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Correspondence.

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

CORRESPONDENTS are requested to enclose their names and addresses on a separate slip of paper.

LETTERS for insertion should reach us not later than Wednesday mornings.

IS SPIRITUALISM TRUE?

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—My favourite essayist, R. W. Emerson, says "It makes no difference whether the appeal is to numbers or to one. The faith that stands on authority is not faith. The reliance on authority measures the decline of religion." And, again, "What divines had assumed as the distinctive revelations of Christianity, theologic criticism has matched by exact parallelisms from the stoics and the poets of Greece and Rome. Later, when Confucius and the Indian scriptures were made known, no claim to monopoly of ethical wisdom could be thought of, and the surprising results of the new researches into the history of Egypt have opened to us the deep debt of the churches of Rome and England to the Egyptian hierology." I would specially draw the attention of your correspondents to these quotations as I think them very applicable to the remarks they have made. Authorities cannot help us in matters of fact. A fact needs no authority; it stands for itself alone, and is sufficient against all opinions. When I referred to Professors Wallace and Crookes, it was not in the sense of authorities, but only as witnesses to facts. The facts of Spiritualism have had many testimonies during the last forty years—men of all the varied walks of life, emperors and presidents, judges and councillors, scientists and literary men, each and all have borne testimony to the truth of its phenomena. Tennyson has sung of the methods of spirit intercourse truer than any other. Longfellow has spoken of angel visitors. Robert Chambers said he could not doubt the evidences. Thackeray, W. Howitt, S. C. Hall spoke in like manner, the Emperors of France, Germany, and Russia held special seances with D. D. Howe. Abraham Lincoln received the emancipation document from the spirits at a seance. Lolner, Cowes, Wallace, Crookes, and other scientists have written much in favour of Spiritualism. All these are they who bear witness to the fact of spirit phenomena, but their evidence does not make the fact one whit more true than if they had never borne testimony. A religion that stands upon authority is troubled with a decline. That is not the complaint of Spiritualism, it is quietly making headway. Its facts are demanding and receiving the examination of those who have been trained to observe, and though all who come to the gates of the temple do not enter, yet they who go away take a knowledge they had not before, hence we are finding the psychical research societies of England and America are doing useful work in drawing attention to the mental phenomena and the powers of clairvoyance, &c. Now, supposing all these persons are deceived who have investigated this matter, we only stand in the same position as the churches; for if the evidence for which we have living witnesses is not true, what proof have we that any written evidence from any portion of the world is true? Could not the writers of the bible be mistaken also? The bible is no proof of immortality. It can only be an authority. A faith built upon authority is valueless. So if your correspondents have not been able to get facts of such a character as to satisfy them of spirit return, that is no disproof that others have, neither does it invalidate the evidence of others who have.

As to the teachers and teachings referred to by "Beamish Air Pit," all I can say is, that in all the scores and hundreds of communications I have received and the lectures I have heard, I have never once heard the ideas given that he states. I have known many who have been believers in the atonement doctrine denounce it under spirit influence, but never yet heard one bear witness to it.—Yours truly,

JAMES B. FETLOW.

140, Fitzwarren Street, Pendleton.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—With your kindness I beg leave to reply to your correspondent, "Light *v.* Darkness," which I trust may be beneficial to him, and help him to understand what at present he seems in complete ignorance of. When I say ignorance, I think I am somewhere near the mark, as I am certain that none but prejudiced individuals, who have even a slight knowledge of Spiritualism's grand and ennobling teachings, would, without close and strict investigation, set out to denounce it, as "Light *v.* Darkness" has done in his letter. When I look at the many brilliant men and women who have sat down quietly for years to find out the meaning of the strange and curious phenomena which have been observed to come through "mediums" of different types and organisations, with all possible chance of fraud on the part of the said "mediums" eliminated—by men and women, some of whose minds have been trained in strictly scientific methods, and when I see that they have been thoroughly satisfied, and have embraced such teachings as have been taught by their spirit friends, who have returned with messages of love for those who have mourned them as dead, and who have averred that death is only an incident in life, and that they still exist, and often visit those who are left behind on earth, it is then I wonder, and am amused at such evident dogmatic prejudice as is evidenced in the letter of "Light *v.* Darkness." If "Light *v.* Darkness" wishes to investigate the truths for himself, as I have done (and I hope he does), I ask him to particularly notice that some of the most brilliant intellects of the world have thought their time well spent, when, by investigation, they have satisfied themselves of its truths, and to notice that after they have proved it, they have stood up and supported it, in spite of the scoffs and jeers of the whole world. "Light *v.* Darkness" speaks of my *nom-de-plume* not being suitable. Well, names do not make much difference to the truth or falsity of a theory, and as for his opinion, he is welcome to it, but he must not forget that *beliefs* and *opinions* are not *proofs*, and it was *proofs* to which I wished to refer "Pide," when I named some of the various works on the subject. "Light *v.* Darkness" speaks of not being allowed to investigate at "dark seances." This I emphatically deny. If "Light *v.* Darkness" really attempted to search for himself, his scepticism would rather have been encouraged than put down, and he would have learnt that before a seance in the dark commences, investigators are generally asked to examine the room, medium, cabinet, etc., before the sitting commences, so that all searchers are allowed to investigate. Again, as to investigation, he asks "What, where, and when?" As to "what," I presume he means the phenominal side of Spiritualism; as to where, I say at once, at his own home; and here let me say that very often better proofs are obtained in one's own home than if you travelled 100 miles to a public seance, by a well-known "medium;" and as to when, I should say that whenever he has sufficient time to sit down in the mood of the poet, when he wrote:—

> "How pure in heart, and sound in head,
> With what divine affections bold
> Should be the man, whose thoughts would hold
> An hour's communion with the dead."

As regards his remarks *re* magnetism and mesmerism, I may say I have been a student of both for years, and say to "Light *v.* Darkness" that they have been the means of giving more proofs of the truths of Spiritualism than any other thing I have as yet had in connection with the subject, and by conducting my own experiments, I have arrived at my conclusions, and to doubt them would be to doubt the evidences of my own senses. As to the materialised spirit question, I answer that by putting another: What is man? and I think that, by a little careful consideration, he will come to the conclusion that he is not like the plucked fowl of "Diogenes—"a featherless biped"—but a little higher, and his highness consists of being a materialised spirit, yet in earth life. As to the clothes question, that may stand as a token of the rampant prejudice with which the mind of "Light *v.* Darkness" is evidently filled. And, again, let me remind "Light *v.* Darkness" that to-day very few seances are held in the dark, and especially those which are open for investigation. Again, he speaks of Spiritualism being put to the test by a public tribunal, which shows he is unacquainted with its history, or he would know it had been tested in every possible way. Perhaps "Light *v.* Darkness" has someone who has been very dear to him in the spirit world, and perhaps he remembers what he felt in the hour of his bereavement; how he felt a longing desire for association with the spirit world, an impatient eager glance that would pierce, if but for a moment, the thin veil that separates us from the loved ones gone before; to witness their occupations, to behold their triumph, to see if their eyes or thoughts are ever turned towards those who are still straining and struggling on, often with fainting hearts, and weary footsteps through the wilderness they have left behind? In these reflections everyone will sympathise whose diviner feelings are not altogether absorbed in the grossness of material associations, and who have a proper estimate of their own nature and destiny. I know there are many unknown and unnoticed by the world, unsoothed by its sympathies, untroubled by its jealousies and hatred, whose deeper and holier affections have been blighted and denied for some unaccountable reason a suitable response, but who can nevertheless find a solace, a co-mingling of sympathy, in channels through which the heart may pour its unrestrained freedom, its pent-up affections, far more pure and elevating in their tendency than those which the world has denied or is fitted to bestow. Perhaps "Light *v.* darkness" can remember a time when throughout the day he had been harassed and worried, perhaps had been deceived by some trusted friend, some link of loving friendship has been snapped asunder, and he has laid down at night in a state of feverish unrest unable to sleep; he has got up and looked out upon the solemn stillness of the midnight hour on a beautiful night, looked out upon a reign of silence, not the silence of death, but the silence of a quiet peace and the fulness of satisfaction. Universal nature seemed reposing, save the sorrow-stricken spirit that gazed upon the scene, and the sky glistering with ten thousand dazzling orbs, as if they were eyes celestial, gazing with a sympathising yet hopeful interest on the sleeping world, now that the great whirlpool of human passion is for a moment lulled. He may have gazed for a moment, and only for a moment, for what human heart can smother up the emotions that involuntarily gush forth in unrestrainable expression at such an hour. It is not sky, nor earth, nor ocean, nor silent humanity, nor aught terrestrial that can limit the soul's aspirations at such a season. Swifter than the light it bounds upwards as if on seraph's wings beyond the moon and the sky, and the sparkling stars and all material attractions, until, lost in the shadows of an unapproachable infinitude, it returns in astonishment to look within itself, and finds subjects full of equal interest, emotions hidden in unknown depths of the soul unsuspected, and which no language can utter, and finds its fittest expression in an undefinable longing and sighing after an acquaintance with the unknown and invisible, while a voice soft and soothing as an angel's whisper breathes in loving accents on the spirit, and we think the air peopled with pure intelligences that wait for holy converse when the mind is calm and serene, when sorrow has chastened the affections and lifted us above the usual grossness attendant on contact with earth. And the hushed stillness of the night produces a solemnity fitted for the association of the pure and loving ones of another land. And when converse with such has enlarged our ideas of purity and power, we think of the days when they were living on the earth with us, we recall the scenes we have witnessed with them, the words of consolation and advice they uttered, the look of unexpressed and unexpressible agony when we injured them, and when silent and breathless the past is revealed to us, with all the little kindness that have often dropped the balm of sympathy on our wounded spirit. We listen for some sound, but all remains still, yet we feel their presence with all its ennobling, and we drink in the warm stream of unabated love pure from its native heaven, no less real because it is silent, nor less valuable because it is immortal. Such a spirit as this let "Light *v.* Darkness" remember is the true spirit to approach the question for investigation, combined with a carefully trained mind to weigh the evidence for and against, unprejudiced by any creed, dogma, or superstition. Thanking your, Mr Editor, for the insertion of my last letter, and in anticipation for the insertion of this.—Yours, &c.,

LIGHT MORE LIGHT.

BLAYDON LOCAL BOARD.—CHOPWELL WARD.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—In passing through that part of Chopwell known as The Spen, I was very much struck with the liberality of the Blaydon Local Board, with which the Chopwell Ward is connected. They are going to put twelve lamps up in the Spen district to give light to the people.

They have allowed a contractor to so alter the main road near the Co-operative Stores that it has done away with one of the main entrances to the building. This, I am told, without consulting the management of this society. The road is in such a dangerous state that there have been two accidents at this spot. Who is responsible?

They came to the inhabitants of the Spen and said "We will supply you with water at the rate of threepence per fortnight." Now, sir, you would say that is very good, but they supply only two-thirds with water, and charge the whole with the rate. Not only so, but they only have the water one-third of the time, and it is cut off without any warning at all. They are going to make a road at Blackhall Mill, when they get the money. Query: Where does all the money which is raised in the district go to? There is but two men employed in the district by the Board, yet they took out of the district something like £600 last half-year. I was told that a deputation waited on the Board at their last meeting, and made a complaint about some of the ashpits having bad smells. The Inspector of the Board has, it is said, been round and consulted the manager of the colliery about the deputation attending the meeting, and they have come to the conclusion that it is the workmen's pigstyes which should be remedied instead of the ash middens. I believe it is the intention of the workmen of Spen, Victoria Garesfield, and Blackhall Mill to bring this matter before the next meeting of the Board. I am sir, yours truly,

A TRAMP.

VACCINATION STATISTICS: ERRATUM.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—Under the heading "remaining unvaccinated," second decade, 1878-1887, third line from the top the figures "1043" should be "1034." The total "20,385" is perfectly right.—Yours, &c.,

JOSEPH COLLINSON.

Wolsingham, October, 1892.

MUSICAL TITLES.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—After having read carefully through the letters of Mr Caldicott and Mr Sloane, I fail to see that they have proved the statements in my former letter incorrect. It is rather amusing to find the full list of patrons of this institution given out as eminent musicians. Mr Sloane gives a list of the diplomas (or degrees as he seems fond of calling them) issued, and truly it seems a most inventive institution, having regard to the number of different decorations. My statement that the diplomas, hoods, gowns, &c., were rubbish were the words of Mr Waddy, Q.C., given in a recent libel case, viz.: Akeroyd *v* Hammond, in which the secretary of the London College of Music, Mr T. W. Holmes, was a witness. Mr Holmes admitted that the diploma of L.Mus.L.C.M. had been given without previous examination on payment of £1 3s 6d, and the cost of the robes, viz.: £3 3s. Your readers may judge for themselves of the great profit made by this Institution, when Mr Holmes said that between five and six thousand candidates were examined last year, the fees for each candidate, I suppose, ranging from five shillings-and-sixpence to two guineas for each candidate.—Yours, &c.,

J. SURTEES.

A LARGE SALMON CAUGHT.—A Westgate angler killed a salmon in the Wear below that village on Tuesday with rod-fishing, 3ft. long and 20in. girth, which weighed 15lbs.

GROUSE SHOOTING.—The grouse shooting on the Weardale moors this year has been exceptionally bad. Very few young birds survived the unpropitious weather during the nesting season and the thunderstorms of May, which drowned lots of them. Most of the birds shot during the season have been old birds. The moors on this account have not been so heavily shot.

An extension of the delivery of letters at the several villages in Upper Weardale was commenced on Monday. The hamlets at the extremity of the county—Wellhope and Killhope—are to be included in the new Corn Riggs delivery.

THE UNEMPLOYED IN EAST LONDON.—At a time when much thought is being given to this matter, a practical suggestion may be of service. Last year, more than £300 000 worth of foreign matches were purchased by inconsiderate consumers in this country to the great injury of our own working people, so true is it that "evil is wrought by want of thought, as well as want of heart." If all consumers would purchase Bryant and May's matches, that firm would be enabled to pay £1,000 a week more in wages, and large numbers of the unemployed in East London would thus be provided with work, instead of swelling the ranks of pauperism. 306j.

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

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LEEK AND VEGETABLE SHOWS.

MEDOMSLEY EXCELSIOR SHOW.

The members of the above leek and vegetable show held their annual exhibition on Saturday week, in the Temperance Hall, Medomsley. Sixty-four stands of leeks and about fifty stands of vegetables were shown. The exhibits, on the whole, were of a high-class order. Mr M. Bates, Kyo, Mr Foster, Swalwell, and Mr Shield, Swalwell, acted as judges, their duties being performed in an efficient manner. During the evening, a miscellaneous entertainment was given by Mr Thirkle's party from South Shields, including Messrs Henderson and Wilkinson, the famous comic duet singers. Mr G. Thompson, South Shields gave two very creditable performances on the violin. Mr Wm. Brown, Bradley Cottages, highly delighted the audience with his concertina solos. Mr Joseph Walton, ventriloquist, Leadgate, highly delighted the audience with his entertainment. Mr A. Shearer fulfilled the duties of chairman. On Monday week, the show was again visited by large numbers crowding the hall, and Mr Robt. Wilson, of Medomsley, took the chair. The programme was rendered by the following:—Messrs Charlton, Brown, Pollard, Day, and Walton. Mr John English acted as secretary, whilst Mr Wm. Smith fulfilled the office of treasurer. During the evenings, refreshments were served by Misses Bramley, Smith, and Nevin in grand style. Subjoined is a list of awards:—

LEEKS.

1, Wm. Milburn, Westwood; 2, Geo. Dickson, Ebchester; 3, R. Scott, Allendale Cottages; 4, H. Spry, Leadgate; 5, A. Shearer, Allendale Cottages; 6, Miss Nicholls, Ebchester; 7, Robt. Wilson, Busty Pit; 8, G. W. Kay, Derwent Cottages; 9, T. Edgar, Elm Park; 10, J. Bell, Leadgate; 11, T. Charlton, Westwood; 12, G. Revel, Shotley Station; 13, Thos. Cookson, Medomsley; 14, Thos. Whitfield, Allendale Cottages; 15, John Spry, Leadgate; 16, F. Jackson, Leadgate; 17, John Nicholl, Ebchester; 18, Mrs Walker, Bradley Cottages; 19, Jas. Smith, Bradley Cottages; 20, H. Bragg, Westwood; 21, R. Lewin, Bradley Cottages; 22, W. Walker, Bradley Cottages; 23, J. Leech, Medomsley; 24, John Walker, Bradley Cottages; 25, M. Charlton, Medomsley; 26, Thomas Cookson, Derwent Cottages; 27, W. Smith, Bradley Cottages; 28, John English, Allendale Cottages; 29, Mrs Edgar, Elm Park; 30, Mrs Walker, Medomsley; 31, R. Brown, Leadgate; 32, W. Edgar, Elm Park; 33, Jas. Lonsdale, Ebchester; 34, Thos. Watson, Pit House; 35, T. Johnson, Bradley Cottages; 36, G. W. Charlton, Allendale Cottages; 37, Jos. Cragg, Leadgate; 38, M. H. Johnson, Bradley Cottages; 39, Alf. Spry, Leadgate; 40, J. H. Lewin, Bradley Cottages; 41, J. Hornsby, Busty Pit; 42, Chas Surtees, Leadgate; 43, Mrs Purvis, Allendale Cottages; 44, Miss Nicholl, Ebchester; 45, Miss E. Lewin, Bradley Cottages; 46, John Bramley, Medomsley; 47, T. Johnson, Bradley Cottages; 48, J. Bramley, Medomsley; 49, J. Hornsby, Busty Pit; 50, M. Charlton, Medomsley; 51, John Graham, Bradley Cottages; 52, Thos. Sanders, Medomsley Edge; 53, J. Davison, Bradley Cottages; 54, J. Stoddart, Medomsley; 55, John Calvert, Busty Pit; 56, T. Hornsby, Busty Pit; 57, Wm. Bramley, Medomsley; 58, John Surtees, Derwent Cottages; 59, Wm. Davison, Bradley Cottages; 60, W. Surtees, Derwent Cottages; 61, W. Huntley, Derwent Cottages; 62, Miss Surtees, Derwent Cottages; 63, John Revell, Shotley Station; 64, R. Calvert, Broomhill.

VEGETABLES.

Two carrots—1, G. Dickson; 2, John Walker.
Two parsnips—1, J. Leech; 2, John Nicholl.
Celery—1, G. Dickson; 2, A. Shearer.
Early cabbage—1, J. Nicholl; 2, John Nicholl.
Turnips—1, John Nicholl; 2, J. Cragg.
Two roots of beet—1, N. Charlton; 2, G. Dixon.
Cauliflower—1, J. Nicholl; 2, G. Dixon.
Red cabbage—1, Jos. Cragg; 2, Miss Nicholl.

WATERHOUSES.

On Saturday, the first open annual leek and vegetable show was held under the auspices of the members of the vegetable show, at Mr G. French's, Stag's Head Inn, Waterhouses. Mr H. Johnson officiated as secretary, while Mr Harle, of East Hedleyhope, was duly appointed judge. Considering the show was hurriedly got up, the number of competitors rather exceeded the most sanguine expectations of its promoters. The exhibits were of the finest quality, and compared favourably with any previously shown. A great deal of interest was evinced among local growers, while a goodly number have visited the show-room which was open till Monday evening, having been placed at the disposal of the committee by the host of the house. Appended is a list of awards:—

LEEKS.

1, R. Johnson, Waterhouses; 2, W. Davison, Esh; 3, G. Weedy, Esh; 4, R. Broughton, Waterhouses.

VEGETABLES.

Two heads of celery—1, 2, and 3, R. Broughton, Waterhouses.

Red cabbage—1, T. Coltman, Waterhouses; 2, A. Brown, Esh; 3, J. Sharp, Esh; 4, G. Davison.

BURNOPFIELD.

The annual exhibition of leeks and vegetables in connection with the Burnopfield Floral and Horticultural Society, was held on Saturday, at the Black Horse Inn, Burnopfield. The show, which was open only for members of the flower show, open class included, was one of the best ever held under the auspices of the society. The chief feature (as is always the case at this show) was the vegetables, cauliflowers in particular, some really magnificent specimens being on view, while the display of leeks was also splendid, and reflects the greatest credit upon the growers, more especially considering the damp and unpropitious season we have experienced. The prizes offered were (thanks to the efforts of the worthy host and hostess) of a most useful and valuable kind. During the time the show was open, it was visited by a large concourse of people, who were all loud in their praises of the exhibits shown. Mr Luke Dodds, Shield Row, was judge, while Mr B. Mason, Hobson, discharged the duties of secretary. The following is the list of awards:—

LEEKS.

1, W. M. Handcock, Burnopfield; 2, G. Gray, Hobson; 3, W. Dawson, Byer Moor; 4, R. Mason, Hobson; 5, J. W. Anderson, East Tanfield; 6, W. Wailes, Marley Hill; 7, J. Cawthorn, Windy Hill; 8, John Lown, Hobson; 9, G. Watson, Hobson; 10, Jacob Rowell, Clough Dene; 11, B. Beattie, Hobson; 12, T. Potts, Byer Moor; 13, T. Simpson, Sunniside, 14, S. Blythe, Lintz.

VEGETABLES.

Collection of vegetables—1, W. M. Handcock; 2, G. Gray; 3, T. Potts; 4, W. Wailes; 5, J. W. Anderson; 6, T. Simpson; 7, W. Dawson; 8, J. Rowell; 9, J. Cawthorn; 10, B. Beattie; 11, S. Blythe; 12, R. Mason.

Two heads of celery—1, G. Gray; 2, W. M. Handcock; 3, B. Beattie.

Cauliflower—1, T. Simpson; 2, W. Dawson.

FLOWERS.

Bouquet—1, W. M. Handcock; 2, J. Cawthorn; 3, T. Simpson.

Button-hole—1, W. M. Handcock; 2, R. Mason; 3, J. Cawthorn.

HOBSON LEEK AND VEGETABLE SHOW.

The 11th annual exhibition of leeks and vegetables was held on Oct. 1st. Being a fine day, with a good stock of vegetables and leeks, a good company was present both at the show and ball, which were both a grand success. The following is a list of the prize-winners.—

LEEKS.

Best three leeks—1, John Lown; 2, Gawen Gray; 3, Geo. Watson; 4, H. Middleton; 5, J. Harrison; 6, W. Hall; 7, W. Preston; 8, J. Brabban; 9, W. Burnop; 10, J. Hudson; 11, T. Trewick; 12, George Cawthorn; 13, J. Burnop; 14, C. Burnop.

VEGETABLES.

Best stand of vegetables—1, Gawen Gray, rug; 2, J Burnop, clock; 3, J. Lown, pair of sheets; 4, Geo. Watson, kettle stands; 5, John Harrison, watering pan; 6, Mrs Cawthorn, brass line; 7, W. Preston, pair of boots; 8, W. Burnop, pair of sheets; 9, W. Hall, dozen spoons; 10, H. Middleton, 7lbs. of beef; 11, T. Trewick, clock; 12, J. Hudson, shirt; 14, J. Brabban, pair of boots; 14, C. Burnop, pair of shoes.

Best collection of vegetables—1, G. Gray, shirt; 2, J. Burnop, 4s 6d hat; 3, J. Lown, spade; 4, Mrs Cawthorn, half-dozen of forks; 5, W. Preston, shirt; 6, C. Burnop, lamp; 7, J. Harrison, bake board; 8, H. Middleton, cheese knives; 9, Geo. Watson, silk handkerchief; 10. W. Burnop, pound of tea; 11, J. Hudson, bottle of whiskey; 12, W. Hall, pound of tea; 13, J. Brabban, ox tongue and tail; 14, T. Frewick, 4s.

Red cabbage—1, G. Gray; 2, J. Lown; 3, George Watson.

Early cabbage—1, G. Gray; 2, W. Burnop; 3, G. Watson.

Scotch cabbage—1, John Harrison; 2, Geo. Cawthorn; 3, J. Hall.

Savoy cabbage—1, J. Burnop; 2, J. Harrison; 3, Gowan Gray.

Cauliflower—1, J. Burnop; 2, W. Hall; 3, W. Burnop.

Three heads of celery—1, John Lown, four parts; 2, Geo. Cawthorn, spade; 3, W. Hall, three parts; 4, J. Burnop, 2s. 6d; 5, H. Middleton, gripe; 6, G. Gray, pound of tea; 7, J. Harrison, pound of tea; 8, W. Burnop, tablecloth; 9, W. Preston, teapot; 10, T. Trewick, two parts; 11, J. Brabban, five stones of potatoes; 12, J. Hudson, ox tongue; 13, G. Watson, one part; 14, C. Burnop, spade; 15, W. Milburn.

Three carrots—1, G. Gray; 2, G. Watson; 3, J. Harrison.

Three parsnips—1, G. Gray; 2, G. Watson; 3, J. Harrison.

Three turnips—1, G. Cawthorn; 2, W. Hall; 3, G. Watson.

Six kidney potatoes—1, J. Burnop; 2, G. Gray; 3, Geo. Cawthorn.

Six round potatoes—1, G. Gray; 2, J. Burnop; 3, Thos. Foster.

Six winter onions—1, G. Gray; 2, J. Burnop.

Six summer onions—1, J. Burnop; 2, G. Gray.

Six large eschalots—1, Mrs Cawthorn; 2, G. Gray; 3, H. Middleton.

Three roots of beet—1, J. Lown; 2, Geo. Watson; 3, G. Gray.

Three stalks of rhubarb—1, Geo. Cawthorn; 2, H. Middleton; 3, J Brabban.

Window plant, begonias—1, J. Burnop; 2, H. Middleton; 3, Geo. Watson.

Window plant, any other—1, W. Burnop; 2, J. Brabban; 3, J. Burnop.

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT—BOYS.

Writing, V standard—1, G. Wilkinson; 2, Thomas Watson; 3, Thos. Trewick.

Writing, IV standard—1, Chas. Lown; 2, J. W. Nicholson; 3, J. Harrison.

Writing for pit boys under 12 years—1, J. Marshall; 2, W. Liddle; 3, J. Layton.

GIRLS.

Hemming, 9 and under 13—1, M. E. Burnop; 2, Ann Randell; 3, Sarah Hall.

Hemming, 6 and under 9—1, S. Beattie; 2, S. Gray; 3, T. Fisk.

Button-holes—1, C. Burnop; 2, J. Burnop; 3, W. Burnop.

THE SPEN.

The Spen Original Floral and Horticultural Society held their annual autumn vegetable and leek show in the Miners' Hall, Spen, adjoining Mr R. Browell's. The show was open from Saturday to Monday night, and a very large number of people inspected the products which were set up for competition. The latter were all of excellent quality, and reflected the utmost credit on the exhibitors. The hall was beautifully decorated for the occasion by Messrs J. Robson and Wm. Bell, of The Spen, with flowers, &c., which gave the place a splendid appearance. The judges were Messrs Wm. Henderson, jun., Blaydon Burn, and J. Morrison, Bradley. The duties of secretary were satisfactorily carried out by Mr John Weatherley, Spen. The prize-takers were as under:—

1, R Todd; 2, G Nixon; 3, R Browell; 4, M Davidson; 5, G Wishart; 6, G Breckon; 7, J Nixon; 8, C Hammond; 9, J Alexander; 10, Thos Robson; 11, W Rodham; 12, Joe Alexander; 13, R Harrison; 14, J Laybourne; 15, R Hood; 16, Jas Settrey; 17, Geo Purdie; 18, R Spears; 19, T Whitfield; 20, R Rodham; 21, W Dixon; 22, R Hood, jun; 23, Jas Morland.

TANTOBIE.

The members of the Derby Leek and Vegetable Society, held their annual show on Saturday, at the house of Mr M. Snowdon, Commercial Hotel. Mr Snowdon offered 10 munificent prizes for leeks, and ten for a collection of vegetables. The following are the principal prize winners:—

LEEKS.

1, E. Charlton, 20in. long, and 18in. circumference; 2, M. Reay; 3, L. Dodds.

COLLECTION OF VEGETABLES.

1, W. Fawcett; 2, E. Charlton; 3, H. Wilkinson.

Mr Watts acted as judge, and gave every satisfaction.

The members of the Oaktree Inn Leek and Vegetable Society held their annual exhibition on Saturday week, in a marquee near the above inn, and with the liberality of Mr Gladders and friends it made the prizes substantial, and the competition very keen. Cauliflowers and red cabbages were exceptionally good. Mr Watts, Harperley Hall, acted as judge and gave every satisfaction. The following are the prize-takers:—

LEEKS.

1, N. Watson; 2, G. Gray; 3, M. Handcock.

VEGETABLES.

Collection of vegetables—1, L. Dodds; 2, M. Handcock; 3, W. Fawcett.

Celery—1, W. Fawcett; 2, M. Handcock; 3, J. Lewn.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

The members of above society held their annual leek and vegetable show on Saturday last at the house of Mr Wm. Taylor. The leeks were some of the best that have been exhibited in this neighbourhood this season, especially those of Mr W. Ledger, who gained the first prize, a case of cutlery valued at three guineas, while the second and third lots were very little less. The vegetables were a most creditable lot to the growers. At the close of the show a pleasant evening was spent by the members, enlivened by songs from Messrs Day, Anderson, Champney, Temperley, Taylor, &c. Mr W. M. Handcock, of Burnopfield, acted as judge, and his decisions were as follows:—

LEEKS.

1, W. Ledger; 2, Geo. Ledger; 3, W. Fawcett; 4, H. Wilkinson; 5, J. Brewis; 6, John Robinson; 7, J. Scott; 8, J. Lawson; 9, J. Scott, jun.; 10, T. Brewis; 11, J. Robinson; 12, F. Thompson; 13, J. P. Robinson; 14, T. Milburn; 15, T. Lawson; 16, J. Ward; 17, W. Hunter; 18, T. Wilson; 19, J. Hudson; 20, S. Smith; 21, H. Bates; 22, R. Johnson, pan and steamer; 23, Jocker Wilson; 24, E. Vipond; 25, W. Porter; 26, W. Richardson; 27, G. Bullerwell; 28, W. Taylor; 29, J. Champney, spade; 30, W. Lambert; 31, M. Bates; 32, R. Holling; 33, R. Robson; 34, R. Champney; 35, J. Forster; 36, W. Forster; 37, J. Thompson; 38, F. Armour; 39, G. Marlow; 40, T. Porter; 41, T. Thompson; 42, S. Marlow; 43, Thos. Wilson.

VEGETABLES.

Red cabbage—1, W. Fawcett; 2, J. Scott.
Savoy cabbage—1, J. Robinson; 2, W. Taylor.
Scotch cabbage—1, E. Vipond; 2, W. Taylor.
Cauliflower—1, J. Wilson; 2, E. Vipond.
Three parsnips—1, R. Holling; 2, M. Bates.
Three carrots—1, J. Wilson; 2, M. Bates.
Three turnips—1, J. Robinson; 2, W. Lambert.
Three roots of beet—1, J. Lawson; 2, J. Robinson.
Two heads of celery—1, J. Wark; 2, R. Holling.
Hand bouquet—1, J. Smith; 2, J. Robinson.

STOCK AUCTION MARTS.

