Northcote Leader.

Largest Circulation and Best Advertising Medium in the Northern Suburbs.

—CIRCULATING IN—

NORTHCOTE, PRESTON, THOMASTOWN, EPPING, WHITTLESEA, FAIRFIELD, HEIDELBERG, CLIFTON HILL.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1895.

Produce Merchants.

SMALL PROFITS AND QUICK RETURNS.

HAY
HAY
HAY
CORN
CORN
CORN
CHAFF
CHAFF
CHAFF
WOOD
WOOD
WOOD
COAL
COAL
COAL
COKE
COKE
COKE

J. MUNRO AND CO.

Prices Unequalled.
Quality Unsurpassed.
A Trial Solicited.

AND

GENERAL PRODUCE MERCHANTS,
GENERAL PRODUCE MERCHANTS,
GENERAL PRODUCE MERCHANTS,

HIGH-ST., NORTHCOTE.

NOTICE:—The Public are hereby notified that owing to a change in partnership the firm hitherto known as ROWE & MUNRO will in future carry on business as MUNRO & CO.

In soliciting the patronage of residents of Northcote, Preston, & neighboring districts the new firm wish it to be fully known that they are determined to keep none but the BEST in ALL LINES, and will sell at the Lowest Margin of Profit.

J. MUNRO, Manager.

NORTHCOTE

CHEAP CASH PRODUCE STORES.

B. E. JOHNSON

TAKES this opportunity to thank his numerous friends and customers for the liberal support accorded him in the past, and wishes to inform them that he has decided to CUT the PRICES for CASH and sell at the lowest possible prices. Having made arrangements to procure

STRAW
HAY
WHEAT
OATS
BRAN
POLLARD, etc.

Direct from the producer, he is able to supply the public at FIRST COST, thus saving all middlemen's profits.

Very best country Chaff kept, and pure Oats—no adulteration.

Horse, Cow, and Fowl Feed delivered in any part of Northcote and surrounding districts.

WHOLESALE PRICES for large quantities.

B.E.J. hopes the public will give him a trial and satisfy themselves.

Chris. Fry,

(Late Jas. Blair)

PRODUCE MERCHANT & SEEDSMAN,

HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE (near Clifton Hill),

WISHES to notify that he has on Sale—Hay, Straw, Oats, Bran, Pollard, Peas, Maize, Wheat, Barley, Onions, Potatoes, Carrots, Prairie Grass, Rye, White Clover, Red Clover, Cow Grass, Lucerne, Alsayke, and all kinds of farm and garden seeds in great variety.

Prime Chaff, Oats, Potatoes, and Cow Chaff specialities.

WOOD, COAL, & COKE At lowest Rates.

Perry & Grey,

TOBACCONISTS AND HAIRDRESSERS,

High Street, Northcote.

TOBACCO & CIGARS of the Finest Quality.

A Choice Assortment of Fancy Goods.

WOOLS, STATIONERY, AND CROCKERY.

A Trial Solicited.

EDEN PARK GRAZING PADDOCKS.

3000 Acres, Good Grass, Shelter and Water.

Horses, 15/- per quarter; Cattle, 9/-. Reduction for quantity.

GEO. HATTERSLEY, P.O., Woodstock.

Business Notices.

C. FIELD,

Pharmaceutical and Dispensing CHEMIST,

HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE.

PRESCRIPTIONS prepared accurately with the best Drugs and Chemicals.

Strong Nailed Watertights, 6/9
Nailed face Boots, 6/6. Bluchers from 8/11

BEWARE.

Dimmick's Great 'Xmas Sale !!!

BOOTS ALMOST GIVEN AWAY!

STARTLING PRICES! JUST HAVE A LOOK AT THEM

Ladies Tan Shoes, 4/6, 5/6, 6/6
Children's Tan 3-strap shoes, 4 to 6, 2/6 and 2/9; do. 7 to 9, 3/3 and 3/6; do. 10 to 13, 3/11—surprising.
Ladies' Glace Shoes, 4/6
Ladies' Leather Shoes, 3/11, special line guaranteed
Children's do., 7 to 9, 2/3; 10 to 13, 2/9—unequalled anywhere, look at them hanging at the door.
Ladies' Elastic Sides, 4/11, originally 6/6
Ladies' Glace Bals, 5/11, worth 7/6
Gent's Golosh Bals, 5/11
Gent's Golosh Bals, 6/6
Gent's Golosh Bals, 7/6
Canvas Shoes, 2/11

Children's School Boots, 1/9, 2/6, 3/6
Maids' Strong Boots, 1s and 2s, 3/6

Preston Timber Yard,

HIGH STREET, PRESTON (Opposite Dr. Wilkinson's).

C. CRISPE & CO.

HAVE pleasure in announcing to the public of Northcote, Preston, Epping Whittlesea, Diamond Creek, Greensborough, and surrounding districts that they have opened n Timber yard at the above address.

Flooring	Lime	Galv. Iron	Oregon	Hardwood, 3 x 2, 4/3
Lining	Cement	Bolts	Deals	5ft. Pailings, 10/-
Weatherboards	Spouting	Nails	Oils	6ft. Pailings, 4/6
Mouldings	Ridging	Paints	Sashes	Redgum

AND

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING MATERIALS AT LOWEST MELBOURNE PRICES.

NOTE THE ADDRESS AND GIVE THEM A CALL.

SMALL PROFITS.

SUMMER SUITINGS

IN GREAT VARIETY AND AT ALMOST EVERY PRICE, AT

INCE BROS.

All Goods Shrunk through Water.

The usual standard of EXCELLENCE in FIT and STYLE Guaranteed.

INCE BROS., Tailors, 174 Swanston Street.

"THULINIUS"

THE

Great Scandinavian Remedy

FOR

RHEUMATISM (Acute or Chronic),
CHALKY GOUT, GOUT,
RHEUMATIC FEVER and its Effects,
SCIATICA, LUMBAGO, NEURALGIA,
PAINS IN THE HEAD,
RHEUMATIC AFFECTIONS of the EYES,
INDIGESTION, FLATUENCE,
DYSPEPSIA,
LIVER AND KIDNEY DISORDERS,
BRIGHT'S DISEASE,
CHEST & PULMONARY COMPLAINTS,
NERVOUS EXHAUSTION, and all Blood and Skin Diseases (hereditary or acquired).
&c., &c.,

Invaluable as a recuperative Tonic, and Preventative of Illness in either sex.

PRICE, 5s per bottle, or course of 5 bottles for £1 1s.

Carriage and Postage Extra.
Forwarded to all parts of the World on receipt of remittance.

Depot—15 Victoria Arcade Sydney
Entrance from Elizabeth Street.
Near King Street and Castlereagh Street.
Opposite Australian Hotel. G.P.O. Box 1405.

PROFESSOR THULINIUS.

MY DEAR SIR,—I feel I should be wanting in duty did I neglect the opportunity of sending you my testimony as to the wondrous efficacy of your rheumatic specific.

For the past ten years I have been a complete martyr to rheumatism in all its forms. I have tried doctors and hospitals at various times of suffering, and also, I think, every form of advertised remedies, and also followed the advice of well-meaning friends, with a view of effecting a cure for this most trying disease. All that I have been able to accomplish hitherto has been, at best, temporary relief from pain. I am well known, and scores can testify that at best I could only crawl about with difficulty, and are surprised at my present agility in getting about from place to place. After leaving Little Bay Hospital at the close of last year, I was persuaded to try a bottle of your "Thulinius," and in a week or so afterwards I could get about fairly well. Upon again suffering a relapse last February, I took another bottle, with an equally successful result; but at last I determined to go through a course of treatment, and have just completed my fourth bottle, with the gratifying knowledge that I am now free from pain, can walk any reasonable distance without fatigue, have an excellent appetite, and feel myself again competent to re-enter my profession, added to which my oft-repeated attacks of pleurisy have become things of the past. I have not dieted myself in any way, so all the credit is due to your wonderful remedy, under Providence, that my blood is becoming purer daily, and its effects upon my liver and kidneys most pronounced. I send you with this the date of my previous attacks and sufferings should you wish to show them. I shall only be too glad personally to convince fellow sufferers of the benefits to be derived from a course of your treatment, as exemplified in my own case after ten years' martyrdom.—I remain yours faithfully

W. H. NEWTON NEWMAN,
Teacher of Elocution, and twenty-five years Actor and Manager.

The Rev. J. D. LANGLEY, St. Phillip's parsonage, can testify as to the crippled state of MR. NEWMAN prior to his taking "Thulinius."

Drapers

STEPHENS

IS now selling the balance of the **Summer Goods!**

Which will be cleared at Ridiculous Low Prices.

Special Value in all Manchester Goods.

In Millinery it is almost given away, and just look at the prices of Flowers, Feathers, Laces, Ribbons, etc.

Men's, Youths', and Boys' Clothing—the cheapest in the trade:—Men's Suits from 15s; Youths' do., 12s 6d; Boys' Knicker Suits from 1s 11d; Men's Shirts at 10½d, 1s., 1s 3d, 1s 6d, 1s 11d; Boys' do., from 9d each.

Men's Mole Trousers are at Manufacturer's cost and those that buy them always come again. The prices are 3s 11d, 4s 6d, and 5s 6d.

There is a large stock of all kinds of Mens' Mercery, Hats, Shirts, Collars, and Ties.

THE NOTED CHEAP HOUSE IS **STEPHENS'**, HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE.

AN ERROR RECTIFIED.

A. R. NOTTAGE,

High St., Northcote,

Is STILL TO BE FOUND. Owing to sending my old stock of Drapery and Clothing to my country branch at Wodonga, several of my customers thought that I had closed the shop in Northcote, BUT IT IS NOW READY with an ENTIRELY NEW STOCK of Men's, Boys', and Youths' Clothing at BETTER PRICES than you can get in the colony.

20 per cent. less than SALE PRICES, and NEW GOODS—No Old Stock, having disposed of it.

Nottage's Men's Suits ... 17s 10d.
Nottage's Men's All-wool Suits, 19s 11d.
Nottage's Men's Serge Suits, 17s 6d & 22s 6d.
Nottage's Better Suits at Low Prices.
Nottage's Boy Suits, 1s 11d, 2s 11d, upwards.
Nottage's Youths' Suits ... 12s 6d
Nottage's Mole Trousers, 3s 11d and 4s 11d.
Nottage's Men's Tweed Trousers, 3s 11d, 4s 11d, to 10s 6d.
Nottage's Men's Shirts, 9d, 1s., and 1s 6d.
Nottage's Hats, Shirts, and Braces, &c., better than Sale Prices.

SOMETHING STARTLING.—Trousers to order, special, at 9s 11d. Come and get a pair and try them.

A. R. NOTTAGE,

(LATE KIDNEY BROS.),
HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE,
And 220 and 222
SMITH ST., COLLINGWOOD,
Wodonga and Bacchus Marsh.

Drapery, Clothing, Etc.

IN the ASSIGNED ESTATE of S. Prisk, Corner of Bourke and Russell streets, 280 and 282 Bourke street, and 166 Smith street, Collingwood.

The BANKRUPT STOCK REALISATION COMPANY have received instructions to return to

Every purchaser of £1, 4s.
Every purchaser of 10s, 2s.
Every purchaser of 5s, 1s.
Every purchaser of 2s 6d, 6d.

All country orders accompanied by remittances promptly executed.

M. A. RAPKEN, Trade Assignee.

Dressmakers, etc.

Miss Wood,

DRESSMAKER,

Westgarth St., near High St., NORTHCOTE,

near Northcote South Railway station.

Dresses renovated. Terms moderate.

MRS. AND MISS BELCHER,

DRAPERS AND MILLINERS,

HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE.

Next London Bank.

Drapers

THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Are hereby requested to visit (or send their orders, accompanied by Money Orders or Postal Notes),

Brown & Scott's

GREAT SURPLUS CLEARING SALE

OF

FAMILY DRAPERY, CLOTHING, HATS, &c.

401 & 403 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy.

For Cash. Saturday Next. For Cash.

We make no Quotations, they are misleading, and are no indication of value or cheapness. The 5s 11d worth 17s 6d idea is played out.

YOU MUST SEE THE GOODS. A VISIT WILL REPAY YOU.

Tailors

H. C. SAUNDERS,

PRACTICAL TAILOR,

HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

Choicest Patterns of West of England, French, German and Victorian Tweeds always on hand.

Fit, workmanship & style guaranteed.

All Goods well shrunk.
Orders punctually attended to.

YOU can get a SUMMER SAC SUIT for 50/- at HEBBARD'S, corner of High and Lawry Streets, Northcote.

☞ DON'T LOOK THIS WAY.

Clothes do not make the man perhaps,
But if he's poor in dress,
The world is bound to notice it,
And somehow love him less.

FOR GOOD FIT, STYLISH CUT, GOOD WEAR, CHEAPNESS — PATRONISE **"OUR TAILORS"**

NOTE PRICES:

Double Breasted Sac Suit.	55/-
Trousers, ...	12/6
Cricketers' Trousers.	10/6

Remember Address—

VEREY & CROSS,

"OUR TAILORS,"

Smith Street, Collingwood.

Undertakers

HENRY J. R. LEWIS

UNDERTAKER,
High Street, Northcote.

HEAD OFFICE:
Corner of Johnson and Hertford sts., Fitzroy.
Branch—Lygon street, East Brunswick.

H. L. is prepared to conduct funerals at the lowest possible rates suit all classes.

Hearses, Mourning Coaches, and funeral requisites.

Telephone No. 1160. The Trade Supplied.

Sole Patentee of the Disinfecting Coffin for preventing contagion. Established 1856.

W. G. APPS

UNDERTAKER,

Moor Street, Fitzroy, near Labour-in-Vain Hotel, and

High and Robe Streets, St. Kilda.

Patent and every description of Coffin at 5 minutes' notice. Hearses, Coaches, etc.

ELLSLEY'S

Parcel Express.

To and from Melbourne Daily.

ORDER BOXES AT

Stott & Co's, High street; H. Lewis's (undertaker); Bagley Bros.; A. Muirhead's (ironmonger), High st. south; and at Allchin's, Sth. Preston.

CITY OFFICE—298 Lonsdale St., Telephone 1266.

Private Address—Livingstone street, South Preston.

J. T. WAGHORN,

FRUITERER & CONFECTIONER,

Plenty Rd., South Preston.

China, Glass, and Crockeryware.
Fancy Goods, Toys,
Stationery, and School Requisites.

PREVENTION BETTER THAN CURE.

Keep Typhoid and Hydatid Diseases out of your homes by getting JEFFERY'S New Patent Germ-Proof FILTERS.

The filter is attached to the water pipe, and furnishes a sufficiency of the purest water to meet all family requirements, without interfering with the ordinary water supply.

Local Agents—J. Munro & Co., from whom all particulars may be obtained.

Arthur Chanter,

MUS. BAC., UNIVERSITY, MELBOURNE.

Lessons—Pianoforte, Singing, Harmony, Counterpoint, Orchestration and Æsthetics of Music.

Class teaching at Reduced Terms.

Classes Pianoforte and Harmony.

ADDRESS—137 VICTORIA PARADE, or Glen's, Collins St., Tuesday and Friday afternoons.

MILKMENS'
BAKERS'
BUTCHERS'

Billheads!

Lowest Rates.

LEADER office, Northcote.

NEWBOLD BROTHERS

Licensed

PLUMBERS, GASFITTERS And ELECTRICIANS,

Coppersmiths and Tinsmiths,

Park Street, N. FITZROY.

General Jobbing. Trade supplied at Melbourne prices.

ENGINEERS & MACHINISTS.

We have just added this branch to our business, and are prepared to execute every description of general Engineering work. Gas engines, bicycles lawn mowers, water meters, &c., repaired. Locksmiths and Gunsmiths.

Newbold Bros. beg to call attention to their long experience in the trade, which is a sufficient guarantee that all work entrusted to them will be executed in a workmanshiplike manner.

Coach Builders.

John Evans,

CARRIAGE FACTORY

HIGH STREET,

SOUTH NORTHCOTE.

ESTIMATES GIVEN FOR EVERY BRANCH OF THE TRADE.

TYRES CUT WHILE YOU WAIT.

FOR SALE—

New and Second-hand Buggies, Buggy Wagons, and Carts.

THE AMERICAN

CARRIAGE WORKS,

HIGH STREET,

NORTHCOTE.

Estimates given for Repairs in all branches.

Tires Cut Daily.

VEHICLES OF ANY STYLE BUILT TO ORDER.

FOR SALE:

BUGGIES, nearly New, from £10.
ROAD CARTS, do. do. from £6.

Vehicles insured against accidental damage of every description at lowest rates.

WM. COX, Manager.

Private Addresses—
Mr. Cox, Tyler st., Preston.
Mr. HAWKER, 19 Barkley st., North Fitzroy.

Business

S. GREENSLADE,

GENERAL

DYER AND CLEANER

HIGH STREET,

NORTHCOTE

(Opposite Wesleyan Church).

ALL WORK DONE ON THE PREMISES, AND AT LESS THAN MELBOURNE PRICES.

GOOD PRESSING GUARANTEED.

G. MONTAGUE,

HIGH-ST., NORTHCOTE (near bridge),

ARTISTIC PAINTER,

Sign Writer, and General Decorator

Coach Painting a Specialty.

Painting for the Trade generally.
Charges to meet the times.
Your custom kindly solicited.

THE ONLY HIGH CLASS PRACTICAL FURRIER IN VICTORIA.

A. Jackson,

Wholesale and Retail Furrier,
Manufacturer of
CARRIAGE AND TRAVELLING RUGS
In every Variety of Australian and Tasmanian Furs.
33 GERTRUDE ST., FITZROY.
Near the Exhibition.

Ten Years with George Smith and Son 9, 10 and 11 Watling-street, London, an 80 Buchanan-street, Glasgow.
Presents for Home friends a speciality

TRAM TERMINUS, HIGH ST., NORTH.

Miss H. A. Foley,

PRIZE MURRAY WINES ON DRAUGHT.

A first-class Port or Shiraz, 1/3 per quart. A special Line—Claret, Burgundy, Malbec, Hermitage, Port, Shiraz, Verdeilho, 1/3 per bot. Old Port, Muscat, and Sherry, 2/-, and 2/6 per bot.

WINE CAVE, HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

WASTE PAPER.

FOR Sale, in any quantity, at the "Leader" office Northcote.

Sunday Services.

NORTHCOTE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

PREACHER:
REV. S. HECTOR FERGUSON.
SUBJECTS:
Morning, "Heaven—its inhabitants, and how to get there." Evening, "Balaam"—a character sketch.
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, at 8.
Sabbath School, Town-hall, at 3.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PRESTON.

Services are held every Sunday in the Church, David-street, morning at 11, evening at 7.
Subjects for to-morrow:—Morning, "Parental Responsibilities; Evening, "Science and Religion."
Minister—REV. G. CARSON

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, Prince of Wales' Park. Armadale st., Northcote.

Sunday School at 3 o'clock. Prayer meeting Wednesday night at 8 o'clock.
Preacher—Rev George Falkingham morning and evening.
Minister—Rev. G. Chapman.

BAPTIST CHAPEL, PRESTON.

Services in connection with above will for the present be held in the Public Library Hall, Preston.
Rev. F. P. Strickland, morning and evening.
Baptist and Christian friends invited. Free grace, without money and without price.
Sankey's Hymns at evening service only.

Educational

NORTHCOTE ADVANCED SCHOOL for GIRLS and KINDERGARTEN. Resumes January 29.

Principal - MISS WILLIAMS. Visiting Teachers.
Dancing, Mr. G. Malcolm Russel, Town Hall, Saturdays, 3 to 5 p.m.
Piano and Singing, Miss Williams.
Kindergarten, 10s 6d per quarter.
Young ladies not attending school may join extra classes. Prospectuses on application to the Principal.

GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, MICHAEL ST., CLIFTON HILL.

Principals: THE MISSES WESTGARTH (Certificated and Matriculated) assisted by a large staff of competent teachers.
The course of instruction comprises French and all the branches of a sound English education.
Matriculation Classes.
Dancing, Miss Hyams, 15/-, or 12/6 if two, per quarter.
Elocution, Miss Cook, 10/6 per qr.
Conversational French (Gouin system), £1 1s. per quarter (in class).
Singing, Miss Bessie Jukes.
Drawing, Miss K. Westgarth, 15s per quarter; Painting (oil and water color), Miss K. Westgarth, £1 1s per quarter.
Reduction for sisters.
Young ladies not attending the College may join all extra classes.
First Term commences Monday, Feb. 4th to April 24th.
Vacancies for boarders.

KING'S COLLEGE, (BOYS and GIRLS) North Terrace, CLIFTON HILL.

PRINCIPALS—
W. P. HENDERSON, M.A.,L.L.B.,
J. JAMIESON, M.A. F.S.Sc.
Lady Superintendent, Miss B. A. CLANCHY, B.A.
Assisted by Visiting Teachers.
The course of study provides for pupils of both sexes thorough instruction in elementary subjects, in addition to the higher work of Matriculation, Public Service, &c.
Since May, 1892, SEVENTEEN of our pupils have passed the Matriculation Exam.
BOARDERS enjoy every home comfort and are under strict supervision in separate residences.
TERMS—
Day Scholars, 1, 2, 3, & 4 guineas per qr.
Boarders, 15 to 15 " "
EVENING CLASSES (Matriculation, Public Service, &c.) thrice weekly
School re-opens Thursday, Jan. 31st.
Prospectus at Thomson's news agent, High Street.

Announcements.

NOTICE.—I hereby notify that it is my intention to apply to the Shire Council of Preston within one month from the date hereof for a License to manufacture tallow on premises situated on Oakover road.
Jan. 12-95. I. COLLINS.

DRESSMAKING TO SUIT THE TIMES.

MISS YEWS wishes to inform the ladies of Preston, Northcote, and surrounding districts that she has reduced her prices to suit the Summer Sales. Walking Costumes from 10s.; Cotton do., from 7s 6d.—Reigate Villa, High Street, South Preston.

TO LET, by tender, 27 acres of Land with house and outbuildings, Bell Street; also 7 acres with house close to Raglan street. The highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.—THOMAS LYNCH, Bell St., South Preston.

The Reason Why

MACKENZIE'S is a good shop to buy your Boots and Shoes:—
Because they give solid wear.
Because he has a good stock to choose from.
Because his prices suit the dull times.
Because his Boots and Shoes are made from selected material.
Because his Goods are well put together and firm.
Because he gives you first class value.
Send on your repairs
Because he uses good leather and charges reasonable, and
Because it will pay you to go there.
The Address is W. MACKENZIE, Boot Warehouse, Plenty Road, South Preston, near corner of Bell Street, and don't you forget it!

Law.

BACKHOUSE AND MELLOR, (S. B. Backhouse, M.A., L.L.B., Commissioner for South Australia, Queensland, and New Zealand; Robert Mellor),
SOLICITORS, CONVEYANCERS, &c.

Mr. Backhouse has now settled at Preston and may be consulted daily before 9.30 a.m. and after 6 p.m. at his office adjoining Council Club Hotel, High Street.

Melbourne Offices:—
MODERN CHAMBERS, 317 COLLINS STREET.
Telephone 1815.

MADDOCK, JOHNSON, AND JAMIESON,
SOLICITORS, AND CONVEYANCERS,
Market Buildings, 445 Collins Street, MELBOURNE.

J. MACKINNON,
BROKER AND COMMISSION AGENT.
Loans Negotiated.
Insurances Effected.
Rents Collected.
Box 39 Old Exchange, Collins Street, Melb.
HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

DR. JOHNSTONE,
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON
(University of Dublin, Licentiate in Midwifery, Rotondo Lying-in Hospital Dublin),
Has commenced practice in EPPING, and may be consulted between the hours of 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., 2 to 3 p.m., and 7 to 8 p.m.

[A CARD].
DR. W. H. STOCK,
266 Queen's Parade,
CLIFTON HILL.
At MRS. HAYES', High St., Northcote, 2 to 3 o'clock.
Also at Alphington, near Post Office.

MR. E. LENTHALL OLDFIELD
DENTAL SURGEON, &c.,
36 NICHOLSON STREET.
Opposite Melb. Exhibition.
Hours, 11 to 3.30: or by appointment.
Telephone No. 822.

The Leader.

JUSTICE TO ALL.

Published every Saturday Morning.

SATURDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY.

The president of Prestonshire (Cr. Bayliss) called attention on Monday evening to a recent paragraph in the *Age*, in which Cr. Talbot, of Brunswick, was reported to have complained about the pollution of the Merri Creek, near Victoria Street, by the drainage from the premises of certain Chinese who lived on the Preston side of the creek, ostensibly as vegetable gardeners, but who in reality kept and slaughtered pigs without taking any sanitary precautions or being under any supervision. This, said Cr. Bayliss, was a gross reflection on their officers, and it was very unfair and unneighborly for a Brunswick councillor to make such a groundless report before making due enquiry as to the facts. He gave the rashly-made statement an unqualified denial, as if it were allowed to go unchallenged such a report was calculated to have a most prejudicial effect on the shire. Cr. Paterson also expressed his indignation at the report, and regretted that Cr. Talbot did not enquire before he condemned. Cr. White said he had taken the trouble to visit the spot indicated by Cr. Talbot, and found it to be in Northcote territory. Cr. Crawley moved that a letter be written to the Brunswick council, reprimanding them for their false report. Seconded by Cr. Barrow and carried.

The heartiness with which the residents of Preston have entered into the work of arranging a moonlight fête in aid of the local Benevolent Society was very apparent on Thursday evening, when ladies and gentlemen, about sixty in number, responded to the invitation given in last week's *Leader*. Through an oversight the authorities of the shire-hall had not been advised of the meeting, and as a consequence locked doors and unlit halls prevented ingress. After some unavailing efforts had been made to lay hold of the keys, the company, at half-past eight, adjourned to the Church of England. In the absence of the president of the fête committee (Cr. Bayliss) the Rev. S. Adamson was voted to the chair, after which the hon. secretary (Rev. Marriott Watson) briefly sketched the business transacted at the previous meeting, and reported that the council had written granting its patronage and also the use of the chamber for holding meetings in. Mr. C. Crispe generously offered to supply the necessary timber for staging purposes, as well as the use of his horse & cart, which the committee readily accepted. Owing to a slight accident Mr. E. A. Walker was unable to be present, but wrote informing the committee that his services were at their disposal. This offer was accepted with thanks. The secretary also intimated that Mr. T. Lightfoot had volunteered to lend any assistance he could. Delegates were present from most of the friendly societies, and Mr. Williams, who acted as spokesman, informed the meeting that they had abandoned the idea of a procession as the time was too limited to make the necessary arrangements. The delegates, however, had decided upon holding a series of tug-of-war contests between the different societies, the members of whom were anxious to do all in their power to assist the committee. (Applause). There will also be a test tug-of-war match between teams representing the Preston A.N.A. and Northcote. The musical programme will be supplied by the Police Band, who have also kindly consented to play through Northcote *en route* to the park. The grounds are to be brilliantly illuminated, and the tastes of visitors will find abundant satisfaction in patronising the refreshment stalls, which are to be laden with seasonable delicacies. Several other attractions are also being arranged, and judging from present indications the committees' exertions are likely to meet with the reward they merit. Favored with fine weather a most enjoyable outing will ensue. The tickets are only 6d. each, and visitors from Northcote may procure same at the *Leader* office.

At the Preston public hall on Thursday evening next a grand concert and social will be given in aid of the organ fund of the local R.C. church. For the former a first-class programme has been arranged, the artists including the well-known and popular soprano, Miss Josephine O'Brien, the inimitable humorist, Mr. D. T. Player, and the clever young ventriloquial entertainer, Mr. Will Stewart. All who "enjoy a good laugh or love a good song" are enjoined "not to miss this concert." The social follows at 10.30. Particulars, as to prices, etc., are advertised elsewhere.

A concert and coffee supper was given in celebration of the anniversary of the Northcote Primitive Methodist Church on Monday evening last. There was a fair attendance, and Mr. T. Agar presided. The performers in the main were new to Northcote, and the programme provided gave complete satisfaction. Mr. Bill was happy in his selection, and sang with pleasing effect, such favorites as "The holy city," "By the fountain," and "The Garonne." Miss Finlay gave an acceptable rendering of "Sing sweet bird," while "The old countree" and "Never more" were tunefully sung by Mrs Campbell. Two very enjoyable numbers were "Never again" and "The children's home," by Miss Biddle, and Mr. Campbell contributed two well-executed piano solos, and also performed the duties of accompanist. "Anchored" was creditably given by Mr. Brooks, whilst Miss Bowen (who took Mr Collenso's place in the programme) enlisted the attention and sympathy of her hearers by a bright and touching delivery of Sims' beautifully pathetic poem, "Ostler Joe," and in response to an emphatic encore, recited "The inventor's wife" with much success. With her almost faultless elocution and graceful action Miss Bowen will always meet with a hearty welcome in Northcote. After a special vote of thanks to the performers and preachers of Sunday the company adjourned to the schoolroom, where the ladies had provided refreshments, which were freely partaken of. A word of praise is due to Mr. Membrey for arranging the concert.

The Working Men's College, the chief technical school in the colony, reopens its classes for the current year on Monday next. All classes of the community are considered in the curriculum of the college. There are trade classes for the artisans, such as carpentry, plumbing, coach-building, sign-writing, turning, fitting, and bootmaking; there are science classes (including all the sciences bearing upon the industries of modern times), and art classes in which drawing and painting in all branches are taught, including modelling in clay, one of the most beautiful and instructive arts possible. There are also such classes as cookery and dressmaking, which have been largely attended in the past and have been the means of disseminating much useful knowledge. The manual training classes (wood-working) for boys having proved very successful, it has been arranged to hold classes every afternoon and on Saturday mornings. In farming subjects there are horticulture, wool-sorting, and veterinary science, and it is also intended to add this year agriculture, bee-keeping, poultry-farming, and stock-breeding. Intending students can obtain all information by sending to the college for a prospectus—price, one penny.

All Saints' Church held their annual meeting in the schoolroom on Wednesday night, the incumbent, Rev. C. P. Thomas in the chair. The guardians' report showed receipts for the year amounting to £389 9s 10d, being an increase of £39 12s 7d over preceding year. A proposal was made to erect a new schoolroom, the scheme being to raise the necessary funds by the issue of debentures at a fixed rate of interest, such to be repaid as funds permit by ballot. The Rev. Symonds, of St. Philip's, Collingwood, was present, and explained the *modus operandi* and effect of the Society of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, a branch of which it is proposed to establish in connection with All Saints' Northcote. An enjoyable musical programme was rendered by members of the choir, the following numbers being given:—"Ora pro nobis," Mrs Leary; "Oh that we two were maying," Miss Trinnear and Mr. Bailey; "Queen of the earth," Mr. Wood; "When the swallows homeward fly," Miss Laihmond; "The Garonne," Mr Law; "Hear me, Norma," Misses Angoir; glee, "Beam of light." The following gentlemen were elected guardians for ensuing year:—Messrs J. F. C. Anderson, F. T. Beamish, P. E. Browne, A. H. L. Browne, A. Seidel, Coulson, S. Lazarus, J. F. C. Sibthorpe, G. Page, E. Richardson, G. R. B. Steane, W. G. Swift. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the various bands of workers in connection with the church for their assistance during the past year, and also to the members of the choir for their kindly help. It is gratifying to note that all the funds have credit balances, viz., Parochial, £21 11s 7d; Building, £4 11s 4d; Sunday school, £10 18s 6d; Band of Hope, £1 18s 6d.

EPPING SHIRE NEWS.

A notification of importance to dairy-keepers within the shire appears in our advertising columns. The regulation of the Central Board of Health demands that all dairies shall be registered in January of each year. The fee is 5s, and certificates of registration may be obtained at the shire office on Thursdays between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. All who dispose of dairy produce, irrespective of quantity, are liable for registration, and the penalties for non-obedience to the regulation are very heavy.

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At the recent conference of municipalities to consider the best means of dealing with the rabbit pest it was unanimously decided, in view of the alarming increase of rabbits during the past season, to urge upon the Government the necessity of re-appointing the inspectors formerly in the employ of the department, as inspection by the police has not proved satisfactory. Cr. Dunn (Yea) also moved, and Cr. Barry (Epping) seconded, and it was carried—"That as the Vermin Destruction Act, as at present being administered, is not giving satisfaction, the Government be requested to take immediate and more stringent action towards suppressing the rabbit pest." It was further decided, on the motion of Crs Dunn and Barry to make an effort to have the Act so amended that mortgagees and absentees shall be included in the operation of the Act. Some additional resolutions having been carried, a deputation, including Cr. Barry, was formed to wait on the Minister of Lands.

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Noticing in the *Leader* that "rabbits were a nuisance" in the northern part of the shire a couple of Northcote and Preston councillors who have a partiality for sport took a drive in that direction last week; but much use of ferrets and a great deal of walking resulted in a very small bag. They had better apply to Cr. Barry when they want a more profitable day's sport.

MOONLIGHT FETE REMINDERS.

The proceeds are in aid of the Preston Ladies' Benevolent Society.
The small sum of sixpence will enable you to join the army of supporters and participate in the festivities.
Tickets, 6d each, may be had from any member of the general committee, also at this office.
The attractions are numerous, including exciting tug-of-war competitions, choice musical selections, fireworks, and probably a balloon ascent.
All persons who have promised fruit, drinks, provisions, etc., are particularly requested to send same to the Presbyterian Church on Tuesday next.
The final general committee meeting will take place on Tuesday evening at the Shire-hall, at 8 o'clock, when reports from sub-committees will be received and arrangements completed.
Members of the various committees must respond to duty's call, and thus provide for the comfort of the public.
Lighting Committee.—Messrs. E. A. Walker, Backhouse, Slade, Crispe, Cameron, Whalley, and Rev. Geo. Carson, convener.
Staging Committee.—Messrs Smart, Stanlake, Pike, Hurlstone, Pittard, and Williams, convener.
Ground Committee.—Messrs J. W. Robinson, Mutimer, Fyfe, convener, Rev S. Adamson, and several members from the Preston Branch A.N.A.
The ladies, of course, have charge of the refreshments.
Mr E. A. Walker will be responsible for the limelight display and views.

LOCALISMS.

Good headway is now being made with the Preston municipal buildings, and their completion will be announced before long.

Cr. Howse on Monday evening elicited the fact that there was a bye-law in force in the shire dealing with the matter of driving without lights. All had forgotten its existence save Cr. Paterson.

"There's nothing from the Dr. to-night; therefore the health of the shire must be good," remarked President Bayliss with satisfaction, when the absence of a report was intimated on Monday evening.

Mr. Robert Harper, M.L.A., has sent a donation of two guineas to the Preston Reading and Recreation Rooms; Mr. Dredge has promised a guinea and the Rev. Marriott Watson half a guinea.

Last week a woman, who refused to reveal her name to the local magistrates, was sent to gaol for a month for walking off with a pair of shoes from Dunnick's boot shop.

Miss Josephine O'Brien, Mr. D. T. Player, and Mr. Will Stewart are all to appear at the Preston R.C. church organ fund concert at the public-hall on Thursday evening next, as well as a host of other agreeable performers.

To the Preston council's letter as to when the Government subsidy might be expected, the delightfully vague reply has come that "the whole matter is now under consideration."

Northcote Amateur Minstrels will shortly give a concert to provide funds for the purchase of a proscenium and curtain.

Not until they had compiled the tremendous score of 676 runs did the Northcote C.C.'s first innings against Malvern close. The last partnership—Lamley and Coomber—added no less than 193 runs.

It has been decided to hold a grand bazaar in connection with the Preston Presbyterian Church during the first week in June. Already a great deal of enthusiasm is being thrown in the matter, and all previous records promise to be eclipsed.

Looked like a collapse yesterday when six of Australia's crack batsmen went down for 51. Graham, 105, and A. E. Trott, 84 (not out), however, came magnificently to the rescue, and when the last wicket fell the total had reached a respectable 280 odd.

It is notified that if all fees now overdue for the registration of dogs are not immediately paid, proceedings will be taken for their recovery.

The picnic in connection with the Northcote Presbyterian Church at Heidelberg on Saturday last passed off successfully. Fully 100 attended, and all appeared to thoroughly enjoy themselves.

Preston Free Library received 1201 visitors during last year, circulated 1290 books, and starts the new year with a credit balance of £1 7s. Well done, Mr secretary.

The Rev. D. M. Berry, of Essendon, and formerly of Northcote, has been promoted to the incumbency of Holy Trinity Church, East Melbourne. Although the stipend at East Melbourne is greater than that attached to Essendon, the Rev. Mr. Berry has declined to accept more than the sum which he received in the poorer parish of Essendon.

Messrs W. Buckley and J. Jenkin, of the Northcote C.C., will on Tuesday evening be presented with a trophy for making a record score for the first wicket. The little ceremony will take place at the lodge-room, Peacock hotel, and members and supporters of the club are invited to be present.

A public meeting is announced to take place at the Northcote town-hall on Tuesday evening for the purpose of "considering the propriety of presenting a petition to Parliament to abrogate the present system of State education." Several speakers of note are expected to address the meeting, and the mayor (Cr Yeomans) will preside.

Those interested in the metropolitan sewerage scheme will be afforded an opportunity of becoming better versed on the subject by attending at the town-hall on Friday next, when the engineer-in-chief, Mr. Thwaites, will deliver his lecture, which will be fully illustrated. The lecture has been given with considerable success in many of the suburbs, and is said to be interesting as well as instructive. The admission is free and the public are invited to be present.

Amongst the samples of food and drink dealt with by the public analyst of Prestonshire was one of whisky, which he pronounced to be 40 per cent. under proof. The president (Cr. Bayliss) remarked on Monday evening that it was just as well that the spirit *was* so much under proof, and thought it a pity it was not 95. Very good for the president; but was he serious?

All voters for the Northcote division of East Bourke Boroughs would do well to scan the list of names objected to as published elsewhere. The Revision Court which takes place on Monday will be adjourned, in order that the list may be published again on Saturday next in compliance with the Act.

St. George's-road Wesleyan Church anniversary to-morrow.

The town council invite tenders for painting.

Mr. R. Burrows has again left for Coolgardie.

In connection with the re-opening of the Girls' High School, Clifton Hill, on Monday next, the principals (the Misses Westgarth) desire us to mention that the first term will not be curtailed on account of the holidays, extending to April 24.

Local school-children have not as yet sent us a sensible sentence containing five consecutive "thats," though we hear that many have been puzzling their brains over it. We will give them till next week.

PRESTON FINANCES.

OFFICERS' SALARIES.

THE ENGINEER REDUCED TO £100.

At Monday's meeting of the Preston Shire Council, Cr. Howse moved the motion of which he had given notice that in view of our means for the present year, this council go into a committee for a reduction in salaries, and all expenses where practicable."

Cr. Howden would second the motion if the subject were discussed in open council.

Cr. Howse said he had no objection and councillors generally approved of this course.

Cr. Howse then moved that the salary of the secretary be reduced to £160 a year.

Cr. Howden seconded the motion.

Cr. Marshall—What better position are we in at this meeting than we were at last meeting?

The president said the councillors could not interfere with the salaries at all, as they were provided for in the estimates, which had been adopted by the council. He felt, however, disposed to give them a little latitude.

Cr. Nichol—If that's the case, there's no use going on with it.

Cr. Howse asked if the officers had been re-instated.

The president—That goes without saying as the annual meeting is passed.

Cr. Nichol—I thought that all that was necessary was to give an officer a month's notice?

Cr. Crawley—I ask your ruling, Mr. President, whether we are in order or not?

The president—Here are the adopted estimates which provide for the payment of certain salaries.

After further discussion of this point, the president said he did not wish to rule in a strictly technical manner.

Cr. Barrow then rose to oppose the motion. Only 12 months ago the salary of the secretary had been reduced by £37. Mr. Dredge was an officer they were all satisfied with. He was well up in the business of the shire, and to a gentleman like that they must pay a fair wage, and he thought £205 a year or £4 a week little enough for the services rendered.

The motion was put and lost, only the mover and seconder voting for it.

Cr. Howse then moved that the engineer be in future employed two days a week, at £1 a day. He thought this quite ample for the work he would have to do.

No seconder coming forward immediately,

Cr. Barrow said he would second it, so that he might speak in opposition to it. The engineer had recently been reduced from £200 to £150, and he thought this was little enough to pay him. Though the ordinary works would be less, perhaps a fair amount of loan money would be expended during the year.

Cr. Howden supported the motion. Mr. Stewart was a good engineer, but perhaps he might take less now that the work of the shire was so much reduced.

The president said that the salaries the officers were now drawing were hardly sufficient to encourage them to do their duty. If they were going to grind them down to laborers' wages he was dead against it. The present movement ill contrasted with the recent efforts of councillors to bring about a minimum wage. When before the council felt the pinch the officers readily volunteered to take a reduction of salary.

Cr. Crawley said it should be remembered that when they reduced Mr Stewart before they also reduced the number of days on which he was employed. It was his intention to move for a suspension of all works rather than have an extra rate; and if there were no works going on there would be very little for the engineer to do.

Cr. White thought the engineer would be able to do all there was to do in the shire during the coming year in two days a week. They could not, however, dispense with his services altogether.

Cr. Nichol complained that the movers in this matter had not brought before them a statement of the finances of the shire. Till he had that he did not feel inclined to vote either way.

Cr. Howse replied that they would not receive more than a quarter of the usual subsidy this year; they were £1000 overdrawn at the bank, and the revenue all round would be reduced.

The president—There is no need to cry "stinking fish." If we get in the arrears of rates and a good amount of the current rate we will be able to carry on the affairs of the shire without any subsidy and without extra rating. All these statements are exaggerated. The shire is in a very good financial position, and there is no necessity to keep dragging this bogey of an extra rate before us. With proper supervision and due economy the day will be long distant when more than a 1s rate is required.

Cr. Howden doubted whether they would be able to manage for very long on a 1s. rate.

The motion was then put,

Cr. Nichol said he would not vote if he was not compelled to.

The president said he must vote.

Cr. Nichol then voted for the motion, which was carried, the president and Crs. Barrow and Marshall being against.

Cr. Barrow then rose for the purpose of putting a few facts in regard to the finances of the shire before the council, but the president ruled him out of order.

Cr. Howse then moved that the secretary be instructed to spend as little as possible during the coming year.

The president—That's a motion I can't accept, as it simply means that the secretary has been neglecting his duty in the past. I must ask Cr. Howse to withdraw it.

Cr. Howse—Well there is too much spent in law. The secretary should not have such length of tether in this respect. He thought the council might look out for a cheaper firm of solicitors. The motion, however, could stand over for a while.

Cr. Barrow again rose for the purpose he said of "clearing away this little bogey," but

The president again ruled that he had no right to speak, as "there was nothing before the chair." He would have an opportunity at next meeting.

The president—Have you any more motions, Cr. Howse?

Cr. Howse—Not to-night, Mr. President.

The president—Thank you. We will now adjourn.

NORTHCOTE POLICE COURT.

MONDAY, JANUARY 28TH.

[Before Messrs Knox and McIntosh, J's.P].

FIVE LARRIKINESSES.

At a special sitting of the above court on Monday, five girls named Catherine and Maria Kelly, Jane and Kate O'Connor, and Ellen Davis, of ages ranging between 14 and 21 years of age, were charged by the Northcote police with having no lawful visible means of support. They had been arrested on Saturday morning last at 11 o'clock by Constables Jones and Warren at the house of a Mrs. Strathmore, in Harper street, off Westgarth street. Warrants had been issued by their parents against the O'Connor and the Kelly girls, the police arresting the girl Davis simply because of finding her in such company.

The father and mother of the O'Connor girls gave evidence to the effect that they had got entirely beyond their control and that their conduct had been very bad lately.

The mother of the girls Kelly stated that she resided in Carlton. Her daughters left home and she did not know where they went, so she got a warrant for their arrest from Mr. Panton. The youngest of the accused came home on Friday and she had got a respectable situation for her. She blamed their father for their leaving home, as he treated them very badly. The woman sitting in the court (Mrs. Strathmore) was also to blame for causing them to resort to her house. She had no complaint to make against the girls till the previous Tuesday, when they went away.

—. Davis, a very respectable-looking man, said he regretted to say that the youngest of the accused (aged 14) was his daughter. She had been very disobedient for a long time, and would not come home at proper hours. Sometimes it was 12 when she came home and sometimes 1, and sometimes she stayed away all night. He was recently told she was resorting to Mrs. Strathmore's house, and he believed the police had found her there. He would not admit that she had got beyond his control. It was the company she got into that made her so difficult to manage. If he had his way he would prosecute such women as she in whose house his daughter was found most severely.

[Sergeant McLaughlin at this stage drew the attention of the Bench to the unseemly levity of the said Mrs. Strathmore and a "lady" friend, and they were expelled from the court].

Constable Jones gave evidence as to going with Constable Warren to execute the warrants at the house of Mrs Strathmore on Saturday morning last. He went to the front door and Constable Warren went to the back door to intercept anyone who might be leaving in that direction. Mrs. Strathmore hesitated about opening the front door and denied that there was any-one on the premises. Witness, however, heard a scampering of feet and forced his way in just in time to see the girls pulled up by Constable Warren in the back yard. Besides the girls there were three Northcote youths in the house at the time of the arrest. He had frequently seen the girl Davis loitering about the streets of Northcote during the past 18 months.

The Bench re-called O'Connor to ask him if he would like his youngest daughter, Jane, back, and give her another chance.

O'Connor replied that he was afraid it was no use.

The Bench—That's enough.

Catherine Kelly, Jane O'Connor, and Maria Kelly were then sentenced to 3 months' imprisonment, and Kate O'Connor to six months' imprisonment. Ellen Davis was committed to the Reformatory for 12 months, with the option of going to the Salvation Army Rescue Home. ["Captain" Houghton of the local corps of the Salvation Army was present and arranged with head quarters for the placing of the girl in the Rescue Home].

STATE OF THE TRAMWAY LINE.

[TO THE EDITOR].

SIR,—I desire to call attention to the Northcote tram management respecting the condition of their road from the top of Rucker's Hill to the terminus at Clifton Hill, the blocks at places being worn away inches below the level of the rails, causing great annoyance to drivers of vehicles, damaging their wheels and risking serious accidents. As the Tram Co. is subsidised to keep the road in thorough repair, why is this not carried out? as, in the event of the line again closing, the council will be compelled to expend a large sum of money to put the road in necessary order for the safety of vehicular traffic, for which they are now paying to have done.—Yours, &c.,

RATEPAYER.

Best Firewood at first Cost to Consumers at T. MUNRO'S Croxton Park Wood & Coal Siding. Box Blocks, 7d per 112 lbs.

Author of "The Gun-Runner, a Romance of Zululand," "'Tween Snow and Fire," "Through the Zulu Country: Its Battlefields and its People," etc.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.—"EHEU."

The homeward bound mail steamer had hauled out from the Cape Town docks and lay moored to the jetty. In less than an hour she would cast loose and start upon her voyage to Old England.

The funnel of the Siberian shone like a newly-blacked boot, as did her plated sides, glistening with a coating of fresh paint. Her scuttles flashed, like eyes, in the sun, and the gleam of her polished brasswork was such as to cause semi-blindness for five minutes after you looked at it. The white pennon of the Union Steamship Company, with its red St. Andrew's cross, fluttered at one tapering masthead; at the other the blue peter.

On board of her all was wild confusion. Her decks were crowded with passengers and their friends seeing them off, the latter outnumbering the former six to one; with hawkers of curios and hawkers of books; with quay porters and stewards bringing on and receiving passengers' luggage; with innumerable hat-boxes, and wraps, and hold-alls and other loose gear; with squalling and rampageous children; with flurried and excited females rushing hither and thither, and getting into everybody's way while besieging every soul—from the chief officer to the cook's boy—with frantic inquiries. The Babel of tongues were deafening, and over and above all the harassing rattling of the donkey engine lowering luggage into the hold. And to swell the clamoring crowd an endless procession of cabs, driven by broad-hatted Malays, came dashing up to the jetty—laden with passengers and band-boxes and bananas and other truck of nondescript character.

Moving among the throng upon the ship's decks were two ladies—one elderly, plethoric, matronly; the other young, vivacious, tastefully attired, and in short a very beautiful girl. Many a male glance was cast at her, accompanied by an aspiration—spoken or unspoken—that she was going to sail and was not one of the "seeing-off" contingent.

"Don't you think, Violet," said the elder lady, "we'd better go down to your cabin now? They'll have taken your luggage there by this time."

"Not yet, Mrs Aldridge. I can still see my portmanteau among that heap for the hold. I want to see it go down myself, and be sure of it. Besides, there must be some more of my things under that pile of boxes.

"What a fine ship that New Zealand boat is," said the old lady, looking at a large steamer anchored out in the bay and surrounded by a swarm of tiny craft, depleted or added to by a continuous string of boats between it and the shore. She, too, was flying the blue peter.

"Isn't she!" acquiesced Violet. "She's the Rangatira, and is nearly a thousand tons larger than the Siberian. I wonder if she'll be the first to start. Ah! there goes my portmanteau. Now I think we may go below."

The crowd in the saloon was not less dense than that on the decks, certainly not less noisy. Champagne corks were popping in all directions. Every table, every lounge was crowded. Stewards were skurrying hither and thither, with their trays and their glasses, steering their way with marvellous dexterity among the people, harassed by a chorus of orders, expostulations, objurations from expectant or disappointed passengers. Groups were making merry and pledging each other in foaming bumpers, the "seeing-off" contingent in particular making special play with the sparkling "gooseberry," all clattering, talking, laughing. The din was deafening, but the two ladies managed to thread their way through it at last.

"Well, it's quiet here, at any rate," said Violet, as they gained her cabin, of which by favor she was to enjoy the sole possession. "Quiet, but not cool—ugh!" for the scuttle being shut, that peculiar close odor which seems inseparable from all ship cabins, and is in its insufferable fugginess suggestive of sea sickness, struck them in full blast.

"I'm glad I'm not going with you," said Mrs Aldridge. "I never could stand the sea. I declare I'm beginning to feel queer already."

"Oh, no. All imagination," said Violet, gaily, flinging open the scuttle.

"And now, dear," went on the old lady, "I suppose we haven't many minutes more together. I needn't tell you how glad I have been to have had you with me, and Chris Selwood will like to know that I saw you off, bright and cheerful."

Violet kissed her heartily. A strange compunction came over the girl. The old lady had been very kind to her during her brief stay. Mrs Aldridge was a relation of Selwood's, and to her care Violet had been consigned for the few days during which the Siberian should be lying in Cape Town docks. Upon which good ship Selwood had safely conveyed her, having at considerable inconvenience to himself escorted her to Port Elizabeth, and seen the last of her safe on board.

"Oh, where is my brown hold-all?" cried Violet, suddenly looking round. "It contains all my wraps—sunshade—everything. Dear Mrs Aldridge, do wait here and mount guard over my things while I go up and find it. The stewards are so careless. Besides, they might put someone else in the cabin, and then it wouldn't be so easy to get them out."

As Violet gained the deck, the sharp, short strokes of the ship's bell rang out its warning summons. The "seeing-off" contingent must prepare to go ashore, unless it would risk an involuntary voyage. Mrs Aldridge, naturally prone to flurry, sitting there among Violet's boxes and bundles, started at the sound.

"Oh, dear! I shall be carried to sea!" she ejaculated, piteously. "Why doesn't she come?"

Minutes slipped by, and still Violet did not appear. Again rang out the sharp imperative strokes of the bell.

"I must go and look for her," cried the old lady, starting up with that intent. Peering wildly around, she reached the deck. Still no sign of Violet.

Two great red conveyances, each drawn by four horses, came clattering up the jetty. They were the mail carts. With lightning swiftness their contents were transferred to the deck and to the hold. The captain, resplendent in buttons and gold lace, was on the bridge. The steam pipe was roaring as though impatient of further restraint. Already the passing to and fro between the steamer and the jetty had about ceased.

"Violet—Violet! Oh, where can she be?" cried the old lady, in a perfect agony of mind.

Ah, she might have gone back to the cabin. She would go and see. Turning, she was hastening to carry out that idea when again the brazen clang of the bell, this time startling in its peremptory note, caused her to stop short.

"Now, marm—if you're not going with us it's time to leave," said a gruff voice at her side. "Quick, please, she's a-moving already," and half thrusting, half lifting the bewildered old lady, the burly quartermaster transferred her to the gangway plank, which no sooner had she crossed than it was withdrawn.

The great steamer slid gently from her moorings, a crowd followed her to the end of the jetty, hurraying violently, waving handkerchiefs, bawling out parting fragments of chaff and snatches of songs, and amid all this champagne-bred enthusiasm, its blaring clamor drowning the real grief of the sorrowing few, the propeller of the good ship Siberian throbbed faster and faster, as she swung steadily into her course en route for the Old Country.

Left there upon the jetty, hardly knowing whether she stood on her head or not, poor old Mrs Aldridge was quite overcome. What had become of Violet? Could any harm have happened to the girl? Could she have fallen overboard unseen? No, that could hardly be. They must have missed each other in the crowd and confusion. That was it. Still, the thought that she had not taken a last and more affectionate farewell filled the good old lady with profound regret. Well, standing there would not mend matters. She must get home.

And as she turned to leave the jetty, the warning notes of the shore bell on board the New Zealand steamer came floating across the bay.

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Through the creaming surges of Table Bay the Rangatira is speeding on her southward course. The loom of the mountainous coast has faded into night, and now the dark velvety vault above is ablaze with mysterious stars, crowding the zenith, hanging literally in patches of sheeny gold rather than twinkling with the feeble and scattered glimmer of more chilly latitudes. There is a damp, sensuous richness in the atmosphere, just tempered by the keen whiff of the salt sea.

The prow of the mighty vessel cleaves up a rushing lustrous wave on either side, and streaming afar in her wake lies a broad band of milky phosphorescent whiteness, striving to rival the very heavens in the starry atoms gleaming in its depths. The tall, tapering masts reel wildly against the spangled sky, and the harsh clang of the laboring engines make weird harmony with the thunderous throb of the propeller as the great ship drives in her power before the chasing billows.

On the hurricane deck, under the lee of one of the boats swung inward and resting on chocks, leaning over the taffrail, stand two figures—one tall, powerful, masculine—wrapped in a long ulster, the other lithe, graceful, feminine—cloaked and hooded, for, if the atmosphere contains no chill, it holds a dampness which bids fair to do duty for the same. Surely that oval face, those delicate, regular features can belong to no other than Violet Avory. No need to identify her companion.

"You did that well, Violet," Sellon was saying. "The idea of that old party sitting there mounting guard over your wraps on board the wrong ship is a reminiscence that'll set me up in laughter for the rest of my life."

"Poor old Mrs Aldridge," said Violet, with a touch of compunction. "I'm afraid she won't get over it in a hurry—and she's a good old thing. But it's all Hilda Selwood's fault. She shouldn't have set her relations on to 'police' me." And the speaker's tone became hard and defiant.

"Ha, ha! It wasn't in them to upset our little programme, though. When old Selwood put you on board the Siberian at Port Elizabeth, he reckoned it was all safe then. So it was, as far as he was concerned. He's a good chap, though, is Selwood, and I wouldn't willingly plant such a sell upon him if I could help it, but I couldn't. It's ever a case of two 'sells' as between him and me, to distort his old joke. It was nearly a third one, though, Violet, for I was beginning to make up my mind you were never coming. In another minute I should have gone ashore again when I saw your cab tearing along like mad. As it was, we only fetched the Rangatira by the skin of our teeth, and a royal honorarium to the boatmen."

"Ah, Maurice, I have got you now—and you are mine. Are you not, darling?"

"It looks uncommonly like it."

"For life?"

"For that identical period. So now, cheer up, my Violet. The world is a mere football at the feet of those who have the means to exploit it, and we have. That wretched little foggy England isn't the whole world."

The great steamship went shearing on through the midnight sea, heaving to the Atlantic surge, as she stood upon her course. But the other vessel, swiftly speeding northward—soon would she arrive with a forestalment in a measure—in the unaccountable non-appearance of one of her passengers—of the terrible news that must eventually be broken to Violet's mother.

But whereas Violet's own will was the sole principle which had been allowed to govern her life from the day of her birth, it must be admitted, sorrowfully that her mother was now only reaping what she had sown.

CONCLUSION.

Three years have gone by.

Now, three years cover a pretty fair section of time. A good deal can be got into that space. But the hand of Time with its changes and chances has passed but lightly over peaceful prosperous Sunningdale. It has, perchance, added a touch of hoar-frost to Christopher Selwood's brown beard, but only through the harmless agency of wear and tear, as that jolly individual puts it. For the seasons have been good, the stock healthy, and crops abundant—and on the strength of such highly favorable conditions we may be sure that genial Christopher's characteristic light-heartedness and general contentment has undergone no rebate. This can hardly be said to apply to the brace of diminutive heroes whose thirst for battle was so inconsiderately nipped in the bud on the memorable night of the attack upon the house. For now they must find outlet for their martial ardor in fistic combat with their schoolfellows—or in the more risky line of trying how far they can trench upon the patience of a cane-wielding master. In a word, they are both at school: a state of life which in common with youth in general and Colonial youth in particular, they emphatically do not prefer. The same lot has befallen Effie, and, she too, is being put through the scholastic mill, though thanks to the greater adaptability of her sex, the process is far less distasteful to her than to those two young scapegraces, Fred and Basil. So that, save in holiday time, Sunningdale is quieter than when we saw it last. Is it? There is plenty of small fry left to create its share of clatter in the place of those absent under pedagogic discipline.

One change, however, has Time in his course brought round. Marian Fanning is a bride of two months.

Lucky it was that Old Dirk's ineradicable instincts had led him on the rove into his native wilds; lucky, indeed, for his master that he had to that extent played football with his trust, though inexpressibly annoying to his said master when that breach of trust was discovered. Under the old Korranna's able guidance it was not many days before Renshaw was at home again in safety. Nor was the experienced eye of the former at fault in deciding the wound to be no longer dangerous. Some of those wonderful remedies known only to the natives themselves soon put this beyond all doubt, and by the time Renshaw reached home he felt as strong again as ever.

He had started at once for Sunningdale. With such samples of his late companion's consummate selfishness and unparalleled treachery fresh in his mind, it was small wonder that he hardly expected ever to behold Sellon again. And his expectation was realised. That unscrupulous rascal was already on the blue ocean with the magnificent diamond, the superb "Eye" in his possession. No, it was hardly likely that he should ever see Sellon again.

And he did not care to try. In the first place, in disclaiming any inordinate desire for riches, Renshaw had been stating a bare fact; and whereas the diamonds in his own possession, when abandoned by his comrade to die, comprised some large and fine stones, likely to realise a considerable sum, he could afford to rest content. In the second, to the bitter disgust and contempt he felt for the man and his treachery, the news of Violet's flight added a more than severe shock. But this, on the whole, was salutary—undeniably so. His idol was shattered. And then, as bit by bit the whole tissue of heartless duplicity stood fully revealed, he was forced to admit himself cured.

But the process took time—time and many a bitter heartache. Saddened and disgusted, Renshaw had resolved to strike out an entirely new line. He would travel all over the world.

He sailed for England, disposed of his diamonds, realising nearly seventeen thousand pounds, and even then he probably did not make the best bargain for himself. Then in pursuance of his plan he had spent the following two years on the move. England, the Continent, India, China, Japan, the United States—all were visited, and it was amid the rolling solitude of the Far West that his heart turned to the free open veldt of his native land, and among the iron-bound mountains and brassy skies of Arizona and New Mexico he could almost fancy himself once more in search of the "Valley of the Eye."

And in the cities and turmoil of civilisation so striking a personality as that of Renshaw Fanning was not likely to go unnoticed. For the man who owned that noble, refined face, bronzed with exposure, and when in repose never altogether free from a touch of saddened gravity—all manner of pitfalls were laid. Bright eyes beamed upon him, and soft voices cooed their softest. All in vain, however. His heart was seared. But eventually when the numbness of the shock did begin to wear away, it was homeward that the wanderer's heart turned; and in place of the soiled and dethroned image there arose another more pure, more fair, more wholesome—that of sweet Marian Selwood. And under this influence, the cycle of his wanderings completed, he dismounted before the garden gate at Sunningdale one evening, and entering the house as if he were returning home, found Marian alone. And then, almost at his first words, the latter had realised that it was good indeed to live: nor was it long before the secret of a lifetime's love was wrested from her beautiful lips. So now Marian is a two months' bride, making a final visit to her old home, preparatory to settling down upon the flourishing farm which Renshaw has purchased within a dozen miles of Sunningdale.

Sometimes he talks of making another expedition to the wonderful Valley. True, the marvellous "Eye" shines there in the moonlight no more; but the place holds other stones, and, as yet, he has only touched the fringe of its wealth. But Marian's mind is made up against, and her foot is down on, any such scheme. Has not the mystic jewel proved indeed a demon's eye to all concerned? They have enough, and life is better than inordinate wealth. Is he not content with the grisly risk he has run, so narrowly escaping with his life? And Renshaw, with a laugh, is fain to answer that he is. Yet peradventure, some day, when the quiver is full—but we must not anticipate.

Not a word more has been heard of Maurice Sellon or the partner of his flight—not a word beyond the brief reassurance on the score of her bodily safety, which Violet had had the grace to forward to poor old Mrs Aldridge by the last boat which left the New Zealand steamer. Not a word more is even likely to be heard of either. That "the way of the transgressors is hard" may be a good and edifying axiom for all Sunday-school purposes, but it is in no wise borne out by the experiences of real life. So it is highly probable that Sellon and Violet are in some safe and withal comfortable retreat in the New World, flourishing like the green bay tree, while enjoying to the full the abundant, if treacherously gained, results of the former's expedition in search of "The Valley of the Eye."

[THE END.]

In Time of Need.

When all around the way
The shadows seem to lie,
When morning beams delay,
And darkness lingers nigh—
Thy face, Thy name, Thy Word I plead,
O Christ, my Hope in time of need!

I cannot see the road:
The storm-winds round me sigh;
The floods have overflowed,
And waves are surging high;
But Thou my trembling prayer will heed,
O Christ, my Refuge in my need!

Let me not doubt Thy love,
Thy pity, and Thy power;
Thou who art throned above
Hath known Earth's shadow-hour.
Thou for my faith dost intercede,
O Christ, my Strength in time of need!

Nearer than cloud art Thou,
And closer than the thorn;
Shine through the darkness now,
O Light, more blest than morn!
O Shepherd kind, my footsteps lead,
Thou present Help in time of need!

Oh, be at rest, my heart!
What though the path be dim,
Nor life nor death can part
His needy ones from Him.
Shall He not prove, whate'er befall,
My Lord, my Rock, my All in All?

M.H.

She Was Anxious About the Falls.

"George!"

There was anxiety—just a little of it—in the girl's tone.

"What is it, love?"

"I read something in the paper to-day that alarmed me."

"What was it?"

"Niagara Falls are wearing away at the rate of more than 12 inches; and in the course of some hundreds of years it will be gone entirely!"

"What of that?"

"You know it is such a delightful place for honeymoon trips."

"Yes."

"I had set my heart on going there on our own bridal tour."

"Ye-es."

"We have been engaged four years now."

"About that length of time."

She laid her head on his shoulder and sobbed.

"In that time—boo hoo!—fully fifty inches of the Falls have been worn away—boo hoo!—and I'm afraid they'll all be gone before—before—— Oh dear, what am I saying?"

"Never mind, love," said George, tenderly, as he kissed her cheeks. "Don't cry. We'll go before the Falls are worn away. How would next June suit?"

"That will do nicely, sweetheart."

And she was happy again.

Angry Customer: "Here, boy! You're a swindler! You said: 'All about the great railway disaster!' There isn't a werd in this paper about a railway disaster!" Indignant HERALD Boy: "If you're one o' those blokes what kicks up a row 'cause they can't have a horrible accident an' fifty people killed every day fur tea, I don't want to have no dealin's with yer! Give me the paper back. Here's yer bloomin' penny. HERALD, all about the horrible railway disaster!"

UNDER THE MISTLETOE.

A STORY OF TWO CHRISTMASES.

By THOMAS J. IVESON.
Author of "Christmas Pictures," etc., etc.

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(CONCLUDED.)

CHAPTER II.—ADVERSITY.

Seven years have elapsed. October had come, with its yellow leaves, dusky evenings, and cold weather. The poor dread the cold season quite as much as they do a depression in trade. They regard cold as the twin sister of famine. They have an equal aversion to both; and when the sombre nights, with their attendant fogs, set in, they are to be seen huddling their feeble and (in some cases) emaciated frames into available corners. They settle down into quite a pessimistic mood, and feel that the game of life is up. Yes; the weather does affect disposition. There are people who live under the ban of poverty through no fault of their own; it would seem almost that their condition was decreed by fate, so utterly helpless are they. These struggle on in the thick strife of life until, wounded, they fall on earth's battlefield, and their heroism and devotion are soon forgotten by their fellows as an idle tale.

In the slum district of the same town which was the scene of the foregoing portion of this narrative, Mrs Philmore and her daughter had taken up their abode since misfortune had taken them into her cruel lap.

Mrs Philmore had suffered a hard experience—a long, tough battle with life betwixt despair and hope—having had to labor hard to keep the wolf from her door: but she was now almost worn out and undone. She could no longer see the silver lining in the cloud which had overshadowed her life for nearly seven long years. She felt that she could not battle any longer.

Mother and daughter were sitting in their room, with no light but the fitful gleams which started now and again from the scanty embers in the fire grate.

Emily—for that was the name of James Philmore's daughter—was unaccustomed to sit in the dark, as her mother had hitherto managed to provide candles.

"Oh, mother, can't we have a light? It is so horrid to have to sit in darkness," said Emily.

"There is not a candle left, my child. I have no money with which to buy one, either. So you will have to bear the inconvenience, my dear," and the poor girl thought she heard her mother sobbing.

"Don't weep, mother. You will make yourself worse," said the little girl, and she flew to her mother and placed her arms endearingly round her neck.

"I don't know whatever will become of us, child, now that I am so ill and weak."

"I can work," said the heroic maiden of six years.

But Mrs Philmore made no answer, unless the deep, painful sigh she drew was answer enough.

"When is father coming home?" queried little Emily, for the one-thousandth time.

"Ah, child, I do not know. Don't speak of it. I'm afraid I shall not live to see him again."

"But mother, you said he was coming soon. I have never seen my father," said the girl, sorrowfully. "I would like him to kiss me, and call me his own pretty little girl."

"Would you, my pet?" said the fond mother, as she tearfully kissed her child's golden locks.

Emily knew nothing of the disgrace which had come to them through the apparent indiscretion of her father. Her mother had wisely kept the disagreeable facts from the knowledge of her child, although she had to concoct other stories to satisfy the reasoning powers of Emily with regard to Mr Philmore's absence.

The rich friends of James Philmore, who were once sociable with her, now despised her, and treated her with contumely and contemptuous silence when she wrote for help. And she had had to strive alone for her bread.

James Philmore had robbed his employers of £200, and had disposed of £50 of it before he was apprehended; so said the court which tried the case. James Philmore protested his innocence, but in vain. The court thought it would be very unnatural for a guilty man to do otherwise! And he was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment.

Mr Sleek, the detective, along with other persons whom he brought to aid him, had made a thorough investigation, and had examined everybody and everything that could possibly throw any light on the affair; but he failed to incriminate anyone else; and so James Philmore was generally believed to be the thief. He had never known a man to declare his innocence so earnestly and to be so downright honest looking for a criminal as James Philmore. He at last gave the question up by the remark—"If he is not innocent he is a good actor. Anyhow, I did nothing but my duty, and I can't help it if there has been a miscarriage of justice."

Mrs Philmore believed in her husband's innocence, even in the face of the great weight of evidence which was brought against him. So when he was taken from her side to endure the privation of a convict's life, she, with no friends but the poor, had to work for her own livelihood, sustained through it all by the hope that her husband would some day before she died return and prove his innocence and vindicate his character before the world, and thus take from their life the stigma which now clung to it, and the suspicion of friends and relations who had forsaken her in her hour of need.

