

CHRISTMASTIDE

The shop windows, equally with the weather, are indicative of the approach of Yuletide, and the various recorded acts of benevolence further testify that old Father Christmas is close upon us. In the absence of these seasonable philanthropic movements scores of the poor residents in our own immediate neighbourhood would experience no accession of comfort or enjoyment, whilst thousands of our fellow north-countrymen and their families are the occupants of cheerless homes, and without even the common necessities of life to satisfy the cravings of the poor half-starved children. Despite the fact that a dark cloud has hung over the North for some time, the labouring classes in this district have had a fair share of employment, thanks to the public works now in progress, and the continued openness of the weather; and, whilst we are thankful for small mercies, let us express a hope that the advent of the new year will bring about a better state of things. The well-stocked shops at Barnard Castle abundantly prove that the "inner man" has been well catered for, whilst the display of beef, mutton, game, and poultry, in the market last Wednesday, is especially worthy of note. Indeed the "Knights of the Cleaver" appeared to have vied in excellence each other, and where all was so good it is no easy task to decide the premier position. Mr James Peacock exhibited a prime four-year-old ox, which was fed by Mr T. Byers, of South Thorpe. The animal weighed about ninety stones, and was well fed. Mr Peacock also showed some classical Scotch wether mutton fed by Mr S. Rowlandson, of Kirkby Stephen, in addition to some grand heifer beef. Suckling pigs, dairy-fed pork, geese, ducks, chickens, turkeys, and fowls completed the array, which was, indeed, an excellent show. Messrs. R. Arrowsmith and Son were not a whit behind in their display, which comprehended the carcass of a grand three-year-old ox, upwards of ninety stones in weight, which was fed by Mr H. C. Howard, of Greystoke Castle; two prime Highland kyloes, fed by Sir Talbot Constable, Bart., of Scargill Lodge; four-year-old Scotch wethers, fed by Mr G. Amos, of Marwood; six fallow deer from Raby Castle, dairy-fed pork, and game of every description besides turkeys and geese. Mr Robert Thomas, jun., of Cotherton, showed a really splendid heifer, which was fed by Lord Boyne, of Brancepeth Castle, and it is undoubtedly due to this pushing young tradesman that he made a very excellent show, and his grand wether mutton attracted no less attention than his neatly-cut beef. Mr Richard Gill, also of Cotherton, slaughtered a number of prime fat heifers fed by Mr P. Amos, of Langton, and Mr T. Birkett, of West End, and together with first-class mutton from Mr W. Heslop, the noted breeder, of High House, Marwood, placed him in the front rank of exhibitors. Mr Thomas Thompson, of Galgate, Barnard Castle, emulating his compeers, offered for sale a prime four-year-old bullock, which met with the full approbation of all purchasers, and certainly more useable or better beef has not been in the local market for many a long day. Mr Robert Errington, Mr Rouben Sayer, Messrs Johnson, Mr Peat, Mr Robson, Mr Walton, Mr Nicholson, Mr Smith Mr Maclean and other butchers showed capital beef; and the confectioners, wine-merchants, grocers and colonial merchants throughout Teesdale have exceptionally good stocks to choose from.

The Baptists of this town held their annual Festival on Christmas Day, in the Board School-room. The tables for tea were given and presided over by Mesdames Jonathan Hunt, Dowthwaite, George Pinkney, Parmley, and John Gowing. A crowded public meeting was afterwards held in the same place, presided over by Mr W. Pinkney, of Egglestone, and addressed by Rev. J. M. Stephens, B.A., of Newcastle, M. Cuthbert, J. Charter, and Mr Edwin Johnson, of Stockton. The choir entertained the meeting by the singing of choice anthems and choruses. The proceedings of the evening closed with a coffee supper, at which tables were provided by Mesdames Charter, French, Foster, G. Pinkney, W. Dowthwaite, and the Misses Dowthwaite and Smith, on behalf of the young men of the Church. The Middleton Singing Band kindly gave their efficient services during the supper.

Seasonable Benevolence.—The Rev. J. Milner (Rector) has, in keeping with his annual custom and kind liberality, given to twenty-three deserving poor persons and families 2s. 6d. worth of beef each, during the past week.

