e remained in court waiting
, when he left to proceed to
turned to the court at 6
having announced that there
eir arriving at a verdict."

want of time, has to stand
nd it is understood there are
g out of claims on the same
ously been ordered to stand
on is disposed of.

ERSTONE.

a Cricket Match was
ween the home team and the
astle. Cotherstone, in their
Barnard Castle, 1st innings,
game was decided in favour
first innings.

INGTON.

Hansom, architect, and
cab, was recently announ-
ally known—that the plans
artington Hall (as carried
ilder, Barnard Castle,) were

KFIELD.

Y.—Like other villages
ld has suffered through a
kable water, and various
e from time to time been
ons water is scarce, and in a
s practically no water. The
in every direction, and the
ply, been drained away. At
ry Board, at Barnard Castle,
again came up for discussion,
a satisfactory character. It
ckfield may have to derive
of the neighbouring water-
g of sufficient capacity, should
ful contingency, seeing that
ave been made for several

KLETON.

—Notwithstanding that
sidered a moist district, and
, there has certainly been no
f the springs of water in the
fficient supply. This is the
the inhabitants are thereby
. A meeting of ratepayers
subject, when it was stated
at present mainly dependent
t was impossible to fill a pail
A deputation from the meet-
ined the place, and they
fall should be so altered as to
directly from the spout. It
t Mr Longstaff, the active
, should bring the subject
ard at Barnard Castle.—Mr
mmission on Wednesday last,
or (who had also seen the
o deficiency of water, but the
. At present it took a long
Longstaff said it was the wish
keleton that the work requisite
ere accessible should be done
nce of the Inspector.—The
ussion, considered it more
should be completed by the
and a resolution to that effect

RKNOWLE.

Methodist Sunday School
ed on Saturday and Sunday.
On Saturday the teachers and
of 160, processioned the place,
s. On reaching the house of
sung for a while, and that
ted a sovereign to the funds
rning to a field near the chapel
Y. Race), the children were
, which were provided by Mrs
Mrs Jno. Hodgson and Mrs
fter tea the children had great
e superintendent and teachers,
d sweets. In the evening a
d, presided over by Mr R.
re given by several of the
chool work, and the benefits
itutions. On Sunday morning
d by Mr John Howson, of
he afternoon and evening the
itations, dialogues, &c. One
of the occasion was "The
Teacher." The teacher, Mr
f questions on the birth of
d death of Lazarus; Christ
his arms and blessing them.
en by children from four to
words of scripture, with a
e which were truly admirable,
t on their teacher. The sing-
r W. Liddle, accompanied on
. W. Liddle, both of whom
pains with the children, who,
choir, rendered the pieces
The congregations were large,
the whole of the proceedings

WAY EXTENSION.

N OUT BY THE LORDS.

ee of the House of Lords
a bill sat on Monday, present,
Lords Abingdon, Windsor,
K.—Mr Rodwell, for the
Nay, the engineer, who said
ted, and would accommodate
tween Lane Head and the
Forcett Railway.—Mr Robert
pposed line as one of general
would give communication
was the best cattle market in
Mr Robert West, land agent,
of Bolckow, Vaughan, and
gave evidence in support of
, Q.C., having addressed the
Mrs Maynard and other
bill, and Mr Little, Q.C.,
s Easton, the committee
and after consulting in
e Chairman said that they
preamble of the bill had not
was therefore thrown out.—
was favourably regarded by
e living in the district, and
felt at the above unexpected

ment and Pills.—Notable
ents the annoyances of skin
the development of febrile
y should, as they may, be
nt and purifying preparations.
liver affections, pains and
lloway's unguent well rubbed
mediately gives the greatest
and inflammation, checks the
nd averts incipient cholera.
of large cities will find these
friend when any pestilence
known causes eruptions, boils,
betoken the presence of taints
e system, all call for instant
edicines.

BARNARD CASTLE POLICE COURT

WEDNESDAY JULY 5TH, 1882.

A DISHONEST MINSTREL.—John Irving, described as a travelling musician—i.e., a tramp who accompanied by his daughter of 10 years goes about public-houses singing—was charged before the Bench with stealing wearing apparel the property of Mrs Thompson, Staindrop. He had taken lodgings there, and in the absence of the good lady of the house, had carefully ransacked the premises. On her return he left the house promising to be back in the afternoon, but he never came, and on a search being instituted several articles of wearing apparel were missed. Sergeant Daley took the case up, succeeded in tracing the man to Barnard Castle, and in discovering where the stolen articles had been pawned. After a careful hearing prisoner was sentenced to six weeks in gaol.

