The Consett Chronicle

AND NORTH-WEST DURHAM ADVERTISER.

NO 98, VOL. 2. [REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.] FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1897. PRICE. ONE PENNY WEEKLY.

Business Announcements.

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

☞ MARSHALL'S, IN SHAKESPEARE STREET. ☜

LARGE SELECTION
OF ARTICLES SUITABLE
FOR WEDDING AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS.
PRESENTS GIVEN WITH WEDDING RINGS.

EARLY SHOW OF
NEW SPRING GOODS
IN ALL DEPARTMENTS,
FRESH AND SPARKLING NOVELTIES,
AT THE
BARGAIN HIVE. FRONT STREET.
CONSETT.

NEW HATS A SPECIALITY.
NEW SKIRTS. NEW UNDERCLOTHING. NEW PINAFORES.
NEW GLOVES. NEW CURTAINS. NEW HOSIERY.

SUCCESS ALL ROUND THE SHOW THIS WEEK.
SEE WINDOWS! SEE WINDOWS!!

BARGAIN HIVE,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

YOU WISH FINE BUTTER?
THEN GIVE US A TRIAL AND YOU WILL BE DELIGHTED.
ABSOLUTELY FAULTLESS AT 1s., STRICTLY CHOICE AT 11D., FINE AT 10D.

—:o:—

THOMAS SWAINSTON.
12, MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT.

SALE
NOW PROCEEDING,
DOWSON'S,
BLACKHILL.

WANTED 1,000 PEOPLE
TO SEND A POSTCARD TO
TURNBULL BROTHERS.
LEAZES, BURNOPFIELD,
FOR A
DOZEN BOTTLES OF STOUT.

POSTCARDS FREE ON APPLICATION.

J. SIDDLE,
HOUSE AND CHURCH DECORATOR, PAINTER,
PAPERHANGER, GILDER, GLAZIER, &c

PAPERHANGINGS IN EVERY VARIETY.

SPECIALITIES:—LINCRUSTA-WALTON, ANAGLYPTA AND CORDOLOVA DECORATIONS, ARTISTS' CASES.

ARTISTS' MATERIAL OF EVERY DESCRIPTION. PLAQUES, OPALS, DRAWING STUDIES, AND OTHER FANCY ARTICLES, &c., ALWAYS ON HAND.

IT IS A WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT THE BEST
HORSE CORN & FEEDING STUFFS
OF EVERY DESCRIPTION ARE TO BE HAD AT
S. HOBSON'S Mills,
HARPERLEY AND CATCHGATE.

NOTED FOR FLOUR &c., OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY.
☞ POST *VIA* TANTOBIE, R.S.O.

MR. E. J. SLOANE, MUS. BAC.,
Trinity University, Toronto; National Gold Medalist, Trinity College London; L. Mus. L.C.M.; Organist of St. Mary's Church, Blackhill.
LESSONS ON ORGAN, PIANO, HARMONY, COUNTERPOINT, CANON, FUGUE, &c.
Pupils prepared for all Musical Examinations.
THE MUSIC SCHOOL, BLACKHILL

W. WHITFIELD,
FLOUR DEALER,
PROVISION MERCHANT,
LEADGATE.

BLASTING POWDER, SQUIBS, &c., ALWAYS IN STOCK.

T. MILNER, A.P.S.,
DISPENSING AND FAMILY CHEMIST,
THE JUBILEE PHARMACY,
15, SHAKESPEARE STREET, AND FRONT STREET, CONSETT,
FOR PURE DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

—:o:—

SUMMER MEDICINES AND SPECIALITIES
For the Season:—
FRUIT AND LIVER SALTS, in 4d and 8d Tins.
LIME JUICE, LIME JUICE CORDIAL,
LEMON SQUASH, &c.
ÆRATED WATERS, in Syphons and Bottles.
FLY PAPERS, in great variety.
INSECT POWDER, in 3d, 6d, and 1s Boxes
HORSE and CATTLE MEDICINES, SH
DIPS, &c.
OILS, PAINTS, COLOURS, and VARNIS
POSTAL ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

Business Announcement.

JOSEPH MURRAY,
WHOLESALE & RETAIL
CONFECTIONER, GROCER
PROVISION AND FLOUR MERCHANT,
MIDDLE STREET, CONSETT,
HIGH SPEN, & CRAGHEAD.

—:o:—

SPECIAL LINES IN FLOURS. SPECIAL LINES IN PROVISIONS.

—:o:—

SEE THE PRESENTS WE ARE GIVING WITH OUR
2/6
PRESENTATION
TEA
LADIES' and GENTS' WATCHES.
MARBLE, and Other CLOCKS.
CASES KNIVES and FORKS.
CASES CARVERS.
ALBUMS,
&c., &c.

THE BEST HOUSE
For TEAS AT ALL PRICES.
For COFFEE, FRESH ROASTED DAILY.
For PROVISIONS OF ALL KINDS.
For BREAD AND CAKES.
For JAMS AND MARMALADE.
For SWEETS AND CHOCOLATE.
For PATENT MEDICINES.
For TINNED MEATS AND FRUITS.
For SOAP, AT MAKERS' PRICES.
For OIL AND COTTON CAKES.
For HORSE AND CATTLE FOODS.

When requiring, drop a post-card for prices to
JOHN HALL & CO.,
ANNFIELD PLAIN.

J. MORGAN,
VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT,
FOR FURNITURE, HARDWARE, AND FANCY GOODS.

I HAVE a Good Assortment of FENDERS, Kitchen and Bedroom; HEARTHRUGS, Cloth, Jute, Tapestry, &c. DOORMATS, Cocoa, Brush, Velvet Pile, Jute, &c.; BRUSHES, Stoves, Scrubs, Hairbrushes, Shoe Brushes, Bannisters, Sweeping Brushes, &c.

Our Shilling Sweeper is unsurpassed.

BASS BROOMS, all Pure Bass, from Sixpence Each.
A Nice Assortment of CHINA and EARTHENWARE VASES. GLASS GOODS.
BRASS GOODS, a Great Variety, Candlesticks, Kettle Stands, Fireside Ornaments, &c.

See our Stock before Purchasing.

THE GLOBE
ACCIDENT
INSURANCE COMPANY
LIMITED.

Security to Policy Holders, £70,000.

PERSONAL ACCIDENT POLICIES
COVER Accidents of all kinds, as well as Disability arising from Small Pox or Fever, and in addition, provides Free Medical Attendance by the Insured's own Doctor.

PLATE GLASS AND THIRD-PARTY POLICIES
Are issued on unusually favourable terms.

HEAD OFFICE—56, FOUNTAIN STREET, MANCHESTER.
J. CORBET McBRIDE, MANAGER AND SECRETARY.

DIRECTORS—JOHN W. MACLURE, M.P., D.L., Manchester (Chairman); Alderman JOHN KING, Jun., J.P.; EDMUND ASHWORTH, J.P., Bolton-le-Moors; BENJAMIN BROWN, F.C.A., Manchester; Alderman JOSIAH GASKELL, J.P., Ashton-in-Makerfield; W. H. MILNER, Brooklands, Cheshire; REGINALD PEASE, Pierremont, Darlington.
REFERENCES—Lieut.-Col. Sir HERBERT C. PERROTT, Baronet, Plumstead, Kent; JON. E. BACKHOUSE, J.P., Darlington.

AGENT—MR. W. RAMSAY, NORTH-EASTERN BANK, BLACKHILL.

URWIN & COMPANY,
WHOLESALE POTATO MERCHANTS,

GENERAL DEALERS IN FEEDING STUFFS.
WAREHOUSE, LEADGATE.

ORDERS PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

DOBSON GRADON,
WATCH AND CLOCKMAKER,
JEWELLER AND OPTICIAN,
DERWENT STREET BLACKHILL.

W. FERGUSON & SON,
BUILDERS' SUPPLY STORES,
STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

MERCHANTS, LATHRENDERS, SANITARY ENGINEERS,
R ENRICHMENTS, ENCAUSTIC AND MOSAIC TILES,
FACTURERS, MANUFACTURERS OF SANITARY GOODS AND
ECLAY SPECIALITIES, &c. STABLE FITTINGS.
Heating, and Register Stoves, Baths, Marble, Slate, Metal, and Wood Chimney Pieces, &c.

Business Announcements.

T. A. MOFFITT & Co.,
HARDWAREMEN, PLUMBERS, & STREET LAMP MANUFACTURERS.

CHEAPEST SHOP FOR EVERY DESCRIPTION OF CHANDELIERS, HALL LAMPS, BRACKETS, &c.

Contractors to Local Boards and District Councils For Street Lighting in both Gas and Oil.

125, HIGH STREET, GATESHEAD.

ESTABLISHED 1856. ESTABLISHED 1856.
J. W. DAVISON & SONS.
GENERAL HOUSE FURNISHERS AND IRONMONGERS,
CABINET MANUFACTURERS AND UPHOLSTERERS
WAREHOUSES:
FRONT STREET, CONSETT, AND LONDON HOUSE, STANLEY.
FACTORY:
PALMERSTON STREET, CONSETT.

—:o:—

☞ HOME-MADE FURNITURE is a Speciality, with us and has been before the People over 40 Years. We are PRACTICAL MANUFACTURERS, and know how Goods should b Made, and WE MAKE THEM. Everybody says
DAVISON'S FURNITURE IS THE BEST.

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

NOTE. We are Showing the Best and Cheapest Wall Papers, Borders, and Centre Pieces in the Provinces.

BABY CARRIAGES AND MAIL CARTS IN THE LATEST STYLES.

—:o:—

THE OLDEST, BEST, AND CHEAPEST HOUSE FURNISHERS IN THE DISTRICT.

A Remedy against Strikes,
AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES—
BUY YOUR GOODS IN THE CHEAPEST MARKET!
IN BLACKHILL. THAT MEANS
PHILIPSON'S CASH STORES,
DURHAM ROAD.

TWO REDUCTIONS IN FLOUR!!

HOUSEHOLDS	1/4	SUPERS	1/8
FINES	1/6	CLEVELAND WHITES	1/10

CHOICEST IRISH BLADDER LARD	4½D	Per lb.
PRIME BOILED HAMS No Bone! No Fat! No Skin!	1/-	,,
BACON—Choicest	5D. and 5½D.	Per lb.
,, Smaller Cuts	4½D.	,,
FINEST AMERICAN CHEESE	7½D.	,,

☞ Give your Address at the Shop, and PHILIPSON'S Boy will call for your Orders, and Deliver the Goods.

ESTABLISHED 1815.
MARSHALL AND SONS,
WATCHMAKERS AND JEWELLERS,
NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT, AND ALSO BLACKHILL.
PRESENTS.—We still continue to give to all purchasers of a Lady's or Gentleman's Silver Watch a handsome Gold-Plated Albert and Appendage. ½ Dozen Silver-Plated Spoons with our Gold Wedding Rings. Spectacles to suit all sights.
N.B.—See that you get to the right shop, NEW TOWN HALL BUILDINGS.

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

ESTABLISHED 1873.
FOR GOOD VALUE IN
HOME-MADE FURNITURE BEST SHEFFIELD CUTLERY, and SILVER-PLATED GOODS, try
JOHN LOWES,
JOHN STREET SQUARE, CONSETT
(Back of British School, Medomsley Road).
The House for Musical Instruments by Best Makers.
PIANOS BY PFEIFFER, STRAUSS, LANGE, &c.
AMERICAN ORGANS BY STERLING.
MELODEONS from 4s. 6d. upwards.
A Large and Varied Stock of WALLPAPERS.
Five Minutes Walk from Consett Station.

ROBERT STOKER,
AUCTIONEER AND VALUER,
MEDOMSLEY ROAD, CONSETT.

FURNITURE, STOCK, and all Classes of SALES Solicited.

CLIENTS WILL RECEIVE EVERY ATTENTION.

JOHN T. WESTON, JUNR.,
Auctioneer and Commission Agent,
AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER AND ESTATE AGENT.
SALES CONDUCTED WITH CARE, EFFICIENCY, and on the most REASONABLE TERMS.
CORRESPONDENCE AND ENQUIRIES INVITED.
PROMPT SETTLEMENTS.
Sale Office:
CORNWALL HOUSE, ANNFIELD PLACE,
ANNFIELD PLAIN, R.S.O.

DURHAM AUCTION MART, WESTERN HILL, DURHAM.
CHARLES TURNER,
AUCTIONEER AND VALUER.
SALES CONDUCTED IN TOWN OR COUNTRY. PROMPT SETTLEMENTS.
Household Furniture in Great Variety,
at 10, NORTH ROAD, DURHAM.
Dealer in Pianos and American Organs,
Wringing, Washing, and Sewing Machines.

JACKSON GREEN,
AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER, VALUER, AND COMMISSION AGENT,
SATLEY, TOW LAW.
FURNITURE, STOCK, AND ALL CLASSES OF SALES TAKEN.
PROMPT SETTLEMENTS.

NATHAN ELSDON,
MINERAL WATER MANUFACTURER,
ALE AND SPIRIT MERCHANT,
AND GENERAL AUCTIONEER,
THANKS his friends for past patronage, and, in soliciting a continuance of their confidence, assures them that it will always be his endeavour to give them the utmost satisfaction in all Branches of his Business.
SALES CONDUCTED ON THE MOST REASONABLE TERMS.
OFFICE:—DELVES LANE, CONSETT.

FRED CABLE,
NEWGATE STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
WHOLESALE
MANUFACTURING TINSMITH.
LARGE STOCK of DAIRY GOODS and MILK BOTTLES, from 1 Gill to 20 Gallons, and all kinds of KITCHEN UTENSILS kept or Made to Order.
BAKERY GOODS Made to Order.
Established 1854. Workshops—130 Haymarket.

FRONT STREET, STANLEY.
JOHN DARNEY
BEGS to announce that he has commenced a MERCERY, HOSIERY, and GENERAL OUTFITTING BUSINESS, next door to the North-Eastern Bank, and Trusts, by keeping an up-to-date Stock of Goods, to merit a share of public patronage. The Stock comprises a choice selection of
GENT'S SHIRTS, FRONTS, COLLARS, TIES, SCARVES, HANDKERCHIEFS, WOOLLEN UNDERWARE, &c., &c.
FELT AND SILK HATS AND CAPS, in all the Latest Shapes.
The prices and reliability of Darney's Goods will be their own recommendation.

SENSATION AT DIPTON.
THE GREAT SALE OF THE SEASON NOW GOING ON.
SEIZE this Golden Opportunity, and pay a Visit to
THE NEWCASTLE DRAPERY AND CLOTHING STORES,
FRONT STREET, DIPTON.
Must be cleared prior to Stock-Taking.
STARTLING REDUCTIONS.
J. A. CASTLE, PROPRIETOR.

CONSETT CHRONICLE FOOTBALL COMPETITION.

☛ TWO GUINEA PRIZE ☚

CONSOLATION PRIZE FIVE SHILLINGS.

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

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

COUPON EDITOR,
CONSETT CHRONICLE,
CONSETT.

COUPON.

(TO BE CUT OUT.)

SATURDAY, October 23rd, 1897.

CLUB.	Goals.		CLUB.	Goals.
LEADGATE EXILES		v.	KELLOE	
LEADGATE PARK		v.	RUTHERFORD COLLEGE	
WALLSEND PARK VILLA		v.	STANLEY	
BIRTLEY		v.	JARROW	
BOLTON		v.	SUNDERLAND	

On the ground of the first-named club.

NAME ....

ADDRESS ....

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

The award of the Editor must be considered final.

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

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

BLAYDON	0	EXILES	7
STANLEY	7	CHESTER-LE-STREET	0
LEADGATE PARK	5	WARDLEY BLUE STAR	0
OUSTON	2	BIRTLEY	1
SUNDERLAND	0	ASTON VILLA	0

SPORTS AND PASTIMES.

OUR COUPON COMPETITION.

A consolation prize of five shillings has this week been divided between Messrs Jas. Quinn, 13, King Street, Consett; John M. Reed, Crookhall, Leadgate; W. G. Robson, Watling Street, Leadgate; Jos. McNamee, 4, Red Row, Crookhall, Leadgate; and Jos. Bainbridge, Front Street, Annfield Plain.

NORTH-WEST DURHAM LEAGUE.

A meeting of the League was held at the house of Mr D. Rafferty, Consett, on Tuesday evening last. There was a large attendance, and after the referees had been selected, the *Chronicle* Cup was handed over to the Leadgate Exiles, who are to exhibit it for a fortnight.

PRESENTATIONS AT CONSETT.

On Monday evening, Messrs. Jos. Hamilton and Matty Eustace were made the recipients of handsome presents, which had been subscribed for by the members and supporters of the Consett Swifts Football Club. There was a large attendance, the chair being occupied by Mr J. Brown, who presented the well-known forward with a splendid meerschaum pipe, whilst Mr Joseph Potts handed the late secretary of the Swifts a similar present. The proceedings were very enjoyable throughout, several songs and recitations being rendered.

LEADGATE PARK TRIUMPHANT.

Leadgate Park had an easy task on Saturday, when they defeated Wardley by five goals to nil, in the Durham Senior Cup Competition. The attendance was not as great as on the previous Saturday, although it was the only game in Leadgate. Crowther had not much work to do, being ably guarded by a strong pair of backs. The half-back line were weakened by the absence of Willey, who was ineligible to play. Joe Willis made several dashing runs down the left, and was also in fine shooting trim. He notched the first point, and had no little share in the other four. Joe is a fine forward, and there are not many better forwards in the Northern League. Sammy Thompson enjoyed the teaparty, and was also in a scoring mood. He fed his wings well, whilst on more than one occasion he indulged in some tricky play. The other forwards gave a splendid exhibition, the right wingers especially being prominent. On Saturday, the Park were booked to play Stockton, but owing to the latter having to play an English Cup-tie, the game had to be postponed.

TALL SCORING AT BLAYDON.

Leadgate Exiles visited Blaydon, on Saturday, when they had to decide a Durham Cup tie fixture with the Club of that town. Judging by their recent form, Blaydon were expected to run the Leadgate lads close, but this did not prove to be the case, and the Exiles romped home victorious by seven goals to nil. Another change was made in the Exiles' team, Haggan going half and Hill forward. The change was a great improvement, as Haggan appeared quite at home in his old position. The visitors, who made such a plucky stand against Willington, last Wednesday, were accompanied by a great number of supporters, who were highly elated at the success of their pets. Much interest was taken in the game by the Blaydon folks, who were not long in appreciating the fine passing of the Exiles' forwards. The visiting eleven occupy the premier position in the Northern League (No. 2), whilst Blaydon stand fourth in the Tyneside League tournament. Mr Mitchinson, of Gateshead, acted as referee, and not a single fault was found with his decisions. The game was very fast during the first quarter, but, after the Exiles scored their second goal, the homesters seldom troubled Callaghan. The victory was very acceptable to the Exiles, who are proud of their goal average, which stands—For 25, against 3. The attendance was very small, a large number of the Blaydon supporters travelling to the great match at Sunderland.

HOBSON V. ALLENDALE PARK.

Allendale Park's visit to the Hobson on Saturday drew together a fairly large gathering, which no doubt would have been augmented had more time been allowed to advertise the match. The Wanderers were minus two or three good men, and gave a trial to G. E. Weedy, of Byremoor. Randall in goal for the homesters played a steady game, and is a reliable understudy to McNeil. He possesses the necessary qualifications of a custodian, coolness and resource, and sought to make a name for himself in the position. Weedy and McHugh played a fine defensive game, and when it is mentioned that in three League games only one goal has been allowed to pass the defence, this ought to speak for itself. McNeil was tried at half-back, but shines more in goal, being evidently out of form. Atkinson played a sound game, whilst Captain Heslin, although he received a nasty kick in the face early in the game, was nearly the best half on the field, being always on the ball. Weedy and Lown were the best wing, the former making a very promising debut, and with a bit more practice together they ought to do good work. Smith, in the centre, was fair, whilst Layton and Hindhaugh on the right were a trifle off, especially in the shooting line, but improved towards the finish of the game.

THE ALLENDALE BOYS

proved that they are a combination who will not have to be trifled with in the tournament. They have a strong defence, whilst the forwards are speedy. It might be said that they rather lack that essential in forward play, combination, but with this attended to, they ought to make their presence felt wherever they go. It would perhaps be invidious to single out any player for special mention. However, it may be said that if it were possible, Thompson Walton shone above any. He is a fine player, and does his work in a meek, unostentatious manner, and we trust that he will lead his team to many victories in the League.

THE GAME BETWEEN STANLEY AND CHESTER.

In accordance with general anticipation, Stanley defeated Chester-le-Street, on Saturday, and thereby secured their admission into a further stage of the competition for a twelve months' lease of the venerable trophy vulgarly designated the Durham "Tin Pot." Chester-le-Street brought a representative eleven to Oakey's Oval to uphold the honour of the city, and Stanley also placed what was practically their full strength in the arena. "Foregone conclusions" do not usually excite great public interest, and the game in question having all along the line been looked upon in that light, it was not surprising to find the attendance of spectators smaller than at any previous match this season. Mr Hobson, of Birtley, is such a good referee, and always performs his duties so faithfully and efficiently, that I feel sorry at having to find fault with him; but his late arrival on the field on Saturday, caused a delay at the start, and owing to this the concluding stages of the match were fought out in semi-darkness. The season of the year demands that all games, and especially cup ties (in which there is a possibility of extra time being played) should be commenced not later than three o'clock. Apart from this, I have nothing but praise to bestow on Mr Hobson. His impartiality was admired by all.

THE GAME FROM START TO FINISH

was in favour of the Stanleyites, and custodian Trotter had at least ten times the work of his *vis-a-vis*. From the start, the Lilies pressed, but the forwards did not seem to be very keen on goal-getting, and several good openings were either mulled by "diddling on," or lost through rash shooting. Charley Crute, early on, gave proof that he was in great form, and he several times elicited applause by his accurate placing. The best of the business, however, from a Chester point of veiw, at any rate, was the fact that Crichton and Bewicke were earnestly on guard, and that Trotter was also on the alert to prevent Master Charley's little tricks coming off. Twenty-five minutes elapsed ere the deed was done, Jimmy Howe then shooting into the net after cleverly eluding Bruce and Crichton. Stanley had the best of matters up to the interval, but did not appear seriously anxious to score, and "tea time" arrived with the score standing one to nil averse to the Chester boys.

THE SECOND HALF

partook largely of the character of the slaughter of the innocents. Two goals were scored ere two minutes had passed, and the spectators appeared so taken by surprise that they forgot to cheer. Then came a long interval before Sammy Wood placed another goal to his credit (Sammy is showing demon form as a goal-getter this season), but subsequently the Lilies took it into their heads to add a few more, and, though a couple of points were rightly ruled off-side by Mr Hobson, when the foghorn sounded for the finish, the number of legitimate goals recorded was seven for the Lilies and none for their opponents.

THE WINNERS

could easily have made a record score, but they seemed inclined to rest on their oars after recording the first goal; at anyrate till the half-way-house was reached. Subsequently, they put more energy into the business, with consequences that were hardly pleasing to the visiting contingent. Morris was practically acting the role of spectator, and if the committee can give an assurance that the goalkeeper in all future games will be no more severely tested than "Geordie" was on Saturday, "Crossbar" is agreeable to sign on as custodian on the usual terms. Now, ye Stanley committeemen, here's your chance. Joyce and McKever likewise had an easy time of it. The gentle Martin once tossed poor Joey Waggott six feet in the air, but the charge was quite legitimate, and those foolish persons who yelled "foul" were either allowing their sentiment to prevail over their judgment, or are lacking in their knowledge of the game. McKever was "all there" when wanted. Tommy Fish was the best of the half-backs. Master Thomas got through an enormous amount of work, his heading abilities being prominently displayed. Miley Smith gave a very pleasing display for his *debut* with the senior eleven. He got in some useful punting, and tackled any and all opponents with the courage of a Gordon Highlander. Captain Jacky in no way lagged behind, and speedy little Waggott had his work cut out to deceive the home skipper. Of the Stanley vanguard, Crute was the brightest of a bright set. Thompson Robson was almost as good as ever, and Sam Wood's centre display pleased everybody. Jimmy Howe did a lot of work, and broke his spell of bad luck in the art of goal-getting, and Masterman, after a very poor display in the opening half, warmed to his work in the final forty-five, and shot in two "scorchers" which would have baffled any goalkeeper.

THE CHESTER-LE-STREET LADS

were of course quite out of their depth in tackling a team of Alliance rank, but they fought a game battle, and though defeated, have no reason to be ashamed of the result. Trotter is a very capable custodian, and his brilliant goal-keeping formed one of the few interesting features of a dull game. He got rid of some rare good shots. Crichton and Bewicke both did fairly well at full back; and Anderson was the best half back. Ragg worked well, but was scarcely equal to Crute; and Bruce strikes me as being "a bit of a frost." Waggott is the fleetest and trickiest of the forward line, and he has a very useful colleague in Legg, who doesn't at all shirk work. Harle is passably good in the centre, but the left wing pair are not particularly good.

STANLEY WEDNESDAY DOINGS.

Stanley mid-weekers tackled Tantobie, on Wednesday, before a good number of spectators, the majority of whom travelled with the Stanleyites. The Tantobyites took their time in turning out, and the Stanley boys had to kick the ball idly about for upwards of an hour. Stanley lost the toss, and started up the hill, against a stiff breeze. Davison shot in a beauty for the homesters, but Masterman checked it. Nice passing by the visiting forwards took the ball to the home goal, where, after a smart scrimmage, the ball went into touch. From the throw-in, Tantobie got down, but Whaley came to the rescue, only in time, and, assisted by the late Annfieldite, the leather was again taken up the slope. The hill assisted Tantotie very much, and whilst the visitors were having the best of the game, they had to work to keep their opponents at bay. A little give and take play ensued, until Thompson Robson, the old Alliance player, took the ball from below the centre line, and, passing all opponents, shot a goal worthy of any second league. Thompson has lost none of his cunning, and with a little practice will soon be up to his old form. Tantobie now wakened up considerably, and three times were very dangerous, but Robbins—who is shining well in the Rugby field at Stanley—saved very nicely, and will develop into a good custodian with more practice with the association players. After lemon time, Stanley did nothing but shoot at goal, and partly through ill-luck, but more so on account of the well-known Saturday goalkeeper, Gladders, the visitors could only add two more to their score, through Thompson and Whitfield, and the homesters did the trick twice. A good and interesting game ended with Stanley three goals to Tantobie two.

SAMBOTTEE BUSINESS.

After the match, the Stanleyites held a meeting, the chief point for discussion being, "Shall we compete for the Sambottee Cup?" A very lengthy discussion ensued, the principal battle raging round the Secretarial query, "Why should we cancel all our friendly dates?" The Secretary was dead against entering for the Sambottee Cup, and tried to overcome the opinions of the good men and true present, but as he could not get a seconder ("Cross-Bar" being absent), he had to accept defeat. Benny said that although he had lost, and thought it very hard to alter all the dates, he meant to play up yet. He would do his best for mid-week sport, and hoped all would unite in their efforts to win the Sambottee Cup, at which there was loud cheering. Well done, Benny.

RUGBY FOOTBALL.

Shield Row Rovers are improving week by week, and on Saturday last, they were unfortunate in not securing a victory against Spennymoor Swifts. The game ended in a draw of three goals each, though Shield Row secured a further try, which appeared to be quite legal. The visitors, however, objected, and Captain Benson generously gave way. On Saturday first, the local team are due to tackle Spennymoor Park, on the Shield Row ground. There is no "socker" match of importance in the Stanley neighbourhood, so I hope the followers of the handling code will have the pleasure of having a few thousand spectators.

A GOOD GAME AT STOCKTON.

Tow Law are to be complimented on their fine display at Stockton, on Saturday, when they succeeded in obtaining a point in the Northern League. The game was delayed owing to the late arrival of the Hill Top men, who were fortunate in winning the toss. Stockton were the first to score, Ritchie doing the needful. The Ancients led at the interval by one point, but in the second half, the visitors played up better, Braddick and McIntosh each securing a goal. Stockton were very lucky in not being defeated, as their second goal was registered close upon time. Moralee is a splendid custodian, and saved several stinging shots. Temperley was the best back on the field, his kicking and tackling being very good, whilst his partner, Potts, was again a success. Gilroy was the pick of the halves, his heading and kicking being a treat. Jack McIntosh played a champion game in the centre, his passing and shooting being greatly appreciated. Braddick was the pick of the remaining four. Hamilton shone prominently between the sticks for Stockton, whilst Ritchie played well at centre half. The Tow Law lads meet Hebburn in the third round of the English Cup on Saturday.

THE MATCH AT OUSTON.

Apart, of course, from the encounter of Aston Villa with Sunderland, the interest of Saturday's local fixtures was centred in the match of Birtley with Ouston on the latter's ground. It is well known that Birtley were last season's Amateur Cup-holders, and the fixture with their rivals was productive of a large and almost unparalleled gate at Ouston. Birtley had the luck in the spin of the coin, but the homesters did not let that spoil their exhibition. The Ouston lads in the first half, though placed somewhat at a disadvantage, had on the whole the best of the game. Nelson's mishap had little effect upon the visitors, for owing to the excellent treatment of their trainer, the visiting centre-forward was soon on deck again. Ouston's first goal was a stinger, and one could hardly have expected Collins to clear. The equalising point followed shortly after, to which Palmer was the principal contributor. Half-time came round with the score standing at one goal each. At the resumption, things began to get extremely lively. Ouston had a good chance before them, for they played down the hill into their practice goal. But in this half the Birtley lads had the best of matters, though a second goal was registered against them. This, by the way, was put on by Dixon, and was a capital discharge, Collins being completely baffled. The game that followed was of a very fast description. Birtley maintained a heavy fusilade during the remainder of the match, and the home men for the most part were kept upon the defensive. Brown, the inside left man, was responsible for the spoiling of one or two good chances when close in by shooting too strongly and too high. Evidently he ought to shoot with more judgment. It was most assuredly a glorious victory for Ouston. To have defeated last season's Amateur Cupholders is certainly a feat to be proud of. The home men were in good form. Elliott was a very creditable goalkeeper, and at times made a capital display at fisting out. The backs, Willis and Ponton, in the closing portion of the last half, acquitted themselves grandly. The halves were also a good set, but to the noted Tommy Quinn, in his position of centre forward, must be given premier honours. Tommy has his faults, and an inclination to be "horsey" is one of them. However, he did not offend often in this respect on Saturday. The referee, Mr Machan, was the wrong man to stand anything of that sort. As to the forwards, Carr was probably the pick. The rest played a good, dashing game. Birtley were in equally good form, and I am given to understand that both teams had practised hard beforehand. Collins, in goal, was certainly a treat. He did his level best; there can be no doubt about that. If he had been away, Birtley would have been defeated by about three goals to one. Bell and Gray, though perhaps at times rather faulty, were upon the whole a capital pair. Rutherford appeared to be slightly off colour. Bolam had most of the work amongst the forwards, and played a good game. Brown's shooting powers, as previously stated, need cultivation. A word must be said for the referee, Mr Machan, of Bill Quay. He was absolutely impartial throughout. He was very smart, and came near to the ideal football referee, which some enthusiasts are about to create—a man with eyes back and front. His decisions were always firm, and his rulings met with general satisfaction.

TOW LAW ST. JOSEPH'S V. HOWDEN RESERVE.

Tow Law St. Joseph's journeyed to Howden to play their return fixture on Saturday. Although the Saints' disposed of them to the tune of nine goals to nil at Tow Law, they were by no means confident of winning the return match, as Howden were weakly represented in the first game. However, they managed to win comfortably by two goals to nil. Donachy, in goal, had not much work, but what he had, he did well. Renaghan and Devine both played well at back, kicking and tackling with vigour. Of the halves, Lawson played a splendid game, although Finneran and McMahon both stuck in well. The left wing forwards were again prominent, in fact, they seem to improve each game. The right wing was not so good in the first half, but afterwards seemed to pull together nicely. Williams, in the centre, made some dashing runs, and he has a fine turn of speed which is useful to a centre forward. This being the first season for the club in this league, they are doing very well, and now hold a creditable position, with eight points out of a possible 12. They expect to give a good account of themselves before the season closes.

THE GAME BETWEEN EDMONDSLEY STRANGERS AND BEAMISH CELTICS.

The following letters on the above have been received:—

SIR,—Being in the neighbourhood for the week end, I visited the Edmondsley ground to witness the above match. After reading the various letters in your last week's issue, I have no hesitation in saying that the Celts were considerably the worse of the two. Had the letters emenated from Edmondsley, I could have understood it. I am a stranger to both clubs, and referee. I have seen and played in a good many matches in colliery districts, and am sorry to hear the language, and see the ungentlemanly conduct indulged in. We don't expect pit lads to act as saints, but they have a fair idea of what is right, if they would only act up to it. I see that one of your correspondents says that the League should appoint impartial referees. The referee at that game did just what I would have done myself, and judged the game as one who knew what to do, and when to do it, with the exception that he should have ordered one of the Celts off the field shortly after the start. A player who deliberately lifts his hand to strike a referee should be suspended at once. Such conduct brings the game of football into disrepute, and I would urge all referees to put it down with an iron hand, and the Association will back them up tooth and nail. The game will then be more football and less dog fight.—Thanking you in anticipation, I am, yours, &c., VISITOR.

DEAR SIR,—"Fairplay" says that if the Edmondsley League Committee had appointed an impartial referee, instead of a draw, a win would have been their lot. I don't know where his eyes have been. There is one thing that I can say—the Edmondsley Strangers know how to conduct themselves, and that is more than I can say about the Celtics as far as the game was concerned.—Hoping that they will treat the next referee better, and not lift a hand to strike him, I am, yours truly, REFEREE.

DERWENTWATER.

FOOTBALL.

DURHAM SENIOR CUP.

[2ND ROUND.]

BLAYDON UNITED v. LEADGATE EXILES.

[BY "THE BRADLEY BOY."]

Played on the ground of the first named, before 500 spectators. Another change was effected in the composition of the Exiles' team, Haggan going into his usual position at right half, whilst Hill partnered McGee on the right wing. Denham (late of Scotswood Ord) was given a trial at back for the homesters, who were represented by their strongest eleven. Ten minutes after the advertised time of starting, Mr Mitchinson, of Gateshead, got the teams together in the following order:—

EXILES.		UNITED.
Callaghan	Goal	W. Biggers
Daly	Right back	J. Biggers
W. McGee	Left back	Denham
Haggan	Right half	Wheatley
McGrachan	Centre half	R. Bruce
Monaghan	Left half	J. Bruce
Hill	Right outside	Neal
McGee	Right inside	McKie
Doyle	Centre	Magill
Haley	Left inside	Burns
Brannen	Left outside	Chapman

Linesmen, Messrs Reay and Grant.

The Exiles' captain was favoured by the spin of the coin, and elected to play with the wind. Magill started the ball, and McKie, receiving, made a short run down the right. Monaghan kicked over the touch line, and a series of throws-in followed. Haley managed to direct the course of the ball to the high end, and, in conjunction with Brannen, harassed the Blaydon defence. McGee eluded several Blaydonites, but was badly fouled by J. Bruce near the river goal line. Daly took the kick and placed splendidly, and Brannen, who was standing in a favourable position, catching the ball before it reached the ground, screwed the ball past Biggers

INTO THE NET,

amid cheers from the Leadgate supporters. The Exiles, encouraged by their success, immediately got up, but Bob Bruce rejected their effort, and McKie got away along the right. On reaching the penalty line, McGee dispossessed him, and the globe hovered in midfield. McGrachan fouled an opponent in the Blaydon domains, but the free kick proved fruitless. Chapman was conspicuous by some tricky play, which ended in a corner being conceded, "Kitty" placing badly. Blaydon pressed, but Bruce shot out, and a minute later, Magill banged in a terrific shot from close quarters. A cry of "goal" went up, but Callaghan was upon the scene, and cooly tipped the ball over the bar. It was a grand save, and fully deserved the applause which greeted it. The Exiles's forwards were playing a grand combined game, and Biggers had to concede a corner in saving from McGee. The corner was well placed, and McGee headed on to the top of the cross-bar, the ball ultimately going past. The Exiles had matters all their own way, and Doyle tricked R. Bruce, and sent in a lightning grounder, which beat Biggers, thus scoring

THE SECOND GOAL

for the Exiles. The swiftness of the shot astonished the crowd, many of whom did not know whether it was a goal or not when the ball struck the net pole and re-bounded. The Exiles's vanguard fairly waltzed round their opponents, their fine passing being highly appreciated by the crowd. McGee drove in again, but Biggers returned, and Chapman further troubled the Exiles. Doyle got away through a mis-kick by Denham, but J. Biggers managed to clear. The home right back indulged in some rough play, but the Exiles's front rank paid more attention to the ball, and twice were within an ace of scoring. The ball was passed to and fro by the Exiles's forwards, who were well backed up by the halves. McGrachan and Monaghan had shies at Biggers's charge, but their shots failed to have the desired effect. Biggers relieved with a splendid kick, the ball going out of play. McGee and Hill continued, by some fine passing, to keep the home defence on their mettle, but Denham ultimately frustrated the attack. Chapman tricked Haggan, but handled the ball, the free kick being taken by Daly. Nothing resulted, and Neal had an opening on the right, which he failed to utilise, the ball rolling over the touch line.

BRUCE WAS CONSPICUOUS

by his clever antics in mid-field, but McGrachan proved one too many for him, and Tommy tried to repeat his Wednesday's performance by shooting a goal. Luck was against him, as Denham got his cranium to work, and with a jerk sent the ball into neutral territory. Chapman was fouled in the Exiles' half, but Denham, who took the kick, sent high over the bar. Monaghan had a grand opportunity for shooting, but passed the ball to Brannen instead. The latter failed to catch it, and the ball rolled out of play. From the throw-in Doyle got possession, and deceived Bruce and Biggers, but finding he had not an opening he transferred the ball to McGee, whose shot was stopped by J. Biggers. However, Hill and McGee were not to be outdone, and the latter sent in a screw shot. Denham partly cleared, and Biggers had to run out of his goal. A short scrimmage, in which Haley and Brannen took a prominent part, ensued, and Brannen sent in a fine overhead shot. The ball fell at the toe of Doyle, who had very little difficulty in registering the third point. McKie, Magill, and Neal broke away from the centre kick, but McGee returned, and Monaghan indulged in some tricky play. He drove in, but Biggers punted out of play, and Chapman again worked his way into the Exiles' half. Daly forced him to retreat, and Hill, Doyle, and McGee combined like clock-work, W. Biggers again having to defend his charge. Chapman elicited applause by a tricky run, which proved abortive. The Exiles again attacked, and

MONAGHAN WORKED LIKE A NIGGER.

He headed in thrice in succession, but all his efforts were neutralised by Biggers and Denham. Jimmy, however, on his fourth attempt, succeeded in placing the ball out of the reach of the defenders, and Brannen grasping the situation, sent in a swift high shot, which completely beat Biggers. The Exiles somewhat relaxed their efforts, and Blaydon were awarded a foul off McGrachan. This was well taken by Denham, but Monaghan returned, and Wheatley was grassed in his own half by Doyle. Haggan played finely on the right, and kicked the ball into the opposing goalmouth, where Doyle was seen to advantage with some gallery play. He gave to Brannen, who, with a splendid oblique shot, notched the fifth point for the Exiles. Biggers was not to blame for failing to cope with the shot, as it would have deceived the majority of goalkeepers. Blaydon got away from the centre-kick, but McKie shot into touch. Hands were awarded then against Haggan, but

CALLAGHAN KICKED AWAY,

and Doyle and McGee spurted into the United domains. McGee tried a shot, but Denham intercepted, and McGrachan, Haggan, and Monaghan essayed shots, but none had the desired effect. Doyle eluded Wheatley, Bruce, and Biggers, and the Blaydon custodian had again to leave his goal. He shot out of play, but the Exiles centre again returned to the fray and sent in a swift shot, which Biggers saved. Exciting play followed, and Brannen sent nicely across the goal, Hill making a splendid attempt to head through. Haley, who had been playing in splendid style, had hard lines a minute later, and when the whistle sounded the score stood—

Exiles	5 goals.
United	Nil.