BENFIELDSIDE.—Mr Murray had forward on Monday, 15 fat cattle, 180 fat sheep and lambs, 6 calves, 13 pigs, 12 cows, 4 geld cows, and 11 store cattle, a large quantity of poultry, harness, stackyard ladders, gripes, shovels, &c. There was a large company present, but trade was slow for all descriptions, the auctioneer having a difficulty in getting bids for some of the stock, and on the whole it might be termed a slow dragging trade throughout. Both cattle and sheep made less money than they have done this season.

TOW LAW.—Mr Vickers had forward on Monday, 55 dairy cows and heifers, 48 fat cattle, 10 store cattle, 277 fat sheep and lambs, 13 calves. Cows, made up to £22; fat cattle, to £16; store cattle, to £8; calves, to £3; fat sheep, to 32s; fat lambs, to 28s 9d; ewes, to 18s 9d; fat black-faced wethers, to 27s 3d.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—Mr Jas. Turnbull held his fortnightly sale on Monday, and had forward 12 fat cattle, 6 grazing cattle, 5 milch cows, 6 calves, 120 fat sheep and lambs, 20 half-bred ewes, 16 half and three-quarter bred lambs, 40 young pigs, 3 pork pigs, 1 cob, 1 pony, hens, ducks, &c. There was a fair attendance of buyers, and trade for fat cattle was a shade better. Sheep were slow at late market rates. Fat lambs were also a dull trade. The trade for good milch cows was brisker, with an upward tendency. Prices as follows:—Fat cattle to £12 12s 6d—top, the Charlaw Coal Company; grazing cattle to £40; new calved cows, to £16 17s 6d; for a very grand cow direct from Barnard Castle. Fat sheep: Shearlings, to 36s and ewes to 43s 6d—top, Mr J. T. Heslop, Urpeth. Pork pigs, to 38s 6d; young pigs, to 22s 6d. Horses, to £13 10s.

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GREENCROFT SCHOOL BOARD.

The ordinary meeting was held on Wednesday afternoon, in one of the class-rooms, Catchgate. Present:—Messrs R. Mitchinson (chairman), A. Brown, P. Reay, H. Greener, and the clerk (Mr W. A. Ritson).

MASTER'S REPORT.

The head teacher's report was submitted, which showed that there were 460 children on the books, with an average attendance of 400 for the month, being 87 per cent.

A SUCCESSFUL TEACHER.

It was also reported that Miss Robson had successfully passed the Queen's Scholarship, and was now qualified as an assistant ex-pupil teacher.

THE ATTENDANCE.

The Attendance Officer's report was read, and was considered satisfactory, seeing that the weather had been so inclement, and so many of the children having long distances to travel to school.

NEW RATE.

A precept of 6½d in the pound was ordered to be made on the overseers for the next half-year, being equal to £242 5s 4d.

THE HEAD-MASTER'S HOME.

The question of the Master's residence was finally considered, and the necessary forms, together with the plans, &c., to be forwarded to the Department, with an application for £600 from the commissioners, to be repaid in ten years.

RESIGNATION OF A TEACHER.

Mr J. T. Gardner, assistant teacher, handed in his resignation, having been advised to that course by his medical adviser. The resignation was accepted.

APPOINTMENT OF A FRESH TEACHER.

In reply to an advertisement for an assistant-mistress for the infant department, Miss L. Clark, of Dipton, was elected at a salary of £40 per annum.

MATERIALS.

The necessary articles for working the school were ordered to be obtained.

THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION CLASSES.

The application by the Technical Educational Committee for the use of the schools was granted.

FINANCIAL.

Cheques were ordered to be signed for the amount of £135, being an over-draft of £22 on the bank.

THE NIGHT-SCHOOL.

The ordinary night-school and the continued evening classes, having been commenced, were stated to be doing well.

This was all the business.

ENGLISH ARBORICULTURAL SOCIETY

VISIT TO GIBSIDE.

The members of the local section of this society paid a visit to the above place on Thursday 6th inst. The English Arboricultural Society, which has for its object the promotion of forestry in all its branches, with the special end in view of securing instruction of a practical nature to those in charge of forests and woodland in England, had its origin a few years ago among a few gentlemen of Tyneside and Carlisle, and which in its commencement had only a few local members, but has now a membership of 209. Among these it includes many noblemen and landed gentry of the country and even from America, as the chief of the Forestry Department of the United States is a member. The society has a general excursion every summer to some district noted for its woods and forests. This one was held in August of this year and took place at Duncombe Park near Helmsley, in Yorkshire, the seat of the Earl of Feversham, and at Castle Howard, the seat of the Earl of Carlisle. The visit to Gibside on the 6th inst. was a new departure, which it is expected will only be the first of a series to be held under the auspices of the various local secretaries of the society. The permission to visit Gibside was kindly granted by the Earl of Strathmore. The meeting-place was Rowland's Gill Station. There was a good muster of members, which included among others—Mr J. Davidson, Haydon Bridge, the secretary of the Society; Mr J. Balden, Hexham, the assistant secretary; Dr Somerville, Professor of Agriculture and Forestry, Durham College of Science, Newcastle; Mr John Graham, coroner; Mr J. Robson, nurseryman, Hexham; Mr Milne, of Messrs Fell and Co., Hexham; Mr G. Gallie, Ravensworth; Mr Vasey Sand, South Shields; Mr Robinson, Castle Eden; Mr W. Fleming, Tudhoe; Mr Dixon, forester to W. Walton-Wilson, Esq., Shotley Hall; Mr W. Scott, Burnopfield; Mr J. F. Robinson, Burnopfield; Mr D. Polson, *Hexham Herald* Office, official reporter to the society; and Mr Luke Beaufront.

On entering the grounds of Gibside, the first trees noted were some very good Weymouth Pines, near the Derwent Bridge. After passing the gardens and conservatory, the walk was taken by the old rookery, and the edge of the precipitous bank along the Derwent. The view of the stream from here was much admired. The attention of the company was attracted to a very large mountain ash tree, growing here. Close by was a fine oak, which contains in its trunk—although only about seven or eight feet long—about eighty cubic feet of timber, while the limbs of the tree were estimated to contain nearly 300 feet more. Here Dr Somerville exhibited to the company an instrument which was quite new to them all. By means of this, a small boring was made in the trunk of a tree, much as a section is taken out of a cheese to taste it. On a small slice of this boring being pared off, the amount of annual growth the tree had made for some years back could be ascertained. The instrument, the doctor explained, was an Austrian invention. The party next proceeded by the walk past the old ice-house, to the Hall. Here the front door was examined, with the sun-dial over it, and the arms of the Blackiston family carved on it, and the dates 1620 and 1805, these being the times when the hall was built and altered. After an inspection of the interior of the house and of the very interesting collection of moths and butterflies arranged into curious devices, belonging to Mrs Dawson, the caretaker of the house, the party assembled in the dining-room to listen to a paper by Mr J. F. Robinson, of Burnopfield, on "Gibside, its owners and its woods." The chair was occupied by Mr Coroner Graham. A short sketch of the beauties of Gibside, with a quotation from a former topographer, written in the last century, was followed by a brief historical account of the various owners to whom the place has belonged, ending with the present Earl of Strathmore. A short account of the woods and the measurements of certain trees in the grounds in 1824, with a brief mention of some of the more noted falls of timber that have taken place in Gibside was given. Extracts from valuations of lots of wood valued in 1792, 1794, and 1807, showed that in some of these years timber and bark brought much higher prices than much of it does now. At the conclusion of the paper a vote of thanks was moved by the Chairman to Mr Robinson for it, which was carried by acclamation. Coming out of the hall two fine cedars of Lebanon were found growing near the doorway. A visit was next paid to the well-known tree, the "King of the wood." The members of the society who were present universally acknowledged that this was the finest oak tree they had met in any of their excursions. The girth was found to be, at five feet from the ground, 14 feet 8 inches. The tree was computed to contain, in the main trunk, 400 cubic feet of timber.

This tree has now become considerably decayed. Dr Somerville tested it for growth, and it was found to be nearly, if not quite stationary, or that it may be said to be quite at its growth, and will shortly be going backwards. It was the opinion of Dr Somerville that the heart wood of it is quite sound. From the large oak a short walk brought the company to the end of the hollow walk, whence three fine vistas diverge—one to the chapel, one to the banqueting-house, and one to the lily pond.

The monument was next visited. This was a subject of much admiration, and of many questions as to its object, height, &c. The base was found to be exactly twenty feet square, and the height about 150 feet. By means of a powerful field glass a good view was obtained of the figure, which was seen to be that of a tall and graceful lady, the drapery of whose dress seem to be admirably well carved. It was noticed that one of the hands was broken off by the wrist. The fine sheet of water underneath the banqueting-house was visited. The vista from it up the drive was admired, as was also the prospect from the drive westward. An avenue led to the Elyard/banqueting-house, was closely and much admired. Thence by the Stables Terrace to the chapel, in which many of the arboriculturists had not been before. These were much surprised at its beautiful architecture.

Rowland's Gill was reached at five o'clock, where a very excellent meat tea was partaken of by the party, and which did much credit to the hostess of the Towneley Arms.

Sundry votes of thanks and toasts, and expressions of hopes that this, the first of the excursions of the local centres by the society, might not be the last of them; and the health of Dr Somerville being proposed, and that gentleman, in reply, saying he hoped that he might again visit the Vale of Derwent, brought to a close a very pleasantly-spent afternoon.

A BIG POTATO.—Mr W. H. Stonehouse, Ship Inn, Blackhall Mill, dug from his garden a few days ago an unusually large potato, measuring 10 inches in girth and 16 inches lengthways. It weighs 24 ounces.

LANCHESTER JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

A special meeting was held at Lanchester on Thursday week, Mr W. Logan being in the chair.

THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE HOSPITAL.

The Clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson) mentioned that the contract for enlarging the Leadgate Fever Hospital, in consequence of a certain class of white glazed bricks not coming satisfactorily to hand, was progressing slowly, and there seemed to be no probability of the Hospital being roofed over before the winter sets in. The members regarded this as a great pity.

It was resolved to open the Hospital for fever cases as heretofore, the place having been kept closed for the space of six weeks in view of a possible outbreak of cholera.

THE CARETAKER'S SALARY.

The local committee recommended that the salary of the caretaker, while the Hospital was standing empty, should be increased from 20s to 25s per week.

The Clerk explained that the caretaker and nurse (Mr and Mrs Stephenson) received £1 a week, and his wife got an extra 10s weekly for nursing patients when there were any in the Hospital, in addition to free house and firing. They had to devote all their time to the Board. Besides, a servant girl was paid 4s 6d a week. By advancing the caretaker's salary from 20s to 25s a week they would only be getting 5s extra while the Hospital was empty.

Mr J. COLLINSON observed that this arrangement would hold good till the enlargement of the institution was completed, when there would probably be a re-adjustment.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, the recommendation of the local committee was agreed to.

FINANCIAL.

Precepts were issued for a rate of 1d in the pound, which would realise £400.

It was likewise decided to pay the contractor (Mr Brown) for extending the Hospital £200 on account.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICES.

EBCHESTER.—Harvest thanksgiving services were held in the Parish Church on Thursday and Sunday. The preacher on Thursday week was Rev W. Maddison, vicar of St. Augustine's, Tynemouth, whose lucid remarks on the words, "How many loaves have ye?" will not soon be forgotten. The sermon on Sunday morning was preached by Rev Thos. Varley, vicar of Leadgate, who, in discoursing on the words, "Let thine eyes be on the fields they do reap" (Ruth ii., verse 9), drew lessons on the swiftness of time, the graciousness of God in giving us all, His goodness in providing for our temporal wants, and our duty to look forward to the great harvest day. The evening preacher was the Rector (Rev P. Cameron), who chose as his subject the character depicted in Luke xii., 17, contrasting his prospect with those of the North of England farmer of 1892, and comparing God's estimate of such a character with that of the world. On all occasions the church was filled, many in the evening having to go away. The offeratories were on behalf of the organ fund. The church was tastefully decorated, greenhouse plants being kindly sent by Mr George Ramsay, Ebchester Hall, whose gardener, Mr Sutherland, and Mr Robert Ramsay, of the Temperance Hotel, helped most efficiently to decorate the chancel arch and screen, while the Misses Peile, Greenwood, decorated the pulpit. Among those who assisted were the Misses Dixon, Broad Oak, and Miss Charlton. Offerings of corn, fruit, and flowers were made by all classes. The anthem, "Thou crownest the year," and the harvest carol, "Holy is the seed time," were exceedingly well rendered. The service, as usual, was fully choral, the congregation heartily responding to every part.

TANFIELD.—The harvest thanksgiving was held at Tanfield Parish Church on Sunday. The morning service consisted of matins with the anthem, "O sing unto the Lord," by C. Francis Lloyd, and Holy Communion, with a sermon by Rev J. Crennell, vicar of Beamish. The evening service commenced with the processional hymn, "Rejoice ye pure in heart," and the same anthem was sung as in the morning. The prettily decorated church looked exceedingly well, and the brilliantly lighted altar added greatly to the effect of the whole. The sermon was preached by Rev F. G. Cole, curate of the parish. After the blessing, Stainer's sevenfold amen was sung, and the service closed with the "Old hundredth," as a recessional, the congregation heartily joining in this favourite hymn. The decorations were well carried out by many parishioners and friends from the district. The choral services, for which this church has much local fame, were well rendered by a strong choir and Mr Hinckley, the organist, who also, in the absence of a choirman, sang the solo in the anthem with great success.

ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH, BLACKHILL.—The harvest festival services were commenced in this church on Friday night, when, in spite of the inclemency of the weather, the sacred edifice, which had been very prettily decorated, was crowded to excess. The Rev G. H. Ross-Lewin, vicar of the parish (Rev T. J. Storey, M.A.) read the prayers and lessons, while an excellent discourse was preached by Canon Scott-Moncrieff, of Sunderland, from the words "Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord" (Psalm cl., 6). The anthem was "Praise the Lord, our God and King" (F. M. Hall). On Sunday, the thanksgiving services were continued, the Rev G. H. Ross-Lewin preaching in the evening.

MILKWELL BURN FREE CHURCH.—The harvest festival of the above place was celebrated on Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday night, the Free Church Choir, from Westwood, gave an effective service of song, entitled "The mission of the roses," under the leadership of Mr Wm. Pearson; harmoniumist, Mr B. Hunter.—On Sunday, sermons were preached in the morning and evening by Rev A. Bromley, of Blackhill. In the evening, the pastor took for his text the latter part of the third verse in the thirteenth chapter of Matthew, "Behold a sower sent forth to sow." In the afternoon, a harvest thanksgiving service of song was given by the chapel choir, entitled "Sowing and reaping." The Rev A. Bromley gave the readings; and Mr R. Robinson, conducted; while Mr Wm. Coverdale presided at the harmonium. Although the weather was so unfavourable, large congregations were at each service. The chapel was most tastefully decorated with flowers, fruit, vegetables, and evergreens.

BLANCHLAND.—The harvest thanksgiving services were held in St. Mary's Abbey Church on Saturday and Sunday. The Rev. H. Greatorex, M.A., curate of St Cuthbert's, Benfieldside, preached on Saturday evening, when the collection was for church expenses. On Sunday the Rev. E. O. Herbert, vicar of St. John's, Middlesbrough, preached twice. The collections were in aid of the Additional Curates Society, which aids him in securing additional priests for his parish of 23,000 people. The choir acquitted themselves with great credit. The anthems were "Fear not, O Land," by S. C. Cooke, and "Thou visitest the Earth," by A. Simms. Mr N. W. Robson presided at the organ. There were good congregations at all services.

WOLSINGHAM. — The Wolsingham Wesleyans celebrated their day-school anniversary and harvest festival on Saturday and Sunday last. A public meeting was held on Saturday evening, when the Rev Dr T. J. Waller, of London, secretary of the Wesleyan Conference, addressed the meeting. J. Fenwick, Esq., of Newcastle, presided. There was a coffee supper afterwards. On the Sunday, the Rev Dr Waller preached two excellent sermons, morning and evening, to good companies. In the afternoon, a service of praise was held, when the day-school children, assisted by an excellent choir, under the leadership of Mr T. Batty, rendered the piece, entitled "Praise for harvest," in capital style. Miss Martin presided at the organ. The services were well attended. The decorations were neat and artistic.

FROSTERLEY.—The harvest thanksgiving services in connection with Frosterley Church were celebrated on Saturday and Sunday last. The preacher on the Saturday evening was the Rev T. Marsh, vicar of Thornley. He preached an excellent sermon from the words "The Lord be merciful unto us: and bless with the light of His countenance." The choir gave in capital style the anthem, "Thy works praise thee, O Lord." Where all the musical artistes are of such noted ability it is difficult to particularise, but the parts alloted to Miss Jagg and the Misses Hogarth and Mr Waller all merit a meed of praise. Great credit is also due to the Rev F. C. Jagg, the vicar, who has so ably trained the choir to the present state of efficiency. On the Sunday, the Rev Mr Duncan, preached in the morning, and the Rev F. C. Jagg in the evening. The anthem was again rendered in capital style, and the choir acquitted themselves nobly throughout the service. The church was tastefully decorated for the occasion. Good companies were present on the Saturday and Sunday evenings. The offertory on the Saturday evening was £2 2s 6d.

CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

Monday, October 17th. — Before John Thurlow Potts, Esq.

TOO MUCH "OLD SCOTCH."

Ann Smith, an elderly Scotchwoman, was charged by Sergt. Tones with being lying helplessly intoxicated behind Middle Street, Consett, on Saturday night. She was "swearing like a trooper."—Defendant admitted the soft impeachment, but promised if the court would only let her go, to leave the town. She had been acting as housekeeper for a party at Gateshead.—Defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs, or seven days' hard labour.

ALLEGED WOUNDING AT BLACKHILL.

"HE DESERVED ALL HE GOT."

Patrick and *Catherine Donnolly*, of Blackhill, husband and wife, were brought up charged with unlawfully wounding John McGrath, a labourer, at the Consett Tinmill Works, on Saturday last.

The prosecutor, who had his head bandaged, said he was drunk on Saturday night, and knew nothing about the [illegible]. He lodged with these people.

Supt. Benzies: But you received wounds on your head?

Complainant: Yes; but I drew it on myself. (Laughter.)

The Magistrates (Mr J. T. Potts): You say that you deserved what you got. (More laughter.)

Sergeant Tate said that the complainant lodged with the defendants. On Saturday, P.C. Pemberton found complainant in a public-house covered with blood. He had the man taken to Dr Renton's surgery, where his wounds were dressed. Complainant was next removed to Mrs McVeigh's lodging-house. Complainant declared that the male defendant had thrown him out of the house, and that then the woman struck him with something which caused the wounds. Dr Dawson certified to having examined the complainant, on whom he found three severe wounds on the scalp, one extending down to the bone, which was injured.

P.C. Pemberton said he arrested the male prisoner on Saturday night, while the female was taken into custody that morning by Sergt. Tate. He charged both the accused persons jointly, when Patrick replied, "I did not do it," Mrs Donnolly answering, "I say he fell upon the kerbstone on the back of his head." Witness had examined the step, and found that it was covered with blood.

Prisoners denied the charge.

Supt. Benzies asked for a remand, Sergt. Tate intimating that he would be able to bring evidence independent of the prosecutor's testimony.

The magistrate remanded the accused on their own recognisances till Monday next.

A MINER AND HIS "MARROW."

SINGULAR CHARGE OF THEFT.

John Mitchinson, miner, of Dipton, was brought up on a warrant charged with stealing £4 16s 6d, the monies of James Lynch, also a miner, on Friday last.

Defendant said that he was guilty of taking the money.

Prosecutor deposed that a short while ago he took defendant as his "marrow," and they were employed in the Hutton seam of Messrs Joicey and Co.'s Tanfield Lea Colliery. After working four shifts it was found necessary for one of them to exchange places or leave the colliery, the result being that the prosecutor went and wrought in another part of the pit. Defendant only worked a shift-and-a-half in the old place and then left. The agreement between the complainant and the accused was that he (Lynch) had to leave his tokens where he formerly placed them in the other pit. Defendant, he alleged, went and got his tokens and drew the whole of the earnings the prosecutor was entitled to. Defendant, he further explained, went on Thursday evening and got the paynote (produced) in the absence of the overman, otherwise he (Mitchinson) would not have been able to procure it. Defendant also tried his very utmost to draw the money before coming away from the office that night, but as the wages account at the colliery had not then been reckoned up, he did not get the "pay." The same night, however, just as the prosecutor was preparing to go to bed, defendant came to the house door and said "I have drawn the paynote, Johnny." Complainant simply replied, "Have you?" but thought it strange he should do so. Mitchinson added, "I never thought he had earned so much." Defendant went the following day and drew the money, £4 16s 6d of which was due to the complainant, but defendant had failed to hand it over. Prosecutor had several other men to pay out of his wages money. Defendant had left the colliery.

The Magistrate: How did defendant get possession of this paynote, by means of which he drew the money at the colliery.

Prosecutor: According to Mr Pringle's (the manager) orders he was not entitled to receive it. Defendant got the note in the absence of the overman.

The Magistrate: In what way did he come into possession of the note.

Prosecutor: I cannot say. I have witnesses to prove, however, that he got the whole of the money represented on the note.

The Magistrate: So far as this paynote is concerned defendant did not steal the money. You were partners, and I suppose, according to this note, either of you could have gone and got the money.

Prosecutor: Yes, but Mitchinson was not really entitled to it, because he did not work his notice at the colliery.—(Defendant: How do you know.)—Prosecutor (continuing): He appropriated this money to his own use. I sent my little girl to defendant's lodgings for the money, and he denied ever receiving it.

The Magistrate: If this note had been made out in your name only, and Mitchinson had obtained possession of it by means of false pretences, then I think you would have had a very clear case against him. As it is, however, this paynote is made out in the joint names of John Mitchinson and James Lynch, thereby showing that he was entitled to some portion of the money. If he won't deliver up the proportion of the earnings you are justly entitled to, then I think you have an action against him in the County Court.

Complainant: I have witnesses to prove that he went and got the money on the Thursday night or Friday. I consider it is stealing when he wants to defraud me and the other men of our earnings. Besides, he has quite left the colliery.

The magistrate: That doesn't matter. The point is that defendant went and drew the money on the strength of a note made out in his own name as well as yours.

Prosecutor: I can fetch the colliery manager to prove that defendant had no right to the money. I can prove that my names were on the tokens at the token cabin.

Supt. Benzies (to the prosecutor): Who was present at the office when this paynote was issued to the defendant?

Complainant: I can't say.

The Magistrates: I cannot see how this man obtained the money in a fraudulent manner. The paynote is made out in such a fashion that either the one party or the other could draw the money at the office, unless there was some special arrangement between the prosecutor and the defendant as partners.

Mr Wardle, the manager of Craghead Colliery, who was present, explained that when a paynote was made out to two parties, either could go and withdraw the money at the pay-office.

The Magistrate did not think there was sufficient evidence to sustain a charge of theft against the accused, but at the request of the prosecutor and Supt. Benzies, he remanded the defendant on his own recognisances, to appear at the court on Monday next. The prosecutor was also advised to bring forward all the evidence he possibly could to support his case.

Tuesday, October 18th.—Before Mr J. T. Potts.

CHARGE OF THEFT BY A BOY.

William Moss, a lad, 13 years of age, was remanded on a charge of stealing a shilling from the till of W. Redshaw, shopkeeper, at Blackhill, on Monday afternoon.

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

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

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

"How to Behave," price sixpence.—To be had of Robert Jackson, bookseller, 9 and 10 Newmarket Street, Consett.

LANCHESTER BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The fortnightly meeting was held at Lanchester on Thursday se'nnight. For the first time since his recovery from a severe illness, Mr Wm. Logan (chairman) presided. There were also present—Mr W. B. Van Haansbergen, J.P.; Revs P. C. Fortin and W. Cockin; Messrs J. Collinson, J. Lax, Wm. Aynsley, C. W. Balleny, T. Lowdon, W. J. Handcock, T. Wilkinson, P. Kirkup, T. Pringle, R. Robson, W. Gray, T. Nichol, and the Clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson.)

RE-APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOLWARDENS.

The Local Government Board wrote, sanctioning the re-appointment of Messrs Wm. Ward and John Gibson as attendance officers for the Union for a further period of 12 months.

INMATES OF THE HOUSE.

Present No. of inmates	152
Corresponding period last year	153
Vagrants relieved during past fortnight	13
Corresponding period last year	16

OUT-DOOR RELIEF.

Mr R. Walton, relieving officer, eastern district, reported:—

Adults, not able-bodied—Males	68
Females	121
Able-bodied (temporarily disabled)	—
Females (in health)	38
Temporarily disabled	4
Children under 16 years	173
Total	404

Amount of relief in money, £65 3s.

Mr J. Moon, relieving officer, western district, also reported:—

Adults, not able-bodied—Males	49
Females	101
Able-bodied—Males	1
Females (in health)	74
Temporarily disabled	9
Children under 16 years	276
Total	510

Amount of relief in money, £72 8s 0d.

TOTALS.

Adults, not able-bodied	339
Able-bodied	126
Children	449
Total	914

Amount of relief, £137 11s 0d.

Figures for the corresponding period of last year:—

Adults, not able bodied	311
Able-bodied	124
Children	434
Total	869

Amount of relief, £134 0s 0d.

RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

The monthly meeting afterwards took place—Mr Wm. Logan (chairman) presiding.

THE MEDICAL REPORTS CRITICISED.

The Clerk (Mr W. H. Ritson) read the reports of the Medical Officer to the County Council, with respect to the annual reports compiled by the Medical Officers of the Union (Drs T. Benson, J. Wilson, and T. Bolton), and in his comments he dwelt upon several omissions bearing upon sanitary arrangements, the supply of disinfectants, sewerage disposal, and the housing of the poor.

The Chairman mentioned that there was nothing striking in the report, except that there was no annual report from the Inspector (Mr J. E. Parker.) This had not been done in the past. There was not a disinfectant apparatus in the Union, except at the Leadgate Fever Hospital.

BURNHOPE SEWAGE WORKS.

Three tenders were forthcoming for carrying out sewerage works at Burnhope Colliery.

The Chairman said that £1,200 seemed a large sum of money for sewering a village containing a population of 1,500 persons. That averaged nearly £1 a head. He considered further that a charge of £6 10s a year an acre for land which was hardly worth 5s an acre for agricultural purposes was also exorbitant. The time had come when that Authority would have to put its foot down, and seek compulsory powers for the purchase of land for sewerage outfall works at a reasonable price. Were the outfall works necessary?

The Inspector: Yes, according to the Rivers Pollution Act.

It was agreed to let the sewers only for the present, and the tender of Mr Goldsmith, of Chester-le-Street, for about £600, was accepted.

ESH AND WILKS HILL WATER SERVICE.

A letter was read from the Consett Water Company with reference to supplying Wilks Hill and Esh with water, the company asking for a sum of £3,000 for laying their mains from Annfield Plain through Lanchester to the places named.

The subject was discussed at some length; the Authority did not approve of the terms, thinking an outlay of £2,000 sufficient, and it was suggested that the best plan would be, seeing that under the circumstances a supply of water was absolutely needed in that particular district, for the Authority to ascertain at what price the Water Company would supply the water at Annfield Plain, the Authority to lay the pipes, and sell the water to householders at a reasonable rate.

A special committee, consisting of the Chairman, Rev P. C. Fortin, Messrs Gray, Lowdon, Kirkup, and Wilkinson, was accordingly appointed to confer with the engineers of the Water Company as to the best means of securing a water supply for Esh and Wilks Hill district.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Precepts were issued for a general sanitary rate of 3d in the pound, and likewise the subjoined special precepts:—Collierley, £350; Esh, £400; Greencroft, £250; Kyo, £600; Lanchester, £600; Medomsley, £200; and Healeyfield, £65 10s.

ANNFIELD PLAIN IMPROVEMENTS.

The Inspector was authorised to proceed forthwith with the Annfield Plain sewerage works.

The Clerk reported that the lamps for lighting the village were already to hand.

A VILLAGE WITHOUT WATER FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

The Local Government Board wrote under date of Sept. 30th enclosing a copy of a letter which had been forwarded to them by Mr Atherley-Jones, M.P., with reference to the water supply of the village of Quebec, and asking to be furnished with the Authority's observations on the subject of that connection:—

Quebec, Sept. 23rd, 1892.

The Hon. Atherley-Jones, M.P.

Sir,—The inhabitants of Quebec, Durham, have been without water since Tuesday night last, and it is now Friday morning and still no water supply, and this happening when there is so much fever about, besides the dread of the inhabitants of the approach of cholera. Now, there are over 200 houses at Quebec, which will be inhabited by about 1,000 people—men, women, and children—and on Wednesday morning many of the miners who were on the first shift went to work without their breakfasts or any water to put in their bottles to drink through the day. Now is it legal for the Water Company to withdraw our supply of water without giving us notice, or any just cause or reason? Sir, will you kindly investigate this matter. I enclose my last water bill, so that you can see what company is responsible. An early answer will oblige,—Your obedient servant,

(Signed), W. Adcock, Postmaster.

Quebec.

Mr Lowdon stated the main had burst, and the water was cut off during repairs.

The Clerk was instructed to reply to the Imperial Board to the effect that if the postmaster at Quebec would write to the Weardale and Shildon Water Company on the matter, in all probability they would be able to give such an explanation as would satisfy any reasonable person.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

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

Gentlemen,—During the month disinfectants have been sent to all the collieries within the sanitary district (except to those belonging to Messrs Hedley Bros.) there to be stored and given to any persons residing within the district applying for the same.

The present water supply to Loggan and Shipley's houses, near Tantobie, is defective and liable to surface pollution.

The Surveyor to the Stanley Local Board has received the plans of the works executed at South Moor, and at Stanley Square likewise, those which were being prepared for the main drainage of Stanley.

I have pointed out the land proposed to be acquired for sewage disposal purposes at Burnhope to Mr Lishman, the agent for the same, and I have this morning received a definite reply from him, re: the terms upon which the land may be leased.

Mr S. Mace, of Medomsley, has refused to carry out the instructions issued by me with reference to the manner in which the house drains from the Royal Oak Inn, Medomsley, should be made and ventilated, and has laid a drain from the sewer to the house cellar [illegible] in a manner that sewer gas will (in my opinion) permeate the traps and enter the dwelling.

The house drains at Medomsley, Medomsley Edge, Tantobie, and Whiteside Head, have nearly all been laid to communicate with the new sewers, but in several instances they are incomplete, inasmuch as the ventilating pipes have not been erected, and I would recommend that notices be issued requiring the drains to be properly completed, and that statutory notices be given to those who have failed to construct the house drains.

The owner of the house at Hill Top, Dipton, has not complied with the notice served upon him, requiring him to cause the said house to be made fit for habitation.

The two houses adjoining the Red Ox Inn, Dipton, have been closed and partially pulled down.

I append letters which have been received from the Ushaw College Authorities and from the agents for the Ushaw Moor Colliery, respecting the future cleansing of the ashpits at Ushaw Moor.

The works for the sewerage of Annfield Plain and for the water supply of Esh have not yet been commenced.