A CHEAP WATCH.—A boy eleven years of age, was charged by Mr Pape, of Headlam Hall, with the theft of a watch. It appeared that Mr Pape was on a visit to a friend at Gainford who was making hay, and going into the field he took off his coat and commenced to assist in the work. The watch was in the coat pocket, but when prosecutor finished work, and put on the coat, he found the watch had been taken. A search was instituted, but without result, no one suspecting prisoner, who was playing in the field, with having perpetrated the theft. Information was ultimately given to the police, and P.C. Currie at last traced the watch into the possession of a boy named Tenwick, who stated that he had bought it for 3d. and a ball. This turned out to be correct, and the prisoner was arrested. He is the son of a working man at Gainford. Mr Pape, taking into consideration the youth of prisoner, was inclined to withdraw the charge, but it was persisted in on public grounds.—Prisoner was severely reprimanded, and was ordered to receive six strokes with the birch rod.

TEESDALE RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

On Wednesday, the usual meeting was held, under the presidency of Mr C. Wilson.

The water-supplies of Michleton and Cockfield having been considered, and resolutions made thereupon, the reports of the Medical Officers were received.

STAINDROP DISTRICT.

Dr. Homfray reported as follows:—"I beg to state that the health of my district in the past month was in a very satisfactory state. The number of deaths during the quarter ending 30th June last was 20. The births in the Staindrop district during the same quarter were—males, 25; females, 24; total, 49. Not a single death was registered from any infectious disease, the principal deaths being from old age and debility. Some nuisances exist in the district, one especially on the property of Mr Hodgson at Gainford. This long-existing nuisance has now become injurious to the health of the inhabitants, and loud complaints come from the residents to that effect. I must, therefore, ask the Board to give orders for the immediate removal of it. Another nuisance, which I also consider very injurious to the health, is on the premises occupied by Mr Taylor, of Raby Cottage, Staindrop. Both of these can easily be removed."

MIDDLETON DISTRICT.

Dr. Atkinson, in his report, said "There were nine cases of scarlet fever in Holwick at the end of May. The first case contracted the disease in Darlington, and having no doctor in attendance it soon spread to four others in the house, as there were no precautions taken—and the people not knowing it was fever they were suffering from, mixed with their neighbours and so contaminated a second house; but I am glad to say there has not been the slightest spread of it past those two houses, and it has caused no deaths. There was one case of scarlet fever at the Town Head, Middleton, in June, but as I got it isolated early on, none of the other children in the house have got it. Another case is bad at present at Dent Bank. These two cases I cannot make out to a certainty when and how they were contracted, but I believe they both began bad in school. I recommend that the Middleton School-room should be thoroughly disinfected during this vacation, the Inspector to be there and see it done, and see the houses also disinfected. There has been very little sickness of any other kind in the district during the past month."—Mr Hilton enquired whether there was any legal restriction on people suffering from infectious disease travelling to other districts. He had an impression that a case of fever had been imported next door to him from Sunderland in a very negligent manner. If parties were doing this with their eyes open, they would be reminded of their wrong doing. He moved that the doctor have his attention drawn to the imported case from Darlington, and be asked to give further particulars in regard to it.—Mr Nicholson remarked that they had had a case of small-pox at Cotherstone which was imported from Darlington, and whooping cough had been brought into the village by some visitors.—No one seconded the motion.—Mr Hilton urged the Board not to condone offences of that kind.—Mr Longstaff asked how they were going to remedy them. Fever had been transported from Barnard Castle to Middleton-in-Teesdale, but how was it to be amended?—Mr Hilton: There is a law on the subject, Mr Clerk?—The Clerk: Yes; there is.—Mr Hilton: What does the law say about it?—The Clerk read the Act to the effect that any person while suffering from any infectious disease wilfully exposing himself without proper precautions, in any street or public place, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5. In the case in question he said the sufferers did not know what was the matter with them.—Mr Hilton pointed out that as soon as they got to Holwick they sent for the doctor.—The Clerk: It would not be infectious until the latter stage.—Mr Nicholson referred to the fearful ravages made at Barnard Castle by the cholera 30 years ago, when he said the disease was imported from Middlesbrough. He could trace it. Persons were down there seeing some friends and coming home brought the epidemic with them, their child dying the same or the following day. The medical officers of that time did not take proper precautions by giving the public notice of what it was. They wished to save the character of the town, and the dead child was buried quietly. Then the child's clothes were actually sent out to wash. The washerwoman took the cholera and died. He was a member of a Friendly Society, and a number of men attended his funeral. From that time the disease spread throughout the town.—Mr Pinkney suggested that the medical officers in making returns of epidemic diseases should give more details.—Mr Nicholson affirmed that all such cases were imported.—Mr Hilton gave another instance of the importation of disease, which subsequently spread throughout the district. Disease was being regularly imported from other places in that way, and it was time it was stopped. Now there was one had come direct from Darlington, and they ought to enquire thoroughly into the particulars of the cases both at Holwick and at Darlington.—Mr Nicholson said they also knew of another case at Cotherston where disease had been imported from Darlington, and Mr Hilton also added to the list of cases which had been traced in that way within the last few weeks. A family at Sunderland suffered very much from fever and lost several of their children. A week after the death of the last one they made their appearance at Barnard Castle, and the first thing one of the family with whom they were lodging took it, and had a near escape with her life. As a Sanitary Board one of their principal duties was to see after these cases, and to care generally after the health of the district.—Mr Lee: Prevention is better than cure.—Mr Raine seconded the motion, which, however, was lost, only three voting for it.—It further transpired that at Eggleston the village hearse was kept in a shed underneath the village school which had only a wooden floor; and one case of fever was attributed by the doctor to the fact that the inmates of the house had been pulling down old wall paper. Only recently a case of fever occurred at Eggleston owing to a young man sitting on a seat in the church where a coffin had been rested.—Mr Pinkney's motion was carried.

