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Business Announcements.

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GREAT CLEARANCE SALE
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SEE OUR SPECIAL
MEN'S BLACK WORSTED SUITS, AT 16s. 11d.
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The Consett Guardian.

FRIDAY, October 8th, 1886.

ELEMENTARY DRAWING.

"The men who try to starve our Elementary Schools, and to limit the teaching to the merely elementary subjects, may be allowing class prejudices to make them unconscious enemies of our national prosperity." Thus significantly one of our leading journals concludes a very thoughtful article upon a subject which at first sight does not appear to be of very special importance. The busy and careless, who scan the newspaper columns hurriedly or nonchalantly over the morning toast and rasher of bacon, may dismiss with small attention or matter of such apparent triviality as whether or not the rising generation shall be taught drawing in the Board Schools. Old-fashioned folk, who still adhere to the uncomfortable creed that what was good enough for their forefathers is good enough for them, will look askance at the idea of its being at all necessary to teach the children of the present day to use their hands in this particular fashion. "What can it profit them in later life if they *are* able to draw a square or a triangle accurately? Let them be taught the three R's, and then they will be as useful and practical as were their grandfathers and grandmothers." So say those who metaphorically wear a perpetual band of crape on the left arm, a never-changing badge of mourning for the good old times of which they talk and write with a monotony apt to become very tedious. But the thoughtful, clear-sighted men and women, who are able to look a little below the surface of things, and who take deeper views of the social questions of the day, do not require to have the intrinsic utility and value of even a slight knowledge of drawing demonstrated to them, perceiving at once, as they must, that there is scarcely any subject in which instruction is more necessary. In these times of push and struggle the jarring friction of close competition with neighbouring countries is yearly felt with increasing force. Steam and electricity are confessedly in their infancy, and their mighty influences are daily drawing us nearer to America, the young man among nations, full of infinite possibilities. It therefore behoves us to arm with every possible weapon the soldiers who are going out to fight the battle of life, in the assurance that in the present state of civilization a good education is the surest high-road to success in every trade or profession. Mr Ruskin, in his delightful lectures on "fiction," claims story-telling as the oldest of the arts; but drawing, the universal language, assuredly ranks next. Mr Ruskin and a good many other wise people are of opinion that children should be taught to draw as soon as they are old enough to learn to write, and in America there seems every prospect of this excellent system becoming universal. Americans are essentially utilitarian educationists; their young men are taught what will be essentially useful to them in after-life, and the reason given for placing drawing high in a somewhat circumscribed list of subjects is "that the child who can draw readily and correctly can be taught any kind of manual industry much more readily than the child that is ignorant of drawing." It is only necessary to think of a few of the most popular means of earning a livelihood—carpentering, plumbing, cabinet-making, &c., to see that this is very true. For girls except those who are to teach, its necessity is not perhaps quite so obvious. But accuracy is not a feminine characteristic, and a knowledge of drawing is invaluable as enforcing accuracy and exactitude—qualities most useful in cooking, dressmaking, nursing, and other womanly occupations. It is perhaps not yet of much avail to plead for the enlargement of the scheme of national instruction on any higher grounds than those of mere utility. Mr Gradgrind only regards the worth of the fruits of the tree of knowledge by their exact market value, and the plea that there is something humanizing and ennobling in even distant acquaintance with either of the great arts will not commend itself to those who only want "facts," the dry husks of existence. But the philanthropist and the poet see with different eyes. "I do not want art for a few, any more than education for a few," says Mr William Morris; and all who have the happiness and prosperity of the community at heart must agree with him, that art should be for the million, and that above for what is higher in poetry, painting or music cannot be too sedulously cultivated. Let us not be afraid of our children knowing too much. "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing," quoth the cautious believer in old proverbs; but, with all due deference to the worthy originator of this ancient saw, we are inclined to believe he was utterly mistaken.

PRIMROSE MEETING AT EBCHESTER.

On Wednesday night, a public meeting, in connection with the Ebchester and Medomsley Habitation of the Primrose League was held in the School Room, Ebchester. Notwithstanding the fact that the weather was very unpropitious, the attendance was fair. Mr J. S. Murray, Benfieldside, occupied the chair, in the absence of Mr J. W. Walton-Wilson, Shotley Hall. Amongst those present were Mr G. Livingstone, Newcastle; Mr O. Young, Newcastle; Mr C. D. W. Balleny, Mr S. D. Cooper, (secretary to the North-West Durham Conservative Association), Mr E. Dixon, Mr R. Humble, Dr Short; Mr Braund, London; Mr Moody, Mr Jackson, Mr R. Dixon; Mrs Brook, Somerset; Mrs Linthwaite, Miss Carr, Mrs Balleny, and Miss Davinson, Newcastle.

The Chairman said the objects of the league were such that no one need be ashamed of, for they were fighting for the upholding of the Constitution, and the integrity of the British Empire. (Applause.) They also fought for the supremacy of our beloved Queen, and for the upholding of the religious institutions. Their opponents had done all they could to sneer the League out of existence. They found, however, that would not answer, and now some of them were endeavouring to form a similar association or league, but he was afraid they would fail. The success that had attended the Primrose League since its commencement had exceeded the most sanguine expectations of its most devoted supporters. He attributed its great success to the ladies of England, who had taken so much interest in it. (Applause.)

Mr G. Livingstone, who was well received, gave a stirring address on present political topics, and endeavoured to show conclusively the inconsistency of those Liberals who had recorded their vote in favour of a Parliament on College Green. He challenged the Liberal party to bring forward ten of their members who, previous to November, 1885, when before a Liberal constituency they would have declared themselves in favour of a separate Parliament in Dublin. He asked who were turncoats. Was it those honest Liberals who had voted for the upholding of the Constitution, or was it those who followed Mr Gladstone? Mr Morley had declared that the Land League was too strong; and that the Government could not govern Ireland without the National League. It was a disgrace to the British nation to think that over thirty millions of Englishmen had to be dictated to by three and a half million Irish ruffians. He believed the day would never come when the Constitutional party of this country would be so lost to their manhood as to submit to such intimidation.

Mr Oliver Young, gave an address on the principles and policy of Conservatism. They were all delighted that the voice of the country had gone in favour of Constitutional principles. Mr Gladstone, who had been before the public for half a century, had, for the sake of fame and power, sought to disintegrate and break up this empire. He had sought by means which he formally denounced as "marching through rapine and murder to the disintegration of the Empire," to hand over to those men whom he so denounced the government of Ireland. But Mr Gladstone appealed to Cæsar, and the Imperial verdict given by this country was the integrity of the Union. He gave all due credit to those Liberals who, forgetting party, preferred country first, and party politics afterwards.

Mr C. Balleny moved and Mr Moody seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr Young and Mr Livingstone for their addresses, which was carried with acclamation.

A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the meeting.

RE-OPENING OF BLACKHILL WESLEYAN CHAPEL.

This place of worship at Blackhill, has been closed for the space of five weeks, for the purpose of being thoroughly cleaned and re-painted and decorated at the hands of Mr J. Thirlwell, of Shotley Bridge. The Wesleyan Society deserve the greatest credit for the perseverance they have displayed, in rendering their chapel so neat and beautiful. It was re-opened on Sunday, by the Rev Joseph Muir, of Bristol, a young man of exceptional ability, and great promise as a Christian minister, and of whom Blackhill (his native place) is exceedingly proud, and whence he left when he entered Headingly Theological College as a student for the Wesleyan ministry. He preached impressive and attractive sermons, morning and evening, to large and attentive congregations, the chapel being filled in every part, and a number of additional seats had to be brought into requisition to provide accommodation for the enormous influx of worshippers. The discourse at night was a somewhat peculiar one, the rev. gentleman's subject dealing principally with "The policeman." Suitable hymns were rendered by the choir, under the direction of Mr Stobart Gradon: Mr C. Stelling (organist at Consett Wesleyan Chapel) presided at the instrument.

On Monday evening, the Rev Albert Bishop, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, and chairman of the District, preached a powerful and instructive sermon, to an attentive and appreciative audience. The chapel was enlarged by the erection of the side galleries and organ chamber in 1881, when a fine organ was inserted by the well-known builder, Mr Nicholson, of Newcastle. The organ has remained plain until now. The chaste and ornate manner in which the work is executed, beautiful and harmonious, reflects the greatest credit on the designer and executers of the work. All the seats and wood work have been varnished with varnish of such a superior quality, that the reflection is like a mirror, and as hard as glass. We cannot pass unnoticed the organ, which is certainly the most beautiful work of art of the kind we have ever seen in our wide travels. This has been executed by Mr Thirlwell's eldest son, and reflects the highest credit of his artistic skill—so rich, so chaste, so ornate, do those superb and choice colours blend and harmonise one with another, that description is baffled, and we can only say "beautiful! beautiful! May this beautiful House of God be as it has been in the past, a well of life to many thirsty souls," and when they read on the walls these appropriate texts so skilfully and beautifully placed their by artistic hands—"How amiable are Thy Tabernacles, O Lord of hosts;" "My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord;" May many exclaim "as the heart panteth after the water brooks so panteth my soul after Thee O God." Collections were taken at each service in aid of the chapel trust, amounting to £18 13s 10d.

CHURCH TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.

MARLEY HILL BRANCH.

The members of the above society held their usual monthly meeting in the School-room, on Saturday last. The room was crowded to excess, many having to stand. An excellent programme was rendered with great taste and ability. Miss Livingston sang "Won't you buy my pretty flowers," and "I won't be a Nun." Agnes and Willie Dewhurst for a duet, entitled "The test of courage," receiving a hearty *encore*. Mr W. Palmerley sang "It's all true," and the "Runaway musketeer;" Mr J. Young, "Gentle Annie" and "The sandwich man"; and Mr T. Maddison, "Don't marry a man if he drinks" and "Certainly not." All the above gentlemen were *encored*. Two solos on the violin were nicely played by Master W. Pattison. A dialogue, "How would you manage him?" was acted in a natural and pleasing manner, and elicited loud applause. Two glees, "Tempted and tried," and "Our marching orders," were sang with great precision and taste by the choir, which reflects great credit on the president, the Rev S. White, who takes such an interest in training the choir. Mr James Gilchrist occupied the chair. Mr Dewhurst presided at the organ. Singing and prayer brought the proceedings to a close about 9·30 p.m.

HARVEST THANKSGIVINGS.

St. John's Church, Greenside.—The annual harvest thanksgiving services were held in this church on Thursday sen'night. There was a celebration of the Holy Communion at 7·30 a.m., and evening prayer, with sermon, at 7·30 p.m., the preacher being Rev H. E. Savage, vicar of West Hartlepool. The prayers were read by Rev R. M. Nason, vicar of the parish. The church was very prettily decorated with corn, flowers, fruit, &c., and the offertories, together with those on Sunday (when the special services were continued), will be devoted to the Hospital Sunday Fund.

West Pelton Church.—Harvest thanksgiving services were held in this church on St. Michael's Day (Sept. 29th), and were continued on Sunday. The preacher on Wednesday evening was Rev John Grenfell, Vicar of Beamish, and on Sunday morning and evening, Rev W. E. Glascott. The decorations were greatly admired, and all three services, which were very hearty, were attended by crowded and attentive congregations. Wednesday offerings were given to the Church Organ Fund, and the collections on Sunday were in aid of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

Printing of every Description at the lowest possible prices by Robert Jackson "Guardian" Office, Consett. Estimates furnished.

Football.

FIXTURES.

- Oct. 9.—Consett v. Benwell, at Consett.
- " 9.—Consett 2nd v. Benwell 2nd, at Benwell.
- " 9.—Crookgate Rovers v. Gloucester Stars, at Newcastle.
- " 9.—Crookgate Rovers Juniors v. Leadgate, at Leadgate.
- " 9.—Prudhoe Rovers v. Brunswick, at Newcastle.
- " 9.—Leadgate 1st v. Greencroft 1st, at Leadgate.
- " 9.—Leadgate 2nd v. Crookgate 2nd, at Leadgate.
- " 9.—Leadgate 3rd team and Medomsley 3rd team, at Leadgate.
- " 9.—Percy Rovers 2nd v. Tanfield Lea 2nd, at Tanfield Lea.
- " 9.—Tantobie 1st v. S.S. James and Mary's, Newcastle, at Newcastle.
- " 16.—Tantobie 1st v. Medomsley at Tantobie.
- " 16.—Tantobie 2nd v. Medomsley 2nd, at Tantobie.
- " 16.—Raby Rovers 2nd v. Tanfield Lea 2nd, at Tanfield Lea.

Tanfield Lea 2nd v. Lamberts (A.).—Played on the ground of the former on Saturday, and resulted in a win for Tanfield Lea. J. Fletcher played well for the home team in which he caused a great deal of amusement to the spectators by his dodging and dribbling.

Leadgate v. Dipton Wanderers.—A match between the above clubs was played on the ground of the former on Saturday, and after a pleasant game, resulted in a win for the visitors by two goals to nil. The playing of Ed. Buck was most conspicious.

Tanfield Lea 1st v. Leadgate 1st (A.).—Played on the ground of the former on Saturday in nice weather in which the home team won easy by 4 goals to 2.—The 2nd teams also played and resulted in a draw, neither side scoring. The Leadgate club write that the game resulted in a victory for the visiting team by two goals to nil.

Medomsley Rovers v. Shotley Bridge Juniors.—Played at Shotley Bridge Spa Grounds on Saturday, and after a pleasant game, resulted in a victory for Medomsley, by 2 goals to nil.

Esh Stags 1st v. Byers Green 1st (A).—Played on the ground of the former, and ended in a win for the Stags by two goals (one disputed) to nil.—A match between the 2nd teams ended in a draw, neither side scoring.

St. Cuthbert's v. Burnopfield Rangers (A).—A pleasant game between the above teams was played at Burnopfield on Saturday and resulted in a draw, each side scoring two goals. The visitors were afterwards entertained to tea, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

Waterhouses Black Horse Harriers v. Quebec Heroes (A).—Played on the ground of the former on Saturday in two thirty-fives, and after a fast and exciting game, resulted in a win for the home team by seven goals to nil. Goals were obtained by Thos. Parker (4) Davison, Douglas, and D. Burdess.

South Moor v. Ouston Athletic.—The first match of the season was played on Saturday, and after a good game, resulted in a win for South Moor by two goals to one.—The second teams of the above afterwards contested, and after a stubborn struggle South Moor won by three goals to two.

Football at Waterhouses.—The Waterhouses Black Horse Harriers Association Football Club had their annual meeting at the Black Horse Inn, on Wednesday se'nnight, when the following officers were elected:—President, G. F. Davison; vice-president, S. Coxom; captain, T. Parker; vice-captain, C. Ball; secretary, Wm. Parker, Waterhouses; treasurer, R. Rapert.

Football in Weardale.—Mr W. Gardner writes:—"It seems a great pity that a football club cannot be organised in the dale. Mr C. T. L. Shepherd, as everybody knows, has done his best to establish this game in Weardale. If the correspondent who suggests that further effort should be made would attend the meetings his services would be made use of."

Kibblesworth v. Pelton Fell Athletic Club.—Played on the ground of the former in beautiful weather and resulted in three goals to nil for the latter. The former are a powerful team and should play the ball more instead of charging the players so much, which would look more honourable. Secretary's address: John Winn, 31 Grange Terrace, Pelton Fell. Several vacant dates for home matches.

Burnopfield C. E. Temperance Rangers Association Football Club.—A meeting of this club was held in the school-room, Burnopfield. There was a good number of members present—Rev Peter Hughes presided.—When the following officers were elected for the ensuing season:—President, Rev Thos. Stirrup; vice-presidents, Rev P. Hughes and Mr Jas. Gilchrist; captain, John Mason; vice-captain, George Minto; hon. sec., Wm. Gordon; treasurer, Henry Layton; committee, W. Gordon, jun., N. Lamb, R. Gowland, and W. Crudice. Secretary's address:—Mr Wm. Gordon, Burnopfield Colliery, Lintz Green.

Newcastle Rangers v. Ryton (R).—Played at Ryton on Saturday, in two periods of 30 minutes. The game was well-contested, and very fast. In the first half the visitors pressed the home team, and Swinburn neatly dropped a goal, the ball passing about a yard from the post. The home team were obliged to touch down twice in defence. In the second half, the game was again very even, and although Swinburn got over the Ryton line, the point was disallowed. The home team were once again forced to touch down, and just before time the Rangers' forwards dribbled the ball over the line, when Curly fell on it, and from the try landed a splendid goal, the game ended in a victory for the visitors by one goal and four minors to nil.

Tantobie 1st v. Elswick Leather Works (A).—Elswick journeyed to Tantobie on Saturday to open the season for the latter, and after playing a pleasant game in two "thirties" they adjourned to the Commercial Hotel, where there was a knife and fork tea provided for them. The game resulted in a win for the home team by four goals to three. For the home team J. Elliot and G. Watson, forwards, and Luke at full back played well; and for the visitors all played well. Teams:—Tantobie: F. Percy, goal; W. Hodgson (Captain) and J. W. Luke, full backs; J. Stoker, G. Harrison, and Benjamin Hannett, half-backs; Edward Watson, and J. Richardson, left wing; J. Elliot and R. Stoker, right wing; G. Watson, centre. Elswick: Punchon, goal; J. Scott, and Perkins (captain), full backs; Johnson and Redpath half-backs; Greener and Scott, left wing; Davidson and Stewart, right wing; and Marr, centre.

Gateshead v. Medomsley (A).—This match was played at Gateshead, and although the home club were without several of their best men, they managed to defeat their opponents by five goals to four. The game was fast and exciting throughout, and neither sides was certain of victory till the whistle blew. The Gateshead club is very strong this season, having secured several new members who know how to play. Next Saturday they meet East-End, when a good game should result. Teams:—Gateshead—J. Bennet, goal; W. Mathieson and W. Y. Rule, backs; J. Inness, A. Oliver, and W. Garrett, half-backs; J. Thompson, J. Hopper, W. Simms, W. Rowell, and W. Tate, forwards. Medomsley—Cant, goal; Campbell, and Walton, backs; Little, Taylor, and Hetherington, half-backs: Walton, Thompson, Milburn, Dales, and Middleton, forwards. The Gateshead club having decided to form a third team, the hon. secretary will be glad to hear from secretaries having vacant dates.

Consett v. Tudhoe (R).—A match between these Rugby teams was played off on the Consett ground on Saturday afternoon, and after a stubbornly contested game resulted in a draw, Tudhoe scoring three minor points to Consett's two minor points. Consett won the toss, electing to play uphill. Some excellent play was exhibited by the Consett backs, but Tudhoe appeared to have a decided advantage in their forwards. Teams:—Consett—P. Gibson, full back; McTaggart, W. Kempster, and W. Wilson, three-quarter backs; J. Anderson, and T. Jameson (captain), half-backs; W. Fiddes, J. Fiddes, Walter Fiddes, W. Turnbull, C. Dibley, J. Dent, R. Struthers, N. Scott, and M. Hobday, forwards. Tudhoe—Hutchinson, full-back; Elliott, R. Wainford, and S. Rippin, three-quarter backs; Cockayne, and Naylor, half-backs; Bernard Hodgson, Grey, Sparke, Anderson, Graham, Thompson, Paulin, and Saxby, forwards. Umpires—Mr Ridley Heppell, Consett; Mr Charlton, Tudhoe. Referee—Mr Rutherford.

Consett v. Tudhoe 2nd Teams (R).—This match was played on the ground of the latter on Saturday, and resulted, after a very close and hard fought game, in a draw, the scores being Tudhoe one goal and one minor point; Consett one goal. The Consett captain won the toss, and Tudhoe kicked off, the ball being well returned. The first scrimmage took place on neutral ground. The Consett forwards took the ball well up the field, and from a good pack Davis got possession and passed to Wilkinson, who, by a splendid drop, sent the ball over the bar, thus drawing first blood for Consett. This seemed to make Tudhoe work with more energy, and Consett were compelled to touch down, but beyond this no further score was made until half time. After Wilkinson had set the ball going again, the game was very fast, the leather moving from end to end of the field with wonderful speed, and it was only by good and careful play on both sides that the score was kept down. About five minutes before time the Tudhoe forwards by a good dribble got the ball on to the Consett goal line, and a forward picking up scored a try. The point was disputed owing to a claim of dead ball, but the referee overruled the objection, and the kick was taken, a goal being the result. Shortly afterwards time was called, thus leaving the result as above. Where all played a good game it would be individious to mention names, but Wilkinson, Davis, and Grant played a good and sterling game for Consett, whilst Dawson, Chisom, and Cutler seemed to be the pick for Tudhoe. Teams: Tudhoe—Back, T. Rivers; three-quarter backs, W. Mounsey, A. Cutler, W. Wainford; half-backs, N. White, J. Dawson (captain); forwards, H. Jones, E. Edwards, T. Riggins, A. Dowdle, T. Smith, A. Hutchinson, A. Chisom, J. Cutler, J. Graham. Consett—Back, A. Wood; three-quarter backs, T. Richley, J. Wilkinson, T. H. Anderton; half-backs, A. Davis, G. Smiles; forwards, J. Jackson, J. Smart, F. Moss, G. Sheppard, J. Grant, L. Taggart, J. Kempster, A. Wilson, A. Ward.

Cricket.

Cricket in Weardale.—The cricket clubs of New House and Westgate, betwixt whom the keenest rivalry has long existed for premiership in the dale, had their return match, New House having won the former, were now defeated by eight wickets by the home team.

Medomsley Cricket Club.—The members of the Medomsley C. C. entertained their lady friends to tea on Friday night, in the Templer's Hall, Medomsley, to celebrate the close of the season. Upwards of seventy sat down to an excellent repast, provided by Mrs Moffitt, Medomsley, and refreshments were served during the evening. After tea the time was pleasantly passed in games &c. Songs were given by Messrs Middleton, Dales, Walton, and Cawthorn, and a reading by Middleton. A most enjoyable social evening was spent, and many a wish was expressed "To our next merry meeting."

HAMSTERLEY v. WESTWOOD.

Played at Hamsterley on Saturday, and resulted in a win for the home team. Hamsterley has played 18 matches this season, won 12, lost 3, and drawn 3. Score:—

HAMSTERLEY.		WESTWOOD.	
R. Chaytor b W. Simpson	12	W. Palliser c Greener b J. Wood	5
J. Holden b J. Murphy	4	J. Murphy b Sharp	1
J. Greener c J. Clark	1	J. Clark b Wood	1
T. Murphy [illegible]	[illegible]	T. Marshall b Billcliffe	13
G. Sharp c Quigley b Simpson	12	P. Quigley b Wood	3
J. Wood c D. Clark b Simpson	0	T. Simpson run out	[illegible]
P. McNastry c Walton b Murphy	3	W. Simpson run out	6
J. W. Anderson b J. Murphy	1	J. Walton st Greener b Billcliffe	7
W. Brown not out	16	D. Clark b Sharp	0
W. Wood b Simpson	0	T. Bell not out	0
W. Cousin b Murphy	1	J. Simpson run out	0
T. Billcliffe b Murphy	0		
Extras	5	Extras	3
Total	54	Total	41

Sporting Items.

Wrestling in Weardale.—An athletic club has been formed at Wearhead, and commodious premises secured wherein to practice wrestling. Subscriptions are flowing in to fit them up, and a large number of the youth of the valley bearing names well known in our Northern rings have been enrolled. The movement meets with general approval, as the "hipe and heel" art as a pastime is cherished throughout the district, where, of late, it has rather fallen into oblivion.

Fives Match at Broompark.—There was a very large company at Mr Richardson's ball alley, at Broompark, on Saturday, to witness a fives match for £10 between F. Forster and P. McQuillen, Hamsteels, against H. Lowes and W. Bewick, of same place. After an exciting match, Forster and McQuillen were declared winners.

Rabbit Coursing at Chester-le-Street.—A rabbit coursing was brought off on Saturday at Mr D. Dickinson's coursing ground, High Flatts. Second round—Lady beat Little Creature, Tip beat Bonny Lass, Curly Tail beat Never Can Tell, Ragman beat Mother's Pet, Cannot Get Up beat Crustbreader, Red Pat beat Honest Bob, Curly Tail beat Red Pat. A division was agreed upon.

Victoria Ball Alley, Leadgate.—On Saturday afternoon, the sweepstakes, to which £2 was added by the landlord (Mr Smith), was played off at these grounds. Young, of Lanchester, and Doolan, of Leadgate, lost their bye owing to the non-appearance of one of the competitors. In the final heat, Dawson, Burnhope, and Walker, Oxhill, beat McLoon, Burnhope, and Murphy, Leadgate, by 21 to 18. W. Buckley acted as referee.—The fives match entered into between Doolan, Leadgate, and Riddell, Catchgate, fell through, the former receiving the forfeits.

Quoit Match near Crook.—On Saturday, a quoit match on the sward, for £10, was played in a field near to the house of Mr Simpson Dawson, Bay Horse Inn, Roddymoor, between Wm. Oxley, Crook, and Lance Coates, Tow Law. Score:—Coates, 41; Oxley, 27. Mr J. Micheson, officiated as referee—On the same ground, J. Arthur, Sunniside, and E. Armstrong, Howdon-le-Wear, also contended, the latter receiving 10 start in 41. Armstrong was easily defeated by 15. A second game, under the same conditions, was immediately decided. Arthur winning easily by 20. Mr W. French acted as referee.

Angling Mems from the Dales.—Mr G. Makepeace has had a good day's sport. He made a good pannier on his favourite ground between Stanhope and Frosterley, with fly-fishing. Mr Hogarth also made good panniers during the week. Bull trout are abundant about Wolsingham, and the floods of this week will permit them to ascend to the higher reaches. Several good panniers were made on Monday, with worm fishing, Mr W. Tweddle reporting his as best. He says he killed 27 trout in one of the tributaries of Stanhope Burn. "Greenwell's Glory" has been one of the best killers this season on the Waskerley Reservoir. It is generally a favourite there and few flies beat it, especially if the day be resonably fine and either a north or west wind. Mr John Elliot and Supt. Liddell are as skilful as most of the fraternity who frequent that spot, and generally make the best panniers in the least time, from their knowledge of the habit of the reservoir trout. Few, if any, of the smart anglers of the Wear do well here, as the fish are much slower in their movements than the river trout and require different handling. They require plenty of time and slow movement.

Lintz Grounds.—A large number of spectators visited these grounds, on Saturday, to witness a match between R. Nevin, Lintz, and H. Oliver, Winlaton, which fell through; and the trial heats of the 110 yards handicap, for which Mr W. J. Cawthorn, of the Black Horse Inn, Burnopfield, offered £6 10s in prizes, with J. Nevin pistol firer and R. Patterson referee. The following won their heats:—T. Brown, Dipton; J. Leadbitter, Hobson; J. Frazer, Swalwell; J. Sparks, Dipton; R. Thompson, Dipton; J. Fawcett, Tanfield Lea; H. McLean, Dunston; J. Farrage, Spen; T. E. Milburn, Shotley Bridge; R. Simpson, Quebec; Hugh McLean, Dunston; W. Dixon, West Wylam; H. Robinson, Dipton; G. Glendinning, Leazes; F. Newman, Swalwell; E. Dodds, Quebec; R. Nevin, Lintz. The final heats took place on Saturday next, the following being the result of the draw:—Heat 1—E. Dodds, Quebec, 16; J. Fawcett, Tanfield Lea, 15; J. Leadbitter, Hobson, 19; Hugh McLean, Dunston, 13; G. Glendinning, Leazes, 19½. Heat 2—Henry McLean, Dunston, 14½; F. Newman (late H. Oliver) Swalwell, 16; T. Brown, Dipton, 19; R. Nevin, Lintz, 14. Heat 3—H. Robinson, Dipton, 19; T. E. Milburn, Shotley Bridge, 16½; R. Simpson, Quebec, 17½; J. Frazer, Swalwell, 19. Heat 4—W. Dixon, West Wylam, 17; J. Farrage, Spen, 21½; R. Thompson, Dipton, 16; J. Sparks, Dipton, 20.

Trade Notes.

At Stauners Closes Steel Works, Wolsingham, owing to depressed trade, the workmen have received notice to go on three-quarter time after this week. The notice affects about 400 men and boys.

The Mickley Collieries.—"An Old Pitman of Prudhoe" writes:—I often see the state of the coal trade, and how the pits are working in the north of the county, but nothing is said of the western district. Your neglect in this particular leads the people any distance away to think we are working full time here, but I wish to disabuse their minds of that by stating the facts so far as the Mickley collieries are concerned, and they are these. The general average over all the places is about 8 days per fortnight for the last two years, divided as follows:—Mickley, Prudhoe, and the Level Drift at West Wylam 7½ days, the Dip Drift 8 days, and the shaft 9½ days, and the general average of the district is 4s 5½ per shift, which, I may say, is never exceeded over the whole of the places. The writer of this letter has received the munificent sum of 16s 6d per week clear of all offtakes for that period of two years, and nine of us in family to keep. Then there is 1s 2d school fees and 6d to the doctor to pay, leaving 14s 10d to support and clothe us. Still, I am sorry to say there are families in a worse position than even that. Why, sir, we had much better become paupers at once, for I see that the inmates of Hexham Workhouse cost the ratepayers 4s 4d per week each. We would think ourselves in clover if we had anything like that per head to live upon; and then, sir, they say we pitmen pay no rates. What mean the thousands of pounds paid out of of own unions to keep our own poor but a very heavy poor rate we are paying."

Boycotting a Trades Union Official at Stanhope.—Mr George Watson and his two sons who were dismissed at Newlandside limestone quarry some time ago, have not been able to get work in the neighbourhood, and is now compelled to leave his native dale for America, his sale being on Saturday next. Mr Watson was president of the Stanhope branch of the Cleveland Miners' and Weardale Quarrymen's Union and on this account was a spotted man, and was dismissed along with his two sons on some pretext or other. His being victimised and driven out of the country does not reflect upon the union the highest credit, nor does it reflect upon the Weardale quarrymen much credit either, after the man placed himself in the front of the battle to fight in, and for their interests, to stand by and allow him to be thus victimised. After this who would be a "union official!"

TOW LAW LOCAL BOARD.

