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The Teesdale Mercury

BARNARD CASTLE, JULY 28TH, 1909.

THE ROMALDKIRK INQUIRY.

The history of the ancient parish of Romaldkirk is intensely interesting. Far back in the misses of time there are records of the pious and "Deeds are men," says Samuel Johnson, and there are evidences here that life is not all a cheat. Hutchinson and Parkin were Teesdale philanthropists of the sixteenth century, and who can estimate, to-day, the sum total of their beneficence? The almhouses at Romaldkirk have sheltered many a weary soul long before old-age pensions assumed the form of actual tangibility. Virtue, though in rags, will still keep a man warm, though the poor know bitterly and well how full of briars is this working-day world! Then, in the matter of education, the results achieved both at Bowes and Romaldkirk have been encouraging, and this we affirm without entering into any question of the administration of the charities. We all know that children have been well educated, and that through the primary instrumentality of the bequests young men, conspicuously at the Bowes centre, have had a capital start in life, while some have headed for a university career, and the ultimate acquisition of scholarly attainments which have reflected great credit upon Teesdale. Competitive scholarships have made many a man, and, whatever methods are sketched out for the future control of the school-foundation at Romaldkirk, there is no reflection that purely elementary educational matters have been at all neglected in the village itself. The Commissioner, however, has now called "halt!" and future developments will be awaited with interest.

THE THORNGATE MISSION SPECIAL SERVICES.

There was a series of special services held in connection with the above mission last week-end. On Friday night, in the mission hall, under the presidency of the Rev. M. Phillipson, B.A., Mr J. Brown, of West Stanley, who was accompanied by Mr A. Pearson, one of the heroic rescuers, gave a very realistic description of the disastrous colliery explosion which occurred at Stanley on February 16th, last. Mr Brown told of many heart-rending incidents which occurred, and also emphasised the noble action which all the churches performed on that very memorable occasion. He said that there were 98 bodies buried on the Sunday at the public cemetery, and 36 at the Roman Catholic cemetery. In a row of 17 houses there were 17 deaths, and in a row of 14 houses there were also 17 deaths. He spoke of the thrilling recovery of the bodies, and remarked that one boy was found with his arms clasped round a man's waist, whilst another was discovered with his arms round a boy's neck. Mr Daniels, of Stockport, told the interesting story of his midnight meetings held at Consett and Stanley. It was rather a strange coincidence that all the speakers there that night were persons who took part in the midnight meetings. Mr Brown was the organiser of the meetings, Mr Daniels was the evangelist, the Rev. M. Phillipson the minister, and Mr Pearson, the rescuer, was also rescued in the spiritual sense—he was converted. On Saturday night an open-air meeting was held at Bridgegate corner, when addresses were delivered by Mr Daniels and Mr Brown. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, Mr Daniels spoke to a good congregation in the Thorngate Mission Hall, on Sunday afternoon. Mr Daniels said that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was approached by all classes of men and women who were in some great need, but he admired a person who made it a practice and rule in life to go to Christ daily. He said that our Saviour—He who is with us at all times—was always ready to help them, and would always listen to anyone who went to Him in sincerity. Mr Daniels declared that all things were possible with God, but they must believe. Mr B. Smith, of Keighley, gave a fine organ solo. Mr Daniels very suitably discoursed at the evening service from the words "Who is on the Lord's side?" A large congregation assembled.

THE POLITICAL MEETING IN THE MARKET PLACE.

The Resources of Canada.

Under the auspices of the Liberal Unionist Council and the Barnard Castle Conservative and Unionist Association, a public meeting was held in the Market Place, Barnard Castle, on Friday night. There was a fair attendance. Colonel the Hon. W. L. Vane presided, and he was supported by Captain Hely, Newcastle; Mr W. J. Watson, Spring Lodge; Mr C. J. Smith, Mr R. Robson and others.—The Chairman referred to the socialistic tendency of the present budget, and to its far-reaching effects. —Mr C. J. Pearse, president of the Anti-Socialist League of Leicester, addressed the gathering on the subject of the budget and on Tariff Reform. He enlarged on the communal system with regard to the land which had hitherto prevailed in Russia, and which, he said, the Socialists wanted to see adopted in this country. Such a system, he maintained, would do away with the institution of property, and cripple the individual. He spoke at length on the costly land valuations now proposed by the Government, and advocated a judicious revision of tariffs.—Captain Hely proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman and speaker, and remarked that continental politics and the security of our empire could not be left out of the reckoning by all thoughful Englishmen. They must never forget that they had been for many years pouring into their colonies some of the very best blood which they had got in this land, and he strongly advocated preferential treatment. He had learned a few truths about the colonies from Mr Stobart who had lived practically the whole of his life in Canada, and by whom he had been informed that Canada could produce everything wanted in the British Isles. But, in order to do so completely, the dominion's population must yet increase.

