-an-hour late, but they lost no time in starting when the whistle blew. The home captain won the toss, and chose to play towards the entrance goal. Talbot set the ball in motion, with the sun glaring in his face. From the kick-off Mickley pressed, but when allowed a shot missed the goal. Spinks, with a good kick, sent well into the visitors' half, and the Dipton men tried to score, but were prevented by the efficiency of the visiting back. Mickley now plucked up courage, and tried to reach the Dipton goal. Thompson had to save with a good kick. Best tried a run up the wing and shot, but missed the mark, the ball going over the top. Some very exciting play now took place in mid-field. Mickley made a break, but were stopped by Buck and Thompson, who were showing grand form. A free-kick was allowed for Dipton, but the ball was returned by one of the backs. Willey received, and sent in a shot which registered No. 1 for Dipton. This revived the spirits of the homesters, and they were soon trying Charlton. A scrimmage began in the goal-mouth, and Dipton had hard lines in not scoring. Mickley again tried to score, but Spinks was on the alert, and saved in grand style. The visitors endeavoured a number of times to pierce the home defence, but their efforts were of no avail, and half-time sounded with the score:—

Dipton	1 goal
Mickley	Nil

When the teams lined up for the second half, it was seen that Dipton had changed their team a little. Coates was playing back, M. Evans forward, and Cunningham half-back. Mickley was first to shoot at the goal, but Spinks saved well. The visitors kept pressing, and gained a corner, but Cunningham saved. They again tried to score, and Spinks had to run out and save. The Mickley men kept up their play, and got into the Dipton goalmouth, where there was a scrimmage, which ended in Mickley equalising. From the kick-off, Dipton tried hard to gain the lead, but they were always repulsed by the Mickley backs. Spinks was again tried with a shot, which he managed to save. A corner was allowed, and another scrimmage took place in the goalmouth, Mickley managing to notch No. 1. From the kick-off, Mickley pressed, but were stopped by a free kick being given against them. This gave Dipton another chance, but nothing resulted. The whistle sounded for time, but when the spectators looked at their watches, they found that it wanted twelve minutes to time. Soon the Referee was beseiged by the Dipton supporters, and he had to bring the men on to the field to play out the remaining time. Dipton tried hard to equalise, but they could not pierce the visitors' defence. Time sounded with the score—

MICKLEY	2 goals
DIPTON	1 goal

ENGLISH CUP.

[QUALIFYING COMPETITION.—1ST ROUND].

LEADGATE EXILES v. SHANKHOUSE.

SPLENDID VICTORY OF THE LOCAL LADS.

[BY "THE BRADLEY BOY."]

These well-known amateur combinations met on the Brooms ground, on Saturday, to decide which should survive the first round of the English Cup. Both teams appeared at their strongest, Hill being tried at right half for the Exiles, in place of Haggan. The "Blacks," as Shankhouse are designated, entered the arena confident of success, whilst on the other hand many of the Exiles' supporters were afraid of the downfall of their team. The kick-off was advertised for 3.30 p.m., but owing to the non-arrival of the referee, the game was delayed. After waiting for twenty minutes, both captains approached Mr W. Foreman, who consented to officiate as referee. At 3.50 p.m. the teams faced each other in the following order:—

EXILES.		SHANKHOUSE.
Callaghan	goal	Gardiner
Daly	right back	Robson
McGee	left back	Briggs
Hill	right half	Endean
McGrachan	centre half	Ord
Monaghan	left half	Ritson
Grant	right outside	Browell
McGee	right inside	Jeffrey
Doyle	centre	R. Willis
Haley	left inside	Gibson
Brannen	left outside	Henderson

Linesmen: Messrs. Fletcher and McGuckin.

There were 400 spectators present when the captains tossed the coin, and a cheer went up when it was observed that Callaghan had won the toss. He elected to play towards the railway goal, and, amid shouts of "play up Shankhouse," Willis set the ball in motion. Doyle received, and passed to McGee, but Willis intercepted, and raced away in the direction of the pavilion. McGee checked his progress by kicking out, and from the throw-in, Gibson got down. He shot to McGee's feet, but the latter fumbled, Daly clearing in the nick of time. Doyle initiated a fine passing run on the part of the home front line, Haley and Brannen shining conspicuously. "Farmer" Robson succeeded in staving off the attack, but as he only kicked weakly, Monaghan secured the leather, and banged in a high shot, Gardiner conceding a corner after many exchanges near the "Blacks" goal-line. Grant, who had the wind to face, placed well, but Ord headed away, and Willis indulged in one of his well-known sprints. McGrachan quickly

CHECKED THE ADVANCE

by kicking the ball among the spectator [illegible] derson got cleverly down on the left, [illegible] clear opening. He drove hard for t[illegible] Callaghan appeared on the scene, an[illegible] in grand style. Daly helped the b[illegible] course with a huge punt. McGee s[illegible] cleverly eluded Ritson and gave t[illegible] was pulled up by Briggs. It wa[illegible] evident that the "Greens" were [illegible] They played with more dash a[illegible] their opponents. A spirited rush [illegible] forwards was neatly repulsed by [illegible] applauded for fine tackling. D[illegible] looked certain scorers, when th[illegible] Robson. The free kick was w[illegible] victim to the foul charge, but [illegible] work in midfield, Monaghan p[illegible] into the goal-mouth, McGee ultimately forcing a corner. This was again well taken, and Hill placed the Shankhouse fortress in imminent danger with a fine over-head kick. Briggs was equal to the emergency, and promptly headed, and a hot return from McGee narrowly missed. The goal kick proved of little value to the colliery lads, as Gardner was called upon to negotiate a hot shot from the foot of Monaghan. He kicked over the centre-line, but Brannen and Haley again got down by some fine passing, and the "Blacks'" defence had to act on their mettle. Robson again saved, but Hill met the ball, and drove in. Haley received and passed to Brannen, and Jimmy taking good aim, sent the leather

INTO THE NET,

amid loud cheers. This reverse seemed to awaken the visitors, for they got up from the centre kick, and Monaghan had to kick out to save. Doyle headed another attack on the visiting citadel, but the effort was neutralised by some fine defensive work by Robson and Briggs. Hill stopped a promising rush by Henderson, and Grant just missed from a pass. The home lads again assailed their opponents' stronghold, where Grant cleverly eluded Robson. "Farmer," however, quickly recovered himself, and cleared splendidly. Gibson paid a flying visit to the road end, where McGrachan was conspicuous by some fine headwork. Again did the home vanguard make a raid on Gardner's charge, but thanks to some clever tactics by Briggs, the ball was landed out of play. Briggs effected a brilliant save a minute later, and, by a grand kick, gave the "Blacks" a little advantage. Hill broke up a grand combined effort by Gibson and Henderson, but being hampered by Gibson, shot out of play. The throw-in enabled Grant to get down, and Haley got possession from a fine pass by Jimmy. The Exiles' left inside, however, fouled Robson, and the free kick, which was taken by Endean, gave the colliery lads a little relief. Willis and McGrachan had a hard tussle on the centre line for possession of the globe, but the ex-Newcastle United player had to accept defeat. Another attack by Haley and Brannen resulted in the Exiles being awarded a corner,

DOYLE SENDING PAST.

The Leadgate lads, up to this point, had decidedly the best of matters, Callaghan taking up his position in the centre of the field. Hill frustrated an attempt by Gibson, and shot into the goal-mouth, where Haley was pulled up for off-side. The free kick, which was taken by Endean, ended fruitlessly, and after some give and take play in midfield, a hot seige was kept up on the Shankhouse goal. Shots were poured in by Doyle, McGee, and Haley, but Gardner was equal to the occasion, and saved in grand style. Hill completely bottled up the Shankhouse left wing, and sent in another shot, Grant, who had collared the leather, striking the net. McGrachan next essayed a shot, which Briggs cleared without difficulty. A well-judged shot from the toe of Brannen compelled Gardner to concede a corner. The kick proved of no avail, as Willis raced away at express speed for the home charge. He tricked McGee, but Daly came to the rescue, and cleared weakly. The ex-United player again grasped the leather, but was caught in the act of fouling Monaghan. The free kick was well taken, but nothing tangible resulted. Doyle received from a foul throw awarded against Ord, but he shot high over the bar. The home team still harrassed the visiting defence, and their reward came at last, McGee finding the net with a capital shot, thus placing

THE SECOND GOAL

to the credit of the "Greens." The Leadgate supporters cheered vociferously, and the re-start was made amid loud cries of "Play up Exiles." The players obeyed the command of their supporters, and immediately attacked from the centre kick. Some fine passing by the home forward rank was next witnessed, the ball passing from the left to the right wing. Grant shot in, but the ball touched Robson in its transit, and rolled past. A single-handed run by Willis nearly brought about the downfall of the home citadel, as Doyle fouled him. Ord placed on to the heads of the players, but Brannen cleared, Browell, who was lying in waiting, shooting very wide. Robson put in some high kicks, but Hill ultimately relieved, and gave to Grant. Ritson rushed in, and dropped the globe within a few yards of the goal, J. McGee using his head with great effect in beating off an attack by the Shankhouse right wing. Browell ultimately shot by, and Jeffrey followed his example ten seconds later. Daly drove the orb well down from the goalmouth, and Robson mistaking, let in Doyle. The pair had

AN EXCITING RA[illegible]

for the ball, the Exiles' centreman winning. He transferred to Grant, who had hard lines in not scoring. Play became rough, both elevens being at fault. Two successive fouls fell against Robson and Brannen, and from one of these, Grant secured in a favourable position. He shot in, and a short scrimmage ensued, McGee sending in a magnificent screw shot. Haley reached the ball a yard from the goal line, and banged into the net, amid loud applause. Brannen again led the home forwards to the railway end, and after the ball had been re-passed to him, Jimmy shot through, but the point was disallowed for off-side. Robson shot out from the free kick, but Doyle got possession from the throw in, and drove in a high shot, which Gardner had great difficulty in clearing. Grant forced a corner, which was well taken by Brannen, a second resulting. Gibson responded with a grand run along the left wing, and a foul against Haley near the goal-mouth, almost proved detrimental to the homesters. A corner resulted, and, after some exciting play, Gibson kicked past. The goal-kick relieved the pressure, and Grant was prominent by some sterling play on the right, but he soon lost to Briggs. The latter kicked weakly, and McGee forced a corner off him. Grant took the kick, and after some passing between Doyle and Haley, the last-named player scored

THE FOURTH POINT.

The visitors got up from the centre kick, but Endean shot past, when in a grand position. Monaghan was badly fouled near the touch line by the Shankhouse right half. A free kick was allowed to the homesters, and Captain Robson had again to kick out to save. Ritson tricked a couple of opponents, but he was subsequently pulled up by McGrachan, and the home forwards were again enabled to travel to the railway goal without receiving much opposition. Grant shot wide, and Briggs was instrumental in beating off an invasion by the home centre. Willis spurted away at a splendid rate, but Daly returned, and Haley receiving, tricked Briggs. Gardner came to the rescue, and saved splendidly, Grant put in a capital centre, but Jeffrey intercepted the pass, and gave to Henderson. The Shankhouse left winger raced away, but McGee managed to put a spoke in his effort, and the ball again hovered in the Shankhouse quarters. Robson and Brannen had a severe tussle for the leather, but the Shankhouse captain succeeded in coming out of the ordeal with flying colours, although he fouled his antagonist in doing so. The free kick was grandly taken, and some scrimmaging ensued, the whistle ending the bully by sounding for half time, with the score:—

Exiles	4 goals
Shankhouse	Nil

The first half had been greatly in favour of the Exiles, who were naturally expected with the sun at their backs to notch more points. Doyle resumed operations and the Exiles at once attacked, Grant running into the visitors goal-mouth. He gave to McGee, but Briggs returned, and Brannen, who received, struck the net pole with a well-judged shot. Shankhouse retaliated, but owing to the fine defence of the Exiles, no score resulted. McGee spurted away, and being tackled by Ord, sent the globe across to Grant, who was quickly dispossessed by Ritson. He kicked very weakly, and Brannen was enabled to get away down the left, Gardner having to throw out from him. Willis changed the venue of play with a dashing run, but after out-distancing a couple of opponents, he was checked by Hill. Haley, by some fine play, travelled into the Shankhouse territory, where he brought Gardner to his knees with a "daisy-cutter". Henderson was applauded for some clever play, which resulted in Callaghan having to run out to save. Brannen and Haley responded by an incursion into the Shankhouse half, but they were forced to retrace their steps owing to a foul off Brannen. Willis raised the hopes of the Shankhouse supporters with some sterling play, but he was forced to shoot out of play by Daly. Gibson followed with a similar attempt a minute later, and Henderson again proved a thorn in the sides of the home defence. He was

QUICKLY TACKLED

by Daly, but he managed to elude him, and drove on to Gibson. His shot proved very erratic, but Shankhouse played up better and Willis was again conspicuous by a dashing run, Hill being applauded for frustrating his effort. Doyle sprinted gaily into the Northumberland men's domains, where Robson had to use kicking out tactics in order to save from harm. A brief incursion into the Exiles' goal-mouth by the visitors' forwards was the next item of interest, Willis forcing a corner off Daly. Gibson sent into the crowd of players, and Endean gave Callaghan a handful. The home skipper rose to the occasion, and threw out in splendid fashion, although surrounded by several of the visiting forwards. Brannen was successful in out-distancing three of the Shankhouse players, but being tackled by Robson, he was forced to back-heel the ball to Monaghan. The latter's shot went ahead like an [illegible]t Briggs altered its course. The Exiles [illegible]umed aggressive tactics, McGee spoiling [illegible] effort by being off-side. This let in the [illegible] who were further awarded a free kick [illegible]ards off the uprights. Robson placed [illegible] but McGrachan got his head to work. [illegible]onded with a grand sprint half the [illegible] the field. He had to part with the [illegible] the centre line, and gave to Grant, [illegible]onjunction with McGee, paid another [illegible] Shankhouse fort. Their chance of scor[illegible]omewhat diminished by the ball going [illegible], but they again secured the oval, and [illegible]as called upon to

STOP A STINGING SHOT

[illegible]t. The "Blacks" custodian accom[illegible]plendid feat in getting rid of the ball. [illegible]ns" again returned to the onslaught, [illegible] shooting across the goal-mouth, had [illegible]ation of seeing Brannen missing the chance. Robson cleared, and some splendid combination by the "Blacks" front rank, was cleverly broken up through the instrumentality of McGrachan. Gibson broke away, and shot in, but, as he was badly supported, the chance came to nought, and Callaghan effected an easy save. Jimmy McGee tricked a trio of opponents, and the Exiles' front rank combined like clock-work, Haley shining to great advantage. Johnny Hills was again the subject of an outburst of applause from the spectators, and Briggs just saved a splendid screw shot from him. Robson had again to despatch the ball into touch in checking a rush by Haley, and McGee shone prominently with some fine dribbling. He transferred the globe to Grant, who, throughout the game had played finely, but his latter effort went a trifle wide. Play still raged in the Shankhouse quarters, and McGee shot past when he had a clear opening. His brother repulsed a fine passing movement, and Briggs again cleared in splendid fashion from Brannen. An abortive corner followed, after which Callaghan was called upon to kick away a swift "grounder" from Henderson. McGrachan dispossessed Willis twice in a first-class manner, and Browell also met a similar fate from Monaghan. Jeffrey had a shy, but the ball went over the cross-bar. Grant tricked Ritson and centred, Doyle, and the Shankhouse custodian having a tight tussle for supremacy. The latter was successful and threw out, but McGee caught on the re-bound, and

STRUCK THE BAR.

Doyle rushed in and breasted the ball through, Gardiner catching hold of him by the neck in trying to save. Some rough play caused the ball to be thrown in the air by the referee, and Doyle, who received, waltzed round Ritson. The latter player did not appear to be at home as he looked for the ball in the opposite direction to which Doyle was travelling. The little incident evoked much laughter among the spectators. The home centre afterwards got close in. Gardner again saved, and owing to a miskick by Monaghan, Jeffrey and Browell raced away, Monaghan pursued them, and was successful in regaining possession. Doyle received, and shot through, but the whistle had previously sounded for a breach of the rules. The Exiles' vanguard again indulged in some fine passing, but Browell succeeded in repelling the invasion. Monaghan frustrated a combined effort by Gibson and Willis, and Haley replied with a long dropping shot from the centre line. A free kick further improved the chances of the home lads, and McGee took the kick. This

PROVED FRUITLESS,

and Daly just saved in the nick of time from Jeffrey, the former having to concede a corner in doing so. A short scrimmage took place in the home goal, and Callaghan tipped a swift high shot from Ord over the bar. Browell again troubled the defence of the "Greens," but he was grassed by Daly when in a favourable position. Grant again spurted along the right, and, after eluding Briggs, he centred, Brannen putting over the bar a yard off the goal line. Haley was fouled close in by Robson, and Hill shot through without the ball being touched. The Exiles now appeared to relax their efforts, and Robson again fouled Haley. A corner resulted, but this proved of little value, as did one given by Callaghan at the other end. Willis and McGrachan engaged in some severe tussling in mid-field, and the bully had just been ended when the whistle sounded for the cessation of hostilities, leaving the Exiles with a handsome victory as under:—

EXILES	5 goals
SHANKHOUSE	Nil

BIRTLEY v. RENDEL.

[BY "REFEREE."]

These teams met at Birtley, on Saturday, and a very interesting game resulted. Rendel were very fairly represented, but Birtley were less fortunate, and had to take the field with several of their leading lights absent, and three reserve men in the eleven. And to crown Birtley's misfortune, Rutherford was obliged to retire early in the first half, so that the homesters finished with only ten men. The Birtley spectators bore these points in mind, and were heartily with their team all through the game. The ropes were well lined, though there were not so many on the ground as on the previous Saturday, in the Birtley v. Willington Athletic fixture. The weather was exceedingly pleasant, though too much wind prevailed in the first half for effective and accurate football. The teams, at the commencement of the game, stood as follows:—

BIRTLEY.		RENDEL.
Collins	Goal	H. Emmerson
R. Bell	Right back	R. Armstrong
C. Gray	Left back	J. Hettick
J. Ryle	Right half	G. Weatherburn
Rutherford	Centre	F. Walker
C. Laws	Left half	J. Redpath
P. McAvoy	Right outside	W. Simm
C. Lawson	Right inside	J. Pearson
J. Longridge	Centre	T. Barlow
J. Palmer	Left inside	W. Kennedy
G. Bolam	Left outside	J. Molloy

Referee: Mr J. Conqueror, Southwick, Sunderland.

The visitors won the toss, which was a most decided advantage, for they not only had the benefit of the slight slope down to the home goalmouth, but of the strong wind which was then blowing in precisely the same direction, and of having the sun at their backs. Old Sol was fairly strong on Saturday afternoon, and was a factor against which the homesters had to contend. Longridge set the ball in motion, and the visitors at once took it down the field, where one of the forwards, with the evident intention of taking time by the forelock, essayed a shot. This, however, went by. Collins could not do his usual kick to mid-field from goal, owing to the wind, and the ball was therefore destined to remain yet a short time in the home camp. Palmer and Bolam saw the necessity of short kicking against the strong breeze, and, having secured from Rutherford, they managed to force their way over the half-way line. Here J. Pearson was on the look-out for Rendel, and he returned. Palmer's dauntless spirit again broke forth, but he had to part with the leather to Lawson on the right wing. The latter player met with strenuous opposition from F. Walker, the Rendel centre half, who appeared to be a demon for work. He robbed Lawson and McAvoy, and romped down the field, feeding Molloy and Kennedy. Rutherford, however, began to warm to his work, and was splendidly successful in a smart sprint into the Rendel half. He penetrated with the forwards through the half-back line, but the ball got ahead, and Armstrong, at back, was able to clear with comparative ease. Again the leather was in the home camp, and Birtley was very uneasy. There was no doubt that the

VISITORS WERE PRESSING,

and pressing hard. A foul near the home goal was no use to them, as the ball was cleared. C. Lawson secured, and passed to P. McAvoy, who, however, was not smart enough. He was robbed, and the Rendelites kept the leather down. A goal seemed inevitable, and yet the homesters played for all they were worth to prevent such a catastrophe. J. Pearson tried a shot, which, however, was too slow. At length, the ball went by, and matters were relieved. From the kick off, Rendel again had the best of the play, F. Walker securing, and Barbour shooting only a yard wide of the posts. Collins kicked off finely, and Ryle tried to get away. Molloy tackled, and was an almost invincible obstacle. F. Walker robbed Longridge, and sent well down the field. "Keep them in," said the Rendel supporters, and at the rate Rendel were playing, the advice was hardly needed. The Birtley lads were kept in without a doubt. Rutherford's efforts led to an incursion, but Kennedy was not found wanting for the visitors. Simm, from his position at right outside, shot magnificently for the home goal, and Collins only cleared at the expense of a corner, which came to nothing. Palmer sprinted away, and Armstrong deliberately kicked into touch. The homesters now pitched their tents in the upper half for a time, and had an excellent opportunity of surveying the turf. It was quite a welcome relief. Hands against Birtley gave the visitors an opportunity of reversing the position, which they were nothing loth to take, Armstrong sending the ball well down the field. R. Bell had to display his kicking powers (which, when he is in form, are of no mean description), and he helped Rutherford to some smart work. Rutherford is a generous, as well as a clever, lad, and feeds his forwards in a very pretty fashion. Palmer secured nicely from him, and

A HOT TUSSLE ENSUED

between Palmer and Armstrong, in the visitors' half. The home onward movement was momentarily checked. Armstrong averted Palmer's attack, but, just later, Emmerson had to run out of goal to save a ball which looked like doing mischief. Birtley were now playing up splendidly, and their supporters indulged in high hopes. They showed great pluck in repeatedly getting up the field in the face of the wind. Molloy was very mischievous on the left wing, and repeatedly gave the homesters the slip. After a throw-in about mid-field, Bolam and Palmer looked very like doing business, but they were tricked by Simm and Pearson, who indulged in some pretty passing, until Simm over-ran the ball, which ran into touch again. The home string got up the field once more, and Hettick had to save for all he was worth. Walker's long legs came in very handy for Rendel, but the visitors kicked very wildly when in front of goal. Ryle helped the ball away, and Rutherford gave the forwards some chances, which, however, they failed to take full advantage of. The homesters afterwards had another narrow escape. Rendel were hovering about the Birtley goal, and the ball was sent across. Kennedy was standing with his back to the posts, but thought he could head in. He sent the ball, however, a long way over the cross-bar. Birtley, after this exciting incident, did very well, and one of the forwards found that it was inadvisable to kick hard against the wind, for, when a good chance presented itself, the ball went skywards. The back play of Hettick and Armstrong, for the visitors, was very good.

A CORNER AGAINST RENDEL

gave the homesters an opportunity, but the ball

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3).

FOOTBALL.

(Continued from Page 2.)

was sent too far out into the field, and the visitors cleared. After some work in which Bolam was conspicuous, play ruled in the home half. Matters were very dangerous, and at length the much-disputed point was scored, Kennedy doing the trick with a pretty smart shot, when the game was about half an hour old. Upon the resumption, Palmer and Longridge made a spurt, and as they were hard at it, Rutherford was seen down on the ground. The referee, observing him, blew his whistle. It appeared that Rutherford had sprained his ankle, which was very weak previously. He was loth to leave the field, but was persuaded to do so, and was carried to the ropes by Secretary Knox; and here he watched the game until half-time, when he very wisely went home. The ball was again set in motion on the home right, and straightway roamed across the field to the left corner of the Birtley territory. Collins had to save a shot with both hands. G. Bolam afterwards thought he had matters all his own way up the visitors' right, but hearing gentle footsteps behind him, he over-ran the ball in his anxiety. The leather wandered rather aimlessly round the field, but Redpath became active and forced the play a little. Birtley had to resort to kicking-out tactics. They were getting tired, and were looking forward anxiously to half-time. They had not long to wait, and when Mr Conqueror blew his whistle, the game stood:

Rendel .... 1 goal
Birtley .... Nil

Had any of the spectators ventured to express the opinion that at the end of the match, the points would be neither more nor less than at half-time, he would have been greeted with one of those incredulous smiles that speak volumes. Yet such was precisely the case. The home team had been shuffled a good deal when the referee blew his whistle for positions to be taken. Of course, Rutherford was conspicuous by his absence. The end of the first half had been played without any centre half. With a view to a better defence, it was decided to complete the half-back line, and leave the forward string minus one. Bolam, therefore, retreated to centre half. McAvoy and Lawson changed places in the forward line, on the right, and Palmer and Longridge changed places on the left, so that the forward line ran: Lawson, McAvoy, Palmer, and Longridge. Upon the ball being set in motion, Longridge and Palmer ran down nicely. Weatherburn intercepted, and Hettick kicked into touch deliberately. Molloy and Kennedy carried the sphere to the upper half, and from a free kick for a foul at the left of the home goal, the ball was sent across, and was kicked out. McAvoy tried his best to get down the field, and was fairly successful. Palmer missed a good opportunity of scoring, which was the more to be regretted in the light of subsequent events. The visitors indulged in

TIME-WASTING TACTICS,

which did not commend themselves to the Birtleyites. Molloy thought he was going to have things all his own way in a spurt up the home right, but he reckoned without his foe. Birtley began to show their teeth, and Armstrong had to put in a lot of hard work. A free kick helped the visitors, who speedily reversed the position, and commenced an energetic attack. Collins made a very curious save, or rather two curious saves. Kennedy fired the ball from the left. It was one of those corner shots which are the terror of goal-keepers. But Collins was equal to it, though he fell in the effort, after having fisted the ball away. Another of the Birtley forwards—Pearson, I think it was—shot in again. Collins was on his feet in a moment, and once more he averted what was otherwise a certain goal. Rendel knew who they were playing with, after that. A free kick in Rendel's favour, mid-field, followed, and, from this, Bolam endeavoured to make away. Redpath was upon him sharply, and, the visiting forwards penetrating, Gray had to save. From a free-kick, Collins had other two shots to save. Rendel were working very hard indeed, with the exception of the goal-keeper, whom the vigilance of the backs kept idle. Palmer got down the field, but Armstrong returned. After a friendly disagreement among the players about a touch ball in the visitors' right, Walker rattled ahead, and the home spectators were

APPREHENSIVE OF SCORING.

Birtley had admirable defence, however. About this period, the wind began to drop, and ceased to effect the play one way or the other. Bolam sprinted down the field, but the ball got ahead, and rolled into touch. Both goals were now periodically visited, and each team appeared stronger in the defence than in the attack. Rutherford would have smartened the play up, for he is essentially a lad for the attack. The visitors still kicked out a good deal, and a lot of time was wasted. Bolam had a try for a point, but the ball went wide. McAvoy made an effort, but was "bested" by Redpath. After some hot work, during which the homesters should have scored, the ball was carried round the field, until Molloy broke away. He got well up, but was off-side when about to kick. A corner to the homesters raised the spirits of the supporters. This was saved by the visitors at the expense of a second edition. The kicks were taken by Lawson, who sent down regular beauties. A third corner followed, and the visitors were successful every time in clearing. Molloy forced a corner, off Rendel, but this was ridiculously placed. The subsequent goal kick was a sensible affair, and a grand movement by Palmer and Bolam was repulsed by Emmerson, the visitors' goalkeeper. The play continued of a very ordinary description up to time, when the whistle blew, with the position still—

Rendel .... 1 goal
Birtley .... Nil

BURNOPFIELD JUNIOR LEAGUE.

STANLEY TRUE BLUES v. TANTOBIE JUNIORS.

A Burnopfield Junior League fixture between these teams was played at Stanley, on Saturday, before 200 spectators, the result of a pleasant and well-contested game being a victory for the home boys by two goals to one. The losers lodged a protest at the conclusion of the game, owing to the corner and touch flags not being placed. The teams were as follows:—

Stanley—Williamson, J. Herring, J. Wheatley, C. Rose, S. Robinson, W. Fairless, R. W. Richardson, J. Watt, J. Errington, J. Brown, and J. Surtees.

Tantobie—T. Powell, J. Hunter, F. Golightly, W. Tyson, R. Holmes, J. Gedley, B. Nicholson, J. Houghton, W. Hornsley, T. Hodgson, and J. Whorley.

TANFIELD LEA CÆSARS v. HAMSTERLEY.

At Hamsterley. The visitors won the toss, and chose to play with the sun at their backs. Rudd kicked off, but the visitors soon got the upper hand, and Wylam shot by. From the kick-off Rudd got away, but was pulled up by Thompson, who passed to Gardner. The latter, however, shot wide. "Hands" close in gave the visitors a chance, and a corner was conceded off Rudd. Frame took the kick, and placed well, Clarkson heading through. This roused the home lads, and Rudd went away, but was pulled up by Sanders. The visitors broke away, and Wylam forced a corner from which Gardner scored the second goal, seven minutes from the start. From the kick-off the visitors still pressed, and Christopher shot over the bar. The visitors, however, were not to be denied and Milburn scored No. 3 with a long shot. The home team now played up, and Carr had to run out to save a shot from Brown. Wylam, receiving from Waterman, scored No. 4. The home team went away with a rush, but Milburn cleared at a critical moment. Frame sent in a shot which Gray fisted away, and Jim Gardner shot high over the bar. A corner was forced off Richardson, which was well placed, and Joe Gardner headed No. 5 through. The home team broke away and Carr had to kick away from Brown. Nothing more was done up to the interval, which found the game standing:—

Tanfield Lea .... 5 goals
Hamsterley .... Nil

After the re-start, the home team went away, and Rudd scored within three minutes. This reverse wakened the visitors, and Clarkson shot by. A run by Brown and Parker ended in the former skimming the bar with a lightning shot. A long shot from Fenwick was kicked away by Carr, and a fine run by the visitors was spoiled by Clarkson being offside. The visitors kept a hot attack on the home goal, but could not score. A shot from Clarkson was stopped by Gray, but Jim Gardner caught it on the rebound and easily scored No. 6. Carr had to stop a shot from Parker, and Wylam shot through, but was given offside. Nothing more was done, and the final result was:—

Tanfield Lea .... 6 goals
Hamsterley .... 1 goal

The following are the referees for October—

October 2nd.

Lintz v Byer Moor .... T Dixon
Lintz Ford v Stanley .... J G Harrison
Shotley v Hamsterley .... V McGuckin
Tanfield Lea v Hobson .... G Press
Tantobie v Marley Hill .... J Osman

October 9th.

Leadgate v Hamsterley .... T Ralsbeck
Lintz Ford v Byer Moor .... W Hogarth
Shotley v Tantobie .... T Dixon
Marley Hill v Tanfield Lea .... P Hanlon

October 16th.

Byer Moor v Hobson .... W Smith
Stanley v Dipton .... W Hodgson
Lintz Ford v Hamsterley .... G Press

October 23rd.

Leadgate v Marley Hill .... W A Richardson
Stanley v Lintz Rovers .... R Spinks
Tantobie v Shotley .... J Smith (Tanfield Lea)
Hamsterley v Hobson .... P Hanlon
Tanfield Lea v Lintz Ford .... J. Osman

October 30th.

Hamsterley v Leadgate .... T. Dixon
Lintz Rovers v Stanley .... W Smith
Dipton v Tanfield Lea .... J Watson
Hobson v Tantobie .... J E Taylor

CHESTER-LE-STREET SENIOR LEAGUE.

JOICEY CUP.

CHESTER-LE-STREET v. WALDRIDGE. AN EXCITING FINISH.

These teams met under the auspices of the Joicey Cup Competition, on the Waldridge ground, on Saturday afternoon, and were favoured with ideal weather. There was a large attendance of spectators, including a fair sprinkling of the gentle persuasion. It was somewhat late in the afternoon when the Referee, Mr J. Robson, called upon the teams to line up in the following order—

Chester		Waldridge
J. Smith	Goal	J. Laverick
Younger	Right back	Potts
Hand	Left back	Batey
Bruce	Right half	Gorman
Ragg	Centre half	Charlton
Price	Left half	Winter
Waggott	Right outside	Bennett
Legge	Right inside	King
Ritson	Centre	Wood
Anderson	Left inside	Fraser
Daley	Left outside	Jackson

Chester won the toss, and placed the homesters to face the wind, whilst they (the visitors) played down into the low goal. Ritson started hostilities for Chester, and put in a fairly good shot almost immediately from the kick off, the home left back, however, safely clearing. The visitors attacked, Hand helping with the sphere, and Ragg, centring, a corner was forced. The Waldridge men managed to clear, but Len headed, and, Daley receiving, Potts was called upon to defend. Joe Waggott tackled finely, placing across in nice style, the effort resulting in a corner. The visitors, however, failed to obtain any distinct advantage. From this point, Waldridge got splendidly away in front of a strong breeze, but Younger spoiled further progress. Ragg put in a capital shot, but failed to realise, owing to want of support from the visiting forwards. Ritson then had a try for goal, but the defence of the Waldridge lads proved too strong for him. Wood got past Ritson and Ragg in nice fashion, but Len. eventually dispossessed him, and once again the visitors sailed

MERRILY DOWN THE FIELD.

Here Ritson put in nicely, Daley, however, kicking into touch. The homesters then got up, and threatened to become dangerous. Ragg stopped hostilities in the Chester lines, and just a couple of minutes later placed a capital shot in for goal, Laverick saving only "by the skin of his teeth." The home lads then attacked strongly, their forwards behaving in a bonny style. Long kicking in mid-field followed, by which the visitors got down, but the Fellsiders' defence once more proved superior, a score being prevented by Winter, who smartly placed his lines clear. Jackson received, and tried to get into the Chester defence, but Hand was one too many for him. The homesters then paid a visit to the Waldridge territory, Joe Waggott centring beautifully, only for Batey to clear in an equally pleasing fashion. From a succession of throws-in, in mid-field, Waldridge got away, and as their tactics were getting dangerous, Younger relieved the pressure. From this Chester had a fine rush down, and, Daley receiving the ball, put through

THE FIRST GOAL

of the match for the visitors. Waldridge now ran up smartly, and attacked with considerable spirit, Smith just saving a low shot as the home men swarmed around his charge. Fraser and Jackson were the next players to take up the cudgels for the Fellsiders, the latter missing a splendid chance for goal when a clear field lay before him. The Chester lads then got a look in, and Daley put in a shot, which, however, did not have any tangible result. Play for a short time was then abandoned on account of a Waldridge man losing his wind. Resuming, Waldridge were penalised almost immediately, Ragg putting up in nice style. The home men did not suffer from this, but managed to return well up the field. Younger once more relieved the pressure, and considerable amusement was afforded by a couple of Chester lads colliding with each other and kissing the soft turf. The visitors at this stage were pretty close in, and Ritson having taken charge of the oval placed across, Joe Waggott scoring No. 2 for Chester amid cheers. Half-time was then called, the game standing—

Chester .... 2 goals
Waldridge .... Nil

Upon the resumption, Chester entered the visitors' territory, and Waggott getting close in, placed to Daley. The latter shot, and the home custodian handling, dropped the leather, which was immediately rushed through—No. 3 for Chester being thus recorded. "Kingflier" then made himself conspicuous for the home team, sending in a dangerous shot, which Smith had all his work cut out to clear. Waldridge still maintained the attack, and Gorman having a good chance, tried his luck, with the result that he notched the first point for Waldridge, to the great delight of the home supporters. Chester for a few moments were placed on the defensive, and five minutes had hardly elapsed before Batey recorded the second goal for the homesters, Smith handling and dropping in almost the same manner as his *confrere* Laverick did, a quarter of an hour previously. The Fellsiders attacked stubbornly, and the Chester defence had a very warm time of it. A corner was conceded to the homesters, the leather just skimming the cross-bar, amidst considerable excitement. Winter followed this up with another shot, which had the same fate. Strong opposition on the part of Younger averted danger for a time, but the Fellsiders were soon upon the scene. A corner was again forced, and struggling for supremacy right in front of Smith's charge, Wood recorded the third goal for Waldridge, thus

EQUALISING THE GAME.