The Esh Winning sewerage works are making satisfactory progress, but the recent floods have caused considerable damage to the unfinished stream diversion.

The sewerage works at Medomsley Edge are not yet complete.

No further communication has been received by me respecting the acquisition of the land for the Annfield Plain sewage disposal works.

The sewers at Dipton, Hobson, Leases, and Burnopfield have been flushed during the month.

Thirty villages have been inspected during the month.

The following houses are ready or shortly will be ready for habitation:—

1193—Five houses at Delves for the Consett Iron Company, Limited.

1197—One house at Medomsley for R. F. Taylor.

1272—Additions to house at Priestfield for Mrs Dickinson.

I am gentlemen, your obedient servant,

J. E. Parker.

Lanchester, October 13th, 1892.

THE CLEANING OUT OF ASHPITS.

CURIOUS POINT AT USHAW MOOR.

The Inspector reported that he was in receipt of the following letters relating to the supply of disinfectants, and the cleaning out of ashpits:—

Witton-le-Wear, Darlington,
September 10th, 1892.

Sir,—In reply to your circular, we have been using precautions for weeks. As regards our ashpits at Ushaw Moor, we are prevented by lease from taking the ashes, &c., and it is the duty of the Ushaw College Authorities to clean out these places, with the exception of the huts, which we do. I may say the lessees usually clean out the middens once a month, but I shall be glad if you will ask them to do so oftener. The disinfectants may be sent to Ushaw Moor Colliery.—Yours,

W. Hill,
Agent to Sir Henry Chaytor.

Mr Parker accordingly communicated with the Ushaw College Authorities, and elicited the subjoined answer:—

Ushaw College, Durham,
September 17th, 1892.

My Dear Sir,—I reply to your letter of the 14th inst., referring to the Ushaw Moor ashpits, I beg to say that the College Authorities find it no longer worth their while to clean these, and after this date will discontinue to do so. The ashpits have been thoroughly cleaned during the last few days, and I have now officially to inform you that it will rest with the Lanchester Authorities to make arrangements for cleaning the ashpits connected with Ushaw Moor Colliery.—Yours, &c.

Peter Lonsdale.

Father Fortin and the Inspector explained that, according to the terms of the lease, the College Authorities were bound to clean out the ashpits.

The Chairman expressed his conviction that no clause in any lease of agreement between the College Authorities and the colliery owners could override the common law. The Public Health Act enacted that it was the duty of the occupiers to clean out their ashpits. That Authority had nothing whatever to do with any agreement that may have been entered into between the College people and the colliery proprietors. They must treat the College Authorities in the same way as they would deal with other people. If the Inspector found that the ashpits were not kept in proper order, and ultimately became a nuisance, then it was his duty to serve a notice upon the colliery owners, as the lessees of the houses, to abate the nuisance.

The Inspector: But the colliery proprietors may plead that they are delayed by the conditions of their lease to clear out these ashpits.

The Chairman: As I said before, we have nothing to do with that. You must serve notices upon the colliery owners for permitting a nuisance, and then let the parties fight the matter out before the Magistrates at Lanchester. It seems that in former days the College Authorities, finding that the refuse from the ashpits was beneficial to their land, inserted a clause in their lease, prohibiting the colliery owners or the occupiers of the houses from taking away this stuff. Now when the College people discover that the refuse is of no further use to them, they coolly turn round, and say that this Authority must take the responsibility of cleaning out the ashpits. For years past, the College Authorities and the colliery proprietors have been playing fast and loose with each other, and so long as it suited the purpose of either party, they shirked their responsibilities.

The subject was dropped.

MEDICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS.

Lanchester District.

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

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,—Within the last four weeks there have been 86 cases of epidemic diseases in this district, which are divided as follows:—5 cases of scarlet fever, 1 of erysipelas, 2 of whooping cough, and 3 of measles, at Langley Park; 1 case of scarlet fever at Hill Top; 12 cases of scarlet fever, and 2 of erysipelas, at Ushaw Moor; 1 case of measles at Esh; 2 cases of typhoid fever, and 1 of erysipelas, at Esh Winning; 1 case of scarlet fever at Newhouse Cottages; 4 cases of scarlet fever at Hamsteels Colliery; 18 of scarlet fever, and 2 of measles, at Quebec; 12 cases of scarlet fever, 2 of erysipelas, 6 of whooping cough, and 4 of measles, at Cornsay Colliery; 1 case of scarlet fever at Wilks Hill; 1 at Badajos; 1 at Whitehouse; 3 of scarlet fever, and 1 of membranous croup, at Malton Colliery; 1 case of continued fever at Newhouses; 1 at Marsfield; and 1 case of typhoid fever at Lanchester.

I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

John Wilson.

October 13th, 1892.

Eastern District.

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

Gentlemen,—The cases of notifiable disease reported to me during the month were 14 of scarlatina, and 1 of typhus fever. The latter occurred at East Castle, and as the patient had only come into the district about three weeks before, the disease developed. The infection may probably have been caught before his arrival. The former were distributed over the following villages, viz.:—Annfield Plain, Catchgate, Tantobie, Tanfield Lea, Whiteside Head, Hobson, and Dipton. Those at the first two villages had a common origin, and, I believe, with the exception of a case at Dipton, that it was from Tantobie the others originated.

Measles is prevalent at Catchgate, East Pontop, Friarside, and the Lintz, and especially at the last-mentioned place. In hopes that the disease might be prevented spreading to the other villages, I suggested to the managers of the Lintz schools, that the children residing outside the village should either be stopped attending, or that the schools should be closed. The latter plan was adopted at once.

The mortality for the month is about as usual, 19 deaths being registered, giving an annual ratio of 16·75 per 1,000. One death was due to measles.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

T. Benson, Medical Officer.

October 11th, 1892.

Medomsley District.

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

Gentlemen,—The following are cases of zymotic disease noted during the month ending September 23rd, viz.:—One case of enteric fever at Dean Banks; one case of diphtheria at Healeyfield; one case of scarlatina at Medomsley; and one case of typhoid fever at Low Westwood.

The Ebchester district is free from infectious disease.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

W. T. Bolton.

Ebchester Hill, October 10th, 1892.

To the Chairman and Members of the Lanchester Board of Guardians.

Gentlemen,—By the Registrar's returns for the quarter ending September 30th, 61 births were registered; 27 males, and 34 females; total 61.

Twenty-two deaths were also registered for the same period, and from the following diseases:—Measles caused 8 deaths; diphtheria, 1; croup, 1; bronchitis, 2; phthisis, 2; heart disease, 3; peritonitis, 1; and convulsions, 1. The following cases of infectious disease have come under my notice during the month:—One case of enteric fever at Dean Banks; one case of diphtheria at Healeyfield; one case of scarlatina at Medomsley; and one case of typhoid fever at Low Westwood.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

W. T. Bolton.

Ebchester Hill, October 10th, 1892.

GOSPEL TEMPERANCE MEETINGS AT WEST STANLEY.

The usual meeting was held at West Stanley on Sunday night, Mr W. Robson presiding, the hall being crowded. The meeting opened by singing and prayer, after which Mr R. Calvert gave a melodion solo, "Not there is room." Mr and Mrs Smith (coloured evangelists from Pennsylvania) sang several Negro songs, viz., "Angels meet me at the Cross," "Arise for thy light is come," and "I am got weary [illegible]." These songs were very much appreciated by the company present. Miss Hall favoured with a recitation.

Mr T. Reay, of Annfield Plain, gave a highly interesting and practical address. He said that no one could gainsay the fact that there was pleasure in drinking, but, he would ask, was there satisfaction. The pleasure was of short duration and they could not overlook the fact, the sin and misery there was caused through the indulgence in intoxicating liquors. They who were Christians should do their very best to stem the current of evil. No man liveth to himself, no man dieth to himself. He could not stand upon the platform but what some influence would be cast, and the question would be asked why he stood on the platform? The answer was that having tasted of the love of Jesus, and knowing the danger in the future, we implore you to sign the pledge. Christian men were to-day crying for the souls of the people. Who could work out the value of the soul? When they saw men and women ruining both body and soul, how could they help pleading for men to realise their danger and to turn to the paths of truth and sobriety. (Applause.)

The meeting then ended, everyone feeling that a profitable time had been spent. These meetings cannot but do a vast amount of good work.

NOTES FROM THE STEEPLE.

[By the "Old Crow."]

All young and loving mothers are anxious to please their babies, and they know there is no more effective way of doing this than by providing the little chice with a baby—it does not matter how it may be made up or of what material constituted. Here is a way of "producing" one by means of a handkerchief, and it proves a most realistic doll if properly done. Tie a knot on two of the corners, and one exactly between them. Hold the handkerchief by the other two corners, twirl it round rapidly from you until it can be twirled no more. Then seize the figure by the neck and pull it upward and outward, and then inward towards yourself. And there you are! or, at least, there is the doll.

The controversy at present running in the columns of the *Guardian* on the subject of Musical Titles conferred upon successful competitors submitting themselves for examination under the London College of Music, must be proving of interest to the musicians in the district, and scarcely less so to the general reader. The London College of Music has not been very long in existence, and it is an institution about which very little is known by the outside public and, I venture to think, not a very great deal by those even who submit themselves for examination—at anyrate, the majority of these. No harm will therefore be done by ventilating the aims and objects of the institution and its methods of working if, as seems pretty clear at the moment, these are in every sense worthy and above reproach. The charges made against the College by Mr Surtees are very serious ones, for they practically go to represent that its first consideration is "filthy lucre"; that the examinations are a sham, and the titles conferred upon successful pupils altogether worthless appendages that may be bought for cash payments irrespective of musical proficiency! It is hard to believe this and still quite as difficult to understand how a gentleman of the natural and well-known diffidence of Mr Surtees should have given vent to such charges without first satisfying himself of the *bona fides* of his informant. The plain spoken letters in last week's issue from Messrs Caldicott and Sloane make a further letter imperative, and there is little doubt one from Mr Surtees will appear in the present issue. It will be read with much interest.

Poor Lottie Collins, the creator of the remarkable song "Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay" met with a reverse in America, where she has been lately doing the music-halls. She has not proved the "hit" she was expected to do, and the press in some quarters have been cruel in their criticisms. She has been voted not even pretty, that she dances without the least trace of grace, and that her singing is not equal to that of scores of lady vocalists, about whom not as many lines have been written as columns in praise of our little Lottie on this side of the herring pond. No, our cousins say, Lottie is a fraud. But she still lives.

According to the *Leisure Hour* for the present month, Canon Fleming's sermon, which he preached at Sandringham on the death of Prince Albert Victor, has had the most extraordinary sale of any sermon in recent times. In six months the profits amounted to £1,200. The anecdote told by the Princess of Wales, forming the prefatory note is said to have largely influenced the sale. "The substance of the story," says the publication named, "is that in 1888 all the five children of the Princess were with her at Sandringham, and they all partook of the Holy Communion together." "I gave Eddy a little book," said the bereaved mother, "and wrote in it:—

'Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling,'

and also,

'Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
O Lamb of God, I come'."

"When he was gone, and lay like one sleeping," continued the Princess, "we laid a cross of flowers on his breast, and after we had done so, I turned to the table at his bedside and saw the little book in which were written these words, and I could not help feeling that he did cling to the cross, and that it had all come true.

At the Theatre Royal, Consett, there is this week provided a distinct change. After "The conscript," which, as had been anticipated in this column, drew capital audiences, burlesque comes as an agreeable change. Mr Arthur Danville's Co. is not unknown at Consett, and it is anticipated that before these lines see the light Mr Jefferson's well-managed little theatre will have been more than once packed. The company is strong in numbers, and the two burlesques, "Guy Fawkes" and "Blue Beard," are genuinely lively specimens of the order. Dancing figures conspicuously, and the several well arranged ballets are quite as attractive as anything else and are thoroughly appreciated. Plenty of music, lots of good songs, and jokes and wheezes in galore, go to make up a very enjoyable evening's amusement.

Throat Irritation and Cough.—Soreness and dryness, tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use Epps's Glycerine Jujubes. In contact with the glands at the moment they are excited by the act of sucking, the Glycerine in these agreeable confections becomes actively healing. Sold only in boxes 7½d., tins 1s 1½d., labelled "James Epps & Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London." Dr. Moore, in his work on "Nose and Throat Diseases," says: "The Glycerine Jujubes prepared by James Epps and Co., are of undoubted service as a curative or palliative agent," while Dr. Gordon Holmes, Senior Physician to the Municipal Throat and Ear Infirmary, writes: "After an extended trial, I have found your Glycerine Jujubes of considerable benefit in almost all forms of throat disease."

"Buchu-Paiba."—Complete cure of all kidney and kindred complaints, stinging, irritation, inflammation. All Chemists. F. Newbery and Sons, Agents, 1 King Edward Street, London.

STANLEY LOCAL BOARD.

On Wednesday se'nnight a meeting of this Board was held in the National Schools. Present: Messrs G. Ridley (chairman), J. Green, T. W. W. Ritson, J. Watson, J. Smith, J. Robinson, Geo. Foster, M. G. Armstong, R. Kay, the Inspector (Mr Routledge), the Collector (Mr Hewitson), and the Clerk (Mr J. G. Ridley.)

THE ENCROACHMENT AT EAST STANLEY.

The Clerk read the following letter:—

Dear Sir,—Having inspected the cause of complaint contained in your communication of 26th ult., as to the encroachment of the Towneley owners, on Wednesday last, and carefully considered the matter, I have given orders to have the building set back to forty feet as required, and I expect that the promise of the deputation that only in such cases as buildings may be required will any removal of the existing wall be insisted upon or carried out.

I do very much hope that in any future matter the Board will intimate, to me any complaint direct, for had I understood the present complaint, I would have at once seen to it and acted accordingly.—Yours, &c.,

F. Parmeter.

The Chairman: We cannot agree with that portion of the letter which says that the wall shall only be removed in the case of buildings.

Mr Green: As spokesman on that occasion I may say that he has rather screwed us round a little. The words I used were "that we were not likely to ask for the wall to be taken down, but only in such cases where buildings were going to be put up.

The Chairman: I would suggest that the Clerk be instructed to acknowledge the receipt of, and thank Mr Parmeter for his letter of the 10th inst., and also to state that the Board cannot entertain the premised suggestion contained therein; but if the arrangement suggested for the new buildings be adhered to, the removal of the fence will not be insisted upon.

Mr Green moved that the Clerk write a letter to Mr Parmeter to this effect.

This was seconded by Mr Kay and carried.

Mr Green: Before passing on to the next business, I wish to call the attention of the Board to the remarks made by Mr Nicholson, the architect. One remark was that the ratepayers considered that we were a lot of fools, and another was that there were only two or three members of the Board moving in this case. I think Mr Nicholson ought to be called upon to prove or withdraw these statements.

Mr Ritson: Mr Nicholson said that he had information to that effect from the ratepayers.

Mr Kay: The Board was unanimous in what was done in the matter.

The Chairman: It was the committee that first raised the question.

Mr Armstrong: Mr Nicholson was bold in his assertions, and very insolent as well.

Mr Green: I told Mr Parmeter that Mr Nicholson had made these remarks, and he promised to speak to him.

The Chairman: It is wise to let these little things lie.

Mr Green moved that Mr Nicholson be asked to prove or withdraw the statements.

This was seconded by Mr Armstrong, and carried.

Mr Ritson: I think perhaps it would be as well to let Mr Parmeter know that this motion has been unanimously carried.

THE MEDICAL OFFICER.

A letter from the Local Government Board was read, which stated that, although they considered the remuneration still inadequate, they approved of the appointment of Dr Benson as Medical Officer of Health for the period of one year only.

OXHILL BRIDGE.

The following letter from the N.E. Railway Co. was also read:—

Dear Sir,—The directors have had before them your letter of the 26th July last, in which you draw attention to the insufficient width of the railway bridge which carries the Stanhope and Tyne Railway over the South Moor Lane, and suggest that it should be widened. The directors, after having given full consideration to the matter, upon the report of their engineer, desire me to inform you that they are willing to widen the bridge to the width of the road-way, viz.: 25 feet, on the understanding that half the cost of the work is paid for by the Stanley District Local Board. If this proposal should be agreed to by your authority, I will, on hearing from you, re-submit the matter for the consideration of the directors. I may mention that the cost of the work is estimated by Mr C. A. Harrison at £300.—Yours, &c.,

C. N. Wilkinson, Secretary.

Mr Green: Have they an Act of Parliament for that line.

The Chairman: I believe the North-Eastern Railway Company obtained an Act to take the line over from the original company, but not an Act for the construction of the line.

Mr Green: That point will have something to do with this question.

The Chairman: If it had been made by Act of Parliament that would have superseded the Lanchester Common Act.

Mr Green: I am of opinion that we can reasonably ask the company to make the improvements without any cost to the Board.

The Chairman: It is a question for the Railway Company so far as regards the costs. It would be better to write Mr Wilkinson to say that the Board cannot entertain the application as regards half the cost, but if it is widened to 25 feet the Board will be satisfied.

This was agreed upon.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION ACT.

Mr Green, in accordance with notice of motion, moved that the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1890, be adopted.

Mr Armstrong: It would, in my opinion, be safe to let the matter lie over for at least a year.

Mr Kay: It would be a benefit to the district to adopt it now.

The Chairman: The intention of the Act is a good one, because certain precautions can be taken to prevent disease spreading.

Mr Armstrong: Are not these precautions incumbent on medical men? The expense will be very serious considering that 2s 6d must be paid for each case notified.

The Chairman: It will not be very expensive.

Mr Robinson: It seems to me to be very important that medical officers should be acquainted with any infectious disease in the district.

Mr Kay: Why have a medical officer if he is not furnished with such information.

Mr Green: I am not at all altered in my opinion that we ought to adopt it. I am sorry that I did not know as much in reference to infectious diseases a few weeks ago as I know now. I was not aware that the terms of admittance to the Leadgate Hospital were so easy.

Mr Armstrong: The Act was not in operation in that instance, and yet you could have sent to the hospital, and probably you could do so now. It is not necessary for this Act to be in force to do that. I think we are proceeding before our time of day. There are other matters requiring our attention, and I suggest that this matter stand over for further consideration.

The Chairman: The Lanchester Rural Sanitary Authority have had it in force for some time, and if we do not adopt it I think it would be going backward.

Mr Ritson: What is the cost to either of the Sanitary Authorities?

The Chairman: At Chester-le-Street only a few pounds per annum.

Mr Ritson: However honourable the medical gentlemen that have to deal with these cases may be, independent of our medical officer, they have not the power and authority to see that the cases are isolated or precautions taken, and I think the medical officer ought to be informed.

Mr Armstrong: Probably it is the wisest course to adopt it, but I cannot see it, therefore I will not vote for it.

The motion was seconded by Mr Ritson, and carried, two of the members (Messrs Armstrong and Smith) remaining neutral.

BUILDING COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Building Committee recommended:—That Mr Lowes' plan be not passed until block plan is submitted by the vendors shewing streets and drains, together with sections of the same; also, that the privy seats be changed, and the floor line made seven inches above the footpath, and that the scullery and offices outside walls be 12in. hollow instead of 9in. brick, and a 4in. ventilating pipe put over the drain.

That the Clerk write the vendors to provide block plan shewing drains and street levels.

That Mr Rawes' plan for stable be passed subject to manure pit being removed 3ft. from shop, and sink placed outside; also, a 9in. wall built between van-house and stable, and manure pit being covered and provided with ventilation.

That Mr Robinson's plan for addition to kitchen and pantry be passed.

The report was adopted.

ROADS AND LIGHTING COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Roads and Lighting Committee's report was as follows:—

The Committee recommend that Mr Irwin's tender for fixing the street lamps be accepted.

That the lamps between Mr Foster's and the Co-operative Stores be as marked on plan, and that the lamps between Mr Foster's and East Stanley, and from the Co-operative Stores to the Railway Arch, be one in 60 yards, the Surveyor to have power to delay the fixing of any one lamp to consult the members of the Board.

That the width of the footpath on the north side of the street be, from the Co-operative Store to Anthony Street, 10 feet, and from Anthony Street to Mr Watson's, eight feet; on the south side of the main street, from the Co-operative Store to Mr Cumberledge's shop, 10 feet; from Mr Cumberledge's to Thorney Holme Terrace, eight feet; and from Thorney Holme Terrace to Mr Watson's, five feet. From the Co-operative Stores to Railway Arch, and from Mr Foster's to top of Messrs Burn's houses, the lamps to be fixed on the present kerb, and from Messrs Burn's houses to East Stanley, the lamps to be 11 feet from centre of fence.

That the Board allow the Surveyor to lay a subsoil drain in front of Louisa Terrace.

The report was adopted.

DOCTOR'S REPORT.

The Medical Officer (Dr T. Benson) reported as under:—

Gentlemen,—I beg to present you with a report on the condition of your district as regards infectious diseases and mortality for the period commencing with the formation of your Board to the end of September.

Infectious diseases of the more important kinds have been comparatively few. One case of typhoid fever at Stanley, and four cases of scarlatina at South Moor complete the list. Measles were imported into East Stanley and Oxhill, through the medium of visitors. Only a few cases followed its introduction to both places, but from the latter it spread to South Moor, and there assumed an epidemic form, that is now, however, passing off. The exact number of cases that occurred can only be ascertained by a house to house visitation, which will be undertaken shortly.

The mortality for the above-mentioned time is exceedingly low. 36 deaths were registered, being equal to an annual rate of 12·5 per 1,000. No deaths were due to infectious disease.

The sanitary condition of your district has been reported upon by your Inspector, and your attention drawn to those places which are most defective.

Before concluding, I wish to thank you, and also to express my appreciation of the honour you have conferred upon me, by electing me your Medical Officer.

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

T. Benson, Medical Officer.

The report was adopted.

ADJUSTMENT OF LIABILITIES.

The Chairman: There is a matter which was before the Board a short time ago, and that is the account between the Lanchester Rural Sanitary Authority and this Board, and also the Lanchester Highway Authority and this Board. I think the Clerk should ask for a statement. The Act provides that the liabilities can be adjusted to the date of the Board's coming into operation.

A short discussion ensued, but nothing was agreed upon.

PLAN OF THE DISTRICT.

Mr Green said that the plan of the district had been received from the Lanchester Rural Sanitary Authority, but no levels. He was informed that levels had been taken, and were in the possession of Mr Parker, and he suggested that the Clerk should make application for the same.

This was agreed upon.

OBSTRUCTING THE MAIN STREET.

Mr Green said on Friday night, and on previous Friday nights, there had been carts and stalls on the street. He did not object to a market-place for Stanley, but he certainly objected to outsiders coming in and using the streets, and paying nothing towards the maintenance of those streets.

The Chairman: We can put a stop to that by asking the policemen to remove them. They have no right to obstruct the road.

Mr Robinson: At Consett a charge per stall is made.

Mr Green: I think we could introduce into our future bye-laws provision for that.

The Chairman: The best plan would be to instruct the Surveyor to see the policemen.

This was agreed upon.

SURVEYOR'S ACCOUNTS.

Cheques were made out and signed for the following:—

	£	s	d
Repairing roads	64	11	8
Stone breakers	7	0	0
Carting	13	11	5
	£85	3	1

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD.

It was agreed that the regular meetings of the Board be held on the first Wednesday of each month, at six o'clock, at the Board offices.

NAME OF PASSENGER STATION.

Mr Green moved that the Clerk be instructed to write the directors of the N.E. Railway Company, pointing out the fact that they were naming the station in the Stanley Local Board district Shield Row, and that they be asked to name it Stanley.

This was seconded and carried.

This concluded the business.

THE HEALTH OF TOW LAW.

At the last meeting of the Tow Law Local Board the subjoined report for the quarter was presented by Dr Hood, Medical Officer of Health:—

Tow Law, Oct. 1st, 1892.

Gentlemen,—The deaths registered this quarter are 18; births, 33.

Ten under five; five and upwards, 8—18 deaths, giving a death-rate of 15·76. The infant mortality is still far above the average.

In July 6 deaths were registered:—3 pneumonia, 1 phthisis, 1 heart disease, 1 accidental death.

In August 7 deaths were recorded:—1 tuberculosis, 1 debility, 1 diarrhœa, 1 bronchitis, 1 measles, 1 pneumonia, 1 heart disease.

In September 5 deaths were registered:—1 heart disease, 2 pneumonia, 1 phthisis, 1 parturition.

Having discussed the precautionary measures necessary for cholera only a week or two ago, I need not again refer to that; but hope that all the steps recommended then have been carried out by your Board.—I remain, yours truly,

Geo Hood, M.A.

CONSETT COLPORTAGE SOCIETY.

This society was formed eighteen years ago, chiefly through the exertions of the late Mr and the Misses Masher, of Newcastle, and Mr T. L. Gledstone, Bank House, Consett, the latter having perseveringly raised the sum required for the yearly expenses. Judging by the very great number of books which are disposed of by the colporteur (Mr Wm. Goudie), the society is evidently a recognised power in Consett and the outlying villages. On Monday evening, Rev J. P. Gledstone, of Streatham Hill Congregational Church, London, preached in the Co-operative Hall, Consett, to a large congregation, under the auspices of the above society. The rev gentleman was accompanied on the platform by the ministers of the various denominations, including Revs F. Steggall (vicar), C. S. Wilson (curate); T. Elliott, Blackhill, and T. J. Watson, Consett (Primitives); Alex. Baillie (Presbyterian), Blackhill; T. Durant (Baptist), Consett; Mr T. L. Gledstone, Consett, and others.

The Rev Gentleman based his practical discourse on several passages of scripture, the principal of which was the 94th Psalm, 3rd and 4th verses—"Lord, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph? How long shall they utter and speak hard things and the workers of iniquity boast themselves?" At the conclusion of the sermon, Mr Gledstone made reference to the good work that Mr Goudie, the colporteur, was doing in that district. It was 18 years since Mr Goudie came amongst them, and during that period he had sold no less than £21,000 worth of good books. The radius of Mr Goudie's circuit was between five and six miles, and he travelled from house to house with the glad tidings of salvation, and was the means, in God's hands, of making many Christians. He thanked all for their practical help towards the society, and trusted that the colporteur's labours in the future would be crowned with further success.

We might add that the Rev J. P. Gledstone is a well-known congregational minister, who has been pastor of Streatham Hill Church for 15 years, and includes in his regular Sunday congregation the famous Professor Huggins, who was chairman of the British Association held at Cardiff last year. As the Rev J. P. Gledstone has often filled pulpits in Newcastle and Consett, it will interest some readers to hear that he quite recently celebrated his "silver wedding," which was marked by the church. Mr Gledstone is a Northumbrian by birth, and a son of the late Mr John Gledstone, who is remembered in Western Durham as the originator of the Consett Waterworks Company. By his marriage the rev gentleman is closely connected to the new Home Secretary.

Holloway's Ointment and Pills.—Much watchfulness must be exercised at the present time, and the earliest evidences of ill health must be immediately checked, or a slight illness may result in a serious malady. Relaxed and sore throat, diphtheria, quinsey, coughs, chronic cough, bronchitis, and most other pulmonary affections will be relieved by rubbing this cooling Ointment into the skin as near as practicable to the seat of mischief. This treatment, so simple and effective, is admirably adapted for the removal of these diseases during infancy and youth. Old asthmatic invalids will derive marvellous relief from the use of Holloway's remedies, which have brought round many such sufferers and re-established health after every other means had signally failed.

Business Announcements.

TWENTIETH YEAR OF ATTENDANCE.

MR. H. MARKHAM,

SURGEON DENTIST,

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

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BEGS to inform his Friends and the Public generally that he has secured the AUCTIONEER and VALUER'S LICENSE, and trusts by Prompt Attention, Moderate Charges, and Quick Settlements, to merit a share of their Patronage.

SALES, COMMISSIONS, VALUATIONS, AND AUCTIONEERING IN ALL ITS BRANCHES.

T. D. D. has been commissioned by Judge MEYNELL to Levy Distress Warrants under the Agricultural Holdings' Act.

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Estimates supplied for Girders, Columns, Iron Work Stable Fittings, Stoves, Kitchen Ranges, Chimney Pieces, and General Hardware.

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He will supply enlarged PHOTOS, finished in Oils, Water Colours, or Crayons, Framed complete, prices varying from 15s to 45s. Persons wishing to join our Club can do so by applying for card and Particulars. PHOTOS artistically finished in the latest and most improved style. Cabinets, 10s to 12s Per Dozen; Carte-de-Visites, 5s to 6s Per Dozen Bands, Choirs, and Wedding Groups, also, Architectural and Landscape Work done on reasonable Terms. Photos and Pictures Framed. 869i

Public Notices.

70 IS the WINNING NUMBER of the Sewing Machine Raffled for at Leadgate. 530j

THE ANNUAL LEEK and VEGETABLE SHOW will be held at the Chelmsford Hotel, Ebchester, on Saturday, Oct. 22nd till Oct. 24th. 571j

LOOK OUT for the great Cambridgeshire LEEK SHOW to be held at Mr GEORGE STOKOE'S, Mason's Arms, Iveston, on Saturday First, Oct. 22nd.

LEEKS! LEEKS! LEEKS!—A grand LEEK SHOW will be held at the house of Mr WM. JACKSON, Coach and Horses Inn, Leadgate, on Saturday First, Oct. 22nd. 562j

SHORTHAND.—Private Tuition. Special ADULT CLASS now forming for a limited number of Pupils; two nights weekly, 6d.—For further information, Address No. 54, *Guardian* Office, Consett. 553j

A BALLOT will be held in the Co-operative Hall, Consett, on Wednesday, Nov. 2nd, in connection with the PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION of London, Ltd. Doors open at 6·45; Meeting to commence at 7·15 p.m. Vocal and Instrumental Music at Intervals. Admission Free. 557j

IN view of what I, the undersigned, have said about the West Stanley Co-operative Stores, I APOLOGISE, so that no harm may be done to the said Stores.

E. MACKINLAY.

East Stanley, Oct. 20th, 1892. 563j

SHOTLEY BRIDGE FLORAL & HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the above Society will be held in the Temperance Hall, Shotley Bridge, on Saturday Evening, Oct. 29th, 1892.

545j W. RAMSAY, Secretary.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, CASTLESIDE.

THE REV H. W. FARRAR, M.A., South Shields, will PREACH in the above Church, on Sunday next, the 23rd Oct., in the Morning at 10·30, and in the Evening at 6·30. Collections will be taken in aid of Church Expenses. 558j

MADAME CATHERINE BELLAS

VOCALIST,

(CERTIFICATE OF HONOURS, R.A.M.),

Has a few VACANCIES for PUPILS.

Terms at 11, East Parade, Consett. 885

Consett, July 29, 1892.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

MESSRS ELSDON AND WYLAM

Beg to inform the General Public that they hav commenced the Business of AUCTIONEERS, &c., and hope by Strict Attention to Business, Prompt Settlements, and Reasonable Charges, to merit a share of the public patronage.

For further particulars, apply

SALE OFFICES, FREEMASONS' ARMS, CONSETT. 941

Public Notices.

LOOK OUT for the great BEE-HIVE LEEK SHOW at Mr A. PARKER'S, Sherburn Terrace, Consett, on Saturday and Monday, Oct. 22nd and 24th, 1892. 514j

STANLEY & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB.