ANCIENT CHARITIES IN TEESDALE.

Board of Education Inquiry at Romaldkirk.

A Schoolmaster's Pension Jeopardised.

On Friday afternoon last Mr F. H. Oates, barrister-at-law, on behalf of the Board of Education, accompined by Mr Roberts, His Majesty's Inspector of Schools, conducted an inquiry in the School-room, Romaldkirk, relative to the school foundation in the parish of Romaldkirk, so far as it appertained to the Charitable Trusts Acts, 1853 to 1894: the Endowed Schools Acts, 1869, 1873 and 1874: and the Board of Education Act, 1899, and the Board of Education (Powers) Orders in Council, 1900-1902. There were present Sir Henry Beresford Pierse, Bart., the Rev. S. Gilbert Beal, Rector of Romaldkirk, the Rev. F. W. Holmes, Vicar of Laithkirk; Mr Kipling, Mr T. Helmer, Mr Garrett, Mr Hill, Mr Watson Coulthard, Mr Sewell, Mr W. Dent, Romaldkirk; Mr R. Walker, Mr Joshua Coulthard, Cotherstone; Mr Wilson Haigh, Lartington; Mr Thomas Alderson, Bowes; Mr T. Stoddart, Eggleston; Mr Wrigley, assistant secretary North Riding County Education Authority, and others.

The Founders of the Charities.

William Hutchinson, who founded the almshouses at Romaldkirk, and also endowed the school foundation there, and who also endowed the Grammar School at Bowes, lived at Cragg, near Lartington, his will being dated 1693, while the date of John Parkin's bequest, who resided at Lartington, would appear to be 1633, the testator's wishes being carried into effect in 1686.

The Commissioner said the Board of Education, as they would gather from the notice, had thought fit to order an inquiry to be held about the administration of that charity, and the object was two-fold. First for the purpose of obtaining information as to the present administration of the charity, and, secondly, to ascertain whether it was desirable that the scheme by which the foundation was governed should be amended in order that the endowment might confer greater educational benefit on the locality. On the first of these two points he had no doubt the trustees would be able to give information, and on the second, or the endowment part of the scheme, he proposed to invite suggestions. Perhaps it would be convenient if he referred to the provisions of the scheme. The principal scheme was made under the Endowed Schools Act, on the 23rd of October, 1877, and under that scheme the Romaldkirk Almshouses and School Foundation were entitled to a share of two-fifths of the bequest of William Hutchinson, formerly of Cragg, near Lartington, whose will was dated 1693. Out of the two-fifths of the endowment the sum £116 was applicable for the purposes of the almshouses, and clause five of the scheme provided that the residue of the income of the Romaldkirk Almshouses and School Foundation should be applied by the Romaldkirk trustees for the advancement of the education of boys and girls attending any public elementary school or schools in the parish of Romaldkirk. The income of the Romaldkirk Almshouses and School Foundation he understood to be something in excess of £200 a year, and out of that, as they had heard, £116 was applicable for non-educational purposes, and something like £100 a year was applicable for the purpose of education. That was the whole of the scheme which referred to the Romaldkirk charity endowment, and the Commissioner proposed to invite the trustees to give him information as to how that part of the endowment had been administered. Possibly it would be convenient for them that they should ask one of their number to act as their spokesman.

Mr Alderson: I propose that Mr Beal give you the information. He is our chairman.

The Rev. S. G. Beal said the Romaldkirk School and Hospital were carried on under an old scheme, but a new draft scheme had been sent down by the Charity Commissioners, and the local trustees had made their suggestions thereon, and had returned the scheme accordingly. Though they had been waiting since then the trustees had received no reply. That was early in 1904.

The Commissioner: Does that not relate to the almshouses?

Mr Beal: Yes, but they are not separated, and we have had no answer to that at all.

The Commissioner: They were separated by an order of the 13th of May, 1904, when the Charity Commissioners determined, in clause two, that the educational endowment shall be a separate foundation. I think you must have a copy of that order, which shows that the two have been separated.

The Rector: It cannot be separated until we know what it is. We were asked to suggest to them concerning expenses, and the date of that letter was the 11th of April, 1904.