This Board held its monthly meeting on Tuesday night, under the presidency of Mr Joseph Ridley. The other members present were: Messrs Henry White, Wm. Atkinson, W. R. Teasdale, William Campbell, L. P. Wherly, Dr Johnston, and the Clerk (Mr E. Milbarn).

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The Inspector submitted the following monthly report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Tow Law Local Board.

Gentlemen,—I beg to report for month ending September 30th, 1886. The principal nuisances previously reported to your Board have had every attention with the exception of an additional branch drain behind the Miners' Arms, Dan's Castle, occupied by Mr Maddison. This requires attention, owing to there being from the slaughtering of cattle, and numerous complaints have been made by the adjoining owners. Notice has been sent, by post, to Mr Moore, executor for the late Mr Joseph Johnson, City Brewery, Durham. 5 mild cases of scarlet fever have been reported or come to my notice during the month in Dan's Castle and High Street. The branch drain and sewer at North Street and Park Terrace Cottages have been stopped up, but a man is now busily engaged opening them out. The defective spouting at Prince Row have been remedied by new spouting.—Remaining, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

W. Garraway.

Tow Law, October 5th, 1886.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The Surveyor, (Mr Hillary) submitted the subjoined report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Tow Law Local Board.

Gentlemen,—The raising of your main road beside Thornley Pit House will be attended to very shortly. The time for laying on the road metal is approaching, and as we shall not have sufficient, having only got 200 tons instead of 300 tons as usual, I should be glad of your sanction to order 50 tons more to the Gasworks as soon as the breakers have finished breaking the 50 tons that came this month from Walton and Co.

The damage to the sewer mouth, near the Cattle Mart, has been repaired.

A grate is much required at the back of Wesley Street—may I order a couple and have one put in?

I have deposited with your Board's treasurer during the month, for: Residuals, £14 5s 5d; burial fees, £4 12s 6d; special general district rate, £30, receipts for which are in the office.

Monthly Wages Account.

		£	s	d
Main roads:	Manual labour	5	15	1
Other roads:	Manual labour	0	17	6
Gas-man's wages		5	16	0
"	Assistant	0	12	3
Streets;	Watering	0	8	6
"	Lamp lighting	0	18	0
"	Carting soil	0	8	1½
"	Gas mains	0	10	6
Cemetery;	Sexton's quarterly salary	5	0	0
"	J. Coates for weeding, &c.	0	16	0
Office cleaning		0	6	0
		£21	7	11½
Leaving due to Surveyor		0	9	8

I am, gentlemen, yours obediently,

J. Hillary.

Tow Law, October 5th, 1886.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

Appended is the quarterly report presented by the Medical Officer (Dr George Hood):—

To the Chairman and Members of the Tow Law Local Board.

Gentlemen,—For the preceding three months we have had 10 deaths; births for the same period being 29. The death-rate amounts to 8·68 per 1,000. This contrasts very favourably with the two last quarters, when we had very high death-rates.

Below five years we have 3 deaths, at five and upwards, 7 deaths.

In the month of July, 5 deaths were recorded:—

Tuberculosis	1
Marasmus	1
Bronchitis	1
Gastric irritability	1
Phthisis	1

In the month of August, 2 deaths were registered:—

Puerperal convulsions	1
Tabes mesenterica	1

In the month of September:—

Heart disease	1
Diarrhœa	1

The health of this district and surrounding country has been very good for the last three months. Scarlet fever has made its appearance in two or three different places, but has not spread in an epidemic form.—Yours truly,

George Hood, M.D.

Tow Law, Oct. 1st, 1886.

"Ruptures."—White's Moc-Main Lever Truss is the most effective invention for the treatment of Hernia. The use of a steel spring, so hurtful in its effects, is avoided, a soft bandage being worn round the body, while the requisite resisting power is supplied by the Moc-Main Pad and Patent Lever, fitting with so much ease and closeness that it cannot be detected. Send for descriptive circular, with testimonials and prices, to J. White and Co. (Limited), Piccadilly, London. Do not buy of Chemists, who often sell an imitation of our Moc-Main. J. White and Co. have no Agents.

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

Local Leek Shows.

PELTON FELL.

A vegetable show was held at Mrs Emmerson's, Newfield, Pelton Fell, on Saturday. There were 15 stands set up. Mr Fish, Urpeth Hall, judged and with great ability gave his awards as follows:—1st, Mark Summers, pair of blankets; 2nd, Jos. Bennet, a quilt; 3rd, J. Barker, beautiful hearthrug. The others receiving prizes according to his awards.

A leek show was held at Hot Hills, Pelton Fell, on Saturday. There were 26 stands entered for competition. Mr Brewis was judge and gave every satisfaction by his awards. 1st prize, George Laverick, electro-plated teapot; 2nd, William Gibson, large brass pan; 3rd, Jos. Studdham, electro-plated teapot. The other competitors receiving various articles according to merit.

A leek show was held on Saturday, at Mr Travell's, Colliery Hotel, Pelton Fell. There were a number of stands set up which were of superior quality. Mr Gibson, Jarrow, was judge, and gave his awards as follows:—1st, George Laverick, electro-plated teapot; 2nd, John Welch, beautiful fender; 3rd, William Gibson, electro-plated teapot.

LEADGATE.

A very successful leek show was held at the house of Mr Joseph Noble, Commercial Hotel, Leadgate, on Saturday, and continued until Monday evening. During the time the exhibition was open, it was largely patronised, and, in fact, was the best show that has ever been held in this district, the leeks that secured first prize at Mrs Henderson's, Black Bull Inn, Leadgate, only taking third prize at this show. The room was tastefully decorated with flowers by Mr John Anderson, Leadgate, and some excellent prizes to the amount of £12 were given. The judge was Mr Ralph Kirsop, of Pontop Pike, who, in his awards, gave every satisfaction. Great credit is due to Mr Winter for the very successful issue to which the show has been brought. The following is a list of the awards:—

For the best 3 leeks.—First prize, William Smith, Bradley Cottages, a dress, given by Mr James Murray, draper, Newcastle-on-Tyne, together with a gentleman's umbrella, given by Mr L. Nicholson, draper, Leadgate, of the total value of 25s 6d; 2nd, Joseph Wheatley, Leadgate, marble timepiece; 3rd, Joseph Noble, Leadgate, silver teapot; 4th, John Graham, Bradley Cottages, silver cruet stand; 5th, George Walton, Leadgate, silver coffee-pot; 6th, Robert Heslop, Leadgate, one dozen fashionable dinner knives; 7th, John Osman, Leadgate, nickel silver teapot; 8th, John Hardy, Leadgate, nickel silver teapot; 9th, William Walker, Leadgate, 10lbs beef, given by Mr Greener, butcher, Leadgate; 10th, John Winter, Leadgate, a wool shirt, given by Mr Forster, draper, Newcastle-on-Tyne; 11th, John Maughan, Leadgate, 10lbs beef, given by Mr Shearer, butcher, Iveston; 12th, Matthew Winter, Leadgate, writing desk; 13th, Thomas Saunders, Medomsley Edge, handsome flower vase; 14th, John Bell, Leadgate, swing mirror; 15th, Joseph Hodgson, Allendale Cottages, steel spade and grape; 16th, Thomas Applegarth, Leadgate, timepiece; 17th, William Kay, Derwent Cottages, nickel silver teapot; 18th, Thomas Cookson, Medomsley, brass preserving pan; 19th, Edward Graham, Medomsley, splendid album in leather; 20th, Ralph Reed, Boggle Hole, brass toddy kettle; 21st, William Armstrong, "Hat and Feather," half-dozen dinner knives; 22nd, John Warlow, Leadgate, copper kettle; 23rd, William Brown, Crookhall, leg of mutton, given by Mr John Parker, butcher, Leadgate; 24th, John Burnip, Crookhall, swing mirror; 25th, John Reather, Leadgate, one dozen tea knives; 26th, Birchuall, Leadgate, coal-scuttle, watering-pan and wash-up; 27th, Anthony Burnip, Crookhall, alarum timepiece.

Special prize for thickest leek.—Mr Osman, Leadgate, bottle of whiskey, given by Mr John Minto, of Medomsley.

CATCHGATE.

The annual show of the Catchgate Leek and Vegetable Society was held at Mr M. Handy's on Saturday, and gave the greatest satisfaction of any show that has been held in this district for the last ten years. Mr Wm. Brewis, Tanfield Lea, came to the front with three splendid leeks measuring 10½ inches by 7½. Mr John Scott, West Kyo, having taken first prize at this show for the past four years was defeated with three leeks measuring 10 inches by 6½. The following is a complete list of the prize takers.

For the best three leeks.—1st, Wm. Brewis, pair of blankets, value £1; 2nd, J. Scott, a handsome set of china, value 18s 6d; 3rd, J. Brewis, pair of blankets, value 15s; 4th, J. Wilson, a splendid lamp, value 14s; 5th, S. Bowes, bed rug, value 13s; 6th, Wm. Ledger, coffee pot, value 12s; 7th, M. Bates, alarum clock; 8th, J. Scott, alarum clock; 9th, J. Ward, lamp; 10, C. Holmes, tea pot; 11th, J. Robinson, tea pot; 12th, R. Holling, pair of sheets; 13th, G. Ledger, ditto; 14th, W. Richardson, table cloth; 15th, J. Ledger, 1doz. knives and forks; 16th, R. Wheatley, ditto; 17th, R. Henderson, 12 yds calico; 18th, T. Bowes, pair of brass candlesticks; 19th, W. Bowes, pair of sheets; 20th, J. Lawson, pair of carvers; 21st, J. McNeill, 1doz. knives and forks; 22nd, R. Kirsopp, 1doz. spoons; 23rd, R. Johnson, ditto; 24th, J. Oliver, tea pot.

Vegetables:—Best Red Cabbage.—1st, Jas. Wilson; 2nd, J. Scott; 3rd, G. Ledger.

Best Savoy.—1st, J. Wilson; 2nd, G. Ledger.

Best Cauliflower.—1st, Geo. Ledger; 2nd, J. Wilson; 3rd, M. Bates.

Best 3 Carrots.—1st, J. Robinson; 2nd, J. Wilson; 3rd, J. Ward.

Best 3 parsnips.—1st, J. Scott; 2nd, M. Bates; 3rd, J. Ward.

Best 3 Beet.—1st, J. Ward; 2nd, G. Ledger; 3rd, J. Scott.

Best 3 turnips.—1st, J. Robinson; 2nd, J. Ward; 3rd, M. Bates.

Best 3 heads celery.—1st, J. Scott; 2nd, J. Ward; 3rd, G. Ledger.

For best red cabbage, cauliflower, and parsnip.—1st, J. Scott, leg of mutton; 2nd, J. Wilson, tongue; 3rd, J. Scott, tongue.

Best red cabbage, 2 cauliflowers, and 2 heads celery.—1st, J. Scott, brass rolling pin and comb box; 2nd, M. Bates, 6lb butcher meat; 3rd, J. Scott, a grate.

Best hand boquet.—1st, J. Scott, a child's frock; 2nd, J. Scott, bottle of whiskey; 3rd, R. Kirsopp, tongue.

Mr R. Shield from Swalwell was judge, and gave every satisfaction. Geo. Ledger, Dipton, was secretary.

LANCHESTER.

On Saturday, a vegetable show was held at the house of Mr Jos. Towns, Queen's Head Inn, Lanchester, in connection with the local flower show. There was a capital display of exhibits, and the competition was exceedingly keen. The show was fairly patronised, Mr Wigham, gardener, Burnopside Hall, officiated as judge, while Mr Henry Dixon, of Lanchester, discharged the duty of hon. sec. The following are the awards:—

Best parsnips.—1st, J. Hall; 2nd, Geo. Parker; 3rd, W. Payne.

Best three leeks.—1st, Thos. Snaith; 2nd, W. Hall; 3rd, R. Toward.

Best head of celery.—1st, R. Toward; 2nd, W. Hall; 3rd, George Snaith.

Two cauliflowers.—1st, George Parker; 2nd, W. Hall; 3rd, R. Toward.

Two roots of beet.—1st, W. Hart; 2nd, George Parker; 3rd, R. Toward.

White kidney potatoes.—1st, G. Snaith; 2nd, R. Toward; 3rd, W. Payne.

White round potatoes.—1st, G. Snaith; 2nd, T. Smith; 3rd, R. Toward.

Two turnips.—1st, R. Toward; 2nd, G. Parker; 3rd, Geo. Snaith.

For best and heaviest root of cabbage.—1st, W. Hall; 2nd, W. Payne; 3rd, R. Toward.

Three carrots.—1st, W. Hall; 2nd, W. Payne.

Holloway's Pills.—As autumn treads on winter, slender delicate, and pale-faced youths become listless, languid, and debilitated, unless an alterative, combined with some tonic, be administered to quicken the enfeebled organs. This precise requirement is supplied in these noted Pills, which can and will accomplish all that is wanted, provided the printed instructions surrounding them meet with due attention. Holloway's Pills are especially adapted to supply the medical wants of youth, because his medicine acts gently, though surely, as a purifier, regulator, alterative, tonic, and mild aperient. A very few doses of these Pills will convince any discouraged invalid that his cure lies in his own hands, and a little perseverance only is demanded for its completion.

"Rough on Corns."—Ask Chemists, Perfumers, or Grocers for "Wells' Rough on Corns." Quick, complete, permanent cure for hard or soft corns, warts, bunions, 6½d. and 1s. bottles.

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

Catarrh of the Bladder.—Stinging, irritation, inflammation, all kidney and bladder complaints, cured by "Buchu-Paiba." At Chemists. Newbery and Sons, Agents, 1, King Edward Street, London, E.C.

Local Police Courts.

CONSETT PETTY SESSIONS.

FIRST COURT.

MONDAY, October 4th.—Before JON. PRIESTMAN, Esq. (chairman), and Col. A. B. WILBRAHAM.

STRANGE CONDUCT OF A LEADGATE AUCTIONEER: DAMAGING HIS OWN PROPERTY.

Henry Brown, auctioneer, Leadgate, was charged by Mr M. Richley, who appeared on behalf of the Shotley Bridge and Consett Gas Company, with doing damage to property occupied by them at Shotley Bridge.—Complainant said that on the 22nd of last month, defendant came down the street where the property was situated, armed with a long stick; and on arriving opposite the window he deliberately broke the panes with his stick. Complainant went out to him, and requested him to give a reason for his strange conduct, and on defendant being able to give no other reason than asserting that the property belonged to him and he could do what he wished with it, he (Mr Richley) found it necessary to send for the police.—In answer to a question from the Chairman, whether he had any reason for his conduct, the defendant emphatically stated that the property was his own, and that he thought he was quite right in doing what he wished with it. He had had the deeds of the property examined by the Revising Barrister, and had obtained a vote for it.—Mr Richley explained that the property had been mortgaged, and that the mortgagees had had the letting of the house for some time past, and had also received the rent for the same, the receipts for the payment of which he produced.—Mr Brown said he knew that the property was mortgaged, but that did not alter the fact that it still belonged to him.—The Chairman said that breaking the windows was not a proper way to lay claim to his property.—Defendant: I will take the roof off the next time. (Laughter.)—The Bench considered that the defendant had committed a breach of the law in damaging the property after the fashion in which he had done. He was therefore requested to pay a fine of 2s 6d, with 2s damages and costs.—Defendant: I will never pay a fine for damaging my own property. I will go to Durham as willingly as I would go to my supper.—Defendant having blankly refused to pay the fine, he was sentenced to seven days' imprisonment without hard labour.

WILFUL DAMAGE.

Frederick Brown was charged with doing wilful damage to property belonging to Mr George Rippon, at Iveston, on the 24th September.—Defendant was fined 6d, with 1d damage and costs.

Thomas Bradley and *James Mullen*, of Consett, were charged with trespassing in a plantation belonging to Messrs John Annandale and Sons, doing damage to the amount of 1s.—Prisoners denied the charge, and stated that they had only been over the wall doing a little "private business."—The Bench considered the charge proved, and fined the defendant 1s each and costs.

UTTERING COUNTERFEIT MONEY: A SUNDERLAND "SHARPER" CAUGHT.

Patrick Mallon, described as a labourer, hailing from Sunderland, was brought up charged with passing counterfeit coin.—Supt. Oliver said the police had some half-dozen florins and half-crowns, which he should endeavour to prove were passed by the prisoner, in shops and public-houses at Catchgate and Annfield Plain, with a guilty knowledge that they were bad, and received change for the same. He should ask for a remand, for the purpose of communicating with the Mint authorities.—The first witness was Emma Smailes, the wife of Geo. Smailes, butcher, Annfield Plain, who said that on Friday, 1st inst., about 7·30 p.m., the prisoner came into their shop and purchased a half-pound of beef-steak, tendering her a two-shilling piece in payment. She handed the man 1s 7½d as "change," and he quitted the shop. Immediately afterwards, witness noticed that the coin was smoked; it seemed light in weight, and of bad colour. She compared it with a good florin, and ascertained that it "jinked" oddly. Later on, P.C. Minto came into the shop, and she handed the spurious coin to him.—Prisoner; If you knew the coin was a bad one, why didn't you tell me?—Witness: I did not tell you because you had gone out of the shop.—Miss Hannah Welch, general dealer, Annfield Plain, also attested that at 7·45 the same evening, prisoner bought half-a-pound of tobacco at her shop, and gave her a 2s piece in payment. She refused to accept the coin because it was a counterfeit one. Prisoner replied that it was the only coin he had, and it looked like a good one. She told him that she could not let him have the tobacco, and returning the coin to the man, he left the shop.—John Russell, grocer, carrying on business at Annfield Plain, stated that at eight o'clock on the previous Friday evening the prisoner entered his establishment and asked for half-an-ounce of tobacco. He was served by an assistant (Margaret Armstrong), who gave him 1s 10½d change. As the assistant dropped the coin into the drawers he noticed something peculiar about it. At that juncture P.C. Minto came into the shop and took the prisoner into custody. The officer said that Mallon was going round trying to take people in with bad money; but on searching his pockets the policeman only found the change prisoner had received from Miss Arms rong. Prisoner offered no resistance, and witness handed the spurious coin to Minto.—Margaret Armstrong corroborated the last witness.—P.C. Minto attested that on Friday, the 1st inst., from information received, he "trapped" the progress of the prisoner, and took him into custody in Mr Russell's shop, and charged him with uttering bad money. He said, "I have not." On searching him he found 4½d and 6d in silver in one hand, and 1s in silver in his pocket. He traced the prisoner as having passed bad money at different places. He had received five bad florins and one half-crown.—The prisoner was remanded for a week.—Prisoner: I did not know the money was bad.—The Chairman: You are not committed; only remanded.—Prisoner expressed a desire to communicate with his wife, and the Bench said he would have an opportunity of doing so.

FIGHTING ABOUT A BROOCH.

Catherine McDonald, a young woman, was placed in the dock charged with assaulting Alice McCutchen, at Consett, on the 22nd ult.—It appears, from the statement of the complainant and her witnesses (Susan McGlyn and Ann Casey) that defendant went to her on the date named, and demanded a brooch which she had previously lent to her. Complainant explained that there was a pin loose, and she had taken it to a watchmaker to have it repaired. Upon hearing this, defendant began to abuse her. She caught McCutcheon by the hair of the head, and administered a "good thumping" in the ribs. Defendant said she would not hit her on the face, as she would then not be able to show any marks.—Defendant alleged that McCutcheon was the aggressor, as she struck her first, and told her to "Ask the b——" when she demanded the brooch.—The Bench believed that the defendant had received great provocation, and merely fined her 15s, including costs.

CASES ADJOURNED.

Owen McGrowder was summoned for being drunk and refusing to quit the licensed premises of Mr Michael Kelly, at Consett, on the 18th ult. Mrs Mary Kelly charged McGrowder with having assaulted her on the same date; while McGrowder preferred summonses against *Michael* and *Mary Kelly* for assaulting him.—Mr Welford appeared for the Kellys; while Mr Dix represented McGrowder.—Owing to the illness of Mrs Kelly, the whole of the cases were postponed for a fortnight.

THE EDUCATION ACT.

James Mulhearon, of Consett, was charged by Mr William Ward, on behalf of the School Attendance Committee for the Lanchester Union, with allowing his child to be absent from school.—The summons, however, was withdrawn.

Charles Adams and *George Herron*, of Dipton, were both charged by Mr David Mole, attendance-officer, employed by the Collierley School Board, with allowing their children to be frequently absent from school.—The magistrates considered that the cases were serious, and therefore fined the defendants 5s each, including costs.

THE LEADGATE MATRIMONIAL CASE.

At the trial of this case a fortnight ago, a summons was formally granted to William George Hetherington, labourer, Leadgate, to invalidate an order made by that Court three years ago under the Matrimonial Causes Act, compelling Hetherington to contribute 10s 6d per week towards the support of his wife (who is separated from him) and family. A short while ago, Mrs Hetherington gave birth to a child, of which Hetherington denies the parentage. On Monday, the case was again broached, Mr T. W. Welford, Consett, appearing for the husband; and Mr C. M. Dix, Newcastle, for the wife.—Mr C. M. Dix, in opening, requested that no questions regarding access or non-access should be put to either the husband or the wife.—Mr Welford said he thought he had a perfect right to ask either of the parties any questions he wished.—Mr Dix, in a somewhat lengthy speech, showed that a husband or a wife could not bear testimony as to access or non-access. A wife could affiliate a child upon another man, but she was not allowed to bear testimony to the effect that her husband had not had access to her. As soon as two persons became man and wife, the law presumed that all their children were legitimate, and where it had been admitted that the husband had been living in the immediate neighbourhood where the wife was, the law was so strong upon that point, the child would be called legitimate. But if it was shown that the husband had been in America, or some such place for a lengthened period, and a child had been born during his absence, then it could only be presumed that the child was illegitimate.—Mr Welford said that what Mr Dix had said was not applicable in this case, for the wife had admitted in that box that she had had a child to another person.—Mr Dix: That is not evidence; she is not, by law, allowed to make any such admission. She cannot give evidence to the effect that her husband has and not had access to her. The law strictly prohibits her from making any such statement. The case must be proved by independent evidence.—In answer to the Bench, Hetherington said he had never seen the child which his wife had had.—Mr Welford asked for an adjournment, as he had one or two important witnesses to call—the midwife, who attended the woman during her confinement, being the principal one.—Mr Dix said he had an objection to an adjournment, as it would put his client to a considerable expense in paying extra fees.—The adjournment was granted, and the case was remanded for fourteen days.

ALLEGED ASSULTS UPON A BROTHER.

Christopher Bell (30), Medomsley Road, Consett, was charged with assaulting his brother, Richard Bell, on the 30th September. Mr J. Patrick (Durham) prosecuted, and Mr T. W. Welford defended.—Mr Patrick said that on the day in question Richard Bell, along with his brother, Thomas Bell, went to a cabin where his brother Christopher was working, and requested him to give them their share of some heather which they used for the purpose of making besoms. They were shareholders in this affair, and when they went for their share of the heather the brother told them to wait till he came out and he would give it them. When he emerged from the cabin he deliberately picked up a stone and threw it at Richard Bell, the stone striking him on the arm. Richard Bell had only gone a few yards when his brother Christopher picked up a half-brick and threw that also. The brick caught him on the eye, and caused a severe wound, which immediately rendered him insensible.—Mr Welford (to complainant): Do you know what took place in the cabin?—Complainant: No, I do not.—Mr Welford: Will you swear that you did not pick up a stone when your brother came out?—Complainant: I never lifted a stone to my brother during the whole of the time.—Mr Welford: Were you drunk or sober?—Complainant: Sober, sir.—Thomas Bell, another brother, corroborated the testimony of his brother Richard.—William Kay, butcher, deposed that he was in the cabin along with another man, having a friendly pipe and a chat with Christopher Bell, when the two brothers came for the heather. Prisoner refused to give it to them that day, saying that he would do so some other time. Some quarrelling consequently ensued, and he (Kay) told them that if they wanted to fight they had better go outside and do it. When they went outside the two brothers, Richard and Thomas, followed Christopher up with stones, and the prisoner kept shouting, "Put them stones down." Both the other prisoners had stones in their hands, and when the prisoner went into Mr Dobson's they told Dobson that if he did not turn him out they would break every window in the house. Mr Dobson requested a boy to go for the police but the latter refused, and he (Mr Kay) went himself.—Thomas Dobson, and a boy named Norman Charlton, both corroborated the evidence of Kay.—Acting-Sergeant Davidson deposed that on the day in question Kay came and told him that there was a row in the brick-flats, and when he went to the scene of the conflict the brothers had gone away.—The Bench considered that all the parties were to blame, and therefore dismissed the case.

A FAMILY DISPUTE.

Matthew Murphy was charged with assaulting his mother, Mary Ann Murphy, in Queen Street, Consett, on the 25th September.—Complainant said that this was not the first time her son had assaulted her, but he had generally been drunk when he had attacked her before, and she had let him off seeing that he had not been in his right senses. This time, however, he was perfectly sober, and she thought that when he would wilfully assault her in the manner that he had done, seeing that he was in his proper senses, she thought it was high time to put a stop to it.—In answer to the defendant, complainant said that neither she nor her husband had ever said a wrong word about him.—Matthew Murphy, sen., stated that on the day named he and his wife went into a neighbour's house, and they had not been there long before the defendant came into the house, struck first him and then his wife.—Mrs Quigley substantiated the evidence of the previous witness.—Prisoner, in defence, declared that when he came home from work his wife told him that his father and mother had been calling him all the worst names they could lay their tongues to, and when he went over to Mrs Quigley's, where he was told his father and mother was, and demanded an explanation, his father jumped up and said that he had been waiting to get hold of him for a long time. His father then caught up the poker, and his mother the coal-rake, Mrs Quigley arming herself with a big knife. He was afraid they would get behind him, and he had to stand with his back to the wall. Some one from the outside burst the door open, and when he got a chance he rushed out.—Hannah Ruddy, a young girl, stated that she saw Mr and Mrs Murphy and Mrs Quigley with weapons in their hands.—Mrs Parker testified that she had seen the elder Murphy and Mrs Quigley pushing the prisoner about in the house of Mrs Quigley on the night in question.—The Bench decided to dismiss the case.

Mary Ann Murphy was charged by Hannah Ruddy with assaulting her on the 25th September—Fined 5s and costs.

Mary Ann Murphy was also charged with assaulting Mary Ruddy, mother of the last complainant, at the same time and place.—This case was dismissed.

ASSAULT AT BURNOPFIELD.

Jacob Crawford was charged with assaulting William Moffat, at Burnopfield, on the 25th Sept.—Complainant stated that the prisoner had twice come to his house and called both him and his wife names. The second time he came into the shop, and after using some hard language, the complainant was forced to turn him out. When prisoner got outside, he picked up a large stone (produced) and threw it at him. He happened to move away and the stone broke in pieces on the step where he had been standing.—Several witnesses were called, who corroborated what the complainant had said.—Defendant was fined 20s and costs; or fourteen days' imprisonment in default.

ANOTHER AFFRAY AT SOUTH MEDOMSLEY.

Luke Armin, a strike hand, living at South Medomsley, was charged with assaulting Samuel Harper, one of the "blacklegs," at that place on the 18th Sept.—Complainant said that the prisoner came to his house on the day referred to, and after knocking down one of his children, came and dragged him off the long-settle, where he had been lying, and pulled him across the floor.—Annie Harper, a witness, adduced similar testimony.—James Eales, another witness, said that on the day referred to, he was standing beside his house with another man, when some one who was passing at the time told him that the prisoner had gone to Harper's house to have a row with him. They both went to Harper's house and found the prisoner dragging the complainant to the door. They pulled him off the complainant, and the prisoner then walked away.—The case was dismissed.

Samuel Harper was charged with assaulting Luke Armin on the same date.—Armin stated that on the night in question, he had just returned from Consett, when he was told by his wife that the defendant had been calling him names, and had said that he would like to have the opportunity of thrashing him. He went to Harper's house and asked him what he was going to do? Harper thereupon struck him with the poker, which fortunately slid down his arm.—Annie Johnson bore out the statement of the complainant.

Luke Armin was also accused by Annie Harper of assaulting her on the same occasion.—Complainant's story was to the effect that defendant came over to their house and knocked her down, severely scratching her arm.—The whole of these three cases were dismissed, the Bench considering that each party was to blame in the various assaults. Each side pays its own costs.

USING THREATENING LANGUAGE

Annie Harper, residing at South Medomsley, was charged with using threatening language towards Annie Johnson, also a resident of South Medomsley.—Complainant alleged that on the 19th September, she was going across the road when the prisoner came out of her house, and called her several filthy names, also threatening that she would finish her. Complainant said that she had threatened her before, and she was afraid that the prisoner would do her some bodily harm.—Willim White and Robert Young deposed to having heard the threatening language used by the prisoner towards the complainant, on the day in question.—Prisoner denied ever having used any such language.—The Bench discharged the defendant.

SECOND COURT.

Before JAMES ANNANDALE, Esq.

DRUNKENNESS.

James Mulgrue was charged by Sergt. Tate with being drunk at Benfieldside, on the 18th ult.—Defendant was fined 5s and costs.

John Wilkinson was charged by Sergt. Tate with being drunk in Derwent Street, Blackhill, on the night of the 25th Sept.—Fined 5s and costs.

James Reader was also summoned by Sergt. Tate for being drunk and guilty of disorderly conduct in Derwent Street, Blackhill, on the 26th ult.—Prisoner denied the charge, which was likewise substantiated by P.C. Philipson.—Defendant was mulcted in a penalty of 5s and costs.

Christopher Scott was charged with being drunk on the 26th ult., at Blackhill.—Sergt. Tate appeared to prosecute.—A fine of 5s and costs was imposed.

Mary Ann Smith and *Daniel Duffy* were charged by P.C. Johnson with being drunk at South Medomsley, on the 18th ult.—Defendants were each fined 6s and costs, or seven days' with hard labour in default.

Henry Longstaff was charged with being drunk on the same date as the previous defendants.—P.C. Johnson proved the charge.—Defendant was ordered to pay a fine of 10s and costs, or seven days' imprisonment with hard labour.

John Smith was charged by P.C. Johnson with having been drunk on the 18th and also on the 19th September.—Defendant was fined 5s and costs for each offence.

