

TABLE SEEDS

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BARNARD CASTLE.

TO LADIES.

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SLANG PROBLEMS.

PERHAPS the remote dialects of Yorkshire and Durham afford the most conspicuous examples in the problems of slang which can be traced in rural England. To an outsider, and more especially a south-countryman, the jargon of Teesdale was at one time quite incomprehensible, though the district having been linked up with the general railway system of the land has doubtless resulted not only in a more scrupulous observance of the dicta of Lindley Murray, but in more approved modern accentuation. In the fastnesses of the hills the time was when great liberties were taken with proper names, and rarely, indeed, were families known in the district by their real christian or surnames. Indeed one felt greatly indebted in these parts to Dr. Dinsdale for his admirable "Glossary of Provincial Words used in Teesdale," for he has not only done much to rescue from oblivion many of the expressions once in ordinary use in the dale, but which are gradually giving way to later terms, but his work discloses a very mine of information, and a monument of untiring investigation. The author of "Claude de Vesci," touching upon the Teesdale dialect, gives striking illustrations. Then there is, too, the slang of the town. In fact, in considering this enigma, as a writer some time ago pointed out, the student of language finds himself beset with problems and difficulties of many kinds; and these obstacles are not confined to the recognised vocabulary of his mother tongue—the dictionary of literature and of educated speech. Similar problems are to be found in the study of that bastard language known as slang—that debased form of verbal currency which seems to accompany every mode of civilised speech as inevitably as counterfeit coins are found wherever a metallic currency is in use. The problems of slang are many. One leading difficulty is connected with the origin of many of the items in the slang or colloquial vocabulary. In some cases the historical method, which has been applied with such striking success to the investigation of etymologies and origins in the study of ordinary English words, may be used with equal success in tracing back vulgarisms to their ultimate source. But more often it fails, for very many slang words and phrases are uncommonly difficult to trace in literature. They come—no one knows whence, and originate—no one knows how. They are heard in vulgar or colloquial speech, but do not appear in literature. A few years ago the "oof bird" suddenly flew into the ken of students of popular speech, and for awhile "oof bird" or "oof" was the one popular synonym for money. But although the subject has been much discussed, and although the word is undoubtedly but a few years old, no one has been able to discover who invented the word, and the reason it has for its existence. Again, "bob" is slang change for a shilling. Its history can be traced back a certain distance, and about a hundred years ago "bobstick" meant a shillingsworth, but beyond this no one can go. No evidence has been discovered to explain the origin of "bob" in this connection. It is the same with many other colloquialisms. Many of the slang phrases and the catchy sayings of the street can be traced to the momentary popularity of comic and music hall songs. A very large collection might be made of these vulgar clichés: "Does your mother know you're out?" "How's your poor feet?" "Whoa, Emma," and so forth. But although their origin is often easy to trace, it remains to some extent a problem to account for the rapidity with which the latest catch phrase travels from one end of the country to the other. The vulgar question or the idiotic refrain, which is new in the Strand to-day, may be heard almost literally within the week in distant provincial towns, in quiet country lanes, and in the remotest hamlets. Ill news travels fast, but ill or idle words travel faster.

Motor-Cyclist Injured on Stainmore.

A number of sheep were frolicsome on Stainmore last week, when by some means or other one of them bumped against a motor-cyclist, who was passing at the time, and threw him on to the road. The poor fellow's machine was dislocated, and the machine was badly damaged. He was afterwards attended by the doctor from Brough, and later proceeded home. The motor-cyclist was brought to Mr. Smith's garage, Barnard Castle, for repairs.

Increasing Menace of South Wales Mining Dispute.

The South Wales mining difficulty, so far from being settled, has assumed a graver aspect. The miners are now saying that their points are not conceded there will, within a day or two, be a strike in the coalfield.

Princess Bariatsinsky and Poland.