The Commissioner: And after that the order was made, namely, on the 13th of May, 1904. It said that the part of the hospital endowment was a yearly sum of £116 payable, which included £25 for management, and the whole of the rest of the revenue was applicable to education.

The Rector: I have not got that. We have been waiting for the answer.

The Commissioner: That is a matter for the Charity Commissioners, and not for the Board of Education.

The Rector: We have not had a single answer to that, and at the last trustee meeting I had to report there had been no answer.

The Commissioner: But you have applied certain monies to educational purposes, perhaps you will be able to tell me that?

The Rector: Certainly. We had better have the last balance-sheet, which is for the 31st December, 1908.

The Commissioner: If you could tell us the educational payments, without reference to the Charity Commissioners.

Mr Beal said the schoolmaster's salary was £85: the remuneration of the schoolmistress was £15, and the amount expended in repairs to the school and cottages was £4 7s. 3d. There were also other smaller payments.

The Commissioner: I shall be glad now of any information as to the nature of this school on which this money is paid. The scheme directs that the money shall be applied for the advancement of the education of boys and girls in a public elementary school or schools, but I don't find in the list that there is one here.

The Rector: It has only been considered a public elementary school because it has been examined by His Majesty's Inspectors.

The Commissioner: Is that so? Then will you tell me when this was done?

Mr Garrett: It has been done three times.

The Commissioner: I should like to know the dates.

Mr Garrett: First it was examined by Mr Westmoreland, then by Mr Bernayes, and the third time by Mr Northrop.

The Commissioner: Do you know when the last visit was made?

Mr Garrett: I don't.

The Commissioner: Can you tell me within any number of years? Five or ten years?

Mr Beal: I have only been correspondent for the last five years.

The Commissioner: It has not been inspected since 1902.

Mr Garrett: The late Mr Hugginson had the reports.

The Commissioner: You are aware that there is a regular definition of a public elementary school. I mean that it is defined by the Education Act of 1870?

Mr Garrett: Oh, yes. I know that.

The Commissioner: I believe that this school has not received grants.

Mr Garrett: No.

The Commissioner: It is not certified as an efficient school unless it is examined, and, in order that it may be an efficient school, the inspection must be annual.

The Rector: But the trustees did not wish it to be inspected annually.

The Commissioner: But you will have to satisfy certain requirements of the Board.

The Rector: I thought these requirements were that it should be certified three times.

The Commissioner read the clause of the Act, and added that this was neither a public elementary school nor a certified efficient school.

Mr Beal: I was not aware that it was not.

Mr Garrett: The attendance officer called every Monday and examined the register.

The Commissioner: Then you keep registers. Mr Roberts just reminds me that the certificate is an annual certificate, and, in order to get that certificate, it is necessary that the inspection should be annual.

The Rector: That I did not know.

The Commissioner: But I must correct that. The inspection would not necessarily be annual, but the certificate would be an annual one. All that is necessary is that the school should be open at all times to inspection.

Mr Beal: As to the claim as a right to examine annually there can be no condition of that kind.

The Commissioner: The Board would not give you a certificate on those terms: not if you choose to impose conditions that would make it impossible. The school is not either a public elementary school or a certified efficient school, and it follows therefore that the endowment does not apply. Do the trustees take the view, in applying the endowment for the purposes of this school, that it is being applied in accordance with the scheme, after my explanation?

The Rector: I was under the impression that it was a public school because it had been certified three times.

The Commissioner: The scheme says any public elementary school, and you have to apply to be placed on the annual grant list as a public elementary school.

The Rector: I only became correspondent in February, 1904.

The Commissioner: They would have to give notice under the provisions of section eight, and they must also give public notice of their intention to do so. You understand that this school is not a public elementary school, and, as the scheme says that this endowment is to be applied for the benefit of children attending a public elementary school or schools, it is not lawful to apply that endowment for the purpose of this school. Do you appreciate the fact, Mr Beal?

The Rector: I see what you mean, but we always thought it was certified. When was this list formed?

The Commissioner: It is an annual list. Has it never been on the list?

Mr Beal: Never on the list, but I was always under the impression that it was certified.

The Commissioner: This list contains all the certified efficient schools in the kingdom, and Romaldkirk School is not on the list. I don't say you individually, but the trustees have not taken the necessary steps to have it recognised as a public elementary school. I don't know whether the Education Committee have had anything to do with this school, or whether they have brought the Education Act of 1902 to your notice.

Mr Wrigley: I think the committee have never had any great knowledge of the school at all. For instance the order of 1904 was entirely new to me. I had never heard of it. I think that is how the matter stands.