On resuming, the Exiles broke away towards the low goal, but J. Biggers relieved, and Neal and McKie carried the sphere to the Exiles' half, where Monaghan kicked into touch. Haley and Doyle got down, but the former stuck to the ball too long, and was dispossessed by Denham, who, with a splendid kick, gave Blaydon a little advantage. Chapman and Burns combined well on the left, but Haggan was equal to the occasion, and robbed the former. McGee and Hill got possession on the right, but J. Bruce returned, and a foul off his brother let in the "Greens." Denham took the kick, and placed well, and Bruce sent in a terrific hot shot, which McGee saved at the expense of a corner. Blaydon played up better, but the Exiles' defence was too good, and Hill changed the venue of play with a splendid sprint. He centred, and

DOYLE JUST MISSED.

A corner to the Blaydon lads was the next item of interest. The kick was well placed by Burns, and Daly had to concede another corner in saving. McGee cleared, but a minute later, Callaghan had to throw away a hot shot. A foul against the homesters improved the chances of the Blaydon lads, who had a slight breeze in their favour. J. Biggers took the kick, but Callaghan threw away, and Neal sent yards wide. Hill was spurting away on the right, when he was fouled by J. Bruce, and the resulting kick was well placed by Haggan. Doyle received, and nearly scored with a terrific shot, the ball grazing the upright. Chapman and McGill changed the scene of operations, but Monaghan and Haggan were on the alert, and soon returned. McGee sent in a nice shot, which Biggers fisted away, but Haley caught the ball on the rebound, and, as one of the Blaydon backs fisted the ball away,

A PENALTY KICK WAS ALLOWED.

Doyle took the kick, and defeated Biggers for the sixth time. The Exiles' centre was applauded for some fine play, but was at length fouled in Blaydon quarters. Daly placed well, but Hill sent past, and Blaydon, rushing up, Callaghan had to kick out to save. The Exiles continued to have the best of matters, and, from a fine pass by Doyle, Brannen scored the seventh goal of the match. A foul throw against McGee gave Blaydon relief, but Hill again came away, and banged in a straight, hard shot, which Biggers was successful in repelling. He repeated the performance a minute later, and Hill was penalised for a foul. Chapman rushed up the left, and collided with the wire ropes, and had to be carried off the field. The whistle sounded a few minutes later, with the score—

EXILES	7 goals
UNITED	Nil

STANLEY v. CHESTER-LE-STREET.

[BY "CROSS-BAR."]

Saturday's game between these teams in the 2nd round of the Durham Senior Cup was voted a good thing for the Lilies; it being well-known that the representatives of the ancient Wearside town were not of the same "class" as the sturdy Stanleyites. It is true that the erstwhile Oakeys have done nothing big this season; but their opponents have done far worse, having sustained defeats with pitiful regularity in their Chester League campaign. Stanley were minus Billy Dover, Arthur Ford, and "St. Peter" O'Connor, and this necessitated some alteration in the arrangement of the team; Sammy Wood stepping from centre half to centre forward, whilst gentle Miley Smith of "Mazawattee" fame, entered the arena as centre half. Thompson Robson was also included on the team [illegible] the first time this season. The teams [illegible] in the following order—

STANLEY.		CHESTE
G. Morris	Goal	[illegible]
M. Joyce	Right back	[illegible]
McKever	Left back	[illegible]
T. Fish	Right half	[illegible]
M. Smith	Centre	[illegible]
J. Milburn	Left half	[illegible]
C. Crute	Right outsi	[illegible]
T. Robson	Right insi	[illegible]
S. Wood	Centre	[illegible]
J. Howe	Left insid	[illegible]
J. Masterman	Left outsi	[illegible]

Referee, Mr R. Hobson, of [illegible] Messrs R. G. Bender and W[illegible]

The start was delayed for half-an-hour owing to the late arrival of the referee. About 500 spectators were present at the start, being the smallest "gate" of the season. Chester-le-Street started down the hill, and after the citizens had made

AN OPENING SPURT,

Howe and Masterman galloped into the visiting quarters. Miley Smith was cheered for some sterling football, and Charley Crute dodging Ragg, centred well, Trotter having to kick out to save. Two free kicks were accorded the visitors, and Harle running past Joyce, banged in a rattling shot, which struck the crossbar, and rebounded over the bar. Hard lines, Chester. From the goal kick, Sam. Wood and Howe ran the ball straight to the Chester goal, and Masterman put through, but was ruled off-side. A corner ensued to the Lilies, and following some tricky play by Crute and Howe, Robson nearly did the trick. Crichton saved the Chester colours from downfall by a brilliant header, and just later,

A SPLENDID SHOT

from Crute was ejected by Trotter at the expense of a corner. The visitors ran down, and, despite some plucky tackling by Smith and Fish, looked really dangerous, but Jimmy Howe came to the rescue with a dashing run through the Chester halves and backs. Trotter proved equal to the occasion, however. Jimmy Howe was again the hero in attacking the visiting citadel, and two corners fell to the Lilies, the second of which was fisted out by trusty Trotter. Anderson's big kicking proved useful to his team, but, generally speaking, the visitors were kept pegging away at defensive work. Waggott created a diversion by

A TRICKY RUN,

but Smith tackled well, and sent up the field. Howe shot in a beauty, but Trotter saved skilfully, and a sharp return by Sammy Wood was equally well repelled by the clever visiting custodian. The Chester vanguard broke away, but Miley Smith tackled Harle, and Crute again ran along the right, and centred accurately to Sam. Wood, who, however, slipped when running to the ball. A moment later, Thompson Robson made a grand effort to head into the net, but sent the ball too high. Legg was pulled up smartly by McKever in sprinting to the home citadel, and Howe, receiving, shot.

A BONNY GOAL,

after 25 minutes' play. Resuming, Milburn stopped a run by the visiting right-wingers, and Howe, eluding two opponents, had a clean run for home, but shot wide, amid general laughter. Fish tried his luck, but also missed the mark, and Sam Wood experienced very hard lines, shooting hotly against the upright. Charley Crute made another of those

UNEQUALLED CENTRES

for which he is famous, but Trotter was again "at home." Stanley had all the best of matters, and repeatedly the visiting goal was hotly bombarded, almost the whole of the Stanley forwards having opportunities of scoring, which they mulled either intentionally or otherwise. Joe Waggott, who had been playing a rushing game throughout, made a fine dash along the right. He ran cleverly past McKever, and looked all over a goal-getter, but Martin Joyce wanted to have a voice in the matter, and he had. It was like an elephant against a rabbit, and the rabbit—poor Joey—came to grief. There were loud cries of "foul," but Referee Hobson said "No." Thus the game wagged, Stanley pressing severely, but appearing careless in front of goal. Howe gave Masterman a golden chance, but the tall Jimmy wouldn't have it. The Chester forwards broke away in brilliant fashion, and Daley shot in, but was ruled offside ere he shot in. Then a skyer was sent into the home goal, which Morris fisted out. The sphere was quickly returned, but Miley Smith saved his colours with a flying kick. Half-time—

Stanley	1 goal
Chester	Nil

Sammy Wood set the ball in motion for the Lillies, and within a minute,

THOMPSON ROBSON SCORED NO. 2,

the ball striking the upright, and re-bounding past Trotter. No sooner had play re-started than Jimmy Howe added the third goal, making two goals in two minutes. The spectators appeared quite ignorant that goals had been scored, and cheering was unheard on either occasion. Chester played up pluckily after these disasters, and secured a brace of byes in quick succession. Stanley came again, and Tommy Fish had a capital chance, but shot at random, and missed by half-a-mile. Crute hit the upright with a stinging shot, and on Chester breaking away, Master Miley Smith proved equal to the task of dodging a trio of Chesterites. Again the Lilies assailed, and Crute made another brilliant centre, which came to nought. Trotter saved a good shot from Robson, and Waggott galloped gaily along the visiting right to the peril of the home citadel. Milburn relieved somewhat luckily, and a continuous assault was commenced on the visiting goal. Trotter defended like a Trojan, and saved brilliantly on repeated occasions, but the fourth goal came after repeated attempts, Wood

SCORING WITH A CLINKING SHOT,

after receiving a good pass from Robson. Centring again, Jimmy Masterman was conspicuous for a brilliant rush along the left,

FINISHING WITH A LIGHTNING SHOT,

which even baffled Trotter, and made the Lilies five goals ahead. Howe put through just later from a neat pass from Wood, but the whistle had sounded just previously for off-side. Ten minutes later we were "in the gloaming," but a lusty cheer proclaimed that Masterman had again done the trick, this time with a glorious flying shot. Fish again shot over the bar. Robson was responsible for the seventh point, cleverly dodging a trio of opponents, and shooting a beauty into the net. An off-side goal followed. Final score:—

STANLEY	7 goals
CHESTER-LE-STREET	Nil

BIRTLEY v. OUSTON.

These teams met at Ouston, on Saturday afternoon, in the qualifying round of the Durham Cup. It will be within the recollection of most of our readers that Birtley were last season the winners of the Amateur Cup, and it was not to be wondered that when the referee, Mr Machan, of Bill Quay, called upon the teams to line up, there was a crowd of 2,500 spectators around the ropes. The teams took the field as follows:—

OUSTON		BIRTLEY
Elliott	Goal	Collins
Willis	Right back	Bell
Pouton	Left back	Gray
Smith	Right half	Dixon
T. Quinn	Centre	Rutherford
J. Hughes	Left half	Laws
J. Minns	Outside right	Bolam
J. Carr	Inside right	Lawson
Dixon	Centre	Nelson
Pentland	Outside left	Palmer
Clarke	Inside left	Brown

Birtley won the toss, and defended the railway goal. Dixon kicked off for the homesters, and the latter started to attack in a vigorous fashion. They took charge of the sphere, and forced a corner straight off the reel. The corner was well placed, but Collins fisted away. The Birtley forwards immediately paid the return visit, but Elliott fisted out. Play for a few minutes reigned in mid-field, but the Ouston forwards at length secured, and forced a couple of corners in quick succession. Both, however, proved abortive. The homesters were not to be denied, and Tommy Quinn getting a good chance, banged for Collins' charge, and registered the first goal for Ouston amidst loud applause. Ouston followed up this effort with a grand rush, but Collins was equal to the occasion. Just after, Nelson, the Birtley centre-forward, got a rather severe kick which, though purely accidental, was of such a nature that he had to be carried off the field. Resuming, Quinn secured, and dodging Rutherford placed by the net amid cheers. Hughes followed up with another grand attempt, which glided over the bar—truly "hard lines." Birtley then came in for a turn, where getting into the home defence, he attacked splendidly for a few minutes, but Willis proved equal to the occasion. Birtley, though placed on the half-way line, for a moment got away through Bolam, where Palmer securing, he banged through and gained the equalising point. Ouston were put upon their mettle, and at once started a severe and prolonged attack. The visiting backs, however, saved their team. Tommy Quinn sent in a capital shot, but Bell quite as successfully returned the sphere. Pouton then headed close on to the goal twice in succession. From the goal kick which followed Pouton's last effort, Clark got away for the visitors, but the stopper was put on when he reached the home defence, and Willis drove the sphere back with a grand kick. Splendid and spirited kicking then ensued in midfield, where eventually the homesters proved superior, and Collins was again called upon to save. Clark then started away for the home lads, but the tactics of the Birtley backs prevented any further augmentation of the score. The Ouston forwards still pressed, and Minns shot past. Carr took up the attack, and put in a clinking shot, Collins running out to clear. It was only a matter of a couple of minutes later that he was again called upon to execute the needful. Brown at length [illegible] chance, and getting in front of the goal, [illegible]her with his brother forwards, made things [illegible]r the homesters. Hughes at length cleared [illegible]ome lines, and danger for the time was [illegible]d. Dixon got possession, and by dint of [illegible] passing got close in, and this time Collins [illegible]lled upon to defend. Brown received, and [illegible]d past the home forwards, when shooting [illegible]outon received, placing out of danger. [illegible]y then got away with a grand rush, Bolam [illegible] in a clinking shot, which Elliott managed [illegible] out. The next minute another stinger [illegible]anging in, and once again the home [illegible]an executed the needful. Bolam then [illegible]nother attempt for the home citadel, but [illegible]possessed as he got amongst the Ouston [illegible] Here Birtley managed to secure, and a shot was sent in from the left, Elliott, however, once again smacking her out. [illegible] pressure in the home line continued for a m[illegible] or two, and Palmer headed over the bar. [illegible] home men then returned to the attack, [illegible] after a spirited encounter in the Birtley [illegible] Dixon kicked on to the posts. Then the Ous[illegible] lads tried hard to make up for the ill-luck [illegible] Dixon, and Fitz. Clark and Carr both shot [illegible] goal with the same luck as characterised th[illegible] effort of their predecessor Dixon. Half-time arrived just after, the score then standing:—

Ouston	1 goal
Birtley	1 goal

Resuming, the homesters got a good chance before them, playing down to their practice goal. They at once started a rush, and it was only through the capital defence then displayed by Bell and Gray that a goal was not recorded. Geo. Minns followed by sending by. Birtley followed this up with a terrific onslaught, but Joe was equal to the occasion. Again did the visitors get close in, and Elliott saved marvellously out of a "scrum" in front of his door. Fitz. secured in midfield, tried for goal in capital fashion. Bell, the Birtley right back, just clearing, his effort being accompanied by a somersault, which was worthy of Sanger's arena. The homesters, however, were still close in, and Clarke receiving from the return, centred, and Dixon put through the second goal for Ouston. The excitement was now tremendous, and loud and exultant cries rent the air. From the kick-off, the homesters at once returned to the bottom goal, where Collins was called upon to negotiate a swift shot. The game now began to get very fast. A foul against Birtley gave the Ouston men a pretty good chance, but Minns shot past. Bell then pushed Dixon rather heavily, and the referee quickly went up, and gave him the customary caution. Lawson got nicely away on the right wing, but could not drive the sphere round into the centre sharp enough, and a fine attempt was thus nullified. Birtley pressed heavily, and one of their forwards put by out of a scrimmage in front of the goal. Ouston immediately got away from the kick-off, but the Birtley backs sharply returned the sphere, and their forwards travelled up the hill, and shot past. Brown received from the kick-off, and put into the centre nicely, but Willis placed out of danger. Dixon then took charge, and passed to Clark, but the latter failed to centre. Bolam then secured, and Nelson, trying his hand, shot too high. Brown then had a good chance, but gauged his shot badly, the sphere travelling over the upright with about four feet to spare. Birtley were soon up again, and a short shot close in nearly fluked Elliott. Ouston now got away, and for a short time the visiting backs were in for lively times. Though a corner was conceded, nothing definite was obtained, the visitors once again doing their utmost to travel up the hill. Here, Brown, the Birtley outside left, again, for the third time, put too high, and a fairly good chance was spoilt. Coming down, Ouston started to press, and Tommy Quinn wilfully kicked out. This came under the vigilant eye of the referee, and Tommy was duly cautioned to exercise a fairer method of dealing with the sphere, at the risk of retiring. Fitz Clark came away nicely, and Bell a moment later was the means of penalising his team, as the Ouston had a good chance before them. However, the homesters got the best of the referee's award, and Birtley were forced to concede a corner. Bell and Gray managed to get rid of the homesters for the time being, but Quinn returned the shere. Carr then centred, and Pentland put through, but was ruled off-side. Brown, for Birtley, again repeated his previous entertainment, and spoilt a good chance by shooting too high. Tommy Quinn then relieved a somewhat heavy pressure from the visitors' forward rank, which was followed by a visit by the home men to the Birtley citadel, where Collins and his helpers managed to defend their position in grand style. Quinn sent in a stinger, but Collins appeared to be impregnable. The visitors then went straight for Elliott's position, and the latter just managed to save from a heavy "scrum." Ouston followed it up with a rush almost immediately from the goal kick, and the leather was sent over the bar. Several of the home spectators began to get anxious, and cries of "Time" were now heard. A free kick to Birtley came shortly after, and the Ouston people took a long breath. The homesters, however, were not to be caught napping, and Dixon came away in champion style, and just headed by the upright. Brown then got away for Birtley, but Pouton dispossessed. The visitors got another opening, Bolam putting in a good feeler for goal, the Ouston backs, however, being equal to the occasion. At length, the much-looked for and much expected call of time was heard, add as the whistle blew, the game ended as follows—

OUSTON	2 goals
BIRTLEY	1 goal

TYNESIDE LEAGUE.

HOBSON WANDERERS v. ALLENDALE PARK.

Allendale Park, the latest aspirants to Tyneside League honours, and who have been elected to fill the vacancy caused by the withdrawal of Wallsend Celtic, journeyed to the Hobson on Saturday to encounter the Wanderers, in their initial attempt to extract points in the above tourney. The Park brought a strong team, but caught the homesters in a weak condition, Liddle, Jack Bell,—and Henderson being absentees. The teams were as follows:—

HOBSON.		ALLENDALE.
J. Randall	Goal	F. Bailey
J. Weedy	Right back	M. Hedley
M. McHugh	Left back	M. Walton
T. Heslin (capt.)	Right half	Milburn
R. Atkinson	Centre half	T. Walton
J. McNeil	Left half	J. Robinson
R. Hindhaugh	Outside right	Walton
J. Layton	Inside right	Walton
M. Smith	Centre	T. Houston
G. E. Weedy	Inside left	Trueman
A. Lown	Outside left	R. Gillender

The Wanderers won the toss, and Houston started for the Park. Gillender obtained possession, but McHugh smartly relieved, and gave to Lown, who, along with Weedy, troubled the Allendale defence. Allendale right wing was now prominent, but put past. Atkinson with a huge punt endangered the Park goal. Hobson continued to press, Heslin working hard, but he met with a stubborn defence. McNeil now showed a flash of his old-time form, dodging two or three opponents, and shooting for Hedley to relieve. Lown and Weedy now exhibited a piece of good passing, and from a bully in the goal mouth Weedy scored. From the kick-off, Trueman and Gillender got down and caused Randall to save, which he did in splendid fashion. McHugh next stopped the brothers Walton, and placed well up the field. The Wanderers scored again, but owing to the interference of the goalkeeper this point was negatived, half-time arriving shortly after with the score—

Hobson	1 goal
Allendale	Nil

Upon a resumption of hostilities, the Wanderers for a time pressed, but Allendale with the assistance of the wind, soon made things warm for the Hobson. Thompson Walton was soon prominent both in attack and defence. Gillender shot for goal, but Randall cleared. The Park continued to press, but Weedy and McHugh, along with the halves, remained cool, and staved off many a well-directed attempt. Randall now saved finely from Houston, and conceded a corner which was sent past, as were other two shortly after. The homesters' vanguard now woke up, and by a piece of concerted action troubled the Allendale defence, Smith ultimately striking the post on the wrong side. Allendale again assumed the aggressive, but their best attempts were doomed to be foiled by the grand front shown them by the Wanderers' defence, the final still being—

HOBSON WANDERERS	1 goal
ALLENDALE PARK	Nil

BLACKHILL CELTIC v. ALLENDALE PARK RESERVE.

Played at Medomsley, on Saturday. The visiting captain won the toss, and elected to play up the hill. From the kick-off, the homesters pressed, but Robinson cleared. Mid-field play followed, but the ball was eventually taken into the visitors' half, where, from a scrimmage, Morris scored the first goal for Allendale. From the re-start, the visitors had a look in, but were soon driven back. The home forwards carried play into the visitors' territory, when Graham kicked through his own goal. Half-time arrived with the score:—

Allendale	2 goals
Celtic	Nil

Upon resuming, the visiting forwards rushed down, and Smith scored from close in. Not to be denied, the visiting forwards again attacked, and quickly equalised, Fairley doing the trick with a splendid shot. The Celtic continued to have the best of matters, and Bell scored with a long shot. Fairley added a fourth, and the game ended:—

BLACKHILL	4 goals
ALLENDALE	2 goals

BUBNOPFIELD JUNIOR LEAGUE.

MARLEY HILL JUNIORS v. LEADGATE EXILES' JUNIORS.

At Leadgate, in a Burnopfield Junior League fixture. The home team gave a trial to F. Hughes, P. Rodgers, and P. Matthews. The home team won the toss, and elected to play with the wind at their backs. They soon pressed, and W. Hughes shot through, but the point was disallowed for off-side. He followed this up with other three points, two of which were disallowed. The home forwards, headed by F. Hughes, made raid after raid on the Marley Hill charge, and succeeded in scoring twelve goals in all. The Referee, however, disallowed three of them. The visiting centre forward played hard, and managed to defeat Hogan. F. Hughes and one of the Marley backs collided, and operations had to be suspended, owing to an injury to the latter. Shortly after, a penalty kick was awarded to the Exiles, but nothing resulted, and the whistle sounded with the score as follows—

EXILES	9 goals
MARLEY HILL	1 goal

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3).

FOOTBALL.

(Continued from Page 2).

NORTHERN LEAGUE.

TOW LAW v. STOCKTON.

This Northern League engagement was played on the Stockton ground, on Staturday, before a large attendance. Stockton won the toss, and pressed heavily at the start, Temperley defending well for Tow Law. The Hill Top forwards got into close proximity to the Ancients' goal, but Montieth relieved, and some fine passing by the Stockton forwards was the next feature of importance, but the Tow Law backs returned, and Hamilton was next called upon to negotiate a hot shot from the visiting right wing. Stockton retaliated, and Ritchie notched their first point. Tow Law pressed vigorously, but Hamilton was on the alert, and prevented the downfall of his charge until half-time, when the score stood:—

Stockton	1 goal
Tow Law	Nil

Tow Law immediately got up from the centre kick, and after some give-and-take play in the Stockton half, they succeeded in defeating Hamilton, amid great excitement. Urged on by their supporters, Tow Law broke away, and ten minutes after the re-start, the visitors assumed the lead. Needless to say, the point was greeted with loud applause by the Hill Top supporters. Stockton made all the play, and Ritchie equalised. The homesters had the best of matters, but could not score, and the result was:—

Tow Law	2 goals
Stockton	2 goals

NORTH-WEST DURHAM LEAGUE.

"CONSETT CHRONICLE" CUP COMPETITION.

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

[By "Annfield Plain."]

These teams met at Catchgate on Saturday, under the auspices of the above League, and before a moderate attendance. The home team won the toss, and elected to play with the incline in their favour. Herdman set the ball in motion, and the N.E.R. forwards immediately took up the running, a free kick being awarded them for hands. The kick was nicely taken, but Taylor returned, and Bell made an exciting run along the touch-line. His shot for goal, however, went a trifle wide, and the goal kick gave the railway men a little relief. Even play ensued, but Herdman ultimately gained possession, and with a splendid screw shot placed the ball between the uprights. The referee, however, promptly disallowed the point for offside, and the resulting free kick let in the homesters. Their right outside forced a corner, which was grandly placed, and after a strong bombardment on the Celtic stronghold, the N.E.R. forwards rushed the ball through, thus scoring the first point of the match. On centring, the visitors' vanguard, aroused by this reverse, attacked vigorously, but the home backs neutralised their efforts, and the N.E.R. forwards again approached the visitors' charge. A foul against the Celtic placed their goal in jeopardy, but the visiting backs were equal to the emergency, and saved splendidly. The visiting forwards, headed by Herdman, changed the scene of operations by a grand passing run, Bell sending in a terrific shot, which the home goalkeeper successfully negotiated. Herdman caught the sphere on the rebound, but Wilson saved splendidly, amid loud applause. Play ruled even for a few minutes, neither side appearing eager to force the play. A corner to the home men proved futile, but shortly afterwards, the visitors obtained a similar concession, from which they equalised. McGowan tricked the home right half, and centred to Herdman, who had little difficulty in giving his side the lead. The visitors had now decidedly the best of matters, and Tommy Bell finished up a grand sprint with an accurate centre, his brother, Adam, shooting yards over high. A grand combined run by the Celts' front line was the next feature of importance, but the home backs finally broke up their attack, and the orb hovered in the low half once more. A foul relieved the pressure, and from a quick shot by one of the visitors, the ball went through off one of the home backs. Ding-dong play followed, but at length Bell got away, and sent in a stinging shot, which the home custodian managed to repel. The whistle sounded for half-time with the score standing:—

Celts	3 goals
N.E.R.	Nil

After the customary interval, play was resumed, the visitors working themselves into the home goalmouth. Henderson drove hard and straight for the net, but the home backs relieved, and a foul off one of the Celtic halves, nearly resulted in a goal being scored. The ball hovered in the vicinity of the Celtic's fort, Taylor relieving amidst great excitement. The railway lads, however, returned to the onslaught, and the left wing all but scored, the ball skimming the crossbar. The Celtic front rank responded with a determined rush, but, try as they could, they were unsuccessful in penetrating the home lines. Operations were suspended owing to an injury to one of the visitors. Tommy Taylor sent in a swift ground shot, and the home backs saved by sending into touch. The N.E.R. players pressed, the Celtic backs offering stubborn resistance. Not to be denied, they again attacked, their efforts being rewarded with a goal from the toe of their centre forward. Bell and McGowan were conspicuous for some tricky play, their chances of scoring being nullified by the ball going out of play. Herdman received from the throw-in, and sending across to Bell, the latter banged through the fourth point for the visitors. The Celtic forwards again carried the globe to their opponents' quarters, where a tough scrimmage took place, the ball again being rushed through. The Celts appeared to have matters all their own way, and obtained their sixth point two minutes later. N.E.R. played up better, and scored their third point. The whistle round with the undermentioned score:—

Celtic	6 goals
N.E.R.	3 goals

COMMENTS.

The homesters, on the whole, played a splendid game, especially the forward line, who, with a little practice, should developed into a capital set. The visitors gave a splendid exhibition, the backs and forwards being very conspicuous. The forwards, however, were not in their best form.

CHESTER-LE-STREET SENIOR LEAGUE.

JOICEY CUP.

USWORTH COLLIERY v. SACRISTON WOODSIDE ROVERS.

[By "Big 'Un."]

Considerable interest was evinced in the meeting of these two local rivals. Therefore, as was expected, a large number of spectators witnessed the encounter. Mr Moody, of Newbottle, was referee. The teams took up their respective positions as follows—

Usworth Colliery		Woodside
W Hall	Goal	T Mason
P Carr	Right back	J Alcroft
R McGiven	Left back	J Jackson
T Stewart	Right half	J W Smith
P Reynolds	Centre half	W Wilson
C Smith	Left half	P Banks
J Patterson	Right outside	T Simpson
J Carr	Right inside	F Rogan
W McLeod	Centre	R Robinson
J Stewart	Left inside	W Parkin
P Harrison	Left outside	J McGowan

McLeod kicked off, amid no little excitement, and Usworth at once took the ball to the visitors' quarters, but were sharply repulsed by Jackson and Alcroft, who returned well to midfield. Stewart, being on the alert, quickly seized the ball, and in trying to get away was fouled by Banks. Carr placed the ball well into the visitors' goal, but Patterson sent behind. On the ball being kicked off, play for a while remained in mid-field, until a foul against Paddy Reynolds enabled the visitors to gain ground, the free kick being taken by Alcroft, who sent to Simpson, and that player made no hesitation in placing the leather past Hall, and scoring Woodside a beautiful goal. McLeod again set the ball in motion, and for a while, play became fast, the ball travelling from one end to the other. Both defences were kept busy, until Alcroft handled the ball just outside the penalty line. The home team appealed strongly for a penalty, but had to be content with a free kick, which was well placed. Jacky Carr tried hard to equalise matters, but just failed. He, however, was loudly applauded for the effort. Woodside at last got away, and attacked the Usworth goal, Hall and company having an anxious time of it, but they managed to get the leather away, McGiven relieving with a huge kick. A free kick for the homesters became the scene of a lively scrimmage in the Woodside goal, Mason falling full length to save, which he did magnificently. Give-and-take play followed until half-time, with the score—

Woodside	1 goal
Usworth	Nil

Robinson started operations on behalf of Woodside, and at once made tracks for the home goal, only to be pulled up by Reynolds, who was playing a strong game. Woodside had the best of matters at this period, but fouls seemed to be the rule of play, which was chiefly due to the rough play of the homesters, Stewart being cautioned for badly fouling Smith. The play for a while remained in the Usworth quarter, but Patterson at length got away by transferring to Stewart, the latter causing Smith to handle, for which a penalty kick was given. This was taken by Carr, which he just placed outside the post, to the disappointment of the home spectators. From the kick off, Wilson received, and passed to Rogan, who raced nearly the whole length of the field, and scored with a lightning shot, Hall failing to hold the ball. Usworth were thoroughly beaten now, Woodside pressing up to the last, and McGowan and Parkin sending in shots which were neatly got out by Hall. The whistle at last sounded, with the score standing—

Woodside	2 goals
Usworth Colliery	Nil

WEAR VALLEY LEAGUE.

HOWDEN RESERVE v. TOW LAW ST. JOSEPH'S.

These teams met at Howden in a Wear Valley League fixture. St. Joseph's winning the toss, elected to kick uphill. Howden kicked off, and at once made for the visitors' goal, but were promptly repulsed by Devine, who, placing the ball well up the field, enabled the Saints' left to secure. By pretty passing they got near the home posts, but T. Morris put behind. From the goal kick, the homesters came away in good style, and forced a corner which was well placed, but Lawson headed away, and Williams receiving, made a splendid run up the field only to be fouled when in a good shooting position. From the free kick, Cushloe received, and placing to McGough, that player scored a pretty goal 20 minutes from the start. From the re-start, the homesters attacked the Saints' goal in spirited style, but the backs were all there, and frustrated all attempts at scoring. Both goals were now visited in turn, Cushloe scoring an offside goal, and Herd just shooting past at the other end. No further scoring took place till the interval. Immediately after re-starting, Tow Law surrounded the Howden goal, and sent in shot after shot, but the homesters defended well, until Lawson received, and sent in a stinging shot which scored goal No 2 for the Saints. Howden came away from the kick-off, and gave the Tow Law defence a lively time of it, Donachy saving three shots in succession in grand style. Tow Law now paid a visit to the other end, where Morris sent in a beauty, but the goal was not allowed, the goalkeeper having been fouled. Play now became rather quiet, the players seeming to tire; and neither team becoming dangerous the game ended—

St. Joseph's	2 goals
Howden Reserve	Nil

BIRTLEY JUNIORS v. GATESHEAD PRIOR JUNIORS.

Played at Birtley. Gateshead won the toss, and Allison started for the home eleven, who made a rush for the Gateshead goal. The backs, however, returned, and the Gateshead forwards, by some fine passing, made matters warm for the home defenders. Forster relieved with a good kick, and a foul throw-in improved the chances of the Birtleyites. The free kick was well placed, Allison shooting wide after a series of exchanges in the goal mouth. Some fine passing by the home forwards merited and received applause, and a corner was conceded, which proved fruitless. Gateshead responded with a dashing run to the other end, and after some give-and-take play, scored their first point. They repeated the performance a few minutes later, and save a fine passing movement by Brown, Allison, and Bell, nothing of interest occurred till the whistle blew for half-time, with the score—

Gateshead Juniors	2 goals
Birtley Juniors	Nil

In the second half the Birtley lads had the best of the game. Forster soon scored No. 1 for Birtley, and shortly after, Watson scored two more goals. The Gateshead lads, however, managed to equalise, and the game then became exciting, each side trying to secure the winning point. Just before the whistle blew, T. C. Bell did the trick for the home side, the final score standing:

Birtley Juniors	4 goals
Gateshead Juniors	3 goals

The Birtley team was represented by Letch, goal; Forster and Watson, backs; T. C. Bell, Smith, and Storey, half-backs; Edgar, Fish, Allison, T. Bell, and Brown, forwards.

Delves Lane United v. Consett Shamrocks.—Played on Delves Lane ground, and resulted in an easy win for Delves Lane. R. Johnson played an excellent game for Delves Lane.

JOTTINGS.

Secretary Mumford, the Oxhill ink-slinger, visited Sunderland last Saturday, but could not come to terms with George, the giant Aston Villa goal-keeper.

The Sunderland secretary was asking after Middlemast and Benfold, but his terms were not satisfactory to the famous Oxhill forwards.

Stanley Wednesday conquered Tantobie midweekers by three goals to two. Ben Johnson was unable to play, but he did plenty of shouting for his pets.

Robins, the renowned Shield Row Rugbyite, played well between the uprights.

Joe Bell was absent from the Stanley ranks, being on the list of wounded warriors.

Jack Siddle, the darky, has proffered his services to the Oxhill club. He proudly intimates that but for his absence, Stanley A would have "gone under" a fortnight ago.

Those Stanley cricketers cannot agree even among themselves. Here's Harry Curry, jealous of Tom Jewitt's success, has also started in the "barbarous" profession.

Leadgate Exiles are deserving of praise for their plucky battle against Willington Athletic. Though beaten, the green shirts were by no means disgraced.

The Stanley cricketers had their annual social last Wednesday evening, when a very jolly time was spent by some 200 "fair women and brave men."

Stanley footballers quite enjoyed their little selves on Saturday in tackling the Chester-le-Street boys. Seven goals to none was not bad, but seventeen would have been nearer the mark had the Lilies exerted themselves.

Miley Smith was like a small motorcar or motor-barrel running about the field. He was never seen to be still for sixty consecutive seconds.

Miley must either have a very hard chest, or wear armour under his shirt.

Poor little Joey Waggott came to grief in his collision with stalwart Martin Joyce. The two were going at full speed when they met, and Joey travelled several yards before coming in contact with mother earth.

He is a plucky little fellow however, and was soon at work again.

Charley Crute is playing in champion form this season. What a splendid centre, the Boldon boy makes.

Welcome again, and a hearty one too, to Thompson Robson. Thompson did A1 for his maiden game.

Tommy Fish was in great form against Chester; but his shooting is capable of slight improvement. He should take Ned Nicholson's example and take a few lessons from Benny Johnson.

Chester-le-street have a good custodian in the person of Master Trotter. He did yeoman service for his team at Stanley.

The Chester backs are good at kicking, and tackling of a kind, but were unequal to the tricky Stanley vanguard.

Bruce, their right half back, is big enough, but is neither plucky, or tricky.

Anderson is far-away the best Chester half-back; whilst the rightwing forwards are miles ahead of their left wing colleagues.

Charley Harle makes a fair good show as centre forward. He and Miley Smith had some rare tussles on Saturday.

Prior to the cuptie at Stanley last Saturday, a billiard match was played between "Crossbar" as a representative of Stanley, and Matty Cunningham, the Dipton champion.

It is hardly necessary to state that the Diptonian came off second best.

I saw that "Jimmie" Ridley, the old goal-getter and genial Secretary of the Cæsars, was a spectator on Saturday at Tanfield Lea.

I hear he can get and watch the games every two weeks. Perhaps a little encouragement would see "Jimmie" donning the old colours again.

During a short talk, I was informed he would have liked nothing better than to have been chasing the leather on Saturday. Now then, Smith, look to yourself, he can still play as a junior.

"Jimmie" still takes a keen interest in the sport, and the present followers of the game at Tanfield should really thank him, that the team still exists, for as secretary for over three seasons, "Jimmie" proved worthy of all praise.

Good luck to him and dear Smith. Keep your optics open, or else some of our neighbours will deprive you of a good thing.

Animals seem to have quite a fancy for the Stanley goal nets. About six weeks ago, a venerable billygoat got entangled in the net at the entrance goal, and a doggy managed to perform the same feat during the progress of Saturday's game.

Morris claims to have done what Dr. Nansen failed to do, namely, reached the North Pole. Some of the Stanley players might have given the custodian a "coup."

Stanley tackle Wallsend Park Villa, at Wallsend, on Saturday. Judging from the form that the Villa are now exhibiting, the Lilies will be fortunate if they secure even one point.

South Moor Albion defeated Ushaw Moor by nine goals to nil, on Saturday. The Albion have the extraordinary record of 39 goals against 2 in the Edmondsley League.

The Stanley Committee should keep their eyes on some of the Albion players.

Craghead did a good feat on Saturday in conquering Annfield Plain Celtic by two goals to one.

The Tyneside League champions have evidently fallen greatly from their high estate.

Woodside put an end to Usworth Colliery's wins, by taking two points off them on the Colliery ground.

Usworth spectators behaved badly to M[illegible] their old custodian, by hissing and booing a[illegible] every time he saved.

Mason saved the Colliery from many a d[illegible] last year, and this is their thanks.

Leadgate Park and Leadgate Exiles wer[illegible] scoring mood on Saturday.

The Exiles defeated Blaydon by 7 goals [illegible] whilst the Parkites proved their superiorit[illegible] the Wardley lads by 5 goals to nil.

Judging by Saturday's game, the No[illegible] League clubs are vastly superior to Ty[illegible] League elevens.

Brannen scored four goals and Doyle th[illegible] Blaydon on Saturday.

The Exiles Juniors defeated Marley [illegible] nine goals to one.

Frank Hughes is an ideal centre ma[illegible] feeds his wings well, and his shooting [illegible] disastrous to the Marley Hill lads.

He was given a trial for the first time on Saturday, and, judging by his display, he is certain to be given a trial in the *Chronicle* Cup Competition.

His brother scored four goals, three of which were off-side.

J. McGee failed to obtain a goal at Blaydon.

A press box is, I hear, to be erected shortly on the Exiles enclosure.

Birtley came a cropper to Ouston in the Durham Cup on Saturday.

Stanley, Leadgate Exiles, Leadgate Park, and Ouston are the representatives for North-West Durham.

The two first named would draw a big gate in the Durham Cup.

Leadgate Exiles are drawn to meet Kelloe St. Hellen's in the first round of the English Amateur Cup.

Lintz Rovers cancelled their game with Shotley Bridge in order to see the great game at Sunderland.

Frank Foreman is leaving Leadgate to take up an important appointment at Hull. Best wishes for Franky!

Jack McGregor, of Stanley, surprised all his friends on Monday evening by his singing abilities.

He even put Jack Ramshaw into the shade.

Allison, the old Tow Law goalkeeper, has again decided to play for his old club. Welcome back again!

The "Bradley Boy" has conquered the Exiles's Secretary at billiards, and is so elevated in consequence, that he has issued a challenge to "Cross-Bar."

Poor boy, he little knows what fate awaits him.

I saw T. D. Dales down at the Stanley club-room, on Monday evening. Hockey evidently agrees with the genial cricketer, for he looks A 1.

Sammy Wood and Jimmy Benfold have been appointed handicappers for the billiard handicap shortly to commence at the Stanley Church Institute.

Harry Curry is already proclaiming that he will pull off the premier prize.

Heavy scoring was a feature of the game at Catchgate, between the N.E.R. and the Celtic Reserve.

The N.E.R played a much improved game. Charley Robinson was a shining light in the vanguard.

Fish only shaped moderately in the centre.

The half-backs were a level trio.

The Celtic were victorious by six goals to three, but the defeated team were by no means disgraced.