Michael King was also accused by the constable in the previous case of having been drunk at South Medomsley, on the 18th, ult.—Defendant was fined 5s and costs.

Jane Hodgson was brought up by P.C. Newton with being drunk in Middle Street, Consett, on the 2nd October.—Defendant was fined 5s and costs, or seven days' in default.

Daniel McIntee was charged by Inspector Benzies with drunkenness at Consett, on the 2nd inst.—Defendant was fined 5s and costs.

Ellen Murray and *Mary Lister*, two females on tramp, were both charged by P.C. Newton with being drunk and disorderly at Consett, on the 3rd inst.—Defendants were each fined 2s 6d and costs, or seven days' with hard labour.

John Beills and *Frederick Myers* were both charged by P.C. Johnson with being drunk on the 19th ult., and were mulcted in a penalty of 5s and expenses.

Peter Gilroy was charged by Sergt. Norman with having been drunk at Leadgate, on the 22nd Sept.—Fined 5s and costs.

Frank Angus was charged by P.C. Newton with being drunk at the same place, on the 17th ult.—He was fined 10s and costs, or seven days' with hard labour in default.

Mark Cawthorn was placed in the dock charged by P.C. Hudson with being drunk at Blackhall Mill, on the 18th ult., and was fined 5s and costs.

John Smith was charged by P.C. Lawson with being drunk at Blackhill, on the 18th ult.—The case was dismissed.

Henry Wilson was charged by P.C. Philipson with drunkenness at Blackhill on the 25th Sept.—Fined 5s and costs.

Martha Ward was charged by P.C. Vickers with being drunk and causing a disturbance at Consett, on Sept. 17th.—Defendant was fined in the sum of 2s 6d and expenses.

Mary Ann Murphy was charged by the same constable with being drunk on the 25th ult., and was similarly punished.

Eve Bell was also charged with being drunk on the 25th ult.—P.C. Vickers was the complainant in this case.—Defendant was also fined 2s 6d and costs.

Mary Quigley was charged by P.C. Vickers with being drunk on the 25th Sept.—Defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs.

James Carbery was found guilty, upon the evidence of P.C. Lindsay, of having been intoxicated on the night of the 18th ult., at Consett.—Defendant was fined 5s and costs.

Catherine Marron was also charged by P.C. Lindsay with being drunk at Consett, on the 20th ult.—Defendant was fined 2s 6d and costs.

Matthew Bell was fined in a like amount for being drunk at Consett, on Sept. 23rd.—P.C. Lindsay proved the charge.

WILFUL DAMAGE.

Thomas Telford was charged with doing wilful damage to a fence, belonging to Mr William Reed, of Blackhill, on the 12th ult.—Defendant was fined 2s 6d, 1d damage, and costs.

Joseph Postle was charged with doing wilful damage to property, by stealing a handful of clover, belonging to Messrs J. Joicey and Co., on the 15th Sept.—One of the farm servants saw the defendant pick up the clover and carry it away.—Defendant was fined 1s and costs, and 1d damage, or seven days' hard labour in default.

John Humble and *James Harper Thompson* were both charged with doing wilful damage to property belonging to Mr Thomas Dolphin, farmer, Delves Farm, Consett, on the 19th ult.—Both defendants were mulcted in a penalty of 1d fine, 6d damages, and costs.

William Kay and *Joseph Hardy* were charged with damaging property belonging to Henry White, of The Brooms, on the 25th Sept.—Defendants were fined 6d each, 1d damages, and costs.

CHESTER-LE-STREET PETTY SESSIONS.

WEDNESDAY, Sept. 29th.—Before H. W. KERRICH-WALKER, Esq. (chairman), and G. DUBERLEY, Esq.

THE JURY LISTS.

The jury lists were presented, and duly sworn to by the various assistant-overseers of the townships.

DRUNKENNESS.

James Shirley, charged with being drunk and disorderly at Lamesley, on the 4th ult., was fined 7s 6d and costs.

Thomasine Buckstone was charged with a similar offence at Lamesley, on the 4th ult.—Fined 7s 6d and costs.

William Ridpath, charged with being drunk and disorderly at Pelton, on the 4th ult., was fined 5s and costs.

William Palmer, drunk and disorderly at Pelton, on the same date, was fined 7s 6d and costs.

John Ritson, for a similar offence, on the same date, at Pelton, was fined (as he did not appear) 10s and costs.

Bernard Keenan was charged with a like offence, at Pelton, on the same date.—Fined 7s 6d and costs.

James Boyd was fined 5s and costs for being drunk at Waldridge, on 5th Sept.

Archibald Easter, fined 5s and costs for being drunk on 18th ult.

REFUSING TO QUIT.

John Archer, charged with being drunk and disorderly and refusing to quit the licensed premises of Michael Carr, at Pelton, on 6th ult., was fined 5s and costs.

WILFUL DAMAGE.

Robert Wardle was charged with doing damage to a wood, the property of the Earl of Ravensworth, at Lamesley, on 18th ult.—Fined 2s 6d, and 3d damage, and costs.

John Dodds, a boy nine years of age, who was represented by his mother, was charged with wilful damage to a wood at Lamesley, on the same date.—Fined 6d, 3d damage, and costs.

John Oliver was charged with damaging grass on land in the occupation of Thomas Smith, at Chester-le-Street.—Fined 6d, 1d damage, and costs.

John Batey was charged with doing wilful damage to a pear tree, the property of Lord Dunsaney and others, near Pelton Fell, on 18th ult.—Inspector Collins said that Mr H. Henderson, manager of the colliery, had instructed him to state that the damage to the pear tree amounted to 10s, and not only that the garden in which the tree was growing was in the occupation of defendant's brother-in-law, he would also have been charged with larceny.—A witness proved that he saw defendant in the garden.—Fined 10s, 10s damage, and costs.

BRAWLING AT CHESTER-LE-STREET.

Albert Davis, *John Walker*, *Andrew Lynn*, and *Michael Brown*, residing at Chester-le-Street, were charged with being drunk and brawling on Sunday, 19th ult.—Davis pleaded guilty.—P.C.'s Jeff and Wilkinson said that the defendants were brawling in the streets, and were all drunk.—Wm. Wood and Wm. Robson said they had been with Brown and had had only two glasses of ale, and that Davis, without any provocation, had dashed his hat in Brown's face in the street. Brown naturally got very excited, and just then the police came.—Inspector Collins said that all the young men, with the exception of Davis, were very respectable. He had known them from boyhood, and had no doubt that Davis had been the cause of all the disturbance.—The Bench said that as this was Davis's fifth appearance this year they would fine him 30s and costs. The case against the other three would be dismissed.

ONE BOX OF CLARKE'S B41 PILLS is warranted to cure all discharges from the Urinary Organs, in either sex (acquired or constitutional, Gravel, and Pains in the Back. Guaranteed free from Mercury. Sold in Boxes, 4s. 6d. each, by all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors throughout the World; or sent to any address for sixty stamps by the Makers THE LINCOLN AND MIDLAND COUNTIES DRUG COMPANY, Lincoln. Wholesale Agents, BARCLAY AND SONS, London and all the Wholesale Houses.

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

THE MILK QUESTION.—On Saturday night, a public meeting was held in the Market-place, Stanhope, with a view to bringing down the price of milk from 3d to 2d per quart. Several working men who had been deputed at a previous meeting to call upon milk-sellers, explained the result of their interviews. Some of the milk-sellers were in favour of the reduction, others against it stating that it would not pay to sell it at less than 3d per quart. The meeting, however, was of opinion that the price should be 2d per quart.

LOCAL REVISION COURTS.

BENFIELDSIDE.

On Friday forenoon, Mr Chas. Mellor, barrister-at-law, commenced his registration of the voters in the North-Western Division of the County of Durham, holding a Revision Court at the Board Schools, Benfieldside, when the lists for the townships of Conside and Knitsley (Consett); Benfieldside (Blackhill and Shotley Bridge); Iveston (Leadgate); Billingside, Muggleswick, Edmondbyers, Hunstanworth, Medomsley, Ebchester, and Healeyfield (Rowley and Castleside), were under consideration. The Liberals were represented by Mr Adam Brodie, registration agent, Consett; while Mr S. D. Cooper, registration agent, Consett (who was accompanied by Mr R. J. Milburne, Newcastle), appeared on behalf of the Conservatives.

DISSENTING MINISTERS' VOTES.

In Ebchester, the Rev Henry Parkes, Wesleyan minister, Consett, claimed in respect to the dwelling-house in Sherburn Terrace, but as he only (according to the statement of the Assistant-Overseer, Mr Elliott) succeeded the Rev W. Hare in August, 1885, the claim was disallowed.—Rev Thomas Durant, Baptist minister, Consett, claimed in succession by removal from Hamsterley to Templetown, Consett, and he was added to the list.

PRINTING THE LISTS OF CLAIMS.

His Honour strongly advised the overseers to have the lists printed beforehand in order to avoid errors. There were so many peculiarities in the spelling of names that no matter how clearly or legibly they may be written, there were apt to be mistakes in spelling when the registers were printed. When the lists exceeded a certain length, he thought the overseers were bound to have them printed.—Mr Coupland (Ebchester) promised to attend to the request in future.—His Honour also commented upon the careless manner in which large firms and colliery owners supplied the lists of the occupants of their dwellings to the overseers. Often the work was done by a clerk, who just scribbled the names off anyhow, and frequently the colliery proprietors themselves did not know who were the actual tenants of their dwellings, unless the parties told them so themselves. Mr Mellor counselled the Overseers to seek out the information for themselves, and to compare the lists with the previous rate-books.

INFORMAL CLAIMS.

Several claims on behalf of the Conservatives, which had been signed and filled up by Mr W. Palliser, schoolmaster, Westwood, were disallowed. It seems that in some instances the claimant had simply put his cross without a witness attesting to the same, while in others Mr Palliser had evidently signed the names of the claimants himself. In one case James Fergusen, Allendale Cottages, the Overseer said the signature was in Mr Palliser's handwriting, as he knew it to be so.—In answer to Mr Milburne, the Overseer said he had never seen Mr Ferguson's writing.—Mr Milburne contended that the signature was a different hand to the body of the form.—His Honour, having scrutinised the document, was inclined to believe that the signature was the same handwriting, although more carefully written than the body of the form. He would have allowed the vote had he been positive that the claimant had lived over 12 months in the same house.—Mr Cooper asserted that Mr Palliser would never have filled up the form unless he knew to his own knowledge that that the parties had occupied the same dwelling for more than a year.—His Honour, while not imputing anything to Mr Palliser, stated that his experience was that claimants who went to other parties to fill up forms in order to get them placed on the registers would go so far as to tell an untruth, and deceive them, if only they attained their ends without the trouble of coming to court. Not only schoolmasters, but clergymen and ministers, had been deceived in this manner.—These claims were disallowed.

THE PREFIX "REV."

When the Vicar of Medomsley's (Rev W. Cockin) name was read over, Mr Milburne thought it unnecessary to add the prefix "Rev." to the name. He considered that titles should not be inserted in the list.—His Honour said it did not matter whether the "Rev." was there or not.—Mr Milburne: Mr Glass, of Sunderland, always insisted upon the "Rev." being omitted. (Laughter.)—Mr Mellor: Now he asks for the "Rev." to be put on. I am afraid he's drifting from your party, Mr Carss. (Much Laughter.)—Mr Milburne: I'm very glad to hear it. (More laughter).

THREE POLLING DISTRICTS IN ONE TOWNSHIP.

At the conlusion of the revision of the Ebchester and Medomsley lists, His Honour remarked upon the excellent way in which Mr Coupland had performed his task.—Mr Coupland pointed out that the great difficulty lay in the fact that three polling districts were embodied in his scattered township.—His Honour: I am afraid that is a fault which cannot be rectified at present.

A DISPUTE AS TO CHARGES.

When the Benfieldside lists were reached, Mr Cooper said there was a dispute which he wished to bring before His Honour for settlement. The Assistant-overseer for Benfieldside (Mr H. Carss) had charged Mr J. S. Murray 6s for the list of voters. He submitted that Mr Carss was not entitled, according to the Act, to charge more than 2s 6d.—His Honour, having perused the section of the Act referrel to, said it was apparent the Overseers could only go to a certain point in charging for the occupiers' list. The Clerk of the Peace might be empowered to give the Overseers certain instructions.—Mr Carss produced a list of charges, with a specimen of the rates.—Mr Milburne: We go according to the Act; not by the length of the list. The maximum charge in boroughs, where the lists embody from 5,000 to 6,000 names, is 2s 6d.—Mr Carss said there was no maximum sum.—His Honour thought there was a maximum amount, otherwise the Overseers might put on such a prohibitive tariff that any person who desired could not obtain a copy. Whether the charge of 2s 6d paid the Overseers was another matter. He had a similar point before him at Sunderland, and he gave his opinion that the Overseers could not charge more than 2s 6d.—Mr Milburne stated that in Newcastle they could get a list of 7,000 names for 2s 6d.—Mr Carss: The Sunderland authorities charge 7s for the lists.—Mr Cooper: That is for the whole district; not a part of it.—Mr Carss: I have been 12 years in office, and this is the first time this contention has been raised.—Mr Cooper: I cannot help that.—His Honour: What is your charge?—Mr Carss: Sixpence per 100 lines.—His Honour: I am sorry for it, but I think you have no right to charge more than 2s 6d. The Overseers, as a body, are hardly worked, and like umpires, they receive nobody's thanks. Some Overseers did their work exceedingly well; while he had come across others who discharged their duties carelessly. According to the prescript, however, the Overseers were not entitled to charge more than 2s 6d for a copy of the lists. Whether it pays or not, is another matter. If the Overseers do the work at the loss, they must make some better contract with the parish.—Mr Milburne: It is not a personal loss, Mr Carss?—Mr Carss: You have to do the work for so much less.—Mr Milburne: You only feel it indirectly.—Mr Carss said he agreed to leave the dispute to His Honour as arbitrator.—Mr Mellor: That is my decision. If Mr Carss had been arguing the other way, he would soon have knocked the bottom out of it. (Laughter.) I know that he has often had some strong arguments in the matter of costs.

CLAIMING BEFORE THE SPECIFIED TIME.

In the Consett township, Mr Milburne pointed out that there were some claims which had been signed on July 13th—two days before the specified time. He contended that the period for signing the claims was from the 1st to the 20th August.—Mr Elliott (assistant-overseer) said he did not receive the claims till after the 29th August.—Mr Brodie pointed out that they were owners, and not occupiers claims. There were no grounds for the objection.—Claims allowed.

NAMES IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER.

Subsequently, Mr Mellor intimated that if in future overseers failed to place the names on the register in strict alphabetical order, according to the first and second letters in the surnames, he would withold the fees they were entiled to.—Mr Carss smiled, but His Honour said he was speaking seriously, when uttering these remarks. It was more convenient both to the general public, and to those who had occasion to glance over the registers, that the names were placed in proper alphabetical order. If this rule was not adhered to, he would certainly withhold the fees.

THE LODGERS' FRANCHISE.

There was nothing of importance on the lists for the townships of Consett, Benfieldside, and Iveston, the only fact being that a large number of lodgers were added to the lists, His Honour remarking that he was greatly in favour of the lodger franchise.—The court adjourned at 4·15 p.m. o'clock.

LANCHESTER.

On Saturday, Mr Mellor sat at the Police Court Buildings, at Lanchester, The various parties were represented as before. The registers for the townships of Cornsay, Esh, Hedleyhope, Lanchester, Holmside, Greencroft (part of), and Langley were gone through.

PAROCHIAL *v.* MEDICAL RELIEF.

In the Cornsay district, Mr T. P. Straighfair (Tory canvasser) objected to the name of Edward Murphy, on the ground that Murphy was receiving parish relief.—His Honour (to the overseer): Have you received any intimation from the Clerk of the Guardians or the relieving officers that Murphy is in receipt of parish relief?—Mr Martin (overseer's clerk): No, sir.—His Honour said before he could strike a name off the list, the overseers should receive notice from the Union authorities that the person was receiving parochial relief, and then the overseers could object to such party in the proper way. In the present instance Murphy was not aware that he was objected to, anp therefore did not appear to support his vote.

SEVERE STRICTNESS UPON AN OVERSEER.

Mr Geo. Alder, the assistant-overseer for Cornsay (who has been unwell for a long period), sent a clerk to represent him, but failed to produce the rate books, or the lists of tenants furnished by the colliery owners. Mr Mellor commented upon the inconvenience resulting from such neglect.—The revision progressed somewhat slowly, and His Honour said that he thought when an overseer had been incapacited from attending to his duties for about three years he ought to resign or engage some competent or responsible person to do his work.—Several irregularities and omissions having been brought to light, the Revising Barrister said:—This just shows how outrageously the work of the overseer has been done. It is a scandal. He not only leaves people off the registers, but doesn't take the trouble to publish the claims aright—at length. His Honour adjourned the Cornsay lists till he sat at Tanfield on Monday, when he would demand some explanation from the overseer himself or his authorised agent. If the overseer failed to attend he would require a medical certificate as the overseer rendered himself liable to a penalty of five guineas for not being there. His Honour also withheld the fees which the overseer was entitled to, and which (it was stated) amounted to between £30 and £40.

MORE IRREGULARITIES.

On the lists for Esh, Mr Mellor remarked that he could not congratulate Mr Atkinson upon his lists. Some overseers had little knowledge of their duties. Instead of verifying information for themselves they simply accepted the particulars that were supplied to them. He (Mr Mellor) also expressed his astonishment that the returns of the colliery-owners were so frequently incorrect, seeing that the lists were so much more extensive than they were formerly.

PROFESSORS AT USHAW COLLEGE.

Half-a-dozen professors and instructors at Ushaw Roman Catholic College, described as "Clerks in Holy Orders," claimed as lodgers.—Mr Milburne objected on the ground that the signatures were witnessed and attested to some days after the claimants had signed. His Honour allowed the claims, remarking that these were the very people who were best qualified to exercise the franchise.

OBJECTED TO A CONSERVATIVE AGENT.

During the course of the proceedings, Mr Ernest Forster, of Esh Wiuning, inquired who the gentleman was (pointing to Mr Milburne) who was objecting to all the new claimants? He inquired if he was on the register for the Division, and questioned his right to interfere.—The Revising Barrister observed that the gentleman alluded to was an acknowledged party agent, and the ratepayers, as a body, could engage any person, whether a voter or not, to represent them.

AN OVERSEER COMPLIMENTED.

Mr Mellor, complimented Mr John Towns, Lanchester, for the excellent manner in which he had carried out his duties.—The court adjourned at 2·30 p.m.

TANFIELD.

On Monday, Mr Mellor concluded his revision of the electoral lists for North-West Durham, by holding a Court in the house of Mr Urwin, Pack Horse Inn, Tanfield. Mr Brodie again attended on behalf of the Liberals; and Messrs Cooper and Milburne for the Conservatives. The lists under revision included the townships Tanfield (Beamish, Stanley, and Lintz); Collierley and Pontop (Dipton and South Medomsley); Kyo (Catchgate and Annfield Plain); Greencroft (part of).

THE CORNSAY OVERSEER.

With respect to the alleged irregularities on the part of Mr Alder, a medical certificate was produced showing that the overseer was dangerously ill.—Mr Martin, his deputy, having offered some explanation, His Honour at length certified for the fees allowable.

THE SOUTH MEDOMSLEY EVICTIONS: STRIKE HANDS DISFRANCHISED.

A number of claims were presented on behalf of the men now out on strike at the South Medomsley Colliery. The overseer for Collierley (Mr Wilkinson) explained that these people were evicted from their houses by the police, on the 2nd March last, and they went to live in some cottages close at hand, belonging to the Auckland Union Building Society.—His Honour: Were those the evictions that the action was brought about?—Mr Wilkinson: Yes, sir.—Mr Mellor: Did the men proceed to these other dwellings at once?—Mr Wilkinson: Yes; they went straight away on the very same day.—His Honour: I suppose they will claim in succession?—Mr Milburne pointed out some informality in the claims, the signatures not having been properly attested.—Mr Brodie strongly supported the claims.—His Honour said he was very sorry; but he was afraid that he would have to leave all these men off.—Amongst the persons temporarily disenfranchised are Messrs Thomas Gatiss (president), J. Speeding (secretary), Adam Dixon (secretary), and the most of the committee and men connected with the South Medomsley Lodge.

VOTES OF THANKS.

The business having been closed, Mr Brodie, as representing the Liberal party for North-West Durham, moved that a vote of thanks should be accorded to Mr Mellor for the excellent and careful way in which he had performed the work of registration, and also for his urbane and courteous treatment of those who had been present at the Court. For his own part, he had had the pleasure of meeting Mr Mellor in former years, and always found that he did his work in a proper and straightforward manner.—Mr Cooper, on behalf of the Conservative party, in seconding the motion, warmly endorsed the observations of Mr Brodie, and thanked the Revising Barrister for his uniform courtesy all through the revision.—His Honour, in acknowledging the compliment paid him, observed that he was always glad to receive the assistance of the party agents. It would be difficult for a stranger like him to come there and do justice to the lists without the aid of these gentlemen. Now that the registers were so large and complicated, it could not be expected that the Overseers could do the work so well as it ought to be performed. As soon, however, as they gained a knowledge of their duties, the work would doubtless be done more satisfactory. At the same time, he always found that whenever he gave a hint to the Overseers in this district, and at other places also, they always acted upon it when he subsequently visited them. In concluding, His Honour thought that a more central place than Tanfield might be secured for holding the Revision Court, and suggested that Annfield Plain would be more convenient.

ST. JOHN'S, WEARDALE.

A Revisien Court was held on Friday by Mr Yarborough Anderson at St. John's Chapel, Weardale, when the Parliamentary lists for the townships of Wearhead, Rookhope, St John's and Westgate were revised. Mr T. T. Sedgwick, Darlington, representing the Liberals, sustained four out of five Liberal ownership claims and one objection against a Conservative claim. The non-party ownership claims were disallowed. The increase upon the registers is 66 votes.

Correspondence.

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

JOHNSON'S POACHING CASE.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—In the report of the above case contained in your last issue I am stated to have given Johnson leave to shoot over the Weardale Iron Company's Stonefoot and Hilltop farms. I distinctly contradict having done so, nor do I remember any conversation on the matter between Johnson and myself. Your insertion of the above in your next issue will oblige.—Yours truly,

PETER SIMPSON.

A CORRECTION.

To the Editor of the Consett Guardian.

SIR,—Just allow me to rectify an error that I noticed in your last week's issue in reference to the "Local Preachers' Mutual Aid Association" Meeting, held at Tow Law. In the issue referred to it is mentioned that the Chairman on that occasion was Mr C. Martin. This, sir, was incorrect, as Mr W. Steal (the local secretary of the Wolsingham Circuit branch of the Association), occupied the chair, and there stated that Mr C. B. Martin was (for reasons over which he had no control) unavoidably prevented from being present; and I have been informed on the best authority that a few days afterwards Mr Martin very generously gave a subscription of 10s towards the funds of the Association and enrolled himself as an honorary member. I only direct your notice to this little error in order that your correspondent may in future exercise a little more patience and wait till the event (that he so graciously informs the eager public) takes place. I am ever since I read the history of the Peninsular War a firm believer in punctuality, but really this is rather more than "taking time by the forelock."—Yours truly,

J. MORGAN.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORM.

CONSETT AND DISTRICT.

On Wednesday morning, the heavy fogs of the previous day or two lifted considerably, though the air was still very warm and unpleasantly moist. In the afternoon about 3·30 o'clock, a sharp thunderstorm broke over Consett, Blackhill, &c. accompanied by a very heavy, though not prolonging, shower of rain. After the rain the air was clear but still very damp. The principal thoroughfares were immediately deluged, the gutters and channels were flooded, and the grates and outlets were immediately stopped up. Luckily no serious damage is reported. There was thunder and lightening most of the night.

CROOK.

The neighbourhood of Crook was visited on Wednesday afternoon by a fearful thunderstorm. About half-past two the heavens became black, and total darkness prevailed for nearly an hour. Business was stopped, and everybody was stricken with wonder at what had taken place. A very heavy fall of rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning, followed, after which the darkness cleared away.

PRUDHOE AND MICKLEY.

The heavy rain on Tuesday did considerable damage to the embankment of the North-Eastern Railway, near Mickley, on the Newcastle and Carlisle line. In consequence of this, traffic was for some time suspended, the 6·10 p.m. train from Newcastle and the 6·15 p.m. from Carlisle both being considerably late in reaching their destination. Every available means of putting the line in order was quickly in operation, and in the course of an hour or so traffic resumed its customa[illegible] course. At Corbridge and Prudhoe the weather was very similar. A large quantity of rain fell, the burns were much swollen, while the prospect of the farmers getting his corn harvest finished soon, are the reverse of cheering.

HIGHGATE BAPTIST CHAPEL.

ANNUAL FRUIT SOIREE.

The annual fruit banquet in connection with the above chapel at Blackhill was held on Monday night. There was a large and respectable audience, the edifice being filled. The chair was occupied by the pastor, Rev E. W. Jenkins. After the chairman had spoken, and fruit had been distributed, the choir, under the leadership of Mr J. Siddle, sang the anthem, "Be joyful in the Lord." The Chairman then called upon Mr James Scott (who seems to be an old favourite at Highgate) to address the meeting.—Mr Scott said that dynasties might rise and fall, nation rise up against nation, and all things pass away, but the fruit banquet at Highgate did not pass away. He thought they must keep his name standing in type from one year to another, and he couldn't see why they should always have the same speaker. In the course of a humorous address, on "True prayer, as illustrative of the Dead Letter Office," he said that there were several reasons why letters went back to the Dead Letter Office. He would only mention a few, as time would not permit of him to speak upon all of them. In the first place, some letters got to the Dead Letter Office because they were not properly directed, or because the address was either very illegible or had too many flourishes in it to be made out, or else was not addressed at all, as they knew often happened at valentine time. The speaker's remarks were interspersed with various amusing anecdotes, and he resumed his seat amidst the applause of the audience. Tarts having been distributed, the choir rendered the anthem, "Wait for the song of jubilee," in a highly creditable manner.—The chairman then introduced the Rev Joseph Muir, of Bristol (late of Blackhill), who gave an address on "Bible reading." After the choir had sung the anthem, "Let every heart rejoice," fruit was again distributed, Mr Jenkins then called upon Rev Thos. Durant, of Consett, to address the meeting. Mr Alex. Baillie was also announced, but was not able to be present, owing to indisposition. Fruit having again been passed round, the choir sang the anthem, "Glory be to God." Votes of thanks having been passed to those who had given the fruit, the choir, the speakers, and audience for their attendance that evening, this very successful treat terminated. Mr Thompson presided at the harmonium.

MISSIONARY MEETING.

In connection with the Highgate and Rowley Baptist Churches, the annual meeting on behalf of the Baptist Foreign Missions took place in the Blackhill chapel last Friday evening. There was a large company present, the building being almost filled. The chairman was Mr Thomas Ridley, of Blackhill; and eloquent and spirited addresses were given by the Revs F. D. Waldock, deputation from Colrado; Henry Parkes, Wesleyan superintendent minister, Consett (late missionary in China); Jas. Alderson, Primitive Methodist, and T. Durant, Baptist, Consett; and E. W. Jenkins, the pastor of the church. At the close of a hearty and successful meeting, a collection was taken for the furtherance of the above-named missions.

"HOW TO DO BUSINESS," price sixpence.—To be had of Robert Jackson, bookseller, 9 and 10 Newmarket Street, Consett.

"HOW TO BEHAVE," price sixpence.—To be had of Robert Jackson, bookseller, 9 and 10 Newmarket Street, Consett.

"HOW TO WRITE," price sixpence.—To be had of Robert Jackson, bookseller, 9 and 10 Newmarket Street, Consett.

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

ACCIDENT.—On Friday last as a young man, named Edward Hewitson, was coming out bye at Pelton Fell, the link of the engine sett broke, and the socket rebounded back and caught him on the face, and severely injured him, knocking out one of his eyes. Grave doubts are entertained whether he will not be totally blind.

LECTURE IN ROOKHOPE.—On Wedensday se'nnight Miss J. P. Earl delivered her popular lecture, "The Streets of London; or, life in the Great City," in the Board School—Mr W. M. Egglestone presiding.

Business Announcements.

MR. H. MARKHAM,

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NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

R. WILLEY,

NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT,

HAVING PURCHASED THE BUSINESS carried on at MOUNT PLEASANT by Mr. THOMAS DUNNE, Grocer, begs to inform the Public that he has REMOVED TO MR. DUNNE'S SHOP, Where he hopes to meet with a fair share of patronage

BASS'S PALE ALE, GUINNESS'S DUBLIN STOUT, &c., KEPT IN STOCK.

NOTE THE ADDRESS—

R. WILLEY, MOUNT PLEASANT, CONSETT. 807w

CONSETT MUSIC WAREHOUSE.

JESSE DEXTER'S,

TOWN HALL BUILDINGS, CONSETT.

PIANOS,

HARMONIUMS,

AMERICAN ORGANS,

AND

OTHER MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, STRINGS, FITTINGS, &c.

NO EXTRA CHARGE FOR PURCHASING BY INSTALMENTS.

Instalment Arrangements to suit Customers' Convenience,

CONSEQUENTLY,

NO ONE NEED BE WITHOUT A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT.

WEEKLY, MONTHLY, OR QUARTERLY PAYMENTS.

PIANOS TUNED, REPAIRED, OR TAKEN IN EXCHANGE.

PIANOS FOR HIRE.

JESSE DEXTER,

TOWN HALL BUILDINGS, CONSETT.

THOMAS MILNER,

DISPENSING AND AGRICULTURAL CHEMIST,

☞ THE CENTRAL PHARMACY, CONSETT

MILNER'S FINEST NEW SEASON'S COD LIVER OIL.

A Consett Gentleman says:—"I have found your New Season's Cod Liver Oil to be most beneficial in preventing hoarseness and relieving the strain on the chest, consequent on prolonged speaking in the open air, whilst the administration of it is not accompanied by the nausea resulting from many oils I have tried, and I can confidently recommend it."