THE ANNUAL CONCERT of the above Club will be held on Wednesday, December 7th, 1892.

THE LONDON ASSURANCE CORPORATION.

WM. DAVISON, Front Street, Consett, has been appointed AGENT for the above Company, and will be glad to reply to all enquiries.

NOTICE! MINING!!

DEPUTIES and others prepared for the Under-Manager Certificate, by Correspondence. Terms moderate.—Write NICHOLSON, 1, Glossop Street, Spen, R.S.O. 531j

UNITARIAN SERVICES.

TWO SERVICES will be held in the Smaller Hall of the New Town Hall, Consett, on Sunday, October 23rd, 1892, in the Afternoon at Two, and in the Evening at Six o'clock. 572j

JEFFREY'S CELEBRATED EYE CURE, at 1s Per Bottle, Cures Weak or Inflamed Eyes, and for Impaired Vision it is unequalled, and perfectly harmless.—Address: JEFFREY, Castleside, near Post Office.

Castleside.

SIR,—I am pleased to testify to the benefit I have received from the use of your celebrated Eye Drops. For some time I have been nearly blind; but after using your Drops twice I found a change, and by continued use I may say my eyes are quite well. I can thoroughly recommend it to all who are suffering from bad eyes.—Yours, &c.

M. RIPLEY.

Mr R. Jeffrey, Castleside. 496j

ST. CUTHBERT'S, BENFIELDSIDE.

HARVEST FESTIVAL,

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27th.

Full Choral Evensong, at Half-past Seven p.m.

PREACHER—

REV. CANON BAILY, M.A.

Rector of Ryton and Rural Dean of Jarrow.

Collection for the "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts." Founded 1701.

Offerings of Fruit, Flowers, and Vegetables will be thankfully received for the Church.

☞ The SERVICES will be CONTINUED on the following Sunday. 535j

THE PROGRESS OF CONSETT.

A SKETCH.

BY GEORGE NEASHAM,

Assistant-Librarian at the University of Durham

PRICE THREEPENCE.

TO BE HAD ONLY OF

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REV. J. A. BRIDGES,

ON THURSDAY, EVENING, OCT. 27TH, AT 7·15.

THE

REV CANON BODY.

ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, AT 10·30 A.M., 2·15 p.m., & 6 P.M.

Anthems—"Thou visitest the Earth" and "Rejoice To-day." 544j

Y.M.C.A. DEBATING SOCIETY, CONSETT.

A GRAND

LITERARY EVENING

Will be held in the CO-OPERATIVE HALL, CONSETT, ON MONDAY EVENING FIRST, OCTOBER 24th, 1892.

RECITALS FROM POPULAR AUTHORS,

BY

MR. W. S. VALLANCE, F.S.Sc., (London). Authorised Teacher, Glasgow University.

THE FAMOUS ELOCUTIONIST.

Chair to be taken at 8 o'clock, by Rev. A. BARBER.

ADMISSION—Front Seats, 1s.; Back Seats, 6d. Tickets and Programmes may be had at the Post Office, or of the Members of the Y.M.C.A.

☞ Consett Mission Band will parade the Streets previous to the Recitals. 540j

THEATRE ROYAL,

CONSETT.

LESSEE AND MANAGER ARTHUR JEFFERSON.
ACTING MANAGER - - MARK LINDON.

FRIDAY and SATURDAY—Last Two Nights of "BLUE BEARD."

MONDAY, TUESDAY, and WEDNESDAY—Oct. 24th, 25th, and 26th—"JO."

THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY—Oct. 27th, 28th, and 29th. "UNMASKED." 559j

OVERCOATS! OVERCOATS! OVERCOATS!

FOLLOW THE

FOOTPRINTS

OF THE

THRIFTY DIRECT TO

HEPWORTH'S

THE WORLD'S CLOTHIERS

AND

PIONEERS OF DIRECT TRADING.

SEE THEIR GRAND

AUTUMN

AND

WINTER SHOW.

ADDRESS:

15, SHAKESPEARE STREET,

CONSETT.

Public Notices.

BAPTIST CHURCH, CONSETT.

SUNDAY First, SERMONS by Mr R. C. MONK, Morning and Evening. MUSICAL SERVICE in the Afternoon. Monday Evening, FRUIT BANQUET. A. WATSON, Esq., presiding. Tickets 6d each. 550j

BENFIELDSIDE SCIENCE, ART, AND EVENING CLASSES.

THE FOLLOWING

CLASSES

will Commence at the BENFIELDSIDE BOARD SCHOOLS, on Tuesday next, the 18th inst, and will continue during the Winter as under:—

MATHEMATICS — Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 6·45 to 7·45 p.m.

SHORTHAND — Tuesdays and Thursdays,—Elementary, from 7 to 8; Advanced, 8 to 9 p.m.

BOOK-KEEPING & OFFICE WORK—Wednesdays and Fridays, from 7·30 to 8·30 p.m.

FRENCH—Wednesdays and Fridays, from 8 to 9 p.m.

Fees for each Subject, 4s for the Course, payable in advance, half of which will be returned to Students who attend regularly and Sit for Examination.

COMMITTEE:—

Mr Joshua Lax, Chairman; Rev J. Foran, Vice-Chairman; Mrs Baillie, Mr R. G. Barclay, Mr Jacob Dowson, Mr John Guthrie, Mr John Heymer, Rev E. W. Jenkins, Mr F. Priestman, Mrs Pumphrey, Mr Wm. Ramsay, Mrs T. Richardson.

R. G. BARCLAY, Hon. Sec.

Benfieldside, October 13th, 1892. 560j

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BLACKHILL.

A MUSICAL and AMATEUR DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT will be given in the CO-OPERATIVE HALL, CONSETT, on the Evening of TUESDAY, 1st NOVEMBER, 1892, when the following Talented Artistes will take part, viz.:—

MADAME CATHERINE BELLAS-DRYDEN, Contralto, CONSETT.

MR. T. D. DRYDEN, Tenor, CONSETT.

MR J. T. SYMINGTON, Baritone, BENFIELDSIDE

MR. HARRY TOMKINS. Humourist, NEWCASTLE.

To conclude with the celebrated Trial Scene from the "Pickwick Papers," entitled

"BARDELL v. PICKWICK."

BY THE LEADGATE PICKWICKIANS.

Admission:—(Popular Prices)—Front Seats, 1s; Back Seats, 6d.

Proceeds in aid of Church Funds.

Tickets can be had from Messrs Marshall Bros., T. D. Dryden, Front Street, Tyler Bros., Middle Street, and J. R. Brodie, Church Street, Consett; Mr George Eltringham, Durham Road, Blackhill, or from Members of the Church.

Doors Open at 7·30, to commence punctually at 8 o'clock. Carriages at 10.30.

Sales by Auction.

By Mr Joseph Oley.

VALUABLE BUILDING GROUND AT SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, on Monday, the 31st October, 1892, at Three for Four o'clock prompt, in the Afternoon, at the Commercial Inn, Shotley Bridge,

MR. JOSEPH OLEY. AUCTIONEER.

ALL THAT VALUABLE

BUILDING GROUND

now used as a GARDEN, containing 1,150 SQUARE YARDS, situate near the West End of the Terrace, at Shotley Bridge, lately occupied by ROBERT TAYLOR, Deceased. The Ground is well stocked with Fruit Trees, and is approached by a good road, and commands an extensive and beautiful prospect towards the Derwent Valley. Immediate possession will be given.

For further particulars apply to

MR. BOOTH,

Solicitor, Shotley Bridge.

☞ JOSEPH OLEY.

THE AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER AND VALUER,

10, WOOD STREET SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

By Mr. W. T. Ryan.

New Town Hall, Consett.

MR. W. T. RYAN, F.A.I., will SELL BY AUCTION, as above, To-day (Friday) and To-morrow (Saturday), October 21st and 22nd, 1892, a large quantity of READY-MADE CLOTHING, SHIRTS, SHIRTINGS, BLANKETS, SHEETS, QUILTS, DRESS GOODS, SHAWLS, TABLE-CLOTHS, &c.

Sale each day at 2 and 6·30 p.m.

Sale Office, 24, Lynn Street, West Hartlepool,

By Mr. A. Phillipson.

Sunniside, near Marley Hill.—Monday, Oct. 31st, 1892.

MR. A. PHILLIPSON is instructed to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION a large QUANTITY of Household FURNITURE and EFFECTS, belonging to Mrs HEADS. See Bills.

Sale to begin at One o'clock. 547j

SPECIAL EMIGRATION OFFICE, &c.

A. PHILLIPSON, Dipton, by Lintz Green Station. AUCTION SALES will be conducted in the best style, and upon most reasonable terms. LETTERS by Post will have prompt attention, and all Sorts of GOODS, FURNITURE &c., can be bought right out for Cash.

By Mr. John Crawford.

John Crawford's Sale-rooms, 6, 13, 23, and 25 Victoria Street, Consett.

MR JOHN CRAWFORD will SELL 500 Lots of New and Second-hand Valuable Mahogany FURNITURE, on Monday, Oct. 24th, 1892, brought to Sale Rooms for convenience of sale, comprising Splendid Toned Trichord Piano in Walnut, Harmonium, Mahogany Drawers, Brass-mounted Bedsteads, Feather Beds, &c.

Sale to commence at One o'clock prompt, as the Lots are numerous.

Anyone disposing of their Furniture can have it sold in the Fortnightly Sales or at any time. Persons wishing to emigrate can be booked to any part of the Globe.

Monday Evening First.

MR JOHN CRAWFORD is instructed to SELL at the above Rooms, on Monday Evening first, a BANKRUPT STOCK of Clocks, Timepieces, Knives, Spoons, Cruet Stands, Leather Bags, Brushes, &c.

Sale to commence at Seven o'clock. 575j

No. 2, Garden Street, Consett.

MR JOHN CRAWFORD is instructed to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at an early date that Well-built FOUR-ROOMED HOUSE, large Attic and every Convenience, being No. 2, Garden Street, Consett. 576j

Valuable Freehold Business Property For Sale at Front Street, Catchgate.

MR JOHN CRAWFORD, favoured with instructions from Mr R. PEARSON, will SELL BY AUCTION, on November 9th, 1892, at the house of Mr MILES HANDY, Catchgate, that Well-built SEVEN-ROOMED HOUSE and SHOP, Yard, Water-closet, &c., situate in Front Street, Catchgate, at present occupied by Mr JOHN PEARSON, Shoe-dealer. Also, the TWO-ROOMED COTTAGE, COACH-HOUSE, and BUILDING SITE, 66ft. by 24ft. at the rear, now occupied by Mr R. PEARSON. Full particulars apply to the AUCTIONEER, Consett

Golden Lion Inn, Leadgate.

MR JOHN CRAWFORD is instructed by Mrs LUMLEY, who is retiring from Business, to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at an early date, her Valuable Mahogany FURNITURE, &c. 573j

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

MR. JOHN CRAWFORD, AUCTIONEER, VALUER, HOUSE and LAND AGENT, is prepared to execute all orders for AGRICULTURAL, PROPERTY, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE SALES on reasonable terms, prompt settlement. Appointed by his Honour Judge Meynell, to levy distress for Rent under the Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888. Furniture bought for Cash.

Sale Office: 25, Victoria Street, Consett 543

Sales by Auction.

By Mr John S. Murray.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24TH, 1892.

12 Prime Fat Cattle.
160 Prime Fat Sheep and Lambs.
Veal and Keeping Calves.
Pork and Store Pigs.
10 to 15 S.H. Grazing Steers and Heifers, 1 to 2 years old.
A number of Dairy Cows and Heifers, calved and to calve.
Light New Trap.
Light New Coup Cart, Strong Spring Cart.
Poultry, Harness, &c.
Sale at One o'clock.

569j J. S. MURRAY.

IMPORTANT SALE of BUSINESS and DWELLING-HOUSE PROPERTY in and around Consett, will be held shortly. Parties having Property or Shares to dispose of, can have them included by applying to J. S. MURRAY, Royal Auction Mart, Benfieldside. 570j

JOHN SWINBURN MURRAY,
AUCTIONEER,
AGRICULTURAL VALUER, AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT,
Appointed by His Honour JUDGE MEYNELL to Levy Distress for Rent, under the New Law of Distress Amendment Act, 1888,
ROYAL AUCTION MART. BENFIELDSIDE

By Mr J W. Berry.

Monday, October 24th, 1892.

JOHN WM. BERRY will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, within the Park Road Sale Rooms, Consett, several CONSIGNMENTS of Valuable Mahogany and other Household FURNITURE and other Articles too numerous to mention.

Sale at One o'clock.

Further consignments invited, and will be taken until time of sale. 582j

JOHN W. BERRY,
AUCTIONEER, VALUER, HOUSE COMMISSION AND EMIGRATION AGENT
PARK ROAD SALE ROOMS, CONSETT,
are Open daily for the reception of Goods on Sale on Commission.
Cash advanced on Goods sent in for absolute Sale.

By Mr. J. Vickers.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

MONDAY, October 24th, 1892.—50 to 70 Dairy Cows and Heifers, 35 Fat Cattle, 270 Fat Sheep and Lambs; 6 Store Cattle; 10 Finger Calves.

Entries to day of Sale.

Sale at 10·30 a.m.

J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.

The Poplars, Frosterley.

MR. JOSEPH VICKERS, honoured with instructions from the Executors of the late Joseph Walton, Esq., will SELL BY AUCTION, on Saturday, October 22nd, 1892, the whole of the Valuable Household FURNITURE, Feather Beds, Carpets, &c.

Particulars in Posters.

Sale at 12 30 noon. 581j

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

SPECIAL SALE of STORE CATTLE and HORSES. Nearly 450 CATTLE. Thursday, October 27th. 1892. Entries comprise:—

12 Horses, Ponies, and Foals.
40 Farrow Cows.
100 Grand Blue Grey Steers and Heifers, 2½ and 3 y.o., and well forward in condition, from Alston and Allendale.
130 Grand S.H. Steers and Heifers, 2 and 3 y.o., and good quality.
170 Steers and Heifers, 1 and 2 y.o.
5 S.H. Bull Stirks.
Also a number of Highland Kyloe Heifers.

For a Choice Selection of Superior Grazing and Feeding Cattle, this is the sale of the Season. Ballot Drawn, Wednesday evening. Additional entries expected. Special trains as on Mondays.

Sale at 10·30.

580j J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.

Bridge End, Frosterley.
Sale of Valuable Farming Stock, Implements, Hay, Eatage, Dairy Utensils, &c.

MR. JOSEPH VICKERS instructed by Mr. Jos. Stephenson, who is declining farming, will offer for UNRESERVED COMPETITION, at the above place, on Saturday, October 29th, 1892, the following select S.H. CATTLE, &c., viz:—

BAY COB, 15h.h, quiet and good in all gears.

CATTLE.

2 Superior S.H. Cows, recently calven.
1 Roan S.H. Cow, due Feb. 4th.
1 Roan S.H. Cow, geld, very fresh.
1 Roan S.H. Heifer, May calver.
2 S.H. Heifers, 1½ year old.
2 S.H. Steers, 1 year old.
2 S.H. Heifer Stirks, 8 months old.
2 S.H. Steer Stirks, 6 months old.
2 Finger Calves.

Coup Cart and Shelvings; Spring Cart with hood, in splendid condition; 2 Sledges; Wheelbarrow, new; 2 Hay Sweeps; 2 Ladders; first-class Grindstone; Sheep Stools; Hedging Knives; Sheep Troughs; Pig Do; Meal Tubs; Picks; Hammers; Rakes, Forks, Gripes, Shovels, Manure Drags, Cow Chains, Hand Tools, a quantity of Posts and Rails, Tar Pan, Scythes, Steel Rail suitable for butchers, Wood Do. with Crooks.

Set of Cart Harness, Trace Chains, Set of Spring Cart Harness, Pad and Bridle, Horse Sheet, Waterproof Cart Cover, Ropes, Night Collars, and Stable Requisites. Barrel Churn and the whole of the Dairy Utensils.

About 15 Tons of Prime well-won Old Land Hay, to go off in lots to suit purchasers, grown on the best of limestone land and won without a shower.

Eatage of 13¼ Acres of rich Fog till May 13th, also, 9 Acres of Pasture Eatage, up till April 6th, 1893.

The cows are a very superior lot and particularly adapted for dairy purposes; the young stock are well-bred and very fresh.

Sale to Commence at One o'clock p.m.

Bridge End is only Three Minutes walk from Frosterley Station on the Wear Valley Branch, N.E.R.

Mart Office, Tow Law. 578j

Middles, Waskerley.

MR JOSEPH VICKERS, instructed by Mr A. Baty, will SELL BY AUCTION, at an early date, the whole of the FARMING STOCK, IMPLEMENTS, &c. Particulars in posters and later advertisements.

Grove Villa, Tow Law. 579j

Business Announcements

THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT
PERMANENT
BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY

W. AYNSLEY, Esq.
JAMES OLIVER, Esq. } Trustees.
HENRY NICHOLSON, Esq.

The next MEETING for receiving Subscriptions and Loans will be held in the Small Hall of the NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT, between 7 and 8 o'clock on MONDAY, 24th Oct., and every Fortnight afterwards at the same time and place.

LOANS received at 4 Per Cent. Interest. 80j

MOST MONEY LENT
On Silver Plate, Watches, Jewellery, Diamonds, and other Precious Stones, Plated Goods Cutlery, Gems &c., &c., at
J. & E. WILSON'S,
The Oldest Established and Largest Pawnbroking Business in the North of England.
Established 1780
12, PILGRIM STREET
(THREE DOORS BELOW BLACKETT ST
PRIVATE ENTRANCE: FIRST SIX DOORS IN HIGH FRIAR LANE
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
N.B.—A Large Stock of New and Second-hand WATCHES Gold & Silver GUARDS ALBERTS &c., on Sale at the Lowest Prices!
☞ SEE THAT YOU GET TO THE RIGHT SHOP—No. 12.
OBSERVE PROJECTING ILLUMINATED CLOCK OVER WINDOW, 789

Business Announcements.

BLINDS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION MADE TO ORDER.

VENETIAN BLINDS MADE TO ORDER.
OLD BLINDS CLEANED, MADE EQUAL TO NEW.
ALL SUNDRIES KEPT IN STOCK.
ESTIMATES GIVEN. PRICE LISTS ON APPLICATION
STUDDY AND ALEXANDER,
BLIND MANUFACTURERS,
4, PICTON PLACE, OPPOSITE BLYTH AND TYNE STATION,
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. 73j

GLENDENNING'S
BEEF & MALT WINE,

Composed of Liebig's Extract of Beef, Kepler's Malt Extract, and old Port Wine. It is therefore a concentrated nutritive digestive food, blood-making, flesh-forming, and strengthening. Of the utmost value to children, invalids, and those who require strength

PRICE: 3s. 9d. PER BOTTLE; 2s. PER HALF-BOTTLE.

Prepared only by W. GLENDENNING, Newcastle.

LOCAL AGENTS:—

CONSETT.—RICHARD MURRAY, WINE MERCHANT. T. D. DRYDEN & Co., FRONT STREET. THOMAS MILNER, CHEMIST.
WITTON GILBERT.—J. HODGSON, STATION HOTEL.
MEDOMSLEY.—R. M. RUTHERFORD, ROYAL OAK HOTEL.
DIPTON.—ROBERT ARMSTRONG, WINE MERCHANT.
STANLEY.—WM. CHARLTON, STANLEY HOTEL.
ANNFIELD PLAIN.—WM. TAYLOR, RAILWAY HOTEL.
BURNOPFIELD.—WM. STONES, BURTON HOUSE.
TANFIELD.—JOHN IRWIN, PACK HORSE INN.
BLACKHALL MILL.—T. ARMSTRONG, WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT.
SOUTH MOOR.—R. DIXON, THE OAK INN.
TOW LAW.—J. MOSES, POST OFFICE, HIGH STREET.
LEADGATE.—JOHN SNAITH, QUEEN'S HEAD HOTEL. 289h

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

Vallance, the renowned reciter and humorist, will appear at Consett, on Monday next. See advertisement.

BAPTIST CHURCH.—Our readers will see from an advertisement in another column and posters, that special services will be held on Sunday first, and a fruit banquet on Monday evening, in the above place of worship, when addresses will be given by several ministers. Anthems and hymns will be sung by the choir. All are invited.

BIBLE CLASS.—On Tuesday evening, the young men connected with the Consett Wesleyan Society inaugurated a Bible Class, holding the first meeting in the Gibson Street Schools. An instructive address was delivered by Bro. W. Grainger, of Consett.

WESLEYAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL.—The teachers of the above school duly observed Sunday as the day set apart by conference as "Children's day" by holding a special service in the chapel, in the afternoon. The service was conducted by the superintendents (Messrs V. Dunn, and J. Lowes). The address was delivered by the Rev C. W. Barber, Leadgate. There was a large attendance.

UNITARIANISM.—On Sunday, the usual services were held in the Small Hall of the New Town Hall, and were conducted by Mr J. J. Carrick, of Blackfine, in consequence of the gentleman who was to have conducted the services being taken very suddenly ill. In the afternoon, Mr Carrick took for his subject "Pride and ambition and their consequences," taking his text from Proverbs, where it reads "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." In the evening his subject was "What has Unitarian Christianity done for the world," and many present were not a little surprised at the many eminent men and saintly women who have benefitted the world, by being in it, who were Unitarians. There were very fair audiences at both services.

SALE OF PROPERTY.—At Mrs Brown's, Railway Hotel, Consett, on Wednesday se'nnight, Mr William Nicholson offered for sale by public auction a freehold house and shop at the corner of Newmarket Street and Gibson Street, Consett, containing shop, kitchen, three bedrooms, yard, and conveniences, together with the freehold cottage adjoining, containing two rooms. The whole was let at a rental of £39 15s. The bids elicited were as follows:—Mr Crawford, £509, 680, 700, 760; Mr Harvey, £600, 710, 730, 750, 790, 805, 815; Mr Lockey, £670, 770, 800, 820; Mr Errington, £720; Mr Stobbs, £740, 780; Mr Rowe, £810. Mr Lockey was declared the purchaser at £820, as no further bids were forthcoming. Mr J. Mawson, Durham, was solicitor for the vendors.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.—On Saturday, the educational committee connected with this society, re-opened the library, which has been closed for a lengthened time, for the purpose of having the books arranged and a new catalogue issued. Many members took out volumes, which are issued by means of a new "indicator" and on the same principle as that carried out at the Newcastle Free Library.

WESLEYAN SOCIETY.—On Monday, the ladies connected with this society had their usual sewing meeting. The tea and supper was provided by Mrs Scott, of East Parade, Consett. There was a large attendance. In the evening, selections of music were rendered by the choir and other well-known friends. The next tea and supper will be provided by Mrs J. H. Taylor (wife of the esteemed superintendent minister), Consett, and is sure to be a financial success.

THEATRE ROYAL.—The bill of fare served up at the theatre this week is an excellent one, and, judging by the houses, it seems to be very much appreciated. On Monday evening, a large audience was present, when the burlesque, "Guy Fawkes the Fifth," was produced by Mr Arthur Danville's able company. The specialities introduced are the roller-skating of the Roy Trio, the skirt-dancing of Miss Florrie Turner, and the statue ballet, "Fond Heart," all of which are exceptionally good. Mr Harry Roxburry is very funny as the "Widow Gray," and as her daughter "Lilian," Miss Lillie Doyle is most pleasing. Miss Lottie Trevor is a dashing "Sir Cheetham," and as "Guido Fawkes," Mr Arthur Danville is good. "Blue Beard" was produced last night, and will be repeated to-night and to-morrow night. It is a good all-round company, and well worthy of a visit. "Jo" is announced for next week.

BLACKHILL.

STARR-BOWKETT BUILDING SOCIETY.—The members of the 1st Shotley Bridge and District 370th Starr-Bowkett Building Society held their sixty-sixth appropriation by ballot on Monday evening, in the Sons of Temperance Hall, Blackhill—Mr G. Matthews in the chair. Messrs Kirk and Smailes were chosen scrutineers, and Miss Mary Kelsey, ball-drawer. After the scrutineers had satisfied themselves that the balls were correct, they placed them in their respective bags, to the satisfaction of the members present, and the little lady drew the register numbers in the following order:—175, transferred; 180, withdrawn; 144, found clear on the books, for four shares, which entitles the owner to an advance of £400 as per rule, free of interest, to be repaid in from one to twelve-and-a-half years.

The following is an extract from the *Methodist Times*:—"The adult class in connection with the Blackhill Wesleyan Sunday-school held a successful P.S.A., to inaugurate the winter session, on October 2nd, 1892. The chapel was nicely filled with young people, when addresses and music pleased the audience for about an hour; but much to the surprise of the audience, a small American organ had to do service for the large chapel organ, which was closed owing to official opposition, the people seated in the gallery being unable to see the soloists and instrumentalists. When will the age of fogeyism cease?"

MISSION BRASS BAND.—On Tuesday evening, the annual temperance entertainment in connection with the Blackhill Gospel Mission Brass Band, was held in the Wesleyan School-room, Blackhill. A very large audience was presided over by Mr W. Whitehead, United Kingdom Alliance agent, of Newcastle. The artistes for the occasion were:—Miss Holman (Newcastle), Mrs Robinson, Miss Gibson (Blackhill), Messrs J. Dalrymple (Newcastle), Bell, Gillies, J. Gradon (Blackhill). A capitally-arranged programme of music was finely rendered. The two selections "Evening thoughts," and the "Little Gem," along with the cornet solo "Ora pro nobis," were exquisitely played. The glee party executed two quartettes in a creditable manner. Miss Holman did full justice to her songs, and received an *encore* for the recitation of "Marguereta." Mr Dalrymple was well taken with, and his songs were thoroughly enjoyable. In response to a well-merited *encore*, Mr Dalrymple acknowledged by giving "Off to Philadelphia." Mr Gradon created considerable amusement with the recitation "The glass eye." During the interval, Mr Whitehead delivered an instructive address on the temperance question. Messrs J. W. Gradon and W. H. Palliser acted as accompanists, and Mr J. Palliser conducted the band. The proceeds were in aid of the funds of the band.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH GUILD.—The guild held in connection with the above church was very well attended on Wednesday night, when a debate took place on "Is novel reading beneficial." The paper by Mr R. McDonald contained some well thought-out arguments in favour of novel reading, and the names of many well-known authors of fiction and the books they had written were given to prove his position. Sir Walter Scott's works were instanced as giving the reader an insight into the history of byegone ages, and sketched in so masterly a manner as to attract the attention of the person perusing his works. In his novels they found the history of the individual delineated, and stirring events recorded the triumph of truth, and all were benefitted by the reading of Sir Walter Scott's novels and fiction of a similar kind. The reply of Mr W. T. Wilson was that as a novel is a fictitious tale, it was a waste of time reading them. They filled the mind with most unreal and profitless dreams, utterly unfitting those who read them from making their way in this matter-of-fact world. The subject was then discussed by the members, and on the Chairman (Rev A. Baillie) taking a vote, it was found that the majority were in favour of novel reading.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

RUMMAGE SALE.—On Wednesday afternoon, a rummage sale took place in St. Cuthbert's (Benfieldside) Schoolroom, the proceeds of the same going towards defraying a small debt in connection with the Sunday-school. There were several stalls, including one heavily laden with plain and fancy needlework, and were attended by several ladies. At 2·20 the sale had to be opened owing to the crush of anxious purchasers, and the greatest portion of the goods that had been collected together were quickly disposed of. The successful sale was brought to a conclusion shortly after six o'clock and everything was cleared out.

ST. CUTHBERT'S, BENFIELDSIDE.—HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES.—The annual harvest festival will be held next Thursday evening, October 26th, at half-seven p m. There will be a full choral evening, with anthem, preacher, Rev Canon Bailey, M.A., Rector of Ryton and Rural Dean of Jarrow. The collection will be given to the Society for Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, Founded in 1701, the oldest English Missionary Society. The Rev John Wesley has an early missionary of this venerable yet vigorous Society. The services will be continued on the following Sunday. Holy Communion 8 a.m., Matins and Litany, 10·30 a.m., and evening, 6 30 p.m. Offerings of fruit, flowers, and vegetables, for decorating the church, will be thankfully received at the vicarage.

WESLEYAN METHODIST BAND OF HOPE.—The fortnightly entertainments were continued on Monday evening at Shotley Bridge, when the very incommodious school-room was packed to the doors. Mr Jas. Henderson, of Medomsley, ably presided, and his short temperance address was very well received. The reading by Mr Jas. Armstrong, of the Station, was very suitable; it dealing with the evil of growing boys, smoking. Mr John Nixon recited "John Maynard" to the best of his ability, while the recitative action song was well rendered by a little girl belonging to the Presbyterian choir. The piece was rapturously *encored*. The "Diamond ring" was given in response in just as attractive a style. The Presbyterian choir favoured with two pieces, which were also well received. The String Band was at home with "The Marlboro' march," and "The harpers of Wales" being a collection of Welsh airs. The very interesting programme was brought to a close with the doxology and benediction. There were four pledges taken.

CORNSAY COLLIERY.

METHODIST NEW CONNEXION CHAPEL.—On Sunday morning and evening, special services were conducted by Rev. C. S. England, Hartlepool, in the above place of worship, there being a fair attendance at each service. In the afternoon, a distribution of prizes was made to the scholars of the Sunday-school by Mrs Newman, Cornsay, consisting of upwards of ninety books of various descriptions, according to the merit of the children. The anthem for the evening, "Praise the Lord O my Soul," was well rendered by the choir, under their leader Mr Geo. Turner, while Mr E. C. Newton, officiated at the organ. The rev. gentleman selected for his text the following words from the 9th chapter of St. John and 4th verse—"I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day; for the night cometh, when no man can work." He urged upon the audience not to be weary in well doing though their labours did not receive the attention of men, they were regarded in Heaven by their Creator. A collection was taken in aid of Foreign Missions, at the close of each service.

TANFIELD.

VESTRY MEETING.—The usual meeting of the ratepayers of the parish of Tanfield was held in the vestry on Monday evening. A rate was made of 1s in the pound, 7½d of which was School Board rate. Some questions were asked concerning the amount, when it was explained that a precept for £1,200 had been sent in by the Board. After some discussion, a committee was appointed who should attend the audits, in order to prevent, if possible, any unnecessary and excessive expenditure by the School Board.

EBCHESTER.

WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL.—The harvest festival and chapel anniversary in connection with the above were celebrated on Sunday and Monday last. On Sunday, two able sermons were preached in the morning and evening by Mr John Oliver, of Burnhill. In the afternoon, a service of song was rendered by the Shotley Bridge Primitive Methodist choir in a most effective manner; Miss Richardson, Allendale Cottages, acted as reader. On Monday evening, a grand sacred concert was given by the above choir. The various anthems, solos, choruses, duets, &c., were rendered in a most proficient and masterly style, and was listened to by a most appreciative audience. Solos were sung by Misses Oley, Thompson, Seed, Gibson, A. Wilson, and Messrs Leadbitter, Lister, and Forster. Mr Wm. Urwin acted as leader, and Mrs Lee was the harmoniumist. After the concert, a ham-and-coffee supper was provided, when about 180 partook of the good things set out. The whole of the proceedings were a most decided success. The chapel was very tastefully decorated with flowers, vegetables, corn, fruit, &c.