Willington Athletic would like to secure Callaghan, the Leadgate Exiles's goalkeeper.

Mr Sutcliffe, of Burnley, testifies that the Exiles do not play so "rough and dirty" as is sometimes suggested.

DERWENTWATER.

FIXTURES.

Consett Swifts v. Prudhoe.—At Prudhoe, on Saturday. Swifts' team:—Goal, J Stokoe; backs, J Laidler and J Finnigan; half-backs, J Rafferty, Bradley, and R Wake; forwards, J McKie, P Smith, J Dempsey, M Eustace, and Robson. Reserves, J Turley and P Mellon. Linesman, T Grayson. Referee, W Holliday. Kick-off at 3 o'clock. Train leaves Blackhill at 12-48 p.m. Headquarters, 12-15.

Consett Swifts Reserve v. Annfield Plain Reserve (North-West Durham League).—At Consett. Swifts' team:—Goal, T. Coleman; right back, J. McCarty; left back, R. Russell; right half-back, P. McNulty; centre half-back, J. Finnighan; left half-back, J. Rafferty; forwards—outside right, E. McClure; inside right, B. Rafferty; centre, A. Reed; inside left, J. Sheldon; outside left, T. Boyle. Reserves, A. McDonald and R. Tindle. Linesman, J. Ellis. Referee, Mr Milner. Kick-off at 2 o'clock.

Annfield Plain Celtic 2nd v. Consett Swifts 2nd.—These teams meet at Consett in the *Chronicle* Cup Competition, when the visitors will rely on:—Goal, J Gallagher; backs, Geo Taylor and J Taylor; halves, D Pendleton, T E Taylor, and A Dawson; forwards, G Purlett, T Bell, W Herdman, T McGowan, and W Bell. Reserves, W Burton, J Reynolds, and G Forster.

Leadgate Exiles v. Kelloe St. Helens.—At Leadgate, in the first round of the English Amateur Cup, when the home team will be chosen from:—Callaghan, Daly, W McGee, Haggan, McGrachan, Monaghan, Brannen, Hill, Haley, Doyle, McGee, and Grant. Kick-off at 3 p.m.

Blackhill Celtic v. Malton Colliery.—At Blackhill, when the following will do duty for the Celtic:—Goal, Johnson; backs, Moore and Moss; half-backs, Robinson, Richards, and Rodgers; forwards, Page, Muldoon, Stokell, Quinn, and Farley.

Celtic Reserve v. South Moor Violets.—Celtic team:—Goal, Jackson; backs, Freek and Wilkinson; half-backs, Anderson, Grayson, and Munro; forwards, Lumley, Wigham, Richards, Dempsey, and Smith.

Stanley v. Wallsend Park Villa.—In this important Alliance fixture, to be decided at Wallsend on Saturday, Stanley will place on the field the strongest team that has done duty for them this season, namely:—Goal, G. Morris; backs, M. Joyce and J. McKever; half-backs, T. Fish, W. Dover, and J. Milburn; forwards, C. Crute, T. Robson, S. Wood, J. Howe, and J. Masterman. Reserve, A. Ford.

Leadgate Park v. Rutherford College.—These teams meet on the Park enclosure on Saturday, when judging from the form shown by the visitors, a good game is sure to be the result. The Park team will be—J Crowther, F M Foreman, W Bell (capt.), J T Willey, R Wilson, T Snowdon, T Logan, G Milburn, S Thompson, J Wilson, and G Forster. Kick-off at 3.

Leadgate Park Reserve v. Byer Moor.—At Byer Moor. The Park team will be—J Calvert, W Walton, A Aitken, D Cartmell, G Temple (capt.), R Dawson, M Willis, W G Robson, J Paull, W Teasdale, and J Birtley.

Hobson v. Dipton.—At Dipton, on Saturday, when the following will represent Hobson—Goal, J Randall; backs, W Liddle and McHugh; half-backs, T Heslin, A Newman, and J Weedy; forwards, R Hindhaugh, J Layton, G E Weedy, J Bell, and A Lown. Dipton team—Goal, J Spinks; backs, W Thompson and R Coates; half-backs, M Evans, E Buck, and S Evans; forwards, M Brown, H Walker, M Temple, J Brown, and T Walker. Reserve, J Leadbitter. Referee, Mr R Glass, Heaton.

Waldridge True Blues.—Waldridge True Blues were without a match on Saturday, but had a practice game amongst themselves. They are going thoroughly into training, having club runs every Tuesday and Thursday night. On Saturday, they journey to Brandon, where they intend making a good show, the following being their team:—Goal, H Laverick; backs, T Batey and I Potts; half-backs, H Winter, S Charlton, and A Scott; forwards, J Frazer, D Heslop, T Bell, W Gawman, and R King.

Blackhill Wednesday shop boys have a few dates vacant, and would like them filled up as soon as possible. (Ages 14 to 16). Apply to M. Wilson, Secretary, 106, Durham Road, Blackhill.

Consett Hibernians would like to have matches with junior teams; average age, 18. Apply, Peter McKie, No. 7, Alexandra Street, Consett, Co. Durham.

South Moor Albions have dates vacant for Nov. 6th and Feb. 12th at home, and Dec. 4th and March 26th away, and would like them filled up with good minor teams or moderate seconds. Apply to James Smailes, South Moor.

Tantobie Royal Oaks would like to arrange matches with good Junior teams. (Ages 12 to 14). Apply to W. Holmes, Tantobie, R.S.O.

BURNOPFIELD JUNIOR LEAGUE.

The following are the appointed referees:—

November 6.

Tanfield Lea v Byer Moor	W Hodgson
Dipton v Lintz Ford	G Gray
Lintz Rovers v Leadgate Exiles	J Osman
Hamsterley v Tantobie	W Smith

November 13.

Leadgate Exiles v Lintz Rovers	W Moody
Byer Moor v Marley Hill	P McGinn
Tantobie v Hamsterley	G Gray
Tanfield Lea v Shotley Bridge	J G Harrison

November 20.

Shotley Bridge v Byer Moor	W A Richardson
Dipton v Hobson	G Gray
Hamsterley v Marley Hill	W Kendal

November 27.

Dipton v Lintz Rovers	J Smith
Tanfield Lea v Hamsterley	J Osman
Marley Hill v Lintz Ford	J G Harrison

On the ground of the first-named. Kick-off 3 p.m.

NORTHERN LEAGUE.

FIRST DIVISION.

Results up to date—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals For	Goals Agst	P.
Stockton	8	4	2	2	15	12	10
Darlington	6	3	1	2	16	9	8
Middlesbrough	5	2	0	3	9	5	7
Bishop Auckland	5	2	1	2	9	7	6
South Bank	4	2	1	1	11	6	5
Crook	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
St Augustines	3	0	2	1	7	11	1
Tow Law	4	0	3	1	4	10	1
Leadgate Park	4	0	3	1	3	14	1

SECOND DIVISION.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals For	Goals Agst	P.
[illegible]dgate Exiles	3	3	0	0	10	1	6
[illegible]	4	3	1	0	9	9	6
[illegible]	4	2	2	0	6	4	4
[illegible]	3	2	1	0	8	5	4
[illegible]	3	1	2	0	9	8	2
[illegible]	2	0	2	0	1	6	0
[illegible]rs	3	0	3	0	2	12	0

[illegible]ERN COMBINATION.

[illegible]te—

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Goals For	Goals Agst	P.
[illegible]	[illegible]	3	0	1	12	5	7
[illegible]	[illegible]	2	3	2	12	10	6
[illegible]	[illegible]	2	1	0	5	4	4
[illegible]	[illegible]	2	3	0	11	12	4
[illegible]	[illegible]	1	1	1	4	5	3
[illegible]	[illegible]	1	0	0	2	1	2
[illegible]	[illegible]	1	2	0	3	7	2
[illegible]	[illegible]	0	0	1	0	0	1
[illegible]	[illegible]	0	2	1	4	8	1

HOCKEY.

Derwent Valley v. Hartlepool.—The Valley eleven travel to Hartlepool on Saturday, and will be represented by the following:—T. D. Dales (captain), J. E. Thorpe, and W. Bratton, backs; H. G. Young, J. M. Nicholson, and G. G. Robson, halves; H. H. Wattsford, J. O. Todd, R. Renton, W. Worden, and C. T. Foreman, forwards. Bully-off at 2.30.

LOCAL SPORTING EVENTS.

Tow Law.—At the Tow Law grounds on Saturday afternoon a match was decided between Smith's Regale, of Consett, and Clough's Valley Lass, of the Teams, the best of 21 courses, for £20 a-side. There was a large company present. Betting ruled at 6 to 4 on Valley Lass who won easily. Scores:—Regale, 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 1 0—4; Valley Lass, 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0 1—11. The judge was Mr L. Moore, Tow Law, W. Moore, of Tow Law, being pistol firer.

Consett.—On the Caribees course, Consett, on Saturday afternoon, a sweepstakes for greyhounds at rabbits was promoted by Mr T. Cowley, who added £2 for 16 dogs at 8s per lot, the best of three courses. The enclosure was well patronised. Details:—First round—Hall's Castaway beat Walton's Lucy Glitter by 2 to 0; Fairiess' Cabin Boy beat McGurk's Barmaid by 2 to 1; Graham's Jigger Lad beat Tucker's Cabin Lad by 2 to 1; Davison's B for Beer beat Powell's Whiskers by 2 to 0; McGurk's Rob the Barman beat Graham's Jester by 2 to 0; Newton's Lent Out beat Hall's Orphan by 2 to 0; Newton's Tommy Loates beat Hall's Highgate Lad by 2 to 1; Highgate Lad (2nd lot) beat Cabin Lad (2nd lot) by 2 to 0. Second round—Cabin Boy beat Castaway by 2 to 0; B for Beer beat Jigger Lad by 2 to 0; Rob the Barman beat Lent Out by 2 to 1; Tommy Loates beat Highgate Lad by 2 to 1. Third round—Cabin Boy beat B for Beer by 2 to 0; Tommy Loates beat Rob the Barman by 2 to 1. Stakes divided.—A small sweep at 3s 6d per lot followed, and received six entries. In the result Jester beat Castaway and won. Mr J. Walton was referee, and S. Mess slipper.

White-le-Head.—At these grounds on Saturday afternoon two events were set for decision. The first was a match between Harrison's Funny Times, of White-le-Head, and Brooke's Miss Hall, of Hill Top, Dipton, who ran the best of 15 courses, for £10 a-side. A large number of spectators assembled, and there was a lot of wagering at 6 to 4 on Miss Hall, who won a one-sided contest just as she liked. Scores:—Miss Hall, 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 1—8; Funny Times, 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0—1. Mr T. Riley acted as judge, while T. White, Burnopfield, was pistol firer.—Afterwards Mr T. Riley added £2 for 24 small dogs, at 8s per lot, the best of three courses. Results:—First round—Riley's Yonder She Goes beat Kingston's Wild King by 2 to 1; Ledger's Grozer Cake beat Collins's Watch the Barmaid by 2 to 0; Mellon's Irish Molly beat Dodd's Fitzsimmons by 2 to 1; Reay's Get Her Share beat Dodds's Fred by 2 to 0; Long's Rap the Pot beat Collins's Little Miss by 2 to 0; Collins's First Try beat Robinson's True Blue by 2 to 0. Second round—Grozer Cake beat Yonder She Goes by 2 to 1; Get Her Share beat Irish Molly by 2 to 1: Rap the Pot beat First Try by 2 to 0. Third round—Rap the Pot beat Get Her Share by 2 to 1; Grozer Cake a bye. In the final Grozer Cake beat Rap the Pot and won. Referee, Mr T. Riley; pistol firer, Thos. Brown; and bookkeeper, Robt. Brown.

At the house of Mr Henry Simpson, Daisy Hill, Edmondsley, £6 has been placed in the hands of Mr Henry Brown, to bind a match at rabbits, between Coxon's Dash of West Pelton, and Maddinson's Dick Burge, of Sacriston, first catch nine at Eslington Park Grounds, on November 27.

Moor Inn, North Side, Birtley.—Mr Wardell added £2 towards an entry of 7s, for small dogs.—Results:—Second round—Jack beat Woman in Red; Kitty McCann beat Rummager; Not Yet beat Vesta Tilley; Dolphin Lass beat Nellie Archer; Hop the Rig beat Jinny; Chester Lad beat Wreath of Roses; Darkey beat North Side Lad. Dakness putting in the stake was divided. Pearson's Darkey, of Wrekenton, and Laverick's Chester Lad, of Pelton, have been matched to run the best of 13 courses, at these grounds to-morrow (Saturday) for £10 a-side.

MARKETS.

Tow Law, Oct. 25.—Mr Vickers had forward 56 dairy cows and heifers, 14 fat cattle, 7 store cattle, 12 calves, 196 fat sheep and lambs. Cows made up to £21, fat cattle to £15, heifer stirks to £6 7s 6d; calves, 18s; fat mule ewes to 37s; from Mr G I L Blenkinsopp, Hoppyland Park: fat lambs to 27s 6d, from Mr Joseph Suddes, Cornsay; to 24s 9d, from Mr W. Vickers, Eastgate; to 24s, from Mr J J Stephenson, Broadwood; to 23s 9d, from Mr Joseph Ridley, Landieu; fat black-faced ewes to 24s 3d, from Mr J J Stephenson, Broadwood.

Chester-le-Street, Oct. 25.—Mr James Turnbull held a special sale of grazing cattle and sheep here to day, in conjunction with the usual fat stock sale, and had forward 15 fat cattle, 160 fat sheep and lambs, 25 shorthorn incalving cows and new calved cows, 60 shorthorn and polled steers and heifers, 1½ to 3 years ald, 70 half-bred and black-faced ewes, 25 half-bred lambs, harness, &c. There was a good trade for fat cattle, the quality of which was excellent. Fat sheep were also a good trade. There was a very slow trade for grazing stock, although the stock was of the very best description, and one of the worst clearances effected at any sale this year resulted. Milch cows to £22, for a very grand cow from Mr R Bellwood; incalvers to £20, from Mr Wood, South Whitwell Farm. Prices as follows:—Fat cattle; Bullocks to £18 7s 6d, from the north; fat heifers to £19 2s 6d, top Sir Lindsay Wood, Bart, The Hermitage; fat cows ro £14 2s 6d, top Mrs Robson, Lamesley. Fat sheep: Shearlings to 44s, top Mr H Webster, Lumley Moor Farm; fat ewes to 37s, top the Birtley Iron Company. Fat lambs to 32s, top Earl's House Industrial Schools. Grazing cattle: Heifers to £12 10s; bullocks to £12 15s. Half-bred ewes to 33s; black-faced ewes to 16s; half-bred lambs to 19s.

Benfieldside, Oct. 25.—There were forward at this mart to-day 16 fat cattle, 165 fat sheep, 9 tups, 11 stirks, 3 calves, 5 cows, 8 pigs, 16 horses and ponies, a lot of poultry, and miscellaneous lots. There was a large company of buyers, and trade was fairly good throughout. Fat heifers from Mr Jas Teasdale, The Ridding, to £13 2s 2d; from Mr F. Pattinson, Winnows Hill, to £11 17s 6d; from Messrs Graham, Whittonstall Hall Farm, £12 to £14 2s 6d; Mr G Graham, Kipper Lynn, £11 15s to £12 15s; from J and A Anderson, Black Hedley, £13 5s to £13 10s; Mr Bowman, Sunniside, £15 10s to £16; Rev Father Magill, The Brooms, £10 10s to £11 15s; cows, Mr J Dickinson, to £16 5s; stirks, £3 2s 6d to £7 5s; calves, 11s to 19s 6d; young sheep to 38s 6d; lambs to 32s; horses, 9gs to 12½gs; ponies, 4gs to 4½gs. Other lots at the usual prices.

DEATH OF MR JOHN KERR, OF STANLEY.

We regret to have to announce the death of Mr John Kerr, of Stanley, one of the oldest inhabitants of that town, which took place on Monday afternoon, in last week. Mr Kerr, who was 60 years of age, was a native of Newcastleton, Roxburgh, Scotland, but for the greater part of his life he had lived at Stanley, having been for over forty years in the employment of Messrs Burns and Co., the owners of the West Stanley Colliery. He leaves a widow, three sons and three daughters, all of whom are grown up, to mourn his loss. Mr Kerr was an active member of the Independent United Order of Mechanics, and for several years held the position of I.G. to the local lodge. He was one of the trustees of the lodge at the time of his death. Deceased had been in ailing health for two months prior to his death, during which time he was assiduously attended by Dr. Benson and Dr. Anderson. The interment took place on Thursday afternoon at St. Andrew's Cemetery, the funeral service being conducted by the Rev. D. W. James, Vicar of the parish. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr George Forster. Messrs John Whitfield and Henry Peart acted as bidders, and the underbearers were Messrs George Hazon, Thomas Hazon, Robert Williamson, and George Dixon. The ladies who attended to the household arrangements were Mrs Whitfield, Mrs J. Whitfield, Mrs Atkinson, Mrs Cowen, Mrs Dixon, and Mrs Hovvells. Amongst the mourners and friends present at the graveside were Messrs Thomas Kerr, Robert Kerr, and John Kerr (sons), Mrs Turton (Burnhope), Mrs Cowen (Stanley), and Miss Rachel Kerr (daughters), Mrs Kerr (Newcastle), Mr Turton and Mr Cowen (sons-in-laws), Mr Walter Telford, Mrs R. Telford, Mrs M. Telford, and Mrs J. Telford (West Wylam, Northumberland), Mr Robert Pattinson, Mr C. Pattinson (East Stanley), Mr George Pattinson and Isabel Pattinson (Newcastle), Mr Edward Pattinson (East Stanley), Mr M. Richardson (Newfield), Mr John Coyle (East Stanley), Mr John McGregor (Louisa Terrace), Messrs Wm. and Thomas Forster, Mr Thomas Forster, Senr. (Stanley), Mr and Mrs A. H, Swinburn (Stanley), Mr and Mrs Atkinson (Stanley), Mr Turnbull (Stanley), Mr M. Taylor (Walker-on-Tyne), Mr Thomas Garthwaite, Mr Gibson, Mr C. Roxby, Mr John Ramshaw, Mr Jos. Peadon (Stanley Inn), Mr and Mrs Hardy (South Moor), Mrs Dobson, Mrs Battensby, and Mrs Heslop (Burnhope), Mr Geo. Dixon, Mr Jos. Swinburn, Miss Gair (Annfield Plain), and many others. Altogether some 300 persons assembled to pay a last mark of respect to the deceased, including about fifty members of the Lodge to which he was attached.

CONSETT POLICE COURT.

MONDAY, October 25th.—Before J. T. Potts, Esq., and W. Aynsley, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

James Gallagher, mason, Blackhill, was charged by P.C. Grant with being drunk at Blackhill on Saturday last.—A fine of 5s and costs was imposed.—Christopher Farlow, labourer, was charged with being drunk in Ark Street, Consett, on the 23rd inst. P.C. Pringle proved, and defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs.—Daniel Henley was, on the evidence of P.C. Parkinson ordered to pay 5s and costs.

LODGING HOUSE AFFRAY AT BLACKHILL.

John Casey, labourer, Blackhill, was summoned by P.C. McGee for being drunk and disorderly in Derwent Street, on Saturday evening last, and also with doing wilful damage to the property of Michael O'Hanlon, lodging-house keeper. The constable stated that he was on duty in Derwent Street on the night in question, and found the defendant creating a disturbance. He had broken the windows of the lodging-house belonging to Michael O'Hanlon, and also three basins.—Mr Potts (to defendant): Are you guilty?—Defendant: I had a little sup, but I was not drunk. I went half way to Consett, and walked up to the officers and told them that I was the man that had been ejected from the lodging-house.—P.C. McGee said this statement was not true.—Sergeant Tones deposed that shortly after 10 o'clock, he was sent for to the lodging-house. Defendant was very drunk, and had smashed eleven panes and three basins.—The case of wilful damage was then proceeded with. Margaret O'Hanlon said Casey was very drunk. He used very bad language to a woman named Kelly, and broke eleven panes and three basins. He said that he would have satisfaction when he came out, even if he got a month. She valued the damage at 8s 6d.—Defendant: Did you not throw the basins at me?—Mrs O'Hanlon: No; you threw them on the floor.—Defendant (to Sergeant Tones): Were you not there when they dragged a woman out of the house.—Sergt. Tones: I saw a woman drunk in the house.—Defendant said that if a man only looked at O'Hanlon, he would take up a poker, and throw him out, and keep his lodging money.—For being drunk, defendant was fined 5s, and a similar fine was inflicted in the other case, together with the damage and costs.

STANLEY PRIVATE ASSEMBLY.

PRESENTATION TO MR J. COYLE.

The Stanley Private Assembly, one of the most popular institutions of its kind in the county of Durham, was formed some four or five years ago, largely through the efforts of Mr John Coyle and Mr George Sanderson, jun. During the whole period of its existence, Mr Sanderson has attended energetically to the secretarial business, whilst Mr Coyle has acted as one of the M's.C., with conspicuous success. Some few weeks ago, Mr Coyle decided to retire from the position he had held so long and successfully, and the members of the committee of the Private Assembly at once determined that some small present should be made to Mr Coyle, as a token of appreciation of the services he had rendered to the Assembly. The present eventually took the shape of a handsome meerschaum pipe and silver-chased matchbox. The presentation took place on Monday evening, at the Commercial Hotel, Mr Wm. Forster presiding over a good attendance, which included Messrs John Coyle, George Sanderson, John E. McGregor, Thomas Forster, Robert Cunningham, John Ramshaw, Ernest Bell, and others.

The Chairman called upon Mr Sanderson to make the presentation, who said that the members of the Private Assembly were all greatly indebted to Mr Coyle for the services he had rendered during the past four years, and the present which they were making him was only a slight token of the respect they entertained for him, and the gratitude they felt for the manner in which he had officiated for four years in the important position of M.C. He expressed the hope that Mr Coyle would not be long in taking to himself a partner. (Applause). He had great pleasure in handing the presents over to Mr Coyle, and trusted that he would live long to enjoy them. (Applause).

Mr Coyle briefly returned thanks. He had always done his best to make the Stanley Private Assembly a success, and it had been a labour of love to him. He thanked Mr Sanderson for his kind remarks, and the members of the committee for their handsome gift.

The toast of the "Burnopfield Private Assembly" was heartily honoured, Mr Ernest Bell, of Hobson Colliery, responding in a merry speech.

Mr Forster expressed the hope that the Burnopfield dance would succeed as swimmingly as the Stanley Private Assembly had done.

Mr Cunningham said that he had been connected with dances in Newcastle and other places, but never knew one to equal the Stanley dance. (Applause, and "Of course not.")

Mr Swinburn, of East Stanley, said that he would like to add his tribute to those that had been uttered, regarding Mr Coyle. He had always found that gentleman to be a most courteous and efficient M.C. (Applause).

Mr Ramshaw, as a new member, expressed his best wishes for the success of the Private Assembly.

A COMPLIMENT TO THE "CONSETT CHRONICLE."

Mr George Sanderson, Secretary of the Private Assembly, said that of the two local papers, the *Consett Chronicle* had always been the one to give the best reports regarding the doings of the Private Assembly. He did not make that statement because a representative of the *Chronicle* was in the room, but because it was a fact. He thanked the Stanley representative and the Editor of the *Chronicle*, and asked the company to drink the health of Mr Robinson, and "Success to the *Consett Chronicle*."

The toast was very heartily honoured, and Mr Robinson briefly responded.

Mr John Coyle, in proposing the toast of "The Secretary," paid a warm tribute to the manner in which that gentleman had worked on behalf of the Private Assembly. When they lost the services of Mr George Sanderson, they would never again succeed in getting his equal.

Mr Sanderson said that he would always be willing to do whatever he could for the benefit of the Stanley Private Assembly. (Applause).

Songs having been given by Messrs J. E. McGregor, J. Ramshaw, E. Bell, W. Forster, and J. Coyle, the proceeding terminated with the singing of the "National Anthem."

TANFIELD SCHOOL BOARD.

The monthly meeting of this Board was held on Tuesday evening, Mr H. C. Wood, J.P., presiding. There were also present—Messrs J. Green, M. G. Armstrong, W. Bulmer, W. Severs, B. Mason, Rev. James Thompson, Rev. T. H. Archdall, Mr W. H. Ritson (Clerk), and Mr Meddick (Attendance Officer).

MR BULMER AGAIN ON THE WARPATH.

The minutes having been read, Mr Bulmer said that he would like to know if there had been any answer from Mr Ward, respecting the removal of the Central Class to the Tanfield School?

The Clerk: There has been no reply. He was written to immediately after the last meeting, but has given no answer as yet. You can see the letter if you wish.

Mr Bulmer: It is not necessary. I don't want to see your letter to him. It is his reply that I want. If it is not received by the next meeting, I will move a resolution. Mr Ward is only a public servant.

TEACHERS REPORTS.

Mr James Anderson (East Saanley) reported that during the month, thoroughly good progress had been made with school work. The Evening School was opened on September 27th, the subjects taken being arithmetic, algebra, mensuration, writing, and composition.

Miss Burnip reported that good progress had been made in the East Stanley Infants' School during the month.

Mr Little reported that the attendance at West Stanley School had been considerably affected owing to the prevalence of measles.

Miss Storey reported that the measles epidemic had also affected the attendance in the Infants' Department at West Stanley.

Mr Dawson (Tanfield Lea) reported that rain came through the roof of the main room.

Miss Middleton reported that the attendance continued to be exceedingly good. Several necessary repairs had been effected.

Mr G. H. Smith reported that the work at Pickering Nook had made good progress during the month.

Miss Davison (Infants' Department, Pickering Nook) reported that the attendance had decreased during the month.

Mr R. Abbott (Leazes) reported that the whole of the fireplaces needed overhauling, several bottoms being burnt through.

Mr Darney reported that the attendance had been very irregular during the month. Thirty children were absent on account of measles, and the percentage of attendances for the present week was only 84.

ATTENDANCE OFFICER'S REPORT.

Mr Meddick reported that during the month, he had made 54 visits to schools, 536 absentee visits, served nine bye-law notices, one warning, and reported 40 children to other officers. The prevalence of measles still affected the attendances at Stanley Central and West Stanley. Fully one half of the children in the West Stanley Infant School were affected. A case of measles had also occurred in James Street, Tanfield Lea.

APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANT MISTRESS.

Three applications were received for the position of assistant mistress at Tanfield Lea.—It was decided to transfer Miss S. Armstrong, of Stanley Central to Tanfield Lea, her duties to commence on Monday first.—The applications for the vacancy were Miss H. P. Simpson, Jesmond; Miss E. S. Moore, Carlisle; and Miss B. Oxteby, Bamford, Lancashire.

Mr Green said that before going any further into the matter, he would like to know if there was any great need for appointing a successor to Miss Armstrong at once.

The Chairman: We have considered it.

Mr Green: I don't think we did.

The Chairman: We decided it anyhow.

Mr Green said that at the end of the year, the Board would have twelve who would be at liberty for teaching purposes. He repeated that the matter had not had the consideration of the Board.

The Chairman said that a man had a right to speak for himself in saying that he had not given consideration to a matter, but not to decide whether other people had done so.

Mr Bulmer said that he endorsed both what the Chairman said and what Mr Green said. At the time the matter was considered, it was mainly with reference to the Tanfield Lea School. Mr Darney had a staff for 290, and his average attendance was 280. The question was whether they really wanted one. If they did get one, they could not get her for six weeks or two months.

The Chairman: It seems to me to be an entirely gratuitous assumption that we cannot get them in sixtweeks, because the first one I come to says that she is at liberty. I presume, therefore, that she can come at once.

Mr Bulmer: But I thought that it would be necessary to have the candidates before the Board, in the nsual way.

The Chairman said that Mr Darney had made a camplaint to him some time ago regarding the staff of his School.

Mr Bulmer, after receiving the figures regarding the staff and attendances, said that it was very clear that one was needed. Mr Darney only had staff for 260, not 290, as he had thought, whilst the average attendance was 255, and the number on the books 314.

It was therefore agreed to make the appointment.

References having been read, a division was taken, when Miss Moore was elected by four votes, to three received for Miss Oxteby.

SCALE OF CHARGES.

The Rev. James Thompson proposed, and Mr Armstrong seconded, that the charge for the loan of the schools be 10s per concert.

Mr Bulmer proposed, and Mr Green seconded, that each application be decided on its own merits, and that there be no fixed charge.

The proposal was carried by the casting vote of the Chairman, there voting for it, Messrs. Thompson, Armstrong, Archdall, and Wood; and for the amendment, Messrs. Mason, Bulmer, Severs, and Green.—It was agreed that the Board should give special consideration to special application. It was further decided that the promoters of concerts, &c., should be compelled to engage a police officer.

The Rev. J. Thompson proposed, and the Rev. T. H. Archdall seconded, that the charge for public meetings (single meeting) should be 2s 6d per meeting.—It was agreed, on the suggestion of the Chairman, that all parties now holding contracts with the Board should be allowed to continue on the same system as heretofore.

Father Thompson proposed that the charge for bazaars be 15s a day.

Mr Bulmer: That will be 7s 6d per half day.

The Chairman: No. Part of a day is the same as the whole.

Mr Green proposed, and Mr Archdall seconded, that the charge should be 10s per day.—The amendment was agreed to.

TENDER.

The tender of Mr Robinson was accepted (£2,285 6s 6d) for the erection of a school and master's house at Tanfield Lea.—This concluded the business.

STANLEY CRICKETERS' SOCIAL

The sixth annual social evening in connection with the Stanley Cricket Club was held on Wednesday evening, in the Co-operative Hall, and proved a brilliant success, some seventy couples spending a most enjoyable evening. The spacious hall was gaily decorated for the occasion, the work having been supervised by Mr Bell, of the Co-operative Society. The musicians, Messrs W. Robson, Travena, J. Ward, and M. Simpson, performed with the ability for which they are so justly celebrated. Dancing commenced about 8 o'clock, and was kept up till about 2 o'clock on Thursday morning. The secretarial arrangements were ably performed by Mr Edward Sanderson, and the M.C.'s were Messrs T. S. Parker, W. Wrangham, J. Stewart, W. P. Wood, L. Sanderson, and B. Johnson. The committee of management consisted of Messrs E. Sanderson, R. Noble, R. Johnson, E. Snaith, G. Stewart, J. Dixon, J. Shield, J. H. Benfold, and G. McKnight. Amongst the company present were Mr and Mrs A. Noble, Mr and Mrs G. Stewart, Mr and Mrs Wood, Mr and Mrs Benfold, Mr and Mrs Summerbell, Mr R. Gibson, Mr and Mrs Bolam, Air Pit; Mr and Mrs R. Pearson, Mr R. Walker, the Misses Walker (2), Mr Joseph and the Misses Robinson, Mr and Mrs W. Smurthwaite, Mr and Mrs E. Hughes, Mr James Shield, Mr W. T. Brown, Mr T. Jewitt, Mr W. Aynsley, the Misses Starford (2), Miss Proudlock, Mr and Miss Turnbull, Mr and Mrs Hewison, Miss Elliott, Mr R. Knox, Miss Temple, Miss Aynsley, Mr H. Armstrong, Miss Forster, Mr Rowell, Miss Robson, Miss Grundy, Mr McKnight, Mr G. Sanderson, Miss Weatherall, Mr L. Reay and Mrs Reay, Gateshead; Miss Kell, Gateshead; Miss Dunwoodie, Miss Wylam, Mr Brown, Miss Lambert, Mr W. Dover, Mr A. Storey, Mr Hewison, Mr R. Cunningham, Mr Lynskey, Mr Murray, Miss Frater, Miss Elliott, Miss Brown, Mr J. Bennett, Mr J. Leighton, Mrs J. Forster, Mrs T. Parker, and many others. The following ladies presided at the tables:—Mrs Johnson, Mrs Snaith, Mrs Smith, Mrs. Bennett, the Misses Benfold (3), Miss Stevenson, Miss Smith, Miss Scott, and Miss Emery. The repast, which was of a sumptuous nature, was enjoyed by all present.

TOW LAW.

Tea.—The annual free tea given to the old folk of Tow Law by the Good Templar Lodges, was held in the Mechanics' Hall on Saturday afternoon. At night, a public meeting took place, addressed by the ministers of the town and others.

MEDOMSLEY.

Co-operative Tea and Concert.—On Saturday, the Co-operators of Leadgate and Allendale held their annual tea and concert, in the Co-operative Hall. A substantial meal was provided in the large hall, and was partaken of by over 500 people. In the evening, a splendid entertainment was given by Mr Henry Tompkins' party, the hall being crowded. A football match from the cinematographe was well received, as were several humorous songs by Mr Tompkins. On Monday evening, a social gathering was held, over one hundred people being present.

BEAMISH.

Mr Thomas Duncombe Eden and Mrs Alexander of Beamish Park have contributed £1 10s to the Railway Benevolent Institution, per the Lamesley station master. Mr Eden, who we regret to learn has been ill all summer, journeyed to London on Tuesday morning, en route to his south country house.

Supper.—A grand supper, in connection with the Pelton Brass Band and Beamish Celtic Football Club, was held at the house of Mr and Mrs Middleton, Durham Ox Inn, when between 80 and 90 people sat down to a sumptuous repast provided by the host and hostess. The tables were presided over by Mrs Darling and Mrs Clark, whilst Mr T. Darling acted as carver. After the cloths had been removed, Mr W. Winship, president of the Band, took the chair, and Mr G. Weddle the vice-chair.—The Chairman, in the course of his opening remarks, said he was glad to see so many present that evening. They had a good man in Mr Middleton, who was a generous subscriber. (Applause).—Mr Weddle endorsed the remarks of the Chairman. He had, he said, known Mr Middleton for several years, and had always found him ready to assist the Band and Football Club. That was the second time he had had the pleasure of attending a supper provided by Mr and Mrs Middleton, and he hoped that that would not be the last occasion on which the host and hostess would supply a repast for them. (Applause).—Mr Middleton, who was applauded on rising, said that he had always tried to do his best for the Band and the Football Club. The former had only taken part in one amateur contest, and he was glad to state that they succeeded in carrying off the first prize. (Applause). He hoped that it was not the last time that he would provide a supper for the members of the West Pelton Band and Beamish Celtic Football Club. (Renewed applause).—During the evening, a number of gentlemen contributed songs, and the Band also played selections. Those who contributed to the harmony were Messrs W. Stephenson, Brighton, G. J. Sanderson, Thos. Winship, R. Maughan, J. Mason, G. Dargue, and W. Hutton.

Business Announcements.

JOHN ATKINSON,

BUILDER AND CONTRACTOR,

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

A HORSE AND TRAP LET OUT ON HIRE.

Apply No. 1, DELVES TERRACE, Consett.

WEST STANLEY PEOPLE ARE CONTINUALLY ASKING, HOW CAN

KIRKUP

Afford to Sell his BOOTS AND SHOES so much Cheaper than others? Small profits and a big turn-over. That is the secret, my worthy friend.

HART'S DINING ROOMS,

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

VICTORIA DAIRY, CONSETT.

FRESH MILK, TWICE DAILY.

FRESH CREAM AND BUTTER, ALWAYS ON HAND.

G. T. ROBSON,
PROPRIETOR.

VERY GOOD & VERY CHEAP
ARE THE
BOOTS & SHOES
AT
FAWCETT'S,

A Large Variety Always in Stock. WHITE-LE-HEAD.

SIX GOLD MEDALS AWARDED, 1896-97.

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

Contains all the Tonic and Refreshing Qualities of Beer.

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

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

LEMONADE, &c., &c.

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

Can be had from the Makers—

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

M. FAWELL,

GROCER PROVISION MERCHANT, TEA DEALER, AND DRAPER,
FRONT STREET & DELVES LANE,
OPPOSITE THE "CONSETT CHRONICLE" OFFICE.
CONSETT.

VANS CALL IN ALL PARTS OF THE DISTRICT.

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

JAMES FROSDICK

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

FOR
FIRST-CLASS GROCERIES
AND PROVISIONS,
GO TO

GEO. J. ROBINSON,

TEA DEALER, GROCER, AND PROVISION MERCHANT,
DERWENT STREET, BLACKHILL.

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

WM. WHITFIELD

MAKES THE
BEST FURNITURE
in the District, at the Lowest Possible Prices.

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

FINE ART GALLERY,

SADLER STREET, DURHAM.

T. RUSHWORTH & SON,
CARVERS AND GILDERS.

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

HUDSPITH'S PILE PILLS.

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

Supplied in Boxes at 1/1½ and 2/3 of most Chemists, Co-operative Stores, and Drug Store, or Post Free from T. HUDSPITH, Cert. Botanic and F.C. Sm. Lond., Botanist Dispensary, Langley Moor, Durham.

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

"JOHNNY, will you be quiet! else I shan't take you to

KIRKUP'S

(WEST STANLEY) for a new pair of Boots next Saturday." Johnny was dumb immediately He'd had a pair before, and knew their value

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

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

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

JOSEPH ROBINSON,

DISPENSING & FAMILY CHEMIST,
STANLEY and ANNFIELD PLAIN,

Directs attention to his seasonable supply of
PURE DRUGS and CHEMICALS.
PERFUMERY.
ÆRATED WATERS.
HORSE and CATTLE MEDICINES.
SHEEP DIPS, &c.

Agent for Glendenning's Beef & Malt Wine.

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

Business Announcements.

J. H. COURTNEY,

CONSETT COCOA ROOMS,

HAVELOCK STREET.

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

ESTABLISHED 21 YEARS.

MATTHEW KIRKLAND

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

UMBRELLAS RE-COVERED & REPAIRED.

THE NEW WOMAN is very much in evidence at

KIRKUP'S

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

MARTIN BECK.

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

ROBERT MILBURN,

BUTCHER,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT,

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

LUMLEY'S

IS
THE NOTED SHOP
FOR
CHEAP SUITS.
6, SHERBURN TERRACE,
CONSETT.

WHEN YOU ARE IN NEWCASTLE,
Call and see your old friend

T. HOFFMAN

(THE HUMORIST),
AT THE
THREE TUNS HOTEL,
NEWGATE STREET.

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

JAMES PALLISER,

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

THE NOTED GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS STORES AND FLOUR WAREHOUSE.

F. HODGSON,

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

TOBACCO AND CIGARS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

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

SHAVING neatly and expeditiously performed.

JOHN SWINBURN MURRAY,

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

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

JOHN LOWES,

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

Valuations effected for Probate. Auction Sales of every description undertaken on most reasonable Terms. RENTS AND DEBTS COLLECTED.

Agent to Castle Line Shipping Company, also North British and Mercantile Insurance Company for Fire and Life and Ocean Accident Company.

JOHN CRAWFORD,

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

ALL CLASSES OF SALES TAKEN.
PROMPT SETTLEMENTS.

BAILIFF under the Law of Distress Amendment Act.

Sale and Emigration Office, 25, Victoria Street, Consett.

W. LEE,

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

AND invites Attention to his First-Class Stock of

PRIME BEEF, MUTTON, PORK, &c.

All Orders promptly attended to.

WILLIAM NICHOL,

SADDLER AND HARNESS MAKER
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

NEW PREMISES NOW OPEN.

ALL KINDS OF SADDLERY AND HARNESS.

REPAIRS NEATLY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY EXECUTED.

Business Announcements.