Mr Garrett: The reason why we received no grant was because the trustees at that time—most of them are now dead—wished it to be kept altogether independent of the Government.

The Commissioner: And that being so the trustees had no right to pay this endowment.

Mr Garrett: The law allowed them to do so.

The Commissioner: But it is not a public elementary school. It is not recognised by the Board of Education as such, and that is the test.

Mr Garrett insisted that it was acknowledged as a public elementary school, and added that it was not the intention of Mr Forster's Bill to destroy efficient schools.

The Commissioner: I don't doubt that the school is a very efficient one, but unless this school, as I have said, is a public elementary school within the meaning of the Education Act of 1870 you cannot pay this endowment.

Mr Garrett: Would you kindly tell us what does make it a public elementary school?

The Commissioner: Yes, I will. Compliance with clause 7 of the Elementary Education Act of 1870.

Mr Wrigley: Would it be open for them to comply with the necessary formalities, which has apparently not been done, and have the school put upon the list of public elementary schools?

The Commissioner: Certainly. There is no reason why it should not be a public elementary school. It would be necessary, however, for the managers of the school to give notice of their proposal.

Mr Wrigley: Quite.

The Commissioner: And it would still be for the Board to consider whether any of that money should be applicable in relief of the rates, or for the managers' purposes.

Mr Beal: I don't quite grasp what you wish me to do.

The Commissioner: It is quite clear you cannot go on spending the money on this school.

The Rector: I see technically what is meant.

The Commissioner: But beyond technicalities we are bound by the scheme. Do you consider that there is a necessity for a school in Romaldkirk?

The Rector: Most certainly. Every necessity, and I think we would be quite prepared to comply with the requirements, and turn the school into a public elementary school.

Mr Wilson Haigh suggested that the endowment should be distributed proportionably amongst the recognised elementary schools in the parish of Romaldkirk, which included Cotherstone and Lartington.

The Commissioner said it was not stated that the endowment belonged to that school in particular, but to the ancient parish of Romaldkirk, which included that village, as well as Cotherstone, Holwick, Hunderthwaite, Lartington, Lunedale, and Mickleton. It did not necessarily follow, even if that school was made into a public elementary school, that they were entitled to the whole of the endowment. If the children would be able to avail themselves of secondary education he thought the endowment might be applied in providing scholarships.

The Rector inquired if, in the case of the school being made an elementary school, provision would be made for a pension for the schoolmaster, Mr Garrett having occupied that position for over forty years.

The Commissioner: I am only telling you of the difficulty. There is no connection between this endowment and the schoolmaster. This scheme does not say that you may apply it for the benefit of a certain school in Romaldkirk. If it did it would only be a natural thing that some part of the endowment should be applied for the purposes of a pension.

Mr Helmer: The very fact of this school being built by the founder is evidence.

The Commissioner: That is one of the points that I want known. Is there any deed relating to it?

Mr Beal: The trustees' box is full of deeds. Is it not?

Mr Garrett: Yes.

Mr Helmer said the schoolmaster's house adjoined: there had been a school for 200 or 300 years: he supposed that that school was built at the beginning of last century: he thought it was rebuilt after being burnt down: his family had been there for centuries, and there was always a school from time immemorial, and there was no other scheme in the parish at the time.

Mr Garrett: I have been master of it above forty years. There was a clergyman taught it at one time, and it is an endowed school.

Mr Helmer: Then you wish to know the history of this school, as to how it was founded, and for what purpose?

The Rector: I think we shall be able to trace it.

The Commissoner: I hope you will make the search. If the school was built by the founder that is a strong point in your favour. There is a great deal of mention about Bowes School, and no mention of the Romaldkirk School, except to call it the Romaldkirk School Foundation. It tells you how to carry on the Bowes School, but not the Romaldkirk School.

Mr Helmer: Still that is the scheme—the Bowes and Romaldkirk Charity.

The Commissioner said that John Parkin, of Lartington, left money for a "free school," and it was possible that the school was founded by him, and, while this latter money was left in 1633, nothing was done till 1686. Mr Oates added that he did not think they could usefully prolong the inquiry. He had obtained a considerable amount of valuable information, and he hoped that he might be able to obtain still more. He would be glad if the Board of Education could assist the trustees to deal properly with that endowment. He thought the proper thing for them to do was to suspend any action until they received a communication from the Board. Was the school term over?

Mr Beal: Yes. Would you like to make the researches at once?