1s. and 2s. 6d. per Bottle.

MILNER'S BLUE RIBBON ARMY MIXTURES

For the speedy production of a Delicious Temperance Cordial. Ginger, Pine Apple, &c. 6d. per Bottle.

MILNER'S DANDELION AND PODOPHYLLN STOMACH AND LIVER PILLS.

The excellent qualities of these Pills are too well known to be enumerated here, while the increasing demand under the Popular Name of Milner's Own Pills is the best Proof of their efficacy. In Boxes 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d.

BALSAMIC COUGH MIXTURE.

An excellent Remedy for Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, &c., and all Diseases of the Chest and Stomach. 1s. per Bottle.

HAIR RESTORERS PERFUMES, POMADES,

TOILET REQUISITES IN GREAT VARIETY.

SPECTACLES TO SUIT ALL SIGHTS.

TRUSSES OF ALL SIZES.

Agent for Mr LAMONT'S Magnetic Belts, Chest Protectors, Knee Caps, &c., &c.

SHEEP DIPS. SHEEP DIPS

T.M. respectfully draws the attention of Farmers to the

TAR ELIXIR PRIZE MEDAL SHEEP DIP

Prepared by Messrs NESS & Co., Darlington, for which he is sole Agent.

PRICE 7s. 6d. PER 100 SHEEP.

☞ T. M. is likewise Agent for BELL & RIDDLE'S, McDOUGALL'S, LITTLE & CO.'S, IDYE'S, COOPER'S, and WILSON and KITCHEN'S Sheep Dips.

ALTERATIVE CONDITION POWDERS AND PURGING BALLS FOR HORSES.

FELLON AND CLEANSING DRINKS FOR CATTLE.

OILS, PAINTS, COLOURS, VARNISHES, AND CLEANING REQUISITES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.

MILNER, CHEMIST,

OPPOSITE THE POST-OFFICE CONSETT. 721v

HEPWORTHS' OVERCOATS FOR THE EAST WINDS. DIRECT FROM THE FACTORY.

HEPWORTHS' OVERCOATS SAVE DOCTORS' BILLS. DIRECT FROM THE FACTORY.

HEPWORTHS' OVERCOATS SAVE LARGE PROFITS. DIRECT FROM THE FACTORY.

HEPWORTHS' OVERCOATS FOR THE MILLION. DIRECT TO THE PEOPLE.

HEPWORTHS' HEAVY WINTER CLOTHING. NOW AT ALL BRANCHES.

HEPWORTHS' BLOOD WARMING WRAPPS, AT WHOLESALE PRICES.

HEPWORTHS' SYSTEM OF DEALING; THEY MANUFACTURE ALL THEY SELL.

HEPWORTHS' CAN SAVE THE PUBLIC ALL SECOND RETAIL PROFITS.

HEPWORTHS' BRANCH IN CONSETT.

12, SHAKESPEARE STREET.

Business Announcements.

BLUE BANNER TEA PRIZE COMPETITION.

WANTED 10,000 BOYS AND GIRLS

UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE TO COMPETE IN THE

GRAMMAR BEE.

FIVE GUINEAS IN PRIZES.

1st Prize, £1; 2nd do., 10s.; 3rd do., 10s.; 12 Prizes 5s. each.

The above PRIZES will be awarded, according to merit, to Fifteen Competitors obtaining the largest number of NOUNS and ADJECTIVES, which must be correctly-spelt English Words, out of the Letters contained in the Words—

"BLUE BANNER TEAS XL."

SPECIAL NOTICE!! Competitors are particularly requested to note that the use of each letter is only allowed as many times as it occurs in the subject given for Competition.

CONDITIONS.

1. Competitors must be under 16 years of age.
2. Plurals, proper names, and names of places will not be allowed.
3. Chambers' Dictionary to be regarded as the Standard.
4. Each Competitor is requested to mark on the back of the envelope enclosing list, the number of words obtained.
5. The names of successful Competitors will be published in the Blue Banner Railway Guide on December 1st.

Prize-winners, on being notified of their success, must forward a Certificate signed by a Schoolmaster or Schoolmistress that they are under the age specified, on receipt of which their respective prizes will be forwarded.

6. The Competitive lists (words being arranged in Alphabetical order) signed with Competitor's full name and address, to be forwarded per post prepaid not later than MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1st, to GRAMMAR BEE COMPETITION, BLUE BANNER TEA DEPOT, CLOTH MARKET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
7. The Competitive lists are placed before a Professional Gentleman for adjudication, and his awards, as published, are to be accepted as final and beyond appeal.

For obvious reasons, no correspondence with reference to the same can be entertained.

8. Each Competitor must enclose with the list the OUTSIDE WRAPPER of a Packet of BLUE BANNER TEA.
9. In the event of there being more than Fifteen Competitors giving the same number of correct words, the amount of Prizes will be divided equally.

BLUE BANNER TEA

2s. 6d. PER LB. IS 2s. 6d. PER LB.

Qr. lb. Packets only. Qr. lb. Packets only.

UNSURPASSED,

AND MAY BE OBTAINED OF ALL GROCERS

SPELLING BEE No. 7.

"PACHA COFFEE."

The Prize of One Guinea has been awarded to MARY A. JOBSON, 3, Queen Anne Terrace, Gateshead.

Number of words tendered......	106
Less disallowed	42
Words correct..........	64

EVERY FRIEND OF TEMPERANCE

WILL RECOMMEND THE USE OF

BLUE BANNER TEA.

2s. 6d. PER LB. FOR 2s. 6d. PER LB.

QUALITY, STRENGTH, FLAVOUR.

UNSURPASSED.

BLUE BANNER TEA CONFERS HAPPINESS.

BLUE BANNER TEA ENCOURAGES THRIFT

BLUE BANNER TEA PROMOTES ECONOMY.

BLUE BANNER TEA SOOTHES THE INVALID.

BLUE BANNER TEA STIMULATES THE STUDENT.

BLUE BANNER TEA REFRESHES THE THIRSTY.

FOR PARTICULARS OF

PRIZE POCKET PUZZLE COMPETITION

SEE

BLUE BANNER RAILWAY GUIDE,

Which can be obtained *free* of any Grocer on and after the 1st of every month.

THE TRADE ONLY SUPPLIED FROM THE

BLUE BANNER TEA

WHOLESALE DEPOT,

CLOTH MARKET,

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Business Announcements.

MUSIC LESSONS given—Pianos, Harmoniums, and American Organs Tuned and Repaired. Dealer in Harmoniums, &c.—T. JONES, 4, Gibson Street, near Co-operative Store, Consett. 407w

EDUCATIONAL.

JON. C. WYLIE, PRIVATE TEACHER IN LANGUAGES AND MATHEMATICS.

☞ PUPILS ATTENDED AT THEIR OWN HOMES.

MUSIC LESSONS.

MRS. TELFORD, Newmarket Street, Consett, having Passed the Trinity College, London, Examination in Pianoforte Playing, Harmony, Theory, Counterpoint, and History, is now PREPARED TO GIVE INSTRUCTION IN MUSIC. Terms on application. 600w

JAMES TURNBULL,

PERAMBULATOR, WASHING & MANGLING MACHINE DEPOT.

PERAMBULATORS.

The Largest and Best Assortment in the North. Prices from 10s. to £9.

A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF INVALID'S CARRIAGES.

NOTE THE ADDRESS—

45, AND 47, NEW BRIDGE ST., NEWCASTLE.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

BUY YOUR BOOTS AND SHOES AT

JOHN GIBSON'S NEW SHOP

CORNER OF

FOUNDRY ROW AND BESSEMER STREET, BLACKHILL (near the Railway Station).

As they are unsurpassed for FITTING and DURABILITY.

☞ A Well-selected Stock always on hand.

All Goods marked in plain figures, at LOWEST READY-MONEY PRICES.

BOOTS MADE TO MEASURE, AND REPAIRS OF ALL KINDS DONE AS USUAL. 539u

THE *CONSETT GUARDIAN*

MAPPING BOOK.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

EXTRA LARGE SIZE

AS RECOMMENDED BY

SCHOOL TEACHERS.

TO BE HAD ONLY OF

ROBERT JACKSON,

GUARDIAN OFFICE, FRONT STREET,

AND

9, & 10 NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT

ROBERT JACKSON'S

CHEAP PRINTING & STATIONERY ESTABLISHMENTS,

59, FRONT STREET, and 9 & 10, NEWMARKET STREET, CONSETT.

☞ AGENT FOR DIPTON:—MR. THOMAS CLARK

SOUTH MEDOMSLEY COTTAGES.

WILLIAM RAW.

AUCTIONEER,

VALUER, & COMMISSION AGENT,

LAND, HOUSE, INSURANCE AND EMIGRATION AGENT, SHARE BROKER, &c.,

DURHAM ROAD, BLACKHILL.

PERSONS intending to Emigrate can be Booked in the fastest, safest, and most comfortable Passenger Steamers afloat, to America and all our Colonies.

PRIVATE and AUCTION SALES of Agricultural Stock, Engineers' and Contractors' Plant, Household Furniture, &c., will be conducted with judgment, ability, and care, on reasonable Terms, with prompt payments, by

WILLIAM RAW, AUCTIONEER, BLACKHILL.

Public Notices.

A SPLENDID BRAWN kept at Hare Law. Sows served at 4s. each.—L. STOKER. 755w

A YOUNG Prize-Bred BRAWN kept at Allansford Mill. Terms—Cash, 3s. 825w

GRAND CONCERT.

THE Committee of the Leadgate Cricket Club respectfully inform the public that they intend holding a GRAND CONCERT in the Miners' Hall, Leadgate, on November 1st, 1886. 775w

CONSETT & DISTRICT CRICKET CLUB.

GRAND EVENING

ENTERTAINMENT

(Under distinguished patronage), in

NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT,

BY

ROYAL POLAND STREET HAND BELL-RINGERS,

(FROM LONDON),

ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND, 1886,

In aid of the Funds of the above Club.

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES.

ST. EDMUND'S, EDMONDBYERS.

ON Thursday, October 14th, at 7 p.m. Preacher—Rev. JOHN IRWIN, M.A.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17th,

SERVICES at 10·30 and 6·30. 817w

BURNOPFIELD HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICES.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10TH.

8·30 a.m.—Holy Communion.

10·30 a.m.—Preacher—Rev. J. MATHWIN, Vicar of West Pelton.

3·0 p.m.—Address by VICAR.

6·30 p.m.—Preacher—Rev. J. MATHWIN.

Offertories in aid of the Sunday Schools. 794w

CONSETT AND DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY.

GENERAL MEETING, Monday Evening, October 11th, at 7·30, in the Gibson Street School-room.

The PRACTICE will be RESUMED on Thursday Evening, 14th inst. Elementary at 7·0; advanced, 8·0 o'clock. Subjects for rehearsal—Choruses from the Operas, and Haydn's "Creation."

GENTLEMEN, 2s.
LADIES AND JUNIORS, 1s. } PER QUARTER.

CHAS. STEPHENSON, Conductor.

826w ALEX. RUSSELL, Hon. Secretary.

☞ JOSEPH OLEY,

THE AGRICULTURAL AUCTIONEER AND VALUER,

18, WOOD STREET, SHOTLEY BRIDGE.

GEORGE R. HOBSON,

AUCTIONEER & VALUER.

OFFICES:—

CATCHGATE, *VIA* LINTZ GREEN. 220v

TO PARTIES EMIGRATING.

ASSISTED PASSAGES TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

CHEAP FARES TO AMERICA & CANADA

AND lowest possible fares to QUEENSLAND, NEW SOUTH WALES, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, NEW ZEALAND, CAPE TOWN, NATAL, or any other part of the world.

All Emigrants and Luggage taken to the Railway Station free of charge; and for the most useful and reliable information and assistance, apply at once to A. PHILLIPSON, Auctioneer and Emigration Agent, Dipton. 494w

Public Notices.

KIP HILL WESLEYAN METHODIST SOCIETY.

THE TRUSTEES and MEMBERS of the above Society beg to tender their sincere thanks to the following gentlemen:—James Joicey and Company (Limited), £5; T. Duncombe Eden, Esq., £2; Dr. Benson, £1; and to all who have given so liberally towards the restoration of the above place of worship, and the erection of a Vestry. 835w

WASKERLEY MISSION CHURCH.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING.

SUNDAY, October 17th, Full Choral Evensong, at 2·45; with a Sermon by WALTER T. KING, (late Student of S. Boniface Theological College, Warminster), licensed Missioner for the Parish of Muggleswick.

The Offertory will be devoted to the Restoration Fund of the Parish Church.

"I will satisfy her poor with bread." Ps. cxxxii, 15.

HUGH C. BALDWIN, B.A., Curate. 824w

NEW TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

OPENING OF THE SEASON.

GRAND VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL

CONCERT

ON

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18TH, 1886.

ARTISTES:—

MASTER ROBERT SMITH,

Aged 7 years, Solo Clarionette, of Mr. Rea's Concerts.

MISS NIXON,

Consett, Solo Violin.

MISS LIZZIE SNEATH,

Soprano, Art Gallery Concerts.

MISS HARWOOD,

Contralto, Consett.

MR. T. H. ARMSTRONG,

Tenor, Newcastle Concerts.

MR. FRANK COOKE,

Humorous Vocalist, Sheffield and Newcastle Concerts.

ACCOMPANIST - MR. H. RIDLEY, BLACKHILL.

Plans and Tickets with Mr Dexter, Music Warehouse, Town Hall Buildings; and Mr. Joshua Lax, Shotley Bridge.

Reserved Seats (numbered), 2s.; Second Seats, 1s; Third Seats, 6d.

Concert, 8. Carriages, 10·30. 814w

GEORGE HEDLEY, DECEASED.—Pursuant to an Act of Parliament made and passed in the 22nd and 23rd years of the reign of Her present Majesty, cap. 35, intituled "An Act to further amend the Law of Property and to relieve Trustees," NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having any claims or demands upon or against the estate of GEORGE HEDLEY, late of Burnhopeside, in the County of Durham, coalowner, deceased (who died at 66, Jesmond Road, in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on the 2nd day of July, 1886), and whose Will was proved in the principal Registry of the Probate Division of Her Majesty's High Court of Justice on the 27th day of August, 1886, by William Hedley, Robert Lamb Armstrong, and Mark Archer, the Executors named in the said Will, are hereby required to send in the particulars in writing of such claims and demands on or before the 30th day of October instant, to us the undersigned, the Solicitors of the said Executors. And notice is hereby further given that after that date the said Executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the said Testator amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims and demands of which they shall then have notice. And that the said Executors will not be liable for the assets or any part thereof distributed to any person of whose claims the said Executors shall not then have had notice.

Dated this First day of October, 1886.

PHILIPSON, COOPER, AND GOODGER,

813w 27, Grey Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Sales by Auction.

By Mr. A. Brodie.

Sale of Superior, Well, and Substantially-Built Freehold Dwelling-House in a good situation at Consett.

MR. ADAM BRODIE (Member of the Institute of Estate Agents), is instructed to offer for SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the house of MR. GEO. BROWN, Railway Hotel, Consett, in the latter part of October, a Superior, Well, and Substantially-Built FREEHOLD DWELLING-HOUSE, in a good situation at Consett. Particulars as to date and situation in posters and future advertisements. 842w

Monday, October 18th, 1886.—Victoria Sale-Rooms, Consett.—Sale of Superior Mahogany and other Household Furniture, Solid Brass Bedstead; Brass-Mounted Bedsteads; Beds and Bedding; Carpets and Hearthrugs; Fenders and Fireirons; and Miscellaneous Effects.

MESSRS. A. and R. J. BRODIE are instructed to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, in the Victoria Sale-Rooms, Consett, on Monday, October 18th, 1886, the Superior Mahogany and other FURNITURE, belonging to a gentleman leaving the neighbourhood. Particulars in future advertisements.

WANTED 50 Fully-Paid CONSETT WATER SHARES; 10 CONSETT IRON SHARES. MARRIED PERSONS requiring Assisted Passages to Western Australia. 844w

NORTH WEST DURHAM EMIGRATION AGENCY.

ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett, is the Sole and only Agent in Consett for the following First-class American Lines of Steamers—The White Star, Inman, Guion, Allan, and American Lines of Steamers to New York, Quebec, and Philadelphia; and the Orient and Queensland Royal Mail Steamers for Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and other Australian Ports. He is also the only Authorised Agent for the Queensland Government in North-West Durham, and is specially appointed to Book Assisted Passages at £7, including Ship's Kit, for the rising Colony of Western Australia. The public are informed that as the rates in all cases are fixed by the various Companies themselves, and not by any Agent or Sub-Agent, no person can, consistently with the conditions of his appointment, book passengers for less than the advertised rates. Full particulars and every information relating to the different fields of emigration may be had on application.

NOTE THE ADDRESS:—ADAM BRODIE, Town Hall, Consett. 577w

By Messrs. Nicholson and Murray.

SPECIAL SALE OF TUPS AND WINTERING SHEEP.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

SATURDAY FIRST, OCTOBER 9, 1886.

NICHOLSON & MURRAY will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the Mart, on Saturday First, the undermentioned TUPS, TUP LAMBS, EWES, &c.

Present Entries—

66 Pure Leicester Shearling Tups and Tup Lambs.
A quantity Black-faced Tups and Tup Lambs.
13 Pure Leicester Gimmer Lambs.
10 Leicester Ewes and Gimmers.
151 Cheviot and quarter-bred Ewes.
287 young Black-faced Ewes.
16 Mule Shearling Gimmers.
12 H.B. Shearling Gimmers.
8 H.B. Shropshire Ewes (2nd crop).
250 Mule Lambs.
40 H.B. Lambs (Tops).
2 H.B. Black Shearling Gimmers.
6 H.B. Black Gimmer Lambs.
1 S.H. Bull Stirk.
1 S.H. Heifer Stirk.

The above are all from hard, sound, good Hefts, and the Tups are from the following, among other eminent breeders—Woodlands Hall, Broomshields Hall, The Law, Bradley, Delves House, Butsfield, Town Head, Sunniside, Field Head, Clickemin, Cornsay, Hole Row, &c. The Ewes are from the following—Crook, Ward's Hill, Lea Side, Cow Byre, Newbiggin, Colepike Mill, Stowe House, Satley, Dyke Nook, Edmondbyers, Rookhope, &c., &c.

Sale at Half-past One prompt.

☞ On Monday, October 18th, will be SOLD in conjunction with the weekly Sale, about 200 West Highland KYLOES, from 1 to 3 years old.

☞ On Saturday, October 23rd, a Special Sale of Draught and Harness HORSES and FOALS will be held.

828w NICHOLSON & MURRAY, Auctioneers.

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11th, 1886

15 Fat Cattle.
120 Fat Sheep and Lambs.
2 Veal Calves.
12 Dairy Cows and Heifers (mostly close to Calving.
Geld Cows.
Bull, 14 months old.
Store Cattle, Pigs, Calves.
Geese, Poultry, &c.
50 Sacks of Bran.
1 Bacon Pig.
40 new Swills.
A quantity Stack Nets.
Set Gig Harness.
2 Night Collars.
20 Horse Sheets, &c., &c.

Sale at One o'clock.

833w NICHOLSON & MURRAY, Auctioneers.

SPECIAL SALE OF TUPS AND KEEPING SHEEP, ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9th.

A SPECIAL SALE of TUPS, TUP LAMBS, KEEPING LAMBS, BREEDING EWES, and GIMMERS, &c.

Large Entries expected.

NICHOLSON & MURRAY, Auctioneers.

By Mr. John S. Murray.

Preliminary Announcement.

MR. J. S. MURRAY, honoured with a commission from MR. JOHN STEPHENSON, Todd Hills, who is retiring from Farming, will SELL the whole of his COWS, Young Stock, Pigs, Poultry, Implements, Furniture, &c., about the middle of November next. Particulars in future Advertisements. 832w

By Mr Joseph Oley.

57, Cutlers' Hall Road.

MR. JOSEPH OLEY will SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, at the above place, on Saturday, October 16th, 1886, the whole of the Household FURNITURE, BEDS, &c., belonging to MR. JOHN DODDS, who is emigrating. Particulars in Posters. Sale to commence at One o'clock in the Afternoon.

By Mr. William Raw.

59, Durham Road, Blackhill.

MR. WILLIAM RAW, honoured with instructions from Mr. WILLIAM JACKSON, who, with his wife and family, are about to Emigrate to Australia, will SELL BY AUCTION, at the above address, the whole of his valuable Household FURNITURE, on Monday, October 11th, 1886. Comprising—Mahogany Press; Mahogany Drawers; Mahogany Couch, in Leather; Mahogany Sofa, in Hair-Seating; Long-settle; Centre Table; 2 Kitchen Tables; 6 Kitchen Chairs; 4 Cane-Bottomed Chairs; Rocking Chair; Brass Tudor Bedstead and Mattress; Iron Tudor Bedstead and Mattress; Down Bed; Child's Crib and Bed; Child's Perambulator; Wringing and Mangling Machine; Child's Rocking Chair; Clothes Horse; Small Desk; Swing Looking Glass; Room Oil Cloth, 10 feet by 15 feet; Stair Oil Cloth and Brass Rods; Bake Board; Hearth Rug; Large Bath Tin; Tidy; Loose Bar; Ware; Pans; Glass; 6 Pictures; Ornaments; and numerous other Useful Articles.

Sale to commence at Half-past One o'clock precisely.

Sale Office, Durham Road, Blackhill. 815w

By Mr. J. Vickers.

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

THE annual RAM SALE, supplemented with DRAFT EWES, KEEPING SHEEP and LAMBS, will be held on Saturday First, October 9th, 1886. Present entries comprise—

85 Leicester, Shearling, and Ram Lambs, from Howl John, Sweetmells, Leazes, Greenwell, New Hall, Hedleyhope, Stocksfield Hall, Clickemin, &c.
6 Black-faced Rams and Ram Lambs.
60 Mule and twice-cross young Ewes and Gimmers.
800 Black-faced Ewes, warranted from Harewood Shield, Nookton, Whitelees, Rookhope, Harthope, Kilhope, Burnhope, &c.
80 Black-faced Wethers, 3 years old.
100 Mule and B.F. Keeping Lambs.
Entries to day of Sale.

Sale to commence with Rams at 12·30 prompt; Ewes, &c., to follow. Trucks at Station. 820w

TOW LAW AUCTION MART.

THE USUAL WEEKLY SALE on Monday, October 11th.

Entries forward—

A number of choice Dairy Cows and Heifers.
15 Fat Cattle.
300 Fat Sheep and Lambs.
Entries to day of Sale.

Sale at 12·30. 819w

By Mr. John Crawford.

MR. JOHN CRAWFORD, instructed by Messrs R. WILLEY and T. DUNNE, will SELL BY AUCTION, at Mount Pleasant, Consett, on Monday, October 18th, 1886, their Surplus Stock of CHINA, GLASS, TEA, COFFEE, FIXTURES, and a quantity of FURNITURE.

Particulars next week. 837w

HORSE SALE, OCTOBER 23rd.

SALE OF DRAUGHT AND HARNESS HORSES, COLTS, FILLIES, and FOALS. Further Entries solicited.

NICHOLSON & MURRAY, Auctioneers.

JOHN SWINBURN MURRAY,

AGRICULTURAL VALUER, AND GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT,

ROYAL AUCTION MART, BENFIELDSIDE

JOHN CRAWFORD,

AGRICULTURAL VALUER & FURNITURE AUCTIONEER,

25, VICTORIA STREET, CONSETT.

Business done promptly, and on reasonable terms.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

PEOPLE that are leaving the District can have their FURNITURE TURNED into CASH, at once, by applying to JOHN CRAWFORD, Auctioneer, 25, Victoria Street, Consett. 891u

Business Announcements.

DETECTION

IMPOSSIBLE!

MR. G. RICHARDSON, SURGEON DENTIST, 6, BLACKETT STREET, NEWCASTLE, Inserts ARTIFICIAL TEETH (by a New Painless Process) which for durability, natural appearance, and moderate prices, are unsurpassed by any in the Profession. Consultation Free. Railway Fare Paid for Country Patients.

6—BLACKETT STREET—6 163w

THE CONSETT AND DISTRICT PERMANENT

BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY

TOWN HALL, CONSETT.

☞ SHARES MAY BE TAKEN ANY DAY.

Advances made on Freehold or Copyhold Property repayable as arranged, or for fixed periods.

428u ADAM BRODIE, F.S.A., Secretary.

HIGH CLASS DENTISTRY.

MR. T. C. CAMPBELL

SURGEON DENTIST,

9, GRAINGER STREET,

NEWCASTLE.

☞ ARTIFICIAL TEETH AT REASONABLE PRICES.

COMPLETE UPPER OR LOWER SET

From 30s. to £4 10s.

PARTIAL SETS OR SINGLE TEETH

From 3s. to 10s. per Tooth.

Every Set is adapted to the mouth on the most improved principles, without extraction of Stumps or other painful operation, guaranteed to fit perfectly and warranted.

Teeth painlessly extracted by the aid of Nitrous Oxide Gas.

Operations in Dental Surgery skilfully performed, and all charges strictly moderate.

☞ Country Patients visiting Mr. CAMPBELL'S Establishment in Newcastle will have all the advantages of a most complete Dental Apparatus, and, whenever possible, will be allowed their railway fare.

Business Announcements.

DEAR Harry, return home at once, but be sure and bring one of Mr. ROBERTS' PRICE LISTS OF PATENT MEDICINES. It will save us many a sovereign! Read. 164w

HOW TO GET STRONG AGAIN! BY USING GLENDENNING'S INVALID PORT

36s. per Dozen; 3s. per Bottle. Carriage Paid on 6 Bottles and upwards.

W. GLENDENNING, IMPORTER OF PURE WINES, 2, GRAINGER STREET (between Nun Street and Newgate Street), NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

J. K. L.—We do not usually answer such questions. You had better call upon Mr. ROBERTS, The Newcastle Chemist, who Publishes a most remarkable PRICE LIST of DRUGS & PATENT MEDICINES. Read.

MOST MONEY LENT

On Silver Plate, Watches, Jewellery, Diamonds, and other Precious Stones, Plated Goods, Cutlery, Guns, &c., &c., at

J. & E. WILSON'S,

The Oldest Established and Largest Pawnbroking Business in the North of England. Established 1780.

12, PILGRIM STREET

FOUR DOORS BELOW BLACKETT STREET),

PRIVATE ENTRANCE: FIRST SIX DOORS IN HIGH FRIAR LANE,

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

N.B.—A Large Stock of New and Second-hand WATCHES, Gold & Silver GUARDS, ALBERTS, &c., on Sale at the Lowest Prices.

IN reply to "Celia," we can only repeat that the information required can only be obtained from Mr. ROBERTS, Chemist, 1, New Bridge Street, and 97, Clayton Street, Newcastle. Read.

TO ADVERTISERS.

ALL Orders for Advertisements for insertion in the *Consett Guardian* must be WRITTEN, and sent in not later then NINE o'clock on Friday mornings to ensure publication.

WE use great care to secure the correct printing of advertisements; but we cannot be responsible for inaccuracies nor from any consequences arising therefrom.

PARTIES making inquiries by letter respecting advertisements must enclose an addressed stamped envelope.

IT is contrary to Post-office Regulations for letters to be addressed to initials or fictitious names at any Post-office. Advertisers are desired to bear this in mind.

APPLICANTS for situations and others who reply to advertisements are recommended to forward copies of their testimonials, and not the original documents.

EDITORIAL NOTICES.

Owing to great pressure of news, Consett County Court and other items are left over till our next issue.

The Consett Guardian

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8TH, 1886.

JOTTINGS BY THE WAY.

[BY "INCEDO."]

"A STRANGE THEORY."

A Mr H. Wylie, of Blackhill, contributes a letter to the *Newcastle Journal* of Tuesday last on the subject of "pre-existence." There are two gentlemen in the Blackhill district of the name of Wylie; but as neither of them answers to the name of Hugh or Horatio, I am naturally led to believe that this Mr H. Wylie is a new-comer. Be that as it may, the subject is a curious one; and if it is not altogether new it is at least novel. To be told that one's soul has done duty in other tabernacles of clay is not flattering, for it is by no means a pleasant idea to think that one has neither more nor less than a second-hand soul. To put it briefly, that is what this pre-existence theory implies. Imagination is quite equal to flights of that species and testimony of a more tangible character is likely to be sought for in vain. I have no idea what the personal opinion of this Mr H. Wylie may be regarding the question of pre-existence, for the epistle seems to be of a tentative character. At any rate, the subject is a shade too visionary to become popular, nor is that to be regretted, for there is obviously nothing in it likely to benefit the world. If our spirits have ruled the destinies of other men and women in the days when the world was young, it is a pity that landscapes is the only external objects the observant spirits seems to have taken cognizance of. The writer of the letter referred to seems to hinge no little on the landscape business, to wit—that an individual passing through a district suddenly remembers that he has seen a landscape resembling it in the days of other years. This, then is one of the few arguments adduced to support the pre-existence theory. Personally, I never was visited by any such recollections; and should I chance to be, methinks I would be disposed to exclaim: "Pshaw! prosaic soul, thou must have lived in palmy days indeed, if trees and shrubs form thy only stock of antiquarian treasures." This reminds me of an incident in the life of a well-known local gentleman; and as it bears directly on the point introduced above, it is no breach of confidence to detail it here.

"A REMARKABLE DREAM."

The present writer was once enjoying the luxury of a stroll at eventide with a gentleman known to almost every denizen of the district; and the conversation turning upon the external features of the landscape, my companion became silent for a moment, and then turning to me spoke as follows: "Do you believe in dreams?" "Well, now," I observed, "I am afraid that I cannot *pose* as an authority on that subject. I seldom dream myself; and when I happen to be visited with experiences of that order, I square accounts on the following night by robbing Morpheus of his share of the midnight hours—and this I find to be a never-failing cure." "Well, well," continued my friend, "that may be; but I tell you, sir, that I witnessed the Consett district in a dream fifteen years before I set a foot in it. Everything was as distinct as at noon-day, even to the men at their work; and when I came to the neighbourhood I recognised the living picture in a moment." The reader may smile, but let me tell him or her, that the gentleman who told the tale is no visionary, in the usual acceptation of that term. He is a hard-headed sensible fellow, well enough known to my Consett and Blackhill readers, for not a few of them rub shoulders with him every day.