FOR BEST VALUE IN

BACON	FLOUR
CHEESE	TEA, and
BUTTER	GENERAL
LARD	GROCERIES

TRY

G. D. POWELL,

CASH PROVISION STORES,
4, PARK ROAD, CONSETT.

THOS. SWAINSTON,

Complete House Furnisher,

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

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

At Lowest Prices and to suit all Classes.

ALL GOODS MARKED IN PLAIN FIGURES.
2s. in the Pound Discount for Cash.

An Early Call and Inspection is Cordially Invited.

F. H. REED,

GENERAL AND FANCY DRAPER,
POST OFFICE,
ANNFIELD PLAIN,

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

LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S UNDERCLOTHING.

Extensive and Varied Stock to Select from.

Ben Pickard
and all the Federation Leaders, if the question was submitted to them, would agree that **Kirkup**
STRIKES
the iron when it is hot. The public of West Stanley get the benefit of his wide-awake enterprise in Cheap and Reliable Boots and Shoes, such as
John Wilson
himself might wear in the House, and feel proud of his understandings.

PAINTS, OILS, AND COLOURS.

GEO. PATTRICK,

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

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

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

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

FOR GOOD QUALITY,
GREAT DURABILITY,
PREVAILING STYLE,
FINE FINISH, AND
DOWNRIGHT HONEST VALUE,
GO TO

J. L. BRODIE'S,

ST. AIDAN'S STREET, BLACKHILL
Near the Railway Station.

LADIES' COSTUMES BY EXPERIENCED HANDS.

JOS. BAINBRIDGE,

FRONT STREET, ANNFIELD PLAIN.
SEE LARGE STOCK OF

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

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

GEORGE McNEAL,

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

NEW LAUNDRY

FOR THE CONSETT DISTRICT.

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

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

PARCELS FORWARDED WEEKLY.

FANCIERS. FANCIERS. FANCIERS.
CALL AT

DAWSON'S,

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

AGENT FOR COUNTY DURHAM.

Business Announcements.

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

THE FOUNTAIN HOTEL,

MEDOMSLMY ROAD, CONSETT.

E. J. BROWN
(Late of the Railway Hotel, Consett),

WITH much pleasure informs her numerous Friends that, having taken the above Hostelry, she trusts that they will kindly bear her in mind, and give her a call.

SPLENDID MILD ALES & BITTER BEER.

PORT AND SHERRY OF THE BEST VINTAGES.

SCOTCH AND IRISH WHISKIES OF CHOICE BLENDS.

GOOD STABLING.

Tuition.

LADIES' ART STUDIO,
WEDE' PARK HOUSE, DIPTON.

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

MUSICAL TUITION.

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

GIVES LESSONS on the Pianoforte and in Theory. Pupils prepared for Examinations.
Terms on application.
ROGER STREET, BLACKHILL.

VIOLIN PUPILS WANTED.

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

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

MUSICAL TUITION.

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

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

TERMS ON APPLICATION.

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

Sales by Auction.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY, November 1st, 1897.

15 to 20 FAT CATTLE.
130 FAT SHEEP and HOGGS.
VEAL and KEEPING CALVES.
PORK and STORE PIGS.
DAIRY COWS and HEIFERS.
HORSE SHEETS, ROLLERS, LADDERS POULTRY, &c.

Sale at One o'clock prompt.
J. S. MURRAY.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

MONDAY, November 1st, 1897.

50 to 65 DAIRY COWS and HEIFERS.
10 FAT CATTLE.
175 FAT SHEEP and HOGGS.
5 STORE CATTLE.
12 CALVES.

Entries to day of Sale. Sale at 10-30 a.m.
J. VICKERS, Auctioneer.

LANCHESTER STOCK MART COMPANY, LIMITED.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST, at 1-30 p.m.

Mr. JACKSON GREEN, Auctioneer.

60 to 70 FAT SHEEP and LAMBS, from Mayden Hall, Moor Lees, Newbiggin, Standalone, &c.

WEDNESDAY, November 3rd, at 1-30.

SPECIAL SALE for STORE CATTLE, KEEPING SHEEP, and HORSES.
Early Entries to
JOHN GIBSON, SECRETARY.

20, ST. CUTHBERT'S TERRACE, BENFIELDSIDE.

IMPORTANT SALE OF HIGH-CLASS FURNITURE.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 3rd, 1897, at 11 o'clock a.m.

MR. T. D. DRYDEN, having been honoured with Instructions from Mrs Humfrey, who is leaving the district, will Sell by Auction, as above, the whole of the Valuable FURNITURE and EFFECTS of a well-appointed establishment—

ENTRANCE HALL.—1 Side Oak Hall Table, 2 Oak Chairs, Hat Rack, Metal Hall Stand, 2 Deer Heads, 3 Fox Heads, 2 Brushes, 3 Hunting Pictures, &c.

DINING ROOM.—Very handsome solid oak double cylinder Dining Table, 3 leaves, 11ft. by 4ft.; 1 solid oak Sideboard (plain), 6ft.; oak Tray Stand, 6 Chairs in leather, Ladies' and Gentlemen's Chairs, rosewood Piano by Collard and Collard, copper Coal Vase, brass Fender and Fireirons, with all the Pictures, Paintings, &c., &c.

DRAWING ROOM.—Suite in old gold, Gipsey Tables, brass Fender and Irons, Carpets, Pictures, Ornaments, Skin Rug, &c.

No. 1 BEDROOM.—Handsome Suite in oak, Wardrobe, &c.; French Bed, steel Fender and Irons, Carpet, Pekin Rugs, Cornice Poles, Chamber Set, &c.

No. 2 BEDROOM.—Handsome brass-mounted Iron Bed, Washstand and Dressing Table in yellow pine, large Wardrobe, 10ft.; Chairs, Towel Rail, Carpet, Rug, Toilet Set, and handsome Chamber Set in pink and gold.

No. 3 BEDROOM.—1 Iron Bed, painted; Chest Drawers, Wash Stand and Dressing Table, Swing Glass, 1 mahogany Swing Glass, Towel Rail, 2 Cornice Poles, 2 Chairs, Carpet, Chamber Ware, &c.

No. 4 BEDROOM.—1 Plain Iron Bed, Drawers, Wash Stand, Carpets, &c.

KITCHEN.—1 large Cupboard, oak frame; 1 Kitchen Table, 1 Side Table, 1 Couch, 1 Smoking Chair, Armchair, 3 Kitchen Chairs, heavy steel Fender and Irons, Coffee Machine, Mincing Machine, 2 Meat Jacks, 7 fine Dish Covers, Wringing Machine, 1 handsome Dinner Set, 1 handsome Dessert Set, Spirit Cruet, Dinner Cruet, with all the Silver, Cutlery, Ware, Pots, Pans, &c., too numerous to detail.

Four Venetian Blinds, 5ft. by 3ft. 2in.

Sale to commence at 11 o'clock a.m.

This is a rare opportunity for buying solid, well-made Furniture, principally oak, walnut, and rosewood. The Ware is very handsome, and the large amount of Cutlery and Silver, in exceptionally good and chaste designs.

For further particulars see bills
T. W. DRYDEN, Auctioneer,
Front Street, Consett.

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST, 1897.

SALE of Valuable FURNITURE, together with the Contents of Two well-furnished Houses.
Sale at One o'clock prompt.

CRAWFORD'S GROUND, CO[illegible]

BY the request of Farmers [illegible] JOHN CRAWFORD [illegible] SALE of HORSES, CARTS, [illegible] Wednesday, November 17th, [illegible] Please forward Entries.

SALE ROOMS, TRAF[illegible] CONS[illegible]

MR. R. STOKER [illegible] November 1st, 100 [illegible] PLEDGES. Also, Qua[illegible] belonging to a party w[illegible] keeping.

Anyone having Furn[illegible] have it included in this [illegible]

Sale at One o[illegible]

Sales by Auction.

PRELIMINARY.

Important Sale of 100 Freehold and Copyhold Building Sites, and Copyhold Dwelling Houses, at Rowlands Gill and Whickham.

MESSRS. R. MARCH and SON have been commissioned by Mr John Wigham to Sell by Auction,

On TUESDAY NOVEMBER 9th, 1897, at the Crown Hotel, Whickham, upwards of 100 FREEHOLD and COPYHOLD BUILDING SITES, and COPYHOLD DWELLING HOUSES, in Whickham and Rowlands Gill.

Houghton-by-Wylam, Oct. 8th, 1897.

ALBERT HALL, STANLEY.

ON Saturday, October 30th, at Two o'clock p.m., Sale by Public Auction, of FURNITURE, &c., by JOHN T. WESTON, JUN. Also, a splendid PIANO, by one of the best makers.

See Bills for particulars.

Sale Office: Cornwall House, Annfield Place, Annfield Plain, R.S.O.

OLD CORNSAY,

Three Miles from Tow Law and Waterhouses Station.

MR. JACKSON GREEN, instructed by Mrs. Jobling, who is retiring from Business, will Sell the whole of her COWS, CARTS, IMPLEMENTS, and the whole CONTENTS of BLACKSMITH'S SHOP, part HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.

Stack of Well-won Old Land HAY, about 16 tons, sold to go off.

Particulars to follow.

Sale Office, Satley, Tow Law, R.S.O.

ALTERATION OF DATE.

SALE ROOMS, STANLEY.

THE Next Sale will be held on Tuesday First, November 2nd, 1897. Sale at 1-30.

SOUTH PONTOP, ANNFIELD PLAIN.

N. ELSDON, instructed by Mr. W. Eltringham, who is declining Housekeeping, will Sell, on Monday, November 15th, 1897, the whole of his HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and EFFECTS.

Sale at Two o'clock.

Offices: Delves Lane, Consett.

CHINA HALL FARM (NEAR ROWLEY).

Will be offered

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION,
AT AN EARLY DATE.
Further Particulars Next Week.

Public Announcements.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

Conductor:
MR. G. P. STEPHENSON.

Leader of Orchestra:
MR. G. A. WILLIAMS.

Treasurer:
MR. R. KIRSOP, Hodgson, Barnett, Pease and Co.'s Bank, Consett.

FIRST MEETING:

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

When MENDELSSOHN'S

ST. PAUL

Will be produced for Rehearsal by a Chorus and Orchestra of about 300.

Chorus and Orchestra Members are now being Enrolled.

TERMS:

GENTLEMEN	2s. 6d. per Season.
LADIES	1s. 6d. „

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

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

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

LOOK OUT FOR GRAND CONCERT.

TANFIELD LEA BAND

Intend holding a

CONCERT

IN THE STANLEY CO-OPERATIVE HALL,
On WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18TH, 1897.

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

17, PROSPECT TERRACE,
ANNFIELD PLAIN.

LEADGATE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PRIVATE STREET WORKS ACT, 1892.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Urban District Council for the Urban District of Leadgate, in the County of Durham, have, in pursuance of the Private Street Works Act, 1892, by resolution approved of certain specifications, plans and sections, estimates and provisional apportionments, prepared by their Surveyor in respect of a Street or part of a Street known as Back Durham Road in the aforesaid Urban District, and that such resolution is in the following terms, viz.:—"That in pursuance of the resolution passed on the 8th day of September last, for the making of Back Durham Road, from the Queen's Head Inn to opposite Leadgate Farm, the Council now approve of the specifications, plans, estimates and provisional apportionments submitted by their Surveyor, and that this resolution be published and a copy served on the owners of the premises shown as liable to be charged in the provisional apportionments."

By Order,
J. HEDWORTH COUPLAND,
Clerk to the District Council.

19th October, 1897.

TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR CONSETT.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged	1400	16	6
Utrick A. Ritson, J.P. Newcastle	5	0	0
Mrs Annie Potts, Park Road, Consett	1	1	0
Mr. Jesse Hall, Consett	1	0	0
Rev. F. Steggall, Vicar, Consett	1	0	0
Mr Joseph Kirk, Blackhill	1	1	0
Mr Edward Harris, Consett	0	2	6
Mr Septimus Brodie, East Parade, Consett	5	5	0
Mr Daniel Williams, Cemetery Road, Blackhill	1	1	0
Rev. A. Baillie, The Manse, Blackhill	1	0	0
Mr Bernard Ward, Constance Street, Consett	0	10	6
Councillor E. Sloane, Blackhill	2	2	0
Councillor J. Costello, Leadgate	0	10	0
"A Friend," per Mr G. T. Hyden	1	0	0

Subscriptions may be paid to
Mr T. L. GLEDSTONE (Hon. Treas.),
North-Eastern Bank, Consett.
further information obtained from the Hon.
[illegible]
Mr W. S. DAVIES,
Brynglas, Consett.
Mr G. T. HYDEN,
Blackfyne House, Blackhill.

Public Announcements.

LOOK OUT FOR THE SHOW OF THE SE[illegible]

BLACK HORSE LEEK SHOW

THE FIRST ANNUAL SHOW
Of the above Club will be held
AT THE BLACK HORSE HOTEL, CONSETT,
On SATURDAY, October 30th,
And MONDAY, November 1st, 1897.

NORTH-WEST DURHAM CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.

RECEPTION AND CONVERSAZIONE.

NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

SATURDAY EVENING, November 6th.

RECEPTION..................6-30 to 7 p.m.
CONVERSAZIONE..............7 to 9 p.m.

MR. JAMES JOICEY

And other prominent Members of the Party will be present.

Conservatives and Unionists, who may not have received an Invitation, and are desirous of attending, may obtain Card of Invitation on application to Mr JOHN G. MURRAY, Taylor Street, Consett.

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

NEW THEATRE, CONSETT.

Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.

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

Resident Manager, Mr. LLOYD CLARANCE.

LAST THREE NIGHTS of Mrs E. J. LAMPARD'S Company in the splendid Drama—

BETWEEN THE LIGHTS.

ALL SHOULD

SEE The Marvellous Steel Works Scene (by night).
The Huge Swing Bridge Scene, with view of the Thames (by night).
The Great Bank Scene.
The St. James' Park Scene.

SENSATION AFTER SENSATION.

MONDAY NEXT, November 1st, 1879, important engagement of Miss Ida MILLAIS' Company in the great Dramatic Play, by JOHN DOUGLAS,

NO MAN'S LAND.

Fifty Tons of real Water on the Stage — The Typhoon on the Island—A real Rain Shower—Tremendous Dive into real Water—The Sensation of London—A Woman saves a Woman.

"THE INDIAN MUTINY" is coming.

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

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

Box Plan at Ramsden's.

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

TANFIELD RATEPAYERS' ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING will be held in Pickering Nook Board Schools, on Tuesday first, at 8 p.m. All Members please attend.

BURNHOPE AND DISTRICT PLOUGHING ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the above wil be held at the house of Mr J. Lumley, Railway Inn, Annfield Plain, on Monday, November 1st, at 6-30 p.m., to appoint Committee, Secretary Treasurer, &c. All interested are kindly invited to attend.

MATTHEW WAKE, Treasurer.

FARMERS' BALL.

THE above ANNUAL BALL will be held in the New Town Hall, Consett, on Janauay 13th, 1898. W. RAMSAY, Hon. Secretary.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY.

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

MONDAY, November 1st, and Five Following Nights—

JACK O' HEARTS.

Look out for "THE INDIAN MUTINY."

DIPTON CHURCH.

RE-OPENING (after Painting and Beautifying), and

HARVEST THANKSGIVING.

WEDNESDAY, November 3rd—
Holy Communion at 10 a.m.
Evensong at 7-30 p.m.

SUNDAY, November 7th—
Holy Communion at 9 a.m.
Matins at 10-30 a.m.
Musical Service at 2-15 p.m.
Evensong at 6 p.m.

RICHARD TUSON, VICAR.

REV. J. H. HECTOR,

THE "BLACK KNIGHT," will LECTURE in STANLEY, on WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd, in connection with the Wesleyan Church. Late Train leaves for Consett.

Tenders.

LANCHESTER UNION.

TO CONTRACTORS.

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

Drawings, Specifications, and Conditions of Contract may be seen, and Forms of Tender may be obtained, at the Architect's Office, George Thomas Wilson's, 121, Durham Road, Blackhill.

Tenders to be sent in to the Office of the undersigned, sealed and endorsed, "Tender for New Fitters' Shop," on or before Wednesday, November 3rd, 1897.

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

WM. H. RITSON,
Clerk to the Guardians.

Lanchester, October 12th, 1897.

Legal Notice.

WILLIAM WHEATLEY, DECEASED.

PURSUANT to an Act of Parliament made and passed in the 22nd and 23rd years of the reign of Her present Majesty, cap. 33, intituled, "An Act to further amend the Law of Property, and to relieve Trustees," NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all Creditors and Persons having any Claims or Demands upon or against the Estate of WILLIAM WHEATLEY, late of Shotley Bridge, in the County of Durham, deceased (who died on or about the 2nd day of March, 1896, and whose will was proved by William Telford, of Shotley Bridge, aforesaid, Flour Mill Manager; James Palliser, of Blackhill, in the said County of Durham, Grocer; and John Swinburn Murray, of Blackhill aforesaid, Auctioneer, the Executors therein named, on the 4th day of June, 1896, in the Durham District Registry of the Probate Division of the High Court of Justice), are hereby required to send in the particulars of their Claims and Demands to the said William Telford, James Palliser, and John Swinburn Murray, or to the undersigned, their Solicitor, on or before the 17th day of November next, and Notice is Hereby also Given that after that day the said Executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the deceased among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the Claims of which the said Executors shall then have notice, and that they will not be liable for the assets, or any part thereof, so distributed to any person of whose debt or claim they shall not then have had notice.

Dated this 21st day of October, 1897.

JOHN G. MURRAY,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne,
Solicitor for the Executors.

Wanted.

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

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

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

For Sale.

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

FOR SALE, BROWN MARE PONY; 7 years; 13 hands; quiet, reliable, good worker. Price, £10.—Apply Salisbury House, Medomsley.

FOR SALE, Strong, Useful PONY.—Apply WM. TAYLOR & SONS, Medomsley.

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

To Let.

TO LET.—Large SHOP, and STORE-ROOM over same, Front Street (North Side), Stanley, R.S.O.; November Term. Also Self-contained HOUSE, Front Street (North Side), Stanley, R.S.O., comprising 2 Reception Rooms (having bay windows), Kitchen, Bedrooms, and Bath Room; usual conveniences.—Apply to J. E. CROSSLING, F.I.A.S., Architect, Stanley, R.S.O.

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

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

Lost.

LOST, or Strayed, from Langley Moor Farm, Two BLACKFACED EWES, and Two MULE LAMBS. Ewes have tar mark ring T on near rib, and Lambs have fore bit out of left ear. Finder rewarded. — Apply JOHN THORNTON, Tribley House, Chester-le-Street.

Excursions.

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

EXCURSION TRAINS will be run as under:—

BREWERS' EXHIBITION AT THE AGRICULTURAL HALL, ISLINGTON.

TUESDAY, November 2nd, from BLACKHILL, at 9-5 a.m. (with bookings from Annfield Plain, Shield Row, &c.), to LONDON, for 4 and 7 days. Four days' Passengers return from St. Pancras Station, London, at 11 p.m. on November 5th; and 7 days' Passengers at 10 p.m., on Wednesday, November 9th.

SATURDAY, November 6th, from BLACKHILL, at 2-25 p.m. (with bookings from Shotley Bridge, Ebchester, and Lintz Green), to NEWCASTLE, returning at 9 p.m. the same day.
For further particulars see bills.
GEORGE S. GIBB,
General Manager.
York, October, 1897.

Business Announcements.

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

PAINLESS DENTISTRY—Comfort and Fit Guaranteed — Prices Reasonable. Attendance every Saturday, 2 to 5-30. Mr. Townend, Dental Surgeon, at Cockburn's, Stationer, Front Street.

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

GLENDENNING'S BEEF AND MALT WINE.
3/9 per Bottle. 2/- per Half-Bottle.

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

IN MEMORIAM NOTICES.

The charge for Inserting an "In Memoriam" Notice in the *Consett Chronicle*, with one verse of poetry, is 1s. When there are two verses, the charge is 1s. 6d.

MEMORIAL CARDS.

GEORGE NEASHAM
PRINTER, NEW STATION ROAD, CONSETT,
Begs to Inform Parents and others that he has on hand a very
LARGE AND ARTISTIC ASSORTMENT OF
MEMORIAL CARDS.
And that all Orders sent to him,
by Post or otherwise, will receive the most
CAREFUL AND PROMPT ATTENTION.

An inspection of Cards is respectfully invited.

Two-fold Black-Bordered SILVER CARD, with Chastely-Designed Front Page, bearing the words "In Memoriam," or "In Loving Memory," and Poetry on the inside of Front Page, Price for the 1ST DOZEN, 2s. 6D. EACH SUCCEEDING DOZEN, 1s. 6D. Relatives living at a distance may rely on having their Orders executed by Return of Post.

Relatives ordering Memorial Cards, are requested to send the Name of the Deceased, date of Death, &c. Wives who have been bereft of their husbands, husbands who have lost their wives, parents their children, children their father or mother, and relatives their friends, will find at the *Chronicle* Office, a large number of suitable verses to select from. A Printed Copy of these will be sent on application, Post Free.

THE
Consett Chronicle
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1897.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

SEWERAGE WORKS.

The question of sewge disposal occupied the attention of the Lanchester Rural District Council, last Thursday. Improvements in this respect are shortly to be carried out at Malton Colliery, and the contract for putting Holmside in order has been let. Eight tenders for the last-named work were submitted, the highest being £240 11s, and the lowest £158 12s 6d. The work has been let to Mr Bell, of Bishop Auckland, whose tender was some £21 less than the next lowest submitted by a local contractor. It is desirable that contracts should, as far as possible, be given to ratepayers and men living in the district, but, in the present instance, where a saving of twenty guineas was involved, this policy could not very well be followed. The sewerage works are to be formed on land belonging to the Earl of Durham. There is one-third of an acre, for which a rental of £7 per annum is asked. That is at the rate of £21 per acre per annum. The Council decided to ask his Lordship for easier terms.

FARMS AND WATER.

A similar difficulty to the preceding presented itself to the Lanchester District Council on the reading of a letter from the Greencroft Parish Council. The ordinary water supply to the farms at Durham Hill and Woodside seems to have been tapped by the mining operations in the neighbourhood, and the Parish Council appealed to the Council for redress. Here, again, comes the question—Are the District Council obliged to carry water to detached places? Only last week, a correspondent dealt with the subject in this paper, and showed clearly that it is the duty of District Councils to see that every house has a supply of water within a reasonable distance of his dwelling, and that it is the duty of the owner to provide it. The enforcing of this power, however, would scarcely be practicable in a scattered district like the Lanchester Union. In the present case, moreover, the farms had previously enjoyed a sufficient supply of water for their needs, so that the District Council cannot be held responsible for its failure. If the springs have been tapped by workings, then it seems to us that the responsibility lies with the colliery owners. The latter, as we have frequently pointed out, have their responsibilities as well as their rights. For colliery owners to have the power to deprive individuals of their rights is inconsistent with common sense. The legality of such a proceeding would soon be tested if anybody ventured to divert the natural flow of water into the reservoirs of our local water company. Anyhow, the District Council cannot be expected to go to the expense of laying mains to every farmstead in the Union.

THE LIGHTS OF LANCHESTER.

It has frequently been said that there is no love between the Rural District Council and the Lanchester Parish Council. Somehow the latter always prefer requests which the former regard as unnecessary and out of order. The Councils are once more in conflict, the subject of contention this time being the lighting of the roads. The lighting of Lanchester generally leaves little to be desired, but in one or two places more light is certainly desirable, and the Parish Council think that this ought to be provided by the District Council. Between Kit's Well Lane and Dorman's Cottages there is a road which is almost impassable at this time of the year, and any avoidance of holes and cart ruts is impossible owing to the absence of lamps. The back of Victoria Street is also unlighted, although the people there have not the same dangers to run in getting to their homes. The Parish Council now ask the District Council for an extension of lights to these two places, but the latter body contend that they are under no obligation to provide lights for outside places. The point raises an important question, as the Chairman points out. If the District Council decide to light detached places, then they will be called upon to distribute their favours equally. All the same, Kit's Well Lane and Victoria Street need lighting, and the people are no better off for the Councils shirking the responsibility.

PUBLIC QUARRIES.

Mr Bain, Inspector of Mines and Quarries, has called the attention of the Lanchester District Council to the dilapidated state of the fencing at Howden Quarry, about a mile above Lanchester. This is a public quarry, and it is the duty of the Council, it seems, to see that it is properly fenced. Mr Cumming, the Surveyor, has been instructed to do so. Might we suggest his being also asked to report on all the awarded quarries in the district? There is, to our certain knowledge, one public quarry that has been filched from the public by the adjacent landowner.

PAT AND THE PORT WINE.

Some men, it is well-known, cannot resist the smell of drink. A sniff is sufficient to make them break good resolves. There is a story told of a poor fellow who, unable to raise the price of a glass of beer after a spree the previous night, actually stood at the door of a public-house and as his more fortunate friends came out asked them to blow down his throat. A case not quite so bad as this has just came under our notice at Consett. Workmen have been excavating for cellars and altering public house property in different parts of the town, and while this work has been going on, the stock-in-trade has been stowed away. A jar, containing port wine, was placed in a pantry. That was in the morning. Towards the close of the day, when the contractor visited the place to see how things had progressed, he found one of the men, a good, conscientious workman, "except when the drink was in him," standing with his back against the wall, and resting on the handle of a pick. As soon as he saw his employer he attempted to straighten himself up, but the effort was too much for him, and he fell forward. "You're drunk," said his employer. A few minutes later, the barman came forward and informed the contractor that he had just been to the pantry and found the jar quite empty. There had been a gallon in it, he said. "Have you drunk the wine?" asked the contractor, addressing his hiccoughing workman. The latter confessed to having had a few "sups," but demurred to there being a gallon in the jar. Indeed, the idea of his being able to "hold" a gallon was preposterous. Did his master really think that he could drink this quantity without being dead drunk? He thought, however, that there might have been half-a-gallon. As the contractor was unable to gauge the fellow's capacity in this line, he did not argue the point further. He felt that Pat was entitled to the benefit of the doubt, and at the end of the week deducted the price of half-a-gallon from his wages. Pat vows that in future he will drink nothing but beer.

STANLEY & DISTRICT GOSSIP.

THE LICENSING QUESTION.

As usual, the *Chronicle* was to the front with its report of the proceedings before the Durham Licensing Appeal Committee. The decision of the Appeal Committee to confirm the two licenses granted by the Lanchester Bench has met with almost unanimous approval, and it is certain that the requirements of the inhabitants and visitors will be more adequately attended to than in the past. The police evidence had an important bearing on the case, Superintendent Benzies' emphatic declaration "that additional licenses were required, and that the granting of the same would be an advantage to the police in their supervision of the town," carrying great weight. Mr Joel fought a great battle on behalf of the opponents of Mr Watson's license, but the evidence in its favour was overwhelming, and at [illegible] was much doubt felt regarding the r[illegible]

CAUSEY ARCH.

One of the most interesting struc[illegible] the County of Durham is the v[illegible] Tanfield Arch, more generally know[illegible] as the Causey Arch, and, situated [illegible] beautiful wood of that name abo[illegible] to the north-west of Stanley. I am [illegible] to a valued correspondent for the [illegible] tion that the arch was built by a n[illegible] local coalowners, who styled th[illegible] "the grand allies," for the pu[illegible] obtaining a level for the passage [illegible] wagons. The arch is 130 feet in w[illegible] springs semi-circularly from abu[illegible] feet high to a height of 60 feet. It [illegible] at the cost of £12,000 under the direction of Mr Ralph Wood, a mason, who, having previously erected a wooden arch which had fallen, sank into a melancholy state, and committed suicide after completing this magnificent structure. It is said that he was impressed with the fear that it would share the same fate as the first bridge. The woods are now in lovely condition, and will well repay a visit.

THANKS.

The committee of the Stanley Private Assembly have been good enough to accord a vote of thanks to the proprietor of the *Consett Chronicle* and myself for the publicity accorded to the socials, &c., held in connection with the Assembly. A journalist must necessarily at times tread on the toes of people who are "touchy," and thereby he will run the risk of incurring a certain amount of disfavour. If he is anxious solely to do his duty without fear or favour, he will act regardless of such possibilities. I have striven to do so since the moment I arrived in Stanley, and the popularity which the *Chronicle* has attained may be taken as an indication that the hardy inhabitants of the district like to read the truth, the whole truth, and no "butter." I am obliged to the Private Assembly committee for their kindly vote.

THE WORKMEN'S CLUB.

On Monday evening, I paid a visit to the Workmen's Club which has recently been established at Stanley, with its headquarters at Parker's Buildings. A look through the premises revealed the fact that every conceivable attention is being paid to the comfort and convenience of the members, who, by the way, already number over a hundred. The accommodation includes a news room, refreshment room, billiard room (in which a table has been placed from the establishment of Messrs Burrough and Watts, London, with automatic returner, quite a novelty in Stanley), reading room (with a library of some fifty volumes of general literature), games room, and committee room, the latter being well suited for round-table conferences. The building is furnished throughout with mahogany chairs, tables, &c., and bathrooms, lavatory, &c., are provided. The officials consist of Messrs William Indian (President), William Nevens (Secretary), Thos. S. Parker (Treasurer), and Messrs Isaac Swinburn, George Sanderson, John MacLaren, George Kent, George Lee, Robert Scott, William Turner, John Coyle, R. W. Pringle, and William Black (Committee).

TOW LAW NOTES.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

In connection with the Primitive Methodist Church, the annual missionary sermons were preached, in the morning by the Rev. J. Latimer, of Darlington, and in the evening by the Rev. J. Moffatt. Both services were well attended.

The Old Folks' Tea is always a red-letter day at Tow Law, and the one on Saturday was one of the most successful there has been. This tea is given entirely by the two Good Templar Lodges in the place, and is always well patronised by the old people. On Saturday, over 100 received their tea in the Mechanics' Hall, and in additon to this number, many outsiders were supplied. In addition to tea, the old people were supplied with pipes and tobacco, presented by the Vicar.

In the evening, a concert was given to the old people, and at intervals short speeches were made by the various ministers of the town. Praise is due to Miss Emerson and Miss Whaley, and to Messrs Makepeace and Wilson for their contributions to the programme.

Mr McDonald's instrumental selections were very much enjoyed, and the old people were delighted with the old English airs, &c.

This was Dr Tiplady's first appearance as chairman at the old folks' entertainment, and the worthy doctor filled the position with credit. His opening address was very fine, and elicited rounds of applause.

On Tuesday evening, the annual missionary meeting was held in the Primitive Church. Addresses were delivered by the Revs. Latimer, Moffatt, and Cleminson. Mr T. Grant, of Hedley Hope, was in the chair.

On Wednesday, we were favoured with a visit from Mr A. T. Guttery, of Newcastle. He preached in the Primitive Church, on the Wednesday afternoon, and in the evening, gave one of his well-known lectures. Both were very well attended, especially the evening service.

The first lantern service in connection with the Presbyterian Church was held, on Sunday evening. As is usual with this popular Society, a capital audience was present, and a most enjoyable and instructive time was spent.

CHRISTIANITY & SECULARISM.

[BY "FREE LANCE."]

In connection with the questions which appeared in these columns last week regarding the debate between Mr Waldron and Mr Charles Watts, which is due to commence to-morrow evening, the Rev. William Gelley has received the following communication from the Rev. T. T. Waterman, one of the secretaries of the Christian Evidence Society. The letter speaks for itself, and I give it without comment:—

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 22nd inst., Mr Waldron, who is announced to debate with Mr Watts, at Stanley, from October 30th to November 3rd, *is* one of the lecturers of this Society. But he is not usually engaged by us. He is, therefore, often free to make his own engagements, and he has made this engagement himself. We had *nothing whatever to do with arranging this debate*; in fact, we *discourage* debate. The probability is that some persons residing at Stanley have made the arrangements, and that Mr Waldron and Mr Watts have consented to accede to the request from Stanley that they should come. Mr Watts and Mr Waldron are not making a debating tour through the country. Their controversy is only occasional, and (I believe) in this instance is sought by Secularists residing in Stanley and Beamish. I think, however, that you will have no occasion to be ashamed of his treatment of the subjects discussed, or his attitude towards those who differ from him. We hold him in high regard for his controversial and teaching abilities; and his opponents almost uniformly consider that he is fair and courteous. Hence you will infer that—if you do nothing to encourage and support him—it will be undesirable to thwart and discourage him.—Yours faithfully,

T. T. WATERMAN.

POSTSCRIPT.—Mr Waldron was a minister (not ordained) of a Nonconformist congregation; he is now a layman for the Church of England.

Similar letters hade been received by the Rev. D. W. James, Vicar of St. Andrew's, Beamish, and Mr J. Green, J.P.

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The monthly meeting of the above Council was held on Wednesday afternoon, Mr J. Green, J.P., presiding. There were also present—Messrs R. Kay, J. Smith, W. Indian, J. G. Ridley (Clerk), and Jos. Routledge (Surveyor).

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Mr Routledge reported that the drain from the old Brewery house, which ran through Mr Watson's field, had become choked up. Two cases of enteric fever had been notified during the month.

A GROWING DISTRICT.

Mr Routledge also reported that habitation certificates were required for eleven houses at South Moor, and one in Mary Street, Stanley.

SLOW PROGRESS.

Mr Routledge further reported that the time allowed the contractor for road and footpath improvements at Oxhill and East Stanley expired on the 28th Sept. He recommended the Council to call the contractor's attention to the slow progress with the ashpalting.—The recommendation was adopted.

A DANGEROUS FOOTPATH.

The Surveyor reported that he had had [illegible] complaints lately about the dangerous [illegible] the footpath between Sand Hole and [illegible]nfield Colliery Houses.

MORE LIGHT.

[illegible]orted that five more lamps had [illegible] on the Cross Lane roads, two [illegible]ll to the Blue Bell Inn, three [illegible] Houses to Shield Row Farm, [illegible]ite Dr. Benson's, during the

[illegible]VAL OF A URINAL.

[illegible]on applied to have the urinal [illegible]s land abutting Front Street, [illegible]eeded for building purposes.

MISSION WORK AT CHESTER MOOR.

SALE OF WORK.

OPENING BY SIR LINDSAY WOOD.

For some time past, Church work at Chester Moor has been hampered by the unfavourable situation of the Mission Room, which is in an out-of-the-way place, and otherwise scarcely suitable for the growing needs of the district. Canon Blunt, the late Rector of Chester-le-Street, intended giving a Hospital to be converted into a Mission Church, but the scheme fell through, and nothing was done, until the Rev. J. Croft, who has laboured in the Chester Moor district for about fifteen months, with gratifying success, took the matter in hand. Sir Lindsay Wood, Bart., generously offered a site for the building, and, by the energetic action of Mr Croft, some £60 or £70 has been realised in subscriptions during the past three weeks. The new building, it may be stated, is to be built of iron, at an estimated cost of £200. Sir Lindsay Wood, with characteristic generosity, further lightened the labours of the Church workers by granting permission for a sale of work to be held at his magnificent residence, The Hermitage, and a host of lady workers—some ninety in number—provided a wonderful array of articles, useful and ornamental, for the sale, which took place on Wednesday afternoon. Weather of the loveliest description favoured the proceedings, and at the appointed hour, there was assembled at the Hermitage a large and fashionable company. Amongst those present were Sir Lindsay Wood, Bart., Mr A. N. Wood, Miss Wood, Miss Elsie Wood, the Rev. A. De Moleyns, rector of Chester-le-Street, and Mrs De Moleyns, Rev. J. Croft and Mrs Croft, Miss Croft, Miss Banson, Mr C. R. Barratt (White Hill Hall), Rev. J. P. Day (Durham, formerly curate of the parish), Rev. Alexander Dunn and Mrs Dunn, Rev. A. H. Smith (Pelton), Mrs A. Blunt, the Misses Kerrich-Walker, Mr, Mrs, and Miss Harle, Mr, Mrs, and Miss Darling (Plawsworth), Miss Anderson, Miss Gibson, Miss Hoy, Miss Scott, Miss Davies, Mrs Collins, Miss King, Mrs Miles, Mr Thompson, Mrs Cleasby, Mrs Reed, Mrs Duberley (Plawsworth Cottage), Rev. R. Crookhall (Congregationist Minister, Chester-le-Street), Mrs Liddle, Mrs Brown, Mr and Mrs Peter Hay, Mr and Mrs W. Clark, Mr Ridley, Mrs and Miss Anderson, Miss Hume, Miss Hutchinson, Rev. F. D. Brookes, Miss Appleby, Mr John Pyle (Pelton), the Rev. H. H. Birley, Mrs Birley, and Miss Birley (Gateshead), Miss Walker, and others. The stallholders were:—Fancy Stall—Miss Wood, and the Misses Kerrich-Walker; Plant Stall—Miss E. Wood and Miss G. Kerrich-Walker; Sweets, and Fruit Stall—Miss Hall and Miss Croft; Miscellaneous Stall—Mrs Croft, Miss Banson, Miss Darling, and Miss Anderson; Plain Work Stalls—Miss Gibson, Miss Hoy, Miss Scott, and Miss Davies.

SIR LINDSAY WOOD, in opening the proceedings, said that he had been asked by the Rector and Mr Croft, who had so ably taken the matter in hand, to open the sale of work. They were already a little behind the appointed time, as he found by the fact that a number of ladies standing around had already made purchases. He had no objection to that; he hoped they would go on doing so. (Laughter.) He was very glad that he had been able to do anything to promote the object they had in view, by granting his house for the purposes of the sale. He only regretted that the sale had not been held in the summer, when they might have enjoyed walking through the grounds very much more than they could now. He was wishful that they should all go through the gardens. (Applause.) The object of the sale of work, as they all knew, was to obtain funds to build a Mission Church at Chester South Moor. They had one at present, which, however, they could hardly call a Mission Church; but they had a house in which services were held. It was, however, very bad of access, and they were desirous of getting one in a more convenient situation. They intended to erect an iron Church on the highway near the schools. He hoped that they had all come prepared to spend their money. (Laughter.) He was sure that they would get their money's worth; and also have the pleasure of knowing that they had supported a very worthy object in assisting in the erection of a Mission Church. (Applause.) Directing their attention to the stalls, Sir Lindsay said he hoped that they would take away as many things as they could, and leave as much money as was possible. (Laughter and applause.)

The Rev. Mr DE MOLEYNS said that he had a very pleasing duty to perform, and he did it with the greatest enthusiasm. He proposed that a vote of thanks be accorded to Sir Lindsay Wood for his great kindness, not only in giving his house for the purposes of the sale of work, but also for the interest he had taken in the object for which the sale was held. They all knew how inconvenient the room was where the services were at present held, and at the same time, they knew that a great work was going on. He was sure that Mr Croft, who laboured in that part of the parish, was working most energetically and successfully, but he was very much hampered by the situation of the room. If a Mission Church was erected where they proposed to erect one, it would further Mr Croft's work to a great extent. In thanking Sir Lindsay Wood, he also ventured to commend the object of the sale. He was very pleased to see so many present, and he felt that the success of the sale was already assured. (Applause). There was one more matter he might mention. It was very well to have a room; it was also necessary to have a living agent. Chester-le-Street people had done very liberally in aiding the Living Agents' Fund and the Curates' Fund, and he hoped they would continue, and, if possible, give a little more. They were in debt, and they knew that they could not go on with less than three curates. If the Mission Church was erected, he proposed holding, not only evening services, but morning services also. He asked that they would all support, to the best of their ability, the fund to supply living agents to conduct the services in their Mission Room. He again thanked Sir Lindsay Wood for his kindness, and for the interest he had taken in the work. (Applause).