Princess Vladimir Bariatsinsky, who paid a visit to Poland, accompanied by Mr. John Pollock and others, to superintend the administration of the Great Britain to Poland and Galicia Fund, is continuing her work of charity behind the Russian lines. Her Highness was at work both in Poland and Galicia before the great Russian retreats, and visited Warsaw, Przemysl, and Lemberg, but is now, of course, compelled to remain in Russia itself. In a message received on June 28th the Princess telegraphed from Kiev: "Arrived Kiev. Organising relief refugees. Thousands already. Eighty thousand more expected shortly. The famine is terrible. The following message was received from the Princess, dated from Kiev: 'Opened home hundred Galician children to day, largest Kiev. In the school-house, given by Mayor Soborov. Hill-side air. Lady doctor and trained assistant constant attendance. Allowing for other undertakings present funds permit guarantee upkeep six children. Trust generous British public will continue to give assistance to my refugees from German frightfulness—Bariatsinsky.' The Great Britain to Poland Fund has been affiliated recently to the Russian Red Cross, by special permission of the Empress.

There was harvesting by moonlight last week in many parts of Shropshire and North Staffordshire. Many men after business hours offered their services to farmer friends, and many tons of grain were safely gathered.

LOCAL AND OTHER NOTES.

The Hon. Mrs. Ian Maibland gave birth to a son and heir on Sunday, August 29th. The baby is grandson of Mr. J. J. Bell-Irving, of Rokeby, and great-grandson of the Earl of Lauderdale.

Captain the Hon. C. W. Vane, the second son of Lord Barnard, writes in good spirits from France. Lieutenant the Hon. R. H. Vane, the third son of Lord Barnard, is in the Mediterranean, and may eventually reach India.

Major General Sir John Woon and Lady Woon and their daughters are staying at Gaisford.

Captain A. J. D. Preston, of the 6th Royal Dublin Fusiliers, Mediterranean Force, son of Major and Mrs. Preston, formerly of Westwick Lodge, Barnard Castle, has been killed in action.

The Rev. J. H. Jowett preached twice in Edinborough on Sunday, and on the 10th of September, the talented preacher and Mrs. Jowett's steam for New York.

Last Thursday morning a small draught of the 10th Leicesters left Desbott camp for active service overseas.

Miss Gladys Winman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Winman, has recently passed the Oxford junior examination.

Private John Raper, of Barnard Castle, who is in the Canadian forces, paid a short visit to this town last week.

A small party of recruits arrived at Desbott camp, and joined the Leicesters, on Friday night.

Mrs. J. J. Bell-Irving is staying at Dublin Castle.

A not even of fully £31 has been realised for the bazaar funds by the recent Middleton church fete.

Two more of the Belgian refugees have left Middleton, they having obtained work at Darlington.

Private Wicks, of the Wiltshire Regiment, the youngest brother of Mrs. Jones, fruiterer, Newgate, has been wounded. Another brother, returning to the front after being wounded, has been his second time.

Last Thursday night's attendance at the Bowes Museum Park was, perhaps, the largest this season.

The Speaker of the House of Commons, speaking at Penrith, on Friday, on war-time thrift, advocated the discontinuing of the salaries of Members of Parliament as a State lead in economy.

The wounded soldiers now at Branspeth Castle (the seat of Lord Howe) had a most enjoyable motor trip on Friday, the arrangements being in the hands of Mr. Luke Cotton, of Willington. In the course of the drive Rokeby Park was visited, and tea was kindly provided by Mr. J. J. Bell-Irving, J.P.

Lord Durham and Lady Anne Lambton have left Lambton Castle, Durham, for Argyllshire, where Lord Durham leaves Black Mount deer forest from Lord Broadbent.

Lord and Lady Percy have left London for Stanwick Park.

Lord and Mrs. Crichton-Stuart have come home from the front on leave, which will be spent with Lady Nislan in Scotland.

Mr. Gerald Headlam and Miss Helen Headlam arrived at Gaisford, on Saturday, from Alnwick.

Mr. Jackson, Cockfield station, has been appointed the station master at Ravenshoe-on-Ed, in succession to the late Mr. J. A. Kitchin. Mr. Jackson has been station master at Cockfield for two years.

The Rev. J. H. Cartwright, formerly of the Kirkstall, has been appointed the new superintendent of the Wesleyan Missions in India.