Needless to say, great excitement prevailed, and a mighty shout arose from the Fellside supporters. It was only a moment later, that another slow shot just skirted the Chester upright. Len. Ragg then tried to get away, but did not receive the support necessary for an excursion into the Waldridge territory, and once again play reigned near the Chester citadel. King obtained possession, and Winter receiving, placed on the fourth point for the Fellsiders. Chester were forced to take up the defence immediately on the kick-off, and Wood at once passed over to Jackson, who secured goal No 5 for the homesters. To describe the shout which then arose from the Waldridge supporters, baffles the *Chronicle* man's descriptive powers. For a few moments, play was suspended through Ragg getting a kick on the leg. Re-starting, Waldridge forwards made a combined rush upon the Chester citadel, and the sphere was headed on to the bar. King received on the re-bound, and nicely squeezed the horse skin through the posts, realising the sixth goal for Waldridge, amid aplause. The last point was notched within three minutes of its predecessor, and the teams had scarcely resumed when the whistle sounded for time, the game ending:—

Waldridge .... 6 goals
Chester .... 3 goals

LANGLEY PARK UNITED A.F.C.

Langley Park United opened the season with a friendly against Malton Colliery United, on the former's ground, on Saturday. Miss M. White set the ball rolling, and play had only been in progress a minute when the home side opened the scoring from a corner, taken by E. Shorten. Towards the close of the first half, J. Randall scored again for the homesters, and they led at the interval by two goals to nil. Soon after the commencement of the second half, J. Wardle scored No. 3 with a good shot, and J. Nicholson added another. Malton opened the scoring from a scrimmage, and just before the whistle blew, they scored again from a free kick. The final result was:

Langley Park United .... 4 goals
Malton Colliery United.. 2 goals

EDMONDSLEY LEAGUE.

BEAMISH CELTIC v. BURNHOPE ROVERS.

These teams met at Beamish, on Saturday, before a large crowd of spectators. At the onset, play was of a give-and-take nature, but ultimately Beamish secured the advantage, and Wilkinson scored with a good shot from the left wing. Re-starting, Beamish ran down, but were checked by the visiting backs, and, on the sphere being returned, Rodham shot wide. Burnhope retaliated strongly, and, despite the sturdy play of the home backs, Mason was called on, and proved to be "at home." He was floored by Bill Liddle, but got the ball away in clever style, amid hearty cheering. The Beamish halves now did some pretty head-work, to the delight of the spectators and the advantage of their team. J. Wilkinson sent in some rattling shots, which Laycock cleared, and the interval arrived with the Celtic one goal ahead. Re-starting, Burnhope pressed heavily, but found Mason in great form. Liddell, receiving from Wallace, sent in a rasping shot, which Mason saved marvellously by tipping the ball over the bar. Many of the players thought a goal had been scored, and Mason was loudly cheered for his brilliant save. Beamish at length woke up, and good shots were sent in by Ben Fallow and Donald MacLaren, which Laycock succe[illegible] negotiated. Mason saved in sensational [illegible] just before the finish, and the game ended [illegible]

Beamish .... 1 go[illegible]
Burnhope .... Nil

SOUTH MOOR ALBIONS v. USHAW [illegible]

Played at Ushaw Moor. The Albions [illegible] to press until they forced a corner, but [illegible] came of it. By a good run up the wing, [illegible] put it over, and Fletcher drew first blood [illegible] Albions. At the kick off, the Albion [illegible] straight to the home goal, but it was d[illegible] until Hope got up the wing, nearly sco[illegible] the homesters. J. Walker, however, wa[illegible] good old form, saving splendidly. The [illegible] worked their way down, and Chaytor sc[illegible] 2, Robson putting through. When the [illegible] went for half-time, the score stood—

Albions .... 2 g[illegible]
Ushaw .... Nil

Chaytor kicked off, and the home lads work their way up, but they found that the defence was too good for them. Time after time the Albions looked like scoring, until Renfrey and Fletcher ran up the wing, the former scoring number 3.

Albions .... 3 goals
Ushaw .... 3 goals

Albions team:—Goal, Watson; backs, Beckett and Pearson; half-backs, Morton, Handy, and Savage; forwards, Renfrey, Fletcher, Chaytor, Robson, and Smailes.

MID-DURHAM LEAGUE.

SACRISTON WOODSIDE ROVERS v. SHERBURN HILL WANDERERS.

This fixture was played off on Saturday, and resulted in a draw. The home team were as follows:—Goal, H Kenny; backs, Coburn and Miller; half-backs, Gascoigne, Stangroom, and T Mordue; forwards, T Adamson, J Walker, W Davison, H Bulmer, and G Henderson.

RUGBY.

HAMSTEELS II. v. DURHAM CITY II.

Played at Hamsteels, Hutton kicking off for the home team. The City returned well into the home ground, where a number of scrimmages took place, after which, Hamsteels got away with a splendid dribble up to the City "25," and, but for the good defence of the City three-quarters, would have scored. Up to half-time, it was a very evenly contested game. On resuming play, Hamsteels' forwards showed their superiority in the scrums. From one of these, Fell, getting the ball, got over, but failed to convert. From the kick out, Hamsteels returned well into the City "25." Fordham, after good passing, scored at the corner. After this, all the play was in the City "25," but Hamsteels could not increase their score, owing to the strong defence of the City.

FIXTURES.

South Moor Albion v. Sacriston Woodside Rovers.—At South Moor, on Saturday first, in the Edmondsley League. The home team will be selected from Walker, Beckett, Pearson, Handy, Morton, Savage, Pyke, J Bateman, W Waggott, R Renfrey, R Fletcher, G Garnett, J Clayton, and Robson.

Ouston v. Hedley Hill.—At Ouston, in a Cup Tie. Ouston team:—Goal, J Elliott; backs, M Willis and W Panton; half-backs, J Smith, T Quinn, and J Hughes (Captain); G Minns, J Carr, H Dixon, J Pentland, and F Clark. Reserves, G Haile, C Haile, and T Clark. Referee, Mr Hobson, Birtley. Kick-off at 3.15.

Consett Swifts v. Leadgate Exiles.—At Leadgate, on Saturday (in the Durham Senior Cup). Consett team—Goal, J Stokoe; backs, J Laidler and J Finnigan; half-backs, S O Else, B McKie, and J Allison; forwards, J Turley and P Smith (right wing), J Dempsey (centre), M Eustace and R Harkness (left wing); reserves, J McKie, G Hamilton, and J Little; linesman, T Grayson. Exiles team—Callaghan, Daly, McGee, Hill, McGrachan, Monaghan, Grant, J. McGee, Doyle, Haley, and Brannen.

Leadgate Park v. Craghead Rangers.—This tie, in the first round of the Durham Senior Cup competition, will be decided on the Park enclosure, when the home team will be:—J Crowther, F M Foreman, W Bell, T Cartmell (captain), R Wilson, T Snowdon, J B Robson, G Milburn, S Thompson, J Wilson, and M Willis. Referee, Mr H. Gerling, Crook. Kick-off at 3.

Leadgate Park Reserve v. South Shields A.—At South Shields. The Park team will be:—J Calvert, W Walton, A Aitken, T Calvert, D Cartmell, R Dawson, J Walton, W Robson, J Paull, G Forster, and J Birtley.

Annfield Plain Celtic v. Stanley.—These teams meet at Stanley, on Saturday, in the first round of the Durham Senior Cup, when Mr J. R. Douglas, of Gateshead, will preside over the following teams:—Celtic—Goal, L Coxon; backs, McLatchie and Moore; half-backs, A Coyle, J Coyle, and Dawson; forwards, R Forster, G Whitfield, E Storey, J Lynap, and J T Spence. Reserves, J W Herdman, M Walker, and W Bell. Stanley—Goal, R Potts; backs, Joyce and Dover; half-backs, Fish, Wood, and Milburn; forwards, Crute, Harle, O'Connor, Howe, and Masterman. Reserve, G Morris. Kick off at 3.15.

Walker Neptune v. Stanley A.—A Northern combination fixture between these teams will be played at Walker, on Saturday. Stanley won the first game three weeks ago, and hope to repeat the feat. They will be represented by the following team:—Goal, G Morris; backs, E Beckwith and Chisholm; half-backs, M Watson, M Smith, and W Atkinson; forwards, J Cunningham, W Sutherland, J Dodds, R Henderson, and Wheatley.

CRAGHEAD CRICKET CLUB.

The batting and bowling averages for the past season are as follows—

BATTING AVERAGES.

	No. of Inns.	Times Not out	Most in Inns.	Runs	Aver.
Ed. Ridley	3	2	11	20	20
W. Fairley	6	1	16*	33	6·60
W. Young	11	0	25	70	6·36
Jas. Hunter	13	1	17	64	5·33
M. Bruce	13	0	27	67	5·15
W Muncaster	11	2	11	41	4·55
Jos French	13	0	11	53	4·07
L McMahone	12	1	14*	39	3·54
R Patterson	12	2	14	32	3·20
C Smith	4	0	7	12	3
T Brown	11	2	9	25	2·77
R Burton	6	0	4	9	1·50
J Sheraton	2	0	3	3	1·50
A Pomeroy	13	1	5	13	1·08
Jas Bell	7	1	3	5	·83

BOWLING AVERAGES.

	O.	M.	W.	R.	Av.
M Bruce	101·2	23	68	152	2.23
W Young	16.3	6	9	30	3·33
L McMahone	64.2	13	27	152	5.62
Jas Hunter	28	2	8	59	7.37

JOTTINGS.

Tantobie Wednesday are going ahead in healthy fashion this season. Shotley succumbed to their prowess last Wednesday.

Stanley midweekers were without Ben Johnson's services last week, but still managed to draw with Chester-le-Street.

The Chester lads are a likely team; Armitage, Briggs, Carss, and Makepeace being the best of the bunch.

"Emmy" Newton let a soft shot pass him on Wednesday, and the Stanley supporters were heard to sigh for the presence of Jimmy Stephenson. Will he no come back again?

George Stewart heads the batting averages for the Stanley Cricket Club. Jack Middlemast does ditto for South Tanfield; and Tom Irwin is the hero in the Tanfield village club.

Leadgate Park, Stanley, and Hobson Wanderers Football Clubs were all fixtureless last Saturday.

Shield Row Rugbyites missed a grand opportunity of popularising the handling game, by being without a "home" fixture last Saturday.

I hear that Spen Albion are quite confident of winning the Derwent Valley championship. Don't count your chickens yet awhile, boys. 'Tis a little too early.

Is the Albion goalkeeper, the same Englishman who captains the Spen and District cricketers?

What price Annfield Plain Celtic for the Tyneside wooden spoon? On present form, they will have a chance for it.

Poor Dipton got a surprise on Saturday, an unpleasant one, too.

Beamish are going big guns this season. Jacky Mason is quite hopeful of winning the Edmondsley League.

Shield Row Warriors defeated Oxhill Violets by four goals to three on Saturday. The conquerors were assisted by Harry Middlemast, of cricket fame; and William Hunter who is also celebrated in local cricket circles for his debating abilities.

I hear that Joe Ledger has signified his intention of retiring from active service in the cricket field. The South Tanfield committee have appointed a deputation to try and persuade Joseph to re-consider his decision.

Football appears to grow more and more in popularity. Some 2,000 spectators assembled at Bank Head on Saturday, to see the local lads conquer Waterhouses.

Stanley cricketers are hard at work improving their ground. Visions of securing admission to the Senior League are already floating before the eyes of the Club's supporters.

Would it be right to term such visions "Dreams of Paradise?"

The Sambottee Wednesday League ought to go with Tom Allison as inkslinger. He is the right man in the right place.

The Rev. "Dick" Tuson will make an ideal president; and Gill Whaley will keep two careful eyes on £.s. d

Three of the Stanley Wednesdayites were wounded in last week's engagement with Chester-le-Street.

Allendale Pack are improving, judging from their display last Saturday, when they conquered Leadgate Park Reserve by 2 goals to 1. The[illegible] travel to Birtley on Saturday first, and are [illegible] making a good fight with the Alliance [illegible]retary Thompson keeps his men in [illegible]

[illegible] Albion have three splendid half-[illegible] Handy and Savage.

[illegible] a rattling game against Ushaw [illegible]ng and kicking alike being "up [illegible]

[illegible]wards were not up to their usual [illegible]hooting especially being faulty. [illegible]etcher were the pick of the [illegible]

[illegible] of Stanley Athletic, played [illegible] the Albion, but though his [illegible] he evidently needs practice. [illegible]ep together, the cup is all [illegible]r.

[illegible] well for the Albion. Good [illegible] never been severely tested [illegible]sday performed against the [illegible]ar's Day.

The Fellsiders at Waldridge are jubilant. They defeated Chester-le-Street by six goals to three on Saturday.

My readers should have heard the shout of victory as goal No 4 was put on by Winter. By the way, Winter played a real good game.

Len Ragg got a rather nasty kick, but he soon plucked up.

One gentleman, as the equalising point was put on, literally jumped in the air, and waved his tea can with the devotion of a follower of Garibaldi.

Chester-le-Street own that they were beaten, and they took their defeat in a true sportsmanlike spirit.

The goals went through in very aggravating fashion during the last twenty minutes of the game.

I hear that a gold medal is to be offered to the player who makes the most attendances at practice in connection with the Chester team.

Mr Secretary Render was rather disappointed at the result of the game. He hopes for better things.

The Waldridge men were very sharp on Saturday.

A little more weight amongst them would tell even more successfully.

The home trio, Charlton, Winter and Gawman, playing one of their best games.

Frazer is improving and has plenty of good judgment.

As he is only 16 years of age, the Chester Club have great hopes of his future performances.

Jackson is an old White Star player, and is a good, sound, and reliable man.

Wood was by far the best man on the field, and was responsible for two goals.

King and Bennett played well, and each scored a goal.

Potts must be careful, and not keep so close to the halves.

Laverick was up to form, and received loud applause for his grand saves.

I think that a white line should be drawn from upright to upright, so that the referee can see that the ball has crossed the line without difficulty. At present the line is of sand.

Sammy Wood, the Stanley Cricket Club pro., has an average of above 25 runs per innings for the past season.

This is decidedly the best average that Samuel has had since his connection with the club.

"Douce" Whitfield, the old time Lilywhite, and erstwhile lover of Elizabeth Celtic, has joined the "Sons of Rest" Society. In other words, he has retired from active football. He does not want to die yet awhile.

Beamish Celtic are quite proud of their half backs.

The Celts have won all their fixtures as yet, and they only fear South Moor Albion and Hedley Hill as possible rivals for the Edmondsley League championship.

South Moor Albions drew well with Ushaw Moor by three goals each.

South Tanfield cricketers sustained their protest against Stanley for playing Jim Martin, and the latter had a point deducted, besides, I am told, being fined ten shillings.

South Tanfield finish fourth in the Durham Junior League table with three points to their credit. Stanley come next with two points.

The Oxhill lads are deserving of praise for making such a gallant fight, the first season they appeared in the League.

Beamish Celtic have a splendid goalkeeper in Jacky Mason.

Jacky is good company always, his singing talent being equal to his skill between the sticks.

Medomsley cricketers held their annual assembly on Wednesday in last week.

Mr Secretary Lovatt, and his energetic assistants, had made excellent arrangements.

There was a large company of ladies and gentlemen, and the evening was thoroughly enjoyed.

Birtley lost their fixture against Rendel on Saturday.

At first the homesters played very loosely, but they afterwards picked up and made a plucky stand.

Their leading lights were absent, and Rutherford had to withdraw owing to his weak ankle failing him.

The home backs gave a very fair exhibition.

The Birtleyites are going to vent their wrath on Allendale Park on Saturday.

I expect to see a good game. Birtley will get a better team on the field than they have been able hitherto to play.

The press-box, I hear, is coming; but it has not come yet.

Consett Swifts succeeded, last Saturday, in bagging a brace of points in the Tyneside League, Walbottle being the vanquished.

The losers played a good game, and at one time looked like winning.

The dash displayed by the Swifts in the second half, however, soon put a nail in the Walbottle coffin.

Consett's goalkeeper, Stokoe, was missing, having a touch of rheumatics. I hope he will soon be at his old post again.

The Swifts had their full force on the field, and should be able to give the Exiles a good 90 minutes on Saturday next.

The Swifts are drawing good gates, and they deserve to, considering the excellent ground they have procured.

The difference between the Fell and the Vicarage Field ought to mean a good few shillings extra in gate money.

The Swifts cannot be accused of dilatoriness, as they are always prompt to time. Their visitors, however, sometimes give cause to the spectators for grumbling.

Hamsteels Rugbyites defeated Durham City on Saturday. How are the mighty fallen!

Child, the old Chester-le-Street cricket professional, headed the Darlington bowling averages for the past season, with the splendid record of 96 wickets for 985 runs. He has been a good child to the Quaker lads.

I hear that there is a possibility of his returning to Chester-le-Street.

Football is growing in popularity at Dipton.

Dicky Cunningham has thrown in his lot with the Wanderers. He played a good half-back game against Mickley last Saturday.

After the game between Ouston and Hedley Hill, at Ouston, to-morrow (Saturday), the players and supporters intend having a smoker at the house of Mr Mills, Red Lion Hotel, when some good singers will take part.

Ouston Reserve had to play Gilesgate Moor Albion last Saturday. The Secretary even sent word what train they were coming by, and they kept the players standing stripped all the afternoon, and never came.

NORTHERN LEAGUE.

FIRST DIVISION.

Results up to date—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals For	Goals Agst	P.
Stockton	4	3	0	1	7	2	7
Darlington	2	1	0	1	9	3	3
Middlesbrough	2	1	0	1	5	2	3
South Bank	2	1	0	1	7	4	3
Bishop Auckland	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
St Augustines	2	0	1	1	5	8	1
Crook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tow Law	2	0	1	0	1	5	0
Leadgate Park	2	0	2	0	2	10	0

SECOND DIVISION.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals For	Goals Agst	P.
Leadgate Exiles	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
Howden	3	2	1	0	8	6	4
Rise Carr	2	2	0	0	5	2	4
Shildon	3	1	2	0	7	6	2
Loftus	2	1	1	0	4	2	2
Brotton	2	0	2	0	1	5	0
Brittannia Rovers	2	0	2	0	3	11	0

DERWENT VALLEY LEAGUE.

Result up to date—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals For	Goals Agst	P.
Leadgate Reserve	3	3	0	0	16	1	6
Spen	2	2	0	0	6	2	4
Shotley	1	1	0	0	2	1	2
Tantobie	3	1	2	0	4	6	2
Iveston	2	1	1	0	4	6	2
Lintz Rovers	1	0	1	0	2	5	0
Lintzford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Consett Park	2	0	2	0	2	13	0
Allendale	2	0	2	0	2	4	0
Byer Moor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TYNESIDE LEAGUE.

	P.	Wn	Lst	Drn	Goals For	Goals Agst	Pt.
Dipton Wand.	3	2	1	0	6	5	4
Wardley Star	2	2	0	0	4	1	4
Bill Quay	3	2	1	0	11	2	4
Consett Swifts	3	2	1	0	6	4	4
Blaydon	3	1	0	2	4	1	4
Mickley	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Hobson Wand.	1	1	0	0	1	0	2
Prudhoe	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Wallsend Celtic	3	0	3	0	2	15	0
Hexham Excelsior	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walbottle	1	0	1	0	1	2	0
Annfield Plain	3	0	3	0	3	7	0

NORTHERN COMBINATION.

Results up to date—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals For	Goals Agst	P.
Rendel A	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
Stanley A	2	2	0	0	8	3	4
St Peter's Albion	2	2	0	0	4	2	4
Gateshead A	2	1	0	0	2	5	2
Jarrow A	3	1	2	0	6	4	2
Bill Quay Celtic	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
Leadgate Exiles A	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
South Shields A	1	0	1	0	2	5	0
Walbottle	1	0	1	0	0	4	0
Walker Neptune	3	0	3	0	3	7	0

BURNOPFIELD JUNIOR LEAGUE.

Results up to date—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals For	Goals Agst	P.
Byer Moor Jnrs	4	3	0	1	10	4	7
Hobson Juniors	3	3	0	0	13	4	6
Leadgate Exiles	3	2	1	0	9	2	4
Shotley Bridge	4	2	2	0	6	5	4
Dipton St Johns	3	2	1	0	9	6	4
Stanley	3	1	2	0	4	11	2
Hamsterley Stars	4	1	3	0	5	15	2
Tanfield Lea	2	1	0	1	7	2	3
Lintzford	1	0	1	0	3	4	0
Lintz Rovers	3	0	3	0	5	10	0
Tantobie	2	0	1	0	1	11	0
Marley Hill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

W H Dawson, Sec.

CHESTER-LE-STREET JUNIOR LEAGUE.

"PETER HAY" CUP.

Results up to date—

Craghead	4	1	2	1	4	18	3
Chester-le-Street	1	1	0	0	10	0	2
Pelton Fell	2	1	1	0	6	2	2
Brandon	1	1	0	0	6	1	2
Bearpark	1	1	0	0	3	2	2
Fatfield	3	0	2	1	5	11	1
Ouston	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

R G Render, Sec.

CHESTER-LE-STREET SENIOR LEAGUE.

JOICEY CHALLENGE CUP.

Results up to date—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	For	Agst	P.
Bearpark	3	2	0	1	3	1	5
Fatfield	3	2	0	1	6	3	5
Ouston	2	2	0	0	13	1	4
Pelton Fell	3	2	1	0	5	3	4
Waterhouses	3	1	1	1	5	5	3
Bankhead	3	1	1	1	3	5	3
Newbottle	3	1	1	1	3	2	3
Unsworth	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Woodside	2	1	1	0	4	1	2
Craghead	4	1	3	0	4	7	2
Waldridge	3	1	2	0	7	14	2
Washington	1	0	0	1	1	1	1
Brandon	3	0	2	1	0	6	1
Chester-le-Street	3	0	3	0	4	12	0

NORTHERN ALLIANCE.

Results up to date—

	W.	D.	L.	Goals For	Goals Agst	Pt.
Jarrow	3	0	0	12	2	6
Newcastle United A	3	0	1	12	5	6
Willington Athletic	2	0	0	7	3	4
Gateshead N.E.R	1	1	1	8	7	3
Sunderland	1	0	1	4	3	2
Stanley	1	0	1	9	3	2
Wallsend Park	1	0	1	3	9	2
South Shields	1	0	1	3	4	2
Birtley	0	1	1	4	6	1
Blyth	0	0	2	2	5	0
Rendel	0	0	1	0	2	0
St. Peter's	0	0	2	0	13	0
Shankhouse	0	0	1	2	4	0
Hebburn Argyle	0	0	0	0	0	0

SAMBOTTEE CUP COMPETITION

A meeting was held at the Railway Hotel, Annfield Plain, on Wednesday evening, in connection with the above competition, when there were present Mr John Ross, Leadgate; Rev. R. Tuson and Mr Hodgson, Dipton; Messrs. Walton, Shotley Bridge; M. Bell, Tantobie; Motersill, Blaydon; A. Biggins (sec.), and J. W. Thompson, Blaydon; Charles Carr (secretary) and Jos Riddell, Crook; G. Whaley and T. Masterman, Stanley.—Mr. Ross was elected to the chair.

Mr Ross explained that the Sambottee Company offered the Cup for competition without any condition whatever. They had given him full authority in the matter. He regretted that there were not more clubs represented. Fourteen or fifteen clubs had been notified of the meeting, and he quite assumed that they would all have been represented. Last year, they intended on account of the short time at their disposal to have the competition on the Cup-tie system, but it was fully intended then that this season the competition would be fought on the League system. It was the intention of the Sambottee Company to encourage Wednesday football. The cup was of the value of £30.

Mr Hodgson intimated that the representative of the Sambottee Company had intimated that it was the intention to present medals also to the winners of the Cup.

Mr Tuson said that the question was whether they should form this into a combination of any kind. He would like to know whether the League was to be limited to North-West Durham.

Mr Ross thought not.

Mr Tuson: Then I propose that we form ourselves into a West Durham League.

Mr Whaley: I understood last year that it would be confined to North-West Durham, and I move that this be done this year.

Mr Ross thought that, judging from the attendance that night, it would be advisable not to limit the area to North-West Durham. He suggested that the League be confined to clubs between Crook and Blaydon.

Mr Tuson moved, and Mr Masterman seconded, that the League be called the Sambottee Wednesday League, and be confined to the area mentioned by Mr Ross; and this was agreed to.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers for the ensuing season resulted as follows:—President, Rev. R. Tuson, Dipton; Vice-president, Mr John Ross, Leadgate; Secretary, Mr Thomas Allison, Shotley Bridge; Treasurer, Mr G. Whaley, Stanley; Committee, two representatives from each club.

It was agreed that the head-quarters of the League be the Railway Hotel, at Annfield Plain.

NORTH-WEST DURHAM LEAGUE.

A NEW CUP FOR THE LEAGUE.

A meeting of the committee of this League was held in the Queen's Head Hotel, Consett, on Tuesday evening, when the following were present—Messrs E. Batey (Leadgate Exiles), J. Potts (Consett Swifts), J. W. Bryant (Consett Park), J. Walton (Shotley), and J. Richards (Blackhill Celtic), with the secretary, Mr Jos. Hamilton. Owing to the absence of the Chairman Mr W. G. F. Thompson, the meeting was presided over by Mr Jacob Potts.

THE NEW APPLICATIONS.

After the minutes had been adopted, it was decided to hear the applications for admission to the League.

The Secretary said that he had written to Annfield Plain Celtic, Annfield Plain N.E.R. and Malton, with respect to the vacancies in the League, and had received letters from each of the clubs applying for admission.

The committee decided that the representatives of these clubs should be called in, and after several questions regarding their ground, etc., had been asked and answered, they were unanimously elected to fill the vacancies.

A CUP FOR THE LEAGUE.

A letter was read from Mr George Neasham, proprietor of the *Consett Chronicle*, stating that he was willing to give a cup for the League. (Applause).

The Secretary stated that the cup was a very handsome one. It was a most generous offer on the part of Mr Neasham. (Hear, hear).

Mr Potts asked if they would be allowed to exhibit the cup in the villages of the clubs.

The Secretary replied in the affirmative. The trophy, he said, would remain in the possession of the League until the end of the season, when it would be presented to the winning club. It would be given to the different clubs in the League to exhibit in the villages to which they belong.

Mr Potts thought that it should be exhibited, as it would increase the interest in the League.

It was decided that the cup should be exhibited in Consett for the first month, its next destination to be settled at the next meeting.

ELECTION OF AUDITORS.

On the motion of Mr Bryant, seconded by Mr J. Walton, Messrs E. Batey and J. Potts were elected as auditors.

RULES.

The Secretary read a copy of the rules which he had prepared since the last meeting. The rules were adopted as satisfactory, and it was decided to get them printed.

REFEREES.

The Chairman said that the next item on the agenda was the nomination of referees.

Mr Holmes: Will the referees for the League have to be members of the Northumberland and Durham Referees' Association?

The Secretary said that there were many capable referees in the district, who were not in that Association. The fee for membership to the latter body was 7s 6d, whilst they had decided to pay the referees 2s 6d, and third class train fare. They could get the examination board to come out, but even if those who sat were successful, they would have to pay an entrance fee of 2s 6d, and also that amount annually. He knew capable referees who would not pay that amount.

Mr Holmes: They should not be allowed to go on to the field.

OFFICERS.

The following are the officers of the League—President, Mr Geo. Neasham; Chairman of committee, W. G. F. Thompson; treasurer, J. W. Bryant; and secretary, Mr J. Hamilton, Spencer Street, Consett. Owing to the absence of Allendale and Tantobie, the fixtures had to be left over until the next meeting.

SUSPENSIONS.

In answer to Mr Walton, the Secretary stated that no answer had been received from the Durham Association with regard to the suspensions.

Mr Batey: There is no Durham Association this season. (Laughter).

The Secretary: They are away on their holidays. (Renewed laughter).

The meeting concluded with the usual votes of thanks.

SECULARIST FUNERAL AT HARE LAW.

On Sunday afternoon the remains of Mrs Ann Todd, wife of Mr John Todd, Pontop Pike, were interred in the Hare Law Cemetery, according to the rites of the Secular Society. Mrs Todd, who was an exceedingly intelligent and kindly lady, had been a Secularist for many years. She spoke familiarly about her faith even when dying. A large company of Secularists attended the funeral, and numerous others witnessed the uncommon ceremony. Mr John White made a few appropriate remarks prior to the *cortege* leaving the house, and at the graveside, he read the Secular Burial Service per Austin Holyoake, a summary of which we append. "We this day consign to the earth the body of our departed friend; for her life's fitful dream is over, with its toils, and sufferings, and disappointments. She derived her being from the bountiful mother of all; she returns to her capacious bosom, to again mingle with the elements. She basked in life's sunshine for her allotted time, and has passed into the shadow of death, where sorrow and pain are unknown. Nobly she performed life's duties on the stage of earth; the impenetrable curtain of futurity has fallen, and we see her no more. She fought the good fight of free inquiry, and triumphed over prejudice, and the results of misdirected education. She worked out for herself the problem of life; and was the keeper of her own conscience. Her religion was of this world; the service of humanity her highest aspiration. She valued the lessons of the past, but disowned tradition as a ground of belief; whether miracles be claimed or not claimed on its side. No sacred Scripture or ancient Church formed the basis of her faith. By her example, she vindicated the right to think, and to act upon conscientious conviction. For worship to the unknown, she substituted duty; for prayer, work; and the record of her life bears testimony to her purity of heart, and the bereaved ones know but too well the treasure that is lost to them for ever. Her belief sustained her in health; and in the last solemn moments of this life, it procured her the most perfect tranquility of mind. Our friend has entered upon the eternal rest, that happy ease, which is the heritage of all. Death comes as the soothing anodyne to all our cares and struggles, and we inherit the earth as a reward for the toils of life. Every form that lives must die, for the penalty of life is death. Man springs up like the tree; at first the tender plant, he puts forth his buds of promise, then blossoms for a time, and gradually decays, and passes away. The reward of an useful and virtuous life is the convictions that our memory will be cherished by those who come after us, as we revere the memory of the great and good who have gone before us. This is the only immortality of which we know. Peace and respect be with her memory. Farewell, a long farewell."

BROOMS CHURCH CHOIR.

On Wednesday evening, the members of the Brooms Church Choir, Leadgate, met together in the Brooms Schoolroom, to present Mr E. J. Sloane, their late choirmaster, with a handsome silver-mounted walking stick and a pipe, in recognition of his services. The choir was originally organised by Mr Sloane, who, however, was obliged some time ago to resign, having to accept a similar position at St. Mary's, Blackhill, which was rendered vacant by the marriage of his sister. The schoolroom had been very tastefully decorated for the occasion, and supper was served during the evening, the catering of Mrs J. E. Kinleside giving the greatest satisfaction. Among those who sat down were the Rev. A. Magill, and Messrs E. J. Sloane, W. Hogan, J. E. Kinleside, J. Burke, J. Clare, J. Monaghan, B. McHugh, J. Gillead, Dipton; P. Haley, T. Forkin, T. Kinleside, J. Eltringham, N. McGuckin, J. Brannen, P. Egan, J. Matthews, R. Cheesmond, N. Hill, T. Morris, Jno. Neasham, J. O'Connor, Consett; J. Marren, Westwood; J. Campbell, Hamsterley; P. Matthews, G. Stoner, J. Stoner, J. Roberts, G. Foreman, G. Stoker, and Mrs Keenleyside, Mrs J. Burke, Mrs J. Neasham, Mrs Roberts, Mrs D. Burke, Misses A. Donaghy, M. Donaghy, T. Sloane, Miss Greaves, Blackhill; M. Kinleside, L. Kinleside, B. Fittes, Miss Wheatley, Stanley; B. Lynch, E. O'Niel, B. Reachel, M. McVeigh, S. McVeigh, M. Murphy, S. A. Cain, B. McHugh, M. McHugh, M. Grant, M. McGuire, J. Matthews, E. McGuckin, and E. Marren. The chair was taken by the Rev. A. Magill, who, after the covers had been removed, said he had a very pleasing duty to perform. He was glad to see that the efforts of Mr Sloane, in organising the choir, had been appreciated. Mr Sloane had worked hard, and success had crowned his efforts.—Mr Kinleside and Mr McGuckin added a few words, and Mr Sloane, whose rising was the signal for an outburst of applause, afterwards thanked the company for their handsome presents, and the speakers for their kind words. He had spent many happy days with the members of the Brooms Choir, and it had been a pleasure to him to instruct them.—Mr Hogan also bore tribute to the abilities of his late choirmaster, and concluded by proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was heartily accorded.—A most enjoyable time was spent by all present.

CO-OPERATIVE ITEMS.

TANTOBIE SOCIETY.

The 146th quarterly report of the Tantobie Co-operative Society has just been published, and from it we ascertain that 14 new members have been enrolled during the quarter, whilst 17 have withdrawn, leaving 532 registered members. The net profit for the quarter amounts to £823 1s 9d, and a dividend of 3s to the £ has been declared. The share capital now amounts to £15,477 16s, being an average of £29 1s 10½d per member. The sales for the quarter amounted to £5,567 16s 10d, being a decrease of £41 3s as compared with the corresponding quarter of last year. Thirteen committee meetings were held during the quarter, the attendances being as follows:—W. Harrison, treasurer, 13; A. Jamieson, 13; Tom Pringle, 12; T. Gardner, 12; M. Beck, 12; Wm. Hall, secretary, 12; J. Turnbull, 11; J. Harrison, president, 10; B. Nicholson, 8; J. Richardson, 4, and J. H. Moyle, 1.

WEST STANLEY SOCIETY.

The committee of the West Stanley Co-operative Society have held 19 meetings during the past quarter, at which the attendances were as follows:—William Hewison (president) 19; William Simpson, 19; Nicholas Yarrow, 19; Robert Reed, 19; Edward Hughes, 19; Thomas Armstrong, treasurer, 18; Thomas W. W. Ritson, secretary, 18; Joseph Snow, 18; Henry Mudd, 14; William H. Kelly, 11; William Maddison, 5; and Henry Hardy, 3. Mr. Edward Hughes is the retiring member. Amongst the business for the quarterly meeting, to be held on October 9th, is the consideration of recommendations from the committee to give five guineas to the lecture scheme of the Co-operative Union, and that the secretary's salary be advanced. As proof of the enormous trade done by the West Stanley Co-operative Society, it may be mentioned that the number of employes, including apprentices, is 121.

ANNFIELD PLAIN SOCIETY.

The 100th quarterly report of the Annfield Plain Co-operative Industrial and Provident Society shows that the aggregate sale in all departments amounted to £50,012 13s, being £2,189 above the receipts for the corresponding quarter of last year. The net profits for the quarter amount to £2,820 16s 5½d, and it has been decided to issue a dividend of 3s in the £, on the grocery purchases, and 2s 4d on butchering purchases. Appended is a list of the attendances of officers for 19 Board meetings:—Messrs Jas. Golden, Sacriston, J. Chisholm, Sacriston, E. Robson, Central, and J. Collins, Central 7; D. Appleton, Langley Park, 13; J. Haswell, Langley Park, and John Robson, Annfield Plain, 16; Jas. Clark, Medomsley, Owen Clark, Medomsley, and Wm. Jessop, Dipton, 7; Jas. Steel, Medomsley, 15; T. Lawson, Dipon, 16; John Reece, Annfield Plain, 15; Wm. Thomas, Sacriston, J. Owen, Sacriston, Geo. Johnstone, Langley Park, George Harford, Medomsley, J. T. Skipsey, Medomsley, D. Mole, Dipton, Geo. Bainbridge, Annfield Plain, and Jas. Mason, Annfield Plain, 9; J. W. Taylor, J.P., President, 14.

CONSETT SOCIETY.