Mr FRED. HARLE said that he had great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks to Sir Lindsay Wood. He might say incidentally, as the party who had charge of the fund in connection with the proposed Mission Church, that he had already received £37 10s, which was a very liberal response. (Applause) He was sure that the results of the sale of work would be a very satisfactory addition to that sum. They must, however, bear in mind that in addition to the cost of the building itself, a considerable amount would be required for inside embellishments. He hoped that there would be no stinting, but a very liberal response. (Applause).

The Rev. J. CROFT said that they had already received, and had promised, subscriptions amounting to between £60 and £70. (Applause). He was very glad to support the resolution, so ably moved by the Rector, and seconded by Mr Harle. It was a pleasure to see so many present. From the very beginning, Sir Lindsay Wood smoothed the way, and he felt that the work was already accomplished. (Renewed applause).

The vote having been accorded by acclamation,

Sir LINDSAY WOOD, in response, said he was always very glad to do anything for the parish. He was glad to hear that a certain amount of subscriptions had already been received, and more promised. He had no doubt that they would require a good deal more than the estimate to get a suitable Mission Church. It would be in a prominent position on the highway, and they must not stint the appearance or the accommodation. They needed all the money they could get. He would now have to leave them, as he had to be chairman at an important meeting at Durham at three o'clock. (Applause).

The sale then proceeded. During the afternoon, selections of music were rendered by Herschel's String Band from Newcastle, under the conductorship of Mr Smith. The numerous visitors enjoyed to the full the privilege of walking through the beautiful grounds attached to The Hermitage, and the conservatories, &c., were also greatly admired. They reflect the highest credit on Mr Thompson, the courteous head gardener.

TANFIELD LEA.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST SOCIETY.—At a meeting held in connection with this Society, it was reported that the total receipts in connection with the Demonstration and Bullock Roasting, amoutned to £47 5s 2d, whilst the outlay was £21 3s 2d, leaving a balance in hand of £ 26 2s 0d.

MEDOMSLEY.

SAD DROWNING CASE.—Shortly after nine o'clock on Wednesday morning, the news spread abroad that a woman had been found drowned in the Derwent Pit pond. It appears that whilst the back shift men were proceeding to their work they observed a body in the pond, and ultimately succeeded in bringing it to the surface. The body was identified to be that of Ann, the wife of Mr I. Gilead, of Allendale Cottages, and close by were found a hat and shawl. Deceased had only been married 14 months, and was the daughter of Mr James Davidson, master shifter of the Hunter Pit. Deceased was 28 years of age, and had resided in the Medomsley district for a considerable period. The body is supposed to have been in the water during the night.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

WESLEYAN MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY.—At the meeting of the above Society, held on Monday evening, Mr Geo. Hunter read a comprehensive paper on "The Bible."

SUPPER.—A grand supper was held on Saturday evening, at Mr J. Lumley's Railway Inn. Supper was provided by Hostess Lumley, and about 50 persons thoroughly enjoyed a sumptuous repast. After the table had been cleared, Mr Jas. Strawbridge took the chair, and Mr John Rickenson, the vice-chair. Mr John Curry, of Stanley Bankhead, gave some pleasing selections on the violin, and Mr J. Cowen, of Gateshead, gave some hearty songs, and the artistes included Mr Bodie, Gateshead, Mr Thos. Stobbart, Mr W. Dodds, Mr W. Johnson, and that old favourite, Mr Jos. Stobbart. Amongst the company present were—Messrs Jos. Stephenson, Thos. Smith, Charles Bowden, Tom Mann, Robert Robson, William Reed, Dan Smith, Hodge Bainbridge, Jack Lawson, Jack Stobbart, Dick Chaplow, John Parmer, John Maddison, Robert Curry, Walter Amble, Robert Foster, Bob Wilson, Joe Moore, Thos. Suddes, Thos. Eltringham, and many others, when a very happy night was spent.

STANLEY.

WEDNESDAY FOOTBALL. — A football match was played on Wednesday, on Oakey's Oval, between Stanley and Annfield Plain midweekers, the game ending in a win for for the homsters by two goals to *nil*.

WEDDING.—A marriage was solomnized at St. Andrew's Church on Tuesday between Mr Christopher Buckton, of Stanley, and Miss Mary Rose, of Oakey's Houses. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. D. W. James.

On Sunday last, a goodly muster of the members of the Stanley Benevolent Lodge of I. W. O. Mechanics attended divine service at St. Andrew's Church. The Rev. D. W. James preached an eloquent sermon bearing on the question of combinations.

SUNDAY TRAIN SERVICE.—A committee, consisting of Messrs W. Bulmer, J. W. Anderson, and W. Indian, representing the Tanfield and Stanley Urban Councils, have agreed to ask Sir James Joicey, M.P., to use his influence to secure a Sunday train service on the Annfield Plain line.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—The attraction this week is "Black Hawks," a drama full of exciting incidents from beginning to end. The numerous dogs which appear on the stage give evidence of excellent training, and are well worthy of patronage. "Jack o' Hearts" is the attraction for next week, and is certain to receive a warm welcome.

LECTURE.—Mr Chapman Cohen lectured in the Co-operative Hall on Wednesday evening, on "An Hour with the Devil." Mr Horatio Johnston presided over a fair audience. At the conclusion of the lecture, questions and discussion were invited, and Mr Schofield again ascended the platform, and engaged in a short discussion with the lecturer. Mr Cohen announced that several persons had joined the Stanley and Oxhill Secular Society, in consequence of his lectures during the previous week.

ST. ANDREW'S FOOTBALL CLUB.—St. Andrew's Football Club defeated Chopwell Rovers on Saturday by two goals to nil. The goalsticks were kindly lent for the occasion by Mr R. W. Little. On Wednesday week, the Saints defeated East Stanley by two goals to one. On both occasions, the winning team consisted of Messrs R. Hogarth, goal; W. Bell, and R. Peart, backs; J. Whitfield, Welsh, and W. Atkinson, half-backs; A. Bell, F. Young, C. Ridley, R. Hodgson, and J. Hunter, forwards.

TERRIBLE FALL.—About a quarter past four o'clock on Monday afternoon, as two men, named George Soulsby and William Liddle, were engaged in slating at the new Board Schools in West Stanley, a batten slipped off one of the cupples forming the scaffolding, and both men fell from the roof to the ground, a distance of some 30 feet, with the result that both were severely injured about the back. Dr Dewer was promptly in attendance, and by his instructions the men were conveyed to their lodgings at 21, Mary Street (Mrs Maines), where they were subsequently examined by Dr Charles and Dr Dewer. It was then found that in addition to injuries to the back, Liddle had sustained a fractured ankle, whilst Soulsby's wrist was broken. Both men belong to Sunderland, and Liddle had only started werk on Monday morning. Soulsby informed our representative that the injury to his wrist was not caused by the fall, but through a batten striking him. The men are in the employment of Mr Robert Dawson, Grange Slate Yard, Sunderland, and are both young men.

BEAMISH, PONTOP AND CONSETT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—In connection with the above society, a meeting was held at the Commercial Hotel on Tuesday evening, to further the arrangements for the forthcoming ball. Mr A. H. Swinburn presided, and there were also present Messrs Alex Atkinson, Causey; J. A. Hodgson, Stanley; Edward Wylam, Shield Row; M. Hobson, Catchgate; J. Wilkinson, New Acres; Wm. Bell, Stanley; Robert. W. Little, Stanley; J. Leighton, R. Foster, Whickham; Wm. Aynsley, Chas. Benson, Geo Watson, Wm. Young, Thos. Robinson, Tanfield Lea; Cuthbertson, Crookgate; F. Thompson, Johnson, Low Urpeth; Sam Edgell, Pitt Hill, and M. Coates, Hare Law. It was decided to rescinded the motion fixing the charges for admission to the ball at 7s 6d; and fix the charge at 6s, ladies' tickets, 3s. It was decided to ask the whole of the local confectioners to tender for the supply of refreshments. A special committee consisting of Messrs Swinburn, Bell, Green, Watson, Johnson, Aynsley, Little, and Leighton was appointed to carry out all incidental business. Messrs. Wm. Welsh, A. H. Swinburn, R. Forster, and W. Aynsley were appointed M.C.'s.

MARRIAGE. — On Saturday morning, a marriage was solemnised at the Wesleyan Chapel, between Mr William Henry Philp, son of Mr William Philp, farmer, Tutwell, Cornwall, and Miss Priscilla Tonkin Rowe, daughter of Mr L. W. Rowe, Mary Street, West Stanley. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. J. A. Dixon, in the presence of a large and fashionable company. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attired in a silver grey costume, trimmed with white silk, and wore a white picture hat, with tips. Mr John Philp, brother of the bridegroom, acted as best man, and the bridesmaids were Miss Sarah Rowe (sister), Mrs Downey (sister), of Gateshead, and Miss Lynskey, of Consett. Miss Rowe wore a dress of silver grey and heliotrope silk; Mrs Downey, a light green costume; and Miss Lynskey, a dress of blue shot. After the ceremony, a pleasant party was held at the residence of the bride's parents. Amongst the presents received by the happy couple were:—Mr Rowe, set of china; Mrs Rowe, dinner set; Mrs Williams, South Moor, walnut whatnot; Mrs Christopher, Tanfield, kettle; Miss Williams, Tanfield, table cloth; Miss Williams, South Moor, pair of ornaments; Mrs Rostron, South Moor, gipsy table; Miss Walters, ornaments; Mr George Williams, ornamental teapot; Mr Hamilton, Newcastle, blankets; Miss Lynskey, Consett, plates, cheese dish, and butter cooler; Mr W. Robinson, Stanley, silver jelly dish; Mr William English, Wallsend, knives and forks; Miss Larkman, Stanley, cushion; Miss F. Larkman, Stanley, pictures; Mrs R. Coulson, Stanley, pan and steamer; Mrs Phillips, cruet stand, towels, &c.; Mr John Williams, cups and saucers; Mr Robert Williams, fancy jugs; Mr Joseph Brown, Stanley, cups and saucers; Mr Harper, South Moor, carving knife and fork; Mr Frank Crossman, ornaments; Mr Harris, Stanley, inkstand; Mr Rodham, Stanley, fender; Mrs Parker, Stanley, ornaments; and many others.

LATE FOOTBALL.

DRAW FOR THE DURHAM CUP.

At a meeting of the Durham Challenge Cup Committee, held on Wednesday, the draw for the Durham Senior and Junior Cups was made, and resulted as follows:—

SENIOR CUP.—CONSETT DIVISION.
Leadgate Park v. Leadgate Exiles.
Ouston v. Stanley.

JUNIOR CUP.
Tow Law v. Blaydon United.
Consett Swifts v. Dipton St. John's.
On the ground of the first named; kick-off at 2.30.

NORTH-WEST DURHAM LEAGUE.

A Committee meeting of this League was held on Tuesday evening at the headquarters, Consett, Mr Thompson presiding. Representatives were present from Allendale Park, Annfield Plain N.E.R., Blackhill Celtic, Consett Park, Consett Swifts, Leadgate Exiles, Lintz Rovers, Malton United, South Tanfield and Shotley Rovers. The Secretary, Mr Joe Hamilton, was also present. The referees were selected as under:—

October 30th.	
Consett Swifts v Annfield Plain Celtic	J Milner
Blackhill Celtic v Malton United	H Smith
Lintz Rovers v South Tanfield	J Hamilton
November 6th.	
Annfield Plain N.E.R. v Shotley Rovers	R Palmer
Malton United v Leadgate Exiles	J W Robson
Blackhill Celtic v Consett Swifts	J Carruthers
South Tanfield v Lintz Rovers	R Milligan
November 13th.	
Leadgate Exiles v Shotley Rovers	J W Bryant
South Tanfield v Annfield Plain N.E.R.	J Barrow
Allendale Park v Malton United	J Hamilton
Blackhill Celtic v Lintz Rovers	V McGuckin
November 20th.	
South Tanfield v Consett Swifts	J Bell
Annfield Pl'n NER v Blackhill Celtic	J Hamilton
Lintz Rovers v Annfield Plain Celtic	R Milligan
November 27th.	
Annfield Plain Celtic v Annfield Plain N.E.R.	J Barrow
Shotley Rovers v Consett Park	H Smith
South Tanfield v Leadgate Exiles	P Hanlon
Lintz Rovers v Malton United	T Dixon

RUGBY.

HAMSTEELS v. TUDHOE.

Played at Hamsteels, before a fair number of spectators. Tudhoe kicked off against the wind. From a pass received in midfield, Gordon got over for the visitors within two minutes of the start, but failed to convert. From a free kick, French had hard lines in not scoring for the home team. Play returned to central ground, and W. Taylor, getting the ball, made a splendid run, and got over, scoring the second try for the visitors. The kick at goal failed. The ball was now worked into the visitors' lines, and Hamsteels had hard lines in not scoring. On re-starting, Hamsteels got well into the visitors' 25, and made several determined attempts to score, but could not get past the Tudhoe back division. Tudhoe worked the ball by some good passing to the home line, but only a minor resulted. No further score was made, and the whistle sounded with the score:—

TUDHOE	2 tries (6 points)
HAMSTEELS	Nil

On Saturday, Hamsteels journey to Sunderland, when they will rely on—Back, G Batey; three-quarters, A Dodds, H Gibbon, J Brown, and R Stobbs; halves, J McRae and G Liddle; forwards, R Gibbon, J Husson, T Ather, G Collinson, J French, J Hall, W Tindall, and E Wise. Touch judge, E Wilson.

PELTON

SECULARISM. — Mr Chapman Cohen, of London, the well-known Secular advocate, lectured in the Co-operative Hall, on Tuesday, to a large audience. Questions were invited, but none were forthcoming.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

SPECIAL SERVICE.—On Sunday evening, the Rev. R. Crookhall preached a special sermon to young men in the Bethal Congregational Church. At the close of the service, an after meeting was conducted by the members of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour.

STANLEY.

VOTE OF CONDOLENCE.—The committee of the Stanley Private Assembly have adopted a vote of condolence with the family and relatives of the late Mr John Kerr.

POLICE NEWS.—At Stanley Police Court on Saturday, before Mr George Ridley, a man named Thomas Mullen, brother of the famous boxer of that name, was fined 2s 6d and costs for being drunk on the preceding day. Defendant had to be ejected from the Stanley Hotel.—Joseph Waites, of Catchgate, was fined 2s 6d and costs for the same offence.—Sergeant Wood and P.C. Thomas proved the cases.

CONSETT.

LOSS OF A VALUABLE HORSE.—About ten o'clock on Wednesday morning, after returning with a load of flour from Consett Station, a valuable horse, the property of Messrs T. D. Dryden and Co., dropped dead in the yard behind the premises.

CHRIST CHURCH YOUNG MEN'S DEBATING SOCIETY.—The fortnightly debate of this Society was held last Friday night, when the subject chosen was, "Should Bachelors be Taxed?" The responsible leaders were Mr C. Weaver, affirmative, and Rev. C. S. Wilson, negative, who both offered interesting and amusing papers for discussion until the votes were recorded, the victory being for the negative by two votes only.

THE THEATRE.—"Between the Lights," performed this week by Mrs Lampard's powerful company, has attracted good houses, and is one of the most popular dramas that have ever been staged at Consett. It is full of plot and incident, and the characters throughout are well sustained by the talented members of the company. Next week the boards will be occupied by Miss Ida Millais's No. 1 Company in the great emotional play, "No Man's Land."

CONSETT SWIFTS A.F.C.—On Saturday evening, the members and supporters of the above club met at their headquarters in Middle Street for the purpose of presenting Mr Joseph Hamilton, their late secretary, and Mr Matthew Eustace, with a gold medal and silver mounted meerschaum pipe, respectively. The chair was taken by Mr Joseph Brown, whilst Mr Jacob Potts acted as vice-chairman, a large number of football enthusiasts being present. The Chairman, in the course of his remarks, dwelt on the service that Messrs Hamilton and Eustace had rendered to the club. He had great pleasure in handing a silver mounted pipe to Mr Eustace. (Applause). Mr Potts also spoke in high terms of the manner in which the two gentlemen had supported the team. Both worked hard for the success of the club. (Applause). The speaker then handed a handsome gold medal to Mr Hamilton. Both gentlemen having suitably responded, the rest of the evening was spent in harmony.

BURNHOPE.

SUPPER.—On Saturday evening, the Burnhope Leek Club held their second annual supper at the Burnhope Colliery Inn. Upwards of fifty gentlemen sat down to the excellent and varied dishes provided by Mrs Edgell. Messrs J. P. Kirkup and J. R. Ritson were Chairman and Vice-Chairman, respectively. While they ably entertained the members at the ends of the table, Mr U. A. Ritson, jun., was equally successful at the centre. After ample justice had been done to the excellent repast, the toast list was commenced by the Chairman proposing in happy terms the health of "The Queen and Royal Family." This toast was received with enthusiasm. Mr Burgess then proposed "Success to the Burnhope Leek Club," and afterwards, in a few well-chosen remarks, presented tobacco pouches to Messrs J. P. Kirkup, J. R. Ritson, R. Summerbell, and E. Edgell, for the excellent judgment shown and trouble taken to obtain the prizes recently awarded to the members. Mr J. R. Ritson replied in felicitous terms, and received a hearty reception. Dr. Gardiner gave the next toast, "Success to the Coal Trade," especially referring to the excellent manner in which Burnhope Colliery is kept going, and expressing the hope that it might ever continue to work in the future as it had done in the past. At this stage, Messrs J. R. and U. A. Ritson were obliged to leave, and on wishing all a very happy evening and good night were spontaniously greeted with musical honours. Other toasts were given, and heartily responded to. During the evening, Dr. Gardiner, and Messrs R. Summerbell, Burgess, J. Hovvells, H. Hovvells, S. Hood, and J. Uncles rendered an excellent variety programme in their usual style. Hearty votes of thanks to the chairman, secretary, committe, musical party, and host and hostess, brought a very pleasant evening to its close.

ORIGINAL POETRY.

THE WATCH-DOGS OF THE DEEP.

And what care we, we British tars, for battle's roll of thunder?
Just let them try who dare, my lads, to rend our flag asunder!
Go search around from pole to pole, and thence from east to west,
You'll find that British valour, lads, has always stood the test.
It matters not, tho' nations range their pond'rous navies round
Some other shore, you'll find them not where British tars are found.
Proud Empress of the mighty wave, Britannia we shall keep.
Then toast the British navy, lads, "The watch-dogs of the deep."

Yoho! Yoho! tho' hurricane winds may blow,
Wide ocean o'er from shore to shore,
Of every foe we'll sweep;
Yoho! Yoho! tho' winds are sighing low,
We still shall ride the heaving tide,
The watch-dogs of the deep.

And what care we, we British tars, tho' clouds of war be lowering?
We mean to keep the flag we love at mast-head proudly towering!
Nor matters it, tho' haughty knaves may launch their ships of war.
Invincible to-day, my lads, they'll find the British tar!
Invincible 'mid wind and wave, we stand by watch and ward,
Where'er we ride, 'tis Empire's cause and sea-girt Isle to guard;
Proud Empress of the boundless wave, Britannia we shall keep.
Now pledge the British navy, lads, "The watch-dogs of the deep."

Yoho! Yoho! tho' hurricane winds may blow,
Wide ocean o'er from shore to shore,
Of every foe we'll sweep;
Yoho! Yoho! tho' winds are sighing low,
We still shall ride the heaving tide,
The watch-dogs of the deep.

Quebec. WM. STRAWBRIDGE.

OBITUARY ANNALS
OF
NORTH-WEST DURHAM.

[ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.]

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

1863.

[CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.]

1 April, Philip Kelly, High Conside, aged 47.

2 April, Barbara, wife of George Nattrass, Lintz Colliery, aged 44.

2 April, Michael McWilliams, Moor Pit, aged 29.

5 April, Ralph Calvert, railway platelayer, Dowlais Cottages, aged 55.

7 April, Hannah, wife of John Dixon, Oxhill, aged 58.

8 April, Thomas Robson, carrier, High Conside, aged 33.

10 April, Attwell Postle, blacksmith, Leadgate, aged 21.

11 April, Robert Ibbeson, Quebec Cottages, aged 35.

12 April, Joseph Snaith, schoolmaster, Burnopfield, aged 63.

13 April, Thomas Pearson, joiner, Hill Top, Esh, aged 48.

14 April, Hannah, wife of John Jobling, farmer, Leadgate, aged 28.

15 April, Elizabeth, aged 58, widow of Henry Ford, Burnhope, died from burns.

17 April, Robert Frost, roadman, Burnopfield, aged 49.

17 April, Margaret, daughter of Francis Davison, mason, Shotley Bridge, aged 26.

17 April, James Turley, metal refiner, High Conside, aged 72.

17 April, James Malone, 26, mason's labourer, Conside, suffocated on a slag heap.

20 April, John Parker, aged 4 years, son of John Thompson, grocer, Medomsley, killed by being thrown from a cart.

21 April, John Neasham, collector of rates, Dowlais Cottages, aged 30.

24 April, Margaret, wife of George Godley, agent at Consett Iron Works, aged 54.

25 April, Robert Laverick, aged 19, Stanley, killed while coupling trucks on the railway.

27 April, John Richardson, market gardener, Cutlers' Hall, aged 84.

30 April, John Swalwell, master tailor, High Ewehurst Head, aged 51.

5 May, Elizabeth, wife of Oliver Parker, Tanfield, aged 49.

6 May, Ann, daughter of Thomas Whitfield, Benfieldside, aged 20.

6 May, Elizabeth, wife of James Turnbull, Annfield Plain, aged 40.

8 May, Maria, wife of William Butler, boiler-plate roller, Blackhill, aged 53.

10 May, George Temperley, farmer, Woodlands, aged 75.

13 May, Ann, wife of Joseph Pescod, brickmaker, High Conside, aged 58.

14 May, Elizabeth, wife of William Shield, West Stanley, aged 52.

16 May, Mary, wife of Robert Atkinson, Hamsteels, aged 77.

21 May, Benjamin Greaves, puddler, High Conside, aged 42.

22 May, Joseph Symm, blacksmith, Castleside, aged 25.

23 May, Barbara, wife of William Hunter, shoemaker, Middles, aged 36.

27 May, Sarah, wife of Henry Brown, plate roller, Highgate, aged 23.

27 May, Joseph Bibbins, shingler, Conside Terrace, aged 40.

30 May, Henry Johnson, tailor, Hill Top, Esh, aged 41.

31 May, Mary Ann, wife of John Reece, Craghead, aged 42.

2 June, Sarah, wife of Robert Robson, Leadgate, aged 21.

2 June, Elizabeth, widow of Thomas Hunter, cokeburner, High Conside, aged 43.

5 June, Ann, widow of John Hull, overman, Causey Row, aged 77.

6 June, John Gibson, Craghead, aged 74.

8 June, Isabella, wife of George Wallace, engine-fitter, Blackhill, aged 53.

13 June, Ann, wife of Robert Stirling, High Conside, aged 73.

15 June, Thomas Watson, master boot and shoemaker, Busty Bank, aged 61.

15 June, Joseph Hall, White-le-Head, aged 76.

16 June, Ralph Smith, farmer, Crook Bank, aged 48.

20 June, Ralph Bainbridge, White-le-Head, aged 63.

21 June, Ann, widow of Christopher Smith, Annfield Plain, aged 74.

25 June, John Coyle, West Stanley, aged 25.

25 June, John Rankin, Shield Row, aged 37.

27 June, John Barron, High Conside, aged 49.

LANCHESTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The monthly meeting of the above Council was held on Thursday, at the Council Offices, Mr W. Logan, J.P., presiding. There were also present —Mr T. J. Muse, Mr T. Wilkinson, Rev. P. C. Fortin, Mr J. Hunter, Mr R. Kirkup, Mr T. Collier, Mr J. Oliver, Mr R. Mitchinson, Mr U. A. Ritson, Mr T. Lowdon, Mr J. Pumphrey, Mr W. H. Ritson (Clerk), Mr J. E. Parker, Mr W. Cumming, and Mr R. Lupton.

RECEIPTS.

It was agreed to affix the seal of the Council to precepts for a rate of 7d in the pound for general expenses for the ensuing half-year.

SEWERAGE AT MALTON COLLIERY.

Mr Parker submitted plans for sewerage improvements at Malton Colliery. On the proposal of Mr FORTIN, seconded by Mr MUSE, a committee was appointed to consider the matter in conjunction with Mr Parker.

SEWERAGE DISPOSAL LAND AT HOLMSIDE.

Mr Stobart, agent for the Earl of Durham, wrote as follows, regarding the request of the Council to be allowed to rent ground for sewerage disposal purposes :—

SIR,—Referring to yours, I am willing to let the Lanchester Rural District Council have one-third of an acre of land that they require at Holmside for sewerage disposal, air shaft, &c., on payment of a yearly rental of £7. If you want the land immediately, you will have to make arrangements with the tenant, as he will no doubt require compensation.—Yours truly,

F. STOBART.

The Clerk was instructed to communicate with Mr Stobart to see if some reduction could not be made in the rental.

SEWERAGE AT HOLMSIDE.

The following tenders were received for sewerage work at Holmside :—

	£	s	d
Mr W. Craig, Gateshead	191	3	10
Mr G. H. Bell, Bishop Auckland	158	12	6
Mr J. Wardlam, Newcastle	240	11	0
Mr G. T. Manners, Durham	215	0	0
Mr J. Thompson, Lanchester	195	18	9
Mr T. Gatis, Kyo	229	9	10
Mr D. Champney, Lanchester	179	10	4
Mr G. Robson, Whitley	215	12	0

Mr J. E. Parker's estimate for the work was £200.—Mr Bell's tender was accepted.

LIGHTING AT LANCHESTER.

The following communication was received from the Clerk of the Lanchester Parish Council:—

DEAR SIR,—I am instructed to lay before you the necessity of the District Council providing lights from Kit's Well Lane End to Dorman's Cottages, for which this Council think that not less than four lamps would be sufficient. Also, the back of Victoria Street, Lanchester Mill, which is in a state of total darkness during the winter months, and also a very bad road into the bargain. They recommend four additional lamps be placed in this street.—Yours truly,

J. J. THOMPSON, Clerk to Parish Councils."

The CHAIRMAN said that the subject opened out a very wide question as to whether the Council were to light up every village, every hamlet, and every farmstead in the district. They had done a great deal of lighting throughout the district, but he could not see the necessity of lighting up every street, or hamlet, or farmstead. The back of Victoria Street was simply a private street.

Mr OLIVER said that if the Parish Council were asking for this, and the whole of the parishoners were asking for it, he thought they should be allowed to have it. It would be a special rate, and the Lanchester people would have to pay for it.

Mr RITSON said that he knew nothing whatever about the matter, but the whole of the Parish Council seemed to be in favour of having the places lighted.

Mr LOWDON : It is just a bridle road.

The CHAIRMAN : It is just a bridle road, and repairable by no person.

Mr WILKINSON : It is out of the question altogether.

The CHAIRMAN : I am against the whole thing altogether. We have lighted the main streets.

Mr WILKINSON : I didn't see the necessity of erecting the five lamps that we have already put up.

Mr OLIVER : And you are against the application of the Parish Council?

The CHAIRMAN : In my opinion, we have no right to erect lamps at all. In the second place, if we had the right, it would be a piece of very unnecessary expenditure.

It was decided, on the proposal of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr WILKINSON, to reply, stating that the Council were unable to accede to the request of the Parish Council.

A WATER FAMINE.

The following letter was read from Mr Mitchinson, Clerk to the Greencroft Parish Council :—

To the Chairman of the Lanchester Rural Council.

DEAR SIR,—I am instructed by the above Parish Council to draw the attention of the District Council to the want of water at Durham Hill and Woodside Farm, and to ask to have the water mains laid from Low Greencroft to the above-named farms.—Yours faithfully,

J. T. MITCHINSON.

Mr MUSE said that the people who took the water away ought to be compelled to provide a supply. He thought that the royalty owners should bear the expense. They ought to put it in.

The CHAIRMAN thought that first of all they should have an estimate of the cost.

The Clerk : Yes ; and, with your permission, I will ask the landlord if he is prepared to bear a portion of the expense.

Mr MUSE : I have talked of this thing times out of number, and think that the time has come when something ought to be done. The people who get the royalty rents should be compelled to put the water in.

The CHAIRMAN : They cannot.

Mr MUSE : The royalty owners get their money for nothing. I think they should pay something.

Mr OLIVER asked whether, in the event of a water supply to a farmstead being destroyed by colliery workings, the owners of the colliery, or the royalty owners, could not be compelled to provide a fresh water supply.

The CHAIRMAN : Could you prove that the colliery owners took the water away?

Mr OLIVER : Yes ; in two or three places. I have a pit fall on my own farm, which has affected the water supply.

Mr MUSE : It is a well-known fact that if you put the drains below, the water must go to it. I don't blame the colliery owners, who have to pay for what they get, but the royalty owners.

Mr OLIVER said that if the Council had not power to compel either the colliery owners or the royalty owners to do the work, it was time to take steps to ascertain the reason why.

The Clerk was instructed to communicate with the Consett Iron Company to obtain an estimate of the cost.

DILAPIDATED PROPERTY AT EBCHESTER.

The following letter was read regarding the above :—

Sherburn Hospital and Ebchester Property.

The College, Durham.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 11th ult., I have to inform you that the house at Ebchester, near the Post Office, which is in a ruinous condition, is included in the Ebchester Mill lease. Mr Moody, the lessee, informs me that the late Mr Blenkinsopp, of Hoppyland, advanced money, and took the house in question together with a small allotment on Ebchester Hill, and the present Mr Blenkinsopp of Hoppyland, is mortagee in possession, and receives the rent of the allotment, and he has allowed the property to get into the state it now is in. I cannot see my way to interfere in the matter until the expiration of the lease, when I will put in my claim for dilapidation.—Yours faithfully,

JOS. HUTCHINSON.

Mr Lupton said that the roof of the house had either been taken down, or had fallen off, and there was now no danger.

MEDICAL REPORTS.

Dr Wilson reported that during the past four weeks, there had been 53 cases of infectious diseases in the district, 38 of the cases being whooping cough, which was largely prevalent at Cowsley Cottages, Hedley Fell, and Old Cornsay.—Dr Bolton reported that three patients suffering from typhoid fever had been despatched to the Leadgate Fever Hospital. Three cases of scarlatina and two of erysipelas had also occurred in the Ebchester district.

SURVEYORS AND INSPECTOR'S REPORTS.

Mr Lupton reported that during the past month he had made periodical inspections of the district. A number of notices had been served for the abatement of various nuisances, several of which had been remedied. He had made a special inspection of the houses at Derwentside from No. 64 to 97 inclusive. Nine of the houses were locked up, and seven of the tenants complained of the slates being defective, whilst twenty-one complained of the draughty condition of the bedrooms. None of the houses appeared to have been plastered, the paper being put upon the bricks. The through ventilation was lacking. In his judgment, none of the rooms were fit for occupation, owing to not being weatherproof. The least that could be done to make them habitable was to have them underdrawn or ceiled, and more light and proper through ventilation provided, with an opening skylight in the roof on the opposite side to the window. He had written to the Consett Iron Company with reference to the ashpit refuse at Derwentside, and in reply they stated—"We recently had the deposit complained of examined, and we are advised that there is no nuisance in connection with it. We regret therefore that we do not see our way to alter the method of the disposal of the ashes." The stench from the refuse was, at times, very bad, and there were many complaints about it. Mr Wesley Whitfield was building at Bunker Hill, Leadgate, without having had his plans approved by the Council. Habitation certificates were required for six houses and two shops, the sites including Ushaw Moor, Maiden Lane, Medomsley, and Esh Winning.

FENCING AT HOWDON QUARRY.

The following letter was read :—

Durham.

SIR,—I beg to draw the attention of the Lanchester District Council to the dangerous state of the fencing at Howdon Quarry, next to the road. It is compulsory under the Quarries Fencing Act, 1897, that this should be kept in a safe condtion, and I shall be obliged if you will kindly bring the matter before your Council at the earliest opportunity.—Your obedient servant,

DONALD BAIN,
H.M. Inspector of Mines and Quarries.

Instructions were given to Mr Cumming to attend to the matter.

MR CUMMING'S REPORT.

Mr Cumming reported that a subsidence of the road had taken place near Redwell Hills, caused by the workings of the Eden Colliery. He had had an interview with Mr Scott, the Colliery Manager, and he had promised to restore it to its original level. The wing walls of the bridge, near Maiden Law, were much more bulged out than they were when Mr Parker prepared plans for the widening of the bridge, and he was afraid that it would not stand the winter. The snow ploughs at Maiden Law and Cornsay were entirely worn out, and required renewing. He suggested the advisability of purchasing one for the Craghead district. He had to report Mr B. Whitfield, jun., for the very slow way in which he was completing his contract work. He suggested the contracts should be cancelled.—The Council agreed to purchase three new snow ploughs, and the Clerk was instructed to inform Mr Whitfield that if he did not complete the work within a fortnight, the Council would do the work and charge him with the expense.

This concluded the business.

MEDOMSLEY SCHOOL BOARD.

The last meeting of the old Board was held in the Board Room, Medomsley, on Thursday evening, the Rev. W. Cockin presiding. There were also present :—Mr H. Palmer, Mr W. R. Cooke, Mr W. Robinson, Mr R. Moffitt, and the Clerk (Mr J. H. Coupland).

THE OLD DESKS.

The Clerk reported that thirty desks had been supplied to Canon Holland at 8s per desk. He also stated that he had received an application from the Rev. Mr Clarke, of Jarrow, for 26 desks at the same price. There were, however, only 24 good desks left. There were six tops without standards.—Mr Robinson said if they purchased standards, these would cost almost as much as the whole desk.—Mr Palmer thought they might send the six tops with the 24 good desks, and Mr Clarke could give them what he thought they were worth.—This suggestion was adopted.

ATTENDANCE OFFICER'S REPORT.

The Attendance Officer (Mr M. T. Milburn) reported that he had visited all the schools, and had no case to bring before them. (Hear, hear.) The total number on the books of the schools in the Board's area was 1,179; average attendance, 1,055; percentage, 86·1.

The Clerk said that that was an increase of 3 per cent. (Hear, hear.)

APPLICATIONS FOR THE SCHOOLS.

Mr Daniels (Westwood Mixed) reported that the number on the books was 345; admitted, 5; left, 17; average attendance, 310; percentage, 88. During the month, the work had been going on steadily. He had been approached by his teachers to ask the Board for the use of the school for a social evening, which they intended holding on December the 10th.

Mr PALMER asked if the social was to be a private one.

The CHAIRMAN said that at Hamsterly, the teachers charged for admission, the proceeds going towards an excursion.

Mr COOKE said it was not fair that the teachers should have the use of the schools free of charge, whilst if a concert or entertainment were held for some deserving case, the amount was charged.

The Clerk said that the teachers of any School Board were generally allowed the use of the schools free of charge. Such was the case under the Dipton and Benfieldside Boards.

Mr ROBINSON said he recently noticed a letter in the local papers severely criticising the action of the Tanfield School Board in not granting the teachers the use of the schools.

Mr PALMER : How long is it since the teachers held their last social?

The Clerk : Three years ago.

Mr PALMER : What amount did they pay on that occasion?

The Clerk : They received it free.

Mr COOKE said it would be unfair if they allowed their teachers the use of the schools for a public soiree free of charge, while others had to pay.

Mr MOFFITT agreed with Mr Cooke.

Mr ROBINSON asked what was the amount charged for a social?

The Clerk said that no particular charge had been arranged.

Mr ROBINSON : Were not the charges arranged at the last special meeting?

The Clerk : No, sir.

Mr PALMER said that the next meeting of the Board would be three weeks prior to the date of the social. Could they not let the matter lie over until the next meeting?

Mr MOFFITT said that would be the first meeting of the new Board. They should endeavour, as far as possible, to have everything cleared up. He thought that they should deal with the matter that night.

Mr PALMER jocularly remarked that they might not be present at the next meeting, and agreed with Mr Moffitt that the matter should receive their attention that night. He thought that if the teachers charged for admission, they ought to pay the usual fee. He moved to that effect, and that the amount be 7s 6d.

Mr MOFFITT seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Clerk : If it is a private affair, and the schools allowed free, who will have to pay the cleaner?

Mr MOFFITT : The Board will have to pay.

Mr PALMER said that as no charge would be levied if the social was not a public one, he thought that the teachers ought to pay the cleaner.—The matter then dropped.

OUTSIDERS.

Miss M. Watson reported that the average percentage was 82. Owing to the increased number of children, another class had been formed. Regular advance in school work had been made during the month.

Mr MOFFITT drew attention to the children coming to the Board School from other districts.

Mr PALMER moved, and Mr COOKE seconded, that instructions be given to the head teachers that they should not admit any children from outside districts, unless their names had been sent to the Board for approval.—Carried.

THE CLEANING OF THE SCHOOLS.

The Clerk said a revenue of £7 11s 10d had been received for the use of the schools, whereupon Mr ROBINSON moved, and Mr COOKE seconded, that the cleaner receive £3 16s of the amount.—Carried.

DRAWING REPORT.

A communication was read from the Science and Art Department saying that the result of the recent drawing examination at Westwood was good. The letter further stated that the Inspector who held the examination reported of the teachers' method of teaching as being good and painstaking, and the work done by the scholars during the past year as satisfactory, clean, sufficient, and well dated, and the result of the examination of the work sent up to the department was good in each subject excepting geometry in Standards V. and VI., in which the few drawings worked, were marked excellent.

ANNUAL REPORTS.

The Inspector, in his annual report, stated that the School continued to make great progress. Oral lessons were well prepared, judiciously imparted, and well reported on from time to time. The rooms, too, had an attractive appearance, and the work proceeded smoothly and pleasantly. The average grant earned was £1 0s 6d per child. The infants were sympathetically taught, and the results were of a satisfactory nature. The grant was 15s per child.

FINANCIAL.

It was resolved, on the motion of Mr PALMER, seconded by Mr MOFFITT, that two precepts of £100 each be issued, to be payable on November 15th and February 14th.—Carried.—Cheques to the amount of £159 6s 2d were passed for signature.

THE CLERK'S SALARY.

The duties of the Clerk having increased, owing to the Board's decision to pay the teachers monthly, it was, on the motion of Mr ROBINSON, seconded by Mr MOFFITT, decided to increase his salary £5 per year, to commence from the 1st of September.

This was all the business, and the meeting closed with the customary vote of thanks to the Chairman.

A DAY UNDERGROUND.

[BY "FREE LANCE."]

Thanks to the courtesy of Mr Robert Kay, the genial and popular manager of Messrs Joicey's South Tanfield Collieries, I was this week privileged to spend a day underground. In accordance with arrangements previously completed, I presented myself at the residence of Mr Alex. Ledger, back overman, about half-past seven o'clock on Monday morning, feeling fit and ready for all the subterranean perils which might await me. I found the stalwart overman, as he always is, ready, and on my appearance, he produced a host of leather helmets. Having selected one suited to the dimensions of my head, I grasped a thick stick, tried to fancy myself an overman, and sallied forth to explore the bowels of the earth. Prior to making the descent, I took the opportunity of glancing at a recently-erected lamp-cleaning machine, the patentees of which are Messrs Johnson, Chapman, and Murray, of Manchester. The invention, which is supposed to be an admirable time-saver, is under the charge of Mr Bateman. Mr N. Clark, jun., and Mr Ledger further directed my attention to a huge vertical engine of the ordinary type, with a 16 feet drum and 40 inch cyclinder. The engine draws the coal from a depth of above 150 fathoms, the ropes in use being three inches in circumference. The three enginemen who attend to this engine—eight hours each—are Messrs John Paxton, Geo. Shield, and Thomas Lowson.