"THE PAGAN NATIONS AND THE SOUL."

Apropos to the pre-existence theory, is the belief held in many of the pagan nations with respect to the final destiny of the soul. In those benighted regions of the earth the views entertained by the untutored natives, differ somewhat from our theorists of the civilised West. Our dark-skinned brethren believe that the spirits of their dead pass into the bodies of birds and beasts, and their reverence for these uncouth recipients of the nobler part of man is correspondingly great. Mr Robert Brown, author of the "Races of Mankind," and president of the Royal Physical Society, Edinburgh, writes in the first volume of that excellent and voluminous work:—"A woman"—he is speaking of the North-Western American Indians—"once begged of me not to shoot a fine specimen of the great owl (*Bubo Virginia-Nus, Bon.*), because it contained the soul of her grandfather! Of course, says the author, I spared the lady's feelings." It will thus be seen that there is a certain family likeness between the theorist of the closing decades of the 19th century, and the man who only sees God in clouds, and hears Him in the wind.

"PRACTICAL DEDUCTIONS."

Speculations upon the supposed vagaries of the human soul is not calculated to serve any practical purpose. Themes of that class may do well enough with bookworms who live in a little world of their own; but those of us who take an active part in the great business of life, have neither time nor inclination to sit down and reason within ourselves whether we have really been favoured with a brand new soul all to ourselves, or whether Edward I., or the Black Prince, sported the self-same indestructible essence some half-dozen centuries ago. It is much better to argue from what we know, and from the laws we see around us, than to waste our energies in the pursuit of shadows. That the soul is progressive, few men whose opinions are in keeping with the orthodox teachings of to day, entertain a doubt. Instead, however, of looking for the final perfecting of this indestructible substance, by its passage from one frail tenement of clay to another, it would be more prudent to devote one's energies to the guarding of the sacred trust itself, until by-and-bye it may peradventure pass into that blissful region:—

"Where higher suns dispense serener light,
And milder moons emparadise the night."

"THE DOWNFALL OF THE "'MAYOR.'"

It is quite evident that our Joseph is out of his element in the dual character of astronomer and astrologist. Earthquakes is by far too ambitious a subject for the compass of his noddle, so at least thinks Ald. T. P. Barkas. People who know the "Mayor" can afford to smile; but when readers of a first-class newspaper meet with such arrant nonsense in its columns of a morning, they are disposed to do violence to all inanimate objects within their reach. The statements were too ridiculous to be amusing; and the sooner Joseph turns his attention to the clouds the better. The weather is a very safe field to sport in. Should it not rain or snow to-morrow, it will certainly do some day; but when it comes to latitudes and longitudes, the distant echoes are heard to answer: "Alas! poor Joe."

"A CALAMITY AVERTED."

Parents in the neighbourhood of Benfieldside and Blackhill may now breathe freely for the space of another month at least. The school is not to be closed just yet. Mr Carss takes credit to himself that his motion has improved the attendance in the *interim*; but that agency will lose its force by use and won't, and then the cry of wolf must again be raised by some creative brain. The feelings of the people may be worked upon occasionally; but it is the practice of fixed principles that commands success.

Local and District News.

CONSETT.

DEATH OF MR E. O. TREGELLES.—The death is announced, at Woodgreen, Banbury, of Mr Edwin O. Tregelles. Mr Tregelles was once associated with the engineering and iron industry in the Consett district. For years, however, he had retired from business occupation, and devoted himself to religious and philanthropic work, dying at the age of 79.

At the autumn gathering of the members of the Iron and Steel Institute, in London, on Wednesday, Mr W. Jenkins, J.P., Consett, in seconding the nomination of Mr Daniel Adamson as president for the next two years, said that from his experience and knowledge of Mr Adamson for a number of years, he was sure the proposition he was seconding would give universal satisfaction to the members of that institute. (Applause.)

SPORTING.—Last (Thursday) night, a deposit was made with Mr E. Wylam, of the Queen's Head Hotel, Consett, to bind a match between Mr Armstrong's "Minnie," and Mr Forster's "Billy," each animal to carry 13 stone, for £10 aside. Mr Morland will ride "Minnie" and Mr Rawes will jockey "Billy." The event will be run on Carribees racecourse, distance two miles, on Wednesday, October 20th. The final deposit is to be made with Mr Wylam (referee) on the night prior to race. Should the owners of the animals not be agreeable, the match falls through.

EDUCATIONAL CLASSES FOR CONSETT.—Messrs Smart and Company (of Newcastle), announce that they have opened an Academy in the New Town Hall Buildings, Consett, for Tuition in Writing, Book-keeping, Shorthand, Arithmetic, &c. Any ladies or gentlemen who wish to avail themselves of the unique system of teaching writing, as practised by Messrs Smart and Company for upwards of half a century, should apply at once for a prospectus. Success guaranteed in six to eight easy lessons. Book-keeping by Single and Double Entry adapted to every kind of business,—Shorthand (Pitman's Phonography), Arithmetic, &c. Attendance on Tuesdays from 4 to 8·30 p.m.

STRANGE STREET SCENE.—A somewhat unusual scene disturbed the tranquility of Consett on Sunday afternoon. Between two and three o'clock P.C. Newton, while in plain clothes, came across two females, apparently tramps, in a very disorderly state of intoxication in Medomsley Road. He endeavoured to take the women into custody but they resisted so violently that all efforts to escort them to the police station proved futile. A message for assistance was despatched to the police offices, and meanwhile a tremendous crowd assembled. P.C. Lindsay thereafter appeared and Newton succeeded, with some little difficulty in landing his prisoner in "durance vile." The other woman, however, sat down and positively refused to stir; and ultimately the officer (Lindsay) who is a strapping fellow, succeeded in getting her on to his back, and in this manner carried her through the principal thoroughfares, followed by some hundreds of men, women, and children, who appeared highly edified at the spectacle. At length Lindsay became exhausted, and laid his burden down, waiting for the reappearance of P.C. Newton, when the two policemen combined succeeded in conveying the second prisoner to the lock-up, after inconsiderable trouble.

INDEPENDENT UNITED ORDER OF MECHANICS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY, "GEORGE SPARK" LODGE.—On Saturday evening, an entertainment in connection with this lodge was held in the Primitive Methodist School-room, Consett, kindly lent by the trustees. A large company was present, and a most enjoyable evening was spent. The entertainment was presided over by Bro. R. Walton, D.G.M. of the Order, who, in his remarks, said the lodge had been in existence about ten years, and during that time they had only lost one member through death, and had also had a very slight amount of sickness. At the present, there are upwards of 40 members on the books, with a sum of about £200 to their credit in the Newcastle Savings Bank. Mr Thomas Jones, of Consett, ably officiated at the harmonium. Solos and duets were rendered in first-rate style by Misses Smith and Harwood, and Messrs Patterson, Wears, and Davison. Duets were also given on the violin by Messrs Williams and Eltringham in a masterly manner. Readings and recitations were contributed by Messrs Frankland, Surtees, and Smith; also a piece by the Consett Elocution Class was given in good style. Much amusement was also caused by Mr Clennell with his Northumberland pipes, who handles this novel instrument with a masterly hand. Votes of thanks were accorded to the chairman and performers.—At the close, about 200 persons sat down to an excellent ham and coffee supper provided by the lodge committee. The tables were gracefully attended to by Misses Scott, Lough, and Morgan, and Mesdames Patterson and McLean.—The gathering was a thorough success.

BLACKHILL.

CONTRACT SECURED BY A LOCAL FIRM.—Messrs Milburn and Gibson, of Blackhill, have obtained the contract for enclosure walls, railings, gates, &c., for the extension of the Gateshead Cemetery.

Under the auspices of the Primitive Methodist Society, a pie coffee supper was held in the chapel at Blackhill, on Saturday night. Speeches and music were afterwards given.

BENFIELDSIDE STOCK AUCTION MART SALE.—On Monday, Messrs Nicholson and Murray held their usual weekly sale, when they had again forward a very large supply of stock both fat and for wintering purposes, and with a large number of buyers, there was a capital trade, taking into consideration the overstocked state of the fat markets at the present time. 22 fat cattle sold at prices varying from 8s to 17s 5d; 13 cows, £8 7s 6d to £13 10s; 14 grazing cattle, £4 15s to £12 2s 6d; 220 fat sheep and lambs, 18s 6d to 41s 6d; together with a quantity of keeping lambs and breeding ewes, 29s 6d; grey-faced lambs, 14s 6s to 19s; 200 geese, 3s 10d to 4s 6d; also a quantity of poultry, pigs, &c., which made fair prices.

BIBLE STUDENTS' SOCIETY.—Saturday evening was appointed for a continuation of the question of "Peter's primacy." A friend, however, somewhat interested in the subject of "Free Will" suggesting that subject, it was adopted for the night. The Chairman, in a few introductory remarks, pointed out the varying opinions that had been and were still held upon the matter in its relations to God, to responsibility, and to the yet indeterminate relations of cause and effect. In the affirmative, the leader very effectively endeavoured to shew that universal humanity had a thorough faith in the freedom of the will if not tampered with by theological or philosophical creeds or modes of faith. Thus ask any adult, savage or civilised, or any grown boy or girl, heathen or Christian, "Have you a free will? Are or feel you at perfect liberty to commit or not to commit this action?" The immediate answer would be in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred—"I have a free will. I am at such liberty—in fact, my inmost consciousness tells me that I am a perfectly free moral agent." To this it was replied by the leader of the negative, that mere universal uneducated consciousness was no certain criterion of moral or physical truth. Thus, as a preliminary, ask the first uneducated man, woman, or youngster, whom you meet, "Does the earth move?" the reply will instinctively be—certainly not, I move but the earth is still, and ever has been so. Ask again, "Do the stars move round the earth?" the answer will be equally prompt—"Of course they move, and I see them gradually moving from east to west"; and so on to other cases, so that universal uneducated consciousness is no certain basis whereon to erect a philosophy—moral, intellectual, physical, or even theological. The affirmative then pointed out that the conviction of sin, or consciousness of wrongdoing, and the universal feeling of remorse attending thereon, were unquestionable evidences of moral freedom. Without moral freedom there could be no actual sin, and, inferentially, no remorse. A will unfree would logically reduce man to a mere mechanical agent, whence necessarily follows utter non-responsibility and a total eclipse of reward and punishment of heaven and of hell. To this the negative replied that the whole question came not within the domain of sin, of remorse, of responsibility, nor of future reward or punishment; but even if it did, where was the universal consciousness and conviction of sin, where was the universal feeling of remorse outside of a cultured religious faith and civilization? They were nowhere to be found. Ask any traveller, put the question to any experienced and aged Christian missionary—"How much conviction or even mere consciousness of sin, how much remorse have you found in heathendom before you made your converts?" he will quickly reply, "None at all, or at the most a very dim and utterly inoperative glimmering of such elements". The scriptural truth of heathenism still remains; "their habitations are full of cruelty." The true question lay in the domain of cause and effect. Thus, a man commits an action, could he under the same conditions have left that action undone, or done a contrary one? if so, he had freedom; if not, he was a creature of circumstances. Here *cloture* being called, it was determined to continue the question, in the form of cause and effect, next meeting.

LEADGATE.

"VERY BAD BOYS."—The *Newcastle Chronicle* comments as follows:—"The two lads who were fined yesterday at the Lanchester Petty Sessions, and ordered to receive a birching, deserved their punishment. Out of pure wanton mischief they had placed a couple of metal "chairs" on the mineral line of the North-Eastern Railway, near Leadgate—an act which they must have known was likely to be attended by serious results. A mere fine in such a case would not have been enough, as in respect to boys the pecuniary punishment falls rather on the unfortunate parents, who have to find the money, in order to save their young hopefuls from the gaol. The gentle correction administered by the birch will, however, be applied to the culprits themselves, and we are not disposed to be sorry. The offence of meddling mischievously with railway lines is becoming a very common one, and as it cannot be trifled with, it is necessary that lads—and men even—should understand clearly that leniency is not to be expected."

LANCHESTER.

The sale of Mr M. Kearney's horses, cattle, farming stock, implements, &c., at The Ford, Lanchester, took place on Wednesday afternoon, in the presence of a numerous company of buyers and dealers. Mr T. Wetherall (Durham) officiated as auctioneer. The auction was an exceedingly good one; prices ruling favourable.

HOME-COMING OF THE VICAR.—Last Friday night, the village of Lanchester was *en fête*, on the occasion of the return home of the Rev F. W. Glyn (vicar of Lanchester), after his marriage with Miss Starkey, from Devonshire. The rev. gentleman and his bride have been on a honeymoon tour lasting about five weeks. They reached Lanchester by the 6 p.m. train from Durham, and were met at the station by a vast concourse of the villagers, who accorded a hearty welcome to Mr and Mrs Glyn. A large Union Jack was conspiciously displayed from the tower of the ancient parish church, the bells rang out a merry peal on the arrival of the train, and the ringing was briskly kept up until nine p.m.

BLAYDON.

At an adjourned quarter sessions on Wednesday, held at Durham, Mr J. B. Simpson, of Blaydon-on-Tyne, took the oaths, and qualified as a magistrate for the county of Durham.

CORNSAY COLLIERY.

Mr J. Moseley, of Bishop Auckland, addressed a successful temperance meeting in the Methodist New Connexion Chapel at Cornsay Colliery on Wednesday se'nnight—Mr Proud in the chair. Songs and duets were given by Messrs Bluett, Proud, and others.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.

At a meeting of the Durham and Chester-le-Street Highway Board on Monday, it was stated that the townships of Willington, Shadforth, Coxhoe, Chester-le-Street, and Lamesley were in arrears with their payment of rates, and it was decided to take proceedings against the overseers if the rates were not paid within fourteen days.

"THE EARL OF PERTH."—At the Chester-le-Street Police Court, on Wednesday, *James Drummond* (popularly known as "The Earl of Perth," being a descendant of the well-known pitman earl of that ilk), was charged with trespassing on the North-Eastern Railway at Washington.—Supt. Darrell, Newcastle, appeared on behalf of the railway company.—Defendant said that he had used the same road hundreds of times during the last fifteen years, and did not consider that he was doing any harm. He was fined 10s, including costs.

FUNERAL OF MAJOR R. F. GIBSON.—On Monday afternoon, the remains of Major R. F. Gibson were interred in the churchyard adjoining the old Parish Church, Chester-le-Street. A large number of the friends of deceased followed him to his last resting-place. The coffin was carried by six members of the Chester-le-Street Rifle Corps. The pall-bearers were Lieut. T. Gray; J. Crawford, Lumley Park; Mr T. Robson, Lumley Thicks; Major Wilkin, Mr G. E. Steele, and Mr Wm. Morris. The burial service was intoned by Canon Blunt, rector, assisted by Rev H. H. Birley, curate.

A SCOURGE OF DIARRHŒA.—In his monthly report to the Chester-le-Street Rural Sanitary Authority, Dr Renton, Medical Officer, says:—"I find that diarrhœa, always our anticipated scourge at this period of the year, has been the cause of fourteen deaths. The whole of these fourteen deaths have occurred in infancy or early childhood, and I have no doubt that improper feeding has been the initial factor in each instance. It is noticed that amongst the greater number of the working classes very crude notions exist as to the proper nursing of tender years, and what is still more to be deplored, they will not be taught, or they turn a deaf ear to the warning of the doctor. Thus partially from ignorance, or wanton carelessness, the death roll is generally swelled in the autumn months."—The doctor also states that the total number of deaths during the month has been 61, equal to a death-rate of 30 per 1,000 per annum. Of the whole 61, the doctor only returns one as having died of old age.

BLANCHLAND.

AUTUMN FAIR.—This old and important annual fair for the sale of sheep, lambs, &c., was held on Monday on the original and suitable site, which is conveniently situated on the south side of the valley of Blanchland. The weather was very dreary and unfavourable, a raw thick mist obscuring the hill, which occasionally burst into heavy showers of rain, and no refreshment being obtainable on the hill, rendered matters additionally disagreeable to those who attended the fair, many of whom were men of business, who loudly grumbled at the absence of the tent (not one being erected), and which in many former years were placed so numerously on the ground and afforded accommodation which was so much appreciated. Surely, in the future this great drawback will be remedied and the change, which is so much required, wolud doubtless be a very profitable speculation. In spite of all obstacles, however, there was a good attendance at the fair, comprising local dealers, farmers, and others interested in the trade from surrounding counties. Several lots of sheep and lambs of good quality were on offer, and a large amount of business was done amongst them at prices considered to be about 5s or 6s per head advanced upon those of last year. Messrs Lowdon, White Lees; R. Little, Harewoodshield; J. Stephenson, Newbigeen; J. Johnson, Coat House and Lionel Robson, Pedam's Oak, obtained the best prices, their respective lots being much noticed and admired and soon disposed of. Quotations:—Black-faced ewes sold from 16s to 20s each; do., wethers, from 29s to 28s: mule lambs, 14s to 18s; half-bred do., 24s; wether do., 11s to 13s. A lot of draft mule ewes sold at 32s each (belonging to Messrs Makepeace, Hunstanworth). One of the chief buyers was Mr John Walton, Short Thorns, St. John's Chapel. Cattle:—Milk cows only a small show, and few sold at unsatisfactory prices. Shorthorns were well represented, a great number of one and a half and two years old ones being exhibited, for which, however, there was little demand, and very few quitted their owners.

STANHOPE.

MILITARY FUNERAL.—On Thursday se'nnight, the remains of Mr John Wilson, Back Lane, Stanhope, were interred at Stanhope Church with military honours, the deceased being a member of the 2nd Durham Rifle Volunteers. The company attended the funeral and fired three volleys over his grave.

DEATH OF A PRIMITIVE METHODIST LAYMAN.—On Sunday morning, Mr Robert Brown, of the Square, Stanhope, died at his residence, after a lingering illness. Deceased was at one time manager of the Newlandside limestone quarries. He was also a local preacher and class-leader among the Primitive Methodists of the Westgate circuit. He was a native of Allendale.

THE TOWN HALL AGITATION.—A trustee meeting of the trustees of the Town Hall was held at Stanhope on Wednesday evening, when some hard hitting took place. Mr Walton, Stanhope House, has been using his utmost influence to upset the "red-tapeism" which surrounds, and even would monopolise the Town Hall for Church purposes when the Hall was built by the public and belongs to them. The meeting was adjourned a week.

POSTAL ACCOMODATION.—Stanhope is highly favoured now in the matter of postal facilities. There are now three mails in and three out every week day, and one in and out on Sundays. A letter-box is to be placed at the West End, for the convenience of that locality. Letters to outside places, which used to lay for days in the town, have now to be delivered forthwith. Mrs Maddison has been appointed to the post-office, vacated by the death of Mr George Maddison, her son. There were several applications.

FROSTERLEY PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.—Mr John Bainbridge, evangelist and town's missionary, of Stockton and Middlesbrough, preached in the Bridge End Primitive Methodist Chapel, Frosterley, on Sunday evening last, when the place was crowded to hear him. Mr Bainbridge is a native of Frosterly, and is very popular both there and at Stanhope, where he conducted special religious services some time ago with great success. He is leaving Ironopolis for Manchester, and just paid a pop visit to his native village, and the officials secured his services for Sunday evening.

THE MILK QUESTION.—A public meeting was held in the Market Place, Stanhope, on Saturday morning, in respect to the price of milk, when resolutions were carried for the people to do without it until the vendors reduced the price from 1½d to 1d per pint. Some humorous speeches were delivered by the deputations who visited the milk-sellers, in reference to the receptions they got. —One speaker (Mr Joseph Golightly, better known by the cognomon of "Dicky") related his interview with one farmer, who told him he had one "neukled" cow and one to calve at twenty minutes past eleven o'clock on Thursday next, after which he would supply them at 1d per pint. This announcement caused immense merriment among the audience. Whether it was a slip of the amateur spokesman or the amateur farmer it is hard to say. But a strike against milk is now in operation; both parties are stiff, and it is thought that the milk sellers will win, as the others are not thoroughly united and there are not a few "blacklegs" among them.

PELTON FELL.

At Pelton Fell, on Tuesday, an old man named James Stewart, of Chester-le-Street, had his leg broken while engaged on the screens.

FATAL COLLIERY ACCIDENT.—Late on Monday night, a stoneman named Wm. Taylor was severely injured by an explosion of a charge of powder at Pelton Fell Pit whilst carrying on blasting operations. The injured man was at once removed to his home at Prospect Place, Chester-le-Street. His injuries were attended by Dr W. Renton, but the efforts of the medical gentleman proved unavailing, and the injured man succumbed to his injuries at six o'clock on Tuesday morning. Deceased, who was unmarried, lived with his sister.

CORBRIDGE.

POOR RATES IN TOWNSHIP.—The overseers for the township of Corbridge have made a rate for the relief of the poor of 8d in the pound for the current half-year. Although there were arrears from the previous half-year amounting to £60—attributable to the severe winter—up to the close of the last half-year there were no rates paid. The rate for the last half-year was 10d in the pound.

SWALWELL.

BAND OF HOPE.—The Swalwell Temperance Sioux Negro Minstrels gave a concert in connection with the above in the school on Monday night to a crowded audience. The songs, &c., were rendered by Messrs Alf. Renford, Thos. Cook, Jos. Lumley, S. Peel, J. Lawson, J. Errington, James Peel, and J. W. Peel. Mr W. R. Lumley presided at the piano.

TOW LAW.

On Tuesday night, in the National Schools, Tow Law, the goods left unsold at the recent sale of work in the Mechanics' Institute, for the extinction of the church organ debt, were disposed of.

SUDDEN DEATH.—On Tuesday morning the wife of Thomas Garbert, confectioner, High Street, Tow Law, died suddenly. Mrs Garbert, who was an elderly woman, fell down by the table side, and died almost immediately afterwards.

AUCTION MART.—A special sale for keeping sheep and lambs was held here on Saturday last, when there was forward 350 mule and twice cross ewes and gimmers; 320 keeping lambs and 400 black-faced ewes, a few lots of black-faced ewes entered did not arrive owing to their owners being unable to gather them off the moors the previous day on account of the heavy rain and mist. Buyers were numerous and a very satisfactory sale was realized. The pens contained several "crack lots" in the various classes. Mule ewes made from 38s 6d to 44s; mule shearlings 31s to 39s 6d; half-bred gimmers to 41s 6d; black-faced ewes 14s to 23s 3d; mule lambs 14s 6d to 20s 6d; black-faced gimmer lambs to 15s 6d; wether lambs 7s 6d to 11s. On Monday, Oct. 4th, at the usual weekly sale, there there was forward 12 dairy cows and heifers, ; 16 fat cattle; 340 fat sheep and lambs; 25 black-faced keeping ewes and 80 mules and black-faced lambs. Cows realized from £13 10s to £17; fat cattle (light weights) £11 to £14 2s 6d; fat sheep 38s to 44s 6d; fat lambs 18s 6d to 30s; black-faced ewes keepers 16s to 17s 6d; mule lambs 13s to 14s 6d; black-faced gimmer lambs 14s 6d; wether lambs to 9s.

MEDOMSLEY.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY.—The Medomsley friends successfully celebrated their chapel anniversary on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, in their chapel and in the Templars' Hall.—On Saturday afternoon a public tea was held, when a very fair number of members and friends partook of an excellent and well-served tea, under the judicious management of Mesdames E. Robinson, J. Miller, and Armstrong. The tables were very gracefully presided over by the Misses D. Brown, J. A. Teasdale, E. Robinson, P. Henderson, and Jane Dent. After partaking of tea, a public meeting was held, under the presidency of Mr John Humble, of Annfield Plain, who, in his usual humourous and characteristic way introduced a choice and select programme. The opening hymn, No 225, was sung by the company and choir, after which Mr Harker, of Bishop Auckland, engaged in prayer. The Chairman introduced the choir to render their first piece—viz., "There is pardon, peace," &c., which they very satisfactorily executed. Mr James Armstrong, Westwood, gave an address, "An urgent appeal to the hearts and consciences of all people present to give their lives and talents to the service of God." Miss Emily Robinson did good service in her allotted solos.—The Rev J. W. Keyworth the newly-appointed minister to the Shotley Bridge Wesleyan Methodist Circuit, gave a brief but feeling address, which was attentively listened to throughout, and received a meritorious share of the company's approbation. Hymns by the choir—viz, "Stand like the brave," were given with effect. Mr Harker, being introduced, was received with acclamation, and spoke for something like 30 minutes in his old and familiar way. His speeches and singing and evangelical labours are still held in frequent remembrance by hosts of admiring friends, who flock by hundreds to hear him when his services are called for in the neighbourhood. The choir again favoured with another piece, "Heaven is my home," which was well rendered, and received a due share of the company's appreciation.—On Sunday, Mr Harker preached two sermons in the Templar's Hall to large congregations, the Hall being each time filled to overflowing. In the evening, some scores of people could not obtain admission, having to leave, being thoroughly disappointed, the place being excessively filled for an hour before service time.—On Monday evening Mr Harker delivered his new and popular lecture, entitled "Men who have been laughed at" (interspersed with music by Mr Harker and his son), in the Temperance Hall, to a large and admiring company, under the able presidency of Mr T. J. Muse, Castleside. After the lecture, a coffee supper took place, when a large company partook of the large things provided. The Messrs Adamsons rendered good services in making the services successful by their conducting and their musical accompaniments on the harmonium and piano. Good collections at each service were taken, making it, as in former years, an auspicious anniversary celebration.

WEST PELTON.

PENNY READINGS.—The first of a series of penny readings in aid of the reading room, was held in the Iron Room, West Pelton, on Tuesday evening. A most enjoyable programme of songs, readings &c. was rendered by the following gentlemen:—Messrs C. Ritson, J. Mole, A. Yeates, G. Loe, J. Taylor, A. Taylor, W. Lowther (violinist), and J. Jackson. The proceedings were opened out by a selection of music "Joan of Arc," ably rendered by the West Pelton Brass Band. The chair was occupied by Mr J. Humble, of West Pelton House.

WEARDALE.

PRIMITIVE METHODISM.—Last Friday night, a meeting of the members of the Wearhead society was held in the chapel—Mr Joseph Featherstone presiding—when it was announced in connection with the recent bazaar to liquidate the debt of £1,500, that, after deducting expenses, a balance of £168 was in hand.—After hearty votes of thanks to the workers, it was unanimously agreed to renew their effort next Easter.

FUNERAL OF A PROMISING POLITICIAN.—On Friday the remains of Mr John Lowes, son of Mr Byres Lowes, Ireshope Burn, were relegated to their last resting-place in the churchyard of St. John's Chapel. Originally hailing from Upper Teesdale, and possessing a grasping interlect, he early imbibed all the classical works of Radical politicians, theologists, &c., which, added to fine memory and a close, every-day observation, gave his argumentive utterances a cogency and vividness rarely found in rural districts. Like many gems of society, when emerging to manhood, he has fallen a prey to consumption.

WOLSINGHAM.

SUDDEN DEATH OF A LADY.—The death of Mrs Bell, Wolsingham, widow of Mr John Bell, took place on Tuesday morning suddenly. The deceased lady arose about seven a.m. in her usual health, and soon after a noise was heard in her bedroom by one of her children. She called the servant, who was going into the room found her mistress lying on the floor in a fit. Dr Devey was immediately sent for, but his efforts were of no avail, as the deceased never regained consciousness, and died about nine o'clock. Apoplexy is supposed to be the cause of death. She was kind and generous, and of a charitable disposition.

EXCHANGING PULPITS.—Mr N. Hallimond (Wesleyan) preached twice in the Primitive Methodist Chapel Wolsingham (the appointed preacher being unable to attend). It is very gratifying to see such a spirit of unanimity existing amongst the different denominations. This is as it ought to be. If the preacher of the various churches in Christendom were to oftener change pulpits I am convinced that it would tend to remove many obstacles that stand in the way of the more rapid progress of Christianity. There is credit due to the Wolsingham Wesleyan local preachers who ever held themselves in readiness to fill up disappointments that we hear of often occuring at the Primitive Methodist Chapel.—*Correspondent.*

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

SCIENCE AND ART CLASSES.—A meeting in connection with the formation of these classes, was held on Wednesday se'nnight in the Board Schools, Annfield Plain, when a fair number of students enrolled themselves.

TANFIELD.

PARISH CHURCH.—The ancient church at Tanfield has recently been renovated, cleaned, and re-painted, the whole of the joinery work having been executed by Mr John Routledge, Consett; while the painting and cleaning has been done by Mr Siddle, also of Consett. The inner walls of the sacred edifice have been properly cleaned, painted, and finished in a warm, stone colour. The new pannelling has been stained and varnished. The old staining of the seats has been removed, and re-painted to match the panelling, which is in imitation of antique oak. The whole of the old seats, chancel screen, and carved work has been oiled; the vestry and exterior of the church have likewise been re-painted. The marble tablets in the chancel and body of the church have been touched-up and restored, and appear equal to new. The iron gates in the chancel have been coloured black and gold. The work has been performed by Mr Siddle and his assistants in a plain but substantial manner, without any attempt at elaborate and ornate display, harmonises entirely with the architecture of the fabric. The chancel is not to be completed at present; two spaces having been left for commandment and creed tablets, which are in course of preparation by Mr Siddle. These are quite new and are composed of oak. The colouring of the church greatly enhances the beauty of the interior.

SERIOUS STABBING AFFRAY NEAR LANGLEY PARK.