BURNHOPE.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.—A grand evening concert was given in the above place on Saturday night, by the members and choir of the South Moor Wesleyan Band of Hope, when an interesting programme was efficiently rendered, consisting of anthems, quartettes, dialogues, solos, &c. The chair was ably occupied by Mr Guy. The singing of the closing hymn brought an enjoyable evening to a close. The musical arrangements were presided over by Mr M. Wilkinson, while Mr J Wilkinson presided at the organ.

WOLSINGHAM.

Extremely wild weather prevailed during the early part of the week, interspersed with showers of sleet, leaving the hill-tops mantled in white, thus presaging an early winter. Corn and potatoes are bearing traces of the inclement season.

LOW DEATH-RATE AT WOLSINGHAM.—According to the Medical officer's report (Dr Devey) the death-rate for Wolsingham for the year was 13·5 per 1,000. Deaths from accidents, premature births, makes it 15·7 per 1,000. For the special drainage district it has 14·1. On deducting non-residents, accidents, &c., it has only 11·5 per 1,000.

BIRTH-RATE OF WOLSINGHAM.—The births for the year number 82, consisting of 40 males and 42 females which gives a birth-rate of 26·45 per 1,000.

BIRTH-RATE FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS.—1882, 82; 1883, 83; 1884, 93; 1885, 112; 1886, 117, 1887, 96; 1888, 100; 1889, 100; 1890, 76; 1891, 82.

STANHOPE.

COOKING SCHOOL.—Two classes, each containing 16 lady pupils, meet every afternoon and evening in the New Bank Rooms, Stanhope, to receive practical instructions in cooking at the hands of Miss Bailey, who is engaged by the Durham County Council under their technical education scheme.

TOW LAW.

THE PRICE OF MEAT.—As a protest against the excessive prices butchers are charging for their meat compared with its cost to them, several individuals have commenced to kill a sheep or two and retail the same at more reasonable rates than obtained at the butchers, and have met with ready sale for their mutton. A leading butcher, to keep pace with his amateur brethren, killed eight or ten sheep, and sold the joints and cuts by auction at prices varying from 4½d to 7½d per pound.

PUBLIC MEETING AND ENTERTAINMENT.—On Wednesday night, under the auspices of the "Beacon of Hope" Good Templars lodge, a crowded meeting was held in the Institute, the attraction being two noted negro jubilee singers, Mr and Mrs Smith, and Mr Ridley, of Gateshead, a blind pianist. After the opening hymn, the Lord's prayer was chanted, and an interesting programme was gone through. During the proceedings the following resolution was unanimously adopted, viz.: "That this public meeting of the inhabitants of Tow Law hereby calls upon the Government to introduce a Direct Veto Bill as complete as the Scotch and Welsh measures which passed the second reading in the late Parliament, and this meeting further requests that the Government will in no case transfer the licensing power to County Councils (who receive the license fees and are elected on other issues) as such must meet the persistent opposition of temperance organisations." Rev G. Samuel presided, and the programme was much appreciated by all present.

CASTLESIDE.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.—It will be seen from our advertising columns that the Rev H. W. Farrar, M.A., South Shields, is to preach on Sunday next, the 23rd inst., in the above church, and as this is likely to be his last visit to Castleside for some time to come, no doubt his friends will like to avail themselves of this opportunity of hearing him. We understand that the vicar's resignation of his benefice takes effect in the early part of November; but we learn that he hopes to occupy his pulpit again before leaving his parish, in which he has laboured for about 30 years.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

KYO FLORAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—On Wednesday week, the committee and members of this society held their annual supper at the house of Mr Jos. Lumley, Railway Inn, Annfield Plain. After full justice had been done to an excellent repast, the cloths were removed, and Mr G. R. Hobson was appointed chairman, whilst the vice-chair was occupied by Mr Jos. Robinson. Several toasts were honoured, including "Success to the society," "Successful competitors," and "Host and Hostess. Songs, &c., were rendered by Messrs Geo. Arkless, H. Bates, J. Urwin, W. Taylor, J. Dodds, Geo. Pace, and others. A most pleasant evening was spent by all present.

WEST PELTON.

BACHELORS' PRIVATE ASSEMBLY.—There was a very large company present at this assembly on Tuesday night. Visitors came from Gateshead, Cornsay, Chester-le-Street, Annfield Plain, Pelton Fell, Pelton, Stanley, Lanchester, Ouston, West Pelton, and the surrounding district. The Victoria Orchestral Band supplied the music, and gave the utmost satisfaction. Miss Appleton, assisted by Messrs Lumsden and Lawson, looked after the refreshments. The M.C.'s were Dr Simpson, Messrs Dorling, Robson, Coyle, and McDonald. A jolly night was spent by all.

LEADGATE.

WESLEYAN SUNDAY-SCHOOL BAND OF HOPE.—A large company was present at the fortnightly entertainment of the above, at Leadgate, on Saturday night. The chairman was Mr N. Parker. Recitations were given by Miss Richardson, Allendale Cottages, and Master Snare; quartette by the Misses Usher and Stewart, and Messrs J. Iley and G. W. Proctor, the latter gentleman also contributing a temperance melody. A concertina solo from Mr J. Hewitson, with harmonium accompaniment by Mr R. Bartle, was greatly appreciated, and received a hearty *encore*. Much merriment was provoked by the reading of Mr Hardy, Bradley Cottages. In an earnest and instructive address, Mr Pearson, of Allendale Cottages, pointed out the evil effects of alcohol upon the human body, strongly denouncing moderate drinking, and appealed to his hearers, for their own sakes and for the sake of example, to become total abstainers. A collection was taken, and the singing of the doxology brought a pleasant meeting to a close.

PROPOSED TESTIMONIAL.—On Tuesday evening, a representative meeting of the inhabitants of Leadgate and district was held in the Infant School-room, to take into consideration the question of promoting a suitable testimonial to Dr W. Allen, who is leaving Leadgate. Amongst those present were Revs T. Varley, vicar, P. McGill, and R. S. Hay, Coun. Winter, Messrs George Nicholson, T. Longstaff, C. F. Scott, T. Lammonby, H. White, Brears, Lane, Henderson, Hogan, L. Nicholson, Foreman, and others. Rev T. Varley was voted to the chair, and it was unanimously resolved that a fund be commenced, for the purpose of obtaining a testimonial, to be presented to Dr Allen in appreciation of the valuable services he has rendered to the district, and the care and success with which he has practised during the eight years he has resided at Leadgate. A number of collectors were appointed, and Mr C. F. Scott was elected hon. treasurer, and Mr J. E. Parker hon. secretary.

ALLEGED ATTEMPTED RAPE NEAR SOUTH MOOR.

At the Lanchester Petty Sessions yesterday (Thursday), before Rev F. W. Glyn, M.A., *William Routledge*, a miner, was brought up on a charge of attempting to commit a rape upon Selina Burton, a good looking young lady of 17 years, at South Moor, on Saturday last.

Prosecutrix said: I reside with my parents at Burn Vale House, South Moor. On Saturday, 15th October, shortly before 10 p.m. I left home to go to my sister's (Mrs Brass), at 76, Poplar Street, South Moor, with her two children. I called at Mr Smith's shop and bought some rice and pepper. I left my sister's house alone about 10·15 p.m., and went towards home, and when near the gate that leads to Stanley Burn Farm I saw prisoner, who asked me what they called me. I made no reply, prisoner then said "I'll set you home." I said "You'll not." I turned about and went back towards Mr Smith's shop. I waited until I thought prisoner would have gone away. I came on again, and when I got about the bottom of the bank, prisoner came from the side of the road and caught hold of me and threw me down. He then committed the assault upon me. I screamed and shouted "Murder! Mother!" and he put his hand over my mouth. While we were struggling the papers containing the pepper and rice burst, and part of the pepper went into my eyes. I kept on screaming and shouting "Murder," when I heard someone coming up the road. Prisoner then got up and went up the road.

William John Whillis, miner, residing at No. 20, Quaking Houses, South Moor, said that I left my mother-in-law's house in Louisa Terrace, Oxhill, about 10 p.m. in company with my wife and brother-in-law to go home. We met prisoner near Mr Smith's shop at South Moor. Prisoner said "Halloa! is that Slack" (a nick-name applied to witness.) I said "Yes," and went on, and after going about 200 yards I heard some one shouting behind us, "Go away! go away!" Shortly afterwards I heard some person shouting, "Murder! murder!" I ran back up the road towards Mr Smith's shop when Joseph Wilson overtook me, we met prosecutrix, who was in a distressed state, and from what she told us, we proceeded on about 15 yards and overtook prisoner, who turned round and said "Ah warn'd it'll be me." I saw that his clothes were unbuttoned. We took him back to where prosecutrix was standing. Wilson asked the prosecutrix if that was the man. She said "Yes, that's him, the nasty beast." We took him to Burn Vale House, and remained with him until Sergt. Liddell came.—Joseph Wilson, blacksmith, lodging with Mr Gibson at Burn Vale House, South Moor, corroborated the last witness.

Wilson and Whillis were complimented by the court upon their courageous conduct.

Ann Burton, the wife of Robert Burton, weighman, and residing at Burn Vale House, South Moor, deposed: On Saturday, shortly before 10 p.m., my daughter Selina left home to go to 76, Poplar Street, with her sister's two children. About 10·40 p.m., from what I was told, I went up the road about 150 yards, and found my daughter Selina crying and in deep distress, without her hat. I took her home, and I found blood on her face and her eyes inflamed, and her jacket and dress covered with mud. I sent for Dr Wanda.

Sergt. John Liddell testified: On Saturday, from what I was told, I went to Burn Vale House, South Moor, and took the prisoner, William Routledge, into custody, at 11·15 p.m., and I charged him with attempting to commit a rape on Selina Burton, at South Moor, about 10·30 p.m., on the 15th October, 1892. He replied, "I'm guilty; aw warn'd I'll get a month or two." I conveyed him to Lanchester lock-up. The distance from Mr Smith's shop to the gate leading to Stanley Burn Farm is 39 yards; from the gate to where the offence took place 71 yards; and from where the offence took place to Burn Vale House 169 yards.

On being charged in Court, prisoner said he had nothing to say. He was drunk at the time, and did not know what he was doing.

He was committed for trial at the coming Assizes.

THE LATE MR JOHN CARR, OF EBCHESTER.

Yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, in the burial ground attached to the ancient and picturesque church of St. Ebba's, Ebchester, were interred the remains of Mr John Carr, formerley of Ebchester Hall, who died at Framlington Place, Newcastle, on Tuesday morning, at the age of 78 years. The deceased gentlemen was at one time period of his career tolerably well-known in the North, his connection with the iron, coal, and coke industries causing him to be regarded as an important personage on the Quayside and 'Change. He started in business as a dealer in coke when he was 23 years of age; next he became interested in some iron-works and collieries in Northumberland, notably the Wallsend Iron Works. He also opened, about 25 years ago, the Milkwell Burn Colliery, which is situate on the borders of the Derwent, a short distance from Ebchester. After carrying on this place for some time, he sold the royalty to the Consett Iron Co. This bed of coal is now attached to the Westwood Colliery royalty, belonging to the same company. Another venture of Mr Carr's was the Whitley or Monkseaton Pit, which he likewise conducted for some time, and then relinquished business. One of his sons (Mr Wm. Carr) started business on his own account as a shipbroker in Newcastle. Two other sons (Henry and Michael) died while the family was living at Ebchester. The deceased was a true English gentleman of the old school, and being of an unassuming and retiring disposition, he took no part in public affairs. In his early days, he was extremely fond of rowing, and it is said that he was one of the gentlemen who were instrumental in bringing Harry Clasper, the champion sculler, to the front. Mr Carr was a Churchman, and although he did not publicly display any political zeal, it is believed that his sympathies leant to the Conservative party. He resided for very many years at Ebchester Hall, and only removed from there to Newcastle in the autumn of 1891. His widow and one son and daughter survive.

The body was yesterday (Thursday) conveyed by road from Newcastle to the interment. The coffin in which the remains were placed was of polished oak, with brass mountings. The inscription on the plate was as follows:—"John Carr, died 18th Oct., 1892, aged 78 years." Three mourning coaches followed the hearse from the city, and these contained the following relatives and friends:—Mr Swanston (son-in-law), Mr Swanston, jun. (grandson), Captain Kirby, Mr G. Cairns, Mr Hardy, Mr W. Cairns, Mr J. Dixon, Mrs Swanston (daughter-in-law). There was a large gathering of the leading families in the district at the funeral obsequies, including:—Mr James Annandale, J.P., Shotley Bridge; Mr W. M. Annandale, Lintzford; Mr F. Priestman, J.P., Derwent House; Mr J. Pumphrey, Shotley Bridge; Mr Edmund Balleny, J.P., Little Greencroft, Consett; Mr W. Rutherford, colliery manager, Annfield Plain; Mr W. Allen, colliery viewer, Hamsterley Colliery; Messrs Edward and Robert Dixon, Ebchester; Dr W. T. Belton, Ebchester Hill; Mr Geo. and Mrs Pelle, Greenwood, Shotley Bridge; Mr Geo. Ramsey, Ebchester Hall; Miss Jenkins and Mr Wm. Jenkins, jun., Consett Hall; Mr Edward Kirkhouse, Consett; Mr and Mrs Thirlwell, Shotley Bridge; Rev J. St. Hick, Whittonstall; Mr Charles Balleny, Consett; Mr R. G. Barclay, Shotley Bridge, &c. The service was conducted by Rev Peter Cameron, M.A., rector of the parish. The hymn, "My God my Father while I stray," was sung, and also the 90th Psalm. The body was deposited in the family vault. Messrs James Coxon and Co., of Newcastle, carried out the whole of the funeral arrangements.

LANCHESTER PETTY SESSIONS.

THURSDAY, October 20th.—Before Rev F. W. GLYN.

PITCH AND TOSS.

David Smith, *Thomas Clark*, *Peter* and *John Dunn*, miners, were found guilty of playing pitch and toss at Quebec, on the 2nd inst.—They were fined 7s 6d each and costs.

HE WANTED TO COME INTO THE WORKHOUSE.

Terence O'Neil, of Biggen Colliery, who is well known in Consett, failed to appear to answer a charge of drunkenness at Lanchester, on the 14th inst.—Inspector Daley said that defendant came to the Police Station, and wanted a ticket for the Casual Ward at the Workhouse. (Laughter.) The man was intoxicated, and because the officer would not comply with his request, he commenced to swear—Defendant was fined 10s and costs, or seven days' imprisonment.

MINERS AND THEIR HOUSEHOLD COALS.

Rebecca Thompson and *Mary Jane Kitchen*, married women, were charged with causing wilful damage to coals, the property of Messrs Hedley Brothers, at South Moor Colliery, to the amount of 2d each.—P.C. Cixon said that on the 5th inst., about 10·20 a.m., he caught the defendants taking coals from the Hedley Colliery. They went into the fire-holes, and picked out the best coals, laid there for the engines and boilers, and took them away. Witness had received frequent complaints from the manager respecting this practice, and he had previously cautioned Mrs Thompson about carrying these coals.—Mrs Thompson declared that she had three workers in the family, and there was hardly a shovelful of coals about the house. They got coals occasionally from the colliery, but they were nothing else but rubbish and "clarts."—The Clerk (Mr Granger): If you don't get sufficient coals, you have your remedy in another way.—The under-manager said that the workmen got an ample supply of good coals.—Defendants were fined 2s 6d each, 2d damages, and costs.

CHARGE OF THEFT NEAR DIPTON.

Margaret Lister, aged 18 years, was again charged with stealing nearly £5 in silver, and some underclothing, the property of Mr Robert Bolam, grocer and draper, at Flint Hill, near Dipton, on the 11th inst.—Sergt. Thornton said the girl was servant with the prosecutor, and she absconded on the date named. He apprehended her the same night, and found the money and articles of clothing locked up in her box.—She was remanded till Monday next at Consett; but was admitted to bail, her father becoming surety.

CHARGE OF GAME TRESPASS.

William Smith and *Mark Middlemass* were summoned for trespassing in pursuit of conies on land in the occupation of Sir Henry Clavering, Pea Farm, near Lanchester, on Oct. 1st.—John Robinson, a gamekeeper, spoke to hearing a couple of shots fired. He went to the place, and perceived Smith with a gun, while Middlemass carried a stick, and was accompanied by two dogs. He asked for defendant's authority to range the land, and they said that the farmer had given them leave.—Defendants now asserted that the farmer's sons gave them permission to shoot the rabbits.—A note was produced from the farmer, stating that the defendants had no authority to shoot rabbits over his land.—Defendants were fined in the nominal penalty of 2s 6d and costs.

SCARCITY OF MAGISTRATES.

As only one magistrate (Rev F. W. Glyn, M.A.) sat at the Court, and disposed of the single cases, some important charges had to be adjourned till the next Court day, a fortnight hence.

NOTES FROM TOW LAW.

[BY 'ONE OF THE CROWD.']

Our town was in quite an excited state on Saturday evening last, owing to several circumstances in connection with the severely contested football match between Ashington and the home team. The way the strangers left the ground in defiance of the referee's decision that the time was not up, was very regrettable and unsatisfactory. We had an exemplification of the savagery connected—sometimes—with this popular game, in the laming of Beckwith. The roar of the united voices, when a good point was made, could be heard all over the town.

We were favoured on Monday, with a visit from Dr Waller, the secretary of the Wesleyan Conference. He is a fine specimen of a man. His sermon on Monday afternoon was a treat, and was much appreciated by the audience. His address in the evening on "Education" was delivered to a full house. The effort was in aid of the day school funds.

The latest letter in relation to the sports controversy does not call for any reply. My authority (also an official) is sufficiently conclusive, my critic's disclaimer notwithstanding. We must of course accept his statement that he did not see the men.

The adjourned special meeting of the members of the Co-operative Store, to consider the report of the revision of the rules committed, met on Saturday night, and accomplished very little. The nineteenth rule was the bone of contention as before. This relates to the compulsory retirement for a year of committee-men on the completion of their three years term. The voting resulted in a tie, and ballot papers are to be issued to the members. The attempt to prohibit anyone not being possessed of £5 in share capital being eligible for service on the committee, was negatived by a small majority. As one speaker remarked, "A man may be a good man, and very suitable for committee purposes, and yet not be the fortunate possessor of £5."

The temperance party provided a treat for the people very cheaply on Wednesday evening. We have many a time paid a shilling for a poorer programme. The hall was almost crammed to suffocation, many not being able to gain admittance. The magnificent singing of Mr and Mrs Smith, the negro jubilee singers, and the exceedingly clever piano playing of Mr Ridley, the blind pianist, made up a pleasant evening's entertainment.

Sunday was a day of special services and prayer for Sunday-school work and workers amongst the Primitive Methodists, Mr Smith, of Sunniside, being the preacher, at Tow Law.

CHESTER-LE-STREET PETTY SESSIONS.

WEDNESDAY, October 19th.—Before Mr H. W. KERRICH-WALKER.

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY.

Fines were imposed for this offence as follows:—*John McKie*, 7s 6d and costs, *Ellen Murphy*, 5s and costs, *James Duffy*, 5s and costs, *William Allen*, 5s and costs, all of Birtley; *William* and *Mary Barker*, Kibblesworth, 5s and costs each; *George Birkett* and *Cuthbert Millar*, Pelton Fell, 5s and 7s 6d and costs each respectively; *Charles Sweeney*, Pelton, £1, including costs; *Peter Waugh*, 7s 6d and costs, *Jeremiah Connolly*, 5s and costs, *Thomas Tindale*, 5s and costs, and *Robert Whitfield*, 7s 6d and costs, all of Chester-le-Street.

A DRUNKEN DRIVER.

John Stephenson was charged with being drunk while in charge of a horse and trap at Chester-le-Street, on the 4th inst. P.C. Elwood proved the charge.—Defendant, who did not appear, was fined 10s and costs.

A DISGRACE TO CHESTER-LE-STREET.

J. Harland was charged with damaging a window, the property of George Kemp, at Chester-le-Street, on the 9th inst.—Complainant declined to be sworn on account of his religious belief—(Laughter)—and made an affirmation. He stated that he had never had any quarrel with defendant, who, without any provocation whatever, came and threw a stone through the window, breaking the glass.—Defendant admitted breaking the window; but pleaded provocation. "That man," said he, pointing to Kemp, "ran away with my wife, and most of the things in the house are my property."—Complainant: I never ran away with your wife; I went to lodge with her, and she is now my housekeeper.—Defendant: Your wife you mean; at least as much your wife as you can make her. Your Worship, they live together in one small room.—In answer to Mr Kerrich-Walker, Kemp admitted that he was living with Harland's wife as described.—The Bench: Then you are a disgrace to Chester-le-Street. The case will be dismissed.

A TRESPASSING CYCLIST.

James Gibb was charged with riding his bicycle on the footpath, on the 8th inst., between High Flatts and Pelton.—P.C. Cameron proved the charge.—Fined 2s 6d and costs.

PUGILISTIC PITMEN.

William Harrison and *Samuel Corbett*, for fighting at Chester-le-Street on the 8th inst., were ordered to be bound over to keep the peace for three months in £5 each.

For a similar offence at Pelton, on the same day, *Samuel Bewick* and *Joseph Robinson* were also bound over for three months in £5 each.

GAME TRESPASS.

Walter Stewart and *Thos. Riddley* were charged with trespassing in pursuit of game at Chester-le-Street on the 7th inst.—George Beans, a game-watcher, said he saw defendants range two or three fields on the Hight Flatts Farm. Ridley was an old hand, and was never done trespassing.—Ridley was fined 20s and costs, and Stewart 5s and costs.

BOYS AND PEARS.

Joseph Thompson, *Charles Owens*, *Joseph Warbottle*, *Walter Howard*, *William England*, *Robert L. Proudlock*, and *Frederick Robson* were charged with damaging pears, the property of William Selkirk, at Red Rose Hall, Chester-le-Street, on the 9th inst.—A boy named Thompson said that he was with defendants, and they all went into Mr Selkirk's orchard and got some pears. He was caught, but the others got away.—Mr Selkirk proved the damage at 6d each.—Fined 6d each, 6d damages, and costs.

FARMER'S FRIENDS.

William Nicholson and *James Sanderson* were charged with damaging turnips, the property of Robert Ryle, High Flatts Farm, near Chester-le-Street, on the 3rd inst.—Mr Ryle stated that he saw defendants coming up the turnip field, each with a turnip in his hand. From that part of the field fully a load of turnips had been taken away. He suffered no end of loss through such-like work. The defendants were about twenty years of age.—Mr Walker: Quite old enough to know better. They would each be fined 2s 6d and costs, and pay 1d each damages.

A DESTRUCTIVE PRISONER.

Thomas Tindle was charged with damaging a water-closet at the Constabulary Buildings, Chester-le-Street, on the 9th inst.—Inspector Mitham said defendant was locked up for being drunk and disorderly. Before he used the closet it was all right; but defendant going there, tore the seat up.—The bill for repairs was 5s.—Defendant was fined 5s and costs, and ordered to pay 5s damages.

A CASE WITH A SEQUEL.

Garvin Dodds was charged with being drunk on the licensed premises of George Bakewell, the Mount Moor Inn, Birtley North Side, on the 10th inst.—Sergt. Hutchinson said he found defendant sitting in a public-house very drunk, and there were five glasses of beer on the table in front of him. He advised the landlord to get him away. The landlord got defendant to the door, but he was so much under the influence of drink that he could scarcely stagger to the door.—Fined 7s 6d and costs.

At this stage a delay of two hours took place, owing to there being only one magistrate; after which, Mr Kerrich-Walker decided to wait no longer, and ordered the remainder of the cases to stand adjourned for 14 days.

SALVATION ARMY.—On Monday, the captain and lieutenant of the 48th corps of the above army, stationed at Consett, delivered their farewell addresses in the Barracks, to large congregations.

Original Poetry.

OUR SUN-LOCKS.

Our Sun-locks, our pretty Sun-locks, our merry Sun-locks
Has gone away from the valley, and we are sad,
Her eye was as bright as the rising sun in a clear sky,
And her cheeks were fair as the bloom in the glens on a sheeny night.
And the delicacy of our Sun-locks, our darling Sun-locks
Was as the daisy meek, or the lily of the valley pure,
We named her "Sun-locks of the Bowers," but alas! she has gone to the sea,
To her home by the sea, where they call her the "Queen of pearls;"
And assuredly she is a gem among pearls, and precious, and beyond value.
We miss the voice of Sun-locks, our chattering Sun-locks, our musical Sun-locks,
When will we hear it again? that voice of gleefulness,
That voice which awoke our hearts to unspeakable joy,
That voice of innocent mirth, and unfathomable tenderness.

T.W.L.

"GIVE OWER."

Man, these north-country pitmen's a queer class o' fowks,
Free the boss to the flattor thor funny;
Thor's a smack o' smaal coals i' thor wives' very jokes,
An' the men, like smaal coals, scatter money.
Then thor phrases afford greet amusement to me:—
They declare, if ye gaze, that ye glower;
That an error in statement's a thumpin big lee,
An' that stop shud be written give ower.

This eternal give ower, like the soond o' thor craft—
An' thor craft tayeks the fact'ry an' foondry—
May be heard a' the way 'tween the fyece an' the shaft,
'Tween thor very hearthstyens an' the boondry.
The bank set may gan wrang, or aud Smilor may fling,
Or the lad'i canny gannin may lower,
Or a shot, heavy charged, may gan off with a ring,
The first word that ye hear is give ower!

The poor sowls, flannen-hoggor'd, gan limpin to wark,
As if a' thor worn byens wor in ruin;
But gan doon wi' them, in wi' them, strip to the sark,
An' then try yor hand wi' them at hewin!
By the gods! as the bards who are classic, wad say,
By the time that ye'd fill'd three or fower,
Though yor mate, lost in sweat-fogs, still pelted away,
Beaten clean, wi' sair skin ye'd give ower!

Though it isn't for me—aw'll be nebody's clerk—
To write sangs on thor pluck or endurance;
Thor hard wark may be truly defined as hard wark,
Aboot this tyek maw sacred assurance.
Be the man what he may in thor deeps o' dark ways,
Hewer, Styeman, or Shifter or Stower,
He need only be tell'd to jump intiv his class,
When he hoor comes aroond to give ower!

As at wark, so at hyem, they div a' with a bang:
If a wrangler assaults them they strike him;
An' the ill-nator'd mortal that dis them a wrang
Needn't leuk deep to se they dislike him.
They get drunk; nay, they sometimes stop oot o' the spree
Till a' shiverin i' tattors they cower;
But just lay doon yor life this 'ill nivor mare be
If they once say the word—Aw'll give ower.

Aw've had lots o' fless-up i' maw little bit time,
Altercations byeth angry an' wordy,
But aw've elwis endivor'd te myek maw life chime
Wi' the life o' the thoroughbred Geordie.
For aw knaw that he means what he says; that his heart
Is as true as the oak in the bower,
An' that one might as seun drain the ocean as start
Him agyen, if he says—Aw'll give ower.

Thor's a ring in his laugh, when he's merry, that says,
Aw've a mind te myek music, dance tiv us;
Thor's a gloom in his grief that appeals te the gaze—
Aw'm in sorrow, come, sympathise wiv us.
In a' moods o' the mind he is just as he is,
Noo in shadow, noo shine, and noo shower;
An' the mate he proves true is a brother ov his
Till he's heart's fever'd throbbin gives ower.

Thor a queer class o' fowks, full o' whims an' strange ways,
Troubled-te, with a shortness o' vision;
But ye'll elwis find some in these ghoul-haunted days
Te knock holes throo the ghost superstition.
By a few that old cloud-dame's believed in, ne doot,
But the myest tyek maw wood, disavour her:
The daft ghost-dealing tyel-tellor's sharply put oot
With a quit sarcastic—give ower!

In these lang winter neets on thor thick-matted floors,
The awd fowks watch the bairns desportin;
An' the stranger may see as he wawks by thor doors,
Happy pairs, young i' love matters, courtin.
Bonnie Kate or fair Mary Jane, pressed for a kiss,
Offers lips which he seems to devour;
But as fearin to plunge in that ocean of bliss
Utters "Hoots, ye daft watty, give ower."

But if aw had te say a' the things aw cud say,
A' the themes ov a pit village handle,
Aw wad get a shaved heed as the price o' maw lay,
An' come very near vergin on scandal.
So to keep matters reet—aw've ne wish to get wrang,
Nor te get such a heed for a dower—
Wi' this oot-the-way verse o' this oot-the-way sang,
Aw'll just put doon maw pen an'—give ower.

Kyo.

Cycling Notes.

CONSETT "CHARLIE" CYCLING CLUB.

ANNUAL DINNER.

The first annual dinner of the above enterprising and flourishing club was held on Wednesday se'nnight, at the headquarters of the club, the Commercial Hotel, Consett. The repast served up by the worthy hostess (Mrs Redshaw) and the Misses Redshaw fairly surpassed all previous efforts, and that is saying a great deal. The company present included:—Messrs J. Mace (Lanchester), J. Chapman, T. Turner, J. R. Wood (vice-captain), A. Wilson, A. Lowden, J. Humphrey, F. Turnbull (Dipton), W. Brand, jun., H. Wood, A. Lowrie (hon. secretary and treasurer), Perkins, J. Merritt, J. Mathieson, A. Towns, J. Ross, jun. (captain), W. G. Thompson, G. Jackson, G. Stokoe, W. Harrison, R. Brown, &c.

After the "inner man" had been fully satisfied and the cloths removed, Mr J. Ross was called upon to preside, while Mr J. Mace filled the vice-chair.

The CHAIRMAN gave "The Queen and the rest of the Royal Family," and observed that a truer or nobler woman than Queen Victoria never graced the English throne. As regards the Prince of Wales, they all knew that he was a good sportsman, and the only thing that he (the chairman) regretted was that the prince was not a cyclist. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN next proffered "The Army, Navy, and Auxiliary Forces." He remarked that they had every cause to be proud of their Army and Navy, who had done so much to build up that great and powerful empire. The deeds they had achieved at Waterloo, The Crimea, and in Trafalgar's Bay would never be forgotten. The auxilary forces, he had no doubt, would not be found wanting should their services ever be required. (Applause.) He had great pleasure in coupling with the toast the names of his esteemed friends, Messrs J. Chapman, G. Stokoe, and J. Humphrey, who all suitably responded.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN followed with the toast of the evening, "Success to the "Charlie" Cycling Club," and remarked that a more sociable and respectable body of young fellows were not to be found than the "Charlies." (Cheers.) Wherever they went they always made friends, and he could safely say that they were at all times sure of a hearty welcome in Lanchester. (Applause.) He coupled with the toast the name of their hard-working and courteous secretary, Mr A. Lowrie. (Applause.)