The report of the Consett Industrial and Provident Society, Limited, just published for the 137th quarter ending August 31st, shows that the members now number 1,787, 56 having joined, 21 left, 2 struck off, and 234 consolidated. The Society now has purchases from members and non-members as follows:—1,613 general, amounting to £13,057; 946 butchering, amounting to £2,081; and non-members, £295. After meeting all trade charges, there is a balance available for disposal, which the Committee recommends to be thus apportioned:—Depreciation of property and fixtures £100, repairs and painting £57 19s 7½d, grant to reading room £20, interest on share capital £478, dividend on non-members' purchases, £24 14s 11d, dividend on members' general purchases at 3s in the £, £1,958 11s, dividend on members' butchering purchases at 8d in the £, £69 7s 4d, balance forward £6 8s 2½d, total, £2,715 0s 7½d.

OXHILL.

Pulpit Wanted.—The congregation at the Oxhill Mission Church are endeavouring to raise funds for the erection of a pulpit.

Primitive Methodism.—Special sermons were preached at the Oxhill Primitive Methodist Church, on Sunday morning and evening, by the Rev. J. G. Tetley, of Newcastle.

Presentation.—On Monday last, the teachers and scholars of the Oxhill Board School presented Mrs Gray, who for several years has been engaged as teacher at the school, with a teapot and cruetstand. Mr Raw, headmaster, handed over the gift on the part of the teachers and master Fred Errington and Miss Minnie Watt, on behalf of the children. Mr and Mrs Gray have taken up their residence at Pavilion Terrace, Burnhope.

Tuition.

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.

Business Announcements.

VERY GOOD & VERY CHEAP
ARE THE
BOOTS & SHOES
AT
FAWCETT'S,
A Large Variety Always in Stock.
WHITE-LE-HEAD.

SIX GOLD MEDALS AWARDED, 1896-97.

KER'S ALE The Beverage of the Future.
KER'S ALE Purely Hop Bittered.
KER'S ALE Non-Alcoholic.

Contains all the Tonic and Refreshing Qualities of Beer.

Can only be had from the Brewers, J. KERSHAW and SONS. We can now supply the Public with our Gold Medal Mineral Waters—

Fermented Stone Ginger	"Verdo"
Dandelion Stout	Syphons Soda Water
Champagne Cider	,, Potass Water
Jubilee Drink	&c., &c.

LEMONADE, &c., &c.

Awarded Six Gold Medals for PURITY, CLEANLINESS, and QUALITY.

Can be had from the Makers—

KERSHAW & SONS,
PLANTATION STREET, LEADGATE, AND GATESHEAD.

M. FAWELL,
GROCER PROVISION MERCHANT, TEA DEALER, AND DRAPER,
FRONT STREET & DELVES LANE,
OPPOSITE THE "CONSETT CHRONICLE" OFFICE.
CONSETT.
VANS CALL IN ALL PARTS OF THE DISTRICT.

People of all creeds and from all nations
Get their bills put up on my stations.

JAMES FROSDICK

IS the only BILLPOSTER that has rented Stations within the three districts of Consett, Leadgate, and Benfieldside. Bills posted and Distributed at the lowest rates.

FOR
FIRST-CLASS GROCERIES
AND PROVISIONS,
GO TO
GEO. J. ROBINSON,
TEA DEALER, GROCER, AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL.

A Large Assortment of
CHEESE, BUTTER, BACON, LARD, &c.,
always on hand.

WM. WHITFIELD
MAKES THE
BEST FURNITURE
In the District, at the Lowest Possible Prices.

TRY WHITFIELD'S BEFORE BUYING ELSEWHERE.
Note the Address:—
WHITFIELD'S,
STANLEY FURNITURE SHOP.

FINE ART GALLERY,
SADLER STREET, DURHAM.

T. RUSHWORTH & SON,
CARVERS AND GILDERS.

PICTURE FRAMES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION MADE TO ORDER.
CTURES CLEANED, LINED AND RESTORED.

HUDSPITH'S PILE PILLS.

HAVE no equal for PILES, ACHING KIDNEY and SCANTY high coloured URINE; weakness and pains in the BACK. Invaluable to Females and Miners. Absolutely free from Poison.

Supplied in Boxes at 1/1½ and 2/6 of most Chemists, Co-operative Stores, and Drug Store, or Post Free from T. HUDSPITH, Cert. Botanic and F.C. Sm. Lond., Botanist Dispensary, Langley Moor, Durham.

The above may be obtained of Mr. GEORGE PATTRICK, 5, Front Street, Consett.

"JOHNNY, will you be quiet! else I shan't take you to
KIRKUP'S
(WEST STANLEY) for a new pair of Boots next Saturday." Johnny was dumb immediately He'd had a pair before, and knew their value

---

THE SUNDERLAND WORKING MEN'S BUILDING SOCIETY.
ESTABLISHED 1853.

MORTGAGES granted on approved Security. Investments received at 4 per cent. Interest. Ordinary Shares issued, payable by Instalments.

For particulars apply to J. W. FORSTER, Ironmonger, Shotley Bridge (Agent in succession to the late Mr Joshua Lax); or to J. W. CAMPBELL, Secretary, Sunderland.

JOSEPH ROBINSON,
DISPENSING & FAMILY CHEMIST,
STANLEY and ANNFIELD PLAIN,

Directs attention to his seasonable supply of

PURE DRUGS and CHEMICALS.
PERFUMERY.
ÆRATED WATERS.
HORSE and CATTLE MEDICINES.
SHEEP DIPS, &c.

Agent for Glendenning's Beef & Malt Wine.

ROBINSON'S LUMBAGO PILLS
The Surest Remedy for Lumbago, Sciatica, &c.
TRY ROBINSON'S CIGARS.

Business Announcements.

J. H. COURTNEY,
CONSETT COCOA ROOMS,
HAVELOCK STREET.

DINNERS, from 12 p.m. every day.
BALLS, PARTIES, and all other Social Gatherings catered for at reasonable rates.
Tea Boiler, Ware, &c., on hire.

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.

F. HODGSON,
HAIRDRESSER AND PERFUMER
STRAWBRIDGE'S NEW UILDINGS,
ANNFIELD PLAIN, R.S.O.

TOBACCO AND CIGARS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

F. HODGSON, who for some time carried on a successful Business at Blackhill, requests the favour of a trial.

SHAVING neatly and expeditiously performed.

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.

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

Valuations effected for Probate. Auction Sales of every description undertaken on most reasonable Terms. RENTS AND DEBTS COLLECTED. Agent to Castle Line Shipping Company, also North British and Mercantile Insurance Company for Fire and Life and Ocean Accident Company.

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.

Business Announcements.

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.

F. H. REED,
GENERAL AND FANCY DRAPER,
POST OFFICE,
ANNFIELD PLAIN,

SOLE AGENT for the Celebrated "PLATINUM" ANTI-CORSET, and PULLARS' DYE WORKS.

LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S UNDERCLOTHING.

Extensive and Varied Stock to Select from.

Ben Pickard
and all the Federation Leaders, if the question was submitted to them, would agree that Kirkup
STRIKES
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
John Wilson
himself might wear in the House, and feel proud of his understandings.

PAINTS, OILS, AND COLOURS.

GEO. PATTRICK,
CHEMIST, SEEDSMAN, WINE MERCHANT,
5, FRONT STREET, CONSETT,
IS THE CHEAPEST HOUSE IN THE DISTRICT.

Paints, own make, 4d per lb, 4s per stone. All colours.
Tin Paints, 4d. per lb.
Varnishes, oak, 1s 6d; carriage, 2s; mahogany, 2s; Japan, 2s.
French Polish, 2s; Knotting, 1s 6d.
Brush Polish, 2s. All per pint.
All kinds of Stains, 6d. per bottle. Fir. 5d.
Aspinall's Enamels, 6d.
Dry Colours, blue and green 4d. per lb; red, yellow, and brown, 2d. per lb.
Paris White, 1s. per stone.
Brushes, Size, and all other Goods at Cheapest Rates.

"THE Apparel oft Proclaims the Man."—*Shakespeare.*

To be Well Dressed is the OPEN SESAME to Good Society.

FOR GOOD QUALITY,
GREAT DURABILITY,
PREVAILING STYLE,
FINE FINISH, AND
DOWNRIGHT HONEST VALUE,
GO TO
J. L. BRODIE'S,
ST. AIDAN'S STREET, BLACKHILL
Near the Railway Station.

LADIES' COSTUMES BY EXPERIENCED HANDS.

JOS. BAINBRIDGE,
FRONT STREET, ANNFIELD PLAIN.
SEE LARGE STOCK OF

WIRE NETTING, at Lowest Prices; ROOFING FELTING, GARDEN SEEDS.
LARGE STOCK OF HOUSE PAPERS.
Call and Examine our BICYCLES.
MINERS' PICKS AND SHAFTS
DRILLING MACHINES.
Large Stock of FENDERS, FIRE-IRONS, and, GENERAL HARDWARE.
CLOCKS and JEWELLERY of Every Description.
WEDDING RINGS a Speciality. Presents given to every Purchaser.
Call and Ask for a List of TEA PRESENTS given with our BONUS TEA.
Cheapest and Best House in the District.
Large Stock of BEDSTEADS and MATTRESSES.

To post your bills
Just take the train,
See GEORGE MCNEAL
At Annfield Plain.

GEORGE McNEAL,
BILLPOSTER,
ANNFIELD PLAIN AND WEST STANLEY,
CO. DURHAM.

NEW LAUNDRY
FOR THE CONSETT DISTRICT.

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

AGENT:—MR. J. COCKBURN,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

PARCELS FORWARDED WEEKLY.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE Executors of the late EDWARD RIDDLE, GENERAL OUTFITTER, &c., &c., 8 and 9, Market Place, Hexham, beg to intimate to their various Patrons in this district that they have appointed JOHN GEO. SMITH, as Commercial Manager in all Departments. All Orders entrusted to his care shall have best and prompt attention.

LATEST NOVELTIES ARRIVING DAILY.
Address:—JOHN GEO. SMITH,
SWISS COTTAGE,
SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

Sales by Auction.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY, October 4th, 1897.

15 to 20 FAT CATTLE including some heavy-weight Bullocks.
150 FAT SHEEP and LAMBS.
VEAL and KEEPING CALVES.
DAIRY COWS and HEIFERS.
5 or 6 HORSES. One and a half yr.-old COLT.
1 New COUP CART, for 15 hands Cob.
HARNESS, LADDERS, GRIPES, ROPES, POULTRY, &c.

Sale at One o'clock.
Wanted, a CLERK for Monday afternoons.
J. S. MURRAY, Auctioneer.

RAM SALE.—SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9TH.

UPWARDS of 100 Border Leicester RAMS and RAM LAMBS, 5 to 6 hundred EWES, GIMMERS, and EWE LAMBS.
J. S. MURRAY.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

MONDAY, October 4th, 1897.

40 to 60 DAIRY COWS and HEIFERS.
12 FAT CATTLE.
165 FAT SHEEP and LAMBS.
5 STORE CATTLE.
9 FINGER CALVES.
Entries to day of Sale. Sale at 10-30 a.m.

NEXT SPECIAL SALE for EWES, LAMBS, and KEEPING SHEEP, THURSDAY, Oct. 7th. Early Entries Solicited.
J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.

LANCHESTER STOCK MART COMPANY, LIMITED.

MR. JACKSON GREEN, Auctioneer.

MONDAY, October 4th, at Three o'clock.

70 to 80 Fat SHEEP and LAMBS, including consignments from Mayden Hall, Moor Lees, Pea Farm, Newbiggin, &c.
50 HENS, &c.

Further Entries to time of Sale.
JOHN GIBSON, SECRETARY.

DELVES LANE, CONSETT.

NATHAN ELSDON will Sell on his Premises, 1,000 UNREDEEMED PLEDGES: Men and Women's Clothing of every description, Clocks, Watches, Tools, Baskets, Bibles, and Sundry Lots; also, a quantity of Furniture.
Sale at One o'clock.

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

MR. JOHN CRAWFORD will Sell a large quantity of Valuable HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and EFFECTS, removed for convenience of Sale from Dipton and Satley, on MONDAY FIRST, October 4th, at One o'clock prompt.

Anyone disposing of their Furniture can have it sold at above Sale.

CRAWFORD'S GROUND, GIBSON STREET, CONSETT.

MR. JOHN CRAWFORD, will hold a SALE of HORSES, CARTS, HARNESS, &c., on WEDNESDAY, October 20th.

Entries of Horses and Vehicles to be sent to Auctioneer as early as possible.

IMPORTANT SALE OF BETTER-CLASS HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE & EFFECTS.

No. 11, DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6TH, 1897, at 12 O'CLOCK NOON.

MR. T. D. DRYDEN, honoured with instructions from Mrs J. Robinson, who is going abroad, will Sell by Public Auction, the whole of the Valuable FURNITURE and EFFECTS, comprising Drawing Room Suite in saddlebags, 5-ft. Sideboard with bevelled glass back, Mantle Mirror, splendid Piano by Ronisch (cost 50 guineas), Japanese and Gipsy Tables, Music Stand, Stool, 5 Oil Paintings by Dawson, 1 Continental Paraffin Hanging Lamp, a work of art, with all the embellishments of a well-furnished room; 1 Dining Table with two leaves, Sofa in leather, 3 Hair-seated Chairs, 1 Rocking Chair, Drawers and Bookcase, Oilcloth, Rug, &c.; 1 French Bedstead, mahogany; mahogany Washstand and Dressing-table, Half Chest Mahogany Drawers, Towel Rail, Chamber Ware, &c.; 1 Handsome Satinwood Bedroom Suite, 1 Painted Satinwood ditto, 1 beautiful Chamber Set, 3 Small Sets, with all the Carpets, Rugs, Oilcloth, Beds and Bedding, Shades, Pots, Pans, Dinner Sets, Kitchen Utensils, &c., too numerous to detail.

Full particulars next week. See Bills.

The Auctioneer would call special attention to this Sale, as the Furniture is all of the best make and good as new, and will be sold without reserve.

T. D. DRYDEN, Auctioneer.
Front Street, Consett.

DROVERS' INN, REDWELL HILLS,
Near LEADGATE.

MR. R. STOKER is instructed to Sell by Auction, at the above-named place, on WEDNESDAY, October 6th, at One o'clock p.m.,

HORSES, CATTLE, and SHEEP.

Brown Horse, 15 h., 7 years old; Chestnut Horse, 16 h., 8 years old; Brown Horse, 15-3 h., 5 years old; Grey Horse, 15-2 h., aged; Brown Horse, 16 h., 9 years old; Colt, 16 h., 3 years old; Brown Horse, 15 h., 9 years old; Pony, 12 h., 6 years old; Bay Horse, 15-2 h., 6 years old; Brown Pony, 13h.; Dun Pony, 14 h.; Turn-out of Pony 12½ h.; Traps and Harness; Four Colt Foals.

Five Shorthorn HEIFERS. Five Year-old BULLOCKS.

Whitechapel Trap, Harness, Gig, Phæton, 3 Coup Carts, 2 Rolleys, 1 Pair Wheels, 3 Churns, 5 Sets Harness.

Entries to Day of Sale.
Offices—Medomsley Road, Consett.

DEANE HOUSE, NEAR ROWLEY STATION.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1ST, 1897, at 1-30 p.m.

50 S.H. CATTLE, all ages, including some good Cattle.
3 GELD COWS.
2 GELD SOWS, had one Litter of Pigs each.
15 MULE SHEARLING GIMMERS, and 15 MULE LAMBS.
40 B.F. EWES, B.F.G. LAMBS, from Sound Hirsels.

Also the following flock of Leicesters, from J. Ross, Butsfield, who is giving up breeding Leicesters:—4 Three-shear EWES, 6 Two-shear EWES, 4 Shearling GIMMERS, 8 L. LAMBS.

3 GEESE and GANDER.

J.G. calls special attention to the Stock raised in the high district, which are sound, and prove well.

Entries taken to day of Sale. TERMS—CASH.
J. GREEN, Auctioneer.

CHESTER-LE-STREET AUCTION MART.

THE NORTH DURHAM and DISTRICT ELEVENTH ANNUAL PRIZE SHOW and SALE of FOALS, YOUNG HORSES, and BROOD MARES will be held on WEDNESDAY, October 6th, 1897.

Prize Lists and Entry Forms on application to the Auctioneer.

Entries close SATURDAY, September 25th.
JAMES TURNBULL, Auctioneer.

Public Announcements.

ANNFIELD PLAIN AND DISTRICT INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE.

CLASSES will be commenced in the Greencroft Board School, as under:—

DRESSCUTTING.........Monday Night, Oct. 11th, at 6 o'clock.
Teacher—Miss Beck.
SHORTHAND ....Wednesday Night, Sept. 22nd, at 7 o'clock.
Teacher—Mr J. Cockburn
PHYSIOGRAPHY ......Thursday Night, Sept. 23rd, at 6 o'clock.
Teacher—Mr W. J. Mackay
MATHEMATICS ....Thursday Night, Sept. 23rd, at 7-15 o'clock.
AMBULANCE ....Monday Night, Sept. 27th, at 7 o'clock.
MINE SURVEYING ...Monday Night, Sept. 27th, at 7 o'clock.

FEES: For each of the above Subjects, except Ambulance, 5s.; for Two Subjects, 7s. 6d.
PH. REA [illegible]

DANCING AND CALI [illegible]

MISS EMILY LUMSDE [illegible] Juvenile Classes, in [illegible] Old Elvet, Durham, on S [illegible] 25th, at 10-30 a.m., and at 2 [illegible] Instruction Class will co [illegible] September 27th, at 6-45 p [illegible] be given in the most fash [illegible] ing the New Ballroom Ro [illegible] Record."

53, Crossgate, Durham, [illegible] Sept., 1897.

OAK TREE IN [illegible]

LEEK SHOW will b [illegible] House of John G [illegible] October 2nd.

Public Announcements.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION
UNDER
COUNTY COUNCIL OF DURHAM,
AND
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND ART, LONDON.

SCIENCE CLASSES,
SESSION 1897—98.

WILL Commence on Saturday, September 18th, in the Infant School-room, South Moor, as follows:—

Mining (Elementary), 3-45 to 4-45 p.m.
,, (Advanced), 4-50 to 5-50 p.m.
Applied Mechanics, 6-20 to 7-20 p.m.
Steam, and the Steam Engine, 7-25 to 8-25 p.m.

Teacher: { Mr. J. WEATHERBURN,
Cert. Royal Col. Science.

Fee for Session: 5s. each Subject.

Further particulars may be obtained on application to the undersigned.

WM. LAWS, Hon. Sec.
3, Holly Terrace, Stanley, R.S.O.

FANCIERS. FANCIERS. FANCIERS.
CALL AT
DAWSON'S,
FANCIERS' SUPPLY STORES,
RITSON'S ROAD, BLACKHILL,
And see a full selection of
DOBBIE'S FAMOUS SPECIALTIES.

AGENT FOR COUNTY DURHAM.

DANCING AND DEPORTMENT.

MR. NORMAN'S PRIVATE CLASSES will be resumed on FRIDAY, October 1st, 1897, in St. Aidan's Church Hall, Blackhill. Junior Class at 6-30. Adult Class at 7-30 p.m.

Prospectus, &c., of C. F. SCOTT, Esq., Newbell, Leadgate; or of Mr NORMAN, 23, Eldon Place, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT
PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

Conductor:
MR. G. P. STEPHENSON.
Leader of Orchestra:
MR. G. A. WILLIAMS.
Treasurer:
MR. R. KIRSOP, Hodgson, Barnett, Pease and Co.'s Bank, Consett.

FIRST MEETING:
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2nd, 1897
IN THE
PRIMITIVE METHODIST NEW SCHOOL ROOM, PARK ROAD,

When MENDELSSOHN'S
ST. PAUL
Will be produced for Rehearsal by a Chorus and Orchestra of about 300.

Chorus and Orchestra Members are now being Enrolled.

TERMS:
GENTLEMEN - 2s. 6d. per Season.
LADIES - - - 1s. 6d. ,,

Copies of "ST. PAUL," (Hart's edition) may be obtained at MR. T. JONES'S Music Emporium, Consett.

Any further Information may be obtained by applying to the Members of the Committee; or to

W. E. BROWN,
Wesley Terrace,
Blackhill

Or

T. HESLOP,
16, Sherburn Terrace
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.

CONSETT PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH.

ALL SEATS FREE.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, 1897.

Morning, 10-30 }
Evening, 6-0 } JOS. ELWIN

BENFIELDSIDE EVENING CLASSES

Will OPEN MONDAY, September 27th, at 7 p.m., and continue as under:—

MONDAYS—
Drawing and Mensuration } ....By Mr F. W. BRODIE.
Vocal Music............By Mr J. C. STELLING.
TUESDAYS—
Shorthand..............By Mr J. MATHIESON.
Elementary Book-keeping } ...By Mr F. W. BRODIE.
Drawing.............. .....By Mr F. W. BRODIE.
THURSDAYS—
Commercial Arithmetic } ....By Mr F. W. BRODIE.

TERMS:—The same as last Session.

LOOK OUT! for GRAND BAZAAR AND FANCY FAIR, in the New Town Hall, Consett, on WEDNESDAY, December 8th, and Three Following Days. Proceeds in aid of the Consett Baptist New Church and School Building Fund. See Future Advertisements.

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 JOHN J. LLOYD'S Company.

TO-NIGHT (THURSDAY), Last Night of the Charming Comedy-Drama—

SHALL WE FORGIVE HER

FRIDAY and SATURDAY, another of FRANK HARVEY'S cleverly-written Plays—

THE RING OF IRON.

MONDAY, October 4th, Messrs DOTTRIDGE, LONGDEN, and GRAHAM'S Company, in the Popular Surrey Piece—

MY JACK,

By the Popular Author, BENJAMIN LANDECK.

Mr Hugh Robertson has much pleasure in announcing that through the kind co-operation of Messrs Dottridge, Longden, and Graham, the performance on Monday Night, Oct. 4th, will be FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB.

MONDAY, October 11th, Messrs Dottridge and Longden's Realistic Drama—

THE TERROR OF PARIS.

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

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

Box Plan at Ramsden's.

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

RDER OF THE SONS OF TEMPERANCE.

"STAR OF HOPE" DIVISION, No. 158, BLACKHILL.

HE QUARTERLY MEETING will be held on FRIDAY, October 1st, when Members requested to be Clear on the Books.

PECIAL BUSINESS:—The question of "Cen ization of Funds," and G.D. Digest, will be ght forward for consideration. A good ndance of Members is desired.

J. G. JOHNSON, R.S.

Public Announcements.

TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION.

UNDER C. C., DURHAM, AND SCIENCE AND ART DEPARTMENT, LONDON.

SCIENCE SCHOOL, SOUTH MOOR,
SESSION 1897-98.

CLASSES will be conducted in the Infant School, South Moor, EVERY SATURDAY, as follows:—

MINING (Elementary), 3-45 to 4-45 p.m.
,, (Advanced), 4-50 to 5-50 p.m.
APPLIED MECHANICS, 6-20 to 7-20 p.m.
STEAM, and the STEAM ENGINE, 7-25 to 8-25 p.m.

TEACHER—
MR. JOHN WEATHERBURN, Gateshead.

FEES:—
For One Subject, 5s.; for Two Subjects, 7s. 6d.

On TUESDAYS (commencing Sept. 28th), at 7 p.m., a Class in SHORTHAND will be held. Teacher—Mr W. H. HARTLEY, Cert. Ph. P. Fee—2s. 6d., which will be returned to all Students qualifying by attendance for Examination.

Students are requested to Enrol Early.

WM. LAWS, Hon. Sec.
3, Holly Terrace, Stanley, R.S.O.

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

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.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY.

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

FRIDAY and SATURDAY, October 1st & 2nd, Last Two Nights of

"QUEEN'S EVIDENCE."

MONDAY, October 4th, for SIX NIGHTS Only,

DR. BODIE.

Don't Miss Him.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

INFANT SCHOOL, SOUTH MOOR,
SESSION 1897—1898.

THE Committee propose to hold CLASSES in FRENCH, to be taught by Mrs BURGESS, of Burnhope; and in AMBULANCE WORK, to be conducted by Dr. INGRAM-JOHNSON, of South Moor.

Intending Students are invited to send their names to the Secretary, not later than Wednesday next, the 6th October.

FEES:—French, 2s. 6d.; Ambulance, 1s.

Should a satisfactory number of names be received, arrangements will be made to commence the Classes, and the Dates announced.

CLASSES will also be held as follows:—Every Tuesday, commencing on 5th October, at Seven o'clock p.m.

SHORTHAND (Pitman's). Teacher — Mr HARTLEY, of South Moor. Fee—2s. 6d.

Every Saturday, commencing Sept. 25th—
MINING (Elementary), 3-45 p.m.
,, (Advanced), 4-50 p.m.
APPLIED MECHANICS, 6-20 p.m.
STEAM, and the STEAM ENGINE, 7-20 p.m.

FEES:—One Subject, 5s.; two or three Subjects, 7s. 6d.

Students may enrol at the Schools, or further information may be obtained on application to the undersigned,

WM. LAWS, HON. SEC.,
Holly Terrace.

CONSETT INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETY, LIMITED.

TO THE MEMBERS.

THE 137TH QUARTERLY MEETING of the above Society will be held on Saturday Evening, October 2nd, in the Co-operative Hall. Chair to be taken at 6-30. For Agenda see Balance Sheets.

The Newspapers will be Sold by Auction at 6 p.m. prompt.

By Order of the Committee.
EDWARD HUNTLEY, Secretary.

SECULARISM versus CHRISTIANITY.

GREAT
PUBLIC DEBATE,
IN THE
CO-OPERATIVE HALL, STANLEY,
FOR FOUR NIGHTS,

SATURDAY ....October 30th,
MONDAY......................November 1st,
TUESDAY.....................November 2nd.
WEDNESDAY ....November 3rd,

BETWEEN
MR. CHARLES WATTS,
Vice-President of the National Secular Society, London; and the
REV. A. J. WALDRON,
Lecturer to the Christian Evidence Society, London.

SATURDAY, October 30th, and MONDAY, November 1st:—

PROPOSITION—"Is Chistianity superior to Secularism for this Life, and any other Life?"

Mr. WALDRON will take the Affirmative, and Mr. WATTS the Negative.

TUESDAY, November 2nd; and WEDNESDAY, November 3rd:—

PROPOSITION—"Is Secularism superior to Christianity for this Life, and any other Life?"

MR. WATTS will take the Affirmative, and MR. WALDRON the Negative.

Debate to commence each night at 7 o'clock; Doors open at 6 o'clock.

ADMISSION 6d. and 3d. each Night; Tickets for the Course, 1s. 9d. and 9d.

Chair to be taken on the first two nights of the Debate by Councillor JONATHAN GREEN, J.P., and on the last two nights by Councillor T. W. W. RITSON.

Tickets may be obtained from Mr GEORGE CRUDDAS, Beamish Forge; and Mr GEORGE POTTER, Junr., Delacour Street, Stanley.

WHEAT SHEAF LEEK SHOW.

THE Members of the above Society will hold their ANNUAL SHOW, on SATURDAY and MONDAY, Oct. 2nd and 4th, in a Room, kindly lent by Mr F. A. Coltman, Wheat Sheaf Hotel, Consett.

LEADGATE TECHNICAL CLASSES.

SESSION 1897-8.

EVENING CLASSES will be held in the several Schools at Leadgate. Subjects:—Art, Cookery, Mining, and Shorthand. To commence October 4th.—Apply to

J. E. PARKER,
Local Secretary.

Excursions.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

ON WEDNESDAY, the 6th of October, an Excursion train will leave BLACKHILL at 12-55 p.m. (with bookings from Knitsley, Lanchester, Witton Gilbert, and Aldin Grange), for DURHAM, SUNDERLAND, and SOUTH SHIELDS, returning from South Shields at 8-5, Sunderland at 8-30, and Durham at 9-4 p.m. the same day.

ON MONDAY, the 11th of October, an Excursion Train will leave NEWCASTLE at 12-5 a.m. (with bookings from Blackhill, Blaydon, &c.) for PETERBRO' and LONDON for 2, 5, and 8 days, BRIGHTON, SALISBURY, PORTSMOUTH, CANTERBURY, DOVER and many other stations in the South of England for 5, 8, 10, or 15 days. Two days passengers return from Kings Cross Station, London, at 11-0 p.m. on October 12th, and 5 and 8 days passengers at 8-45 or 10-20 p.m., on October 15th and 18th respectively.

For further particulars see bills, copies of which may be obtained at the District Passenger Superintendent's Office, Central Station, Newcastle.

York, Sept. 1897.
GEORGE S. GIBB,
GENERAL MANAGER.

Legal Notices.

WILLIAM CURREY, DECEASED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that all Persons having any CLAIMS or DEMANDS against the Estate of William Currey, formerly of 2, Victoria Street, Consett, but late of 17, Lee Street, Middlesborough (who died about the 9th July, 1896, and whose Will was proved by Isaac Whitfield, the Executor therein named, on the 18th February, 1897, in the Principal Registry), are required to send in their Claims to the undersigned Solicitor for the Executor, within 14 days from this date. After that day the Executor will proceed to distribute the assets of the deceased, having regard only to Claims sent in before the expiry of the period above named.

Dated this 27th day of September, 1897.

J. W. R. PUNCH,
26, Albert Road, Middlesborough.

JOHN MEWES, DECEASED.

ALL Persons having CLAIMS against, or OWING ACCOUNTS to, the Estate of John Mewes, late of Durham Road, Blackhill, in the County of Durham, General Dealer, who died on the 14th day of September, 1897, are requested to send particulars, or make remittances thereof, to us, the undersigned, within Seven days from this date.

Dated this 29th Day of September, 1897.

BOOTH & LAZENBY, Shotley Bridge.
Solicitors to the Administrator.

Wanted.

WANTED at once, Good GENERAL SERVANT.—Apply Mrs AITCHINSON, Railway Hotel, Annfield Plain.

COLLIERLEY SCHOOL BOARD.

WANTED a SCHOOL CLEANER for the above Schools. A List of Duties may be seen on application to the undersigned. Applications, stating Wages required, will be received up to October 6th. The Board reserve the right to reject the lowest or any Tender.

D. MOLE, CLERK,
Dipton, R.S.O.

COLLIERLEY SCHOOL BOARD.

WANTED for the above Schools a Fully-qualified, Trained, and Certificated HEAD MISTRESS for the Infant School. Salary, £80 per year.

Also an ASSISTANT MASTER for the Boys' Department. Salary, if certificated, £75 per year. If Ex. P.T., Salary £60 per Year.

Also, for Girl's Department, an ASSISTANT MISTRESS, Ex. P.T. Salary £50 per year.

Applications for the above, accompanied by three recent Testimonials (copies only), will be received by the undersigned up to October 6th.

D. MOLE, CLERK,
Dipton, R.S.O., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

BENFIELDSIDE SCHOOL BOARD.

WANTED, on 1st November next, a thoroughly competent Man to undertake the Duties of ATTENDANCE OFFICER, for the Parish of Benfieldside, and School CARETAKER and CLEANER for Benfieldside Board School. Salary, £75, with Free House on School premises, and Coals. Successful Candidate will be required to devote the whole of his time to the service of the Board.

WANTED, also, a Woman, resident in Blackhill, to act as CARETAKER and CLEANER of Derwent Street School. Salary, £12.

Applications, stating age, previous occupation, and if married, with copies only of not more than three testimonials, must be addressed to "The Clerk, Benfieldside School Board, Shotley Bridge," marked outside, "Application," not later than MONDAY, OCTOBER 4th.

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.

WANTED, an Intelligent Lad as APPRENTICE to the Printing Business.—Apply *Chronicle* Office, Consett.

For Sale.

FOR SALE, LITTER OF PIGS, Eight Weeks old. — Apply JOHN BELL, West Farm, Medomsley.

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, Constt.e

To Let.

TO LET, Excellent DWELLING-HOUSES, situated at Summerhill, St. Cuthbert's Terrace, and Blackhill.—Apply W. RAMSAY, North-Eastern Bank, Blackhill.

TENTS TO LET, at Reasonable Charges; all Carting done if required. Particulars on application. All orders punctually attended to by G. HUNTER and SONS, Medomsley, R.S.O.

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

Lost.

LOST, between Monday night and Tuesday morning (21st and 22nd September), a Brown PIT PONY, 11-h. 2-in. in height, cut tail, and low in condition. Reward on returning it to Langley Park Colliery. Detention will incur prosecution.

Tenders.

TO BUILDERS.

TENDERS WANTED for the necessary Works in connection with the Erection and Completion of a Villa, at Oliver Burn, near Rowley, for Thomas Turnbull, Esq.

Tenders to be sent to me, not later than 12 o'clock noon, on the 10th day of October, 1897.

The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.

Plans can be seen, and quantities obtained, at the Office of the Architect, up to the date named.

JOHN DOHERTY, ARCHITECT.
24, Sherburn Terrace, Consett.

LANCHESTER UNION.

TO CONTRACTORS.

THE Guardians of the above Union are desirous of receiving TENDERS for the Erection and Completion of New Laundry at Lanchester Workhouse.

Drawings, Specifications, and Conditions of Contract may be seen, and Forms of Tender may be obtained, and Quantities will be supplied, on application, on a deposit of 10s. 6d., which will be returned on receipt of a *bona fide* Tender, at the Architect's Office, Geo. Thos. Wilson's, 121, Durham Road, Blackhill.

Tenders to be sent in, sealed and endorsed "Tender for New Laundry," to the Office of the undersigned, on or before Wednesday, the 6th day of October, 1897.

No pledge is given that the lowest or any Tender will be accepted.

WM. H. RITSON,
Clerk to Guardians.
Lanchester, Co. Durham.

Business Announcements.

TO INVENTORS.
OFFICE FOR PATENTS.
ESTABLISHED 1879.
G. J. CLARKSON,
CHARTERED PATENT AGENT,
6, FINKLE STREET, STOCKTON-ON-TEES,
AND
7, CHESTNUT AVENUE, QUEEN'S ROAD, HULL.
Circular of Information Post Free.

Dales' GOLD MEDAL Dubbin Makes Boots and Harness Waterproof as a Duck's Back and soft as velvet. Adds three times to the wear and allows polishing. 22 Exhibition Highest Awards. Tins 2d, 6d, 1/-, & 2/6 of all Bootmakers Saddlers, &c.

PAINLESS DENTISTRY—Comfort and Fit Guaranteed — Prices Reasonable. Attendance every Saturday, 2 to 5.30. Mr. Townend, Dental Surgeon, at Cockburn's, Stationer, Front Street.

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.

THE

Consett Chronicle

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1897.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

WIDE, Felling.—As Mr Bartram has dealt with the subject covered by your letter, its insertion is unnecessary.

CASTLESIDE.—Your letter was not given because its insertion would have been an injustice to the gentleman whose actions and motives you so severely criticise.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

THE RATING OF LICENSED PROPERTY.

There has been some opposition on the part of the licensed victuallers in Consett, to the increased assessment of their property by the Assessment Committee of the Lanchester Union. It certainly appears that the Assessment Committee have been increasing the assessments considerably, of late. We cannot pretend to express an opinion as to whether this has been done judiciously, or otherwise; but it is a fact that there is frequently a tendency in these days to meet the growing expense of local government by assessing local property to the very utmost. Local burdens are constantly increasing, and the prospect of having to raise the rates has led many a local authority to inquire into the assessments. Undoubtedly, a great deal of property, and particularly licensed property, has in times past been let off very lightly. But at present, there seems a danger of going to the opposite extreme.

MR WHEATLEY'S ASSESSMENT.

The point was brought up in a case heard at the last Consett Petty Sessions, and which concerns a summons by the Urban District Council against Mr. Wheatley, landlord of the Grey Horse Inn, Consett, for rates due. Mr. Wheatley's refusal to pay the rates was a protest against what he considers the unreasonable increase of his assessment. Whether he was in the right or in the wrong, outsiders can hardly judge; but there has certainly been a misunderstanding between him and the Assessment Committee. It was stated, during the hearing of the case, that the Assessment Committee are having a re-valuation of the licensed property in the district made by a competent valuer; and if there are many other ratepayers who feel so aggrieved as Mr. Wheatley, it is to be hoped that this gentleman's task may be speedily finished. It may, perhaps, lead to the establishment of more friendly relations between the licensed victuallers and the Assessment Committee of the Lanchester Union.