It is a fact that the poor do not forsake the poor. Poverty creates a fellow-feeling which unites its victims in a brotherhood. The spirit of sacrifice abounds more in the lowest haunts of men than in the palaces of the rich. If you wish to see a Calvary, go to the slums: the heroic devotion there displayed, the sacrifice there manifested, is not to be found anywhere else.

Mrs Philmore had found that to earn her own living was a hard task, but she had learned to rely on the strength of her own arm, and had succeeded in earning enough for herself and daughter in modest fare. The hope had always been cherished by her that she would continue to keep her strength to work for her child until the demands of English justice were satisfied, and her husband set free. She had never looked beyond that hope—a hope which seemed to shed a luminous ray on the future, and to cast its light also on the present to sustain her. To know her husband's character, to be justified in all criticism, and in the shadows of all uncharitable suspicion, was her one aim, her one aspiration. She had prayed that the interminable windings in the whole affair might be unravelled, and she had faith to believe that her prayer would be realised.

But now in her weakness of body, her mind was in a channel of despair. With intense agony of soul she cried out—

"Oh, God, give me strength until the end! Let me not die until I see his face: the face of an honest man in the sight of heaven, but in the eyes of the world, a thief.

Poor Emily was startled by these cries of anguish repeated again and again, and, feeling sure that something was radically wrong, called in a neighbor.

"Cheer up," said the kindly neighbor. "God will not leave you comfortless. Remember, our extremity is God's opportunity."

"You are a kind, good woman, Mrs Smith," said Mrs Philmore, in feeble tones. "You have always been a comfort to me. If it had not been for your cheery presence and counsel, I would have despaired long ago. But it is hard—the cross is too heavy to bear—the relieving officer — the workhouse — death," shrieked the poor woman, in delirium.

"She is wandering," murmured Mrs Smith. Then turning to Emily, she said—"Your mother is ill. Have you no candle?"

"No, Mrs Smith. Mother cannot buy any."

"Poor thing," she sighed. "I cannot afford it, but I'll fetch one."

Mrs Smith brought a light, and that light revealed to her a sudden and melancholy change in the woman who had borne her trouble with such fortitude.

"Poor woman, she has worked herself to death," said Mrs Smith, sympathetically. Mrs Philmore was put to bed, and Dr Montrose—popular with both rich and poor—was sent for, and he pronounced Mrs Philmore, in usual medical phraseology, to be "seriously ill indeed."

CHAPTER III.—THE CONFESSION.

In a villa on the outskirts of the town there lay languishing upon what was to prove his death-bed an elderly gentleman. He had been suffering for some months, but now he felt his life to be ebbing away fast, and had given up all hope of restoration to health.

He began to think of things other than those of time, and his mind naturally reverted to the deeds of his past life. He was experiencing somewhat the bitter feelings of remorse which ever attend the end of a misspent life, and he was heard to groan aloud in his anguish of soul.

He had no relations to whom he could unburden himself. He had never had any dealings with priests; no priestly hand had bestowed a blessing on his head. Indeed, he had always looked on ministers of religion with a contemptuous leer. Dr Montrose was his most intimate friend. He would unbosom himself to him of a few things which were proving to be sharp thorns in his dying pillow.

It was morning, and the October sun was forcing its way through the green blind and white shades in the bedchamber window.

The doctor had just entered the chamber, and had taken hold of the patient's wrist.

"Had a bad night, I hear."

"Yes, doctor," he said, as Dr Montrose looked him full in the face, and shook his head, sadly.

"You are fretting, Sinclair, I believe you are in great trouble. Tell me, is there anything preying on your mind?"

The poor man turned in his bed and groaned.

"Ah! I could see it in your face. Get it off your mind. Trouble sends a man to his grave quicker than anything else."

Another groan escaped from the sufferer's lips; and after a short pause, during which he seemed to be thinking, the perspiration gathering on his brow, he looked up into the doctor's face, and in his countenance was pictured a concentration of misery.

"You will not spurn me altogether," Sinclair said, feebly, and in broken speech. "You will let me die in peace, if that is possible. It was an evil hour. I must have been possessed of a thousand devils! Jealousy! Jealousy! I felt the bitter pangs of jealousy quite as much as I now feel the punishment of remorse which I richly deserve. When we are jealous, doctor, we are devils incarnate, and there is no telling what we will not do! I now declare to you that James Philmore is innocent. I stole the notes. I was mad with envy at him being made partner. I heard all that was said by Cranmer and Duff to James Philmore—how they flattered him, and said no kind thing of me. I put £150 in notes in the cashier's pocket, and appropriated £50 to myself, which I got changed into cash the same afternoon, having personated Philmore. I spent that on my Christmas holidays. I did the cowardly act to prevent Philmore's promotion, for I knew no one could blame me if I was careful!"

Another groan escaped the sufferer's lips.

The doctor started violently and bit his lips. It was a shock to him. The strongest friendship had existed between him and James Philmore until that fearful charge was preferred against him. The doctor had always believed him to be guilty.

"You purloined the notes!" he exclaimed, when he could recover his power of speech.

"Yes," said the poor wretch. "I want to make amends."

"Ay, ay," said the doctor sadly. "You will have to be very quick, sir. His wife is at death's door—starving, you villain—you——"

"Spare me," he groaned. "Listen, I am worth fifty thousand. I have no heir. My wife is dead, as you know. I have no relations that I know of, except one vagabond in America. I will leave James Philmore all!"

"It is the least you should do."

"I have made a written confession, but I have not yet signed it. By my will I make you my sole executor. I leave you my property. Will you see my wishes carried out? James Philmore will take my share in the firm which is his by right."

"Rest now awhile," said the doctor; "you are completely exhausted. Oh, why did I believe James to be guilty," he added, distracted, turning from the bedside. "But he will soon be released, thank heaven!"

Dr Montrose then walked towards the door. On second thought he decided to obtain the written confession and procure the man's signature. He might die he reasoned. He walked back towards the bed, and, bending over the dying man, said—

"You would do well to make your peace with your God, Sinclair. Seek forgiveness for the wrong you have done James Philmore. Your money is no reparation for the misery you have caused. Money cannot buy happiness. I may as well tell you that your life is now very short. You had better tell me where that confession is, and I want you to sign it."

The dying man directed him to a drawer which opened with a secret spring. The confession was lying there. He picked it up and read, and then propped the wretched man up while he signed the statement.

"You intended to play your part to the end, Sinclair, it seems, or else you would have signed this when you wrote it. However, it is well that the grave will not possess your secret."

But it was the last he saw of Sinclair, for when the sun was gliding gradually behind the distant hills, bathing the earth with a flood of glory, his spirit was called hence to judgment.

CHAPTER IV.—RE-UNITED.

Christmas had dawned. Oh, what a joyous suspense Mrs Philmore had experienced since she had been notified of the fact that negotiations were pending for the release of her husband. She was now convalescent, yet still pale and weak. She had removed to the Elms, which residence she had been forced to quit seven years ago. This was the day on which it was expected her James would arrive, and the thought of the strange coincidence entered her mind—that her husband had been taken from her on a Christmas Day, and was to be restored to her on a Christmas Day.

The change was quite as sudden as that change which took place on the day of her husband's arrest; but this change was more acceptable, of course. God had verily met her in her extremity, as her kind, poor neighbor had predicted. Her hopes had been crowned with a blessed realisation.

The interior of the house was tastefully decorated. Her own deft fingers had arranged the mistletoe in the hall, suspended from the ceiling. She would meet her husband there.

Presently Dr Montrose called. "A Merry Christmas to you. Ah, you are almost well, I see," he said, cheerily. "But my medicine has not wrought the change," he added, with a merry twinkle in his eyes. "Sinclair's confession was the healer."

"How can I sufficiently thank you, Dr Montrose! My little girl has never seen her father," and she took her daughter in her arms and kissed her passionately. "But, Emily—only think, your father will be at home to-day. Yes, the dear old home. Won't it be a merry Christmas? And you must kiss him under the mistletoe."

"Oh! I am so glad!" exclaimed Emily, clapping her hands in girlish glee.

"Oh! those years of misery, Dr Montrose. Cherishing an over-deferred hope! It was a living death. I do not know how I have borne all this trouble. But I knew James was innocent."

"I shall never forgive myself for believing him to be guilty," said the doctor, in a tone of regret. "But you'll admit the evidence was in combatable."

"Yes, the evidence was strong. It was fortunate that you procured Sinclair's signature. We owe all this to you. And I was at church when James was put in prison. Ugh! It was awful to contemplate."

"Yes, and Sinclair was clever; he was never suspected," said the doctor, buttoning up his coat. "But I must be going," he added. "Here I am talking to you, and the train is due in a quarter of an hour. I am going to meet your husband."

. . . . .

By and bye, the sound of a vehicle was heard rolling over the frozen snow on the carriage-way, and it stopped at the main entrance of the Elms, which had been enlarged since Philmore last saw it.

Mrs Philmore uttered an exclamation of joy and burst into tears as she caught a glimpse of her husband, while Emily ran to the door-way and leaping into her father's arms, who be stowed on her rose-colored cheeks a hundred kisses as he carried her along the great hall, at the end of which he set her down, and enquired for his wife.

Then a sweet voice, in tender, loving tones, arrested the ears of James Philmore. It was his wife's. It was the old voice, and it had the same music. He burst into tears at the sound of it, and wept like a child, but they were tears of joy.

Dr Montrose was much affected by the scene that was being enacted.

These two faithful souls met on their knees under the mistletoe, and poured out thanksgiving to God for the timely deliverance that had been wrought.

We will drop the curtain now.

James Philmore was an altered man. His hair was streaked with silver, and his eyes had less of the light that once in them shone, and his constitution somewhat weaker on account of the privation and mental suffering he had undergone. But he still had a character, which he had learned to value above everything else. It was spotlessly white.

They had been in the school of adversity for awhile, and had come out of it trained and disciplined for future good. Yes, they had passed through great tribulation, but it had deepened their love for each other, and had made their meeting Under the Mistletoe one of deep and abiding felicity.

[THE END.]

During the year 1893 the railways of the United Kingdom carried 30,000,000 first-class passengers, 61,000,000 second-class, and 772,000,000 third-class. The receipts from the ordinary passenger traffic increased, on the whole, despite the decrease in the first and second class receipts. The latter amounted to about L10,000,000, while the third class receipts were valued at L25,062,000.

BECAUSE!

By JOHN STRANGE WINTER,
Author of "Good Bye," "Only Human, etc.

It was in the early summer of the year of grace 1856 that a girl stood at the long French window of a charming vicarage in North Devon. She was young, and she was fair to look upon, with hair yellow as the sand of the sea, put plainly back from a low brow and gathered into a great loose coil on the nape of the neck. Her eyes were grey and changeable as a dove's breast, her nose a little upturned, and her mouth a mouth that could smile, but was not smiling then: on the contrary it was cast in lines that were very sad. Her dress was white, of a thickist kind of muslin, which fell from her shapely waist in voluminous folds, but she was not sufficiently fashionable to be wearing the then new-fangled notion, which was afterwards called crinoline. She was not alone. Very near to her was standing a young man, little more than a boy, with a sharp, terrier-like face, only redeemed from extreme ugliness by a pair of wonderfully wistful brown eyes. He was not quite so tall as she was, or, if he was so, her flowing robe gave her an appearance of advantage in height. He was holding one of her hands and speaking very earnestly.

"Will nothing I say move you?" he asked.

"Oh, my dear Tom, don't put it like that. You know I would have said 'yes' if I could, but I cannot. It is out of the question. You must not ask me again. Oh, Tom, Tom, why did you take this new notion into your head? You and I, who have been friends ever since we can remember anything, ever since we could toddle! How can you expect it? You ought not to have said a word. You know that neither your people nor mine would allow an engagement between us—you only nineteen and I not quite so much. It is really unkind of you. Now we shall never be the same again."

"But I wan't to know why?" he asked. "You know perfectly well that I am rich, or I shall be rich when I am one-and-twenty. I shall be very rich."

"Money is not everything," said the girl, turning her head uneasily from side to side. "You are too young, Tom. You ought to be at school yet—and so ought I, and I am very unhappy—and you have made me so. No: I don't take it as a compliment. You should not have asked me. I know that mother will be furious about it. Now you have spoilt everything, everything, and we should have had such a good time this summer. Oh, why did you do it?"

The boy dropped her hand and laughed bitterly. "Why did I do it? Why? Because I couldn't help it. How could I help it? You must have known, Gay, years and years ago, that I had no other thought than for you. You know I have had a wretched time, or I should have had a wretched time, but for your people. It is so long since my mother died, and my father never cared anything about me. I had nobody but your people, no sympathy except from your mother, no joy in life except for yourself. I know that I am very young. I know I am only nineteen. I can't help being nineteen—I shall be nineteen if I live long enough."

"Yes, I know, Tom; but really I can't say anything else."

"But let me speak to your father; let me talk it over with your mother. They are reasonable people. They would like you to live here close to them. I can't imagine anything they would approve of more. We should have to wait until I was one-and-twenty, of course, because it is absurd for a chap to think of marrying before that. It is far better that I should go into the service knowing what my life is going to be, and if you care for me——"

"Oh, Tom, I don't in that way. Really I don't. We have been like brother and sister. I—I—must marry a man that I can look up to, and I can't look up to you. Why, it would be too funny! I couldn't do it."

"I don't wish you to look up to me, for I don't want to look down upon you."

"I should think not," said she, with a total change of voice.

"Then I will speak to your father now. I will go and talk it over with your mother first."

"No, you are not to do so. I don't want to marry you. I don't care for you in that way. You mustn't ask it, indeed you mustn't ask it."

Sir Thomas suddenly turned and looked at her, his sharp face a little paler, his brown eyes dark with pain. "Gay," he said, in a tone of suppressed excitement, "have you any reason for feeling this disinclination of thinking of me except as a brother?"

"No, Tom, I have no reason; but I don't feel like that towards you, and I can't help it. These things come without our wishing or acting one way or the other. I cannot marry you because you are Sir Thomas Trevor. I cannot marry you, because Trevor Court is the finest place for twenty miles round. It would be mean of me. I couldn't take into consideration that you are an excellent match. Oh, I couldn't! You are my brother, and I have never thought of you or never likened you for a moment to the man who might be my lover. Why, it's absurd! You and I, who have fought each other many and many a time! Why, Tom, if I went to church to say I should love, honor and obey you, I should burst out laughing, I should indeed."

"Well," said he, "but by that time you would have got to feel differently about me."

"Never! Never!" she cried, with all the terrible truthfulness of extreme youth. "I never should."

"Gay," said he, "there is somebody else."

"I don't know what you mean by somebody else, Tom," said Gay Kenworthy, in a rather offended voice. "I have met other people, beside yourself, of course; most girls in any sphere of life have met more than one man by the time they are my age—eighteen and three-quarters."

"Yes, but somebody that you would rather marry than me."

"My dear Tom," said she, "I hate to say things that hurt you, but, believe me, I would rather marry anyone than you—I would really. It isn't that I want to hurt you, but I look upon you as my brother, and you should have told me this long ago—you should not have waited until you were turned nineteen and then expected to have everything upon a totally different footing. It's no use, Tom, it's no use, I can't marry you!"

"Then," said Tom, "I suppose it's no use saying any more. I must just swallow the pill, bitter as it is, and go."

"I think you are very unkind," she said; "very unkind."

"Yes, and what I think of you matters little; but still, you will remember this—that as long as life lasts, Tom Trevor is your servant—your slave. Send for me from the ends of the world, and I will come. Make your own life. I am only nineteen," with a pitiful quiver in his boyish voice, "but I am a hundred and nineteen in the firmness of my resolution. This is no idle promise, no braggart's boast. You may scorn me—I may be too young, I know I am nothing to look at. You may have regarded me as your brother all your life, but yours I am, true and faithful to death itself; and whether you take me or leave me will make no matter to my part of the bargain. I am going now. You need not fret about me. You need not think when I am away that you are keeping me from my home, because I love you too well to put even a shadow upon your bright life. Good-bye, Gay!"

But Gay stood staring through the wide-open window with grey eyes black with unshed tears, with a mouth that trembled so she could not speak the two little words he craved; with a hand that shook as she stretched it out blindly in the direction where he had been standing, that he might take it in token of farewell. And that was their parting.

It seemed to the girl afterwards as if she stood just there where he left her for an eternity, but in reality it was not very long. There are moments in our lives which seem each like a lifetime. At first she stood quite still, trying to control the sobs which shook her, to force back the tears ready to flow. She was so sorry for him, and yet to marry Tom Trevor, with his little sharp face and his little pert nose, his horsey dress, and his big, ridiculous eyes! Oh, it was out of the question! It could not be. And even as she thought another face rose in her mind's eye—a face so different—the face of a man ten or twelve years older than Tom Trevor, a face for a young girl to dream of, a face that little children trusted, the face of a man as good as gold, and as brave as a lion. Of course, he would never look at her. She had danced with him a few times at one of the garrison balls during the winter, he had come out to the pretty vicarage certainly, to make a pretence of playing bowls, and to bring her the latest song; but Gay knew that he would never, never think of her in any other way than as a little country girl, who amused him for an hour or two—and yet, the steadfast eyes, the firm mouth, the long, lithe figure, they had all found themselves a place in her heart, and the heart at nineteen is very young. It is guided so much by the externals, it thinks so little of those sordid matters which moved the world so powerfully. Nineteen is very fresh, little troubled by mercenary feelings, and a smile and certain litheness mean so much to it. And Gay was not yet even nineteen years old!

Of course, when her mother returned, she saw that the girl had been crying, and, like most mothers, she asked the reason. Gay prevaricated. She said she did not feel very well; but later on Mrs Kenworthy invaded the sanctity of the little white bedchamber, so symbolical of her only daughter's innocent life.

"My dear," she said, "you may as well tell me first as last. What happened to-day while I was out?"

"Oh, mother!" she said, in a choking voice.

"Yes, I know, dear; but what was it?"

So, little by little, the girl let the story fall from her unwilling lips. "You don't want me to marry Tom Trevor?" she said, in a distressed tone, and spreading her hands out as if it was the cruellest thing that could happen to any girl. "You don't think of whether he is rich, and whether he is the squire of the place, and all that mother?"

Mrs Kenworthy moved away. "My dear," she said, "if you had been in love with Tom, neither your father nor I would have objected on the score of his youth. Of course, it would have been a very good marriage for you—he would have been a very good husband to you, and your position would have been a most brilliant one: but your father and I married for love, and I refused a nobleman only a few weeks before your father asked me to marry him. I have never regretted it, and I would be the last in the world to urge a child of mine, to say nothing of your being my only one, to go against the best dictates of her own heart; but, at the same time, I must say I am sorry for the poor boy."

However, Mrs Kenworthy's sorrow for the poor boy did not in the least alter Gay's feelings on the matter, nor had she intended that it should do so.

The sleepy summer days went sleepily over. They heard that Tom was gone to join his regiment, and before the summer flowers had waned a wonderful thing had happened in Gay Kenworthy's life: for that other one, the one she had thought would never think of her as his wife, asked her out under the beech-trees one softly-darkening evening to give herself to him for ever.

And Gay said yes!

Nearly a year had gone by. Gay Wardell's dove-like eyes no longer looked at the sun shining in English skies; no, when they ventured to lift themselves to that majestic orb, it looked at her from the cloudless blue of an Indian firmament. Life was going very hardly with the little girl reared in the peaceful atmosphere of a Devonshire vicarage. Each day might be their last on earth, each hour, each moment was bringing them nearer and nearer to the end when the enemy would hem them in and their portion would be martyrdom. Relief might come the horde of black faces which did threatened them might be driven back, but it was an unlikely contingency to arise. They were so few, their means were so circumscribed, and grim death walked abroad in many forms. Oftentimes the girl thought of the past, of the quiet vicarage, standing on a sunny slope with its background of beeches, behind which the hill rose clear and sharp against the sky, and beyond the lawn the changing, palpitating, old and yet ever new and to her always friendly sea. Oh, how she longed amid Indian heats, siege privations, in desperate anxiety and hourly dread for just one breath of that pure peaceful air! Dives in torment did not long more utterly for the drop of water from Lazarus's finger than Gay Wardell longed for a sight of her English home. But it was so useless, so useless. There they were, the football of Fate, to be tossed hither and thither, and it seemed as if the kindest thing left to do for her was a bullet from her husband's hand. Day after day crept slowly, heavily by. Day by day water failed, food ran short, heroes and heroines passed over the dark river and entered into glory, and yet the end was not!

The end was not to be, for when almost the last hour had come, they heard shouts in the distance. Oh, the excitement was too vibrating for those prisoned amid that crowd of savage foes to hear clearly and distinctly what shouts they were, or how near they came! But it was soon over. There was a rush, a sharp scuffle, a clang of arms and British cheers above Sepoy yells, and then the gates were opened—these frail barriers that they had thought would last but a few hours longer, and in streamed the welcome red coats and white helmets of their own countrymen.

It was all over: the danger was past, and Gay leaned up against her husband, sick and faint, and trembling with the fear of what might have been. But what was that? One of the rescuers wounded! Oh! She was almost the only woman left, and she pressed forward as women did in those days to see what help she could give. "Such a hero!" one of the new-comers was saying as she passed. "Poor chap! He got that wound as he hacked down the brute who was setting light to a train which would have blown you all into eternity! You can do nothing for him."

She went on; it was only a few steps, and knelt down beside the dying man. "Oh, Tom!" she cried, in a voice of recognition, "Why did you do this? Why did you do it?"

He looked up. "I knew you were in here," he said, in a far-away voice.

"Oh, Tom!" she almost wailed. "Why did you do it?"

There was silence for a moment, then he looked at her with an ineffable smile.

"Because——" he began; but the rest of the sentence was spoken in glory.—"Lloyd's"

A Theatrical Company on Bicycles.

Everybody has heard of lady cyclists, and eke of postal and military cyclists, but a theatrical company travelling on wheels across a continent presents something of a novelty. An American manager has made a bet of a thousand dollars that he will successfully conduct a band of players, each one of them using a cycle, right from New York to San Francisco. The drama round which this wheeling business is being written bears the title of A Race for Life. The biggest journey between one "stand" and another, to use the Transatlantic term, will be 110 miles. It may be taken for granted that not very much scenery and properties will be "carried."

THE ROOT OF THE MATTER.

A SOCIAL STORY

By H. E. Champion.

CHAPTER VIII.

"I really do hope," said Mortimer, who had been silently chafing during the last few minutes, "that you're going to take to us of the region of theorizing this evening. It all sounds so pretty up that way that I am quite longing to hear you down to practical difficulties."

"There is a little more ground to clear first," answered Blake, "but we are not far off the Promised Land. I am going now to try and solve your sympathies by showing how little the interests of capital and common sense need be opposed to each other."

"Well, I should be glad of that in a different way," [illegible] "for I've been more than once to see how anybody who called himself a reformer can help sneering at the Liberal party, in England, at any rate, is truly "the great engine of progress."

"That bonnet-on, too," said Dr Burton, "for I don't feel ashamed of calling myself a Liberal, and the way some of your Socialist friends denounce it it were not the instrument of every project for emancipating the oppressed is a perfect mystery to me."

"Oh, yes," said Mortimer with a laugh, "that extraordinary cant is a never failing source of amusement to us Tories. You dedicate that your motto is, 'Trust the people,' and you never can understand why the people don't return the compliment. You take it as a personal insult when you're reminded that in spite of your efforts at every kind of social bribe a great half of the working classes in England, at any rate, were not your Radicalism."

"Speaking for myself," retorted the doctor, "I can under-stand well enough that a half of the labor electorate are not Liberals. Their interest. But I assume Mr Blake will give us his view."

Thus called upon, Blake commenced:

"It is my present purpose to show what is the true drift and tendency of those very common-place, and, I fear, popular prejudices to which Mr Mortimer has just alluded. It is advanced as the marching wanted by the selling machine. Like the little boy in Tooley street, who are accused of having chosen up a malicious character, we, the people of England," one who had a fed up, exclaimed, "we hereby, in the name of labor to his mother. You may say that I am in the same case as Socialism has no inalienable right to speak on behalf of our interests, whatever may be the cause on the contrary. Let me assure thee, if we can find a minute in the interest of the laborer as a farmer.

There is no such antagonism, and only one which is disastrous, working a case which has arisen by reason of the wrong of the people from above or any workshop agitation from the needs and the necessities of the nation himself. This is the trade union movement. Workmen form these collisions, and, in any manner, occasionally exposed, though in the value of the social and social interest, their purposes are called in language to which are available well glad, and, which.

Let us consider the position of the work-ing. Manufacture, which, in the early days of the industrial revolution, primary property was established industry has been carried on for the object of making profit out of the wage system. It is man has no property to do but to sell his labor, and, in the sale of his labor, Socialism, he can compete but equally in the market, with the employer, who, in the case of the employer, is the owner of the labor, and the labor.

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AGRICULTURAL.

Winter Food for Dairy Cows.

(Extracts from a Paper by J. L. Thompson, Principal Hawkesbury College, in the "Agricultural Gazette.")

The severity of the past winter in many parts of the colony, the partial droughts in the coastal districts, and the consequent scarcity of food for milch cows should be a warning to dairy farmers to make better provision for their stock in the future. I have travelled a good deal recently in the New England and other districts, and was simply astonished that little or no provision was made to tide over the severe winter in that and other parts of the colony.

There are many kinds of food which could be grown with advantage for winter feeding, but my object in penning this brief article is to again draw special attention to the claims of silage as a most suitable and economical food, particularly for milch cows, as it greatly encourages milk production. It is well known that rape, cabbages, turnips, lucerne, etc., taint the milk to a greater or less degree, but it has never been proved that silage, used as food for milch cows, has ever tainted or impaired the quality of the milk in any way; but, on the contrary, the very best milking results have been obtained from the use of good sound silage. I am aware that in certain quarters silage has been blamed for imparting a disagreeable flavor to milk. On strict inquiry, however, it has been found that the taint is caused by contamination, the silage pit being too near the dairy. In some cases the taint was caused by milkers feeding the silage to cows, and milking without washing their hands.

Although excellent fodder has been preserved in stocks, and also in holes simply dug in the ground, I am strongly of opinion that, for dairy stock at all events, the silo is by far the best and most economical method, as the fodder can be chaffed, a really great advantage when maize, sorghum or other strong fodder plants are dealt with.

The shape of silos in America and Great Britain has been somewhat modified during recent years. The smallest percentage of waste occurs in deep silos. There are now some silos in the United States 24ft., 30ft. and even 36ft. deep. It has recently been found that silos in which the length and breadth are equal are more economical than such as are long and narrow.

Feeding from the entire upper surface is now considered the proper method, and if 2in. or 3in. of silage are fed out daily over the whole surface there will be no waste from it becoming mouldy. A cubic foot of silage, if well pressed, will weigh about 56lb., and will be ample, with a little concentrated food, for the daily ration of a cow in full milk.

Although some people are of an opinion that silage can be made without pressure, I hold an entirely opposite view. I am still of the opinion expressed by me years ago—and consistently held up to the present time—that the system of ensilaging fodder for all kinds has only to be better known to be fully appreciated by every stockowner in New South Wales, and am more and more surprised that it has been so much neglected in our colony, where, perhaps, of all places in the world, it would be of immense benefit to everybody concerned. The adoption of ensilaging fodder only means that ordinary prudence and sagacity have been observed in making use of a most economical and effective system of conserving food for domestic animals.

It has certainly many advantages over the old practice of curing by desiccation. Not only maize, but all descriptions of green fodder, can be most economically saved in a perfectly succulent condition. No system of providing fodder for stock can be more certain than that of the silo or ensilage stack. Safe against fire, made with a minimum of loss, silage provides a supply at all times of useful food.

By cutting all cereals when in blossom, the ground is cleared of weeds. An ensilage crop can be removed from the field one day, the land ploughed again, and another crop sown the next. On good land an early-sown crop of barley, vetches, etc., will be ready for the silo in October. The land can then be ploughed and planted with maize, which will be fit for the silo about February or March. This plan of operations is very successfully and regularly carried out on our own farm.

ENSILAGE AT THE HAWKESBURY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

In 1892, during February we built about 8 tons of green maize (broadcast sown) into a small stack, applying weight by using some spare posts and rails. When opened in July, it was found to be in a perfect state of preservation, the cows eating it with avidity, improving very considerably in their milk supply.

During November we put together a stack of about 50 tons, made up of green wheat, oats, barley and vetches, pressure being applied by means of Johnson's patent ensilage press, of 100 tons capacity, obtained at a cost of £25. The apparatus consists of seven pairs of drums, each fitted with rachet and pawl fixed exactly opposite each other on strong timbers. Steel wire ropes pass over the stack, attached each to a separate pair of drums. Levers are applied on both ends simultaneously. The levers can, of course, be readily moved from one drum to another, or to other stacks if required. The silage turned out in splendid condition, and was much appreciated by our stock.

In 1893, during May, a temporary pit was excavated in a piece of rising ground in one of the paddocks, with scoop and bullocks. Over 100 tons of white ensilage corn and sorghum were carted into this pit, the drays being driven over the mass with each load, so as to consolidate it. The earth was used for weighing and covering the silage, and was brought to a fine peak to throw off the rain. The pit was opened in August, and the silage found to be in splendid condition, and was of great service to our milch cows during the summer months, the only drawback being that it was not chaffed.

Early in 1894 a properly constructed silo was authorised, and this has now been completed in a highly substantial and satisfactory manner.

DESCRIPTION OF COLLEGE SILO.

The site chosen was on ground with a grade of 1ft. in 60ft. Before excavating for pit a drain was laid with agricultural tile drain pipes, at an average depth of 6ft. 3in., the pipes covered over with loose boulder stones within 2ft. of the surface, to prevent soakage of water into the silo.

The silo was then excavated to a depth in 16ft. 6in., the bottom being good stiff clay. All the clay taken from the pit was used for puddling behind the walls, and a portion of the earth for banking up the sides above ground 4ft. 6in. high x 9ft. on the base. The size of the silo, as finished, is 40ft. x 12ft. x 15ft. deep, 4ft. 6in. being above the ground, the pit being divided into two equal compartments. The whole of the walls and supports for roof are of sawn ironbark strongly framed together and covered with a semi-circular roof, projecting at each end over silo pit about 20ft., affording ample covering for drays when loading. The roof is constructed of pine rafters, built on three thicknesses and filled in with purlins to take curved corrugated iron. The eaves are provided with 6in. half-round guttering, to conduct roof water to drains at lower end of silo. Under the crown of roof is fitted up Myer's patent reversible carrier on steel track, for loading silage and carrying it outside the silo, so that it can be dropped into a dray. This is a very great convenience and labor-saving appliance. The walls are constructed with 9in. x 9in. corner and 6in. x 6in. intermediate posts, each set into concrete blocks, and secured at 8ft. from bottom to 12in. diameter log sills running out 12ft. long, into which is morticed and spiked the upright to take wall-plate of roof, also stay to which both uprights are bolted, thus affording ample resistence to pressure from either side. Into wall uprights are framed 6in. x 3in. rails, to which is spiked the up-right wall-planking of 6in. x 2½in., square-jointed, grooved on both edges, ⅝in. x ⅝in., forming in each joint grooves 1¼in. x ⅝in., down which any soakage that may reach the walls will pass to the bottom. Round the whole of the walls about 12in. thick of clay puddle is filled in against the planks. At each outer end an opening is provided, filled in with movable horizontal planks to lift out when cutting out silage. Loose planking, 3in. thick, cover the top, on which mechanical pressure is provided by means of a system patented by myself in conjunction with Mr James Simpson, of Egerton, Victoria. It consists of ⅝in. chains, anchored at the bottom of the silo, opposite to each other. While the silo is being filled the ends of the chains are thrown over the walls. After the silo is full the planks are placed across the short way of the silo; on top of this a traverse beam, 10in. x 6in., is laid, stretching from end to end of the silo. On the ends of the beams brackets are fixed to carry movable rollers, over which the chains from either end are placed. A large double screw, similar to a railway coupling, is hooked into the ends of the chain, and by turning a lever the ends of the chain are drawn closer together, causing the beam and covering of the silo to sink and press the fodder. A double pin, resembling a staple made of steel, catches the chain and holds the beam down; the screw can then be made to take a fresh hold, or be removed altogether to another silo. Any number of beams may be used, according to the size of the silo and the pressure required. We have two beams in each of our silos, which average 20ft. long, 12ft. wide, and 15ft. deep. Only one man must apply the screw rachet, the leverage being so great that something is bound to go if greater strength be applied. It is computed that the leverage of the appliance is equal to 450 to 1. It is only justice to T. W. Reynolds and Co. to state that the system adopted here is a modification of their invention, but altered in some important particulars.

The following is the actual cost of the above:—

Excavating, laying pipes, filling-in and covering drain ...	£9	15	0
Excavating silo pit; also trenches and holes for timbers and puddling, and banking round walls ...	19	4	0
Timber for the whole ...	80	8	6
Iron, including galvanised and wrought ...	43	16	6
Labor of erecting, carpenters and plumbers	41	15	0
240ft. of ⅝in. cable chain ...	7	1	10
Fittings for pressing ...	25	11	3
2 cubic yards concrete ...	2	0	0
Cartage, Etc. ...	12	13	6
	£241	0	7

Although the cost (£240), in round figures, appears at first sight rather high, it must be remembered that the structure is very substantial and complete, and, bar accident, will last a lifetime. Being a permanent improvement, the expenditure should be looked upon from that standpoint. Say money is worth 6 per cent. per annum, the yearly interest on the cost would be £14 8s. Now, the question may be fairly asked, is the silo worth that amount to a dairyman with eighty cows, or is it not? I venture to state that it is worth many times that amount.

The capacity of the above silo is 7,200 cubic feet, which when full and thoroughly pressed will turn out from 150 to 175 tons of silage.

A simple elevator was constructed to carry the cut sorghum over the wall, and, by means of a shoot, it was deposited near the centre of the silo.

The filling of the silo commenced on 17th May, finishing on the 1st June, the work being suspended for a week during that time; the actual time taken to fill it was nine days. The students took great interest in the proceedings, as also did our neighbors and townspeople. A crop of sorghum had been put in for the purpose during January; it comprised twenty five acres, and yielded seven tons to the acre.

Owing to the silo not being completed in time, the sorghum was rather over-ripe and not so succulent as it should have been; nevertheless, it turned out fairly well.

The following was the process carried out:—

2 men and students cutting the sorghum in the field, laying it down in armfuls.
3 students with 2 drays and trolly, carting in to the chaffcutter.
1 man loading in the field.
1 student driving engine.
1 man feeding chaffcutter.
1 student levelling in pit and 1 treading down the cut silage with a horse.

An eight horse-power portable engine (usually employed to drive the sawmill) was put in position to work the chaffcutter, one of Hudson Brothers No. 2. One of the pits was opened on 13th August, and the silage has been in constant use ever since, a few inches being taken off the surface daily, and fed to our milch cows, which have improved considerably in their appearance and milk production since they commenced with it.

Speying and Dehorning.

There are some acts that are necessary, and some mutilations that are excusable. In regard to speying, caponising, docking of ears and tails, there ought to be some reason far more urgent than mere "custom" to justify them. To make the male animals docile and safe, and to ensure tender and palatable flesh, it is quite reasonable and justifiable to operate; but the reasons which necessitate docking sheep in Europe do not prevail in most parts of Australia; and as for docking horses and dogs and dubbing roosters, there is neither reason nor justification in any part of the work. The dehorning of cattle, by simply cleaning off the hair from the "bosses" on the head of the calf when a fortnight old, and rubbing the skin where the horns would come with a little lunar caustic, after damping the skin, gives no pain, prevents the appearance of the horns, and ensures safety to all men and to the cattle as well.

Philosophy for Farmers.

The successful farmer knows that it is easier to do the day's work to-day than to leave it till to-morrow to be done in addition to the morrow's work. Farm work is hard enough to do, and every day there are really too few hours of daylight to do it properly; but how can a man do yesterday's work and that of the day before along with to-day's labor? When the weather is fine there is too much to be done outside, and when it is wet there is more than enough of work that can be done under cover. Every hour wasted in idleness is lost for ever; every job finished tends to make the place neater and the farm profitable. It is the loss of little moments, the neglect of very trifling economies, that make all the difference at the end of the year. Men can be thrifty without being mean; they can be saving without being miserly; they can be careful without "grabbing." The man who is wasteful of his time, his opportunities, and of the "little things"—the trifles—of his business, and gets into debt and difficulty, has not been honest to himself, to his family, nor to his creditors.

Neglected Riches

Poor Richard's philosophy could profitably be applied in many a home, whether rich or poor. "Take care of the pence, the pounds will take care of themselves," was one of his wise sayings. Probably the number of skins of animals that are slain in this colony and left to waste would amount to many millions annually, and yet the skins of rabbits, hares, opossums, kangaroos, wallaby, dogs, cats and even water rats, are of value. In Sydney and Melbourne there are purchasers for all kinds of skins at good prices; also for feathers of all sorts, horsehair, pelican and swan skins, emu skins, goat and domestic dog and cat skins, etc. Some years ago an aged man used to collect corks, string, etc., in the streets early in the morning. Later on he purchased a house and furniture, and his remark when he handed over the cheque was, "The whole of that money, and more beside, was made from corks and string which fools threw away." There are some farmers in the country who save all the skins and feathers of animals killed by them.

How Harness is Spoiled.

There are a few who know how to keep harness sound and strong, but there are many who hang it in the stable along with the horses, and the ammonia makes it brittle; they never oil the leather, and often hang it up with the sweat and dirt upon it. If they wash the harness at any time they use common caustic soap which takes out the oil and perishes the leather. If soap is used to take off the sweat and dirt, it should be castile soap—made from olive oil—and warm salt water. After washing, wipe dry, and an hour after rub in some neatsfoot or marrow oil, with the aid of a piece of flannel. The harness should be warm when the oil is rubbed in. Out in the sun at midday is a good time to do this, because then the leather will soak in the oil. Some lampblack may be rubbed in with the last rubbing, and then the outside should be rubbed dry with another piece of flannel.

The Pig-breeding Industry in New Zealand.

Commenting on the market prices in New Zealand for young and store pigs, "Drover," the writer of stock and grazing notes in the "Otago Witness," says that it continues good, but there is little or no demand at present for bacon pigs, which are being refused at 3d per lb by the local curers, as the warm weather has caused them to restrict their business considerably, and this may possibly continue for some time." The pig-raising business having been preached up considerably in connection with Mr Vecht's enterprise and his promise to buy pigs all the year round at 3d per lb, many farmers have gone extensively into the business, and as Mr Vecht has transferred his business to the Christchurch Meat Company it is to be hoped that they will at once publicly announce that they are prepared to carry out the promise made by Mr Vecht, upon which so many farmers entered upon this business. Otherwise a great injustice will have been done to these men, and I cannot but think that Mr Vecht in transferring his business to the Christchurch Meat Company must have been aware of this. Unless the export trade in pork is carried on pig-rearing will go back again to a very paltry business, as the local demand is a poor and fitful thing to rely upon. Local curers are unable to deal with pigs during summer and autumn, at which time most of the pigs would be ready, and it is very unprofitable to carry fat pigs on until winter."

Perhaps the largest ploughing match that ever took place in England came off lately at Witham, in Essex. It was in connection with the Essex County Council technical instruction scheme. The competitors, about eighty in number, were laborers and lads who had attended courses of instruction, in various parishes, given by expert and practical teachers. Forty acres of land were turned over in a few hours, and the work was judged to be of a most satisfactory character. Prizes were given.

Shoeing Young Horses

Under ordinary conditions, wrote Mr L. C. Underhill to an American paper some time ago, the young horse must be shod when regular driving begins. If the feet have been properly cared for from the time of weaning up to the age of two years, a good foot has become an assured fact.

By a good foot I do not mean always a perfectly formed foot, as we see it illustrated. Some families are predisposed to long, narrow feet; some to flat, tender feet. Almost any foot will become mis-shaped if allowed to grow without care. It has been asserted that more feet are spoiled before shoeing than after. This may be too sweeping a statement, but it is a fact, nevertheless, that much injury may result from neglect of the feet before shoeing, and if to that we add the cutting and carving of an ignorant smith, it is little wonder that so many horses suffer from poor, tender, diseased feet, resulting in premature lameness and disability. I am firmly of opinion that, aside from an accident, no horse need have poor feet at any time in life.

Every colt owner should own a foot-rasp; never mind about a knife—the less the knife is used around the foot the better. The first time the smith gets at the feet he will probably cut it enough to last a lifetime. When the colt is weaned, if it has been handled and gentled, it will allow the feet to be raised and levelled with the rasp, and this should be done at least every two or three months. If the colt has a tendency to walk on the heel or frog and develop an abnormal length of toe, rasp the sole toward the toe, to take away the thickness accumulating and shorten the toes. If the foot is worn at the toe and the heels have become too high, lower the heels with the rasp so that the frog will just touch the ground and receive the necessary pressure to keep the foot expanded. When a foot has kept in good shape, but the hedges or rim of the hoof have grown, leaving the frog and centre hollow, rasp the hedges so the frog rests upon the ground lightly, or lower the heels to a level with the frog and take away the toe with the rasp in the same proportion. The more frequently the foot is put in proper shape, the more it becomes fixed in growing in that shape.

The first shoeing will be largely experimental. If your colt is pure-gaited and strongly trotting-bred, he may acquire speed with very little change from the first shoeing. Again, it may be necessary to shoe him in many different ways before you get him just balanced. The first shoeing should approximate as nearly as possible to the condition of nature, and shoes of about 6oz. each are best for the first time. Weigh them, too, and know just what they weigh. It has been my custom to buy the steel in the bar and have the shoes forged. My experience has been that a bar 7-16ths by ¼ or 5-16ths inch will produce shoes weighing about 6oz.; if ⅜ by ⅜, 8oz. to 10oz., and if ⅜ by ½, 10 to 12oz., which is as heavy as I have had occasion to use. I also buy my own nails, not because they are any better than the smith may furnish, but because few country smiths have use for such a light nail as the foot of the colt requires. I, being a farmer, am writing to farmers just as experience has taught me.

Again, no matter who may laugh or poke fun, weigh the shoes and insist upon having the work done as you require. Have the smith first rasp the foot to the proper level, and be sure that it is level. If you think so much precaution unnecessary, try the experiment upon yourself by nailing a piece of sole leather on either the inner or outer side of your shoe, throwing the bearing of the foot at an angle, and see how tired and sore your ankle will be after a few hours' wear.

Do not let the smith put a knife to the foot unless it be to shorten the toe, and if the feet have been properly cared for this will not be necessary. Above all, do not have the heels opened, as it is called, which means cutting away the bars or all the support to the heel on each side of the frog. This support was put there to bear the weight of the horse in travelling and to protect the inner component parts of the foot and joints. Why a smith should cut away the foot at the very place where strength is most needed I could never understand.

I recall buying a mare that had a slight lameness, caused as I supposed by one foot being contracted. I took her to a shoeing expert, and he cut the sole of her foot until he could press through it with his thumb. Then he opened her heel, cutting away the bars, and slashed off almost all of the frog; in fact, when he had finished there was but little left for the mare to stand on. It was just such shoeing that ruined her. The foot had been treated in this manner so often—robbed of the very covering that Nature had placed there to protect the internal machinery—that an injury to some internal part of the foot had occurred, resulting in permanent lameness. The sole of the horse's foot is intended and constituted to receive and withstand the shock of travel, and to protect the delicate and intricate internal machinery from injury. Every time the smith cuts away this natural covering he invites permanent injury to some one of the delicate parts left wholly or partially unprotected.

If your colt is inclined to be mixed gaited—that is to shift from a trot into a pace, let the toe to the front feet remain moderately long, and have the heels lowered as much as is consistent. This will give him more ground surface and have a tendency to prevent his pacing.

After the feet have been prepared according to your ideas and best knowledge, have the shoes made to fit the feet. Let the heel of each shoe come round under the heel of the foot, not run out straight inviting injury to the pastern of the hind foot and leaving the heel of the foot without support. Unless calks are necessary to prevent slipping, have the shoes made plain with a short toe and heel calks on the shoes behind, as the hind legs and feet are really the propelling power. Many prefer a plain shoe without calks on all feet, but these are matters of little moment at this time.

Be sure and have the colt well protected by boots, as he will naturally be awkward, and be liable to inflict injuries that would not be expected after becoming accustomed to the new order of things. Quarter boots are indispensable, and the majority will need scalping boots, toe boots for the hind feet. Many others will need shin and ankle boots forward, and possibly shin and ankle boots behind; but of these the owner and driver must judge by the general action and inclination to travel close. Do not take any chances of injury, for such injuries are often times very serious.

Horticultural Hints.

Apples, pears and other fruit infested with codlin worms should be promptly gathered up and fed to poultry or other domestic animals; if left under the trees, the worms leave the fruit and hide themselves on and about the trees, where they will hatch out next spring.

To dry or preserve figs, prunes, plums, large dessert raisins, etc., they should be dipped a few seconds in very hot, strong potash lye, and afterwards dried by exposure to the sun or artificially. If not dipped their skins become hard and tough, and prevent evaporation of the moisture. Fruits that are split or stoned will evaporate and dry rapidly without dipping.

Champagne, or effervescing wines form a distinct class. The wine is so called from a district in France, where many suppose it is chiefly made. With us, however, wine should, if possible, bear or take the name of the grape from which it is made.

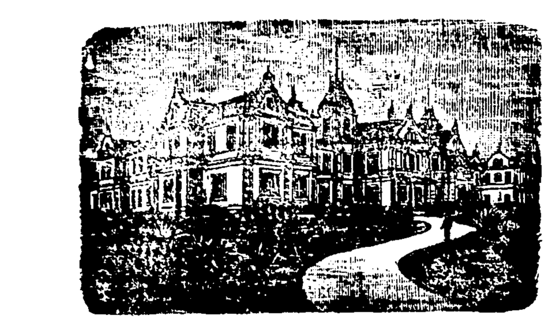
In new and remote districts, where fruit is scarce and dear, an immediate supply of the best, at least within nine or ten months from time of sowing seed, can be had by planting the Cape gooseberry. It will bear continuously, and last for many years; its cultivation is similar to the tomato.

Climbing roses and other climbers should not be allowed to send up rank shoots from below, as they weaken the older wood and gradually rob it of sap. Unless specially required they should be pinched back as fast as they appear.

If a man wishes to raise fruit with the best results he must first know the character of his soil, and the best varieties to select under existing conditions, the best mode of planting, pruning, fertilising, grafting and utilising the ground before the trees come into bearing, and, finally of gathering and packing for market.

Prune in winter for wood, and in summer for fruit; the main object, however, should not be lost sight of, to encourage the growth upward and outward, leaving the tree open enough to admit air and light. When pruning the last bud should always be left on the outside of the branches.

The man who occupies a thousand acres of land will almost certainly act like old Muller—he's got it, and he will keep it, and will get more if he can. The clay-eaters get thinner and poorer the more they eat, and the man who has got "earth hunger" will neither obtain comfort nor riches through indulgence in this vice. Contentment is happiness, and "the little farm well tilled keeps the purse well filled." It is better to have large returns from a little labor well directed than to have small profits (or big losses) from a great deal of labor badly laid out. Twenty bushels per acre from fifty acres is a better yield than fifteen bushels per acre from a hundred acres, and the man with the smaller area of well tilled land will be happier, richer, and more healthy at the end of 20 years than the occupier of a very large farm that must be neglected and badly cultivated because of its size and the difficulty of properly managing it.



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THIRD QUARTER BEGINS 10th JULY. Pupils pay from date of enrolment.

OPTICURA

OPTICURA

Poultry Yard Scratchings.

Green food should be regularly supplied.

Soft eggs are usually a sure sign of over feeding.

Londoners like white legged birds best for table purposes.

Damp floors are a source of evil in the chicken nursery.

Cleanliness and judicious diet are necessary in the poultry yard.

Every poultry raiser should keep a medicine chest for immediate use.

Fanciers always refer to a bird under twelve months old as a "chicken."

Remember all birds which are for export must be under six months old.

Hydraulic lime makes a grand floor for poultry sheds. You can't beat it.

A young cock bird is always termed a "cockerel," a young hen a "pullet."

If your poultry yard is pitched on sandy soil you will need to supply plenty of grit.

Keep the water vessels out of the sun; hot water is injurious to the feathered tribe.

If your fowls are troubled with worms give them a dose of turpentine, followed by Epsom salts.

Lime should always be within reach of the laying hens; it is required to form the egg shell.

Get your agricultural societies to include classes in their schedules for birds fit for export.

Breed plenty of turkeys, if you have a suitable farm. A good market awaits you in London.

Don't forget the export trade in poultry products. Don't depend on our small poultry markets.

The Edinburgh University has appointed a lecturer on poultry. A step in the right direction.

Fanciers should now be culling out their chickens. Farmers should be able to secure what they require.

Read our business columns if you wish to begin poultry farming; ask for quotations from our advertisers.

Hen lice or vermin should be guarded against at this time of the year. Don't spare the limewash.

Giddiness is usually a sign of congestion of the brain; to cure it the system should be reduced by Epsom salts.

We believe in raising poultry under natural conditions, and also in breeding from stock which has never been pampered or coddled.

Scaly legs are easily cured by applying a sulphur ointment to the legs, rubbing the affected parts firstly with a brush and warm water.

Some fanciers get "mixed" over the terms, "deaf ears" and "ear lobes:" they are identical, and refer to the folds of skin hanging from the true ears.

The most extensive and best-appointed poultry yard in the old country was that built for the Right Hon. Lady Gwydyr. It cost some thousands of pounds.

"Pip" can hardly be termed a disease. It is like a foul tongue in human beings. Give opening medicine, and apply chlorinated soda to the parts affected.

When fowls are troubled with gout the legs and feet are hot. Remove the birds to a warm place, give Epsom salts to open the bowels, after which give twice daily a half-grain pill of extract of colchicum. Rub the legs and joints with sweet oil.

Dairy farmers will find duck breeding a reproductive adjunct to their farms. Milk gives the flesh a nice white color. Don't feed ducks on offal; it taints the flesh. Victorian ducks brought up to 10s. a couple in London last season.

The Egg Trade.

The following report on the egg export trade by Messrs Leedham, Crowe and Co., of London, written under date 7th December, is of interest:—"We are pleased to see that the trade for eggs in this market is being taken up by the Australian colonies, and if shipments can be sent over in satisfactory condition there is an enormous and unlimited outlet, with apparently a good profit. We shall be pleased to receive consignments, and are making a special feature of this line, which works in connection with butter and cheese. Several parcels of eggs have recently arrived from Australia, some from Victoria and some from South Australia. The Victorian eggs were packed in cases of two long hundreds each, in pea husks. The South Australian came in cases of 56 dozens, with cardboard fittings, each egg having a space to itself. Part of these had the spaces filled up with oat hulls, and part of them came without any padding at all. They arrived in about equal condition, so that the paddling is not necessary. The Victorian eggs, although a good many were broken, were perfect as to flavor and condition. The South Australian eggs were perfect as to condition and had no breakage, but they had a strong taste of eucalyptus, which came, we think, from the wood used for the cases. We think it was kauri pine which they employed. The Victorians used ordinary white pine or deal, which has no flavor at all. We recommend your friends to pack their eggs in cases of six long hundreds (720), with cardboard fittings, with or without padding. The cases should be made of odorless wood. The best months for the sale of eggs here are October, November, December and January. The prices ruling at present for large eggs similar to those received from South Australia would be 11s. 6d. to 12s. per long hundred (120). For smaller eggs, similar to the Victorian, the price would be 10s. 6d.

In the year 210 hardly a drop of rain fell in England, and 40,000 people died of famine.

VISITORS TO MELBOURNE

Should call at the following places:—

ABRAHAMS H. and Co., Gun Rifle and Cartridge Manufacturers. Send for Illustrated price-list (free). 303, 318, 320 Elizabeth st.

KINGSTON'S UMBRELLAS are the Best of all for Wear. Opposite Town hall Swanston street. Recovering from 8s. 6d.

T. R. NEWING 154 Elizabeth Street and 83 and 85 Bourke street east. Paperhangings, Oils, Colors, and all artist material.

WM. ADAMSON, Seed Merchant, 47 Collins Street, Melbourne. Samples and Price of Grass and Clover Seeds. Post Free New Illustrated Seed Manual for 1893, containing all latest novelties; post free.

WOMAN'S SALVATION.—The wife's welfare within her own control. Treatise posted FREE. It will teach you more about prevention in ten minutes than all the years you've lived. Write Prof. HERMANN, Collins Place, Collins street Melbourne.

LOST MANHOOD, debility, follies of youth, etc. Pamphlet showing sufferers how to cure themselves cheaply and permanently, posted free. Write H. A. LEON, Flinders street, Melbourne.

LADIES.—ORIENTAL FEMALE PILLS, triple power, restore regularity, no matter what cause or how long standing. Box posted 5s. 6d. Write W. W. Garnett, Collins street, Melbourne.

Sufferers from the effects of Boyish Follies, Nervous Debility, Loss of Manhood, etc. Send stamped addressed envelope, and I will forward you full particulars of my own ... I suffered for years—tried almost every ... specialist, and when all had failed ... found a cure. Address, W.H.W., Post Office, Swan-st., Richmond, Melbourne.

LOST MANHOOD.

From youthful folly, excesses, or any other cause. Guaranteed Cure. A Great Scientific Discovery by Anatomy. Treatise on "Lost Manhood" postedfree sealed. To young men contemplating marriage, the married, to young and old—this book is invaluable, pointing out as it does the way of relief to those unfortunate sufferers to whom love is but a hideous tormenting dream—life a torture—the future a blank Every man and youth should read it. Posted free. Write PROF. HERMANN, Collins place, Collins street, Melbourne

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INCLUDES
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ORCHARD AND VINEYARD.
WORK FOR THE WEEK.
HORTICULTURAL.
GARDEN NOTES.
OUR COUNTRY LETTERS.
(From District Correspondents.)
POULTRY.
Notes By "Hotspur."
THE KENNEL.
Notes by "Eclipse."

GENERAL BRIEFS.

There are about 270,000 acres under tea cultivation in British India.

"Pilgrim's Progress" has been translated into 203 languages and dialects.

The drill plough in every essential was known to the Chinese 4000 years ago.

Astronomers claim that there are over 17,500,000 comets in the solar system alone.

Fifty-one metals are now known to exist. Three centuries ago only seven were known.

The Chinese, Japanese, Malays, Siamese, New Zealanders, and North American Indians are beardless.

England has the greatest number of lighthouses and lightships—one for every fourteen miles of its coastline.

Japan has one of the best engineering schools in the world, and is beginning to manufacture creditable electrical machinery.

After many years' delay, the spire of the cathedral at Ulm has been finished recently. It is said to be the highest in Europe.

Another Anarchist outrage reported from Milan. The Public Prosecutor stabbed, in revenge for the prosecution of Anarchists.

It is said that there are twenty-two ex-sovereigns residing in different parts of Europe, none of them in the countries where they ruled.

In Genoa the policemen wear silk hats and carry silver-headed walking-sticks. Genoa seems to be the only place where a policeman can look as big as he feels.

The longest train ever hauled by a single engine in America was one on the Reading line. It contained 250 empty cars, and was a mile and a quarter in length.

Mr Justin M'Carthy, M.P., prefers literature to politics, and although in his sixty-second year, it is no unusual event for him to sit up all night over his type-writer.

Mr Gladstone, despite his supposed vast wealth, is almost penurious in personal matters. He wears his clothes until they are threadbare, shiny, and shabby.

The largest building stones are those used in the cyclopean walls of Baalbec, in Syria, some of which measure 63 feet in length by 20 feet in breadth, and are of unknown depth.

Three churches have been wrecked by a hurricane at Suva. The Roman Catholic chapel was the most fortunate, being least affected by the gale. The Anglican church was unroofed.

More than forty-one per cent. of the English people could not write their names when the Queen ascended the throne. The proportion in that condition has now been reduced to seven per cent.

Terrific hurricane reported from Fiji It swept over the whole of the group, doing terrible damage on all hands. Ships were wrecked and crews lost, plantations torn up, public buildings destroyed, churches unroofed. Full extent of mischief not yet estimated.

The Marquis of Salisbury is the holder of five acres of land around Charing Cross, which his ancestors obtained 250 years ago for grazing land at the modest rate of ten shillings an acre for 500 years! One may imagine what that bargain now is, and has been worth, to the Cecils.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer acknowledges the receipt of a Bank of England note value £5 from "Praise the Lord for all His mercies." Yes. "Praise the Lord for all His mercies." Especially (supposes a London paper) the crowning mercy of not being found out.

A terrible crime is reported to have taken place in Italy. The Public Prosecutor in Milan has been stabbed by an Anarchist. It appears that this law official, with others, had been singled out for death in revenge for the recent prosecutions and imprisonment of Anarchists.

The Berlin papers publish a St. Petersburg telegram to the effect that nine peasant women and two men were overtaken a few weeks ago by a terrific snowstorm when on their way home from the fields, near the village of Bedounaia, in the district of Tula, and were frozen to death.

It is stated that the largest telescope in the world will be principal feature of the Paris Exhibition of 1900. At the meeting of the Societie Astronomique de France, M. Mantois announced that the instrument is to be 200 feet long and to have an objective of four feet diameter.

Every year a number of boys are sent from Siam by the King to England to learn different things. One learns upholstery, one learns typewriting, one learns languages, one learns science, and so, when they return to Siam, each takes with him some different information to impart to others.

During her travels in Africa Mrs Sheldon, the famous explorer, was one day exceedingly embarassed by receiving a present of six hundred husbands from the local sultan. It was with the utmost difficulty that she succeeded in refusing this delicate attention without the greatest offence to the natives.

"Woman" hears from St. Petersburg that the late Czar has left his "dear sister-in-law, the Princess of Wales," L10,000 as a mark of affection. The Empress Mother has a jointure of L100,000 per annum and a palace in St. Petersburg, a country place and the villa at Livadia where the Czar died, for life, all the establishments to be kept up by the State, quite independent of her income. The young daughters get L40,000 a year when they come of age. And yet the Victorian Legislative Assembly expect to get a "first-class" Governor for a paltry L5000 a year!

In Which Century.

Just as at the end of the last century, people are already beginning to dispute the exact termination of the nineteenth and commencement of the twentieth century. It will be distressing not to know to which century we belong.

So it has been proposed in Paris that the government shall fix the fin de siecle by official decision. At the proper time placards, like theatrical posters, should display:

"To-morrow, close of the nineteenth century. Day after to-morrow, opening of twentieth century! Entrance free!"

Even such scientific men as Camille Flammarion and Dr. Bertillon had, not long ago, a sharp correspondence on the subject.

One party maintains that the nineteenth century will end with its hundredth year, that is, after ninety-nine years, eleven months, twenty-nine days, twenty-three hours and fifty-nine minutes—in other words, at the end of 1899.

The opposing party holds that, however this may be, the twentieth century cannot possibly begin until 1st January, 1901, just as the second decade of figures in numeration begins with 11, while 10 closes the first.

The doubtful element is, therefore, the year 1900, which, according to one party, belongs to the nineteenth century, and, according to the other, to the twentieth.

NORTHCOTE TOWN COUNCIL.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31ST.

Present:—Crs. Yeomans (Mayor), Bastings, Campbell, Dennis, Candy, Boothby, Pearl, Thompson, Marks, McIntosh, Smith, Rapken, & Hutton.

RETICULATION KELLETT STREET.

The Metropolitan Board of Works wrote stating on account of the insufficiency of revenue to be derived therefrom they could not recommend the board to extend the reticulation of Kellett Street 15 chains.

Cr. Hutton moved that the surveyor obtain information as to probable amount of revenue derivable and report.—Carried.

THE WATER REGULATIONS.

The Metropolitan Board of Works wrote, in reply to council's letter, stating that, after fully considering the matter, they could not allow the practice under which persons using water by meter, are not permitted to take advantage of the new garden rate, to be altered.

Cr. Thompson again expressed his opinion on the unreasonableness and inequity of this proceeding.

Cr. Hutton moved that the council invite the co-operation of other councils in an endeavor to get the regulation amended.

Cr. McIntosh seconded the motion and also expressed his sense of the injustice of charging the water rate on empty houses.

Cr. Bastings queried whether it was worth while bothering. Very few in the town used meters.

Cr. Pearl—Cr. Thompson does'nt "meeter."

Cr. Rapken—That's more than you know. (Laughter).

Cr. Dennis thought they would act wisely by not interfering at all.

Cr. Rapken thought it time enough to move in the matter when they heard complaints.

Cr. Thompson said several had complained to him, and if only a few used meters now there might soon be scores.

Cr. Boothby said the matter was unimportant, so far as they were concerned.

The Mayor said that where the foolishness of the regulations came in was that under it a man without a meter might use 40,000 gallons of water for 10s., while if he had a meter he would have to pay £2.

The matter then dropped.

PATRONAGE REQUESTS.

Geo. A. Taylor, secretary Northcote C.C., wrote requesting the council's patronage and attendance at a concert to be held on behalf of the club early in March next.—Complied with, on the motion of Cr. Candy.

E. R. Edsall wrote thanking council for granting use of hall and piano free of cost for concert in aid of Old Colonists Home on 20th February, and requesting councillors' patronage at same and assistance in making it a success.—Cr. Candy moved that the request be complied with.—Carried.

A COMPLAINT.

Albert Goldfinch, Bridge street, wrote complaining of what he described the "stand and deliver" attitude adopted by the council's officers with regard to amounts outstanding on rights-of-way. He had been threatened with proceedings if he did not immediately pay a sum of £3 10s., alleged to be due on a right-of-way constructed 6 years ago. No notice had been received by him regarding the liability during the past four years. Moreover, he did not owe the money, as the debt had been incurred by Mr. Williams, who had long since filed his schedule.

The town clerk said he was quite prepared to justify the action of the officers in this matter, and the letter was referred to finance committee.

MORE LIGHT.

C. Ingleton asked for a kerosene lamp in Rossmoyne street, which he would light on the usual terms; also a few loads of ashes.—Cr. Hutton said the intention was to remove a lamp already there to a point nearer High street. He moved that both requests be granted. Seconded by Cr. Marks and carried.

REDUCTION OF RENT.

L. Thurlby wrote on behalf of the Northcote Amateur Minstrels, requesting the council's patronage for a concert; also asking for a reduction of the rent of the hall, as the object of the concert was to provide funds for the purchase of a proscenium and curtain, which would cost about £9 10s.

Cr. Candy moved that the patronage be granted, but that the hall be let on the usual terms, as if a reduction were made it would act against the hall in the future. He would be at the entertainment himself and pay his money.

Cr. Marks seconded.

Cr. Bastings thought as the minstrels had recently been so kind as to help a public institution they might at least remit the rent of the piano and make the charge £1.

Cr. Candy fell in with this, and the motion as amended was carried.

FREE USE OF HALL.

An application was read from 20 ratepayers for the free use of Town-Hall for the purpose of holding a public meeting to discuss the advisability of abrogating State education.

Cr. Candy moved and Cr. Rapken seconded that the request be granted.

A councillor inquired if this was not a requisition to the Mayor to call a public meeting.

The Mayor said if it had been he could not have granted the request, as the question to be discussed was a purely political one.

Cr. Hutton thought the application should be treated in the same way as that recently made in connection with the lecture on "Federation"—that is, refused.

Crs. Dennis, Boothby, and Marks opposed the motion, which was lost.

A MINIMUM WAGE.

The Builders' and Contractors' Society wrote recommending the adoption of a minimum wage in connection with all public works, at a schedule ranging from 6s 6d per day for pick and shovel men upwards.

Cr. Pearl moved that the matter be referred to the committee of the whole council for their careful consideration. It was imperative that something be done to stop the appalling fall in wages.

Cr. Dennis expressed sympathy with the movement, and seconded the motion, which was carried.

PETITION.

Cr. Campbell presented a petition, signed by a large number of Central Ward ratepayers, for the erection of a lamp at the intersection of Hawthorn Lane and Eastment Street.

The petition having been received, Cr. Campbell moved that the matter be considered urgent and that the surveyor report to the public works committee on Thursday evening.

A councillor queried as to whether the lamp was necessary.

Cr. Campbell—When you can get three or four lamps stuck in one little street, surely——

Cr. Rapken—I rise to a point of order that Cr Campbell cannot refer to anything that was done at a previous meeting.

Cr. Campbell—Everybody knows that the east ward is head over ears in debt.

Cr. Smith rose to a point of order.

The Mayor asked Cr. Campbell to withdraw and to confine himself to the question in hand.

Cr. Campbell was sorry if he had transgressed, but would like the surveyor to report as soon as possible.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

Cr. Candy submitted the report, recommending that accounts amounting to £132 8s 1d be passed for payment.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The report, which was submitted by Cr. Boothby, showed that the receipts for the month, including loan transfers (£1539) amounted to £1582 5s, leaving the overdraft at bank £3621 7s 9d.

Clause 2 recommended the payment of accounts amounting to £220 17s 11d.—Adopted.

Clause 3 recommended *re* type-write—That offers be invited for the supply of a type-writer, subject to such being placed on trial for one month on approval.

Cr. Boothby moved the adoption of the clause. Cr. Smith seconded.

Cr. Candy moved an amendment, that the clause be struck out. A type-writer was a luxury they might well do without. The machines were expensive and the officers would waste a lot of time in learning to use them; besides the expenditure was not provided for in the estimates. In a large office where there was a great amount of correspondence and they could keep a special man to work it a type-writer was all very well, but in their case it would be more trouble and expense than it was worth.

Cr. Smith said that when he seconded the motion it was with the object of preventing them getting documents they could not read, as was recently the case with the estimates, copies of which had been taken off on a copying press after being written.

Cr. Hutton said it was absurd to get a type-writer without getting an expert to use it, and the amount of work would not justify this.

Cr. Rapken said the matter had been referred to the finance committee and they had considered it wise to make the recommendation that was before them. It on trial the thing was not found workable they need not go on with it and no harm would be done. He agreed with Cr. Smith that the matter on the copies of the estimates was "invisible."

Cr. Hutton—So would type-writing be if a number of copies were taken.

Cr. Dennis said that from enquiries he had made it would take two or three months for a man to learn to use the machine, and he thought they might very well do without it.

Cr. Marks said he was altogether against either borrowing or buying one of these machines, which would simply be a "nice thing to look at" and was not wanted.

Cr. Pearl supported the motion. This was a progressive age, and he would like to see the work of their officers minimised and neat type-written documents going out of the office.

Cr. Boothby said that personally he was opposed to the expenditure; he only supported the resolution on the strict understanding that no purchase was to be made till the utility of the machine was ascertained.

Cr. Thompson said that a trial of the machine was all the committee asked the council to sanction.

Cr. Bastings said he did not think there was sufficient work in the office for a type-writer, but he was not going to oppose the proposed experiment being made.

Cr. Campbell considered that the expenditure of £20 or £25 on a type-writer would be money thrown away. He was quite certain that one of the officers could not learn to work it to advantage in three months.

The mayor said the committee had never contemplated so large an expenditure as £25. There was a chance of getting one cheaper than that. Personally, however, he did not think there was sufficient work in the office for a typewriter.

Cr. Candy's amendment that the clause be struck out was then put and carried.

A BOOT FACTORY.

Irons and Piper, boot manufacturers, made application for the approval of the council of premises lately occupied by Mr. Roberts.—The surveyor having reported favorably, the request was granted.

ORDINARY BUSINESS.

The surveyor reported to the effect that no improvement of the right-of-way between Westbourne Grove and Clarke Street, west of the railway, was at present required.—Cr. Campbell urged that a little temporary relief at least be given.—Referred to works committee.

MR. FITZGIBBON'S SALARY.