The Commissioner: It is desirable to clear the matter up as soon as possible. It is a very peculiar situation, and, while I quite recognise the fact that the trustees have acted in good faith, they have undoubtedly acted under a misapprehension.

This closed the investigation.

[We are informed that since the inquiry the deed chest has been opened by the trustees, and that a thorough documentary investigation is in progress.]

RAVENSTONEDALE CHURCH.

[To the Editor of the "Teesdale Mercury."]

DEAR SIR,—My attention has been called to the interesting article by a correspondent of yours on "Ravenstonedale Church." I was pleased to see it, and thank the writer for his kindly words, but I should like to correct one or two minor errors. "Gallow Hill" is evidently a mis-print for "Gallows," and the church at Newbiggin (one of the smallest in England, only seating 70 persons, but beautiful and neat), is St. Aidan's, not Adrian's. The churchwardens are no longer sworn in by the lord of the manor's steward, and the circle of Druidical stones at Rother (or Rawthey) Bridge no longer exists, as they were pulled down by some vandals to repair the bridge. The living of Ravenstonedale was a perpetual curacy some hundreds of years ago, but it is now a full-fledged vicarage. The "three-decker" in our church is of exceptional interest, as, in addition to the usual three tiers, it contains a seat "for the parson's wife." Finally, may I say that though we boast of an antiquated church—and shall keep it in its present condition as long as we can, in spite of the modern craze for "restoration"—we have a bright, hearty, modern service, and we work the parish on perfectly modern lines. Our Church Council (and too few parishes of our size have church councils) orders all things amicably and well, and parson and people are careful to work with—not against—one another.—Thanking you for your kindness in inserting this, I remain, faithfully yours,

T. SIBLEY BOULTON,
Vicar of Ravenstonedale.

The Vicarage, Ravenstonedale,
Westmorland, July 26th, 1909.

The Territorials.

Drills for F. Company 6th Battalion Durham Light Infantry.

Officer on duty: Lieut. H. P. Friend; Non-commissioned officers on duty: Sergt. R. Dobson and Corpl. Willis.

Wednesday, 28th July, Staindrop, at 7 p.m.—Drill for trained men and recruits.

Gainford, at 7 p.m.—Detachment parade near the Church. Labels for kit bags will be issued on these parades.

Thursday, 29th July, Barnard Castle, at 7-30 p.m.—Company parade outside the armoury. Dress: Khaki uniform and rifles. Labels for kit bags will be issued on this parade. Those who have not already drawn their new walking-out caps and boots must do so after this parade.

Saturday, July 31st.—The company will parade as strongly as possible for camp. Dress: Marching order. Kit bags to be packed in sacks outside the armoury by 2 p.m. The company will fall in at 2-15 p.m., and march off at 2-30 p.m. sharp. Every non-commissioned officer and man must attend camp for at least eight days. Those who can only attend for eight days should try and arrange to attend the first week. If there are any who cannot possibly attend until the second week they must notify the officer commanding the company at once. Any non-commissioned officer and man who may be medically unfit to attend camp must forward medical certificate to that effect to the officer commanding the company at once. All non-commissioned officers and men to bring their own eating, drinking, and cleaning kit to camp with them. Slouch hats will not be taken to camp.

HARTLEPOOL VISITORS AT ROMALDKIRK.

Old English Bill of Fare at the Rose and Crown.

A party of thirty visitors from Hartlepool arrived at Romaldkirk station last Sunday morning, and were entertained by Mr Kidd, at the Rose and Crown Hotel, where an old-time breakfast of ham and eggs was served. Brakes from Middleton afterwards conveyed the party around the picturesque Teesdale hills, and the holiday-makers were then driven back to dinner at the well known hostelry. At four o'clock they sat down to a sumptuous repast, and Mr Firby, the organiser, was heartily thanked for his kindness in bringing the visitors to Romaldkirk and district, and remarked, in an address extolling the natural beauties of Teesdale, that they were indebted to Mr and Mrs Kidd for the very excellent provision which had been made, which in itself had insured a return visit next year.

North-Eastern Banking Company.

The 75th half-yearly meeting of the North-Eastern Banking Company was held at Newcastle on the 23rd inst., Mr G. E. Lascelles presiding. The Chairman alluded to the election of Mr Benjamin Noble, who has acted as general manager since the formation of the bank, to a seat on the board. They had appointed Mr Brodrick Dale, as his successor. Before the amalgamation with Dale, Young, and Co., the totals of the balance-sheet were £1,200,000, and now they were over £4,300,000, showing the sasisfactory progress the bank had made. The report was adopted, and a dividend of 7s. 3d. per share, free of income-tax, was sanctioned, £800 being added to the pension fund, and £3,015 carried forward. The election of Mr B. Noble was confirmed.