Mr LOWRIE, in responding, gave a brief *resume* of the club's work during the past season. He observed that although the weather had been most unpropitious, they had carried out some very successful and enjoyable runs. The club had also promoted a Church Parade at Lanchester, which was somewhat marred by the weather, but for all that they had over 100 wheelmen present, and were able to send about £4 each to the Newcastle and Durham Infirmaries. (Applause.) They had likewise celebrated their camp at Stanhope, where a most pleasant week-end was spent (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN proposed "The hon. members." Their honorary members, like their active members, were not very large, but they were good ones, and he placed at their head the name of their friend, Mr J. Mace. (Cheers.) Mr Mace had at all times been only too pleased to do anything that lay in his power for the "Charlies" and they were duly grateful for very many kindnesses received at his hands. (Applause.) He was sure that he spoke the sentiments of all present when he said that he hoped their Vice-Chairman might long be spared to be an hon. member of the club. (Cheers.)

The toast was drunk with musical honours.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN, in replying, thanked them all very much for the hearty manner in which they had received the toast of his health. It had always been a pleasure to assist the "Charlie" Club in any way, and they might safely rely on his co-operation in the future. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN, in giving "The trade of Consett and District," remarked that although at the present time trade was rather slack, they had enjoyed a long run of prosperity, and he sincerely trusted that with the advent of the new year, things would resume their normal condition. (Applause.) He coupled with the toast the name of Mr Jackson, who responded in suitable terms.

Mr A. LOWRIE said the toast he had to propose was one which would be heartily received, and that was "The health of their captain and chairman, Mr John Ross." (Applause.) They were all aware that during the past season Mr Ross had been a most admirable captain, and had worked hard for the welfare of the club. (Applause.)

The toast was musically honoured.

The CHAIRMAN said he felt that he did not deserve the many kind things that had been uttered concerning him; but nevertheless he returned them his very sincere thanks for the warm manner in which they had pledged his health. (Applause.) His duties as captain of the club had been very light, as every member seemed to do his utmost to contribute to the harmony and success of their runs. He knew that there were many non-cyclists amongst them that evening, and he would say to them—buy a machine, learn to ride, and join the Consett "Charlie" Club, and he would pledge them his word that they would never regret it. (Laughter and applause.) He was closely connected with several other sports—cricket, football, &c.—but he placed cycling before them all. (Cheers.) He could assure the members that no efforts would be spared on his part to make the club even more successful than it had been this season. (Loud applause.)

Mr W. G. THOMPSON, in an excellent speech, proposed the toast of "The Visitors," and mentioned that the "Charlies" were much gratified to see so many of their friends present at the first annual dinner of the club. (Cheers.) As one who only commenced to ride this season, he could throughly endorse all their chairman had said regarding the advantages of cycling, and he trusted that some of their visitors would next year get a machine and become members. (Applause.)

Messrs MATHIESON, TOWNS, and TURNBULL (whose names were coupled with the toast) responded, the latter remarking that it was the first time he had been among the "Charlies," but he sincerely hoped that it would not be the last, and should they ever pay a visit to Dipton, he would do his utmost to entertain them. (Cheers.)

The other toasts included "The Vice-captain," proposed by the Chairman, and responded to by Mr J. R. Wood; and "The hostess," proposed by Mr Jackson, and replied to by Mr Towns.

During the evening, some excellent songs were contributed by Messrs J. Mathieson, F. Turnbull, T. Turner, H. Wood, W. Redshaw, John Humphrey, A. Lowrie, and the Chairman; while Messrs J. R. Wood and R. Brown accompanied the vocalists in a manner which left nothing to be desired. The first annual dinner of the "Charlie" Club may be classed as an unqualified success.

Cricket.

CHESTER-LE-STREET CRICKET CLUB.

This club has completed a very successful season, the first team having played 23 matches, of which 13 were won, five lost, and five drawn (three in favour of Chester-le-Street.) Besides this, they have carried off the Durham Challenge Cup, and won their way into the league. We append the batting and bowling averages of the first team:—

BATTING.

Name.	No. of Innings.	No. of runs.	Times not out.	Most in an innings.	Average.
John Bewick	21	436	1	70	21·8
W Middleton	20	268	3	50	15·8
R Cant	7	78	2	a39	15·6
T Middleton	22	221	4	a51	12·3
G Halliday	21	230	2	33	12·1
D Crichton	11	127	0	30	11·5
A Routledge	18	184	1	a50	10·8
T Hall	17	142	2	24	9·4
Jos Brown	6	53	0	22	8·8
L Gray	15	95	3	30	7·9
S Shepherd	13	93	0	16	7·1
G Kerrich-Walker	12	79	0	19	6·5
J Witherspoon	14	59	3	19	5·4

a Denotes not out.

BOWLING.

	Wickets.	Runs.	Avge.
Thos Middleton	65	394	6·0
J Witherspoon	14	95	6·4
John Bewick	30	213	7·1
Wm Middleton	54	440	8·2
Robt Cant	8	84	10·5
D Crichton	8	94	11·7
S Shepherd	7	85	12·2

SHOTLEY GROVE CRICKET CLUB.

This club has shown capital form during the past season, having played nine matches, winning eight and losing one, and scoring 430 runs to their opponents' 240. We append the averages:—

BATTING.

Name.	No. of innings.	No. of runs.	Times not out.	Most in an innings.	Average.
A Birse	6	81	0	42	13·3
Jas Leadbitter	5	60	0	32	12
W Fox	6	59	0	18	9·4
J Palliser	2	8	1	7	8
W Gilbertson	7	47	1	23	6·5
T Walker	4	13	2	8	6·1
G Angus	2	13	0	11	6·1
S Leadbitter	9	54	0	17	6
T Gorman	4	15	1	7	5
J Maneylaws	6	25	0	21	4·1
J Brown	6	20	0	9	3·2
J Chisholm	4	7	0	5	1·3
J Gowans	4	7	0	2	1·3
J Seed	1	26	0	26	26

BOWLING.

Name.	No. of runs.	No. of wickets.	Overs.	Maiden overs.	Average runs per wicket.
Jas Leadbitter	57	30	48	8	1·27
A Birse	63	20	48	12	3·3
J Chisholm	47	11	23	2	4·3
A Turner	36	8	18	2	4·4
J Brown	12	3	6	0	4
J Maneylaws	5	2	2	0	2·1

Sporting Items

QUOIT MATCH AT ROWLANDS GILL.—A good company assembled near the Townley Arms, Rowlands Gill, on Saturday afternoon, to witness a match between J. Hetherington and R. Newton for £20, 10 yards on the award, 2 inch pins. A one-sided game resulted:—J. Hetherington, 41; R. Newton, 13. T. Stonehouse was referee.

QUOITING AT DIPTON.—Between 200 and 300 spectators assembled on Saturday afternoon, in the grounds attached to the Fox Inn, Dipton, to witness a quoit match for £15 aside between Bart Johnson, of Leadgate, and Robert Bell, of Burnopfield. Ten yards on the clay, 51 up. An exciting contest resulted in a win for Johnson by three chalks only. Score:—Johnson, 51; Bell, 48. Betting: 6 to 4 on Bell. Mr L. McKenna, Tanfield, was referee.

PIGEON FLYING MATCH AT THE SPEN.—A match took place at the Spen, on Saturday afternoon, between Isaac Clarke's Steam Plough and John Hall's Noisy Mick. The distance was from Barlow Reservoir to the Spen for £5 aside, Steam Plough winning by 3½ seconds.

PIGEON FLYING AT THE SPEN.—On Saturday afternoon, a pigeon flying sweep, promoted by Mr Richard Browell, Miners' Arms, Spen, took place, when Mr James Cutter was timekeeper and Mr J. Clasper starter. Results:—First round—D. Little's Sea Gull beat F. Cox's Tommy Ward; J. Leybourne's Pleased as Punch beat F. Cox's Jack Malburn; G. Stobbs's Dina beat Leybourne's No Heat; D. Little's Porter Bottle beat Hall's Cumberland Jack. Second round—Pleased as Punch beat Sea Gull; Porter Bottle beat Dina. Final—Pleased as Punch beat Porter Bottle and won.

"HOW TO DEBATE."—This is a handy little work containing the rules of debate, hints on public speaking, and other useful information for members of debating societies. The work, which is published at the small price of sixpence, may be had of Robt. Jackson's bookseller, 9 and 10, Newmarket Street, Consett.

EDDA'S BIRTHRIGHT,

By MRS. HARRIETT LEWIS,

Author of "The Sundered Hearts," "The Bailiff's Scheme," "The Double Life," &c.

CHAPTER XLVII.

LIGHT THROWN ON EDDA'S HISTORY.

As Edda stood before him, mute and not at all delighted to see him, Mr. Gascoyne Upham bit his lips in chagrin and annoyance. As he had said, he had searched for her, but vainly. he had implored Miss Powys to reveal to him Edda's whereabouts; he had found imploring vain, and had dared to threaten his haughty cousin, but he found her immovable as rock. She would not give him the information he sought. Then, in the meanness of his small, revengeful nature, he had set himself to work to unearth the buried secret of Miss Powys' life, and how far he had succeeded in this congenial task will presently be revealed.

"What! no words of greeting for me, Edda?" he exclaimed, reproachfully, his long, sharp nose standing out from his gaunt, unwholesome-looking face in unpleasant relief. "You do not know what I have suffered since you went away."

"Nonsense!" said Edda, brusquely. "Give me my card. Why do you detain me in the street?"

She put out her hand for the card which Miss Powys' housekeeper had just given her. Upham read it again in a glance, and yielded it up to her with a sigh.

"As pitiless as ever!" he said. "You know, I suppose, that Mr. Powys is dead, and that Miss Powys will come into all her fortune. I believe she will run the bank after the fashion of Baroness Coutts. Agnace has the spirit to do it. But it's early to speak of that. Yet I'll warrant that Agnace has not found it too early to make certain plans for her future. I am quite sure that she will adopt you publicly, Miss Edda, as her heiress."

Edda's olive cheek flushed.

"Probably Miss Powys will make known her plans to me as soon as to you, sir," she said, coldly, "if her plans concern me. Let me pass."

She waved him aside haughtily and entered the cab.

Mr. Upham repeated the order to the driver with a smile. The cab rolled away, passing out of the square, and threading the streets between it and Edgeware-road.

The lodging-house to which Edda had been directed was a neat, brick dwelling, with cleanly-scoured door-stones and brightly-polished knocker. It was in a highly respectable neighbourhood, to judge by its surroundings, and Edda allowed the cabman to knock at the door for her, and herself alighted only as the door opened and a neatly-dressed housemaid made her appearance.

Edda was promptly ushered into the house and a prim little drawing-room, where the mistress of the house joined her.

Edda stated her errand.

The landlady took a calm survey of the applicant before replying. And as Edda was equally interested in the appearance of the landlady, she returned the gaze with equal calmness.

The landlady was a tall, thin woman, with very light hair, very light eyes, and very high-coloured face. She was dressed in black alpaca that had grown grey with use; she looked respectable, hard-working, and exceedingly high-tempered.

"I suppose you have references, miss?" said the landlady.

"Yes," replied Edda. "I lived as companion to Miss Powys, of Cavendish Square, and I am permitted to refer you to her housekeeper in the absence of Miss Powys herself. I desire only to remain until the return of Miss Powys, which will be in a week or two. She is now on the Continent."

"Oh, if that's the case," said the landlady, "I can accommodate you. I was about to say that I had no room for you, but if you require it for only two weeks you can have my first floor front parlour and bedroom. It's let to a lady, an actress at the Prince of Wales's theatre, a very respectable young woman, and she went away yesterday, for a two weeks engagement at Liverpool. But you must agree to leave before her return."

"I would like to see the rooms, if you please."

The landlady conducted Edda up a flight of stairs to the "first floor front." The parlour and bedroom were of the usual lodging-house type of the better class, the walls being freshly papered, the furniture of shiny hair-cloth, brightened with new varnish, and the well-worn carpet half hidden under a gay drugget.

Everything was clean and neat, and Edda signified her wish to remain, explaining her need of immediate shelter.

"I should like you to furnish my board also," she said. "How much shall you charge me for two weeks?"

The landlady made inquiry as to what sort of board was expected, and then performed various calculations in her head.

"Three pounds a week, miss," she announced. "That will include everything."

"I will pay one week in advance," said the young girl. "Here is the money."

She took out her pocketbook, counted out three golden sovereigns, and placed them in the woman's hand.

"You can stay now, if you wish," said the landlady, graciously. "I'll settle with the cabby for you, and you can repay me. The housemaid and cook shall bring up your boxes. The rooms are in complete order, and the bed freshly made up. I always let these rooms when Miss DeFortescue is going to play in the provinces, and everything is ready for a new lodger. My name is Bight, miss—Mrs. Mary Ann Bight."

"And mine is Miss Brend. I will remain, thank you."

Edda removed her hat, and the landlady departed.

The young girl's boxes were presently brought up, and she was fairly installed in her new quarters.

Her first movement, upon finding herself alone, was to examine the contents of her pocketbook.

She had not been paid for her services at Storm Castle, but she had a plentiful supply of money that had been given her by Miss Powys. Her travelling expenses had not materially lessened this sum, and she felt very rich and independent.

The week of waiting for the return of Miss Powys promised to be a long one. Edda was used to outdoor exercise, dearly loving her long walks, but she shrank a little from going out into London streets alone and unguarded.

"Though no one would hurt me, of course," she said to herself smiling. "I am old enough to take care of myself, I hope. Why, even little children are to be seen out alone in the streets. What, then, should I fear?"

A breakfast was served to her at once, and Edda spent her forenoon in sleep. At one o'clock her luncheon was brought up to her, and Edda, now wakeful and refreshed, looked from her windows until the desire grew strong upon her to make one in the busy tide of people hurrying to and fro. She longed for the fresh air and the sunshine. Hyde Park was not far distant, and she had been there many times. She dressed herself plainly in a black silk street costume, drew a veil over her face, and left the lodging-house. A few minutes walk brought her to the Park.

She spent some hours here walking about, sitting upon shaded benches, strolling to the Serpentine, watching happy children, leisurely pedestrians, and the throngs of carriages which at the fashionable hour filled the drives. She spoke to no one and no one spoke to her, but her loneliness was greatly lessened when at last, as the park saunless began to disperse, she returned to her new quarters in the Edgware Road.

A hansom was standing before the door of her lodging-house as she came up, and as she entered the narrow hall she came upon her old enemy, Mr. Gascoyne Upham, who was holding conversation with the housemaid.

"Here the young lady is now," cried the housemaid, as Edda appeared. "Perhaps you'll believe me next time, sir, when I say she's out."

Mr. Upham addressed himself to Edda, bowing low. He was handsomely dressed, and wore a buttonhole bouquet, and carried a gold-topped walking-stick.

"Can I see you alone, Miss Brend?" the banker's clerk asked, respectfully. "I have something of the utmost importance to say to you."

"you can say it here, sir."

"It is about Miss Powys," he replied, significantly.

Edda hesitated, but there was that in Upham's face—a look of mysterious knowledge and of sinister triumph—that filled her with a vague alarm about Miss Powys.

"Is—is she ill?" she asked, growing pale.

"I will say what I have to say in private," responded Mr. Upham, with a glance at the housemaid.

"You may go up to my room," said Edda, motioning to him to precede her.

He passed on up the stairs, and Edda followed. He halted on the upper landing, and Edda passed him and unlocked the door of her little parlour, granting him admittance.

He came in at once, and looked about him curiously.

"A humble lodging for Miss Powys's future heiress," he remarked. "Where have you been all this time, Miss Edda, since leaving my cousin? In the country, of course. Have you been back to Yorkshire?"

"My movements can hardly interest you," said Edda, coldly—"at least, they ought not. Have you heard from Miss Powys since morning?"

"Yes; it was partly that brought me here," said Upham, taking a seat. "My uncle died at Lausanne. There is some little delay about bringing him home — the telegram does not explain — and Miss Powys will not be home under a week."

"I did not expect her sooner. Is she well?"

"As she says nothing about her health, she is probably well. My uncle will be buried at his country place, among his kindred. Agnace is fearfully cut up by her father's death. She was intending to go to Scotland for a month to visit an old friend at a castle in the Highlands, when the summons came to her from Switzerland. And by a curious coincidence, the very morning she went away, I saw in the London morning newspapers that her old Scottish friend had just died. Agnace will probably close the town house on her return and send me into lodgings," continued Mr. Upham, "while she retires to her country seat. The fashionable season is over in town, and Agnace will prefer quiet. Her father's death will make a complete change in her life."

"Agnace is her own mistress now absolutely," remarked Mr. Upham. "Before, she had her father to consider. She was tenderly attached to him, and he idolised her. But his death will revolutionise her whole life. I dare say she will adopt you with due form of law, Miss Brend, as her heiress."

"So you said this morning," replied Edda, calmly, "but your suppositions are not warranted. I beg you not to repeat such a statement."

"Agnace has not liked me for years," remarked Mr. Upham, paying no heed to the girl's rebuke. "I dare say she means to discharge me; I'm only a confidential clerk, you know, Miss Edda. But I understand the business thoroughly, and I have always expected to be made partner with my uncle. If Agnace continues the bank, I mean to be partner in it!"

"Did you come here to tell me this?"

"Yes, that was my errand," said Upham, coolly. "I came to tell you that I intend to be partner in the bank, and also how I intend to achieve such grand success. It must come through you."

"Then I fear you will be only a clerk all your days, Mr. Upham," said Edda, scornfully. "If you expect me to advance your interests with Miss Powys, your expectations will be disappointed."

"I differ with you. But perhaps you don't understand the grounds upon which I base my hopes. You doubtless remember that I made you an offer of marriage, and that you rejected me. You may also remember certain remarks I made in reference to your origin and my determination to know your parentage. I see you do remember. Very good. I have applied myself to the task of investigating your origin, and have made some remarkable discoveries. I may as well tell you that I began my task by studying the private life of my cousin Agnace."

There was a deep and sinister triumph in his manner, and evil exultation in his pale eyes and about his thin lips that thrilled the girl with a keen alarm. What had he discovered? He hastened to tell her.

"I suppose that perfect frankness will be best," said Mr. Upham, quietly. "All this is preliminary to a certain proposition I have made to you, but it is a necessary preliminary. In the first place, my cousin Agnace looks to be about five-and-twenty years of age, yet she is in reality ten years older. These blonde women, reared in luxury, waited upon and tended like children, without necessity for physical toil beyond ball giving and party-going, never show their age. Agnace is the most grandly beautiful woman in London—except yourself, Miss Edda, and I own that I admire a sparkling little brunette beauty like yourself above all created beings," he added, gallantly, and with a look of undisguised love and admiration.

"Have you not strayed from your subject?" asked Edda, ironically.

"If so, a return is easy," he replied. "I set myself to work to investigate the past life of my beautiful cousin, and I will give you the result of my researches."

"I refuse to hear it. I am not one to pry into anyone's secret affairs!" cried Edda, hotly. "Don't think me as base as yourself, Mr. Upham."

An angry flush lit up the bank-clerk's face with an unpleasing glow.

"You will hear it," he exclaimed, "or you will rue your refusal to the day you die. I hold Agnace Powys in my power. I will crush her remorselessly unless you stay my hand. Ah, you begin to comprehend me, do you? You begin to see that I am not any longer the lamb-like hanger-on of Miss Powys, ready to fetch and carry, to play the escort and errand-boy; but one who can be her friend and yours, or else a pitiless, remorseless enemy of you both."

There was a ferocity in Upham's tones that alarmed Edda. She began to be afraid of him.

"My cousin Agnace was early left motherless," continued the bank-clerk, more mildly. "She was her father's idol. He provided a good, easy-going governess for her, who permitted her the wildest liberty; she had her own maid, Mrs. Priggs; and she stayed in town when she chose; or, if she preferred, she remained for months at my uncle's country seat. Adjoining my uncle's country seat was a charming villa occupied by a family named Taylor, with whom Agnace became very intimate. In this family were two young ladies and two young gentlemen, wild young fellows, fond of races and betting, and given to sowing their wild oats profusely. They are both dead since then. Upon one of their visits home they brought with them a Spanish-looking young man named Henry Brend."

Edda experienced a thrill of interest in the narration, yet even now she would have refused to listen but that the communication was forced upon her.

"This Brend was very dark, with Spanish eyes and a curling black moustache. Agnace was fair as a lily. He was fiery and impassioned; she seemed cold as Arctic snows. Of course they fell in love with each other. Agnace had no mother, as I said; her father was in town devoted to his business; her governess made no attempt to control the spoiled young heiress, and did not even watch over her as she should; and Agnace was romantic and thoughtless. Brend made love to her with the fire and zeal of a Spaniard. He told her some romantic story about himself, that he was an orphan, and the heir of great estates, and Agnace believed him. They met almost daily. They exchanged letters; they met in the old park, and walked by moonlight. The end of all this came at last. Agnace, not properly guarded or looked after, spoiled, untrained and romantic, promised to marry Brend secretly. Accordingly, one morning in early September, the Taylor young people came up to London on a shopping expedition, and Agnace accompanied them. So much I have learned from one of the Miss Taylors, now a married lady living in Lancashire. She had no suspicion of the truth to which all this led—of the culmination of all this romantic courtship."

"And—and she married him that day?" said Edda, involuntarily.

"Yes. The young people separated on arriving in town, Agnace saying that Mr. Brend, who was with them, should take her to call upon her father at the bank. My uncle had never seen Brend, and did not suspect his existence even. And Agnace knew her father would be angry at her visit to town unaccompanied by her governess. She did not go to the bank. Brend had a special licence in his pocket, and took her to a church in the city, and they were legally married. He gave her the certificate of the marriage, or the clergyman did, and she retained it. They rejoined the Taylor party, and kept their own secret. I have discovered the record of that ill-advised marriage, and have a copy of the registry in my possession."

"How does all this concern me?"

"You shall hear. Agnace came up to town in November to remain with her father. The governess married and went to one of the British colonies. Agnace begged her father for a season of freedom, and would have no new governess. The Taylors came up to town and took a house, and Agnace was there almost daily, and met Brend there very often. In December Brend disappeared. No one knew where he went. The Taylors were as ignorant as the rest. I had met Brend at the Taylour house several times, and I hated him, for I fancied myself at the time in love with Agnace, and I looked upon him as a rival. After his disappearance Agnace changed from the bright, impulsive girl we had known, into a silent creature, who kept much to her room and the society of Mrs. Priggs. In the following April—I can put all these things together now—she begged her father to allow her to visit a Miss Vavasour, at Storm Castle in the Highlands. She had often been there before, and her mother had formerly visited old Mrs. Vavasour. My uncle consented, and Agnace went away attended only by her maid. She was absent two months, and returned pale and thin, but haughty and cold and icy, the woman she has been ever since. Her life since then has been one stern self-repression. She wrote twice to her father during her absence, once on her pretended arrival at Storm Castle, and once before her return home. I have reason to believe that she travelled with her maid to Kirkfaldy, did not go on to the castle, but returned to Yorkshire for a month or more. It was all cunningly managed, Miss Edda, and no suspicion was awakened that she did not spend all her time of absence in the Highlands."

"This seems to be a rehearsal of facts known to everyone," said Edda, coldly. "With the exception of the marriage, and of certain curious suspicions of your own, I see no harm of her going to the Highlands, although May was early for such a visit."

"It *was* early," declared Upham, with emphasis. "And ah, by the way, I have made a new acquaintance since you went away, Miss Edda. I refer to your delightful relative, Mr. Nizbit."

"You have seen Mr. Nizbit?"

"That startles you, does it? I put a little advertisement in the newspapers 'that Mr. Nizbit, of Racket Hall, would hear of something to his advantage, by applying, etc., and, sure enough, I had a letter from the old fellow dated Brighton. I ran down to see him, and pumped him dry of all his knowledge concerning you. I heard all about 'little Mrs. Brend,' who was a mere school-girl, and so on, and putting dates together I discovered that my proud Cousin Agnace spent a month or six weeks at Racket Hall, and gave birth while there to a daughter whom she named Edda Brend. On leaving the Hall she went on to the Highlands, returning as I have stated. In short, I have discovered that Agnace Powys was secretly marry to Henry Brend, that a child was born of that marriage, and that that child is yourself."

"Not every Paul Pry meets with such distinguished success. You fancy that you have made great discoveries. What good will it do you?"

"I haven't told you yet why Agnace never avowed her marriage to her father or owned her child," said Upham. "I have discovered that Henry Brend was a villain and a ruffian, despite his gentlemanly appearance. He was leagued with a band of thieves and desperate characters. There must have been something essentially low and vile in him to enable him to associate with such men. He had run through a fortune, it was supposed, though I have not been able to discover whence he came, whether he had relatives or a home. He lived like a gentleman while he secretly consorted with men of the very lowest grade, outcasts from good society, educated men who had gone to the bad, and even downright ruffians. You find it hard to understand all this? He was born bad—he must have been. He turned to wickedness as ducks take to water. I discovered all this through a criminal lawyer who knew him after he got into trouble."

"What was his trouble?"

"He ran through his fortune and took to gambling. That brought him among a bad lot to begin, then. He cheated at cards; that, on being found out, procured him the acquaintance of a viler set still. He got desperate and was induced to join four men in what is now known as 'the great jewel robbery of Bond street.' It was twenty years ago, before your birth, Miss Brend. His four associates were what is known as professional cracksmen. One was an ex-officer of the army, brought low by dissipation, another was a broken-down lawyer, the remaining two had been thieves from infancy. How Brend, even with all his daredevilry, came to join them in such a desperate scheme I cannot comprehend, but the fact remains—he did join them. The robbery was effected in the night. The thieves were in the act of escaping with their plunder when they were discovered. There was a speedy trial, and the four men were sentenced to transportation. The two professional thieves got penal servitude for life. The ex-officer got twenty years, and the lawyer got the same. Nothing having been alleged against Brend's previous life, he got fifteen years of penal servitude with hard labour, the lightest sentence of all. He was tried and sentenced under the name of Tom Halloran, *alias* Henry Brend. There were a great many topics of public interest at that time, the trial was brief and hurried, and the four confederates had left English shores within a week from the time of the attempted robbery, so that I never suspected Brend's fate. Agnace Powys's husband and your father, therefore, was a penal convict."

Edda had never suspected the truth to be so bad as this, but the manner of Upham was sufficiently convincing.

Upham's face glowed now with his triumph.

"Have I made it all clear?" he demanded. "The lawyer who was employed by Brend said that his client was the most reserved fellow he ever met. He would say nothing about himself, his friends or his past. He would not employ eminent counsel. He shrunk from observation. He seemed to fear being recognised by someone who had formerly known him. But the night before he sailed, he made a remark to the lawyer which explained why he had not appealed to any of his own friends. He said, in these very words: 'I am booked for transportation, anyhow. If I were to declare myself a prince of the blood, and summon friends around me and employ eminent counsel, they could not save me, and I should only cover my real name with ignominy. And I may want to use my real name by-and-bye. Even my friends could not procure a pardon for me, after my career. Nothing remains but to make the best of it—to go to Australia—and to escape when I get there. I'll be back within a year.' And so he went, buoyed up by the hope and determination to escape. But he never came back. They say he died out there."

Edda drew a long sigh of relief.

"But I doubt it," said Upham, after a pause. "He did not escape—that is clear. He served his fifteen years to the very end. There's no proof that he's dead. I believe that he is alive, and that he may return to England at any time. People who knew him have forgotten him. He's sure to come back. The dark episode of his life need never transpire, he doubtless says to himself. He plunged into crime and bore the penalty simply because he had to bear it, and appeal would do no good. He'll come back again as suddenly as he went away, and he will humble Agnace Powys's pride in the very dust."

Edda shivered, but was silent.

"You confessed once that you loved someone you had known in Yorkshire," cried Upham, abruptly. "Would he marry you, knowing you to be the daughter of a convict?"

"Yes, yes," said Edda, proudly.

Upham's eyes glittered tigerishly.

"Would you marry him," he demanded, "and bring disgrace on his name? The merest Yorkshire clod-hopper would not desire a convict father-in-law. And Henry Brend is likely to reappear and claim you as his daughter."

Edda's olive cheeks whitened more than they had done before. The question put by Upham adapted itself more especially to her case. Could she marry Dugald Vavasour, the master of Storm Castle, even if he urged her, knowing all the truth concerning her—could she marry him! when her father was likely to reappear and claim her as his child, and so involve her husband's name in scandal and disgrace?

She could not answer that question now.

"And if Brend does not return, I am sure," exclaimed Upham. "I have laid the case before you. Now, the point of all this is to be shown. I love you. If I marry you, Agnace will make you her heiress, and I shall be rich; whereas now I'm only a clerk liable to dismissal, since my uncle is dead. Marry me, and I will be good to you, and will do my best to make you happy. Refuse me, and by the God that made me! I swear to cover the name of Agnace Powys with disgrace, to crush her proud spirit, to proclaim her the unowned wife of a convict, the mother of a child whom she abandoned! If you've no thought for yourself, think of her. Your mother's fate is in your hands. What is it to be?"

(*To be continued.*)

HANDYSIDE'S CONSUMPTION CURE.

Those who are afflicted with Consumption, Tumours, Lupus, Cancer, Influenza, should lose no time in going to Handyside's Carriages or Rooms, and hear and see for themselves the marvellous cures his Consumption Cure is effecting. Thousands of people come when their lungs are eaten away, and would give all they possess to be restored to health. This medicine may ease the cough and prolong life, but it cannot put new lungs in, but if taken in time no one need ever die of Consumption. Neither will it cure Cancer, unless taken at an early stage, but it is the Best Medicine known to relieve the pain.

Everyone should go and see what the Blood Food prepared by G. H. does for Looseness and Costiveness of the Bowels, Change of Life, Overgrowth of Youth, Fevers, Smallpox, Fits, Weak Heart, Sleeplessness, Indigestion, General Weakness, Asthma, Bronchitis, Skin Diseases, Lowness of Spirits, Poorness of Blood, Languidness, Piles, &c. It is a marvellous thing for Influenza and Cholera. All my assistants will publicly take it, and it will be seen that they will never be attacked with Cholera or Influenza.

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HEALTH RESTORED Remedy Free.—A late sufferer from Nervousness, Weakness, &c., having tried in vain every known remedy, has discovered a simple self-cure which he will send free to his fellow-sufferers.—Address, W. Fox, 1, York Street, Southwark, London, S.E. 26

DRUNKENNESS CURED.—A Wealthy American Lady whose only son for years was a slave to Intemperance, Nervous Depression and Exhausted Vitality, after seeking in vain for a cure, and trying all known remedies, at last found a simple means that cured and saved him from a drunkard's grave. Anyone suffering or desiring to help others in this worthy cause, by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Mr James Holland, 25 Hart Street, High Holborn, London, will receive all information, free of charge. Mention this paper.