WYCLIFFE

The service in the Parish Church on Christmas Eve was well attended. The choir sang a number of Christmas carols during and after the service. The church was tastefully decorated with holly and ivy, interspersed with illuminated texts. The Rev. John Erskine (Rector), in his sermon, made touching allusion to the death of Mr Morley Headlam, to the connection of his family with the parish of Wycliffe, and to the great interest the deceased gentleman had taken in all that concerned the welfare of the parish. These remarks were listened to with deep attention by the crowded congregation.

MIDDLETON-IN-TEESDALE

Christmastide has been celebrated here with wonted observance. On the eve and early morning of the above day, the Wesleyan Choir paraded the streets, making sweet melody by their carol singing. The D. Company of the 2nd Durham Rifle Volunteers had a church parade in the morning, with a very good muster. This is always looked upon as a pleasing feature and observance by our volunteers.

STAINDROP

On Tuesday evening, Dec. 23rd, a concert was given in the Scarth Memorial Hall, by the members of the Staindrop Church Choir, on behalf of the distressed workpeople of Witon Park. The company attending was not so great as the charitable nature of the undertaking demanded, although the reserved seats were in proportion well patronised. Amongst those present we noticed the Rev. H. Lipscomb, J.P., Vicar of Staindrop; the Rev. R. E. Beaumont, J.P., Mrs Beaumont, Newsham Hall; the Rev. J. M. Shepherd, Vicar of Ingleton; Rev. J. Williams, L.T., Curate of Staindrop; Mrs Hick and family, Dr. Copeland, T. Fyfe, Esq., the Misses Brunskill, Miss Howdon, &c. We give the programme below, and cannot speak too highly of the way in which it was rendered. Mr Lax's song "She wore a wreath of roses," was never better sung by him, in fact it was a tribute to the excellent vocal abilities he possesses, and seems rather to improve than diminish with time. He was encored with a persistence that would take no denial in every song he sung. Mr Awde sang several songs very sweetly, and was well received throughout, his last effort being re-demanded, when he substituted "If this is vanity let it be." Miss Lax, though labouring under the disadvantage of a severe cold, strove earnestly against it. She, no doubt, had to make the greatest effort of any singer on the above account; yet, "After so long" received a good encore, and she gave "Let me dream again." Miss Roe, of Ovington, sang "When 'tis starlight," and "Tell me my heart," which latter received an encore. Her performance in the pianoforte duet, in conjunction with Mr F. J. Lax, under whose training she has been for some time, was excellent, while the pianoforte solo "Ripples on the lake" was simply perfect by the last named gentleman. Misses Harriet and Louisa Lax also sang the duet "Let music and song" which very quickly established them as favourites with the audience; while their other songs were equally well received. Mr C. Airey, as a comic singer, always receives a hearty welcome from a local audience; and his amusing song, "Jack and I," was heartily applauded. Mr Lawson (assistant schoolteacher) sang "The reign of the roses" very sweetly, indeed; although not possessing a powerful voice, yet he has nothing to fear if he would throw aside his nervousness, and we may probably hear him again more advantageously still. Mr F. J. Lax, organist of Staindrop Church, was accompanist to all the songs. Programme.—Glee—The Red Cross Knight—Choir; Pianoforte Duet—Fantasia Op. 6 of Flotow—Miss Roe and Mr F. Lax; Song—The Death of Nelson—Mr Lax; Duet—I hear a voice—The Misses Lax; Song—When the heart is young—Miss L. Lax; Song—When 'tis Starlight—Miss Roe; Song—After so long—Miss Lax; Duet—Two Merry Girls—The Misses Lax.