FAREWELL SERMON BY THE REV. GEORGE BROWN, D.D.

Sails To-Morrow from Liverpool.

"This is probably the last sermon I shall preach in England," remarked Dr. Brown, of Australia, at the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Barnard Castle, on Sunday morning last, as he discoursed upon the duties and the privileges of christian service. Recently, he said, he had heard the Rev. J. H. Jowett say that "we have got to feel some of the world's sin and sorrow pressing upon us," and added Dr. Brown, "just as we feel that weight and just as we ourselves are sinking under the weight we should make intercession for the transgressors." What a power there was in a congregation like that, he continued, what a reserve power, if it could only be used and directed in a right channel. If men and women and boys and girls only recognised their duties and responsibilities this dear old Barnard Castle would be transformed. Preaching from the last three words in the 3rd verse of the 2nd chapter of St. Mark's Gospel—"borne of four"—the preacher finely developed the evidences of christianity as contained in the newspapers. It might be, he said, as the evolutionists held, that through the ages they had come to this highly developed animal called man: that this was the way the world had progressed: and that this was the way in which God ruled the world: but here was a thing that he wanted them to get hold of: namely, that everything which differentiated man from the mere animal was the special creation of God.

COUNTY SCHOOL SPORTS.

The annual athletic sports of the North Eastern County School took place on Monday, when there was a large and fashionable attendance. The open mile flat race (Victor Ludorum) was decided on Saturday, July 17th, and on Thursday, July 22nd, the open mile handicap was contested, leaving a full programme for Monday last. The president is the Rev. F. L. Brereton, M.A., the head master, and the house colours are:—Durham, gold; Northumberland, light blue; and York, scarlet. The band of the 4th Durham Light Infantry, by the kind permission of Colonel Sowerby, D.S.O., and the officers, played selections during the afternoon. A large number of valuable challenge cups are competed for, the details of which are full of interest. The appearance of the boys was admirable, and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent. Results:

Saturday, July 17th.—Mile flat race, open—1, Atkinson i.; 2, Storey ii.

Thursday, July 22nd.—Mile handicap, open—1, Storey ii.; 2, Dunlop; 3, Swann.

Monday, July 26th.—100 yards' flat race, under 12½—1, Harrison iv.; 2, Young iv. 100 yards' flat race, under 14—1, Naismith; 2, Wetherall. 100 yards flat race, under 15½—1, Brown iv.; 2, Lorains. 100 yards flat race, open (the Clark challenge cup)—1, Allen; 2, Sebborn. High jump, under 14—1, Cuthbertson; 2, Balls. Quarter-mile flat race, open (the Richardson challenge cup)—1, Atkinson i.; 2, Brown iv. Quarter-mile flat race, under 14½ (the ladies' challenge cup)—Naismith; 2, Arthur. Throwing the cricket ball, open—1, Leighton; 2, Allen. Hurdle race, 100 yards, open—1, Allen; 2, Sebborn. Hurdle race, 100 yards, under 14½—1, Thornton ii.; 2, Cuthbertson. High jump, open—1, Sebborn; 2, Strachan. 220 yards handicap, under 13½—1, Ormston; 2, Harrison iv. 220 yards handicap, open—1, Brown iv.; 2, Ewan. 220 yards handicap, under 15—1, Naismith; 2, Suddes. Long jump, open—1, Sebborn; 2, Allen. Half-mile flat race, open—1, Atkinson i.; 2, Raine. Long jump, under 14—1, Whaley i.; 2, Cuthbertson. Putting the 16 lbs. weight, open—1, Sebborn; 2, Atkinson i. Half-mile handicap, open—1, Dunlop; 2, Arrowsmith; 3, Brown iv. Throwing the cricket ball, under 14—1, Mackenzie; 2, Walton i. Tug-of-war—Durham. Steeplechase handicap, open—1, Meal; 2, Atkinson i.; 3, Auton. Consolation race for non-winners—1, Henderson ii. House points—1, York, 119 points; 2, Durham, 98 points; 3, Northumberland, 59 points.

Success of Miss Walton at the Royal Academy.

All lovers of music in Barnard Castle and district will be pleased to hear of Miss Gertrude Walton's success at the Royal Academy of Music, London. She has just won one bronze medal for singing and another for sight singing, and also received honourable mention for piano playing. The medals were presented to her at the prize giving on Friday last by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, in the Queen's Hall. Miss Walton, it will be remembered, was the soprano soloist at the last choral concert, when "Samson" was given.