THE REVISION COURTS.

The Conservative party claim to have made a gain on the revision of voters' lists for the North-West Division of Durham. The exact figures are quoted elsewhere in this issue, but such calculations savour rather of speculation, and are certainly of no value in deciding the relative hold of either political party upon the electorate. Circumstances may prevent quite half of those persons whose names have just been placed upon the register from voting at the next election. It may be mentioned that there is general satisfaction, among those connected with both political parties, at the impartial manner in which Mr Mellor conducted the revision. Mr Mellor gave every evidence that he was determined that every man who was entitled to a vote at all should have his name upon the register.

WARNING TO DEFAULTERS.

The adjourned Brewster Sessions were held at Lanchester, last week, and, although a number of new applications were made, none for new licenses were granted. The remarks of Mr Walton-Wilson (who took the chair, in the absence of Mr James Annandale), will be read with interest. The "black list' was by no means brief, but the licenses were not interfered with. In most cases, it was very explicitly explained that the offending tenants had been replaced by others, who had conducted the houses with satisfaction to the police. This statement was made so frequently, that Mr Walton-Wilson took the opportunity of observing that in future the house would be marked, and not the tenant. This does not seem very practical, inasmuch as it is not the house that offends, but the tenant. However, Mr Walton-Wilson's observation will probably lead to a more careful selection of managers and tenants on the part of the owners. A point upon which Mr Walton-Wilson did well to lay especial stress was that publicans were obliged to provide refreshments. Public-houses are open when other places of business are closed, and they must frequently be resorted to by travellers, not necessarily for drink only. It is surprising, however, to note the number of houses where not the slightest pretence is made at providing even the lightest refreshments.

STANLEY & DISTRICT NOTES.

THE LATE MR CRENNELL.

It seems fitting that something should be done in Stanley to perpetuate the memory of the founder of Church work in the parish, and it is a pleasing duty to chronicle the fact that feeling in the village is unanimously favourable to some memorial being erected. As to the shape which the memorial will take, it is, of course, too early to speak with authority as yet, but the wishes of the deceased gentleman will certainly be respected, and every effort made to make the memorial useful and enduring. As was pointed out by the Rev. D. W. James, at the recent vestry meeting, the late Vicar of the parish was very desirous of securing the addition of a south aisle to the Parish Church, and its erection would be a fitting memorial to his memory. Already, the evening congregation is sufficient on ordinary occasions to fill the building, and with the parish growing so rapidly, the fulfilment of Mr Crennell's wishes in this respect would be a graceful tribute to the memory of a good man.

WANTED, MORE LIGHT.

That worthy Crimean hero, Mr John [illegible] is as vigorous in seeking reforms of [illegible] kinds now, as he was over thirty ye[illegible] in fighting the battles of his Que[illegible] country. I have referred recently [illegible] efforts to secure the abolition of [illegible] pleasant task imposed on jurymen o[illegible] ing bodies, and am hopeful that his [illegible] in that respect will be crowned with [illegible] but his vigilance even in smaller m[illegible] also worthy of reference. At the [illegible] vestry meeting, he drew attention [illegible] bad lighting of the entrance to th[illegible] yard, and suggested that the Coun[illegible] be requested to erect a Bray lamp [illegible] entrance to the churchyard; whilst [illegible] lamp should be placed in the vicini[illegible] Church Institute. The Vicar expla[illegible] the lamp at the entrance of the Ch[illegible] just been mended, and suggested [illegible] trial of its powers before passing [illegible]demnation, and this was ultimately agreed to; though Mr Bates has evidently very little faith in the old lamp, for he expressed the opinion that it would be necessary to bring candles for the purpose of discovering the light.

DRAWING BY SCHOOL CHILDREN.

I had the opportunity recently of viewing some drawings executed by the children attending the East Stanley Board School, and was quite astonished and delighted at the excellence to which the youngsters had attained in this pleasing art. Mr Anderson, the genial headmaster, assured me that with many of his pupils, the drawing lesson is indeed a labour of love, and I was extremely pleased to hear it, because the art of drawing is well worthy of cultivation. I understand that several of the children who exhibited their work at the recent Cross Lanes Show, intend having their productions framed. This is a very proper act, because it cannot fail to increase the interest of the parents in the labours of their children.

HOSPITAL WANTED.

A correspondent suggests to me that with the population of Stanley and district increasing so rapidly, the erection of a public Hospital in the immediate locality would be a great boon, and on that point I cordially agree. Accidents are always numerous in a mining community; and none of the houses are fitted for an injured man to dwell in, with convenience to the family, or advantage to himself. There are many cases, one occurred only last week, where men linger for weeks in their homes, and ultimately die from the results of accidents which occurred in the coal mine, in which the men would secure greater comfort, have better attention, and have a better chance of life by being straightway conveyed to an infirmary or a hospital. The erection of a hospital, and the maintenance of a nursing staff, would necessarily involve considerable expense, and could not be carried on without the staunch support of the colliery owners, and the workmen, who would themselves benefit thereby. It has been suggested that another aisle should be added to St. Andrew's Church, in memory of the late Mr Crennell. Whether the addition of the suggested south aisle, or the erection of a hospital, would be most advantageous to the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood, is a question permitting of only one answer. Before concluding, I should like to point out that in the event of the erection of a hospital being considered too costly an undertaking, the engagement of one or two nurses to reside in the place, and attend the patients at their homes, might be possible. I know of villages with not one quarter the population of Stanley, and in a community far less liable to accidents, where nurses are engaged by public subscription on the lines that I have suggested. Perhaps some of the residents of this neighbourhood will express their opinions on this matter.

THE CHURCH STEPS.

At the late vestry meeting, Mr Thomas Darney drew attention to the steps which are placed at the entrance of St. Andrew's Church, and suggested that it would be advisable to take them down. The steps are certainly inconvenient to worshippers, especially when emerging from church on a dark night, and whenever apportunity occurs, Mr Darney's suggestion should be carried into practical effect.

MULTUM IN PARVO.

Mr Joseph Robinson has been compelled to resign his position as Choirmaster at Oxhill, owing to his removal to Barcus Close. The resignation was regretted by everybody connected with the Choir, and on Saturday last, Mr Robinson was the recipient of a handsome clock and ring, which had been subscribed for by the choir and a few outside friends.

The presentation revealed Mr Robinson in a new light. His oratorical powers had never previously been known, but, since he has let the cat out of the bag, we may expect him to appear frequently on local public platforms.

Eloquence such as his ought not to remain hidden under a bushel. What a useful School Board member Mr Robinson would make!

Joking apart, Mr Robinson made a neat little speech in accepting the presentation, which he so well deserved. He has been a model "Father of the Choir."

As a glance at our advertising columns will reveal, Stanley people are shortly to be treated to a fortnight's debate respecting the merits of Christianity and Secularism. I offer no comment as to the usefulness or otherwise of these discussions, but I quite anticipate crowded houses on every occasion.

Councillors Jonathan Green, J.P., and T. W. W. Ritson, have agreed to preside over the discussion, each gentleman taking two nights.

Inquests, like misfortunes, appear to come not singly, but in battalions. Seven inquiries have been conducted by Mr John Graham during the past two months in Stanley and the immediate district.

THE PROPOSED RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION.

The ratepayers of Dipton and Annfield Plain are taking a very proper and commendable step in considering the formation of a Ratepayers' Protection Association. Providence helps those who help themselves, and if the ratepayers show lack of attention to their own interests, they may rest assured that those interests will suffer thereby. As was clearly pointed out by Messrs Strawbridge and Murray at the initiatory meeting last week, the Association will not come into existence merely for the purpose of disputing with the local authorities, but with the honest intention of attending to the interests of the whole of the ratepayers in the district. With such gentlemen as Messrs Wm. Rutherford, G. Murray, T. Bowes, G. Strawbridge, and J. Phillipson connected with it, the Association should have a useful career ahead.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

PRESENTATION.—On Saturday evening, the managers and workmen of the Derwent Flour Mills met in the Board Room, when Mr Wm. Telford, on behalf of the managers, presented a silver tea set, and Mr R. Hall, on behalf of the workmen, presented a marble timepiece, suitably inscribed, to Mr William Robson, on the occasion of his marriage. A silver brooch was presented to Miss Wilson, the bride-elect. Mr Robson feelingly responded.

SOUTH MOOR.

SCIENCE CLASS.—Thirty students were enrolled, last Thursday, at the first lesson of the South Moor Science Classes. It is proposed to add classes for ambulances and French; the latter being in answer to a strong requisition.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—The following letter has been received by Mr J. G. Ridley from the Local Government Board with respect to the application of the Stanley District Council for sanction to borrow £2,350 for expenditure over sewage disposal at South Moor:—

SIR,—I am directed by the Local Government Board to state that they have had under consideration the report made by their inspector, Mr. Meade-King, after the inquiry held by him with reference to the application of the Urban District Council of Stanley for sanction to borrow £2,350 for the purpose of sewerage and sewage disposal.

The Board direct me to return to you the plans, and to state that they are advised that the superficial area of the filter beds should be increased to at least 200 square yards.

I am to request that the plans may be amended in this respect, and then returned to the Board, accompanied by an enlarged plan of the outfall works, and land, giving the levels and sizes of the various plots, and showing the position of the effluent pipe to the stream, together with a revised estimate in one of the forms enclosed for the purpose, of the cost of the scheme, and a copy of the agreement for the [illegible]urchasing of the land, which the Board [illegible] will show the actual price to be paid. [illegible] evised estimate of cost exceeds £2,350, [illegible] should be furnished with a copy of a [illegible] of the Urban District Council apply[illegible]on to the borrowing of the further [illegible]

[illegible] request that the District Council [illegible] holes to be sunk to a depth of [illegible] least three points on the land [illegible] sed for the disposal of sewage, [illegible] of ascertaining the nature of the [illegible] n of each trial hole should be [illegible] ered on the plan of the land, [illegible] s to the nature of the soil at [illegible] be communicated to the Board. [illegible] time to enquire whether all [illegible] have been obtained to the [illegible] of the stream at the sewage [illegible] ours respectfully,

S. B. PROVIS,
[illegible]y, Local Government Board.

TOW LAW MART.

The thirteenth annual prize show and sale of rams promoted by Mr Vickers was held on Saturday last. There was a large entry, and the day being very fine the sheep were shown in grand bloom. A large company of buyers and others assembled, and the saleyard and mart presented a very animated appearance. There was a spirited demand for Leicesters, but blackfaces met a very indifferent trade, with the exception of a few choice sheep. The first prize for Leicester rams was won by Mr J. E. Nicholson, Manor House, and the second prize was awarded to Mr Thornton, Tribley House, Chester-le-Street. The third card was secured by Mr P. Amos, Langton, Gainford. For best pair of Leicester tup lambs Mr Nicholson again secuaed first, Mr G. H. Atkinson, Greenwell, being second, Mr Beveridge and Mr Amos being commended. The judges were:—Mr W. J. Brown, Lowfield, Willington; Mr J. Dowson, Danby Castle, Yorkshire; and their awards gave entire satisfaction. Appended are the highest and average price of each lot:—

LEICESTER RAMS.

	Highest.	Average.
T Winter, Sherburn	£4 10 0	£3 7 6
J E Nicholson, Lanchester	6 0 0	4 9 0
Messrs Telfer, Newton High House	7 0 0	4 15 6
J Thornton Tribley	7 0 0	4 13 9
T A Stephenson, Newbiggen	4 7 6	3 12 0
H Stephenson, Flass	4 5 0	—
T Jackson, Bowlees	3 7 6	3 0 0
J G Johnson, Barnard Castle	3 5 0	3 2 6
G Beveridge, Wharnley Burn	3 10 0	—

LEICESTER LAMB RAMS.

	Highest.	Average.
G Beveridge, Wharnley Burn	£2 15 0	£1 18 0
W McLaren, Usworth	1 17 6	1 11 0
J E Nicholson, Lanchester	4 10 0	2 11 9
P Amos, Langton	3 0 0	2 0 7
J H Atkinson, Greenwell	3 2 6	2 0 0
W Heslop, Staindrop	2 10 0	1 13 0
S Harrison, Stobilee	2 5 0	1 15 0
R Innes, Burnhopside	2 0 0	1 13 0
T Elliott, Wolsingham	3 0 0	2 7 0
T Hodgson, Wolsingham	2 0 0	1 11 0
J H Dolphin, New Hall	3 6 0	2 13 0
R Whitfield, Dyke Nook	2 2 6	1 15 0
Emerson, Horsley Burn	2 17 6	2 17 6
H Stephenson, Flass	1 17 6	1 15 0
J Dowson, Newlands	1 17 6	1 17 6
J T Morton, Tow Law	1 17 6	1 15 0
J Ridley, Landieu	2 0 0	1 15 0
T Jackson, Bowlees	2 7 6	2 2 6
C Bainbridge, Leazes	2 12 6	

BLACK-FACED RAMS

made up to £11, that price being obtained for "Recorder," a three shear ram, well-known in the North of England as a celebrated prize-winner at all the leading shows, and for which a spirited competition was evoked, Mr Swan, of the Riding, Bellingham, becoming the purchaser. Other rams from Mr Vickers made from £3 to £6 15s. For lamb rams from the same gentleman £1 17s 6d was reached. Shearlings from Mr T. A. Stephenson, Newbiggen, made up to £4 2s 6d. Lamb rams from Mr W. Hall, Stanley, made up to £2 12s. Lambs were not a satisfactory sale in comparison with the quality submitted.

MARKETS.

BENFIELDSIDE, Sept. 27.—There were forward at this mart on Monday, 9 store cattle, 4 cows, 220 fat sheep and lambs, 75 keeping lambs, 3 calves, 5 horses and ponies, and other lots. The harvest being about over there was a better company present, and prices for most stock had a rising tendency, a better feeling prevailing. Prices:—Heifers: Messrs Graham, Whittonstall Hall Farm, £13 5s to £13 12s 6d; Mr G. Graham, Kipper Lynn, £10 17s 6d to £13 5s; P. Brown, Medomsley Edge, to £12; the Rev. Father Magill, The Brooms, £12 7s 6d to £12 17s 6d; L. Hunter, cows, £9 to £12 12s 6d; bullocks, H. Oliver, £9 10s to £11 5s, others £10 7s 6d to £13 5s, calves, 13s to £4 3s; stores, £5 15s to £6 10s. Sheep: Messrs Graham, to 39s, lambs, 24s 6d; Mr G. Graham, sheep to 40s, lambs to 29s; G. and W. Taylor, lambs to 30s, sheep 32s 6d; Mr Jas. Angus, lambs 26s 6d, Scotch ewes 22s 6d; Mr W. Potts, sheep to 37s 6d; Mr Willey, sheep to 37s; Mr Johnson, 34s 6d; H. Oliver, 38s; J. Teasdale, 37s; M. Anderson, lambs to 28s; J. A. K. Falconer, sheep 35s; J. Carr, lambs 25s 6d. Keeping lambs to 21s 6d; Scotch tups to 40s.

LANCHESTER STOCK MART COMPANY, LIMITED.—There were forward at this special sale on Wednesday last, 12 rams, 25 ram lambs, and 250 keeping sheep of all classes. Rams from J. Turnbull, to £2 12s 6d; from Manor House, to £3 7s 6d; ram lambs from Wharnley Burn to 35s; from Manor House to £4 5s; mule shearling gimmers to 34s 6d; mule ewes to 28s; mule lambs to 22s. There was a good company present, and sheep of quality was a fair trade.

TOW LAW, Sept. 27.—Mr Vickers had forward 62 dairy cows and heifers, 15 fat cattle, 5 store cattle, 8 calves, 115 fat sheep and lambs. Dairy cows made up to £19 5s; fat cattle to £15; fat kyloe heifers to £13, from the Rev. A. D. Shafto, Brancepeth; store cattle to £9; finger calves to 31s. Fat mule lambs to 27s 9d, top Mr M. Button, Wooley; fat blackfaced ewes to 25s 6d, from Tunstall House.

CHESTER-LE-STREET, Sept. 27.—Mr James Turnbull held a special sale of grazing cattle and lambs on Monday last, in conjunction with the usual fortnightly sale of fat stock, milch cows, &c., and had forward 12 fat cattle, 4 calves, 15 incalving and new calved cows, 250 fat sheep and lambs, 120 SH grazing steers and heifers, 1½ to 2½ years old, 15 blue-grey Galloway heifers, 2 years old, 40 cross-Oxford and black-faced lambs, 16 three-quarter-bred lambs, &c. There was a large attendance of butchers, dealers, and farmers. Trade for milch cows was much better, and a clearance was easily effected at rising prices. Top £20 15s, Mr R. Walker, High Grange. Fat stock, both sheep and cattle, a dull trade. The quantity of sheep was nearly double the entered number, and buyers were short on that account. The business for grazing cattle was animated, and a good clearance easily effected, although the number of buyers present was not so good as usual. Prices as follows: Fat cattle: Heifers to £17, top Mr W R Liddell, Urpeth South Farm; bullocks to £17 2s 6d, top from the north; fat cows to £17, top Mr Thomas Howdon, Pockerley Farm, Beamish. Fat lambs to 32s 6d, top The Birtley Iron Company; fat shearlings to 46s 6d, top Mr Thomas Wilkinson, New Acre Farm, Burnhope; fat ewes to 40s, top the Earl of Durham. Grazing stock—Prices: Oxford lambs to 24s, and black-faced lambs to 8s, off Waldridge Old Hall. Grazing cattle: SH heifers to £13 10s from The Cedars, Low Fell; South Whitwell, heifers, to £5 15s; Bleach Green and The Ford, heifers, to £10 10s; Weardale, SH heifers, to £11 5s, blue-grey heifers to £10 10s; The Linnolds, SH heifers, to £12; Harbour House, SH heifers, to £11 7s 6d; Low Side, SH heifers to £10 10s, polled bullocks to £10 7s 6d; Beamish, bullock and heifer stirks to £7 15s; High Butterby, bullocks, to £10 15s; Whitwell East House, heifers, to £5 10s; Beamish, bullocks, to £11 10s, heifers to £12 7s 6d. The next grazing sale for cattle, ewes, and lambs will be on Thursday, October 14th.

CONSETT.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.—From to-day (Friday), the 11.15 a.m. train from Blackhill to Newcastle, will leave five minutes later. The 2.30 p.m. train from Newcastle to Blackhill, and the 7.40 p.m. train from Blackhill to Newcastle, have been discontinued.

WEDDING.—On Saturday, the wedding took place in the Blenheim Street Wesleyan Chapel, Newcastle, of Mr George A. Cockburn, third son of Mr J. Cockburn, Consett, to Miss Elizabeth Brodie, only daughter of the late Mr Adam Brodie, of Consett. The interesting ceremony was performed by the Rev. A. E. Salmon, in the presence of a large company of well-wishers.

AMBULANCE CLASS.—On Thursday evening, the following students of the Ambulance Class connected with Delves Colliery, were presented with their certificates:—Richard Boustead, Henry Bainbridge, Robert Burrell, John Cain, Matthew Conroy, Joseph Ellis, William Maughan, William Mills, Thomas Piggins, John E. Sisterson, William Spedding, Charles F. Scott, Robert Turnbull, Joseph Todd, James Wharton, Henry Watson, James White, James Williams, Joseph Watson, Robert Young, P.C. William Bradley, P.C. Thomas Carruthers, and P.C. Frank Warrick. The above class was instructed by Dr. Bratton. It is the intention of the students to continue the classes this winter, commencing in November.

PRIVATE ASSEMBLY.—The first social gathering of the season was held on Monday evening, at the Masonic Hall. The venture is a new one, but the Secretary, Mr Joseph P. Murray, has every hope of success. The gentlemen forming the Committee—Messrs W. Redshaw, A. Burnhope, H. Wood, I. Williamson, J. Robinson, C. Prior, H. Rawes, and T. Foster—used every endeavour to make the arrangements as complete as possible, and the attendance at the first assembly was certainly most encouraging. The company included, among others, the Misses Wilson, Armstrong, Charlton, Laidley, Wade, Suddes, Cawthorne, Watson, Wake, Redshaw, Hewitt, Grainger, Little, English, Williamson, Burnhope, Worth, Harrison, Davison, Newbigin, and Cowen; Mr and Mrs M. Holsday: Mr, Mrs, and Miss Coltman; and Messrs F. Judge, J. Hamilton, W. McFeggan, W. Redshaw, Marshall, J. Hineson, J. Suddes, Maxwell, J. Murray, C. Prior, E. Surtees, J. Robinson, S. Aynsley, H. Dawson, T. Foster, H. Rawes, R. Rowe, I. Williamson, A. Burnhope, A. Lowdon, P. Neasham, T. Hardy, W. Rawes, E. Rawes, T. Keenleyside, and J. Hamblin. The M.C. for the evening were Messrs H. Wood and H. Rawes. The music was contributed by Mr J. R. Wood, at the pianoforte, and the refreshments were provided by Mr G. Dryden. It has been decided to hold the gatherings every week, for at any rate a month.

LETTERS to the EDITOR.

As it is desired to make the *Consett Chronicle* a medium for intelligent discussion to its readers, Correspondence is invited from all who have useful information to communicate. But contributors must distinctly understand that all communications sent will be subject to the Editor's revision, and that all statements of a personal, offensive, or impolite character will be unhesitatingly expunged. Correspondents should always criticise the actions or the practice complained of, and not the person whom they consider to be at fault. Communications from working men on matters of public interest are frequently the most valuable, and Correspondence of this class is especially invited. The Editor will most willingly revise the letters of those who favour him with their contributions. The name and address of the writer must accompany all communications. These will not be given where the writer does not wish his identity to be known; nor will they, in any case, or under any circumstances whatever, be given to inquirers. Correspondents replying to letters which have appeared in the *Chronicle*, bearing the names and addresses of the writers, are expected to do so over their *bona-fide* names.

Letters ought to be forwarded as early in the week as possible. Communications of this description will be received up to nine o'clock on Wednesday morning, but on no account can they be inserted if sent after this hour.

AN INQUIRY.

SIR,—I should like to ask, through the medium of your valuable paper, when the Whickham Urban Council intend to do anything to the Busty Bank road, leading to Rowlands Gill Station from Burnopfield? It is in a most dangerous condition; and now that the dark nights are almost upon us, the danger will be considerably increased, unless something is done immediately. Surely the Council will not let this—one of the chief highways in the neighbourhood—remain in its present state any longer; if they do, it only remains for those who have to regularly use it, to appeal to some higher authority.—Yours &c.,

B. C. BARKUS.

Burnopfield.

STANLEY.

DURHAM LIGHT INFANTRY.—The fourth annual competition in connection with the R Company, 4th V.B.D.L.I. is to be held on Saturday, October 16th, at the Tanfield Lea Range, when the events set for decision include the Tradesmen's Cup, Officers' Handicap, Officers' Special Prize, and other extra events.

SOCIAL.—A social evening was held in the Methodist Free Church, on Saturday evening last, when an excellent repast was enjoyed by a good company. The tables were presided over by Miss Crosley, Miss Woodley, Miss Rodham, assisted by Mrs Hutchinson, and Mrs Curry. Subsequently, a pleasant evening was spent in singing, music, &c.

ACCIDENT.—About eleven o'clock on Saturday morning, an accident occurred at the old pit, Louisa colliery, by which two cages were twisted, one having the bottom knocked out. The skeats were also twisted, and some damage done to the bunting. Mr William Welsh, engineer, Mr M. Proudlock, shaftman, and a staff of workmen were quickly in attendance, but some twenty-four hours' labour was necessary ere all was in order again.

BAND OF HOPE DEMONSTRATION.—A grand procession took place on Saturday afternoon in connection with the Jubilee celebration of the Band of Hope movement, Sunday School scholars being present from the United Methodist Free Churches, Wesleyan, Lintz and Gibside Wesleyan Sunday Schools. Afterwards a free tea was given to about 350 children. A public meeting was held in the evening, under the presidency of Mr F. Haughan, when addresses were delivered by Mr Guy Hayles, of Newcastle, and Mrs Bambrough, of Swalwell. It may be mentioned that the newly-formed Temperance Band headed the afternoon procession, with lively strains of music.

PRIMITIVE METHODISM.—In connection with the harvest festival services at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, a grand fruit banquet and concert was held in the chapel, on Monday evening. The Co-operative String Band, consisting of Messrs J. Moody, piano; W. Forster, flute; Collins, euphonium; M. Simpson, first violin; W. Johnson, Barnes, and S. O. Else, violins; Ward, cornet; J. Pattison, bass; and Simpson, 'cello;—were in attendance, and rendered a series of pleasing selections. Miss Reid, of South Shields, delighted the audience with her sweet soprano voice; and Mr Lowther, of Grange Villa, quite captivated all present by his skill with the violin. Solos were also given by Miss Todd, of Jarrow; Miss Craggs of Grange Villa; and Miss Armstrong, of White-le-Head. At the conclusion of the concert, an adjournment was made to the schoolroom, where the Rev. W. Gelly sold the remnant of fruit &c. by auction.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST HARVEST FESTIVAL.—Harvest Festival Services were held at the Primitive Methodist chapel on Sunday, the preachers being the Rev. D. Kyles, of Annfield Plain, in the morning, and the Rev. Wm. Gelley, resident minister, in the evening. The sacred edifice was beautifully decorated for the occasion, with a profusion of fruit, flowers, corn, heather, &c., daintily arranged by Mrs Newton, Mrs Iley, Mrs Clough, Mrs Reayer, Mrs I. Newton, Miss Newton, Miss Gelley, Miss Armstrong, Miss Brown, Miss Clough, Miss Dixon, and Miss Iley; assisted by Mr Lindow, Mr W Gelley, Mr Sutcliffe, Mr Newton, Mr J Newton, Mr T Rowe, Mr Geo Sanderson, Mr W Reayer, Mr T Price, Mr F Mawstre, Mr Jos Clough, Mr Legg, Mr G Clough, Mr Brown, Mr Buglass, Mr A Pearson, Mr E Hawes, and many others. A service of song entitled "White unto Harvest" was rendered in the afternoon by the choir to a large audience. Mr Robert Pearson officiated as conductor, and the connective readings were given by the Rev. D. Kyles. Mr Bloomfield presided at the organ. Solos were acceptably rendered by Mr Clemens and Miss Newton. The congregations were exceedingly large, particularly at the evening service.

"QUEEN'S EVIDENCE AT THE THEATRE.—It is some time since Stanleyites have had the chance of seeing anything to equal "Queen's Evidence," the startling drama of Messrs. Conquest and Pettitt, which this week has been staged at the Victoria. The scenery is pretty, especially in the second act; and the piece goes pleasantly from the rising of the curtain to the final fall thereof at the ultimate defeat of villianous plans, and the triumph of justice. Some very original characters are introduced; amongst the chief being Jonas Levant, otherwise Isaacs, and Joe, the lock-keeper. Mr Herbert Williams delights everybody by his representation of Jonas. Villany seems to be his ruling passion, but ultimately he turns "Queen's Evidence," and settles everything in the orthodox fashion. Mr A. Wellesley takes the role of Joe very capably. Mr Stuart Cleveland fills the role of the villain, Matthew Thornton, with the efficiency expected from an artiste of his repute; and Mr Edward Lloyd shines as the manly Philip Stanfield. Mr Sydney Dench makes an ideal gentleman of the old school; and Miss Dora Dench is very pleasing as "Arthur." Miss Eilleen Ray and Miss Emma Litchfield take the two leading female characters with great success.

FUNERAL OF MR. JAMES BEWICKE.—On Sunday afternoon, the remains of Mr James Bewicke, of High Street, Stanley, were interred in St. Andrew's Cemetery, the burial service being conducted by the Rev. D. W. James, in the presence of some 300 mourners and friends. The Wesleyan choir sang a burial hymn outside deceased's residence prior to the body being conveyed to the cemetary, and prayer was offered by Mr Joseph Brown. The West Stanley Colliery Banner was carried at the head of the procession, and following it came the Free Methodist Band playing the mournful "Dead March." Messrs Robert Harrison and Issac Wilkinson acted as bidders and the underbearers were Messrs Abel Hutton, George Palmer, George Fryer, Matthew Pescod, A. Miller, Terence Tully, John Robson, and John York. The ladies marching at the head of the procession were Miss Benfold and Miss Crozier, and the waiters at the subsequent tea were Mrs Benfold, Mrs Lightle, Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Elliott, and Mrs Maddison of Cornforth. A number of wreaths and flowers were sent, and amongst those present at the graveside were Mr William Indian, representative of the Men's Union, and Mr Wm. Rosby, cashier to the owners of the West Stanley Colliery.

Late Advertisements.

CHESTER-LE-STREET AUCTION MART.

THE SECOND SPECIAL SALE of DRAFT EWES and GIMMERS, KEEPING LAMBS, all classes, GRAZING CATTLE, YOUNG BULLS, &c., will be held on THURSDAY, October 14th, 1897.

Entries are respectfully invited and solicited, which should be forwarded by Thursday before sale at latest, to ensure due publicity.

JAS. TURNBULL, Auctioneer and Valuer.

CHESTER-LE-STREET AUCTION MART.

THE NORTH DURHAM AND DISTRICT TENTH ANNUAL FOAL SHOW, and SALE of YOUNG HORSES, will be held on Wednesday, October 6th, 1897. Present Entries comprise about

120 FOALS, YOUNG HORSES, & BROOD MARES; and
10 PEDIGREE SHETLAND MARE PONIES, from 1 to 5 years old, 9 to 11 hands high.
14 Draught Foals, Colts, and Fillies.
40 Draught Colts and Fillies, rising 2 and 3 years old.
17 Draught Horses, up to 6 years old.
10 Draught and Three-parts Bred Brood Mares up to 10 years old.
10 Half and Three-parts Bred Foals, Colts, and Fillies.
12 Half and Three-parts Bred Colts and Fillies, 2 and 3 years old.
17 Half and Three-parts Bred Horses up to 6 years old.

Judging at 10 A.M. Sale immediately after, about 10.45 A.M.

The above are really a Select Lot of Animals, and are consigned direct from the Breeders, including The Most Noble THE MARQUIS OF LONDONDERRY, Messrs JOICEY & Co., MINTO COAL BANKS, TURNBULL BROS., and others, and are principally bred from Prize Winning Stock. Numerous prizes have been taken during the last few years at the principal Shows in Northumberland, Durham, and Yorkshire, by stock sold at this Sale.

JAMES TURNBULL, Auctioneer.

NOTES FROM BEAMISH.

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT].

The customary Dance generally held in Beamish Co-operative Society's Hall, took place last Saturday night. The change from Wednesday to Saturday has not been altogether the success which was anticipated. Perhaps the clashing of the Dance in connection with the Beamish Rifle Corps, was mainly responsible for the small attendance.

It is gratifying to record the success which attended the members of the Beamish Rifle Company, at the resumption of the annual prize shooting, on the Kepier Rifle Range, Durham, last Saturday afternoon. In Lieutenant-Colonel Cook's Competition Cup, valued £10, and £5 in cash, there were 54 competitors. Private Stephenson was the winner of the Cup, together with £2, with scores of 22, 22—44. Sergeant Grundy was second, with scores of 23, 21—44, and secured £1. Private Pattinson also obtained 10s, whilst Privates Lockey, Potts, Eland, Atkin, and Wilby were also recipients of cash prizes in Colonel Cook's Competition. Privates Scott and Rose tied, with 38 points each, for the recruits' prizes, given by the Adjutant, in which there were 42 competitors. On firing shot for shot, Scott scored two to his opponents' nil, and carried away an elaborate opera glass. In a Gold Medal Competition for the best aggregate scores, Sergeant Grundy was a good second with 161, to the successful marksman's 163. Beamish people have every reason to be proud of their citizen soldiers.

TEMPERANCE MEETING AT CHESTER-LE-STREET.

On Sunday evening, a gospel temperance meeting was held in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Chester-le-Street, in connection with the Jubilee celebration of the Band of Hope (Gateshead District). The chair was taken by the Rev. R. Crookhall (Congregational), who was supported by Mr Hanks (Newcastle), Mr Whitehead (Newcastle), and Mr George Tomlinson, of the United Kingdom Allisance.

The CHAIRMAN said that they had met for the purpose of helping on the Band of Hope movement. They felt that it was their duty to guard the children against the evils of the day, and the greatest of the world's evils had most assuredly been that of drunkenness. He trusted that in the celebration of the jubilee of this movement, the workers generally might be stimulated to greater energy, and so accomplish even greater results.

Mr HANKS observed that they all believed in prevention in preference to cure. It was because they were so anxious about the children that they asked for the hearty co-operation of Christian workers. If there were any moderate drinkers present, he should like to speak a kindly word to them. Some people said that there was no harm in taking drink in moderation. The moderate drinker said that he did not encourage drunkenness. They were told in the Bible to "Have no fellowship with the untruthful works of darkness." He asked them when they lifted the glass to their lips to drink, did not their action declare them to be believers in the drink? They could not be neutral on this subject. In the Newcastle Free Library, the other day, he noticed the words in large print, "Have clean hands, please." That was what was required in their Churches to-day on this question of intemperance. Dealing with statistics, the speaker said that out of 2,000 prisoners who had been confined in Leeds gaol, no fewer than 1,400 had been Sunday School scholars. Their great army of fallen women were brought to their ruin mainly through drink. Out of 421 of these poor creatures in one of the homes for fallen women, 311 had been taught in the Sunday School. There were many people in their Churches who would have the drink because they said that it did them good. Were they their brother's keeper? He replied that they could not live to themselves. As a matter of pure Christian duty, they were called upon to become total abstainers. If every so-called Christian made this a question of prayer with his God, their determination as regards the drink would be to "Touch not, and taste not."

Mr WHITEHEAD then briefly addressed the meeting, urging all Christian workers to support the Temperance cause, and dealing with the responsibility of young life in relation to this question.

Mr GEO. TOMLINSON said that there were two heaps in the world. One was the heap of misery, and the other was the heap of happiness. He was trying in a humble way to take from the heap of misery and put more on to the heap of happiness. What heap did they stand on? In the work for God, they needed to exercise their common sense. How did God deal with evil? By prohibition and prevention. If they were to be co-workers with God, they must prohibit and prevent evil. He thought that the Primitives did not drink. In his early days, they did not even smoke. (Laughter). The great evangelist, Mr Moody, was once asked what kind of a Christian was he who smoked? Mr Moody's reply was, "I should call him a dirty one." He wished to know whether they were asking moderate drinkers to give up a necessity? Even if they were, if that necessity was productive of their brothers' downfall, there could be no doubt of what their course of action should be. Drink was not a necessity, but a luxury. Seven millions of people were living in various grades of life who were doing without it. In his earlier days, he had worked as a slum missionary. The sights that he had seen were appalling. They knew that Christ's command was, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me, for of such is the kingdom of Heaven." Which was it to be—the children or the drink? It was their duty, as parents, to abstain from this evil, and so set an example which their children could imitate, and by which they would learn to respect and revere their parents for the example which they had placed before them.

BIRTLEY.

Birtley Rising Rovers A.F.C. have all dates vacant, and would like them filled up as soon as possible with teams in and about Chester-le-Street. Age (14 to 15). Secretary, Thomas Bell, 1, Jones Street, Birtley.

THE PARISH CHURCH.—Arrangements are being made for the holding of a two days' bazaar in November, to raise funds for the new organ and church improvements. The support of the Birtley church people is sure to be forthcoming for this worthy object.

HAMSTERLEY COLLIERY.

LAD POISONED WITH CARBOLIC ACID.—On Friday last, a boy, named Stephen Cawthorne, aged only seven years, the son of Joseph Cawthorne, miner, of Hamsterley Colliery, met with a very painful death. The child had been ailing for about three weeks, and was receiving medical attention from Dr. Marshall, of Low Westwood. During Friday, he got hold of a bottle containing carbolic acid, which was kept in the house for disinfecting purposes. The lad drank a quantity of the poison, not being aware of its dangerous nature, and he died within a few hours, after suffering excruciating pain.—Mr Coroner Graham held an inquest, on Monday afternoon, when the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental poisoning.