The Second Annual Exhibition of Cage Birds, Poultry, and Rabbits, was held on Friday and Saturday last, and the show, upon the whole, was considered by fanciers a very good one, though the classes were somewhat limited, especially was this the case in the poultry class; but the Committee expect by another year to be able to extend still further their prize schedule. The Society has acquired as patrons, Sir J. W. Pease, Bart., M.P., Sir F. A. Milbank, Bart., M.P., Mr F. E. Gibson, Major Bainbridge, Dr. Horsefield, Dr. Neligan, and Mr Trenham. Much might be said in favour of the promotion of such a society as this, which is composed for the most part of hard-working men, who cultivate both taste and skill as Fanciers of Poultry, and perhaps with as much zest as any of our agriculturists do with their horses, cattle or sheep. However, the committee, at the conclusion of this year's show feel encouraged by the support and liberal patronage bestowed upon them. The judges were, for cage birds, Mr J. W. Hampton, Darlington; poultry, Mr F. E. Gibson, Middleton-in-Teesdale; whose awards we may remark gave general satisfaction. The following is the list:—Cage birds—Class 1: Clear yellow Norwich—1st and 3rd, W. Parkin, Bridgegate, Barnard Castle; 2nd, W. Simonette, Coundon, Bishop Auckland; h.c., Horn and Robinson, Middleton-in-Teesdale. Class 2: Clear buff Norwich—1st, W. Simonette; 2nd, W. Parkin; 3rd, Horn and Robinson. Class 3: Yellow ticked or variegated—1st, W. Simonette; 2nd, J. Wilkinson, Middleton-in-Teesdale; 3rd, Horn and Robinson. Class 4: Buff ticked or variegated—1st, M. Raine, Middleton-in-Teesdale; 2nd, W. Simonette; 3rd, Burniston and Breen, Barnard Castle; h.c., W. Sedgwick.

St. Mary's Church Mission.—Mr Joseph Lowes, who has received a commission from the Bishop of Durham to act as Lay Reader in the Parish of Barnard Castle, has been appointed by the Vicar Lay Superintendent of the Church Mission in Bridgegate.

BOWES

On Sunday evening last, the Rev. C. B. Wardale preached a sermon, in the Parish Church, on the death of Mr Morley Headlam of Gilmonby Hall. There was a very large congregation, who listened with much attention to the eloquent discourse. We hope to be able to publish extracts from the sermon next week.

Church Temperance Society, Barnard Castle.—Annual Tea, etc., in the Music Hall, on New Year's Day. Doors open at 6 p.m. After tea chair taken by Rev. Canon Brown, 7 p.m. Part 1: Service of Song. Part 2: Miscellaneous. Part 3: Drama, "The Queen of Hearts;" scene laid in Nursery-Rhyme Land. Admission, including tea, 9d. After tea, 3d.—See Bills.

BARNARD CASTLE CRICKET CLUB THE AMATEUR CHRISTY MINSTRELS IN THE MUSIC HALL

There are few towns of the pretensions of Barnard Castle which can boast of equal musical talent, and one of the most gratifying and encouraging signs of the times is a wider spread knowledge of music, both vocal and instrumental, which naturally cultivates a desire for innocent enjoyment. The community at large appreciate good entertainments, but when the artistes are all local men there is an enthusiasm imparted to the proceedings which invariably runs high, and particularly is the remark appropriate when an appeal is made to the Barnard Castle public to support the funds of the Cricket Club. Last Friday night the local "Christys" made their third appearance in the Music Hall, and the audience was both large and influential, and comprehended, indeed, all classes. There was a fully programme, and an expectant audience, and precisely at the first toll of the curfew the "darkies" took up their places on the platform, and the full vocal and instrumental strength of the company was speedily tested in the lively gallop, "Skating Rink," which was very creditably rendered. Mr J. Awde, who was interlocutor, then sang with much taste and sweetness, "Sunlit Isle of far away," which was followed by a semi-patriotic song "Shoulder to Shoulder," with a fine bold chorus. Mr G. F. Tilburn sang the air with much taste and precision, but playing the contra bass (as he does with masterly skill) and, standing behind the company, the acoustics of the hall hardly favoured him, although he was rewarded by a hearty round of applause. Mr J. W. Bewick's "Cookie Darling" was deservedly popular, and his thoroughly humorous vein fairly captivated the audience. "Bones" scored well in this song, and throughout the whole of the programme was an undoubted favourite. "Take me Home again"—a charming little song—was next rendered by Mr J. W. B. Heslop.