Bowes Museum.

(To the Editor of the "Teesdale Mercury.")

DEAR SIR,—I was pleased to notice that Mr Cameron had taken up the question of an additional entrance to the Bowes Museum Park, which, if granted, will be very much appreciated. There is, however, another matter which also requires the attention of the Trustees, and that is the hour of closing the Museum. The town depends a good deal on summer visitors and excursionists, and we ought to do our best for them in the way of entertainment. The Museum is undoubtedly one of the greatest attractions, but as you are aware excursion trains often arrive at Barnard Castle about 4 o'clock, and there is consequently very little time to get something to eat (generally the first consideration) and along to the Museum before the door is shut at 5 o'clock. Only about a week ago some trippers met at my shop and one of them said "we went to have a look through the Museum but it was closed." Now, sir, they could not very well go home and advise their friends to pay a visit to the Museum whenever they come to Barnard Castle. I really think that the hour for closing is much too early, both for visitors and townspeople in summer time. I trust, therefore, that the Trustees at their next meeting will not only grant the additional entrance asked for, but also allow the Museum to remain open one or two hours longer during the summer months at any rate.—Yours truly,

JOHN BROWNLESS.

76, Galgate, 26th July, 1909.

Music Hall, Barnard Castle.

There will be a big attraction at the above hall on Wednesday, August 4th, when Mr Tom Macfarlane's Company will appear in Hall Caine's masterpiece, "The Prodigal Son." Mr Macfarlane has spared no expense in selecting his company, which includes Mr Escott Robson, as Oscar; Mr Gatenby Bell, as Magnus; Miss Roberta Pulleyne, as Helga; Miss Bertha Wilson, as Thora. This piece has had a great reception throughout the provinces, with entirely new and elaborate scenery from Wentworth Croke's Lyric Opera House (Hammersmith) Studios. The patrons of the Music Hall should certainly take this opportunity of witnessing one of the best dramatic companies now touring.

Mr Adam Dugdale, J.P., D.L., of Gilmonby Hall, has been appointed Chairman of the Manchester and County Bank.

To Farmers re Summer Dipping. To secure best results, a clean fleece and certain protection against fly, use only Raine's Summer Dips (as approved by the Board of Agriculture). Strength and quality unaltered. Prices reduced!! Call, enquire or write, Raine, Chemist, Barnard Castle.

CRETA BRIDGE POLICE COURT.

WEDNESDAY.—Before Mr John Wallace Taylor (chairman), Mr T. Helmer, Mr J. Todd, and Mr M. J. Dixon.

Highway Scene Near Greta Bridge.

Thomas Barker, groom, and William Collingwood, farmer, both of Ravensworth, were charged with assulting Thomas William Kay, of Barningham, on Wednesday night, the 30th of June, on the highway.—Barker was fined 10s. and costs, and Collingwood 20s. and costs.

Lunedale Labourer's Thefts.

Richard Robbins (alias Burton), labourer, of Grassholme, was charged with stealing a spirit level, belonging to George Addison; a bicycle lamp, belonging to John Kirby; and a pair of socks and a towel, the property of Mary Ann Kidd, of the Rose and Crown Hotel, Romaldkirk.—The prisoner, who pleaded guilty to all three charges, was sent to prison for one month, with hard labour.

Barnard Castle Agricultural Show.

Don't forget that entries for the Barnard Castle Agricultural Show close on Saturday next, July 31st, and that everything points to a most successful exhibition. Entries are coming in well. The grounds at Spring Lodge are looking beautiful, and the splendid band of the 4th Durham Light Infantry will be a treat.

Barnard Castle Flying Club.

The above club flew their last old birds' race from Rennes, France, on July 13th, a distance of 445 miles. Seven members sent twelve birds, but only three birds were timed in up till close of race. Result: Hebdon's Minoru, 958 yards; Ashmore's Sutton, 779; Metcalfe's Nomination, 627.

Selby Race.—The first young birds' race was flown on Saturday last from Selby, 63 miles. Messrs Goodwin and Metcalfe liberated at 3-30 p.m., with a west wind blowing. Result: Hedley, 884 yards; Hebdon, 868; Metham, 805; Chatt, 766; Welford, 767; Metcalfe, 752; Ashmore, 697; Blackett, 663; Robinson, 601. Hedley won loft pool, Metcalfe won 3d. pool, and Ashmore second 3d. pool. Kavanagh and Downs failed to time in.