LETTERS to the EDITOR.

CORNSAY RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION.

SIR,—Kindly again allow me to make a few remarks in answer to Mr Dobinson's letter of the 5th inst., wherein he draws my attention to your head-note, referring to instructions for correspondents.

I may state that I am not of that ambitious turn of mind as my friend, Mr Dobinson, my sole object being to protect the good intentions of the members of the Cornsay Ratepayers' Association, of which body I am also a member, and which has for its objects the discussion of parochial affairs in all fairness. The Association is composed of direct ratepayers of the parish, and, as a member, I can assure him that there is nothing that has been done by them that reflects adversely upon them. What I have done myself is not with any object of fee or reward. I have simply done my duty to my fellow-ratepayers.

Mr Dobinson speaks of my arguments as being too local. Allow me to remind him that the whole subject of controversy is "local." He commenced the correspondence himself, by chastising the Cornsay Ratepayers' Association in reference to matters not palatable to himself. I respect Mr Dobinson as a man, but, taking a subject for the public to read, he is void of the qualities of keeping to the point at issue. I have looked forward for his proofs in superabundance, but I fear they are wanting, as none have been supplied to the public for their judgment.

He states—"I myself, as a member of the Parish Council, lent my voice and vote to that part of our parish, prior to the very recent birth of that paragon of Associations, and helped to bring about the lighting of Cowsley Row." Again, what an outburst of charitable feeling there is latent in the system of this member of the Parish Council; what a luminary this Mr Dobinson must be, if his purse expressed the same liberalty as his voice and vote—what a state of perfection and exemplary character this Councillor would have attained to! But, Mr Editor, he may have in himself faith, but his charity profits him nothing. Therefore, this poor Councillor's voice and vote is to be compared to an empty vessel making but a big sound.

Again he speaks of the simple formalities there are to go through, respecting the valuation of the damages by the colliery companies, when the land is riddled and converted into rabbit warrens, and when the farmer receives large payments for such damage. I can only compare the formalities to the excruciating pain which the colliery manager experiences when he is taking a bird's eye view of the surface, mounted on his "Arab steed," to the extraction of a tooth by the village blacksmith, its after effects going hard with him. The vibration connected with this operation, therefore, must tell heavily upon the constitution of our friend, Mr Robinson. Again I say your mathematical calculations are at sea, not on land.

I could give a record from the year 1847 to the present year, which clearly points out the gradual reduction in the productions of the land; yet I do not for one moment attribute this reduction to the industries surrounding us. Neither do I give them credit for any addition to the moral, physical, or financial condition of the people of Cornsay. In fact, my experience speaks to the contrary.

I am happy to discover that the villagers of Cornsay may look forward to a broader light shining upon them. Perhaps the wise men from the East will favour us with a visit, as the "Star" will appear shortly in thankfulness, and in celebration of the third birthday of the Cornsay Ratepayers' Association.—Yours, &c.,

A CORNSAY RATEPAYER.

[This correspondence must now cease.—Ed. *C.C.*]

THE OATH QUESTION.

SIR,—I see "Ultra," to use a common phrase, has again put his foot in it. In his last he terms me a weak and unreliable scribe. Weak I admit I am, but I trust not so unreliable as "Ultra." He commenced this discussion by insinuating that Mr Nicholson had been guilty of inconsistent conduct in connection with taking the oath, inasmuch as he had on more than one occasion done so at Lanchester Sessions. He also implied that his (Mr Nicholson's) private life did not harmonise with the doctrine he advocated in public. Now, as Mr Nicholson gave a flat denial to those statements, and as "Ultra" so far has failed to contradict him, by his silence he practically admits he wrote that which was not true. He says that in my haste to justify my friends I have sunk my party by admitting that Mr Nicholson and Mr Cruddas had on a former occasion used *nom de plumes*. Well, as my only informant on this matter was "Ultra," my fault lies in taking for facts information received from such an unreliable source, and I sincerely ask their pardon if it was not true. If, on the other hand, they were the correspondents who signed themselves "Iconoclast" and "Truthseeker," what of it? Surely they committed no crime? I am sure none of the correspondents who write to this paper have ever complained of an opponent using a *nom de plume*. What they complained of was the dishonourable use "Ultra" made of his, for has he not used it as a bulwark behind which he cowardly crouches, shooting his poisoned darts of personal spite and prejudice? He says that the East Stanley residents have found amusement in perusing what he terms my contradictions, and that they think I shall be soundly thrashed by my confederates for sinking their ship. Well, some people are easily amused. I am sorry to rob them of any further pleasure they anticipate; for, as I have apologized, I shall no doubt escape the thrashing they thought I should get. As to my sinking the ship, I might say even the mighty pen of "Ultra" has so far failed to do that. In referring to the oath question, he says that the whole matter hinges on the being of a God. Well, as there are some people who have no faith in such a being, and can give sound reasons for their unbelief, as the passing of such a measure as the Affirmation Bill testifies, in refusing Mr Nicholson the right to affirm no one can deny that Mr Graham showed an unfair spirit. In fact, he has shown us that the old-fashioned Christian bigotry, which in past ages caused the slaughter of thousands of human beings, is still inherent in man, and would to-day, had it the power, rob men of what is justly theirs, namely, freedom of thought. On more than one occasion "Ultra" has shown an inclination to discuss the doctrine of evolution. Well, whatever his opinion may be on this subject, he cannot deny that the belief in evolution has been steadily gaining ground for some years. Less than fifty years ago Christians said it was degrading, blasphemous, and immoral to believe in it. Now we find such men as the late Professor Drummond Ridd, and the present Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Temple, all men of noted intelligence and professors of Christianity, joining the ranks of the evolutionists. He says the whole material position of the Atheists is one of blind failure, inasmuch as mystery environs their vision. I would ask if the Christian spiritual position is any better? If it is, why do we find all Christians who are educated rejecting the Old Testament? Is it because they find its pages so full of mystery that they cannot understand it? Or is it so contradictious that they have ceased to believe it? If the latter, to put it in "Ultra's" own words, they should of necessity cease to preach that which they don't believe. If, as he says, he is in possession of most of the Secularist literature, I would advise him to read it, and not rely so much on his own judgment. It might have a tendency to broaden his views, and so enable him to use sounder arguments. Towards the close of his letter he seems to have been seized with a fit of hysteria, for he raves about secularists in their last moment shriking with horror at meeting God, and winds up by urging them to cease what he terms their brazen-faced operations, or, he says, the consequences will be awful. Now, such language as this bears a striking resemblance to the pictures drawn by old-fashioned local preachers. Such pictures have been known to affect weak-minded, emotional people so strongly that in many cases it has caused what is known as religious mania, and persons so affected have committed all sorts of horrible crimes. But to-day the average preacher is much better educated, and in consequence their sermons are more rational and healthy. They calmly tell you they don't believe in a personal devil, and that there is no such place as a hell that burneth with fire and brimstone. Mr Editor, I think it would be imposing upon your good-natured forbearance to proceed any further with this matter. In conclusion I would urge "Ultra" to cease this unseemly wrangling until he can discern the difference between personal insults and sound arguments. Thanking you for past favours, I remain, yours, etc.

RICHARD TRELEASE.

4, Severs Building, East Stanley.

[Both sides having had their say, this correspondence must now close.—Ed., *C.C.*]

GAMBLING AND "PITCH AND TOSS."

SIR,—I am sure there are few well-meaning people, but who very much deplore the vast amount of gambling, either of one sort or another, in this day. Almost every good thing is marred and spoiled either by the custom of drink being associated with it, or gambling being mixed up with it. Good people who have any respect for themselves, or their families, must stand aloof from everything that bears the name of sports, or games. However, some good men may plead for out-door exercise. It is fast becoming next to impossible for a man to preserve his good name, and to keep his character pure and blameless, who mixes up with those exercises. There are so many who drift from bad to worse, until they are ruined! By looking over the court and police news in this district, it is evident that there is no small amount of gambling, as well as of drunkenness. And there ought to be some measures taken to save respectable families, and the youth more especially, from the demoralising and degrading contagion of these practices.

Sometimes a whole batch of coal miners and others, are brought from the surrounding villages in the district to the courts, for the objectionable practice of "Pitch and Toss," and other forms of gambling. The magistrates and the officers in some districts must perhaps keep a sharper look out than is done in some other districts. There is no law so defective and ineffective as the law on gambling. At Stockton-on-Tees, the professional and other gamblers have a large open yard rented by the riverside, close into the town, for gambling purposes. Here hundreds in broad daylight congregate together for the one purpose—to gamble. Men and women of all classes! How does it happen that they, under the very eyes of the police and magistrates, are let off this way? Can anybody say?

In Darlington, the open market-place and the public streets are the favourite haunts for professional bookmakers and the gambling classes. They carry on their demoralising trade six days in the week, and almost every hour in the day, under the eyes of the public; in the presence of the police; and under the shadow of the residences of some of the Justices of the Peace. Now how does it happen that in the two towns named there are such glaring exhibitions and practices of open-handed gambling? And there appears to be no remedy. And yet, in other districts, other classes of men can be hauled up by the half, or whole dozen, for apparently a trifling kind of gambling, while others go free to pursue their own way? There is no way of answering this question, but by the serious weakness and defectiveness of the law, or a deliberate conniving at the practice in some places, and a greater anxiety to punish the guilty parties in another place. The authorities now and again make a raid in some parts, to show that they are not absolutely asleep! There seems some inconsistency here, which is very difficult to explain. Of course, from our stand-point we condemn the principle and the practice of gambling out and out. And now, as it has entered so deeply into our national life, not a few good people are getting quite alarmed for the future of our youth.

The betting and gambling systems have always been pernicious and most demoralising, and they have been the ruin of thousands. There are many of our so-called sports which would not live out-of-doors for a day—no, not even in fine weather, if it were not for the rampant spirit and practice of gambling connected with them. The man must be blind who does not see this; and as the years come and go, the flood-tide of this spirit is increasing, and where shall it end? In disaster and ruin to not a few, I fear.

It is the most solemn and imperative duty of every man and woman, father and mother, minister and church officer, to raise a warning voice here, and do his best to check this rage for betting, and this sheer madness for gambling. Your sons and daughters will rise up some day to be a curse to you, instead of a blessing, if you do not help in some way or other to try to stamp out this destructive practice. The record of those ruined by this gambling is an awful one, and it is increasing. What dark tales we could tell of poor blighted men, women, and homes of some at this moment in penal servitude for a term of years, and not a few in the grave who ought to have been still occupying their honourable positions. Is there to be no end of this work in this land of ours?

If Old England, the land above all others which has been an example to other peoples of good things, has to take a second or fourth rank among the nations in the future, it will be mostly in consequence of the double curse with which we are so severely afflicted—the drinking and the gambling habits of the people. Here are two mill-stones hanging about the neck of the nation far more fearful than the eight hundred millions of National Debt. Now, as "the season" is setting in, let me ask young England to beware lest their hopes and fortunes are dashed to atoms.—Yours truly,

HUMANITY.

September 17th, 1897.

IS THE BIBLE TRUE?

SIR,—In your issue of September 24th you give a report of a lecture in the Stanley Wesleyan Chapel by Mr Reed, of Newcastle, on "Is the Bible true?" Having often admired the impartiality so generally displayed by your paper on controversial subjects between Secularists and Christians, I feel I can safely rely upon your permission to notice some of the statements made by the lecturer. But first let me state that the utterances are so characteristic of the person using them that I would not have deemed it necessary to trouble you, were it not that they might deceive some of your unsuspecting readers, many of whom, I know, take a keen interest in such matters. "Secularism," says Mr Reed, "like alcohol, goes to the brain, and if the Secularist has no brains it filled up the hollow places in his head." Prodigious thought! Now, I once heard Mr Reed publicly declare "that he had not brains enough to be a Secularist." So we can easily understand how the hollow places in his head have been filled up, causing him to have Secularism on the brain. Hence his inability to speak upon the Bible without raving about Secularism, which he says "has so decreased in Newcastle, that now the party have not even a hall they could call their own." But, unfortunately for Mr Reed, this is not true, so that he has only been parading his ignorance, or telling falsehoods. Having been officially connected with the Newcastle Secular Society for many years past, I can safely say that I have not known one Secularist to return to Christianity; and if Mr Reed can produce any converts from Secularism to Christianity, I can produce ten who have been won from Christianity to Secularism, for every one he can find. I can assure your readers that instead of the Secular Party decreasing, it is increasing; and I am pleased to be able to say that the Newcastle Society is in a better condition to-day than it has been for a number of years. As to our "not having a hall we can call our own," let me inform Mr Reed that we never had a hall we could call our own; but we are renting one, as we have always done when we require it; and should Mr Reed care to pay us a visit, which he will have ample opportunity of doing in the course of a week or two, we shall be very pleased to try and show him the error of his ways, and furthermore, we may probably teach him the meaning of the word "antiquated." In conclusion, let me say that many Secularists think the person little short of "a perfect idiot," who cannot see the absurdity of anyone "pretending to be honest" and pocketing £15,000 per year, and preaching "Blessed be ye poor." Should Mr Reed care to prove the truth of the Bible before a public audience, with equal time for a reply from Mr Cohen from the same platform, I shall be most pleased to arrange for the same, either in Newcastle or Stanley, or both places should he prefer it, any time between the 10th and 23rd of October.—Thanking you in anticipation, I am, yours &c.,

J. G. BARTRAM, Hon. Secretary,
Newcastle Secular Society,
117, Morley Street, Heaton, Newcastle.

RAILWAY TO TOW LAW.

DEAR SIR,—There is an agitation going on at present for a railway for passenger traffic between Crook and Waterhouses. I should like our Council to take the matter up, and try and get the line made by Tow Law. The line is made up to within three miles of Tow Law, and the other three miles could be made at very little cost. If the line is made to Crook direct, there will have to be some heavy cuttings, and very steep gradients entailing enormous cost. I trust that our Council will take up the question at once, because the more railways there are into a place, the better it is for trade. It might also be the means of restarting Hedley Hope Colliery, seeing that the railway would pass close to it. Trusting that something will be done in the matter.—Yours truly,

TOW LAWITE.

Tow Law, Sept. 25th, 1897.

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.

1862.

1 Jan., Dorothy, wife of Thomas Devonport, cokeburner, Burnopfield, aged 35.

4 Jan., Isabella, wife of Thomas Southeran, Flint Hill, aged 48.

4 Jan., Mary, widow of James Sanderson, wool dyer, Iveston, aged 60.

9 Jan., James Clark, Lanchester, aged 71.

9 Jan., Richard Davidson, aged 12, driver, killed in Beamish Air Pit, while hewing contrary to orders.

11 Jan., James Nesbitt, aged 39, miner, killed by a fall of stone in Andrew's House Pit.

12 Jan., William Soulsby, Upper Lintz, aged 43.

12 Jan., Thomas Godfrey, grocer, Hobson Hotel, aged 56.

13 Jan., Margaret, wife of Thomas Little, South Tanfield, aged 29.

14 Jan., Ann, widow of Robert Rowland, farmer, Castle Dene, aged 78.

16 Jan., Thomason, wife of Matthew Fairlamb, farmer, Peter's Bank, Kyo, aged 83.

16 Jan., Mary Larberry, Blackhill, aged 23.

17 Jan., James Woods, puddler, Blackhill, aged 20.

22 Jan., Sarah, widow of Felix McCartin, innkeeper, High Conside, aged 75.

22 Jan., William Thompson, greengrocer, Kyo, aged 63.

24 Jan., Gerald Reynolds, Lanchester, aged 51.

26 Jan., William Walker, Leadgate, aged 83.

26 Jan., Michael Finn, High Conside, aged 68.

5 Feb., Margaret, daughter of Charles Hodgson, Greencroft Cottages, aged 20.

5 Feb., Margaret Surtees, Blackhill, aged 53.

5 Feb., Richard Smith, Middle Gap, aged 66.

7 Feb., Elizabeth, wife of Murty Boland, Knitsley Cottage, aged 38.

7 Feb., Henry Starford, Annfield Plain, aged 23.

9 Feb., James, aged 3 years, son of Bridget Nelson, accidentally burnt to death at Blackhill.

11 Feb., Isaac Ledger, High Ewehurst Head, aged 63.

12 Feb., Mary Ann, wife of Matthew Laverick, railway gatekeeper, aged 62.

13 Feb., John Todd, master tailor, Annfield Plain, aged 83.

14 Feb., Ellen, wife of Thomas Turnbull, farmer, Moor Edge, Holmside, aged 52.

15 Feb., Thomas Spedding, labourer, Red House, Lanchester, accidentally shot.

16 Feb., Elizabeth, widow of Joseph Dale, gardener, Cornsay Alms Houses, aged 86.

17 Feb., William Rodgerson, sinker, Hanging Stone, aged 51.

26 Feb., Joseph Brown, breaksman, High Conside, aged 48.

28 Feb., George Smailes, onsetter, Tanfield, aged 24.

28 Feb., Henry O'Neil, High Conside, aged 75.

28 Feb., Barbara, widow of John Greener, overman, Burnhope Cottages, aged 54.

28 Feb., Ann, wife of Henry Kirtley, Clough Dene, aged 65.

1 March, Stephenson Irwin, Greencroft Cottages, aged 58.

1 March, John Watson, master boot and shoemaker, White-le-Head, aged 52.

3 March, Mary, wife of Matthew Hunter, master boot and shoemaker, Burnopfield, aged 72.

5 March, Mary, wife of Francis Duffy, Leadgate, aged 20.

6 March, John Mossom, aged 45, wagon-rider, South Moor, killed by being jambed between wagons on the South Moor Railway.

10 March, Isabella, widow of Christopher Watson, shaft maker, Blackhill, aged 82.

10 March, Edward Pattinson, trimmer, Leadgate, aged 83.

12 March, Mary, widow of William Fleming, farmer, Leadgate, aged 76.

12 March, Ann Toward, housekeeper, Lanchester, aged 63.

22 March, Andrew Hall, shepherd, Langley Moor, Langley, aged 73.

22 March, Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Nattress, farmer, Stone Foot Hill, Cornsay, aged 49.

23 March, Margaret, widow of Joseph Ainsley, Hill Top, Esh, aged 69.

23 March, William Burdon, Stobswoodhead, aged 46.

24 March, Jane Sarah, wife of Jonathan Postle, master grocer, Leadgate, aged 33.

24 March, James Smith, tailor, Lanchester, aged 74.

25 March, Thomas Thew Reed, farrier, Lanchester, aged 38.

26 March, John Charlton, aged 15, Blackhill, died from inhaling carbonic acid gas on a cinder heap.

26 March, Robert Coulthard, Castleside, aged 58.

27 March, William Maughan, Lintz Colliery, aged 64.

27 March, William Bourly, Lanchester, aged 47.

27 March, Mary, wife of Terence McCabe, Clough Dene, aged 55.

28 March, Eleanor, wife of William Scott, woodkeeper, Stuart Field Lodge, aged 80.

31 March, Sarah, daughter of Lindsay Smith, farmer, Catchgate, aged 46.

31 March, Michael Correy, High Conside, aged 20.

FATALITY AT LEADGATE.

THE INQUEST.

A shocking fatality occurred at the Eden Colliery, Redwell Hills, Leadgate, on Friday morning, at about 11 o'clock, when an engineer, named William Brown, met his death by a fall down the shaft. The circumstances are fully detailed below, and it need only be stated, in addition, that the affair created a very painful sensation in the district when the details became known. The deceased was single, and lived with his widowed mother, at West Parade, Consett, his father having died only about nine months ago. He was very well known in the district, and sincere sorrow and regret is felt for his shocking, sudden death. Deceased was a member of the Constance Lodge of Freemasons. He was respected by all who knew him.

Mr Coroner Graham held the inquiry, on Saturday afternoon, at the Consett Police Station, when Mr Coltman was chosen foreman of the jury. Mr Walker, Government Inspector of Mines, was present.

Mr C. F. Scott, manager, produced sectional drawings of the pit and of the shaft in which the deceased met with the accident.

Mr James Skelton said he was an enginewright, and lived at 2, Delves Lane, Consett. The deceased was his brother-in-law, and was a colliery engineer. The place where he was most employed was in the Eden Pit, which belonged to the Consett Iron Company. Deceased was 36 years of age last birthday. Witness knew that on the 24th of September he met with an accident in the pit. Witness was not there at the time, but saw the deceased when he was brought home to his mother's house, 6, West Parade, Consett. On going into the room to see him, witness spoke, and deceased muttered something in reply, but he could not make out what it was he said. Brown had spoken before witness saw him. He was asked if he would go to the Infirmary, and he replied that he would not, but he made no reference to the accident. The deceased's left leg seemed to be broken in two places, and there was a fracture of the skull.—Witness had been speaking with great emotion, and Coroner Graham said: I think I need not ask you anything more. It is bad enough for you.

Robert Irwin next gave evidence. He said he was on-setter at Eden Pit, and lived at Leadgate. It was his duty to give signals to move the cages. There was no one allowed to touch the signals but himself, and he was always at his post except during "bait" times. On Friday morning, he was at the main coal seam, hanging-on. Some workmen came to ride—there were eight of them. He sent them up to bank in rotation—four on each cage, making two trips. He heard Brown's voice from the Hutton Seam, which was nearly six fathoms above where witness was. Brown shouted for the cage to go to bank.

The Coroner: At the time he shouted, what about the eight men?

Witness: He shouted just as my last lot were going.

Was it your duty to send these men to bank first?—It is customary to do so.

Then, after the second cage was drawn, what signal did you give?—I signalled to stop at the Hutton Seam, and told Brown to get in.

Can you tell, from where you are, when the cage is at the seam?—Yes.

Did you see it stop there?—Yes. I saw it standing.

What did you shout to Brown?—I shouted "Get in."

Was it then empty, or was there anyone in it?—It was empty.

You could not see Brown, of course?—No.

Did you hear any footsteps on the bottom of the cage?—Yes. I heard footsteps.

Were they the footsteps of one man or two?—Of one man.

Did you hear someone shout?—I heard Brown shout "All right!"

You know his voice?—Yes, well.

What did you do then?—I signalled to send the cage away to bank.

What happened next?—I heard someone shout "Oh, dear!"

How long was that after the cage had started?—Just a few moments, and I immediately rapped "Hold!"

How far do you think the cage had gone up the shaft before it stopped?—Only fourteen feet. I heard a slight knocking, and then I saw Brown fall.

Did he pass you in his falling?—No, he fell right in the centre of the cage-hole. I was on the same level.

Then he fell at your feet?—About four feet from me.

You then got help?—Yes. The back overman and Bainbridge came, and he was taken home.

You examined the place afterwards?—Yes, and I found no mark except at the cap head, as if the dirt had been rubbed off.

What did you suspect?—I suspected that he must have slipped in the cage.

You mean that in getting into the cage he had slipped, and part of his body had stuck out?—In my opinion, he slipped in the cage, and some part of him must have caught this cap head.

And then he would be dragged out?—Yes.

About the shape of this cage—is it open at the top?—No, it is closed.

Is it closed at the side?—On two sides it is closed part of the way up, with bars across the upper part; and at the other two sides there is just a bar.

If a man slipped his footing, he could easily meet with this accident?—Yes.

Mr Scott: The bars are there for him to hold on to.

The Coroner (to witness): Hadn't the deceased a pair of new boots on?

Witness: Yes.

And the leather would be apt to be slippery?—Yes.

And the cage bottom would be rather dirty and greasy, perhaps?—Yes.

How long have you been on-setter at this pit?—Fifteen years.

Your arrangements have always been the same?—Yes.

Witness added that nothing similar to this accident had ever previously happened. There was no special on-setter for the Hutton coal seam.

Mr Walker: How do you regulate the number of men who get in the cage at that seam?

Witness: They regulate themselves. The rules are hanging up, and the men know that only four men can ride at a time.

The Foreman of the Jury: Is it not a fact that a man fell down this place two years ago?

Mr Scott: A man fell down, but was not much hurt.

The Coroner: Still, it was a fall.

John Bainbridge, of Durham Road, Leadgate, said he had worked in the pit for 29 years. He was in the overman's cabin on Friday morning, and heard somebody shout down to the on-setter. It was William Brown who shouted, and he said "Ride us, Bob." Witness knew that some men rode from the bottom seam to the bank, and after the two cages had gone up, the third called for Brown. The on-setter shouted "Get in," and Brown shouted "Right." Witness was at the seam where Brown got in, but did not see him enter the cage.

The Coroner: But having said "Right," you would suppose he was in?

Witness: Yes.

Men do not say "Right" until they are in?—No.

You heard the signals to draw away?—Yes.

What did you hear next after the cage went up?—I heard a sound as if the cage was scratching something, and I heard something go down to the bottom. I looked out, and saw a body on the ground, which was that of deceased, and heard a groan.

John Davison, back-overman, living at Church Square, Leadgate, said he was in the Hutton seam of the Eden Pit when this accident occurred. He was about 15 yards away from the shaft, and heard Brown go down to the shaft, and say "Ride us, Bob," to the on-setter. Witness's attention after that was otherwise engaged until he heard Bainbridge calling him. He then went down to the main coal seam of the shaft bottom, by the drift. Brown had been moved from the cage-hole, and witness took him to the bank, and sent him home.

The Coroner: I think you then examined the shaft?

Witness: I did; and I took the on-setter with me.

What did you find?—Only one mark in the cap-head.

Was it such as has been described—a mark as if the dirt had been rubbed off?—Yes, it appeared as if the dirt had been scrubbed off.

What opinion, if any, have you formed as to the cause of the accident?—My opinion is, sir, that deceased slipped when the cage moved away. I think he would be sitting with his back to the centre of the shaft. His coat and waistcoat was dirty on one side, and I think he must have slipped and been caught by his left arm.

You think he slipped while in a sitting position?—Yes; and I think he must have caught hold of the cage by his hands.

He would hold on a little bit?—Yes.

And then would the cap-head catch him, and knock him off?—Yes.

That is your idea of the accident?—Yes.

Everything else was in order in the shaft?—Yes.

Mr Walker: You know the special rules?

Witness: Yes.

And you know that the on-setter must regulate the number of persons getting into the cage?—Yes.

How can he do that if he is not at the seam?—He can see up the shaft. You can see from the main coal seam to the Hutton seam.

The Coroner: I suppose that is all the evidence. Is there any other question that occurs to you, Mr Walker?

Mr Walker: No, I don't think so.

The Coroner: Do you think we have got all we can expect to get?

Mr Walker: Yes.

The Coroner: There is no doubt as to the cause of the accident, or as to how it happened. Are you satisfied, Mr Skelton?

Mr Skelton: Yes, I am satisfied.

The Coroner: What the last witness has said really seems the solution of it. It is very regrettable that this should have happened. We can say nothing about it, I think, in the way of fault-finding or suggestion. The cage ends must be left open. It is a very sad accident, and one very much to be deplored.—Mr Graham then entered a verdict that deceased "Died from fatal injuries, accidentally caused, within three hours, by falling out of a cage whilst ascending the Eden Pit, at the end of his underground inspection as colliery engineer.—The jury manifested the greatest sympathy during the inquiry.

THE FUNERAL.

The funeral took place on Monday afternoon, amid every manifestation of sympathy by the townspeople of Consett, Blackhill, and Leadgate. The deceased had been in the district all his life, and had a wide circle of acquaintances. At two o'clock there was a large gathering in West Parade, Consett, where deceased had lived with his mother. The coffin was borne from the house, and the mourners assembled round it, while a hymn was sung, and prayer was offered. The coffin was then placed in the hearse, and the *cortege* wended its way to the Primitive Methodist Chapel, where the deceased had been a regular attendant. Here a brief service was conducted by the Rev. J. Raistrick, superintendent minister, Blackhill; the Rev. J. S. Nightingale, Consett; and the Rev. T. W. Durant (Baptist minister), Consett, who officiated throughout the ceremonies. The building was crowded, and a great number of the congregation were deeply touched. The coffin was afterwards again placed in the hearse, and a procession was formed, which was headed by the members of the Constance Lodge of Freemasons. As the *cortege* proceeded to Benfieldside Cemetery, the sight was most impressive, and it is believed that the funeral was the largest attended of any that have taken place in the district for some considerable time past. Many other mourners were waiting at the graveside. The chief mourners were Mrs Brown, deceased's mother; Mr William Skelton, and Mrs Skelton, brother-in-law and sister, and family; Mr and Mrs Stockton, brother-in-law and sister; Mr and Mrs R. Brown-Skelton; and Messrs [illegible] and Matthew Simpson, uncles of d[illegible] Freemasons present were Bros. [illegible] Christopher, G. T. Hyden, J. C[illegible] Burke, W. D. Robson, G. Pat[illegible] junr. (secretary), J. W. Dani[illegible] Brodie, T. Milner, J. Oli[illegible] J. A. Castle, W. S. Shell, G[illegible] Rawes, F. Coltman, E. Wyl[illegible] T. Bowes, E. and M. Millbu[illegible] J. Pescod, and Taylor (B[illegible] graveside, the Masonic [illegible] and moments quickly f[illegible] were:—Messrs C. F. S[illegible] Little, Arthur Hedley, [illegible] son, W. Morris, T. Tho[illegible] Cook, J. Davison, C. Fo[illegible] Lowes, J. F. Thompson, [illegible] Hogg, J. Winter, W. Co[illegible] J. Atkinson, W. Osborn[illegible] S. Sisterson, G. Fair[illegible] Brown, W. Gibson, Nathan Fawell, W. Keenleyside, J. Teasdale, G. Sawyer, G. Howard, J. and A. Cuthbertson, R. Walton, J. Fells, Arthur and T. Bird, and M. Fawell. The majority of the congregation of the Primitive Methodist Chapel were included in the assembly, while a great number were present from Leadgate. The bidders were Messrs Walton and Kelly, and the bearers were Messrs R. Turnbull, T. Walton, W. Hogan, J. Robinson, R. Tait, J. Allison, J. Anderson, and E. Surtees, all from the Bradley Colliery Shops, where deceased was mostly employed, and where he had years ago served his time. One beautiful wreath bore the following inscription:—"A token of esteem from the officials and workmen of the Bradley Colliery Shops." Another magnificent floral tribute was sent "With deepest sympathy from the officers and brethren of the Constance Lodge, No. 2,135." Other wreaths were inscribed:—"With deepest sympathy from Mrs Robinson and family, Tanfield Lea Farm," "With Mr and Mrs Watson's deepest sympathy," "With deepest sympathy from the members of the Reading and Recreation Rooms" (deceased had himself been a member since the rooms were opened), "In loving remembrance of William Brown, from Mr and Mrs Anderson, Leadgate," and "With sympathy from Mrs Hopper." The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mrs Christopher.

PRESENTATION AT OXHILL.

A concert was given in the Board School, Oxhill, on Saturday evening, in aid of the funds of the Oxhill Mission Church. During an interval in the programme, a presentation was made to Mr Joseph Robinson, late choirmaster, the gift taking the shape of a handsome marble timepiece supplied by Mr John Bates, and a gold ring supplied from Mr Castle's establishment. The timepiece bore the following appropriate inscription:—"Presented, together with a gold ring, to Councillor J. Robinson, by the Oxhill Church Choir and friends, as a token of their appreciation of his long and faithful service as choirmaster.—26th September, 1897."

The Rev. D. W. JAMES, who was applauded on rising, said that he had expected that evening to find a very small attendance, and when he came into the room, he was quite surprised to see such a large company, and more surprised still at the quality of the programme. They all liked to reward merit. When a person had been faithful for a long time, they wanted to show their appreciation. He was going to speak to them of one whom they had known into the teens of years, and whom they had found to be faithful, efficient, and just the right man. (Applause). He had done the whole of his work out of pure love for it. They were only going to mark the occasion very slightly. The gift they were making did not really represent their feelings. What they desired to do in making this little presentation was to show that they did appreciate his services as choirmaster at Oxhill Mission Church, and at the School before the Church was built. He would like to have made the presentation himself, but did not know that he could do it very gracefully, so he would ask Mrs James to perform the pleasing ceremony. (Applause).

Mrs JAMES, who was cordially received, said that she had not come to the concert expecting to be asked to make the presentation. She felt, however, very much pleasure in acceding to the request, and in presenting Mr Robinson with the clock and the ring. (Applause).

Mr JOSEPH ROBINSON, who was loudly applauded on rising, said that he was very well known at Oxhill—too well known for a speech to be expected from him. (Laughter). He thanked Mr James very much for the remarks he had made regarding him. He could assure them that all that he had done had been a labour of love to him. He thanked the donors of the magnificent present, and he could tell them that if he did not express what he felt, he felt a lot. It would remind him of many happy days that he had spent up at Oxhill. He was very pleased that his friend Mr Alfred Simpson was amongst them; he was quite sure that whatever Mr Simpson took in hand, he would carry through. He would conclude by thanking them for their kindness, and he assured them that he would view these presents with very grateful and pleasurable feelings. (Applause).

The concert itself was of a very high-class and successful character, and the audience was large and appreciative. Amongst those present were the Rev. D. W. James and Mrs James, Rev. C. H. Fleetwood, Messrs. James Welsh, Alexander Ledger, Lumley, Benfold, D. Ledger and others. The Rev. C. H. Fleetwood presided during the first part of the programme; after which the Vicar occupied the chair.

The programme opened with a pianoforte duet by Miss D. M. Welsh and Miss Arkles, which was pleasingly rendered. Mr Alf. Simpson, the present choirmaster, sang "The Pilot," and Miss Lilian Welsh sang "We had better bide a wee" in a very touching manner. Mr Wild took the audience by storm with "Poor Pa Paid;" and in response to an encore, he gave another comic song in enjoyable style. A violin duet by the Misses Benson deserved and received an encore; and Mr Tom Gibbon then favoured the audience with "Anchored." Miss Handy afterwards reciting "Rara Avis." Mr W. Collins amused everybody with "My wife's relations," and being encored, he showed that his abilities were not confined to comic singing by rendering "The old rustic bridge" very effectively. Messrs. Collins, junr., and Bell gave a violin duet in pleasing style; and the initial half of the programme was concluded by a delightful rendering of the duet "The Two Cousins" by Miss Welsh and Miss Dora May Welsh, two accomplished daughters of Mr William Welsh, of Holly Terrace. An encore was enthusiastically demanded, and responded to.

The second portion of the programme opened with another violin duet by the Misses Benson, which attracted the applause of all present. Mr R. D. Grundy, choirmaster at St. Andrew's, Stanley, was well received, and Miss Dora Welsh's comic singing, as usual, captivated everybody. Being encored, she gave "A thing she had never done before." Recitations were given by Mr Harris and Miss Handy, and Miss Lilian Welsh sang "I cannot very well say no" very acceptably. Messrs. Gibbon and Grundy sang the duet "The Larboard Watch;" and another selection by Mr Wild prove very taking. A violin duet by Messrs Collins and Bell brought the programme to a conclusion.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT WEST STANLEY.

Mr John Graham held an inquest, at the Police Station, West Stanley, on Saturday afternoon, touching the death of James Bewicke, coal-hewer, High Stanley, who was injured in the West Stanley Colliery, some three months ago, under circumstances then reported in the *Consett Chronicle*, and who died last Thursday evening, having been unable to resume work at any time since the accident occurred. Amongst those present at the inquiry were—Mr F. H. Burn, one of the owners of Stanley Colliery; Mr Walker, Government Inspector of Mines; and Mr William Indian, the men's representative.—Mr Joseph Watson was appointed foreman of the jury.

James Crosby, 12, Dipton Street, Bearpark, identified the body as that of his brother-in-law. Deceased was 41 years of age at his last birthday.