This ended the business of the meeting.

HAGG BAPTIST CHAPEL, FOREST, TEESDALE.

The re-opening services of the above chapel were held on Saturday and Sunday, the 8th and 9th inst. This place of worship was built about 50 years ago, and, in accordance with a clause in the trust deed, while being the absolute property of the Baptist body, so that it could not be alienated or sold, the trustees, with the assent of the Baptist Minister at Middleton, had the power to allow any other body of Protestent Dissenters to worship at any time if the Baptists were not able to supply the pulpit. For some years the Baptist body had a resident minister, but the number of members being few, the place was almost entirely dependent on extraneous support, and there being no other Dissenting place of worship within several miles, the Wesleyans and Primitives with the Baptists occasionally supplied the services for upwards of 30 years. Within a recent period both the former bodies have erected places of worship of their own, but a number of the latter having embraced the principles of the Baptists, it was felt an incumbent duty by the Baptist Church at Middleton to make provision for regular services, which have been conducted under the auspices of the Rev. J. Charter and a staff of laymen belonging the Baptist, Wesleyan, and Primitive connections, who have been cordially united in the work. The improvements to the property now being carried out consist of a baptistry, rostrum (instead of a pulpit), a vestry, and stable, which, with the voluntary labour cheerfully rendered, it is expected will be finished at a cost of a little over £40.

The weather being fine, there was a considerable influx of visitors from Middleton and adjacent places, who generally availed themselves of the opportunity of visiting the High Force and the surrounding objects of interest. The services commenced with a sermon in the open air, at 3 o'clock p.m., on Saturday, by the Rev. H. Winsor, of South Stockton, from Numbers xxi. 16,—"Gather the people together, and I will give them water." From these words the preacher delivered a useful, practical sermon, shewing that water formed one of the most essential necessaries for man's existence, but especially in the desert; and yet, amidst the toilsome wanderings of the Israelites, extending over so many years, in this respect their wants were abundantly supplied, for, amidst the sterility of their surroundings, their divine Father still gave them water. In the spiritual aspect this promise was for all time; wells of salvation were abundant, and they contained the living water which was ever-flowing; it was for the leaders to gather the people together in the appointed places of worship and other facilities for religious instruction, but it was God who, through these, gave the water of life.

After the sermon, tea was provided in a tent near the chapel. The tables were provided and presided over by Mrs and Miss Wearmouth, Mrs Bell, Mrs Dowson, Mrs Anderson, Miss Tarn, assisted by several friends. After a public meeting took place in the chapel, presided over by R. W. Bainbridge, Esq., Middleton House, who alluded to the origin and opening services of the chapel, and described the drawing of the original trust deed by himself, when a young man in his father's office, and suggesting to his predecessor, Mr Bragg, the propriety of inserting a clause empowering the trustees to sell the property in case at any future period they might deem it advisable; but this he most firmly declined to assent to, saying that so well was he convinced of the ultimate triumph of Baptist views, that it must be left in trust for that body for ever. He (the chairman) now endorsed that opinion as far as believers' baptism was concerned; and the mode of its administration. Evidence went to show that prejudice was gradually giving way, and among other christian bodies infant baptism was more at a discount, especially in America, than ever it had been; and, while the respective denominations would in other matters probably retain their distinctions, in this the chairman believed that they would come back to the practice of the Primitive Church, which the Baptists had always followed. Mr W. Pinkney then delivered an address in which several reminiscences connected with the Rev. C. H. Roe, the first pastor of the Baptist Church at Middleton, were narrated, and the deep interest he took in the erection of the present chapel. Mr T. Hodgson, of Penrith (a native of Barnard Castle), next addressed the meeting in a practical speech on the advantage, especially to the young, of christian friendships and companionships, and alluded to the early friendships he had formed which had grown stronger with years. He was followed by the Rev. H. Winsor, of Stockton, and the Rev. J. Charter, Middleton, who, in addresses suitable for the occasion, endorsed and supported the remarks of the other speakers. The choir of Middleton Baptist Chapel rendered very good service by giving a choice selection of music from Sankey's latest edition, Miss Pinkney ably presiding at the harmonium, kindly lent by the Wesleyan friends of Forest. Supper was provided at reasonable charges, of which a goodly company availed themselves, as well as the tea in the afternoon, which was well patronised.