Greta Bridge Highway Board.—The monthly meeting held on Wednesday at Barnard Castle, was presided over by Mr Byers.—The Surveyor's wages account for the month amounted to £151 19s. 4d.—Several estimates for a snow plough at Mickleton were read, and it was agreed that one be obtained from Mr Clark, Bridge-end, for £2 2s. 6d. this being the lowest tender.—The Chairman drew attention to a discussion, at the Barnard Castle Highway Board, about purchasing a road scraper. It was said that the roads in the Greta Bridge Board district were in a disgraceful state. He moved that a protest be entered on their minutes against such speeches being made at other Boards without foundation. If such statements got abroad, it might come to the knowledge of the inspector of their roads, and perhaps bias him. He wished some members of the Barnard Castle Board had been present, for it would have only been courtesy that they should point out to them the "disgraceful roads" after the statements made. Mr Errington seconded the proposition, which was unanimously agreed to.—After protracted correspondence, the North-Eastern Railway Company offer to put the Lonton Bridge Road in a satisfactory condition if the Board will take it over permanently.—The Board's Surveyor estimates the cost of rehabilitation of the road at £13 5s.—a sum which the Chairman considered utterly inadequate.—The Chairman and a committee were appointed to inspect the place with a view to efficient and effectual repair, as the railway company, it was pointed out, can bar all claim for work done after the road is formally transferred to the Board.

The Mechanics' Institute Soiree Dansette.—This annual event was held in the Board School-room, Middleton, on Friday night last, and was, as usual, a great success, there being present 113 couples. The large room, affording ample space for this number, was prettily decorated for the occasion. The music was supplied by Woodhams' Barnard Castle Quadrille Band, including five performers. Excellent arrangements had been made for visitors, including the supper and a refreshment buffet, &c., the whole being admirably carried out by the committee of the institute, aided by the indefatigable efforts of their secretary, Mr J. Allinson, while the duties of M.C. were undertaken and pleasantly attended to by the President and Vice-president of the institute. A sociable and thoroughly enjoyable evening being spent by all present. Dancing was kept up until the early hours of morning.

Parish of Barnard Castle.—The Bishop of Durham will hold a Confirmation on February 27th, in the Parish Church. Candidates are requested to give in their names at once to the Vicar, at the Vicarage, or after any of the services, or in church on Sunday, January 4, at 2 p.m., when all candidates are requested to be present.

Have you heard of the immense sale of R. W. Raine's Concentrated Ginger Cordial? This preparation, when mixed with sugar and water according to the directions given with each bottle, yields the most agreeable and cheapest Temperance Beverage ever introduced. At all times and seasons of the year it is a delightful and grateful cordial. Prepared by R. W. Raine, chemist, Middleton-in-Teesdale. Sold by D. Finlay, F. W. Law, and M. Milner, Barnard Castle, &c., &c. Please try a bottle.—Adv.

The Primitive Methodists of Barnard Castle held their annual Bazaar and Christmas Tree on Monday and Tuesday last, in the Witham Testimonial. The stalls were replete with useful and ornamental articles, presided over by ladies of the congregation.

DEATH OF LIEUTENANT-COLONEL MORLEY HEADLAM MILITARY FUNERAL AT BOWES

On Thursday, Lieut-Col. Morley Headlam, of the College, Durham, and of Gilmonby Hall, in the North Riding of Yorkshire, succumbed to an illness from which he had been under treatment for some time past. Colonel Headlam was the third son of the Ven. J. Headlam, Archdeacon of Richmond, and was born in 1822. He married Louisa Kate, daughter of Mr C. Beamish, by whom he leaves a large family, and his eldest son, John Emerson Headlam, will be of age next year. Col. Headlam was thus a younger brother of the Right Hon. Thos. Emerson Headlam, who was Liberal representative for the borough of Newcastle for over a quarter of a century, dating from his first election in 1847, and also Judge-Advocate General. As a public man in the North-Riding of Yorkshire and in the district of Barnard Castle deceased was noted as a hard worker, and although rarely included amongst the speakers at any gathering he took part in, where sound practical counsel was required he was never behind hand in furnishing the best aid. Thus his appointment as an Inspector of Works under the Drainage and Land Improvement Companies Acts was held to be one of the best that could be made, as Colonel Headlam carried with him to the discharge of his duties a long and familiar knowledge of everything appertaining to such work, backed by sound judgment and discrimination, and a cool and unbiased method of acting that could not fail to make his decisions and inspections invaluable. He was on the commission of the peace for the county of Durham and also for the North Riding of Yorkshire, and during his residence at Whorlton, and subsequently at Gilmonby, he was rarely missing from his seat on the Barnard Castle bench, whilst at quarter sessions and at petty sessions for the Durham division, after his removal to Durham, he was regular in his attendance to his magisterial duties. The deceased gentleman was for a long time the chairman of the Barnard Castle Guardians, but about three years ago, on his other duties taking up so much of his time, Mr C. Wilson was appointed in his stead. On the inauguration of the Volunteer Movement. Colonel Headlam was a warm and steady advocate of the scheme, and was one of the first batch of commissioned officers that were appointed. Mr Headlam rose step by step until he became lieutenant-colonel of the 2nd battalion, whose head-quarters are at Bishop Auckland. At the great volunteer review at Gosforth Park on Whit Tuesday last he commanded that division of the Rifle Volunteers hailing from the county of Durham. In 1875, the death of his brother, the Right Hon. Thos. Emerson Headlam, caused him succession to the family estates at Gilmonby, near Bowes, and at Whorlton, near Barnard Castle, and he took up his residence at the former place. In politics he was a steady adherent of the Conservative party, but in this as in every other position he was to be found in, he preferred giving quiet and unostentatious help.