Yesterday (Thursday), at a special Petty Sessions held at Lanchester—before the Rev J. P. De Pledge, J.P.—a labourer named *William Sharp*, belonging to Lanchester, was brought up on a charge of cutting and wounding Patrick Doyle, a "caller," formerly employed at Thorney Pit, near Wheatley Hill, on the 3rd inst.—Prosecutor, who carried his left arm in a sling, deposed that about seven o'clock last Sunday night, being in search of employment, he was proceeding from Witton Gilbert to Berry Edge (Consett). Having had the misfortune to lose one of his legs, he halted and pulled up his trousers by the wayside near Langley Park, to see what was the matter with his wooden crutch, and to adjust the "pad." At this juncture the prisoner appeared, and without the slightest provocation said, "You b——, I'll plunge this into you," at the same time giving him two stabs in the left side of the breast, and one in the left arm when he lifted it to protect himself, with a pocket-knife which he held.—The Magistrate: Was the knife already open?—Prosecutor: Yes. He never put his hand in his pockets for it, so that he had the knife ready for some person if not for myself——Prisoner: It's false.—Prosecutor (continuing) said that he afterwards went along Witton Gilbert Road to Langley Park to see P.C. Readman, but as the officer was not in he visited Dr Mackay, of Esh, who dressed the three wounds. One of the wounds was said to be two inches deep.—The Magistrate: Has the doctor been attending you ever since?—Prosecutor: Yes; I am still under his charge.—On being asked if he had anything to say, prisoner explained that he was coming from Witton Gilbert about seven p.m., and in passing the "slack" near the bridge a man, whom he believed to be the complainant, came towards him, and said: "Have you any money?" He replied that he had none; whereupon the man "collared" him by the neck, and exclaimed, "Deliver your money or I'll shoot you," and called back for some of his mates. He (the prisoner) shouted "blue murder," and drew his knife out. After a struggle he made his escape as best he could. He met a person riding in a conveyance, and asked the gentleman to carry him to Lanchester, but the party refused. He afterwards proceeded round by Witton Gilbert Station to Moralee's farm, when someone directed him on the road.—Prosecutor asserted there was nobody on the road at the time; but shortly after the occurrence, two men came up, struck a light, and saw the blood trickling from the wounds. He expected that Sergeant Nicholson would prove these facts.—The knife was produced by which the prisoner did the deed, and it is alleged that he only purchased it at Consett on the previous (Saturday) evening.—Prisoner was remanded till Thursday next.

THREE FAMOUS PREACHERS.

An American clergyman gives his impressions in the *Congregationalist* of three preachers—Spurgeon, Canon Liddon, and Dr Parker. Mr Spurgeon's earnestness is wonderful. It is enthusiastic triumph. He talks like a man in absolute sympathy with God. He is a mighty leader, moving on with springing step to the greatest triumphs this world shall ever know.

Canon Liddon preached at St. Paul's. The order and silent reverence here were in marked contrast with the confusion and coughing and bustling at Spurgeon's church. The Canon appeared in white gown, which seemed quite in harmony with his pure and beautiful face. He is very handsome, and has a remarkably fine voice, which rings through the great cathedral like the notes of a bugle among the mountains of Killarney. But the echoes borne back from the lofty dome and the deep recesses somewhat disturb the effect.

Dr Parker is a massive man. He makes you think of all the great walls and old castles you have seen. His voice is like the roll of thunder and deep calling unto deep. And just when you wish it was so awfully solemn there comes into it a sweet tone like the warbling of birds in the mountain and the music of a brook in the forest. There is in it a wonderful faculty for materializing a thought. When in his prayer he alluded to his sorrowing world as a "weary little world, a swinging tomb with the wind moaning and sobbing around it," you could hear the wailing and sobbing in the voices. He makes no effort to win sympathy or attention, but stands up in the greatness of his strength and proclaims his thoughts, while the audience—more than half of whom are men—bend forward in rapt attention. He is quite demonstrative, and somewhat explosive, and strikes the Bible with clenched fist or open palm, or with both hands, just as he happens to think it deserves it, or the sentiment justifies it, or the audience needs it. At all events the audience get well shaken up and the Bible well pounded down.

These three great English preachers are representatives of distinct classes and tendencies. Spurgeon has risen up among the people, and, standing in the thick of the conflict of their every-day life, he speaks in tones which fall like dew upon the tender grass. His message finds its own justification with the "hidden man of the heart." He holds up Christ, and rests upon the promise that the Crucified One will draw all men unto Him. Canon Liddon is of that race who have come with stately step down the long corridors of time, passing through the aisles of the great cathedrals, and gathering culture and refining and polishing and poetizing, until religion is almost reduced to music, sentiment, and the silent, breathless beauty of painting and sculpture. Joseph Parker is a concentration of the mighty thoughts of the age, gathering them from all quarters and pouring them back upon the multitude in new forms, fashioned in the white heat of an intensely active mind, and clothed with the beauty of the genius of expression.

A WORD TO THE WISE

Being Warnings and Counsel to Young Men on Marriage, the Cause and Cure of Consumption, Loss of Flesh, Spitting of Blood, Weakness, Local Debility, Loss of Memory, Lassitude, Lowness of Spirits, Languidness, Incapacity for Exertion, Study, or Business, the Mind Irritable and Desponding, Palpitation of the Heart upon the least excitement, want of Vital Energy, Nervous Debility, Dimness of Sight, Premature Decay, and other fatal Diseases, which generally result from unskilful treatment and ignorance of nature's laws, with clear instructions to regain robust health and vigorous manhood. Sent free on receipt of 4 stamps. Address, Messrs. WILKINSON & Co., 8, Baker's Hill, Fitzalan Square, Sheffield, Eng.

1830. ESTABLISHED 1830.

[NOW FIRST PUBLISHED.]

HER HUSBAND'S SECRET.

By CYRIL SEYMOUR.

CHAPTER XIII.—THE CULPRIT.

After a while Mr Griplooker recovers partially from his prostration and begins to look aimlessly around his room—a new apartment which has sprung into being with the extensions rendered necessary on the starting of the *Sentinel*. This is the morning on which he goes down to the office of the organising secretary of the party to receive his weekly cheque, and he wonders whether he will be able to face that gentleman and whether his demand will be met with the usual cheerful alacrity. And the more he reflects the more dubious he grows upon both points. Indeed, all may be over. This very day may see the fate of the *Sentinel* decisively sealed and his sweet day-dreams of the future shattered and trampled ruthlessly in the dust. But, whatever is to befall, he must not sit here in stupor. He must bestir himself and act with decision at once.

The miserable little man has never yet acted with decision in any emergency; and in the calamity which has befallen him he can formulate no clear course of action.

He wanders into the printers' room up to the desk of the grey-headed and garrulous foreman who is just then engaged in handing out to the day hands—that is, the second staff of compositors who work here during the daytime—the manuscript of a leading article from the pen of Mr Hazard. The sight of this gives him an idea, and, instead of discussing the awful affair with Mr Stoneman, he contents himself with addressing an order to that person.

"Stop setting that stuff and send a boy at once to Mr Hazard's lodgings. Say I desire to see him directly on most important business."

A boy is despatched on the errand, and then Mr Griplooker walks back into his room, shuts the door, sits down in a chair by the fire, and gazes gloomily at the white ceiling.

The messenger, as might have been expected, discovers Dick enjoying the sweet slumber which at nine o'clock in the morning is generally the portion of the weary journalist who finds it difficult to tear himself from the trammels of toil until the "sma' wee 'oors." Good Mrs Gubbins, his landlady, knowing that Dick has only had some five hours' sleep, is not easily persuaded to awaken him; but the lad is persistent, and at length she rouses her valued lodger.

An hour passes, and Dick makes his appearance at the door of Mr Griplooker's private room, with a face fully indexing his feelings at this unwonted call.

"You want to see me particularly, Mr Griplooker, I understand?" he grumbles forth interrogatively as he crosses the threshold of the room.

"Yes. Sit down, please."

Mr Griplooker holds in his hand a copy of this week's *Scorpion*. He has never allowed the paper out of his possession since it was placed upon his breakfast table, excepting when as recorded it fell from his nerveless hand to the floor, and he now holds it up in a crumpled and folded form. He intends to bring matters quickly to a crisis, and is boiling with an emotion that shows itself in a fixed eye, flushed cheek, and hoarse tragic voice.

"You see this?" he says, flourishing the *Scorpion*.

"I do."

"It is this week's *Scorpion*."

"Really, is it though?" Dick asks calmly. "I thought you never read the wretched thing?"

"No, I don't; but"—Mr Griplooker is stumbling over flat falsehood, as Dick discerns—"but, I have had my attention specially directed to this issue. See there—page eight. Read it, sir."

Dick takes the paper thrust into his hand, full of amazement and conjecture as to what can have stirred Mr Griplooker into this serious state, and, spreading the *Scorpion* on the table by his side, leans over it and reads the article without word or sign to the very end.

Meanwhile the suppressed wrath of Benjamin Griplooker, Esq., approaches the point of explosion. When Dick is done he looks impassively up into Mr Griplooker's face.

"Well?"

That is all he says.

"Well—well, sir? What do you mean? It is not well. It is ill. Damnation, sir, this is terrible—nothing less than black ruin!"

Dick has not heard Mr Griplooker utter a naughty word before and he is speechless with surprise. At any rate he pretends to be so.

"What have you to say to all this, Mr Hazard?"

"Nothing."

"Great heavens! Nothing, sir, nothing? Is it nothing that the *Sentinel* should be sent to eternal smash, that I should pose before the world as a thief, that I should be robbed of my hard earnings and good name by those whom I am supporting in luxurious idleness?"

"I scarcely comprehend you, Mr Griplooker. When I tell you that I have nothing to say, I mean of course that I am sincerely sorry for what has happened, but——"

"But, but, but! Wherefore these buts?"

"But," proceeds Dick calmly, not heeding the interruption, "as I had no hand whatever in engaging this Mr Foulger—as, indeed, he was selected by you entirely without my knowledge, not to say against my wishes—you can scarcely expect me to hold myself answerable in any way for what has happened."

"Mr Foulger?"

"Yes, Mr Foulger. You don't suppose I've had any hand in this business, do you?"

"I don't know what to think, Mr Hazard," replies Griplooker. "The fact is, this terrible affair has nearly deprived me of my senses; but, for heaven's sake, what are we to do?"

"Kick that fellow Foulger downstairs into the street," suggests Dick. "That should be the first step. It's an awful blow to the *Sentinel*, and I feel it deeply myself."

Then seeing how firmly despair has taken possession of the old man, from whom all passion has fled, he adds consolingly:

"We'll pull through it, however. Nobody will believe that it was done knowingly by those in authority here. And in to-morrow's issue I'll explain, freely and frankly, how we have been duped."

Mr Griplooker touches the bell at his side and a boy appears from the lower regions.

"Call a cab," he says. Then, turning again to Dick he remarks, "I am going home. I am utterly upset and wouldn't walk through the streets to meet the jeering faces of my friends for the world. I dare not trust myself to see the fellow. Will you please order him off the premises at once when he arrives?"

The proprietor of the *Flapfly* is in truth *hors de combat*. He has even to lean on Dick's arm as he walks faltering down the steep stairs, to hide himself and his misery in the old fashioned-four-wheeler that is drawn up at the door.

"Good-morning, I am sorry I suspected you, Mr Hazard. Oh, that scoundrel!" he gasps, peeping out of the window as the vehicle departs.

Dick wafts towards him what is intended for a reassuring smile and then turns into the office to await the arrival of Mr. Foulger.

That gentleman, as has been mentioned, is noted for the precision with which each morning he makes his appearance, and, as it is just upon the stroke of ten, Dick walks directly into the room which he had resigned to the stranger—the snug little panelled apartment in which in the old days of ease he forged the thunderbolts of the *Easterleigh Flapfly*. The pretty photographs have all been removed from the dark wooden walls, and the view of the antique courtyard of the Royal George is intercepted by the firebrick walls of the new establishment which has arisen to meet the needs of the daily paper.

He notices all this for the hundredth time and soon he hears the shuffling step of Mr Foulger upon the stairs.

The assistant leader-writer enters, removes his hat, and is proceeding to exchange his shiny and beer-stained frock coat for a dusty flannel jacket hanging in a corner, when Dick speaks.

"A word with you, Mr Foulger. Don't put your coat off for a moment. Do you ever see this paper? It is the *Swedeshire Scorpion*. Just glance your eye over that article and tell me what you think of it."

Unsuspicious Mr Foulger receives the *Scorpion* with thanks, and seating himself lightly upon the corner of his desk by the window prepares himself for the perusal of the interesting item to which Mr Hazard has so kindly directed his attention. Dick drops down in a chair by his side and fixes his eye steadily upon the countenance of the individual before him.

A strong light is pouring into the room, notwithstanding the presence of the new buildings. Mr Foulger's eyesight is rather weak, and he has to resort to the aid of glasses. These are suspended by a cord around his neck, and his thin shaking hand wanders in search of them.

Mr Foulger's face is not of an inviting type; but this morning the frosty air has imparted to it a shade of colour and he is looking his best. He has found his glasses now and is fixing them on his sharp nose.

Dick's eager eye never moves.

The colour dies suddenly away from Mr Foulger's cheeks, which turn first ashen grey and then leaden hued. A nervous tremour passes over his countenance and the hand which holds up the *Scorpion* is lowered mechanically to the table whereon he deposits the paper.

"You have not read it all," says Dick remorselessly.

Mr Foulger stands silent. He is thoroughly conscious of his guilt.

"The proper thing to do would be to kick you straight downstairs into the street," Dick proceeds icily; "but wrongdoers do not always get their deserts. Take that and go. It is the only money you have honestly come by in Easterleigh, upon which I would advise you to turn your back at once for good."

Mr Foulger picks up the two shining coins which Dick has taken out of his pocket, and, with some thick indistinct observation, turns upon his heel and shuffles downstairs into the street, the very picture of the miserable hound he is.

Dick's good advice is only followed so far. Mr Foulger has withdrawn himself from the office of the *Sentinel*; but he has no immediate intention of quitting Easterleigh. The blow was not altogether an unexpected one. He knew that its arrival was only a matter of time. But he scarcely anticipated that it would have come upon him so suddenly as it has done. There is, however, one consolation. He has taken the precaution to draw that week's salary before coming upstairs as well as another in advance. With this and Dick's gift he is fairly well provided for, and he must not unduly complain, for there are pleasant prospects still in store. So, hey for the Buff Coat and strong drink sufficient to drown his sorrows! And the outcast buttons his collar closely around his neck, wedges his hat upon his head, and disappears down the city to wallow in whiskey for the next few days, and probably after that to beg his way to London and once more become part and parcel of the flotsam and jetsam of Fleet Street and its purlieus.

CHAPTER XIV.—A VISITOR TO HONEYSUCKLE HOUSE.

Dick's task of putting the *Sentinel* right with the public is no easy one. The fact that a great quantity of its editorial matter has been stolen from a variety of newspapers published at a distance, and especially from the *North-Western News*, is undeniable. This he openly acknowledges in his public references to the subject; for it would be madness to do otherwise in view of the proof which is everywhere forthcoming of the gross plagiarism. But, he explains, it was the work not of any member of the regular staff, but of an individual writer in whom confidence had been misplaced, and the subscribers to the *Sentinel* should remember that even editors are not omniscient, that similar frauds have often previously been perpetrated upon the conductors of publications of the most unimpeachable character, and that in such cases the victims deserved sympathy rather than censure, adding that it shows both bad taste and unwise policy on the part of their contemporaries to pursue them so malignantly for a misfortune that in every likelihood might one day be their own unlucky lot.

This was very true, and no doubt would have had due weight with the public; but the *Scorpion* was by no means inclined to let the matter drop. It admitted the force of Hazard's argument—confessing, indeed, that so far as Mr Hazard himself was concerned it had not the slightest imputation to offer—but then it pointed out that the editorial writers of respectable newspapers were generally supposed to be men of some credit, morally at least, and went on to explain that it was impossible, under the circumstances, for anything else to have happened than did happen in the case of a paper which was content to enlist tramps upon its literary staff. Then followed some pungent paragraphs of personal gossip concerning Mr Foulger that we need not here reproduce—all of which struck Benjamin Griplooker, Esq., to the soul, for he expected every moment to find himself entirely dispossessed of the control in a paper he had just begun to reckon amongst his own private and particular assets. But there was no fear of any change being made for the time. The General Election was close at hand, and the leaders of the party were content to let things swing. Afterwards—well, we shall see what we shall see.

And now let us turn awhile to Arthur Hunt.

The exterior of Honeysuckle House bears every evidence of the stern sway of Nature's harsh and inhospitable season. The bitter east wind, coming shrieking from the sea across the level naked country, binding river and road in rigid fetters, is whirling the fast-falling snow in great stinging showers along the hard highway, buffetting, blinding, and mocking in the mirth of its malignant might all who are unfortunately called upon to face its fearful force on this wild winter afternoon. It is one of those days on which, in common talk, it is not fit for a dog to be out-of-doors. Yet, many human beings have unhappily to be abroad in the pursuit of that unceasing daily toil to which the great majority of mankind is doomed from birth.

Arthur Hunt is not one of those upon whom the primeval curse of earning his bread in bitterness and by the sweat of his brow has fallen, and thus, sitting in slippered ease by a red roaring fire in his study, looking out upon the cold white snow and cruel clouds which from so sombre a setting for the black skeleton-like trees waving weirdly in the foreground, he thinks that he could gladly put himself in the place of the panting agricultural labourer now pressing alone along the highway with the wind in his teeth on some mission of his taskmaster, for he, poorly clad and ill-fed as he is, should at least have no secret sucking like fabled vampyre at his soul—that dull bovine red face, meek and mild-eyed, can mask no mystery such as his.

He is conscious, in some indefinable way, of impending disaster, but he knows not when or from what quarter that disaster may come, and the anguish of suspense is more than he can long continue to bear.

At times, when alone, he feels utterly broken down and almost inclined to go straightway to Florence, throw himself at her feet, tell her all, and release her from the cruel position in which unwittingly he has placed her. But in his more sober moments he sees the madness of such a course and knows that it is impossible and that he must suffer on in silence to the last, if he would not pierce her loving heart to the core. The truth—the terrible truth—may come to her at any hour. It is his to avert not to hasten the blow. And might not by some miracle of heaven the past be redressed if not redeemed? He must show an unfailing front to the world and keep even the shadow of his secret from Florence.

But, though Arthur bears himself well—though even his old friend Dick Hazard can detect nothing that may lead him to suspect that there is any change in him but that wrought by his recent illness—his wife is not so easily deceived. A vague dread has come over Florence. Sometimes she fears that her husband's mind is unhinged by what he has suffered, and again that his love for her is slowly weakening. He is no longer the bright happy Arthur of old, who enjoyed her simple society with the zest of the sweet days of his courtship and their honeymoon at Cleycliffe. Now he seems almost to shun her, shutting himself up in his study for hours, and even at night when they are together by the cheerful hearth in the snug little sitting-room looking out upon the white lawn and frost-bound river it is only by an apparent effort that he is enabled to assume even a semblance of the sweet relations which she had once fondly and foolishly hoped would last for ever. There is an air of mystery, too, about him. Once he had sought concealed from her. At the breakfast table, she would open and read aloud his letters whilst he lay lazily back. She would pen his replies at dictation, and it was one of their little household jokes that she was learning shorthand for the purpose of becoming his Parliamentary secretary when he had entered the House—a thing, of course, which he had not the remotest hope or desire of doing. But now a mystery was dividing them. Arthur attended strictly to the contents of the letterbox himself, and though the old correspondence still fell to her share, he had plainly business on hand in regard to which he showed not even the faintest inclination to enlighten her, whilst she, on her own part, guarded herself against betraying the slightest inquisitiveness. Of course, she was possessed by no undue or unworthy suspicion. The epistles he received and answered in the secrecy of his study might be of the most commonplace character, as doubtless they were; but the mystery was there nevertheless, and it weighed heavily upon her mind.

We left Arthur sitting at his study window contemplating the afternoon's storm. The countryman whose condition he has just been envying has passed out of sight and the highway is altogether deserted.

No, not altogether; for presently a dark thin individual, attired in a shabby discoloured frock coat buttoned close against the bitter breeze, comes in sight, struggling painfully against the east wind. A visitor, evidently; for he halts opposite the house and turns down the garden path. Whoever can he be? A beggar probably, though conjecture is needless, for in answer to a ring the maid announces that a gentleman is waiting to see her master in the hall—Mr Foulger by name.

"What on earth can that impudent knave want here?" he thinks to himself. Then he adds aloud:

"Tell him I'm not at home."

But Mr Foulger is not to be mislead by this common device of polite society. The girl returns with another message from him.

"The person"—he is a gentleman no longer in Mary Ann's eyes—"the person, sir, says he must see you; that he won't leave until he does; and that I have to tell my master that the business is about Mr Edward North."

CHAPTER XV.—BLACKMAIL.

"The business is about Mr Edward North."

These concluding words of his visitor's message, uttered though they are as some simple piece of commmonplace by the mildest-voiced and meekest-mannered of maid-servants, burn themselves into Arthur Hunt's brain like red-hot iron. Has grim fate at last come upon him and chosen as her instrument this fellow Foulger, this drunken despicable hound, of all men? It would seem so. But there are limits to human endurance, and he will break ere he will bend before this abject wretch if the worst has come, and let the embodiment of his relentless pursuer beware.

Mary Ann is meanwhile awaiting orders and Mr Foulger is shivering on the doorstep, with access to the interior of Honeysuckle House barred by a chain which affords the unwelcome visitor only a narrow glimpse of the hall. From his aspect she expects her master to rush straight towards the entrance and violently kick the intruder off the ground, a course of procedure in which she would inwardly delight, despite her demure looks. But Arthur does not proceed to extremities. He sinks down passionately into the chair from which he had sprung when the girl came back from Foulger a second time.

"Show the fellow in here, Mary," he observes, "and tell your mistress that I shall be engaged for a few minutes."

"Yes, sir."

Mary returns again directly, followed by Foulger who edges his way into the apartment with an air of evident apprehension as to the manner of his reception; but when he finds Arthur seated quietly in an easy chair by the fire he recovers confidence. He has been drinking heavily since that little interview of his with the Editor of the *Flapfly*. The five pounds which his own strategy and Dick Hazard's generosity then placed in his pocket have been jingled to a merry tune—a tune that by this time has transmuted them into bronze. His sallow face is empurpled, and the white of his black beady eye has become a dull red, whilst the hand which grasps his battered chimney-pot is decidedly unsteady. As a member of the literary staff of the *Swedeshire Daily Sentinel* Mr Foulger had managed to preserve a tolerably tidy appearance. The cast-off clothes handed over to him by Benjamin Griplooker, Esq., had fitted him fairly well, whilst a rough daily attention to his toilet had kept him from becoming absolutely unwholesome. Now, however, he is far from presentable. He has slept in his habiliments for the last few days, and they are tossed and torn and smeared, whilst a greasy face, unkempt hair and collarless throat, around which his coat is closely buttoned, totally rob him of even the faintest claim to respectability in the most ordinary acceptation of the term.

"What the devil do you want here?"

Such is the salute with which Arthur opens fire.

(*To be Continued*).

TOWLE PENNYROYAL AND STEEL PILLS FOR FEMALES quickly correct all irregularities, and relieve the distressing symptoms so prevalent with the sex. Boxes 1s. 1½d., and 2s. 9d., of all Chemists. Sent anywhere for 15 or 34 Stamps by the Lincoln and Midland Counties Drug Co., Lincoln.—BEWARE OF IMITATIONS.

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

FLORILINE!—FOR THE TEETH AND BREATH.—A few drops of the liquid "Floriline" sprinkled on wet tooth-brush produces a pleasant lather, which thoroughly cleanses the teeth from all parasites or impurities, hardens the gums, prevents tartar, stops decay, gives to the teeth a peculiar pearly-whiteness, and a delightful fragrance to the breath. It removes all unpleasant odour arising from decayed teeth or tobacco smoke, "The Fragrant Floriline," being composed in part of Honey and sweet herbs, is delicate to the taste, and the greatest toilet discovery of the age. Price 2s. 6d., of all Chemists and Perfumers. Wholesale depot removed to 33, Farringdon Road, London

VALUABLE DISCOVERY FOR THE HAIR.—If your hair is turning grey or white, or falling off, use "The Mexican Hair Renewer," for it *will positively restore in every case Grey or White hair* to its original colour, without leaving the disagreeable smell of most "Restorers." It makes the hair charmingly beautiful, as well as promoting the growth of the hair on bald spots, where the glands are not decayed. Ask your Chemist for "THE MEXICAN HAIR RENEWER," sold by Chemists and Perfumers everywhere at 3s. 6d. per Bottle. Wholesale depot removed to 33, Farringdon Road London

DR. WILSON writes:—LAMPLOUGH'S PYRETIC SALINE "is far and away the safest and best." It is a gentle aperient, (taken in quantity) an invaluable domestic medicine, a boon to the nursery as children will ask for it, and most efficacious in Headache, Liver Derangements, Sickness, Feverishness, Heartburn, Indigestion, Excitement, Sleeplessness, Blood Poisons, Measles, Smallpox, and all kindred ailments, as abundant medical and other testimony (such as no other saline or salt can show), with each bottle will prove. It allays thirst in a remarkable manner, and is considered to have prevented more disease than any other medicine. Removes the 'ill effects of excessive eating or drinking. Dr. WILLIAMS writes:—"We simply cannot do without it." Dr. TURLEY writes:—"I have had 40 cases of Choleraic Diarrhoea, and required only your admirable preparation for the successful treatment of every one of them." BEWARE OF INJURIOUS IMITATIONS. 436w

MAN'S NOBLEST WORK.—This is an age of great and works wonderful inventions. Steam, electricity, water, air, all are made to serve man, but unquestionably the greatest inventions are those which preserve man's health and prolong his life, and among the greatest of these are Stanton's Cough Pills. There effects are truly wonderful, and hundreds are happy to-day who once looked forward to an early grave. For Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Asthma Loss of Voice, Hay Fever, Hoarseness, Croup, or any Affection whatever of the Throat, Chest, or Lungs, Stanton's Cough Pills will positively cure. 'We can cheerfully recommend them to all, and can unhesitatingly say they are the only sure cure for Throat and Lung Affections. Sold by all Chemists in Boxes at 13½d and 2s. 9d Box sent post free on receipt of 15 or 35 stamps. Wm. Mather, Wholesale Druggist, Manchester

Business Announcements.

TO THE WEARY.

"Throw Physic to the dogs,
I'll none of it."—*Shakespeare*

DO

TRUTH. READ THIS. TRUTH

No Person Need Despair

A SPEEDY RESTORATION TO HEALTH AND STRENGTH,

If he or she will carefully peruse the following, and learn that the great

SELF-RESTORER,

OR

DR. BELL

PATENT VOLTAIC BELT

IS the safest, grandest, and most certain discovery ever known for the cure of all bodily ailments arising from indiscretion and other causes. To those afflicted with Nervousness, Nervous Debility, Loss of Physical Power, Weakness of Body and Mind, &c., this invention presents a means of cure of so unfailing a character that the greatest sufferers from any of the above distressing complaints may, with confidence, rely upon being quickly restored to a sound state of health and strength. In fact, the many marvellous cures performed by the "Self-Restorer" (UNDENIABLE PROOF OF WHICH CAN BE GIVEN) at once places these extraordinary Instruments far beyond anything of the kind hitherto offered to the public. In order to prove that these Belts are all they claim to be, it would be as well to mention the following circumstance:—

"IN the High Court of Justice (Queen's Bench Division) an injunction was granted on January 24th, 1884, restraining several unprincipled persons from selling any colourable imitations of the 'Self-Restorer' Belt, the Jury giving the proprietor a verdict with costs and damage, for such infringement." The belt was also explained, and its Electrical powers fully tested in open Court, both before Mr. Justice Hawkins and the Jury, upon the same occasion.

CAN *any other Manufacturer of Electric Belt produce evidence of* SO SEVERE A TEST. Surely, after such a proof as this, the most sceptical will believe that it really possesses the great restorative powers ascribed to it.

IT may be as well to mention that the action of the "Self-Restorer" is gentle but exceeding effective. The mild, but beneficial current generated by its use, braces the system, and by its benign influence gradually builds up the frame until the mind begins to get brighter, the natural functions become stronger, the elastic spirit of youth once more apparent, and so the progress towards recovery steadily goes on until the patient ultimately realises the fact that he is *once more young*. In cases of weakness, arising from any of the before-mentioned causes, these Belts are at once the most simple and at the same time the most certain remedy ever invented or discovered. They are entirely self-acting, and NO ACIDS being required, can be worn at any time without any wetting process or inconvenience to the patient, the salt contained in the insensible perspiration being sufficient to keep it in action.

THE Cures performed are not of a fleeting character, but permanent, providing the instructions sent with each instrument are carefully adhered to. It speedily removes the most miserable feeling, "lowness of spirits," so often experienced; and, after being worn a short time, enables a man to look at the future in a more hopeful light, as the certainty of a rapid cure relieve the mind of a great burthen.

HOW many persons who, by living too generously, have become prematurely old, and consequently have these wretched, morbid feelings? They have an idea that nature is decaying, and the pleasures of life have departed. In nine cases out of ten this is far from being the fact. Nature has not decayed: it is simply lying dormant, and needs but a little assistance to once more assert its presence. "The creaking gate requires oil, or it will continue to creak." So it is with the human frame. Assist it where weak, put it in a position to recover itself, and you will find that after all life has its pleasures, and you the restored inclination to partake of them.

THE beneficial action of these truly life-giving Belts upon the human frame has been proved so conclusively, by thousands of unsolicited testimonials, that no shadow of doubt remains as to their extraordinary efficacy. They can be worn by either sex with the greatest ease and comfort, without fear of discovery, and by a delicate arrangement can be adjusted to act directly upon the weakened parts, so that immediately upon contact with the body an electric current is at once produced of a mild, but withal of so efficacious a character, that an almost instantaneous improvement becomes noticeable. The heavy hanging feeling wears off, the eye becomes brighter, the brain clearer, until at last the patient feels in his own mind that he is once more in the possession of the greatest blessing upon earth, viz, HEALTH, STRENGTH, ENERGY, and MANLY VIGOUR.

IN cases of Gout, Rheumatism, Paralysis, &c., there is no cure in the world to be compared to these Belts. Nature requires assistance in all these complaints, and that assistance to be thoroughly effective, must be obtained from Nature herself—thus, by calling into operation Electricity, a natural ally, congenial to all constitutions, is obtained, and the result is, in almost every case, permanent cures are effected. Again in case of Consumption, these belts have been the SOLE MEANS of restoring thousands of both sexes to a healthy and vigorous existence when that fell disease "Consumption" had in the opinion of many eminent medical men, marked them as its victims. These are facts which can be proved to be absolutely true.