Cr. Pearl made sarcastic reference to the recent sayings and doings of the members of the Metropolitan Board of Works in connection with the action of Parliament in regard to the salary of the chairman of the Metropolitan Board of Works. The board evidently thought £1000 a year—a matter of £20 a week, which he (the speaker) would like to try to live on himself—too paltry a sum for the chairman of such a body as the board of works. It was just about time, he thought, that the various councils took some notice of the attitude of their representatives. Cr. Pearl was speaking further when

Cr. Hutton rose to a point of order.

Cr. Pearl—Your usual gagging motion, I suppose?

Cr. Hutton—You must withdraw that. You have a right to submit a motion before you make a speech.

The Mayor called upon Cr. Pearl to withdraw his remark and put his question.

Cr. Pearl withdrew and asked Cr. Dennis how he voted with regard to the £1500 salary, and what guided him to vote as he did.

Cr. Dennis said he was present at the meeting and voted with the majority, because he thought they were in the right. Only 1 out of 31 thought otherwise. He believed with Cr. Pearl that £1000 a year was enough to pay the chairman, but they had to consider the action taken by the Legislative Assembly. Having reduced the maximum salary from £2000 to £1500, the Assembly sought to further reduce it to £1000. This caused the board to take a stand for the same privileges as enjoyed by all other public bodies, viz., the right to fix the salaries of their own officers. They felt that they should not be tied to £1000, as it may prevent them retaining the services of a man who might be head and shoulders above all other men and whose place they could not possibly fill. While he was opposed to giving any other man more than £1000, he would not say but what he would give Mr. Fitzgibbon more, as in his (Cr. Dennis's) opinion it would be hard to get as good a man.

Cr. Pearl then moved—"That in the opinion of this council the salary of a future chairman should not be more than £1000 per year." The high salaries were a creation of the boom times and in justice to the rateyayers who were now struggling under loads too heavy to carry they should be reduced.

Cr. Campbell seconded the motion. £1000 a year was enough for the very best man. If Mr. Fitzgibbon agreed to a reduction and allowed the 5s. fees for cows to be remitted the action would be very becoming. (Hear, hear.)

Cr. Smith thought the best thing they could do was simply to endorse the action of Parliament.

Cr. Thompson could not understand commissioners at all. Outside they were, to a man, opposed to high salaries, but inside, under the soothing influences of Mr. Fitzgibbon, their courage and manliness forsook them. It was absurd to tax the poor of the land to keep up these high salaries.

Cr. Candy justified the action of the commissioners, who were the pick of the councils, and whose united wisdom the latter ought to respect.

Cr. Bastings contended that a hundred or two was neither here nor there if they got the right man. Such a motion was a direct vote of censure on their representative.

Cr. Pearl—He deserves it.

Cr. Bastings.—Cr. Dennis has told you that he favors £1000 a year and the board has a right to fix the salary of its chairman.

Cr. Marks said that having heard both sides he was bound to support the action of the commissioner.

Cr. Boothy, while he thought that £1000 a year was enough, was not, under the circumstances, disposed to complain of the action of Cr. Dennis.

The Mayor said all must agree that the salary had been fixed too high and maintained too high. If Parliament had a right to fix the salary in the first place when it passed the Act which brought the Board into being, and had the right in the second place to reduce it to £1500, why, then, in the third place, had it not an equal right to further reduce it to £1000? In using the language they did about Parliament the board were only belittling themselves. In connection with the salary he might say that brains had to be paid for all the world over. Granting that you got a man in every way suitable £500 in the matter of salary was a mere bagatelle. With Cr. Thompson he must agree that Mr. Fitzgibbon seemed to possess a strange hypnotic influence over commissioners, as he had previously done over the city councillors. He would rather see the motion altered to the effect that a record be made on the books that the council considers a salary of £1000 sufficient for the position.

Cr. Pearl fell in with the alteration and the motion was agreed to.

GENERAL BUSINESS.

At the instance of Cr. Thompson it was decided that the Mayor confer with the Preston council with a view of taking united action against the granting of a boiling down license now being applied for at South Preston.

Cr. Dennis moved that the inspector report, and if necessary, take prompt action in connection with a certain offensive drain in Walker street.—Agreed to.

Cr. Pearl said that Mr. Manger, of the Fire Board, had informed him that no account had been rendered in connection with the attendance of the brigades at the recent fire at Mr. M. Lynch's, South Preston. A charge was not always made, every case being treated on its merits.

The Mayor reported that the result of the conference with Preston Council re Bullen's drain was satisfactory, preliminary steps having been taken with a view to mitigating the nuisance.

Cr. Pearl reported that representative men of Northcote, Preston, and Heidelberg had made an attempt, before Parliament rose, to get the direct line through Fitzroy *via* Reilly Street submitted to the railways committee, but it had been unsuccessful through the opposition of one man, Mr. Beazley, M.L.A. (Shame). He would ask every member, however, not to lose sight of the matter and the boon would eventually be attained.

Cr. Smith complained in bitter terms of the continued depredations of wandering cattle in his neighborhood. He would move that the matter be referred to a committee of the whole council, before whom he thought he could bring an effectual remedy for the nuisance. Cr. Candy seconded the motion, which was lost and the matter was referred to the inspector.

Cr. Bastings brought under notice the abominable condition of the Merri Creek, but was informed by Cr. Marks that it was flushed out at least once a week.

On account of the lateness of the hour, Cr. Rapken's motion *re* changing account to one of the local banks was postponed till next meeting.

PRESTON POLICE COURT.

MONDAY, JANUARY 28TH.

[Before Messrs Keogh, P.M., and Paterson and Gardiner, J's.P].

DEBT.

Henry Schultz v. G. Thomas. Goods sold and delivered, £2 18s. Mr Jamieson for complainant. Order for amount, with 15s 6d costs.

King and Godfree v. O'Connor. Goods supplied, £6 10s 9d. Mr. Jamieson for complainants. Order for amount with £1 6s costs.

J. Redpath v. S. Black. Board and lodging, £3 8s 6d. Order, with costs

ALLEGED LARCENY.

Harper v. Jewell. Charge of larceny. No appearance of complainant. Adjourned for 14 days.

NORTHCOTE CYCLING CLUB.

The above hold their third and final race for trophies this afternoon, from Northcote Town Hall to Preston and back four times, a distance of 25 miles. Limit man starts at 3.30. Handicaps on racing machines:—1, W. March, scratch; 2, M. McLean, 3 min.; 3, A. Maggs, 5 min.; 4, J. Railton, 5 min.; 5, A. Whitchell, 8 min.; 6, S. Campi, 8 min.; 7, W. Thompson, 8 min.; 8, E. Perry, 9 min.; 9, F. Roberts, 12 min.; 10, W. Cornfoot, 15 min.; H. Bloore, 15 min.

CRICKET.

SPORTS DEPOT MATTING TROPHY.

NORTHCOTE v. MALVERN.

A MAMMOTH SCORE.

This match was continued at Croxton Park on Saturday last. As the score had reached 491, and there was still one wicket to fall, the hope was expressed that 500 would be reached, but the most sanguine were not prepared for the astonishing result of the partnership which produced 193 runs, and a separation was not effected until the magnificent total of 676 was reached. Lamley and Coomber scored very fast, 185 runs being added in an hour and three-quarters, but the running told upon them very much after the first half-hour's play. The fielding of the visitors was not up to their usual high standard, although most of the bowling was fair; seven changes being made. Play was resumed by Ballantyne and Hatherall taking up the bowling, the scoring being slow. A single to Coomber in Hatherall's second over brought 500 up. The batsmen then livened up and collared the bowling completely, Furneaux, Fowler, Crouch, and Coote each taking a turn with the ball, Coomber getting a leg hit towards Thornbury and running 7, one of which was short. Lamley, who had passed 50, was batting splendidly. When 600 appeared Hatherall was again tried, Coomber (44) being missed at short-leg off the first ball. He showed his appreciation by placing the 3rd and 5th balls to leg for 4 and 5. Christian went on, and a new ball was ordered by the umpires, but the score still mounted, Lamley with a fine stroke for 3 making his score 101, Coomber 70. At 670 Ballantyne was again tried, this time successfully, for Lamley skied his last ball to the off and was caught by Ahern, Coomber carrying his bat for a well made 73. 10—113—676. We understand that this establishes a record for the tenth wicket.

After the interval Malvern opened with Hatherall and Crouch, W. Hayes and Buckley starting the bowling. The innings started badly, Hatherall hitting Hayes' third ball straight up, and being caught at point. 1—0—0. Ballantyne joined Crouch, and a good stand was made, both men batting confidently. At 44 T. Hayes replaced Buckley, and 10 runs later Dredge took the ball from W. Hayes, the batsmen appearing set; but in Dredge's third over Crouch snicked a fast one into the slips, where Coomber brought off a good catch. 2—34—72. Coote followed, and Jenkin replaced T. Hayes. Shortly afterwards Ballantyne was missed in the slips off Dredge, and Buckley, attempting a catch two balls later, was disabled, the stumps then being drawn. Play will be resumed to-day.

The following are the scores:—

NORTHCOTE.—First Innings.

Dredge, b Hatherall ...	0
J. Jenkin, c Fowler b Hatherall	113
Buckley, c Fowler b Hatherall	134
T. Hayes, c Christian b Ballantyne ...	15
Freeman, c Beattie b Furneaux	45
Leydin, c Ballantyne b Dunlop	98
W. Hayes, c Beattie b Crouch ...	8
Ewing, c Ahern b Crouch ...	39
T. Jenkin, b Ballantyne ...	4
Lamley, c Ahern b Ballantyne	113
Coomber, not out ...	73
Sundries ...	34
Total ...	676

MALVERN—First Innings.

Hatherall, c T. Hayes b W. Hayes ...	0
Crouch, c Coomber b Dredge ...	34
Ballantyne, not out ...	28
Cook, not out ...	3
Sundries ...	11
Total for 2 wkts. ...	76

PRESTON DISTRICT v. KEW.

This match will be played at Preston Park to-day. District are requested to be on the ground early as play commences at 2.45 sharp. All supporters are invited to attend. Preston team:—Westmoreland (2), Paterson (2), Smart, Fyffe, Lawrence, Hutton, Robb, Thomas, Duncan, Watson, W. Callison, Richardson, Brewer, Bailey, Hales.

The Northcote Recreation C.C. will play a team from South Melbourne this afternoon opposite Croxton Hotel. Team to be picked on the ground; play at 3 sharp.

Notices

A MEETING of the Northcote Cricket Club will be held on Tuesday Evening, February 5th, at the Peacock Hotel to present Messrs Buckley and Jenkin with a trophy for making a record score for the first wicket.

GEO. A. TAYLOR, Secretary.

PRESTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Grand Bazaar,

To be opened THURSDAY, June 6.

—NOTICE!—

A PUBLIC MEETING will be held at the Town Hall, Northcote, on TUESDAY EVENING, the 5th inst., at 8 o'clock p.m., to take into consideration the propriety of presenting a petition to Parliament to abrogate the present system of State Education.

Several speakers of note will address the meeting. His Worship the Mayor of Northcote will preside.

All who are interested in the due and proper education of the young of every denomination are cordially invited to attend.

A Collection to defray expenses will be made.

Moonlight Fete!
Moonlight Fete!

PRESTON PARK,
PRESTON PARK,

WEDNESDAY NEXT, 6TH FEB.
WEDNESDAY NEXT, 6TH FEB.

8888 o'clock 8888

POLICE BAND. POLICE BAND.
(30 playing members.)

THE PARK ILLUMINATED.

Grand Limelight Display and Limelight Views!!!

PUNCH & JUDY SHOW.

Tug-of-War Tests!!!
PRESTON A.N.A. v. NORTHCOTE
And Friendly Societies' Contests.

BALLOON ASCENT 9 p.m.

REFRESHMENTS.
REFRESHMENTS.

UNIQUE ENTERTAINMENT!

COME FROM EVERYWHERE—
Come!

TICKETS, 6d, can be had from members of committee and at *Leader* office, Northcote.

PUBLIC HALL, PRESTON

A Grand Concert

Will be given in aid of the Organ Fund of the R.C. Church on

THURSDAY EVENING, FEB. 7th,
to commence at 8 sharp,
And to be followed by a SOCIAL at 10.30.

The Popular Soprano MISS JOSEPHINE O'BRIEN, will contribute to the concert programme, assisted by the talented young ventriloquial entertainer, MR. WILL STEWART, the well-known humorous vocalist, MR. D. T. PLAYER, and the MISSES WILSON, DAVOREN, BAILIE, and MAHONEY, and MESSRS J. C. O'BRIEN and J. M. COLES, also the clever juvenile character dancers, MASTER and MISS NOLAN.

If you enjoy a good laugh or love a good song do not miss this concert.

POPULAR PRICES:—
Concert, 1s 6d and 1s. Social, double ticket, 3s, extra lady, 1s. (refreshments provided).

TO BE SOLD on the 9th February, Epping pound, 1 splendid Bull.

Announcements.

TOWN OF NORTHCOTE.

LECTURE ON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE SCHEME.

A LECTURE, illustrated with views, plans, and diagrams of the scheme, will be given in the Town Hall, Northcote, on FRIDAY, the 8th inst., at 8 p.m., by the Engineer-in-Chief of the Metropolitan Board of Works (W. Thwaites, Esq).

The Lecture has been delivered with success in several of the municipalities and is highly interesting and instructive. All Ratepayers are cordially invited to attend, no charge being made for admission.

(By order),
W. G. SWIFT,
Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Northcote,
2nd February, 1895.

TOWN OF NORTHCOTE.

Cleansing Cesspans.

RATEPAYERS

Are hereby notified that all Fees for Cleansing Cesspans are payable in advance on the First Day of February next. Special attention is directed to the fact that the Fees must be forwarded to this office and will not be called for as heretofore.

The Fee for attendance once in each week for the half-year is 3s 4d. For attendance twice weekly, threepence per week additional.

In the event of payment not being made within fourteen days after the first day of February aforesaid the service will be immediately discontinued; it is therefore particularly requested that prompt payment be made in order that no annoyance may be caused, as stringent measures will be taken in every case where a nuisance may arise owing to non-payment.

(By order),
W. G. SWIFT,
Town Clerk.

Town Clerk's Office,
Northcote,
12th Jan., 1895.

TOWN OF NORTHCOTE.

TENDERS will be received until 4 p.m. on Thursday, 7th February inst., for Painting the outsides of doors and windows at the Town Hall.

Specifications at the Town Hall. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

(By order),
W. G. SWIFT,
Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Northcote,
2nd February, 1895.

SHIRE OF PRESTON.

TENDERS are invited, returnable up so 4 p.m. on Monday, February 4, for 16 chains, more or less, of channelling in Bruce Street.

Plans and specifications may be inspected at the Shire Hall.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

(By order),
D. R. DREDGE,
Secretary.

SHIRE OF PRESTON.

DOG REGISTRATIONS.

TO OWNERS of UNREGISTERED DOGS.

Proceedings will be taken to enforce registration without further notice if the Fees now overdue for 1894-5 on unregistered dogs are not immediately paid at the Shire Office.

P. H. HORTON,
31st Jan., 1895. Collector.

SHIRE OF EPPING.

DAIRY REGISTRATION.

NOTICE is hereby given that the regulations of the Central Board of Health, Melbourne, demand that all dairies be duly registered on January in every year. Certificate of Dairy Registration can be obtained at the Shire Hall, Epping, on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., or by forwarding postal note, 5s. All who dispose of dairy produce, irrespective of quantity, are liable for registration. Penalties, fine not exceeding £10, and not exceeding £2 per day during all days that registration be neglected.

JAMES RYAN,
Shire Secretary,
Secretary to the Local Board Health.
30th January, 1895.

TO LET.—Preston.—A few small Paddocks, about three acres in each, to let. Apply—A. Robertson, agent, Bell St., South Preston.

TIMBER YARD.

T. H. Lightfoot,

HIGH STREET,

PRESTON

(LATE LAW OLDFIELD & SON)

AND

Gordon Grove, Northcote.

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF EAST BOURKE BOROUGHS.—NORTHCOTE DIVISION.

LIST OF NAMES OBJECTED TO ON LIST OF RATEPAYING ELECTORS:—

5, Adams John; 21, Allan Frank; 24, Allan Edward; 27, Allen S. J.; 32, Anderson Frank; 40, Andrews William; 47, Ardley Albert S.; 50, Armstrong William E; 54, Ashulan, Lambert J.; 59, Auty, Joseph I.; 71, Bains Thomas; 75, Baldie John; 80, Barbor James; 81, Barbeta Peter; 82, Barclay George; 92, Barr J.; 93, Barr W.; 94, Barrett, Arthur; 97, Barton Cornelius; 111, Beaver, Benjamin; 134 Berthelson William; 140, Bird Alfred; 146, Black Robert J.; 149, Blair James; 169, Bowman Edward A.; 174, Brabet A. C.; 181, Bradley, James; 182, Bradley Robert H.; 183, Bradshaw Maunsel; 195, Brett Henry; 199, Brewster Joseph; 201, Brice Harry; 211 Broadhurst Richard; 216, Brodie Patrick; 218, Bromilow Joseph; 221, Brookes Joseph; 230, Brown Ralph; 244, Bryant James; 245, Bryant Joseph 246, Bryant Wm J.; 259, Burren, Thos.; 260, Burridge Joseph; 271, Byrne Stephen; 303, Cawley Charles W; 306, Chance Albert W.; 327, Clarke Samuel; 328, Clanscen George C.; 333, Clifton, Maxmillian; 334, Clough, John; 352, Colliver Alfred; 359, Connolly, James; 362, Conway John; 364, Cook, George; 365, Cook John W.; 372, Cooper, John; 374, Coote, James; 375, Corben, Hubert B.; 376, Cordwell John W.; 399, Craig Alexander; 405, Crawford George 408, Creak, John L.; 409, Cree —; 411, Crispe Charles; 421, Cutler Alfred; 429, Davies Charles; 432, Davies John; 437, Davies H. Meredith; 441, Day, W. G.; 447, Dellar Edward; 455, Denyer, James T.; 456, Denyer William; 468, Dodd George; 470, Doherty John; 477, Douglas Alexander; 480, Dove William; 505, Dyer Henry; 521, Eccleston James; 551, Everitt Alfred; 561, Farrell, John; 564, Ferguson, George; 567, Ferguson Thomas; 577, Fisher Arthur; 580, Fitzgerald Patrick; 593, Forrest Walter; 605, Fox Joel; 608, Frahen Christopher; 609, Francis William; 624, Galland Isidore; 635, Gaul John; 646, Gilbert William Henry; 652, Glanfield George; 653, Glanfield John G.; 661, Golding John; 662, Golding Richard; 667, Goodrich Joshua; 680, Green J.; 698, Griffiths H. L.; 709, Gurney Richard T.; 715, Halligan James; 717, Hamilton James; 720, Hancock Daniel; 721, Hancock George; 723, Hanks John; 745, Harvey —; 758, Haynes Frederick; 761, Heagney Patrick; 796, Hodtroft William; 803, Hollingsworth George F; 819, Hoskings C.; 831, Hunt Harry; 833, Hunter Alexander S.; 837, Hurford William; 842, Hynes Henry; 850, Irvine John; 860, Jarrett George; 861, Jarvie, Charles; 863, Jarvie Walter; 864, Jeffries George; 867, Jenkins Joseph H.; 869, Jephcott Thomas; 871, Johnson —; 878, Johnson E. R.; 886, Johnston Henry; 887, Johnston E. W.; 903, Joubert Louis; 913, Keele Arthur; 914, Keele William; 917, Keleher John; 927, Kennewell Jonathan T.; 929, Kenny, Robert A.; 931, Kent Benjamin; 942, Kinchela, C. L.; 947, King John; 952, Kirkwood James; 957, Knott Harry; 967, Laing David; 968, Laing James E.; 972, Landells Burns B.; 974, Lang Alfred; 975, Langan Thomas; 1003, Leonard G.; 1009, Levy Henry; 1021, Little William; 1025, Lobb W. J.; 1036, Lucas Mack Carr; 1072, Martin Daniel; 1087, May James; 1099, Merrick Stephen R.; 1111, Miller William; 1112, Miller William; 1113, Miller William H.; 1115, Mills Stephen; 1119, Milsom George jun; 1136, Moon Arthur; 1139, Moore Frederick; 1150, Morris Richard; 1157, Moulden Gerald; 1158, Moult Frederick; 1159, Mountford Samuel; 1166, Mulway Robert; 1171, Murphy Nicholas; 1137, McAllum John; 1179, McBean John; 1189, McCulloch James; 1191, McDonald Alexander; 1193, McDonald George; 1197, McEvoy C.; 1199, McGan James; 1214, McKinnon Peter, 1224, McMahon Patrick; 1238, Newcombe Charles A.; 1240, Newton John P.; 1243, Nicholls William; 1245, Northey Joel; 1246, Northwood Charles; 1256, Oldfield Law; 1264, Osborne George; 1266, O'Brien William T.; 1268, O'Connor Joseph; 1271, O'Grady Bernard G.; 1275, O'Meara Thomas; 1278, O'Shea John; 1290, Parrish Henry A.; 1297, Paterson —; 1301, Paul Thomas; 1306, Peel Howard G.; 1331, Plumbe Henry; 1337, Powell Richard; 1348, Pridgeon George; 1349; Pridham William B.; 1359, Pullyblank Francis; 1362, Ralph A. R.; 1367, Rankine Edward; 1368, Rankine Henry G.; 1374, Rea Noble; 1376, Reed Thomas; 1383, Rhodes Andrew; 1419, Robinson Samuel; 1421, Rogers Alexander; 1422, Rogers Walter; 1435, Ryall Frederick; 1438, Saschse, Arthur; 1455, Schosnick Carl; 1465, Scrimgeour William; 1467, Sealy Frederick J.; 1470, Seeger Christian; 1491, Simpson, E. M.; 1504, Smith —; 1505, Smith Albert E.; 1506, Smith Alexander; 1511, Smith Augustus; 1519, Smith George; 1522, Smith, George H.; 1553, Starling James; 1561, Stephens, William; 1566, Stonham Charles; 1569, Stranger H.; 1592, Tassell, Harry; 1598, Taylor, Thomas W.; 1602, Teare John; 1619, Thompson, Robert; 1623, Thomson William; 1626, Thornhill, Major J.; 1646, Tout William; 1647, Trappell Thomas; 1652, Turk William A.; 1656, Turner, T. R.; 1657, Twaddle Hugh; 1683, Walker Joseph H; 1684, Walkley, Thomas H.; 1700, Wass Frederick; 1701, Wass John; 1713, Watson John; 1716, Watson William; 1731, Wells Thomas; 1733, Westcott Isaac; 1738, Whelan James; 1741, White Daniel; 1755, Whyte, Hugh J.; 1760, Wignall James; 1762, Wilcox, James; 1770, Williams William; 1771, Williamson Henry; 1773, Willis Arthur 1775, Wilmot Albert; 1785, Wilson, John E.; 1789, Wise William D.; 1794 Wood Frederick J; 1805, Wright Henry.

The Numbers are those of the Rights shown on the General List. Full particulars of persons objected to may be seen without fee at my office.

F. BRAIDING, Electoral Registrar,

PRESTON SHIRE COUNCIL.

MONDAY, JAN. 28TH.

Present:—Crs. Bayliss (president), Paterson, Barrow, Nichol, Marshall, Crawley, White, Howden, and Howse.

A WIDOW'S REQUEST.

Mrs. A. E. Kupsch wrote requesting to be exempted from paying rates on property at corner of Cramer and Mary Streets, as since her husband's death she had found it difficult to provide food for her large family.—Cr. Barrow moved and Cr. Nichol seconded that the request be granted.—Carried.

On the suggestion of Cr. Paterson the secretary was instructed to look up the previous cases of exemption with the object of preventing the holders losing their land on account of not paying their rates for three consecutive years.

A "DREADFUL NUISANCE."

J. Frank, High Street, Preston, wrote regretting to have to complain of a "dreadful nuisance" appearing to arise from adjoining premises.—Cr. Howden moved that letter be received and referred to inspector for report. [Dealt with in inspector's report.]

MAIN ROAD MAINTENANCE.

The Borough of Ararat wrote asking co-operation of this council in an effort to get the Government to make immediate provision for the maintenance of main roads now that the subsidy had been so largely reduced.—Cr. Marshall moved and Cr. White seconded that the matter be referred to Cr Paterson the representative of the council in the Municipal Association.

ANALYSIS OF MILK.

Frederick Dunn, public analyst to the shire, wrote giving results of analysis of 8 samples of milk which had been forwarded to him by private purchasers. One contained an amount of added water equal to at least 3 per cent., 1 contained 2 per cent. of added water, 1 passed the "limit" allowed, and in the remaining 4 samples a change had taken place which would interfere with analysis.

THE CAMPBELLFIELD BRIDGE.

James Ryan, Secretary Shire of Epping, wrote requesting to know what steps had recently been taken with regard to acquiring the land for road leading to new bridge over Merri Creek at Campbellfield.—The president said he had had several interviews with Mr. Hingston, Mr. Cantlin's new agent, and he said he would write home to Mr. Cantlin on the matter and communicate with him (Cr. Bayliss) as soon as he got a reply. —Letter to be sent to Mr. Ryan conveying this information.

AN AMBULANCE.

The Secretary of Eppingshire wrote conveying the information that the Health Department kept an ambulance which was at the disposal of municipalities free of cost, that is without horse or driver.

Cr. Barrow thought if they could get an ambulance on such easy terms it was not worth going to the expense of procuring one for themselves.

The president said he thought the idea was to localise it and have it handy.

Cr. Barrow—It could be got in half an hour—that ought to be handy enough.

The matter then dropped.

CHEAPER CARRIAGE.

The Shire of St. Arnaud wrote requesting co-operation in an endeavor to get the cost of carriage of wheat reduced 25 per cent., as was recently done in South Australia, until the price shall have risen in Melbourne to 2s. 9d. per bushel.

THE COUNCIL'S PATRONAGE.

Rev. J. Marriott Watson wrote applying for use of park for a moonlight fete for the Ladies' Benevolent Society on the 6th inst; also asking the council to grant its patronage to the event. —Both requests were granted, the first on the motion of Crs. Howse and Paterson and the second on the motion of Crs. White and Barrow. Cr. Paterson remarked that it was understood at last meeting that the Reading and Recreation Rooms would give way if an application were made on behalf of the Ladies' Benevolent Society.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Cr. Barrow submitted the report, recommending as follows:—

1. That accounts amounting to £29 4s. 2d. be passed for payment.—Adopted.
2. That a refund of £1 be made to W. Atkin on account of Lane 6A which had not been proceeded with.—Adopted.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

Cr. Paterson submitted the report, which recommended the passing of accounts amounting to £21 10s.—Adopted.

2. *Re* Percival Street drainage.—That, in the interests of the public health, it is necessary that Percival Street should be drained, and recommend that the following scheme be adopted:—Channel north side of Percival Street and carry drainage southwards to the south boundary of the block, thence eastwards into the main drain. That the necessary land be taken to effect such drainage, the width to be three feet; and that plans and specifications be prepared and notices served on the owners of property abutting thereon and benefitted by such channel.—Adopted.

Cr. Howden asked if the whole of expense was to be borne by the people on the north side.

Cr. Paterson said that all property owners abutting on and benefitted by the channel would have to pay.

BUILDING COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The report which was read by the secretary, stated that the work was now being pushed on with vigor and they hoped soon to be able to report its completion. A progress payment of £80 was recommended — Adopted on the motion of Crs. Paterson and Marshall.

Clause 2 reported the completion of the fence and outbuildings in a satisfactory manner, and a final progress payment of £22 5s. 9d. was recommended.—Adopted on the motion of Crs. Paterson and Marshall.

Clause 2 recommended the passing of a cheque for £7 7s. to the architect for plans and supervision in connection with the new fence and outbuildings.—Adopted on the motion of Crs. Paterson and Marshall.

Cr. Paterson (chairman of committee) said he was pleased to report that since last meeting the contractor had been making good progress and he fully expected to be able to report the completion of the building before long.

The president—I'm very pleased to hear it.

ENGINEER'S REPORT.

Mr. Stewart reported having prepared plans for the drainage of the east side of the lane between High Street and Clifton Grove.—Referred to works committee.

Clause 2 recommended the calling for tenders for maintenance metal for the year.—Referred to works committee.

Clause 3 reported the completion of two contracts; also that only 3 daymen were now employed.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Mr. Horton reported that Mr. Lane was misusing the corporation night cart.

Cr. Barrow—What is Mr. Lane doing with the cart at all.

The engineer said he had allowed Mr. Lane to have the cart for one day only to remove some rubbish, but he never dreamt of him having such a check as to keep it. (Laughter).

The president—Dont let him have it again. (Laughter).

Clause 2 reported that he had visited the place complained of by Mr. Frank, it was Seeber's butcher's shop, about which he found nothing offensive. Mr. Bartlett, the owner of the property, had abated the nuisance which had existed on the vacant land at the back by making a brick drain. —Received.

ORDINARY BUSINESS.

Cr. White moved that the daymen be put on to fill up with metal the worst of the ruts on the Epping Road, as far as Mahoney's gate.—Engineer to attend.

Cr. Howden asked that the engineer put the daymen on to effect some improvements at the intersection of Eden and High Streets.—Agreed to.

Cr. Crawley called attention to the charge by the Metropolitan Board of Works of 5s. per head for cows. He considered this excessive and would be glad if their representative (Cr. Bayliss) could get it reduced.

The president said the regulations in regard to this matter were adopted, but if they were alterable he would do his best to have it done.

Cr. Barrow also thought an effort might be made on behalf of gardeners to get concessions on their water charges where large quantities of water were used.

The president said that this matter had been very much considered, and it had been decided to adopt a uniform rate, as it was felt that if distinction were made it would work badly.

Cr. Howden thought that as the council had been instrumental in getting cheaper gas the Railway Department might be prevailed upon to use a little more of it on the stations, which were now kept, between the trains at any rate, in almost total darkness, placing strangers and even residents in a very awkward position when they arrived at night-time. He moved that a letter be written asking for more light at the stations.

The president sympathised with the motion. The other night it was so dark at a station that he could not recognise one of his own children. (Laughter).

Cr. Barrow seconded the motion, which was carried.

Cr. Howse said that in speaking on the finances at the previous meeting he had said that the rates during the current year would amount to £1700

[Cr. Paterson having another appointment retired at this stage.]

PROPOSAL FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS.

Pursuant to notice, Cr. Howden moved—"That, with a view of curtailing office expenses, it is advisable that this council in future meet once a month in place of once a fortnight, as at present." The mover said his idea in bringing the matter forward at this stage was to put them in a better position to deal with the officers' salaries.

The president—This question has nothing to do with that.

Cr. Howden thought it had. He did not think the change would be detrimental to the shire as had been stated, and the saving would be more than trifling. Other municipalities in a better position than Preston were carrying on their business by monthly meetings, and he did not see why they could not do it. Sometimes the meetings only took an hour and a half and surely councillors could sit double that if need be once a month. The work done in the shire was much less than it used to be and therefore there could not be so much work for the officers. Oakleigh and Dandenong managed by letting the secretary attend at the office three days a week. They had to face vast reductions in the Government subsidy. They had a good ship, but she was drifting, and if they did not take care she would soon be on the rocks.

Cr. Howse seconded the motion. Once a month, he thought, was plenty often enough to meet. If anything urgent cropped up the secretary could summon them together.

Cr. Barrow rose to oppose the motion. At present they only met 26 times a year, and he considered that those who only desired to meet 12 times had no right to represent the people at all. (Oh!) If any material duty in the past. I must ask Cr. Howse to withdraw it.

Cr. Howse—Well there is too much spent in law. The secretary should not have such length of tether in this respect. He thought the council might look out for a cheaper firm of solicitors. The motion, however, could stand over for a while.

Cr. Barrow again rose for the purpose he said of "clearing away this little bogey," but

The president again ruled that he had no right to speak, as "there was nothing before the chair." He would have an opportunity at next meeting.

The president—Have you any more motions, Cr. Howse?

Cr. Howse—Not to-night, Mr. President.

The president—Thank you. We will now adjourn.

A WARNING TO PARENTS.

[TO THE EDITOR.]

SIR,—Will you kindly permit me through your columns to draw the attention of parents in this town to the greatly-growing evil of allowing girls to be on the streets after dark without any protection, or anyone to see that they return to their homes when the business on which they were out is finished.

It grieves me to see nightly, girls, from 12 years of age upwards, hanging about the street corners or even sitting in the door recess of unoccupied shops with young fellows who certainly have no character to lose, and who care not a whit what injury they do to the girls in whose company they are.

Fathers, mothers, awake to your duty before it is too late, and your daughters get beyond your control, as was the case in the instances before the Police Court on Monday last, when the parents of five girls had to seek the help of the law to bring unruly daughters to their senses. It is sad, very sad, when a parent has to refuse the leniency offered by the Bench, and allows a daughter to go to prison. "Train up a child in the way it should go" is the command, and surely hanging round the streets at night is not that way.

Some of these girls told their parents they were over 21 and could do as they liked. They will learn better, it is to be hoped, and when released seek an honest means of earning a living, or else they may find their way back.

The police deserve thanks for the promptness with which they acted in the matter, and *if parents will only do their duty* such a painful sight may not again be seen in the Northcote Police Court.—Thanking you for your courtesy, I remain, Yours, &c.,

JAMES KNOX, J.P.

STATE OF THE TRAMWAY LINE.

[TO THE EDITOR].

SIR,—I desire to call attention to the Northcote tram management respecting the condition of their road from the top of Rucker's Hill to the terminus at Clifton Hill, the blocks at places being worn away inches below the level of the rails, causing great annoyance to drivers of vehicles, damaging their wheels and risking serious accidents. As the Tram Co. is subsidised to keep the road in thorough repair, why is this not carried out? as, in the event of the line again closing, the council will be compelled to expend a large sum of money to put the road in necessary order for the safety of vehicular traffic, for which they are now paying to have done.—Yours, &c.,

RATEPAYER.

PRESTON FREE AND CIRCULATING LIBRARY.

ANNUAL MEETING OF SUBSCRIBERS.

The annual meeting of the above was held on Friday evening, January 25th, at the Library. Mr. E. Brock presided. After the confirmation of the minutes, the secretary submitted the report and balance-sheet for the past year, which were received and adopted. The report stated that the year had been fairly successful, and although the receipts had diminished somewhat, the number of books circulated was in excess of that of the previous year. The number of books circulated during 1894 was 1290, as compared with 1189 in 1893. The number of visitors was 1021, being 129 more than the previous year. The amount of money expended in books was £7 18s, making a total in the institution of 1466. The balance-sheet showed that the year started with a credit balance of 5s 5d, the subscriptions being £11 8s 6d; donations, £2 10s 7d; Government grant, £2 15s 3d; rent of hall, £2 14s; proceeds of concert, £2 15s., a total of £22 11s 9d. The items of expenditure were as follows:—Books, £7 18s; insurance, £2 3s 9d; printing, 19s 6d; gas, £1 3s 4d; salary and commission, £6 19s 6d; postage and sundries, £2 7s 8d, a total of £21 11s 9d, leaving a balance in hand of £1 7s. The following were elected a committee of management for ensuing year:—Messrs E. Wood, E. Brock, H. Hanna, O. A. Walker, J. McMacking, T. Broadhurst, I. Barrow, A. Wilson, and B. Bailey. A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the meeting.

IN consequence of the great increase in Assignments and Insolvencies, the BANKRUPT STOCK REALIZATION COMPANY will continue to sell all classes of Merchandise, principally Drapery, at extraordinary discounts, at 280 and 282 Bourke St., Melbourne, and 166 Smith St., Collingwood.—M. A. RAPKEN, Trade Assignee.

Announcements.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

THE METROPOLITAN GAS CO.

Having Purchased the Plant and Business of the NORTHERN GAS CO., in the

SHIRE OF PRESTON,

IS now prepared to receive Orders for a Supply of Gas at the Rate of 4s 8d½ per 1000 cubic feet.

Application to be made to the Secretary at the Head Office, opposite Princes' Bridge Railway Station.

GAS STOVES in great variety, can be inspected at the SHOW ROOMS, and hired for 12 months from 1s 6d per month.

The Newest Styles of Special Lamps, Globes, and Burners kept in Stock.

Societies

GWALIA LODGE No. 264, U.A.O.D.

REDUCED INITIATION FEES

For three months only, commencing Dec. 8th, 1894.

The above Lodge, having been granted a special permission by the Board of Directors to initiate at reduced rates, are now prepared to enrol candidates at the following scale—

16 and under 25 years ... 5s.
25 and under 30 years ... 10s.
Over 30, the usual rate, viz.,—
30 and under 35 ... £1 10s 0d.
35 and under 40 ... £3 0s 0d.

The Gwalia Lodge meets at the Peacock Inn, Northcote, Alternate MONDAYS.

Next Lodge Night—February 4th

Lodge Surgeons.—Drs. E. J. Bird, T. Beckett, G. Horne, W. H. Stock, and W. C. Wilkinson.

Dispensers.—J. Christopher and J. Slade.

As the time is limited, intending Candidates are requested to join at once.

The Secretary will attend at the Lodge Room every Monday evening for the purpose of enrolling members. Full particulars from any of the members, or

J. M. ARNOLD, SEC., Latham St., Northcote.

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIVES Literary & Benefit Association, PRESTON BRANCH No. 51,

Meet every alternate Tuesday at Reading and Recreation Club Rooms, South Preston.

Every Australian Native should join this the only truly National and Patriotic Society.

Next Meeting—Tuesday, 29th Jan.

Medical attendance and medicine immediately on joining.

Sick Pay 6 months after admission.

First-class LIBRARY for use of Members. Non members, 2s per Qr.

Further information may be obtained from the secretary—

GEO. C. WINNETT, Warr's Avenue, South Preston.

PRESTON GOSPEL TEMPERance and Blue Ribbon Mission.

INTERESTING PUBLIC MEETINGS

Held Fortnightly in the Foresters Hall, High street, North Preston.

Next Meeting—Feb. 9th.

J. C. NANKERVIS, Hon. Sec.

SOUTH PRESTON GOSPEL Temperance and Blue Ribbon Mission.

GOOD ENTERTAINMENTS

Held every alternate SATURDAY Evenings in Bradford Hall, South Preston, at 8 o'clock.

Next Meeting—Feb. 2nd.

Chairman, Rev. G. Carson. Programme supplied by Mr. R. Simpson.

Members' Tickets, 6d per Quarter. Admission—A Coin.

A. J. ROBINSON, Hon. Sec., South Preston

I.O.R.

Star of Northcote Tent No. 217,

MEETS in Wesleyan Schoolroom, Northcote, Fortnightly.

Next Meeting—Feb. 7th.

Impromptu Speeches.

A few of the advantages of the above society are:—

No initiation fees. Graduated scale of payments.

No Levies, largest Benefits, greatest Security.

Strictly Temperance principles, and consequently low death rate.

When you join a benefit society, join the best.

Let your boys join the Juvenile branch in connection with the above and be trained in Temperance, Thrift, and Business.

W. H. ROBILLIARD, Secretary, Mitchell-street, Northcote. (next P.M. Church).

ROSE OF PRESTON, Division No 99

SONS & DAUGHTERS TEMPERANCE

(Registered under the F.S. Statute)

NO INITIATION FEES.

2s 6d PROPOSITION FEE 2s 6d

For all members.

Benefits.—Males, 20s per week, 52 weeks Females, 10s per week.

Division meets on alternate Tuesdays in Wesleyan Schoolroom, Preston, at 8 p.m.

Next Meeting—Jan. 29.

Economical Management.

Clearances exchanged with all the colonies and throughout Victoria.

Bro. J. C. Nankervis, F. Secretary, Bowden Street, North Preston. Full information from—Bro. R. Mutimer, Treas., Cramer Street.

Doctors—Wilkinson and Beckett.

L. Ruxton,

CATERER AND FRUITERER.

Tea Meetings, Socials, Parties, Balls, catered for at Lowest Rates.

ESTIMATES GIVEN.

A Trial Solicited. Crockery on hire

Note well the Address—

HIGH STREET

Exactly op. Lawry St.

Announcements

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF EAST BOURKE BOROUGHS. — NORTHCOTE DIVISION. —

LIST OF NAMES OBJECTED TO UPON GENERAL LIST:—

A6505, Agar, Thomas; A106538, Beaden, Joseph; A106,544, Coomber, Robert James; A106,543, Conway, John; 634815, Harrison, Reuben; A160922, Hogarth, Jonn; A160921, Marriott, Frederick W.; A160902, McDonald, George; A106881, McLean, Peter; 715374, Stevens, George; 634834, Wade, Frederick William.

The Numbers are those of Rights shown on the General List Full particulars of persons objected to may be seen without fee at my office.

F. W. BRAIDING, Electoral Registrar.

A. S. Whitchell,

LICENSED SANITARY

PLUMBER AND GASFITTER, of Northcote Street,

Has commenced business in

HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE, 2 doors below Wesleyan Church.

Baths made from 12/6. Electric Bells fitted up from 12/6. guaranteed for 12 months. Water & Gas laid on, Water Meters fixed and Repaired. Repairs of all kinds done at lowest rates.

VETERINARY SURGEON

W. A. Harrison

Begs to announce that he may be consulted as above at any time at his

VETERINARY SHOEING FORGE, High Street, Northcote.

Good Stock of Horse, Cattle and Dog Medicines always on hand.

Charges for attendance and Medicine moderate.

MISS JESSIE FITZPATRICK (Successor to Mrs. Griffiths),

QUEEN'S PARADE,

CLIFTON HILL,

Has First-class Servants waiting engagement.

Ladies can rely on being faithfully served and readily attended to.

FRESH FRUIT, CHOICE CONFECTIONERY

SUMMER DRINKS

AND SCHOOL REQUISITES.

DAVIES & STEEL'S

Annual Summer Sale!

IS NOW ON.

IMMENSE REDUCTIONS IN PRICES.

We never quote Prices which are altogether misleading, but as we make it a rule to absolutely quit our Summer Goods at the end of the Season, purchasers can rely on

SECURING STERLING BARGAINS

in all Classes of Goods.

TERMS—STRICTLY CALH.

117, 119, 121, 123,

BRUNSWICK STREET,

FITZROY

(Few doors from Gertrude Street).

MRS. STEWART,

Ladies' Nurse,

5 MITCHELL-STREET, NORTHCOTE.

References if required.

Announcements

CHANDLERS',

THE NOTED

Cheap Cash Ironmongers,

HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE,

AND

247 BRUNSWICK ST., FITZROY.

Cheapest and Best place to buy IRONMONGERY, CROCKERY, TINWARE, Brushes, Brooms, &c.

Make your own SODA WATER.—Seltzogene's Systeme Defevre.—3 pint, 10s 6d; 5 pint, 14s; 8 pint, 20s. Charges equally cheap. Sodawater costs about ½d pint when made in Seltzogene, and is the best that can be got.

Knives and Forks from 3s. half-dozen; Teaspoons, from 1s 3d ½-dozen; Dessert and Table Spoons equally low. Ivovoid Table Knives, 7s half-dozen; Ivovoid Dessert Knives, 6s half-dozen; Carvers, 5s 6d pair; Steels, 1s 6d each; look and wear equal to Ivory; made specially in Sheffield to our order. Nickle Silver Tea, Table, and Dessert Spoons and Forks never change color —buy them. Pocket Knives—a large variety to choose from. Butchers' Knives, Steels, and Choppers.

Cherry Churns to make 6lbs., 21s 6d. All sizes on hand. Milk Buckets, 1s, 1s 6d, 1s 10d, and 2s 3d; Strainer Buckets, 2s 3d and 3s 3d; Strainers, 9d and 1s each; Skimmers, 5d each; Milk Dishes, Butter Pats, Prints, &c.

Halters from 7d each; Bridles, 2s 9d each; Harness Liquid and Black Oil, 10d bottle; Neatsfoot Oil and Castor Oil, 3s gallon, 10d per bottle; Axle Grease, 6d tin; 28lb kegs Axle Grease, 5s 6d a keg; Hames from 3s pair.

Wringers from 15s each; Tubs from 2s 3d; Washup Dishes from 7d each; Hose very cheap; Royal's Unions, ½in., 1s 6d, ¾in., 2s each; Hose directors, rose and jet, from 1s 6d each.

Glass cut to any size; Whitelead, Redlead, Putty, Boiled and Raw Oil, Terebine, Goldsize, Varnish, Mixed Paint and Colors, Paint and Whitewash Brushes.

Saucepans, Kettles, and Boilers; Brooms and Brushes; Axes, a great variety from 3s each; Handles, best in Northcote; Spades, Shovels, Picks, and Pick Handles; Detonators, Dynamite, Fuse, and Blasting Powder.

Harvest Tools.—Scythe, complete with grass hooks, 5s 3d; Blades from 3s each; Hay Forks, from 1s; Hay Rakes, wire teeth, 1s 3d; Reaper and Binder Twine; Hay Rope, strong, 4d lb., full weight.

400 gallon Tank, with tap, 50s.

Guns, Ammunition, &c; Cartridges, Kangaroo, 10s 6d per 100; Excelsior Cartridges, 8s 6d per 100. And a large variety of other goods at the lowest prices.

When you want anything in the Ironmongery line get it at

Chandlers',

HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE, And Brunswick St., Fitzroy.

NORTHCOTE PUBLIC AND

Circulating Library.

BOOKS
BOOKS

Subscription, 2/6 per quarter.

The residents of Northcote are hereby notified that a CIRCULATING LIBRARY has been established, the fee of membership being 10s per annum, payable quarterly in advance (quarter commences from date of payment) which will entitle each member to have the use of any book in the Library, which contains almost every branch of literature.

The committee respectfully request the hearty support of al residents, and feel certain that the establishment of an institution of so much value as a means of education and entertainment deserves every encouragement.

Full information may be obtained from the Librarian, who is empowered to receive subscriptions and issue books. Catalogues, together with rules and regulations, may be had on application.

Library open every evening from 7 to 10 p.m.

W. G. SWIFT, Hon. Sec.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

A Long-felt Want supplied at last.—

CHEAP CASH BUTCHER.

S. Steers

Begs to announce to the residents of Preston and surrounding district that he has again opened in the above business at

HIGH ST., PRESTON (near Regent St.)

Having made arrangements with the best markets he can now offer to the Public First-class Goods at the lowest possible prices. Don't forget that—Cheapest and the Best. Small goods daily. Families waited upon for orders.

"He who in the world would rise, Must either fail or advertise."

Try an Ad. in the "Leader." The rate is low and the PROFIT great.

Agents, etc.

R. BAILEY,

HOUSE, LAND & ESTATE AGENT,

CHARLES ST., NORTHCOTE.

Agent for the Royal Insurance Company, the largest and wealthiest company in the world, and with surplus reserve funds believed to be unequalled by any other joint stock company in the world, except the Bank of England.

Fire Risks of all kinds taken.

Lowest Rates. Promptitude. Liberality.

Northcote Property EXCHANGE.

STOTT & BASTINGS

(E. BASTINGS, W. S. STOTT),

HOUSE, LAND, & ESTATE AGENTS.

Auction Sales Arranged. Insurances Effected. Loans Negotiated. Rents Collected.

AGENTS FOR—

New Zealand Fire Insurance Co.

Australian Widows Fund.

OFFICE: HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE. (3 doors from Town-hall).

NORTHERN PROPERTY EXCHANGE.

HOWDEN & CO.,

ESTATE AND FINANCIAL AGENTS

HIGH STREET, PRESTON, Close to Bell-street.

Persons in search of Homes with large area of land, consult us.

Poultry breeders and dairymen.—Farms to suit.

Houses to let in all parts of Preston.

Agent for South British Fire Insurance Company.

W. H. EDGAR & COY.

ESTATE, FINANCIAL, AND INSURANCE AGENTS,

Irrigation Blocks and Fruit Culture a Speciality,

13 PREMIER BUILDINGS, 229 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE & PRESTON.

Announcements.

T T T

E. Cooper,

TEA AND COFFEE MERCHANT.

Pure India and China Tea, original packages or blended. Small or large quantities supplied.

The BEST Quality for the money at the LOWEST CITY PRICES.

MELBOURNE AND SOUTH PRESTON

Note.—Business communications to be addressed to South Preston.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

HAVING obtained the LICENSE to Sell

Australian Wines

in any quantity, I am prepared to suppl the very best article at prices in accordance with the times, viz.:—

Port Wine	...	11d, 1s 6d, 2s
Shiraz	...	10d, 1s 6d, 2s
Verdeilho	...	1s 6d, 2s
Hermitage	...	1s 6d, 2s
Madeira	...	1s 6d, 2s
Claret	...	1s 6d, 2s
Constantia	...	1s 6d, 2s
Muscat	...	1s 6d, 2s
Frontignac	...	1s 6d, 2s

IN BULK:

6d per pint, 1s per quart, 3s per gallon and upwards.

To be obtained from

ROBERT WILLIS.

Cash Grocer,

And

WHOLESALE

☛ WINE & ☛ SPIRIT MERCHANT,

Corner of HIGH and SEPARATION STREETS

NORTHCOTE

Printed by the Proprietors, Robt. J. and Jno. S. Whalley, and published at Northcote and Preston, Melbourne Victoria.

Northcote Leader.

Largest Circulation and Best Advertising Medium in the Northern Suburbs.

—CIRCULATING IN—

NORTHCOTE, PRESTON, THOMASTOWN, EPPING, WHITTLESEA, FAIRFIELD, HEIDELBERG, CLIFTON HILL.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1895.

Produce Merchants.

SMALL PROFITS AND QUICK RETURNS.

J. MUNRO AND CO.

HAY HAY HAY CORN CORN CORN CHAFF CHAFF CHAFF WOOD WOOD WOOD COAL COAL COAL COKE COKE COKE

Prices Unequalled.
Quality Unsurpassed.
A Trial Solicited.

AND

GENERAL PRODUCE MERCHANTS,
GENERAL PRODUCE MERCHANTS,
GENERAL PRODUCE MERCHANTS,

HIGH-ST., NORTHCOTE.

NOTICE:—The Public are hereby notified that owing to a change in partnership the firm hitherto known as ROWE & MUNRO will in future carry on business as MUNRO & CO.

In soliciting the patronage of residents of Northcote, Preston, & neighboring districts the new firm wish it to be fully known that they are determined to keep none but the BEST in ALL LINES, and will sell at the Lowest Margin of Profit.

J. MUNRO, Manager.

NORTHCOTE

CHEAP CASH PRODUCE

STORES.

B. E. JOHNSON

TAKES this opportunity to thank his numerous friends and customers for the liberal support accorded him in the past, and wishes to inform them that he has decided to CUT the PRICES for CASH and sell at the lowest possible prices. Having made arrangements to procure

STRAW HAY WHEAT OATS BRAN POLLARD, etc.

Direct from the producer, he is able to supply the public at FIRST COST, thus saving all middlemen's profits.

Very best country Chaff kept, and pure Oats—no adulteration.

Horse, Cow, and Fowl Feed delivered in any part of Northcote and surrounding districts.

WHOLESALE PRICES for large quantities.

B.E.J. hopes the public will give him a trial and satisfy themselves.

Chris. Fry,

(Late Jas. Blair)

PRODUCE MERCHANT & SEEDSMAN,

HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE (near Clifton Hill),

WISHES to notify that he has on Sale—Hay, Straw, Oats, Bran, Pollard, Peas, Maize, Wheat, Barley, Onions, Potatoes, Carrots, Prairie Grass, Rye, White Clover, Red Clover, Cow Grass, Lucerne, Alsayke, and all kinds of farm and garden seeds in great variety.

Prime Chaff, Oats, Potatoes, and Cow Chaff specialities.

WOOD, COAL, & COKE At lowest Rates.

Perry & Grey,

TOBACCONISTS AND HAIRDRESSERS,

High Street, Northcote.

TOBACCO & CIGARS of the Finest Quality.

A Choice Assortment of Fancy Goods.

WOOLS, STATIONERY, AND CROCKERY.

A Trial Solicited.

EDEN PARK GRAZING PADDOCKS.

3000 Acres, Good Grass, Shelter and Water.

Horses, 15/- per quarter; Cattle, 9/-. Reduction for quantity.

GEO. HATTERSLEY, P.O., Woodstock.

Business Notices.

C. FIELD,

Pharmaceutical and Dispensing CHEMIST,

HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE.

PRESCRIPTIONS prepared accurately with the best Drugs and Chemicals.

BEWARE.

Dimmick's Great 'Xmas Sale !!!

BOOTS ALMOST GIVEN AWAY!

STARTLING PRICES! JUST HAVE A LOOK AT THEM

Strong Nailed Watertights, 6/9 Nailed lace Boots, 6/6. Bluchers from 3/11

Ladies Tan Shoes, 4/6, 5/6, 6/6
Children's Tan 3-strap shoes, 4 to 6, 2/6 and 2/9; do. 7 to 9, 3/3 and 3/6; do. 10 to 13, 3/11—surprising.
Ladies' Glace Shoes, 4/6
Ladies' Leather Shoes, 3/11, special line guaranteed
Children's do., 7 to 9, 2/3; 10 to 13, 2/9—unequalled anywhere, look at them hanging at the door.
Ladies' Elastic Sides, 4/11, originally 6/6
Ladies' Glace Bals, 5/11, worth 7/6
Gent's Golosh Bals, 5/11
Gent's Golosh Bals, 6/6
Gent's Golosh Bals, 7/6
Canvas Shoes, 2/11

Children's School Boots, 1/9, 2/6, 3/6 Maids' Strong Boots, 1's and 2's, 3/6

Preston Timber Yard,

HIGH STRET, PRESTON (Opposite Dr. Wilkinson's).

C. CRISPE & CO.

HAVE pleasure in announcing to the public of Northcote, Preston, Epping Whittlesea, Diamond Creek, Greensborough, and surrounding districts that they have opened n Timber yard at the above address.

Flooring	Lime	Galv. Iron	Oregon	Hardwood, 3 x 2, 4/3
Lining	Cement	Bolts	Deals	5ft. Pailings, 10/-
Weatherboards	Spouting	Nails	Oils	6ft. Pailings, 4/6
Mouldings	Ridging	Paints	Sashes	Redgum

AND

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING MATERIALS AT LOWEST MELBOURNE PRICES.

NOTE THE ADDRESS AND GIVE THEM A CALL.

SMALL PROFITS.

SUMMER SUITINGS

IN GREAT VARIETY AND AT ALMOST EVERY PRICE, AT

INCE BROS.

—— All Goods Shrunk through Water. ——

The usual standard of EXCELLENCE in FIT and STYLE Guaranteed.

INCE BROS., Tailors, 174 Swanston Street.

"THULINIUS"

THE

Great Scandinavian Remedy

FOR

RHEUMATISM (Acute or Chronic), CHALKY GOUT, GOUT, RHEUMATIC FEVER and its Effects, SCIATICA, LUMBAGO, NEURALGIA, PAINS IN THE HEAD, RHEUMATIC AFFECTIONS of the EYES, INDIGESTION, FLATUENCE, DYSPEPSIA, LIVER AND KIDNEY DISORDERS, BRIGHT'S DISEASE, CHEST & PULMONARY COMPLAINTS, NERVOUS EXHAUSTION, and all Blood and Skin Diseases (hereditary or acquired). &c., &c.,

Invaluable as a recuperative Tonic, and Preventative of Illness in either sex.

PRICE, 5s per bottle, or course of 5 bottles for £1 1s.

Carriage and Postage Extra. Forwarded to all parts of the World on receipt of remittance.

Depot—15 Victoria Arcade Sydney

Entrance from Elizabeth Street. Near King Street and Castlereagh Street. Opposite Australian Hotel. G.P.O. Box 1405.

PROFESSOR THULINIUS.

MY DEAR SIR,—I feel I should be wanting in duty did I neglect the opportunity of sending you my testimony as to the wondrous efficacy of your rheumatic specific.

For the past ten years I have been a complete martyr to rheumatism in all its forms. I have tried doctors and hospitals at various times of suffering, and also, I think, every form of advertised remedies, and also followed the advice of well-meaning friends, with a view of effecting a cure for this most trying disease. All that I have been able to accomplish hitherto has been, at best, temporary relief from pain. I am well known, and scores can testify that at best I could only crawl about with difficulty, and are surprised at my present agility in getting about from place to place. After leaving Little Bay Hospital at the close of last year, I was persuaded to try a bottle of your "Thulinius," and in a week or so afterwards I could get about fairly well. Upon again suffering a relapse last February. I took another bottle, with an equally successful result; but at last I determined to go through a course of treatment, and have just completed my fourth bottle, with the gratifying knowledge that I am now free from pain, can walk any reasonable distance without fatigue, have an excellent appetite, and feel myself again competent to re-enter my profession, added to which my oft-repeated attacks of pleurisy have become things of the past. I have not dieted myself in any way, so all the credit is due to your wonderful remedy, under Providence, that my blood is becoming purer daily, and its effects upon my liver and kidneys most pronounced. I send you with this the date of my previous attacks and sufferings should you wish to show them. I shall only be too glad personally to convince fellow sufferers of the benefits to be derived from a course of your treatment, as exemplified in my own case after ten years' martyrdom.—I remain yours faithfully

W. H. NEWTON NEWMAN,
(Teacher of Elocution, and twenty-five years Actor and Manager.

The Rev. J. D. LANGLEY, St. Phillip's parsonage, can testify as to the crippled state of Mr. NEWMAN prior to his taking "Thulinius."

Drapers

STEPHENS

IS now selling the balance of the

Summer Goods!

Which will be cleared at Ridiculous Low Prices.

Special Value in all Manchester Goods.

In Millinery it is almost given away, and just look at the prices of Flowers, Feathers, Laces, Ribbons, etc.

Men's, Youths', and Boys' Clothing —the cheapest in the trade:—Men's Suits from 15s; Youths' do., 12s 6d; Boys' Knicker Suits from 1s 11d; Men's Shirts at 10½d, 1s., 1s 3d, 1s 6d, 1s 11d; Boys' do., from 9d each.

Men's Mole Trousers are at Manufacturer's cost and those that buy them always come again. The prices are 3s 11d, 4s 6d, and 5s 6d.

There is a large stock of all kinds of Mens' Mercery, Hats, Shirts, Collars, and Ties.

THE NOTED CHEAP HOUSE IS STEPHENS', HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE.

AN ERROR RECTIFIED.

A. R. NOTTAGE,

High St., Northcote,

Is STILL TO BE FOUND. Owing to sending my old stock of Drapery and Clothing to my country branch at Wodonga, several of my customers thought that I had closed the shop in Northcote, BUT IT IS NOW READY with an ENTIRELY NEW STOCK of Men's, Boys', and Youths' Clothing at BETTER PRICES than you can get in the colony.

20 per cent. less than SALE PRICES, and NEW GOODS—No Old Stock, having disposed of it.

Nottage's Men's Suits ... 17s 10d.
Nottage's Men's All-wool Suits, 19s 11d.
Nottage's Men's Serge Suits, 17s 6d & 22s 6d.
Nottage's Better Suits at Low Prices.
Nottage's Boy Suits, 1s 11d, 2s 11d, upwards.
Nottage's Youths' Suits ... 12s 6d
Nottage's Mole Trousers, 3s 11d and 4s 11d.
Nottage's Men's Tweed Trousers, 3s 11d, 4s 11d, to 10s 6d.
Nottage's Men's Shirts, 9d, 1s., and 1s 6d.
Nottage's Hats, Shirts, and Braces, &c., better than Sale Prices.

SOMETHING STARTLING.—Trousers to order, special, at 9s 11d. Come and get a pair and try them.

A. R. NOTTAGE,

(LATE KIDNEY BROS.),

HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE, And 220 and 222 SMITH ST., COLLINGWOOD, Wodonga and Bacchus Marsh.

Drapery, Clothing, Etc.

IN the ASSIGNED ESTATE of S. Prisk, Corner of Bourke and Russell streets, 280 and 282 Bourke street, and 166 Smith street, Collingwood.

The BANKRUPT STOCK REALISATION COMPANY have received instructions to return to

Every purchaser of £1, 4s.
Every purchaser of 10s, 2s.
Every purchaser of 5s, 1s.
Every purchaser of 2s 6d, 6d.

All country orders accompanied by remittances promptly executed.

M. A. RAPKEN, Trade Assignee.

Dressmakers, etc.

Miss Wood,

DRESSMAKER,

Westgarth St., near High St., NORTHCOTE,

near Northcote South Railway station.

Dresses renovated. Terms moderate.

MRS. AND MISS BELCHER,

DRAPERS AND MILLINERS,

HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE.

Next London Bank.

Drapers

THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Are hereby requested to visit (or send their orders, accompanied by Money Orders or Postal Notes),

Brown & Scott's

GREAT SURPLUS CLEARING SALE

OF

FAMILY DRAPERY, CLOTHING, HATS, &c.

401 & 403 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy.

For Cash. Saturday Next. For Cash.

We make no Quotations, they are misleading, and are no indication of value or cheapness. The 5s 11d worth 17s 6d idea is played out.

YOU MUST SEE THE GOODS. A VISIT WILL REPAY YOU.

Tailors

H. C. SAUNDERS,

PRACTICAL TAILOR,

HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

Choicest Patterns of West of England, French, German and Victorian Tweeds always on hand.

Fit, workmanship & style guaranteed.

All Goods well shrunk.

Orders punctually attended to.

YOU can get a SUMMER SAC SUIT for 50/- at HEBBARD'S, corner of High and Lawry Streets, Northcote.

☛ DON'T LOOK THIS WAY.

Clothes do not make the man perhaps,
But if he's poor in dress,
The world is bound to notice it,
And somehow love him less.

FOR GOOD FIT, STYLISH CUT, GOOD WEAR, CHEAPNESS — PATRONISE "OUR TAILORS"

NOTE PRICES:

Double Breasted Sac Suit, 55/-
Trousers, ... 12/6
Cricketers' Trousers, 10/6

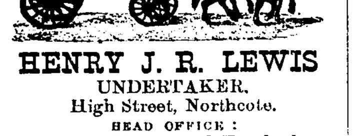
Remember Address—

VEREY & CROSS,

"OUR TAILORS,"

Smith Street, Collingwood.

Undertakers



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UNDERTAKER,

High Street, Northcote.

HEAD OFFICE:

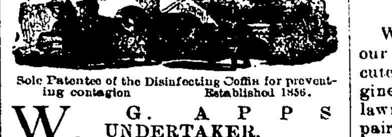
Corner of Johnson and Hertford sts. Fitzroy.

Branch—Lygon street, East Brunswick.

H. L. is prepared to conduct funerals at the lowest possible rates suit all classes.

Hearses, Mourning Coaches, and funeral requisites.

Telephone No. 1160. The Trade Supplied.



Sole Patentee of the Disinfecting Coffin for preventing contagion Established 1856.

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UNDERTAKER,

Moor Street, Fitzroy, near Labour-in-Vain Hotel, and

High and Robe Streets, St. Kilda.

Patent and every description of Coffin at 5 minutes' notice. Hearses, Coaches, etc.

ELLSLEY'S

Parcel Express.

To and from Melbourne Daily.

ORDER BOXES AT

Stott & Co's, High street; H. Lewis's (undertaker); Bagley Bros.; A. Muirhead's (ironmonger), High st. south; and at Allchin's, Sth. Preston.

CITY OFFICE—298 Lonsdale St., Telephone 1266.

Private Address—Livingstone street, South Preston.

J. T. WAGHORN,

FRUITERER & CONFECTIONER,

Plenty Rd., South Preston.

China, Glass, and Crockeryware. Fancy Goods, Toys, Stationery, and School Requisites.

PREVENTION BETTER THAN CURE.

Keep Typhoid and Hydatid Diseases out of your homes by getting JEFFERY'S New Patent Germ-Proof FILTERS.

The filter is attached to the water pipe, and furnishes a sufficiency of the purest water to meet all family requirements, without interfering with the ordinary water supply.

Local Agents—J. Munro & Co., from whom all particulars may be obtained.

Arthur Chanter,

MUS. BAC., UNIVERSITY, MELBOURNE.

Lessons—Pianoforte, Singing, Harmony, Counterpoint, Orchestration and Æsthetics of Music.

Class teaching at Reduced Terms.

Classes Pianoforte and Harmony.

ADDRESS—137 VICTORIA PARADE, or Glen's, Collins St., Tuesday and Friday afternoons.

MILKMENS' BAKERS' BUTCHERS'

Billheads!

Lowest Rates.

LEADER office, Northcote.

NEWBOLD BROTHERS

Licensed

PLUMBERS, GASFITTERS And ELECTRICIANS,

Coppersmiths and Tinsmiths,

Park Street, N. FITZROY.

General Jobbing. Trade supplied at Melbourne prices.

ENGINEERS & MACHINISTS.

We have just added this branch to our business, and are prepared to execute every description of general Engineering work. Gas engines, bicycles lawn mowers, water meters, &c., repaired. Locksmiths and Gunsmiths.

Newbold Bros. beg to call attention to their long experience in the trade, which is a sufficient guarantee that all work entrusted to them will be executed in a workmanshiplike manner.

Coach Builders.

John Evans,

CARRIAGE FACTORY

HIGH STREET,

SOUTH NORTHCOTE.

ESTIMATES GIVEN FOR EVER BRANCH OF THE TRADE.

TYRES CUT WHILE YOU WAIT.

FOR SALE—

New and Second-hand Buggies, Buggy Wagons, and Carts.

THE AMERICAN

CARRIAGE WORKS,

HIGH STREET,

NORTHCOTE.

Estimates given for Repairs in all branches.

Tires Cut Daily.

VEHICLES OF ANY STYLE BUILT TO ORDER.

FOR SALE:

BUGGIES, nearly New, from £10.
ROAD CARTS, do. do. from £6.

Vehicles insured against accidental damage of every description at lowest rates.

WM. COX, Manager.

Private Addresses—
Mr. Cox, Tyler st., Preston.
Mr. HAWKER, 19 Barkley st., North Fitzroy.

Business

S. GREENSLADE,

GENERAL

DYER AND CLEANER

HIGH STREET,

NORTHCOTE

(Opposite Wesleyan Church).

ALL WORK DONE ON THE PREMISES, AND AT LESS THAN MELBOURNE PRICES.

GOOD PRESSING GUARANTEED.

G. MONTAGUE,

HIGH-ST., NORTHCOTE (near bridge),

ARTISTIC PAINTER,

Sign Writer, and General Decorator

Coach Painting a Specialty.

Painting for the Trade generally. Charges to meet the times. Your custom kindly solicited.

THE ONLY HIGH CLASS PRACTICAL FURRIER IN VICTORIA.

A. Jackson,

Wholesale and Retail Furrier, Manufacturer of CARRIAGE AND TRAVELLING RUGS In every Variety of Australian and Tasmanian Furs.

33 GERTRUDE ST., FITZROY. Near the Exhibition.

Ten Years with George Smith and Son 9, 10 and 11 Watling-street, London, an 80 Buchanan-street, Glasgow.

Presents for Home friends a speciality

TRAM TERMINUS, HIGH ST., NORTH.

Miss H. A. Foley,

PRIZE MURRAY WINES ON DRAUGHT.

A first-class Port or Shiraz, 1/3 per quart. A special Line—Claret, Burgundy, Malbec, Hermitage, Port, Shiraz, Verdeilho, 1/3 per bot. Old Port, Muscat, and Sherry, 2/-, and 2/6 per bot.

WINE CAFE, HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

WASTE PAPER.

FOR Sale, in any quantity, at the "Leader" office Northcote.

Sunday Services.

NORTHCOTE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

PREACHER:
REV. S. HECTOR FERGUSON.
SUBJECTS:
Morning, "Something more about Heaven;" Evening, "From Bondage to Liberty"—nearing the end.
Fellowship Meeting, 10 a.m.
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, at 8.
Sabbath School, Town-hall, at 3.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PRESTON.

Services are held every Sunday in the Church, David-street, morning at 11, evening at 7.
Subjects for to-morrow:—Morning, "The Parable about Debtors;" evening, "The Testimony of the Monuments."
Minister—Rev. G. Carson.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, Prince of Wales' Park, Armadale st., Northcote.