On Monday night, the 29th inst., W. Watson, Esq., Thorngate House, Barnard Castle, treated the members of the Barnard Castle Subscription Band to an excellent supper, at the house of Mr Burniston, Commercial Hotel. The chair was occupied by Mr Nixon, bandmaster, who, in appropriate terms, proposed the health of Mr and Mrs Watson, of Thorngate House, the toast being received with great enthusiasm. Other toasts and songs then followed, the harmony being contributed to by Messrs R. Watson, T. Morley and others of the guests.

Charge against a Butterknowle miner.—On Monday, at the Barnard Castle Police Office, before Dr. Munro, a miner, named Stephen Watson, was brought up in custody charged under the Baile Act with stealing the sum of £2 10s., the property of Joseph Robinson, a fellow-workman, at Butterknowle, on the 21st of November. Prosecutor and prisoner worked as mates, and an understanding seems to have existed that the money earned had to be divided between them. Prisoner went to the colliery office, drew the whole sum, and absconded. With some difficulty prisoner was traced, but Mr Supt. Thompson succeeded in finding Watson's whereabouts, and eventually he was arrested at Deptford, near London, and was brought to Barnard Castle on Saturday night, by Sergt. Collinson. Remanded till to-day (Wednesday).

A Violent Passenger.—On Wednesday at the Greta Bridge Police Court, James Alderson, a farm servant, residing at Park End, near Middleton, was charged with two offences against the bye-laws of the North Eastern Company. On the 19th November, defendant travelled by the evening train to Barnard Castle. The train was very full, and he persisted in getting into a crowded compartment. Being remonstrated with he rushed about the carriage and eventually struck a man, sending his shoulder and elbow through the window. Mr Meek, of York, appeared for the Company. One of the passengers called as a witness said that the carriage was crowded, and one of the persons, who had a seat, offered to relinquish his place to defendant, but the latter refused to sit, and commenced to make row, and to evince a strong desire to fight. He became so restive that three of them got on to the seat. Defendant struck Kidd, who was at the end, Kidd fell against the middleman, and middleman against the witness, and witness through the window.—Several witnesses swore that defendant was riotous and that he was strongly desirous of fighting the lads who were in the carriage.—Defendant was severely reprimanded and fined 10s. for each of two offences, 5s. for damage, and the costs.

STAINTON

An Entertainment was given in the school-room of the above village on Dec. 16th, to raise funds for providing the children with prizes. Notwithstanding the inclement weather, the room was filled with a large and attentive audience. The Chair was taken by Mr Sayer, Friar Court, Streatham, who delivered an appropriate address on the benefits of education. The various items of the programme, consisting of songs, duets, quartettes, violin solos, readings, &c., were then efficiently rendered by Mrs Medex, Mrs J. W. Bewick, Miss J. Bewick, and Messrs. Bewick, Racher, and Wippenny; concluding with a humorous dialogue, entitled the "Trial of Ignorance," by the children. A vote of thanks to the Chairman and performers brought the evening's proceedings to a close.