On Sunday open-air service commenced at 2 p.m., when, instead of a sermon, addresses were delivered by the Rev. H. Bright, London, who has been paying a visit recently; the Rev. H. Winsor, and Mr W. Pinkney, Eggleston, which were attentively listened to, Miss Pinkney presiding at the harmonium. In the evening the chapel was filled to overflowing, and nearly an equal number were outside. The Rev. Henry Winsor, Stockton, preached from the text, "Dearly beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." The sermon was listened to with deep attention, and the Rev. H. Bright, before the sermon, gave the solo from Sankey, called "It is well for my soul;" and, after the sermon, the 90th and 9th hymns, and one of the best evidences of the appreciation of the audience was the fact that, while several were affected to tears, those outside eagerly crowded round the entrance and attentively listened to the solos, which were so admirably rendered; and the harmonium accompaniment and the choruses taken up by the choir, as well as the other pieces they gave during the evening, materially increased the interest of the services. Good collections were taken at the various services. The generous help of friends, whose donations are already promised or given, with the proceeds of these services, will, it is hoped, nearly or entirely relieve the trustees from the incubus of a debt incurred in carrying out the improvements.

BARNARD CASTLE CRICKET CLUB SPORTS.

Although there was a capital attendance at the annual athletic sports of the Barnard Castle Cricket Club, on Saturday, yet, in considering the possibility of a larger attendance, it is a matter for some regret that the same day were held the land and water sports at High Coniscliffe. Notwithstanding this counter attraction, however, the excursion trains from Linn Green and neighbourhood, and also from Stockton and Middlesbro', brought a large number of visitors to the town, and the committee of management have every reason to be satisfied with the day's receipts. A remarkable and most gratifying feature in the proceedings was the general orderly conduct of the whole body of spectators, and the promptness and regularity by which the different events succeeded each other. The result was that a long programme was speedily got through, and not the slightest inconvenience was caused either to competitor or visitor, and, moreover, no dispute whatever arose. There is abundant proof that, year after year, these sports are becoming more popular, and the probability is that before long the annual gathering will assume the proportions of a gala day. Be that as it may the event of Saturday attained a measure of success which was most encouraging, and, as some endeavour may be made in the future to increase the amount of the prize-money, stronger competition will follow, and athletes from the whole of the surrounding neighbourhood will doubtless enter in the open classes. The duties of the judges (Messrs. H. Boasman and R. Weatheritt) were exceedingly light, and not a single dispute arose. An untoward circumstance occurred in the amateur bicycling contest, the machines of Sterling and Jackson coming into violent collision. Both bicycles were broken. Sterling stopped, but Jackson rode on. Owing to the want of competition the heats were somewhat tame. The band of the 3rd Battalion Durham Light Infantry was stationed on the ground, and performed a selection of appropriate music. The "Donkey Derby" was productive of much fun. At the conclusion of the sports the prizes were distributed by Mrs W. Watson, Thorngate House. Results:—

100 Yards Flat Race, for members of the Barnard Castle Cricket and Football Clubs only; first prize, value £1 1s.; second do., 7s. 6d.—First heat—C. H. Raper, Barnard Castle, 9 yds., and C. F. Moller, Rokeby, 3 yds. ran a dead heat; Wm. Richardson, Barnard Castle, 16 yds., 3; R. J. Bailey, Barnard Castle, 7 yds., 2.—Second heat—A. Winpenny, Barnard Castle, 7 yds., 1; G. F. Tilburn, Barnard Castle, 8 yds., 3. —Final heat.—A. Winpenny, 1; C. H. Raper, 2; C. F. Moller, 3.

120 Yards' Flat Race (Handicap), for boys under 15 years of age; first prize, value 10s.; second do., 5s.; third do., 2s. 6d.—J. B. Tod (13 yrs.), Bishop Auckland, 22 yds., 1; G. Thompson (9), Barnard Castle, 34 yds., 2; J. W. Robinson (14), Barnard Castle, 20 yds., 3. Seven ran.