George Clough, of No. 3, John Street, Stanley, said he was a deputy at the Lamp Pit, West Stanley Colliery. On June 29th, James Bewicke was working in the whole coal, Brass Thill Seam. He was engaged single-handed in the back shift. Witness examined the place by lamp, and the roof seemed to be quite firm. The roof was four feet six inches high, and was timbered with planks and props, the last-named next to the face, being a pair of gears. The timber was generally set by the hewers, but Bewicke had not set any that day. Witness thought the roof to be well-timbered, except that the bottom should have been squared. The nearest timbering was five feet from the coal face. Deceased should have had the timber about one yard off the face, and needed another prop. Witness did not find any fault, because deceased asked witness if he would be in the place on the following day. Witness replied, "It will be a chance." Deceased said, "I will take this bottom up, and put a pair of gears in." Witness then left him, at about a quarter to three o'clock, and heard about twenty-five minutes past three of the accident. Witness went back, and found that a lump of stone, six feet wide, five feet long, and nine inches thick, had come off the face as a "jack." Witness thought that the outer end of the stone had caught deceased on the upper part of the thigh whilst he was filling the tub.—Mr Walker: Was the place all right when he went into it?—Witness: Yes.—Mr Indian: Do you think that he had hewed any more coal after you had left?—Witness: I don't know. He had the second tub nearly full when I left.—Mr Graham: He could not have hewed much.

Joseph Clough, 19, Lucy Street, Stanley, coal-hewer, said he was working on the 29th June at a place about 50 yards from where Bewicke was working. He thought he heard moaning, and ran to see if anything had happened. He found Bewicke's lamp burning, and Bewicke under the [illegible]one, which had fallen near the face. The stone [illegible]d broken, and witness set deceased free. When [illegible]tness got to him, he told him that he was too [illegible] ahead of the timber. He replied that he was [illegible]ing to set a pair of gears after filling the tub.—[illegible] Walker: Was there sufficient timber at the [illegible]ce?—Witness: Yes.—Mr Walker: Was there [illegible]fficient timber set?—Witness: That is the [illegible]lt with many coal-hewers. He intended to [illegible]e it set, but delayed doing so. The "jack" [illegible]s the cause of the accident.

[illegible]homas Cowen, 9, Benton Terrace, Stanley, [illegible] he was in the place on the 29th June, about [illegible] to 11 a.m., that being just about the [illegible] that Bewicke commenced work. At that [illegible]e, the nearest timber was about a yard from [illegible] face of the coal. Bewicke was an experienced [illegible]er, a very steady man, but rather careless.—[illegible] Walker: Is it a rule at the Colliery to have [illegible]mber no more than three feet from the face? [illegible]tness: There is no specified rule. It is [illegible]rally left to the men to judge for themselves. We don't allow the men to go more than a yard if the stone is bad, but don't bind them if it is good.

Dr. J. Anderson said deceased's fractured leg was set without special difficulty, and united without difficulty. Deceased was of a very nervous temperament, and never rallied, always being in a very despondent state of mind. He could not be persuaded to move himself in any way. A week or two ago, bedsores set in, and he gradually sank, and died on the 23th inst from exhaustion.

Mr Graham said that the jury would have no difficulty in finding that death was due to accident in the sense that nobody was responsible for the accident but himself. Timber was there for him to set, and he was inclined to set it, but did not set it as close to the face as he ought to have done. He intended clearing away the coal first, and appeared to have put on too long. Probably had he known of the "jack," he would have set it earlier.

A verdict was returned to the effect that death was due to exhaustion, resulting on injuries accidentally received through a fall of stone.

CONSETT POLICE COURT.

SATURDAY, September 25th.—Before J. T. POTTS, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

John Burn was charged, at the instance of P.C. Pringle, with being drunk and disorderly on the previous night, at Consett, and was fined 2s 6d and costs, or seven days' imprisonment.

MONDAY, September 27th.—Before J. T. POTTS, Esq. (in the chair), and W. AYNSLEY, Esq.

APPLICATION FOR A CLOSING ORDER.

An application was made on behalf of the Benfieldside District Council, and granted, for a summons for a closing order in regard to property at Blackhill, being 8 and 9, Silver Street. Certificates from the District and County Medical Officers were produced.

IMPUDENT THEFT AT LEADGATE.

Patrick Bones, miner, of Greencroft, and formerly of Tantobie, was charged with stealing three lemons, one half-pound of butter, and four eggs from East House, Leadgate, the residence of Mr Thomas Foreman, M.R.C.V.S.—Prisoner pleaded guilty.—Mr William Foreman, son of the prosecutor, said that on Sunday afternoon he went for a walk, and on his return he met his brother. They met the prisoner coming out of the kitchen. They asked him what he was doing, but he did not then render any explanation. They saw he had been drinking, and that he had some butter in his inside pocket. Witness's sister came up, and went into the house, where she found that several things had been upset, and that the lemons and eggs stated in the charge were missing. Prisoner had also partaken of a meal of ham, cabbage, and potatoes in the pantry.—The Chairman: What did he say?—Witness: He admitted that he had taken the things, and said it was through drink.—The Chairman: Did he know what he was doing?—Witness: He was under the influence of drink.—P.C. Crabb produced the lemons, &c., found in the possession of the prisoner by Mr Foreman. When charged at the Police Station, prisoner admitted the theft.—Prisoner now repeated that he was very drunk at the time, and offered to pay for what he had taken.—Inspector Best asked for a remand for eight days, which was granted.

SERIOUS WOUNDING CASE AT BLACKHILL.

Hugh Riley, labourer, and his mother, Catherine Nughan, living in Walton's Row, Blackhill, were charged with unlawfully wounding Peter McGough, labourer, employed at the Consett Iron Company's Works, on Saturday night.—Inspector Best said the prosecutor was unable to appear, but he produced Dr. Renton's certificate, and asked for a remand for eight days.—Sergeant Tones said that on Saturday evening, he saw McGough in the street, and the latter complained to him that he had been assaulted by the two prisoners. McGough was covered with blood, and witness sent him to the doctor's. He searched the houses in the Row, and found the prisoners at No. 34. The floor of a room in the house was covered with blood, the bedside was bespattered, and there were marks of blood on the poker and coalrake. Riley was the worse for drink when apprehended, and witness, therefore, did not charge him until that morning, when he replied that McGough struck him first. The female prisoner, in answer to the charge, said she struck McGough because he struck her son.—The Chairman: Was McGough a lodger in the house?—Sergeant Tones: Yes.—The Chairman: Did McGough make any statement that the woman also assaulted him?—Sergeant Tones: Yes.—The Chairman (to Riley): Do you plead guilty?—Riley: No, sir—(to Sergeant Tones)—Did he say I struck him?—Sergeant Tones: He said you struck him, and kicked him.—Riley: I can show the marks he made on me.—The Chairman: We have a letter from the doctor that McGough is suffering from severe wounds, and you will be remanded.—Riley: He had me choking.—Mr Nughan, the female prisoner's husband, applied for bail for his wife.—The Chairman: Have you a house?—Nughan: Yes, sir.—Sergeant Tones: The house is not worth 30s, the whole lot.—Inspector Best: Have you any one who will stand bail?—Nughan: Yes, I have.—An old man named Owen Kelly then stepped into the witness box. He said he had lived at Blackhill for 39 years.—Sergeant Tones: I don't know him, your Worship.—Kelly: But I know you, Sergeant.—The Chairman (to Nughan): Have you 3s to pay the recognisances?—Nughan: I haven't a farthing.—The Chairman: Well, you can get it. You don't want to keep your wife in goal for eight days, for 3s. You must get 3s to-day, and we will let your wife out on bail. Kelly will be bound over in the sum of £5 for her appearance at this Court next week.—Kelley: All right, sir, she won't run away.—The Chairman: That is very comforting.

DRAUGHTS.

LOCAL COMPETITION.—Stanley plays Consett in their home and home match for the "Consett Chronicle Draughts Challenge Cup," at Harts Dining Rooms, Raglan Street, Consett (next door to Shakespeare Hotel), on Saturday first at 4 p.m.

HOCKEY.

DERWENT VALLEY V. DURHAM.—The opening game of the season will take place at Shotley Bridge, on Saturday, when the Durham eleven pay their first visit. The following will represent Derwent Valley—T D Dales (captain), J E Parker, J E Thorpe, H G Young, J M Nicholson, H H Wattsford, J Spencer, R Renton, J O Todd, E Henen, and C T Foreman. Bully-off at 3.45.

LANCHESTER DIVISION.

We understand that the recent revision of the lists of voters for the North-West Durham Parliamentary Division, resulted as follows:—

	Conservative Claims. Made.	Conservative Claims. Sustd.	Radical Claims. Made.	Radical Claims. Sustd.
Owners	65	61	76	71
Occupiers	17	6	21	14
Old Lodgers	72	72	19	19
New Lodgers	30	27	61	50
Objections Owners	58	5	5	4
Objections Occupiers	41	28	—	—
	283	199 158	182	158
Unionist gain		41		

BALL AT MEDOMSLEY.

On Wednesday night in last week, a very successful ball was held in the Temperance Hall, Medomsley, under the auspices of the Medomsley Cricket Club. These assemblies have been held now, for many years, and the one arranged for Wednesday night, by Mr W. Lovat, the hon. Secretary, was not less successful than its predecessors. The hall had been very tastefully decorated, those assisting at the work including the Misses Calvert, Miss Simpson, Mrs W. Hunter, Miss Hunter, Miss Moffitt, and Messrs W. Cant, J. Branley, M. Hunter, W. Hunter, and T. Walton. The following officiated as stewards: Drs. Downs and Burke, and Messrs G. G. Robson, A. M. Hedley, G. E. Milburn, W. Cant, H. W. Robinson, junr., and W. Vasey. A programme of over 24 dances was carried out, Mr W. Veitch efficiently presiding at the piano. The refreshments were in charge of Mr R. Moffitt. There was a very numerous company during the evening, the following, among others, being present:—Mr and Miss Vasey, Mr and Mrs G. E. Milburn, Mr T. Millburn, the Misses Calvert, Miss Teasdale, Miss Clark, Miss Hetherington, Messrs Allison, Mr W. Bell, the Misses Pallister (Lanchester), Mr Thompson, Mr J. M. Hunter, Miss Reed, Miss J. Simpson, Mr J. Steele (Leadgate), Mr M. Murphy and partner, Mr P. Murphy, Miss Murphy, Mr G. Surtees, Mr I. Pearson, Mr Scott, Miss Cole, Mr A. Simpson, Miss Hansell, Mr W. Thompson, Miss Hunter, Mr Wardell, Mr R. Wilson, sen., Miss F. Kelly, Miss Ramsey, Mr S. Whatley, Mr Cuthbertson, Messrs Wood (Consett), Miss B. Moffitt, Miss L. Lovet, Misses Gibson, Miss Anderson, Mr Wheatley, Mr T. Walton, Messrs Patterson (Waskerley), Mr R. Wilson, Miss Smith, Misses Atchinson, Mr and Miss Veitch, Mr W. Hirst, Mr G. G. Robson, Mr J. Thompson, Mr J. Hunter, Misses Hunter, Mr B. and Miss Downs, Mr J. Robinson, Mr T. Bell, Mr J. Bramley, Mr W. Hunter and Miss Caswall.

BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.]

E EARL'S SECRET.

BY

MARSDEN SUTCLIFFE,

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

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SYNOPSIS OF PREVIOUS CHAPTERS.

CHAPTERS I. & II.—The reader is introduced to the occupants of Traxford Lodge, the residence of Lady Mary Dalton, the widowed sister of the Earl of Traxford, and her friends and relatives. Miss Cleveland, a noted beauty of the district, is a resident at the lodge. She is loved and courted for her beauty and amiability, more especially by Lord Foyle and Sir Francis Dalton, who is with his regiment abroad. Miss Cleveland somewhat favours Lord Foyle, but a question affecting the forging of a bill bearing the alleged signatures of Lord Foyle and the Earl of Traxford throws the entire household into confusion. Mick Delaney, Lord Foyle's half brother, is arrested, and his lordship himself is not considered above suspicion. Under these circumstances Miss Cleveland asks herself if she dare trust her happiness to the keeping of Lord Foyle.

CHAPTER III.

"This is a precious queer start about Delaney," said Tom Dalton to his cousin, after visiting the stable where Tom's latest investment in horse-flesh was duly examined and admired. "What could the bank have been dreaming of to arrest poor Mick?"

"I fancy Braby and Brabazon know their own business best," responded Lord Foyle, dryly. "You don't suppose they have taken proceedings without making sure of their ground first? Banks are proverbially cautious, and old Brabazon is one of the most cautious of the tribe."

"Oh, that's the game you mean to play, is it?" returned Tom, with a quick glance of suspicion. "It struck me when you received the telegram that you took the news of Delaney's arrest very coolly, but it did not occur to me that you would leap to the worst conclusion, and set him down for guilty before hearing his explanation."

"I am sure of his guilt," was the sullen reply.

"And I am certain you are wrong," cried Tom Dalton, warmly. "Delaney is a harum-scarum fellow, like the rest of us who belong to the same set, but there is no harm in him. I am confident that he is the victim of some frightful mistake that will soon be cleared up, or there's been foul play somewhere. Good heavens, Brian, think what it is you are charging against him! Michael Delaney a forger! It is preposterous. He is incapable of it."

"Is he? He ought to be greatly obliged to you for your good opinion, though unluckily it doesn't help him much," said Lord Foyle, with a contemptuous shrug of his shoulders. "If you will listen I will try and explain matters. When you know the facts you will not be in such a furious hurry to constitute yourself Mick's champion."

"Let's hear the story, then," said Tom Dalton, lightly, "though I warn you beforehand if you expect to convince me that Mick is a knave you have set yourself a stiffish task. He is as straight as you or I."

"Don't talk nonsense," returned Lord Foyle, good humouredly. "It so happens that shortly before this bill was put on the market Mick and I were terribly hard up. We had exceeded the amount we are allowed to draw from the family lawyers. There was nothing new in that; the same thing had happened before. The novelty of it was that when we wrote for fresh supplies we received a point-blank refusal, coupled with an intimation that if we wanted money to discharge the hotel bill and disburse our travelling expenses home a banker's draft would be forwarded for the amount."

"Where were you staying?" interrupted Tom.

"We were at Monaco. Of course, the refusal placed us in a fix; for we had only just got there and were loath to leave; and the enclosure of a couple of bank notes for ten pounds to meet immediate necessities went a very little way to relieve the awkwardness of the situation. A fortnight later Mick was flush of money, which he attributed to a run of luck at roulette. There was nothing improbable in the explanation. As you know, he is the luckiest beggar alive. However that may be, when he offered to share his winnings with me I saw no reason to doubt his word and accepted a loan from him; but when this affair of the bill turned up and I came to compare dates it set me thinking, and I soon had reasons for suspecting that Mick had played one of his artful tricks and contrived to make me, unconsciously, his accomplice, so that when the business came to light I should have to share the blame."

"Did you mention your suspicions to the Earl?" asked Tom Dalton.

"I have not breathed a word of what has been passing in my mind until this moment," answered Lord Foyle.

"Am I to understand then that you base your opinion of Delaney's guilt on the mere fact that this bill was negotiated about the time when he suddenly came into possession of funds? Why should not his own story be true—that he made a lucky coup at the tables? Stranger things than that have happened."

"Don't be in a hurry, my good fellow," exclaimed Lord Foyle. "I have not made a clean breast of everything yet. There's more behind, as they say in the play. Amongst the fellows whom we met at Monaco was a dirty greasy little Jew named Leveson. Leveson and Mick became as thick as thieves, and Leveson's name is on the back of the bill. I am not in the bank's confidence and do not know the grounds on which they have acted, but it is obvious that they have applied to Leveson, who has informed them of the manner in which the bill came into his possession, and since the Earl has declared it to be a forgery there is a formidable case against Mick which he will have great difficulty in meeting."

Tom Dalton was generous and confiding in his friendships to a fault, and when once he had given his confidence he was slow to withdraw it. But he was staggered by Lord Foyle's circumstantial story.

"The business certainly wears an ugly look, it is no use denying that," he admitted with a solemn shake of the head, "but I stick to my opinion. There is some mistake that Delaney will set right as soon as he has the opportunity."

"You are a pig-headed fellow," Lord Foyle remarked, with careless good humour. "It is a certain fact that Leveson received the bill from Mick. How did it come into Mick's possession? Do you think that after ordering us to return and point blank refusing to allow us to draw upon him for more money the Earl relented? The sum is large; you don't find £3,500 waiting to be picked off every hedge you come to. Besides, if the bill that Mick passed over to Leveson was genuine, why did he not tell me of it? Why did he pitch me a cock-and-bull story about a lucky coup at roulette? And how does my name come to be on it? Nor is that all. When did you hear of the Earl of Traxford putting his name to a bill? That was the facer he asked of old Brabazon. 'When did I begin to dabble with bills?' he demanded with a great wrath, when Brabazon having received a sharp letter came post haste to the Castle, bringing the bill with him."

"Of course, your story puts another complexion on the business," said Tom, reluctantly compelled to admit that the case against Delaney was graver than he was disposed to believe. "Is the forgery a good one? I mean is it good enough to deceive anyone who was acquainted with the signatures?"

"It must have been a clever forgery to deceive Brabazon," responded Lord Foyle. "I have not seen it; I was absent when Brabazon came to the Castle."

"Then you have not repudiated your signature?" cried Tom Dalton impulsively, the omission suggesting to his mind a way of escape for Delaney. "If you have not done so there is a chance left for Mick, and you can save him if you like. What do you intend to do?"

"'Let Eternal Justice have her sway,'" quoted Lord Foyle, airily.

"You have grown mighty particular all in a minute, Brian. You have not always been so scrupulous," answered Tom, warmly.

"What would your sapient majesty advise me to do? Am I to tell lies and acknowledge a signature for mine that is not mine? I have not breathed a suspicion against Mick, but the line must be drawn somewhere, and I draw it at perjury. I will not perjure myself for a thousand Michael Delaneys. If he were my brother I would repudiate the forgery. As he is no kinsman of mine, it contents me to let matters take their own course."

"Ah, there you are now! The truth is out at last," cried Tom Dalton, amazed at the bitterness with which Lord Foyle spoke. "Something has happened to set you against Delaney besides this affair of the bill. What has he done?"

"Isn't it enough that he is a forger, a common paltry cheat? Does not that explain everything."

"It might with some men, but not with you," returned Tom, with a blunt candour that called up a faint hectic flush on the unhealthy pallor of Lord Foyle's face. "You are swayed by other reasons that perhaps you do not care to own up to. I have been convinced all along that you were playing some game of your own that would be helped by Delaney's ruin. Otherwise you wouldn't have taken up this passive attitude towards the man to whom you have been so strongly attached."

"Perhaps you are right," said Lord Foyle, with an uneasy laugh. "What would you say if I told you that Michael Delaney and I have set our affections on the same lady, and that I choose to avail myself of the opportunity he has placed within my reach of ridding myself of a rival who might become dangerous?"

"What would I say?" repeated Tom, indignantly, "I would say that you were a villain!"

"I see; I am scarcely explicit enough," continued Lord Foyle. "If I told you that it is in Mick's power to ruin me with the lady, and that as he has ruined himself in her eyes by his own act, I do not care to help him to rehabilitate himself in her good graces, what would you say then?"

"My opinion would be the same," replied Tom, stoutly.

"Softly, good cousin, and spare me your heroics," was the scoffing reply. "I may have other reasons for leaving Mick to pilot his own vessel into port, with which you are not acquainted."

"If they are anything like the reasons you have already advanced you may spare yourself the recital," replied Tom, coldly.

"Will you tell me why I should stretch out a finger to help him?" demanded Lord Foyle angrily.

"He is your brother, and 'blood is thicker than water,'" quoted Tom. "Do you think that if Francis were in a mess I would desert him? I would see him through his trouble whatever it was."

"The sentiment is greatly to your credit, but the cases are not parallel. Who says that Mick Delaney is my brother?"

"Everybody says so. It is well known that if it had not been for the want of a wedding-ring Michael Delaney would have been Lord Foyle and you would have been plain Brian Delaney."

"Everybody saying so does not make the fable true," said Lord Foyle oracularly. "I am not such a fool as to pin my faith to parish gossip. When my father was induced to take Mick under his protection and fell into the incredible folly of giving to the interloper the family name he was simply the dupe of a vile imposture; and I mean henceforth to make it my business to unravel the fraud, if Mick succeeds in extricating himself from his present scrape. It is time that the curtain was rung down on the wretched comedy that began to be acted when the beggar's brat was foisted into the Castle, fifteen years ago, as my companion and playmate. If this charge of perjury is brought home to him it will help to bring the sorry farce to an end. If not, I shall know what to do."

"Don't be rash, Brian. If you begin to meddle with the matter, you may chance to stir up more than you expect. Better let sleeping dogs lie. You forget that the Earl in his telegram calls Delaney your brother."

"No, the fact has not escaped me," laughed Lord Foyle. "There is no treason in that. Haven't we been like brothers?"

"Nevertheless, it is a curious phrase to find its way into a telegram," Tom remarked sagely. "It cannot be accidental."

"Why not? There has never been a hint dropped of the existence of a relationship between Mick and myself. He has always been spoken of as the son of an old friend long since dead, to whom the Earl was under special obligations which he chose to repay by receiving him into his household on the footing of an adopted son, but that does not make him my brother. There has never been a suggestion of a serious relationship. You are allowing your imagination to run riot."

Tom Dalton shook his head doubtfully. He was familiar with the explanation put forward by the Earl of Traxford to account for his partiality for Michael Delaney, though he was not greatly impressed by it. He flattered himself that in his short experience as a budding lawyer he had acquired a small stock of worldly wisdom which, however small, justified him in judging the Earl's story too far-fetched to be credible, though it must be confessed his wisdom was chiefly shown in giving a too credulous ear to the stories by which local gossip sought to explain the footing on which Lord Traxford's protégé was received at the Castle.

"I cannot understand the Earl describing Delaney as your brother unless he meant something by it," he affirmed, in his most positive tones.

"And therefore your imagination conjures up the vision of a weighty family secret waiting to be [illegible] to the romance of the [illegible]. Make yourself easy on that score, Tom. There are no secret passages in the life of the Earl of Traxford."

"How is it possible to tell?" asked Tom, dubiously. "There are a good many men who at one time or another live a double life. Though I do not [illegible] uncle more than any man alive, [illegible] nothing derogatory to him in conjecturing that [illegible] the ordinary weakness of humanity may have fallen to him in his younger days. You like playing a deep game, Brian," he continued, "only mind, and play the game that will keep Michael Delaney your friend. If he gets hold of the idea you are his enemy, you may have to look out. I like him for a friend, but I own I would not care to have him for an enemy."

"Pooh! You exaggerate his power for mischief. I am not easily frightened," was the resolute reply, with which Lord Foyle ended the conversation, and Tom Dalton, who knew his cousin's stubborn character, was glad to change the subject to a discussion on the next Derby favourite.

CHAPTER IV.

The grey light of early dawn was making itself felt, and a thin drizzling rain was falling as the express to Dublin rolled into the Kingsbridge terminus.

Bertram Henley, the Earl of Traxford's steward, gave vent to a sigh of satisfaction as his long dreary journey came to an end. He had been inwardly rebelling at the fate that compelled him to remain in the same carriage through many weary hours with his [illegible] taciturn [illegible] companion. For Lord Foyle had resisted the steward's attempts to draw him into conversation, entrenching himself behind a rampart of curt monosyllables until Henley was compelled to desist and [illegible] silence. He had thawed for a moment when they left the train at Limerick Junction, where he contrived to imbibe at the refreshment bar an incredible amount of "the wine of the country," in a marvellously short space of time. But the effect of these liberal potations was only to make him more sullen and peevish than before. As the lights of the Junction were left behind, he retired down into a corner of the carriage where he remained for the rest of the journey, coiled up beneath an immense rug, darkly scowling at his companion, who, finding himself left to his own resources, took from his valise a copy of "Daniel Deronda," which he attempted to read, until he found the print too small for the light shed by the smoky-burning carriage lamp. Altogether, the time had hung heavily on Bertram Henley's hands, and it was with no ordinary sense of satisfaction that he saw the tedious journey draw to a close.

As the train was brought to a standstill, Lord Foyle roused himself from his sullen apathy, and, springing from the carriage, hailed an outside car, leaving Henley to follow with the luggage.

The atmosphere was cold, but fortunately the hack horse proved to be a good stepper, and a few minutes drive through the raw air brought them to the Gresham Hotel, where the night porter, who was on the watch for their coming, held the door open to admit them.

"His Lordship is waiting," said the man as they entered the hall; and a waiter appeared at the same moment to conduct them to the suite of rooms occupied by the Earl of Traxford.

"So you have come at last," cried the Earl, as he extended a hand alternately to greet his son and Bertram Henley.

Lord Foyle was not an affectionate, not even a dutiful son, but he forgot for a moment the cynical selfishness habitual to him when he saw the ravages that a few days had wrought in the Earl's appearance; whilst Bertram Henley was so startled by the change in his old master and friend, that he could not refrain from a gesture which betrayed his alarm.

Could this feeble, haggard-looking old man, whose hand trembled as he placed it in his own, be the same from whom he had parted less than a week ago in the fulness of his pride and strength? he asked himself. In truth the change was alarming.

The Earl of Traxford, who was filling with great distinction the office of a puisne judge, when the death of his brother without issue opened the way to his accession to the title, was known as one of the handsomest men who had ever worn the judicial ermine in the Four Courts at Dublin. His physical presence towered over his brother judges, dwarfing the meaner figure of the Chief Justice, as he surpassed them all in his soundness as a lawyer. Hitherto he had maintained his fine erect figure and his high colour—the result of good health and free exposure in the pursuits of a country gentleman in which he delighted. With the snowy beard that covered his ample chest he would have made an admirable study for an ancient Berseker.

But now he was changed in everything. His bright colour had faded to an almost ghastly pallor. He was perceptibly thinner. His form was bowed, and he tottered feebly when he rose from his chair, leaning heavily with his hand on the table, as though unable to support the weight of his powerful frame. In one respect only was he unaltered. His fine eyes, that in the olden days flashed unutterable rebuke of the halting logic of some junior counsel or blazed into wrath that seemed actually to scorch a prisoner whose heartlessness moved him deeply, had lost none of their old fires, but burned with even more than their former brilliance. But with this exception the Earl appeared as though he had passed at a bound from a hale prime to a withered old age. It seemed to Bertram Henley that his patron's fine constitution had broken down suddenly beneath the overwhelming weight of some terrible grief.

"You are looking very ill," said Lord Foyle, in a quick, anxious tone. "You ought not to have waited up for us."

"I could not rest with this weight on my mind," said the Earl, piteously. "Now that you are here, let us set about devising some plan for saving Mick. He must be saved at any price, and with your help, Foyle, the thing can be done."

"In what way can I be of use?" asked Lord Foyle, frigidly.

"You can be of the utmost service," the Earl replied; and with a voice broken with emotion, whilst the colour stole into his pale, sunken cheeks, he went on: "I have never stooped to ask a favour from any man, and did not expect to have to ask one from my son. But, if necessary, I must appeal to you as a suppliant, Foyle."

"What do you want me to do?" asked Lord Foyle, scanning his father's face coldly.

"Briefly this. You have not seen the bill yet. When it is shown to you, admit your signature."

"The signature is not mine, and no consideration shall induce me to say that it is," replied Lord Foyle, with stubborn determination.

"It would be better if you listened to all I have to say before making up your mind so quickly," said the Earl, raising his hand deprecatingly. "Whether Michael Delaney is the actual forger remains to be proved: but that he has laid himself open to a charge of uttering a forged bill, professing to be drawn by me in your favour and endorsed by you, there can be no doubt. He appears to have negotiated the bill with one Leveson, a Jew discounter. You remember that I told you the name was at the back of the bill?"

Lord Foyle made an impatient gesture of assent.

"Well, Leveson is here," resumed the Earl. "He came over in the same boat as Mick, from Holyhead, last night. The bank have therefore means at hand of establishing the charge of uttering a forged bill, but they intend to proceed against him on the graver charge of forgery, and as he persists in declaring that the signatures are genuine, he helps their case. To cut the matter short he is in an extremely perilous situation, and his brazen denials make it more difficult to get him out of the mess. His conduct angers me beyond expression, and provokes me to leave him sternly to himself. But I cannot bring myself to do that. Let us, therefore, acknowledge the signatures, and there will be an end of the matter."

"Am I to understand that you require my assistance in compounding a felony?" asked Lord Foyle, with a well-affected air of astonishment.

The Earl winced at the accusation. He was compelled to admit its truth. He, the Earl of Traxford, who, as Sir Richard Delaney, had won for himself a great reputation as one of the most upright and incorruptible judges who had ever sat on the Irish bench, where if common rumour is to be trusted such qualities have not been too often found, was proposing to compound a felony!

"I am glad that you put the matter so bluntly," he returned, quickly recovering himself from the home-thrust. "Perjury and subornation of perjury are still graver offences than compounding a felony. It is quite as well, perhaps, that we should look at my proposal in the worst possible light. It will help you to understand how paramount must be the reasons that induce the Earl of Traxford to place himself within reach of the criminal law."

And as the aged peer delivered himself of this sentence he drew himself up in his proudest manner, eyeing his son with a haughty glance from his piercing eyes which Lord Foyle shrank from encountering.

"Of course, there will be no perjury in the matter," continued the Earl. "It is very simple. We must arrange with the Bank and then the proceedings before the magistrates will be a mere formality. You and Bertram Henley will see Brabazon, who will show you the bill. When you examine the signatures, Foyle, you will be staggered at the cleverness with which yours has been imitated, and Henley will rub his eyes with astonishment when he sees mine. They are so excellently done that it is no wonder Braby was deceived. You will have nothing to do except to acknowledge the endorsement and lay the blame for the trouble on my lapse of memory, and the affair will be over."

But Lord Foyle turned a deaf ear to the Earl's appeal.

"I have not put my name to any bill, and I refuse to say that I have," he replied. "If Mick has forged the signature let him bear the penalty. If he is not the forger, let him say who is."

"You tempt me to think you owe Mick some grudge, and are glad of the opportunity to pay out old scores," the Earl remarked, with bitterness. "You do not seem to understand that I ask you to do this not for Mick's sake, but for mine, and partly for your own."

"For mine?" cried Lord Foyle, incredulously. "Excuse me, I don't see in what way I am interested."

"Perhaps not," said the Earl, coolly. "Notwithstanding, your fortunes are bound up with Mick's more than you think. But don't let us discuss that. I ask you as a personal favour to do this for my sake."

A dead silence reigned in the room, during which Lord Foyle, nervously watched by his father and Bertram Henley, paced the room in deep agitation. He found himself in a cleft stick; for though he felt it was impossible to resist the Earl's request, the temptation to seize upon the opportunity to ruin Delaney was overwhelming. By one stroke, he reflected, he could prevent the Earl's protégé being received again at the Castle on his former footing, and sweep from his path a rival who might become a [illegible] to his matrimonial projects. For, although Lord Foyle was too satisfied of the position he had won in Anne Cleveland's regard to dread Delaney's rivalry, he feared his hostility when he came to know the fatility of his hopes. As he had hinted to Tom Dalton, there were certain passages in his history that Delaney might be tempted to use to his disadvantage when he had [illegible] whom Miss Cleveland had placed her affection. But now he held him in his [illegible]. He had only to refuse to fall in with the Earl's wishes in order to rid himself of all danger from that quarter. Who would listen to the tales [illegible] of a convicted forger? Certainly not Anne Cleveland!

The struggle was fierce, but his resolution was [illegible] in less time than has been taken in describing the situation.

"I am sorry to disappoint you, my lord, but what you ask from me is simply impossible," he replied.

"And that is your final answer?" said the Earl sternly.

Lord Foyle bowed. He appreciated the difficulty of the role he was playing, and he was chary of words.

"Then what you will not do for my sake, you will do for your own," retorted the Earl hotly. "Michael Delaney must be saved. Enough injustice has been done him already. He is my own flesh and blood, and, if he had his right, it is he and not you who would be the next Earl of Traxford. Now do you understand?" demanded the Earl peremptorily. "Aid me in delivering him from his present situation and my secret dies with me. If you refuse, you may step down from your high position at once, and I will find other means of serving Michael."

Lord Foyle fell back at the thrust, and having commenced by nailing his colours to the mast, ended by hauling down his flag and capitulating without more ado.

It did not occur to him to question the Earl's statement, nor, after the first bewildering moment of astonishment, did his father's threat occasion him any surprise. It threw a strong light on the Earl's partiality for Delaney and the mysteriously worded telegram, and what had been hitherto dark and inexplicable was now made plain to him.

"After that there is nothing more to be said," he replied, with a resigned air. "I will do your pleasure, of course."

"Of course you will," retorted the Earl, with bitter contempt. "I would have spared you this knowledge if your own selfishness had not dragged it from me. But you have compelled me to lay bare a hidden chapter in my history. It will embitter your life, as the same knowledge has embittered mine. Perhaps that will be punishment enough for your callous behaviour."

Bertram Henley sat like one in a maze at the revelation, but slowly his mind began to work back on events that had happened long ago, and of which he, as the Earl's trusted counsellor, was not entirely ignorant, though his knowledge was necessarily imperfect.

"My secret is safe," said the Earl, breaking the silence which ensued. "You, Henley, will not betray me, and as for Foyle," he added grimly, "he dare not, for his own sake, speak of this again."

After giving Lord Foyle and his steward instructions how they were to carry out his wishes, the Earl broke up the conference that had left him weary and exhausted.

CHAPTER V.

When Lord Foyle and Bertram Henley arrived at the banking establishment of Messrs. Braby, Brabazon and Company, Limited, on St. Stephen's Green, they found Mr. Brabazon, the managing partner, in close consultation with Mr. Cecil Ronayne, the Bank's legal adviser.

Mr. Brabazon was a gentleman with a short, thickset, portly figure, urbane features and merry twinkling eyes. His mirthful face was, however, clouded with care, and he wore his most stately manner as he rose from his seat to greet his visitors. It was the first time in his experience that a forgery of so audacious a character had escaped the lynx eyes of his subordinates, and as the sum which the Bank stood to lose was large, Mr. Brabazon was in no mood for "quips and cranks," such as his soul loved.

"Is his lordship not coming?" he asked anxiously, perceiving the Earl's absence.

"He will meet us at the police-court," said Bertram Henley, "if his presence is really required."

"Of course his lordship must be there," said Mr. Brabazon. "The case cannot go on without him. What do you say, Ronayne?"

"We shall require the Earl's presence, undoubtedly," Mr. Ronayne replied. "The body of the bill professes to be in his handwriting, as well as the signature, and he must be ready to swear that the handwriting is not his."

"Just so," cried Mr. Brabazon, "and nothing short of his lordship's most positive testimony would have induced me to believe for a single moment that any other hand than his own had written it."

Mr. Brabazon had not yet recovered from the annoyance into which he was thrown when he heard the Earl of Traxford repudiate the bill and denounce it as a forgery.

"You could have knocked me down with a feather," he continued, addressing Lord Foyle, "when the Earl, your honoured father, refused to acknowledge the bill. I resolved immediately that if he had not written it we would very soon know who had. The bill was presented to us for payment, in the ordinary way, on coming to maturity. We soon got hold of Leveson, who had discounted it, and we were not very long, I promise you, before we had Mr. Michael Delaney by the heels."

"Lord Foyle has not seen the bill, I think," said Mr. Ronayne, handing the document for his inspection.

Lord Foyle took the slip of blue paper and examined it with great deliberation. This is what he read:

"Traxford, October 31st, 1873.

"£3,500.

"Six months after date pay to the order of Lord Foyle the sum of three-thousand-five-hundred-pounds sterling, value received.

"Traxford.

"To Messrs. Braby, Brabazon and Company. Limited, Dublin."

The bill was endorsed with the names of Lord Foyle and Zebulon Leveson, by whom the bill had been presented for payment.

Lord Foyle could not repress a perceptible start of astonishment when he saw his own signature. As a fac-simile it was so perfect that even he could not forbear asking himself whether in very truth it was not his own. His gesture did not escape the keen eyes of the lawyer, who, with the banker, was closely watching him as he examined the incriminating document, and they exchanged significant glances, as they noticed the surprise depicted on his face.