BIGNALL

On Wednesday last, December 17th, the Rev. Robert Tilbury, M.A., was collated to the spiritual cure of souls in this parish, by the Lord Bishop of Ripon, at the Palace. On the day following—a most inclement one—he was inducted by the Rev. George Hales, Rural Dean, to the temporal possession of the goods and income annexed to the same cure; Mr John Errington, churchwarden, and others being present. On the following Sunday he publicly and openly, in the presence of the congregation, read the morning service, and the thirty-nine articles of religion, and immediately after made the following declaration:—I, Robert Tilbury, do solemnly make the following declaration—I assent to the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion, which I have now read before you, and to the Book of Common Prayer; and of the ordering of Bishops, Priests, and Deacons. I believe the doctrine of the Church of England, as therein set forth, to be agreeable to the Word of God; and, in public prayer, and administration of the sacraments, I will use the form in the said book prescribed and none other, except so far as shall be ordered by lawful authority.—A certificate that the new Vicar had so "read himself in" was afterwards signed by the churchwarden and other parishioners, to be forwarded to the Bishop of the Diocese.

Accident at Barnard Castle.—On Monday morning, about 11-50, an accident occurred of a somewhat serious nature. A young man, named Robinson, in the employ of Mr Nicholson, butcher, Bank, was driving a horse with a load of hay down the Bank when the horse was startled by the sound of the street-cryer's bell, upon which it bolted and threw the driver, who was riding at the time on the shafts, and at the same moment broke the back-hand, which somewhat relieved the young man's position. However, he was dragged along until the horse struck against a lamp-post, breaking both shafts, and he was thrown over upon the driver. By the timely and willing assistance of some bystanders, he was soon relieved from his perilous position. Surgical aid was at once procured, and it was found that the young man was somewhat injured internally, but luckily, no bones were broken. He was conveyed to the residence of his employer, where he has received the kindest attention from Mr and Mrs Nicholson, and he is doing as well as can be expected.

Congregational Sunday School, Barnard Castle.—The usual Christmas Festival was held on Friday last, commencing in the chapel by a musical performance sustained by the church choir, assisted by a few friends. The piece selected was Guest's Sacred Cantata, "The Captive Maid of Israel," the interesting story of the little maiden's concern for her master (Naaman's) welfare, and his ultimate recovery, being sweetly told in a succession of solos, duets and choruses, set to original and appropriate words. The soloists were Mrs Medex, the Misses Wippenny, L. A. Wippenny, Meggie Scott, and Raine; Messrs R. Racher, J. Ward, and W. D. Dent, all of whom sang with great correctness and much feeling. Mr E. Wippenny accompanied on the organ with great taste. At the conclusion of the performance about 150 friends adjourned to the school-room, where an excellent tea and coffee supper had been prepared by the female teachers and other friends in the congregation, the tables being superintended by Mrs J. Wippenny, and the Misses Akers, Carnell, Clasper, Christie, Dent, Gent and Thompson, Mesdames Hall, Thompson, Walker, Waite and Wippenny. After supper brief addresses were delivered by the Rev. H. Perfect, Mrs Perfect, Messrs F. Wippenny, J. Wippenny and W. D. Dent (secretary), thus concluding a most enjoyable evening to all present. On Saturday the scholars had their usual Christmas treat, when Mr J. R. Wippenny, of Middlesbrough, delighted them with his magic lantern exhibition.

If you see your way clear to marry, go to J. T. Young's Jeweller, &c., Bank, Barnard Castle, and purchase one of his Finest Gold Wedding Rings. They are the best and cheapest anywhere, and he gives a Wedding Present with every ring.—If you do not see your way clear, still go to J.T.Y.'s. He is the Sole Agent for Henry Laurance's Celebrated Spectacles and Eye-Glasses.—Advertisement.

Seasonable Benevolence.—Mrs Watson, Thorngate House, has, with her accustomed liberality, distributed a large quantity of prime Christmas beef among the deserving poor of Barnard Castle and Startforth.

A Hen worth keeping.—Mr John Beadle, King Street, Newbiggin, has a hen which laid her first egg on Christmas Day, 1883, and has averaged five eggs per week ever since; making a total of two hundred and sixty. She is crossed between Spanish and Game.—Correspondent.

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