At the Registry, on Wednesday, the Bishop of Ely, the Rev. C. B. Taylor, late curate of Brough, to the curacy of Rokeby with Woodside.

Miss M. A. Melville White, Tayport, Fifeshire, has been appointed the head teacher of the Missionary School, Farnham, Surrey. She has held an appointment in the North Riding of Yorkshire.

655 wagons were despatched last week for the wounded soldiers and sailors by the Rev. J. B. Robinson.

Miss M. Alderson, of the Villa, Bowes, has most loyally and sympathetically collected a quantity of sphagnum moss on Bowes Moor, at the request of Miss Smith, of Grove Park. A quantity of the moss has also been consigned to Mrs. J. J. Bell-Irving, of Rokeby Park. Miss Alderson is quite prepared to collect more moss if it is found to be satisfactory for use in the hospitals, as suggested.

Private J. W. Spencer, Bunterknowle, of the Durham Light Infantry, has been wounded in action.

Stoats are very numerous in Teesdale, large numbers having been seen by motor-drivers.

Private A. Bennett, of the Royal Army Medical Corps, has been home on leave. He enlisted three months ago, and has just successfully passed his final examination with honours. He will leave Aldershot on Thursday as dispenser in overseas hospital.

Driver A. Stewart, of the Royal Engineers, and stationed at Marton Hall, has been home on leave of absence. He will shortly leave Marton for a course of rough riding.

The King of Siam, who was the Crown Prince, was, in 1898, an officer of the Durham Light Infantry, and was stationed at the Aldershot Depot. He was extremely popular with his fellow-officers, with whom he was in training, and he has always kept in touch with them. Even though business of the State has latterly compelled him to a great extent, the King has remembered the 'Faithful Durham' and last week there has been received from His Majesty the sum of £1,000 for the charitable fund of the Durham Light Infantry. A colleague of the King, when he was an officer of the Durham, was Major Kenneth Leasher, the commanding officer of the new 20th Durham Light Infantry.

Mr. James Pullen, second son of the late Bishop of Richmond, has been gassed in the Army Service Corps (Mechanical Transport). His elder brother, the Rev. R. Pullen, is acting as temporary chaplain to the 10th Battalion Royal Warwickshire Regiment. Lieutenant Hubert Pullen, 3rd Battalion North Staffordshire Regiment, has been invalided from the front. Another of the late Bishop's sons, Mr. Humphrey Pullen, is a second-lieutenant in the Army Medical Corps (Horse Transport).

UPPER DALE NOTES.

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

Middleton Baptist Sunday scholars, together with the teachers and a number of friends, had a picnic at Forest on Saturday afternoon. The children were conveyed in Mr. Gove's motor. On arrival at their destination various games were indulged in, and tea was provided. Although the weather was very threatening, the youngsters were most safely home before the heavy rainfall, after having spent an enjoyable time.

Posselt's circus visited Middleton on Friday and Saturday, good attendance being present at each of the performances. The previous visit of the circus to this town was five years ago. Some clever feats were performed. The horsemanship was very good, whilst Red Hot and the other clowns were very amusing.

Special sermons were preached in the Wesleyan Chapel, Middleton, on Sunday morning and evening, by Councillor Bentley, of Brough. The visit was in connection with the Local Producers' Mutual Aid Association.

"The right to kill" was the principal film at the picture hall, Middleton, last week-end. It is a picture in two acts, and is very attractive. The horsemanship of the Connors was also an interesting scene, which showed the superior skill of these soldiers. Charlie Chaplin was a special feature in the comics.

Private Isaac Leo, the well-known Teesdale angler, has been wounded in the hand whilst on active service in the Dardanelles, and is now in hospital in England.

The death took place at Middleton, on Sunday morning, after a short but painful illness, at the age of 32 years, of Mr. Thomas Raper, eldest son of Mr. George Raper, of Lonsdale. He was a quiet, inoffensive, young fellow, and was very highly respected. His untimely end has been the instigation of expressions of sorrow and regret by all who knew him. Much sympathy is extended to his wife and four children, and also to his parents and family.

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