The descent in the cage was a very pleasant business, so much so that were pit business to consist entirely of travelling to and from the bank, I would willingly become a miner.

When the cage stopped, we got out, and under the guidance of Messrs Ledger and Clark, to whose kindness I am much indebted, I was taken to the stables, which by the way, contain fifty-four stalls in the five-quarter seam. The stables, which are of brick, have all been rebuilt during the last two years, since the last outbreak of glanders, and are without doubt a great improvement on the old style. The horses are all named, and even a first visitor can have no difficulty in finding any particular horse or pony, for the name of each animal is clearly written on the boarding of his stable.

From the stables, I paid a brief visit to the engine house, where a hauling engine of Messrs Joicey's make was seen. This engine is much smaller than the one at bank, the cylinder being only some 13 inches in circumference. Mr John George Armstrong, who had charge of the engine, very kindly and lucidly explained the mechanism for my benefit, and I was also enabled to become familiar with the system of signalling. It would be shortly after half-past eight o'clock that we left the engine house, and commenced a tour which even Stanley, the great explorer, might have envied! Talk about "Darkest Africa." It simply isn't in it with darkest Oxhill. Soon after starting on the prolonged tour, I was horrified to hear a voice from below exclaiming "Crossbar." I thought for a moment that it was the being whose existence Secularists scoff at, and who is sometimes vulgarly termed "Old Nick," calling for the person who contributes to the *Chronicle* under that *nom-de-plume*; but a moment later another voice, which I knew hailed from neither angel nor fiend, exclaimed, "I wonder how Stanley cricketers are playing?" and thereafter I resumed my journey with a somewhat lighter heart. To describe the whole of our travels would be a lengthy task, wearying alike to my readers and myself. Those acquainted with the pit may be interested to learn that we traversed the districts known as No 9 West, First West, North West, No. 11, and No. 3. These various districts took some doing, and I must frankly admit that more perspiration streamed from my pores during the journey than was quite comfortable.

I learnt the value of the leather helmet without inquiry. But for it, either my head or the roof would have suffered. During the morning, I came across several of these gentlemen, who, in the summer months, are wont to uphold the honour of South Tanfield on the cricket field. They were now busy in the arduous task of coal-hewing, and appeared to me to be as capable in that capacity as in playing cricket.

Mr Clark deserted us ere noon, tired out with his exertions, but Mr Ledger and I kept going till about half-past one, when we arrived at the engine house, and made an attack on some refreshments, which Mrs Ledger had thoughtfully sent for us. Our attack was completely successful, the enemy being demolished at all points. At the conclusion of the conflict, Mr Ledger remarked that he felt "a new man," and I felt inclined to echo his words.

A short rest, and we were again on the war-path, but this campaign was not on the refreshments. We descended to the Hutton seam, a depth of some eighty-five fathoms, and here, in addition to a heavy journey through the various flats, I was enabled to see the model stables, which are of the most modern and improved type, and quite equal to any in the county. Afterwards, we again rode to the Fivequarter Seam, where I had the pleasure of seeing the ponies undergo their daily work. I subsequently returned to bank, and, after a good wash and some refreshments, I felt all the better for my underground experience.

In conversation with Mr Robert Kay, I gleaned several facts which may be of interest to *Chronicle* readers.

The South Tanfield Colliery is the oldest colliery belonging the famous firm of Messrs Joicey and Co., having been opened as far back as 1832, so that its diamond jubilee should have been celebrated five years ago. Mr T. W. Asquith, of Harperley Hall, is the manager of Messrs Joicey's collieries in this district, but so far as the South Tanfield Colliery itself is concerned, there have only been two managers during the 65 years that the colliery has been worked. Mr Peter Kay was the first manager, and his son, Mr Robert Kay, now occupies the responsible and honourable position.

About 600 men and lads are regularly employed in the colliery, that number including no less than 250 hewers. The daily output is 1,000 tons.

About 110 horses and ponies are kept "down under," and judging from the 60 or 70 which I saw, they appear to thrive just as well underground as though they were strolling through sweet pastures daily. I feel certain that they are kindly treated, and well fed.

Nut screens are utilized for the making of nuts, a large quantity of which go to France for use as smithy coals.

Two-thirds of the coal which is got out of the colliery is got out of seams under 2-ft 6-ins. thickness.

Very effective ventilation is supplied by a Juilral fan, which has been up for about 30 years, and which gives a current of 110,000 cubic feet per minute of air passing through the two pits, and ventilating the whole of the seams.

A good deal of gas has to be contended with in the working of a pit.

There are two vertical winding engines, one with a 40 inch cylinder, and the other 28 inch.

The royalty extends to Fines House, near Catchgate, on the one hand, Annfield Plain on the south, and Harperley Hall to the west.

In conversation with Mr Aynsley, of Tanfield Lea, chief engineer for the South Tanfield, Tanfield Lea, White-le-Head, and other collieries, I obtained further interesting information. There are two winding engines at the South Tanfield Colliery, one having a 40-inch cyclinder with 7 feet stroke, and a drum 17 feet in diameter. This engine pulls the coals from the Brockwell and Busty seams, a depth of 153 fathoms. The engine at the C pit has a 30-inch cyclinder, with 6 feet stroke and a drum 13 feet in diameter. It draws two tubs containing 10 cwt. each. The fan engine has a 20-inch cyclinder by 20-inch stroke. The fan itself is of the Guibal stamp. It is 24 feet in diameter by 6 feet 6 inches in width, and produces a volume of air amounting to 100,000 cubic feet per minute. The engine used in the screening process has a 12-inch cyclinder. There are ten ordinary screens, and the coals having been screened once, are re-screened to extract the "duff" which supplies the coke-ovens, of which there are some 87. The ovens are of the ordinary bee hive style, and are 10 feet 6 inches in diameter. The engines are supplied with steam from two Lancashire boilers 30 feet by 8 feet, worked at a pressure of 40 lbs per square inch. There are also three cyndrical boilers 30 feet by 6 feet; but these are being displaced with a newer type of boiler.

The endless rope hauling engine has a 12-inch cylinder by 2 feet stroke. It is geared 2 to 1. The clip pulley patented by Messrs Grant and Richards is also in use. The main rope is driven a distance of some 700 yards. There are three sheaves, one hauling a distance of 300 yards from the north; another straight west a similar distance. The gradient is very heavy, the incline being as much as five inches to the yard.

In the Hutton Seam is a pumping engine, with a 23-inch cylinder by 3 feet stroke, with 7-inch rams. This engine is capable of pumping 500 gallons per minute from a vertical height of 510 feet.

The endless rope engine in the Five Quarter Seam is so arranged that in future it can work the Brockwell Seam.

In conclusion, I must express my thanks to Mr Asquith, Mr Kay, Mr Aynsley, sen., Mr Aynsley, jun., Mr Alex. Ledger, and Mr N. Clark for so kindly allowing me to pay an underground visit, and for the information they have given me. Even a single day down a pit has its lessons. I am fully conscious that I am not capable of "taking in" the whole of the explanations and information that Mr Ledger and others supplied, but I got a glimpse of a life with which I was previously unfamiliar, and an eight hours' glimpse gives instruction as well as pleasure.

THE LATE MR EDWARD HEDLEY.

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT LANCHESTER.

The funeral of Mr Edward Hedley, the popular Squire of Burnhopeside, took place on Friday last at Beckenham, Kent, a memorial service being held on the preceding day in the venerable Parish Church at Lanchester. The service, which was very brief, was conducted by the Rev. George Jepson, M.A., Vicar of Lanchester, the sacred building being crowded by the mourners and friends of the deceased gentleman. The choir sang the hymn, "Peace, perfect peace," and *Nunc Dimittis*, and at the conclusion of the service the organist, Mr Bowes, played the Dead March in Saul. The arrangements in connection with the funeral were executed by Mr J. J. Sinton, Lanchester. The coffin was of oak, with lead shell, and upholstered. The mountings were of brass. The inscription on the coffin was :—

EDWARD HEDLEY,
DIED OCTOBER 18TH, 1897,
AGED 46.

The funeral procession was met at the entrance to the Churchyard by the Vicar and the Churchwardens, Messrs Daly, Thompson, Oliver, and Brotherhood, and subsequent to the service, these gentle[illegible] marched at the head of the processio[illegible] Lanchester Railway Station, wher[illegible] train, consisting of two saloo[illegible] mortuary van, and guard's [illegible] waiting to convey all that was [illegible] late Squire to Beckenham. Th[illegible] were Messrs G. Moore, C. L[illegible] borough, Robert Forster, Th[illegible] E. Nicholson, R. Walton, [illegible] The coffin was covered wi[illegible] chrysanthemums, from [illegible] and other beautiful wreat[illegible] George Hedley (brother), [illegible] Welsh and family, Holl[illegible] Thos. and J. Armstrong[illegible] Dixon and Miss Kitty Di[illegible] Dr. and Mrs Wilson, I[illegible] Mrs Brotherhood, Lanc[illegible] March, Lanchester ; Mr and Mrs De Pledge and family, Newcastle ; Miss Bella Allan, Newcastle ; Miss Madge Allan, Mr and Mrs George Moore, Mrs Nicholson and family, Manor House, Lanchester ; Mr and Mrs C. J. Sadler, Avenue House, Durham ; and the servants of Burnhopeside Hall, "with deepest sympathy." Amongst those who accompanied the mourners and corpse to Beckenham were the Rev. Geo. Jepson, M.A., Mr J. Fairley, Craghead ; Mr J. E. Wardle, Craghead ; Mr Wm. Welsh, Stanley ; Mr J. E. Nicholson, and Mr Ralph Walton, Lanchester. It may be mentioned that a large number of school children and Workhouse children, to whom the deceased gentleman had always been very kind, assembled on each side of the road ; and further, that nearly the whole of the houses in Lanchester village had their blinds drawn. Amongst the mourners and friends present at the service in Lanchester Church were Mrs Hedley (widow), Mr Oswald Hedley (son), Mr George Hedley (brother), Mrs Dixon (housekeeper at Burnhopeside Hall), Miss Kitty Dixon, Mr Thos. Armstrong and Mr Charles Armstrong (agents), Newcastle ; Mrs Luke Armstrong, Mr James Fairley, general manager, Shaftoe House ; Mr Joseph Fairley, Shaftoe House ; Mr William Welsh, chief engineer, Holly Terrace, Stanley ; Mr Thos. Welsh, Mr J. T. Forster, formerly manager of the Burnhope collieries ; Mr J. D. Piercey Taylor-Smith, Colepike Hall ; Mr George Hobson, Harperley Mill ; Mr Michael Hobson, Catchgate ; Mr J. R. Ritson, Burnhope ; Mr U. A. Ritson, junr., Mr T. J. Muse, Castleside ; Mr James Oliver, Knitsley ; Mr Robert Kay, Oxhill ; Dr and Mrs John Wilson, Lanchester ; Mr W. Brotherhood, Lanchester ; Mr J. P. Daley, Lanchester ; Mr Ralph Walton, Lanchester ; Mr Thomas Wilkinson, Lanchester ; Mr C. J. Sadler, Durham ; Mr Reginald Higginbottom, Craghead ; Mr Greener, Craghead ; Mr Hartley, South Moor ; Mr Dawson, cashier, South Moor ; Mr T. Herron, Holly Terrace ; Mr John Buckham, Lanchester ; Mr W. W. Thompson, Lanchester ; Mr J. J. Thompson, Lanchester ; Mr E. W. E. Balleny, Greencroft ; Mr E. J. Wardle, Craghead ; Dr. and Mrs Ingram Johnson, South Moor ; Dr. and Mrs Fox, Craghead ; Mr G. W. Wilson, Lanchester ; Mr J. Towns, Lanchester ; Mr George Stacey, Stanley ; Mr William Laws, Louisa Terrace ; Mr Robt. Eltringham, Stanley ; Mr and Mrs March, Lanchester ; Mr and Mrs De Pledge, Newcastle ; Miss Bella Anderson, Newcastle ; Mr George and Mrs Moore ; Mr J. E. Nicholson, Manor House ; Mr Hilton, Southport ; Mr Innes, Lanchester ; Mr J. E. Parker, Leadgate ; Mr John Hunter, Medomsley ; Mr Ed. Wigham, Barcus Close ; Mr Anthony Kuhlman, Holly Terrace ; Mr Gawthorne, South Moor ; Mr John Smith, South Moor ; Mr Ernest Smith, South Moor ; Mr A. Forster, foreman mason ; Mr Moore, farm manager, Stanley ; Mr James Humble, Lanchester ; Mr Henry Oliver, Hurbuck ; Messrs Crofton, Marshall, W. Cumming, Pomeroy, Plummer, Martin, Chapman, Ridley, N. Musgrove, A. Laycock, Bell, H. Young, Cartwright, Hann, W. Lamb, and Greener, Craghead ; Mr Wilson, South Moor ; Mr Joseph Moore, enginewright ; with numerous others from all parts of the district. The special train containing the body of the deceased gentleman, with the mourners, arrived at Beckenham station late on Thursday night, and the corpse was thence conveyed to Rainham, where it remained all night. On Friday afternoon the funeral took place in Bromley Cemetery, the burial place of deceased's father Mr Oswald Hedley, the service being conducted by the Rev. George Jepson, M.A., Vicar of Lanchester. The choir sang "Peace, perfect peace" inside the church. Amongst the mourners and friends from the North of England present at the graveside were Mrs Hedley (widow), Mr Oswald Hedley (son), Mr George Hedley (brother), Mr Thomas Armstrong, Newcastle ; Mr Charles Armstrong, Mrs Luke Armstrong, Mrs Dixon (housekeeper, Burnhopeside Hall), Miss Kitty Dixon, Dr. John Wilson, Lanchester ; Mr James Fairley, Shaftoe House, Craghead ; Mr Wm. Welsh, Holly Terrace, Stanley ; Mr J. E. Nicholson, Lanchester ; Mr J. E. Wardle, Craghead ; Mr Ralph Walton, Lanchester ; and the servants from Burnhopeside Hall ; the whole party travelling with the special train by which the corpse was conveyed. Mr M. Archer, of Farnacres, managing director of the South Moor Colliery Company, and Mr Cooper, solicitor to the company, were also present to pay final tokens of esteem to the deceased gentleman. The wreaths on the coffin were from Mrs Hedley and Mrs Luke Armstrong, and in addition to the wreaths sent from the North, there was a large number supplied from the neighbourhood of Beckenham. The funeral arrangements were in the hands of Mr Curtis, Beckenham.

ANNFIELD PLAIN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The usual monthly meeting of this Council was held in the Burial Board Room, on Tuesday evening, Mr J. W. Taylor (Chairman) presiding. The other members present included—Messrs W. Fitzpatrick, J. Mason, W. Down, T. Clark, G. Wailes, W. Young, J. G. Taylor, J. Storey, R. Hall, W. Johnson, W. Eltringham, T. L. Watchman (Clerk), and T. J. Trowsdale (Surveyor).

Prior to the commencement of the business, the asceltyne light was explained to the members by Mr Smith, representing the Asceltyne Company, Newcastle, and, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr DOWN, a vote of thanks was passed to that gentleman for his trouble.

BUILDING COMMITTEE.

This Committee reported that they had examined the plans, and recommended as follows :—That the plan for the proposed tenement house for Mr Joseph Dunn, of West Kyo, be approved, subject to ventilation of ground floor rooms being carried to outer walls. That the plan submitted by Mr Joseph Harrison for two houses, on Kyo Laws estate, be approved. That the plan submitted by Mr Spence for erection of bath-room, on the top of the pantry in house belonging to Mr Russell, Annfield Plain, be approved. That the plan submitted by Mr Forster for proposed house, in Victoria Terrace, Catchgate, for Mr John Castle, be approved, subject to the distance between the wash-house and outbuilding being not less than six feet. That the plan for proposed corrugated iron building, to be used as a beer-house and stable, submitted by Mr Spence, for Mr Evans, at Catchgate, be received.

HIGHWAYS' COMMITTEE.

This Committee recommended that the Surveyor should be instructed to write to Mr Pumphrey, again drawing attention to the delay in the execution of the works in consequence of the fence in front of Pontop House not having been set back. With regard to the footroad at South Moor, they recommended that the deputation should make further inquiries, and report to the Highway Committee. Regarding the road subsidence at South Pontop Colliery, they recommended that the offer of Mr Ritson, to bear the cost of draining the road, be accepted, subject to the reservation in regard to the liability of the Colliery Company being withdrawn. In case of any future subsidence, the Council would hold the Colliery owners liable. They recommended that an advertisement be inserted in the local papers, asking for tenders for cleaning, trimming, lighting, and extinguishing the twenty oil lanterns on the Hare Law and Flint Hill Road, and that the gas service be extended by the Council to the two pillars at West Kyo, and a further lamp at the end of the footpath from Fines House to Kyo West Houses Road. The Committee recommended the Council to accept the tender of Mr Thos. Mordue for a snow plough. The Committee recommended the payment of accounts amounting to £372 18s 11d. The Committee further recommended that, with regard to [illegible]encroachment at the Red Lion Inn, [illegible]on, 'the Clerk be instructed to reply to [illegible]imey's letter, and state that the Council, [illegible]ng considered Messrs Reid and Com[illegible]'s proposal, cannot see their way to [illegible] their previous decision, and that the [illegible]tment be proceeded with. It was agreed [illegible]commend the adoption of the Surveyor's [illegible]stion in regard to fixing lamps on the [illegible] each of the urinals. They also recom[illegible]ed that the Surveyor should prepare [illegible] and supply information for the con[illegible] of public conveniences in the centre [illegible] road at the alteration to premises [illegible]ing to Messrs Welch and Company, [illegible]ld Plain. They further recommended [illegible]otice be served on Mr Spence, requir[illegible]m within fourteen days to alter the [illegible]g in accordance with the plan approved by the Council. With regard to the [illegible] Street, at Annfield Plain, in the rear o[illegible] Front Street, the Committee recommen[illegible] that the Surveyor should be instructe[illegible] prepare provisional apportionments of [illegible] cost of constructing a back street of wh[illegible] stone blocks and macadam, respectively.

LIGHTING.

Mr HALL thought that another lamp should be erected on the opposite side of the road from Fines Houses to Kyo West houses. The road was very wide, and the footpath at the opposite side to which the lamps were now erected, was in perfect darkness. He moved that a lamp be erected at the place in question.

Mr FITZPATRICK seconded.

Mr JOHNSON thought that they should have a better understanding on the matter before doing anything definite.

Mr YOUNG enquired whether there was a lamp on the opposite side of the road.

Mr HALL said that there was one before the improvements took place.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that they could not have too much light, especially in a dark place. (Laughter).

Mr JOHNSON : Do I understand from Mr Hall's remarks that a lamp is essential? I am in favour of one being erected if it is really needed.

Mr HALL said that it would be better to have the lamp erected now, when the improvements were being effected.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that the report should be passed as it was, and that the Surveyor be instructed to report on the matter.

The Surveyor said it was a very dark place.

Mr YOUNG thought that the lamp should be erected. He agreed with the Chairman's suggestion.

The CHAIRMAN : If Mr Hall will withdraw his motion, we will see whether it is really required or not. Should any other members know of a place which ought to be lighted up, they could bring the matter up in the same manner as Mr Hall.

Mr HALL consented to withdraw his resolution, and on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr DOWN, the Chairman's suggestion was adopted.

ADJUSTMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

It was decided that the Lanchester Rural District Council should be written to regarding the adjustment of accounts, and asking their Committee to meet a Committee from that Council.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Inspector drew attention to the insanitary condition of Kyo West House, and the Earl Grey Inn, White-le-Head. He had served notices on the owners of other insanitary houses which had came under his notice during the month. Notices had been served to abate the nuisances at Simpson's and Wilkinson's houses, Annfield Plain, but nothing had been done. He asked for an order to be made for proceedings to be taken against the parties for not complying therewith. He had visited cases of infectious diseases in the district, and had supplied the necessary disinfectants and instructions. He had advised the parties to go to the hospital, but none of them were in favour of doing so. He also drew attention to the drainage of the houses at South Medomsley.

The CHAIRMAN moved that notice be served upon the owners to put the houses in a sanitary condition, and also that the order asked for by the surveyor be granted.

Mr JOHNSON thought the surveyor should give them some idea about the condition of the houses at South Medomsley.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the houses were badly drained, but if the members would wait until spring, they would get sewerage disposal works at a small cost.

Mr J. G. TAYLOR said that they wanted a proper sewerage disposal system. He thought that the surveyor should keep an eye on South Medomsley and Wood Houses, and submit some scheme next spring respecting the best method of dealing with these places.

The CHAIRMAN said that it was a big job. —The report was adopted.

FOOTPATH AT PONTOP HOUSE.

A letter was received from Mr Pumphrey, of Derwent Hill, Ebchester, stating that the colliery owners were quite willing to allow the Council six feet of land at the end of Mr Bowes' garden, on the condition that they did the work, and put the fence into a satisfactory condition. A letter was read from Messrs Bowes and Partners saying that they had no objection to the Council receiving six feet of the land. They (the Council) could make arrangements with their under-manager.

Mr DOWN said that they asked Mr Pumphrey to put the fence back, but he did not say whether he was willing to do so or not.

The CHAIRMAN : The question is, can we compel them to put it back. He had no doubt in the matter.

Mr JOHNSON : That is the point we want to be at.

Mr DOWN moved that they take down the fence, and widen the footpath.

The CHAIRMAN : And let them sue us?

Mr DOWN : Yes.

Mr FITZPATRICK seconded.

Mr YOUNG : Had we not a case at Catchgate when we did the work?

Mr FITZPATRICK : That was a mistake, Mr Young.

The CHAIRMAN : That has to be proved.

Mr CLARK (to the Surveyor) : Can we compel them to put back the fence?

The CHAIRMAN stated that the Surveyor was not a lawyer, and should not be asked to give any legal opinion. He had head the opinion of the Surveyor used to their detriment.

Mr JOHNSON asked if they were the parties to take action?

The CHAIRMAN : Yes. We are the owners, and have control over the road.

Mr CLARK said it seemed to him to be an intricate case.

Mr WAILES : Could we get any instructions as to what the cost would be to take down the fence, and put it up again?

Mr YOUNG : About 25s. I think it is rather high-handed to remove a man's fence, and not put it up again.

After further questions had been asked, and answered,

Mr HALL moved an amendment, to the effect that the fence be taken down, and that their rail from the quarry be continued to the place in question.

Mr CLARK seconded the amendment.

Mr FITZPATRICK said he was willing that the original motion should be withdrawn.

Mr J. G. TAYLOR said that if the motion was withdrawn, he would re-move it. They were fighting for their rights, and if they agreed to the amendment, they might as well close their books.

Mr CLARK said that according to what he had heard that night, they did not know whether they were right or not in removing the fence and not replacing it.

Mr TAYLOR : Our Chairman, who is the County Councillor for this district, has given his opinion on the matter.

The CHAIRMAN : I said that I had no doubt in the matter. That is my opinion, but I do not say that it is correct.

Mr STOREY thought that they asked for nine feet.

The Surveyor : We applied for about six feet.

Mr CLARK said it was a rather high-handed proceeding to take down a fence, and leave a gentleman's garden open to the public. He thought that they should do unto others as they would like to be done by.

The CHAIRMAN said, with regard to that remark, all the members, he thought, were doing that.

On a division being taken, the Chairman, Mr J. G. Taylor, Mr Down, Mr Fitzpatrick, Mr Storey, and Mr Mason voted for the motion, and Messrs Clark, G. Wailes, R. Hall, W. Johnson, W. Eltringham, and W. Young for the amendment. As the division resulted in a tie, the Chairman gave his casting vote in favour of Mr Down's motion.

NAMING OF STREETS.

Mr Hall moved the appointment of a committe to name the streets in the district.

The CHAIRMAN suggested that six streets should be brought before the Council every month, with suggested names, until the whole of them were named.

This suggestion was agreed to.

FOOTPATH AT KYO WEST HOUSES.

Mr DOWN moved that the footpath from Kyo West Houses to Oxhill, across the bogs, be repaired. The footpath, he said, was in a bad condition, and greatly used.

It was ultimately resolved that the Clerk should ascertain the tenure of the footpath, and in the event of the Council having power to repair it, the matter was to be left in the hands of the Surveyor.

This concluded the business.

SHED BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.]

HE EARL'S SECRET

BY

J. MARSDEN SUTCLIFFE,

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

[COPYRIGHT.]

CHAPTER XII.

Miss Cleveland did not appear on deck again until he Banshee was safely moored along the quay-side t Holyhead.

Dollis, her maid, having by this time recovered rom the attack of sea-sickness by which she had een prostrated, had resumed attendance on her young nistress. Michael Delaney, therefore, had no fur her opportunity of resuming private conversation with the beautiful girl, and was, accordingly, obged to limit his attentions to such slight services s Anne required. He played his part with a deferntial courtesy, and showed a concern for her comort that greatly won on her regard.

But Delaney served his cause even more by an act f thoughtfulness for which in her inmost heart Miss Cleveland thanked him. It was his desire to ccompany her to her journey's end, but a glance at he white, set face, told him that Anne would prefer o be left to her own thoughts, and so he sacrificed is desires on the altar of self-interest. But Anne nterpreted his thoughtfulness for delicacy, and rated he trifling service more highly than it deserved. he wanted to be alone with her own thoughts, unpeakably bitter though they were. She felt it would ve been painful to be compelled to dwell on the nworthy object on which she had placed her affecons with Delaney's eye resting upon her the while; nd though she did not speak when he proposed to ave her in Dollis's charge, and to limit his attennce upon her to enquiring after her wants at the casional stoppages on the journey to Euston, her es were eloquent with thanks.

On the whole Michael Delaney had made good f his opportunity and was not without reason r congratulating himself on the accident that had rown Miss Cleveland in his path. When he finally t her with Mr. Stopher, who was waiting at the rminus with his brougham to meet his ward, he was the highest spirits, and his delight was increased the warmth with which Mr. Stopher greeted him; r the lawyer showed by the cordiality of his manner at his recent escapade had not obliterated the old an's regard.

Nevertheless several days elapsed before Delaney esented himself at Mr. Stopher's offices in the ty. He was well supplied with money, and though was anxious to acquaint himself with the Earl of raxford's final intentions concerning him, the temption to gratify his pleasure-loving tastes whilst the oney lasted proved stronger than his curiosity to arn the Earl's decision. But he had another reason r postponing his visit. He knew that whenever he lled at Mr. Stopher's offices he would be asked to nner at Lavender Villa, and he argued with himself at he had more to gain than to lose with Miss eveland in delaying his next meeting with her until e had had time to reconcile herself to the revelation Lord Foyle's character that had occasioned her ch deep distress, and to forget the suddenness with hich Delaney had disclosed his own passion for her.

How long he might have postponed his visit it ould be difficult to say, if his book on the Derby had not turned out unfortunate. But he lost nearly all that he possessed, and found himself compelled to ek out Mr. Stopher for the sake of replenishing s empty purse.

The establishment of Mr. Stopher was situated in riar's Alcove, Crutched Friars. The lawyer held a neficial lease of the building, which consisted of veral floors, and possessing, as he did, a quick eye business of all kinds, he managed by advanageously letting the upper stories to eligible tenants live rent free and pay the expenses of his office and of clerks.

Here Mr. Stopher passed the chief hours of his . Indeed, he was so wedded to business that a itor calling at his private residence at Clapham ly found him at home. His partner, Mr. Randal le, occupied a second room, whilst that adjoining principal's was used by the clerks. A small anteom that served as a connecting link between the her rooms was utilised for the reception of clients o failed to make an appointment, and was crowded th office lumber. Mr. Stopher possessed considere shrewdness where business was concerned, and not thing it "infra dig." to turn his attention to casional speculation on the Stock Exchange, and ble in stocks and shares. But he operated with tion, and knew the secret of buying in the apest market and selling in the dearest, whereby always contrived to maintain a good balance at his ker's.

But his connection lay principally amongst the ded gentry; and amongst his clients he reckoned Earl of Traxford, whose legal adviser he had n for many years, besides other Irish families of ute, whose decayed fortunes, however, rendered ir business less profitable.

When Michael Delaney presented himself with a mmering apology for the delay in his appearance, . Stopher eyed him curiously, but received his uses in silence. In truth, the lawyer was hurt at t he esteemed the neglect shown to himself perly; for Mr. Stopher, whose desire for a son of own had been disappointed, entertained a genuine ard for Delaney, and was anxious to serve him, if could, in the crisis that had overtaken him.

"Well, I am glad you have come at last. Our iness is not very pleasant, and it is a good rule look ugly facts in the face at once," said Mr. pher, kindly. "I have received a letter from Lord xford, and as there is nothing in it that you may see, the shortest way will be for you to read it." nd so saying, Mr. Stopher handed Delaney the l's letter which was as follows:—

"The Gresham Hotel,
"Dublin, May 10, 187—

Dear Stopher,

"Mr. Michael Delaney will call upon you in w days to learn through you my proposals for future.

"Circumstances have arisen that have decided me bandon him to his own resources, subject only ertain assistance that I am prepared to render, which you will find detailed below. I might, ed, after his recent misconduct, justly decline to ertake any responsibility for his future; but inuch as it was always my intention to provide for in a manner suitable to his position as my pted son, and in consequence of that intention, I e neglected to bring him up to follow any profes, I think it my duty to repair that neglect as far ay be reasonable. I must ask you, in the first , and as the condition upon which I undertake o anything for him, to impress on his mind that decision not to see him again, or to receive any munication from him, is final and irrevocable. attempt on his part to traverse this decision entail the forfeiture of such benefits as I have my mind to confer.

"When I have concluded arrangements with you s behalf he will be, as regards not only myself, Lord Foyle also, as though he had no existence. this understanding I will make him an annual wance of £500, which he will receive quarterly ugh your hands. This income will continue to aid to him so long as he observes the aboved condition, but may be forfeited by miscon. If he elects to follow any profession for which emium is required, and he will make known his ntion to you, it will give me pleasure to receive communication that you may have to make tos that end.

"Lord Foyle informs me that he is in honour d to pay a debt of £1,000 to Mr. Delaney. enclosed find draft for that amount, for which you please take Mr. Delaney's receipt.

"Yours faithfully,
"Traxford.

P.S.—It occurs to me that Mr. Delaney may be in . If that is so you will ask him to prepare a dule, and you will make the strictest inquiry to tain that the money is really owing, when all against him will be discharged. The draft £1,000 is not to be reckoned as an asset against that he may owe. His claims against Lord must be met in full, and not diminished in way."

Delaney read the Earl's letter with a glowing Certain passages in it stung him to the quick, ially those that exhibited the Earl's stern denation to consider their connection at an end. is inner consciousness he felt that the sentence ust, and his conscience told him that under the mstances the Earl was treating him with unled generosity. But this reflection could not the bitterness from his mind, as he remembthe high estate from which he had fallen and prospects he had forfeited. Making a great , however, to control the fierce passions that struggling for the mastery within him he gave the letter without any display of the emotion possessed him.

"I accept the proposal with the conditions, but arl is very harsh, and he has misjudged me," l, almost humbly.

"Now tell me all about it," said Mr. Stopher. "I se it is about this affair of the bill, of which mber I know nothing except what I have seen e newspapers."

Delaney hesitated before replying to Mr. Stopher. instinct told him that it would go well with if he could put forth the courage to tell Mr. r the whole truth. He was aware that the r was well disposed towards him, and had influence with Lord Traxford, and he thought f he told Mr. Stopher everything—the terrible to which he was driven for want of money, mptation that came in his way, when the Earl d to supply his wants, to make use of Tonkey 's skill, his hope of being able to meet the before it came due, and his bitter regret and over his abuse of Lord Traxford's kindness— his lawyer would plead, and not ineffectually, reconsideration of his sentence.

he had grown so accustomed to equivocation deceit that the straightforward course seemed m to be encompassed by difficulties. After ncing the matter in his mind for a moment he d to tell as much of the truth as he thought best suit his main purpose. He had a susthat no explanation he could offer would with Lord Traxford. He had, however, one ve, to keep the good opinion that Mr. Stopher ined of him, and who, as Miss Cleveland's dian, had it in his power to assist him or to him in the prosecution of his suit. These thoughts rushed through his mind in less time than it has taken to tell them.

"I don't think anything will change Lord Traxford's opinion," he said, meeting Mr. Stopher's gaze with a frankness that impressed the lawyer. "I have never had an opportunity of explaining the transaction to the Earl," he went on, "and I fear Lord Foyle has poisoned his mind against me to such an extent as to make any reversal of his opinion quite hopeless."

"Why should Lord Foyle do that?" asked Mr. Stopher. "You have been very good friends hitherto."

"I can scarcely explain Lord Foyle's attitude to me. I am not sure that I understand it myself. It is of recent date."

Michael Delaney felt that the time was not opportune to explain to Mr. Stopher that he was a rival with Lord Foyle for the hand of his ward. He could not, therefore, tell him, as he would have done if he had had a free hand, that Lord Foyle regarded his advances to Miss Cleveland with aversion, and had seized the opportunity offered by the forged bill to ruin him both with the Earl and Miss Cleveland.

"Well, we will leave Lord Foyle's enmity for the present," said Mr. Stopher, who was anxious to know the circumstances that had led Lord Traxford to discard his adopted son. "Tell me how all this has come about."

"When Lord Foyle and I were at Monaco together last winter we had the misfortune to exceed the sum that the Earl allowed us to draw upon him for, and we were both in urgent need of money to meet certain debts of honour. I wrote to the Earl, and in reply received a stinging letter from him, which surprised Lord Foyle as well as myself, for the Earl had always been most indulgent. Perhaps if he had been less indulgent we should have managed better."

"What next?" asked Mr. Stopher, who was listening to Mr. Delaney's story with grave attention.

"A few days later I received another letter, apparently written by the Earl on the Castle notepaper, containing some advice against indulging in expensive habits, and enclosing a six-months' draft for a large amount; more than we required to meet our emergency."

"A bill from the Earl of Traxford!" exclaimed Mr. Stopher, whose quick eye at once detected the gaping seam in Delaney's story. "What necessity could the Earl of Traxford be under to put you off with an acceptance payable six months hence? The circumstance should have aroused your suspicions immediately. Lord Traxford is wealthy enough always to have practically unlimited command of money. Were you not aware of that?"

"It certainly struck me as strange," said Delaney, who knew how thin was the ice he was trusting himself to, and that he must make his tale more plausible if he intended it to pass muster with Mr. Stopher. "You see I was deceived by the handwriting, and I was not alone in being imposed upon. The bankers, who surely knew the state of the Earl's account better than I did, were deceived also. They paid the bill. If I committed a fraud I sinned in very good company."

"True," said Mr. Stopher, to whom this aspect of the matter did not occur until Delaney pointed it out. "I overlooked that circumstance. The forgery must have been very clever."

"There was another element of suspicion," said Delaney, "that I must have noticed if I had been wide-awake. The bill was made out in favour of Lord Foyle, instead of in my favour; but the fact is we were so glad to get the money, and on the face of it the bill appeared all right, that the possibility of its being a forgery did not occur to us."

"Then Lord Foyle signed the bill?" said Mr. Stopher.

"I believe that Lord Foyle repudiated the signature. The fact is he so often drinks to excess, as you are no doubt aware, that he forgets what he has done."

"Is the Earl aware of Lord Foyle's propensity?" asked Mr. Stopher.

"Not to anything like the extent to which it is carried on. When he is at Traxford Lord Foyle manages to keep himself fairly straight, but he is overtaken even there sometimes. Then, of course, it cannot be kept entirely from the Earl's knowledge."

As Mr. Stopher sat revolving Delaney's story in his mind his face was a study. His fine benevolent countenance was overcast, and astonishment and perplexity were visible by turns. He held Lord Traxford in the highest esteem for sound judgment and uprightness. Yet if the story to which he had just listened was true, Lord Traxford's judgment must have gone lamentably astray, or else he had dealt unfairly by his adopted son. For what did Delaney's story amount to, but that he had been hoaxed by some designing scoundrel who had been only too successful in palming off a clever imposition? And with whom had the imposition succeeded? Not only with Delaney, but with a reputable firm of bankers who were in a position to judge whether the bill was genuine or spurious. Such was Mr. Stopher's faith in the Earl of Traxford that it compelled him to doubt the possibilities of the story to which he had just listened. Yet to disbelieve Delaney, who sat there before him with an air of innocence and candour, and with visible marks of distress depicted on his handsome face, seemed an even greater difficulty.

"Have you kept the letter that accompanied the bill?" asked Mr. Stopher, recovering himself suddenly from the brown study into which he had fallen.

"I don't generally keep letters," said Delaney, evasively; "I intend to see if I cannot find this one, though."

"Do so by all means," said Mr. Stopher, "and when you have found it, bring it to me. I will then see what can be done. And now as to the future. Have you any plans? Or have you not found time to decide upon anything yet? Suppose you come and dine with me to-morrow evening, and we will discuss what is best to be done."

"My mind is made up already," said Delaney. "I intend to adopt the law as my profession."

"Are you thinking of the bar? You will find it very crowded. Not that we cannot manage to influence business and place a good deal of it in your way," said Mr. Stopher with a smile.

"I was not thinking of the bar," said Delaney, "but of your own branch of the profession. If you will allow me to serve articles with you I will work hard and try to do you credit."

The suggestion pleased Mr. Stopher mightily. It was his weakness to be easily accessible to flattery, and no form of flattery could have been sweeter than the proposal to adopt his own profession. If Delaney desired to strengthen his hold upon Mr. Stopher's good opinion he assuredly succeeded. The lawyer hastened to assure him of his satisfaction with his choice, assuring him of the pleasure that it would afford him to receive so distinguished a [illegible] and of the delight with which his noble [illegible] the Earl of Traxford would hear of his decision.

"Who knows but that your choice may pave the way to an early reconciliation with the Earl?" chirped the lawyer cheerily. "You are not older than the Earl was when he quarrelled with his father and began to cut out a career for himself. Depend upon it, the coincidence will not be lost upon him."

Delaney devoutly hoped that Mr. Stopher was right, and that the coincidence would not be lost on the Earl of Traxford. Next to strengthening the good understanding with Mr. Stopher, he was anxious to let no chance of conciliating the Earl pass unimproved, and he was not without hope that when Lord Traxford knew that he was articled to Mr. Stopher and heard, as Delaney meant that he should soon hear, that he was applying himself very diligently to the work of preparation for his new profession, some relentings might make themselves felt in the breast of the incensed peer.

After making arrangements to commence his legal studies at Crutched Friars next day, and accepting an invitation from Mr. Stopher to dine with him at Lavender Villa, Clapham, the following evening, Michael Delaney rose to leave, with the Earl's draft in discharge of Lord Foyle's debt in his pocket.

"Stay one moment," said Mr. Stopher. "Let me introduce you to my partner;" and so speaking Mr. Stopher led the way to an adjoining room, the door of which bore in bold letters the name of Mr. Randal Dale.

CHAPTER XIII.