TO persons desirous of further information, instructions will be given away, in 130 pp. pamphlet, showing sufferers how they may be restored to Health, Strength, and Manly Vigour, without the *Aid of Medicine*, or will be sent, post free, together with all particulars as to regimen, diet, &c. Address—W. WRIGHT, Esq., Secretary, Volta House, 175, Wardour Street, Oxford Street, London W.

THOUSANDS OF TESTIMONIALS MAY BE SEEN AT THE ESTABLISHMENT.

The Prices of Dr. BELL'S MEDICO-MAGNETIC or VOLTA BELTS are

£2 2s., £3 3s., AND £5 5s EACH,

According to Power.

The instrument can be sent to any part of the known world, through the Post, securely packed, upon receipt of remittance. P.O.O made payable to Mr W. Wright, at the Charing Cross Post Office London.

Measurement round the body, just below the hips, must in all cases be sent.

Note the Address:—

VOLTA HOUSE,
175, WARDOUR STREET, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Having been asked upon many occasions how it is that our Belts are higher priced than those now being advertised by new firms (with whom we have no connection whatever) we beg to call attention to following:

This Appliance is POSITIVELY WHAT IT PROFESSES TO BE—an "ELECTRIC BELT," which may be proved before purchasing by the Galvanometer, &c. It was explained and fully tested before Mr Justice Hawkins and a Jury in the Court of Queen's Bench, January the 24th, 1884. Moreover, it ENTIRELY DIFFERS from anything of the kind advertised.

A perusal of which will at once show the most dubious that our Belts are without doubt, infinitely superior to anything of a like character extant, and are as beneficial to exhausted nature as represented.

They having stood the test for 30 years, as still further guarantee of their genuineness 708v

LADIES' COLUMN.

Sir Charles Warren's latest edict will bring many householders still away from London, back to their homes at very short notice. Up to the present time the police have been permitted to keep the keys of houses the owners of which are from home, and to pay occasional domiciliary visits to see that all is right within. Sir Charles Warren has decided to put an end to this system, and the keys are to be returned to their respective owners on the 1st of October with explanatory letters. There are hardships on both sides of the case. It is no part of police duty to keep keys and go into houses, however much individual householders may desire they should do so. On the other hand the police rating of the metropolis is enormous and even this heavy tax does not ensure our houses against the entrance of the enterprising burglar. By making the police of each district personally responsible for certain houses there are greater chances of safety. Presumably, also, the housebreaker has correct knowledge of the houses which are, and which are not, under police protection, and, therefore, avoids the wrong ones. Some system is certainly required by which householders can be relieved from anxiety in their absences, and if some clever person will only invent it we shall be grateful. Servants, even the best of them, are delusions, and little to be relied upon if left to their own devices; under the very best conditions there sets in a reign of demoralisation after these seasons of suspended animation, when there is no drawing-room bell to answer, and the area gate is open for reception of visitors from morning till midnight.

The dull season has been enlivened by many discussions in the newspaper columns, not all characterised by common-sense, and a very few by much modesty or self-distrust on the part of the writers. Ladies are particularly concerned in the dustbin controversy. The most vigilant housekeeper finds her sanitary rules as to the dustbin sometimes defied, but always as a rule evaded. It is all very well to make a kitchen regulation that all vegetable refuse is to be burned not thrown out with the ashes, but how is this to be enforced? There come, even from the best regulated dustbins malodours that tell tales of what is concealed within, no matter how short be the intervals between the dustman's calls. The residents in flats who have a shoot from the kitchen down which the dust is sent have their special grievances from the absence of the dustbin. Cases of mortality among the glass and china are put out of sight at once, on the principle that dead men tell no tales, and no fragments remain to betray the secret of the tragedy. It is proposed that in Kensington, and other large parishes, the dust-box principle shall be tried. The Vestry provides the receptacles which every night are set outside the houses with the day's dust, and emptied by passing carts early in the morning. Thus there are not, and cannot be, any accumulations of decaying vegetable or other matter in the rear of dwelling houses.

The autumn season is generally fruitful in announcements of new material for ladies' dresses. The most remarkable of the novelties heralded in print this year is a new textile, berandine, made from peat fibre, and woven with wool. Until specimens come to hand it would be rash to comment upon M. Berand's new invention. It sounds very like an ingenious mode of adulterating woollen textile, or, at best, a new kind of shoddy. But all inventors or discoverers who have had any experience in utilising peat shake their heads when trumpet blasts proclaim that there are thousands and tens of thousands of pounds concealed in peat. Capitalist after capitalist has sunk money in bogs and never recovered it. The term peat has a wide signification, for there is peat and peat. Scotch peat, Irish peat, German peat, and English peat have certain features in common, but differ widely in many respects. Some are more fibrous than others, some have greater mixture of earth than others. Some seem almost antediluvian, others to be growths of the other day. German peat, from which we may conclude the new textile is made, is largely imported to England for horse litter. Irish peat in some districts answers the same purpose, in others is quite useless from being the surface of the wet bogs which cover thousands of acres in the west and north-west of Ireland. Peat has been compressed in Ireland, the damp expelled, and the fibre retained, turned out in blocks for fuel. But since coal fell in price it has been found that peat fuel did not pay the cost of its manufacture, and it was of no use for locomotives. The peasants cut the turf into blocks and dry it in its natural state for fuel. But from the turf in some places a very useful wax is extracted, which makes candles of the character of sperm. A curious drawback attended the first peat wax candle burning. The flame discharged little globules almost imperceptible in size; to the eye it looked as if the wick burned, and spit out air bubbles merely. These globules lighted on every thing within half a dozen yards of the flame, and left spots of wax on clothes, pictures, books, &c. Aniline dyes can be extracted from some kinds of peat, but the same things can be had at less cost from other substances. Vegetable wax makes an economical candle, but it cannot be used for drawing-rooms where candles are left for a few days in ornamental candlesticks, as the light attracts, and the candle turns itself over and takes a curve in the direction of the window. How many ladies there are who could tell how they were driven nearly frantic on opening the door of a drawing-room which had been shut up for a few days, but was fondly supposed to require only an easy dusting to be ready for company, to find all the candles bowed, describing half circles, more or less imperfect, but every one so crooked as to be useless for any occasion. The worst of this attraction by the light of the vegetable wax candle is that nothing will put the thing straight again. By judicious cutting up certain parts may be turned to account, but as a whole the candle is quite useless.

The last horticultural shows of the season are being held this week. After the 1st of October no society with a reputation for common-sense would venture to fix a day for a show and expect the weather to be propitious. Flowers have their reigns of fashion for being cultivated, just as they have their days of popularity in milliners' show-rooms. It seems to be only yesterday when the forgotten old single dahlia was brought up again, and became the darling of the garden. Under new and improved systems of culture the single dahlia grew and improved exceedingly, and there was a softness and delicacy about the old friends with their new faces which highly recommended them. No one could put one of the big obtrusive, quilled, double dahlias into a specimen glass on a dinner-table, or in some slight flower vase of Whitefriars or Venetian glass upon a drawing-room table. The big dahlia had to be massed and grouped, and accompanied, to be useful, whilst the little single one lent itself to decoration of every kind. This year fashion has fallen in love with pompon dahlias, which bear the same relation to the large double varieties that pompon chrysanthemums do to the greater flowers; are, in fact, the minors of the major specimens. The pompon dahlias require to have their stems wired if they are used in quantities, as the stalks have not sufficient resistance to keep them erect in a trophy. Like china-asters, the little dahlias look well with every variety of colour introduced into the same bouquet. Some of the aster beds, arranged unconventionally, are beautiful, broad masses of multi-coloured flowers. Ornamental foliage plants are so valuable for drawing-room and dinner-table use that at this season the conservatories are mainly very attractive. The crotons with the large leaves only suit large surroundings; the smaller varieties, known colloquially as the sunset crotons, with narrow tapering leaves, in which every rich autumn tint is represented, are particularly beautiful. The greatest admirer of mother nature cannot assert that she is always quite happy in her colour arrangements. This is a downright heresy to utter, but the present is preeminently an age of freethought. Whatever other mistakes nature made in arranging her palette, she triumphed when she turned out the croton plants, especially those small leaves with crimsons, browns, greens of every depth of tone, and golden yellows that brighten the whole.

Business Announcements.

GORDON'S EXTRACT

Is as much a Curative for Dyspepsia (Indigestion), Liver Complaint, and Kidney Diseases, as Bread for Hunger, or Water for Thirst.

Cures Coated Tongue, Dizzy Head, Bilious Vomit, Stomach Miseries, Agonies after Food, Accidental Indigestion, Chronic Dyspepsia, and a Hundred other Disagreeable and Painful Symptoms. "Gordon's Extract," Two Shillings, at all Chemists.

"GORDON'S EXTRACT" saved her children from being motherless as well as fatherless.

November 29, 1885.

DEAR SIR,—I write to thank you for the two bottles of "Gordon's Extract" you so kindly gave me, and I am happy to say I am much better. I was suffering from a dreadful form of indigestion. I could not drink a drop of tea or coffee for months, if I did I suffered dreadful with the wind. At times I have been almost choked, continually belching up wind until my throat swelled so much I have had to struggle for my breath. Then I was seized with a dreadful trembling in my inside and all my limbs, with an awful sensation as though I was going out of my mind, and kept bursting into tears. I felt afraid to be left alone. No one but the Lord and myself knows what I have suffered; I also got very irritable. I am happy to say the above symptoms I have described have nearly all disappeared, and I have only taken one bottle and half the second bottle, and I do hope by the time I have finished taking that I shall be quite well, but if I had the means, I should always keep some by me, for this is the second attack I have had, and the second time your valuable medicine, "Gordon's Extract," has saved my life. I can now take a cup of tea and enjoy it without feeling any pain. I have given all your books away, and have and shall continue to recommend it to every one I know. You are quite welcome to make what use you like of this letter, or anyone can come and see me or write to me, and I will tell them that your "Gordon's Extract" has twice saved my life, and my poor children from being left motherless as well as fatherless.

Yours truly grateful,

MRS. PHILLIS HUMPHREYS,

3, Briggs Row, Lower Richmond Road, Putney.

GORDON'S EXTRACT.

A SONG.

When the summer sun was shining
In the lovely azure sky,
And the flowers were blooming brightly,
Then they took me home to die.

Thinking ere the flowers were faded,
Or the summer on the wane,
Quiet and for ever silent
I should be released from pain.

Little knowing "Gordon's Extract"
Would renew my life once more,
And the boy they loved and cherished,
Should be merry as of yore.

Thanking God for every mercy,
And the heaven-sent cure renowned,
Which restored [illegible] life [illegible],
Making me [illegible] strong and sound.

GORDON'S EXTRACT.

What a Ladies' Fashion Journal, of large circulation, says:—

"'Gordon's Extract' has been highly commended to me by a friend who appears to have derived great benefit from it, and who, having arrived at the last hour of despair of ever curing a long course of sick headache, took the 'Extract' without any faith in its efficacy at first. This opinion, however, was speedily changed, as a gradual but steady return to health testified to the genuine good done by a regular course of the medicine. At present my friend cannot speak too highly of the excellence of 'Gordon's Extract' in curing sick headache and biliousness. It also appears to be beneficial for many of the complaints to which flesh is heir, but which are not so serious as to need the doctor's aid. The 'Extract' is sold by all chemists at 2s. per bottle, and is by no means disagreeable to the taste."—*Myra's Journal* (*The Silkworm*), August, 1885.

GORDON'S EXTRACT.

A CASE.

They said that he was dying.
I watched him day and night.
I fancied every moment
The spirit would take flight.

His life was hanging merely
Upon the faintest breath,
Physicians told me sadly
It was the approach of death.

But a dear friend I cherish
A medicine famed did bring;
He soon began to flourish,
To bloom as flowers in spring.

'Twas "Gordon's splendid Extract,"
Which I now gladly bless,
Restoring life and health to him,
To me true happiness.

GORDON'S EXTRACT.

LUMPS AS LARGE AS A MUSSEL-SHELL.

34, King George Street, Greenwich, S.E.
November 11th, 1885.

DEAR SIRS,—May I be allowed to add humble testimony in praise of your valuable "Extract," which by God's blessing did me more good than all the medicine I got from two hospitals and three other doctors. I was suffering from extreme weakness, which brought on skin eruption, and on some parts of my body rose up in lumps as large as a great mussel-shell, that I could not bear myself for irritation. After suffering some months I read of a man who had suffered from a similar complaint. I had not taken half of one bottle before I found great relief. Before I had the "Extract" I was constantly rubbing myself with ointment, but since taking it have not wanted to use it. I have since bought and taken two bottles, and am happy to say I am so far well to be able to work.—I am, dear sirs, Yours respectfully,

CHAS. PARKER.

SOMETHING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

DRESS AND DIGNITY.

In the Eastern story given below we are taught the lesson of how foolish it is to judge of a person's worth by the richness or poverty of his dress.

It is said that on one occasion Cogia Effendi, the Persian sage, dressed as a beggar and entered a house where a gay feast was being held. He was pushed hither and thither, hustled by one and another, and noticed kindly by no one. So Cogia withdrew, and repaired to his home. He then arrayed himself in his most splendid style, with jewelled shoes on his feet, a robe of cloth of gold on his back, and a turban glittering with a diamond aigrette on his head. Then, hanging at his side his sabre, in the hilt of which flashed some valuable jewels, he made for the feast. His entrance was at once the signal for attention on all sides. The guests, who before had rudely pushed him aside, now made way for him passing to and fro. The host came hastily towards him, with the words, "Welcome, my Lord Effendi, thrice welcome; what will your lordship please to take?" In reply, Cogia quaintly, but expressively, stretched out his foot, so that the jewel on his shoe sparkled, and then taking his golden robe in one hand and holding it away from him said, with bitter irony, "Welcome, my lord coat, welcome most excellent robe; what will your lordship please to take? For," said he, turning to his perplexed host, "I ought to ask my coat what it will take, seeing that my welcome was due solely to it."

RHYMES FOR BORROWERS.

Schoolboys often express their claim to the ownership of a book by writing on one of the blank pages a few lines of rhyme such as

"Steal not this book, my honest friend,
For fear the gallows'll be your end."

The absurdity of asking an "honest friend" not to steal does not seem to occur to the youthful mind. Another couplet, in much favour with small boys of a warlike disposition, is

"This book is one thing. My fist is another.
Don't meddle with one for fear of the other."

The custom, however, is kept up by many who have long left their boyhood behind and become sober men of the world. A verse which is often used by grown up persons is

"If thou art borrowed by a friend,
Right welcome shall he be,
To read, to study, not to lend,
But to return to me."

A well-known literary gentleman has this written in his books:

"Any one may borrow, but a gentleman returns."

These severe lines were used by a gentleman, who had been greatly annoyed by the loss of many books through the carelessness of borrowers:

"Stern power of Justice, lift thy wand,
In spite of Mercy's look;
Strike him who, with presumptuous hand,
Purloins this valued book."

Mr. Aaron Putnam, who lived in Medford, Massachusetts, about a century ago, used these lines:

"The wicked borrow, but do not return again. See that thou art not of that number."

A LONG LOST DIAMOND.

When Constantinople was captured by the Turks, in 1453, and the Sultan, Mohammed II., reigned in the city, it wore an appearance of extreme desolation. The walls which, during the siege, had been undermined and thrown down, had not been rebuilt; and many public buildings and private houses lay in ruins. Among these a great palace, close to the city walls, where in former times the Christian emperors had resided, now stood dismantled and forsaken. In this ancient palace, of which nothing remained standing but the high walls, a poor Turk had built himself a wooden hut. Although the Turk and his wife were very poor, they had one great treasure—a bright, handsome little boy, whom they loved dearly. Ibrahim—for such was his name—was a happy little fellow, and like many another child, whose parents cannot afford to buy playthings for it, he found as much enjoyment in playing with flowers and stones and bits of wood as if they were toys of the costliest value. One day, when he was about four years old, Ibrahim was playing in the courtyard of the old palace with a worn-out leaden spoon which a neighbour had given him. He was digging the foundations of an imaginary little house when he suddenly dug up a beautiful stone that sparkled when the sun fell upon it as though there were a light inside it shining through. Ibrahim picked it up and carried it to his mother. She thought it a very pretty stone, but she was quite ignorant of its real value. All that day, and for many days after, the little boy would play with nothing but the sparkling, shining stone. One day that Ibrahim was holding it up to the sun, a Hebrew who lived near by, happened to see it. He understood a great deal about precious stones, for he was the keeper of the Sultan's treasury. When he saw the stone in the child's hand, he was very much astonished, and said:—

"How did this fine diamond get here from the East Indies? It is worth more than a street of houses, or all the merchandise of the city."

"We did not get it from India," answered Ibrahim's mother; "our little boy found it, in the courtyard below."

The Hebrew swung up from his seat, and laid upon it a purse full of gold, and all the rings he wore on his fingers, and said:—

"See, I will leave all this as a pledge, if you will let me take the stone to show to the Sultan."

Little Ibrahim cried bitterly at losing it, but his parents comforted him, telling him he should have lots of pretty things in its place. The Hebrew carried the stone to the Sultan, Mohammed II., who had no diamond to compare with it in all his treasury. Now, when the Sultan captured Constantinople, the soldiers and inhabitants were told that all the treasures of the city, even those in the churches, belonged to the Sultan. But upon the entreaty of the kind-hearted Hebrew, Mohammed agreed to give Ibrahim's parents a bagful of silver coins, worth about five hundred pounds of our money. The diamond was worth a great deal more, for it is still the largest stone in the Turkish regalia, but the poor Turk and his wife were quite content with what they received. For at that time they were able to buy a good house, and a field, and a garden with the money, besides good clothes and all sorts of nice things for their little boy. And they brought him up well, and gave him a good education, so that, later on, he became a person of importance in his city, and at last the keeper of the Sultan's treasury.

Nine hundred years before these had reigned in Constantinople a very rich and powerful Christian Emperor, named Justinian, and the diamond had belonged to him, and had formed the finest gem in his diadem. But once, on the feast of St. John, when the Emperor went in a procession from his palace to the Church of St. John, the diamond fell out and was lost. For a whole month men were employed searching every foot of the way the Emperor had passed, stones were taken up and the ground dug up a foot deep, but no trace of the missing diamond was ever discovered.

And nine hundred years after, a little four-year-old was digging in the ground with a leaden spoon, and found it.

NUTS TO CRACK.

1.—Eight letters. My 1, 2, 8 is seen in all houses; my 1, 5, 6 is to spoil or deface; my 4, 2, 7, 8 is a kind of food; my 3, 2, 4 is torn; my 8, 7, 2 is a beverage; my 6, 5, 8 is an animal; my *whole* is a name.

2.—My *first* is a fluid; my *second*, a girl; and my *whole*, a gift.

3.—My *first* is a vessel; my *second*, a lover; and my *whole* a petty officer.

4.—COMMON SAYING.—Aaa, d, f, gg, h, l, n, o, r, s, u, w.

4.—Gaily was the sunshine
Smiling on the lawn;
Sweetly was my *second*
Opening unto the dawn,
To my *first* e'er looking,
My *whole* in beauty grew;
Its glory sparkling radiant,
Its actions ever true.
Oh! copy my devotion;
All hearts who love profess,
As faithful be your glances,
With love to smile and bless
And from young hearts sweet opening,
If love and truth combined,
They'll bear you through life's changes,
And cheer its calm decline.

5.—*First*, a dreary waste; transpose me, and I become an enclosed place.

6.—*First* I cry "Halt!" transpose me, and I become [illegible]

[illegible]

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1. Onion. 2. Hand-cuff. 3. Portrush. [illegible]

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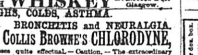
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CONSETT LOCAL BOARD.

The monthly meeting of the Consett Local Board was held on Wednesday evening—Mr Thos. Siddell presiding. The following gentlemen were present: Messrs W. R. Taylor, G. Ainsworth, W. Aynsley, J. Palliser, J. Collinson, J. W. Davison, the Clerk (Mr T. W. Welford), and the Surveyor (Mr W. Rippon). Dr G. Renton, Medical Officer, was also in attendance.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

The medical officer (Dr Geo. Renton) submitted the following quarterly report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Consett Urban Sanitary Authority

GENTLEMEN,—In accordance with a notification from the Local Government Board, requesting that I should furnish you with a report upon the epidemic of scarlet fever, which has existed within your district for the last twelve months, I have to say that the disease made its appearance in the month of October, 1885, continued during November in a mild form, which during December assumed a malignant character. Thirty-five cases occurred during the quarter, seven of which proved fatal. With the closing of the schools for the Christmas holidays such a marked diminution in the number of cases occurred that at the end of the year only four cases remained under treatment. During the remainder of the holidays, no new case arose; but within a fortnight of the re-assembling of the schools, cases began to crop up, gradually increased in number and severity as the quarter advanced, so that by the end of March 55 cases had arisen, and eight deaths had resulted.

The short vacation at Easter afforded another brief respite, but when the schools got fairly under way again, the disease re-asserted itself with increased force and virulence. By the middle of June, 90 cases had been noted since the end of March, from which 20 deaths had arisen. By the end of June, the disease had so far subsided that it seemed to have exhausted itself. However, before the end of July, fresh cases began to be observed, and the disease has continued with considerable severity until the end of the quarter, which closed on Sept. 30th, when 49 new cases had come under treatment, with a fatal result in eight of them. Thus since October, 1885, 229 cases have occurred, and 35 deaths.

The origin of the disease has never been clearly obtained. The causes which have led to such a long continuance of the epidemic may be cited as follows, viz:—1st—Promiscuous visiting at infected houses; 2nd, congregations of people in houses where deaths have occurred; 3rd, attending funerals of persons who have died from the disease; 4th, imperfect means of isolation of cases; 5th, inattention to orders of medical attendant; 6th, want of proper means for disinfection; 7th, attending day schools and Sunday-schools before free from infection.

To take these various causes seriatim. 1st—I have observed that neighbours and friends with families, from motives of kindness no doubt, are in the habit of visiting the sick, and so carrying the disease to their own homes. 2nd—Where deaths have occurred it is customary for the friends to assemble in considerable numbers from motives of respect, &c. 3rd—I have observed large numbers of children, with their teachers, following to the grave children who have died from the disease. 4th—The means for isolation of cases are most imperfect and where possible, are not efficiently carried out. It is true that a hospital for the isolation of infectious cases has been opened within the last three months, but only one case from your district has been admitted. I find it almost impossible to induce parents to permit the removal of their children to it. 5th—The medical attendant's orders are constantly disobeyed, and children in a state of infection are allowed to mingle with their fellows. 6th—There are no means for disinfection excepting by disinfecting powders and fumigating by sulphurous acid fumes. These have been freely adopted, but must always prove inadequate. 7th—I do not wish to impute improper motives to anyone, but it is a fact that under pressure, in view of impending examinations, children from infected houses, and others in a state of infection, have in numerous instances been sent to school.

As the best means to cut short the epidemic I suggested the closing of the schools, but at a conference with the Local Board, school managers, teachers, &c., that suggestion was rejected, and it was considered sufficient that a daily list of infected houses should be issued to the school managers, and that no child should be allowed to attend school unless furnished with a certificate from a medical man that it was free from infection. Notwithstanding this precaution the disease has continued, and is prevalent in a fatal form.—I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

GEO. RENTON, M.D.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Consett, October 5th, 1886.

THE SCARLET FEVER EPIDEMIC.

The Medical Officer stated that in his last report he had mentioned that it was his opinion that the scarlet fever epidemic had almost died out. This appeared to be the case until the schools, which had been closed for a short time, were again re-opened, when several cases began to crop up. He knew of several cases which had occurred during the last month or six weeks. He was perfectly well aware of one or two cases where the children had been sent to school from houses where one of the inmates had been stricken with the epidemic, without having first obtained a certificate empowering them to attend. He also wished to draw the attention of the Board to the fact that in cases where children from the different schools had died of the fever, their schoolmates, to the number of 30 or 40, were sometimes allowed to attend the funeral. He could speak to having seen at least two such funerals attended by school children. Now it was impossible that these children could be absent from school to attend these funerals without their masters or teachers being aware of the fact, and he considered that the masters and teachers were greatly to blame. He then pointed out at some length where the great danger lay in attending these funerals. It was his opinion that the only way to effectually stop the fever was to close the schools for a time.

Mr PALLISER wished to know if the Board could do anything to prevent children from attending these funerals? He also desired to know if the Board had power to order the schools to be closed.

The CHAIRMAN: I cannot see how we can stop the children from attending the funerals; but in answer to your second question I can say that the Board most certainly has power to close the schools.

The Medical Officer suggested that a small handbill, or some such notice, should be drawn up prohibiting the children from attending these funerals.

It was unanimously agreed to that the Doctor be requested to draw up a notice of the description mention.

Mr AINSWORTH proposed that the Doctor be instructed to draw up a notice to be given to the parents of children who were down with the fever, instructing them not to allow any members of their families to attend school during the time they were afflicted with the disease.

The CHAIRMAN seconded the motion, which was unanimously carried.

THE NEW SEWERAGE WORKS.

The Clerk read a communication from the Local Government Board with regard to the new sewerage works, in which they requested that a letter, explaining the nature of the agreement between the Board and Messrs Annandale with respect to these works, should be forwarded to them.

Mr AINSWORTH proposed that the Clerk be instructed to write to the Local Government Board giving them the explanation they requested.

This proposition was unanimously agreed to.

NEW BRAY'S LAMP.

The CHAIRMAN wished to know if anything further had been done with respect to the Bray's lamp which was proposed to be erected in front of Mr Daley's property?

The Clerk said that he had written to the Gas Company, and they rather demurred to putting the lamp up at present.

The Inspector said that the Gas Company were holding back till the Local Board had completed some operations which they were busy with at that part of the road.

Mr MURRAY moved that a Bray's lamp be also erected at the end of Foundry Row, on condition that the Benfieldside Local Board pay one-third of the costs. He proposed to do away with two of the ordinary lamps in the Consett district, and one in the Benfieldside district. He also proposed that a former minute, to the effect that the lamp should be erected only on condition that each of the Boards pay one-half of the cost, should be rescinded.

Mr DAVISON seconded the motion.

Mr COLLINSON said he thought that it was quite unfair that the Consett Local Board should pay two-thirds, and the Benfieldside Board only one third of the cost, seeing that the rateable value of property at Blackhill, which was situated in the Consett Board's district, did not warrant their paying two-thirds of the cost of a Bray's lamp for that place.

The CHAIRMAN wished to know if that was an amendment on the former motion.

Mr MURRAY: I think Mr Collinson does not quite understand that the lamps we propose to do away with will cost more than two-thirds of the price of Bray's lamp.

Mr COLLINSON: I was not aware that more than one lamp was proposed to be done away with; in that case the amendment is withdrawn.

It was ultimately agreed to rescind the former minute, and to erect a Bray's lamp in place of the ordinary ones, as proposed by Mr MURRAY.

NEW SEWER VENTILATORS.

The Surveyor stated that a few new ventilators were required for the proper carrying off the bad gas from the sewers.

Mr AYNSLEY said he quite agreed with the Surveyor on that point, for there was sometimes a fearful stench in Nile Street.

Mr TAYLOR inquired the cost of new ventilators?

The Surveyor: The cost of the ventilators is only very small.

Mr TAYLOR: In that case I don't see that we need hesitate in obtaining new ventilators.

It was unanimously agreed to that new ventilators should be obtained, and put in according to the discretion of the Board.

NEW RATE.

It was proposed by Mr TAYLOR, and seconded by Mr MURRAY, that a new rate of 1s in the pound be made, and, after some discussion, was finally agreed to.

THE "TOMBSTONES" IN THE PARK.

Mr AYNSLEY stated that the Parks Committee had come to the conclusion that it was a great mistake on the part of the Consett Iron Co. to erect the tombstones or boundary stones, whichever name they had a mind to call them by, in the Park, and they thought that the Consett Iron Company should be requested to remove them.

Mr AINSWORTH said that he thought the matter was one which the Park Committee ought to have decided themselves, without troubling the Board. If the Consett Iron Company ought to be requested to remove them, the request ought to be made by the Park Committee, and not by the Board.

Mr AYNSLEY was of opinion that a meeting of the Joint Boards ought to decide whether the Consett Iron Company ought to be asked to remove them.

Mr PALLISER: The boundary stones were an eye-sore in the Park, as well as being very dangerous.

The matter was eventually referred to the Park Committee.

MR DAVISON'S CART SHED.

Mr DAVISON wished to ask for permission to remove a cart-shed further on to his own ground at the back of his premises in Front Street. He said that the shed was at present obstructing the building operations of Mr Ridley.

Mr AINSWORTH thought that it was scarcely necessary for Mr Davison to ask for such permission.

Mr DAVISON said he thought it would have been very uncourteous of him to have removed the shed without first mentioning the matter.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

Subjoined is the Surveyor's (Mr Rippon) monthly report:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Consett Local Board.

GENTLEMEN,—During the past month your workmen have been chiefly engaged in water-tabling, opening-out ditches, and maintaining the roads in your district.

I have received from Messrs Ord and Maddison 50 tons of rough limestone, which is being broken for the ensuing season.

Mr Heslop is proceeding with his contract for kerbing, channelling, and cementing certain new streets near Mount Pleasant, Consett. I shall be glad of an expression of your opinion to whether the cementing should be put down at this late season of the year, or stand over until the spring.

Mr Ridley has completed the kerbing, channelling, and cementing of the back street adjoining the Primitive Methodist's School. The macadamised portion will also be finished at an early date.

Your four settling ponds have been properly repaired, and are now in good working order.

The Consett Iron Company have put down check rails at the crossing on the Tinmill Road, and also at the crossing near the new offices as requested.

The North-Eastern Railway Company's bridges are now in fair good order.

I have repeatedly inspected your district, and on several occasions have had to send carts to promptly remove house refuse, &c. I have charged the parties with the cost.

The following amounts have been paid to treasurer:

	£	s	d
General District Rate	21	15	0
Market tolls	3	4	4
Removing house refuse	0	10	9

I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,
WILLIAM RIPPON

Consett, Oct. 6th, 1886.