Sunday School at 3 o'clock. Prayer meeting Wednesday night at 8 o'clock.
Subjects for to-morrow:—Morning, "The whole armour of God;" evening, "Should the Christian religion make us miserable?"
Minister—Rev. G. Chapman.

BAPTIST CHAPEL, PRESTON.

Services in connection with above will for the present be held in the Public Library Hall, Preston.
Baptist and Christian friends invited. Free grace, without money and without price.

Educational

NORTHCOTE ADVANCED SCHOOL for GIRLS and KINDERGARTEN.
Resumes January 29.

Principal - MISS WILLIAMS.
Visiting Teachers.

Dancing, Mr. G. Malcolm Russel, Town Hall, Saturdays, 3 to 5 p.m.
Piano and Singing, Miss Williams.
Kindergarten, 10s 6d per quarter.
Young ladies not attending school may join extra classes. Prospectuses on application to the Principal.

GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, MICHAEL ST., CLIFTON HILL.

Principals: THE MISSES WESTGARTH (Certificated and Matriculated) assisted by a large staff of competent teachers.
The course of instruction comprises French and all the branches of a sound English education.
Matriculation Classes.
Dancing, Miss Hyams, 15/-, or 12/6 if two, per quarter.
Elocution, Miss Cook, 10/6 per qr.
Conversational French (Gouin system), £1 1s. per quarter (in class).
Singing, Miss Bessie Jukes.
Drawing, Miss K. Westgarth, 15s per quarter; Painting (oil and water color), Miss K. Westgarth, £1 1s per quarter.
Reduction for sisters.
Young ladies not attending the College may join all extra classes.
First Term commences Monday, Feb. 4th to April 24th.
Vacancies for boarders.

KING'S COLLEGE,
(BOYS and GIRLS)
North Terrace,
CLIFTON HILL.

PRINCIPALS—
W. P. HENDERSON, M.A., L.L.B.,
J. JAMIESON, M.A. F.S.Sc.
Lady Superintendent, Miss B. A. Clanchy, B.A.
Assisted by Visiting Teachers.
The course of study provides for pupils of both sexes thorough instruction in elementary subjects, in addition to the higher work of Matriculation, Public Service, &c.
Since May, 1892, Seventeen of our pupils have passed the Matriculation Exam.
BOARDERS enjoy every home comfort and are under strict supervision in separate residences.
TERMS—
Day Scholars, 1½, 2, 3, & 4 guineas per qr.
Boarders, 15 to 15 „ „
Evening Classes (Matriculation, Public Service, &c.) thrice weekly.
School re-opens Thursday, Jan. 31st.
Prospectus at Thomson's news agent, High Street.

Announcements.

DRESSMAKING TO SUIT THE TIMES.
MISS YEWS wishes to inform the ladies of Preston, Northcote, and surrounding districts that she has reduced her prices to suit the Summer Sales. Walking Costumes from 10s.; Cotton do., from 7s 6d.—Reigate Villa, High Street, South Preston.

TIMBER YARD.

T. H. Lightfoot,
HIGH STREET,
PRESTON
(LATE LAW OLDFIELD & SON)
AND
Gordon Grove, Northcote.

Law.

BACKHOUSE AND MELLOR,
(S. B. Backhouse, M.A., L.L.B., Commissioner for South Australia, Queensland, and New Zealand; Robert Mellor),
SOLICITORS, CONVEYANCERS, &c.

Mr. Backhouse has now settled at Preston and may be consulted daily before 9.30 a.m. and after 6 p.m. at his office adjoining Council Club Hotel, High Street.

Melbourne Offices:—
MODERN CHAMBERS,
317 COLLINS STREET.
Telephone 1815.

MADDOCK, JOHNSON, AND JAMIESON,
SOLICITORS,
AND
CONVEYANCERS,
Market Buildings, 445 Collins Street,
MELBOURNE.

J. MACKINNON,
BROKER AND COMMISSION AGENT.
Loans Negotiated.
Insurances Effected.
Rents Collected.
Box 39 Old Exchange, Collins Street, Melb.
HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

DR. JOHNSTONE,
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON
(University of Dublin, Licentiate in Midwifery, Rotondo Lying-in Hospital Dublin),
Has commenced practice in EPPING, and may be consulted between the hours of 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., 2 to 3 p.m., and 7 to 8 p.m.

[A CARD].

DR. W. H. STOCK,
266 Queen's Parade,
CLIFTON HILL.
At Mrs. Hayes', High St., Northcote, 2 to 3 o'clock,
Also at Alphington, near Post Office.

MR. E. LENTHALL OLDFIELD,
DENTAL SURGEON, &c.,
36 NICHOLSON STREET.
Opposite Melb. Exhibition.
Hours, 11 to 3.30; or by appointment.
Telephone No. 822.

Marriage.

Chapman—Jameson.—On the 15th ult. at the residence of the bride's mother (Malvern) by the Rev. Dr. Bevan, assisted by the Rev. J. J. Halley, George Chapman, Congregational minister, Northcote, to Annie Bannerman Jameson, elder daughter of the late David Hamilton Jameson of the 8th Bombay Native Infantry.

The Leader.
JUSTICE TO ALL.
Published every Saturday Morning.

SATURDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY.

At the Northcote Town Hall on Tuesday evening a number of gentlemen, including the members of the Board of Advice, several councillors and others, met for the purpose of considering the practicability of arranging for a picnic in connection with the local State Schools. The Mayor (Cr. Yeomans) was voted to the chair. A suggestion was made that the school join with the Fitzroy schools picnic, but this was not entertained. After some discussion it was unanimously decided that a picnic should be held, and in deference to the wish of the children the seaside was fixed upon as the place of holding, Mordialloc being the chosen spot. The whole of those present were elected a committee, with power to add to their number, and Messrs. J. P. Orr and R. Tobin were appointed joint secretaries, and Cr. Pearl (chairman of the Board of Advice) treasurer. A date was not definitely agreed upon, but it was understood that the picnic should take place about the end of the present month. Details as to the prices of tickets, &c., were not fixed, but it was understood that the children would be charged 6d. for their rail tickets and that refreshments should be provided to them free. The picnic will not be confined to the children alone. All who wish to participate in a pleasant day's outing are invited to join it. Donations in money or kind will be thankfully received by the Mayor, Cr. Pearl, or any member of the committee. It is expected that the pic-nic will be a great success. There is no doubt about it.

The preliminary arrangements have been made for the holding of a grand bazaar and art union in connection with the R.C. Church, Preston, for the purpose of liquidating the debt occasioned by the recent purchase of land for a school building. The opening day will be Easter Monday and the bazaar will be continued for a fortnight. It will be conducted on the same lines as the one held last year at Northcote, which realised a net profit of over £600. The stalls will be handsomely fitted up and liberally supplied. A number of valuable prizes are to be disposed of by the art union, books in connection with which will be issued next week.

An action in which H. Scott and Co. sued Daniel Clurey, of Northcote, for £6 17s 6d., commission, was heard in the County Court before Judge Chomley on Monday last. It appeared from the evidence that Clurey instructed Scott & Co. to obtain a loan for him, but when Scott & Co.'s client was about to lend the money he required part of Clurey's land, which was under the old system, to be brought under the "Transfer of Land Act." Clurey refused to do this and the matter went off. Scott & Co. then sued for their commission. The plaintiffs were non-suited with costs. Mr. W. Fink, instructed by Messrs Fink, Best & Co. appeared for Scott & Co. and Mr. H. Barrett, instructed by Messrs Maddock, Johnson, & Jamieson, for Clurey.

The funeral of Mrs Ellenor Booth, wife of the late Rev. C. Booth, took place last Tuesday. Mrs Booth was very well known to all the old residents of Northcote, and most deservedly respected for her many good qualities, and especially for her kindness and liberality. She was a most active worker in connection with All Saints' Church and the charitable institutions of Northcote, while her husband was vicar of All Saints' Church; but for the last seven years or so she had been such an invalid that she was unable to move out of the precincts of her private residence, but still she continued to take an active interest in that church, and in the welfare of her poorer neighbors. All Saints' Church was draped with black last Sunday, and a special memorial service was held there in the evening, when the Rev. C. P. Thomas preached an appropriate sermon. The first part of the burial service was read at All Saints' Church by the vicar, and the second part was said at the grave in the Melbourne cemetery. The deceased had no near relatives in the colony, but there was a large attendance of friends from various parts.

FATAL ACCIDENT.

John Gallagher, a line repairer, who lived at Northcote South, came by a sad end on Monday night last. John Ritchie found his dead body on the rocks at the foot of the cliff on the Merri Creek, about 200 yards from the Alphington line bridge. The skull was fractured and the body otherwise injured. Deceased was 40 years of age and leaves a wife and three children. The unfortunate man was last seen by Patrick Donohue at 10 o'clock on Monday evening. It has been reported that Gallagher was the worse for drink on the night of the occurrence, but this was not borne out by the evidence at the inquest. It was also published that the deceased was for several hours at the Bridge hotel, prior to meeting with the accident, and that when he left there he was in a drunken condition. This is quite incorrect. Gallagher did as a matter of fact call at the hotel in the evening, but after staying a short time he left quite sober with some fellow workmen for Clifton Hill.

A POST MORTEM.

The Northcote sanitary inspector having discovered what he thought to be a diseased cow in the railway reserve (whither the animal had wandered, nobody seemed to know where from) Mr. Lawlor, inspector of stock, was communicated with, and he came out on Wednesday last. Taking Messrs Phillips and Angus, the local butchers, with him, he had the animal killed, and on examination it was found to be in a dreadful state, suffering from tuberculosis in its worst form. The inspector said he never saw a worse case. As a diseased animal like this is liable to affect a whole herd, and through their milk, perhaps a whole community, this opportunity is taken to warn all concerned of the necessity of at once communicating with the authorities when a diseased animal comes under their notice.

THE FIVE "THATS."

Several school-children have sent in sentences containing five consecutive "thats," but the only correct answer comes from Olivia Parker, Waterloo Road, Northcote, as follows:—

"They say that that "that" that *that* man said was bunkum."

The conditions were that the sentence should be sensible if not strictly grammatical.

The example in our own mind was—"The teacher says that that "that" that *that* boy means is the right one."

In recognition of Miss Parker's cleverness we will send her the *Leader* for the next six months free.

LOCALISMS.

A monster picnic to Mordialloc for Northcote State School has been decided upon. It will no doubt prove a swinging success.

Why not run a moonlight fête for the Northcote Ladies' Benevolent Society, whose funds have given out? There ought to be £50 in it at the very least.

A handsomely-framed past-arch's certificate, recently presented to Bro. C. J. Sedgwick, of the Gwalia Lodge, is now on view in Mr. Hebbard's window, High street.

All Saints' (Northcote) harvest festival takes place on Friday evening next, 15th February. The preacher will be the Very Rev. the Dean of Melbourne.

As Mrs. Boanas paid 3s 6d on Monday as a fine for her nephew having a swim in the Merri Creek she remarked "it was a dear bath."

Northcote Electoral Revision Court adjourned till Tuesday next at 2 p.m. All ratepayers who don't wish to be disfranchised would do well to read the list published elsewhere.

It is on the cards that the Christchurch Dramatic Club from Brunswick will shortly revisit Preston in order to raise funds on behalf of the Preston Reading Rooms.

Northcote Amateur Minstrels promise "new artists and all the old favorites" at their second entertainment at the Northcote town-hall on the 26th.

It is announced that the St. Patrick's day meeting of the Thomastown Race Club will take place as usual next month.

A sale of work is announced in connection with the Wesleyan Church, Prince of Wales' Park. It is to be opened on Tuesday, 12th inst., by Rev. S. Scholes, and will be continued on the following evening. The list of attractions and other particulars are advertised elsewhere.

The Northcote Ladies' Benevolent Society having run out of funds, a meeting is convened by the Mayor (Cr. Yeomans) at the Town-hall on Monday evening to consider the best means of replenishing them. All interested in charitable work are cordially invited to be present.

The Northcote cricketers have put up many records this season, and they are going to try and achieve another by bringing off "the best concert on record" at the beginning of next month. Many talented performers have already agreed to take part and the programme promises to be really first-class.

In connection with the liabilities of the Preston Reading and Recreation Rooms, Crs. Bayliss and Barrow have been appointed to interview the National Bank authorities with the object of ascertaining whether they are favorable to accepting a transfer of the buildings, and thus relieving the trustees of their liability.

The W.M.I.A. will resume their meetings after vacation next Monday night, when election of officers for the ensuing year and other important business matters will be transacted. A full attendance of members is requested. Friends and visitors will also be cordially welcomed at a quarter past 8.

In his special sermon on Sunday last in connection with the death of the late Mrs Booth, the Rev. C. P. Thomas stated a most remarkable fact regarding the deceased lady's family. Mrs Booth's father was a bachelor till the age of 70, when he married a lady also advanced in years. Five children were born of the union, three sons and two daughters, one of the latter dying in childhood through accident. The remaining four reached years of maturity, and were each over six feet in height. One of the sons reached six feet six, and was of magnificent proportions. Mrs. Booth, who was the youngest child, was 14 when her father died, so that he must have been at least 90 years of age.

Sunday Services

AS ADVERTISED ELSEWHERE.

Preston Presbyterian Church.—Preacher, Rev. Geo. Carson. Subjects—morning, "The parable about debtors;" evening, "The testimony of the monuments."

Northcote Presbyterian Church, James street.—Preacher, Rev. S. H. Ferguson. Subjects—"Something more about Heaven;" evening, "From Bondage to Liberty—nearing the end."

Congregational Church, Northcote. Preacher, Rev. G. Chapman. Subjects, —morning, "The whole armour of God;" evening, "Should the Christian religion make us miserable?"

Baptist Chapel, Preston. Services held in Public Library Hall.

South Preston Blue Ribbon Mission.

The above held their usual fortnightly meeting on Saturday last, the attendance being very fair and the programme good. The latter was supplied by the Lygon street Band of Hope, Carlton, and was as follows:—Pianoforte solo, Miss Swanwick; duet, Messrs Martin and Hart (encored); selection on the bells, Mr. Nelson (encored); solo, Miss Ruthie Hare; mouth-organ solo, Mr. Sheridan; song, Mr. Renton (encored); selection on saucers, Mr. Nelson (encored); song, Mr. Martin; recitation, Miss Ruthie Hare; song, Mr. Lewis; mouth organ solo, Mr. Sheridan; violin solo, Mr. Nelson. A vote of thanks proposed by Mr. Eunson and seconded by Mr. Donavan, brought a very enjoyable evening to a close. Mr Newton acted as chairman.

In consequence of the great increase in Assignments and Insolvencies, the Bankrupt Stock Realization Company will continue to sell all classes of Merchandise, principally Drapery, at extraordinary discounts, at 280 and 282 Bourke St., Melbourne, and 166 Smith St., Collingwood.—M. A. Rapken, Trade Assignee.

MOONLIGHT FETE AT PRESTON.

EXPECTED TO REALISE ABOUT **£40.**

Cash is so scarce now-a-days that even the most worthy of our charitable institutions are experiencing much difficulty in obtaining sufficient funds to properly meet the demands made upon them. Included amongst these is the Preston Ladies' Benevolent Society, which for years past has been devoting its energies to the relief of the suffering poor—a work that should command the sympathy and assistance of all who are in a position to bestow them.

In order to provide the wherewithal for the ladies to continue their charitable work, the happy idea of a moonlight fête was hit upon by the Rev. Marriott Watson, and as soon as the project became known a strong working committee of ladies and gentlemen rallied round the promoter and offered all the assistance in their power. Meetings were held weekly, and the enthusiasm displayed at these gatherings and the heartiness with which both sexes entered into their several duties, dissipated any fears entertained regarding the result, providing the weather was favorable; and when the various committees met the previous evening and reported "arrangements complete" a beam of satisfaction shone on the assembled faces, and the meeting broke up with bright anticipations of the happy prospects ahead.

With Wednesday morning, however, came a clouded sky and a strong wind. This gave rise to considerable anxiety and much speculation was indulged in concerning that all-important factor, the weather. But when evening came the wind ceased, the moon appeared, and, after all, the night was simply a perfect one for the event.

To say that the fête was a pronounced success is but to echo the opinion of everyone who was present. But the best indication of the success achieved is the handsome financial result, surpassing even the most sanguine expectations, and the fact that upwards of £40 will be realised affords striking proof of the energy and thoroughness of the committee in the carrying out of their labors. About 1500 visitors entered the gates, the bulk of whom were residents of Preston. Epping and Thomastown sent a large contingent, so also did Northcote, as indicated by the heavy tram traffic.

The committee who had charge of the lighting were kept busy all afternoon, and their arrangements left no room for criticism. At the main entrances a nice effect was produced with lanterns, but it was not till entering the park that the full extent of the illuminations was seen. At the pavilion and round about the refreshment stalls a brilliant display was made with some beautifully colored lanterns of all sizes, interspersed with fairy lamps and other tri-colored lights; whilst stretching right round the park at close intervals was a cordon of gay lanterns, which, showing up a background of stalwart pines, the effect was highly picturesque, and called forth exclamations of delight from all who entered.

Immediately in front of the pavilion a large screen was erected, on which Mr. E. A. Walker, for upwards of two hours, continued to throw a magnificent collection of limelight views, which were seen to great advantage from all parts of the ground. The hundreds of admiring patrons frequently demonstrated their appreciation of Mr. Walker's efforts by well-merited applause. Such an exhibition as that provided by Mr. Walker is eminently suitable for out-door entertainment, and proved one of the most enjoyable features of the evening. Mr. Walker was assisted by his friend Mr. Harvey, who is also a skilled enthusiast in photography and lantern work.

Without the band the fête would have been like the play of Hamlet minus the Prince of Denmark—very "incomplete." By coming out and contributing such a delightful programme of music on Wednesday evening, the Police Band have added the Preston Ladies' Benevolent Society, and also the Preston public, to its long list of debtors. The willingness with which this splendid band is ever ready to come forward at the call of charity is beyond praise, and through the medium of this paper the cordial and hearty thanks of the committee and public are given its members.

That good old British institution which "age cannot wither nor custom stale"—Punch and Judy—held its merry seances before admiring crowds of young and old. So popular, indeed, was this side-show, that two desperate attempts only succeeded in landing us just out of ear-shot of the villainous Punch's "piping treble."

Another small side-show was a shooting gallery man, who ran his little stand on the half proceeds system and encouraged the native youth to become Dr Carvers with such eloquent effect that his exertions yielded the munificent dividend of 4s to the society. Half proceeds, eh?

The tug-of-war, between Northcote and Preston, created great excitement amongst the partisans of the rival teams. After a twenty minutes strain the visiting team came off victorious. The lesson taught the committee is that tugs-of-war are a mistake except in a roped enclosure. Under this condition they would be an attractive item in such a programme.

Liberal gifts of refreshments, including 50 lbs. of butter from Cr. Barrow, hams from Mrs. J. C. Hutton and Howse Bros., quantities of tea and coffee from Jas. Service and Co. and Mr. K. McKenzie, and dozens upon dozens of "soft" drinks from the local hotel-keepers, together with donations of bread, scones and cake from numerous ladies—amply provided two refreshment stalls. At these a "roaring trade" was done, and amongst the ladies we noticed very busy at them were—Mrs Watson, Mrs Carson, Mrs Adamson, Mrs Crispe, Mrs Barrow, Mrs Cameron, Mrs Reed, and the Misses Cameron, McKenzie, McDonald, Sullivan, Hurlstone, Westmoreland, Crispe, and Winnett (2).

Amongst those prominent in carrying out the general work of the fête were the Revs. Carson and Adamson, and Messrs Slade, Williams, Backhouse, E. A. Walker, Smart, Stanlake, T. Paterson, Robinson, Fyfe, Pike, Mutimer, Crispe, Cameron and Whalley, not forgetting the secretary, Rev. Marriott Watson, whose zeal and efficient work in the matter could not be excelled.

An acceptable donation, and one deserving of mention was between 300 and 400 candles from Mr. Robert Harper, M.L.A.

The willingness with which all contributed what they could was most gratifying to the promoters.

PRESTON R.C. CHURCH.

GRAND CONCERT.

Seeing that Wednesday was such a "night-out" for Preston it might have been expected that the attendance at the above concert would be affected in consequence, but it did not turn out so, as we have seldom seen such a fine audience in the Preston Public Hall as assembled there on Thursday evening. On entering it was at once noticeable that the decorators had been busy. The plain old hall, after their transforming efforts, actually looked quite comely, which is saying a great deal. The stage was half hidden with luxuriant pot plants, and the proscenium, which was crowned with the good old Anglo-Saxon word, "Welcome," was decorated with fern leaves, flowers, and drapings of harmonious hues. Running right round the walls was a "dado" of fern fronds, the whole effect being not only pleasing but refreshing to the sight. The young people responsible for this addition to the pleasure of the audience were the Messrs Coles, Kelly (2), and Sullivan (2), assisted by the Misses Sullivan, Zeven, and Healey. The programme submitted was an excellent one, having evidently been compiled with care and judgment. It fully deserved the audience it attracted and the approbation it received. A well-executed piano solo by Miss Mahoney was the opening number. Mr. J. M. Coles then gave an effective rendering of Adams' fine song, "The Romany Lass." Miss S. Davoren following sang with sympathy and expression "Erin my country." Disappointment was felt that the lateness of the hour did not permit of this young lady singing her second-part number, "There's a dear spot in Ireland," which was heard with such pleasure on a former occasion. A general smile, soon changed to hearty merriment was observable as Mr. Player appeared and sang of his whimsical experiences on a recent visit to Geelong. The inevitable encore was met with a very funny song about a man who played practical jokes and eventually succumbed to one himself. Miss Josephine O'Brien, who was accorded an enthusiastic reception, quite surpassed herself in Pontet's bright and taking "Tit for tat," and was also heard to great advantage in "The cows are in the corn." In the second part Miss O'Brien gave the audience a genuine treat by her splendid rendering of Adams' famous song, "The Holy City," and coming back after the encore she rapidly changed from the devotional to the humorous, by singing "Raking Riley." Miss Bailie, who has a clear and effective delivery, gave two recitations, her second number consisting of some poetic and patriotic lines on a returned emigrant viewing Erin's shores after an absence of 30 years. Both pieces were listened to attentively. Mr. J. C. O'Brien, the possessor of a sweet and well-cultivated tenor voice, gave great pleasure with his two songs, "Anchored," and "I seek for thee in every flower," and on each occasion they appeared Master and Miss Nolan were encored for their pretty and spirited dancing. In the first part Miss Maggie Wilson sang Hope Temple's "When we meet," and in the second Piccolomini's "Ora pro nobis." Her voice was well suited to the latter, and she was heard to excellent advantage. Though Mr. Player was somewhat hurried on his second appearance, having to catch a train, he was as successful as usual in provoking mirth. Mr. Will Stewart proved quite a host in himself. On his two appearances he must have occupied the stage for upwards of an hour, and never for a moment was the fun allowed to flag. He is a ventriloquist, humorist, and vocalist all in one, and good in each line. Owing to the popularity of the programme it could not be brought to a close till 11 o'clock. Amongst the patrons of the concert were the Rev. Fathers Collins Brazil, and other clergymen.

Following the concert, the room was cleared and a most enjoyable social was held, the attendance again being most satisfactory. Dancing was continued with zest till within an hour or so of daylight, excellent music being provided by Messrs White and Long, Mr. J. Bradford acting as master of ceremonies. An abundance of choice refreshments was provided by the members of the choir.

The joint event was well arranged and conducted at every point, reflecting great credit upon the management.

O.S.T.—Rose of Preston Division.—The Anniversary will be celebrated by a Grand Concert in the Public Hall, Plenty Road, Preston, on Tuesday, February 26th, commencing at 8 p.m. Chairman, W. A. Trenwith, Esq., M.L.A. First-class Programme, including the following:—Mr. T. E. Jones, Mr. J. W. Carroll (Central Mission Quartette Party), Miss Bertha Butson, Mr. T. H. Lightfoot, Mr. and Miss Edwards (from Clifton Hill).

STATE SCHOOL EDUCATION.

ITS ABROGATION ADVOCATED.

COUNTER RESOLUTIONS PROPOSED AND CARRIED.

A public meeting was held at the Northcote Town Hall on Tuesday evening for the purpose of "considering the propriety of petitioning Parliament to abrogate the present system of State School education." There was an attendance of between 50 and 60, including a few ladies.

The Mayor (Cr. C. Yeomans) presided, and asked for a fair hearing to speakers on both sides of the question. One aspect of the education system of the colony had at least been brought out prominently of late, namely, the vast expenditure upon it. It appeared to him that the time had arrived when it was their duty to criticise the system and see whether it was as perfect in this and other respects as many seemed to fancy it was

The Rev. S. H. Ferguson moved the first resolution as follows:—

"State education having been a costly failure in the past, and, from the nature of circumstances, it not being a legitimate province of the State to supply a free, compulsory, and secular system of education, this meeting resolves to petition Parliament to abrogate the present system of public education, together with the system of payment by results."

The system, said the speaker, had been praised up by many practical men, and a large number rested satisfied with "leaving well alone;" but some of them had been looking behind the scenes, and had come to the conclusion that the whole system was "faulty throughout." The finding of the Royal Commission on Education was to the effect that it was a system without morals, that it is formulated on false principles, that it is maintained by falsehood and subterfuge, and that it was demoralising and immensely expensive. If these findings be true they might well say with Hamlet that "Something is rotten in the State of Denmark." If there was something rotten in the state of education in Victoria they should set about curing it. He was not one of those who said "What can't be cured must be endured." He preferred the motto—"What can't be endured must be cured." For his own part he believed the system utterly faulty. He thoroughly believed in teaching children reading, writing, and arithmetic; but if they were taught nothing but this—if the moral side of their nature were not educated—if they were allowed to grow up without a proper sense of right and wrong—how could it be expected of them that they would grow up good citizens and be able to take a proper place in the State. This sharpening of the intellect alone only encouraged a tendency to become gamblers. Children were taught to believe that "smartness" was the best thing. Thus at an early age they took to gambling and their great aim in the world was to try and get the better of each other. This spirit fostered in the young brought into society so-called "smart" men who took advantage of the law, and considered no crime a sin so long as they were not found out in it In going into shops in the colony he had been surprised to find shopkeepers ready to deliberately swindle him out of sixpence. Such a thing never took place in a respectable shop in England. It was not the duty of the State to teach religion, and such a thing was out of the question as many of the teachers would be utterly unqualified for the work. Mr. Fitzgibbon had declared that teachers not able to teach the Bible in the State schools should be dismissed, but this was very absurd, as who were to judge whether they were competent or not. They had a large number of children in the schools and they soon would be men, and if they grew up without any knowledge of God and any proper sense of right and wrong, this colony would become a perfect pandemonium of vice and iniquity. No doubt a return to denominationalism would be considered as chaos come again, but denominationalism existed after all. They had their different churches, and things worked very pleasantly. He considered that the only way to get out of the difficulty would be for every denomination to teach its own children. (Applause and dissent). No matter who taught them he would be satisfied if the children were taught morality from a higher point of view than pounds, shillings and pence. He agreed with compulsory education, but not with free education. (Dissent and applause). At one time when money was plentiful in the colony, free education might be justified, but things were different now, and what right had people who had no children to pay for the education of other people's children. (A Voice—Selfishness). If any parents cannot afford to pay for the education of their children the State should do it for them. (A Voice—And make them paupers). The present system makes all the children in the country paupers. (A Voice—Christian charity). He had found a large number of people who, while they could scarcely get bread to eat, were heavily taxed to help to pay for the education of children whose parents could afford to ride in carriages. If that was "Christian charity" he disclaimed it. The question was could they now afford to keep up the present system? (A Voice—Yes). That gentleman was an exception. It was estimated that there were 30,000 workless people in Melbourne at the present time. If £500,000 spent under the Education Act were used in carrying out reproductive works there need not be one person idle; and if all paid for the education of their children who could pay they would save that half-a-million. (Applause and dissent, and interruptions, the chairman having to interfere). The speaker continued by remarking that the brilliant views of

Best Firewood at first Cost to Consumers at T. MUNRO'S Croxton Park Wood & Coal Siding. Box Blocks, 7d per 112 lbs.

POPULAR SCIENCE.

Hints for Dyspeptics.

SOME OF THE HYGIENIC RULES OF THE ANTI-SEDENTARY CLUB.

Some trusting soul has written to the secretary of the Anti-Sedentary Club to know how to cure dyspepsia. His reply may do suffering thousands good: "Never eat a meal when you are tired. Either sit down or lie down ten or fifteen minutes to rest before eating, if you have been walking or doing anything of an exciting nature. Half of the cases of dyspepsia are due to nervous debility. Eggs, if eaten three times a day for any length of time, will produce biliousness and often dyspepsia. Never go to bed with cold feet. Gentle exercise before retiring is conducive to sweet slumber and a healthy digestion. Exercise a little before breakfast, and never eat oatmeal with sour cream. Avoid stimulants, for they give only a false appetite and no relief. Do not swallow hastily ice water. Better not use ice water at all. Never eat in a hurry. Avoid quick lunches. Exercise moderately every day in the open air, and healthy digestion will drive away dyspepsia. These are the hygienic rules of the club."—"New York Commercial Advertiser."

"Singing Sands" in the South Seas.

In the corner of a London paper we chanced upon the following idyllic little word-picture of an experience in one of the South Pacific Islands. In this island (says the writer) are some wonderful singing sands. These sands are in a small desert. In the centre of the desert are about a dozen cocoanut trees, and about five miles distant is the ocean. Ka Pule (a native guide) and myself reached the trees about noon. Our horses, as well as ourselves, were about used up, travelling through the deep sand under a blazing sun. As we lay stretched at the roots of the towering cocoanuts, the trade winds set in, cool and refreshing, from the ocean. Notwithstanding the heat and our wearied condition, there was an enchantment about the situation that caused me to think of the beautiful stories I had read in my childhood. I began to feel the soft touch of slumber, and all at once I heard a faint musical tinkling, as if troops of fairies were coming to greet us as they used to do the enchanted prince in the olden days. I tried to locate the melodious sounds. In all directions there was nothing but hot, glowing sand. I looked up—there was nothing but this beautiful tropical sky and the tremulous atmosphere. Still louder sounded the music; it was all around us; it filled the air. I gazed towards the ocean, and there, apparently a short distance away, was a beautiful lake, with its waves dashing upon moss-covered stones. It was not there when we first arrived at the place, and I became half convinced that it was the work of enchantment. Ka Pule had fallen asleep, and, gazing at the lake and listening to the music in the air, I rested my head against the rough bark of a tree. As I did so I heard the distant gurgle of a brook. I could plainly hear the water splashing over the glistening stones, and dying away in quiet eddies. I was more and more bewildered, and at length awoke Ka Pule. I told him what I had heard, and directed his attention to the lake. He explained that the seeming lake was a waillula, or mirage; that the sound of gurgling waters came from an underground stream, and that the music was caused by the stirring of the flinty sands by the wind. Anyway, the whole experience was beautiful, and I have often said that I once made a visit to fairyland."

The Antiseptic Properties of Ozone.

Physicists seem to be still very much in the dark as to what constitutes a healthy or unhealthy atmosphere. Thus, Dr Petrie has examined no fewer than a hundred samples of air from a Berlin sewer, and has found them perfectly free from noxious organisms. If the results of these experiments may be relied upon, and if bacteria really cause the deadly consequences ascribed to them, a sewer must be a far healthier place than a heated reception room. It has, however, been urged that sewer air possibly contains poisonous chemical substances capable of exerting very mischievous effects. From recent researches by M. Christmas at the Pasteur Institute it would seem that ozone has not any antiseptic effects in air unless it exceeds in quantity one-tenth per cent., and that long before this limit is reached, the air becomes irrespirable.

Aluminium Boats for Service.

An investigation has recently taken place with a view to testing the suitability of aluminium boats for service in the United States Navy as a substitute for those made of the heavier metals, iron and steel. The outcome of this inquiry is a report which determines that aluminium can be used for small boats, and for steam-launches under certain conditions of service, and recommends that a trial boat be made for experiment. It is possible to build boats of ample strength and of less weight than wooden boats of the same size, but the metal is liable to be damaged by collisions against sharp projections, such as the edges of piers. The report goes on to point out that the only way in which aluminium boats can be made better than iron boats in withstanding the hard knocks of actual service is by increasing the thickness of the metal.

Another Cure for Snake-bite.

Mr G. B. Pense, who is superintendent of a gold mine at Nicaragua, writes to the "Scientific American" about a new cure for snake-bite. He happened to stop one evening at an Indian village, and found the chief had been bitten on the foot by one of the most venomous serpents in the country. The poor Indian was in the most pitiable condition, and it was at once resolved to try a remedy which was said to be a sure cure for snake-bite. The wound was cauterised with carbolic acid, and three drops of the same agent dissolved in glycerine and mixed with half a wine-glassful of water was given internally. The next morning the medicine was repeated. Mr Pense was then obliged to resume his journey; but he heard some time afterwards that the patient fully recovered, and that he had successfully cured another man with the same remedy.

Paper Backings for Carpets.

The uses to which paper is put are manifold, and, according to report, it is now being employed in the form of yarn in the body or backing of carpets. It is said to be superior to some of the more usual backings employed, and that more than half a carpet may consist of paper without the inexpert buyer suspecting it.

WIT AND HUMOUR

The Old Man Was a Kicker.—Mr. Hazvall: "I shall call on your father to-morrow and ask his consent to our marriage. Never fear, but what I will make him toe the mark." Miss Shunecreet: "Very well; but, George dear, be mighty careful where you place the mark."

An Ocean Greyhound.—Dog Fancier: "Yes, madam, I have all kinds of dogs. Is there any particular breed you would like?" Old Lady (who reads the papers): "Oh, anything that's fashionable. Have you an ocean greyhound?"

Voice from the doorway: "Mary, what are you doing out there?" Mary: "I'm looking at the moon?" Well, tell the moon to go home, and you come in. It's half-past eleven."

"You seem to want the earth," quoth she,
Unto her suitor discontented.
"Well, I want you, my dear," said he;
"For you are all the world to me."

True Gallantry.—She: "I don't believe you think half so much of me as Tom Dinsley does. He tells me he could die for me." He: "That's nothing. I love you well enough to live with you."

OVERHEARD IN A DRAWING-ROOM.

Scene.—A crowded at-home. Gentleman playing a melody of various popular airs gets at last to "Nancy Lee."

Unmusical lady, proudly, to a friend near: "Oh! I known that tune! I don't know the name of it, but I know the words go:—

"'See, there she stands upon her hands and waves the key!'"

All But Jock.—A raw country chap joined the volunteers, in England, not long ago, and did not prove remarkably proficient in mastering the manual of arms. On the first parade day his sister came, together with his mother, to see them. When they were marching past, Jock was out of step. "Look, mither," said his sister, "they're a' oot o' step but oor Jock."

AN EXPLANATION.

Her lips were so near
That—what else could I do?
You'll be angry, I fear.
Well, I can't make it clear
Or explain it to you.
But—her lips were so near
That—what else could I do.

"Mary, I am tired of your carelessness. Look at the dust lying around in the corners, and even on the furniture; it is six months old at the very least." Mary (stiffly): "Then it's no fault of mine, mum, for I've only been with you three months. It's the last girl you should blame, not me."

A MISTAKE.

I've read it on the printed page,
In many a song I've heard it sung,
It's been declared by many a sage—
The endless length of woman's tongue.
They say that stars may cease to shine,
That comets from their tails may sever,
That solar systems may untwine,
But woman's tongue runs on for ever.
But this is not the truth, I guess,
For when I asked, the other day,
A little girl to just say "Yes,"
She didn't have a word to say.

Head of the firm: "Humph! Booker off again to-day? What's his excuse this time? A lame one, I'll bet!" Clerkem: "Yes, sir: broke his leg, sir.

Impossible.—Some time ago a man went to visit a friend in Scotland who was an inmate of a lunatic asylum. After a prolonged chat in a humorous, if not very edifying vein, the visitor thought it about time to go. "Is that clock right, Jock?" he asked of the inmate. Jock gazed at him for a minute or so in speechless amazement, then, laying his hand compassionately on his shoulder said, "Man, dae ye think it wad be here if it was richt?"

He Did Not Want Them.—His face was pinched and drawn. With faltering footsteps he wended his way among the bustling throng. Anon he paused. "Kind sir," he suddenly exclaimed, "will you not give me a loaf of bread for my wife and little ones?" The stranger regarded him not unkindly. "Far be it from me," he rejoined, "to take advantage of your destitution. Keep your wife and little ones, my man. I do not want them." Turning upon his heel, he walked away.

A PUZZLE.

A great many people to trouble are put
To know why hose for the feet aren't sold by the foot,
When hose through which water for gardens does play
Has been sold from the first in that very way.

Avenged—Trivett: "I went fishing yesterday." Dicer: "Get any bites?" Trivett: "Only one; but I shot the dog."

Football Defended.—"Why, scientists declare that football is the finest exercise in the world. Every muscle in the body comes into play, they say." "Yes. The bruises prove that."

Some Truth In It.—Mr Huggins: "What do you think of the latest medical dictum that kissing is unhealthy?" Mr Hunker: "It is quite true. Mr Guerro happened to catch me kissing his daughter, and I was laid up for a week."

The Kind He Needed.—You change your hats frequently, said Miss Sharpe to Cholly. Ya-as, was the reply. It is hard for me to get a hat to suit my head, doncherknow. Is that so? Well, the hat you need to suit your head is a soft hat.

Where it Went.—Small Boy: "Mother, please give me another lump of sugar for my coffee. I've dropped the lump you gave me." Mother: "There you are. Where did you drop it?" Small Boy: "In the coffee."

A Proof.—Pupson (a great bore): Oh, I have a splendid story to tell you. I don't think I ever told it to you before. Ethylle: Is it really a good story? Pupson: Indeed it is. Ethylle: Then you haven't told it to me before.

He (cautiously): "What would you say, darling, if I should ask you to be my wife?" She (even more cautiously): "Ask me, and find out."

I ASK YOU—
Oh, isn't it trying, when weary and faint
From a tiresome business session,
To sit on a seat that is labelled "fresh paint,"
And discover we've made an impression.

The Gas: "You and I do not stand much of a show when there are a pair of spoony lovers around, do we?" The Lamp: "No, get turned down."

A Virginia judge once visited a plantation where the darkey who met him at the gate, asked him which barn he would have his horse put in. "Have you two barns?" inquired the judge. "Yes, sah," replied the darkey; "dare de ole barn, an' mas'r has jes build a new one." "Where do you usually put the horses of visitors who come to see the master?" "Well, sah, if dey's Metodis's or Baptis's we gen'rally puts 'em in de ole one; but if dey's Piscopal we puts 'em in de new one." "Well, Sam, you can put my horse in de new barn; I'm a Baptist, but my horse is an Episcopalian."

Still in Doubt.—He: "Now that we are engaged, I must know if anyone ever kissed you before." She: "Oh, George, how can you doubt me? I bring you a heart as fresh and ardent as your own." George doesn't know whether to be satisfied or not.

He Spoke Too Soon.—"I have heard it said, Miss Emma, that a kiss without love tastes like an egg without salt; is that true?" "I don't know—I really cannot—I have never in my life ——." "Come now, Miss Emma!" "Eaten eggs without salt."

TRANSFERRED.

He rubbed his face against her cheek
Till all the color fled;
'Twas just the other way with him—
His face turned very red.

His Opportunity.—Jack: "How many men have you declined this summer?" Amy: "Not one; I really haven't had a single chance. It's too bad, isn't it, I wish you would propose to me."

On Board an Ocean Greyhound.—Potter (very feebly): "Steward, oh, steward!" Steward (who is attending a passenger down below): "I'll be coming up every minute now, sir." Potter: "Good Lord! So's my dinner."

A Plain Definition.—Stanley: "What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom, papa?" Pater: "Knowledge is an attribute of youth, an wisdom an affectation of age."

Her Reason.—"Wife back from the country, Dawson?" "Yes; just got back." "Didn't she stay longer than usual?" "Yes, Couldn't afford to leave, there were so many servants to tip. She had to stay until half of them had gone."

Rambler: That Bartlett girl thinks a great deal of me. When I told her I was going round the world, she asked me to be sure and write her from every place I visited. Wilter: Yes, she is collecting postage stamps.

"Jack," said a young girl to her beau, "here's a piece in a paper headed 'Kismet.' What does kismet mean?" "The word must be pronounced with the 't' silent." "Why that would be 'Kis me'" said Nettie. "With the greatest of pleasure," replied Jack; and he did.

The black boy amphibian of Peake
Has duly emerged from the creek.
"If I seem to be damp,"
Said the long-floating scamp,
"It's because I've been in all the week."

Mr Gaunson rehearsed a good old "chestnut" in the course of his address to the Elections and Qualifications Committee. It was about the prisoner who urged that he took his neighbor's saw as a joke. "How far did you carry the saw?" asked the judge. "About two miles," was the reply. "I am afraid that was carrying the joke too far," returned his Honor. The committee laughed at Mr Gaunson's anecdote.

"Nehemiah, compare the adjective cold," said a schoolmaster to his head boy. "Positive cold, comparative cough—superlative coffin," triumphantly responded Nehemiah.

"CALL ME TOMMY."

A well-known Scottish editor tells a good story of how he administered a deserved snub to a bumptious young member of his reporting staff the other day.

The reporter in question, who is a recent acquisition to the staff, and who is barely known by sight to his chief, strolled in the editorial sanctum, and nonchalantly inquired:

"Well, Mac, anything big on to-night?"

The editor in question is known to be one of the most imperturbable men living, and, not in the least disconcerted by the impertinent conduct of his subordinate, he replied, in an apparently pleasant manner:

"Don't call me 'Mac'; it seems too ceremonious. Call me Tommy."

Why do we always talk of putting on a coat and vest? Who puts on a coat before a vest? We also say putting on shoes and stockings. Who puts on shoes before the stockings? We also put up signs telling people to wipe their feet, when we mean their boots or shoes. We are a little eccentric in our phrases at times.

Gamekeeper (to small boy whom he has caught bird-nesting): Noo, I'm just gaun to gie ye a richt guid lickin. Small Boy: Please, sir, dinna lick me; folks say I'm not a' there. Gamekeeper: Weel, I canna help that; I'll just lick what there is o' ye there.

BY WAY OF CONTRAST.

She boasts of no great learning, she has no extensive yearning
For the knowledge gained at college or the higher sort of schools;
She does not show a passion ('tis the fin de siecle fashion)
For the mystic, cabalistic fads and isms pushed by fools.
She does not waste the hours talking women's rights and powers,
Or explaining that now reigning mad desire for reform;
The woeful missionary or the Indian on the prairie
Does not keep her out of sleep, or make her start a verbal storm.
But, ah, just keep a-looking at the maiden sweet a-cooking,
How she bakes the bread and cakes—the sight will fill you with surprise;
And oh, the joy emphatic!—oh, the pleasure most ecstatic
In you resting when you're testing her fine pudding and her pies!

A tramp rapped at a door of a house in Richmond the other day and asked the woman if she could spare him a few coppers, "No, I can't," replied the woman. "And if you knew who I was, you wouldn't have come here." "Oh! and who are you?" asked the tramp. "I am a policeman's wife, and if he was in he would take you." "Well," replied the tramp, "when he'd take you he'd take anybody."

Men and Their Weaknesses.

Let us have the table turned for a time. Let us hear less about women's weakness for shopping and more of man's predilection for "nap" and "lodge" meetings and betting and beer.

Let us know why it is not as sensible for a woman to eat slate pencils as it is for a man to smoke tobacco; why the big theatre hat is more of a nuisance than the man who has to "see a man" at the end of every act.

Let us know the popular estimation of the breakfast-table growler, of the one who is a saint at home and a sinner abroad, a bear in the domestic circle, and a beau in society. Give the women a rest, and let man take her place upon the gridiron of public criticism.

It is all well enough to "shoot folly as she flies," but the gunner should not be blind to all except the feminine specimens of the bird. Let cowardly man stand up and take his share of the shafts from the censors of human ways and by ways. It will do him a world of good, even if the first effect is mortifying to his self-pride.

The Bush Cavalier.

The still silent bush and the wide yellow plain,
The gaunt weird white gum trees that stud the lone creek
Have a charm which elsewhere you may look for in vain,
Have a language which Nature has taught them to speak;
And the sweet wattle bloom with its fragrance is dear
To the heart of each wandering bush cavalier.

The plains and the mountains, the creeks and the trees,
All Nature's great book filled with wondrous lore
Are the pages most loved and most studied by those
Who live far away from the city's great roar,
Who lie down to sleep with the stars overhead,
A saddle their pillow, the brown turf their bed.

When the thunder of thousand hoofs makes the ground tremble
With the rush of the scrubbers across the wide plain,
There's a rapture which no other joy can resemble
In racing to head them and wheel them again;
For the stockrider knows neither danger nor fear,
And what jockey can ride like our bush cavalier?

When the great orb of day has just sunk in the west,
Suffusing the sky with its warm afterglow,
Ah! that is the time when the bushman loves best
To tell of the deeds he has done long ago.
And the rays from the camp-fire shine out in the night,
All tongues are unloosened and all pipes are alight.

When the first rays of ruby light flush the gray morning,
And cap the blue hills with a mantle of gold,
Ere the last star of night is lost in the gloaming,
The billy is boiling, the swags are all rolled,
And before half the world have yet welcomed the day
The knights of the saddle are riding away.

So wandering, wassailing, oftenest working,
Not always moody, and not always gay,
Yet never a hardship nor grim danger shirking,
But joking and loving and riding away;
For the wild roving life with its hardships are dear
To the heart of each wandering bush cavalier.

So fill up your glasses and drain a big bumper
To the free careless knights of the pigskin and spur,
With a little one in for each saucy buckjumper
That can cause such a knight from the saddle to stir.
And all old overlanders will honor you here,
And drink to the health of the bush cavalier.
—"Queenslander."

THE YOUNG FOLKS

Six Little Turkeys.

Six little turkeys all in a row!
Now what they were hatched for, they didn't know.
Our grandma did, but she would not tell.
She watered and fed them every day well,
But not one of the six heard her say,
That she was fattening them for Thanksgiving day.

Six little turkeys! From morn till night
They would run away and hide out of sight.
Grandma's sunbonnet scarcely at all
Found time to hang on its peg on the wall,
For they kept her all summer watching about
The byways and hedges, calling them out.

Six large, fat turkeys, and all in a row
On Thanksgiving morn! One was to go
To Sam, one to Tom, another to Lu
(Dear little grandchildren, loving and true),
One was to be sent to poor Widow Gray,
With six helpless children to feed that day.

Our Betty cooked one for lame little Joe—
His mother is sick and feeble, you know.
Grandma was happy, she didn't mind
Running all summer the turkeys to find.
She knew when Thanksgiving day came round
The very best place for each would be found.

Harry Nichols' Escape.

A burning sun beat down upon the sands of the mesa or great plain, bathed the mountains in a flood of hazy light, and made the dark, yawning canyons seem cool and attractive refuges. Tired, footsore Harry Nichols, trudging along the scorching tableland, hurried towards one of those deep, dark gorges, anxious to find a retired and cool place in which to rest and think and wonder what was to become of him.

Three days before Harry had seen his mother laid away in her lonely grave in just another such canyon as this to which he was now turning his steps. The rough, kindly miners, for whom she had cooked and washed for the last two years, had given her as decent a burial as they could, and more than one had offered Harry a home if he chose to take it. But Harry wanted to get away from the camp. He did not want to stay where everything reminded him of his great loss. Then, too, he wanted a different life. He earnestly longed to go to school and "learn things." While his mother lived he had been glad to stay with her and help her in every way, but now she was gone he felt that he must think for himself and do what was best for his future. So he bade his miner friends good-bye, and taking his little bundle of clothes and food, started out to walk to the city of Durango, thinking he might get work there in the smelters, and perhaps later find an opportunity to attend school. He had walked two days now, and was terribly weary. Although a sturdy lad, he was beginning to feel the effects of the scorching sun, loss of sleep and proper food.

When he reached the canyon and threw himself down in the shade of the great pines, he was thoroughly done up. He tried to eat some of his cold fried bacon and dry bread, but he could not. His head was giddy, and a strange drowsiness overcame him. He looked up at the trail leading over the range of mountains towering above him, and dimly thought, "There's where I must go." Then he sank back on the ground unconscious.

When he recovered consciousness someone was bending over him—a man in rough clothes, high boots and battered hat. Another man was standing near. Four horses were tethered close by, cropping the short grass. Harry thought he heard the man leaning over him say in a low voice, "He's just the chap we want. Lucky we struck him." Then something which revived and strengthened him was held to his lips. The men spoke kindly, if roughly, to him, lifted him on one of the horses, and the party rode on up the trail over the range.

Towards nightfall they stopped at a log cabin hidden away among dense pines and cedars. The corral near the cabin was full of horses. Harry wondered what these two men could possibly do with so many horses, as there were no indications of farming about the lonely little ranche.

At supper when he spoke of his anxiety to get on to Durango and find work, the men looked at each other curiously, and finally the one who seemed to be the leader, and whom the other called Young, said, "I reckin ye'll stay with us a spell, my son." A thrill of something like terror shot through Harry's heart, for he felt that he was a prisoner.

And so in effect he was. He was set to mind the horses and feed them while the man Young went down the mountain side and Dunn, the other, remained behind to watch the premises. Sometimes Young took a horse and returned behind to watch the premises. Sometimes Young took away a horse and returned on foot. Sometimes he rode back leading a horse behind him. Several times Harry waked from his sleep in the loft of the house at the clatter of horses' hoofs, and looking out in the starlight saw men whose names he did not know leading horses through the pines and driving them into the corral. Harry had listened many a night in camp to wild stories of Western life told by his miner friends, and as from day to day he noted the mysterious performances of his new acquaintances he became convinced that he had fallen in with a gang of horse-thieves. The idea was full of terror and repugnance to the lad, whose dead mother had always taught him principles of honesty and square dealing. "As low down as a horse thief" had been a frequent comparison used by the miners to express contempt. Harry was anxious to get away from his surroundings, but the man "Shorty Young," or his companion "Tony Dunn," was always about, and the boy knew he was under constant surveillance.

One afternoon Harry was leaning over the corral fence and wondering how he was going to make his escape, when suddenly "Tony" Dunn came running like a deer through the pines. "Turn 'em loose, quick," he gasped; "turn 'em loose into the timber, and be quick about it." Harry opened the corral, and the horses rushed out into the woods, delighted with their freedom. Tony ran into the log stable, near by, first shaking his fist at the alarmed boy and muttering, "Keep your tongue in your head. If you blab I'll kill you."

What all this extraordinary proceeding meant was a mystery to Harry. But now a stranger came riding up the trail. At first glance Harry liked his appearance. The handsome, fair face was so good-humored and friendly, the rider looked so sturdy and strong and brave, that as he came on the boy was tempted to beg him to rescue him from the hands of these men. "But perhaps," thought Harry, "he is another horse-thief." Then, too, he knew that "Tony" Dunn was hiding in the stable close by, his hand on his "gun" and that if he said one word to the stranger it would probably mean his death. And so as the handsome, fair-haired, ruddy stranger rode by and bowed, giving him a kindly, careless, good-humored greeting, Harry stood speechless, feeling almost like a drowning man who sees a last plank drifting out of his reach. The stranger gave one sharp look at the empty corral, and merely saying, "No horses here, eh, my boy?" wheeled his horse round and rode on, scarcely hearing poor Harry's hesitating reply, "N—o—o, sir."

After he had disappeared down the mountain side "Tony" came creeping stealthily out of the stable. "It was well you knew enough to keep your mouth shet," he remarked, as he significantly handled his six-shooter.

"Who was he?" asked Harry. "The Sheriff —Sheriff Montrose, curse him! He's the coolest crittur in this country. He's on the scent after Young, I heerd, and has tracked him up here. I wonder I didn't fix him."

Harry could have burst out crying with rage and cruel disappointment. The Sheriff! He could have protected him, and taken him away from this terrible life. And he had not spoken. He had stood there and let his only opportunity to escape go by. That night when Young came Dunn, of course, quickly related the adventure of the afternoon. Young listened thoughtfully. "That's my blamed luck," he said; "an' I wanted to take them bay colts into Durango to-morrow. That's a feller thar who'll give me my price. You can't go either, Tony. We've got ter lie low fer a few days. I reckon I'll send this boy."

"The boy's all right," stated Tony. "He stood pat ter-day an' kep his mouth shet."

"Good enough," said Young. "I'll let him ride one colt and lead the other."

Harry could scarcely credit his hearing. He was to be sent with two stolen horses into Durango to dispose of them. Before he slept his mind was made up. He would never return to these men. He would find that kindly-faced, smiling sheriff and throw himself on his mercy.

Late the next afternoon he mounted one of the colts, and while "Tony" Dunn handed him the halter by which he was to lead the other, "Shorty" Young said to him, sternly, "I'm a trustin' you a lot, young feller, and if yer go back on me I'll kill you as sure's my name's Young."

At ten o'clock that night Sheriff Montrose sat on the piazza of his pleasant home, resting after a hard day's work. His thoughts were running on the notorious gang of horse-thieves which had become the terror of his county, and he was determined to capture the men at all hazards. "It's curious," he murmured, "how I lost their trail. I certainly followed the information carefully."

He broke off, for he suddenly saw a slight figure creeping across the street in the moonlight. The figure dodged from tree to tree, stopping now and then to look around as if apprehensive of being followed. The latch of the gate clicked, and in a moment more the sheriff saw a white-faced, sad-eyed, poorly-clad boy standing at his steps and timidly pulling at his battered hat.

"What is it, my son?" asked Mr Montrose, good-humoredly.

"Are you the sheriff?"

"Yes."

"I want to tell you about the horse thieves—Young, you know—the man you were after yesterday up in Pine Tree Canon."

The Sheriff almost jumped from his chair. "What can you know about them?"

"I saw you, don't you remember? I couldn't tell you then, for Tony was right there in the stable, and he told me he'd kill me. But they sent me down with two colts to-night, and I made up my mind to come and tell you."

Two hours later, when the Sheriff put the tired boy to bed in a sweet, clean room in his own house, he said to him, "How did you come to decide you'd lead a decent, honorable life, instead of staying with those fellows?"

"It was my mother, sir," said Henry, looking up into the kind face bending over him. "She taught me to be honest and square."

"And, please God, I'll teach you to remain so," said the Sheriff. And after "Shorty" Young and "Tony" Dunn were safely lodged in goal and the stolen horses returned to their rightful owners, the Sheriff adopted Harry as his son, and he was sent to school and allowed to "learn things" to his heart's content.

Lord Wolseley at Sebastopol.

The first place in the "United Service Magazine" is occupied by Lord Wolseley's description of his visit last August to the old trenches before Sebastopol. He had last seen them in 1859. His reminiscences of the privations and peril of the old Crimean days are vividly and feelingly set forth. The intense emotion with which he recalls the repulse from the Redan lapse to a hot invective against the lack of leadership displayed in that unfortunate affair. He tells of a brave boy-comrade who was the last man to leave the Redan, and who "had killed more of the enemy than any other man there," but who was so overcome with shame of defeat as to sit down and cry like a child.

HOW THE SOLDIERS SLEPT.

Even when the companies were relieved and withdrawn to rest after an average of eleven hours on duty out of the twenty-four:—Oh, what a bed our soldiers had to lie on! I shudder as I think of what our crowded tents were like, and what an amount of human, uncomplaining misery they covered. There were twelve men—sometimes more—in each tent, sleeping on the cold, wet ground, with their feet to the pole, round which the rifles were tied. Of course all ranks slept in their clothes, but the N.C. officer and the private had only their two miserable, shoddy blankets each, one to cover him, the other to lie upon. Sleeping thus closely huddled together they kept one another warm. But many had racking coughs, many were suffering badly from diarrhœa, so it was often difficult for any but the tired and exhausted to sleep much.

SOLDIER VERSUS STUMP ORATOR.

One characteristic piece of reflection may also be quoted on the associations of the trenches:—To those who themselves often handled the pickaxe and set up the gabions or helped to fill the sandbags with which they were constructed, they are touching memorials of splendid deeds done by gallant comrades. They bring back the faces of men with whom we have laughed and chaffed behind the slight protection their parapets afforded. As I stood in that little sap near the Great Redan I thought of the many friends who had fallen around it. I remembered their valour and their daring, their love of regiment, devotion to duty, and intense loyalty to Queen and country. I could not help moralising upon the contrast between the lives and aims and manner of death of these soldiers, and of the stay-at-home talker, the frothy orator, the would-be tribune of the people! The man seeking to rise in political life may fret and fume in his little arena for a time, as he plays his part, but it is as hollow as the stage he struts upon. There is little reality about it. . . Where is the Englishman who, had he the choice left to him, would not prefer the soldier's manly work in the field to the dreary monotony of commercial life or the paltry party struggles of a political career.—"Review of Review."

Max O'Rell on the Colonies.

In reviewing Max O'Rell's latest work the "St. James's Budget" writes:—But Mr Max O'Rell does not confine himself to telling tales which reflect on his hosts. In his genial fashion he plays the part of a detractor of our colonial enterprise, and does so with a degree of unfairness which the Boulevard journalist could hardly improve upon. We are told, for example, in one of his pleasant little asides, that John Bull has acquired his possessions abroad "at the cost of very little blood and a good deal of whisky—always converting the natives to Christianity and their territory to his own uses." Mr Max O'Rell cannot, of course, be expected to know anything of the bloody struggle which culminated in the establishment of British supremacy in the Canada; but he might, without doing any great amount of outrage to his Gallic susceptibilities, have taken some account of the long and arduous warfare which had to be waged against savagery in South Africa and New Zealand in the early days of those possessions. The bad taste of the writer is on a par with his gross unfairness. When in Australia he was the subject of much hospitality, and given the freedom of most of the clubs and social resorts of the colony. The kindness thus shown he turns to account by criticising the drinking habits of his host. The marvel is not that "Max O'Rell" should indite such libels, but that the British reading public should tolerate them. We cannot prevent misrepresentation, but we need not subsidise it.

YOU LOOK SICK!
YOU FEEL SICK!
YOU ARE SICK!
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
IF YOU ARE WISE
YOU WILL TAKE A COURSE OF CLEMENTS TONIC.

The greatest renovator of a worn-out system the world has ever seen, positively and permanently restores manly virility, to prove which evidence is forthcoming from any quarter.

READ THIS CASE.

Mr A. E. Barnes, Albury street, Murrumburrah, N.S.W., who writes on 13th June, 1893:—I have been subjected to indigestion for over twelve months, symptoms were headaches, want of appetite, a drowsy feeling, especially a few hours after meals, and a heavy feeling on the chest, also a want of energy. Hearing so much of Clements Tonic as an invigorator and nerve strengthener, I tried it, and am happy to say that in a very short time all disagreeable symptoms vanished as if by magic. I have never had a recurrence of the old disagreeable feelings since. I am only too happy to send this short testimony as to the great curative properties of Clements Tonic. Not alone have I been benefited myself by the use of Clements Tonic, but a number of my friends have been taking it for some time, with the greatest success. I recommend Clements Tonic on all occasions.—I remain, yours truly, A. E. Barnes, storekeeper, Albury street, Murrumburrah.

Ethel: "Who was the friend I saw with you a moment ago?" Ellen: "He's not a friend. I'm engaged to him."

THE LADIES' COLUMN.

Her Rose.

A red rose grew in a garden fair
Down by a Western bay;
A red rose breathed in my lady's hair
On the night when I went away;
I sailed and sailed o'er the severing wave,
And a rose to my heart lay nigh,
The first sweet gift that my lady gave,
And the last ere I said "good-bye."
Oh! Spring may pass, and the summer fade,
And many a bloom be shed,
But love will live till the debt is paid,
And I bring her rose home red.

Oh! Fate is strong, and the world is wide;
Broken with toil and pain,
I came at last on the turning tide
To the home of my youth again;
No roses grew on the south sea-wall;
And the maiden my heart loved best,
My first, my last, and my all in all,
Was away in the Land of Rest.
Oh! Spring is past, and a hope betrayed,
And the fairest bloom is shed,
But love will live till the debt is paid,
And I bring her rose home red.

And there is Home, where my darling waits,
Where there is no more sea;
Fair faces throng at the open gates,
And a welcome is waiting me.
Oh, Love! I come, be it late or soon,
And my promise was not in vain;
The rose you gave in that golden June
Shall be yours, when we meet again.
Sad years have passed to the silent shade,
And my dearest hope is dead,
But love will live till the debt is paid,
And I bring her rose home red.
—William Woodward.

IDA FROCK.

Ladies' Gossip.

Mme. Carnot, who has lived in strict retirement since the death of her husband, has left Paris to pass the winter at Grasse with her newly-married son and daughter-in-law.

The Countess of Warwick recently presented the prizes to the members of the Leamington Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Brotherhood, and said that God meant the Sabbath to be a day of rest, but He never intended it to be a day of gloom and long empty hours of idleness, which brought happiness to no one.

Mrs Maybrick has addressed a petition to Her Majesty, in which, after asseverating her innocence, she asks for a public inquiry, at which she hopes to establish it. Should this request be acceded to, her friends feel confident of the result.

The Czar has commissioned the eminent Danish painter, Professor Tuxen, who, it will be remembered, has been honored with several commissions from the Queen, to paint a large picture representing the Czar's wedding. In order to have some reliable arrangements to go by, Professor Tuxen took some photographs of the ceremony.

It is under contemplation to erect a monument in memory of the late Czar Alexander III. at Fredensborg, and probably the surplus of the fund collected for the gold wreath, which Danish men and women are sending to the tomb of the Czar, will be applied to this purpose.

The Rev. H. R. Haweis has sailed (5th December) in the Teutonic, White Star line, to New York for San Francisco, California, where he takes charge of the Irving Institute Church for two months. Mrs Haweis is a candidate for the Chelsea vestry, one of the first women to take advantage of the new Local Government, Act, and does not, therefore, accompany her husband to America.

When the Earl of Rosebery formally handed the deed of gift of the Rosebery Memorial Hall, erected in memory of the late Countess of Rosebery, to the Corporation of Queensferry, he said the opening of the hall might have been made the occasion for a public meeting, but as it was in connection with the darkest shadow of his life, he preferred meeting them in a private way as a burgess of the burgh.

Dr. Sarah J. Anderson Brown, superintendent of the department organised to carry out the scheme of industrial farm homes in England, reports that at the recent quarterly meeting of the national executive, Lady Henry Somerset, the president of the British Women's Temperance Association, announced that property near Reigate had been obtained, and a beautiful place called Duxhurst secured for the first home, which will be formally opened in the spring.

Lady Londonderry, speaking at Wynyard Park recently, said: "I once heard a little girl asked what she would like to be when grown up. She answered, 'I should like to be a mother,' unconsciously, and if you understand the word mother in its deepest and fullest sense, the child had chosen the highest and most ideal life that any woman can lead. Motherhood has always been the type of and the synonym for the highest and purest love, and I feel convinced that many a man has been saved from sinking into the snares of sin and misery in this world by the thought of a mother who loved him, and the fear that she would know of his disgrace."

Mrs Thackeray Ritchie is thinking of bringing out an edition of her father's works with notes of a biographical character.

There are two large advertising agencies in Boston, the members of both firms being women, and all their employes women.

Tenby has a lady guardian of the poor, and the School Board at Newport, Pemb., stands in the unique position of having a chairwoman.

The Women's Club in Stockholm continues to flourish, and has recently secured new and large rooms. The club has proved a great boon for a number of ladies in various walks of life, and is for many of these a much-thought-of rendezvous.

Miss Willard writes: "I cannot express the pleasure I feel in returning to my duties with a sense of restoration. Having now entered my fifty-sixth year, I cannot hope to continue the tireless enthusiasm of an earlier period, for any long-continued mental or physical strain is sure to force upon my attention reminders that the garments of the flesh, like any other, wears thinner with the use of years.

The West Indian Islands are to have a magazine of their own, an illustrated monthly. The editor is a lady residing at St. John's Antigua, and it is hoped that the first number will appear in the Spring. The contributors are to be both resident and at "home," and a kind of "letter" is to be sent hence every month containing matters interesting to ladies out there, written by Miss Moss, The Old Parsonage, Didsbury, Manchester. If anyone wishes for information concerning subscription and circulation, etc., Miss Moss will be pleased to reply by stamped envelope.

The Emperor William's musical ability, which he probably inherits from his maternal grandfather, the late Prince Consort, is not allowed to rust, however active the irrepressible young monarch may be in other directions. It is now announced that he has completed a one-act opera or operatic cantata, of which both music and "book" are his own composition. The Kaiser evidently shares the opinion of his great countryman, Richard Wagner, who held that a composer should always be his own librettist. Whatever may be the technical merits of this arrangement, it certainly has the advantage of obviating any division of honors in case of success, and any invidious allotment of responsibility in case of failure.

Among the pupils at one of the public schools in Georgia is a negro woman 43 years old.

The Isle of Man is, as from its name it should be, a Paradise for women. The position of women there is absolutely the most powerful in the world. Nowhere else is her position so strong, either socially or politically, for she can exercise the franchise. Spinsters and widows with the necessary legal qualifications have the suffrage, and married woman also has her power. She has control over the property of her husband, who cannot sell his freehold without her permission and signature. This is according to an old law, which has existed for ages.

It is a common remark nowadays (says a London paper) that servants never remain long in one situation. The offer of prizes in a competition by the "People's Journal," the most widely-circulated paper in Scotland, has disclosed some singular instances of long service. A silver medal has been gained by John M'Farlane, who has served on the farm of Airleywight, Bankfoot, since 1827—sixty-seven years; and a similar prize has fallen to Janet Hamilton, who has served at Linton, Burnfoot, Kelso, since 1835—fifty-nine years. Quite a number of both farm servants and domestic servants who entered for the competition have been over forty years with the same master or mistress. One of the Earl of Aberdeen's laborers, George Annand, has been employed by the Earl and his predecessors fifty-four years, while Adam Thomson has served the Duke of Richmond and Gordon forty-seven years. Another servant of the Duke has seen thirty-seven years' service.

Home and Fireside.

Simple Remedy for a Burn.—The white of an egg, mixed a little, and poured over a burn, is one of the most soothing and healing things that can be applied. It also effectually excludes the air, and thus helps to heal, as contact with the air is what causes pain and inflammation. This remedy is also very convenient.

Irish Stew.—Ingredients: Three pounds of loin of mutton, five pounds of potatoes, five large onions, pepper and salt to taste, one quart of water. Cut the mutton into nice chops, cutting off some of the fat, halve the potatoes, and cut the onions into thick slices. Put a layer of potatoes at the bottom of an earthern stew-pot, then a layer of mutton and onions, season with plenty of pepper and salt. Proceed in this manner until the quantities are used, taking care to finish with a good layer of potatoes and onions. Pour in the water, cover very closely, and stew gently for three hours. Shake the pot occasionally to prevent its burning. Add a little thickening about a quarter of an hour before serving. Garnish with boiled carrots cut into pretty shapes.

Melon Jams.—This is a recipe I have used with success.—Four half-gallon water on 1lb. common lime; let it stand until clear, then strain through muslin; cut 12lb. melon into squares and pour on lime water; let it remain for twelve hours. Drain and put melon into preserving pan, with two quarts fresh water, 12lb. sugar, 1lb. green ginger, ½oz. citric acid; boil about six hours, or until syrup is thick

Green Grape Catsup.—Wash and stem the green grapes, then to 5lb. add sufficient water to keep them from burning and stew them gently until they can be rubbed through a sieve with a potato masher to extract the seeds. Return the pulp thus made to the preserving kettle and add as seasoning one tablespoonful each of ground cinnamon, cloves, allspice, pepper and salt, one pint of vinegar and 2lb. of brown sugar. Boil the catsup until it is thick enough for use, then bottle and seal.