120 Yards' Hurdle Race (Handicap), for amateurs only; 1st prize, value £1 1s.; 2nd, 10s.—First heat —C. F. Moller, Rokeby, 3 yds., 1; R. J. Bailey, Barnard Castle, 6 yds., 2; Jno. Bell, Whorlton, 14 yds., 3. Thompson, Barnard Castle, 9 yds., 4. Second heat—C. H. Raper, Barnard Castle, 10 yds., 1; E. A. Bainbridge, Staindrop, 13 yds., 2. Final heat—Raper cleverly beat Moller by about one foot and won.

One Mile Bicycle Race (Handicap), open to members of the Teesdale Wanderers' Bicycle Club only, first and second in each heat to run in final; first prize, value 10s. 6d.; second, 5s.—First heat—H. Marshall, Barnard Castle, 80 yds., 1; J. N. Hunter, Barnard Castle, 40 yds., 2; W. Jackson, Barnard Castle, 100 yds., 0; W. Pallister, Barnard Castle, 140 yds., 0. Second Heat—J. Jackson, Boldron, scratch, 1; G. Bone, Barnard Castle, 80 yds. 2; J. Thompson, Barnard Castle, 100 yds. 3. Final heat—J. W. Hunter, 1; H. Marshall, 2; G. Barker, 3; Jackson, 4.

120 Yards' Flat Race (Handicap), open; first prize, £3; second, £1; third 10s.—First heat—F. Tuck, Stockton, 11 yds., 1; J. T. Chatt, Barnard Castle, 8 yds., 2; W. T. Ward, Yarm, 16 yds., 3; W. Elliot, Gainford, 11 yds., 4. Second heat—J. Evans, Darlington, 13 yds., 1; H. Bates, Gainford, 9 yds., 2; T. Tennick, Gainford, 12 yds. 3. Third heat—C. Tennick, Gainford, 9 yds., 1; W. Thompson, Barnard Castle, 16 yds., 2; E. Stoddart, Barnard Castle, 11 yds., 3. Fourth heat—J. Thompson, Barnard Castle, 13 yds., 1; T. Jones, Darlington, 3 yds., 2; H. Tennick, Gainford, 13 yds., 3. Final heat—C. Tennick, 1; J. Thompson, 2; J. Evans, 3.

One Mile Bicycle Race (Handicap), for amateurs only; first and second in each heat to run in final; first prize, value £2 2s.; second, 10s. 6d.—First heat—H. Tuebitt, Darlington, scratch, 1; J. Jackson, Boldron, 20 yds., 2; J. Sterling, Darlington, 80 yds., 3. Second heat—Yonghusband, Darlington, 100 yds., 1; R. Mackenzie, Darlington, 60 yds., 2. Third heat—G. Barker, Barnard Castle, 110 yds., 1; A. Winpenny, Barnard Castle, 40 yds., 2. Final heat—Younghusband, 1; J. Jackson, 2; R. Mackenzie, 3. Winpenny retired at half a mile, and Barker and Tarbitt did not start.

Obstacle Race (about 400 yards), open to amateurs. —First prize, value 10s.; second, 5s.—A. Winpenny, Barnard Castle, 1; J. Patterson, Barnard Castle, 2, J. Thompson, Barnard Castle, 3.

Tug of War (six a-side), open to any recognised body of men; prize value £1 10s.—Cricketers' team beat Staff-Sergeants' team; Fire Brigade team beat Mr Kyle's (Masons') team; Cricketers' team beat Fire Brigade team and won.

Donkey Derby. The prizes to be given to the owners of the donkeys, 1st, 5s.; 2nd, 2s. 6d. The committee to be the jockeys:—

Mr Bell's Bruce	J. G. Hall 1
Master G. Percy Hales' Sunnie	G. F. Tilburn 2
Mr Lightfoot's Shotover	C. H. Raper 0
Mr J. Ward's Pursebearer	J. G. Brass 0
Mr Kyle's Gerald	J. Patterson 0

NORTH-EASTERN COUNTY SCHOOL.

The following is a correct return of the names of the gentlemen forming the Board of Governors:—

COOPTATIVE.

Founders' Trust:—Mr Marshall Fowler, of Preston Hall, Stockton; Mr William Rhodes Fawcett, of Yarm; and Mr William Joseph Young, of Wolviston.

Subscribers:—The Right Rev. Joseph Barber, Lord Bishop of Durham; Sir William Cayley Worsley, Bart., of Hovingham Hall; and The Rev. Brereton Edward Dwarris, Honorary Canon of Durham, and Vicar of Byrell St. Peter, Northumberland.

St. John's Hospital Trust:—The Rev. Frederick Brown, M.A., Honorary Canon of Durham, and Vicar of Barnard Castle; The Rev. Thomas Witham, of Lartington Hall; and Mr Thompson Richardson, of Barnard Castle.

REPRESENTATIVE.