Mr. Randal Dale first drew breath in the county of Surrey. His mother, a widow in poor circumstances, pinched herself to give him the best education that lay within her reach. Bramblebury, it was true, could not offer great things in the way of educational advantages, but such as they were Randal Dale made the most of them. He was as sharp as a needle and burning with ambition. As the lad grew to the age when a decision as to his calling must be made, Mrs. Dale became greatly exercised in her mind what to do with him. After considerable hesitation she resolved that he should follow the same business as that pursued by her own father with much success, that of a tailor.

But Randal was not of the same mind as his mother. He had a soul above buttons, and the prospect of sitting cross-legged on a bench all day, plying the needle, filled him with dismay. But it was in vain that he attempted to reason with his mother. Mrs. Dale was in general a weak-minded woman, but, like most feeble-minded people, was liable to occasional acts of obstinacy, when nothing could move her. Such an occasion arose when Randal protested against his mother's choice of the business that he was to follow. Finding that expostulation produced no effect, and seeing the day approach when he must be finally bound as an apprentice to a trade that he loathed, Randal Dale took matters into his own hands and, stealing from his home in the early morning before his mother was stirring, set out to seek his fortune in the great city that lay fifty miles away.

Young Dale, when he quitted his native village, had not the remotest idea what he intended to do when he reached the end of his journey, nor of the way in which he was to set about the task of mak [illegible] the fortune that engaged his imagination. But Fates were kinder to him than they commonly ar [illegible] lads who set out from home on the same enterp [illegible] no better furnished for the undertaking than Randal Dale.

He arrived at his destination about noon of [illegible] fourth day after leaving Bramblebury, weary [illegible] foot-sore with his long journey, when chance t [illegible] him in the way of Mr. Stopher. It so happ [illegible] that the lawyer was on his way to his favourit [illegible] taurant, situated near Aldgate Pump, in sear [illegible] his mid-day repast, when he had the misfortu [illegible] be thrown down by a runaway horse. There w [illegible] have been a sudden termination of his career o [illegible] spot if the danger had not been foreseen by Ra [illegible] who rushing forward at the critical moment, clu [illegible] the reins, causing the horse to swerve fro [illegible] course before trampling Mr. Stopher under its iron hoofs. Thanks to his timely intervention the lawyer escaped with a severe shaking and a few bruises.

Mr. Stopher did not forget this service. He took the lad with him into the neighbouring restaurant, and gave him a good meal, and little by little succeeded in extracting his story from him; with the result that the lawyer, having communicated with Mrs. Dale, young Dale was boarded and lodged with a cousin of his mother's living in Great Dover-street, and began his career in Mr. Stopher's offices.

He did not remain at Crutched Friars many months before Mr. Stopher discovered that he had secured a treasure in his junior clerk. "He has more brains in his little finger than the rest of the clerks have in their entire bodies," the lawyer would murmur to himself as some new instance of Randal's ability and devotion to his work came under his notice. Before two years arrived Mr. Stopher arrived at the opinion that young Dale held the promise of eventually turning out a shrewd and clever lawyer. After several years of service had confirmed this opinion, Mr. Stopher presented his protégé with his articles, and when Randal Dale's services became too valuable to be dispensed with they were permanently secured by the offering of a junior partnership.

Good fortune did not spoil Randal Dale for business. He worked harder after entering into partnership with his former principal than he did before, and raised the reputation of the firm amongst City men, a class that Mr. Stopher, satisfied with his steady-going connection, had neglected to cultivate. It was not long before Randal Dale began "to coin money," a pursuit with which he allowed no squeamishness to interfere. He was well known as an extremely clever practitioner, but though often unscrupulous when serving the interests of a client or his own, he was careful enough to give a wide berth to the slightest semblance of fraud. He knew where to draw the line, and where the law could touch him.

One great reason for Randal Dale's success might have been found in the extreme care that he exercised before undertaking new business. His special forte was Common Law, and it goes without saying that he took ample security for his bill of costs before accepting instructions from a new client. But he went even further. He would unceremoniously bow a client to the door and decline to undertake his case unless he was satisfied that he could bring it to a successful issue, or that though the case might be lost yet the brilliance with which he conducted it would bring new laurels of reputation to the firm, and what followed in the wake of reputation—money!

In private life Mr. Randal Dale was popular with his set. There was scarcely a game by which money was to be made at which he was not proficient. But his favourite amusement when out of business hours, when he was neither engaged in law nor in dabbling on the Stock Exchange, was whist, for which his cool brain and long-headedness peculiarly qualified him. Add to this that he was thirty-five years of age and a bachelor, and was furnished by nature and art with an intelligent and gentlemanly exterior, and the account is closed of the particulars relating to Mr. Randal Dale which it is needful for the reader to know.

Mr. Stopher, having introduced Michael Delaney to his partner, to whom he explained the former's intention to devote himself to the study of law under the auspices of the firm in Crutched Friars, returned to his room, leaving them to become better acquainted with each other. They were soon upon a footing that promised well for their future intimacy. Mr. Randal Dale possessed the art of putting new acquaintances at their ease. It often led to a skilful act of vivisection, in which he contrived to learn their inmost secrets.

Before they had been many minutes together Delaney began to feel as if he had known Randal Dale for years, and in reply to his interrogatories proceeded not only to give him an account of the bill transaction that had entailed such painful consequences to himself, but to inform the astute young lawyer of all the past particulars of his life, so far as he himself knew them.

"You have not been to luncheon, of course," said Randal Dale, after he had finished an exhaustive cross-examination. "Will you take lunch with me? I shall be pleased if you will; that is, if you have nothing better to do."

Delaney confessed that he had no engagement until evening, and accepted Randal Dale's invitation with evident pleasure.

"Shall I include Dalton and Dunregan in the invitation? I should like to do so if you don't object. You know them I believe, and it will serve as an introduction to each other in your new capacity as office companions."

Delaney expressed his pleasure at the proposal. He had seen a good deal of Tom Dalton since the latter left school, and as a lad, Tom Dalton, with his laughing face and mischievous pranks, had been more after Delaney's own heart than his elder brother, Sir Francis, whom Delaney in his heart disliked. Patrick Dunregan was a squireen who, experiencing much difficulty in collecting the rents from his small estate at Clonkilta, had allowed himself to be persuaded by his aunt, Mrs. Dunregan, to resign the reigns of government into the hands of his sister, Julia, who possessed a handsome fortune in her own right, bequeathed to her by a distant relative, and who was ready to supply her brother's wants from her own purse, so long as he was willing to act on Mrs. Dunregan's advice and betake himself to some employment by which he might succeed ultimately in rendering himself independent of his little patrimony. Pat Dunregan accepted the advice given him by his aunt and sister, so far as to carry a letter of introduction to Mr. Stopher from Lady Mary Dalton, and to commence the work of preparing to qualify for a solicitor, though, if the truth must be told, Crutched Friars was only honoured with Pat's presence when other attractions ran dry, or the fair Julia tightened her grasp of the purse-strings. With Patrick Dunregan, Michael Delaney possessed a more intimate acquaintance than with Tom Dalton. They had been fellow-sportsmen together in Ireland and companions in pleasure in London.

The little luncheon party passed off merrily, marred only by the irrepressible curiosity of Tom Dalton to be made acquainted with all the ins and outs of the forged bill of which Michael Delaney himself was growing a little weary.

"Do tell me all about it," cried Tom Dalton, who was not to be deterred by Delaney's evident distaste for the subject. "How did the fellow manage to imitate Foyle's signature? That's what beats me."

"Let the subject drop, Dalton," said Randal Dale, attracted by the deep gloom on Delaney's face as Tom pursued his enquiries in his insatiable craving for information.

On this hint Tom relapsed into unwonted stillness, which he maintained unbroken until lunch was over and the waiter brought cigars and coffee, when he broke silence to challenge Dunregan to a game at billiards.

"Why not pool?" asked Randal Dale. "Do you play pool, Mr. Delaney?"

Michael Delaney had no reluctance to confess that he had numbered playing at pool amongst his accomplishments. At the end of the game he finished the winner by ten pounds.

"'Do you play pool, Mr. Delaney?'" said Tom Dalton, mimicking Randal Dale as Delaney pocketed the stakes. "'Oh, no; I should think not.' Judging by appearances, I should imagine Mr. Delaney never handled a cue before in his life."

"Have another game," cried Delaney, who was now in his element. "What do you say? Double the stakes."

"I am sorry I cannot accept your challenge," said Randal Dale, pulling out his watch. "I have an office appointment at three o'clock, and it only wants ten minutes to the hour. Another time we will have our revenge."

As the party broke up Randal Dale took Delaney aside for a few moments to have a last word with him.

"May I trust your discretion, Mr. Delaney, if I venture to give you a little advice?" he said, in his gravest professional manner. "If I were in your place I should not think of burying myself in Crutched Friars. The news from Traxford Castle respecting the Earl's health is very grave."

"I understand. You mean that you would devote yourself to elucidating the mystery of my parentage and the Earl's reasons for adopting me into his household?"

"I mean that I would be the next Earl of Traxford," replied Randal Dale, slyly poking Delaney under the ribs.

"How would you begin?" asked the latter, who was not averse to receiving gratuitous legal advice, and whose vanity was intoxicated on hearing his own dreams put into plain English by the oracular lips of the acute lawyer.

"What is your Christian name?" asked Randal Dale.

"Richard Michael Sullivan Delaney."

"Gemini! what a lot of it! It may keep the question of identity clear of awkward questions, though. There cannot be two Delaneys so heavily weighted in name. Do you know where you were born?"

"In Dublin, I believe."

"Then your task is very simple. Hunt up the certificate of your birth."

"That is exactly what I mean to do," replied Delaney.

Randal Dale chuckled to himself, as he threaded his way along the crowded thoroughfare, on the ease with which he had contrived to worm his way into Delaney's confidences.

"So Mr. Delaney imagines that he is the legitimate heir to the Traxford peerage," he murmured, softly, to himself, "and with verdant freshness confides his suspicions to one of the family solicitors. The Earl of Traxford has played his cards badly. Mr. Delaney, thanks to the Earl's blunder, will find the lawyers plenty of work before he is done with. He is evidently the sort of fellow to keep in with."

And Mr. Randal Dale chuckled again as visions of a costly litigation dawned on his mind.

CHAPTER XIV.

[illegible] s melted into autumn, and autumn in [illegible] been followed by the wild winds of [illegible] swept the trees in Traxford Park, [illegible] and gaunt.

[illegible] Traxford Lodge, devoted entirely [illegible] ton's special use, a bright fire is [illegible], imparting a cheerful glow to [illegible] and sombre furniture. Mrs. [illegible] ers are never idle, is busy ply [illegible] in the soft light shed by the [illegible] ising her eyes from her work [illegible] ady Mary, who is seated on [illegible] fireplace, in a large easy [illegible] esting wearily on her hand, [illegible] t.

[illegible] notice the change that a few [illegible] n Lady Mary's appearance. ner sprightliness of manner has deserted her, and the almost girlish outlines of her face have disappeared. Her cheeks are, in fact, pale and sunken, and the change is made more noticeable by the almost feverish lustre of her eyes. No glance is required at her heavy mourning robe to know that she has passed through deep sorrow since the bright morning in May when we saw her last. Her whole appearance proclaims that she has been visited by severe bereavement.

For Richard Delaney, Earl of Traxford, has passed away, and Brian, Lord Foyle, reigns in his stead. Lord Traxford died painlessly in his sleep. When his valet went to his room, taking with him his morning cup of chocolate, he found him apparently sleeping profoundly, and for a moment hesitated to disturb him. But something in the marble stillness of his repose attracted the man's attention and, drawing back the curtains of the bed, he stooped down and placing his hand upon the region of the heart found that it had ceased to beat. Lord Traxford had died as he would have wished to die; while his intellectual faculties remained unimpaired, and without formal leave-takings, which add a sharper pang to death's terrors.

The suddenness of the event shocked and distressed Lady Mary Dalton indescribably. She was naturally of a sunny, hopeful temperament, and she had persisted in buoying herself up with hopes of her brother's recovery that unhappily for her were destined to be unfulfilled. Neither the warning of Sir Peter McManus, who journeyed from Dublin from time to time to prescribe for his illustrious patient, nor the constant habit of the Earl of referring to his death as an event that could not be far off, served to abate her confidence. She believed that with careful nursing the once powerful constitution of her brother would re-assert itself, and that he would live to disappoint the prognostications of the physician. Great was her grief when she flew to his chamber, on the Earl's valet raising the alarm, and found that the news of his death was only too true.

Lord Traxford was buried when the leaves of the trees in the Traxford woods were glowing in their autumnal loveliness. The funeral, according to his own wish, was without pomp and parade. He was laid to rest in a common earth-grave, dug below the domestic chapel attached to the Castle: a great disappointment to Michael Delaney who, believing that the Earl would be interred with his ancestors in the family vault, underneath the chancel of the abbey church of Holy Cross at Traxford, journeyed to Traxford to attend the last ceremony as an uninvited mourner, and was compelled to return without obtaining a glimpse of the mournful proceedings. His chagrin, however, was lessened on learning, when the contents of the late Earl's will were communicated to him, that Lord Traxford had by a codicil secured to him the continuance of his annuity of £500 for his life, though his satisfaction was considerably dashed upon making the discovery later on that in the body of the will the late Earl had charged his estates with a yearly sum of £5,000 per annum in favour of his adopted son. So, the forged bill had caused Michael Delaney's fortune to be divided by ten—a reflection that the gentleman principally interested found anything but soothing.

Lord Traxford had done his utmost to soften the blow to Lady Mary occasioned by his sudden death, by the deed of release which Bertram Henley, in accordance with the Earl's instructions, placed in her hands after his death, which released the Rathminning property of the Daltons from all encumbrances, and by the handsome legacies that he had bequeathed to Francis and Tom Dalton.

Lady Mary was inconsolable until another sorrow darkened her sky, that made even the death of the Earl appear almost insignificant. Sir Francis Dalton, after serving with credit in the first brief Afghan campaign, had been appointed to the staff of Sir Louis Cavagnari when that unfortunate soldier set out on his ill-starred mission. The news which came soon afterwards of the murder of Sir Louis and his embassy at Cabul fell like a bombshell in the quiet household at Traxford Lodge. One slender hope was left to the grief-stricken mother. It was reported that two or three members of the staff had contrived to effect their escape from the general massacre.

Fuller particulars of the disaster had yet to arrive, but Lady Mary, ready to clutch at any straw, endeavoured with feverish anxiety to support herself in the conviction that amongst the members of the staff who were reported to have escaped, her own son Francis would be found to be included. She dreaded to think of the perils through which he must pass before he was restored to her; but not yet could she bring herself to surrender the frail hope that her eyes would eventually be gladdened by the sight of her son's stalwart form. Meanwhile she was enduring all the agonies of suspense; and how terrible the suspense was, and how severely the anxiety was telling upon her, were evidenced by her wan, weary face, and the dejection of her demeanour.

This new trouble was still fresh when she was roused from herself by receiving a formal offer from her nephew, Brian, Lord Traxford, for the hand of her ward. The new Lord Traxford had made his proposal in due form only a few hours before, and for some considerable time Lady Mary sat discussing the matter with her friend and confidante, Mrs. Dunregan.

To say that Lady Mary Dalton was startled by Lord Traxford's proposal would be to employ language too faint to reflect her astonishment. The habit of regarding Miss Cleveland as the destined bride of her son, Sir Francis Dalton, had grown so insensibly upon her, since the day when she first made Anne acquainted with the deep passion which her soldier-lover cherished for her, that she felt she could scarcely have been more taken aback if Lord Traxford had proposed to engage her assistance in carrying to a successful issue some amour with a married lady of her acquaintance. She assured her nephew, as soon as she could collect her scattered senses, that it would be quite useless mentioning his proposal to Anne since she was as good as promised to her cousin, Francis.

Lord Traxford refused to look at matters in this light. He told Lady Mary frankly that though he could not speak with the same confidence of the state of Anne's mind as he could have done before she went to stay with the Stophers, he could speak confidently to her feelings as they had been. He confessed that latterly her manner towards him had been cold and distant, but he attributed her restraint to the fact that his father's illness had chained him a prisoner at Traxford whilst Anne was in London, and that since her return he had been immersed in business, occasioned by his father's death, and had had fewer opportunities than usual of meeting her. Lord Traxford pleaded his cause with so much ardour that Lady Mary reluctantly consented to lay his proposal before her ward.

But the communication was a sore trouble to her, and the duty she had undertaken was most irksome. In her own mind she had little doubt of what Miss Cleveland's answer would be, until she consulted Mrs. Dunregan, when she discovered to her great surprise that her astute friend had not been without an inkling of the true state of affairs.

Lady Mary felt that the dilemma in which she was placed was a very cruel one. On the one hand she could not shrink from the duty of laying Lord Traxford's proposal before Miss Cleveland for her decision, but she also considered that she would be untrue to the spirit of her trust as Miss Cleveland's guardian if she neglected to point out to her ward all the advantages that would surround her as the Countess of Traxford. Yet to give her consent to Lord Traxford's union with the girl that her son had chosen for himself seemed to her like abandoning the last hope that Sir Francis was yet alive! And what a blow it would be to him, she reflected, if after overcoming so many perils he returned to find that the one prize on which his heart was set had been borne away from him!

It was scarcely to be wondered at that the unhappy lady sat in silent grief pondering the events of the past few months in her heart, or that Mrs. Dunregan, who was sincerely attached to her, and who deeply entered into the mingled thoughts and feelings that possessed her friend, continued to glance at her from time to time with deep solicitude.

"Do you mind sending Anne to me?" said Lady Mary, after a long pause, slowly raising herself in her seat. "I have no right to conceal Brian's proposal from her a moment longer than is necessary, and anything is better than living in the dark."

Miss Cleveland was in the drawing-room playing a dreamy fantasia when Mrs. Dunregan entered and told her that Lady Mary wished to see her. She was looking exceedingly lovely in her low-cut dinner dress, the mourning colour matching well with the delicate whiteness of her skin and the faint rose of her flushed face, though her expression was grave and sad. As she entered the little room where Lady Mary was sitting, the latter thought that she had seldom seen a more lovely vision, and something like a pang of jealousy passed through her as she reflected that such beauty was not to be reserved for the poor lad whose fate hung in doubt and who was never so dear to his mother's heart as now when she knew not whether he was alive or dead!

"Mrs. Dunregan said that you wanted me, dear auntie," said Miss Cleveland, addressing Lady Mary by the affectionate title to which long years of use had accustomed her.

"Yes, I want to speak to you for a few moments. Come and sit near me."

Miss Cleveland seated herself at Lady Mary's feet, and taking her thin transparent hands in hers kissed them, and caressed them in her own. The action was not lost on Lady Mary, who knew what treasures of affection and gentle womanly sympathy were contained in Anne's heart.

"Lord Traxford has been here this afternoon. Did you know? Can you guess what his errand was?" asked Lady Mary, speaking hurriedly, and almost below her breath.

"Yes, I knew he was here," said Miss Cleveland, in a low tone. "That was the reason I went out. I did not want to meet him."

"But why do you seek to avoid him? What has he done?"

"Done? Oh, nothing; only I do not care to meet Lord Traxford;" and Anne Cleveland bent her head so that Lady Mary could not see her face.

"We must not begin by playing at cross-purposes, Anne," said Lady Mary, gently. "Lord Traxford has called to tell me that he wishes to make you his wife. What am I to say to him? Think before you answer. He seems to be greatly attached to you. Indeed, he gave me to understand that his whole happiness depended on your decision. He says that if you refuse him he will never marry any other woman."

"Oh, tell him that what he asks for can never be," said Miss Cleveland, resolutely; and then with true feminine inconsistency placed her head in Lady Mary's lap, and burst into tears.

Lady Mary could not understand this outburst. At first she was inclined to think that Lord Traxford was labouring under a delusion in imagining that he had made an impression on Anne's heart; that, after all, she was still loyal to her absent lover, and was only so deeply affected because she was suddenly called upon to decide on the proposal of one lover whilst the fate of her own lover remained in such dreadful uncertainty. But Lady Mary, on second thoughts rejected this supposition. If it turned out eventually to be the true interpretation it would bring her great joy; but she placed great reliance on the judgment of Mrs. Dunregan, who was a quick, observant woman, and she felt that there was some reason for Anne's display of sorrow lying behind, which she must try to understand.

"Tell me, why you do not like Lord Traxford," she said, after a pause, placing her hand lovingly on Anne's smooth, white shoulder.

"I did not say that I did not like him," said Anne, struggling with her tears, "but that I do not care to meet him."

Lady Mary felt more puzzled than ever. What could Anne mean? She entertained no dislike to Lord Traxford, and yet she did not care to meet him; cared rather to avoid him, as was shown by her confession that she had gone out that afternoon when she knew Lord Traxford was at the Lodge in order to shun him! What did it mean? Lady Mary felt that there was more in this than she could fathom immediately. Did Anne really love Lord Traxford after all? And was she afraid to meet him because she feared to trust herself in his presence lest he should tempt her to be untrue to her lover over the sea? Was it possible that she was willing to marry Sir Francis, though she had no heart to give him, rather than wound her best friend? There was nothing for it, thought Lady Mary, except to probe deeper.

"Is it because of Francis that you do not wish to meet Lord Traxford?" she asked, in broken tones.

But Anne shook her head negatively, and had recourse to a fresh fit of weeping.

"Have you seen someone you like better than Lord Traxford, or—or—Francis?" asked Lady Mary, hesitating before she included her son's name in the interrogatory. "It is not Michael Delaney?" said Lady Mary, as Anne left her question unanswered.

"No, indeed!" returned Anne, drying her eyes and speaking with unwonted energy. "Mr. Delaney persecuted me with his attentions when I was at the Stophers' even after he knew that they were disagreeable to me. He even insisted on going through the useless task of asking me to be his wife. Altogether he succeeded in making himself very tiresome."

"You have not told me of this before, Anne," remarked Lady Mary, in a faint tone of rebuke. "How is that?"

"I do not know. Perhaps because the subject was so very disagreeable. He is very much in love; or he says he is, which means the same thing. I don't think it answers for a man to let a woman know how very much in love he is with her. At least it doesn't with me. I suppose I am different to other women, but I think if a man was very much in love with me I should hate him."

"Oh, Anne," exclaimed Lady Mary, not a little shocked at this view of matters, "I think a true woman will value the love of a worthy man beyond all earthly good; more than a miser values his gold, and like the miser with his treasure, she can never have too much of it."

"Well, I dislike Mr. Delaney very much," said Miss Cleveland, firmly, "and the only reason for my dislike that I can find is that he loves me very much."

"Well, dear, we will not discuss Mr. Delaney. What answer am I to give Lord Traxford? I cannot tell him that you like him and yet that you do not care to meet him."

"Tell him nothing; only that what he asks for can never be," replied Anne, playing nervously with the lace at her bosom.

"But why?" persisted Lady Mary. "You ought to give me some reason, and leave it to my judgment whether Lord Traxford should be informed of it or not."

"I think that Lord Traxford is very base," said Ann, desperately, after a pause. "There, it is out now, and I quite expect you will chide me for it, but you don't know, dear Lady Mary, how base he is."

"Anne, what are you saying?" cried Lady Mary, sharply. "Brian is my nephew, bear in mind. He may have been wild and foolish, though I think he is cured of all that now, but baseness must never be linked with his name. I believe him incapable of a mean or dishonourable action."

But Miss Cleveland shook her head incredulously.

"I wish I could think so," she replied, "but I cannot. You do not know all about that affair, dear Auntie. I mean the affair about the bill. Do you know that he signed the bill and then declared that he had not done so, in order to get Mr. Delaney into trouble with the Earl, which happened you know?"

"Rubbish!" exclaimed Lady Mary, scornfully. "Excuse me, Anne, employing such a word to anything that you say, but if Mrs. Dunregan were here and heard you she would call you a goose."

"Nevertheless, what I say is true," persisted Anne.

"It is quite easy to guess from whom you heard this extraordinary story," continued Lady Mary, ignoring Miss Cleveland's asseveration. "No one except Michael Delaney himself would have the effrontery to attempt to palm off such a ridiculous falsehood."

"You are quite right so far," replied Miss Cleveland. "I certainly heard it from Mr. Delaney."

"Of course, you did. On board the Banshee, I suppose. And can you not see that his design was to prejudice Brian in your eyes in order that he, Delaney, might make good his own footing?"

"He would not be so unprincipled as that," cried Miss Cleveland.

"You have very little idea of the depth of infamy to which Michael Delaney can go," returned Lady Mary. "Now that you have heard his story, perhaps you will listen to mine. The actual forger of the bill, the man who forged not only my brother's name but Lord Foyle's, as Brian was then, was Richard Tonkin, who was brought up on the same farm with Michael Delaney in County Kildare, before my poor brother was misguided enough to take Michael Delaney into his family. The proofs were discovered by Bertram Henley, and though the late Earl refused to prosecute, and wished the matter to be dropped, Richard Tonkin was discharged in consequence of his crime. But the real culprit is Michael Delaney himself, who got the bill discounted and instigated Richard Tonkin to the fraud."

"But did not Lord Foyle share in the plunder?" asked Miss Cleveland, who, though a new light was beginning to dawn upon her, was unable in a moment to comprehend Michael Delaney's dark design to blacken the character of his foster brother.

"Michael Delaney advanced Brian a thousand pounds, which Brian was foolish enough to accept under the belief that Delaney had made a lucky coup at the gaming tables. When the forged bill came to light Brian at once suspected the truth, and saw, too, that the forged bill had been drawn in favour of Lord Foyle with the object of entangling him in a disreputable transaction, in the hope that whenever the matter came to light they would stand or fall together."

"What a wicked thing of Mr. Delaney to do," exclaimed Anne indignantly. There had passed from her heart a heavy load at this unexpected vindication of Lord Traxford.

"I think I understand how matters stand now," said Lady Mary, caressing a lock of Anne's hair with her transparent fingers. "You were afraid to meet Brian lest you should betray your love for him, believing him to have acted basely."

"It was something like that," replied Anne, "though I am not sure I do love him. May I tell you everything, dear Auntie?" she asked.

"I wish you would," replied Lady Mary. "Confide in me as you would in your own mother."

"I have not known the want of a mother since I have known you," said Anne, softly, "and I have hoped so earnestly that some day, when Francis came back, I should be your own child. For I loved Francis very dearly, though with this long absence he has grown very much like an imagination to me, a kind of ideal man whom I saw in my dreams. He has always seemed so far away. Then Brian came, and I began to feel very differently. Francis seemed to grow further away than before. I still cared for him, and I do care for him very much still, but with Brian it was different. He seemed to fill all my heart, but I still tried to be true to Francis. His love for me was so wonderful, I could not help thinking of him and loving him, and I tried to think that my feelings towards Brian would pass away, that they were a kind of infatuation that would not last. Then when Mr. Delaney told me that wicked story I felt as if my heart would break; but it seemed as if it had occurred as a just punishment for entertaining a feeling that was not perfectly loyal to Francis, and tried to put Brian out of my thoughts. But it has made me very sad and miserable, and I don't know what to think. I feel as if I were under a spell, and that if Francis came and I could hear him speak it would be all over, and I should not care to see Lord Traxford any more, though what you have told me about him has made me very glad. Tell me what I ought to do. Believe me, I only want to do what is right."

"I am sure you do," said Lady Mary, as she gathered Anne to her breast, profoundly touched by her artless confession. To Lady Mary's maturer judgment Anne's course seemed clear. If she had not succeeded in putting Lord Traxford from her heart during the long months in which she had believed him guilty of the baseness attributed to him by Michael Delaney and if now her heart was filled with happiness at his vindication, Lady Mary's experience told her that Anne's heart had spoken, and that for good or evil her decision must be taken to accept Lord Traxford's proposal of marriage. It might be, Lady Mary thought that Anne was under the influence of some spell which the return of Francis would break, but with the evidence that Anne's confession furnished, she felt that she could not say anything to induce her to put her feelings to a further test by waiting. Of what use was it to wait for him who might never return?

"Do you think you could be happy with Lord Traxford?" asked Lady Mary, after taking time to reflect on the situation.

"I think I could, and I would try to make him happy."

"Then you shall try," said Lady Mary, as bending forward she kissed Anne's fair brow.

And so it was settled. When Lord Traxford called at the Lodge the next day to learn from Lady Mary the fate of his proposal, he was shown into the morning room overlooking the lawn, where he found Anne alone, and read his answer in her blushing face.

CHAPTER XV.

The news of the contemplated marriage of the Earl of Traxford to Miss Cleveland was not long in reaching Crutched Friars. For one thing the consent of Mr. Stopher, who was co-guardian with Lady Mary Dalton of General Cleveland's daughter, required to be obtained. Then, as the Earl pleaded successfully that his happiness might not be postponed unnecessarily, there was the important business of settlements to be entered upon, which necessarily threw a tremendous amount of work on Mr. Stopher's staff of clerks, with whom the approaching marriage was the theme of continual conversation.

Amongst the first to hear the news was Tom Dalton, who had the information direct from his mother, Lady Mary, who wrote the same day that the engagement was formally sanctioned, and Tom in turn communicated the intelligence to Michael Delaney. It strained all Delaney's power of self-control to enable him to refrain from one of those outbursts of passionate violence that usually characterised him whenever his purposes were crossed. Whether his thoughts were "too deep for tears" or not, his feelings were "too deep for words."

It is only doing him bare justice to say that in the web of his nature, strangely woven of good and evil, his love for Anne Cleveland ran like a thread of fine gold. He was aware, of course, that Miss Cleveland was the heiress to an immense fortune, but his passion for her was entirely free from mercenary greed. Amidst the unhallowed fires that burned within him she had contrived to light the one pure flame that burned on the altar of his soul. If ever he loathed himself for past follies, such loathing was inspired by his love for Anne, though so completely did his love for her possess him that he was ready, as we have seen, to stoop to the basest arts of deceit and treachery towards his absent rival. The news of Miss Cleveland's betrothal fell on him like a blow, filling him with despair.

But, though Michael Delaney contrived for the moment to restrain the expression of the feelings of wrath and madness that filled his breast, when he found himself alone he gave full vent to his rage. He swore by all his gods that the marriage should never take place: that he would move heaven and earth to frustrate it, though how this was to be accomplished was by no means clear even to himself. And then his mind fell back on the conversation which he had held with Tonkey Dick, months before, in the small hours of the morning at the Traxford Arms. He had not seen Tonkey since, but though the Leaguer had failed hitherto in his special mission of discovering some clue to the secret cause that led the late Earl to take Michael Delaney into his family, he had provided sufficient proof of his attachment to Delaney's interests by the diligence with which he had played the spy and kept his patron well informed of the events that were occurring at Traxford during his absence, as to convince him that he might be depended upon to make good his threats.

"Partridge shooting will soon be coming on." How vividly the words of the signal agreed upon seemed burned into Delaney's brain as he recalled them now, in his frenzy of maddened hate and disappointed love! Should he write them? Then, assuredly, would his rival be swept from his path, to trouble him no more. But, no! though his fiercest passions were roused at the prospect of the only woman he loved being delivered to the arms of the man who was the object of his deadliest animosity, and who, he believed in his heart, was in possession of the birthright which ought to be his, he shrank from the prospect of blood-guiltiness. Not that way would he win his way to possession of the coveted prize. At any rate, he would try all other expedients to separate Miss Cleveland from her lover before he gave the signal that would doom a fellow-creature to death.

It was in this excited frame of mind that Michael Delaney, on entering Mr. Stopher's room a few weeks later, found Miss Cleveland there alone. Business in connection with her marriage had brought her to town, and she had called at Crutched Friars a little before the hour appointed to sign the marriage settlements. Michael Delaney, who was ignorant of this appointment at Mr. Stopher's offices, was greatly overcome when he suddenly found himself face to face with Miss Cleveland, who was better prepared for the interview, and contrived to maintain a perfect composure; though the mere presence of the man who had traduced her lover was extremely distasteful to her.

Quickly recovering himself from the surprise into which this unexpected meeting had thrown him, and secretly overjoyed at the opportunity of an interview with her which accident had thrown in his way, Michael Delaney, placing the bundle of documents down that he had brought with him, advanced to meet her.

"I beg your pardon, Miss Cleveland," he cried, offering her his hand, which Anne, after a momentary hesitation, accepted with constrained civility, "I was not aware that you were here; it is quite an unexpected pleasure."

"Yes, I have an appointment to fulfil with Lord Traxford and Mr. Stopher," replied Miss Cleveland, in a cold matter-of-fact tone.

Delaney frowned heavily at the mention of Lord Traxford's name, and readily divined the object of Miss Cleveland's visit to Crutched Friars.

"I am sorry that I cannot congratulate you on the important step you are about to take," he said gravely.

"I beg your pardon," said Anne, flushing. "Your congratulations are not required, and since you take that tone, you must forgive me saying that I would prefer not to have any communication with you."

"But you misunderstand me," exclaimed Delaney hastily, altogether unprepared to meet this show of spirit. "You think I seek to inflict a wanton injury on Lord Traxford; to lower him in your esteem. Miss Cleveland was not wont to entertain suspicions so ungenerous. I was not thinking of Lord Traxford when I spoke, but of you, and your happiness."

"You are concerning yourself quite unnecessarily with my affairs," replied Miss Cleveland sharply. "I am quite content to leave the care of my happiness in the hands of the man to whom I have entrusted it."

"Anne, you are driving me mad by your scorn," cried Delaney hotly. "Let the deep passionate love of a heart that with all its sinning cares for nothing on earth so much as the light of your smile plead with you to give me a patient hearing. Think how time passes. There may be but a moment to save you from irretrievable dishonour."

"Dishonour, Mr. Delaney," cried Anne scornfully, her beautiful nostrils dilating with indignation as her breath came in gasps, "I do not know what you mean. I think you are forgetting yourself."

"You are right. I do indeed forget myself where you are concerned," replied Delaney; "love makes me blind, reckless to every consideration except your welfare. You shall not go on with blinded eyes. Ask Lord Traxford to give you proof of the death of Lillias Leigh. If he can do so, well and good. You can then think of me what you will, and mad though I am for love of you, and dark though the hour will be which tells me that we must thenceforward meet as strangers, even I will not speak another word, except to pray for a blessing to rest on your union."

"You are wasting your breath, Mr. Delaney," said Anne. "I shall not ask Lord Traxford any question that would imply that I doubted his honour. After the deceit you practised on me when you made me your confidante I will never believe a word you say."

"Inflict on me any punishment you will," exclaimed Delaney, passionately, seizing Annie's hands as he spoke, "but show mercy to yourself. See, I kneel to implore you to pause before it is too late."

"Release my hands," cried Anne, her breast heaving and her eyes flashing with indignation. "How dare you, sir? Release me at once. Are you mad?"

It seemed as though Delaney's passion and the scorn and indignation on Miss Cleveland's face, which had the effect of immeasurably heightening her beauty, were indeed driving him to the verge of madness; for before Miss Cleveland could divine his intentions he had caught her in his arms and folded her to his breast, and was raining passionate kisses on her lips.

Anne struggled hard to disengage herself from his embraces, but in the hands of Delaney she was utterly impotent. At that instant, however, Mr. Stopher entered the room, followed by the Earl of Traxford.

The Earl saw at a glance how matters stood, and the next moment Delaney found himself hurled violently to the ground, whilst Anne flung herself into the arms of her lover, and lay with her head on his breast, sobbing bitterly. Quick as lightning Delaney sprang to his feet, but Mr. Stopher stepped in between and prevented the broil that was imminent.

"What is all this about?" cried the lawyer, in tremendous tones of anger and astonishment. "You have strangely forgotten yourself, Mr. Delaney. I must ask you to leave the room instantly."

Michael Delaney made a desperate endeavour to recover himself, and seeing the folly of prolonging a scene of which he was becoming ashamed, he turned to go, but on reaching the door he paused, and turned to survey the little group.

"Remember, Anne, you are warned," he said. "Ask him now, in my presence, and let him convict me of falsehood, if he can."

But Anne made no reply, except to cling more trustfully to her lover.

"Very good. On your head be the consequences, then. As for you, my lord," he continued, addressing the Earl, "you have won the trick, but I hold the trumps, and the game is mine. Au revoir!"

And with a mocking smile, he bowed and left the room.

(To be Continued.)

ALLENDALE COTTAGES.

CONCERT.—On Saturday evening, Mr Tom Holland's popular company gave a concert in the Primitive Methodist Chapel to a good company. The programme opened by the singing of the beautiful anthem, "Peace, perfect peace," a particularly appropriate selection, in view of the fact that Mr Bewley, a leading light in church work, had only recently gone "to where, beyond these sufferings, there is peace." Selections were given by Miss Prinn and Mr Hosking, the latter's selection being "Beloved." Mr Holland created a great impression by his magnificent rendering of "Star of the Desert," and the company then sang "Pretty village maiden." Miss Holland's sweet voice was heard to advantage in "Come back to me," and Miss Haw sang "The Toilers" very well indeed. These grand artistes, Messrs Holland and Hosking, took the house by storm in the duet entitled "The veteran's toast;" and the quartette by these gentlemen, in conjunction with Misses Haw and Collicott, was well received. Miss Collicott also favoured the audience by singing "Juinita." The second part of the programme was equally well rendered, the same singers as in the first half contributing. A sacred concert was given in the same building, on Sunday afternoon, when the place was packed to its utmost extent.

LETTERS to the EDITOR.

As it is desired to make the *Consett Chronicle* a medium for intelligent discussion to its readers, Correspondence is invited from all who have useful information to communicate. But contributors must distinctly understand that all communications sent will be subject to the Editor's revision, and that all statements of a personal, offensive, or impolite character will be unhesitatingly expunged. Correspondents should always criticise the action or the practice complained of, and not the person whom they consider to be at fault. Communications from working men on matters of public interest are frequently the most valuable, and Correspondence of this class is especially invited. The Editor will most willingly revise the letters of those who favour him with their contributions.

The name and address of the writer must accompany all communications. These will not be given where the writer does not wish his identity to be known; nor will they, in any case or under any circumstances whatever, be given to inquirers. Correspondents replying to letters which have appeared in the *Chronicle*, bearing the names and addresses of the writers, are expected to do so over their *bona-fide* names.

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

THE DEBATE AT STANLEY.

SIR,—*Re* your remarks in the issue of your paper for October 22nd, allow me to say, in reply to your ministerial questioners, that I did write to the Vicar of Stanley before I arranged to come, but as he took no notice of my inquiries, I thought it wise to act independently. The reasons which led me to decide to debate the question were, briefly, the following:—

1. I read in the *Freethinker* of the success which had attended the Secular lectures.

2. That an invitation had been given by them to any local minister to debate the question.

3. That inasmuch as that challenge had not been accepted, I determined to take up the gauntlet.

Now to your questions. I was Minister of the Camberwell New Road Congregational Church, London, for two years, and resigned the pastorate two years and three months ago for the purpose of devoting all my time to evidential work, at the request of the Christian Evidence Society. The Christian Evidence Society never arranges public debates. That is always left entirely with their lecturers.

Re your other questions, allow me to state that generally I have been out of pocket as the outcome of debates. Supposing I had debated the same subject a hundred times, the subject is not settled, and consequently the necessity of continuing the discussion. Do the ministers of your district preach for nothing? Do you, Sir, do the work of Editor for the same pay? Those who know me best in London, men who occupy leading positions in all departments of life, have publicly stated that I never spare my opponents' opinions, but that I treat the man always with the utmost courtesy. I may say that this is not the first time that I have met grumblers, but I care not. To me it appears that to speak the truth and preach it against all comers, is the highest service man can do for his fellow-man. We believe Christ is the truth, and that Secularism is a system founded on error, and as such, my duty is to fight it wherever it may be found.—Yours faithfully, A. J. WALDRON.