To Preserve Figs.—Put 15lb. white sugar into the preserving pan with two and three-quarter pints of water; boil and skim till the syrup looks clear, then put in 24lb. figs, eight pieces lemon peel (candied), one heaped teaspoonful ground ginger, one flat ditto cayenne (if liked hot, which is an improvement), one handful whole ginger (crushed). Boil gently for five hours. Do not stir, but keep the figs moving by putting them under the syrup every now and then. The first crop of figs are not good to use in this way, as they will not keep.

Essence of Raspberries.—Ingredients.—Four and a half pounds of juice, two and a half pounds of brandy, two and a half pounds of crushed sugar. To obtain the juice from the fruit, reduce it to a pulp and let it stand four or five days in a cool place; then strain and pass through a jelly bag. Weigh the juice, dissolve the ingredients in it and then put through a filter.

To Bottle Green Gooseberries, Etc.—Be sure the gooseberries are sound and free from specks; top and tail them, and put them into wide-mouthed bottles; dissolve 1oz. of alum in three gallons of boiling water; when cold, fill up the bottles, cork them down tight, and set the bottles in a large fish-kettle of cold water, with straw packed between the bottles to prevent their touching each other. Bring the saucepan quickly to the boil; when boiling remove the saucepan from the fire, let the bottles remain in their bath until quite cold, then cover the corks with bladder, tie them down, and store in a cool, dry place. We do not think buried fruit would keep unless well packed in charcoal; even then they must not be handled more than in the picking, certainly not topped and tailed.

Ants.—This is the way to cope with the red ant pest: Arsenic, properly applied, is probably the most effective remedy for all kinds of ants, but the poison cannot be used with safety where there are children. The next best remedy is borax, which gives very good results when mixed with syrup. Make a syrup of sugar and water, add the powdered borax to it, and evaporate to the consistency of honey. Place the mixture in shallow trays about the shelves and other infested places. Some people recommend the borax to be used by itself, but we have found that when disguised in syrup the ants eat more of it, and are cleared out much sooner.

Straw Matting.—Straw matting may be cleaned with cold water in which some salt is dissolved, using a coarse cloth, and not a brush. The salt prevents the straw from turning yellow.

For Frequent Headache.—If one is troubled with frequent headaches or hot and feverish sensations, before retiring for the night wash the feet with cold water and thoroughly heat them before the fire before going to bed. This is particularly beneficial to a nervous, irritable child.

Hair Wash.—Take one ounce of borax, half an ounce of camphor. Powder these ingredients fine and dissolve them in one quart of boiling water. When cool, the solution will be ready for use. Damp the hair frequently. This wash effectually cleanses, beautifies and strengthens the hair, preserves the color and prevents early baldness. The camphor will form into lumps after being dissolved, but the water will be sufficiently impregnated.

Lamp Wicks.—Never use scissors to trim a lamp wick; they are certain to spoil it. Use a piece of rough cloth, and rub the wick well. You will find soaking the wick in good vinegar for twenty-four hours before use will prevent a good deal of the smell you complain of, if you at the same time burn good oil.

For a sore throat, try a frequent gargle of salt and water. If a little is swallowed it will allay the irritation, cleanse the throat, and do no harm.

For a cough, boil an ounce of whole flaxseed in a pint of water, strain and add a little honey, the juice of two lemons and an ounce of rock candy. Stir together and boil a few minutes. Drink hot.

In greasing tins, lard is much better to use than butter, except in cases where the dough is very delicately flavored and might taste of the former; the mixture is much more likely to stick to the pan with butter than lard.

Never put a piece of furniture into a room merely because it is pretty and will fill up. Every article should have its real or apparent use: as a general thing, the necessary pieces will occupy all the space that should be allotted to furniture.

The total cordage required for a first-rate man-of-war weighs about 80 tons, and exceeds £3000 in value.

AGRICULTURAL

The Art of Driving a Team of Horses.

(By Lord Hothfield, in "Live Stock Journal."

I can quite imagine that some sceptical person may laugh at the idea that there can be any art in what, to an uneducated, looks like a mechanical act which only requires brute force. Let him, however, try instead such an idea from practice, and he will find that it is not so easy to act in all its phases, and one that anyone can be relied on to do well. Having, then, been taught by other people, who made us sit on a coach, with the reins in our hands, and then, perhaps, to show us how and where to hit my horses. I was not allowed to use my whip until I had passed a satisfactory examination in that respect, and proved to him that I did not want to use it, and that I could make my team go as he wanted it only to want a third hand, but a fourth and fifth, and I thought I was a big boy. I pomse is entirely due to the kind but great my dear old friend, now long since gone, took in my instruction, which he then supplemented by personal demonstration as to how to put together and handle a team.

However well you may be able to handle a team, you will find it quite impossible to drive with comfort, either to your horses or yourself, unless, by the time you have learned how to putting them together, and the difference that is made by a few holes more or less in the couplings is quite ordinary. Not only that, but because your team go well one day, it is no reason why they will not want a slight alteration the next time you put them to the vehicle, or possible their leaders on account of the presence of some one whom they have not seen before, and who is sitting by you or just behind you, or spot exactly a trifling alteration which will modify any discomfort to your animals as well. I will give one instance which occurred with a friend of a near neighbour, who, with his team, is a very good whip, and drives his own team, and, I may add, he is a man of great self-leader, a man—which fields, as some of her my experiences—really quite equal to teach, and after stopping several times, and altering couplings, etc., he got further and further, and he had asked me what I should advise. Having seen the team, I suggested that he put a little pad crown, and a trifling alteration would be made necessary. As an onlooker, I saw at once what was wanted, and was thus able at a moment's notice to restore piece and harmony between the coachman and the horses, and much to the same way that I myself have been taught by a friend, and I may say that when I found it so effective I adopted it.

One of the great charms of driving is that you learn something new every time you go out, and I can safely say that in 20 years' experience, which I do not think I have ever got off it without having learnt something new and interesting on the art of driving. Of course, since the new beginner has been told the theory, he will, however, have to be put to and be worked under training the horses, as nothing will make a man learn quicker than a bad practice; and if you will hold the ribbons for some time you find, on the first occasion that you remember, that you are rather helpless—and at the mercy of your horses at first starting. A really bad beginner, you can hardly ever make a good coachman. By the time he has learnt, if he ever does, he will have spoiled by carelessness that the horses, or lose your temper, or, on the other hand, the last is, there are, unfortunately, some who, that if by any chance you are inclined to lose your temper, you are sure to be the victim of "Punch" quite to those about to get married, "Don't."

I am an advocate of hearing-reins, but they should be used only so as to prevent your horses if so inclined, from boring and increasing the weight of the reins, as, if they do, they will have, and, whenever preferred you may be, you cannot, without them, make your horses go in the proper form, and, if anything of about the streets of London. If your hacking-reins are loose, the horses will need them find no inconvenience from them, whereas those that are tightened to have had themselves prevented from so doing. I drove a pair of horses for a friend, and I remember he had not a bearing-rein on, and I thought sometimes that he had to be bored at all, but he use it first and worry if he did or had it on, and as soon as I (and which I did by a stratagem which was really the cause of his dismissal) I was careful always to indulge him with it.

How many a man thinks he can drive because he drives a well-broken team round the park, but he has yet to go to a pleasure party and take a switch team for a race meeting, and put together from a team he have never been together before, some of which want a gentle reminder from the whip, whilst the other, even hear the sound of it, and let him drive the team home, and he will be surprised at some times, and, perhaps, sadly and as concerned as car, and he will probably find that, so far from driving his horses, it is the horses that are driving him.

I have said above that any fool can drive fast or go to the Ascot race-course at a hand-canter, and think that he is another in no distant future, and that he will be able to do it, and, if he has horses of his own, he will be able to do it, and, if he has horses of his own, he will be able to do it, and, if he has horses of his own,

THE HEREDITARY CURSE.

AN AUSTRALIAN STORY.

By Marcus Clarke, Jun.

Yuron station is situated in the north of Victoria, and belongs to one of those lucky individuals whose parents (though not of Australian birth) "picked up," literally speaking, in the forties; and on their decease left properties to their Australian-born sons, who are now tabulated under the name of "squatters, wool kings, etc."

Luckily for the owner and his 30,000 acres, he had no income tax, and so rolled actually in wealth, visited society in all the pomp and splendor of a festive peacock, while behind their backs he picked them literally to pieces.

Sir Jameson James was a member of Parliament, and whenever the House spoke of an income tax he was firmly against it. "Think of it. Great Scott! How unnatural!"

If a new Government (and he was bound to be elected—not because of his brains—but because of his money) he would stand up and make a gallant speech (?), and point out how the unfortunate tenants of his would suffer. Philanthropic man!

If the debate was going against him, caused, probably, by a conscientious man like Mr Alfred Irrigation speaking plainly and boldly, Squatter Sir Jameson James would instruct his banker to lavishly distribute bonuses, in the form of cheques, for respectable amounts amongst the charities and his tenants, so carrying favor through the Press with the public. His name would blaze forth day after day (newspaper proprietors' pockets meanwhile getting heavier) in political organs, and Sir Jameson James would probably be called the "Philanthropic Squatter."

Alas, for Human Nature!

Yuron station township was indeed a pretty place, and boasted of a church seating about a hundred, and a "hotel" they termed it; in fact, to call it anything else was a direct insult to the fat and festive Mike O'Kane, who swore by all the saints that his "hotel" was the foinest for moiles around, begorra! This is what he said to the public, but what he told the priest is another thing. For to speak plainly, the Yuron Arms was a miserable wooden shanty, boasting of five rooms, and the vilest beer ever brewed was sold within its walls.

I picked up this information after being on the place about a month as boundary rider.

Christmas Eve had been hot, and I was making my way after a day's hard work to the station-house. This troubled me little, as there was a prospect of a rest on the morrow.

As I approached the homestead I saw the solitary figure of a man leaning, with his head on his arms, over the gate. I recognised Saunders, the new shearer hand. I had been longing to get a quiet chat with this man, and here was my opportunity.

I got off the mare I was riding and walked slowly up to where he stood.

He was evidently in deep meditation, for he apparently did not notice my approach.

Saunders was a fine-looking Englishman of some fifty years of age, tall, well-built and good-looking, and wore a brown beard which was here and there tinged with grey.

I don't know why it was, but I felt such an interest in him that I could hardly restrain myself.

The snorting of the mare behind awoke him from his reverie. He started and turned round.

"Good-day, Saunders," I said, and held out my hand. After a moment's hesitation he took it and glanced steadily at me as he said—

"Good-day to you, mate."

"You seemed to be in deep meditation," I said, tying the rein to the gate-post.

"Ah," he said, sadly, "yes, you're right, I was."

"Thinking of your friends, perhaps your wife."

He started at the mention of the last word and turned quickly, and his large, fine, brown eyes looked into mine as he replied.

"My wife, good God! my wife!" and the tears actually trickled down his sunburnt cheeks.

I had unintentionally touched on a tender point and begged his pardon.

"Don't apologise, mate," he said, in a husky voice. "I thank you for condescending to notice [illegible] like me. I like you for it. My wife—" and he buried his face in his hands.

"If I mistake not, Saunders, you've seen better days."

"Ah yes," he said, sadly, "'Twas of those I was thinking when you came up."

"I flatter myself I am a reader of human thoughts," I said, looking intently at him, after a short pause.

"What is your right name?"

He started, and turned red in confusion, and said:

"How do you kn—w——"

"Ah," I said, "then, Saunders is not your right name?"

He saw his mistake, and admitted that it was not. Then, coming close up to me, he said:

"Can I trust you?"

"Perfectly," said I; "friendship without trust [illegible]."

"Well," he said. "I will trust you. Here, take a seat on this log; the horse is all right." I obeyed.

"In the first place," he commenced, "I like you, Dick Cullen, and that's the reason I'm going to tell you a secret. My right name is Wimbledon, Joseph Wimbledon, and I am related to one of the oldest families in England. Our family, ever since it began, somewhere, I believe, about 1,270, has been possessed with an Hereditary Curse, the most awful affliction a family can have."

I became intensely interested, and catching hold of his hand said, "My friend, I pity you."

He sighed and went on.

"Our course is that the last male member of every generation commits suicide, and faithfully has it been carried out for centuries. Well, my friend, I married, and after living happily with my wife and children in England some years I discovered to my horror that my wife was also afflicted with an hereditary curse—the most awful—the curse of drink. She drank herself to death, leaving myself and two young children alone.

"Nothing can picture my horror and astonishment when I learned my own awful secret, which had been kept from me for years, namely our own family curse, or the agony I went through when I thought of how our lives had suddenly been blasted for ever.

"So, my friend, I resolved to place my two children with my parents, and leave the country. Can you blame me?

"I took the name of Saunders, and became a wanderer on the face of the earth, with this awful secret weighing me down and down. I travelled nearly all over the world, until I found myself in Australia, which I have been over from end to end."

He paused here, and the silence was only broken by the bleating of sheep, the neigh of horses and the cries of the night birds, which could now be heard as if they were welcoming the coming of Christmas Day.

The bird of dawning singeth all night long;
And then they say no spirit dare stir abroad;
The nights are wholesome then, no planets strike,
No fancy takes, no witch hath power to charm,
So hallow'd, so gracious is the time.

So says the immortal bard.

"Now, Cullen," he continued, "I want you to take these two packets. Keep the largest yourself, and post the other to the address on it. The one I give you, however, you must not open until the day after Christmas Day. You promise?"

I took the packets with no small amount of wonder, and gave him the promise he wanted.

Then I asked, "But why am I not to open this until after Christmas Day?"

"You will know soon enough," he replied, sadly. "The contents will tell you. Had I not come across you, I intended to ask Black Billie to do what I ask. But I met you. You are a white man, and I would sooner you did what I ask."

I pitied the poor fellow from the bottom of my heart, but he only smiled, and said it was Fate, and that we could not fight against that.

The dawn is overcast, the morning lowers,
And heavily in clouds brings on the day,
The great, the important day, big with fate.
—Addison.

We reached the station house, and after bidding my friend a sympathetic good-bye, we alas! never to meet in life again.

I retired to my bunk, brooding over what Shearer Joe had told me. Christmas morning of 18— broke fine and warm, and everyone on Yuron station, from the boy who washed up to the "boss," was looking forward to the squatter's treat in the shape of a Christmas dinner.

Hail! Christmas morn, thy rosy steps in Austral clime,
Advance and sow thy beauty on the southern land,
On graves of a departed race, whose bones
Whiten and rot under the perishing leaves of time.

I had brooded nearly all night over the strange story of Shearer Joe, and somehow or other, I could not help feeling that a fatality was going to happen.

I was just making my way over to Saunders's crib, when I was met by our black rouseabout, Billie, whose manner betokened alarm.

It is a fitting time to describe the dark-skinned son of Australia. Black Billie, as he was called, had been employed on the station for a number of years as general hand, and right useful he was, especially tracing stray cattle.

As far as he could guess, his age was about 36 years, and he had been bred on Yuron station. In fact, it was his proud boast that the station once belonged to his parents. One day when he was out looking for stray cattle with Shearer Joe near the creek, which was then in flood, he fell in, and his head striking a passing log, he became insensible, and sank. Shearer Joe plunged in and dragged him forth, apparently none the worse for his bath. For this action he became attached to Joe almost body and soul, and, I verily believe, would have defended him with his life. Black Billie frequently spoke the aboriginal language, especially when excited. We were all acquainted with some of it, and when he uttered the first word, I knew there was something amiss.

"Pe doto (big man), Joe gone."

I started immediately on hearing this, for our conversation of last evening came vividly to mind.

"Gone—where, Billie?" I said, eagerly.

He shook his head in doubt.

"Ungal (white fellow), no fin' him."

I took this to mean that he would track him, so I said, "You track him, Billie."

"Yes, Mas'er Dick, Billie track him," eagerly.

"Come on, then," I said, for a strange feeling that something had happened took possession of me.

Just as we had reached the shanty where the meals were cooked, our ears were assailed by a drinking song, sung by Sandy M'Leod (a fellow boundary rider, who was known as the Highland Chieftain), in a somewhat unsteady voice.

For when Sandy took more ale than was good for him, he became like the newly fledged barrister who laid so many books on his head that his brains could not move.

I advanced to the door amid the shouts of approval of the inmates, and looked in. He spotted me at once.

"Ah, Dick, my (hic) laddie, come and join me old feller (hic)."

I entered the shanty, and found myself among some dozen shearers who were all more or less intoxicated. Seated on a table with his legs crossed, his eyes standing out of his head and holding in his brawny hands a large pewter pot of ale, was Sandy M'Leod, a man of an immense build and a Scotchman to the backbone. He wore fierce sandy-colored moustachios and hair; his face resembled a full moon, and his nose was as red as a poppy.

"Come on, Dick," he roared, "Come on, fill up and drink, most noble of (hic) boundry riders."

My mug was filled and I had only partly got through the contents when I know not whether he over-balanced himself or whether one of the boys played him a trick, but in reaching for his mug he went sprawling on the floor, the half-filled pewter-pot discharging its contents on his head.

The company set up a hearty laugh, which drowned the curses of the Scotchman.

"Look here, Sandy," said I, "if you don't take care you will one day go down and never come up again;" so saying, I helped him to his feet. After this, as became him, he proceeded to lecture. In fact, Sandy had an eloquence of his own, and would probably have made an expert barrister or temperance lecturer had not Fate decreed it otherwise.

"Thank you (hic)," he proceeded, "dom my sifts, but ye can nae ken me."

"Where's my ale?"

We filled him another mug, and by way of [illegible] his remarks, he swallowed it at a gulp.

"Ye nae ken me, I say, Dick. List till I gae ye a little guid advice. A mon's greatest glory is not ever never falling doon, but in (hic) raising himsel' every time he falls."

"Come," I said to the boys, quietly, "you had better remove him, he's had enough—take him to bunk—and then I have some news of importance to tell you. Two of the men proceeded to take Sandy out, who, by this time had a mortgage on Bacchus. And walking in a zig-zag fashion, the noble but overflowing Scot departed, singing with a discord that would have made Mozart rise from his grave, the following song of Burns:—

My Sandy gied to me a ring,
Was a' beset wi' diamonds fine,
But I gied him a better thing,
I gied my heart in pledge his ring.
My Susie, O, my Susie, O,
My bonnie, bonnie Susie, O;
The love that I owe,
All for yourself, my Susie, O.

After ensconcing Sandy safely in his bunk, the two shearers returned, saying they had left that worthy snoring like a grampus and smelling like a publichouse bar.

"What were you going to tell us?" asked young Gardner, a tall, good-looking fellow of twenty-one, who, previous to his "colonial experience," had been a clerk in a stockbroker's office, and was not as yet quite initiated into the service.

"Boys," I said, "Joe Saunders is gone."

"Gone!" they all ejaculated in one voice. "Where?"

"That's what I want to find out. Something has happened."

I recollected the packet he had given me, and his words of the previous night.

"Black Billie will find him."

It was just at this moment I missed him.

"Billie," I called, but there was no answer.

Everyone knew how attached Billie was to Joe, and he had doubtless followed him.

"Come, boys," I said, eagerly, "we must find him."

They all willingly consented, and some five, who were more sober than drunk, volunteered to accompany us, and made preparations accordingly.

I made my way to Joe's shanty. The door was slightly ajar, and I entered the cabin. The first thing that attracted my attention was Black Billie. He was sitting on the apology for a bed, with his head in his hands, staring vacantly before him. As I got near, he turned, and I could see, to my surprise, that tears were rolling down the black cheeks.

"Billie," I said, "what is the matter?"

He looked up, and said, with suppressed emotion:

"Ah, Mas' Dick, him gone! H-him gone!"

And he fell again to staring vacantly before him.

The only way to rouse him was to speak in his native language.

"Mungayata (you see him), Billie?"

He started up in a moment.

"Yes, mungayata; gone Tander" (Blue Mountain). "Mooroop nanadjera" (blackfellow find him, you see).

"Come on, Billie," I said, "we must find him." As I was about to leave, Saunders's portmanteau attracted my attention at the foot of the bed. I stepped forward. On it was a piece of paper bearing the words,

"For Black Billie. To be opened after Christmas Day. From Joe."

At last my worst fears were realised. Something HAD happened.

We waited until late in the afternoon for the return of Shearer Joe, but he came not. So our little party, headed by the black, set out on our search.

Whatever way Joe had gone he had taken his favorite mare with him, and the black had no difficulty in picking up her tracks.

As we left the station-house the lofty head of Mount Currumburra could be seen in the distance. This was the "blue mountain" referred to by Billie, and towards it we bent our steps.

Oh, how wonderful is Nature! How intensely beautiful is the country, especially when seen as I saw it. The air had all day been breathless, and as the light wind displaced the sultry atmosphere, the veil of evening fell slowly on the forest, until the whole place was wrapped in the arms of darkness. Presently the night birds commenced to hold their evening greetings, and the wind gaining force rustled the leaves of the red gums until it drew forth, as it seemed, a dull monotone, which sounded like a far-off dirge. Then the Queen of the Earth rose majestically in the eastern sky, and spread her silvery light over the land.

Nature was alone in her glory!

After a fruitless search for Shearer Joe we determined to camp for the night some ten miles from the summit of majestic Mt Currumburra. Black Billie had been very restless all the time, and when we retired to sleep he still stayed up, and in the morning told us he had had no sleep. Through his wonderful gift of tracking, he assured us we should find Shearer Joe, but he said very pathetically that the big God would have taken him home.

The morning broke beautiful and fine; and as we wended our way through the bush towards the mount, the sublimity of Nature once more asserted itself. A gentle breeze fanned our cheeks and slowly swayed the tall gum trees to and fro, as if they were bidding us good-morning. Just over the summit of Mount Kangaroo, situated a little to the right of Mount Currumburra, the sun was slowly spreading its light over the face of the earth, and the air grew warmer and warmer as it rose in the sky. Truly, it was an ideal Christmas morn.

If thou hast a restless fever in thy bosom, betake thyself, say I, to some remote spot, untouched by the hand of man. Gaze on Nature in all her glory! Lay thyself down, whether in forest or on sea-shore, the sight should ease your troubled mind. It is better than the voice of your friend or the song of your lady love, for it demands no gratitude and will not desert you when the curtain of darkness descends.

Billie picked up the tracks of Shearer Joe, and soon was following them with eager steps. At last we reached the summit of the mountain and gazed round.

There lying peacefully at the bottom was the quiet little village of Yuron, and in the distance to the left was the church, the sound of whose bell was gently wafted to us on the morning air. To the right lay our station, and the cattle could just be discerned, moving about like ants, so small they seemed. The other expanse was taken up by an impenetrable bush, broken only in one place by the creek, which wound itself round the foot of Mount Kangaroo, until it was lost to view.

We searched diligently over the summit of the mount, but without success. Billie was some hundred yards in front of us when I saw him stop, kneel down, and place his face to the ground. He was apparently in a dilemma.

On coming up, I asked him what was the matter. He looked at me in his own peculiar way, and confessed he had lost the track.

Young Gardner, one of the party, suggested that we should pick up the old tracks again, "as he may have gone over the other side of the mount on foot."

This supposition was shared by all, and we made our way over the mountain to the other side.

The ever-watchful Billie had, as usual, gone on some distance ahead.

Presently our ears were assailed by hearing him calling out, and we saw him frantically waving his arms about.

I got off my mare, and leaving her in charge of one of the men, proceeded rapidly to where Billie was.

Something, I know not what, seemed to tell me that we were on the verge of a discovery, and with the last words of Shearer Joe on my mind, I waited events. "Nanadjera Corkatarnook?" (you see horse), said Billie, in an excited voice—he always spoke in his native language when aroused.

I looked in the direction he indicated, and there sure enough, calmly pasturing, was the riderless mare of Joe.

Billie at once examined the ground round about, and presently his efforts were rewarded by picking up footmarks which we breathlessly followed until we found Joe.

I pause here, for the sight which met my eyes is for ever engraved on my memory.

The place we came to was nearly at the bottom of the mount, and was surrounded on all sides by dense foliage. It was a little dell.

Poor Joe had indeed chosen a suitable place for the last scene of his life.

Billie saw him first. He was lying on his back under a large tree. As we drew near, a flock of little birds rose simultaneously and flew away into the bush. Oh! how calm and peaceful he was in the morning light looking for all the world as if he had simply laid himself down to sleep.

His big, manly, handsome face was turned heavenwards, and the large eyes were wide open.

When Gardner came up, Billie was calling out frantically and beating his face with his hands. I could see the tears rolling down his black face.

"Toom bugerum." (You speak to me.)

I had not the heart to disturb him, and so I watched, as alas, I knew it was too late. We did all we could to comfort the aboriginal but to no purpose, and at last, after a prolonged fit of weeping and gibberish, he relapsed into deep and stubborn meditation.

I turned and examined the body of my late friend and discovered that death must have been calm and peaceful, as he had swallowed the contents of a bottle of morphia. He had taken his own life even as his ancestors had done years before.

The Hereditary Curse had been fulfilled.

On his breast was a short note stating how his death had been caused, and praying that should his body be found, it should receive suitable burial.

We arrived safely back at the station with the dead body of our dear departed companion. Alas! What a sad Christmas we all spent, and as each succeeding one comes round, the story of Joseph Wimbledon and the Hereditary Curse is always told with sadness, and remembered with regret.

EPILOGUE.

I had one last sacred duty to perform for my departed friend.

The packet addressed to me contained a manuscript, on whose face were written the words. "The life of Joseph Wimbledon by himself." And enclosed in a most sympathetic letter, was the sum of two pounds, with which I was to buy myself a memento in remembrance of him.

Some day I intend to give to the world the contents of the manuscript of Wimbledon, which are most extraordinary and sad.

The second packet was addressed as follows:—

Miss Eveline Wimbledon,
Essex, England.

The letter to me explained that this lady was his sister, and that she had charge of his children.

I despatched the packet with a letter to her, and in return received a most touching one, telling me that she was grateful for my kindness to her brother, and at the same time informing me that his two children had died some years ago in England, and that she had done everything in her power to trace the father, but without success. By the death of a relative he had been left a fortune.

The portmanteau left Billie contained all Joe's personal effects, including a peculiarly-shaped dagger, which the old aboriginal kept and prized to his dying day.

His death, which resulted from natural causes, occurred two years later, strange to say, also on Christmas Day. He expressed a wish to be buried near the white man, which was faithfully carried out.

So if you are ever paying a visit to Yuron do not forget to go to the little cemetery, where, if you take the pathway leading from the right of the Yuron road, and walk about fifty yards, you will come across two graves side by side, and on their plain white marble slabs you will read the following inscription:—

Sacred to the memory of Joseph Wimbledon, Of Essex, England, Who died on Mount Currumburra, 25th Dec., 18—. ÆTAT 51.	Sacred to the memory of Black Billie, An Australian Native, Who died at Yuron, 25th Dec., 18—. ÆTAT 58.

OLD ERASMUS VERTLES.

HIS SELECTION-MADE FORTUNE.

By M.

Yes, I know the very respectable elderly gentleman who read the interesting paper on the giant gums of Gippsland. I have known him many years.

He always was given to admiring trees and shrubs, and to poking about among birds, beasts, insects and reptiles when he was foreign correspondence clerk to my father.

I remember one time Vertles was away in Sydney. His desk had to be broken open in order to get rid of a putrid platypus stored for dissection. You can imagine what an addition such an enthusiast must be to the Field Naturalists' Club, particularly as he left my father's office and lived in the wildest part of Gippsland for some years.

Father said when he left, "Poor old Vertles. Snakes, iguanas or wild cats would be pleasant companions compared with what he has had."

This remark of father's was not quite correct, for Rose Vertles was just about as good a daughter and as nice a girl as any father could wish, or any young fellow could marry.

Of course, as we know Mrs Vertles now, it is difficult to believe that she was at any time more unpleasant to Vertles than snakes, iguanas or wild cats. It was she who caused her husband to leave a billet for which he was eminently fitted, he being an excellent linguist, and fly to an uninhabited part of South Gippsland, where he pegged out a selection, and there lived alone, catching and skinning rabbits.

You have heard of Thoreau. Vertles at the time had been reading of his solitary life in the woods of America. That may have influenced him, but the real cause of his resignation and of his leaving his wife and daughter, then about fourteen, and his comfortable home in St. Kilda, was the fact of his wife's possession of £132 10s. a year, and of her being sister to a British member of Parliament.

The very appearance of old Vertles, with his clear, fresh complexion, sparkling blue eyes and pleasant but weak mouth, stamps him as a man who could be fed on anything—put to sleep anywhere—and as a man having no vices. Most sensible women would have appreciated such a husband.

Mrs Vertles did not understand how to put such a quiet, studious man to any use. She wanted a husband who would take her into society, occupy prominent seats at theatres and concerts, prance about at lawn parties, pass his annual holiday at some grand hotel where they would dress for dinner. From what father told me, the real cause of Vertles' resignation was a pony carriage—mind you, two ponies! Mrs Vertles went to town and bought the turn out, engaged the coachman and arranged for his livery.

It was little Rosa who thought to please her father on his arrival home by announcing the advent of "two dear little ponies." At first Vertles thought that some acquaintance of his wife's had called with the ponies. It was the coachman who enlightened Vertles by saying that he would require a little better sleeping quarters than the harness-room, at which Vertles asked if his mistress intended staying the night, and was asked in reply "doesn't she always stay with you."

Old Vertles is too much of a gentleman to bandy words with any servant, so he said that he would see about it—meaning the sleeping quarters—and then he went in for an explanation of a livery stable being sprung upon the establishment.

Shortly after I learnt particulars of the meeting, which caused old Vertles to be betrayed into using words so foreign to his usual manner, and which led to the resignation and the lonely home in Gippsland.

Mrs Vertles had been born and reared so as to have not the slightest idea of the value of money. She always spoke of her income as if it came from streets of houses and landed property in what she termed "the dear old country," and as though it amounted to thousands a year. You could not be in her company an hour without "my brother, the member," being launched into the talk, and on most occasions "our house in Mecklenburgh square" rounded off a well-chosen sentence.

Mrs Vertles had never liked colonial life, perhaps because she had never had to rough it, her husband having come out to fill his billet in my father's office. According to Mrs Vertles, the climate was horrid, the food abominable, insect life terrible, and the servant question a constant night and day mare.

With these abominations on her mind, Mrs Vertles would ask pathetically of her acquaintances, "With my fixed income, why should I stay in the horrid country?" She never had any reply until the day of the pony carriage purchase, and then it came from her husband in this way:—

I was in father's private office arranging some papers behind a partition when Vertles came in to announce his resignation. Father would not entertain the idea. Vertles said that there was no help for it. He was pushed to say why, and ultimately gave father the particulars of the meeting with his wife after the coming home of the pony carriage.

Poor old Vertles took all the blame upon himself and asked "How could I help it when my brother, the member, was pushed at me so frequently?" Then he said, "But I was wrong all the same; but what could I do when Meckburg square was fired at me time after time. Still, sir, I went too far; I did, indeed—my language was unwarranted—though engaging a coachman when we had no quarters for him was enough to annoy. But when I was accused of having put into the man's head the idea that Mrs Vertles was in the habit of sleeping away from home, I certainly lost patience and used strong language."

Here my father laughingly said, "Not very strong, I expect. Go home and make it up, Vertles, we cannot afford to lose you. Let us hear no more of resignations."

"But, sir," Vertles urged, "I must resign. I have conducted myself in a way which can never be reconciled with the ideas held by a sister to a British member of Parliament. True, I might never have forgotten myself but for the cockade."

"What cockade—what rubbish is this, Vertles?"

"It does me good, sir, to hear it called rubbish, for it gives some warrant for the words I employed——"

"Go home, Vertles, and say you are sorry."

"Sir, impossible."

"Why? What were the words touching the cockade?"

"It appears, sir, that when ordering the coachman's livery, the tailor, to please Mrs Vertles, threw in a cockade with the hat, without extra charge. I ventured to point out that we had no right to a cockade. Mrs Vertles thought I referred to the non-payment, so said, 'If a man gives, surely it is ours by right! The coachman in Mecklenburgh square—'"

"But surely," I cried; "we cannot claim anything military about us."

Then Mrs Vertles, in a manner, knocked me down with her brother, the member, and when I was down worried me with her fixed income. This treatment to a husband was bad, but I forgot myself.

"What happened, Vertles?"

I said, "Margaret, you are a cruel fool!"

"That all?" laughed my father; "there is nothing in that."

"It is not all, sir; I addressed my wife as a woman!"

"Surely, surely, that is correct, Vertles."

"No, sir: not in the sense I employed the word, coupled with the adjective fraudulent, applied to the assumption of a pony carriage."

"Send it back, Vertles."

"I ordered its return at once, sir."

"Well, well; now I order your return, old friend."

"It cannot be! I vowed to my wife that I would not again live with her until I could provide her with a pony carriage, and I will not! Rather the wild bush." Vertles was really desperate. "To live amongst poisonous snakes, to be kept awake at night by native bears and wild cats would be preferable than to remain with the sister of a British member of Parliament, craving for a pony carriage, who has been called a cruel fool and a fraudulent woman!"

"Stuff! Stuff! Stuff! Vertles. That is enough; let us hear no more of it."

"I have finished," humbly, said Vertles. "My word is passed, sir. I shall not return to my home without a pony carriage. I will leave your service as soon as may be convenient, and shall retire into the bush and lead a solitary life."

"Well, Vertles," replied my father, "you are determined at all hazards to have a quiet life. You should know best—make your own arrangements—sorry to lose you; but if you must, you must."

When Vertles retired, father called me—knowing that I must have overheard what had passed, and said, "You will respect my conversation with Vertles. What is more, if you can hear of anyway that I can help my old friend to carry out his views, let me know. I rely upon you."

Between us we did make things easier for Vertles, without his knowing anything or suspecting anything of our doings.

The worthy old fellow did not again go home. In a very short time all his arrangements with father were made. I suggested South Gippsland as a properly wild place. Father knowing a Crown Land's officer, fixed the locality—about four miles from where the Korrumburra railway station is. We in the offices wanted to give Vertles a send off, but the old chap would not hear of it. He then asked my brother and myself to do him a favor. We asked him to name it.

Said the old man—his blue eyes glistening with tears: "Bring my little daughter quietly to the office to say good-bye to her father."

We readily agreed. In her wonder and trouble she looked to us charming. My brother never forgot her looks and ways; and, I may as well say at once, in time monopolised them.

Erasmus Vertles thus was swallowed up under the tall timber amongst the dense scrub and ferns of as wild a part of Victoria as could be found. Mrs Vertles lived with her daughter upon her fixed income. She knew that her husband was in the bush, but as he never had been as other husbands, she did not miss him greatly.

The parting with the pony carriage was a trouble. In accordance with father's wish, my brother and I maintained some knowledge of how Vertles lived, handing in the necessary payments at the Treasury for his selection. As time went on, Rosa called frequently at the office for news of her father, which my brother generally supplied, until it came to pass that he took the news direct to Mrs Vertles—of course, for Rosa.

Mrs Vertles played "my brother, the member, and Mecklenburg square," I fancy, with very little effect upon Dan. The fixed income being known, could not be trifled with.

Nearly five years passed, then Dan and Rosa were married. Father and daughter had corresponded, Vertles' letters always charming both in language and sentiment, overflowing with the freshness of the bush—never dull. The old man had evidently taken up the role of Thoreau and liked it, but through all his correspondence could be traced regret for the awful words forced from his lips in the presence of his wife. At the same time there never was the least suspicion of a hint that the presence of Mrs Vertles was desirable.

When Dan's first boy was born Dan's wife constantly thought of her own father and the joy he would feel on seeing the youngster. Her letters, by Dan's account, were most pathetic, combining her filial and maternal love. She tried to persuade her father that all "sonny's" dear little ways would be ended if he did not hasten from the bush to see his grandson. In reply came a lovely 'possum-rug made of skins from sooty opossums, snared, skinned, tanned and sewn by old Vertles specially for his Rosa's boy.

I was shown the letter accompanying the gift. To me it conveyed the idea that these sooty 'possums were a separate creation, registered or patented by Vertles for his grandson's use. I certainly have never seen any rug to compare with that sent from South Gippsland for Dan's baby, so soft and pliable, the tint a sort of rolling smoke shaded with dove color. Only a choice portion of each skin was employed, and a tail for each piece was put round the rug, forming a deep fringe by their numbers.

Dan's wife cried over it. She wanted her father. Though his work showed his love for her baby, that same baby had always whispered to her since his arrival that she too had been a baby, and been fondled and petted by the hand which had fashioned the rug. She was always wishing for those loving hands to fondle her boy.

Somehow, since the coming of Dan's boy, Rosa did not seem to regard her mother with the same favor. It seemed to me sometimes that Rosa was asking herself, Could she ever come to be so regardless of Dan, for she would look at her husband, then at the baby, then put her head against Dan's arm and say, "When baby is fourteen, if you must go away, I must go with you."

Of course, Dan laughed, saying, "I should rather think so."

"I mean into the wild bush, Dan."

Then we knew that she was thinking of her old father, and she went on thinking until her cheeks became pale.

Dan told me that she talked in her sleep, trying to persuade her mother to fetch her father. Her mind became so full of the hardships her father was suffering that her youngster's rug became to her a painful sight, and so had to be hidden away.

Things could not go on in that sad way.

Dan wrote inviting Vertles to stay with them for a time.

An answer came expressing thanks, and saying what a pleasure it would be if possible, but until he could have an establishment and keep a pony carriage for Mrs Vertles, he could not face civilisation.

After this, Dan and I consulted over the matter which was daily growing serious. The result was that we arranged to take a holiday together, go to Vertles and endeavor to bring him away from the bush.

Dan was becoming desperate, and threatened if our visit was unsuccessful to put the police on the old man's tracks for wife desertion.

When we told Rosa of our intended trip, her face brightened as she called us a good father and uncle, and presented the baby to be kissed.

Dan never hinted at his police idea; but, like an extravagantly affectionate husband, to please his wife, said, "If necessary, as an inducement, little mother, we will 'shout' a pony carriage for your parents. That should fetch your father to civilisation."

When we took our holiday, the Great Southern Railway had been opened a few months, so our journey to within four miles of Vertles' selection was very easy. We borrowed a horse to get over the last four miles, and did them "ride and tie," as we had a portmanteau and a few sundries sent by Rosa to her father. We certainly never expected to find such rough country, and were thankful for the horse, which, as the distance was so short, we had at first declined.

It was in the middle of the afternoon that we topped a ridge where there was a bit of clearing and a selector's hut. There we asked for Vertles, and found ourselves right as to track. The selector proposed accompanying us, as he had to return some borrowed sugar. We did not want a stranger's company, so offered to take the sugar.

As the selector tied it on the saddle, he said, "If you drive that horse, he will make for Vertles' hut. He often goes there to take stores and fetch bundles of skins. When about half a mile from Vertles' hut, you will come to a creek bridge, made with two saplings having spars laid as flooring. Do not attempt to guide or help the horse to cross. He knows the place, and will feel the spars for safety before putting his foot down; don't ride over. I am always meaning to take my auger and put a few trenails to fix those spars for Vertles, he is so good to everyone; but the old horse knows his way."

We came to the creek and to the jumble of timber called a bridge. To us it was difficult crossing. The old horse took the matter in a business-like way, smelling each spar, even feeling it with his front feet, before venturing a step. With all his care, we were right glad to see him over.

When we had ascended the creek valley by a sidling track, we saw Vertles' homestead, surrounded by ferns. The bark sides and roof of his quarters, a lovely russet color, in delightful contrast to the tender green of the ferns. The grey-green musk trees gave out a faint perfume most delicate and pleasant. The dogwood displayed flakes of white flowers, which flashed in the afternoon sun and made a picture to gladden an artist. A stream of lovely water dodged and sparkled amongst the ferns as it made its way to the creek we had crossed.

We halted in admiration, Dan saying, "The old man has an eye for the beautiful." To which I added, "And love of the peaceful."

As we moved down we heard the bark of a small dog, then a chatter of birds, which brought Vertles to the door, where, shading his eyes from the sun, he stood looking at us, puzzled at seeing two city men with a horse he knew approaching his little garden.

Vertles gave a short whistle through something hanging to his neck, and the little dog stopped barking and laid down with its nose between its paws.

Vertles did not recognise us. It is very possible that we should not have recognised him away from his hut. He wore a silvery, full beard in place of the clean-shaven chin; on his head was a cap of the Persian shape, made of wild catskins; in his hand was a 6ft. hazel wand, and on his feet sailors' boots, with the trousers tucked in.

As soon as Dan spoke, we were known and welcomed, not without an anxious tone, for the old man fancied that we had brought bad news. When he learnt that all was well, and that we were on a holiday, he took off his conical cap, pressed it with both hands to his chest as he bowed his head. As we had often witnessed this action by Vertles, I may explain that it was his mode of thanksgiving, expressing the religious feeling ever with him—as he said, "With me it is always Sunday in the bush."

I never saw such a clever diplomatist as Dan. He did not say that we had come to stay a day or two, but he brought Vertles to say it. Then turning to me as if we had merely called on our way to another visit, he said interrogatively: "A day might be spared?" We unstrapped things.

"Don't let the horse loose," said Vertles, "or he will go straight back."

"We'll see to that," replied Dan, as he did a little later, and the horse was gone.

"That is like burning our boats," he whispered.

As soon as we were in the hut I should have given our views of home, produced Rosa's presents to her father, but Dan sat down, took a general view, then said, "You are jolly comfortable, father."

"Of course! Of course! I never thought of that, Daniel. Father, by courtesy," laughed Vertles, "and I am a grandfather! How very nice. And little Dan—does he like the rug?"

"Just loves it, but we are saving it—too good for every day."

"I never got better skins. I will show you my work and collection. But first, you are hungry. How lucky I made slap jacks. We will boil the billy. I have a bit of cold corned beef. We do not have butchers or other tradesmen calling."

"Let me see," said Dan, thoughtfully. "I think I have a tin of fish."

Dan opened the portmanteau and produced his fish.

"We will have our smack without waiting for the billy. In one of my pockets somewhere is a flask, and you enjoy plenty of delicious water."

Vertles produced his knives and forks, his one glass and two cups, placed them on the sheet of bark which formed the table, and we sat down to enjoy the meal on the three chairs fashioned by Vertles out of three porter barrels lined with native bear skins.

Dan's flask contained the best of whiskey. The old man's eye brightened as his tongue loosened. We heard all his doings told with a rare modesty—his snares, traps and modes of catching wild animals, including birds. Some creatures he had to shoot.

After our meal, we were shown his workshop, his fellmongery, his drying hut, with sheets of bark for tacking out, and the tanning pits all under cover.

What struck me as so clever was the almost exclusive use of bush material—wooden pins instead of nails to hold together the hut frames, and strips of green skins holding down the sheets of bark to the rafters.

Vertles kept reminding us that a steady, industrious man can do a deal of useful work in five years with an axe, a cross-cut and an auger.

We went for a walk to see the snares, took cut some animals and saw Vertles set his 'possum snares on slanting saplings he placed in forks most cunningly.

I may add here that Vertles by his cleverness had paid his way, the rent for his selection, and had put by over £150, not for himself, as he explained, but for the endowment of a pony carriage for his wife.

All Dan's diplomacy—the tickling of the old refined taste with delicacies from the portmanteau—had no sort of effect. Vertles was happy, and, as far as we could judge, a fixture in the bush.

"Then you mean to say, father, that nothing would induce you to return to civilisation," said Dan, as he handed Vertles a very choice cigar.

"My dear son, by courtesy, I never said anything like it. Could I give Mrs Vertles a position befitting the sister of a British member of Parliament, and in accordance with her home training in Mecklenburg square, I would gladly do so; failing that, my ambition is to provide her with a pony carriage."

"That, sir," said Dan, "shall be our pleasure—Rosa and I have long wished."

"Very good of you, but I must stay here. I can always live and save, and I am not fit for civilisation."

"Come! come! father," shouted Dan, as he sent a whirl of cigar smoke into the bark roof. "Why, the whole of the Field Naturalists' Club is positively languishing for you; but how about this billy of tea, I fancy I have still something which will go nicely with more of the slapjacks."

At this, Vertles moved to make a fire, and I saw what fairly took my breath away. From a box in the corner of the hut he took a number of lumps of coal! As the old man proceeded to build a grotto with them under the billy I took a lump from the box, and asked:

"Where in the name of wonder did you get this from?"

"Down towards the creek—it crops out, and gives me less trouble than chopping wood."

With the piece of coal in my hand, I signalled Dan out of the hut. "Look here, old chap," I said when outside, "if there is much of this about, you may consider the pony carriage and Mecklenburgh square business all settled."

Spite of heaps of lovely skins and perfect quiet, I could not sleep. I was calculating the amount of wealth in 250 acres of coal country. I averaged the seam 2ft., 3ft., 4ft., and multiplied the tons contained by the Melbourne market price of coal until I became giddy in a maze of mental arithmetic, from which I was recovered by Vertles moving about in the pink light of dawning day filtering through the calico window.

The old man thought to get out and empty his snares without awaking us. I volunteered to go with him, for my mind was full of the coal calculations. So I said:—

"You will show me the place where you get your coal, Mr Vertles?"

"Certainly, my boy it is quite handy," replied the old man, "my coal cellar, I call it."

I thought, as we went through the dewy scrub, my calculations still whirring in my brain, "I will be your coal-seller shortly."

When I saw the outcrop, being something of a geologist, I knew the field we had, for on the opposite side of the creek I could see the same coal seam appearing.

"Mr Vertles," I cried, "you have a fortune in this coal."

"Have we?" replied the old man with no astonishment, "and I have been sleeping on it quietly all these years! All the same, I will go and take the animals out of the snares, stop their suffering and prevent injury to their skins."

Away went old Vertles through the ferns and scrub, handling his 6ft. hazel pole like an aspen stock.

I fetched Dan and we opened out a bit of the exposed face, and then we saw the bright black sparkling coal—a beautiful sight!

As we were at breakfast Dan relinquished his diplomacy and lavished Rosa's luxuries upon her father. We did our utmost to prove to Vertles that he was a wealthy man, but he continued sceptical till I said—

"Mr Vertles, I have no wish to take any advantage, but just to show you the value I place upon this selection I will give you £5,000 for your property just as it stands."

"My dear sir, five thousand! Not at all, it would be robbery on my part."

"Well, then," I continued, "if on our return to town I find a purchaser for your land at that amount or more, will you sell your selection?"

Old Vertles put two fingers to his temples as if fixing thought, then slowly said: "The pony carriage, good house and stabling for Mrs Vertles! Yes, gentlemen, and I will ever feel grateful to you for securing the means to make my wife a happy woman."

That is how you were enabled to hear the interesting paper on the giant gums of Gippsland, read by old Erasmus Vertles.

Perfumes and Character.

The possibilities of perfumes in the formation of character have not hitherto engaged the attention of our educationalists. It has been reserved for an ingenious Parisian mind to discover the immense influence which may be produced on the mental and moral faculties by an assiduous and intelligent use of certain perfumes. The nose we may now take it, is the most potent organ for good or evil in the human frame. Furnished with a well-assorted outfit of scent-bottles, a man has every quality of character and mind at his command, from the noblest heroism to the highest intellectual power.

This new method of character formation—or, rather, transformation—has now many devoted adherents. Its leading principles have already been tabulated, and are so straightforward in their simplicity that a child could practise them. Would you have a bold, active, decisive nature—a spirit delighting in adventure? Then essence of geranium is the thing for you. Do not forget to make plentiful injections of that heroic into your olfactory nerve daily. That a similar application of rose-water should be capable of turning the most reckless of spendthrifts into the stingiest of skinflints few would have suspected. Yet so it is set down; and not less wonderful is the discovery that musk possesses the priceless virtue of transforming the most chronic grumbler into the most amiable and complaisant of companions.

Essence of peppermint is the specific for the development of the mercantile instinct. Business men, therefore, would do well to see that their handkerchiefs are properly saturated with it during business hours. Essence of magnolia moves him who sniffs it to warlike passions. Caution in its use is, therefore, to be recommended. The scent of the violet, we are not surprised to learn, produces a spirit of placid devotion. The lily, however, makes for the obstinacy of the most obstinate of Orleanists. We are grieved to hear it. Extract of cloves transforms the milk of honest thought into the rankest poison. How true! Did not Boulangism adopt the red carnation as its symbol? Essence of bergomot changes the frivolous spirit into the profound and meditative thinker, while vervain has the merit of instilling artistic ideas. But the king among perfumes is without a doubt ambergris. Before ambergris we must all bow down, for it is the divine essence on which alone genius may be nurtured. The one thing we should like to know is the particular dose of ambergris that gave birth to this most ingenious system.—"Westminster Gazette."

A Song of Harvest.

Reap, O reap, gather and reap,
Where golden ripples laugh and run,
For the hush of noontide, still and deep,
Lies on the ripened ears like sleep,
Where cornlands greet the sun.

Lift up your weary eyes, behold
The golden fields, the golden air;
The west wind flecks the swaying gold
With light and shadow manifold,
And gold gleams everywhere.

Reap, O reap, while the sickles sing
The harvest song of a world at rest;
Reap with a rhythmic sweep and swing
Till silence falls with evening,
And peace is manifest.

Lift up your joyful eyes and see
The silver night, with gliding feet
Move from the sunset glimmeringly,
And, priestess of God's ministry,
Hallow the garnered wheat.
"Pall Mall Budget."

Wife: Look here, husband. The poet says: "Woman is the Sunday of man." What do you think of that? Husband: Pretty good for a poet. He's only one day off. If he had said either Monday—wash day—or Saturday—pay day—he'd have been nearer right.

the gentlemen who was interrupting would perhaps keep till a later stage of the meeting. (A Voice—"That's sarcasm," and continued interruption and cross-firing.) Mr. Ferguson, continuing, said his point was that if the parents of England could pay for the education of their children, surely the people of this colony could afford to do so.

Mr. Baker—I understand that education in England is now free.

Mr. Ferguson said the news must have come by telegraph then. He knew it had been paid for till within a few weeks ago. In any case £750,000 a year was far too much to pay for the system. The speaker went on to criticise and condemn the the system of payment by results, alleging that it opened the door to fraud and favoritism. He concluded by expressing the hope that the day would soon come when there would be an entire change in the system of education.

Mr. Gregory, the convener of the meeting, said he wished to second the resolution, and also to corroborate what Mr. Ferguson had said. As an old State school teacher he could speak from experience. He had decided not to give the speech he had intended to give. (Hear, hear). He would like to say a word on the working of the system. In years gone by a gallant captain, taking a fancy to Victoria, looked out for a Government billet, and by means of influence got himself appointed inspector of State schools. He was a good soldier, no doubt, and when he came to examine the school of which he (the speaker) had charge, he no doubt expected as a superior officer to be treated with great deference. (Cries of "Question!" "Question!") If they would be kind and gentlemanly enough not to interrupt. (Great interruption). It seemed they had come there for the purpose of baulking the intent of this meeting. He was showing them how very false the system of payment by results was. When the captain came up he (the speaker) had 130 children waiting to receive him. He held out his hand to the inspector prior to introducing him to the school, but instead of responding to the courtesy, he placed his hand behind his back, and marched past him and commenced turning over the leaves of the report book. He would there see complimentary records in regard to a new system of teaching grammar which he (the speaker) had introduced. The result of his examination was that the inspector revenged himself for the affront he supposed himself to have received from an inferior officer by only passing 2 out of 77. (Oh!, laughter, and "question.") He (the speaker) was a faithful and true witness, and he would prove it. A Voice—"How long did you teach under the old system?" and "No wonder the system is bad.") Previously he had 96 passes for grammar. He wrote to the department asking for an explanation, and the result was that the inspector came up and was this time profuse in his cordiality. The results often are not what the children are entitled to, but simply what the inspectors are in the mood to give. Had not those children hearts, and did they not know what injustice and what hardship had been dealt them? (A Voice—All inspectors must be frauds according to you). He would give another case. (Interruption.) He hoped they would try to conduct themselves as gentlemen. (A Voice—"You're not addressing yourself to the question," and further interruption). A teacher residing one and a half miles from him got 85 per cent——

Mr. Ogilvie—We have not come here to hear Mr. Gregory's experiences in State Schools, but to hear reasons for the abrogation of the Education Act. (Applause).

The chairman said that as the resolution embodied payment by results, Mr. Gregory was in order in giving them what he considered to be evidence against it.

Mr. Gregory—Its faulty.

Mr. Ogilvie—Its you that's faulty not the Act.

Mr. Gregory, continuing, explained that a teacher one and a half miles from a school that was being examined got the examination papers and practised his children in them for days beforehand, so that when the inspector came there the result was 97½ per cent.—obtained by fraud. Boards were also stuck up outside the windows with the answers on.

Cr. Bastings—We'll be here till the standard time is altered again if you don't get on with the meeting better than this.

Mr. Gregory said if he tired their patience he could not help that. When the inspector asked a simple question of 16 children who had passed in this way for their certificate only two were able to answer it. (Interruption and laughter). The system was a false one, the inspectors knew it to be false, and the public knew it to be false.

Cr. Pearl, chairman of the Board of Advice—We do not.

Mr. Gregory went on to quote statistics on which Archbishop Benson had condemned the purely secular character of the teaching, viz., that while the population had only increased 43 per cent. crime had increased 84 per cent.

A voice—But Mr. Hayter contradicts this.

Mr. Gregory—The increase of crime must come from the ranks of the native born Victorians.

Cr. Pearl—That's not true.

Cr. Bastings—If that is so can you tell us how it is that the gaols are empty and they are turning some of them into butter factories? (Laughter).

Mr. Gregory denied that the gaols were empty and concluded with a warning against the evils which be considered must fall upon a country where the name of the Saviour was banished from the State Schools.

The Mayor then proceeded to read the resolution.

A voice—Oh, take it as read.

The Mayor—Would that gentleman keep quiet till the resolution is read.

A voice—It's Boothby. (Laughter.)

The Mayor was about to put the resolution, when

Mr. Jas. Knox, J.P. ascended the platform and submitted the following amendment, viz.—

"That this meeting approves of the system of free, secular and compulsory education as existing in this colony, and recommends that the scripture lessons which were formerly in the school books be reinstated."

The amendment was received with loud applause. Mr. Knox said he felt indignant when he had placed in his hands a circular which attributed swindling, murder, vice and crime of every kind to the State Schools. As correspondent of a Board of Advice up country he became acquainted with a great many teachers and his experience satisfied him that as a body they were not the right persons to teach the Bible to their pupils, many of them being careless, unbelieving or infidel. The present movement seemed the the thin end of the wedge towards denominationalism. They had got rid of that by years of hard work, and he hoped never again to see it tried.

Mr. Baker seconded the amendment. All knew the difficulties they had to contend with in getting the present Education Act. Under it poor people were not placed in a humiliating position (Hear, hear) and classified as paupers. It was needless for him to say that a return to denominationalism would be a backward movement. (Applause). The system had been tried and had proved a failure. It was unworkable in the sparsely settled districts. A Roman Catholic friend of his had a school at Warrenheip and he it was who explained to him (the speaker) how it worked, and who told him that the system was a total failure. The present system had two great redeeming qualities—It has levelled all classes of the community—(Applause)—and it has mingled the rich with the poor and the Protestant with the Roman Catholic. (Applause). The payment by results system was going to be swept away. (Hear, hear.) They had invested 15 millions in the system in order to level distinctions and let the poorest man's child rise to the University. (Applause). It was not intended to give up that 15 millions to satisfy the qualms of so-called religious people. To say that the present system was a Godless one was a gross wicked misrepresentation, and the lesson books were to be re-introduced. A jem was a jem whether in a golden casket or a more humble setting, and if they got the jem in the shape of Truth it mattered little whether the children got it from the lesson books or the Bible. (Applause.) This ought to satisfy any religious man in the community. They were also going to have the expenditure cut down. (Hear, hear.)

Cr. Pearl, in supporting the amendment, said he would like to give the Rev. Mr. Ferguson the opportunity of retracting some of the statements he had made. As a shop-keeper he felt the slur cast upon his class very much and knew it to be most unjust. As to the increased percentage of crime in the colony Mr. Hayter had completely explained that; and it was not at all due, as Mr. Ferguson inferred, to the increased wickedness of the native born youth. His own experience was that the morals of the children had greatly improved since the present Education Act had come into force. Before that it was common to see mere lads gambling in the streets. And he would like to ask if Matthias Larkin and men of that ilk had been educated in our State Schools. Under the denominational system it was not uncommon to see schools of different denominations banded together in armies going to fight each other. The new system, no doubt, was working a revolution in "levelling up" instead of levelling down. Nothing but discard would result from the re-introduction of the discarded system.

A gentleman present rose and, while supporting the amendment, gave his testimony that he had never known cursing and swearing amongst children so bad as it is now.

Some words were here interchanged between Mr. Gregory and members of the audience, the former declaring that they had "not acted as gentlemen but as rude and irreverent citizens."

The Rev. Mr. Ferguson said if he had said anything that deserved to be withdrawn he would withdraw it. The present system was very unsatisfactory. He did not wish to return to denominationalism. If the carrying of the amendment would be the means of causing the Bible truths to be taught in State Schools he would be thoroughly satisfied. (Hear, hear). All he wanted was to get the truth into the children. Mr. Ferguson explained that when he referred to gambling he did not mean that the State Schools were responsible for it—(Oh!)—and as to the dishonesty of shop-keepers what he had said was based on his own experience. Perhaps he should not have applied it so generally. He had never had such an experience in Northcote.

The amendment was then put and declared carried "practically unanimously" by the chairman.

Only two hands were held up for the motion.

A vote of thanks to the chairman brought the meeting to a close.

NORTHCOTE POLICE COURT.

Monday, February 4th.

[Before Messrs Keogh, P.M., McIntosh, and Knox, J's.P.]

Constable Jones v. Edgar Boanas. Bathing in the Merri Creek, within prohibited hours. Defendant, a lad of 12, did not appear. His aunt stated that he lived at Ballarat, and happened to be down on his holidays when he went with some other boys for a swim. Fined 1s. with 2s. 6d. costs.

For neglecting to have his name on his cart John Tuttle was fined 10s., Constable Warren being the prosecuting constable.

Smith, Kenihan and Co. v. — Dowsett. Goods supplied, £4 10s. Order for amount, with 5s. costs.

David Table v. Robert White. Use and occupation of a house, £2 12s. 6d. Order for amount, with 5s. costs.

Railway Detective Considine v. Timothy Moss. Negligently allowing cow to wander on Railway line at Northcote South. Fined 10s, with 2s. 6d. costs. Costs for witnesses were not allowed.

H. C. Saunders v. Jas. Mills. Goods supplied, £3 5s. 6d. Order for amount, with 5s. costs.

W. Freebairn, nuisance inspector, v. F. Harvey. Wandering horse. Fined 2s. 6d. and 2s. 6d. costs.

APPLICATION.

Mrs. Talmage made application for a warrant for the arrest of her husband on a charge of desertion and maintenance.

The P.M. inquired when Talmage had gone away.

The applicant (who seemed to take things not very seriously) said he had left early that morning. She remarked, with a smile, that her husband had abused her.

The P.M.—In what way?

Mrs. Talmage — By constantly knocking me about. He kicked me out of the house yesterday.

The P.M.—Was he sober?

The applicant—No, he was drunk; but I don't know where he got the drink.

The P.M.—We can only advise you to take out a summons for assault.

REVISION COURT.

Mr. F. Braiding, electoral registrar for the Northcote Division, and Mr. Lindt, electoral inspector, of the East Bourke Boroughs electorate were in attendance, with the necessary documents, and Mr. Keogh, P.M., adjudicated.

Thirteen names objected to on the general list for the Northcote division were duly struck off the roll; but for dealing with the 250 names objected to on the ratepayers' list the court was adjourned to Tuesday next, at 2 p.m., so that the list might be advertised for the second time, as specified in the Act.

The lists of names objected to on the rolls for the Alphington division were finally dealt with.

The inspector had objected to the names of several tenants in occupation, but the magistrate ruled that he had no right to make objections of this kind and the names (amounting to about a dozen) were retained on the roll.

ST. GEORGE'S ROAD WESLEYAN CHURCH.

Anniversary sermons in connection with this church were preached on Sunday last, in the morning by Rev. S. Scholes; afternoon, Rev. E. Smith; and evening, Rev. A. Powell. Suitable anthems were rendered at each service, under the able conductorship of Mr. John Kennedy.

On Tuesday evening the anniversary was further celebrated by

A PLEASANT SOCIAL.

W. R. Bennett's, Esq., of Fitzroy, presided. After the chairman had briefly addressed the meeting, Mr. W. Bowman (secretary to the trust) read the annual report, which stated that four years had passed since the church was opened, and changes were observable in that as in every other institution. Reviewing the past there was little to mark of a striking character. The spiritual state of the church was healthy. All the officers and leaders had worked unitedly and with perseverance with the one object in view. The church had sustained a loss in the removal of Mr. P. Ebbott and family from their midst to another suburb. Mr Ebbot held the offices of class-leader, Sunday school superintendent, and trustee, and his daughter, organiste. They had been so closely identified with the church and school work that they were known to all, and were greatly esteemed. The society class conducted by Mr. Ebbott was now carried on by Mr. Lugton. The report urged upon all present to endeavor by systematic giving to reduce the existing debt on the church, and concluded with hopeful expressions regarding the coming year.

The Rev. S. Scholes delivered a spirited address on "Helping hands in the church," and Sister Hannah, of the Central Mission, also addressed the meeting.

During the evening a pleasing change took place in the proceedings by the presentation to Miss Ebbott of a large copy of the Wesleyan Tune Book, as a token of esteem on the part of the choir. A well selected programme of music and recitations was gone through, and the partaking of refreshments brought the "pleasant social" to a termination.

NORTHCOTE CYCLING CLUB.

The above club held their final road race in connection with the triple event competition on Saturday last. The course was from the town-hall to North Preston and back four times, a distance of about 25 miles. The result was as follow:—

A. Whitchell, 12½min., 1st; time 1h. 28m. 58sec.
M. McLean, 9min., 2nd; time 1h. 29m. 30sec.
W. Cornfoot, 16½min., 3rd; time 1h. 40min.

The following are the successful prize-winners in the competition:—A. Whitchell 1st, 139 points; W. Cornfoot 2nd, 125 points; M. McLean 3rd, 114 points; E. Perry 4th, 110 points.

Cr. W. Smith acted as starter and timekeeper throughout.

STATE EDUCATION.

[To the Editor.]

Sir,—The folly of taking one's facts from mere hear-say and fancying they are truths, received a good-natured though smart rebuff in the Northcote town-hall on Tuesday last. At a meeting of citizens, under the presidency of the mayor, and convened for the purpose of considering the propriety of abrogating State education, it was proposed to ask Parliament to abolish it, on the following grounds, viz.—that "our State education has been prolific in producing a vast population of educated gamblers, horse-racers, sharp clerks at falsifying accounts, cooking balances, and swindling firms—dissipated corrupters of virtue, driving their seduced lost victims to vile operations, resulting often in suicide, infanticide, murder—burglars, forgers, valueless cheque passers, and bogus business men, who mislead, deceive, and cheat—fruitful of every species of evil, but sadly non-resultant in any species of good," etc. Needless to say, not one particle of evidence was adduced in support of any one of these reckless charges, save this, and this only, viz., that the Archbishop of Canterbury was reported to have said "that Professor Harper and the Rev. Mr. Savage, of Victoria, had said," "that the Bishop of Manchester had said," "that Mr. H. H. Hayter had said," that crime was increasing among the native Victorians. It so happened, however, that Mr. Hayter had never said anything of the sort, but just the opposite, viz., that criminality was decreasing in that quarter (vide *Argus*, 5-2-95). The same authority further states—"In fact, until the age of 21, the amount of criminality was so small that the population under that age might be left out of consideration altogether. The amount of crime, moreover, among native Victorians over the age of 21 had become much less than that of any other nationality." He also exploded the fallacy of the superior virtue of our N.S.W. friends. "In conclusion," he asserts "that figures showed as they always have shown that criminality prevailing in N.S.W. was larger than that prevailing in Victoria."

The unanimous rejection of the proposal and the equally unanimous adoption of the resolution to maintain the Education Act intact and the determination to have the expurgated passages of scripture and morality restored to the reading books, came, no doubt, as a big surprise to the genial and well-meaning promoter of the affair. The meeting, however, could not, in justice to themselves and their children, have voted otherwise.

Not for one moment, would I maintain that our State education is perfect; but I do assert, without fear of contradiction, that it is neither immoral or Godless.

In the opinion of some of the highest of the educational authorities in Europe our primary system of education is in advance of that of the grand old mother country or of that of any other English speaking community.

In conclusion, let me say that I am naturally very jealous of the honor and good name of the young people of this country and especially of those of this and the surrounding districts, with whom I have been so long and so intimately connected.

"Who steals my purse, steals trash;
But he that filches from me, my good name,
Robs me of that which not enriches him,
And makes me poor indeed."

Yours etc.,
R. Tobin.

NORTHCOTE LADIES' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The first meeting of the above society for the present year was held at the Northcote Town Hall on Monday, 4th inst. Present—Mayoress (Mrs. Yeomans, in the chair), and Mesdames Swift, Tomkins, Parr, McIntosh, Hogarth, Beckett, Thomas, Tobin, and Mackinnon. The usual routine business was gone through and accounts amounting to £23 10s. were passed for payment on the motion of Mrs. McIntosh, seconded by Mrs. Beckett. Since last meeting (held Monday, December 3rd, '94) the following donations have been received and handed to the treasurer:—Mr. W. S. Stott, £1 1s., W.P. per *Argus*, £5 5s., collection by Police Band, £4 11s. 4½d.; Mrs. Peters, 5s.; Total, £11 2s. 4½d.

The treasurer (Mrs. W. G. Swift) drew attention to the state of the finances, the balance in the bank after paying bills at present due only being sufficient to carry on the work till the end of the present month. As the society has determined not to run into debt they must then cease giving relief, or some means must be at once adopted for obtaining funds for carrying on the work.

After careful deliberation it was decided to ask the Mayor to convene a public meeting at as early a date as possible to take steps to secure a more permanent income to the society. It was thought that if a committee of gentlemen made a systematic canvas of the district many subscribers could be obtained who would give regularly a small monthly donation, say of 1s. It was considered that there are very few families in receipt of any income whatever who could not afford 3d per week to help the aged, poor and sick among them. In the case of those receiving only a small wage 1½d. per week might be set aside for the same object and the ladies would call fortnightly or monthly for the amount as the donors chose. It was also pointed out that many of those kind friends who had since the beginning of the society been regular subscribers of 10s annually might find it more convenient to give the shilling monthly and thus the fund would be increased by two shillings from each of those donors.

The secretary was instructed to communicate with the Mayor, and on the date of meeting being fixed advertise same in the Northcote *Leader* and send notices to the various religious denominations.

It should be noted that the meeting is to raise funds for the ordinary work of the Ladies' Benevolent Society, viz., helping the aged, sick and infirm, not for an Unemployed Relief Fund.

The Mayor has consented to hold the meeting on Monday, 11th inst., at the Town Hall.

POLLUTION OF THE MERRI CREEK.

WHICH MUNICIPALITY IS GUILTY?

[To the Editor.]

Sir,—With reference to the paragraph which appeared in your issue of the 2nd inst., giving particulars of a discussion which took place at the last meeting of the Preston Shire Council on a report published in the *Argus* as to the offensive piggeries, stated by the Brunswick council to be situated within the said shire, I have to request that you will kindly publish the accompanying report of this council's sanitary inspector, submitted on the 17th ultimo, which deals directly with the matter, your paragraph inferring that the nuisance exists within this town. I regret having to publish the report, as it is not good policy to court success on the downfall of another, but self-preservation being the law of nature, it is necessary for the council to follow the example of its western and northern neighbors, viz., to deny the "soft impeachment."—Yours, &c.,

W. G. Swift, Town Clerk.
8th Feb., 1894.

[Copy of Report].