Northumberland Quarter Sessions:—The Rev. Mr Hamilton.

Durham Quarter Sessions:—Mr John Shields, Durham.

North Riding Quarter Sessions:—Mr Robert Ambrose Morritt, J.P., of Rokeby Park.

Chairmen of Northumberland Boards of Guardians:—Mr T. P. Dods.

Chairmen of the Durham Boards of Guardians:—Mr Alcock.

Chairmen of the North Riding Boards of Guardians:—Mr Samuel Rowlandson, Newton Morrell, Darlington.

The Senate of the University of Durham:—Dr Lake and Professor Pearse.

The College of Physical Science, Newcastle-upon-Tyne:—The Venerable Archdeacon Prest.

Barnard Castle Local Board of Health:—Mr W. Watson, Mr R. Barker, and Mr J. Hall.

EX-OFFICIO.

The Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland—Earl Grey.

The Lord Lieutenant of the County of Durham—The Marquess of Londonderry.

The Lord Lieutenant of the North Riding—The Marquess of Ripon, who has deputed Lord Zetland.

MIDDLETON-IN-TEESDALE.

Church Missionary Society.—On Sunday last two eloquent sermons were preached in the Parish Church by Canon Tristram, on behalf of the above society. A moiety of the collections, amounting to £2, was handed over to him in aid of the different missions. He also advocated the claims of the society at the afternoon service in the schoolroom at Newbiggin, before a large and attentive congregation. The collection amounted to a guinea.

THE OLD OAK TREE.

A Sketch of the History of Barnard Castle.

RECITATIVE.

On a dark, dull, September afternoon,
I took a stroll from Barnard Castle town,
To spend a leisure hour, and view the skill
Of our brave volunteers, up Deepdale Gill;
The murky clouds, which had been gathering round,
Broke as I reached their shooting practice ground;
I stood beneath an aged oak, to gain
Protection from the heavy pelting rain.
A curious tree, which overhung a rill
Drawn from the brook to drive a busy mill;
Its brown, rough, knotty trunk, in part decayed,
The scathing marks of Time's rough hand displayed;
Yet, though of ancient strength and bloom bereft,
Its green leaves showed some youthful vigour left.
While I stood its crook'd figure scanning o'er,
My mind reverting to the days of yore,—
To my surprise a voice, distinct and clear,
Although not loud, struck strangely on my ear;
I soon found out it issued from the oak,
Which a brief history, like the following, spoke:—

THE OAK.

You seem int'rested in my time-worn form,
That has withstood for centuries many a storm,
Though I am wearing down, yet none can say
My weakness springs from premature decay.
'Tis now six hundred years, or thereabout,
Since by this limpid brook I first took root,
Sprung from a stock, the pride of British trees,
Upholding England's glory on the seas.
Great changes have indeed ta'en place since then,
In nature's face and in the scene;
Westward, extending up the vale of Tees,
Was a dense forest of rough, hardy trees,
Long set apart as royal hunting ground,
Where wild deer roam'd, and food and shelter found.
Oft have I heard the merry hunting horn
Sound sweetly on the chilly breeze of morn,
When noble knights, a gallant sporting race,
Met to enjoy the pleasures of the chase;
And oft this glen has echoed to the sound
Of huntsman's loud shrill voice, and crying hound,
As hotly they pursued the flying stag,
O'er tangling bush, brake, stream, and slippery crag;
Scorning all dangers that lay in their way,
Onward they sped, nought could their ardour stay.
Your modern hunts, pursuing fox or hare,
Can never with the ancient sport compare;
Not the same martial dash do they unfold,
More dull and tame than what they were of old;
Not in the keen exciting chase alone,
Were Teesdale's sons in former ages known;
Well skill'd in feats of arms, by fear unmov'd,
Their power and native daring oft were prov'd
In many a hard contested bloody field,
Where both contending parties scorned to yield.
I knew yon Castle in its strength and pride,
When it's strong walls our country's foes defied,
A check to each marauding Scottish band,
Who came to spoil and devastate the land.
Oft they have tried, in numbers strong, to gain
Possession of this fortress, but in vain;
The gallant hearts with whom they had to deal,
With steady aim, soon caused their ranks to reel.
Thus the invaders, foil'd in their desire,
With heavy loss, compell'd were to retire.
So fail'd the forces Scotland's monarch led,
Who were in yon green sloping pastures spread,
And there Eustace de Vesey I saw fall,
Struck by a missile from the Castle wall;
And as they gently raised him from the ground,
"A bolt," said they, "hath dealt this ghastly wound."
Their King beheld, with feelings of deep grief,
The gory form of the expiring chief—
"Be what it may which has done this," said he,
"I feel a dear bolt it has been to me!"
Yon pasture ground, the scene of that affray,
Retains the name of "Dear Bolt" to this day.
Not much above a sapling I had grown,
When the third Richard sat upon the throne,
A King unfortunate, whom writers place
In no high standing 'mong our royal race,
Ascribing to him base dark deeds of blood,
Yet showing no just reason why they should.
Too much the thoughtless way 'tis with mankind,
Without investigation, faults to find,
And paint dark things with a still darker hue,
Keeping the good and beautiful from view.
No matter what vain scribblers set him down,
At least he was a true friend to this town:
To keep its martial strength up, he took care
The weak points of the Castle to repair.
He plann'd a church and college, too, and sought
The valley's real welfare to promote;
And more he might have done, had not his foes
Brought his career to an untimely close.
Poor Monarch! crown and life he had to yield
On Bosworth's hard-fought sanguinary field.
His name we'll still respect for what we know;
What is not clearly proven let it go.