After remaining silent for some moments, wearing [illegible] of perplexity, he walked to the window of the [illegible] to examine the strip of paper under a [illegible]oning Bertram Henley to his side. [illegible] the imitation of his signature [illegible]ger sense of interest than even [illegible] found himself asking whether [illegible] have been obtained [illegible] of weakness when he [illegible] actions. [illegible] handed the document to [illegible] a silence which had [illegible]

[illegible] had so much trouble, [illegible]eaking in quiet, even [illegible] this affair cannot be [illegible]

[illegible]e then?" cried Mr. [illegible]pared by Lord Foyle's [illegible]urn that things were [illegible] that it is not mine,"

"But is it yours?" asked Mr. Ronayne. "You must remember whether you put your name to the bill or not."

"That does not follow," said Lord Foyle.

"I think the matter must stop here," remarked Bertram Henley, interposing to save Lord Foyle from the dilemma in which the lawyer's direct question placed him. "You are, perhaps, not aware, Mr. Brabazon, how severely the Earl's health has been impaired lately. Unfortunately, we have reason to know it. I am sorry to say his lordship is no longer the man he was."

"Then you mean to say that the Earl drew up the bill and afterwards forgot that he had done so?" exclaimed the lawyer.

"That is the charitable conclusion we must ask you to draw. A lapse of memory is not rare amongst men who are not so advanced in years as Lord Traxford, and who are in more vigorous health than he. I presume that this explanation, together with the fact that, as you have seen, Lord Foyle does not disown the endorsement of the bill will satisfy you that there is nothing to be done except to debit the Earl's account with the amount."

Mr. Brabazon's face lighted up with pleasure when he heard that the difficulty was to be adjusted without loss to the Bank; but suddenly his countenance became overcast as a new difficulty presented itself to his mind.

"But what the deuce are we to do with Mr. Delaney? Tell me that now," he cried. "A pretty mess the Earl has landed us in."

"Of course, you were led to take steps against the person who negotiated the bill, solely in consequence of his lordship's repudiation of it," said Lord Foyle. "The responsibility of meeting any claim which Mr. Delaney may put forward for illegal arrest belongs to my father," he continued, "and if you will accept my undertaking in his behalf I will see that any claim of Mr. Delaney's is met."

With this assurance the banker professed himself well satisfied, and congratulated himself that a most troublesome business was thus amicably arranged, and leaving Mr. Brabazon to address himself to his morning's correspondence with a lightened heart, Lord Foyle and Bertram Henley accompanied Mr. Cecil Ronayne to the police-court.

When they arrived they found the Earl of Traxford already in court anxiously awaiting their coming. He was accommodated with a seat on the bench, near the magistrate, who was engaged in hearing a case of common assault between two Irishwomen, which occasioned intense amusement, and kept the court continually in roars of laughter. As soon as the magistrate had given his decision the stentorian voice of the policeman cried out:

"Put up Delaney."

The next moment there stepped to the front of the dock a tall, fashionably-dressed man of a stalwart figure, with a handsome face and jet black hair curling over a brow of singular whiteness, flashing dark eyes, and a long drooping moustache. He was very pale, evidently feeling the ignominy of his novel position, but his bearing was resolute.

As he swept the court with a haughty, defiant glance, his eyes rested, first on the face of Lord Foyle, towards whom he addressed a look of telegraphic enquiry, which the latter affected not to see, and, finally, on the bent figure and haggard-looking face of the Earl of Traxford. The colour slowly returned to Delaney's cheeks, and his glance fell as it encountered that of his benefactor, who had loaded him with kindness. The possibility of his arrest had not once occurred to him, so convinced was he that the affection of the Earl would shield him from the consequences of any wrongdoing. Since he was arrested, however, he had been in an agony of suspense, not knowing what the issue might be. But his feelings [illegible] relaxed their tension when the drift of the remarks addressed to the Bench by the solicitor who appeared in behalf of the Bank dawned on his mind.

"The circumstances of the case," Mr. Ronayne said, "are no doubt fresh in your worship's recollection, since it was on sworn information that you granted the warrant for the prisoner's arrest at the commencement of the present week. I am pained, however, to say that it will not be necessary to trouble you further than to state that since the issue of the warrant fresh information has come to light, and satisfactory explanations have been given that lead my clients to ask your worship's permission to withdraw from the prosecution. It may allay unfounded rumours and prevent the rise of sensational conjectures if I say, without making any reserve or mystery, that further consideration has led the drawer of the bill alleged to be forged to recall past circumstances more perfectly, and that Lord Foyle, who was not personally consulted about the matter or shown the bill until this morning, has, in the handsomest manner, assisted the prosecution to arrive at a just conclusion."

Michael Delaney gave a gasp of relief as Mr. Ronayne sat down, and Lord Foyle perceptibly winced at the encomium passed on his behaviour, whilst Bertram Henley smilingly admired the advocate's dexterity. Only on the face of the Earl of Traxford was there no sign. He was drinking the cup of humiliation to the bitter dregs, as he sat there leaning heavily on his stick.

"On behalf of my noble client, the Earl of Traxford," said Bertram Henley, who, like most men of his class in Ireland, was a trained solicitor, "I have nothing to add to the remarks of my learned friend except to express the very deep regret which is felt on our side that an unfortunate oversight has imposed on the prosecution much unnecessary trouble. The case, as stated by my friend, that the opportunity of further inquiry has led my noble client to recall his too hasty condemnation of the bill as a forgery, which necessarily imposed on the Bank the steps which they subsequently took, is absolutely correct. We deeply regret the oversight."

"The charge-sheet is marked 'withdrawn,' and the prisoner is discharged," said the magistrate in his blandest tones, at the same time returning the bow of the Earl of Traxford, who rose from his chair and turned to leave the stifling atmosphere of the crowded court.

As the Earl reached the outer air, leaning heavily on the arm of his son, and accompanied by Bertram Henley, Michael Delaney, released from the peril in which he so recently stood, advanced with easy, jaunty step to meet him.

"I can explain everything," he said in a low voice. The Earl raised his hand commanding silence.

"I will never willingly see your face again," he said. "Leave Dublin for England to-night and report yourself to Mr. Stopher at Crutched Friars. You will learn from him what I am prepared to do to advance your interests." And turning away he entered the carriage that was waiting for him, and was driven rapidly away to his hotel.

"Get me back to Traxford, quickly, Foyle," the Earl said, as gaining his apartment he sank back on his couch, worn out with the violent emotions to which he had been a prey.

(To be Continued.)

LANCHESTER BREWSTER SESSIONS.

ADJOURNED SITTING.

The adjourned sitting of the Lanchester Annual Licensing meeting was held last Thursday, the magistrates present being J. W. Walton Wilson, Esq. (Chairman), His Honour Judge Greenwell, F. Priestman, Esq., W. Aynsley, Esq., J. W. Taylor, Esq., H. C. Wood, Esq., J. Green, Esq., and Rev. T. J. L. Warneford.

There were three applications for full licenses, two for licenses to sell beer and wine on and off the premises, and three for the sale of beer, spirits, and wine off the premises.

THE BLACK LIST.

Superintendent Benzies submitted the following list of persons who had been convicted during the year:—Catherine Bragg, Dipton; Walter Smurthwaite, White-le-Head; Ralph Johnson, Tanfield; William Stonehouse, Catchgate (present tenant, Mr Plass); Mark Coates, Stanley (present tenant, Robert Boal); J. A. Dover, Dipton; George R. Hobson, Catchgate; and William G. Turnbull, Leazes.

Mr Simpson, speaking on behalf of Mrs Bragg, said that she had now vacated the house, and the present tenant, Mr William Herron, had conducted the house to the satisfaction of the police.

Mr Ralph Johnson said that this was the first offence that he had committed, and he was very sorry for it. He had held the idea that he was allowed to keep the house open on the occasion of funerals, but had now found that he could not do so, and had not done so since the conviction.

Mr R. Murray, on behalf of Mr Stonehouse said that the latter was convicted for permitting drunkenness on the 27th April, and was therefore removed from the house. The new tenant had conducted the house in a satisfactory manner.

Mr Murray also stated that Mr M. Coates had been removed from the Commercial Hotel, Stanley, sixteen or seventeen days after being convicted, and had been succeeded by Mr Boal, whose management of the house had given every satisfaction.

Mr Wilkinson, representing Mr J. A. Dover, said that his client had been convicted of an offence, owing to a mistake on the part of his cartman.

Superintendent Benzies: The cartman was fined for selling the stout.

Mr Wilkinson: Mr Dover had no knowledge of the offence.

Judge Greenwell: An attempt was made at this court to justify the sale.

Superintendent Benzies: Yes, and they afterwards appealed.

Mr Wilkinson: We were defeated on the appeal, since when the license has been transferred, and the business carried on to the satisfaction of the police. The offence was committed entirely without the knowledge of Mr Dover.

Mr George R. Hobson said that in his case he committed the offence through ignorance. He was not aware at the time that it was necessary to label the bottles.

Mr W. G. Turnbull said that he sent out half a dozen pint bottles of beer which were not duly appropriated according to the licensing laws. He was in thorough ignorance that it was necessary to label the boxes and the bottles. Since the case was decided, he had fulfilled the requirements of the law.

Judge Greenwell said that attaching the labels was not sufficient. They must only sell in the place for which they held the license.

Mr Turnbull: That is what I have done.

Mr Walton-Wilson, on behalf of the Bench, said: It is my duty, in the absence of the Chairman, to admonish the defaulting license-holders who have been convicted for permitting drunkenness and other offences, since the last Brewster Sessions. I must point out to you the danger of forfeiting your licence if you again offend against the laws. I must also state publicly that in future the house will be marked, and not the tenant. It is also necessary to state that a publican is bound to provide refreshment to any traveller, and not only beer and spirit. With these remarks, I have to say that my brother magistrates have resolved not to refuse the renewal of the licenses of these defaulters. I trust that their leniency will not be misunderstood, and that we shall not see you again. To those who themselves are not offenders, this caution is necessary for the future. These persons do not come up with a clean sheet because the license is transferred.

APPLICATION FOR ALTERATIONS.

Mr G. Parsons (solicitor, Newcastle) applied for permission to make certain alterations to the Stanley Inn, West Stanley; and stated that the plans had previously been submitted to the Bench; who adjourned consideration of the same until they had been approved by the Stanley Urban District Council. The plans had now been passed by the Council. They did not propose to take in any additional ground, but intended to supply everything necessary for a modern hotel.—Mr W. Forster, architect, Stanley, submitted the plans, but after considering the matter, the Bench decided that whilst there was too much drinking accommodation, there was no coachhouse or anything of that kind.—Mr Parsons said that the proprietors of the house were anxious to fulfil the desires of the Bench. They were willing to modify the plans by making a portion of the bar into a large private sitting room, and to convert one of the present sitting rooms into a coachhouse.

Mr Parsons submitted plans for alterations to the Bird Inn, Dipton.

An application was also made for alteration of Dobson's premises at Highgate.

Mr T. W. Welford, Consett, on behalf of Messrs. Chapman, brewers, Gateshead, submitted plans for alterations to the Coach and Horses Hotel, Leadgate.

The Bench declined to approve of the plan of alterations to the Stanley Inn; and refused all the other applications save that of Dobson.

APPLICATION FROM NO PLACE.

Mr Criddle, solicitor, of Newcastle, representing Mr George Cranston, grocer, No Place, Stanley, applied for a full license for premises about to be erected at that village, and stated that the site of the proposed house was about one and a half miles from the nearest public-house on the Stanley side, and about three-quarters of a mile from any public-house on the other side. There were 552 houses between the site and the Stanley Inn, and 175 houses between the site and the nearest public-house on the east side. The population between the site and the nearest Stanley public-house was 2,908. The site was directly opposite to a number of houses at No Place, and was situated on the main road between Stanley and Beamish, which was a very busy thoroughfare. The Chester-le-Street Sanitary Authority had given permission for draining into their main drains. Mr Cranston had lived in the district for many years. He had carried on a grocery business for four years, whilst he had held a wine and spirit off-license.—Mr Cranston corroborated the statements of his solicitor. He had lived for twelve years at No Place, and had been a grocer for four years. The hotel would contain six rooms, with three bedrooms, sitting room, and large cloak room on the first floor.—Mr Bowman, of Newcastle, submitted plans of the proposed building.—Mr J. G. Ridley, Clerk of the Stanley Urban District Council, testified to the character of the applicant. He was a very respectable and highly honourable man.—Mr Pitman, a resident of No Place, expressed the opinion that a licensed house was greatly needed.—Mr Criddle said that he would like to impress upon the Bench that Mr Cranston was the owner of the property. It would be a free house, and he asked the Bench particularly to note that there was no opposition whatever to the application, either from Messrs Joicey, the colliery owners, or anybody else.

MR NATHAN ELSDON'S APPLICATION.

Mr T. W. Welford, representing Mr Nathan Elsdon, made application for a full license, to be granted to premises at Number One, Consett. Mr Welford stated that the house had previously been licensed, but the license was allowed to lapse some eight years ago, on the property becoming the possession of the Co-operative Society. The Station Hotel, Blackhill, was the nearest licensed house, and it was half-a-mile away.—Mr Longstaff's public-house, at Leadgate, was the nearest house in that direction, it being a mile away, and the nearest licensed house on the Consett side was also a mile away. During the last eight years, there had been about 150 houses built on the Consett side of the house, and on the side nearest the Hat and Feather, Mr Elsdon himself had built some fourteen houses, whilst the Consett Iron Company had erected a number of houses, with stabling, &c., near Leadgate. Fifty houses had also been erected on the Blackhill side. A large piece of land was attached to the house. Mr Elsdon intended to live in the house himself, and it would be entirely free.

Mr Elsdon deposed that he was a native of Consett, and had lived there all his life. The house had formerly been licensed, but the license was allowed to lapse some eight years ago. He corroborated Mr Welford's statement regarding the situation of the house.

Thomas Elsdon, son of applicant, proved that the necessary notices had been served, and Mr Towns testified to Mr Elsdon's character.

Joshua Phillipson, of Blackhill, appeared to oppose the application, and said that he was of the opinion that there were too many licenses already, without any more being granted. During the last fortnight, he, in company with other young men, had gone round the district, and had got a large number of signatures to a petition against the granting of the license.

Mr Welford objected to this. He could have got a large number of signatures in favour of the license, but knew that the Bench would not accept it, and therefore had not troubled.

In cross-examination, Mr Phillipson admitted that he lived at Benfieldside, a mile-and-a-half away from the house, but in the same parish.

A STANLEY APPLICATION—STRONG OPPOSITION.

Mr William Johnson, builder and contractor, Ewehurst Head, applied for a full license for premises about to be constructed in a field between Beamish and Stanley, on the south side of the High Street.—Mr Hobson, of Newcastle, appeared in support of the application, and Mr Duncan opposed.

Mr Hobson said that the Bench would remember that in this case he applied at the last court for a full license for the property, which was situated outside the main portion of Stanley village. The proposed site was about 220 yards from the nearest public-house, and the circumstances were now different in two respects, one not being of great importance, but the other of more importance. At the last court, a question was asked by Judge Greenwell with respect to the purchase of the land. Mr Parmeter was called, and it was elicited from him that the purchase money he had received for the site was something like thirty shillings per yard, as against the ordinary price of seven shillings per yard. He (Mr Hobson) took it that the owners of the Towneley estate would be entitled to any unearned increment in point of law. The land had now, however, been purchased, the conveyances were there, and the money would be paid. The owners of the land were entitled to get as much as they could for unearned increment.

Judge Greenwell: If they can get 500 shillings or 500 pounds per yard, they are entitled to it.

Mr Hobson, resuming, said that a small but important alteration had been made in the plans. They had now set apart a portion of the premises entirely for temperance purposes. The temperance entrance would be entirely separate from the public-house entrance. Mr Johnson was going to live in the house himself, and intended to keep an entirely free house. Opposition had been made to this license, and to other licenses in the neighbourhood, on behalf of Mr Burn, and also on behalf of Messrs Joicey. Mr Burn had to admit last time he appeared in court that his unexpired lease had only some five years to run; and he (Mr Hobson) therefore argued that Mr Burn had really no interest in the matter, although he came to oppose it. At the last court, Mr Parker applied for a license for premises situated on ground that he had purchased from Mr Burn. Mr Burn had sixty houses adjoining Mr Parker's premises, but he did not think it necessary to object to that license.

Judge Greenwell: That is commonly termed prejudice, Mr Hobson.

Mr. Hobson: Yes. I say it, and I challenge Mr. Burn to go into the box and deny it.—Continuing, Mr. Hobson said that as regarded Sir James Joicey, he did not think it necessary to come personally to oppose the license, but sent a solicitor and a clerk from his office. At the sitting a month ago, a witness objected to the granting of the license on account of the fact that 13 per cent. of the men were accustomed to absent themselves from work on Monday mornings; but he would like to point out that Messrs. Joicey had collieries also at Beamish and South Tanfield, at both of which places public-houses existed; yet the percentage of absentees on Monday morning at these collieries only amounted to something like 7 per cent. He challenged contradiction to that fact. He submitted that this was a very desirable place for a license; the present state of affairs in Stanley was something intolerable. He noticed that in an application made at the last court, a question from Judge Greenwell elicited the fact that there were fifteen public houses in Consett; and some enterprising persons evidently thought that was still insufficient. What was the case then with Stanley, with only three licensed houses?

Judge Greenwell: There is no evidence that the Bench agrees with these enterprising persons whom you have mentioned (laughter).

Mr. Hobson, continuing, said that it was admitted that more accommodation was required in Stanley. It was just possible that the confirming justices at Durham might not approve of the sites of the two houses to which the Bench had granted licenses; and he asked therefore that Mr. Johnson's site might also be included amongst those to be submitted to the confirming magistrates.

Mr Johnson said that the population west of the Stanley Inn was 4,300 and on the other side 3,400. There was no public-house at all on the west side.

Mr Duncan: What is the purchase money?—Mr Hobson: £555.—Mr Duncan (to witness): You are a builder and contractor?—Applicant: Yes.—Mr Duncan: Have you ever kept a public house?—Applicant: No; but I married a wife who is accustomed to the business.

Mr Bowman then submitted plans showing the proposed temperance portion of the house, and also a proposed addition to the stabling accommodation.

Mr Duncan said that he appeared on behalf of Messrs Joicey and Burn to oppose the application four weeks ago, when the application was heard before a Bench of fourteen magistrates, a majority of whom decided not to grant it. Since that time, he ventured to say, nothing had transpired which could justify the Bench in altering their decision. His friend had referred to two fresh circumstances, but he (Mr Duncan) ventured to think that neither one nor the other had had any bearing on the previous result. He certainly understood at the last hearing that the land had then been purchased, Mr Parmeter saying that it had been sold for thirty shillings a yard, and that if the license was not granted, he would be willing to take it back again at the same price. Mr Parmeter also said that he had done exactly the same on a former occasion, when the land was sold to Mr Murray, to whom the Bench granted a license which was not confirmed. He said that the proposed site was not in a convenient position. He would say that Mr Duncan had made what he termed a most scandalous statement with reference to Mr Burn opposing this application, and not opposing that of Mr Parker. Messrs Joicey and Burn were the persons who were the owners of the houses which surrounded the site, and they were most certainly entitled to have a voice in the matter. The houses on three sides of the site belonged to Mr Burn, and on the other side to Messrs Joicey. As the Bench knew, this was not the main thoroughfare in Stanley; in fact, the business thoroughfare was entirely away from the locality. Having regard to the opposition which was successful last month, he ventured to say that the same opposition, which was again present, must be successful again, inasmuch as nothing had occurred in the meantime to alter the circumstances of the case. He thought that he would have to call Mr Burn to answer what he regarded as an insult to him. The land was not sold to Mr Parker that he might get a license, and the reason Mr Burn did not oppose it was that he did not think the application was at all likely to be successful.

Mr Hobson: I did not suggest that the land was sold for that purpose.

Mr Duncan: It was sold as cottage property at the rate of seven shillings a yard, and there was no objection made at the last Court simply because it was considered a hopeless application. Messrs Joicey and Burn were not opposed to any fresh licenses being granted; they only objected to this particular one, and to others which were situated where they would be affected.

Mr Frank H. Burn said that he had sold Mr Parker some cottage property, and got ordinary cottage prices for it. He did not oppose the granting of a license to Mr Parker's property because he thought there was no chance of the license being granted. Mr Johnson's proposed site was bounded on three sides by property belonging to Messrs Burn. Five hundred men were employed at their colliery, and three-fourths of these men lived in the immediate vicinity of the proposed public-house. Messrs Burn were the owners of some 260 houses, and were rated at £9,520, whilst they paid £1,500 fortnightly in wages. He objected most strongly to this application on the ground that it would be injurious both to the interests of the workmen and the coalowners. The firm to which witness belonged had built several new houses recently in the vicinity, and had had plans passed for others.

Cross-examined by Mr Hobson: The nearest houses were 77 yards away from Mr Johnson's site.

Mr Hobson: You object to this application when the houses are 77 yards away, and did not object to Mr Parker's application, though you have 60 houses close to it.

Mr Burn: Sixty cottages are considerably less that 260.

Mr Hobson: Of the 260, a considerable portion are included in the lease?

Mr Burn: Part of them are leasehold.

Mr Duncan: Mr Parmeter said that the lease could be renewed.

Mr Hobson: Excuse me, Mr Duncan said so, not Mr Parmeter.

Mr Wm. Severs, manager of the Beamish Air Pit, opposed on behalf of Messrs Joicey.

Mr Hobson: You said last time that 13 per cent. of your men absented themselves from work on Monday mornings at the Air Pit. Have you collieries at Beamish and South Tanfield?

Mr Severs: No, sir, I haven't, but Messrs Joicey have.

Mr Hobson: There are public-houses at these places?

Mr Severs: Yes.

Mr Hobson: Are you prepared to deny that the percentage of absentees on the Monday morning at these collieries is only 7 per cent.

Mr Severs: I know nothing about it, but there are more public-houses in Stanley than at either of these places.

Mr Mallams said that he had a very strong objection to this application being granted. The site was situated just opposite his property, and as a resident, property owner, and post-master, he had a very strong objection to this particular license being granted.

Mr Hobson: Is your objection to this particular one?

Mr Mallams: I have given my reason.

Mr Hobson: But you object to every other license, don't you?

Mr Mallams: I am not going to answer that question. It is a very impertinent one. (Laughter).

Two other gentlemen also objected, as residents in the locality, to the granting of the license.

NO APPEARANCE.

Mrs Anne Elliott, of Burnhope, did not appear to support her application for a license to sell beer and wine (off).

INELIGIBLE.

Mr Robert Thompson, of Maiden Law, applied for a license to sell beer (off), on premises situate at Kyo.—Applicant stated that he had been the owner of the premises for three years, and was on the premises every day—nearly the whole of the day. He had had a tenant living in a portion of the premises, but had given her notice to quit, and intended to reside on the premises himself.—The Magistrates' Clerk (Mr J. A. Ornsby) said that he was afraid the applicant was not eligible under the Act. He must try next year.

A HOBSON APPLICATION.

Roger Watson, grocer, Hobson Colliery, applied for a license for the sale of beer (off).—Mr J. L. Leadbitter, of Catchgate, stated that the applicant lived above the premises which the license was asked for. The nearest public-house, the Hobson Hotel, was 560 yards away, and the nearest licensed house on the other side was 1,120 yards distant. The size of the premises was 16 feet by 12 feet 2 inches. There were 201 houses in the village, and 168 residents had affixed their signatures to a petition in favour of the license being granted. From 40 to 50 new houses had been built within the last twelve months, and further building was in progress in the village.—Mr Watson corroborated the statements of Mr Leadbitter, and added that he had resided on the premises during the last three months.—Judge Greenwell: How often have you slept there during that time?—Mr Watson: Every night.—The Bench refused the application, being of the opinion that Mr Watson was not a *bona-fide* resident.

MR HOBSON'S APPLICATION.

Mr T. W. Welford applied on behalf of Mr George Robinson Hobson for the provisional grant of a beer (on or off) license to premises about to be constructed at Catchgate.

Mr Welford said that Mr Hobson proposed to re-build a house, bringing it nearer the main road, so as to be more easily under police supervision. The house would contain six or seven rooms, coachhouse, and necessary conveniences. There were only two public-houses in Catchgate, though the population amounted to 3,000.

Mr D. M. Spence, Hare Law, submitted the plans for the proposed premises.

A LEADGATE APPLICATION.

Mr John James Kershaw applied for the granting of a license to sell beer (off) on premises situated at Plantation Street, Leadgate.

Applicant stated that his sole wish in making the application was to be allowed to sell beer in bottles at Leadgate, instead of having to get all orders received sent from Gateshead as at present. He was now residing on the premises, which were rated at £42, and he had a considerable business connection in the district.—Mr William J. Foreman, veterinary surgeon, and Mr Kinleside, postmaster, Leadgate, supported the application.

THEATRICAL APPLICATION.

Mr John Riddell applied for a theatrical license for six months, to the Co-operative Hall, Dipton.—Superintendent Benzies offered no objection, and the application was granted.

THE DECISIONS.

The Bench adjourned, and on returning in half-an-hour, the Chairman announced that Mr Kershaw's application had been granted. All the other applications were rejected.

HAMSTERLEY COLLIERY.

CRUSHED BETWEEN WAGGONS.—Soon after mid-day, on Saturday, a man named Thomas Turnbull, 50 years of age, met with a serious accident. He was busily engaged coupling some North Eastern Railway waggons on the sidings at Hamsterley Colliery, when he was severley crushed between two sets of waggons as they joined each other. The unfortunate man was conveyed to his home, where he received prompt medical attendance.

ANNFIELD PLAIN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

This Authority met on Tuesday evening in the Burial Board Office, Hare Law, when the members present included:—Messrs J. W. Taylor, J.P. (in the chair), W. Fitzpatrick, J. Mason, W. Young, W. Johnson, J. Storey, T. Clark, R. Hall, W. Eltringham, J. G. Taylor, W. Down, and G. Wailes, with the Clerk (Mr T. L. Watchman), and the Surveyor (Mr T. J. Trowsdale).

BUILDING MATTERS.

The Building Committee recommended the passing of various plans. The Surveyor's report had been read at their meeting, and it was resolved that the Committee accept the finding of the Surveyor in regard to the road line at Dipton, and that Mr Wilson, the architect for the proposed re-erection of the Red Lion Inn, Dipton, be informed that the proposed building must be kept back to the line as determined. Some discussion took place respecting the site of the public convenience now in course of erection at Dipton, and it was resolved that the works be proceeded with on the present site.—A letter was read from a Sunderland firm of solicitors, stating, on behalf of the occupier of the Red Lion Inn, Dipton, that the work of re-building the premises was now being proceeded with according to plans submitted and passed by the Council.—The Chairman: Then all we can do is to take our stand upon what we have done.—Mr Fitzpatrick: The plans were only passed conditionally—they were passed subject to the road line being maintained.—The Chairman: I move that the Clerk reply that the Council is of opinion that the present line of building is an encroachment upon the highway, and therefore give notice to cease building operations at once, or an indictment will be preferred.—Mr Fitzpatrick seconded, and the motion was carried.—Mr James G. Taylor moved that the convenience in course of erection at Dipton be set back as far as possible. Mr Taylor mentioned that he was convinced of the necessity of taking this step. The time would come when the road would want widening, and if the convenience remained where it was now being erected, it would be in the way.—Mr Clark seconded, and said that it was a pity that the work had proceeded so far as it had done.—The Chairman said that when the Surveyor marked the line for the convenience, he was of opinion that that was the limit of the public highway. Since then, he had come to believe that they could claim a good deal of the ground behind.—Mr Eltringham dwelt upon the expense of the removal, and said he was disposed to oppose the motion.—The motion was, however, carried, and the Committee's report was then adopted, on the motion of Mr Johnson, seconded by Mr Wailes.

THE HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE.

At the meeting of the Highways Committee, the Surveyor's report was read. It was resolved that the Surveyor be instructed to engage a steam road roller on the most satisfactory terms. It was also decided that the Council should remove the wall near the public convenience at Catchgate, and set back the fence from a point commencing at the telegraph post to the back wall. In regard to road encroachments, letters were read from Mr G. Murray, Dipton, and Mr J. Cooper, Littleburn Colliery; and Mr Simey's opinion on the subject was read. It was resolved that the Surveyor be instructed to consult Mr Simey in the matter, with a view to getting the encroachments removed, so as to improve the roads. It was resolved that notice be served upon the owner of Pontop House, Annfield Plain, to remove the obstruction caused by his fence, by setting back the same in accordance with the plan. The Committee further decided that the Surveyor should invite local tenders for a snow plough.—The report was adopted, on the proposition of Mr Johnson, seconded by Mr Eltringham.

THE NEW RATE.

The Finance Committee recommended the payment of accounts involving the sum of £702 0s 8d. The estimated expenditure for the next half-year was discussed, and an account prepared amounting to £2,639 17s 4d. The net amount of the District Fund was given at £1,270 13s 4d, and the assessable value of the district was £36,512. It was agreed to recommend the Council to levy a General District Rate for the half-year ending March 31st, 1898, of 9d in the £.—The Chairman said he must congratulate the gentleman who had made the estimate out. It was a very thoughtful one, and appeared quite adequate.—Mr Fitzpatrick moved the adoption of the report.—Mr Storey seconded, and the motion was carried, Mr Johnson remarking that if the rate was kept to 9d they would do very well. There would not be much room for a Ratepayers' Association. (Laughter).

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS.

The Surveyor reported that the Consett Iron Company were proceeding with the work of alteration to the road at Hangingstone, as arranged. The improvement to the main road at Annfield Plain was being proceeded with satisfactorily. Arrangements had been made for supplying concrete kerb for the footpath improvements at White-le-Head and Hare Law Roads, and the work had been commenced in the first instance.—The report was adopted.

COLLECTING THE RATES.

The Collector's report, which was approved, stated that the sum of £1366 10s 11d had been collected, this being the total amount of the General District Rate. Proceedings had been taken against persons in arrears, but in only one case was it necessary to take the matter to Court, when an order was made for the payment of the full amount.

THE HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT.

Dr. T. Benson, Medical Officer, said that the following cases had been notified to him:—Three of scarletina at Annfield Plain, and one at Flint Hill; two cases of enteric fever at Dipton, and two at Annfield Plain; and one case of croup at Dipton. The district continued free from notifiable infectious diseases. The mortality for the month was higher than the usual average. Nineteen deaths were registered, giving a death rate of 22 per 1000. None of the deaths resulted from preventable disease.

THE GAS COMPANY.

Mr George Wailes moved that the Council give the requisite six months' notice to the Annfield Plain Gas Company to terminate the existing agreement with respect to the public lighting.—Mr Storey seconded.—Mr Johnson asked the reasons for taking this step.—Mr Wailes: The reasons are that we cannot get at the Kyo Gas Company unless we give notice.—The Chairman: I think that the reason is that in the opinion of Mr Wailes we might have better terms, and we cannot treat unless we give notice.—Mr Wailes: It will give us a chance to get better terms. When we consider what we are paying, it is time we tried to do something to help ourselves.—Mr J. G. Taylor: We cannot lose anything by trying.—The resolution was carried unanimously.

THE SCAVENGING.

A letter was read from the Local Government Board stating that they gathered from the Medical Officer's report to the Lanchester District Council that the scavenging and removal of refuse in the colliery villages in the district of the Annfield Plain District Council was undertaken by the colliery proprietors. The Board asked whether the colliery district was the most populous, and, if not, whether the occupiers of premises in the remainder of the district were able to carry out the work with the required frequency and efficiency.—The Chairman: I think it is a gentle hint that we should contract for the whole of the district scavenging and sanitary work. Personally, I am inclined to think that at present the work is not efficiently carried out in districts other than the colliery districts.—Mr Hall: And some of the colliery districts are not satisfactory.—The Chairman said that in his opinion it would be much cheaper for the owners of property in the district to have the work contracted for, and paid for out of a rate.—Mr Johnson said it was an important question, and wanted consideration.—The Chairman: We have our Surveyor here, and I will ask him if he thinks nuisances are caused by the ashpits not being properly cleansed?—The Surveyor: Certainly.—The Chairman: You don't think the state of affairs is satisfactory?—The Surveyor: I do not.—The Chairman said that no doubt the rest of the district was larger than that dealt with by the colliery companies. The question was whether the Council were satisfied with the sanitary arrangements for that larger district.—Mr Mason moved that the Council reply that the arrangements were not satisfactory, and remarked that it was a shame the amount people now had to pay for the removal of refuse.—Mr Down seconded, and the motion was carried.

THE BYE-LAWS.

The Local Government Board returned the draft bye-laws, and requested that, with the slight alterations made, they should be printed, and a copy forwarded for confirmation. One of the alterations concerned the fact that District Councils can now license slaughter-houses for only twelve months.—The Clerk was instructed to procure tenders for the printing of the bye-laws.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Tanfield District Council wrote referring to stones being deposited opposite the Flint Hill Schools. The road was not in their district, but the Schools were.—It was decided that the letter should lie upon the table.—The Clerk mentioned that he had to think of the cost of carting the stones, and he put them in the most convenient place.—In response to the Tanfield District Council's request, Messrs Storey and Eltringham were deputed to act with Messrs Allison and Bulmer in regard to the Sunday train question.

OFFICES FOR THE COUNCIL.

Mr Down moved that the Council negotiate with Mr Clark, steward to Sir James Joicey, with the view of purchasing a piece of land, in the field at the front of Mr Miles Handy's premises, Catchgate, upon which to erect Council's offices, store rooms, &c. Mr Down said he thought the site was central.—Mr Hall seconded.—A lengthy discussion took place upon the matter.—Mr Eltringham moved that the offices be erected on Carrmyers Quarry.—Ultimately Mr Down withdrew his motion in favour of a proposal to approach Mr William Porter with a view to purchasing the piece of ancient freehold in his field, near where the Council at present met.—Mr Eltringham, as an amendment, moved that the whole matter be adjourned for a month.—The amendment was lost, and the resolution carried, the Chairman pointing out that it did not commit them to the purchase.

MISCELLANEOUS.

On the motion of Mr Down, it was resolved that a survey be made of Carrmyers and Kyo Sykes Quarry, and on that Councillor's proposition, it was decided that the footpath and road from Shield Row Lane to the bottom of the bank be kerbed and channelled, and put into proper repair.—This concluded the business.

STANLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The monthly meeting of the above Council was held on Wednesday afternoon at the Council Chambers, Mr J. Green, J.P., presiding.

There were also present Messrs J. Smith, T. W. W. Ritson, W. Indian, Geo. Forster, M. G. Armstrong, J. G. Ridley (Clerk), and J. Routledge (Surveyor).

BUILDING COMMITTEE.

The following plans were recommended for adoption—(1) Plan of additional works in Front Street, Stanley, for Mr T. J. Jackson, subject to ashpit being built 9in brick-work, and same to be roofed in. (2) Plan for washhouse in Mary Street, Stanley, for Mr R. West. (3) Plan of house in Clifford Road, Stanley, for Mr J. Temple, subject to small bedroom, averaging 9-ft. in height. (4) Plan for alteration of out-offices of two houses in Delacour Street, Stanley, for Mr Raw, subject to the inspection chamber being put into the yard according to Mr Routledge's instructions. (5) Plan of main sewer at South Moor, for the owners of the Towneley building estate. A plan of tenemented house in Mary Street, Stanley, for Mr John Palmer, was rejected, owing to want of particulars.—The report was adopted.

FINANCIAL.

The Finance Committee recommended the Council to give notice of intention to levy a general district rate of 1s in the £1 for the next half-year. Approved.—Cheques were ordered to be issued for payment of accounts to the amount of £593 15s 10d. Mr Hewison, collector, reported that he had collected and paid over to the Treasurer the sum of £191 11s 7d during the month.

MEDICAL REPORT.