"I have the honor to report (as requested) *re* the pollution of the Merri Creek by piggeries. I visited and followed the creek from boundary to boundary and found that there is not any person living within the Northcote side that keeps pigs. I may state that there are two piggeries on the Brunswick side abutting on the creek."

CRICKET.

SPORTS DEPOT MATTING TROPHY.

NORTHCOTE v. MALVERN.

This match was continued last Saturday. Leydin and Dredge were absent from the Northcote team, which was captained by Jenkin. The wicket and ground were fast, and the Malvern gave a fine display of batting, Ballantyne and Taylor being worthy of special mention. The latter is a very attractive batsman, and made his runs without giving a chance. The locals tried six bowlers, the best being W. Hayes, who got two wickets, besides having several chances missed off his bowling. The fielding was decidedly loose, a notable exception being T. Jenkin, who had a large share of the work, which was well done. Upon Ballantyne and Cook taking their places at the wickets, Buckley and Coomber started the bowling. Runs came freely and Jenkin and W. Hayes took up the bowling. Ballantyne, who was nearing 50, put the latter's third ball up at short leg, but was let off. Hayes was troubling the batsmen a little, and Cook, pulling a ball to leg, was well caught by T. Jenkin. 3—29—147. Beattie was next and had made 5 when he put a ball from Hayes up in the slips, Coomber springing at it but failing to hold the ball. Ballantyne was immediately after run out by J. Jenkins' smart fielding. The retiring batsman had rendered his side valuable service. 4—72—165. Fowler followed, but soon lost Beattie, who was splendidly caught by Coomber. 5—13—168. Dunlop joined Fowler and the best stand of the innings was made. Change after change was made in the bowling, but a separation was not effected till just upon time, when Coomber clean bowled Dunlop, the stumps then being drawn. The partnership added 104 runs, and was a very good display, although Dunlop should have been easily stumped when he had made 4. Play will be resumed to-day.

The following are the scores:—

NORTHCOTE.

First Innings 676

MALVERN—First Innings.

Hatherall, c T. Hayes b W. Hayes	0
Crouch, c Coomber b Dredge	34
Ballantyne, run out	72
Coote, c T. Jenkin, by W. Hayes	29
Beattie, c Coomber, b W. Hayes	13
Dunlop, b Coomber	35
Fowler, not out	65
Sundries	24
Total for 6 wkts.	272

PRESTON DISTRICT v. KEW.

This match was commenced at the Preston Park last Saturday. The District were first sent to the wickets. Fyfe and Richardson opened to the bowling of Jennings and Watson. A very fair stand was made, the 1st wicket not falling until 47 appeared on the scoring board, when Fyfe, who was well set, was stumped for a well-played 32. Richardson batted patiently for 17, as also did G. Westmoreland 9 (run out), Thomas 12, R. Paterson 10, Watson 10, the innings closing for 113. Kew opened their innings by sending in Witchell and Churcher, the last-named being run out before scoring. At the drawing of the stumps Kew had 5 wickets down for 42, Witchell 15 (not out), and Piningear 13, were the principal scorers. The match will be resumed to-day. Supporters are reminded that during the progress of the match to-day a subscription will be taken up in aid of the funds of the club.

BOND'S TROPHY.

Southern Cross v. All Saints.—This match was concluded in the Preston Park last Saturday, and resulted in a meritorious victory for the former club, the Saints' wickets going down like sinners before the Cross's bowling. Scores:—Southern Cross, 1st innings, 53; E. Mehegan (20) and C. Horton (8) batted well; 2nd innings, 37; W. Butler (8) and C. Horton (8) batted best; grand total, 90. All Saints, 1st innings, 47; Wilkinson (20) batted well; 2nd innings, 20; G. Smart, jun. (10, not out) was the only one who could make anything of a stand; grand total, 67. Majority for Southern Cross, 23 runs. E. Mehegan bowled splendidly, capturing 10 wickets for 12 runs.

Northcote 2nd v. A.N.A. This match was finished last Saturday and resulted in a win for the former by 9 wkts. and 4 runs. Scores—A.N.A., 62 and 72; total, 134; Northcote, 121 and 1 wkt. for 17, total, 138. Rogers 11, Neil 20, Thrupp 29, Rule 24, batted best for A.N.A. A. Lamloy 43, Curtis 32, Swift 27, Callison 6 (not out) and 14 (not out) batted best for Northcote Buckley, Wise, Curtis, and Lamley (Northcote) and Thrupp, Mutimer, and Reid (A.N.A.) shared the bowling honors.

Northcote Juniors v. Clarendon. This match will be played opposite Croxton Park this afternoon. The following will represent the Juniors:—Nichols (capt.), Lamberth, Burrell, Cogle, Ferguson, Callison, Mason, Davies, Quenault, Yeomans, Burnell.

At a social at the Lodge-room of the Peacock Hotel on Tuesday evening Messrs W. Buckley and J. Jenkin were each presented with orders to obtain trophies to the value of 30s. in commemoration of the recent record they put up against Malvern in making 256 runs for one wicket. The presentation was made by the president of the club (Mr. W. S. Stott) who remarked on the excellence of the play of the recipients. Messrs Buckley and Jenkin responded and thanked the secretary for the way he worked for the trophies. In reply Mr. Taylor informed the gentlemen present that two others had broken the record and he hoped the club, before the end of the season, would show their appreciation. Messrs Bert. Patey, Coomber, Porena, O'Meara, Brooks, Samuelson, Taylor, Humphries, and Smith contributed songs and T. Jenkin favored the company with a recitation entitled "Cricket, Northcote v. Richmond City," which includes most of all the players. Altogether a very pleasant evening was spent.

BEREAVEMENT NOTICE.

Mr. and Mrs P. Lynch desire to return sincere thanks to many friends for their kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, etc., in connection with their recent bereavement.

NORTHCOTE LADIES' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

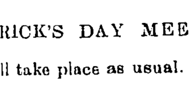
His Worship the Mayor, Cr. Yeomans will hold a MEETING in his room, Town Hall, Monday, 11th inst., at 8 p.m., to consider best means of securing a sufficient income to provide for poor of the district. All interested in charitable work invited.

F. L. TOBIN,
Hon. Sec.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, NORTHCOTE.

HARVEST FESTIVAL SERVICES
Begin at 8 p.m.,
FRIDAY, 15th FEB.
Preacher—
THE VERY REVEREND THE DEAN OF MELBOURNE.

TOWN HALL, NORTHCOTE,
Tuesday, February 26th.
Third Appearance of the
NORTHCOTE AMATEUR MINSTRELS,
With several new Artists and all the old favorites. Watch future Advts.



THOMASTOWN RACES.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY MEETING
Will take place as usual.

TOWN OF NORTHCOTE.

His Worship the Mayor earnestly requests the attendance of all Ratepayers at a MEETING to be held in the Mayor's Room on MONDAY next, the 11th inst., at 8 p.m., to consider the Financial Position of the Local Ladies' Benevolent Society, and to devise some means of procuring a sufficient income to meet the wants of the destitute and infirm residents of the town.

(By order),
W. G. SWIFT,
Town Clerk.
9th February, 1895.

A Sale of Work !!!
both useful and ornamental,
will be held on
TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY,
12th and 13th inst.,
In the Wesleyan Church, Prince of Wales' Park, in aid of the Funds of the Sunday School, to be opened at 7 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday by Rev. S. Scholes.

Choice Programmes of Vocal and Instrumental Music each evening.
Admission—Silver Coin.

Come and bring the children and friends and enjoy yourselves. All useful articles at extremely low prices to suit the times.

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF EAST BOURKE BOROUGHS.—NORTHCOTE DIVISION.

LIST OF NAMES OBJECTED TO ON LIST OF RATEPAYING ELECTORS:—

5, Adams John; 21, Allan Frank; 24, Allan Edward; 27, Allen S. J.; 32, Anderson Frank; 40, Andrews William; 47, Ardley Albert S.; 50, Armstrong William E; 54, Ashulan, Lambert J.; 59, Auty, Joseph I.; 71, Bains Thomas; 75, Baldie John; 80, Barbor James; 81, Barbeta Peter; 82, Barclay George; 92, Barr J.; 93, Barr W.; 94, Barrett, Arthur; 97, Barton Cornelius; 111, Beaver, Benjamin; 134 Berthelson William; 140, Bird Alfred; 146, Black Robert J.; 149, Blair James; 169, Bowman Edward A.; 174, Brabet A. C.; 181, Bradley, James; 182, Bradley Robert H.; 183, Bradshaw Maunsel; 195, Brett Henry; 199, Brewster Joseph; 201, Brice Harry; 211 Broadhurst Richard; 216, Brodie Patrick; 218, Bromilow Joseph; 221, Brookes Joseph; 230, Brown Ralph; 244, Bryant James; 245, Bryant Joseph 246, Bryant Wm J.; 259, Burren, Thos.; 260, Burridge Joseph; 271, Byrne Stephen; 303, Cawley Charles W; 306, Chance Albert W.; 327, Clarke Samuel; 328, Clauscen George C.; 333, Clifton, Maxmillian; 334, Clough, John; 352, Colliver Alfred; 359, Connolly, James; 362, Conway John; 364, Cook, George; 365, Cook John W.; 372, Cooper, John; 374, Coote, James; 375, Corben, Hubert B.; 376, Cordwell John W.; 399, Craig Alexander; 405, Crawford George 408, Creak, John L.; 409, Cree —; 411, Crispe Charles; 421, Cutler Alfred; 429, Davies Charles; 432, Davies John; 437, Davies H. Meredith; 441, Day, W. G.; 447, Dellar Edward; 455, Denyer, James T.; 456, Denyer William; 468, Dodd George; 470, Doherty John; 477, Douglas Alexander; 480, Dove William; 505, Dyer Henry; 521, Eccleston James; 551, Everitt Alfred; 561, Farrell, John; 564, Ferguson, George; 567, Ferguson Thomas; 577, Fisher Arthur; 580, Fitzgerald Patrick; 593, Forrest Walter; 605, Fox Joel; 608, Frahen Christopher; 609, Francis William; 624, Galland Isidore; 635, Gaul John; 646, Gilbert William Henry; 652, Glanfield George; 653, Glanfield John G.; 661, Golding John; 662, Golding Richard; 667, Goodrich Joshua; 680, Green J.; 698, Griffiths H. L.; 709, Gurney Richard T.; 715, Halligan James; 717, Hamilton James; 720, Hancock Daniel; 721, Hancock George; 723, Hanks John; 745, Harvey —; 758, Haynes Frederick; 761, Heagney Patrick; 796, Hodtroft William; 803, Hollingsworth George F; 819, Hoskings C.; 831, Hunt Harry; 833, Hunter Alexander S.; 837, Hurford William; 842, Hynes Henry; 850, Irvine John; 860, Jarrett George; 861, Jarvie, Charles; 863, Jarvie Walter; 864, Jeffries George; 867, Jenkins Joseph H.; 869, Jephcott Thomas; 871, Johnson —; 878, Johnson E. R.; 886, Johnston Henry; 887, Johnston E. W.; 903, Joubert Louis; 913, Keele Arthur; 914, Keele William; 917, Keleher John; 927, Kennewell Jonathan T.; 929, Kenny, Robert A.; 931, Kent Benjamin; 942, Kinchela, C. L.; 947, King John; 952, Kirkwood James; 957, Knott Harry; 967, Laing David; 968, Laing James E.; 972, Landells Burns B.; 974, Lang Alfred; 975, Langan Thomas; 1003, Leonard G.; 1009, Levy Henry; 1021, Little William; 1025, Lobb W. J.; 1036, Lucas Mack Carr; 1072, Martin Daniel; 1087, May James; 1099, Merrick Stephen R.; 1111, Miller William; 1112, Miller William; 1113, Miller William H.; 1115, Mills Stephen; 1119, Milsom George jun; 1136, Moon Arthur; 1139, Moore Frederick; 1150, Morris Richard; 1157, Moulden Gerald; 1158, Moult Frederick; 1159, Mountford Samuel; 1166, Mulway Robert; 1171, Murphy Nicholas; 1137, McAllum John; 1179, McBean John; 1189, McCulloch James; 1191, McDonald Alexander; 1193, McDonald George; 1197, McEvoy C.; 1199, McGan James; 1214, McKinnon Peter, 1224, McMahon Patrick; 1238, Newcombe Charles A.; 1240, Newton John P.; 1243, Nicholls William; 1245, Northey Joel; 1246, Northwood Charles; 1256, Oldfield Law; 1264, Osborne George; 1266, O'Brien William T.; 1268, O'Connor Joseph; 1271, O'Grady Bernard G.; 1275, O'Meara Thomas; 1278, O'Shea John; 1290, Parrish Henry A.; 1297, Paterson —; 1301, Paul Thomas; 1306, Peel Howard G.; 1331, Plumbe Henry; 1337, Powell Richard; 1348, Pridgeon George; 1349; Pridham William B.; 1359, Pullyblank Francis; 1362, Ralph A. R.; 1367, Rankine Edward; 1368, Rankine Henry G.; 1374, Rea Noble; 1376, Reed Thomas; 1383, Rhodes Andrew; 1419, Robinson Samuel; 1421, Rogers Alexander; 1422, Rogers Walter; 1435, Ryall Frederick; 1438, Saschse, Arthur; 1455, Schosnick Carl; 1465, Scrimgeour William; 1467, Sealy Frederick J.; 1470, Seeger Christian; 1491, Simpson, E. M.; 1504, Smith —; 1505, Smith Albert E.; 1506, Smith Alexander; 1511, Smith Augustus; 1519, Smith George; 1522, Smith, George H.; 1553, Starling James; 1561, Stephens, William; 1566, Stonham Charles; 1569, Stranger H.; 1592, Tassell, Harry; 1598, Taylor, Thomas W.; 1602, Teare John; 1619, Thompson, Robert; 1623, Thomson William; 1626, Thornhill, Major J.; 1646, Tout William; 1647, Trapnell Thomas; 1652, Turk William A.; 1656, Turner, T. R.; 1657, Twaddle Hugh; 1683, Walker Joseph H; 1684, Walkley, Thomas H.; 1700, Wass Frederick; 1701, Wass John; 1713, Watson John; 1716, Watson William; 1731, Wells Thomas; 1733, Westcott Isaac; 1738, Whelan James; 1741, White Daniel; 1755, Whyte, Hugh J.; 1760, Wignall James; 1762, Wilcox, James; 1770, Williams William; 1771, Williamson Henry; 1773, Willis Arthur 1775, Wilmot Albert; 1785, Wilson, John E.; 1789, Wise William D.; 1794 Wood Frederick J; 1805, Wright Henry.

The Numbers are those of the Rights shown on the General List. Full particulars of persons objected to may be seen without fee at my office.

F. BRAIDING, Electoral Registrar.

INDUCTION OF THE REV. A. F. FERGUSON.

The Presbytery of Maryborough met on Wednesday in the Presbyterian Church, Donald, to induct the Rev. A. F. Ferguson. The Moderator of the Presbytery, the Rev. Mr. Thompson, of Dunolly, presided, and after praise and prayer the Rev. Mr. Robinson, of Birchip, preached the induction sermon. Thereafter the Rev. Mr. Vance, of St. Arnaud, solemnly inducted the new minister to the pastorate of the church at Donald.

The Rev. Mr. Ferguson, who was born near the foot of the Queen of Scottish lakes, is the youngest son of the late Mr. Hector Ferguson, rector of the Islay Grammer School, and brother to the Rev. Hector Ferguson of Northcote. He took his arts course in Glasgow University, and thereafter in the Presbyterian College, Edinbugh, where he finished his theological studies.

THE EVENING MEETING.

At 8 o'clock there was a very large number in readiness at the Presbyterian Church to welcome the new pastor, the church being very tastefully decorated. Members of the different churches in Donald were also present, and altogether Mr. Ferguson must be gratified with the hearty and genuine greeting he received.

The Rev. A. F. Ferguson said he felt that he belonged to them now, and he did not feel any strangeness towards them. Neither did he feel strangeness in accepting the charge, for it was not the first occasion on which he had occupied such an important position. Shortly he hoped to meet them in their own homes, and then they would become intimate and know each other much better. He felt the Lord had sent him to Donald, and he believed his labors among them would be blessed. He felt with them that he was in his proper place in Donald. God had sent him or he would not be there. He had been in America and he loved it, but he loved Victoria more. He had had excellent prospects there, but he had been directed to come to Australia. He had come to Donald to act under the orders of the Great King with the co-operation of the congregation, and with Divine assistance he hoped they would move forward together, but they never could grow strong together unless they were led by the love of Christ. In conclusion, Mr. Ferguson humorously told his hearers that one advantage of his being a bachelor was that instead of being compelled to love a wife alone he was able to love all the members of his congregation. He hoped if they saw him in a white coat they would not think him unorthodox, for he could assure them he was terribly orthodox. They could, however, depend on one thing—he would always preach to them the story of Jesus and His love. The conclusion of Mr. Ferguson's speech was greeted with loud and continuous applause.

The Rev. M. Robertson (Birchip), the Rev. Mr. Thomson (Dunolly) and the Rev. Mr. Vance, also delivered suitable addresses, which were interspersed with singing, the meeting subsequently closing with a vote of thanks to the visiting clergymen.—Abridged from the *Donald Express*.

MORE LIGHT.

[TO THE EDITOR].

SIR,—A petition signed by a large number of interested ratepayers of the Central Ward was presented by Cr. Campbell at the last meeting of the council asking for the erection of a lamp at the intersection of Hawthorn Road and Eastment Street. In your report of the meeting it is said that a councillor queried whether such a lamp was necessary. If that councillor will walk down Hawthorn Road from High Street turning up Eastment Street on a dark night I have no doubt he will be convinced even if it were against his will of the necessity there is for a lamp at the corner of the said Eastment Street which is both narrow and dark. It is hoped that the matter may be considered urgent, and that the surveyor be requested to report the matter to the public works committee as soon as possible. Yours, &c.,

A RATEPAYER.

7/2/95.

THE PROPOSED PRESTON TALLOW FACTORY.

[TO THE EDITOR.]

SIR,—I see that a Mr. Collins has given notice of his intention to apply for a boiling down license abutting upon Oakover Road and a considerable distance away from any population. It being currently rumoured that sentimental objections will be raised against granting the license I made it my business to visit an adjoining shire, viz., Heidelberg, and whilst there inspected the premises of Tyrrell Bros., butchers, and found that they had just killed 20 lambs, 14 calves and 11 pigs, and 10 minutes afterwards no one, however good a nose he might possess, would know that any killing had been done on the premises, which premises are situated in the centre of the township. Some few years ago Mowling and Son paid upwards of £4000 for land in Oakover Road with a view to the erection of a candle and soap factory, the estimated total outlay being little short of £10,000. This industry, which would have paid out in wages alone £10,000 per annum, was lost to the shire through the vaccilating policy of the council. Are we going to allow the same suicidal policy to be carried out in this instance. Any one with a grain of common sense knows that the conditions of the Health Act are so stringent that (assuming the health officer does his duty) it is utterly impossible for any noxious industry to remain a nuisance or a menace to public health. The existing industries are a credit to the place, be they termed noxious or otherwise, and the more we get established in suitable localities the better for everybody who has a vested interest in the district. Yours, &c.,

RESIDENT RATEPAYER.

Preston, 1/2/95.

The Reason Why

MACKENZIE'S is a good shop to buy your Boots and Shoes :—

Because they give solid wear.
Because he has a good stock to choose from.
Because his prices suit the dull times.
Because his Boots and Shoes are made from selected material.
Because his Goods are well put together and firm.
Because he gives you first class value.
Send on your repairs
Because he uses good leather and charges reasonable, and
Because it will pay you to go there.

The Address is W. MACKENZIE, Boot Warehouse, Plenty Road, South Preston, near corner of Bell Street, and don't you forget it!

Announcements

CHANDLERS',

THE NOTED

Cheap Cash Ironmongers,

HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE,

AND

247 BRUNSWICK ST., FITZROY.

Cheapest and Best place to buy IRONMONGERY, CROCKERY, TINWARE, Brushes, Brooms, &c.

Make your own SODA WATER.—Seltzogene's Systeme Defevre.—3 pint, 10s 6d; 5 pint, 14s; 8 pint, 20s. Charges equally cheap. Sodawater costs about ½d pint when made in Seltzogene, and is the best that can be got.

Knives and Forks from 3s. half-dozen; Teaspoons, from 1s 3d ½-dozen; Dessert and Table Spoons equally low. Ivovoid Table Knives, 7s half-dozen; Ivovoid Dessert Knives, 6s half-dozen; Carvers, 5s 6d pair; Steels, 1s 6d each; look and wear equal to Ivory; made specially in Sheffield to our order. Nickle Silver Tea, Table, and Dessert Spoons and Forks never change color—buy them. Pocket Knives—a large variety to choose from. Butchers' Knives, Steels, and Choppers.

Cherry Churns to make 6lbs., 21s 6d. All sizes on hand. Milk Buckets, 1s, 1s 6d, 1s 10d, and 2s 3d; Strainer Buckets, 2s 3d and 3s 3d; Strainers, 9d and 1s each; Skimmers, 5d each; Milk Dishes, Butter Pats, Prints, &c.

Halters from 7d each; Bridles, 2s 9d each; Harness Liquid and Black Oil, 10d bottle; Neatsfoot Oil and Castor Oil, 3s gallon, 10d per bottle; Axle Grease, 6d tin; 28lb kegs Axle Grease, 5s 6d a keg; Hames from 3s pair.

Wringers from 15s each; Tubs from 2s 3d; Washup Dishes from 7d each; Hose very cheap; Royal's Unione, ½in., 1s 6d, ¾in., 2s each; Hose directors, rose and jet, from 1s 6d each.

Glass cut to any size; Whitelead, Redlead, Putty, Boiled and Raw Oil, Terebine, Goldsize, Varnish, Mixed Paint and Colors, Paint and Whitewash Brushes.

Saucepans, Kettles, and Boilers; Brooms and Brushes; Axes, a great variety from 3s each; Handles, best in Northcote; Spades, Shovels, Picks, and Pick Handles; Detonators, Dynamite, Fuse, and Blasting Powder.

Harvest Tools.—Scythe, complete with grass hooks, 5s 3d; Blades from 3s each; Hay Forks, from 1s; Hay Rakes, wire teeth, 1s 3d; Reaper and Binder Twine; Hay Rope, strong, 4d lb., full weight.

400 gallon Tank, with tap, 50s.

Guns, Ammunition, &c; Cartridges, Kangaroo, 10s 6d per 100; Excelsior Cartridges, 8s 6d per 100. And a large variety of other goods at the lowest prices.

When you want anything in the Ironmongery line get it at

Chandlers',

HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE,
And Brunswick St., Fitzroy.

NORTHCOTE PUBLIC AND

Circulating Library.

BOOKS
BOOKS

Subscription, 2/6 per quarter.

The residents of Northcote are hereby notified that a CIRCULATING LIBRARY has been established, the fee of membership being 10s per annum, payable quarterly in advance (quarter commences from date of payment) which will entitle each member to have the use of any book in the Library, which contains almost every branch of literature.

The committee respectfully request the hearty support of al residens, and feel certain that the establishment of an institution of so much value as a means of education and entertainment deserves every encouragement.

Full information may be obtained from the Librarian, who is empowered to receive subscriptions and issue books. Catalogues, together with rules and regulations, may be had on application.

Library open every evening from 7 to 10 p.m.

W. G. SWIFT, Hon. Sec.

Announcements.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

THE METROPOLITAN GAS CO.

Having Purchased the Plant and Business of the NORTHERN GAS CO., in the

SHIRE OF PRESTON,

IS now prepared to receive Orders for a Supply of Gas at the Rate of 4s 8d½d per 1000 cubic feet.

Application to be made to the Secretary at the Head Office, opposite Princes' Bridge Railway Station.

GAS STOVES in great variety, can be inspected at the SHOW ROOMS, and hired for 12 months from 1s 6d per month.

The Newest Styles of Special Lamps, Globes, and Burners kept in Stock.

Societies

GWALIA LODGE No. 264, U.A.O.D.

REDUCED INITIATION FEES

For three months only, commencing Dec. 8th, 1894.

The above Lodge, having been granted a special permission by the Board of Directors to initiate at reduced rates, are now prepared to enrol candidates at the following scale—

16 and under 25 years ... 5s.
25 and under 30 years ... 10s.

Over 30, the usual rate, viz.,—

30 and under 35 ... £1 10s 0d.
35 and under 40 ... £3 0s 0d.

The Gwalia Lodge meets at the Peacock Inn, Northcote. Alternate MONDAYS.

Next Lodge Night—February 18th

Lodge Surgeons.—Drs. E. J. Bird, T Beckett, G. Horne, W. H. Stock, and W. C Wilkinson.

Dispensers.—J. Christopher and J. Slade.

As the time is limited, intending Candidates are requested to join at once.

The Secretary will attend at the Lodge Room every Monday evening for the purpyse of enrolling members. Full particulars from any of the members, or

J. M. ARNOLD, SEC.,
Latham St., Northcote.

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIVES Literary & Benefit Association, PRESTON BRANCH No. 51,

Meet every alternate Tuesday at Reading and Recreation Club Rooms, South Preston.

Every Australian Native should join this the only truly National and Patriotic Society.

Next Meeting—Tuesday, 12th Feb.

Medical attendance and medicine immediately on joining.

Sick Pay 6 months after admission.

First-class LIBRARY for use of Members. Non members, 2s per Qr.

Further information may be obtained from the secretary—

GEO. C. WINNETT,
Warr's Avenue, South Preston.

PRESTON GOSPEL TEMPERance and Blue Ribbon Mission.

INTERESTING PUBLIC MEETINGS

Held Fortnightly in the Foresters Hall, High street, North Preston.

Next Meeting—Feb. 9th.

Programme of Songs, Duets, Dialogues, and Shadow Pantomime by Temperance Company from Carlton. Admission—a coin.

W. C. WILLIAMS, Hon. Sec.

SOUTH PRESTON GOSPEL Temperance and Blue Ribbon Mission.

GOOD ENTERTAINMENTS

Held every alternate SATURDAY Evenings in Bradford Hall, South Preston, at 8 o'clock.

Next Meeting—Feb. 16th. Chairman, Mr. D. Donovan. Programme supplied by Mr. J. Goad.

Members' Tickets, 6d per Quarter. Admission—A Coin.

A. J. ROBINSON, Hon. Sec.,
South Preston

I.O.R.

Star of Northcote Tent

No. 217,

MEETS in Wesleyan Schoolroom, Northcote, Fortnightly.

Next Meeting—Feb. 21st.

Quoit Match—Juveniles v. Adults.

A few of the advantages of the above society are :—

No initiation fees. Graduated scale of payments.

No Levies, largest Benefits, greatest Security.

Strictly Temperance principles, and consequently low death rate.

When you join a benefit society, join the best.

Let your boys join the Juvenile branch in connection with the above and be trained in Temperance, Thrift, and Business.

W. H. ROBILLIARD,
Secretary, Mitchell-street, Northcote.
(next P.M. Church).

L. Ruxton,

CATERER AND FRUITERER.

Tea Meetings, Socials, Parties, Balls, catered for at Lowest Rates.

ESTIMATES GIVEN.

A Trial Solicited. Crockery on hire

Note well the Address—
HIGH STREET
Exactly op Lawry St.

MRS. STEWART,

Ladies' Nurse,

5 MITCHELL-STREET, NORTHCOTE.

References if required.

Announcements

A. S. Whitchell,

LICENSED SANITARY

PLUMBER AND GASFITTER, of Northcote Street,

Has commenced business in

HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE,

2 doors below Wesleyan Church.

Baths made from 12/6. Electric Bells fitted up from 12/6, guaranteed for 12 months. Water & Gas laid on, Water Meters fixed and Repaired. Repairs of all kinds done at lowest rates.

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W. A. Harrison

Begs to announce that he may be consulted as above at any time at his VETERINARY SHOEING FORGE, High Street, Northcote.

Good Stock of Horse, Cattle and Dog Medicines always on hand.

Charges for attendance and Medicine moderate.

MISS JESSIE FITZPATRICK (Successor to Mrs. Griffiths),

QUEEN'S PARADE,

CLIFTON HILL,

Has First-class Servants waiting engagement.

Ladies can rely on being faithfully served and readily attended to.

FRESH FRUIT, CHOICE CONFECTIONERY
SUMMER DRINKS
And SCHOOL REQUISITES.

DAVIES & STEEL'S

Annual Summer Sale!

IS NOW ON.

IMMENSE REDUCTIONS IN PRICES.

We never quote Prices which are altogether misleading, but as we make it a rule to absolutely quit our Summer Goods at the end of the Season, purchasers can rely on

SECURING STERLING BARGAINS

in all Classes of Goods.

TERMS—STRICTLY CALH.

117, 119, 121, 123,

BRUNSWICK STREET,

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(Few doors from Gertrude Street).

PUBLIC NOTICE.

A Long-felt Want supplied at last.—

CHEAP CASH BUTCHER.

S. Steers

Begs to announce to the residents of Preston and surrounding district that he has again opened in the above business at

HIGH ST., PRESTON
(near Regent St.)

Having made arrangements with the best markets he can now offer to the Public First-class Goods at the lowest possible prices. Don't forget that—Cheapest and the Best. Small goods daily. Families waited upon for orders.

"He who in the world would rise, Must either fail or advertise."

Try an Ad. in the "Leader." The rate is low and the PROFIT great!

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The Leader

IF you have a good Business, *Advertise* and keep it.

IF your business is falling off, *Advertise* and regain it.

IF you have no business, *Advertise* and get one.

IF you are running a concert, etc., and wish it to be successful, *Advertise* it thoroughly.

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PRINTING

Executed Promptly,

Executed Cheaply,

Executed Well.

BUSINESS MEN and Others may prove this beyond doubt by leaving their ORDERS at the LEADER office.

Orders by post receive immediate attention.

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MEMO. FORMS
DELIVERY BOOKS
RECEIPT BOOKS
POSTERS
HANDBILLS
DODGERS
CIRCULARS
BALL PROGRAMMES
CONCERT PROGRAMMES
WINDOW CARDS
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MENU CARDS
INVITATION CARDS
IN MEMORIAM CARDS
BALANCE SHEETS
PAMPHLETS
LODGE BOOKS
ENVELOPES

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As the Local Firm we rely upon the support of the local people, whose interests, in common with our own, we endeavor to advance

WHALLEY BROS.,
LEADER Office,
Northcote

Agents, etc.

R. BAILEY,

HOUSE, LAND & ESTATE AGENT,

CHARLES ST., NORTHCOTE.

Agent for the Royal Insurance Company, the largest and wealthiest company in the world, and with surplus reserve funds believed to be unequalled by any other joint stock company in the world, except the Bank of England.

Fire Risks of all kinds taken.

Lowest Rates.
Promptitude.
Liberality.

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STOTT & BASTINGS

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Auction Sales Arranged.
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(3 doors from Town-hall).

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HOWDEN & CO.,

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HIGH STREET, PRESTON,
Close to Bell-street.

Persons in search of Homes with large area of land, consult us.

Poultry breeders and dairymen.—Farms to suit.

Houses to let in all parts of Preston.

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Irrigation Blocks and Fruit Culture a Speciality,

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Announcements.

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TEA AND COFFEE MERCHANT.

Pure India and China Tea, original packages or blended. Small or large quantities supplied.

The BEST Quality for the money at the LOWEST CITY PRICES.

MELBOURNE AND SOUTH PRESTON

Note.—Business communications to be addressed to South Preston.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

HAVING obtained the LICENSE to Sell

Australian Wines

in any quantity, I am prepared to supply the very best article at prices in accordance with the times, viz.:—

Port Wine	11d,	1s 6d,	2s
Shiraz	10d,	1s 6d,	2s
Verdeilho	...	1s 6d,	2s
Hermitage	...	1s 6d,	2s
Madeira	...	1s 6d,	2s
Claret	...	1s 6d,	2s
Constantia	...	1s 6d,	2s
Muscat	...	1s 6d,	2s
Frontignac	...	1s 6d,	2s

IN BULK:

6d per pint, 1s per quart, 3s per gallon and upwards.

To be obtained from

ROBERT WILLIS.

Cash Grocer,

And

WHOLESALE

WINE
&
SPIRIT

MERCHANT,

Corner of HIGH and SEPARATION STREETS

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Northcote Leader.

Largest Circulation and Best Advertising Medium in the Northern Suburbs.

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Produce Merchants.

SMALL PROFITS AND QUICK RETURNS.

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J. MUNRO AND CO.

Prices Unequalled.
Quality Unsurpassed.
A Trial Solicited.

AND

GENERAL PRODUCE MERCHANTS,
GENERAL PRODUCE MERCHANTS,
GENERAL PRODUCE MERCHANTS,

HIGH-ST., NORTHCOTE.

NOTICE :—The Public are hereby notified that owing to a change in partnership the firm hitherto known as ROWE & MUNRO will in future carry on business as MUNRO & CO.

In soliciting the patronage of residents of Northcote, Preston, & neighboring districts the new firm wish it to be fully known that they are determined to keep none but the BEST in ALL LINES, and will sell at the Lowest Margin of Profit.

J. MUNRO, Manager.

NORTHCOTE

CHEAP CASH PRODUCE

STORES.

B. E. JOHNSON

TAKES this opportunity to thank his numerous friends and cus- [illegible] them that he has decided to CUT the PRICES for CASH and sell at the lowest possible prices. Having made arrangements to procure

STRAW
HAY
WHEAT
OATS
BRAN
POLLARD, etc.

Direct from the producer, he is able to supply the public at FIRST COST, thus saving all middlemen's profits.

Very best country Chaff kept, and pure Oats—no adulteration.

Horse, Cow, and Fowl Feed delivered in any part of Northcote and surrounding districts.

WHOLESALE PRICES for large quantities.

B.E.J. hopes the public will give him a trial and satisfy themselves.

Chris. Fry,

(Late Jas. Blair)

PRODUCE MERCHANT & SEEDSMAN,

HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE
(near Clifton Hill),

WISHES to notify that he has on Sale—Hay, Straw, Oats, Bran, Pollard, Peas, Maize, Wheat, Barley, Onions, Potatoes, Carrots, Prairie Grass, Rye, White Clover, Red Clover, Cow Grass, Lucerne, Alseyke, and all kinds of farm and garden seeds in great variety.

Prime Chaff, Oats, Potatoes, and Cow Chaff specialities.

WOOD, COAL, & COKE
At lowest Rates.

Perry & Grey,

TOBACCONISTS AND HAIRDRESSERS,

High Street, Northcote.

TOBACCO & CIGARS of the Finest Quality.

A Choice Assortment of Fancy Goods.

WOOLS, STATIONERY, AND CROCKERY.

A Trial Solicited.

EDEN PARK GRAZING PADDOCKS.

3000 Acres, Good Grass, Shelter and Water.

Horses, 15/- per quarter; Cattle, 9/-. Reduction for quantity.

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P.O., Woodstock.

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Pharmaceutical and Dispensing

CHEMIST,

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PRESCRIPTIONS prepared accurately with the best Drugs and Chemicals.

BEWARE.

Dimmick's Great 'Xmas Sale !!!

BOOTS ALMOST GIVEN AWAY!

STARTLING PRICES! JUST HAVE A LOOK AT THEM

Strong Nailed Watertights, 6/9 Nailed lace Boots, 6/6 Bluchers from 3/11

Ladies Tan Shoes, 4/6, 5/6, 6/6
Children's Tan 3-strap shoes, 1/- to 6, 2/6 and 2/9; do. 7 to 9, 3/3 and 3/6; do. 10 to 13, 3/11—surprising.
Ladies' Glace Shoes, 4/6
Ladies' Leather Shoes, 3/11, special line guaranteed
Children's do., 7 to 9, 2/3; 10 to 13, 2/9—unequalled anywhere,
look at them hanging at the door.
Ladies' Elastic Sides, 4/11, originally 6/6
Ladies' Glace Bals, 5/11, worth 7/6
Gent's Golosh Bals, 5/11
Gent's Golosh Bals, 6/6
Gent's Golosh Bals, 7/6
Canvas Shoes, 2/11

Children's School Boots, 1/9, 2/6, 3/6 Maids' Strong Boots, 1s and 2s, 3/6

Preston Timber Yard,

HIGH STRET, PRESTON
(Opposite Dr. Wilkinson's).

C. CRISPE & CO.

HAVE pleasure in announcing to the public of Northcote, Preston, Epping Whittlesea, Diamond Creek, Greensborough, and surrounding districts that they have opened a Timber yard at the above address.

Flooring	Lime	Galv. Iron	Oregon	Hardwood, 3 x 2, 4/3
Lining	Cement	Bolts	Deals	5ft. Pailings, 10/-
Weatherboards	Spouting	Nails	Oils	6ft. Pailings, 4/6
Mouldings	Ridging	Paints	Sashes	Redgum

AND EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING MATERIALS AT LOWEST MELBOURNE PRICES.

NOTE THE ADDRESS AND GIVE THEM A CALL.

SMALL PROFITS.

SUMMER

SUITINGS

IN GREAT VARIETY AND AT ALMOST EVERY PRICE, AT

INCE BROS.

—All Goods Shrunk through Water.—

The usual standard of EXCELLENCE in FIT and STYLE Guaranteed.

INCE BROS., Tailors, 174 Swanston Street.

"THULINIUS"

THE

Great Scandinavian Remedy

FOR

RHEUMATISM (Acute or Chronic).
CHALKY GOUT, GOUT,
RHEUMATIC FEVER and its Effects,
SCIATICA, LUMBAGO, NEURALGIA.
PAINS IN THE HEAD.
RHEUMATIC AFFECTIONS of the EYES,
INDIGESTION, FLATUENCE,
DYSPEPSIA.
LIVER AND KIDNEY DISORDERS.
BRIGHT'S DISEASE,
CHEST & PULMONARY COMPLAINTS,
NERVOUS EXHAUSTION, and all Blood and Skin Diseases (hereditary or acquired).
&c., &c.,

Invaluable as a recuperative Tonic, and Preventative of Illness in either sex.

PRICE, 5s per bottle, or course of 5 bottles for £1 1s.

Carriage and Postage Extra.
Forwarded to all parts of the World on receipt of remittance.

Depot—15 Victoria Arcade Sydney
Entrance from Elizabeth Street.
Near King Street and Castlereagh Street.
Opposite Australian Hotel. G.P.O. Box 1105.

PROFESSOR THULINIUS.

MY DEAR SIR,—I feel I should be wanting in duty did I neglect the opportunity of sending you my testimony as to the wondrous efficacy of your rheumatic specific.

For the past ten years I have been a complete martyr to rheumatism in all its forms. I have tried doctors and hospitals at various times of suffering, and also, I think, every form of advertised remedies, and also followed the advice of well-meaning friends, with a view of effecting a cure for this most trying disease. All that I have been able to accomplish hitherto has been, at best, temporary relief from pain. I am well known, and scores can testify that at best I could only crawl about with difficulty, and are surprised at my present agility in getting about from place to place. After leaving Little Bay Hospital at the close of last year, I was persuaded to try a bottle of your "Thulinius," and in a week or so afterwards I could get about fairly well. Upon again suffering a relapse last February, I took another bottle, with an equally successful result; but at last I determined to go through a course of treatment, and have just completed my fourth bottle, with the gratifying knowledge that I am now free from pain, can walk any reasonable distance without fatigue, have an excellent appetite, and feel myself again competent to re-enter my profession, added to which my oft-repeated attacks of pleurisy have become things of the past. I have not dieted myself in any way, so all the credit is due to your wonderful remedy, under Providence, that my blood is becoming purer daily, and its effects upon my liver and kidneys most pronounced. I send you with this the date of my previous attacks and sufferings should you wish to show them; I shall only be too glad personally to convince fellow sufferers of the benefits to be derived from a course of your treatment, as exemplified in my own case after ten years' martyrdom.—I remain yours faithfully

W. H. NEWTON NEWMAN.
Teacher of Elocution, and twenty-five years [illegible]

The Rev. J. D. LANGLEY, St. Phillip's parsonage, can testify as to the crippled state of Mr. NEWMAN prior to his taking "Thulinius."

Drapers

STEPHENS

IS now selling the balance of the

Summer Goods !

Which will be cleared at Ridiculous Low Prices.

Special Value in all Manchester Goods.

In Millinery it is almost given away, and just look at the prices of Flowers, Feathers, Laces, Ribbons, etc.

Men's, Youths', and Boys' Clothing—the cheapest in the trade :—Men's Suits from 15s; Youths' do., 12s 6d; Boys' Knicker Suits from 1s 11d; Men's Shirts at 10½d, 1s., 1s 3d, 1s 6d, 1s 11d; Boys' do., from 9d each.

Men's Mole Trousers are at Manufacturer's cost and those that buy them always come again. The prices are 3s 11d, 4s 6d, and 5s 6d.

There is a large stock of all kinds of Mens' Mercery, Hats, Shirts, Collars, and Ties.

THE NOTED CHEAP HOUSE

IS

STEPHENS',

HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE.

AN ERROR RECTIFIED.

A. R. NOTTAGE,

High St., Northcote,

IS STILL TO BE FOUND. Owing to sending my old stock of Drapery and Clothing to my country branch at Wodonga, several of my customers thought that I had closed the shop in Northcote, BUT IT IS NOW READY with an ENTIRELY NEW STOCK of Men's, Boys', and Youths' Clothing at BETTER PRICES than you can get in the colony.

20 per cent. less than SALE PRICES, and NEW GOODS—No Old Stock, having disposed of it.

Nottage's Men's Suits ... 17s 10d.
Nottage's Men's All-wool Suits, 19s 11d.
Nottage's Men's Serge Suits, 17s 6d & 22s 6d.
Nottage's Better Suits at Low Prices.
Nottage's Boy Suits, 1s 11d, 2s 11d, upwards.
Nottage's Youths' Suits ... 12s 6d
Nottage's Mole Trousers, 3s 11d and 4s 11d.
Nottage's Men's Tweed Trousers, 3s 11d, 4s 11d, to 10s 6d.
Nottage's Men's Shirts, 9d, 1s., and 1s 6d.
Nottage's Hats, Shirts, and Braces, &c., better than Sale Prices.

SOMETHING STARTLING.—Trousers to order, special, at 9s 11d. Come and get a pair and try them.

A. R. NOTTAGE,

(LATE KIDNEY BROS.),

HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE,
And 220 and 222
SMITH ST., COLLINGWOOD,
Wodonga and Bacchus Marsh.

Drapery, Clothing, Etc.

IN the ASSIGNED ESTATE of S. Prisk, Corner of Bourke and Russell streets, 280 and 282 Bourke street, and 166 Smith street, Collingwood.

The BANKRUPT STOCK REALISATION COMPANY have received instructions to return to

Every purchaser of £1, 4s.
Every purchaser of 10s, 2s.
Every purchaser of 5s, 1s.
Every purchaser of 2s 6d, 6d.

All country orders accompanied by remittances promptly executed.

M. A. RAPKEN, Trade Assignee.

Dressmakers, etc.

Miss Wood,

DRESSMAKER,

Westgarth St., near High St.,
NORTHCOTE,
near Northcote South Railway station.

Dresses renovated. Terms moderate.

MRS. AND MISS BELCHER,

DRAPERS AND MILLINERS,

HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE,

Next London Bank.

Drapers

THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Are hereby requested to visit (or send their orders, accompanied by Money Orders or Postal Notes),

Brown & Scott's

GREAT SURPLUS CLEARING SALE

—OF—

FAMILY DRAPERY, CLOTHING, HATS, &c.

401 & 403 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy.

For Cash. Saturday Next. For Cash.

We make no Quotations, they are misleading, and are no indication of value or cheapness. The 5s 11d worth 17s 6d idea is played out.

YOU MUST SEE THE GOODS. A VISIT WILL REPAY YOU.

Tailors

H. C. SAUNDERS,

PRACTICAL TAILOR,

HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

Choicest Patterns of West of England, French, German and Victorian Tweeds always on hand.

Fit, workmanship & style guaranteed.

All Goods well shrunk.

Orders punctually attended to.

YOU can get a SUMMER SAC SUIT for 50/- at HEBBARD'S, corner of High and Lawry Streets, Northcote.

DON'T LOOK THIS WAY.

Clothes do not make the man perhaps,
But if he's poor in dress,
The world is bound to notice it,
And somehow love him less

FOR GOOD FIT, STYLISH CUT, GOOD WEAR, CHEAPNESS — PATRONISE "OUR TAILORS"

NOTE PRICES:

Double Breasted Sac Suit, 55/-
Trousers, ... 12/6
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Remember Address—

VEREY & CROSS,

"OUR TAILORS."

Smith Street, Collingwood.

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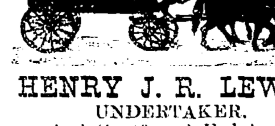

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And Certificated Embalmer,
High Street, Northcote.

HEAD OFFICE:

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Branch—Lygon street, East Brunswick.

H. L. is prepared to conduct funerals at the lowest possible rates suit all classes.

Hearses, Mourning Coaches, and funeral requisites.

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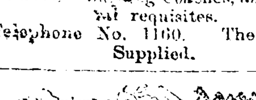

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Moor Street, Fitzroy, near Labour-in-Vain Hotel, and

High and Robe Streets, St. Kilda.

Patent and every description of Coffin at 5 minutes' notice. Hearses, Coaches, etc.

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To and from Melbourne Daily.

ORDER BOXES AT

Stott & Co's, High street; H. Lewis's (undertaker); Bagley Bros.; A. Muirhead's (ironmonger), High st. south; and at Allchin's, Sth. Preston.

CITY OFFICE—298 Lonsdale St., Telephone 1266.

Private Address—Livingstone street, South Preston.

J. T. WAGHORN,

FRUITERER & CONFECTIONER,

Plenty Rd., South Preston.

China, Glass, and Crockeryware. Fancy Goods, Toys, Stationery, and School Requisites.

PREVENTION BETTER THAN CURE.

Keep Typhoid and Hydatid Diseases out of your homes by getting JEFFERY'S New Patent Germ-Proof FILTERS.

The filter is attached to the water pipe, and furnishes a sufficiency of the purest water to meet all family requirements, without interfering with the ordinary water supply.

Local Agents—J. Munro & Co., from whom all particulars may be obtained.

Arthur Chanter,

MUS. BAC., UNIVERSITY, MELBOURNE.

Lessons—Pianoforte, Singing, Harmony, Counterpoint, Orchestration and Æsthetics of Music.

Class teaching at Reduced Terms.

Classes Pianoforte and Harmony.

ADDRESS—137 VICTORIA PARADE, or Glen's, Collins St., Tuesday and Friday afternoons.

MILKMENS'
BAKERS'
BUTCHERS'

Billheads !

Lowest Rates.
LEADER office,
Northcote.

NEWBOLD BROTHERS

Licensed

PLUMBERS, GASFITTERS And ELECTRICIANS,

Coppersmiths and Tinsmiths,

Park Street, N. FITZROY.

General Jobbing. Trade supplied at Melbourne prices.

ENGINEERS & MACHINISTS.

We have just added this branch to our business, and are prepared to execute every description of general Engineering work. Gas engines, bicycles lawn mowers, water meters, &c., repaired. Locksmiths and Gunsmiths.

Newbold Bros. beg to call attention to their long experience in the trade, which is a sufficient guarantee that all work entrusted to them will be executed in a workmanshiplike manner.

Coach Builders.

John Evans,

CARRIAGE FACTORY

HIGH STREET,

SOUTH NORTHCOTE.

ESTIMATES GIVEN FOR EVER BRANCH OF THE TRADE.

TYRES CUT WHILE YOU WAIT.

FOR SALE—

New and Second-hand Buggies, Buggy Wagons, and Carts.

THE AMERICAN

CARRIAGE WORKS,

HIGH STREET,

NORTHCOTE.

Estimates given for Repairs in all branches.

Tires Cut Daily.

VEHICLES OF ANY STYLE BUILT TO ORDER.

FOR SALE:

BUGGIES, nearly New, from £10.
ROAD CARTS, do. do. from £6.

Vehicles insured against accidental damage of every description at lowest rates.

WM. COX, Manager.

Private Addresses—
Mr. Cox, Tyler st., Preston.
Mr. HAWKER, 19 Barkley st., North Fitzroy.

Business

S. GREENSLADE,

GENERAL

DYER AND CLEANER

HIGH STREET,

NORTHCOTE

(Opposite Wesleyan Church).

ALL WORK DONE ON THE PREMISES, AND AT LESS THAN MELBOURNE PRICES.

GOOD PRESSING GUARANTEED.

G. MONTAGUE,

HIGH-ST., NORTHCOTE
(near bridge),

ARTISTIC PAINTER,

Sign Writer, and General Decorator

Coach Painting a Specialty.

Painting for the Trade generally.
Charges to meet the times.
Your custom kindly solicited.

THE ONLY HIGH CLASS PRACTICAL FURRIER IN VICTORIA.

A. Jackson,

Wholesale and Retail Furrier,
Manufacturer of
CARRIAGE AND TRAVELLING RUGS
In every Variety of Australian and Tasmanian Furs.
33 GERTRUDE ST., FITZROY.
Near the Exhibition.

Ten Years with George Smith and Son 9, 10 and 11 Watling-street, London, an 80 Buchanan-street, Glasgow.

Presents for Home friends a speciality

TRAM TERMINUS, HIGH ST., NORTH.

Miss H. A. Foley,

PRIZE MURRAY WINES ON DRAUGHT.

A first-class Port or Shiraz, 1/3 per quart. A special Line—Claret, Burgundy, Malbec, Hermitage, Port, Shiraz, Verdeilho, 1/3 per bot. Old Port, Muscat, and Sherry, 2/-, and 2/6 per bot.

WINE CAFE, HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

WASTE PAPER.

FOR Sale in any quantity, at the "Leader" office Northcote.

Sunday Services.

NORTHCOTE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

PREACHER: REV. S. HECTOR FERGUSON.

SUBJECTS: Morning, "Beyond the Gates;" evening, "Sunset on the Jewish mountains."

Fellowship Meeting, 10 a.m.
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, at 8.
Sabbath School, Town-hall, at 3.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PRESTON.

Services are held every Sunday in the Church, David-street, morning at 11, evening at 7.

Subjects for to-morrow:—Morning, "Fitness for the communion;" evening, "Shall worse come yet?"

Minister—REV. G. CARSON.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, Prince of Wales' Park, Armadale st., Northcote.

Sunday School at 3 o'clock. Prayer meeting Wednesday night at 8 o'clock.

Subjects for to-morrow:—Morning, "Scenes from Eden"; evening, "Jesus, a name above every name."

Minister—Rev. G. Chapman.

BAPTIST CHAPEL, PRESTON.

Services in connection with above will for the present be held in the Public Library Hall, Preston.

No morning service; evening, Mr. Gibbon.

Baptist and Christian friends invited. Free grace, without money and without price.

SCOTS CHURCH, HEIDELBERG.

SPECIAL SERVICES on Sabbath 17th Feb.—morning, at 11, Rev. D. S. McEachran will preach; Rev D. Fraser, at 7 p.m.

All welcome. Collection for Church funds.

PRESTON Wesleyan Church.—Harvest Thanksgiving Services will be held next Sunday. Preachers: 11 a.m., Rev. S. Adamson; 3 p.m., Rev. A. Powell; 7 p.m., Mr. G. Hunter.

Educational

NORTHCOTE ADVANCED SCHOOL for GIRLS and KINDERGARTEN.
Resumes January 29.

Principal - MISS WILLIAMS.
Visiting Teachers.

Dancing, Mr. G. Malcolm Russel, Town Hall, Saturdays, 3 to 5 p.m.
Piano and Singing, Miss Williams.
Kindergarten, 10s 6d per quarter.
Young ladies not attending school may join extra classes. Prospectuses on application to the Principal.

GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, MICHAEL ST., CLIFTON HILL.

Principals: THE MISSES WESTGARTH (Certificated and Matriculated) assisted by a large staff of competent teachers.

The course of instruction comprises French and all the branches of a sound English education.
Matriculation Classes.
Dancing, Miss Hyams, 15/-, or 12/6 if two, per quarter.
Elocution, Miss Cook, 10/6 per qr.
Conversational French (Gouin system), £1 1s. per quarter (in class).
Singing, Miss Bessie Jukes.
Drawing, Miss K. Westgarth, 15s per quarter; Painting (oil and water color), Miss K. Westgarth, £1 1s per quarter.
Reduction for sisters.
Young ladies not attending the College may join all extra classes.
First Term commences Monday, Feb. 4th to April 24th.
Vacancies for boarders.

KING'S COLLEGE, (BOYS and GIRLS) North Terrace, CLIFTON HILL.

PRINCIPALS—
W. P. HENDERSON, M.A., L.L.B.,
J. JAMIESON, M.A. F.S.Sc.
Lady Superintendent, Miss B. A. Clanchy, B.A.
Assisted by Visiting Teachers.

The course of study provides for pupils of both sexes thorough instruction in elementary subjects, in addition to the higher work of Matriculation, Public Service, &c.
Since May, 1892, SEVENTEEN of our pupils have passed the Matriculation Exam.
BOARDERS enjoy every home comfort and are under strict supervision in separate residences.

TERMS—
Day Scholars, 1½, 2, 3, & 4 guineas per qr.
Boarders, 13 to 15 " "
EVENING CLASSES (Matriculation, Public Service, &c.) thrice weekly.
School re-opens Thursday, Jan. 31st.
Prospectus at Thomson's news agent, High Street.

Announcements.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE. CLEARING SALE.
100 Acres LAND, STOCK, &c.

ABBOTT and WILSON have been instructed to SELL, early in March, in the estate of the late Richard Young, Woollert,
100 acres land, stock, &c.
Further particulars in future advertisements.
Abbott and Wilson, 415 Bourke St., Melbourne.

DRESSMAKING TO SUIT THE TIMES.

MISS YEWS wishes to inform the ladies of Preston, Northcote, and surrounding districts that she has reduced her prices to suit the Summer Sales. Walking Costumes from 10s.; Cotton do., from 7s 6d.—Reigate Villa, High Street, South Preston.

Law.

BACKHOUSE AND MELLOR, (S. B. Backhouse, M.A., L.L.B., Commissioner for South Australia, Queensland, and New Zealand; Robert Mellor), SOLICITORS, CONVEYANCERS, &c.

Mr. Backhouse has now settled at Preston and may be consulted daily before 9.30 a.m. and after 6 p.m. at his office adjoining Council Club Hotel, High Street.

Melbourne Offices:—
MODERN CHAMBERS, 317 COLLINS STREET.
Telephone 1815.

MADDOCK, JOHNSON, AND JAMIESON,
SOLICITORS, AND CONVEYANCERS,
Market Buildings, 445 Collins Street, MELBOURNE.

J. MACKINNON,
BROKER AND COMMISSION AGENT.
Loans Negotiated.
Insurances Effected.
Rents Collected.
Box 39 Old Exchange, Collins Street, Melb.
HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

DR. JOHNSTONE,
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON
(University of Dublin, Licentiate in Midwifery, Rotondo Lying-in Hospital Dublin),
Has commenced practice in EPPING, and may be consulted between the hours of 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., 2 to 3 p.m., and 7 to 8 p.m.

[A CARD].

DR. W. H. STOCK,
266 Queen's Parade,
CLIFTON HILL.
At Mrs. Hayes', High St., Northcote, 2 to 3 o'clock.
Also at Alphington, near Post Office.

MR. E. LENTHALL OLDFIELD,
DENTAL SURGEON, &c.,
36 NICHOLSON STREET.
Opposite Melb. Exhibition.
Hours, 11 to 3.30; or by appointment.
Telephone No. 822.

The Leader.

JUSTICE TO ALL.

Published every Saturday Morning.

SATURDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY.

ABOUT the most instructive lecture ever heard at the Northcote Town Hall was given by Mr. Thwaites, engineer-in-chief of the Metropolitan Board of Works on Friday evening last. Sufficient proof of its entertaining power, also, may be found in the fact that a large audience followed attentively what the lecturer had to say and show for three solid hours. Friday evening was not the most pleasant indoors, either. As a lecturer Mr. Thwaites does not go in for the oratorical, but he is lucid and interesting, and very soon conveys the impression that he knows thoroughly well what he is talking about. Having first quoted a very ancient aphorism that "for the health of the people, you must have pure air, pure soil, and pure water," Mr. Thwaites proceeded to deal with his subject under these heads. First taking water, he gave an interesting sketch of the Melbourne water supply from the year 1854, when a supply of 13 million gallons daily was at command, to the present day when 60 million gallons can be poured into the city every 24 hours. In developing the scheme three and a half millions sterling have been spent, but if the profits in the past had not been absorbed in the general revenue, the capital would have been reduced to £2,400,000. As regards the quantity supplied, Melbourne was almost unique amongst cities. London householders, while paying double the rate, had to go on short commons. In Melbourne they had the freest use, but only had to pay half as much as Adelaide. In Sydney the rate was the same as here, but vacant land had to pay a rate of 2d in the £1, which was not the case with us. While Melbourne was in the van with regard to its water supply, the wonder was, said the lecturer, how it lagged so far behind other cities, and especially its sister capitals of Adelaide and Sydney, in the matter of not having a proper drainage system. Such a lack, he considered, was a blot on the escutcheon of Melbourne. Capitalised, the loss of power sustained by Victoria, as a consequence of the increased number of deaths due to defective drainage, amounted to no less than two and a half millions sterling annually. A brief history was then given of the metropolitan sewerage system; its main features were explained, and details and illustrations given showing how every house and street would be dealt with. The progress so far made was also described and a very graphic idea also given of the magnitude and elaborateness of the undertaking. As the Mayor afterwards remarked the audience had been placed in close touch with a matter they were rather densely ignorant of before. The lecture concluded with a large number of splendidly shown limelight views, which brought the whole subject of water supply and sewerage before the eyes, as the lecture had done before the ears, of the audience. A vote of thanks to Mr. Thwaites, moved by Mr. Craven and seconded by the Mayor (Cr. Yeomans), was carried with hearty acclamation.

We will be almost inclined to fancy the millennium has been reached when masses of household and factory drainage such as now find their way into waterways like the Merri Creek are scientifically disposed of instead of stagnating and festering under the summer sun in a sluggish "open sewer," rendering pestilent the atmosphere of a whole neighborhood. Anyone who has occasion to cross or go near the creek at the present time must agree with us that it is indescribably offensive and a menace to health. Several cases of fever have occurred and these will assuredly be multiplied if remedial measures are not taken. It is an "Augean stable" to cleanse, but all the municipalities interested might well imitate the fabled Hercules and set about the task. By even improving matters the various councils would earn the goodwill of a grateful and more healthful public.

Mr. Steane, the town surveyor, having reported that the extinguishing of street lamps at 12 o'clock would mean a saving of £30 or £40 a year, the public works committee on Thursday evening recommended that all lamps be put out at that hour, so that this saving might be effected. Cr. Pearl was strongly averse to being left in darkness at so early an hour, and moved that the lamps be kept alight till at least half past 12, by which time the good persons who attended late revival meetings, the wicked people who went to pantomimes and theatres, as well as all those who had been spending a social hour with friends in other suburbs might have a chance to get home. Cr. Smith seconded the amendment. He did not believe in thus metaphorically ringing a bell and sending all the ratepayers to bed at 12. There was a good deal of penny wisdom and pound folly in the idea, as, while effecting a very small saving, it would be the means of driving such ratepayers as had no relish for coming into a "dark and dismal hole" late at night out of the place. Cr. Hutton deprecated spending £40 unnecessarily on what was a mere luxury. Starting at 12 it would be 1 o'clock before all the lamps were out. A comic tone was given to the discussion by Cr. McLean suggesting that the difficulty might be met by Cr. Pearl intimating to the authorities when he was going to be out late and a lamp or two could be kept going on his account. Cr. Rapken considered half-past 12 quite early enough to commence to put out the lights. The subject suggested to Cr. Bastings the well-known poem, "Curfew shall not ring to-night." After further discussion of the above description the amendment was put and lost.

At the Preston shire council on Monday evening Cr. Bayliss (president) said that himself and his colleagues had been charged with a want of sympathy in the recent moonlight fête to raise funds for the Ladies' Benevolent Society. Such an implication he desired to deny. When the Rev. Mr. Watson first interviewed him, and asked him for the use of a room in which to hold the meetings he readily granted it. Of the first meeting held he never got the slightest notice, but in the *Leader* report of it he noticed that they had done him the honor—which he fully appreciated—of appointing him president of the committee. The next he heard was that he and the other councillors were being abused for not having the hall opened and lit for the second meeting, when the fault really lay with those whose business it was to notify the council authorities that a room was wanted on that evening. He had been sent a notice of this meeting, but it was missent to Mr. Talbot's office, and did not reach him till two days after the meeting was over. He thought this explanation was due to himself and the councillors. Had he received proper notice he would have been glad to do anything, from "digging post-holes to serving at the coffee stalls."

The support accorded the Northcote public library proving insuffcient to meet the actual working expenses of the institution a special meeting of the committee was held at the town-hall on Tuesday evening to consider the best method of liquidating the accumulated liabilities and also the future management of the institution. Those present were the mayor (Cr. Yeomans), Crs. Bastings, Pearl, and Candy, Messrs Tobin, Swift, and Whalley. The treasurer submitted a statement, which showed that there were accounts owing to the extent of £30, to meet which there were only two or three pounds in hand. There had been a considerable falling off in the number of subscribers, and as the revenue from this source was only about equal to £14 a year at the present time—or a shade over half the librarian's salary—the committee felt that they must either close the institution or curtail the working expenses. It was decided to adopt the latter course, and the committee, after interviewing the librarian, reluctantly reduced that officer's salary by one-half, it being the only way of effecting a saving without limiting the attractiveness of the reading room. There is still a fair average of visitors at the library each evening, and the committee being anxious to retain it, decided that the daily and illustrated papers should be continued. The secretary was instructed to lay the financial position of the library before the next council meeting, with the request that that body grant a sum sufficient to discharge their present liabilities. The mayor reported that the Rev. Hector Ferguson had readily consented to give a recital in aid of the funds of the institution, arrangements for which were left in abeyance, owing to the number of entertainments already announced.

At the Northcote town-hall on Wednesday evening next a grand concert is to be given in aid of the Old Colonists' Home. A programme of the best kind will be submitted, amongst the singers engaged being Miss Vera Goad, Miss Bessie Jukes, Miss Marion Porritt, and Messrs T. E. Jones, T. H. Lightfoot, and J. F. Adams, while Mr. D. T. Player will give some of his popular humorous selections. Such a programme, combined with so worthy an object, should attract a crowded house. Information as to prices of tickets, etc., will be found in our advertising columns.

Arrangements in connection with the Northcote children's picnic to Mordialloc are being pushed ahead as speedily as possible and the event promises to be a big success. Thursday, 7th March, is the date fixed, that being the only suitable day a special train could be procured. The return fares are wonderfully cheap, namely—children, under 14 years, 6d; up to 16, 1s., and adults, 1s. 6d. Two meals will be provided for the children, for which no extra charge will be made, and there will also be a programme of amusements prepared. The train will leave Middle Northcote shortly before 9, or soon after the 8.20 train from Preston passes through, which will afford parents and children in that locality an excellent opportunity of securing a splendid day's outing at a very nominal sum. It is the intention of the committee to have the day proclaimed a public holiday, providing the local shopkeepers are favorable to such a course. Already a fair amount has been collected, and further contributions, either in money or kind, will be gladly received by the following gentlemen:—Crs. Yeomans, Bastings, Pearl, and Messrs Tobin, Orr, J. J. Smith, and Evans.

EPPING SHIRE NEWS.

The "local Parliament" will foregather at the usual place on Monday. Except something special crops up, the business to be transacted is not so important as usual.

The monotony of Epping social life was broken last week by a wedding, the contracting parties being Mr. Sheffield and Miss Junor, both deservedly popular young people in the district.

From some cause unknown a fire broke out on the farm of Mr. Bernard Goss, Woodstock, on Wednesday. About 60 acres of grass were burnt, and some fencing, but through the exertions of members of the family and neighbors the fire was put out before it crossed the Donnybrook road, thus saving a great amount of damage being done.

Epping councillors and others will be pleased to hear that as the result of an interview with Cr. Bayliss (the president of Prestonshire), Mr. Hingston has written to his principal (Mr. M. Cantlin) recommending him to grant the land necessary for the approaches to the new bridge over the Merri Creek at Campbellfield.

To carpenters and other.—Tenders invited for alterations to town-hall platform; also repairing culvert.

The shire council of Preston invites tenders for 2100 yards of maintenance metal in quantities as advertised elsewhere.

IN consequence of the great increase in Assignments and Insolvencies, the BANKRUPT STOCK REALIZATION COMPANY will continue to sell all classes of Merchandise, principally Drapery, at extraordinary discounts, at 280 and 282 Bourke St., Melbourne, and 166 Smith St., Collingwood.—M. A. RAPKEN, Trade Assignee.

LOCALISMS.

Children's excursion to Mordialloc has been fixed for Thursday, 7th prox.

A meeting was held at Preston last evening for the purpose of forming a branch of the Liberal Association.

In future subscribers to the Northcote Public Library getting beyond two quarters in arrears will be struck off the list.

Decided to hold a moonlight carnival in aid of the Northcote Ladies' Benevolent Society about the middle of next month.

Long-expected come at last.—Preston council's share of last half-year's Government subsidy, on the reduced basis, viz., £426 15s 5d.

It will be good news to many Northcote residents that the engineer has arranged for a more frequent general scouring of the channels.

15,729 persons have signed the visitors' book of the Northcote public library since it was opened three years ago. The largest attendance on any one evening was 75.

With a view of saving £30 or £40 a year the Northcote town council have decided in future to have the street lamps extinguished at 12 o'clock.

Particulars in connection with the third performance of the Northcote Amateur Minstrels, to take place on Tuesday, 26th of February, are announced in our advertising columns.

A polite way of putting it.—Sergeant Robinson, when he wanted to give the bench an idea of the past "record" of a prisoner up for larceny, remarked that he had "a good long pedigree."

Mr. I. Collins's application to establish a tallow factory at South Preston was not entertained by the shire council on Monday evening.

Mr. J. E. Crowle's contract for the erection of the Preston municipal buildings has been "determined" by the architect (Mr. Birtwistle).

Mr. C. Stewart "respectfully informs" the council that he cannot possibly give a requisite amount of supervision to the works of the shire now that his time has been reduced to two days a week.

Mr. James Birtwistle, architect, invites tenders for the completion of the Preston municipal buildings (at risk of former contractor).

Preston District Cricket Club intend holding a moonlight fête at the Preston Park early in March in aid of the funds of the club. The committee meet to make arrangements on Tuesday evening.

Anglers in the Darebin creek report some nice hauls of trout, etc.

Anniversary of O.S.T., Preston will be celebrated by a concert in the public-hall on Tuesday evening, 26th inst. Particulars are advertised elsewhere.

The Northcote council's bankers have offered to reduce the rate of interest to 7 per cent. In these days, when everything else has fallen in value, Cr. Pearl considers 5 per cent. an ample charge for money lent to a municipality.

The Very Rev. the Dean of Melbourne conducted the harvest festival service at All Saints', Northcote, last evening. These services will be continued to-morrow, when persons so desirous will have an opportunity of seeing the beautiful decorations.

There was quite a difference of opinion amongst Northcote councillors on Thursday evening as to whether the cemetery in Separation street was a public or a private one. Evidence in favor of the former contention was, however, the stronger. One of the councillors stated as proof that he had bought a couple of "layers" there.

On Saturday, 2nd, the residence of Mr. Staples, Gilbert road, together with its entire contents, was destroyed by fire. No water being available, the fire brigade could do little else than stand by and see the place consume. The property was insured in the South British.

The cricket craze seems now to have affected all classes. Side by side with the Northcote and Malvern teams on Saturday, the local brickmakers were entering enthusiastically into a game; and on Monday an application was granted by the Preston council to allow the use of the park for a match between two friendly societies.