When dissaffected nobles of the north,
To war sent their arm'd rebel legions forth,
Trusting in their united strength, they swore
By force they would the ancient faith restore,
And have one of their choice and creed to reign,
And their lost power and influence regain.
With gath'ring strength the plot spread o'er the land,
The rising flame to stubborn bigots fann'd.
Amid this scene of civil strife and blood
True to their sovereign Barnard's warriors stood,
And rais'd the royal standard on the wall,
By it resolv'd to bravely stand or fall.
The gallant Sir George Bowes, of knightly fame,
To be their chief from Streatlam Castle came.
Although his soldiers were in number few,
Their loyalty and courage well he knew.
They hail'd his coming with a ringing cheer,
With such a leader bold they felt no fear.
Need for their skill and courage they soon found,
When the strong rebel host came on the ground;
Rank after rank, like an advancing tide,
Closing the castle round on every side,
Bidding the garrison to yield or die,
Shouts of defiance they got for reply.
Enrag'd at this they did their squadrons form,
And fix their guns to take the place by storm;
As ocean waves dash 'gainst a rocky shore
With fearful force, when stormy tempests roar,
So rush'd the rebels on to the attack,
But only to be foil'd and driven back
Before the deadly fire pour'd from within,
Their ardour slacken'd and their ranks grew thin.
No easy task had the defenders stout
To keep the obstinate invaders out.
Hard press'd, hemm'd in, assailed on every side,
Pluck and endurance were severely tried;
Yet not one fail'd, all nobly fought and well,
Each stepping forward where a comrade fell.
Sir George, their leader, flew from post to post,
Guarding with care where danger threaten'd most,
Cheering his men, inspiring in each breast
The selfsame feelings he himself possess'd.
Thus, amid fire, smoke, dust and falling stones,
The sounds of warfare, and of dying groans,
They struggled night by night and day by day,
Keeping the desperate enemy at bay;
But want of water was their greatest foe,
Thirst crush'd their hopes and brought them low;
And for their enemies the Castle won,
Which they by force of arms could not have done.
But not dishonour'd or yet put to rout,
With waving flags and music they march'd out,
Knowing a force was near too strong to meet,
Barnard's invaders soon beat a retreat.

Since then this lovely vale has had no cause
Of fear or trouble from invading foes.
In these late years of civil peace and rest,
Science and art have rapidly progress'd,
Large fact'ries have been built and railroads made
For the requirements of increasing trade.
Few nobler structures we have in the land
Than yonder Mansion, beautiful and grand,
Which lends so greatly to adorn this town,
And add to it's attraction and renown,
Built by a Bowes, of the same line and blood,
As he who boldly 'gainst the rebels stood.
Who did this place to rear a mansion choose
In memory of his late lamented spouse,
Countess Matilda—one, lady well belov'd,
Whose acts benevolent her goodness prov'd.
Long may her husband yet be spar'd to find
True pleasure in the work he has design'd,
Possessing still the same untiring zeal
His ancestors had for their country's weal,
And keep unsullied the undying fame
Attach'd to his illustrious race and name.

Speaking again of dalesmen; not alone
In civil contests was their power shown.
In all our struggles hard with foreign foes
They bore their part true to their country's cause.
Well I remember first Napoleon's days,
How he contriv'd large armaments to raise,
And push'd his eagles on till Europe lay
Panting, exhausted, crush'd beneath his sway,
Except our little Isle, that scorn'd his yoke,
And firmly stood when other nations broke,
Till Waterloo was fought, and "Bony" found
His army crush'd, his hopes dash'd to the ground.
Many a gallant regiment I have known,
On finer looking men sun never shone,
Leave this small town each with a lightsome heart,
In the stern work of death to take their part;
And as they gally march'd along the street,
Music swell'd on the air, and drums were beat,
As if they had been blithely going forth
To some gay festal scene of joy and mirth.
They left, their country's glory to maintain:
Alas! how few saw Teesdale's hills again!
In Portugal and Spain, in Egypt, too,
And in the gory field of Waterloo,
Their ashes lie and doubtless will remain
Till the last trump cause earth to yield her slain.