A CARD. — AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY is announced in the *Paris Figaro*, of a valuable remedy for nervous debility, physical exhaustion, kidney diseases, and kindred complaints. The discovery was made by a missionary in Old Mexico. The Rev. Joseph Holmes, Bloomsbury Mansions, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C., will send the prescription free of charge, on receipt of a self-addressed stamped envelope. Mention this paper

The most wholesome and nutritious of confection is far less consumed than it would be were it not for the greatly adulterated articles sold under the name of chocolate. Every cake of chocolate bearing the name of Cadbury is guaranteed to consist solely of pure Cocoa and white sugar, and may therefore be given to children with perfect safety. Chocolate makers by special appointment to the Queen

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BEATTY'S PIANOS AND ORGANS.—Hon. Daniel F Beatty, the great Organ and Piano manufacturer, is building and shipping more Organs and Pianos than ever. In 1870 Mr Beatty left home a penniless plough boy, and by his indomitable will he has worked his way up so as to sell so far, nearly 100,000 of Beatty's Organs and Pianos since 1870. Nothing seems to dishearten him; obstacles laid in his way, that would have wrecked any ordinary man forever, he turns to an advertisement and comes out of it brighter than ever. His instruments, as is well-known, are very popular and are to be found in all parts of the world. We are informed that during the next ten years he intends to sell 200,000 more of his make, that means a business of $20,000,000 if we average them at $100 each. It is already the largest business of the kind in existence—Send to Daniel F. Beatty, Washington, New Jersey, for Catalogue. 80B

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Football.

Secretaries of football clubs will greatly oblige by sending their list of fixtures to this office as early as possible.

⁂ Secretaries of football clubs would greatly oblige us by despatching their reports so that they may reach our office not later than *Tuesday* morning.

ASSOCIATION.

Sleetburn beat Waldridge White Star 2nd by four goals to nil, at Sleetburn.

Langley Park Rising Stars 2nd beat Witton Gilbert Excelsiors, on the former's ground, by four goals to two.

Stanley Red Stars Reserve beat South Moor Juniors, at Stanley, after a very quarrelsome game, by four goals to one.

Witton Gilbert Rovers v Sacriston St. Peter's.—Played on the former's ground, and resulted in an easy win for the home team by eight goals to nil.

Leadgate Exiles Juniors v Leadgate St. Ives.—Played on the latter's ground, and ended in a win for the Exiles by six goals to two.

West Kyo Gems v Kip Hill Blue Bells.—Played at Kyo, and resulted in a win for Kip Hill by two goals to one.

Medomsley White Stars 2nd v Crookhall Wanderers 2nd.—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in a draw of two goals each.

Allendale Heroes v Westwood Wanderers.—Played at Westwood, and resulted in a victory for the Heroes by five goals to one.

Tow Law Fell Wanderers v Wolsingham Church Institute 2nd.—Played on the ground of the former, and ended in an easy victory for the home team by seven goals to two.

Leadgate National School v Lintz Rising Stars.—Played on the former's ground, and after a good game resulted in a win for the home team by one goal to nil.

Consett Fell 2nd v Oakey's Lilywhites 2nd.—Played at Stanley, and resulted in a draw, each side scoring twice. Adams scored both goals for the visitors.

Leadgate Science and Art v White-le-Head Royal Stars.—Played on the ground of the former, and resulted in an easy win for the home team by five goals to nil.

Kip Hill 2nd v Stanley Red Stars.—Played at Kip Hill, and resulted in a win for the home team by four goals to nil.

Medomsley White Stars v Kyo Gems.—Played on the former's ground, and after a very fast game resulted in a draw of three goals each. Wilson, Brown, and Hunter played well for Medomsley.

Langley Park Rising Stars v Burnhope Juniors.—Played on the former's ground. The Stars did not play up to their usual form, but finally won by two goals to one.

Kyo Gems 2nd v Medomsley White Stars 2nd.—Played at Kyo. The visitors scored once in the first half, after some good passing. Gatiss equalised for the Gems soon after re-starting, and the result was a draw of one goal each.

Waldridge White Star v Ouston Lilywhites.—Played at Waldridge. The home team kicked off, and scored up the hill 20 minutes from the start. Other two were added in this half. In the second period, neither side could score, on account of the slippery ground. Result:—Waldridge, four goals; Ouston, one goal.

Hamsterley Wanderers v. Westwood Wanderers.—Played at Hamsterley. Play was very fast and rough in the first half, at the end of which Hamsterley were leading by three goals to one. On play being resumed, the home team continued to have the best of the play, and a rough game ended as follows: Hamsterley, six goals; Westwood, two goals.

Flint Hill Albion v Swalwell Y.M.C.A. 3rd.—Played at Flint Hill, and ended in a victory for the home team by six goals to one. In the first half, with the wind, the visitors scored their only goal. On changing ends, it was soon seen that the home team were going to have the best of the game, and they won as above stated.

Allendale Park v Hobson Wanderers 2nd.—Played at Medomsley, and resulted in a win for the Park by two goals to one. The following represented Allendale:—Goal, T. Batey; backs, W. Clegg and J. Brown; half-backs, A. Burns, T. Walton, and C. Heslop; forwards, H. Glasgow and E. Parker, right wing; E. Lynop, centre; J. Lynop and J. Ryans, left wing.

Esh True Blues v Byer Moor.—This return match was played at Esh. The home team won the toss, and decided to kick towards the west goal, and scored once during the first half. On change of ends, the Blues placed four more goals to their account. During the latter portion of the game, one of the Byer Moor forwards unfortunately collided with the Esh goalkeeper, and had his collar-bone broken. This unfortunate affair cast a gloom over an otherwise pleasant and agreeable game.

Lintzford v Greencroft Black Watch.—These teams met at Lintzford before a large concourse of onlookers. The first half was evenly contested, and the visitors scored once. After the interval, Lintzford pressed, and Smith scored from a long shot. A stubborn and close game ended in a draw, with the score as under—

Lintzford ....One goal
Greencroft ....One goal

Referee, Mr Thos. Dixon.

Lintzford 2nd v Greencroft Black Watch 2nd.—Played at Lintzford. The home team scored ten minutes from the start, and Greencroft shortly afterwards equalised, the score being one each at half-time. The second period was evenly contested, the visitors having slightly the best of matters, but they were met by a stubborn defence. The final score was as follows—

Greencroft ....One goal
Lintzford ....One goal

Referee, Mr W. Smith.

Broompark Institute v Kyo Gems.—Played at Kyo. The visitors won the toss, and played with the wind and slope in their favour. After about 15 minutes' play, the visitors scored. From a splendid centre by Reikes, Stephens equalised, and the scores were unaltered at half-time. The second half proved fast and exciting, the only score recorded being a goal put on for the home team by J. Stephens, from a corner kick. Result—

Kyo ....Two goals
Broompark ....One goal

Leadgate Park Reserve v Dipton Wanderers Reserve.—Played on the Leadgate ground. Stephenson won the toss, and decided to play with the wind. Temple kicked off, and the home forwards securing, made a well-combined run, resulting in Hewitt scoring for the Park before the game was five minutes old. This seemed to surprise the Wanderers; but on the ball being kicked off, the previous performance was repeated, R. Wilson doing the needful. Temple once more started, and the Wanderers made for the home goal, but Foreman and Wilson cleared. The latter gave to the home left, and a rush down ended in Hewitt scoring the third point. The Park were now having decidedly the best of matters, their passing being too much for the Wanderers. The latter occasionally broke away, but the home backs were equal to the attacks, and had no difficulty in keeping their goal clear. Before half-time the home team added two more goals, for which Makepeace and Lock were responsible, and when the whistle sounded the score stood—

Park ....Five goals
Wanderers ....Nil

The second half opened out briskly. The Wanderers, with the wind at their backs, worked the globe into the home goal, Jackson being fortunate in saving. Wilson relieved, and the forwards made a rush to the other end. Brewis returned, and the Wanderers again made for the home goal. Press centred nicely, and Evans beat Jackson with a fast shot. Even play followed for a long time, till the Park forwards forced the play into the Dipton goal. Purvis saved a good shot from Snowdon, but was beaten by Lock shortly after. The Wanderers made strenuous efforts to increase their score, which they did just before the whistle sounded. Final result—

Park ....Six goals
Wanderers ....Two goals

The Park team was as follows:—Goal, F. Jackson; backs, F. Foreman and Jos. Wilson; half-backs, J. Willey, T. Snowdon, and T. Stephenson (capt.); forwards, Makepeace, G. Lock, R. Wilson, T. Hewitt, and R. Graham. Referee, Mr A. Little.

Shotley Bridge v Waterhouses Wanderers.—Played at Waterhouses before a large number of spectators. The visitors, winning the toss, elected to play against the wind. Shotley pressed at the outset, but the home team defended stubbornly. In spite of their efforts, however, Joyce got the ball and made a good shot, securing the first goal for the visitors. The home team looked likely to equalise, but Leadbitter was on the alert and saved splendidly. The Waterhouses forwards showed some good play, but the Shotley custodian saved admirably. The home team had hard work to keep the visitors back, but in spite of all they could do Lee scored No. 2. The Wanderers became dangerous, and would have scored but for Glendinning, who played a sterling game for his side. Half-time score—

Shotley Bridge ....Two goals
Wanderers ....Nil

Mayocok re-started, and Seed securing made a splendid run into the home lines, but the Wanderers were able to clear. A little give-and-take play took place, and after a hard struggle the home team scored their first and only goal amid great cheering. The visitors soon had the leather in the home quarters again, and Grant registered a third point. Shotley had rather hard lines in not scoring soon after, but Grant eventually received a pass from Bell, and scored No. 4. The homesters played hard to the finish, but the visitors were too many for them. Result—

Shotley Bridge ....Four goals
Wanderers ....One goal

Shotley Bridge team—Goal, T. Errington; backs, Leadbitter and Bell; half-backs, Joyce, Armstrong, and Glendinning; forwards, Grant and Seed, right wing; G. Hall, centre; R. Lee and W. Lee, left wing. The following represented the Wanderers:—Goal, T. Mayocok (capt.); backs, Jos. Parkinson and R. Parkinson; half-backs, J. Mayocok, S. Newton, and J. Huntley; forwards, J. White and J. Mayocok, right wing; M. Burnham, centre; R. McLean and W. Richardson, left wing.

LEADGATE PARK v. GATESHEAD TOWN.

The return fixture between these teams was played on the Park ground, before a good company. Pyke (the visitors' captain) won the toss, and decided to defend the west goal. Burnhope kicked off, and the Gateshead men at once took the globe into the home quarters, but Mansell and Wilson defended in capital style. Play for a long time was in favour of the visitors, till the home forwards settled down into earnest play. Shot after shot was sent in, but Smith and his backs cleared in fine style. Thompson got possession for Gateshead, and after making a brilliant run, centred nicely, and Pyke scored the first goal. This stirred the home team up, and play was confined to the visitors' quarters. Hunter and Wattsford secured, and the latter, after dodging the backs, equalised with a fast shot. Half-time was called shortly after with the score standing—

Park ....One goal
Gateshead ....One goal

The second half opened out very fast, each goal being visited in turn, and hard lines were experienced by both teams. Before the call of time, Wattsford added the second and winning point, and a good game ended as under—

Park ....Two goals
Gateshead ....One goal

The following represented the Park:—Goal, J. Crowther; backs, W. Mansell and J. Wilson (capt.); half-backs, G. Brown, R. Boustead, and G. Walton; forwards, R. Graham and C. Foreman, right wing; A. Burnhope, centre; H. Wattsford and J. Hunter, left wing. Referee, Mr Wm. Johns.

LEADGATE EXILES v. SCIENCE AND ART (NEWCASTLE.)

This game was played on the Exiles' ground, and, despite the unfavourable weather, a good number of spectators turned out to witness the encounter. The game was one of the fastest that has been played on the Exiles' ground. The lightning-like movements of the visitors had the effect of leading the home team a merry dance in the first half, but they were unable to score, and when the interval arrived the scores were as under—

Exiles ....One goal
Science and Art ....Nil

The visitors had the advantage in the second "30," but the home team were now playing in better form, and kept the Newcastle men at bay. The terrific pace the game was played at began to tell on both teams, but the superior stamina of the Exiles now asserted itself, and Science and Art were kept on the defensive for the last ten minutes, but at the expiration of time the result was—

Exiles ....One goal
Science and Art ....Nil

After the game the visitors were entertained to tea, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

DIPTON WANDERERS v. WALLSEND NORTH-EASTERN.

The above game was played at Wallsend for the benefit of one of the home club (G. Laverick), who recently got his leg broken. A good game resulted, of which the visitors had slightly the best all through. Final result—

Wanderers ....Two goals
Wallsend ....Nil

ENGLISH CUP—QUALIFYING COMPETITION

FIRST ROUND.

TOW LAW v. ASHINGTON.

This tie was played at Tow Law. The visitors had the best of the opening half, and were leading at the interval by two goals to nil. Tow Law played up in determined fashion in the second portion of the game, and registered three goals, while Ashington added another point, and the result was a draw of three goals each. The referee ordered extra time to be played, but the visitors objected, and the home team kicked a goal and claimed the match. Final result—

Tow Law ....Four goals
Ashington ....Three goals

DURHAM SENIOR CUP.

FIRST ROUND.

CONSETT FELL v. BRANDON ROVERS.

This tie was re-played at Brandon, the field being in a dreadful condition. Skelton won the toss, and played with the wind. At the outset both custodians had plenty of work, and M. Eustace had hard lines, striking the bar with a lightning shot. The visitors missed several chances, owing to the water standing about the goal-mouth, which rendered good shooting impossible. The homesters scored once, and at half-time the record was—

Brandon ....One goal
Fell ....Nil

On re-starting, both teams played hard. The globe travelled quickly from one end to the other, and both goalkeepers had to clear. The home forwards came with a rush, and scored No. 2. Eustace ran well up the left and shot in. The goalkeeper fisted out, but Carlill sent through for the Fell. Just before time the home team scored again, and the final result was as follows—

Brandon ....Three goals
Fell ....One goal

The Fell team was—Goal, J. Carruthers; backs, W. Bell and J. Haggerstone; half-backs, T. Skelton, C. Ternent, and R. Wake; forwards, G. Eustace and Wm. Atkinson, right wing; E. Carlill, centre; R. Harkness and M. Eustace, left wing. Referee, Mr J. Costello, Leadgate.

RUGBY.

Blackhill Rovers 2nd v Blaydon 2nd.—Played at Blaydon, and resulted in a win for the home team by one goal and two tries to nil.

Benfieldside Rovers v Sleetburn 2nd.—Played at Benfieldside, and resulted in a win for Sleetburn by two tries to nil. The winners had the assistance of eight first team men.

BLACKHILL ROVERS v. BLAYDON.

Played at Blackfine in miserable weather, before a moderate attendance. Blaydon won the toss, and decided to play with the wind. The Rovers kicked off, and at once began to press, and after good passing by the backs, the home team had hard lines in not scoring, a minor only resulting. The home team held the upper hand until the whistle blew, when the score was—

Rovers ....Nil
Blaydon ....Nil

On resuming, play ruled in midfield for some time, until the visitors came away with a rush. Play now became of a scrambling nature, Blaydon having hard lines in not scoring. Elliott, the Rovers' full back, played in excellent style, and time was called with the result as follows—

Rovers ....Nil
Blaydon ....Nil

Referee, Mr M. Hobday.

FOOTBALL JOTTINGS.

[By "Off-side."]

BLACKHILL ROVERS V BLAYDON.

The Rovers had for their visitors on Saturday the Blaydon team, who have greatly improved this season. The state of the ground was all against good play, but nevertheless the Rovers gave a capital display in the first half, making some dangerous sprints and passing very neatly. The same cannot be said of the visitors, as they indulged very little in passing and their picking up was faulty. The second portion of the game was most disappointing, and was not to be compared to the previous half, the play being almost entirely confined to the forwards. Blaydon made several extremely determined rushes, and only the splendid defence of Elliott prevented them from crossing the Rovers' line. Not a single major point was registered by either side, so this game, like the one at Blaydon, ended with honours easy.

—o—

I have already referred to the grand display of Elliott, who was as safe as a house at full back. Brown and Robson were the pick of the three-quarters, running and passing admirably. Aitken and Hewitson got in some useful kicks, and played a splendid defensive game in the second half. There was very little to choose between Smailes and Anderson at half, and considering the greasy state of the leather, they were really good. The forwards played excellently in the initial portion of the game, but fell off considerably after the interval. Taylor, Sayers, and McTaggart were the most prominent.

—o—

For the visitors, Dunn at back played well, although not up to Elliott's form. Not much can be said in praise of the three-quarters, as they were completely out matched by the Rovers' men in the same position. The halves were good, but the forwards were the strongest part of the team. Although they were beaten by the home eight in the first half, they fully made up for it afterwards, keeping the Rovers on the defensive for a greater portion of the time. To-morrow (Saturday) Ushaw Moor will be the visitors at Blackfine. This match should have been decided at Ushaw Moor, but arrangements have been made for them to visit Blackfine.

—o—

LEADGATE PARK RESERVE V DIPTON WANDERERS RESERVE.

The meeting of the above clever Reserve teams at Leadgate, on Saturday, aroused a great amount of enthusiasm, and the game was well worth seeing. G. Wattsford was unable to play for the Park, his place being filled by Makepeace. The result was rather a surprise, as the home team held the trump card all through, and gained an unexpectedly easy win by a majority of four goals. The winners are undoubtedly the best Reserve string in the district, and I congratulate them on their gallant victory.

—o—

The veteran Jackson kept goal in capital form for the Park, and could not be blamed for either of the shots which beat him. Foreman and Wilson were very safe at back, and played splendidly. Snowdon was the pick of the halves, and was ably supported by Stephenson. The play of the forwards was a treat. Hewitt, who made his first appearance since last season, appears to retain a deal of his old form, while his partner (Lock) was equally good. R. Wilson has plenty of dash about him, and makes a capital centre, keeping his wings well together. Makepeace and Graham worked very hard on the right, and the latter has all the makings of a first-class forward.

—o—

The Wanderers' custodian only shaped very moderately, but the backs showed admirable form, and defended stubbornly. Parker was the best of the halves, although his colleagues were very little behind him, and all did their utmost to stem the tide of defeat. Evans in the centre played a good game among the forwards, but the wings were only poor.

—o—

SHOTLEY BRIDGE V WATERHOUSES WANDERERS.

That the Shotleyites are rapidly improving was demonstrated by their handsome victory over the Wanderers at Waterhouses, on Saturday. In the first game at Shotley Bridge, the Wanderers claimed the verdict by three goal to two, and I heartily congratulate Shotley on the gallant manner in which they have turned the tables. Errington kept goal magnificently for the winners, while both backs and halves were well-nigh impassable, Glendinning being especially brilliant. The forwards never played a better game, Grant and Seed on the right being ever on the ball. In a season or two Shotley Bridge should be able to hold their own with the leading clubs of the district.

—o—

THE DURHAM CUP.

At a meeting of the Challenge Cup Committee, the draw for the second round of the Qualifying Competition took place, the following clubs falling together in

Leadgate and District.

Burnhope v Dipton Wanderers Reserve.
Brandon Rovers v Byer Moor.
Tanfield Lea v Hobson Wanderers.
Leadgate Exiles v Leadgate Park.

The first three ties do not call for much comment, but the last one should prove a scorcher. It is a pity the two clubs should have come together so soon, as had they steered clear of one another, it is in every way probable that they would have survived the Qualifying Competition. However, they will doubtless have the pleasure of sharing a substantial gate, which will be some consolation to the losers. The Hobson Wanderers are an improved team, and Tanfield must not treat them too lightly.

—o—

LEADGATE EXILES V SCIENCE AND ART.

The meeting of the above celebrated teams at Leadgate was the means of producing a splendid game, notwithstanding the depressing state of the elements. The Exiles were in rare trim. Callaghan exhibited some of his old form, and saved wonderfully on many occasions. It is in every way likely that had he been in the Exiles' ranks up to the present time he would have stood a good chance of obtaining his county cap, as he has few superiors in the county. W. McGee was in his best mood at back, his kicking and tackling surprising the visitors. The halves have seldom been seen to more advantage. Thompson's knowledge of the game stood him in good stead when opposed to such a scientific combination as the Newcastle men.

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The forwards all played a brilliant game, and there was not a weak spot amongst them. The new acquisitions to the team are improving every time they turn out, and the right wing are bad to stop. They keep the ball moving at such a pace as baffles the strongest defence. W. McKie gives promise of satisfactorily filling a position which has given the Exiles a lot of trouble—viz., a reliable centre forward. He feeds his wings very judiciously, and has great speed.

—o—

GREENCROFT BLACK WATCH V LINTZFORD.

An exciting tussle was witnessed at Lintzford on Saturday between the above rising teams. Both clubs were strongly represented, Greencroft being only minus Maddison, while the home team had the very valuable assistance of Annandale. T. Smith (the Lintzford custodian) is undoubtedly one of the cleverest goalkeepers in the district, and only for him and Abbott, the Black Watch might possibly have been credited with a victory. Abbott kicked and tackled superbly, and far outshone his partner. The halves are a splendid trio, while the forwards pass very neatly, especially Taylor, who amused the spectators with his trickiness.

—o—

Turning to the visitors, Gardiner had not much to do in goal, as Blakey and Coleman were in their best form, their clean and neat kicking being a treat. The halves played well, particularly Hardy, although Brown and Boyle were little behind, and the latter, as usual, caused much amusement among the onlookers. Thompson in the centre fed his wings with admirable judgment, and has improved to a large extent. Argyle and Rounsley made a splendid right wing, while E. Atkinson and McDonald combined capitally on the left. The latter was unlucky enough to get injured whilst playing against Leadgate Exiles Reserve, and has scarcely displayed his old dash since.

—o—

MEMS.

I wish to call the attention of secretaries to the the notice at the head of our football columns, as by letting us have their communications on Tuesday they would much oblige.

Tanfield Lea were without a match on Saturday, owing to their worthy treasurer, Mr Wm. Milburn, entering the matrimonial state.

The bride was Miss Lizzie Christopher, and I heartily wish Mr and Mrs Milburn every prosperity. A large company was present, and enjoyed themselves immensely.

Some of the reports I receive from junior clubs are curiosities in their way. They are written on dirty scraps of paper, and sometimes it is next to impossible to decipher them.

Blackhill Rovers, curiously enough, have been drawn against the team which last year put them out of the Junior Cup—viz., Mount Pleasant.

The match is to be played on the Rovers' ground, and I shall look forward confidently to them pulling off the tie.

—o—

MATCHES WANTED.

All teams having dates with Beamish True Blues are cancelled.

All clubs having fixtures with Derwent Cottages Ramblers are requested to cancel them, as they are unable to procure a field.

Tow Law Fell Wanderers 2nd team would like to arrange matches with teams under 15 years of age. Apply to John Moses, 21, Prince Row, Tow Law.

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ACCIDENT AT CHESTER-LE-STREET RAILWAY STATION.

A serious accident to a fireman occurred on Wednesday night, at Chester-le-Street Railway Station. It appears that a goods train travelling north slowed up at the station for the purpose of taking in water. The fireman, Edward Adams, belonging to Washington, got on the engine tender, and as the engine passed under the feet-bridge over the line his head came in contact with the ironwork, knocking him down. Dr Duncan was summoned, and was quickly on the spot. The doctor found the man suffering from a very severe scalp wound and other injuries, which were attended to. The mail was stopped, and the unfortunate man sent on to Darlington by the train. His injuries are of a serious nature.

TO-MORROW'S FOOTBALL.

To-morrow's Fixtures (Saturday, Oct. 22nd.)

Dipton Wanderers v Browney Albion, at Dipton.
Blackhill Rovers v Ushaw Moor, at Blackhill.
Blackhill Rovers 2nd v Ryton 2nd, at Blackhill.
Medomsley v Science and Art (Newcastle), at Medomsley.
Consett Y.M.C.A. v Shotley Bridge, at Shotley Bridge.
Leadgate Park Reserve v Newcastle St. Augustine's, at Newcastle.
Waterhouses Wanderers v Pelton Fell Institute, at Waterhouses.
Greencroft Black Watch v Oakey's Lilywhites, at Greencroft.
Lizzie Celtics v Oakey's Lilywhites 2nd, at The Lizzie.
Lintz Rovers 2nd v Swalwell Y.M.C.A., at The Lintz.
Consett Fell 2nd v Blackhill Park, at Consett.
South Moor Rovers v High Heworth, at South Moor.
South Moor Rovers 2nd v South Moor Violets, on the former's ground.
Waldridge White Star v Broompark, at Waldridge.
Lintzford v Tow Law St. Joseph's, at Lintzford.
Annfield Plain Red Stars 2nd v Leadgate St. Ives, at Leadgate.
Marley Hill St. Cuthbert's v Felling Albion, at Marley Hill.
Mickley v Newburn Athletic, at Mickley.
Mickley 2nd v Haydon Bridge, at Mickley.
Esh True Blues v Stanley Star, at Esh.
White-le-Head Royal Stars v Dipton St. John's, at White-le-Head.
Crookhall Wanderers 2nd v Blackhill Park 2nd, at Crookhall.

CUP-TIES.

Leadgate Exiles v Leadgate Park, on the Exiles ground.
Tanfield Lea v Hobson Wanderers, at Tanfield Lea.
Brandon Rovers v Byer Moor, at Brandon.
Burnhope v Dipton Wanderers Reserve, at Burnhope.
Stanley Star v Tow Law, at Stanley (Crook.)
Esh True Blues 2nd v Stanley Rovers 2nd, at Stanley.
Medomsley Church Choir v Leadgate Science and Art, at Medomsley.
Shotley Bridge Rovers v Lintz Colliery, at Lintz Colliery.

DIPTON WANDERERS v. BROWNEY ALBION.

This match will be played at Dipton. The Wanderers' team will be as follows:—Goal, T. Potts; backs, J. Walker and T. Rowell; half-backs, T. Turpin, R. Buck (capt.), and Wm. Bowes; forwards, W. Turner, and H. Cruddas, right wing; I. Gilliard, centre; D. Crozier and T. Walker, left wing. Linesman, J. Osman. Referee, Mr Dawson, Lintz. Kick-off at 3 prompt.

MEDOMSLEY v. SCIENCE AND ART (NEWCASTLE.)

The latter famous team will pay a visit to Medomsley to-morrow, and as the home men are now getting into something like their old form, the game should be worth witnessing. The Medomsley team will be chosen from the following:—G. Beadling, Dr Philipson, W. Baron, G. G. Robson, G. Moon, R. Cant, R. Charlton, J. Todd, A. M. Hedley, Wm. Cant, S. Ward, and J. Veitch. Kick-off at 4.

BLACKHILL ROVERS v. USHAW MOOR.

The above game was fixed to take place at Ushaw Moor, but arrangements have been made to decide it on the Rovers' new ground at Blackhill, and a grand game is sure to be witnessed. The following fifteen will do duty for the Rovers:—Full back, T. Elliott; three-quarter backs, R. Robson, J. Brown, J. French, and J. Aitken (capt.); half-backs, G. Smailes and J. Anderson; forwards, A. Taylor, G. Davison, J. G. Askew, R. Stobbs, G. Aitken, G. Sayers, W. Brown, and G. Hewitson. Reserve, J. Dawson. Kick-off at 3-45. Referee, Mr M. Hobday, Blackhill.

Lintzford v Tow Law St. Joseph's.—This match will be played at Lintzford, when the home team will be:—Goal, T. Smith; backs, J. Weedy and R. Abbott (capt.); half-backs, J. Weightman, E. Stobbs, and F. Gibson; forwards, Geo. Burton and W. Laythen, right wing; P. Newton, centre; S. Smith and J. E. Taylor, left wing. Reserve, W. Smith.

Consett Fell 2nd v Blackhill Park.—To be played on the Fell ground. The Fell team will be as follows:—Goal, J. Dunning (capt.); backs, J. Welch and J. Seaman; half-backs, J. Winter, W. Wake, J. Pescod; forwards, G. Eustace and T. Winter, right wing; B. McKie, centre; R. Barron and and J. Adams, left wing. Reserves, F. Arlott and S. Davis. Blackhill Park—Goal, T. Sheldon; backs, A. Atkinson and H. Tindle; half-backs, T. Fitzpatrick, R. Evans, and J. Walton; forwards, T. Wood, J. Butler, P. Smith, W. Askew, and R. Chatt.

DURHAM SENIOR CUP.

SECOND ROUND.

LEADGATE EXILES v. LEADGATE PARK.

Unfortunately, the above teams have been drawn together in the second round of the Qualifying Competition. Both teams are in such grand form that had they been in different districts, they would have undoubtedly reached a much higher stage in the competition, and might have had to be reckoned with in the last eight. The game is to be brought off on the Exiles' ground, and the improvements made on the field in the spring have rendered the turf much better for play. The game should be a grand one, and we anticipate a record "gate." The home club will be represented by the following team:—Goal, H. Callaghan; backs, J. Haggan and Wm. McGee; half-backs, Peter Hughes (capt.), F. Thompson, and Jas. Monaghan; forwards, P. Rafferty and P. McKie, right wing; W. McKie, centre; Jas. McGee and J. Hill, left wing. Linesman, Wm. Costello. Kick-off at 2-30.

BURNHOPE v. DIPTON WANDERERS RESERVE.

This tie will be played at Burnhope. The following will represent the Wanderers:—Goal, J. Curtis; backs, Bell and Jordan; half-backs, Brown, Parker, and Coates; forwards, J. Knotts, H. Smith, Temple, Ellis, and Harris. Linesman, Brewis. Referee, Mr W. Bsears, Leadgate.

BRANDON ROVERS v. BYER MOOR.

The above teams will decide their tie at Brandon, when a good game is looked forward to. The visitors will be represented as follows:—Goal, N. Keith; backs, T. Young and W. Thompson; half-backs, T. Thirlwell, M. Mason, and J. McWhirter; forwards, J. Spoors and R. Clasper, right wing; G. Bell (capt.), centre; E. Keith and E. Hudspeth, left wing. Kick-off at 3. Referee, Mr J. Ross, jun., Medomsley.

TANFIELD LEA v. HOBSON WANDERERS.

These clubs meet at Tanfield Lea to decide as to who shall enter the third round. The following will be the Wanderers' team:—Goal, J. Leadbitter; backs, W. Henderson and E. Henderson; half-backs, M. J. Smith, T. Amos, and J. McNeil; forwards, J. Bell and W. Hindhaugh, right wing; T. Young, centre; J. Beck and J. M. Maddison, left wing. Referee, Mr John Costello, Leadgate.

Wesleyan Day School.—In connection with the Tow Law Wesleyan day schools, Dr D. J. Waller, Connexional Secretary, Westminster Training College, London, preached in the Wesleyan Chapel on Monday afternoon, and at night addressed a public meeting in the same place. Addresses were also given by Revs. Cleminson and Smith. Mr W. Millican, of Newcastle, occupied the chair.

NOTES FROM WEARDALE.

[By "Stanhope."]