To-morrow the annual harvest thanksgiving services will be conducted at the Northcote Wesleyan Church, when special sermons will be preached morning, afternoon and evening by the Revs. Scholes, Adamson, and Angwin respectively. A sacred concert is to be given the following evening, for which a really good programme has been arranged, including the rendering of "The lost chord" (with piano and organ accompaniment) by Mrs Davis, who was awarded the gold medal at the musical competition held in the Melbourne town-hall.

Messrs Howden and Co. report sales for the month as follows:—100 feet of land, Bell-st.; 150 feet, High-st.; brick dwelling, Preston-st.; w.b. dwelling, Preston-st.; allotment, Pender-st.—all at satisfactory prices. This does not look as if real estate were altogether stagnant in Preston.

H. J. R. Lewis, undertaker, of Fitzroy and Northcote, notifies that he has obtained his diploma as an embalmer and preserver of the dead.

The Reason Why

MACKENZIE'S is a good shop to buy your Boots and Shoes:—
Because they give solid wear.
Because he has a good stock to choose from.
Because his prices suit the dull times.
Because his Boots and Shoes are made from selected material.
Because his Goods are well put together and firm.
Because he gives you first class value.
Send on your repairs
Because he uses good leather and charges reasonable, and
Because it will pay you to go there.
The Address is W. MACKENZIE, Boot Warehouse, Plenty Road, South Preston, near corner of Bell Street, and don't you forget it!

NORTHCOTE TOWN COUNCIL.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14.

Present:—Crs. Yeomans (mayor), Bastings, Campbell, Dennis, Candy, McIntosh, Smith, Rapken, McLean, Hutton, Bagley, Pearl, Thompson, and Marks.

STATE OF WESTBOURNE GROVE.

W. A. Bowman, M. H. Kinsman, E. Bowman, J. Kennedy, J. E. Burrows, M. M. Owen, and K. J. Jones wrote calling the council's attention to the unhealthy state of the street channel adjoining their residences in Westbourne Grove, especially at the level crossing over Rucker Street. They requested that the sewer be more frequently swept and that the culvert be periodically cleansed.—Reply to be sent that as much attention as possible would be given the channels in the future, so to avoid any nuisance.

THE RATE OF INTEREST.

The manager Commercial Bank of Australasia, wrote confirming verbal intimation given to the town clerk on the 24th ult., that the rate charged on the council's overdraft has been reduced to 7 per cent. per annum. Current rates of interest on fixed deposits having been lowered, he was authorised to make this reduction.—Received.

NORTHCOTE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The secretary of the above (Mr. W. G. Swift) wrote reporting that since the foundation of the library there had been 15,729 visitors and that a sum of £205 had been expended in books, maintenance, &c. There were over 500 volumes in the library, embracing all classes of literature, together with periodicals, papers, &c. The institution had proved a great public convenience, and as it had been founded solely in the interests of the public, the committee now approached the council for the first time for a grant of £30 to pay off the accrued liabilities of the institution.

Cr. Candy moved that the committee's request be complied with. As the institution was for the benefit of the whole town it was only right that it should be subsidised from the general funds.

Cr. Pearl seconded the motion. The institution was evidently much appreciated, and was one of which they were justified in feeling proud. Seeing it was for the public use, he considered the committee had been very lenient in not approaching the council before.

Cr. Thompson said that while sympathising with the request, he thought it only right that the matter should be referred to the finance committee.

Crs. Dennis, McLean and Bastings thought likewise, and on the motion of the latter, seconded by Cr. Smith, the matter was referred to the finance committee.

REQUEST FOR EMPLOYMENT.

George W. Brockie wrote thanking the mayor and councillors for the kind and liberal assistance rendered him during his illness, and also informing them that he was now able to return to work and would be very thankful to be reinstated to his former place.—Referred to public works committee.

LIGHTING POST OFFICE STEPS.

The Acting Postmaster-General wrote requesting to know at what hour it is proposed to extinguish the lamp opposite the colonnade of the post office, which the council offered to have lighted, provided the department paid the cost of gas.

The mayor explained that this letter came as the result of an interview he had had with the Deputy-Postmaster-General. The Department had before refused to pay the cost of providing a light, but now it appeared probable that they would do so. (Hear, hear).

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

The report was submitted by the chairman (Cr. Candy).

Clause 1 recommended the passing of accounts amounting to £19 13s. 2d.

Cr. Pearl moved that the accounts be increased by 12s. so as to provide for giving 1s. a day extra to Mr. Carmody for his extra duties in supervising the workmen. When it was decided to dismiss one of the workmen, and increase the salary of the engineer by £50 so that he might give his whole time to the council and thus save £25 a year, it was never understood that the wages of the foreman should be reduced below 6s. a day.

Cr. Thompson seconded the motion. The question of reducing the wages of Carmody had never been mentioned. He certainly thought all the men should be paid 6s. a day, but they had volunteered to work for 5s. a day.

Cr. Marks said the surveyor could now give all the supervision required. He could not support the increase to Carmody except all the men were treated alike.

Cr. McLean supported the motion. The surveyor could not be everywhere, and they wanted a foreman to direct the men in his absence.

The mayor said he thought he would have to rule this motion out of order. The minute of the full committee plainly stated that Carmody was to take Brockie's place, nothing being said about increase of wages. That resolution would have to be rescinded before anything could be done.

Cr. Hutton said that such minute was no good, as it had never come before the council for confirmation.

The Mayor—The council has confirmed the estimates framed on the resolution embodied in that minute.

Cr. Smith said that as seconder of the resolution in the minute referred to he would say that the matter of wages was not mentioned.

Cr. Pearl intimated that he would give notice of motion that the resolution of the full committee be rescinded.

2. *Re* painting and varnishing doors and windows of the Town Hall.—The following tenders have been received:—D. C. Wright, £8; R. H. Chester, £5 17s. 9d.; T. Halliday, £5 15s. 6d.—The Committee recommend that the tender of Mr R. H. Chester be accepted, he being a ratepayer of the Town.—Adopted.

5. *Re* petition for a gas lamp to be placed at Hawthorn Lane and Eastment Street.—The Committee recommend that no more gas lamps be erected this year.—Cr. Campbell moved that this clause be dealt with under order of the day No. 3.—Agreed to.

6. *Re* right-of-way from Westbourne Grove to Clarke Street and west of Railway.—The Committee recommend that no action be taken in the matter, as it does not require to be constructed at present.—Adopted.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Cr. Thompson, in the absence of Cr. Boothby, submitted the report, recommending:—

1. That accounts amounting to £50 16s 6d be passed for payment.—Adopted.

2. Town Hall Stage.—It is recommended that the plan as prepared by the Town Surveyor, providing for an increase in depth of 4 feet and in width of 2 feet be approved and the Public Works Committee authorised to invite tenders for the work, the increase in depth to be movable, the width to be permanent, estimated cost of alterations, £12.—Adopted.

ORDINARY BUSINESS.

Cr. Candy moved that tenders be invited for a culvert at the corner of Walker and McLaughlin streets.—Agreed to.

Cr. Candy moved that the mayor and members for the south ward wait on the Railway Commissioners with a request for the construction of a street abutting on the railway between Clarke and Charles streets. This was a necessary preliminary to the drainage of a right-of-way, which it was proposed to construct.—Agreed to.

Cr. Bastings presented a letter signed by several ratepayers, requesting that Park street be constructed, from Clarke street to Gordon grove; also that a lamp be erected at the corner of Gordon grove and Park street.—Surveyor to report.

Cr. Dennis moved that the council forward a letter to Mr. Thwaites, thanking him for his admirable lecture on the sewerage scheme. Seconded by Cr. Rapken and carried unanimously.

Cr. Hutton moved that a letter be sent to the Metropolitan Board of Works, asking for an explanation as to why they refused the council's guarantee with regard to Kellett street. Seeing that the council had never repudiated its obligations in this respect, he considered it an insult to be treated in the manner they had been.—Cr. McLean seconded the motion, which was carried, Cr. Dennis promising to support the claim.

Cr. Smith, supported by Cr. Rapken, called attention to what he considered the dangerous condition of Mitchell street west.—Surveyor to give attention.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

Cr. Campbell moved that the prayer of the petition for a lamp to be erected at the corner of Hawthorn Lane and Eastment Street be granted. Cr. Bastings seconded. Carried.

FIRE.

Cr. Campbell, of Campbell Street, narrowly escaped having his house and all it contained destroyed by fire yesterday. Just about noon the wash-house caught fire in some unknown way and was soon all ablaze. Mrs. Campbell was using a small hose on the fire when timely help arrived in the shape of three young men, viz., Messrs. W. Groom, F. Plant and A. Maggs. It was owing to the energetic efforts of these three that the main building was prevented taking fire. More than once the flames caught it, but a well-directed bucket of water prevented them getting any hold. Others lent what assistance they could, and, when they arrived, the Northcote brigade extinguished what fire there remained. The Preston Brigade also came down. A quantity of clothing and other property stored in the building was destroyed.

Sunday Services

AS ADVERTISED ELSEWHERE.

Preston Presbyterian Church.—Preacher, Rev. Geo. Carson. Subjects—Morning, "Fitness for the communion;" evening, "Shall worse come yet?"

Northcote Presbyterian Church, James street.—Preacher, Rev. S. H. Ferguson. Subjects—morning, "Beyond the gates;" evening, "Sunset on the Jewish mountains."

Congregational Church, Northcote. Preacher, Rev. G. Chapman. Subjects, morning, "Scenes from Eden;" evening, "Jesus, a name above every name."

Baptist Chapel, Preston. Services held in Public Library Hall. No morning service; evening Mr. Gibbon.

Special services will be preached at Scots' Church, Heidelberg, to-morrow, in the morning by Rev. S. D. McEachrine, and evening, Rev. D. Fraser.

Harvest thanksgiving services at Preston Wesleyan Church to-morrow.

Wesleyan M.I.A.

A meeting of the above was held last Monday evening, the Rev. S. Scholes presiding. The business of the meeting was the election officers for the ensuing year. Messrs Dennis and Tomkins were re-elected vice-presidents; Mr. R. Harrison, secretary; Mr. A. Tharratt, treasurer; Mr. R. Harrison, librarian; Miss Bowman, pianiste; Mr. F. W. Chambers, musical conductor; Mrs. Tomkins, press correspondent; Messrs Bastings and Butler, auditors; the resident minister, president. It was unanimously agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to the retiring secretary, Mr. F. W. Chambers, for his faithful and long-continued services as secretary. The meeting was then closed in the usual way. Next night of meeting, Monday week. Social.

Best Firewood at first Cost to Consumers at T. MUNRO'S Croxton Park Wood & Coal Siding. Box Blocks, 7d per 112 lbs.

THE FELL-THORPE GHOST.

By "LUCY HARDY" (Mrs C. Lord), Author of "Our Dear Dogs," etc., etc.

[ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.]

"Sleepy Hollow," as I have heard Fell-Thorpe irreverently described by casual visitors, but I loved the place well. It was one of those hundreds of pretty English villages lying nestled away amid green hills and woods, whose existence is practically unknown to any save residents in the vicinity.

It had its "great house" near, but Sir Henry Colvil, our squire, was a middle-aged bachelor, who lived chiefly abroad or in London, only paying his country estate a brief visit in the shooting season. There was no inducement for any family to bury itself in a remote country place, without society, though my Uncle Philip had been vicar at Fell-Thorpe for twenty years, and would not have exchanged the living for an archbishopric. A quiet, studious man, immersed in his books, Fell-Thorpe exactly suited him. He hated society; our village afforded none; his means were small; Fell-Thorpe was a cheap place of residence. He was a good and earnest man in the performance of his clerical duties, but the most fervid zeal could not fill up the entire day with pastoral work amid so small a population.

So that with all his duties to his flock, scrupulously performed, Uncle Philip had yet leisure to pursue his beloved studies, and think out his great always-to-be-written book; I believe on the subject of the differential calculus. Looking back, I can understand what a sacrifice of inclination to duty Uncle Philip made when he consented to receive me, a girl of eighteen, into his quiet household. My mother was Uncle Philip's only sister, and had eloped with an artist twenty years before, dying when I was about six years old.

Uncle Philip had opposed her marriage as strongly as so gentle a creature could oppose anything, and it was partly in consequence of his desertion by his mother (who had lived with him in his London curate days, and had kept his house) that he was was so ready to bury himself with his books in a remote country village. Little intercourse passed between the brother and sister in after years, although no actual quarrel ever took place (I cannot imagine Uncle Philip quarrelling with anyone), and after my mother died, my father kept up no correspondence with his brother-in-law. Only when my father was dying did he bethink him of the relative of whom I know nothing, and write, consigning his penniless orphan niece to his care.

Of my father I would prefer not to speak; he was my parent whatever were his shortcomings. I believe, in his way, he loved me; he managed to keep me at school until I was sixteen, and then, when the lady principal, wearied of the irregularity of his payments, politely but firmly declined to retain me longer, he shared his Bohemian menage with me. He had talent undoubtedly, and might have made his mark in the world had he chosen to do so, but patrons and dealers weary of encouraging an artist who can never be relied upon to complete a picture or keep an engagement, while a taste for cards and dice soon drains away a larger income than usually falls to the lot of even a successful painter. Two uncomfortable, restless years intervened between my quitting school and taking up my residence with Uncle Philip—years of shifting about in cheap pensions in France and Italy; of debts, duns, questionable Bohemian associates; years which taught me to appreciate even sleepy Fell-Thorpe as a haven of refuge from a troublesome world.

Uncle Philip had generously responded to the appeal to receive his sister's child, and even made the sacrifice (no slight one to a man of his shy, recluse habits) of journeying so far as Dover to meet me and take me to my new home. I shall never forget the anxious, puzzled glances the good old man cast at me as I sat opposite to him in the train, evidently regarding me as a strange creature, of whose habits and ways he was ignorant.

"I hope you will be happy in your new home, my dear," he said, at length. "I have never been accustomed to take care of young girls."

"I have always been accustomed to take care of myself, Uncle Philip; at least, ever since I left school," I replied truthfully; and Uncle Philip's countenance lightened considerably as he said, in a tone of relief, "Have you, indeed, my dear; I am glad to hear it; I dare say we shall get on very well together."

Very well indeed we had got on for over four years. My arrival had made very little difference in Uncle Philip's habits, and Deborah, the old housekeeper, who was at first [illegible] coming, soon learned to tolerate me amicably when she found I never interfered with her. For myself, it was such a blessing to be spared all the mean shifts and contrivances of our former existence; never to have to confront insolent landladies or clamorous tradespeople, to live in an atmosphere of solvency and respectability; for small as was Uncle Philip's income, it was amply sufficient to supply all his modest requirements, and even leave a little surplus over. Moreover I had an occupation, and occupied people are never dull.

I had inherited something of my father's artistic tastes, and had cultivated my capacity for painting under his tuition. Fell-Thorpe was rich in "bits" suitable for landscape painting; and I was able, through a picture-dealer in London, who once patronised my father, to sell sufficient sketches and small studies to supply myself with a modest little income, enough for all my private needs, uncle Philip absolutely refusing to allow me to contribute to the household expenses, which he declared I scarcely increased. So we lived tranquilly together Uncle Philip deep as ever in his books, I busy with my easel.

Dull as Fell-Thorpe was, we possessed one source of excitement, we had a local ghost. The village church, though small, was an exceptionally beautiful one; it had been built early in the fourteenth century by some unknown benefactor, after the loving, lavish style in which our forefathers were then wont to erect sacred edifices, and through the poverty of the local residents had happily escaped the "beautifying" (by galleries and whitewash) of the eighteenth century, and the yet more destructive "restoring" of the nineteenth.

A convent of nuns had formerly adjoined the church (the conventual buildings had been destroyed at the Dissolution) and a curious sort of gallery at the west end of the church was still called the "Nuns' Gallery." It was shut in by an exquisitely carved stone tracery, which rendered the occupants invisible below (unless they actually thrust their heads out of one single kind of "oeil de beuf" in the middle of this stone screen) and yet enabled persons in the gallery to hear the service in the church below, and even to catch glimpses of the congregation through the open spaces between the carving. This gallery was disused now, but tradition asserted that it was once connected by a passage with the convent; and that the nuns had been wont to occupy it on great festivals, when they attended service in the church. Here was the locale of the Fell-Thorpe ghost. In days of yore, so ran the legend, a certain valiant knight deceased, leaving large estates to his eldest daughter Sibyl; but providing that, should she die without issue, they should descend to his younger daughter Maud, child of his second wife. His widow, who proved the typical "wicked stepmother," had therefore a strong motive, if not to take the life of her step-daughter, at least to keep her unmarried. This latter plan was easily carried out. Sybil was betrothed to a young knight who joined the Crusades; plausible evidence of his death was forged, and the heart-broken girl easily persuaded to immure herself in a convent. When her betrothed returned she was for ever hidden from his sight. Years rolled by, and some of the nuns, among them Sybil, now Sister Ave, migrated to the newly-elected cloister at Fell-Thorpe.

And it so chanced, on one high festival, when the nuns were singing behind their stone screen in the church gallery, that Sister Ave beheld among the congregation beneath, the lover whom she had long mourned as dead, alive and well, and with a fair young bride by his side. With one wild call on her lover's name the nun thrust her head through the opening in the screen to gaze once more on his beloved features, and then sank back insensible, and expired, literally of a broken heart, as the scandalised sisterhood were carrying her away. And, the story ran, on each anniversary of her death, a pallid face in nun's coif and wimple looked out of the gallery, and a wailing cry resounded through the church. It was even added that sometimes the spectre "named" some of the local residents, and that the persons so distinguished invariably died during the year; but the ghost had not been "personally interviewed" for centuries, as its manifestations only took place at midnight, and tradition had not preserved the exact date of Lady Sybil's tragic demise.

The legend was remembered because Fell-Thorpe folk had so little to talk about. The old sexton, and even Philip, conscientiously related the story to any stray visitor who was taken over the church; and the former, at least, devoutly believed in it. Still, as no one in the village was likely to be in the church at the hours the ghost "walked" (we were far too sleepy for "watch-night" or kindred services), our local spectre was at least a most inoffensive one.

Among our few resident neighbors were an old major and his wife, the latter rather an invalid. They had come to Fell-Thorpe some years ago, and apparently lacked the energy to go away again. Their little house suited them; Mrs Grant was benefited by the country air; they found variety in an occasional visit to Bath or Buxton, and returned to Fell-Thorpe always talking of removing, but never carrying out their threat. Uncle Philip and the major became great cronies. From lack of other occupation, Major Grant became an enthusiastic archæologist. He took in a quantity of literature on the subject—remarkably dull publications they appeared to me—and he was always prowling about the church and finding (or imagining) some hitherto undiscovered attraction in its hoary stones. He had lately lighted upon a small window in the chancel, now built up, and had conceived the theory that this was one of the ancient "lepers' windows" (made to allow the victims of that fearful disease to behold from without the church sacred rites they might not mingle with the congregation to share in), and was simply wild to have this window reopened and filled with stained glass. He succeeded in infecting Uncle Philip with his enthusiasm, but restorations cost money. This consideration, however, by no means damped the major's zeal. His idea was that we should gather all we possibly could in the neighborhood, and then make an appeal to the generosity of the public in the newspapers, setting forth how we had done our little all, and now appealed to "lovers of archæology" to help us to complete our good work.

"I'll tell you what I'll do myself," said the major, "I'll give you a beautiful old seventeenth century alms-box in carved oak—I picked it up cheaply abroad one year—and you can set it up in the church and invite contributions for our fund. Why, my dear fellow, surely even the poor folk will feel a little interest in so important, so local, an object. Now Sunday week is your harvest thanksgiving—by-the-way, Sir Henry will be down here then—you just preach a good, impressive sermon, and point out the architectural gem I have discovered, and invite liberal contributions."

"Everyone is poor here," sighed uncle Philip.

"Poor people can give something—look what a year this has been for the farmers (it was sunny 1887), beside we never had any real local Jubilee Memorial. Now, the restoration of this interesting—this glorious—window, would be a very fitting one."

Carried away by the tide of enthusiasm, Uncle Philip readily consented to exert his best eloquence to induce the congregation to believe that to contribute to our "Restoration Fund" would be the most appropriate form of evincing their thankfulness for the harvest of 1887 and the Accession of 1837.

"But we really cannot—knowing the circumstances of the congregation expect above——"

"Ten pounds," interpolated the major; "remember Sir Henry will be there and all his servants."

"No, no, say seven—well, may be rather over. Of course we may gather more by special house to house appeals."

The festival day came, and Uncle Philip preached one of his best sermons; he really was eloquent sometimes, though he varied considerably, often preaching admirable, scholarly discourses, but completely "over the heads" of the rustic congregation, who had never read the Fathers and knew nothing of early heresies. But on this occasion Uncle Phillip laid aside allusions to Gnostics and Manicheans, and preached in a style comprehensible to his hearers; and I felt sanguine as regards the collection we should find in the box "our neighbor's kind gift," as uncle Philip explained this receptacle to be. Unfortunately the major and his wife were absent, also our senior churchwarden; the former obliged to start earlier than usual for Buxton in consequence of a fit of gout; the latter ill in bed. But both had promised to forward contributions to our "Window Restoration fund," so their absence would not affect us financially.

"I will leave the box unopened until Saturday," remarked Uncle Philip as we ate our early dinner. "I should like Smith (the churchwarden) to be present, and it is possible that as there is a saints'-day service this week a trifle more may be added to the contents of the box after to-day."

I knew that Smith had somewhat "cold watered" the scheme of the collecting box, and understood that Uncle Philip was looking forward to a mild triumph when it was unlocked. Saturday afternoon accordingly my uncle, Mr Smith (the keeper of the village shop and vicar's churchwarden) repaired to the church, I accompanying them as a curious spectator.

"And now to see what our good neighbors have done for us," said Uncle Philip, as he unlocked the box and raised the lid.

Could we believe our eyes? Uncle Philip fairly rubbed his as if to make sure that he was not the victim of some strange optical delusion. Yet, gaze as he would, count as he would, the fact remained that eightpence in coppers and two peppermint drops represented the entire "thank offerings" of the congregation.

Mr Smith first broke the awful silence. "I never did hold with this new-fangled idea of the major's about a box," he remarked solemnly.

"Perhaps," said Uncle Philip, in the tone of one who catches at a straw, "people made a mistake and put their money into the poor box."

We boasted an antique receptacle so labelled, which was opened quarterly, and its contents (if any) distributed among a few needy widows. It has been recently so emptied, and was found empty still. Uncle Philip was a mild man, and a patient, but worms turn at last. He preached next day in a style wholly novel to his hearers, and, for once, the entire congregation sat awake and attentive, the bucolic mind slowly gathering that "passon do seem terrible put about like by summat." I sincerely hoped that Sir Henry, whom we all looked upon as the worst offender, would feel pricked in his conscience, and it seemed as if this was the case, for the baronet lingered after the congregation had dispersed, and said good humoredly, "Well, Mr Archer, you don't give us a very good character for liberality, I really think you are a bit hard on us, though."

"I have my duty to perform and my message to deliver, Sir Henry," said my uncle, gravely.

"Yes, of course. Only you know we are not Croesus down here, and if each gives according to his ability ——"

"Are you aware of the amount of last Sunday's collection?" asked my uncle.

"Not at all. I should recognise my own contribution, though."

"Oh, would you," said Uncle Philip, with a curious little smile, "then if you will accompany me to the vestry I shall have pleasure in showing you what the liberality of Fell-Thorpe has considered an appropriate thank-offering at their jubilee harvest festival."

We entered the vestry; Uncle Philip unlocked the quaint antique safe which contained the Communion plate, and drew out a bag which he emptied on the table. "Six pennies, two half-pennies, three, no, four farthings, and two peppermint drops. I leave it to you to identify your own contribution, Sir Henry," said Uncle Philip, with sarcastic politeness, adding, "I scarcely think the remarks I made regarding this collection were unjustified."

Sir Henry stood with an expression of blank amazement upon his ruddy good-humored face.

"But, my dear sir, there's something altogether wrong here."

"Exactly what I said this morning—it is sadly, lamentably wrong."

"But I mean," almost shouted the baronet, "that this isn't the real collection. I alone put in five pounds; I gave a five-pound gold piece, one of the newly-coined Jubilee ones. It occurred to me that you might get a trifle more for it as a curiosity. Mr Archer, the box has been robbed."

We returned to the church, and scrutinised the box closely. Neither the lock nor the box bore the least signs of having been tampered with—and yet, where was the gold five-pound piece?

"The box has a large opening," said Sir Henry. "It would not be difficult to insert a thin stick or piece of whale-bone, smeared with bird-lime, and so extract the coins. I have heard of such things being done before."

"But there is no one here likely to do such a wicked thing," said Uncle Philip, warming to the defence of his parishioners.

"Well, I don't know. Fell-Thorpe can furnish a poacher or two, my gamekeepers tell me. It is clear that the box has been robbed, Mr Archer, and you ought to have the matter investigated. By the way," and the baronet paused before leaving the vestry, "do you keep that fine Sacramental plate in the church?"

It really was fine plate, unusually valuable to be in use in a village fane. Some two centuries ago it had been presented to the church by a pious maiden lady, who bequeathed her modest savings for the purpose of replacing "ye altar plate and furniture," which Waller's sacrilegious troopers had plundered in the Civil Wars. Apart from their intrinsic value, the massive chalices and paten were exquisite specimens of silversmiths' workmanship, and might have graced a cathedral.

"Where should I keep the Communion plate but here; it has been safe in this vestry for two centuries and more," said Uncle Philip.

"Well, it seems clear that thieves have carried off something already from the church, and I hope they will not pay you another visit," said Sir Henry, and departed, leaving Uncle Philip in a condition of the deepest dejection.

"I thought my flock misers—am I to believe them thieves also?" he asked, in despairing tones. The village constable and Mr Smith were both summoned to give counsel in the matter, but without much good result, the former frankly avowing that the matter "beat him;" the latter reproaching that he had "never held" with the box. A plate held at the church door would have obviated all risk of robbery. Mr Smith, however, made one practical suggestion that certain pieces of money should be marked and placed in the box. Should the theft be repeated and these coins changed in the village they might lead to the identification of the thief. Uncle Philip listened dejectedly to a scheme which seemed likely to place him in the unenviable position of a prosecutor of one of his own parishioners; but Mr Smith was insistent, and some coins duly marked were dropped into the box. We spent a miserable evening at the Vicarage; Uncle Philip, an almost morbidly conscientious man, gave himself up utterly to self-reproaches. If, after twenty years' pastoral work, his teachings had borne no better fruit than this, it was a clear proof that he had mistaken his vocation—he was unfit for his post, and so on; until Deborah, who was clearing the table, openly "dratted" the major and his scheme of restoration.

"If he'd a been content to leave the church as he found it, there'n a been no box to rob, and master wouldn't a been worritted."

Truly, "les absents ont toujours tort." Every one seemed to put all the blame on poor innocent Major Grant. Uncle Philip was equally despondent when Monday came; so much so, that in the afternoon I made up my mind to go off and see if the Grants had returned, as they had arranged to do on this day. Major Grant was a cheery little body, and would pay him a visit. Besides, I was naturally anxious to be the first to announce the startling news of the suspected robbery.

"You'll be caught in the rain, Miss Annie, I'm thinking," remarked Deborah, as she saw me about to set out on my expedition. I had a good two miles' walk before me, the Grants living at the extreme end of the parish.

"If it rains I may wait to dinner and walk back with the major afterwards," I said; "don't let Uncle Philip wait for me if I am not back to tea, Deborah."

Deborah gave a sniff, which I knew meant that she would see that Uncle Philip waited for no one. I was often accustomed to drop in to meals at the Grants, and the major to return the compliment at the Vicarage; but the Grants still kept up the fashion of a late dinner at six o'clock, while we contented ourselves with the humble mid-day repast. I think, however, Deborah's housekeeping was the more liberal of the two. Mrs Grant was always glad to welcome a visitor to break the monotony of her quasi-invalid life, and we had a fiction of reading French and Italian together which served as an excuse for frequent visits. Before I had gone far on my way, however, the rain began to descend. I have before mentioned that I sketched and painted. I had lately been finishing some small studies of the views from our church tower, and had taken the freedom, without consulting Uncle Philip, to make use of the "Nuns' Gallery" as a kind of temporary studio.

The old woman who cleaned, or was supposed to clean, the church, readily agreed to sweep and dust out this disused part of the edifice for my convenience, and here I was wont, after concluding my day's painting on the tower, to stow away my palette, paints and canvas, instead of troubling to carry them to and fro daily as I did the great church key. Now, as the rain began to descend, I remembered that I had left my waterproof cloak as well as my painting gear in the Nuns' Gallery. Luckily I had the key of the church in my pocket. I seldom went out without it, Uncle Philip possessing a duplicate. It was but a step across the road to the church, and I soon found my property, but as I turned to descend the dark winding stairs which led from the Nuns' Gallery I stumbled, and, in the effort to save myself, fell against the half-opened door which shut off the end of the staircase. It closed with a slam, and I immediately remembered that it was only opened by an outside latch, consequently I was caught in a trap. I groped and fumbled, and hurt my fingers in vain. It was impossible to open the door from within, and I resigned myself to the inevitable. I was less alarmed at my predicament than many girls of my age would have been. As regards the ghostly associations of the gallery I was utterly sceptical. My life, before coming to Fell-Thorpe had been too full of practical cares and anxieties to leave much room for imaginative terrors. I had faced the stern realities of life too early to be much troubled with "nerves." I should be missed and inquired for as the evening drew on, and Deborah at least knew that I was in the habit of making sketches from the church tower. They were sure to look for me here when it was discovered that I was not at the major's. It was provoking to be thus caged, and I hoped that I should be released before I began to grow hungry, but any fears of a supernatural visitation in the gallery never crossed my mind. To beguile the time, I commenced a sketch of the church as seen from my eyrie, and thus occupied, worked until the evening shades began to fall. Seven o'clock, eight, the church was growing dark now, and I began to feel chilly (though it was warm weather), tired and decidedly hungry. Well, it could not be long before I was missed and sought for, so I wrapped myself in my cloak, and nestling myself into a convenient angle of the wall, set myself to await release as patiently as might be. At last I fell asleep. I awoke suddenly, with a sensation of having slumbered for weeks, and was startled to see a light in the church below. I sprang up, and was about to call out, when a voice fell on my ear.

"Nobody ain't there," and the door at the foot of the staircase, which had apparently been opened, gave a click.

"I'd have settled 'um if there had," growled another tone.

Peering cautiously through the interstices of the stonework, I perceived, in the nave, two men, one of whom I recognised as Roger Simmons, a village loafer, strongly suspected of poaching proclivities the other a most villianous looking man, who carried in his hand a heavy bludgeon, and a bag over his arm.

Perhaps the ups and downs of my former life had taught me self-control, for I checked my first impulse to call out, and waited. There was little doubt that I was face to face with the robbers of our alms-box, equally little doubt that it would be wise to conceal my presence. Squeezed against the front of the gallery I held my breath and watched.

"Come on," said the strange man, impatiently throwing down his bag and extracting therefrom some tools. "What (with an oath) are you staring about for?"

"There's t' ghaist," half blubbered Roger, who seemed as if dragged on against his will. "I be mortal feared to think we may see she."

The elder man swore roundly at Roger's cowardice and superstition in terms which I refrain to quote.

"Measter," said Roger, desperately, in the tones of one making a last appeal; "I can't go for to do it. Why, my old dame 'ud break her heart to think of them holy things being touched; no good 'll come of it, you'll see—taint like taking silver out o' passon's own house!"

"No, I don't think that your 'passon,' as you call him, deals in such silver," said the other ruffian, coolly, as he sorted and selected his tools; "but you village fools don't know valuables when you see them. To think!" he added, with another oath, "that it was just by chance I caught sight of these things the Sunday I came to church to gammon you good folks, and you only telling me of the haul I might make out of the alms-box. By the way, here goes again," and by the device which Sir Henry had suggested—a bit of whalebone apparently smeared with some sticky substance, the box was again rifled with a dexterity which told of long practice.

"It's no use standing shaking and shivering now," went on the remorseless robber; "you're in for it all the way: you helped to rob the poor box last week, and you've got to show me where the silver's kept now, so come along and no more talking."

Hesitating and trembling, the less courageous thief followed towards the vestry, murmuring about his "dame," "passon," "t' ghaist," religious scruples and superstitious terror warring with the power his fellow-criminal had obtained over him.

I had not lived for four years at Fell-Thorpe without becoming imbued with some of the sentiments of the place, and the sacrilegious theft to be perpetrated on our treasured altar vessels roused me to intense indignation. An idea occurred to me, I might run some risk, but I would chance that. Pressing my face against the openings of the carving I gave vent to a long sighing groan, and was delighted to hear the sound greeted by an absolute yell from Roger.

"T' ghaist, it be she," he cried, and would have rushed from the church had not his companion held him.

"Wait a bit, you fool," whispered this latter, but I was pleased to detect a decided tremor in his voice. I gave vent to another melancholy sigh, loud enough to be audible below.

"Curse it, there's some one spying up there," cried the stranger, flashing his bull's eye lantern on the gallery. A sudden inspiration, born of the danger which I knew I was in, flashed upon me. I hastily wrapped my handkerchief round my face, drew the dark cloak over my head, and thus having arranged up a very fair imitation of a nun's head gear, thrust my head out of the opening where tradition asserted Lady Sybil had protruded hers, and poured out a loud wailing cry like a veritable Banshee. Cold and terror doubtless gave to my voice a wierd sound enough. The effect of my appearance was magical. Roger fled yelling to the door, and his companion was apparently now more solicitous to outstrip him than to detain him—in a second or two the men had vanished, leaving their tools and lantern behind them in their flight. It was some time before I ventured to descend the stairs; and then found to my great relief, that the door, which one or other of the thieves had opened (I suppose to see if anyone was hiding on the staircase) had not quite closed. As I stopped out into the church, the outer door opened, I shrank back into the darkness, but was relieved to see only Uncle Philip, to whom I rushed; and rather startled the kind old man by bursting into a convulsive fit of sobbing in his arms.

"There, my dear, there," he said soothingly, patting my head, "I suppose you got yourself shut in somehow by accident, and it's sadly unfortunate that you should have been kept here so long; midnight, bless me," as the clock chimed above us. "But the fact is that I was called out just as I was going to bed, to baptise a dying child at the other end of the parish, and when I came back and found you still missing, I, of course, started off first to the major's, where Deborah said you had gone. The Grants have not yet come home, and I found the house empty and locked up. But as I came back, I remembered that you sometimes sketched at the church, and thought it just possible that you might be in here, particularly as the outer door was ajar—careless of you to leave it so, by the way, my love—but, eh, what's this," and Uncle Philip broke off his narrative as his eye fell upon the tools and lantern on the floor, visible by the light of a similar bull's eye which he himself carried, a serviceable guide for his nocturnal perambulations over our dark country lanes.

I rapidly explained my adventure, and how I had played upon the superstitious fears of the thieves to save our altar plate. Uncle Philip was delighted. "You ran some risk, though, my brave, clever little girl," he said at length, after laughing heartily at my description of the abrupt departure of the thieves, "and I am thankful all has ended as it did. And now, Annie, remember, not a word of this adventure to any one for a day or two. I think I see my way to get back some of our lost almsbox collection."

Early next morning Uncle Philip paid a visit to Roger, who lived with his old mother, a respectable widow, to whom her son's idle and discreditable courses were a source of great regret. It was, indeed, consideration for old Mrs Simmons, whom every one liked and pitied, which had made Sir Henry's head gamekeeper somewhat blind to Roger's more than suspected poaching proclivities. The village ne'er-do-weel was now, however, laid up in bed; groaning under the newly-awakened terrors of a guilty conscience, and a firm belief that he should not long survive the ghostly warning which he believed himself to have received from Lady Sybil's wrath. He needed no urging to pour out all his guilty secret to Uncle Philip, confessing how he had long had secret dealings with the stranger, a noted London "cracksman," regarding the disposal of his poached game; how this "Bill" had come down to lodge at his mother's cottage for change of air (burglars, like other people, may take an occasional holiday), and how the announcement of our proposed collection for the Restoration Fund suggested to the London thief an opportunity for combining professional business with pleasure. Roger, already in his power from their previous illicit transactions, was a hopeless tool in his hands. Like a once famous London burglar, Mr Brown, as the thief chose to be called, passed for an extremely respectable, even religious, kind of man, and quite won poor dame Simmons' heart by the regularity with which he accompanied her to church on Sunday mornings, a thing she could never induce her son to do. We have seen how piously Mr Brown employed himself during service time by "taking notes" of our local valuables, with a view to their ultimate plunder. Uncle Philip had the satisfaction of recovering from the penitent Roger a part of the spoils of our almsbox, notably the gold five pound piece. The congregation had come forward very handsomely after all, and I think Uncle Philip preached to himself as well as to his hearers when he delivered himself of an eloquent harangue against "rash and uncharitable judgments" in his next sermon.

The stolen coins, or at least the larger part of them, had been concealed in a hiding-place near Roger's cottage, and Mr Brown had been in such haste to catch the next train to London (one stopped in the early hours of the morning at a station some five miles off) that he had actually struck straight away across country to Byford Junction, without delaying even to fetch his clothes from Mrs Simmons'. I wonder if this worthy believed in the ghost, or suspected a police ambush? Any way he disappeared, and Fell-Thorpe saw him no more. There was no doubt about Roger's view of the affair. Uncle Philip felt bound to explain the real state of affairs to him, when the man asserted the ghost had appeared to him, called him by name, and therefore sealed his doom. But Roger rejected all attempts at explanation. If, as Uncle Philip asserted, I was in the gallery, well, like the Mousquetaire in the "Ingoldsby Legends," Roger could only declare "il y a deux." "I know what I seed, sir," he persisted, with a stolid obstinacy peculiar to the bucolic organisation; and Uncle Philip was silenced.

Of course we ought to have prosecuted Roger; so said Sir Henry, and the major, and even Uncle Philip. But the fellow was only the minor criminal after all. He had received a terrible fright, was apparently sincerely penitent, and had made all the reparation in his power. Village communities are always glad to be rid of a local black sheep quietly, without scandal. Our local magnates decided to act like the kindly suburban gardeners who, loth to crush the snails which they remove from their own cabbages, quietly drop them over their neighbor's palings. Roger was offered his liberty on the same terms accorded to many an ancient wrong-doer, on the condition that he "presently transported himself forth of our dominions." Sir Henry discovered that a recruiting-sergeant was busy at Byford, and Roger, who was a stout, well-grown young fellow enough, was readily enrolled amongst the new recruits. We kept his secret; only, like the Justice in the "Critic," piously hoping that the church robber might, in future

"Defend his country's laws
With half the vigor that he broke them all."

I was glad to learn in after years that such actually proved the case. Work, and discipline, and removal from evil associates, worked wonders for Roger, as these factors have done for many another apparent ne'er-do-weel who has "joined the colors." As Uncle Philip wrote to me a month ago, no one could have recognised the idle, poaching loafer of days gone by in the smart young soldier who was paying his mother a visit during his furlough, on the return of his regiment from abroad, where he had distinguished himself.

We gained our window without applying to the general public. Sir Henry was liberal enough to make up the deficiency in our local fund, remarking to Uncle Phillip that he thought the "lady who saved the altar plate" deserved some recompense, and that he knew, I, as well as Uncle Philip and the major, desired to see our church beautified. Sir Henry is a kindly pleasant man, I ought to know, seeing I have been his niece for some years now. Arthur, my husband and Sir Henry's presumptive heir, tells me that it was his uncle's praises of "the girl who kept her head in circumstances where many people would have screamed and fainted," which first made him desirous of staying at Fell-Thorpe Hall, and making the acquaintance of this female paragon. "Lady Sybil" is still my nickname from Sir Henry.

Not very long ago I happened to take up a work on the local traditions and superstitions current in that part of England in which Fell-Thorpe is located. Our ghost was described in its pages; and I read, with much interest, that "as late as the Jubilee year" this spectre was beheld by "credible witnesses" and by its timely apparition prevented an attempted burglary in the church. It is always unkind to spoil a good story, so "Lady Sybil" has allowed this interesting narrative, founded presumably on the authority of Roger or Mr Brown, either of whom may have let out some scraps of the occurrence, concealing of course their own share therein, to pass uncontradicted, and our local ghost may still be credited with the beneficent guardianship of our sacred valuables.

THE SECRET.

Can a woman a secret keep?
There is one such, I'll engage,
As the years upon her creep—
'Tis the secret of her age.

Far-seeing.—Smart: Whatever induced your uncle to marry the widow of a man who was hanged? Simpson: He has been married to widows before, and says he was tired of having the virtues of former husbands flung in his face.

AUSTRALIAN REMINISCENCES.

A RIDE FOR LIFE.

AN EVENT OF 1853.

By "SPERO."

Early in the year 1852 Ballarat was startled with the rumor that a young German trooper, named James Goldberg, had fatally shot the corporal of his company.

The murderer made good his escape, but some months after was captured in the Plenty Ranges, north-east of Melbourne. He was placed upon his trial at the Geelong Circuit Court in July, 1853, before Mr Justice Barry, and pleaded not guilty, alleging the corporal's death was the result of an accident.

The facts elicited from the witnesses were shortly these:—That the prisoner had obtained from a neighboring storekeeper the loan of two empty cases on which to place his bedding. Refusing to return them when asked, the owner sought the assistance of the corporal to compel restitution. The latter proceeded to take them forcibly, whereon Golberg reached forward for his pistol. Immediately the report of its discharge was heard. The corporal died from his wound the following day.

It was a murder of passion, the whole affair scarcely lasting three minutes.

Mr Smyth ably and eloquently defended the prisoner.

The jury returned a verdict of wilful murder.

The scene was very impressive. The prisoner stood apparently unmoved. When asked if he had anything to say why sentence of death should not be passed upon him, he appealed in strong terms and powerful argument to his Honor to save him from the scaffold. He feelingly alluded to the fact of his being a foreigner with no friends to pity or advise him in this dreadful calamity. He referred to the many opportunities he had of leaving the colony, had he availed himself of them, and that he declined them, preferring to rely on the accidental nature of the offence. He concluded his stirring address by again appealing to the judge to extend him mercy; and said that if it was refused him here he would have to appear before another Judge, from whom he hoped to obtain the mercy denied him in this world.

So ended the prisoner's appeal amid the sobs of the spectators, for its earnestness moved many of them to tears.

The judge was scarcely able from deep emotion to commence his address to the prisoner, and who can wonder that a man of such strong and fine feelings should give way to his emotion on such an occasion, and that tears should dim his eyes? His Honor spoke with much difficulty, and said in a slow and solemn manner, that the statement of the prisoner pressed upon him in no ordinary manner.

"The impassioned appeals for mercy you have made," he said, "while calling upon your Maker to witness the truth of your assertions, lead me to believe it possible that the jury may have been mistaken, but it is with their verdict, given on their solemn oaths, that I am bound to act; and however painful it may be to me to do so, it is my duty, from which I cannot flinch. You say you are a foreigner and lament the forlorn position you now occupy in a land of strangers, but you must know the laws of God if you are ignorant of ours. Your position is forlorn indeed, but I implore you to throw yourself for comfort and support into the hands of the clergyman who may attend you during your brief sojourn on earth. It is possible that the verdict of a jury of men may be wrong, but that of God cannot be. Death can destroy the body but your soul is free from its power. Prepare, then, to make your peace with God and receive that mercy which you assert has been denied to you here."

The judge then pronounced the usual formal sentence of death.

The prisoner received his doom with considerable calmness.

. . . . .

The clergyman of St. Paul's is alone in his study on the Sunday afternoon before the execution is to take place.

He is aroused from his reverie by his servant, who announces a visitor. "Sir," begins the stranger, "I have come to you on a matter of life or death, hear me intently, I pray you, and render me what assistance may be in your power."

The clergyman listens intently to his story.

"You are aware that at this moment there is a prisoner in the Geelong gaol under the sentence of death named James Goldberg; at his trial he accused one witness of perjury. Now I bring to you the fact that perjury was committed, and I beg you to give me a letter at once to the Governor that I might be able to obtain a reprieve."

"But how," said the clergyman, "can you possibly be back here in time prior to the execution fixed for 8 o'clock to-morrow morning?" This was before the days of railway or telegraphy. "Ah!" answered the other, "I will have to race for it, and God grant me success."

Leaving St. Paul's, swiftly he gallops along the lonely bush road, passing Lara and the Little River. Fording the Werribee, he exchanged his horse for another to carry him on to Melbourne.

He arrived at the residence of Governor La Trobe, at Jolimont, about midnight, after hard ride of fifty miles.

"His Excellency is in bed," said his servant.

"I must see him," was the reply, "as it is a case of life or death."

The stranger is admitted, and in a few minutes a kindly old gentleman enters the room. He hears the story, and is satisfied that the testimony of the principal witness was not trustworthy; and at an early hour in the morning, over forty years ago, in the old wooden house at Jolimont, a respite was signed to stay the execution until further orders.

The Governor accompanied his visitor to the door, and with the blessing that God may speed him on his errand of mercy, they parted.

The bitter cold of the August morning matters not to the rider as he urges his horse at a furious gallop away past the Saltwater River, over the dreary plains which in his eagerness seem endless; but on he goes, at a pace not often equalled, until the Werribee is reached. There he obtains another fresh horse, and madly on he rides with one question uppermost in his mind—Will he be in time? Repassing Little River and Lara, and when nearing Geelong, his horse becomes fagged. The hard riding has told upon the beast. But again with renewed courage his master urges him on, and the faithful creature seems to understand what is required of him, and responds gallantly to his task. . . .

The gallows was erected on the place where the Geelong Court now stands.

The execution was appointed to take place at eight o'clock in the morning.

At an early hour numbers of people were seen wending their way to view the morbid spectacle. While the large crowd was collecting before the scaffold, an impressive scene was taking place inside the condemned cell.

The prisoner's head was lowered, listening intently to the prayers of the Rev Andrew Love, who had attended him most diligently as his spiritual adviser.

"Farewell, Goldberg! May God be merciful to you a sinner!" Clasped hand in hand, no need for further words in this their eternal farewell, soul reads soul; and the condemned man reads in the other's face anguish and pity, whilst the clergyman reads in the prisoner's face resignation.

Out to the corridor, with his face wrought with pain, the minister passes, leaving the unfortunate wretch to be pinioned for his doom. Ten minutes but remain when a horseman is seen riding furiously on a foaming horse towards the gaol waving a paper in his hand, and a closer inspection shows that both rider and horse are terribly exhausted.

Immediately after it is rumored that the prisoner has been reprieved; a glad shout arises, after which the crowd gradually dispersed, some disappointed that their curiosity has not been satisfied by the sickening sight of a public execution; others, more human, feeling thankful that mercy has been extended to the condemned man.

The respite brought by the horseman was in the Governor's handwriting and dated that morning, so the bearer must have made great haste to save the prisoner's life. Ten minutes more and he would have been launched into eternity.

. . . . .

The Sheriff, Captain Fyans, deputed the Rev Mr Love to gently break the news of his reprieve to the prisoner; probably no harder, nor at the same time more joyful task was ever allotted to a clergyman.

Goldberg, in his intense joy—for intense it must have been, when we imagine him saved within ten minutes of what appeared almost certain death—threw himself on the ground, clasped the knees of his pastor, thanked him over and over again for his goodness and kindness to him.

The sentence was commuted to fifteen year's penal servitude, and often during that lonely exile was the prisoner's heart gladdened by the visit of one who had supported and comforted him during the most anxious period of his life.

Goldberg, at the end of twelve years, was released from Pentridge, and immediately left the country, where the great event of his life, had taken place, and where he had suffered so much, to return to his native land.

So concluded an unique history, as it is the only instance in our colony, and in all probability in Australia, where a criminal has been reprieved within ten minutes of the time appointed for his execution.

The Wild West Pony Express.

SHOWING ADVENTURES OF BUFFALO BILL AS A BOY MAIL CARRIER.

(From the "New York Recorder.")

"You know what the pony express was?" began Buffalo Bill. "No! Well, then, I'll tell you. By the year 1859 the telegraph system extended from the Atlantic seaboard as far west as St. Joseph, and from San Francisco as far east as Sacramento. But between Sacramento and St. Joseph intervened 1,962 miles of desert. An overland mail coach system was established in 1859, which accomplished the distance in about three weeks. Senator Gwinn, of California, saw what an immense advantage it would be to the entire country, and especially to his own State, if this time could be reduced. He suggested to the Overland Stage Company that a pony express, consisting of successive relays of ponies, that should be changed at stations along the route, would carry telegrams and mails in less than half the time it took the lumbering stages. The company was quick to take the hint. Hence the pony express. The schedule time was ten days, and though the riders had to pass through a desert country infested by hostile savages and frequently swept by storms and blizzards, though they had to clamber over precipitous mountains, wade through streams and rivers, and make difficult headway through trackless wastes of sand and sage brush, they were rarely even so much as an hour behind the schedule time.

"The pony express was established on April 9, 1860. Sixty riders and 420 ponies were secured. The stations were from 12 to 15 miles apart. Each pony made only one station; each rider was required to make three, but he had the option of doing double duty. The keepers of the stations had the ponies ready saddled and bridled, the rider merely jumping from the back of one to the other, or where the rider was changed his pouch was unbuckled and handed to his already mounted successor, who started at a gallop as soon as his hand clutched the bag.

"Almost with the very establishment of the pony express I had become a rider. I was only fifteen, but I soon made a reputation as a thoroughly reliable rider. But my mother wanted me at home, and at her urgent entreaty I resigned after two months' service. Still, the fever had entered my blood. I looked back yearningly on those two months of active adventurous life. At last I could stand it no longer. That fall I told my mother I had made up my mind to return to the pony express. She gave a reluctant consent.

"I sought out the famous Captain Slade, who was then stage agent for the division extending from Julesburg to Rocky Ridge.

"'Why, my boy,' said Slade, when I explained my errand, 'you're too young for a pony express rider. It takes men, and good men, for that business.'

"'Well, I replied,' a little hotly, perhaps, 'I rode two months last year on Bill Trotter's division, and I think I am a better man now than I was then.'

"'What!' said Slade; 'you're that boy are you—the youngest rider on the road whom I've heard them speak of?'

"'Yes, I am,' I replied.

"'Good; I'll engage you.'

"I was assigned to duty on the road from Red Buttes, on the North Platte, to the Three Crossings of the Sweetwater—a distance of seventy-six miles. It was a long distance, but I soon showed that I was equal to more than this; for one day, when I came to the end of my route, I found that my successor was dead drunk. His route was eighty-five miles long. What did I care? I at once mounted his pony and dashed off. I made every relay station on time and accomplished the round trip of 322 miles back to Red Buttes without an hour's rest. I believe this is the longest ride in the records of the Pony Express Company."

Old Christmas.

I love to greet old Christmas
When the rime is on the bough,
With his coronet of holly,
And the berries on his brow.
What, though the clinging icicles
Hang on his beard of snow,
They'll vanish in a twinkling
Before the yule-log's glow.

I love to greet old Christmas,
When snow lies thick without,
Or old King Frost comes nipping
And biting all about;
For then the ringing laughter
Falls pleasantly on the ear,
And old friends gather round us
To taste the season's cheer.

I love to greet old Christmas,
If not for present joy,
At least for recollections
That come without alloy.
A thousand hallow'd memories,
Around his form are cast;
They link the sober present
To the seasons that are past.

His Creditor.

Studds (an impecunious bachelor) complained to Stubbs (married) of his deplorable lack of acquaintance among ladies with eligible dowries. "But," interposed Stubbs, "I can introduce you to three pretty young ladies having at least £20,000 each." "For mercy's sake do," cried Stubbs, "and I will be your creditor for life." "Creditor! My dear fellow, you have the terms confounded! Debtor, you mean!" "No, creditor. As soon as I get possession of that £20,000, you will ask me for a loan, which I cannot refuse, though I know you'll never repay it."

Copernicus, Kepler, and Newton were earnest Christians.

BUFFALO BILL'S DUEL.

JOHN M'GILLIGAN TELLS HOW THE SCOUT KILLED CHIEF YELLOW HAND.

William Langan, the supply agent and head of the commissary department at Buffalo Bill's Wild West (says the "New York Tribune") has a cook in his employ who has a great many interesting stories to tell, if you know him. His name is John M'Gilligan, and he is a typical Irishman, honest, garrulous and straightforward. John is a brave man and a United States soldier who has seen much service in the West, in many an Indian campaign. One incident in his life, it seems, he will never forget, for he saw Colonel Cody kill the famous chief Yellow Hand in a hand-to-hand duel with knives, or rather tomahawk against knife. The fight occurred on 17th July, 1876. "Honest Old John," as he is called, was then in Colonel (now General) Carr's command, and as the duel was the only one that ever occurred on this continent while contending enemies stood and watched it, his version of what he saw at that time is certainly interesting.

"You see, sir," said John, "the way of it all was this: I was in Colonel Carr's command at that time—for I've been a soldier for more than one term of enlistment, let me tell you—and we came one morning to the banks of Far Bonnet Creek. We had just learned that the gallant Custer—God rest his soul!—had been murdered by the savages, and we were not on the best of minds towards them, if the truth must be told. General Merritt, I think, it was, who had command of the forces that morning, sent Buffalo Bill, who was chief of the scouts, out to see if the Indians had crossed the creek. They hadn't come across yet, sir, so Bill went on a little further and soon discovered the camp of the Indians towards the south. He and General Merritt, I think it was, went up to the top of a hill to reconnoitre. Bill saw some soldiers riding hurriedly towards the camp of the main body, and they were pursued by the Indians, or part of them at least. Taking a dozen scouts with him, Bill hid in the bushes, and when the soldiers went by, waited for the Indians to come. They passed the ambush without seeing Bill or any of the boys, and the next thing they knew they didn't know anything, for the scouts killed so many of them and so quickly that the others had no sense left at all. They gave up trying to catch the soldiers (who were couriers), and ran away to the main force of the Indians, over to the other side of the hill.

"It was only a little while until the two large bodies of men came together, and we had a bit of a ruction there that was pretty lively while it lasted, which was only as long as the Indians thought they had only a corporal's guard or two to handle. Then they drew off and sat just out of range on their ponies, looking at us.

"There was a big chief in the Indian army named Yellow Hand, and he must have been looking for trouble, for he rode out in front of his people and dared our Bill to come out half way and fight. That was all right, and Bill took him at his word. I don't remember just all that happened for a minute or so—and it was all over in less than two minutes—but I heard both their guns crack, and saw the Indian's horse flop over—deader'n a rock, he was. Then the Indian—that was Yellow Hand—struck at Bill with his tomahawk, and I thought for the life of me he had hit him on the head and done for him—and I was that mad, I would have run in and cracked his head meself—but the Indian had taken a bigger contract than he ever had before, for just as he struck at Bill's head, Bill grabbed him by his wrist, jerked him forward, and his big bowie knife split Mr Indian's heart so quick he never seemed to know he was hurt at all, at all.

"Then the whole caboodle of the Indians charged on Bill, and how he got out is more than I can tell you, sir, for in the battle that commenced then and lasted, in the shape of a running fight, for more than thirty miles I had just about as much as I could do to take care of myself."

The Hanging of Women.

YVETTE GUILBERT INDIGNANT.

The first time that I saw Yvette Guilbert was some four years ago. It was in a little place of beer and song, which was kept by one Jean Sarrasin, a Meridional, who at one time hawked olives about Paris, and, as he was a poet also, each pennyworth of olives was served wrapped in a sheet on which was Jean Sarrasin's latest sonnet. And by selling olives and poetry Jean Sarrasin had amassed money, and so came to take a little place of beer and song up in Montmarte, which he hung with Japanese lanterns and decorated with Japanese fans, and styled "The Japanese Divan." I do not know what impulse of ennui had taken me there that night, nor do I know why it was that I found myself next to Henry Herman, but I do know that I was suddenly nudged by my neighbor, who directed my attention to the stage. For the first time I consulted my programme, and for the first time I read the name of Yvette Guilbert. "She is going to be very great," said Henry Herman, and the poor fellow lived to see her with one foot on the neck of Paris and the other foot on the neck of London. And now here we were together in a room full of flowers in a hotel in London.

I had come to ask her about this and that, to be presently set down in what Mr William Archer calls "true interviewing prose," but even interviewing—different in this respect from the new criticism—shapes itself as the fates will have it. And so it came to pass that almost from the very outset we fell to talking about a certain Sarah Ann Albery, of Nottingham, a woman in the deep black of a hideous fate impending.

And Yvette, who had been languid and graceful, sprang from her reclining chair, and out of the singer at concerts blazed forth a woman in tenderness and sympathy and heart. She sprang to her feet, brusque, lithe, and indignant, and she cried out aloud—"How so? Do you hang women in England?"

And I said: "Yes, merrily, and the more the woman has been abandoned, and robbed and betrayed, and the greater her misery, her anguish, and the greater her temptation, the more in this beautiful country of my birth we smirk and approve. Oh, Madamoiselle, it is a splendid sight: the clergyman in his canonicals, the sheriff in his robes, the macebearer with his staff, the tolling bell, the flag-staff, and somewhere Monsieur la Pere, with his face in his hat, or curling his moustache in some saloon of any bar."

"But it is incredible. Give me her name. Could I not write to the Prince of Wales? To hang a woman! C'est horrible! How! a woman, who is the mother of all things—a mere du monde! Does the Queen know of these things? She, who is so good and so kind: does she tolerate these things?"

"Mademoiselle, c'est une affaire de bureau." "Mais c'est affreux." And Yvette shuddered and said, "I can see the quivering of the petticoats, and I can hear the frou-frou of her things as the drop goes down."

I said: "I believe that a piece of string, or a useful strap, is used to avoid any unpleasant quiverings or any disturbing frou-frous. It is done in a little shed, with a platform and a rope and a lever, and the clergyman is chanting all the while."

Suddenly the artist in Yvette got the upper hand, and she said, "What a subject for a song, 'The Hanging of a Woman!' I must get Jules Jouy to write it for me, and I will sing it in London when I next return."—"Westminster."

THE ROOT OF THE MATTER.

A SOCIAL STORY.

By H. H. Chapson.

CHAPTER X.

"I admit you made good your point," said Dr. Barton, "that the enforcement of trade union principles would benefit the working class, as it would secure to them a larger share of the national income. But those which are free from foreign rivals the effect must be all to their advantage. But I think we are where you're going to stop. Would you go on, so invention are applied, to confiscate the restrictions of the home of income?"

"Why not?" replied Blake. "Improved processes now affect the worker disastrously. In the long run he gets a small advantage by the reduction in price, but the displacement of labour increases competition and makes it more difficult for him to find employment even at a lower wage. In your proposal, or rather the trade unionist proposal, would simply give to the working class a large proportion of the gain due to better processes of production. It would make those appliances labor-saving in the true sense. The idea to be aimed at is that when a machine is introduced that enables one man to do the work of ten, instead of nine men being thrown out of employment, all of them should get some share of the benefit of the working shorter hours. Is that unreasonable or Utopian?"

"It's very nice indeed from the working class point of view," Barton admitted, "but what about foreign competition?"

"I'll deal with that now," said Blake, "and be commonest to read.

There is no sensible man who does not see the enormous advantages of Protrade-ism the abstract. Our complete foreign manufactures at a incentive build to-ment on the question comes simply from nature. To take an extreme case, as one of an illustration, cocoanuts can be grown in England—in hot-houses, of course, but that is only a matter of margin approach. It would be commercial to do anything in the world, and yet it would be better to import cocoanuts than to raise them. The reason is that we should raise coal and iron in England, and exchange the products, with the rest of humanity, for cocoanuts grown in Spain, Sicily or Portugal—means, then, the underlying principle is that the labor of the producers of iron create most readily, we are all in favor of it.

I we come down to the actual facts of foreign competition, we find that the foreign article beats the home-made one, for one of three reasons either because the foreign country is not by climate, geographical position, or other natural causes, in a position to that kind of production, or because the trade is not carried on with sufficient capital, or because the labor employed is either, or, in the worst case, both. Though we have equal natural advantages and equal skill, yet we find that the foreigner is greater than it is in the competing country. Protection is unconstitutional; it would cause the production to take place in countries where conditions involve waste and misapplication of capital and labor—as with our hot-house cuppers. In the second case, Protection would put a premium on incompetence and laziness on the part of the some producers; it would be a premium on incompetency to subsidize bad work. It is on the last ground that trade unionists advocate Protection.

A trade union must fixing a standard of minimum wage. It says you must pay, let us say, a penny a week at least, though you are a liar; if you pay more than that you like for special skill and industry. In this shifts the incentive for competition, from any rate, all the employed are to be employed. It means that all employers are to be compelled to pay the same wages, and that the employer who can do the work cheapest, and reduce at any cost, the cost of production, will be the most successful. Now, I ask you, how does this work in practice. Employer A, a man of average ability, can spend a week to his average hand. Employer B comes along, and learns of some man of ability, see that there is a fortune in selling boots cheaper for a year hands 2s a week less than A does. B calls this "enterprise," but he forgets that A must now reduce wages by 2s. because B has lowered the price of boots. The result of competition goes on between employers until replace with machine of a lower price, or the fashion of your native population, which, in the case of boots, means that the boots will be in the worst event, quotation itself upon the commodity on a foreign market. Now, I say, Whatever are this may be, the result, however, does not effect the any point of the question. The question is, Is it better that the minimum objective be the maximum of employment, or the maximum of production, or the maximum of employment at the cost of production? Is it better that the worker should be the maximum of a machine, or the maximum of a machine? Is that unreasonable or Utopian?

AGRICULTURAL

A Good Butter Cow and a Good Cheese Cow in One.

Professor Collocks, of the Vermont Experiment Station, in an address before the Ayrshire association at its annual meeting in New York, referring to the much mooted question whether a good butter cow was also of necessity a good cheese cow, said such thinking examples as the Ayrshire cow could be found every year or so that may be called a cheese and butter cow. The cow Isabella, bought from Mr. L. B. Lewis during the year, gave 7,000 lbs of milk, averaging 3.9 per cent. Extraction, per cent, cream and skimmed milk, which would make 300 lbs of butter. During the same time the Jersey cow Ida, yielded 5,000 lbs of milk, averaging 5.1 per cent, fat and 4.9 per cent. casein, and although Ida made more butter than Isabella, and sold at the same price. The two cows then, so far as the butter value of their milk is concerned, were practically even, and if the milk of each had been made into butter, and sold at 20c per lb., the receipts should have been identical. But if the milk from the dairy, as it should, had been made into cheese, we should have obtained quite a different set of figures. According to the best light obtainable at the present time, each milk as was produced the Ayrshire cow would make 1cwt.3 qrs of cheese, for each 100lb of milk; that given by the Jersey would make 1cwt.0 qr of cheese for each 100lb. of milk, and that given by the Ayrshire, and the Ayrshire, and both from the Jersey, the cheese made from the Jersey will be richer than that from the Ayrshire, but an investigation was made of prices on the Boston market seems to indicate that the market price would be practically the same, or at the outside the richer cheese would cost an eighth of a cent a pound more than the other, and, if Ayrshire milk is used for cheese, it is indicated by figures more for a cheese because it is richer.

Estimating the Weight of Pigs.

There is an satisfactory way of arriving at the weight of living pigs by measuring and using anyone desirous of trying it can measure the pig in question, and then by a little calculation, which is done by measuring the girth just behind the shoulder, and the length of the animal from the top of the shoulder blades to the part of the tail which is square with the buttocks. Then multiply the girth by the length and the product by 2.9, and this is supposed to give the weight in stones of 14lb. Mr. Cullen, of Ballycastle, has not been found reliable as estimating the weight of pigs, but he has found the weight to much more than that arrived at by the measurement, and in the case of halfbred pigs of course it is less. He before now to be alive the pigs alive and then dressed from 10 to 20 per cent. for offal. It would pay, he thinks, to sell pigs alive, now possibly give offal to the butcher, and the butcher would be enabled to make a fair profit, and the consumer would pay for pork, which, of course, he gives as little as he can. Pigs should always be fasted for twenty four hours before weighing, and care should be made for a bottle of food as well as the pail. The mean time the pigs should be given of fasted pigs of from 20 to 30 lbs. Well-bred pigs, the better they feed, the better they are called the percentage should.

The Best Dairy Cow.

It is often a matter of what the breed may be, so long as the cow gives plenty of rich milk continuously or at least from 10 months to 12 months. The cow is that one which breeds regularly, feeds well, and gives a good flow of rich milk for 10 to 12 months, and yet is not little she is not worth keeping. It is perfect folly to keep a Lancaster, and her real cost, if she gives a poor return in milk, simply because she may be attached in any place she may be called her breed. A mongrel cow sometimes may be an excellent milker, and very profitable to keep, but the majority of good cows come from herds that have been carefully bred for the purpose. The better cows are bred to breed. The ancient breed of Shorthorns are splendid milkers, but Jersey and Ayrshire are more, and they show annual for that. The best which turns most of its food into milk and fat will be found for the dairyman. It is a butchers beast.

Devonshire Cider, and How to Make It.

In order to make pleasant and aromatic cider, the apples must be subjected to a thorough destitute of humus. It sliced fine, the juice causes to flow freely, and yield a much powerful hydraulic press. When the apples are crushed, or cut, or sliced, it is desirable to cut first being grounds in a power-press, the cheese is then slightly relieved, the apples crushed fine after sliced, and the cheese is then pressed. The juice should be allowed to stand a few hours, according to the temperature of the weather, for the purpose of developing a rich colour and the aromatic taste. In warm weather ten hours is sufficient length of time for the juice to stand. As soon as little bubbles begin to appear on the surface, which indicates the fermentation, the juice should be racked off, and allowed to stand for a short time, the cider will possess a flavor which it never has when expressed, and the fruit is prompt. Apple seeds should never be crushed, for they impart a disagreeable bitter. The apple should be well ripened, but not in the least decayed. Apples should have the least speck of rot in it. It should be remembered that the juice of the apple is very delicate, and it

PRESTON SHIRE COUNCIL.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH.

Present:—Crs. Bayliss (president), Crawley, Marshall, Paterson, Nichol, Howse, Barrow, White and Howden.

SUBSIDY.

The Under-Treasurer wrote, forwarding account for £426 15s 5d, being proportion of the amount (£50,000) of endowment to municipalities payable for half-year ending 31st December, 1894.—Received.

A CRICKET MATCH.

W. J. A. Cullis, secretary King's Own Lodge, Preston, wrote asking for use of Preston Park to play a cricket match with Boyne Lodge, Fitzroy, on the 25th inst.—Granted, on the motion of Crs. Barrow and White.

THE ALLEGED FIRE BOARD CHARGES.

The Town Clerk, Fitzroy, wrote asking if the council could inform him whether Mr. M. Lynch had been charged £22 for attendance of the brigades at fire as stated in the dip of 15th January.—Mr. Lynch had been applied to for the information.

THE AMBULANCE.

The Secretary Central Board of Health, wrote stating that this council could have the use of ambulance for infectious cases free on condition that the ambulance is properly cleaned and disinfected afterwards.—Received

MAIN FOR GILBERT ROAD.

Joseph D. Gilbert, G. I. Snyder, J. T. Oliver, John Matthews, Thomas Thompson, and T. Wainwright wrote requesting the council to take the necessary steps to have a main laid along Gilbert Road, as the present private service was altogether insufficient for requirements.

Cr. Crawley said the request was a most reasonable one, and as the revenue derived from the street for water amounted to £40 there would be no difficulty about the guarantee.

The president said the proper course was to make an application to have the street reticulated and an officer would be sent out to report. They could rely upon it that he would give his hearty support to the application when it came before the board.

C. Crawley moved that such application be made.

Cr. Marshall seconded the motion, which was carried.

TALLOW MANUFACTURER'S LICENSE.

Isaac Collins wrote making application for a noxious trade license to manufacture tallow on premises to be erected on the south side of Cadover Road.