Well plea'd am I, although I'm but a tree,
A gathering such as at this day to see,
When dalesmen meet with feelings of good will,
In this romantic glen to try their skill;
And the same martial bearing to behold
As what was in their ancestors of old.
No doubt have I that they would bold[en] show
A dangerous front to an invading foe,
And fail in nought that duty's call requires,
But prove true Britons worthy of their sires.
Of England's future standing I've no fears,
While she has her brave Rifle Volunteers;
And 'tis her wisest policy, I'm sure,
To keep up her vast military power;
Nor through vain wasting thoughts let it decrease,
To be well set for war secures us peace.
Long may peace reign and useful arts advance,
The comfort of all classes to enhance,
And in the front may Teesdale take it's place,
In all that dignifies the human race.

And now a brief sketch of my life thou'st got,
No doubt thou wilt suppose I know thee not:
I knew thee from the first, and what I've said
Will shortly in the *Mercury* be read.
Well, be it so, in writing do not slack,
Though mushroom friends should on thee turn their back:
Nor let thy poverty be an excuse
For thee to cast aside or slight the Muse.
Be not discourag'd or in mind cast down,
Nor hang thy head though fickle fortune frown;
Bear this in mind, thou standest not alone,
Many for bread ere now have got a stone:
Still sing thy local songs and tell thy tales,
And when thy voice and musing power fails,
Go to that rest which for the good remains,
And unto others leave thy pleasing strains.
May the All-wise Director prosper thee,
So wishes thy true friend, the Old Oak Tree.

It ceas'd to speak, the sky grew clear,
I left the little brook;
And to the town, across the bridge,
My way I quickly took.

RICHARD WATSON.

Holwick.

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BARNARD CASTLE.

THE TEESDALE ANGLER, by Robert Lakeland, i.e.—Barnard Castle, Price 1/6; by post, 1s. 8d.—May be had at the *TEESDALE MERCURY* OFFICE, and of R. BARKER, Bookseller, Barnard Castle.

BIRTHS.

At St. John's House, Newsham, Yorkshire, on the 6th inst., the wife of Mr Jeffrey H. Martin, V.S., of a son.

At Fool Syke, Baldersdale, on the 29th ult., the wife of Mr J. Bainbridge, of a son.

At Hill Top, Eggleston, on the 1st inst., the wife of the late Mr Thos. Brown, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

At the Register office, Barnard Castle, on the 8th inst., Mr Thomas Hutchinson, to Miss Jane Ann Morton, of Stainton.

At the Parish Church, Middleton-in-Teesdale, on the 4th inst., Mr William Lee, of Holwick, to Miss Margaret Ann Dent, of Middleton.

DEATHS.

At Barnard Castle, on the 4th inst., William Cleasby, son of Mr Matthew Mennell, aged 1 year.

At Barnard Castle, on the 6th inst., Mr Thomas Raine, painter, aged 38 years, much respected.

At Barnard Castle, on the 7th inst., Margaret, widow of the late Mr Ralph Kay, aged 84 years.

At Bowes Close, Harwood, on the 27th ult., aged 69 years, Mary, widow of Mr Tim. Collinson.

At Hill Top, Eggleston, on the 6th inst., aged 28 years, Miss Jane Bainbridge.

At Mickleton, on the 9th inst., aged 71 years, Mr Thos. Langstaff.

At Bowbank, Lunedale, on the 10th inst., Mr Albert Raine, aged 64, much respected.

At Mount Pleasant, Barnard Castle, on the 10th inst., Hannah, eldest surviving daughter of the late Mr Robert Moss, of Scargill, aged 68 years, much respected.

On the 30th June, at Cote Hill, George Wheatley, aged 58 years.

AUCTION MART, DARLINGTON.—Messrs. Tarn sold at their weekly mart on Monday, 44 head of cattle. There was a good attendance of buyers. Cows although short in numbers, were a useful lot in point of quality. The demand was very steady, as follows:—calved cows, made up to £29; calving cows, made up to £27, each.

NEWCASTLE CATTLE MARKET.

Yesterday.—By Special Despatch.

The supply of stock smaller, trade good, prices, viz.:—

	s. d.		s. d.
Beef	6 0	to	10 9
Pigs, per stone of 14 lbs.	6 0	to	8 0
Sheep, per lb, sinking offal	0 8½	to	0 9½
Lambs per lb, sinking offal	0 10½	to	0 11½

Nos. Shown:—Cattle.....1,795
Sheep and Lambs.....7,290