ROAD MATERIAL.

Mr MURRAY wished to know if the Surveyor could tell him the relative prices of limestone and whinstone?

The Surveyor stated that limestone cost 3s 6d per ton, and 1s 6d per ton for breaking; while the whinstone cost 4s 4d per ton, and 2s 6d for breaking.

Mr AINSWORTH was of opinion that the matter had been settled at a previous meeting some time ago, limestone being the material selected.

THE LATE MR SHELL.

The CHAIRMAN said that they no doubt were all aware of the sad and sudden decease of their esteemed colleague, Mr Wm. Shell, Barr House, Consett, and he proposed that the Board should send a letter of condolence to the bereaved widow and her family.

Mr TAYLOR seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN also stated that by the decease of Mr Shell, there was now a vacancy on that Board, and as Mr Geo. Wade stood next on the voting paper. Seeing that it was a rule for the gentleman who had obtained the next highest number of votes to fill the place of a deceased member, he moved that Mr Wate be appointed a member of that Board.

Mr TAYLOR seconded this motion, which was carried.

Cheques were signed, and the Board adjourned.

NORTH-WEST DIVISION OF DURHAM.

As a result of the Revision Courts just held, the following tables, which speak for themselves, have been compiled by Mr Adam Brodie, Liberal Registration agent, Consett:—

Comparative statement as between last year's Parliamentary Register:—

POLLING DISTRICT	1885.	1886	INC.	DEC.
Benfieldside	966	997	31	—
Burnopfield	475	407	—	68
Catchgate	495	520	25	—
Castleside	235	203	—	32
Consett	1177	1184	7	—
Cornsay	564	536	—	28
Dipton	505	447	—	58
Edmondbyers	105	113	8	—
Holmside	341	356	15	—
Lanchester	330	341	11	—
Langley Park	332	356	24	—
Leadgate	729	692	—	37
Medomsley	673	685	12	—
Quebec	355	378	23	—
Satley	79	90	11	—
Stanley	606	699	93	—
Tanfield	330	327	—	3
Ushaw	321	369	48	—
West Kyo	685	713	28	—
White-le-Head	240	265	25	—
Totals	9543	9678	361	226
Total increase	135	—	—	—

NOTES.—The increase of 135 should have been at any rate upwards of 200 more, but the last register contained fully that number of duplicate voters, which have been struck out as far as possible this year. The decrease at Burnopfield is, of course, principally owing to the colliery being laid in at the Lintz. The decrease at Dipton is accounted for by the fact that the whole of the strike hands at South Medomsley were taken off the register.

New claims substantiated by the two political parties, Liberals and Conservatives.

Description of claim.	Liberal	Conservative
Ownership	71	20
Occupation (other than lodgers)	175	47
do. (lodgers)	20	15
Total	266	82

CONSETT LOCAL PARLIAMENT.

LETTER FROM MR J. C. STEVENSON, M.P.

SPEECH BY COL. WILBRAHAM.

The third session of the flourishing Consett and District Parliamentary Debating Society was duly inaugurated on Tuesday evening, in the National Infant Schools, granted by the Vicar of Consett. Owing to the damp, foggy atmosphere prevailing; the attendance of "members" was somewhat limited, and it was nearly an hour after the time announced for opening (7·30 p.m.) that a commencement was made. There was, nevertheless, a numerous muster of "strangers" in the "gallery," besides a fair sprinkling of ladies. In the unavoidable absence of "The Speaker" (Mr Philip Teare), the "Member for the City of London" (Rev F. Steggall) was elected to fill that position during the "sitting." The Liberal party succeed the Conservatives to power this Session; accordingly the "Prime Minster" (Mr P. Walton) read out the names of the gentlemen comprising the "Ministry."—After the formal business of nominating and "swearing-in" of new members, the Secretary (Mr James Kelly) announced that invitations to attend that meeting had been sent to Mr L. A. Atherley-Jones, M.P. for North-West Durham; Mr J. C. Stevenson, M.P. for South Shields; Mr William Jenkins, J.P., Consett Hall (president of the North-West Durham Liberal Association); and Col. A. B. Wilbraham, J.P., Snows Green. Mr Atherley-Jones wrote saying that if he could arrange to be down in the North of England at the time, he would certainly attend, but if he failed he could assure them that his heart was with the object in view. (Applause.) Mr Jenkins wrote to the effect that the critical state of the iron trade entailed so much of his time just at present, that he was hindered from attending their gathering. The subjoined communication had been received from Mr Stevenson:—

Shotley Bridge, 5th October, 1886.

DEAR SIR,—I regret very much that, having to take care of a cold, the dampness of the weather renders it imprudent for me to attend the first meeting of your Debating Society, to which you have kindly invited me. I should have liked to say a few words on the advantages of debating over mere essay-reading—on the necessity of accuracy and clearness of statement—and of fairness and candour in describing the views of those who take the opposite side. (Cheers.) Successful debating implies all these conditions, for any speaker violating them exposes himself to an overwhelming answer from a watchful and intelligent debater who may follow him in the discussion. A debater should state the case of his opponent, if possible more clearly and forcibly than his opponent can do himself; and if, after that, he proves his opponent to be mistaken, his victory is all the more complete. (Cheers.)

Some speakers use bad arguments without knowing it, from ignorance or stupidity; but I am afraid there are some clear-enough-headed persons who knowingly use such arguments, trusting to the want of knowledge or vigilance or of opportunity on the other side to detect and expose them. (More cheering.)

In what may possibly be called a "sham Parliament," it may be difficult to reach that standard of debate which only a sense of public responsibility can create; but there need be no falling off of that high standard of fairness and sincerity which should distinguish your debates. (Cheers.) I hope you will have an interesting and successful meeting.—Believe me, yours very truly, JAMES C. STEVENSON.

The Secretary.

The "SPEAKER" having deplored the absence of Mr Stevenson, called upon

Colonel WILBRAHAM (who met with a favourable reception) to address the assemblage. The gallant Colonel said it afforded him great pleasure to be present, because he observed many old friends present, and he might also say that he was glad to meet many old enemies. (Laughter and applause.) Unfortunately, his tongue had become rusty through disuse; and required a good deal of polish before it became a reliable weapon. He had been asked to say a few words upon the advantages and benefits of such institutions as that. In the first place, it was an employment for the long winter evenings; not directly on each Tuesday night; but also indirectly on other evenings in the week. To participate in the debates in the "House," it was necessary for them to study history and read the best speeches upon these or collateral subjects uttered by eminent statesmen. If they did this, they could not fail to possess a sound judgment on most topics, and likewise increase the amount of their education. (Applause.) Such societies tended to develop thought and sound argument. If a person's argument was defective. the succeeding speaker would knock a hole through them in a few minutes. (Laughter.) These societies also taught them to reason and talk logic, and not to speak at random. Sometimes, in practice, it causes confidence in speaking. Many people had not sufficient confidence in themselves; and undoubtedly the talent was given to some to speak in a more interesting and fluent manner than others. The society also is a sort of school for those who may possibly become future statesmen. There was no doubt about it; any man could rise up to hold a responsible position, no matter how humble in life he started. In the last session of this Parliament, they observed Mr Henry Broadhurst, a working man, occupying the position of a Cabinet Minister. (Applause.) It was therefore evident that the men in that room were composed of the same material as a Cabinet Minister. These societies furthermore made its members acquainted with the forms of the House. He said he was personally acquainted with Major Saunderson, the leader of the Orange party in the House of Commons. Whatever his politics, the major was undoubtedly a talented person. Questioning the major as to how he found out that he was such a capable and fluent speaker, Major Saunderson informed him that he happened to be at a meeting on one occasion when a subject which interested him very much was under discussion. He got on to his feet, scarcely conscious of the fact, and at once launched into a very telling speech. (Laughter.) It was probably that some present might discover their talents in this way. One thing that House would not do—it would not prevent a long-winded fellow giving vent to his feelings, and airing his grievances. (Laughter.) He recollected that a certain Bishop once rose in the House of Lords to make a speech, and he said he proposed to divide his subject into twelve heads. Another peer jumped up and claimed the indulgence of their Lordship while he "offered a few remarks which would not be appropriate on another occasion." Receiving the required permission, the noble Lord went on to relate an incident. He happened to be passing St. Paul's Churchyard about midnight, when the bell chimed out the hour of twelve. A sailor who chance to be there stood till the last stroke had re-sounded, when he looked up at the clock, and exclaimed, "D—— yer, why couldn't yer do all at once." (Roars of laughter.) It is needless to say that their Lordships heard nothing more from the Bishop that night. (Renewed laughter.) In conclusion, the Colonel tendered some sound, wholesome advice to the members of that "House." Let them strive to keep the debate as high in tone as possible. (Loud applause.) Their efforts in this direction, he felt sure, would be most ably seconded by the excellent gentleman they had selected as "Speaker." He was struck with Mr Teare's admirable qualities as a "Speaker." He is quiet and firm, sound in judgment, just in character, and impartial in his dealings, and he was in every way competent to cast oil on troubled waters. (Applause.) Let them be careful in the use of their language, and think before they spoke. It was of the utmost importance that they should always do their best. Although that was a mimic "House," they could do just as well as the members in the House of Commons. They must never attribute base or selfish motives to those who might differ in opinion from themselves. He strongly counselled his hearers, whenever any question of vital importance affecting the welfare and interest of the nation, to place country before party. (Loud cheering, especially from the Parnellite or cross benches). Let them speak just as if their utterances would be reported in the newspapers on the following morning. He trusted that "House" would prove a great success. (Applause).

After Col. Wilbraham's address, the nomination of members took place, when a goodly number were proposed. The PRIME MINISTER, Mr Walton (Salford) then announced the constitution of his Cabinet.

The SPEAKER *pro. tem.* read the "Queen's Speech" as follows:—

The following is the text of the "Queen's Speech:"—

GENTLEMEN OF THE "HOUSE OF COMMONS,"—I have called you together for the third session of this Parliament that you may address yourselves to the discharge of your arduous duties.

I continue to hold friendly intercourse with all the Great Powers.

The recent events in Bulgaria are having my close attention in conjunction with the other Treaty Powers, and I trust an amicable settlement will be arranged without disturbance to the peace of Europe.

Negotiations in connection with the Afghan Frontier are having my watchful care.

I am glad to say that the condition of Burmah is improving, and arrangements have been made by which I hope to secure more extensive trade with China.

I am glad to see the desire to draw still closer the relationship that exists between the colonies and mother country, and my best efforts will be directed to encourage this, and to extend commerce between them.

A measure for Disestablishing and Disendowing the Church as Established by Law in England and Wales, will be presented to you for your consideration.

A bill, dealing with the payment of royalty rents on minerals, will be laid before you.

A bill for legalizing the opening of state museums and art galleries on Sundays will be introduced.

A bill, dealing with hereditary pensions, will be submitted to you.

A bill for the better government of Ireland is under consideration.

Should it be necessary, steps will be taken to prevent Victoria Street from being converted into a Covered Market Place.

You are aware that a Royal Commission has been appointed to enquire into the question of currency.

In conclusion, I trust that your labours in connection with the important questions upon which you will be called to legislate will promote the honour and happiness of the Empire.

After which Mr J. R. Williams (Cardiff) gave an address in reply to the speech, which was seconded by Mr H. Nicholls.—Afterwards, Mr Ed. G. Kirkhouse (Swansea) spoke, and in a careful speech sharply criticised the contents of the "Queen's Speech," and was followed by the Prime Minister, who ably defended the policy enumerated therein. Mr A. Jackson (Bradford) moved the adjournment of the debate at 10 p.m.

The following are the officials of the "House:"—Speaker, Mr P. Teare; Chairman of Committee, Mr M. Richley; Clerk of the House, Mr W. R. Towns; Deputy-Clerk of the House, Mr H. Nicholl; Treasurer, Mr A. Brodie; Secretary of Council, Mr Jas. Kelly; Elective Members of the Council, Messrs Inglis, Hoe, and Jackson. The above, with the leaders of parties—Mr R. Walton (Liberal), Mr E. G. Kirkhouse (Conservative), and Mr T. Dunne (Nationalist)—form the Council of the Society.

BENFIELDSIDE SCHOOL BOARD.

The ordinary meeting of the Board was held in the Benfieldside Edge Schools, on Wednesday afternoon—Mr Jon. Priestman, J.P. (vice-chairman), presiding in the absence of Mr Chas. Wilson (chairman) There were present:—Rev E. W. Jenkins, Messrs W. Telford, Ed. Sloane, H. Carss, and the Clerk (Mr R. G. Barclay).

ATTENDANCE-OFFICER'S REPORTS.

The following reports were read:—

GENTLEMEN,—The attendance for this week and last at all the schools has been good. The cases reported at last meeting are all attending better. At Consett Petty Sessions, on Monday, September 20th, two cases were heard. Attendance-orders were granted in each case. The adjourned case of the boy Joseph Quinn came on. 2s was required per week from the parent, if the boy was sent to an industrial school. This the mother could not pay. She was fined 1s, and the boy is still running about, not going to school.

GENTLEMEN,—The attendance continues to be good; it is better than last month. I have no cases of irregular attendance to report for this meeting; but I purpose submitting to your committee at the next meeting the absentee lists for the last week. I call your attention to the boy Quinn, who is not going to any school.—Yours, &c., ALEX. MCKEAN.

Return for the month of September, 1886:—

Inspected Schools.	No. on books	Average Attendance.	Admitted.	Left.	Sick.	Percentage.
Board Schools—Boys	212	191	—	—	—	85·9
—Girls	192	173	—	—	—	
—Infants	116	95	—	—	—	
Derwent St.—	154	120	9	1	—	
Shotley Grove—Mixed	...					
St. Mary's Roman Catholic— „	233	190	4	1	3	79·
—Infants	98	72	—	—	—	
Totals	1110	935	19	8	11	
August	1048	908				
Increase	16·	27				

The reports were adopted, it being decided to take further steps with regard to the boy Quinn.

FINANCES: A NEW ORDER.

Accounts representing a total amount of £18 2s were ordered to be discharged.

The Clerk explained that the auditor had instructed him whenever any motion was passed to pay any accounts, it should include the names of the chairman and the two members authorised to sign the cheques. (Laughter.)

THE THREATENED CLOSING OF THE SCHOOLS.

In accordance with notice of motion already given, Mr CARSS proposed:—

"That in consequence of the Magistrates attending the Petty Sessions held at Consett, so frequently refusing to enforce the provisions of the Education Act, 1870, and the Acts amending the Act of 1870, three months' notice be given to the teachers, pupil teachers, and monitors employed by the Board in the schools under the control of the Board, with a view to closing the schools."

—He said: The motion of which I have given notice, with your permission I will divide into three parts. I shall reverse the order of the resolution, and put the different subjects thus:—1st, the giving notice to the teachers; 2nd, closing the schools; and 3rd, the action of the magistrates. The first—giving notice to the teachers—requires little comment, as that must follow as the natural consequence of closing the schools. The second—closing the schools—is the most important, and the most serious. The Board will naturally enquire what will be the result of closing the schools? My answer to the question is this: One result will be that it will open out fully the relations between the Magistrates and the Board, and lead to an investigation relative to the manner in which the Education Acts are enforced by the Consett Bench. We shall have to give notice to the Education Department of our intention to close the schools, and assign our reasons for that step; then, I presume, the Department will enquire into the matter and ascertain who is to blame. Or the Education Committee may proceed under Sec. 63 of the 33 and 34 Vic., ch. 75, and declare the School Board in default and proceed to choose or select a number of persons to act as a School Board. Or the Department may proceed under Sec. 66, and by order direct the members to vacate their seats, and a new election to be held and a new Board elected. But if the Board decide to close the schools in three months, then as a natural consequence the Board would resign, and leave the hands of the Education Department free to select or order the election of a new Board. I now proceed to speak upon the third division of the motion—the action of the Magistrates in dealing with the several cases brought before them. Permit me, Mr Chairman, to lay down certain rules for our guidance. The first is that every absence from school is a distinct offence, unless the parent can prove one or all of the reasons allowed by the Education Acts in justification of non-attendance. The reasons are found most readily in the bye-laws of the Board. The second is that the reviewer must at least be equal in knowledge to the reviewed; but if the reviewer has better opportunities of acquiring a thorough knowledge of a subject than the reviewed, then I think that circumstance ought to have considerable weight. Without egotism, I may be allowed to say that, taking the Board and contrasting the gentlemen composing it with the gentlemen constituting the Consett Bench, so far as relates to a knowledge of the Education Acts, and the practice of carrying out of the Acts, we have no cause to be ashamed. So that if we claim to be on an equality in this respect, taking no higher ground, I maintain that this Board deserves to be treated with some amount of respect by the Bench. It is contended that the Magistrates are an independent tribunal, but I submit not more so than this Board. We do not receive pay for our services; we give our time without money and without price. (Applause.) We are elected by the ratepayers of the district to give effect to the Education Acts; especially chosen for that purpose on the ground of our fitness. Moreover, before the attendance-officer is instructed to summons any parent or parents, every case is carefully gone into and decided on its merits. Many of the parents are cited before the Board to show cause why their children do not attend school. So that in many of the cases we have the same evidence before us as the magistrates have, therefore, the Bench cannot plead in justification we have not the whole subject before us, as they have. Take the case of Robert Moor, for his child Robert, aged seven years: 39 absences out of 106 times the schools were open. The date of summons was July 26th, the hearing on August 9th; case dismissed because the boy had attended regularly since the parent was summoned. One of the Magistrates inquired of the attendance-officer who ordered him to prosecute, and considered the Board was "sharp," although there had not been a case before the Court since October 13th, 1885, when two cases were dismissed—one 54 absences out of 96, the other four weeks absence. If the Magistrate who asked the question, by the term "sharp," meant that 39 absences out of a possible attendance of 106—or two-thirds attendance—was good, then our case is hopeless, and we must vote for the motion. Moreover, if because a child attends regularly during the time between issuing and hearing a summons, then on the same principle every drunkard who keeps himself sober, and every theif who keeps himself honest during the interim between the committal of the offence and the trial, ought to go scot-free. (Laughter.) Take another case—John Tindle, for his son Henry, aged twelve years; 29 absences out of 92. Also dismissed. Take the case of Francis Johnson, for his daughter Isabella. The officer applied for an attendance order under Sec. 11 of the 39 and 40 Vic. cap. 79. The section provides that the Local Authority, after due warning to the parents, shall complain to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, and such Court, if satisfied of the truth of such complaint, shall *order* that the child do attend some certified efficient school, either such as the parent or the Magistrates select. In this instance, the Magistrates declined to enforce the provisions of the Act, and made no order. The Act says "Aye," the Bench says "Nay." Who is supreme? Take another sample, that of John Wilson, for his daughter Sarah; 43 absences last quarter; seven weeks this, making 110 absences in less than half-a-year. Yet this case is dismissed. If we take the total of the last three cases—Tindle, Johnson, and Wilson—we have an aggregate of 173 absences from three children; yet all the cases dismissed! I think, Mr Chairman, that the examples given justifies me in moving, and the Board in voting, for the motion before us. Some respect ought to be paid to the interests of the ratepayers and managers of schools. The schools have to be kept open, a staff of teachers to provide and paid, and it is the duty of the Board to see that the children in the district attend, and that managers obtain the best Government grant possible. Moreover, the State has become responsible for the education of the children of the country, and the Magistrates ought to obey the State in this matter, or resign their commission. May I be allowed to remark that as one result of dismissing one of the cases referred to, that the mother of the child, after leaving the Court, got about half drunk, went to the school where the child attended, and soundly abused the teacher for prosecuting her, at the same time praising the Magistrates for their benevolence! (Laughter.) Under the 24 Section of sub-section 3 of the 36 and 37 Vic., chap. 86, provision is made that in any proceeding for an offence under a bye-law, the Magistrates may, instead of inflicting a penalty, make an order directing the child to attend school, and that if the child fail to do so, then the Court can inflict the penalty named in the bye-law. So that, either under this Section, or Section 11 of the Act of 1876, the Court can proceed by an order. In conclusion, Mr Carss added that his remarks were authentic; he had taken especial pains to prepare his statements, which could be substantiated as facts. It was very painful for him to have to move the resolution, but the members of the Board, and especially the School Attendance Committee, could not be discouraged in this fashion. He trusted that some member would second his proposition; but if not, he thought that they ought to submit some alternate plan. It had been suggested that a deputation should be appointed to wait upon the Magistrates, but he did not think such a course would be of much avail, as the responsibility rested upon the justices in dismissing the cases. He left the matter entirely in the hands of the Board.

Mr SLOANE seconded the resolution, on the ground that the members devoted a great deal of their time in examining the cases brought under their notice, and it was very annoying that the offenders should be dismissed by the Magistrates. Their time was equally as valuable as anyone else's, and he mentioned an instance where a single case had been brought before the Board four times, and despite the fact that the parent had been repeatedly warned, the Board ultimately had no alternative but to have the parent summoned, yet the case was dismissed by the Magistrates. He thought their labours ought to receive some tangible recognition.

Mr TELFORD disapproved of the resolution. He did not think the subject required such a strong expression of opinion. The magistrates were an independent body, and were as capable as the members of that Board in discharging their functions. He was quite willing to give the justices every credit for their actions.

Mr CARSS: I suppose you will accord the Board the same credit?

Mr TELFORD: Yes, I give them credit as well.

Mr SLOANE (warmly): Do you mean to tell this Board that a certain magistrate, coming to Consett occasionally, knows as much of the work of this Board as the members themselves? It is all nonsense. We have had cases before us repeatedly for the last six months. No man can know as much about them as we do. Nothing of the sort.

The CHAIRMAN: The resolution is not only an expression of censure upon the Magistrates. It is much more serious than that.—(Mr Sloane: I did not mean to say anything offensive.)—It is because of what the Magistrates have done that we decide to adopt a very strange course. Whatever the effect or the motive of this resolution, the direct action is that we are going to close the schools. We must not forget that. Mr Telford takes the motion rather to be a reflection upon the Magistrates. It may or may not be so. It is not merely a reflection upon the justices, but it means that we are going to take steps for closing the schools.

Mr TELFORD: The action of the whole of the junstices ought not to be implicated because one of them happens to do something wrong. If a certain Magistrate fails to do his duty, there is no reason to complain of the action of all. I cannot at all entertain the idea of closing the schools because of the action of one magistrate.

Mr SLOANE: If you put it that way, it is a different matter.

The CHAIRMAN: Assuming, for the sake of argument, that the action of the magistrates is reprehensible, that does not justify us closing the schools.

Mr TELFORD: We had no fault to find with the Magistrates until a few weeks ago.

Mr SLOANE: I did not second the motion because I wanted the schools closed; but the cases quoted by Mr Carss show that we have been "sat upon," and we cannot tolerate this state of affairs any longer.

Rev E. W. JENKINS explained that he was in favour of Mr Carss's motion, but he knew if he supported the same it would mean the closing of the schools, and no one could foresee the result. At the same time the Attendance Committee deserved the utmost credit for the diligent way in which they investigated the various cases brought before them. He suggested that Mr Carss's motion should be postponed for another month.

Mr CARSS did not object, but would rather those opposed to him would support an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN preferred that the voting should be taken solely on the resolution as it stood.

Mr JENKINS said that the publicity given to the motion might be productive of [illegible]

Mr CARSS: Since I gave notice of my intention, the teachers tell me that it has effected an improvement in the attendance.

After some further discussion, the sense of the meeting was tested, two voting for and two against the resolution, the Rev E. W. Jenkins remaining neutral. The Chairman gave his casting vote against, and the resolution was therefore lost.

Mr CARSS said he was satisfied with the result. Probably the Magistrates would do better in future.

The Board then adjourned.

Late Advertisement.

By Mr. William Nicholson

Hurbuck Farm, 2 miles from Consett.

MR. W. NICHOLSON Commissioned by Mr. HENRY OLIVER, to SELL BY AUCTION, on Thursday, October 14th, 1886, 6 Acres of Champion POTATOES. A splendid Crop, growing on Haugh Land.

The Vendor will plough out and deliver 2½ miles. They will be sold in lots to suit purchasers.

Sale to commence at 4 p.m.

To meet at Farm House.

Hermitage, near Satley.

MR. W. NICHOLSON will SELL BY AUCTION, on Saturday, the 30th day of October, 1886, the whole of the FARMING STOCK, Crops, and Portions of the Household FURNITURE, the property of Mr. THOS. BULMAN, who is declining farming.

Stowe House, October 8th.

WIT AND HUMOUR.

THE young woman who was "driven to distraction," now fears that she will have to walk back.

AT the last census a woman gave her own age as twenty-eight years, and that of her eldest son as twenty-three!

THIEVES generally seem to care little for money when they have got it. No doubt it is to them a simple abstraction.

"WHAT'S is a name?" a recent traveller was heard to exclaim. "Why, about the hottest country on the globe is Chili!"

"IF I had prematurely gray hair like yours I would colour it." "Why?" "Because those whom the gods love dye young."

DOBBS thinks that instead of giving credit to whom credit is due, the cash had better be paid. Dobbs should not be impertinent.

SMALL boy (beginning recitation): "'Eye hath not seen——'" Examiner: "Stop! Wrong first time. 'I have not seen——' Go on again."

A LOVER may imagine himself *discarded* when he sees another's name on the wedding-cards. His natural exclamation will be, "What's amiss?"

THE earth is a tender and kind mother to the husbandman; and yet, at one season, he always harrows her bosom, and at another plucks his ears.

"WOMEN, my boy," said a parent to his son, "are a delusion and a snare." "It is queer," murmured the boy, "how people will hug a delusion."

THE *Topical Times* wants to know what the West End chiropodist means when he advertises that he has "removed corns from several of the crowned heads of Europe."

"TOMMY, my son, what are you doing there with your feet dangling in the water?"—"Trying to catch cold, 'ma, so that I may have some more of those cough lozenges you gave me yesterday."

"HAST thou yet loved, Henrietta?" I sighed. —"I should rather imagine I had," she replied. —"Oh, did not my glances my feelings betray, when you helped me the third time to pudding to-day?"

"LET me see," said a minister who was filling up a marriage certificate and had forgotten the date; "this is the fifth, is it not?" "No, sir," replied the bride, with some indignation, "this is only my second!"

"HAVE you been much at sea?"—"Why, no, not exactly; but my brother married a captain's daughter."—"Were you ever abroad?"—"No, not exactly; but my mother's maiden name was 'French.'"

THROAT AFFECTIONS AND HOARSENESS.—All suffering from irritation of the throat and hoarseness will be agreeably surprised at the almost immediate relief afforded by the use of "Brown's Bronchial Troches." These famous "lozenges" are now sold by most respectable chemists in this country at 1s. 1½d. per box. People troubled with a "hacking cough," a "slight cold," or bronchial affections, cannot try them too soon, as similar troubles, if allowed to progress, result in serious Pulmonary and Asthmatic affections. See that the words "Brown's Bronchial Troches" are on the Government Stamp around each box.—Prepared by JOHN I. BROWN & SONS, Boston, U.S. European depot removed to 33, Farringdon Road, London.

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T. C. RAWES & CO.,
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Horses and Carriages of every description for Hire.

HEARSES & MOURNING COACHES.

UNDERTAKERS AND FUNERAL FURNISHERS. 228w

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTHS.

ROWLANDS GILL STATION.—2nd inst., the wife of J. G. Whillis, of a son.

CROOK.—Dawson Street, 5th inst., the wife of W. R. Whitfield, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

STELLA.—6th inst., by the Very Rev Canon Wrennall, James Noone, Inland Revenue Officer, to Annie Maria, second daughter of the late Henry Peacock, Blaydon.

DEATHS.

CONSETT.—No. 4, John Street, on the 8th inst., aged 33 years, Fenwick Hall. To be interred at Benfieldside Cemetery on Sunday; to lift at Three o'clock. Friends please accept this intimation. 838w

BLACKHILL.—No. 61, Durham Road, 2nd inst, aged 55, Joseph Wilkinson.

No. 30, WESTWOOD COLLIERY.—1st inst., aged 4 years and 3 months, Gair, son of Jos. Urwin.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.—3rd inst., aged 58, James, husband of Mary Bragg.

TANFIELD LEA.—7th inst., aged 28 years, Charles, husband of Hannah Bell Pringle, and second son of George Pringle.

LINTZ COLLIERY.—On the 5th inst., at the School House, Herbert A. C. Shillitoe, aged 10 months.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—Mains House, 30th ult., aged 53, Robert French Gibson.

Prospect Cottages, 5th inst., aged 26, Wm. Taylor, late of Cleveland.

OUSTON COLLIERY.—2nd inst., aged 48, John, husband of Agnes Murphy.

BLAYDON.—No. 21, Robinson Street, 1st inst., Margaret Ann, daughter of Wm. Brown.

THORNLEY.—4th inst., aged 54, Margaret Greenwell, wife of Richard Greenwell.

CHESTER MOOR.—Colliery Inn, 5th inst., aged 4 years and 3 months, Sarah, youngest daughter of Robert Wilson.

RYTON.—No. 17, Dene Terrace, 5th inst., aged 78, Mary Ann, widow of the late John Ramsay.

JARROW.—No. 30, Kent Street, 2nd inst., aged 16 years, Lavinia, youngest daughter of the late Michael and Annie Birtley, formerly of Consett.

STREATOR, Illinois, America.—Sept. 9th, 1886, aged 12 years, Lizzie Emma, the daughter of Robert and Catherine Austin, late of Dipton.

MOURNING GOODS.—HUGH MORTON and CO., 55, Grainger Street, Newcastle, directs attention to their Immense Stock for Men, Youths and Boys, ready for immediate wear, in all the Newest Materials and Latest Styles. Men's Black Worsted Suits, from 21s. to 49s. 6d.; Youths' Suits, from 16s. 11d.; Boys' Suits, from 6s. 11d. Single Garments at proportionate prices. Suits made to order in a few hours. 94w

GEORGE AND J. HOPE, MONUMENTAL SCULPTORS IN MARBLE STONE, AND GRANITE, CEMETERY ROAD, BLACKHILL, AND BURNOPFIELD.

INSCRIPTIONS neatly executed in Town or Country. Special Designs. Estimates on application.

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