Whaling is generally supposed to be confined to the North Sea or seas similarly situated, but there are exceptions to all rules. A whale was captured this week in the Wear, at Westgate, by a noted angler at that place. By some extraordinary freak of nature this big fish had found its way into bonnie Weardale, and arrived at the classic little village of West Yit, where the West Yitters gave it a warm reception. A boat was manned and fitted up with all the paraphernalia for whale fishing. "Big Will," who was on the watch, sighted the monster spouting water south of Park House Breakwater, and gave command. The chase began. By skilful rowing the boat arrived alongside the strange visitor from the German Ocean, and Ritson dexterously threw the tackle, while Big Willie stood with the hatchet, ready at any moment to chop the rope should the boat be in danger of being capsized by the huge monster, which was cleverly harpooned. It plunged deep down and the rope ran out so fast that the friction almost fired it, but Ritson was equal to the occasion and stood with a wet mop dashing salt water upon it. Once or twice the great leviathan came to the surface, when he gave the boat some tremendous lurches, and the occupants were expecting to meet with a watery grave, but, like true Britons, these landlubbers stuck to their post tenaciously, until fortune favoured them as she always does the brave. At every time the rope slacked it was wound up, but ever and anon away it spun again, and the track of the monster could be traced along the deep blue sea by blood. At one time a crisis came, the rope was well nigh spun out, the harpooner was muttering his prayers and reviewing his past life in view of the great eternity opening up vividly before him, but Willie, his mate, shouted in stentorian tones, heard above the surges and the breakers on the lee shore, "Never say die, man." At this Ritson wakened up, the line slacked, and fortune favoured them. Willie threw down his axe, and Ritson his mop. Again the rope tightened, and the coble was almost capsized in the boiling surf. In the agonies of death the huge monster ran ashore. They hailed Muschamp, another whaler, just off Brother Lea Point, he pulled to their rescue, and the two boats and their plucky crews soon gave the monster the happy despatch. The ship was signalled and arrived in due course. Some dusty millers, who were carrying dumpling dust up the dale, also arrived at the scene of operations, and with their aid and that of the ship's crew the German Ocean visitor was carried to Westgate, where the populace all turned out to greet the renowned whalers, and view the carcase of the biggest fish ever yet caught by any of Weardale's sons in Weardale waters.

At one of the Weardale villages, some circulars were issued the other day on behalf of a mission, soliciting help in various forms. Among these was an appeal for help in kind as gifts to the mission, live stock of every variety, from an ox to a sparrow, and hardware of all sorts, from a boiler to a pair of curling tongs, and groceries of every detail, from a stone of flour to a farthing dip. One of the recipients of these solicited gifts was surprised to have an intimation that the mission was to be presented with a horse and trap which might be sold to help the mission funds. The present arrived in due time, but not as was anticipated. It did not drive up to the recipients residence, but came by parcel post in the shape of a spice horse and a wooden mouse-trap.

I have been spending my holiday week in Allendale. At the kind invitations of a generous, hospitable, plucky farmer of the true Briton stamp, I crossed the Alpine regions between Cowshill and Allenheads, and arrived in due course at Horsley Farm, in West Allen, where I spent a most enjoyable week, despite the fact of it raining every day as if it had never rained before.

The dalesfolk are proverbial for their kindness. They don't know what to do for you. The best bit in the house is yours; the best room, the best bed, and the best of everything is at your disposal, and if your are not happy and contented the fault is not theirs. To me there is no place like home, still a change now and then is very acceptable, and I find there are other homes quite as enjoyable as my own. I was much taken up with bonnie Allendale, although I saw it to every disadvantage in the autumn, when the autumnal tints were fringing the foliage of the trees and the hills were snow-capped. I shall, some of these days, write up my impressions of Allendale and its people fully, and my journey there and back. Like Weardale, with it the palmy days of lead-mining are gone, and the present is but a spectre of the past.

Frosterley Church harvest festival has come and gone again. Although, unfortunately, not present, I hear the choir did well, as is their wont, and rendered the anthems in admirable style. This excellent choir has for years been distinguished as a first-rate village choir, and I am glad to hear that it still keeps up its reputation. It has a splendid teacher in the person of the Rev F. C. Jagg, who is an efficient musician, and takes great pains with his choir, of which he is justly proud.

The Wolsingham Wesleyans are a go-ahead lot. They are always having some great preacher, who gives the public there an intellectual treat. Some of the greatest guns of the Wesleyan body arrive at the old town from time to time. They have many a treat there.

The cookery school at Stanhope, held in the Bank rooms, every afternoon and evening, is so far a success. Two classes of 16 pupils meet every day, and receive practical lessons in cooking. A cooking-stove, heated by gas, is fitted up for the occasion, and Miss Bailey instructs them how to cook dainty dishes. Cookery for invalids is on the cards for Saturday evening.

Lessons on cooking are much needed not only in Stanhope, but in many places in the Wear Valley. I know a young wife in Stanhope who put her bread into a cold oven to bake, and another who, when the bread was rising, took up the dish and ran off with it to her mother's, a distance of half-a-mile, for instructions what to do with it, the rising dough dropping over the dish top into the road all the way. I knew another who, when the baking-day came, was asked by her mother-in-law if the bread was rising. Her reply was significant. She said, "As the cat walking about on it was rising, it was rising sure enough, as pussy was enjoying himself upon it." Another young wife got a rabbit presented for their dinner. Not knowing how to proceed to clean it, she did not skin it, as is the custom, but she ploated it—that is, pulled all the hair off, bit by bit, and then singed it with a burning candle. Another whom I knew got a sheep's head for their Sunday dinner. She boiled it whole, with the eyes in and brains to boot. It made excellent broth, so she said. Cookery schools are much needed.

A young woman, not 100 miles from Stanhope, made her liege lord a girdle cake. He acknowledged he had a good constitution, and a stomach that would digest leather, but not that cake made by his better half.

Biscuits and wine, a friendly chit-chat, *tete-a-tete*, are the order of the day at a newly-instituted club for married men, in one of the Weardale villages. It is largely patronised, much to the discredit of the husbands who leave their own homes each evening to spend their time away from their wives and families. Perhaps the men are not altogether to blame; there should be a little more home attraction.

Concert at St. Mary's Hall, New Hoose.—On Saturday night the People's Relief Variety Entertaining Co., from Siltburn, gave an evening's entertainment at the above-mentioned place, and met with a hearty reception from the inhabitants in the district. The party during the late strike raised the handsome sum of £145 9s for various relief committees during that period. Mr F. Fulton occupied the chair, whilst Mr J. Robinson officiated as pianist and musical director. The following artistes took part in the programme:—Messrs W. Sutherland, H. Hayes, W. Davison, R. Stephenson, Mr Walton, and J. Wilson.

LOCAL BUSINESS AT DURHAM QUARTER SESSIONS.

The Michaelmas Quarter Sessions for the County have been held at the Assize Court, Durham, during the week, before Mr John Lloyd Wharton, M.P., and other Justices.

A NEW MAGISTRATE.

Mr Edmund Balleny, Little Greencroft, Consett, was sworn to act upon the Commission of the Peace

THE CHARGE OF THEFT AT CONSETT.

Peter Sullivan, indicated for stealing money off a young man named Hewison, at Consett, was found to be insane, and was ordered to be detained during Her Majesty's pleasure.

THE ALLEGED WOUNDING AT CONSETT.

Mary Hunt, 44, no occupation, was charged with unlawfully wounding Charles Grant, at Consett, on Oct. 1st.—She was found not guilty and discharged.

CONSETT TRADES COUNCIL AND THE LOCAL BOARD.

A LIVELY SCENE AND A DISGUSTED DELEGATE.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Consett and District Trades and Labour Council was held in the Co-operative Buildings, Consett, on Saturday night, under the presidency of Mr T. Hodgson (Blackhill), vice-chairman. There was a fair attendance of delegates. The principal item of business was the receipt of a letter by the secretary (Mr J. Wildsmith) from Mr T. W. Welford, the clerk to the Consett Local Board, in reply to a resolution passed at the last meeting of the Council, asking the Board "to consider the position of the working men in all contracts, and not give out any contracts unless the contractors agree to pay a fair rate of wages, and also that the Council protests against all sub-contracting." The answer of Mr Welford was simply that "the resolution was laid before the Board and ordered to lie upon the table."

Mr J. G. Cooke (Blackhill) said the answer to the resolution was a direct insult to the Council. They were now placed in a critical position. Were they as men prepared to endorse the letter, or had they to throw down the gauntlet, and make the usual declaration of war. He would ask them to consider if they were in a position to do this, seeing that they, as a council, represented the greatest proportion of the electors of the district. They ought to show to the members of the Local Board that they would not be treated in such a manner. They expected justice, and the Board ought to have said whether they were in favour of the resolution or not. The reply that had been forthcoming distinctly indicated that there had not been a word said in favour of the working classes——

Mr Massey, of Blackhill (intervening): Mr Chairman, I would like to know whether this is an independent or a political party?

The Chairman: I must call you to order. You have the right to reply.

Mr Massey: That is not an answer to my question.

The Chairman: Order.

Mr Massey: The previous speaker mentioned something about a party, and if the Council is a political party, I am done with it.

The Chairman: Mr Massey, you will really have to be quiet until Mr Cooke is finished, and then you can make what objections you like.

Mr Massey: Oh, I see. I beg pardon.

Mr Cooke (continuing) said he hoped his friend would not interrupt him any more until he was finished. He was going to say that they ought to fight this question, and let the members of the Board see that they were determined to have a satisfactory answer to the resolution. If they had to be a Trades Council, and make themselves important in the district, they would have to fight shoulder to shoulder. The Council had forwarded a very proper resolution to the Board, but that body had treated the same with scorn and contempt. Had they to abide by this? Were they prepared, when the next election came round, to see that *bona-fide* working men candidates were chosen to represent them on the Board? In the resolution they were only asking what was just. The Council had a right to say that no contracts be given out unless the workmen were receiving a just rate of wages. He (the speaker) would ask them to stand up, honestly and fairly, and see that they got their rights. He would ask them, as workmen, to take hold of the reins, and say whether they had to be ruled in this manner by the members of the Local Board. In the interests of trades unionism he would ask them to say that they would have their recommendation carried out. If the members would not comply with their request, it was their duty to see that *bona-fide* working-men were elected to represent them on the Board.

Mr Massey again rose and stated that he was present at the meeting when the question of sub-contracting was discussed— [illegible]

The Secretary (interrupting): We are not dealing with that question now.

Mr Massey again attempted to speak, but the Chairman called out "Order, order."

Mr Massey: What are we talking about?

The Chairman: Not about that question. We are dealing with a letter from the Local Board.

Mr Massey: I must ask you to hear what I have got to say. ("Order.") At a meeting—

The Chairman (interposing): I must again call you to order.

Mr Massey (warmly): I will resign my seat on the Council because you will not hear me speak. I will report my case to the lodge I represent.

After Mr Massey had quitted the room, Mr J. Summerbell (Consett), pointed out that they would have to make their influence felt in relation to the Board's treatment. They as a body had no right to be treated in this manner. These members appealed to the workmen of the district for their suffrage, but it seemed after they were elected, that they turned their backs, and declared that the working classes had nothing more to do with them. They would have to work hard, and leave not a stone unturned in order to have *bona-fide* working-men elected as members of the Board. (Applause.)

The Secretary said that the best they could do was to have everything in readiness for the forthcoming election. The members of the Board ought to have discussed the resolution, and said whether they were in favour of the same or not. He would suggest that steps be taken for the Council to issue a circular to the various lodges asking their opinion with reference to running *bona-fide* working-men candidates at the next Local Board election.

Mr Wilkinson (Blackhill): If the Council can find out that the members of the Board did not approve of that resolution, by all means let us have *bona-fide* working-men candidates for the forthcoming election.

After some further discussion the subjoined resolution was proposed by Mr Topham (Consett), and seconded by Mr Cooke:—

"That this Council, having considered the reply from the Consett Local Board to the resolution *re* sub-letting of contracts and fair rates of wages, considers it an insult, and shall endeavour to replace the retiring members of the Board at the next election by men who will look after the interests of the working-men."

Mr W. Barron (Blackhill), submitted an amendment to the effect that the letter from the Local Board lie on the table, and that the Council take the necessary steps to secure four or five *bona-fide* working men candidates at the forthcoming Local Board election.

This was seconded by Mr Wilkinson, but the original proposition was carried by a large majority.

It was agreed that similar resolutions relating to the sub-letting of contracts and the rates of wages be sent to the Benfieldside and Leadgate Local Boards.

LOOKING AFTER THE GUARDIANS.

The Secretary was directed to write to the Clerk to the Lanchester Guardians, asking if it was true that a certain case having come before that body concerning a boy having failed to attend school, and because his mother, a widow, had refused to allow him to be sent to an industrial school, and also failed to give a guarantee that her son should attend school regularly in future, stopped the parish relief of the other four children. If so, the Council would like to know upon what clause of the law the Guardians had acted. Failing to receive a satisfactory answer, the Council would take up the case and forward it to the London authorities.

DELEGATES HOLDING ALOOF.

The Secretary reported that two delegates connected with the Consett Mechanics' Association had been absent from the meetings of the Council for the ninth time.

A Delegate: Is there any reason given?

The Secretary said that he received a letter from the Association stating that the two delegates still represented them on the Council.

Mr Gilhespy (Consett) inquired if it was correct that the two delegates would not be recognised as members of the Council.

The Secretary: The rules do not say anything to that effect.

The matter was left in abeyance.

GREENCROFT COTTAGES.

Primitive Methodist Chapel.—In connection with this place of worship, at Greencroft Cottages, a concert was given on Saturday se'nnight, presided over by Mr W. I. Mackay, Catchgate. There was a good attendance.—On the Sunday following, special sermons were preached by Mr A. S. Coates, of Consett, to large congregations.

BENFIELDSIDE LOCAL BOARD.

The monthly meeting of this body was held in the Town Hall Buildings, Shotley Bridge, Mr J. Eltringham presiding. The other members present were:—Coun. R. Murray, Messrs T. Siddell, A. E. Turner, W. Wilson, F. Priestman, J. Dowson, G. J. Robinson, W. Wheatley, J. Lax, the Clerk (Mr J. Booth), and the Surveyor (Mr J. Dixon).

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

A letter was read from Mr Barclay, secretary to the Benfieldside Technical Education Committee, stating that he was instructed by his committee to apply the Board for a grant of £10 out of the Local Board rates under the powers conferred on the Board by the Technical Instruction Act, 1889, to enable the Committee to meet petty expenses.

Mr Siddell proposed that the payment of the £10 be referred to the Finance Committee.

This was seconded by Mr Wheatley, and carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The following accounts are recommended to be paid:—

	£	s.	d.
Surveyor (monthly pay bill)	31	14	5
Consett Iron Company	1	18	0
Swan & Leach	5	5	0
J. Christopher	26	0	0
W. & J. Eltringham	3	1	8
Ramsay, registrar	0	5	4
Mr Booth	44	10	10
Gas Company	8	8	9

Lighting has been arranged for next month.

The committee appointed by your Board waited upon the Directors of the Gas Company and agreed to pay their claim for damage by the steam roller. The other claim for gas supplied to St. Mary's clock was also recommended to be paid, the Gas Company deducting 4d per thousand feet from their account on the understanding that in the future the gas supplied to the clock be charged at the same rate as supplied to street lamps.

[It is with satisfaction we learn that the Board and the Gas Company have once more come to amicable terms with reference to the claim for damages occasioned by the use of the steam-roller. The Board has agreed to pay the claim in full, after a considerable amount of trouble.]

On the motion of Mr Murray, seconded by Mr Robinson, the report was adopted, and the necessary accounts were ordered to be signed.

THE AUDIT OF THE ACCOUNTS.

Mr Murray inquired if it was possible to bring some pressure to bear upon the auditor, in order to have the accounts audited so that they might get the money that was due to the Board.

Mr Lax said that all the pressure possible had been brought to bear, but it did not make any difference.

Mr Murray: It seems very hard that this state of affairs should be allowed to go on. If there are defalcations going on, look what a long time it will take before they are brought out.

The Clerk said it was a great pity that the accounts could not be audited at the proper time. He only wished the auditor would come.

Mr Murray said that he had every confidence in their officers, but at the same time it was placing the Board in a very false position by not having the accounts audited.

Mr Lax: I think every Board is alike in this respect.

The Clerk intimated that he had received a letter from Mr W. M. Crozier, county surveyor, stating that he had inspected the whole of the main roads, and inquired if the Board's accounts had been audited yet.

Eventually, the Clerk was instructed to write to the auditor and inquire when he would be able to audit the Board's accounts. Failing to receive a satisfactory answer to write the Local Government Board pointing out the position of affairs.

BUILDING COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

This committee reported as follows:—

A plan for a new cart-shed intended to be built in the present yard of a house and stable belonging to Mr A. Stephenson, Queen Street, Blackhill, we recommend to be passed, subject to the end next the house being left open, and the front to be left all open for the purpose of thorough ventilation of present house yard.

A plan of house intended to be built in St. Aidan's Street, Blackhill, for Mr John Jackson, of Blackhill, we cannot recommend to be passed, as there is no block plan, and the cross section shows no levels of ground or street levels, and we recommend that it be returned to be completed.

Jos. Eltringham, Convener.

Mr Priestman moved that the recommendation of the committee with reference to the plans be adopted.

This was seconded by Mr Lax, and agreed to.

THE SHOTLEY BRIDGE GAS COMPANY.

A letter was read from Mr M. Richley, secretary to the Shotley Bridge Gas Company, to the effect that in accordance with the request of the deputation from the Board to the directors of the Gas Company, on the 7th inst., he now begged to state that the Gas Company were prepared to lay a new main along Queen Street, if the Board would agree to erect four lamps over the present distance of the street, and guarantee that the company's mains be protected from damage or disturbance when the street is being made.

On the motion of Mr Priestman, seconded by Mr Siddell, the Clerk was instructed to reply to the letter that the Board were prepared to take three lamps, and to erect further lamps when the street was extended, for which sites, the Board was informed, had been sold.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

Mr Dixon submitted the following monthly report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Benfieldside Local Board.

Gentlemen,—During the past month, your workmen have been employed on the several highways and streets in your district—scraping, laying on materials, and dressing up. 100 tons of whinstone has been laid on the Slonks and Grove Roads, also about 100 tons on Durham Road. I am busy making ready for the steam-roller, which I expect will start for us to-morrow.

I have received from Messrs Ord and Maddison, during the month, 100 tons of whinstone.

As instructed at last meeting, I wrote the Consett Iron Company, drawing their attention to Walton Street, Blackhill. I have had Oxley Street repaired.

The proprietors of Queen Street have agreed to form a footpath in front of their property.

I wish to have your instructions with regard to the lighting of St. Mary's clock, Blackhill.

I have collected and paid to the treasurer during the month the following sum:—General district rate, £216 11s 4d.—Yours, &c.,

John Dixon.

Blackhill, Oct. 19th, 1892.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Subjoined is the Inspector's (Mr John Dixon) monthly report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Benfieldside Local Board.

Gentlemen,—During the past month I have inspected your district several times. I find the ashpits well cleaned out, disinfectants have been freely used, and I consider your district in a good sanitary condition.

As instructed at last meeting, I served a notice on Mr Joseph Harrison to remove his hens. The removal has taken place.

Plans for alterations to Holly Lodge have been stamped, duplicates having been supplied.

Plans for intended new house to be built in St. Aidan's Street, Blackhill, have been laid before your Building Committee; also plan for a shed. Your committee will report on the same.—Yours, &c.,

John Dixon.

THE MAKING OF QUEEN STREET.

On the proposition of Mr Robinson, seconded by Mr Priestman, the Surveyor was instructed to take the necessary steps to have plans and estimates prepared for the making of Queen Street.

THE LIGHTING OF ST. MARY'S CLOCK.

A letter was read from Father Foran throwing out a capital suggestion, whereby arrangements might be made with the man who is engaged to wind the clock late in the day so as to light the clock at the same time, and the same could be put out by the lamplighter when extinguishing the lights of the street lamps. If this was carried out it would be the means of saving the Board a considerable amount of expenditure in connection with the lighting of the clock.

The members considered Mr Foran's suggestion a good one, and the Surveyor stated that he had seen the man referred to by Mr Foran, and he was quite willing to do the work.

Mr Turner moved that the clock be lighted on the principle thrown out by Mr Foran at the earliest opportunity.

This was seconded by Mr Wilson, and carried.

THE "MAYOR'S" HENS.

Mr Wilson remarked that a great boon had been conferred upon the village by Mr Harrison removing his poultry.

Mr Siddell: It is very hard for the "mayor" to have had to do such a thing. (Laughter.)

Mr Wilson: Not at all. It was a very great nuisance.

ANOTHER SLAUGHTER-HOUSE.

A letter was read from Mr Moralee, of Blackhill, asking permission to turn certain premises behind the Station Hotel, Blackfine, into a slaughter-house.

Mr Wheatley moved that the license be granted to Mr Moralee for the slaughter-house; but the same remained in the Inspector's hand until the necessary alterations were carried out.

This was seconded by Mr Siddell.

Carried.

THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT TRADES' COUNCIL:

ANOTHER POLITE REPLY.

A letter was read from Mr John Wildsmith, secretary to the Consett and District Trades' Council, embodying a resolution passed by the Council which was as follows:—

"That the secretary write to the Benfieldside Local Board asking them to consider the position of the working-men in all contracts, and not give out any contracts unless the contractors agree to pay a fair rate of wages, and also that they protest against all sub-contracting."

The members expressed the opinion that as far as they knew the contracts were given to contractors who did pay their workmen a fair rate of wages.

The Clerk was ordered to reply to the resolution "that the Board could not give any undertaking in reference to the mode of making contracts, as they were bound by the provisions of the Public Health Act."

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Mr Murray gave notice of motion that it was his intention to propose, at the next meeting, that the minute with reference to not allowing a main sewer to go through the yards of property intended to be built in Ritson's Road, be rescinded.

EXHAUSTED QUARRIES

The Clerk was empowered to write to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners asking them on what terms they would grant a lease for the sites of the exhausted quarries of the district.

This was all the business.

ATTEMPTED POISONING AT SOUTH MOOR.

On Sunday night, a girl named Clough, living in Poplar Street, South Moor, attempted to poison herself. It appears that the girl had been for a walk with her lover and returned at a late hour. Her parents were displeased and reprimanded the girl for not being in the house sooner. She afterwards said good-night to each member of the family, went upstairs to her bed room, and deliberately drank a large quantity of laudanum. The act was witnessed by a sister who thereupon informed her parents. Medical assistance was procured and after some time had elapsed the doctor was able to state that the girl was out of danger.

NOTES FROM CASTLESIDE.

[By "Castlesideite."]

A special meeting of the Healeyfield and Rowley School Board was held on Saturday afternoon last, at two p.m. Coun. T. J. Muse presided. There were also present Messrs R. Walton, M. Lee, Wm. Pattinson, and R. Proud (clerk). The special business being to consider the teaching staff for the ensuing year, the whole of the staff were re-appointed. Miss L. Muse having completed her apprenticeship, and having also passed the Queen's scholarship, her salary was raised to £35 per annum.

The Board at its previous meeting resolved itself into a committee, with power to add to its number, for the purpose of furthering technical education in the village and district. The following gentlemen were added to act on the committee:—Messrs E. Leybourne, T. Duckworth, T. Raine, W. J. Scott, W. Walton, T. C. Elliott, J. Ripley, and J. Errington. It was decided that a committee meeting be held on Wednesday night, Oct. 19th.

The ladies connected with the Wesleyan Chapel held their first entertainment and supper on Monday night in their new class-room in aid of the sewing meeting funds. The supper was kindly given by Mrs T. J. Muse, when a goodly number sat down and did ample justice to the many good things set before them. An excellent programme for the entertainment was provided, but some of the artistes failed to put in an appearance. Miss Muse, Miss Cashel, Miss Leybourne, Mrs Muse, and Messrs T. C. Elliott and T. Duckworth performed their parts well. Councillor T. J. Muse presided, and the supper, &c., realised the nice sum of £2 17s 6d.

A social gathering was held in the Primitive Methodist School Room on Saturday, which was convened by Mrs T. Raine and Mrs W. Pattinson, who entertained their lady friends to a free supper, but they charged the "lords of creation" for their favouring them with their presence. We think this is scarcely good enough. A good many sat down to supper, after which various games were indulged in, and a pleasant evening was spent.

The footpaths are undergoing very pleasing changes in some parts, but in other parts of the district the late heavy rains have wrought sad havoc with them. Those who have not seen or entered the village from Rowley Station recently will see a marked change in the appearance of the village. We certainly owe to Coun. Muse and Mr R. Robson our thanks for interesting themselves as they have done in those improvements. We often wish that moral changes could be brought about as soon, if so we would soon fail to hear the vulgar language which some men indulge in, and which is so offensive to the ears of sensible and thoughtful men. "A word to the wise is sufficient."

We are pleased to learn that the boys who took part in the drawing examination at the Board Schools on September 28th, have merited the "excellent" grant, which is equal to 2s per head. This is most certainly pleasing news to parents, teachers, and also a credit to the boys themselves. Mr Hartley, principal inspector of the above department, is certainly a nice gentleman and suited to the post he fills, and cannot fail to help boys under him.

The technical education scheme committee met on Wednesday night, under the presidency of Coun. Muse. Arrangements were made for a public meeting, when it is expected a large number of those interested will be present to hear and also suggest subjects for a course of free lectures during the winter months.

St. Cuthbert's Magazine.—The October number of this publication contains an excellent article "On Giving," and a chronicle for the month, also a variety of instructive and interesting reading.

Magistrates Wanted.—On Wednesday, for the third Court-day in succession, the business of the Chester-le-Street Police Court was delayed, and ultimately given up, owing to the absence of the Magistrates. Mr Kerrich-Walker attended, as he usually does, and disposed of such cases as could be dealt with by one magistrate, afterwards adjourning the Court for a fortnight. Quite a number of solicitors and other people attended the Court on business, and will be obliged to come back again. The overseers for the various townships were in attendance to get their rate sanctioned and signed, several of them stating that they had got their receipt books printed bearing that date, as they were pressed for money. The books, of course, could not be signed.

THE STORM AND FLOODS.

WEST DURHAM.

In West Durham, owing to its elevated and hilly position, the effects of the storm have not been so severely felt as at many other places. Some danger, however, was apprehended along the Derwent Valley. The river Derwent overflowed its banks at Blackhall Mill, and the water rose close up to the doorsteps of the dwelling-houses. The wooden carriage bridge across the river was submerged, but happily the structure has withstood the strain. It was found impossible, however, either on Friday or Saturday to get the provision carts across. On Saturday the water was receding. At Low Westwood, a little to the Shotley Bridge side of Blackhall Mill, a portion of the footpath had been washed away. It appears there is a culvert running underneath the road, and this was found utterly inadequate to carry off the extraordinary volume of water.

On Monday, showers of sleet and snow—the first of the season—fell in the Consett district. The ground was too wet to allow the snow to lie.

WEARDALE.

In several parts of Durham the cold was of such a degree that showers of sleet and snow fell in Weardale, and the Fell tops and pastures are covered. There is much grain to gather yet in the Eastgate district, whilst it is feared that the potato crops still in the ground are considerably damaged by the long spell of wet. A bullock was carried away and washed out of the river at Wolsingham.

THE TEAM VALLEY.

From Chester-le-Street it is reported that the storm was one of great severity, the Wear being alarmingly flooded, and the low-lying lands for miles along the valley under water. The Rowletch Burn, further north, which ultimately forms the river Team, also overflowed its banks, and many acres of land in the neighbourhood of Birtley were under water, in fact the fields looked like one vast lake. On much of these low-lying lands corn is still standing, and it is a pitiable sight to see the sheaves of grain either floating about or standing half their length deep in the water. Farmers are in a terrible plight. Not more than half the harvest has been carted, indeed there still remains many large breadths to cut. Potatoes are not lifted, and are likely to suffer from the excessive moisture. Fears were entertained that if the waters continued to rise the houses in the lower part of Chester-le-Street would be flooded, but shortly after noon the waters began to recede, and although the river still continues in high flood it is now confined within its banks. The storm continued on Saturday, a strong north wind blowing before it blasting showers of rain during the whole of the day.

THE SHOWMAN AND HIS HORSE.

A travelling showman, staying for a while in Chester-le-Street, had one of his horses pastured on lands known as the "Banks," a low-lying land near the Wear. Before the owner could get the animal removed it was surrounded by water and left standing on a little knoll close to the river, while on the land side of it there was a large stretch of water. The showman tried to ride another horse to it but failed. He then put off a portion of his clothing, intending to wade across the waste of water; in this he also failed. Seeing that there was nothing else for it, the showman stripped off, and carrying a halter in his hand boldly struck out for his horse, which he managed to reach after a few minutes' sharp swimming. Arrived at the horse a new difficulty arose. The horse had apparently never seen such an object, and refused to allow it to come near him. The man was afraid lest the animal should take the water on the river side, in which case he would most certainly have been drowned and carried away by the mighty current running down. At length, however, the horse was captured and haltered. The plucky showman now had some trouble to get the terrified horse to enter the still water between him and the land; but at last both swimmer and horse plunged in, and after considerable trouble landed safely, amid the applause of the few spectators who had witnessed the novel "performance."

WATERHOUSES.

Durham Road Baptist Church.—Rev E. W. Jenkins, of Blackhill, preached three sermons on Sunday, and baptised nine believers. The house was full at all services, and many could not get in at night.

BLACKHALL MILL.

A Narrow Escape.—On Saturday evening, James Scott, of Benwell, came by rail to see his brother at Friarside. He got out of the last train at Rowlands Gill, and walked through the wood. By some means he inadvertently fell into the Derwent, and was unable to get out. He clung to the buttress of one of the railway arches for about three hours, and he was found in this unenviable position by P.C. Waller, of Burnopfield, in the small hours of Sunday morning, almost benumbed with cold.

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Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

MARRIAGES.

Burnopfield—Parish Church, 15th inst., William Charlton to Mary March, both of Burnopfield.

Ryton—Holy Cross Church, 10th inst., Thomas Robson, Easington Lane, to Mary Agnes Studholme, Addison Colliery.

DEATHS.

Consett—9, Gibson Street, on the 20th inst., aged 82, Hannah, relict of Henry Brown. Burial on Saturday first at 2·30 p.m. 555]

11, Spencer Street, on the 19th inst., aged 11 months, Arthur Edwin, beloved son of William and Elizabeth Lovat. [illegible] 563]

6, Consett Terrace, 19th inst., aged 3 years and 4 months, William, the beloved son of George and Sarah Jane Stephenson. To be interred at Benfieldside Cemetery to-day (Friday) at 2·30 p.m. Friends please accept this, the only intimation.

Medomsley—6th inst., aged 11 months, John James Knox.

Oxhill—On the 13th inst., aged 9 years and 8 months, Margaret, the dearly-beloved daughter of John and Annabell Cooper. 556]

Hobsleyhope—Aged 1 year and 3 months, Mary Ethel, daughter of John and Mary Ann Newton.

Lanchester—16th inst., aged 88, Jane Holmes.

High Spen—17th inst., aged 9 months, Mary Ann Weatherley.

Blaydon—14th inst., in his 8th year, Thomas Smith Jemmison. [illegible]

Swalwell—13th inst., Thomas, infant son of Thomas and Margaret Humble.

Tanfield Lea—12th inst., aged 86, Elizabeth Richardson.

Chester-le-Street—Lambton Terrace, 12th inst., aged 78, Eleanor Wright.

Tewart Cottage, 16th inst., aged 59, Jane, wife of John Donnison.

Newcastle—5, Framlington Place, 13th inst., John Carr, late of Ebchester Hall.

In affectionate remembrance of George Heppell, who died at High Marley Hill on Oct. 18th, 1890.

Barmoor Castle—16th October, 1890, Elizabeth Hunter, dearly-beloved wife of Samuel Yuille. In ever-loving memory. R.I.P. 538]

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