Dr. Benson reported that four cases of notifiable disease had occurred during the month—one at Oxhill, and three at East Stanley. Measles had re-appeared, after ceasing for a period. The mortality for the month was much above the usual average; 20 deaths were registered, giving an annual death rate equal to 22 per 1000. Two deaths were caused through measles, and one by enteric fever. Preventable disease was not accountable for the extra high death rate.

MORE LIGHT.

Mr Ritson said that to have some of the Bray lamps burning all night would be an advantage.

The Chairman: It would be very expensive. They charge 3s 6d per thousand. I don't think it necessary for the time being.

Mr Armstrong: I think it is very necessary. Only last year, I was left in a minority of one on this question. Every member of the Board thought different to myself, but it happens now that we are going to get converted. I am glad to see the converts. It is absolutely necessary that a few lamps should be left in for the convenience of the men going to and from work. These men have a just cause for complaint that their necessities are not looked after as they ought to be.

Mr Forster: But after the men leave the street, they have to travel on a very much worse road.

Mr Armstrong: They can see the beacon light for a long way. There are a large number of men going about through the night.

Mr Smith: When will you put them out?

Mr Armstrong: When light begins in the morning.

Mr Ritson: There is one light kept lit near Forster's house.

The Chairman: That is on account of the position of the house.

Mr Ritson: I know that the policemen have several times made complaint. It would be a great help to them in their supervision. I have no doubt that the Co-operative Committee would be prepared to bear their share for keeping one burning.

The Chairman: I strongly object to the Bray lamp, because they are so costly. It will be necessary to approach Mr Burn before you get the cost. You ought to get the cost before passing any motion.

Mr Armstrong proposed that the Lighting Committee communicate with Mr Burn, and ascertain what he would charge for a number of lamps burning over night, and report to the next meeting; the Committee also to ascertain what number of lamps would be necessary for lighting the district.

Mr Smith seconded the motion.

Mr Armstrong: It is not the Bray lamp that I am asking for.

Mr Ritson did not think that it would be a very expensive job to keep a few Bray lamps burning.

The Chairman: The Bray lamps cost about £6 each per year.

Mr Armstrong: They are three times the cost of the ordinary lamp.

Mr Ritson expressed the opinion that 35s would be sufficient for the thirty weeks.

The Chairman: No, not twice or three times that amount. We are only burning from four to five hours now, and you are going to burn more than double that time.

Mr Indian said that the lamps should remain lighted till 7 o'clock in the morning.

Mr Ritson: I think that five hours would be a fair average of the daily number of extra hours for the whole season.

Mr Smith: If the question is taken up, it will have to be considered in reference to the whole district.

Mr Indian: You cannot make fish of one and fowl of the other.—The motion was adopted.

The Chairman: I shall reserve either approval or disapproval, till the committee's report is to hand, and we know the number of lamps required to be lighted, and the probable cost.

SOUTH MOOR SEWERAGE SCHEME.

With reference to the communication from the Local Government Board relative to the report of Mr Meade-King, regarding the recent inquiry, it was agreed, on the proposition of the Chairman, to ask Mr Parmeter whether it would be possible for the Council to obtain 300 or 400 additional square yards; the surveyor meanwhile to ascertain if 200 further square yards were available for use on the land already purchased.

The Chairman further proposed, and Mr Forster seconded that other matters be left in the hands of the surveyor.

The Surveyor: You will not have to be tied to twelve months.

This was agreed to.

A NUISANCE.

A letter was received from the Annfield Plain Council, calling attention to a nuisance existing near Jubilee Terrace.—It was decided to reply, stating that the Surveyor had already received instructions to attend to the matter.

RAILWAY TRAIN SERVICE.

A petitition was received from residents in Annfield Plain, Kyo, South Moor, and Stanley, in favour of increased travelling facilities on the Annfield Plain line. The whole of the members signed the petition, and a pressman present suggested that it should be stated in the communication that Mr William Bulmer was in favour of the petition.

Mr Smith remarked that Mr Bulmer was more than a match for the School Board members, and Mr Indian remarked that he had purchased a book specially for the purpose of taking press extracts, *re* Mr Bulmer.

A communication was received from the Tanfield Urban Council with reference to the effort to secure a Sunday train service, and Messrs Indian, Armstrong, and Ritson spoke strongly in favour of the necessity of having Sunday trains.

Mr Indian was appointed to act with Messrs Bulmer and Anderson, of Tanfield, in furtherance of the movement.

HIGHWAYS AND LIGHTING COMMITTEE.

The above Committee recommended the Council to offer the Gas Company an increase of 6d per lamp, making the charge £2 per lamp per season of 1600 hours; this to include all repairs, lighting, extinguishing, and cleaning lamps, also the fixing of the lantern and cradles at the commencement of the lighting season, and taking the same down and storing in store house.—The report was adopted.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The Surveyor reported a subsidence in Beamish Bank, owing to colliery workings. He had drawn the attention of colliery officials to the matter, which was having their attention. The steam roller had been on Oxhill Road, and the footpaths were also being attended to. Other work was in progress.—The report having been adopted, the meeting adjourned.

TANFIELD SCHOOL BOARD.

The monthly meeting of the above Board was held in the Tanfield Council chamber on Tuesday evening, Mr H. C. Wood presiding. There were also present the Rev. T. H. Archdall, Tanfield; Rev. J. Thompson, Messrs J. Green, W. Severs, and M. G. Armstrong, Stanley; W. Bulmer, Tanfield Lea; R. Mason, Hobson Colliery; S. Meddick, School Attendance Officer, and W. H. Ritson, clerk.

ATTENDANCE OFFICER'S REPORT.

Mr Meddick reported that since the last meeting, he had made 53 visits to schools, 511 absentee visits, served 10 bye-law notices, and reported 25 children to other officers. The attendances were fairly good, except on Friday afternoons, the worst schools in that respect being West Stanley Board, and Burnopfield National. Measles and scarlatina had affected the attendances at Stanley, and one case of scarlatina had occurred at Lintz Colliery.

TEACHERS' REPORTS.

Mr J. Anderson (East Stanley) reported that the monthly examination showed that the working of all classes was making good progress.

Miss Burnip reported that the attendance at East Stanley Infants had increased during the month, that for the present week being particularly good.

INEFFICIENT STAFFING.

Mr R. W. Little (West Stanley) reported that Mr T. H. Green (ex-P.T.) had left for the Borough Road College, London. Since the vacancy, the staff had been re-arranged, but the work could not be successfully performed without additional help. A competent teacher was necessary for every class.

Miss Storey reported that the work in the West Stanley Infants' Department had made good progress during the month. The attendance had been seriously affected through sickness. Although I always had a larger and more difficult school to manage, she had done all in her power to keep down expenditure, and earn the highest possible grant, as the annual statement would prove; and the fact of being differently treated to other teachers hurts her feelings very much more than the loss of her money. She therefore simply asked, with the greatest possible respect, for an allowance *pro rata*.

Miss Hogarth (Leazes) reported that work had proceeded satisfactorily, the attendance having been regular.

Miss Greenhow (Stanley Central) reported that the entrance to the School yard needed attention.

Mr J. A. Hodgson (Causey) reported that he could not possibly work the School under the present conditions of the staff.

Miss Middleton requested that the vacancy in the teaching staff of the Tanfield Lea Infant School should at once be filled. The whole School was suffering, and discipline was injured. The attendance continued exceptionally good, and the accommodation was insufficient.

Mr G. H. Smith reported that the attendance at Pickering Nook continued regular, and at present it equalled the accommodation. Good progress was made with the work.

Mr R. Abbott (Leazes) wrote:—I received your intimation that I was to receive nothing towards papering, &c., but cannot see the fairness, after all the other teachers have received it. The more so, indeed, when it is remembered that for 3½ years I was allowed £10 per annum to pay a £12 rent, and paid 7s 6d per load for coals. This, again, is different treatment to your present allowance.

SUGGESTED REMOVAL OF THE CENTRAL CLASS.—A COMPLIMENT TO MR BOLAM.

The following letter was received from Mr H. Ward, H.M. Inspector:—

"Dear Sir,—Before answering your letter of September 3rd, regarding the proposed removal of the Central Class for pupil teachers from Tanfield Lea to Tanfield School, may I enquire whether the Tanfield Board propose to carry out the scheme which I understood was under consideration for building a new school at Tanfield Lea, and utilising some portion of the present School for the purposes of instructing the pupil teachers? In connection with the subject of the Pupil Teachers' Centre, I should be glad if you would inform the Board that under the existing code, no official report is forwarded to them as a result of the visit of inspection which I paid some weeks ago. But at the same time, I should like the Board to know that I formed a very favourable impression of the work of the Class from what I saw of it in making the inspection. I was struck with the enthusiasm of the teacher and the pupils, and I have every confidence that the enterprise of the Board, in initiating and maintaining the Class, will be amply justified. The Board have set to work to remove one difficulty which has hitherto stood in the way of complete success of instituting a searching preliminary examination of candidates for the office of monitor.—Yours faithfully, H. Ward."

The Chairman: You will simply have to write and tell Mr Ward that it is our intention to utilise part of the old School as a Central Class.

Mr Archdall: Might I offer one word of congratulation to Mr Bolam, the master of the Central Class?

Mr Green: I support that, more especially so because Mr Bulmer drew our attention very particularly to this supposed great failure of the Central Class. If he had waited a little bit to make inquiries, he would have found that things are not so bad as he thought.

Mr Bulmer: I should be very sorry if it is any worse than what it really is. If you take the results of the last three years, you will find that it is going back.

The Chairman: That is not a fair criterion.

Mr Archdall proposed that the report be sent to the head teacher of the Central Class.

This was seconded, and carried, Mr Bulmer not voting.

The Chairman: Aren't you going to vote for that, William?

Mr Bulmer: No.

The Chirman: I thought you would.

Mr Bulmer: Has the Clerk not replied to Mr Ward? I am rather surprised that he did not write straight back.

The Clerk: How could I say that it was your intention to utilise part of the old School as the Central Class? You have talked about it, but there is no resolution in the minute book.

WAGES OF SCHOOL CLEANERS.

On the proposition of Mr Armstrong, seconded by the Rev. James Thompson, a Committee, consisting of Messrs Wood, Green, Mason, and Severs, was appointed to take into consideration the payment of school cleaners.

EXTRA REMUNERATION.

It was agreed to grant 7s 6d to Mr Metcalfe for extra cleaning at West Stanley Board School.

RESIGNATION.

Miss A. Brown, teacher at Tanfield Lea Infant School, resigned her appointment. The resignation was accepted with regret.—It was decided to advertise for a successor.

SCALE OF CHARGES FOR USE OF SCHOOLS.

Mr Thompson drew attention to the scale of charges for the use of the School, and said that with so many public halls in existence, it struck him that it was largely on the score of cheapness that so many applications were made for the use of schools. He thought that the Board should deal with such applications purely as matters of business. He would be the last to have their Schools turned into music schools, or dancing schools, and in revising the scale of charges, he considered that the charge he was about to submit was quite just and fair, compared with the prices charged for the other public halls in the neighbourhood. He suggested 15s per night for socials; he believed that the charge of the Co-operative Hall, Stanley, was 25s or 30s. For concerts, he suggested that the charge should be 10s; the charge for the Co-operative Hall was 20s or 25s, the latter, he believed. The charge for the Albert Hall was 20s. For meetings, he thought that the charge should be 2s 6d; and for bazaars, which caused a great disarrangement, the charge would be 15s per day.

Mr Armstrong thought that the Board should debar socials altogether.

Mr Thompson: I am willing to include that. I put the price at 15s, with the intention of making it prohibitive.

Mr Archdall asked if the teachers would not be allowed the use of the Schools for socials?

Mr Armstrong: Teachers are just as well able as the outside public to pay for the use of the public halls.

The Chairman: I quite understand that if we fix this charge, we still have discretionary power as to whether we allow the use of the School for socials.

Mr Severs: Then I consider that we should remain as we are. We might just as well use our discretionary power in all cases. Consider the cases on their merits, and charge what we think fit.

The Chairman: There is always a difficulty in the personal element that comes in.

Mr Bulmer moved that the matter should be adjourned for one month. They should not deal precipitately in it, as it meant a lot, and needed a great deal of thought.

Mr Archdall seconded the adjournment, which was unanimously agreed to.

MR BULMER AND THE CLERK.

Mr Bulmer complained that the Clerk had neglected his duties. He moved that his services be despensed with, and spoke in favour of electing a man who would devote the whole of his time to the duties of the office.—The proposition, however, found no supporter, the whole of the other members present voting against it.

SHORTHAND CLASS.

It was agreed to grant Mr H. Halliwell, of Chester-le-Street, the use of a class-room at West Stanley, for a shorthand class, on the usual terms.

Mr Archdall suggested that no charge be made owing to the object of the class being so beneficial.

CAUSEY SCHOOL.

Just after the Attendance Officer's report had been considered, Mr Archdall rose to report on the Causey school, and opened by remarking that he was pleased to have the opportunity of making the report so early in the evening, and not have it relegated to the end of the business, when the members would, perhaps, not be disposed to spend much time over it.

Mr Bulmer: It is because of that that it is placed first on the agenda. Has there been any intimation that it should be placed first on the agenda?

Mr Archdall: Not from me.

Mr Bulmer: It was the remarks that Mr Archdall made that made me put the question.

The Chairman: The Clerk seems to have misunderstood what I told him. I said that the reports of committees should be placed first on the agenda, but I made no reference whatever to Mr Archdall's report.

The Clerk: Mr Archdall gave notice that he would report on the Causey School.

The Chairman: There is a committee who have got to report regarding the School.

A Member: No; the committee have reported.

Mr Archdall: On a former occasion, I drew attention to the glass being required in the partition; and to other faults connected with it. I have received a letter from Messrs Davidson and Bendle, who say that they again examined it, and found it decidedly better; but still think that it might be made more steady than it is; and have therefore communicated with the makers, who have agreed to get their agent to come over and examine it." It is still very far from being steady, and shows great instability at the present time. I was at the School yesterday, and found that the cupboards have not yet been placed in the School, and it is most difficult for the master to arrange his books. After referring to other matters, Mr Archdall proceeded. Three panes of glass in the windows have been broken last week, and two locks broken outside; and one of the doors split with a chisel. The last party who engaged the School did not put the desks back till half-past ten o'clock, and they were put back in the wrong order. I suggested to the head-master that in future it would be well to number the desks, and the positions in which he wanted them, and he agreed with the suggestion. The ventilation grates are so large as to admit rats, and they get in, and have a little play. There ought to be perforated zinc put on to prevent the ingress of rats. In the course of time, unless stopped, they will make their way on to the floor, and gather up the remains of the children's dinners. The staff of the School at the present time is insufficient, the master being left for two days or two and a half days per week in charge of standards three, four, five, six, and seven with the sole assistance of a boy 13 years of age. It is quite impossible on these days for him to give proper attention to the other classes. The footpath is in a very bad state of repair, and I am afraid that it will always be dangerous for girls and infants. It would be much better to make a means of egress at the back of the offices leading on to the lane. This could be done with the greatest possible ease. The lamps are there, but require to be hung, now that the nights are dark. I think that the question of planting trees ought to be considered, and move that Messrs Severs and Thompson, with the Chairman and Vice-chairman, form a committee to attend to the matters I have mentioned. I myself am unable to give any assistance, as I am going away for a month for the benefit of my health.

Mr Bulmer: How long is it since this School was finished?

The Chairman: About three months.

Mr Bulmer: And these defects have occurred before the School has been open more than three months. These are all defects in connection with the building. Really, I must say that I am much surprised that this list of defects should be presented to us to-night. I think that the first step we should take is to summon the architect here, and have some explanation as to how these things have been left over, and not attended to properly.

Mr Archdall: Might I say, personally, that I did not mean this as a personal complaint. There are only two things with which the architect could have anything to do—the ventilation grates and the partitions. He could not possibly have anything to do with the other things.

The Chairman: The question of the removal of desks is certainly not a matter that concerns the architect, and the cupboards were left in the hands of a committee, who have apparently overlooked them.

Mr Bulmer: I quite admit that.

The Chairman: I don't see why the architect should be brought in, as if we were just waiting for an opportunity to "get at him." The grates are similar to those used at the other schools, 9 inches by 6 inches, I think, and most of them would admit a rat.

Mr Archdall: No, Mr Chairman; there are some smaller ones, and when large ones are put in, it is usual to use perforated zinc. Certainly, I don't mean this as a complaint against the architect.

Mr Severs declined to be on the Committee, and Messrs Wood, Green, and Thompson were elected thereon.

RATEPAYERS' MEETING AT HARE LAW.

An adjourned public meeting was held in the Board School, Hare Law, on Wednesday evening, to consider the advisability of forming a Ratepayers' Protection Association for Dipton and Annfield Plain. Amongst those present were:—Mr George Murrry, Councillor J. Storey, Mr Jas. Smith, Mr Thos. Bowes, Mr T. Weston, sen., Mr S. Ramsay, Mr W. Rutherford, Mr J. F. Smith, Mr C. F. Cooke, Mr J. Humble, Mr H. Williams, and Mr J. Strawbridge.

Mr Murray said that they had met with the object of forming a Ratepayers' Protection Association. He did not know whether they could do much good. The question was not worth arguing. If they formed this Association, it would be their business to try to keep the rates down, and to see that no undue advantage was taken of any ratepayer.

Mr Humble said that he knew there was great dissatisfaction against the rates, which were exceedingly heavy.

Mr Rutherford said that it was very necessary to form an Association. Rates were very high all over the district, and it was desirable that an Association should be formed for the people who had to pay the money. If any unnecessary expenditure is entered upon, the ratepayers had a right to speak out. He was prepared to move a resolution in favour of the formation of the Association.

Mr J. G. Smith said that he was prepared to second such a resolution.

Mr Storey said that, as a member of the Council, he had nothing to say against the formation of a Ratepayers' Association. Messrs Rutherford and Humble would, he thought, admit that the rates were now less than they had been for a long time previous to the Urban Council being formed. He had paid more than 9d in the £, and would only say, as a member of the Council, that everything for the benefit of the people had had his fullest and best consideration. He did not think that anything had been done extravagantly, as the rate of 9d in the £ would show. Just before the Council was formed, the rates were 1s or 1s 2d.

Mr Rutherford: That was owing to special work.

Mr Storey: What was the rate without the special work?

Mr Rutherford: Reasonable.

Mr Smith: It has once been as low as 10½d.

Mr Murray said that they did not complain of the rates being heavy. They had no reason to do so, but the Council would not be in power for ever.

Mr Strawbridge and Mr Rutherford pointed out that the Association was not to be formed with a feeling of hostility to the Urban Council.

On the motion of Mr Rutherford, seconded by Mr Strawbridge, it was decided to form a Ratepayers' Protection Association.

Mr Murray subsequently expressed the opinion that it was to the advantage of the working people that rates should be kept as low as possible. If the rates were increased, the property owners would be compelled to raise the rents, and the poorer classes would be the ultimate sufferers.

The following gentlemen gave in their names as members—Messrs J. F. Smith, T. Robson, J. H. Robinson, G. Murray, W. Rutherford, C. F. Cooke, J. Cooper, jun., J. Strawbridge, J. Humble, T. Weston, T. Bowes, and R. Riddell.—The meeting then adjourned.

BIRTLEY FOOTBALL CLUB.

A CHAT WITH MR SECRETARY KNOX.

[By "Referee."]

After last Saturday's match, I had the pleasure of a brief chat with Mr W. J. Knox, the business-like Secretary of the Birtley Football Club, and I then gleaned a few particulars which will, no doubt, be of general interest to football enthusiasts in all parts of the wide district covered by the widely-read *Consett Chronicle*. It need hardly be stated that football is warmly supported in Birtley. Most of the clubs in the district have had an opportunity, upon their visits, of noting the pleasure which an afternoon upon the Birtley ground affords to large numbers of the honest Birtleyites. But what may be mentioned, with every confidence that the information will be welcomed, is that the Birtley Club is receiving constantly-increased support. The Club is not an old one. It is an infant compared with the Club against whom Birtley were playing on Saturday—I refer to Rendel. But it is a healthy infant, and all I hope is that it does not overgrow its strength. Such little history as the Club can boast of, however, I asked Mr. Knox to relate.

"This is what we really call the fifth season of the Birtley Football Club," said Mr Knox." Of course, seven years before we started, there used to be a Birtley Club. That was in George Miller's time. It was partly a professional team, and George Miller captained it. The time came when he left the district, and then all the interest went out of the Club."

"And how did Birtley Football Club No. 2 originate?" asked "Referee."

"Well, they were getting up a Cricket Club, and a few of us wanted to have football amal mated. The promoters of the Crick movement, however, did not adop tion, and so we, who desired once Birtley Football Club in existe and made a start. We have since."

"Referee" remarked that hear it, and asked Mr Kno in its initial fixtures.

"We really started at th and Leadgate Exiles we ponents. They used to The next season we a Northern Alliance, but w the following season. proved."

"And the players, wh

"Our forwards used t McAvoy, Bolam, Palm first, of course, has gi Kinnear was our goalk to Newcastle United, and is playing with them still. We have had Collins two seasons. He belongs to Rendel, and was transferred to us from the Rendel Club. J. Robson played back with Bell, but Robson also has done with football now. Fish, who went to Stanley, and F. Todd, will also be remembered. Rutherford was then in the second team, and so was Dixon. Bolam has played in every position in the field, and this is his fifteenth year at the game. Last year, we presented him with a marble time-piece and bronzes. He is a Birtley man bred and born; and I may mention that to-day we have had nine thorough Birtleyites in our team. Rowell used to be a good forward for us, and is now playing for Leicester. We played very canny in our first season.

"How did you get along last year?"

"Oh, pretty fair. I have the figures here. Our first team played 42 matches—won 22, drew 7, lost 13, and scored 94 goals against 84. Our second team played 23 games, won 10, drew 6, lost 7, and scored 61 goals against 31. Our income last season was £183 19s 3½d, and our expenditure was £174 12s 9d, so we are on the right side."

"What are your prospects for this season?"

"Well, as to playing, we hardly feel properly started. We have been changing our teams a great deal, but I think we are going to settle down now. Several of our best men could not play for us to-day, and I think we can place them in the field on Saturday next, so that, if Rutherford gets all right, we should win. We seem to be doing better, financially, this season. Our average gate money, last year, was £3 per match, but this season it has been close upon £6."

"What Club is your best draw?"

"Jarrow, I think, though Stanley runs close."

Mr Know added that the whole of the team are amateurs, and that there is a strong feeling among the members against professionalism. After our random conversation, I left Mr Knox with every good wish for a successful season for his Club.

MARRIAGE OF MISS MURRAY.

On Wednesday afternoon, the wedding of Miss Maggie Murray, the only daughter of Mr Richard Murray, of Ford Hall, with Mr Robert Taylor, son of Mr William Taylor, of Conniscliff, Darlington, and late of Stanniforde, took place at St. Mary's Church, South Hylton. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Miss Etha Murray and Miss Freda Theoley as bridesmaids, whilst Mr R. T. Murray, jun., acted as best man. The bride was attired in white Bengaline, trimmed with silver and pearl passementerie and Brussels lace, with transparent chiffon sleeves and chemisette; Court train, turned back at one corner with a handsome bow of silver lace; wreath and veil. The bride carried a magnificent spray bouquet of white orchids, lily of the valley, pancratum, and white roses. The bridesmaids wore white Undine, trimmed with transparent chiffon sleeves and neck, with large chiffon hats, and carried dainty shepherds' crooks dressed with white roses, lilies of the valley, and asparagus fern, tied with satin ribbon. The presents were very numerous and costly, and included the following:—

Mrs Humble, entree dish.
Mr and Mrs Brown, travelling clock.
Mrs Watson, toast rack.
Mr and Mrs Maddison, silver dessert spoons and forks.
Miss Reed, silver fruit dish.
Mr Little, flower glasses.
Mrs Hiddlestone, crumb scoop.
Mrs Taylor, silver kettle and cheese knives.
Mr and Mrs Smurthwaite, nut crackers and pickers.
Mr Stansfield, set of table glass.
Ada and Lizzie (cook and house maid), jelly dish.
Mrs Walker, brass candlesticks.
Mrs Douglas, brass ornament.
Mr and Mrs Handcock, hall letter box.
Miss Handcock, pair of silver salts.
Mr Jos. Watson, four silver salts.
Miss and Mr Bell, picture.
Mr and Mrs Hett, set of carvers.
Mr Hengle, silver cigar case.
Mr Douglas, pipe.
Mr and Mrs Bell, fish knives and forks.
Messrs Walker, two pipes.
Mr and Mrs Percy Williams, silver salver.
Employees Conisclifie Farm, cruet and jam spoons.
Dr. and Mrs Manson, tortoiseshell paper knife.
Mr and Mrs Ridley, sugar basin and sifter.
Maggie (bride), ebony toilet set.
Mr Taylor, cheque.
Mrs McKasy, tea cloth.
Mother, drawing room chair, linen, knives and forks, tea and coffee service.
Mr Taylor, tea cloth.
Mr and Mrs Moore, silver sugar basin and cream jug.
Mr Young, silver bonbon dish.
Mr and Mrs Complin, pair of silver pickle forks.
Mr and Mrs E. Bell, silver flower vases.
Miss Scott, bascaded photo screen.
Wear Brewery Employees, silver fruit and bonbon dishes on stand, candlesticks, salver and paper knife.
Father, house, horse, carriage, pictures, and cabinet.
Mr Whitefield, silver plant pot.
Mr Podd, pair of silver salts.
Mr and Mrs Humphrey, ebony stand, and copper flower pot.
Miss and Miss L. Lacey, case of silver mustard, pepper and salts.
Miss Mabane, silver mustard pot.
Miss Charlton, afternoon tea cloth.
Mr Hendry, pair of pedestal flower pots.
Mr and Mrs Watson, picture.
Mr and Mrs Graham, silver fruit dish.
Mr and Mrs Potts, silver afternoon tea appointments.
Canon Ross-Lewin, book ("Daily Round.")
Mrs Cummings, teapot and cruet.
Mrs Stewart, table cloth.
Mr and Mrs Blake, fish servers.
Mr and Mrs Gledstone, Worcester ornaments.
Mr and Mrs G. Nicholson, copper coal scuttle.
Dr and Mrs Grainger, silver sugar and cream.
Mr J. M. Nicholson, silver flower pot.
Miss Scotney, lace handkerchief.
Mr and Mrs J. Murray, silver biscuit box.
Mr and Mrs Parker, cake basket.
Miss Cornett, Worcester vase.
"Jack," case of silver tea appointment.
"Bee," silver sugar muffineer.
Dr. and Mrs Martin, pair of muffineers.
Mr and Mrs Charlton Hall, silver card case.
Mrs G. Patterson, hot water jug.
Mr and Mrs F. Short, silver-topped scent bottles.
Frederick Street Employees, salad bowl.
Ramshaw, bread trencher and knife.
Mr and Mrs Petherick, mother of pearl opera glasses.
Mr and Mrs Foulkes, silver fruit dish.
Mr and Mrs Oliver, fish servers.
Mr and Mrs Williams, pepper grinders.
Mr and Mrs Ainsworth, silver candlesticks.
Miss Ainsworth, silver-topped scent bottle.
Mr and Mrs Hooper, afternoon tea set.
Mr and Mrs Simpson, hall brush stand.
Mr and Mrs H. Nicholson, silver grape stand.
Miss Nicholson, painting.
Miss A. Nicholson, painting.
Miss Halfnight, silver butter dish.
Mr and Mrs Burns, silver puff box.
Mr Tate, old china.
Mr and Mrs Lloyd, silver join spoons.
Mr and Mrs Oct. Hedley, crown Derby vase.
"Dick," case of fish knives and forks, dessert spoons, nut crackers, and pickers.
Dr Todd, oak plant stands.
Blackhill Centre N.E.B., silver rose bowl.
Mr G. Aynsley, silver grape scissors.
Mr and Mrs W. Coupland, bread knife.
"Fred," plant pot.
Mrs Golding, cucumber glass and flower glass.
Mrs T. Short, pair of muffineers.
Miss Brown, silver inkstand.
Mr and Mrs Hunt Hedley, silver crumb scoop.
Mr and Mrs F. Robson, silver pie dish stand.
Mr Angus, pair of bronzes.
Mrs Coning, pair of silver candlesticks.
Bridegroom, a bicycle.
Miss Smith, silver tea caddy spoon.
Mrs Green, oil paintings.
Mr Aynsley, pair of etchings.

CRAGHEAD.

Fatal Accident.—A married man named Thomas Chrisp was killed in the Oswald Pit early on Wednesday morning, through a fall of stone. Deceased was employed as a stoneman.

LANCHESTER.

Primitive Methodist Chapel.—Recently the organ of this Chapel has been renovated and enlarged by Mr Nelson, organ builder of Durham, and in connection with the event an organ recital was given by Mr T. Elsdon, of Consett, who brought out the capabilities of the instrument in his own masterly style. The service was further enriched by the weet singing of Miss M. Williams, of Black ll, Miss I. Pearson and Mr E. Reay, of nnfield Plain, and Mr R. Pearson and Mr Evans, of Blackhill. Mr R. Galley per rmed in a splendid manner on the violin. e meeting was ably presided over by the ev. M. A. Drummond. The services were ntinued on Sunday, September 19th, when r J. Wright, of Blackhill, preached morn g and evening. In the afternoon, a musical rvice was given by the Choir, assisted by e Misses J. Wright and Russ, and Mr John rister, Mr W. Cox presiding at the organ n excellent manner. On Sunday last, the rvices were brought to a close, when a sical service was given in the afternoon, rmon being preached in the evening by W. Clayton, of Consett. The whole of proceedings were fairly successful, and gether about £8 was realized.

FOOTBAL

BISHOP AUCKLAND WEDNESDA LANGLEY PARK WEDNESDAY

Played at Auckland on Wednesday, in dull showery weather. Langley Park won the and Mohan started for Auckland, who not their first goal by King a few minutes after start. Shortly afterwards a second was add at close quarters. The visitors never got far fr their own goal, a persistent attack being ke up by Auckland. Fred Turnbull scored a third and Auckland led at the interval by 3 goals to none. The second half was of a one-sided and straggling description, the Auckland men playing anywhere in their endeavours to get goals. Mohan, King, Strachan, T. Turnbull, and Harwood succeeded, the visitors being completely demoralised, with the exception of the goalkeeper, who stopped shot after shot in splendid style, and alone prevented Auckland from adding another dozen to their huge score. Final:

Auckland Wednesday...... 8 goals
Langley Park .... Nil

Dipton v. Blaydon.—(Durham Challenge Cup), at Blaydon. Dipton team—Goal, J Spinks; backs, W Thompson (Kit) and M. Evans; half-backs, R Cunningham, E Buck, and J T Willey; forwards, J Brown, S Evans, M Temple, J Leadbitter, and T Walker. Reserve, H. Walker—Brake to leave the Bute Arms at one o'clock.

LEADGATE.

Ambulance Class.—The following students of the Ambulance Class (who are chiefly workmen engaged at Delves, Medomsley, and Blackhill Collieries, and residing at Leadgate) assembled at Bradley Shops on Wednesday evening, and received their certificates:—David Bell, Fred Batey, Edward Bunney, James Cross, William Dinning, William Hall, Thomas Hepple, Joseph Hewitson, Robert Nicholson, Joseph W. Barker, Milburn Peart, Richard Parkins, John Smith, Richard Ward, J. Ward, and William Williamson. Dr. Wilsden, the Instructor, was the recipient of a handsome double hat case, subscribed for by the Class, as a recognition of his services and valuable time spent.

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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Relatives ordering Memorial Cards, are requested to send the Name of the Deceased, date of Death, &c. Wives who have been bereft of their husbands, husbands who have lost their wives, parents their children, children their father or mother, and relatives their friends, will find at the *Chronicle* Office, a large number of suitable verses to select from. A Printed Copy of these will be sent on application, Post Free.

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HORSES, TRAPS, BRAKES, and all Kinds of VEHICLES for Hire.
Funerals Completely Furnished at the Lowest Possible Prices.

Births, Marriages, & Deaths.

Births.

At Johannesburg, South Africa, on the 20th ult., the wife of J. W. Forster, of a daughter.

Marriages.

TAYLOR and MURRAY.—At St. Mary's Church, South Hylton, on the 29th ult., Robert Taylor, son of Mr William Taylor, of Conniscliff, to Maggie Murray, only daughter of Mr Richard Murray, Ford Hall.

COCKBURN and BRODIE.—At the Blenheim Wesleyan Chapel, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on the 25th ult., by the Rev. A. E. Salmon, George A. Cockburn, third son of Mr J. Cockburn, of Consett, to Elizabeth Brodie, only daughter of the late Mr Adam Brodie, of Consett.

BELL and TURNER.—At the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Shotley Bridge, on the 25th ult., by the Rev. J. S. Nightingale, W. Bell, of Craghead, to A. E. Turner, of Benfieldside.

RYAN and COYLE.—At St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Blackhill, on the 27th ult., by the Rev. J. Foran, J. Ryan, of Blackhill, to J. Coyle, of Consett.

TOWARD and WILSON.—At the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Consett, on the 29th ult., by the Rev. J. Bacon, R. Toward to M. D. Wilson, of Lanchester.

LAMB and CAFFREY.—At St. Cuthbert's Chapel, the Brooms, on the 23rd ult., by the Rev. A. Magill, Thomas Lamb, of Consett, to Ellen Caffrey, of Leadgate.

Deaths.

At East Hedleyhope, on the 23rd ult., Herbert, infant son of Richard Burleigh.

At South Pontop, on the 24th ult., aged 4 years, Alice Ann, daughter of Peter Parkin.

At Burnhope, on the 27th ult., aged 3 years, Thomas William, son of John Uncles.

At Jackson's Square, Kyo, on the 25th ult., aged 46 years, Eliza, widow of Richard Mitchell.

At White-le-Head, on the 25th ult., aged 3 months, Elizabeth, daughter of John Reay.

At High Street, Stanley, on the 23rd ult., aged 41 years, James Bewicke.

At Tanfield Moor, on the 23rd ult., Sophia, infant daughter of Mr Blaylock.

At Havannah, on the 23rd ult., aged 13 months, Robert, son of Mr Hutchinson.

At the Lowd, on the 22nd ult., aged 70 years, Ann, wife of John Todd.

At Pickering Nook, on the 22nd ult., aged 8 months, James, son of Henry Webb.

At Lintz Colliery, on the 22nd ult., aged 7 months, Doris May, daughter of William Cresswell.

At Co-operative Terrace, Stanley, on the 21st ult., aged 1 month, Joseph, son of Henry Smith.

At 2, Middle Street, Blackhill, on the 23rd ult., aged 58 years, John Anderson.

At 518, North Cross Street, Leadgate, on the 23rd ult., Frederick, infant son of James Watson.

At 26, Pitt Street, Consett, on the 24th ult., aged 30 years, Francis Graham.

At 17, Harvey Street, Consett, on the 25th ult., aged 46 years, John Rafferty.

At 263, Railway Street, Leadgate, on the 25th ult., aged 27 years, Thomas Edwards.

At 116, Front Street, Leadgate, on the 26th ult., aged 62 years, Owen McCabe.

At 81, Hamsterley Colliery, on the 26th ult., aged 6 years, Spence, son of Joseph Cawthorn.

At 9, Shakespeare Square, Consett, on the 27th ult., aged 80 years, Rebecca, widow of John Frosdick.

At 6, West Parade, Consett, on the 24th ult., aged 36 years, William Brown.

At 34, Queen Street, Consett, on the 28th ult., James Harold, infant son of Patrick Carey.

At 10, Pitt Street, Consett, on the 28th ult., Isabella, infant daughter of John Nanson.

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of JOSEPH, the dearly beloved and only son of John and Elizabeth Rodham, of Tantobie, who died September 26th, 1891, aged 12 months.

Months have gone, and friends around us
Think the wound is healed;
But they little know the sorrow deep,
Within our hearts is concealed.

JAMES HOPE,
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