IMPORTANT SPEECH BY MR BALFOUR.

Yesterday afternoon, Mr A. J. Balfour, M.P., addressed a crowded meeting at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, under the auspices of the City of London Conservative Association. He said the policy they had met to discuss was the policy which was going to effect the future of this country for the lifetime of most of those he was addressing. It required above all things security—(cheers)—and it required two kinds of security—security from the possibility of external aggression, and that security which promised to each man the due reward of his risks, of his enterprise, of his energy, and a secure enjoyment of the ultimate fruits of that enterprise and energy. (Cheers).

The Question of Hay Harvesters.

Mr John Thompson desires us to say that the reference which he made to Irish hay harvesters, when applied to personally by our representative, at the late hay hirings, was solely in connection with his own men, whom he has regularly engaged for fourteen years, and not to Irishmen as a class generally. He is quite aware that there are many very excellent agricultural labourers in Teesdale, against whom he has never uttered one word. Mr George Brown, of Stotley, has nothing to retract or to explain in the matter.

COTHERSTON AND LARTINGTON.

There's a dear little spot on the banks of the Tees,
Cotherston, 'tis nam'd, so well known for its cheese:
The church has fine bells, with its clock and sweet chimes,
And a pleasant chateau, which they call "The Limes."

There's a sylvan retreat, all hail to the Hagg,
Where cricketers sport, and young hopeful brag:
Circling in boldness with well-rounded neck,
How romantic the glimpse of old Balder Beck.

There's a sheen of purple heather quite as still
As the peaceful haunts around the quaint old mill—
With other rare wonders rare, I ween,
Which rival Swiss or Rhine, or any foreign scene.

There's many a flower in Cotherston fair
Sheds its fine fragrance on the four desert air:
But Lartington give me—bright, aye ever green—
That true beauty spot—"The Yorkshire Village Queen."

J.B.

THE GREAT SKIN CURE.
IT'S WONDERFUL THE EFFECT OF
BUDDEN'S S.R. SKIN OINTMENT.
It will Cure Itching after one application; destroys every form of Eczema; heals old Wounds and Sores; acts like a charm on Bad Legs; is infallible for Piles; Prevents Cuts from Festering; will Cure Ringworm in a few days; removes the most obstinate Eruptions and Scurvy. Boxes, 7½d. and 1 1½d. Agent for Barnard Castle, Mr Hisley, Chemist; Middleton-in-Teesdale, Mr R. W. Raine; Darlington, Mr Walton.

Mrs Clement, North Field, Bowes, has two cross-bred pullets which have commenced to lay. They were hatched in February.

Raine, Chemist, Barnard Castle, requests that all orders for Medicines, etc., to be made up, be left in good time on Market Days, in order to avoid any unnecessary waiting and delay at the close of the market.

If you see your way clear to marry go to J. T. YOUNG'S, and purchase one of his Fine Gold Wedding Rings. They are the best money can buy, and he gives a good, useful Present with each ring. If you can't see your way clear, still go to J. T. YOUNG'S, he is sole agent for Henry Laurance's Celebrated Spectacles and Eye-Glasses, and keeps a large stock to select from. No charge for testing your sight. Note the address:—J. T. YOUNG, Jeweller, Gold and Silversmith, Optician, Fancy Goods Dealer, and Cycle Agent, Greenwich House, Market Place, Barnard Castle.

Don't "Mind Your Corns," cure them by using the "London" Corn Silk. The safest, surest and speediest cure. Price, 7½d. per packet, post free, from Raine, Chemist, Barnard Castle.

For Real Bargains in Millinery and Blouses see Howson and Reay's Windows.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

Deaths.

PERCIVAL.—At Brignall, on the 25th inst., Martha, the dearly beloved wife of William Percival. Interment at Brignall, on Thursday, the 29th inst., at 2-30 p.m. Friends please accept this (the only) intimation.

CLOSE.—On July 22nd, 1909, at Bowes, Jane Close, aged 82 years. Was interred in the Old Churchyard on July 25th.

In Memoriam.

THOMPSON.—In loving memory of my dear husband, Matthew Thompson, who departed this life July 26th, 1907. Ever remembered by his loving wife and family.

EDEN.—In loving memory of George H. Eden, who departed this life on July 24th, 1908. Gone but not forgotten by his loving wife and family and friends.

Return Thanks.

THE FAMILY, FOUR SONS AND SIX DAUGHTERS OF THE LATE JANE CLOSE, Bowes, wish to express their gratitude and thanks for the sympathy and kindness shown by their many friends at the loss of their mother.