Y.M.C.A., Carlisle, 26th Oct., 1897.

SIR,—While perusing the columns of your very valuable paper, I came across an article by "Free Lance," asking a series of questions, some of which I will endeavour to answer. I don't think Mr Waldron has held a pastorate. If he ever did, it was for a very short time. Neither am I at all sure that he is put forward by the Christian Evidence Society. I suppose if he gains the day, they will claim the victory; if he loses, they were not consulted. I believe Mr Watts and Mr Waldron debated on the same subject as they are going to debate at Stanley (Secularism versus Christianity), at Camberwell in London, and again at Bradford on the 13th and 14th of the present month. So I think this looks like a "friendly game," as "Free Lance" puts it. It looks to me as if it is for the gate money alone they are travelling about—debating, not for the good of Christianity, but for the spreading of Secularism.—I remain, yours &c., THE CORKSCREW.

Sunderland.

BLASPHEMY AT STANLEY.

DEAR SIR,—I remember your once describing the utterance of such men as Cohen and company as "blasphemy." The truth of this is fully demonstrated in last week's *Chronicle*. There the champion of Secularism stands unmasked. We see him as he is—the Atheist confessed. "The fool hath said in his heart there is no God." Mr Cohen believes in nothing. He grew like Topsy. He is here and means to enjoy himself. He has no concern for hereafter. Life and enjoyment here are his Alpha and Omega. I have read and re-read his blasphemous utterances, and the thought that rises uppermost in my mind is—Can it be possible that ministers of Christ seriously intend to meet such men in debate? Can it be really possible that men who call themselves Christians have consented to preside at their meetings? Let me quote a few of Mr Cohen's choice sayings. "Tell me," he says, "when the world was ever benefited by Christian teaching!" Christianity, according to him, has increased lunacy, and we are gravely told that Christ turned water into wine for the benefit of people who were probably half drunk at the time! Preachers of God's Word he designates black-coated vampires. I will not follow Mr Cohen further in his dirtiness and filtiness. I will only express my surprise that the people of Stanley have tolerated such profanity in their midst so long. The man who calls his opponent a liar, and would set Atheism above the Bible, is a moral plague, a corruptor of society, and ought to be dealt with as such. In former times, outraged Christianity would have dealt with the apostles of Atheism in a very summary manner. Is there no village pond at Stanley? It is really shocking to think that the morals of the people should suffer by the presence of such vampires as have recently visited Stanley.

What is likely to be the result of the debate between Atheists and Christians? Can Christians hope to convince such men as Mr Cohen? It is not yet too late for Christian men to withdraw from the unholy alliance? Unthinking working-men are apt to imbibe the false reasoning of such men as Mr Cohen, and only last week, I heard a man, who had been innoculated with the poisonous virus, doubting the existence of a God. My advice to such men is—

Use thine eyes,
And having viewed the order of the skies,
Think, if thou canst, how matter blindly hurl'd,
Without a guide, could form this wondrous world.

The Blessed Book which Mr Cohen attacks is the Christian's hope, and will continue to be his guiding star for all time.

A glory gilds the sacred page,
Majestic, like the sun;
It gives a light to every eye;
It gives, but borrows none.

It is, indeed, a revelation from Heaven, designed for the instruction, comfort, and salvation of mankind; and the experience of ages has but served to show its reality and truth. As John Locke beautifully says:—"It has God for its author, Salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. It is all pure, all sincere; nothing too much, nothing wanting." It contains the mystery of mysteries:—

Within this awful volume lies
The mystery of mysteries:
Happiest they of human race
To whom their God has given grace
To read, to hope, to fear, to pray,
To lift the latch, to force the way;
But better had they ne'er been born,
Who read to doubt, or read to scorn.

Many men become Atheists because they cannot comprehend the Scriptures. Mr Cohen is one of the class. When the Emperor Alexander first studied them, he put a cross before each verse which he could not understand. These, at the commencement, were very numerous. "But," said the pious monarch, "on the second perusal, many crosses were erased; and since then, they are diminishing continually." Let me implore my fellow-men not to listen further to the blasphemies of the apostles of Infidelity. All Nature speaks to the existence of a God Almighty, who made Heaven and earth.

Can there be who doubt there is a God,
And life eternal! When the river flows,
Deny the fountain-head who will, the wave,
That, curling, murmurs farthest from its source,
That source attests. Show me some well-wrought work
Of matter or of mind; though you produce
No author, I conclude that such there was,
Or this had never been, and give him praise.

—Yours faithfully, BIBLE READER.

Beamish, Oct. 25th, 1897.

IS THE BIBLE TRUE?

SIR,—A young man in our town drew my attention a day or two ago to the report in your excellent paper of Mr Chapman Cohen's lecture on Atheism, delivered at Stanley, a few days since. The young man in question had evidently read your report, and I thought I saw in his face that he was troubled in mind about it. Mr Cohen's argument had apparently hurt him, and he seemed to be anxious to know what I might be able to say in reply to this bitter attack upon the very heart and essence of our religious belief, namely, the existence and the being of God.

I have since then read very carefully Mr Cohen's lecture as reported in your paper, and now the thought crosses my mind that perhaps a word or two from our point of view, in reply to Mr Cohen, might help some of your readers, especially your younger readers, who may possibly have been shaken and confused in mind by what Mr Cohen has been saying. With this aim in view, I send you, Mr Editor, a few thoughts that suggest themselves to me—thoughts that will, I hope and believe, set at rest any uneasiness that may have come into the minds of your readers as a result of what Mr Cohen has been lately giving utterance to against their belief in and their repose upon the existence and the being of a supreme and an intelligent God.

I am bound to say at once, if I am to be quite outspoken in this matter, that the careful reading of the lecture in question has both disgusted and pained me. I am disgusted with it, because I find in the lecture no real argument whatever. What semblance there is of argument at all is based upon, and is the result of, entire and astonishing misconception.

Mr Cohen, as a matter of obvious fact, does not really understand what he is attacking. The God and the religion that he inveighs against, are certainly not the God and the religion of the best believing minds and devout hearts among us. Mr Cohen's god and religion are bogies of his own creation, and it is these that he is so noisily knocking over. One is sorry to say it, and yet it is true and ought to be said, one feels that there is nothing but merest, emptiest, hollowest clap-trap in Mr Cohen's argument, if argument it can be called at all.

No thinking, reading, observing man would be drawn to it, much less convinced by it in the very least.

Mr Cohen will, I hope, excuse me for saying it, but I am convinced that he is not a thinking man in any true sense whatever, and I seem to see in the lecture many evidences which go to make me conclude that he has apparently read less than he has thought. There is no real grip in the lecture of the confessedly great subject in hand.

Mr Cohen says something, for example, about "all the croakings of all the black-coated vampires that the world had ever been cursed with," and he has an expression like this—"History showed that gods died slowly, but they did die, and the time was fast approaching when the God of the present would take His place in the gods of the past, among the long list of gods with which every student of history was familiar."

On this kind of unmeaning clap-trap, Mr Cohen rides off, and that is what passes with him for serious and convincing argument, and the worst of it is, he gets the applause of one or two people in the audience for it.

There is nowhere in the lecture any real facing of the great and deep and the pregnant facts of nature and of human consciousness, and no fair and face-to-face questioning of them as to their rational and evident content, and their deeper signification. This is the kind of thing that disgusts one with Mr Cohen's argument.

We look for deep and serious reasoning on so great and so awful a question as that of the existence of the being of God, and we get only clap-trap. I cannot help feeling that more and deeper thinking and reading in this particular direction would do Mr Cohen much good. He is sadly in need of both. Let me suggest to him a few books that would help him here.

Mr Cohen has apparently an innate prejudice against the Bible, and so we will not name that to him. But there are other books that, one would fain hope, might help to deepen his thought and widen his outlook. I will name just a few that come into my mind as I write—Lotze's "Microcosmus," Kant's "Critique of Pure Reason," Butler's "Analogy," Martineau's "Study of Religion" and "Types of Ethical Theory," J. B. Mozley's "Nature" and "Eternal Life," Sermons in his University Volume, Illingworth's Bampton lectures, entitled "Personality, Human and Divine," and also Dr. Westcott's "Gospel of Life." Let Mr Cohen read these books carefully and with an open mind (and this piece of work will take time and thought in the doing), and then, after he has accomplished it, let him come north once more and talk to us on the question of the existence of the being of God. I shall be glad to run over and hear him then, if he comes again to West Stanley.

I assure Mr Cohen, in all kindness, that at present his argument is very poor stuff indeed, simply because he has never really understood what he is attacking. He is, as a matter of self-evident fact, in absolute ignorance of the exact position and meaning and strength of what is called Theism. Certainly, Mr Cohen has a right to his own opinions; but so have I to mine, I hope, and, when he gets up to attack what is as dear to me as my own life, I have a right to expect something more from him than empty declamation and insulting innuendoes.

The question as to whether there is a Supreme Being ruling the universe and the life of man or not, is surely one of vastest moment, and when it is dealt with it ought to be handled seriously and as deeply as possible. But in Mr Cohen's handling there is neither seriousness nor depth; there are only blatant and silly Atheistic platitudes. This is the kind of thing that disgusts one.

Then Mr Cohen's lecture also gives one pain. Take a single example—"It possibly never struck that gentleman that his Lord and Master actually turned water into wine for the benefit of people who were probably half drunk at the time." No right and fair-minded man, no man with any true taste at all, would ever talk like that. Whatever some men may think and say about the essential personality of our Lord, He is still, even to men like Stuart Mill and Ernest Renan, the sweetest and purest, and sublimest human character that our world ever saw: and to talk, either directly or indirectly, of Jesus Christ in the way that Mr Cohen does, is to insult the susceptibilities not only of Christians, but also the susceptibilities of educated and gentlemanly unbelievers in the Divinity of our Lord. To talk about our "Lord and Master" turning water into wine "for the benefit of people who were probably half drunk at the time," may seem to Mr Cohen and his followers a smart and clever bit of sarcasm, but I assure them that in the opinion of everybody else it will be considered very bad taste, and will, in fact, be to them the sure sign of a terrible want of cleanness in the mind of the man who stoops to say it.

Well, now, I have said enough by way of introduction about this foolish lecture and this very misinformed lecturer. It is time that I come directly to one or two points in regard to the question of the denial and the affirmation of the existence and the being of God.

But I must be very brief, for I have, I am afraid, taken up too much space already. Perhaps, Mr Editor, you will allow me in a future issue of your paper to write a second letter, and in that I will reply to Mr Cohen's points seriatim. It will have to be enough now to touch very briefly upon one or two things only in the said lecture. First of all, at the beginning of Mr Cohen's address, I come upon these words, "All science without exception is Atheistic." Whatever can Mr Cohen mean by a statement like that? Does Mr Cohen understand what he is saying? What is science? Well, science as such is neither Atheistic nor Theistic. It has simply and only to do with natural phenomena. Its specific work is neither the apprehension nor the denial of the existence of God, but rather the discovery of nature's facts. It is philosophy that interprets those facts, after science has discovered them, and that tells us what they mean. Science provides the facts, and philosophy interprets them. It is to philosophy, then, and not to science, that we must go to ascertain what natural phenomena may have to say as to the presence of a Supreme Being at the heart of and above the cosmos. If Mr Cohen had said "all philosophy without exception is Atheistic," instead of what he has said, one would have understood his meaning; only in that case he would have been false to history. But when he says "all science without exception is Atheistic," one wonders what his meaning may be. Here we have, I cannot help thinking, another evidence of Mr Cohen's lamentable want of depth and exactness as a thinker.

Immediately after this, Mr Cohen has, what he evidently considers, a smart hit at us believers in God. He talks about a church with and a church without a lightning conductor, and he gleefully affirms that every believer in God would rather invest his money on the Church protected by the lightning conductor than on the Church without such a protection; and when he has said so much, he evidently thinks he has proved that we are guided in life, our belief notwithstanding, by Atheistic considerations, and not by considerations that are the result of our assurance that God is. But a moment's thought will reveal the absurdity of all this. What does every sane believer hold as to nature and nature's God? He believes that nature is the handiwork of God, and therefore that the laws of nature are the laws of God. God is in nature, we all hold. True, He is above nature; but He is also in nature. There is God's immanency in as well as God's transcendency over nature. The voice of nature, then, is the voice of God, and we have no right to disobey that Voice as we hear it speaking to us in and through the great and salutory natural laws.

This is the real point and significance of Mr Cohen's lightning conductor illustration, and not the point he brings out. His interpretation of this particular matter is a radically false one. But now, in closing, let me throw out just two thoughts more, one against Atheism, and the other in favour of a Supreme Intelligence above the universe.

First, then, when we make use of the term Atheism, we know exactly where we are. Atheism is the positive and unqualified denial of the existence of God. But this evidently means an attempt to prove a universal negative. Has Mr Cohen read any logic, I wonder? Hardly; at least, if he has, he has done so to very little purpose, or he would never have fallen into this fatal error.

It is always a mistake to meet a proposition by its contrary. For example, an A proposition must never be confronted by an E proposition. It is always bad logic to do that. But this is what the Atheists do, and so Atheism will always be against the laws of reason. But, secondly, and to return to the question of science, what is it that physical science has done and is doing for us? What have the marvellous strides that science has made in this century accomplished in regard to nature? They have brought out, they have shown us as was never done before, the marvellous outer complexity, and the as marvellous inner unity of natural phenomena. The outer phenomena of cosmic nature are infinitely more numerous and complex than we knew, and the inner laws are vastly more beautiful than we ever dreamed. Increasing multitudinousness and deepening complexity of external fact with increasing simplicity and harmony of internal principles of government—that is the great note in the message of modern science. But, now, does a universe which as time goes on becomes more complex in objective fact and more beautifully harmonious in subjective arrangement, demand less a supreme and and an overruling intelligence as governor and sustainer than a universe that remains poor in fact and confused in arrangement? Surely not! In proportion as you increase nature's complexity and harmony, you increase the demand for an overruling intelligence to account for them. The trend of modern science is certainly in the direction of the truth of God's existence, God's power, God's intelligence, and God's overruling Providence, and not in the direction of their negation. The universe of the Atheist ought to be a mean, paltry, insignificant and unmeaning universe, and not the universe that modern science is revealing to our wondering eyes, and our delighted minds—great, grand, complex, and yet beautifully harmonious, and simple.

So that it is simply not true to say that "science without exception is Atheistic." The tendency of science is in the opposite direction entirely, and if Mr Cohen will read more and think deeper on this particular question, he will, I am convinced, see this obvious truth. And now, I have said all I need say in this letter. It only remains for me to write one other thing. I am a firm believer in God—in the God of light, and wisdom, and love, and in that God who is the Father of men, and I, in common with thousands of Christian believers up and down the land, have been cheered again and again by that Supreme Light in my darker hours, and been blessedly comforted and sustained in my many moments of weakness and want by that Divine Love, and only a few weeks ago, I lost my beloved earthly father. I felt unspeakably lonely and sad when the news of his death came to me, but I went to our common Father in Heaven, and in Him I found and find increasingly, as time goes on, the love, and the kindness, and the helpfulness that I got from my father in the flesh while he lived, only in the one instance it was human, and therefore temporary love, and kindness, and helpfulness, and in the other, it is Divine and abiding.

These are facts in my experience. I know they are true, for I have them; I live them day by day. They are as real, and dear and true to me as is the fact of my own life and consciousness.

And then, with this feeling in my heart, and this knowledge in my soul, I turn to Mr Cohen's lecture, and there I read what I read. Unhappy lecture and benighted lecturer! I hurl back in Mr Cohen's face the shameful blasphemy that he has been publicly giving expression to in our district lately. His Atheism is false and destructive, false and destructive as the hell from which it came, and to which it will return by and by—false to the best and deepest thoughts of the best and deepest minds, from Plato down to Immanuel Kant—false to our best intuitions and our holiest experiences, and destructive of our noblest manhood and womanhood, our deepest and most abiding happiness, and destructive at last of our immortal souls.

J. R. PARKYN, CURATE OF LUMLEY.

Lumley, Fence Houses.

SIR,—Near two thousands years ago, a Man, who had a claim and a right to speak, as one of the best qualified in all senses, who had an experience which no other man had to the same extent, said—"We have not followed cunningly devised fables." To-day, these words beautifully and correctly express the opinion and experience of millions of good people of all nations, of all languages, of all professions, of all classes, of all degrees of social, moral, intellectual, religious, and other attainments. To them the Bible is the Book of God, and the Inspired Record for humanity.

Where is it not to-day? In the palace, in the cot, in the school. In the college and seats of learning, in the great libraries of the world, in the halls of the nations, it is read, studied, and believed. In Church and State it is deeply rooted, full of life and progressive vigour. It is prized far above silver, gold, and precious stones. It is the best foundation and guide of home and national life. Hence it has been translated by the best scholarship into over three hundred languages and dialects, and is still being translated by the ripest knowledge and learning into other languages, as the pressing demand for the Holy Volume increases day by day. It holds undisputed sway over governments, armies, navies, and the great teaching staff of all civilised nations. It holds its own in the homes, in the villages, and cities of the nations. It is, indeed, the light of the world.

The Bible is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, of all literature. It holds the key for both worlds. Amid all the manufactured lights of men, the great majestic sun in the heavens shines on quietly, but effectually, for all nations, giving life, vigour, and beauty to all things, without Acts of Parliament and multiplied Councils. You might as well try to enslave and chain the sun as to enslave and chain the Bible. It claims the world for its domain, and all time for its triumphant reign. It claims absolute freedom. It is above the Church, above the State. It dies not, it needs no grave, no funeral oration, no monument to record its demise. This lamp from the everlasting throne will burn on for ever. When myriads of human literary productions have faded and fallen as the countless leaves of a vast forest, the Bible will still be going on in its victorious career with all the force and strength of youth and the full noontide of its glory. Truth, eternal truth, robed in mercy and grace, and mantled with justice and righteousness, cannot die.

A blind man cannot see the beauties of Nature. A deaf man cannot hear and judge of the harmony of sounds. So the natural man knows not the things of God, the things of the Spirit; neither does he know the things, the deep things, of God in the Bible. Hence he is out of Court here until he is *renewed* and *regenerated* by a power beyond all human force and invention. God only can do this work. Thomas à Kempis said:—"Truth, not eloquence, is to be sought for in the Scriptures. All Scripture is to be read by the *same spirit* wherewith it was written."

One master pen has said:—"Although many hundreds of thousands of books have been written in different ages by wise and learned men, even the best of them will bear no comparison with the Bible, in respect either of religion, morality, history, poetry, or purity and sublimity of composition." Perhaps no man was ever better qualified to pronounce his judgment than the late Sir William Jones, who was one of the most learned men that ever lived. He says:—"I have regularly and attentively read the Holy Scriptures, and am of opinion that this volume, indipendent of its divine origin, contains more true sublimity, more exquisite and purer morality, more important history, and finer strains both of poetry and eloquence, than could be collected within the same compass from all other books that were ever composed in any age or nation. The antiquity of those compositions no man doubts, and the unstrained application of them to events long subsequent to their publication is a *solid ground* of belief that they were genuine predictions, and consequently inspired." The above, from such an authority, is a glorious testimony to Paul's two greatest sayings:—"And without controversy great is the mystery of Godliness; God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." (1 Tim., 3, 16). "*All Scripture* is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Tim., 3, 16-17).—Yours truly, HUMANITY.

Lanchester.

SIR,—The concluding sentence of my second letter in your last issue says that "I will shortly contrast what such giants as Huxley, &c., have said about the Bible, with the ravings of pigmies like Cohen, &c." In the very same issue Mr Cohen supplies a good commencement, for he is reported in your columns as saying, that "in the Sunday School and Church Choir, where there are numbers of boys, you will find the Bible the dirtiest where the reading is filthiest." He must surely have been looking at his own copy, and also put the filth there before he said such a thing. The remark, however, reveals the exact state of mind of Secularists in their attitude towards the Volume. The sentence is a purely unproved, bare, base assertion; and all, except Secularists, who ever went to Sunday School, or whose parents loved the good old Book, must feel intensely indignant at such a foul aspersion. Unless Stanley Secularists repudiate such utterances in your next issue, they will be confessing to the world the sort of boys they themselves were when they went to Sunday School, also confirming the saying that "birds of a feather flock together." Far better to have Bible truths from unpaid local preachers than libellous falsehoods from paid Atheists. The printed report says, "He (Cohen) could take texts from the writings of Buddha as elevating as anything in the Bible," that "he knew books which were as good as the Bible, and knew plenty of good books which were not so filthy." What a pity he did not name any, except the merest reference to Buddha. Let me supply your readers with the words of the very highest authorities on the so-called sacred books of the East, when it will at once be seen that no greater contrast ever existed than their remarks and his, on the very same subject. Professor Max Müller, who has spent a life-time at Cambridge, translating sacred books, has given it as his opinion, that it is sheer futility to assume that the Bible is ever to be dazzled by any other sacred book. (Introduction to Translations of the "Sacred Books of the East"). Professor Sir Monier-Williams, of Oxford University, another very learned authority, after a life-time devoted to the study of sacred books and comparative religion, has borne this splendid testimony to the peerless Bible and Christianity:—"When I began," he says, "investigating Hinduism and Buddhism, I found many beautiful gems; nay, I met with bright coruscations, of true light flashing here and there amid the surrounding darkness. As I prosecuted my researches into these non-Christian systems, I beg to foster a fancy that they had been unjustly treated. I began to observe and trace out curious coincidences and comparisons with our own sacred book of the East. I began, in short, to be a believer in what is called the evolution and growth of religious thought. These imperfections, I said to myself, are clearly steps in the development of man's religious instincts and aspirations. They are interesting efforts of the human mind struggling upwards towards Christianity. Nay, it is probable that they were all intended to lead up to the one true religion, and that Christianity is, after all, merely the climax, the complement, the fulfilment of them all. Now there is unquestionably," he continues, "a delightful fascination about such a theory, and, what is more, there are really elements of truth in it. But I am glad of this opportunity of stating publicly that I am persuaded I was misled by its attractiveness, and that its main idea is quite erroneous. The charm and danger of it, I think, lie in its apparent liberality, breadth of view, and toleration." . . . "Take that Sacred Book of ours; handle reverently the whole volume; search well the spirit that pervades the whole. You will find no limpness, no flabbiness about its utterances. Even sceptics who dispute its Divinity are ready to admit that it is a thoroughly manly book. Vigour and manhood breath in every page. It is downright and straightforward, bold and fearless, rigid and uncompromising. It tells you and me to be either hot or cold. If God be God, serve Him. If Baal be God, serve him. We cannot serve both. We cannot love both. Only one Name is given among men whereby we may be saved. No other name, no other Saviour, more suited to India, to Persia, to China, to Arabia, is ever mentioned—is ever hinted at. What! says the enthusiastic student of the science of religion, do you seriously mean to sweep away as so much worthless waste paper all these thirty stately volumes of Sacred Books of the East published by the University of Oxford? No—not at all—nothing of the kind. On the contrary, we welcome these books. We ask every missionary to study their contents, and thankfully lay hold of whatsoever things are true and of good report in them. But we warn him there can be no greater mistake than to force these non-Christian bibles into conformity with some scientific theory of development, and then point to the Christians' Holy Bible as the crowning product of religious evolution. So far from this, these non-Christian bibles are all developments in the wrong direction. They all begin with some flashes of true light, and end in utter darkness. Pile them, if you will, on the left side of your study table, but place your own Holy Bible on the right side—all by itself—all alone—and with a wide gap between." I commend the above extracts to the notice of any who are likely to be led astray by the false grandeur of unscrupulous assailants of the Bible and Christianity. Instead of Secularists being in the front rank of thinkers, they are in the rear of ignoramuses. One by one their very leaders have left the party, some for the very reason that Secularists advocate profligacy, to wit, Mr Joseph Barker, Co-Editor, with another, of "The National Reformer." He gave his reasons for refusing to have anything more t[illegible] with the periodical in these words [illegible] weekly organ of this party (to whi[illegible] given the name of the Unbound[illegible] Party) is the most beastly and [illegible] most loathsome and revolting p[illegible] ever seen. The books it recom[illegible] most demoralising we ever re[illegible] they (Secularists) will swind[illegible] as for profligacy, they not [illegible] but openly advertise it in [illegible] This is the Society whose le[illegible] declare that the Bible is a fi[illegible] books can only have a [illegible] Where are such results t[illegible] where, except in those Se[illegible] so prostituted their sodde[illegible] can see only dirt and filth in the clean bath where they themselves should go to get cleansed of their vileness. Stanley people will already have seen the danger they are in of being morally poisoned by Secularistic gas, and must keep the leaves of the Holy Bible going in their Chapels and Churches, as fan blasts circulating pure air.

Newcastle-on-Tyne. THOMAS G. REED.

SIR,—Again Mr Reed assumes the form of the serpent in trying to deceive the public regarding certain statements made by me. What I said was that I did not claim to represent Stanley Secular Society. Now Mr Reed says that two men claimed to represent the above Society. We did nothing of the kind. We claimed to represent no society whatever, and I say it would be well for him if he was not given to making such imaginary and hyperbolical statements, and leave the public to judge on the question, from the letters that have appeared in your paper on this subject. Again, he says, "no one hindered him of asking questions." Now, this is an untruth, or else I need not have stayed behind to ask the Chairman why he did not act up to his promise, and give the Secularists a chance for question and opposition. Is it not a fact that prior to Mr Reed giving his lecture, he and Mr Lowery consulted together upon this point, and came to the conclusion that they would not permit question and opposition? Now, after arranging in a manner like this, he has the audacity to charge me with not having pluck to ask them, and only when I reveal the true facts of the case to the public, do both of them try to hide themselves under the chairman's excuse that they did think that any of the Secularists were there, and that it was rather late, which is an extremely weak excuse, and a poor hiding place for any honest man, but an easy and effective way of evading questions and opposition. Although I have proved that certain statements made by Mr Reed were false, he has never had the manliness to acknowledge it. Again, he says that no sane man would ever dream of discussing "How I know the Bible to be true." We as Secularists quite agree with him, and thank him for being honest enough to admit this point, and also believe that if it was not for the terrible condition of insanity that he is in at present, he would cease to go about lecturing on the above-named subject. As regards Mr Lowery, I never mentioned anything regarding the time he lived in Stanley. What I did was to show the public that he was an untrustworthy representative of Christianity, after his conduct at a Secularist meeting, in his charge that the Secularists were conspicuous by their absence. Apparently there were more Secularists present than he liked to see, and instead of giving them the chance that was their's, he tries to hide himself by saying that he would have shamed me into defending my system. I went upon his invitation to defend it, and when I got there, Mr Lowery was too much ashamed of his own system, and too dishonest, to allow me the privilege to show them the weakness of their cant.—Yours, &c., H. JOHNSTON.

Annfield Plain, October 25th, 1897.

SIR,—As another correspondent, signing himself "Truth," comes to the rescue of Mr Reed. I trust you will again kindly favour me with space to show that the "ignorance and untruthfulness," attributed to me by your correspondent, only comes home with double effect to himself. "Truth" quotes figures to show that there has been a falling off in the "National Secular Society's" income since 1890, and that the Secular Party is therefore decreasing. But let me inform your correspondent that the N.S.S. is only a small section of the Secular party, and that there are more Secular Societies than the N.S.S., and also a large number of Secularists that are not members of any society. But assuming the figures quoted to be correct, it does not disprove my statement, that the Secular party is increasing. Had your correspondent not been either ignorant, or dishonest, he might have informed your readers that the members' annual subscriptions to the N.S.S. had been reduced since 1890, from four shillings to one shilling per year for members who pay direct to the executive, whilst branches of the N.S.S. since 1896, have only paid sixpence per year for each of their members, where they previously paid one shilling and four pence per member; so that "Truth's" figures tell against himself, and like his friend Mr Reed, he only cuts himself with his own weapons. But if even the state of the N.S.S. had been as bad as "Truth" would lead your readers to believe, it would not prove that Secularism was decreasing. But let us see how this kind of reasoning applies to their own case. I have, before me the annual report of the "Christian Evidence Society," dated April, 1897, and I find that for a number of years past there has been a steady decrease in the Society's income. "So at last the crisis has come. . . . . To prevent "insolvency in the course of a few months, "and to perpetuate the Society's existence, "they felt compelled to accept the Secretary's offer to reduce his salary by more than "£100 per year." Mr Waldron is no longer to be maintained as the Society's lecturer. What is worse still, one of the largest, if not the largest branch, namely, the Newcastle branch, of which Mr Reed was a vice-president, has long since ceased to exist, and this Mr Reed with all his wisdom, prayers, and Herculean abilities, of which we have heard so much of late, was unable to prevent. Must we therefore conclude by their own system of deduction, that "Christian Evidences" are rapidly disappearing? Now, Sir, returning to Mr Reed, who has so blackened his reputation for veracity by his handling of the "pitch," that it is now difficult to discern whether his reputation or genuine pitch are the blackest. And may not his wild ravings be directly traceable to the bites of the "Secularist dog," with which he says he had such a long struggle? But to be serious, Mr Editor, I will give Mr Reed the name of the minister who got "overwhelmingly" in debt, when he produces me the names and addresses of the "young men," who have ceased to be Secularists, and who supplied him with the "piles upon piles of infidel literature," and he must remember this is only asking him to substantiate one of his many assertions, some of which I know, as I said before, to be deliberately false. Meanwhile, I am prepared to furnish documentary proof of my statement to you, Mr Editor, if necessary, but it must be distinctly understood I am going to be no party to advertising even an opponent's adversity to the public. In regard to the charge of knavery, and the burial service, I repeat it was a piece of arrant knavery, and the point at issue is not whether the lines quoted are part of a song, or a recitation. The point is, did Mr Reed intend to convey the impression that the lines he quoted were part of the "Secular Burial Service" or not? I say unhesitatingly he did, and I do not require to advance anything in support of my contention, as it is self-evident to anyone who reads it. In conclusion, let me say I am pleased to see how effectively Mr Reed displays himself to your readers in his true colours, and I hope by the time your correspondent "Truth" learns that it is best to be able to tell the truth, before charging others with untruthfulness, and that when he has any truth to write he will not be ashamed to put his name to it.—Thanking you in anticipation, I am, yours, &c.,

J. G. BARTRAM.

SECULARISM AT STANLEY.

SIR,—Another demonstration of this so-called Reform Society has been held, and once more Mr Cohen has had a chance to exhibit himself before the Stanley residents. One thing is, however, discernible, namely, that his impudent conduct is becoming more and more visible to his audiences. Several who thought at first that he might be worth consideration have altered their minds, and now are filled with utter disgust at his unmanliness and lack of genuineness. The [illegible]gent portion of the community have [illegible]d not to waste time in listening to [illegible]alicious clap-trap against respectable, [illegible] people. It is needless to add that the [illegible]y people will not tolerate a person [illegible]g from London to brand their neigh[illegible]s scum and dirt, for they know their [illegible]esidents better than any London [illegible] bagger, who is getting a living by [illegible]ing public morals. His brazen-faced [illegible] is a faithful picture of his un[illegible]led devices, and cunning, lying crafti[illegible]he whole series of lectures was a [illegible]ation of gross misrepresentations, [illegible]uotations, and utter perversions, [illegible] may suit his own craft, but [illegible]vill not be swallowed by any in[illegible]observer. Anyone can cast balls of dirt and dust about, and stir dirty pools, and endeavour to cause c lisions and wreckage. Men of Mr Cohen stamp are notorious for pulling down, b what about building up? They neve attempt it. Would it not have been more preferable, and more in harmony with reforms, if he had dealt with the vices which are robbing men of their noblest powers, namely, gambling, drinking, prostitution, &c? No; Atheism is a hot-bed of all these vices, and rather seek to encourage than to surpress them. Its victims are legion, and we need only watch its votaries to substantiate my remarks. It is a sink of iniquity, which has been begun by men in colleague with the devil, and it will admit of everything to gratify the passions of sensual men. Atheistic lecturers, like showmen, endeavour to make it look presentable, but behind the scenes are rottenness and dead men's bones. Its ways are the ways of death and destruction. No hope comes from its dark galleries: not one ray of light to brighten the prospects of the future. It forbids us to hope that we shall ever see our departed loved ones again. It is, in fact, a blasted, hopeless speculation. If it were true, then life is devoid of any definite purpose. Indeed, it would be a farce. With all Mr Cohen and company's painting, they cannot make it even decent and attractive. The motley few of its adherents are characterised by woe-begone faces. There is an apparent vacuum in their make-up which will excite the pity of sympathetic observers. I will not attempt to deal with the inaccuracies of the last lectures of Mr Cohen, as the most readers of your reports in last week's issue will judge for themselves. But it is plain that it would be useless to offer a criticism, or to get an answer to any honest question at the close of the lectures. The man who is wilful enough to participate in any discussion will receive plenty of personal abuse, and false construction, which will show him that untruthful Atheists are best left alone to answer their own folly. If a man or woman requires to prove the most excellent way, let them try to follow the example of Jesus Christ for a few years, and compare it with the way laid down by Atheists. That is by far the best test, without any wrangling or arguing in the matter. I see that Mr Cohen had to make his time up by gathering any fragments which suited his purpose, and amongst these were to be found some of my statements, which evidently had stung him to the quick.—Yours truly, ULTRA.

East Stanley, Oct. 25th, 1897.

LEADGATE.

BILLIARD TOURNAMENT.—The first games in the North-West Durham Tournament were played on Monday and Tuesday evenings, when the League of the Cross and the Men's Guild met at the room of the former. The games were witnessed by a large number of people from each institute. The following are the scores:—

LEAGUE.	Pts.	MEN'S GUILD.	Pts.
P. Bartley	86	H. Makepeace	103
J. Matthews	100	W. G. Robson	39
O. Hughes	100	J. G. Wood	93
J. McGee	92	R. Wilson	100
F. McDonald	100	J. Kershaw	72
J. Monaghan	100	J. E. Kinleside	62
Total	578	Total	456

The League of the Cross have thus a lead on their opponents by 122 points.

FRANCES CHRISTOPHER,
LIVERY STABLES,
FRONT STREET, CONSETT.

HORSES, TRAPS, BRAKES, and all Kinds of VEHICLES for Hire.
Funerals Completely Furnished at the Lowest Possible Prices.

Births, Marriages, & Deaths.

Marriages.

HARRISON AND JACKSON.—At the Register Office, Lanchester, on the 23rd inst., Anthony Harrison to Jessie Jackson, both of Lintz Green.

GIBSON AND WILKINSON.—At the Register Office, Lanchester, on the 25th inst., Sidney Gibson to Ruth Wilkinson, both of Medomsley.

LANCASTER AND EDWARDS.—At the Congregational Church, Inverarie, Aberdeenshire, on the 19th inst., by the Rev. William Muir, J. W. Lancaster to Mary Jane, youngest and only surviving daughter of the late James Edwards, of Benfieldside, Blackhill.

PHILP AND ROWE.—At the Wesleyan Chapel, Stanley, on the 23rd inst., by the Rev. J. A. Dixon, William Henry Philp to Priscilla Tonkin Rowe, both of Stanley.

HOLLAND AND DONNELLY.—At St. Cuthbert's Chapel, Leadgate, on the 25th inst., by the Rev. A. Magill, Patrick Holland to Margaret Donnelly, both of Leadgate.

LYNAP AND MURPHY.—At St. Cuthbert's Chapel, Leadgate, by the Rev. A. Magill, Edward Lynap to Mary Ann Murphy, both of Allendale Cottages.

LEIGHTON AND BELL.—At the Register Office, Lanchester, on the 26th inst., Enock Leighton to Mary Hannah Bell, both of Cornsay Colliery.

Deaths.

At 67, Durham Road, Blackhill, on the 27th inst., aged 75 years, John, the dearly beloved husband of Mary Ann Stokoe. To be interred at Benfieldside Cemetery on Sunday, Oct. 31st, at 2-30. Friends please accept this intimation.

At Front Street, Consett, on the 27th inst., aged 32 years, Catherine, wife of Henry Roberts. To be interred at Benfieldside Cemetery, to-day (Friday). *Cortege* to leave residence at 2-30 p.m.

At 117, Allendale Cottages, on the 27th inst., aged 26 years, Annie, the dearly beloved wife of Isaiah Gilliard, and daughter of James and the late Margaret Davidson. To be interred at Medomsley on Friday, at 3-30.

At 7, Princes Street, Consett, on the 20th inst., Elizabeth Ann, infant daughter of John Cunningham.

At 12, Furnace Row, Consett, on the 20th inst., Thomas James, infant son of William Hastings.

At 60, Durham Road, Blackhill, on the 21st inst., aged 49 years, Eliza, widow of John Pearson.

At 36, Trafalgar Street, Consett, on the 21st inst., aged 5 years, Isabella, daughter of Samuel Dimmick.

At 8, Dobson Street, Blackhill, on the 22nd inst., Isabella, infant daughter of Robert Henderson Bell.

At 6, Hamsterley Colliery, on the 23rd inst., Joseph, infant son of Joseph Barlow.

At 2, Rosemount, Consett, on the 25th inst., aged 61 years, Eleanor, widow of Thomas Appleton.

At 17, Consett Terrace, Consett, on the 24th inst., aged 2 years, Margaret Ann, daughter of Paul Sherry.

At 2, Garden Place, Consett, on the 25th inst., aged 25 years, Francis McNally.

At 10, West Row, Leadgate, on the 26th inst., Ada, infant daughter of James Parkinson.

At Thompson's Houses, Leadgate, on the 25th inst., aged 3 years, James, son of John Fitzpatrick.

At 13, Hamsterley Colliery, on the 27th inst., aged 41 years, Thomas Hodgson.

At Blaydon, on the 25th inst., William, infant son of Joseph Harrison.

At Chopwell, on the 23rd inst., aged 53 years, Margaret, wife of Samuel Curry, late of Tow Law.

At Whittonstall, on the 22nd inst., aged 19 years, Zillah, daughter of Robert Hogarth.

At 9, Church Street, Stanley, on the 24th inst., Elizabeth, infant daughter of Thomas Keenan.

At 40, St. Joseph's Street, Kyo, on the 24th inst., Richard Henry, infant son of Richard Henry Cooper.

At Burnopfield, on the 22nd inst., aged 9 months, Charles, son of Charles McHugh.

At Tantobie, on the 22nd inst., Joseph, infant son of Joseph Pearson.

At 13, Ramsey Street, Stanley, on the 21st inst., aged 3 months, John William, son of William Bambrough.

At 20, Jackson Square, Kyo, on the 20th inst., aged 48 years, Isabella, wife of George Fewster.

At 3, Benton Terrace, Stanley, on the 18th inst., aged 60 years, John Kerr.

At Cowsley Cottages, on the 24th inst., aged 6 months, Thomas Edward, son of Edward Batey.

At Cornsay Colliery, on the 25th inst., aged 6 months, Alfred, son of Robert Dawson.

At South Moor, on the 28th inst., aged 7 months, Ralph, son of Henry Perryman.

At Hedley Hill, on the 25th inst., aged 17 months, Ernest, son Ernest Thompson.

JAMES HOPE,
MONUMENTAL SCULPTOR IN STONE,
MARBLE, AND GRANITE.
DURHAM ROAD, BLACKFINE.
Special Designs and Estimates on Application.

Printed and published by GEORGE NEASHAM, at the "Consett Chronicle" Printing Works, New Station Road, Consett, Co. Durham