The managers London Chartered Bank, Fitzroy and Northcote (Messrs E. Smith and G. F. Major) wrote protesting against the granting of the above license, as in their opinion such action would have a depreciating effect on all the surrounding property, in which their institutions were largely interested.—To be considered with inspector's report.

USE OF NEW HALL.

B. Bailey wrote on behalf of the executive of the Preston Free and Circulating Library, making application for the use of the public hall on the evening of the day on which it is to be opened for the purpose of holding an entertainment in aid of the funds of the institution.—To be considered when building is completed.

A CONTRACTOR'S GRIEVANCE.

P. Lavelle wrote demanding the sum of £2 which he alleged was due to him in connection with a contract, and threatening legal proceedings if it was not paid over in 14 days.

Cr. Paterson said the public works committee had gone fully into the correspondence and accounts concerning the claim, and had come to the conclusion that Mr. Lavelle had been paid the full amount owing to him.

The letter was received.

THE POSITION OF THE ENGINEER.

C. Stewart, the council's engineer, wrote informing the council that during the term of his previous engagement at £150 a year for 3 days a week he had, as a matter of fact, attended to the shire work 4 days a week, and, in addition, had had most of the plans prepared at his town office. In the present limited time he was employed by the council he saw no possibility of giving the requisite amount of supervision of the works of the shire. If, therefore, there were any shortcomings in the work done, the council would know the reason why.

Cr. Paterson—We may as well—and better—have no engineer at all as employ one only two days a week.

Cr. Howden rose to state that the matter had been dealt with at last meeting.

Cr. Paterson—That does not prevent me entering my protest against it.

Cr. Barrow thought in view of this new information the matter might be reopened.

The president said he was always prepared to give every facility in discussion and not stand on strict technicalities, but he could not allow this question—which had been decided by a majority at last meeting—to be reopened except in a proper way, which was to give notice of motion that the resolution be rescinded.

No councillor giving such notice the matter dropped.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The report was submitted by Cr. Barrow, recommending that accounts amounting to £31 19s. 11d. be passed for payment.—Adopted.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE.

The report was submitted by Cr. Crawley, recommending—

1. That accounts amounting to £75 15s. 10d. be passed for payment.—Adopted.

2. That, in the temporary absence of Mr. Dredge, Mr. Stewart be appointed acting treasurer.—Adopted.

3. That notices be served in connection with the construction of a channel between Gordon Grove and High Street to carry off the drainage.—Adopted.

4. That tenders be called for maintenance metal (as advertised elsewhere).

Cr. Howse thought it would be well if the contract time could be extended, so that the stone-breakers should have employment for as long a time as possible.

Crs. Barrow, White and Paterson, having shown the impracticability of this the clause was adopted as it stood.

ENGINEER'S REPORT.

Mr. Stewart asked for authority to call tenders for the construction of a channel between O'Keefe Street and Lambert's lane.

Cr. Nichol said that the place as at present was a menace to health. He moved that tenders be called.

Cr. Howse seconded the motion.

Cr. Barrow thought the matter might stand over for a few weeks.

Cr. Nichol said he would be quite agreeable if all other works are delayed.

The president—What will the work cost.

The engineer—About £35.

Cr. White opposed the expenditure, feeling the financial position the members for the central riding refrained from bringing forward works quite as important as this one.

Cr. Howden agreed with his colleague.

Cr. Nichol said the work was passed before the end of the financial year, but it had been allowed to stand over.

Cr. Marshall would support it on condition that he would get a little job in Station Street also promised (certainted to cost £12) carried out.

Cr. Barrow understood the policy of the council was to carry out none but urgent works.

The motion was carried.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT.

Dr. Wilkinson reported four cases of scarlatina, the origin of which he had been unable to trace.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Mr. Horton reported a nuisance near Mr. Schwartz's dairy at the corner of Jesse and Bell Streets—some pitching was wanted.

Cr. Paterson thought if the channel were cleaned out it would meet the case.

Referred to engineer for temporary attention.

ORDINARY BUSINESS.

Cr. Howse asked that the engineer give some attention to the footpath on the north side of Dundas Street.—Agreed to.

Cr. Marshall drew the attention of the inspector to the fact that the footpath in Gilbert Road was at present being used for vehicles instead of pedestrian traffic.

The president expressed the opinion that £30 a year was a paltry amount to pay the inspector for the many services he rendered.

Cr. Howse said he had some other matters to bring forward in regard to office expenses, but he would wait till the secretary returned.

The president complained of the nuisance caused by flocks of geese. He considered they were far more objectionable than wandering cattle and horses and hoped the inspector would try and minimise the nuisance.

Cr. Nichol suggested "potting" the geese as a remedy. (Laughter).

Cr. Howden asked for an improvement to the crossing in Raglan Street at the rear of King and Godfree's.

Cr. Barrow—It has been an eyesore for a long time.

The engineer—The crossing is a private one.

Cr. Barrow said he would then move that the property-owners interested be called upon to abate the nuisance. Seconded by Cr. Paterson and carried.

Cr. Bayliss asked that the police be instructed to prohibit men and youths bathing in the Darebin Creek. At present ladies and children could not go near it on account of this objectionable practice.

Cr. Paterson quite approved of such a step being taken, and it was agreed to.

The president said he had interviewed Mr. Hingston re acquiring land from Cantlin's estate for bridge approaches and he was quite favorable, and had written home to Mr. Cantlin in support of the council's request.

Cr. Barrow complained of the character of the reports made by the inspector with regard to noxious trades. Any disinterested person, who had heard the report read that night, could not, he thought, but come to the conclusion that it was one-sided. Not a single objection of any kind had been raised. The inspector should be thoroughly unbiassed in dealing with such matters.

The president, while he would regret it to attribute the slightest motive to the inspector, agreed with Cr. Barrow that he had appeared in his report more in the light of an advocate than an inspector. He should, in future, rather confine himself to reporting as to the suitability of the locality, &c. than giving his own personal views.

Cr. Barrow said that several ratepayers in the special area whom he had met were evading the registration with regard to the night service. He hoped the inspector would look them up and see that they paid their dues.

Cr. Howden said he would like to know what stage the arrangements for the construction of Jeffrey street had reached.

The acting secretary replied that notices had already been served on the owners.

Cr. Barrow, referring to the recent conference between the representatives of Northcote and Preston councils, asked if anything had been done in the matter of providing litter beds.

The president said that the Preston council had denied any necessity for litter beds. The Preston man took the matter up vigorously, and he understood that with his arrangement the Northcote council were now satisfied.

Cr. Barrow—That is all right then.

CRICKET.

SPORTS DEPOT MATING TROPHY.

NORTHCOTE v. MALVERN.

The above match was continued at Croxton last Saturday. The visitors had made 272 with the loss of 6 wickets, and a further stand was expected, but the remaining 4 only added 8, mostly byes and leg-byes, and in their second innings their batting, with two exceptions, collapsed altogether. The bowling and fielding of the local team was in marked contrast to that shown on the preceding Saturday. Buckley opened with a maiden to Fowler. Coomber bowled from the opposite crease, and Fowler softly poked his 4th ball into the slips. 7—05—273, Christian followed, and got a single off Coomber. Another maiden to Buckley and Coomber with his second ball bowled Farneaux. 8—0—276. Scott was next and 3 leg-byes were run, bringing Christian opposite Coomber, who bowled him. 9—1—279. Crouch was next, and after getting a smart-run single off Coomber, was bowled by Buckley. 10—1—280. Being 20½ behind the Ass'ers followed their innings, Coomber and Buckley opening to Scott and Ballantyne. The game was very slow, Ballantyne doing all the scoring, and when both batsmen appeared set, Buckley got a yorker past Scott. 1—3—285. Fowler joined Ballantyne and at 34 W. Hayes and J. Jenkin were put on, the latter catching Ballantyne off his own bowling. 2—36—09. Dunlop followed, and after vainly trying to get the ball over the fence, he got a hit, and was stumped by Freeman. 3—1—7?. Beattie came in and was out bowled first ball. 4—0—77. Coote came next. Buckley replaced Jenkin and his fourth ball shattered Fowler's wicket. 5—33—77. Furneaux followed, and Coomber replaced Hayes, bowling Coote with the last ball of the over. 6—3—80. Christian came next, but lost Furneaux, who was caught and bowled by Buckley. 7—2—85. C. Crouch followed only to see Christian succumb to a splendid one-handed catch by W. Hayes. The Malvern being two men short, this closed their innings, leaving the Northcote winners by an innings and 310 runs. The return match on the Malvern ground will be commenced to-day.

The following are the scores:—

NORTHCOTE.

First Innings	...	582

MALVERN.

First Innings	...	272
Second Innings	...	86

Bowling.—W. Hayes, 6 for 65 (number 5 for 8); Buckley, 5 for 94; Coomber, 2 for 11; Jenkin, 1 for 12.

Malvern v. Northcote.—This match will be played at Malvern to-day. The Northcote team will be chosen from the following:—Buckley, Dredge, Coomber, Hayes (2), Jenkin (2), Newham, Jewkin, Freeman, F. Lambley, Ewing and Ahern. Cabs leave Town Hall 1.45 p.m. sharp.

The Leader

If you have a good Business.

Advertise and keep it.

If your business is falling off.

Advertise and regain it.

If you have no business.

Advertise and get one.

If you are running a concert, etc., and wish it to be successful.

Advertise it thoroughly.

Printers.

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF

PRINTING

Executed Promptly,

Executed Cheaply,

Executed Well.

BUSINESS MEN and Others may prove this beyond doubt by leaving their ORDERS at the Leader office.

Orders by post receive immediate attention.

Northcote, Preston, Reservoir.

Announcements.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

THE METROPOLITAN GAS CO.

Having Purchased the Plant and Business of the NORTHERN GAS CO., in the

SHIRE OF PRESTON,

IS now prepared to receive Orders for a Supply of Gas at the Rate of 4s 8d per 1000 cubic feet.

Application to be made to the Secretary at the Head Office, opposite Princes' Bridge Railway Station.

GAS STOVES in great variety, can be inspected at the SHOW ROOMS, and hired for 12 months from 1s 6d per month.

The Newest Styles of Special Lamps, Globes, and Burners kept in Stock.

Societies

GWALIA LODGE No. 264, U.A.O.D.

REDUCED INITIATION FEES

For three months only, commencing Dec. 8th, 1894.

The above Lodge, having been granted a special permission by the Board of Directors to initiate at reduced rates, are now prepared to enrol candidates at the following scale—

16 and under 25 years	...	5s.
25 and under 30 years	...	10s.
Over 30, the usual rate, viz.—		
30 and under 35	...	£1 10s 0d.
35 and under 40	...	£3 0s 0d.

The Gwalia Lodge meets at the Peacock Inn Northcote, Lincoln Road, Carlton.

Next Lodge Night—February 18th.

Lodge Surgeons—Drs. E. J. Bird, T. Beaney, Herne, W. H. Stock and W. C. Wilkinson.

Dispensers—J. Christopher and J. Slade.

As the time is limited, intending Candidates are requested to join at once.

The Secretary will attend at the Lodge Room every Monday evening for the purpose of enrolling members. Full particulars from any of the members, or

J. M. JAMES, Secretary,
Latham St., Northcote.

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIVES Literary & Benefit Association, PRESTON BRANCH No. 43.

Meet every alternate Tuesday at Reading and Recreation Club Rooms, South Preston.

Every Australian Native should join this the only truly National and Patriotic Society.

Next Meeting—Tuesday, 12th Feb.

Medical attendance and medicine immediately on joining.

Sick Pay 6 months after admission.

First-class LIBRARY for use of Members. Non members, 2s per Qr.

Further information may be obtained from the secretary—

GEO. C. WINNETT,
Warrs Avenue, South Preston.

PRESTON GOSPEL TEMPERance and Blue Ribbon Mission.

INTERCESSION PUBLIC MEETINGS Held Fortnightly in the Foresters Hall, 115, High street, North Preston.

Next Meeting—Feb. 9th.

Programme of Songs, Duets, Dialogues, and Sunlow Pantomime by Temperance Company from Carlton. Admission—a coin.

W. C. WILLIAMS, Hon. Sec.

SOUTH PRESTON GOSPEL Temperance and Blue Ribbon Mission.

GOOD ENTERTAINMENTS Held every alternate SATURDAY Evenings in Bradford Hall, South Preston, at 8 o'clock.

Next Meeting—Feb. 16th, Chairman, Mr. D. Donovan. Programme supplied by Mr. J. Gourd.

Members' Tickets, 6d per Quarter. Admission—A Coin.

A. J. ROBINSON, Hon. Sec., South Preston.

I.O.R.

Star of Northcote Tent

No. 217.

MEETS in Wesleyan Schoolroom, Northcote, Fortnightly.

Next Meeting—Feb. 21st.

Quoit Match—Juveniles v. Adults, A few of the advantages of the above society are:—

No initiation fees. Graduated scale of payments.

No forfeits, largest Benefits greatest Security.

Strictly Temperance principles, and consequently low death rate.

When you join a benefit society, join the best.

Let your boys join the Juvenile branch in connection with the above and be trained in Temperance, Thrift, and Business.

W. H. ROBILLIARD,
Secretary, Mitchell-street, Northcote.
(near P.M. Church).

L. Ruxton,

CATERER AND FRUITERER

Tea Meetings, Socials, Parties, Balls, catered for at Lowest Rates.

ESTIMATES GIVEN.

A Trial Solicited. Crockery on hire

Note well the Address—

HIGH STREET

Exactly up Lawry St.

MRS. STEWART,

Ladies' Nurse,

5 MITCHELL-STREET, NORTHCOTE.

References if required.

DAVIES & STEEL'S

Annual Summer Sale!

IS NOW ON.

Announcements.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

HAVING obtained the LICENSE to Sell

Australian Wines

in any quantity, I am prepared to supply the very best article at prices in accordance with the times, viz:—

Port Wine	...	11d. to 1s 6d.
Shiraz	...	10d. to 1s 6d.
Verdeilho	...	1s 6d.
Hermitage	...	1s 6d.
Madeira	...	1s 6d.
Claret	...	1s 6d.
Constantia	...	1s 6d.
Muscat	...	1s 6d.
Frontignac	...	1s 6d.

IN PUBLIC:

6d per pint, 1s per quart, 3s per gallon and upwards.

To be obtained from

ROBERT WILLIS

Cash Grocer,

And WHOLESALE

WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANT,

Corner of HIGH and SEPARATION STREETS

NORTHCOTE

Printed and published by the proprietors, R. J. and J. S. Wilkie, at the Leader office, High Street, Northcote, Victoria.

Agents, etc.

R. BAILEY,

HOUSE, LAND, & ESTATE AGENT,

CHARLES ST., NORTHCOTE.

Agent for the Royal Insurance Company, the largest and wealthiest company in the world, and with surplus reserve funds believed to be unequalled by any other joint stock company in the world, except the Bank of England.

Fire Risk of all kinds taken.

Lowest Rates. Promptitude. Liberality.

Northcote Property

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STOTT & BASTINGS

(E. BASTINGS, W. S. STOTT),

HOUSE, LAND, & ESTATE AGENTS.

Auction Sales Arranged.
Insurances Effected.
Loans Negotiated.
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AGENTS FOR—
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Australian Widows Fund.

OFFICE: HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.
(3 doors from Post-Office.)

NORTHERN PROPERTY EXCHANGE.

HOWDEN & CO.,

ESTATE AND FINANCIAL AGENTS

HIGH STREET, PRESTON.
Close to Roll-street.

Persons in search of Homes with large area of land, consult us.

Poultry breeders and dairymen.—Farms to suit.

Houses to let in all parts of Preston.

Agent for South British Fire Insurance Company.

W. H. EDGAR & COY.

ESTATE, FINANCIAL, AND INSURANCE AGENTS,

Irrigation Blocks and Fruit Culture a Speciality.

13 PREMIER BUILDINGS, 229 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE & PRESTON.

Announcements.

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E. Cooper,

TEA AND COFFEE MERCHANT,

Pure India and China Tea, original packages or blended. Small or large quantities supplied.

The finest Quality for the money at the LOWEST CITY PRICES.

MELBOURNE AND SOUTH PRESTON

Note.—Business communications to be addressed to South Preston.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

HAVING attained the LICENSE to Sell

Australian Wines

in any quantity, I am prepared to supply the very best article at prices in accordance with the times, viz:—

Port Wine	...	11d. to 1s 6d.
Shiraz	...	10d. to 1s 6d.
Verdeilho	...	1s 6d.
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Madeira	...	1s 6d.
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Muscat	...	1s 6d.
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6d per pint, 1s per quart, 3s per gallon and upwards.

To be obtained from

ROBERT WILLIS

Cash Grocer,

And WHOLESALE

WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANT,

Corner of HIGH and SEPARATION STREETS

NORTHCOTE

PUBLIC NOTICE.

A Long-felt Want supplied at last.—

CHEAP CASH BUTCHER.

S. Steers

Begs to announce to the residents of Preston and surrounding district that he has again opened in the above business at

HIGH ST., PRESTON
(near Regent St.)

Having made arrangements with the best markets he can now offer to the Public First-class Goods at the lowest possible prices. Don't forget that—Cheapest and the Best. Small goods daily. Families waited upon for orders.

"He who is the world would gain, Must advertise, as I, and I, in the Leader."

Try an A5, in the "Leader." The rate is low and the THANKS good.

Northcote Leader.

Largest Circulation and Best Advertising Medium in the Northern Suburbs.

—CIRCULATING IN—

NORTHCOTE, PRESTON, THOMASTOWN, EPPING, WHITTLESEA, FAIRFIELD, HEIDELBERG, CLIFTON HILL.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1895.

Produce Merchants.

SMALL PROFITS AND QUICK RETURNS.

HAY HAY HAY CORN CORN CORN CHAFF CHAFF CHAFF WOOD WOOD WOOD COAL COAL COAL COKE COKE COKE

J. MUNRO AND CO.

AND

GENERAL PRODUCE MERCHANTS,
GENERAL PRODUCE MERCHANTS,
GENERAL PRODUCE MERCHANTS,

HIGH-ST., NORTHCOTE.

NOTICE:—The Public are hereby notified that we have entered into a partnership the firm hitherto known as Munro & Howse will in future carry on business as MUNRO & CO.

In soliciting the patronage of residents of Northcote, Preston, & neighbourhood we desire to state that it is to be fully known that they are determined to keep pace but the BEST in ALL LINES, and will sell at the Lowest Margin of Profit.

J. MUNRO, Manager.

NORTHCOTE

CHEAP CASH PRODUCE STORES.

B. E. JOHNSON

TAKES this opportunity to thank his numerous friends and customers for the liberal support accorded him in the past, and wishes to inform them that he has decided to CUT the PRICES for CASH and sell at the lowest possible prices. Having made arrangements to procure

STRAW HAY WHEAT OATS BRAN POLLARD, etc.

Direct from the producer, he is able to supply the public of NORTHCOTE, thus saving all middlemen's profits.

Very best country Chaff kept, and you Oats—no adulteration.

Horse, Cow, and Fowl Feed delivered in any part of Northcote and surrounding districts.

WHOLESALE PRICES for large quantities.

B.E.J. hopes the public will give him a trial and satisfy themselves.

Chris. Fry,

(Late Jas. Blair)

PRODUCE MERCHANT & SEEDSMAN.

HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE (near Clifton Hill).

WHERE to notify that he has on Sale—Hay, Straw, Oats, Bran, Pollard, Peas, Maize, Wheat, Barley, Onions, Potatoes, Carrots, Prairie Grass, Rye, White Clover, Red Clover, Cow Grass, Lucerne, Alsyke, and all kinds of farm and garden seeds in great variety.

Prime Chaff, Oats, Potatoes, and Cow Chaff specialities.

WOOD, COAL, & COKE At lowest Rates.

Perry & Grey,

TOBACCONISTS AND HAIRDRESSERS,

High Street, Northcote.

TOBACCO & CIGARS of the Finest Quality.

A Choice Assortment of Fancy Goods.

WOOLS, STATIONERY, AND CROCKERY.

A Trial Solicited.

EDEN PARK GRAZING PADDOCKS.

3000 Acres, Good Grass, Shelter and Water.

Horses, 10/- per quarter; Cattle, 9/-. Reduction for quantity.

GEO. HATTERSLEY,
P.O., Woodcock.

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Pharmaceutical and Dispensing CHEMIST.

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PRESCRIPTIONS prepared accurately with the best Drugs and Chemicals.

BEWARE.

Dimmick's Great 'Xmas Sale!!!

BOOTS almost GIVEN AWAY!

STARTLING PRICES! JUST HAVE A LOOK AT THEM

Ladies Tan Shoes, 4/6, 5/6, 6/6; Children's Tan 3-strap shoes, 4 to 6, 2/6 and 2/9; do. 7 to 9, 3/3 and 3/6; do. 10 to 13, 3/11—unprecedented.

Ladies' Glace Shoes, 4/6

Ladies' Lasting Shoes, 3/11, special line guaranteed

Children's do., 7 to 9, 2/3; 10 to 13, 2/9—unequalled anywhere.

Ladies' Elastic Sides, 4/11, originally 6/6

Ladies' Glace Bals, 5/11, worth 7/6

Gent's Goloah Bals, 5/11

Gent's Goloah Bals, 6/6

Gent's Goloah Bals, 7/6

Canvas Shoes, 2/11

look at them hanging at the door.

Children's School Boots, 1/9, 2/6, 3/6

Middle Strong Boots, 4s and 5s, 3/6

Strong Nailed Wonderlights, 6/9

Nailed Boots, 6/6. Blochers from 3/11

Preston Timber Yard,

HIGH STREET, PRESTON
(Opposite Dr. Wilkinson's).

C. CRISPE & CO.

HAVE pleasure in announcing to the public of Northcote, Preston, Epping & Whittlesea, Diamond Creek, Greensborough, and surrounding districts that they have opened a Timber yard at the above address.

Flooring	Lime	Galv. Iron	Oregon	Hardwood, 3 x 2, 4/3	
Lining	Cement	Bolts	Deals	5ft. Palings, 10/-	
Weatherboards	Spouting	Nails	Battens	6ft. Palings, 4/6	
Mouldings	Ridging	Paints	Sashes	Redgum	

AND

EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING MATERIALS AT LOWEST MELBOURNE PRICES.

NOTE THE ADDRESS AND GIVE THEM A CALL.

SMALL PROFITS.

SUMMER SUITINGS

IN GREAT VARIETY AND AT almost EVERY PRICE, AT

INCE BROS.

—All Goods Shrunk through Water.

The usual standard of EXCELLENCE in FIT and STYLE Guaranteed.

INCE BROS., Tailors, 174 Swanston Street.

"THULINIUS"

THE Great Scandinavian Remedy FOR

RHEUMATISM (Acute or Chronic).
CHALKY GOUT, GOUT.
RHEUMATIC FEVER and its SEQUELÆ.
SCIATICA, LUMBAGO, NEURALGIA.
PAINS IN THE HEAD.
RHEUMATIC AFFECTIONS of the EYES.
INDIGESTION, FLATULENCE.
DYSPEPSIA.
LIVER AND KIDNEY DISORDERS.
BRIGHT'S DISEASE.
CHEST & PULMONARY COMPLAINTS.
NERVOUS DISEASES, Debility, Brain and Skin Diseases (hereditary or acquired). &c. &c.

Invaluable as a recuperative Tonic, and to convalescents ill from or sickness.

PRICE, 3s per bottle, or course of 3 bottles for £1 1s.

Carriage and Package Extra.
Forwarded to all parts of the World on receipt of Remittance.

Depot—15 Victoria Arcade Sydney
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Opposite Australian Hotel. G.P.O. Box 1366.

THULINIUS THE GREAT SCANDINAVIAN REMEDY

PROFESSOR THULINIUS.

MY DEAR SIR,—I feel I should be wanting in duty did I neglect the opportunity of sending you my testimony of the efficacy of your rheumatic specific.

For the past ten years I have been a complete martyr to rheumatism in all its forms. I have tried doctors and hospitals to various times of suffering, and also, I think, every form of advertised remedies, and also followed the advice of well-meaning friends, with no permanent benefit. Hearing of your cure, I was urged by friends to try it. I have been able to accomplish a fortnight's hard work, at least, temporary relief from pain. I am well known, and medical men have told me I should be a cripple for life. Your specific has surprised and astonished me. I am able to go about without crutches or stick. After having left the Royal Hospital as the case was pronounced incurable, I was persuaded to try a bottle of your "Thulinius," and in a short time afterwards I could walk without pain. Before again suffering a relapse last February, I took another bottle, with an equally successful result; but as I feel determined to go through a course of treatment, I have just completed my fourth bottle, with the gratifying knowledge that I am now free from pain, can walk any reasonable distance without fatigue, have an excellent appetite, and feel myself again competent to re-enter my profession, added to which my oft-repeated attacks of pleurisy have become things of the past. I have not dissed myself in any way, so all the credit is due to your wonderful remedy, under Providence, that my blood is becoming purer daily, and its effects upon my liver and kidneys most pronounced. I send you with this the date of my previous attacks and sufferings should you wish to show them. I shall only be too glad personally to convince fellow sufferers of the benefits to be derived from a course of your treatment, examples in my own case after ten years' martyrdom.—I remain yours faithfully

W. H. NEWTON NEWMAN,
Member of Election, and treasurer of Friendly Society and Manager, The Rev. J. D. Ramsay, St. Philip's Church, Sydney, writes:—"I have much pleasure in testifying to the original state of Mr. Newman's health."

Drapers

STEPHENS

IS now selling the balance of the Summer Goods!

Which will be cleared at Ridiculous Low Prices.

Special Value in all Manchester Goods.

In Millinery it is almost given away, and just look at the prices of Flowers, Feathers, Laces, Ribbons, etc.

Men's, Youths', and Boys' Clothing—the cheapest in the trade:—Men's Suits from 15s; Youths' do., 12s 6d; Boys' Knicker Suits from 1s 11d; Men's Shirts at 10½d, 1s, 1s 3d, 1s 6d, 1s 11d; Boys' do., from 9d each.

Men's Mole Trousers are at Manufacturer's cost and those that buy them always come again. The prices are 3s 11d, 4s 6d, and 5s 6d.

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High St., Northcote,

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20 per cent. less than SALE PRICES, and NEW GOODS—No Old Stock, having disposed of it.

Nottage's Men's Suits ... 17s 10d.
Nottage's Men's All-wool Suits, 19s 11d.
Nottage's Men's Serge Suits, 17s 9d & 20s 6d.
Nottage's Better Suits at Low Prices.
Nottage's Boy Suits, 1s 11d, 2s 11d, upwards.
Nottage's Youths' Suits ... 12s 6d
Nottage's Boys' Suits, 3s 11d and 4s 11d.
Nottage's Men's Tweed Trousers, 3s 11d, 4s 11d, to 10s 6d.
Nottage's Men's Shirts, 9d, 1s., and 1s 3d.
Nottage's Hats, Shirts, and Braces, &c., better than Sale Prices.

SOMETHING STERLING.—Trousers to order, special, at 9s 11d. Come and get a pair and try them.

A. R. NOTTAGE,

(LATE CORNER SHOP.)

HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE,

And 220 and 222

SMITH ST., COLLINGWOOD,

Wodonga and Bacchus Marsh.

Drapery, Clothing, Etc.

IN the ASSIGNED ESTATE of S. Frisk, Bonnke and Russell streets, 280 and 282 Bourke street, and 166 Smith street, Collingwood.

The BANKRUPT STOCK REALISATION COMPANY have received instruction to return to

Every purchaser of £1, 4s.
Every purchaser of 10s, 2s.
Every purchaser of 5s, 1s.
Every purchaser of 2s 6d, 6d.

All country orders accompanied by remittances promptly executed.

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Dressmakers, etc.

Miss Wood,

DRESSMAKER,

Westgarth St., near High St., NORTHCOTE,

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Dresses renovated. Terms moderate.

MRS. AND MISS BELCHER,

DRAPERS AND MILLINERS,

HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE.

Next London Bank.

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THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Are hereby requested to visit (or send their orders, accompanied by Money Orders or Postal Notes,)

Brown & Scott's

GREAT SURPLUS CLEARING SALE

—OF—

FAMILY DRAPERY, CLOTHING, HATS, &c.

401 & 403 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy.

For Cash. Saturday Next. For Cash.

We make no Quotations, they are misleading, and are no indication of value or cheapness. The 5s 11d worth 17s 6d idea is played out.

YOU MUST SEE THE GOODS. A VISIT WILL REPAY YOU.

Tailors

H. C. SAUNDERS,

PRACTICAL TAILOR,

HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

Choicest Patterns of West of England, French, German and Victorian Tweeds always on hand.

Fit, workmanship & style guaranteed.

All Goods well shrunk.
Orders punctually attended to.

YOU can get a SUMMER SAC SUIT for 50/, at HEBBARD'S, corner of High and Lawry Streets, Northcote.

PREVENTION BETTER THAN CURE.

Keep Typhoid and Hydatid Diseases out of your house by getting JEFFERY'S New Patent Germ-Proof FILTERS.

The filter is attached to the water pipe, and furnishes a sufficiency of the purest water to meet all family requirements, without interfering with the ordinary water supply.

Local agents—J. Bennett & Co., from whom all particulars may be obtained.

DON'T LOOK THIS WAY.

Clothes do not make the man perhaps, but they do make a good one.
The world is bound to notice it,
And somebody pays him less

FOR GOOD FIT STYLISH CUT GOOD WEAR CHEAPNESS PATRONISE "OUR TAILORS"

NOTE PRICES:

Double Breasted Sac Suit.	35/-
Trousers, ...	10/-
Cricketers' Trousers,	10/6

Remember Address—

VEREY & CROSS,

"HIGH TAILORS,"

Smith Street, Collingwood.

Undertakers

HENRY J. R. LEWIS

UNDERTAKER,

And Certificated Embalmer.

High Street, Northcote.

BRAD OFFICE:

Corner of Johnson and Hertford sts., Fitzroy.

Branch—Lygon street, East Brunswick.

H. J. is prepared to conduct funerals at the lowest possible rates suit all classes.

Hearses, Mourning Coaches, and funeral requisites.

Telephone No. 1103. The Trade Supplied.

Side Entrance of the Bluebedding Coffin for convenient contagious Diseases Use.

W. G. APPS

UNDERTAKER,

Moor Street, Fitzroy, near Labour-in-Vain Hotel, and

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Patent and every description of Coffins at 5 minutes' notice. Hearses, Coaches, etc.

MILKMENS' BAKERS' BUTCHERS'

Billheads!

Lowest Rates.

LEADER office,
North end.

NEWBOLD BROTHERS

Licensed

PLUMBERS, GASFITTERS And ELECTRICIANS,

Coppersmiths and Tinsmiths,

Park Street, N. FITZROY.

General Jobbing. Trade supplied at Melbourne prices.

ENGINEERS & MACHINISTS.

We have just added this branch to our business, and are prepared to execute every description of general Engineering work. Gas engines, bicycles lawn mowers, water meters, &c., repaired. Lockamiths and Gunsmiths.

Newbold Bros. beg to call attention to their long experience in the trade, which is a sufficient guarantee that all work entrusted to them will be executed in a workmanslike manner.

Coach Builders.

John Evans,

CARRIAGE FACTORY

HIGH STREET,

SOUTH NORTHCOTE.

ESTIMATES GIVEN FOR EVER BRANCH OF THE TRADE.

TYRES CUT WHILE YOU WAIT.

FOR SALE—

New and Second-hand Buggies, Buggy Wagons, and Carts.

THE AMERICAN CARRIAGE WORKS,

HIGH STREET,

NORTHCOTE.

Estimates given for Repairs in all branches.

Tires Cut Daily.

VEHICLES OF ANY STYLE BUILT TO ORDER.

FOR SALE:

BUGGIES, nearly New, from £10. ROAD CARTS, do. do. from £6.

Vehicles insured against accidental damage at every description at lowest rates.

WM. COX, Manager.

Private Addresses—
Mr. Cox, Tyler st., Preston.
Mr. Hawkes, 75 Bedford st., Northcote.

Business

S. GREENSLADE,

GENERAL

DYER AND CLEANER

HIGH STREET,

NORTHCOTE

(Opposite Wesleyan Church).

ALL WORK DONE ON THE PREMISES, AND AT LESS THAN MELBOURNE PRICES.

GOOD PRESSING GUARANTEED.

MONTAGUE, HIGH-ST., NORTHCOTE (near bridge),

ARTISTIC PAINTER,

Sign Writer, and General Decorator

Coach Painting a Specialty.

Painting for the Trade generally.
Changes to suit the times.
Your custom kindly solicited.

THE ONLY HIGH CLASS PRACTICAL FURRIER IN VICTORIA.

A. Jackson,

Wholesale and Retail Furrier,

CARRIAGE AND TRAVELLING RUGS

In every Variety of Australian and Imported Furs.

33 GERTRUDE ST., FITZROY.

Ten Years with George Smith and Sons 2, 3 and 4 Waterloo Place, London, and 80 Buchanan-street, Glasgow.

Presents for Home Friends a specialty

TRAM TERMINUS, HIGH ST., NORTH.

Miss H. A. Foley,

PRIZE MEDALLIST WINES OF DRACGUT.

A first-class Port or Shiraz, 1/3 per quart. A special Claret, Burgundy, Malbec, Hermitage, Port, Shiraz, Verdelho, 1/3 per bot. Old Port, Muscat, and Sherry, 2/-, and 2/6 per bot.

WINE CARS, HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

WASTE PAPER.

FOR Sale in any quantity, at the "Leader" office Northcote.

Sunday Services.

NORTHCOTE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

SPECIAL SERVICES.

Rev. C. J. BAIRD, of Auburn, morning and evening.

Important Weeknight Service, Wednesday, at 8.

Sabbath School, last meeting in Town Hall, at 3 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PRESTON.

Services are held every Sunday in the Church, David-street, morning at 11, evening at 7.

Preachers—Morning, Rev. Geo. Carson, subject, "Lord's Supper"; evening, Rev. Dr. Paton, missionary of the New Hebrides, will preach.

Minister—Rev. G. Carson.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, Prince of Wales' Park, Armadale-st., Northcote.

Sunday School at 3 o'clock. Prayer meeting Wednesday night at 8 o'clock.

Subjects for to-morrow:—Morning, "The Divinity of Love"; evening, "The brazen serpent."

Minister—Rev. G. Chapman.

BAPTIST CHAPEL, PRESTON.

Services in connection with above will for the present be held in the Medic Lecture Hall, Preston.

Pastor, Mr. Burton. Morning (11) and Evening (7). Sunday's Hymns at evening service only.

Baptist and Christian friends invited. Free grace, without money and without price.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, Preston.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICES.

To-morrow, Sunday, 24th Feb., 1895.

Preachers:

Morning, Rev. Marriott Watson;

Evening, Rev. E. Rodda.

SOUTH PRESTON WESLEYAN CHURCH.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING Services.

Sunday Next, 24th Feb.

Morning at 11, Mr. A. C. Bowman.

Afternoon at 3, Rev. G. Chapman.

Evening at 7, Mr. Harmer

[A CARD.]

SALVATION Army, Northcote. Harvest Thanksgiving Services in the Town Hall THIS (Saturday) Evening at 7.45. Special Singing. Silver Coin admission. Sunday, 24th Feb. Meetings all day. Monday, 25th, Afternoon, Sale of Gifts and Refreshment; Night, Harvest Field Meeting, with appropriate songs. Silver Coin admission. Major and Mrs. Wessbing, leading.

Educational

NORTHCOTE ADVANCED SCHOOL for GIRLS and KINDERGARTEN.

Resumes January 29.

Principal — MISS WILLIAMS. Visiting Teachers.

Dancing, Mr. G. Malcolm Russell, Town Hall, Saturdays, 3 to 5 p.m.

Piano and Singing, Miss Williams. Kindergarten, 10s 6d per quarter.

Young ladies not attending school may join extra classes. Prospectuses on application to the Principal.

GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, MICHAEL ST., CLIFTON HILL.

JUSTICE TO ALL.

Principals: THE MISSES WESTWORTH (Certificated and Matriculated), assisted by a large staff of competent teachers.

The course of instruction comprises French and all the branches of a sound English education.

Matriculation Classes.

Dancing, Miss Hyams, 15/-, or 12/6 if two, per quarter.

Elocution, Miss Cook, 10/6 per qr.

Conversational French (Gouin system), £1 1s. per quarter (in class).

Singing, Miss Bessie Jukes.

Drawing, Miss E. Westgarth, 10s per quarter; Painting (oil and water color), Miss E. Westgarth, £1 1s per quarter.

Reduction for sisters.

Young ladies not attending the College may join all extra classes.

First Term commences Monday, Feb. 4th to April 24th.

Vacancies for boarders.

KING'S COLLEGE, (BOYS) and KINDERGARTEN, North Terrace, CLIFTON HILL.

PRINCIPAL—

W. P. HENDERSON, M.A., LL.B.,

J. JAMIESON, M.A. F.E.S.,

Lady Superintendent, Miss B. A. CLANCHY, B.A.

Assisted by Visiting Teachers.

The course of study provides for pupils of both sexes thorough instruction in elementary subjects, in addition to the higher work of Matriculation, Public Service, &c.

Since May, 1892, SEVENTEEN of our pupils have passed Matriculation Exam.

BOARDERS enjoy every home comfort and are under strict supervision in separate residences.

TERMS—

Day Scholars, 1, 2, 3, & 4 guineas per qr.

Boarders, 3s to 4 guineas.

EVENING CLASSES (Matriculation, Public Service, &c.) Office hours 10 to 4.

School re-opens Thursday, Jan. 31st.

Prospectus at Thomson's news agent, High Street.

Announcements.

DRESSMAKING TO SUIT THE TIMES.

MISS YEWS wishes to inform the ladies of Preston, Northcote, and surrounding districts that she has reduced her prices to suit the Summer Sales. Walking Costumes from 10s; Cotton do., from 7s 6d.—Glengarry Villa, High Street, South Preston.

Law.

BACKHOUSE AND MELLOR. (S. B. Backhouse, M.A., LL.B., Commissioner for South Australia, Queensland, and New Zealand; Robert Mellor).

SOLICITORS, CONVEYANCERS, &c.

Mr. Backhouse has now settled at Preston and may be consulted daily before 9.30 a.m. and after 5 p.m., as his office adjoining Council Club Hotel, High Street.

Melbourne Offices:—

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317 COLLINS STREET.

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HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE.

DR. JOHNSTONE,

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON (University of Edin., Edinburgh and Midwifery, Rotunda Lying-in Hospital Dublin).

Has commenced practice in EPPING, and may be consulted between the hours of 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., 2 to 3 p.m., and 7 to 8 p.m.

[A CARD.]

DR. W. H. STOCK,

266 Queen's Parade,

CLIFTON HILL.

At Mac. Hayes', High St., Northcote, 2 to 3 o'clock.

Also at Alphington, near Post Office.

MR. E. LENTHALL OLDFIELD, DENTAL SURGEON, &c.

36 NICHOLSON STREET,

Opposite Melb. Exhibition.

Hours, 11 to 3.30; or by appointment.

Telephone No. 822.

The Leader.

JUSTICE TO ALL.

Published every Saturday Morning.

SATURDAY, 23rd FEBRUARY.

REMEMBER THE POOR.

WHILE not many just now have more money than they know what to do with, the great majority are very far removed from actual want and sit down to three good meals daily and clothe themselves with comfortable raiment and indulge in the ordinary pleasures of life as a matter of course. Still there is always a minority—"the submerged tenth"—who are not so happily circumstanced, who, instead of enjoying the experience above-mentioned, have to struggle hard to obtain even "daily bread." Some, indeed, cannot do so much as this, and charitable organisations have to come to their assistance. Since its inception the Northcote Ladies Benevolent Society has relieved many thousands of such hapless cases, and at no time during its existence has there been greater demands upon its resources than now. The substantial balance the financial year was commenced with, together with subscriptions received since, has all gone in relieving poor cases, and the ladies themselves practically without funds with which to continue their good work. In these circumstances a public meeting was called, and remembering the great success of the weekly subscription scheme—by which £187 was raised in 3 months a couple of years ago—the meeting thought they could not do better than put the same plan into operation again. Canvassers were appointed for the various wards to obtain subscriptions. The first to complete their work are Mrs. Marks and Thompson, who were appointed for the west ward. In that spacious-settled division they found no less than 76 persons who were benevolent enough to contribute sums of from 1/ to 10/ a week for a period ending 30th September next. This will bring in at least £95, a week. Such a result should be an incentive to the canvassers in other parts of the town to proceed with their work thoroughly, in which case it is certain that a very substantial regular income will be secured for the society during the winter months. There can be no doubt but that all who can see their way will do their best to help this good work, and they may rely upon it that their contributions will be judiciously expended in assisting the aged, sick and infirm in our midst.

THE PRESTON PUBLIC.

The Preston public will be pleased to hear that the arrangements for the appearance of the Christchurch Amateur Dramatic Society are now completed. The company will appear in the four-act drama—"Not Guilty," on Friday and Saturday, March 22nd and 23rd, at the Public Hall, South Preston. The piece selected is full of stirring incidents, and as the company has been strengthened by the inclusion of several new performers of undoubted histrionic ability, the good impression left behind at their first appearance in Preston will no doubt be strengthened, and those who had the pleasure of witnessing the production of the "Ticket of Leave Man" will doubtless take advantage of the opportunity of seeing the company in a new piece. As this production, like the former one, is to assist the Preston Reading and Recreation Club in its difficulties, there is no doubt that the public will heartily support the entertainment.

LOCALISMS.

It has been decided by the authorities of All Saints', Preston, to hold a grand garden fete at the Preston Park on Wednesday, March 6. Amongst the attractions announced is a Mounted Infantry Brass Band, and the exhibition of limelight views, so popular at the recent moonlight fete will be repeated. Juvenile patrons will be entertained with Punch and Judy and a Merry-go-round and there will be a sale of gifts and refreshments.

Arrangements in connection with the children's excursion to Mordialloc are progressing favorably. The tickets have been obtained from the Railway Department and will be on sale next week. Some of the members of the Council of Advice are canvassing once more for prizes with great enthusiasm. Mr. Smith alone having collected 26 odd remnants the Embroidery and Fancy Work Committee, a gentleman who considers he can render service in making the necessary arrangements will be gladly welcomed on the committee.

AN OLD MAN ASSAULTED.

An old man named George Leslie, 70 odd years old, living at the rear of Doolan's blacksmith's shop, Pierce Road, Preston, was brutally assaulted on the night of the 2nd inst. It appears that he lives alone and that on the evening named his hut was entered by a man who dragged him out of bed by the leg and afterwards beat him about the head in a most ferocious manner. His face was so badly cut that Dr. Williamson had to apply stitches in several places. The old man is known to have some money, and had a good deal in his possession at the time, but the thief, fortunately, did not get his hand on it. A pocket book was picked up close to the scene of the assault, bearing the name "Peter McNaught," and he is strongly suspected of being the perpetrator of the deed. The matter is now in the hands of the Criminal Investigation Department.

THE MOVE-ON CLAUSE.

[TO THE EDITOR].

SIR,—Up to the present I have refrained from referring to an evil which the police could easily put down. I refer to the congregation of youths and those of an older growth, at the inlet section of the principal thoroughfares in Preston. These gatherings usually occur between the hours of 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. The principal rendezvous is the corner of Bell Street Road and Bell Street, commonly called Howse's corner. Last Thursday evening the crowd was so dense that pedestrians had to take to the road. If this sort of thing is to be allowed, respectable people (especially females) had better remain indoors, as, in the vicinity of the crowds, the language usually indulged in is, as a rule, simply disgusting.—Yours, &c.,

AN OLD RESIDENT.

BURGLARY.

On Sunday afternoon last a daring burglary took place at the residence of Mr. Alexander Hamilton, of Clarke-st., Northcote. Entrance was effected through the front window, which is only a few paces off the street, along which there is considerable traffic. Only a few minutes elapsed between the thieves not satisfied with carrying off a lot of jewellery, smashed almost everything in the place. Amongst the articles stolen was a valuable brooch set with 16 diamonds, a diamond ring, and some electroplated cutlery. Two men were seen leaving the place about 5.30, of whom the police have a description.

EPPING SHIRE NEWS.

After lying dormant for some years, during which time nearly all trace of its constitution were lost, the Epping Public Library was galvanised into new life in the early part of last year, principally through the laudable efforts of Cr. Newton. A librarian was appointed at £5 a year, the books sorted up, and a catalogue printed, and the thing given a fresh start. A report called for by Cr. Morgan, and read at last meeting, showed that during the first quarter ending 31st July, 54 persons had visited the library and taken out 91 books. Amongst these there were 3 subscribers and the cash received £1 2s 6d. Since this first burst of popularity, interest in the institution has apparently flickered and died out. The subscribers and receipts have become "smaller by degrees and beautifully less" till they have during the present quarter got down to 1 subscriber and only 6 visitors have fallen to 20, or considerably under 2 per week. The president (Cr. Barry) found a sufficient excuse for the falling off during the last quarter in the fact that during the harvest months people in the country have no time to read. It was decided to keep the library open till the end of the librarian's term, in the morning and evening, for a period of a no more encouraging nature than they have been, the council will be reluctantly compelled to close the library.

Two applications were received by the council on Monday for the position of pound keeper, viz., Martin and Bent dog and Thos. Ryan at 1s a dog. The former, being the lowest, was accepted, and Mr. Martin was made an ex officio of the council with a nominal salary of £1 a year.

The Borough of Ararat sought the co-operation of the Epping Council on Monday in getting the Government to provide a suitable site for a railway in the shape of a grant for the maintenance of main roads, which were being cut up by the heavy traffic, and which at present competing with the railways.—Cr. Morgan thought it useless to make such a request, since it would be the object of the Government to drive traffic off the roads rather than encourage it to remain.

In order to be on the safe side it a panic does occur while any festivity is going on at the Epping Shire Hall it was decided to comply with a regulation of the Board of Health providing that the entrance doors shall open outward. At present the doors opened inward and the engineer is to see to their alteration forthwith.

The live stock in the Shire of Epping is estimated as follows:—Horses, 852; cattle, 4,293; sheep, 22,215; sheep, 11,000; pigs, 1060.

At the last sitting of the Epping Police Court, Jas Dea proceeded against L. Scanlan for the recovery of £42 1s 6d for goods sold and delivered. An order was made for the amount with the usual costs.

NORTHCOTE AMATEUR MINSTRELS.

THEIR NEXT PERFORMANCE.

The band of youthful entertainers, describing themselves as above, made their second appearance at the Northcote Town Hall on Tuesday evening next, the 26th inst. On its merits the previous performance was three hours of good, clean, healthy fun free from anything objectionable. On this occasion, with a strengthened company, better programme, and more thorough rehearsal they promise improvement in all points. If this is so the result will be altogether satisfactory. The company is now completely equipped in any organised. It has its interlocutor and "endman," its banjo and its serio-comic, its tenor and its baritone, its comedians and its dancers, to say nothing of its stage-managers, musical director, treasurer and business-manager, &c. The first named is called "Our evening party," will consist of songs, serious, comic, and serio-comic, interspersed with the customary jokes and conundrums, and will conclude with what the programme describes as the funniest finale ever written, "Reading under difficulties," by Bert Patey and Carl Hermann. Following this Bert Patey will sing "Tom Tom," and Bert Patey and Carl Hermann will appear in some of his Irish songs and dances; and the curtain will ring down on the second evening's programme. The previous performance was held at the Northcote Free Library, the present is to raise funds for the purchase of a grand concert at the Public Hall on Tuesday evening, 26th inst.

Bro. Tedasco, one of the superintendents of the juvenile tent, Preston, complained at the last meeting of the I.O.R. of being annoyed with ill-behaved and impudent youths congregating in the porch of the hall during the progress of the juvenile meetings. Oftentimes it was difficult to transact their business owing to the unseemly conduct going on inside the porch, to obviate which Bro. Tedasco moved a resolution to the effect that the hall committee consider the advisability of doing away with the porch altogether. Perhaps if Sergeant Robinson could be induced to do his share in further action would be unnecessary.

"Advertising is an eloquent and effective salesman—distinguished from the verbal salesman in this, that while the latter talks to one customer the advertising salesman is talking to thousands."

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICES

ALL SAINTS', NORTHCOTE.

Harvest Festival was celebrated on Friday evening, 15th, and Sunday last at All Saints' Church, Northcote. As usual on these occasions the church was elaborately and tastefully decorated with flowers, fruit, vegetables, wheat, and other kinds of the produce of the earth. The excellent samples and the large quantities of the various kinds of the gifts of nature were well worthy of the rich harvest with which we have been blessed in this colony this season; and also reflected favorably upon the people of All Saints', who must have been in a grateful and liberal mood when they supplied them. A word of praise is due to the decorators. The church showed just a great amount of labor had been bestowed upon it, and then the decorators had used the most of what had been placed at their disposal. The church was well filled at all the services, and the singing was good and the sermons appropriate. At the Friday evening service the preacher was the Very Rev. the Dean of Melbourne, and on Sunday the vicar (Rev. C. J. Prince) occupied the pulpit. The Dean, in his sermon, said the offerings given to the Northcote Ladies' Benevolent Society to be distributed to the poor of Northcote.

NORTHCOTE WESLEYAN CHURCH.

The harvest thanksgiving at this church has come to be looked upon as one of the events of the year amongst the local churches. Ever since the church was established no pains have been spared to make the display of the gifts of the earth as complete and striking as possible; and this year the traditions of the past were well maintained. The church, which is, perhaps, so elaborately mounted as on one or two former occasions, but it has been more plentious and appropriate. Great credit is due to those who planned and carried out the arrangements, which transformed the interior of the church into a bower of beauty of the harvest-field.

A large congregation assembled at each service, especially in the evening, when the church was crowded. The morning service was conducted by the Rev. S. Scholes. Before proceeding with his sermon he spoke a "parable" to the children. Their lives, he told them, were gardens. God had sowed the planted therein—the truths of the Bible and the teachings of Christ—and they should be watered by prayer. The fence of "watchfulness" should enclose the "garden" and the "watch-dog of conscience" should guard the gates—then, the enemy, sin, little dreaming of the Enemy gaining admission to and despoiling the garden. An effective, earnest, and practical appropriate sermon was afterwards preached to the adults. Hymns were sung, viz., 15 and 3, and in which a graceful tribute was paid to those who had so liberally contributed to the church's naked eye. The president of the Old Colonists' Association (Mr. Anderson) who presided, then addressed the audience for their liberal patronage, and also thanked the singers for their services in getting the concert up. Proceedings were brought to a close with the National Anthem.

NORTHCOTE POLICE COURT.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH.

(Before Messrs Knox, Bastings, and McIntosh, J.P.'s.)

ASSAULT.

G. Thomas v. Geo. Rogers. Unlawful assault. No appearance of defendant. Complainant said that he sold a horse to Rogers, who, after he had got it home, came back threatened it with a very bad back. He declined to take it back, whereupon defendant became violent and dramatically (?) attempted to put him out of his house by pulling a bible out of a wood and struck him with it on the shoulder.

Fined 5s and 2s 6d costs.

DETENTION OF SADDLE.

Charles Bradley sued Clifton Lang for the return of a saddle which he had lent him on the confidence that he return it on the following day. Order for return of saddle, with 5s costs.

MISCELLANEOUS.

R. McGan, T. Tobin, Francis Burdett, and Charles Arkie were each fined for allowing their mastiffs to wander at large in Northcote on Sunday last.

Fined 2s and 2s 6d costs.

THE NORTHCOTE LEADER, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1895

BROTHERS.

By ADELINE SHERRARD.

Author of "Mr. Jack," "Lady Lucy's Secret," "Jack Lambie Mysterious," "Mr. Bob," "Mr. Bob's Wife," &c.

(ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.)

I.

"Here and here," said Stephen, "CAN'T you see?"

The speaker was a broad-looking man, with a face of that type which is called "Roman" from its fashion of nose or peculiarity—he wore a "Roman" nose, and it was, in fact, the old English gentleman, "to the full extent of the word," and his hair was white, and his eyes were fixed had many visitors and many admirers.

The parson—generally known as the Rev. Stephen Lawson—was a big, fine-looking man, with a good deal of the "Roman" in his face, rather, slightly stooping, fair in color, and with a pleasant, kindly, though quick and an expression of mingled reflection and benevolence. He was, in fact, a scholar, but "without" the absorption in abstract matters which generally characterises the scholar. He was a man interested in his parishioners, in his books, and it was about one of his parishioners that he was speaking.

"The Lawsons were always a difficult family," he said, "I have always felt for my head in this matter, but I have failed to make anything of it. Mrs. Lawson—Jonathan's mother—was a very good woman, and a faithful lady for him; they were always quarrelling, and Jonathan was a wild young man. The wife died early—the latter for her, perhaps—then illness supervened, and the boy was the same again. He took it very badly indeed. I often wonder what became of him, I have not heard of him for years. He was still a young man. He took it very badly, I remember."

"I don't wonder what became of him," said Mr. Gillett, rather pettishly. "I often wonder what become of half the people I know, and don't care a bit. I don't believe they have ever mentioned her name to me, I don't believe they have asked me about her once, and I gave my best years to the place, and—"

He was standing at the gate of the parsonage, and was leaning on it, and was a good specimen of the well-fed, hearty, old country-gentleman, of the type which is fast disappearing from our country-side, and which, even as a sort of centre to the beautiful, is a great loss to the country-side. Mr. Gillett was a little, fresh, ruddy man, with a round face, and a round, bright, twinkling eye, which, even as a sort of centre to the beautiful, was

THE ROOT OF THE MATTER.

A SOCIAL STORY.

By H. R. CRAVEN.

CHAPTER XI.

"S.W., Mr Blake." By Burton concerned, "I don't deny the possibility of your theory, even if it be flatter to the assumption that the working class is in control of the country. It would be quite practicable to keep up a very high standard of comfort and living within the borders of a State, considered on your principles, that was absolutely cut off from the foreign effects of competition from the rest of the world. I admit that the loss would doubtless be borne by the non-producing classes, not Caveigh against. But the whole point is that Great Britain is not such a self-sufficing country. I will concede, if you like, that we can do without luxuries imported for our use, and that the nation in the future will have to do silk or ribbons, lace or champagne, sugar or pate de foie gras. That would mean a great change in our habits, but, I presume, you count tea, coffee, cocoa and tobacco, sugar and spices among the basic necessaries, and these must come from abroad or be foregone. Further, we can't live food our people by our own products. I have ready to some figures for you on the point. In 1893 we imported the following: number of millions of pounds worth of different kinds of food, and consumed were the standard of living and British of wages are mostly based upon the cost of our own—Cereals, 35; flour, twelve; butter, twelve; cheese, three; poultry and eggs, four; fish, two; meat, twenty-eight; vegetables, four; milk, one; fruit, three; partly heavy total."

"I admit your figures," responded Blake, "and, if you like, will double that total as representing the amount of food we must import in this country."

"Now," resumed the doctor, "you say that some proportion of these things could be produced here, but is the climate and the tropical product—and with the bulk of the articles of food . . . and that must all be paid for by our own exports. Those exports must be paid for . . . at prices fixed by competition of other nations in the markets of the world. It is a steady loss enough to manufacturers to get rid of their commodities in those markets, and, I believe, it is, generally, even at the present comparatively low wages and hours of our cutting competition will hands, iron-workers and miners. If we attempt to compete by greatly increased expenditure in the prime of British labor, the result is our exports fail. You can't have your cake and eat it. Nothing but well fed employment, no four favourable rent, no high wages, no short hours trade. But there will be nothing then to exchange for these foreign products. We could only purchase them by drawing on our capital, and the consequent drain would soon bring all your pretty schemes to a dreadful end, never least, any of your female tackle the subject of the question.

"I have, though," said Mortimer, "I have seen a number of Fabian tracts, and, too, technical about it is a nothing by a man who industry and Trade, and I think the disappearance of the export trade. Your M.P. extend the matter very quickly, I can say, on, 'the export trade can be spared and fair wages, and short hours, ought to apologize, Miss Burton, for repeating the price of the articles we exchange.'

"I don't mind the expression," said Mrs, "but if he means that the exports have done, but the means of livelihood of the population of Lancashire and to provision for all he cared, there aren't words to express his idea of the matter.

"I did think say it to Lancashire," resumed Mortimer, ". . . "He was a fool, but anticipated such a fool as that. I have to the point.

"Mortimer be remembered that the form of protection which I urge—the Protection of labor from the competition of more paid labor in other countries—does not exclude all foreign imports. It only seeks to grow timber, tea, or oranges in Great Britain, or to make silk or lace, or cotton goods, or to supply our people, we can, the better, for with regard to these foreign consumers only. It is, by the way, a change, by reflection upon the necessity of Parliament as attached and practice in England, that the only things in which the prices fixed by disease should be the very things which the working classes consume. Wheat and meat hardly a workman who would not take the best of bread and take, and bacon up for the same revenue by an increase in the income tax.

"Now does my sort of protection, by any restriction upon free trade with countries where labour has less power or a lower ideal of living than it enjoys in our United Kingdom. It is the popular observation of the British Empire that it comprises within its dominions every variety of climate, and that all commodities that can possibly be required are now practically produced or produced in abundance within its confines. The local change I propose would give your Absolute freedom of trade within the Empire, even though it necessitated Protection against Germany, Belgium or Russia. I am not at the moment of discussing the political difficulties. I am stating the simple fact that every article of wheat, every bale of cotton, every pair of hose, every bushel of cereals, is produced by the labour of our fellow-subjects, grown under the British flag. The same thing is true of every other commodity we need or might, and every possible article of luxury we could desire. There are other countries in the United States is a different ruling, and, I believe, what I would be in Great Britain, because they have the close from trade, and obtain supplies from the Mediterranean, and from the St. Lawrence to the Gulf of Florida. The protection Mimmers is largely issues which makes the "free Empire." imagine that his country is independent of Land." Good to Johns' Grade, and from the Irish Channel to St Wade, protests, but from seeing that England has the opportunity of establishing free trade on a fairly very much larger and more varied than the United States. If it is possible to Americans, how much more is possible for the country "Rule Britannia" is the ruling the sun and keeping company with the tours, encircle the whole earth with continuous and unbroken strain of the martial air of England.

"Meanwhile the export trade must go on. If our manufacturers are to pay high wages and sell at low prices, they must, as long as they can, do it. Necessity, is added by brandies just as the manufactures of Frederstadt countries are, but it is useless to regard the present condition of the export trade as permanent. In the direction of employment of our home market, using that expression in a strictly Imperial sense, our colonies are a certain, and, I believe, work in the future. You may be sure that the effect of protection, if taken up by the United Kingdom, is vastly increase the purchasing power of the masses who are now poorly paid, and by giving a purchasing power to those hundreds of thousands of men now idle, employment, and therefore a fixed weight on the industry of the country, would be largely increase the market from which foreign competition would be shut out. In the same way the importation of corn from Canada instead of from the United States, or wine from South Australia and the Cape instead of from France and Spain, or wool from New South Wales instead of from the Argentine, and so on, would mean the increase of the wealth and population of our colonies where the staple industries of England would find an increasing and identifiable market for their surplus. There, too, under the conditions I propose, the Australian States would not meet the competition of the foreigner.

"I am conscious that the magnitude of this proposal is rather staggering, but I do not know that a political movement is any the less likely to succeed because it involves weighty issues that appeal to the imagination and to the larger patriotism. I am well aware, also, that there are two fleas in the pack. One is that the British electorate lately on means aware that the only chance for permanently maintaining high wages at home, together with cheap food, lies in the sort of "Customs Union of the Empire that I have sketched out. Without that knowledge being widely diffused the Ministry in England could contemplate the introduction of such changes in our fiscal policy. But the other difficulty is, I think, that the mass of the working class, with the exception of the royally owner, ground down by the collieries, and the Lancashire cotton lords, and pondered in the middle-man. That is, you cannot, in a country of 40 millions, with the concentration of population, which, in the middle-man, while leaving the mass of the people in the collieries company, the mines will not be produced, and the cotton lords will not be producing as all the time amongst his company. Those things will come about on England without any change in the law, in 5 years, estimate the rate at which things are moving. I am, you will agree with me.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The Coming of the Mail.

The rain came down upon the north west's parching lands

Like a fierce, fierce rain upon wide wastes of sand.

The sunless sky is brazen, and close is the atmosphere,

And the grass is dry and bare, burnt lookers nature by and near.

A blue haze surrounded the mountains: the hills are dull and brown,

And the gum-trees and the pines are the only green to be seen.

The thirsty ground, long-drained of moisture wasted, for the lips of thirsty rain

Have sucked the silvery fountains till the sky-spring is drained.

In front of the wooden structure—office and bar—I lounge

In shade of the broad verandah—some seated beside me

A motley group is waiting, and watching with I see

The galloping of a horseman over the plain.

A father is reading letters from sons who have left his roof

Or, in some instances, from daughters after or at home

Who have left the home, and are now in distant lands

Or, in some instances, they are dead.

Some are anxious, some are indifferent, some are cheerful

Some are sad, some are sorrowful, some are glad

Some are hopeful, some are despairing, some are mad.

Some are hopeful, some are despairing, some are mad

Some are hopeful, some are despairing, some are mad.

"Yes, I know my world," said Dr Burton, "and I didn't suppose you would. Your argument is Mortimer in one of his most trenchant and, I admit, effective.

"Effective, I should think it is," said Blake," said Mortimer, "and the theory is, I suppose, sound. I must admit that I have never thought of it in quite the way you put it. If I had, I might have thought better of it."

Blake shrugged his shoulders. "I don't see how you could have thought better." Mortimer: "Because, I should have seen the end of free nonsense once in Australia talking. I have seen the end of it in Victoria. He asked me if the whole of Scotland had been settled, I should say I spent more healthy sides when the future of our race from the mainland of the Australian Continent, estimate the rate at which things are moving. I am you will agree with me.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Favorite Mottoes.

During the last few days I have busied myself in taking several well-known people to tell me the mottoes they like best.

"Never Fret" is the choice of Sir Henry Hawkins, who, when I interviewed him, was when the learned judge is about to sentence a prisoner. Lord Chief Justice Coleridge's is "Ich Dien, or, in English, "Dienen."

Sir Francis Jeune, the President of the Divorce Court, selects "Nil Desperandum." "I wish I could I have never thought what is my favorite motto, or if I have one," said Sir Francis, when I put the case to him. "I was conscious of a favorite motto I should regard it made a very good and all wise men, which a wise man never tells. If I wanted a good practical work-a-day motto I should choose, I think, the old Latin "Sson enough, it well enough," and "Yield to circumstances." Lord Rosebery is fondly to wear them."

The editor of the "Standard" is resigned to fate, for his motto is "What will be will be." George H. Sims has chosen "Make hay while the sun shines." Mr Arthur Cecil's motto is "Oh, Christmas Day had come again, Is to thine heart I pray."

He saw himself all baked and brown, Upon a kitchen dish,

Then he awoke, and grabbed low, "I thought I was a fish."

Again he dozed, once more awoke, And then he slept again,

While cold winds from the icy north Swept over Hull in vain.

It chilled the dreaming turkey's toes, "Why from this bed I rise?"

Then sniffed off his lofty perch—

"It felt and looked so cold."

That Christmas morn dawned crisp and clear,

"The farmer, as his round,

Remarked to his good wife, "I think

The plump dead turkey found

Is the look it is like to be sound."

She said twas fresh and sound,

So they dressed and trussed it for the spit

For Christmas dinner.

"Yes," said the farmer, "I'm pleased to see

Thee so well, wife, and I'm pleased to see

Thee looking so well, too, Jack."

"Well, I'm pleased to see thee looking well, too, Jack," said the wife.

AGRICULTURAL

Time to Stop Churning.

A short time ago an old-fashioned dairyman, endeavoring to explain why butter made by a twenty-tramp and necessitate when referring to Cross writers, who offer advice to practical men who have been in the business "for over 1227 years." He admitted that these fellows might know better where they had lived their lives, but that was all they knew about it. «Ma Press Cows" he thought had adapted to "wreck of nature." The cow, he said, came in globules as the result of the milk secretion. They would lose all the butter with the buttermilk. His own advice was to churn on until the butter gives its decent sized lump. He did not say how large, but we may suppose there to be as large as a pigeon's egg. However, Mr. M. Wilson, expert for Dr. Lund Separator Company, who has had a wide experience, and Dr. Fjelde's experiment to travel and make butter making throughout Denmark, writes, "Stop churning when the globules are the size of pea's heads this is one of the most important secrets in butter-making." All modern teachers of better-making agree that this is the proper time to draw off the buttermilk that perhaps the man who has made butter for more than forty years knows better.

Butter and Beef

No doubt the Shorthorn cattle can be here to give a considerable quantity of rich milk, suitable both for butter or for cheese-making; but in that case it will be necessary to give up the idea of making beef of the cow when she is done for the dairy. Old cow beef is not nice any more than old ewe mutton is, and the whole system of breeding has been ruined that through generations, either for good beef or reliable milk character, and the cow in her age will not depart from that which has been bred in her, and has been cultivated for some birth. Such a cow might, perhaps, give birth to a male calf, which would be excellent as a beef animal, but would be useless in order to have large progeny the breed must be large, and a large cow requires a deal of food to support her large frame. By the end of the year that extra food would about eat up that might have been made from the sale of her calf.

Feeding Wheat to Pigs.

The North Dakota Experiment Station of the American Department of Agriculture found that with whole wheat rendered with fine meal pigs weighing about 100lb. each when the experiments commenced. It took 5.68lb. grain wheat to produce 1lb. pork under the same conditions. The offering of 1cb. of whole wheat would not pay for the grinding. Pigs fed on whole wheat showed a tendency to develop spinal weakness. These were not a little lame, and now and again a hind leg would be drawn under them, and when, on being driven, a lounge daily gain of the pigs was 1.09lb. on whole wheat and 1.12lb. on ground wheat. Ground maize gave an increase of 1.16lb. per day on each, and 1.25lb. on mixed feeds, 1.31lb. This will show that even in the case of pigs the value of the food depends upon the use to which it is put, and that it should be borne in mind that the food which is the pig's, is not the food of a cow or a fowl. Improvements it a good deal.

Reactions of Milk

The "Scientific American" publishes the following article on the novel reactions of milk:—Milk is a fluid secreted by the mammary glands of the female of the species. Milk heated to 70deg. Fahr. or upwards becomes unwholesome. Sour milk loses its nutritive value, but the reaction is prevented by the addition of minute quantities of soda. A little chloride of lime mixed with potassium iodide is a powerful reagent. Milk has been mixed with chloroform and a blue blue tound separate at the surface of the chloroform. Chloroform and Milk freed from albuminoids and sugar give this reaction. If to fresh milk there is added five drops of acetic acid to precipitate the casein, then some caustic potassa, and lastly a trace of chloroform and potassium iodide, a violet reaction characteristic of peptone does not appear. Milk from which the fat has been removed by centrifugal force also gives this reaction. The milk of a healthy cow, when fresh, does not contain peptone. A cow prone to disease and death consumptive. This is due to cow.

Agriculture in Ontario.

The Ontario crop report for 1894 has been issued, and it indicates that farmers are having hard times in that part of Canada as elsewhere. The total acreage in general is about the same, but small speaking, the cows were not up to the average in quantity of yield, and the prices received were low. The total value of the crop of 1894 was $19,000,000 less than that of 1893, and the average value per acre was $2.50 less than that of 1893. The average yield of the principal crops was 1.5 bushels per acre less than that of 1893, and the average value per acre was 1.5 bushels per acre

THE POLITICAL BOWLING GREEN.

By Scorer in Thursday's *Punch*

It falls as a damper on some people when they consider that the best talents of the Government are all the time being exercised on how to best fleece the people. It is a little unfair perhaps to put it in this harsh, unpromising way. But the main allegation is a verity. Even as I write, I know that the Premier is bending all his brain power to the task of sending round to me the income tax collector with the utmost expedition.

I don't say that in my case I feel at all perturbed. As a matter of fact I do not. I know that my contribution at best will be a small one, and my sole regret is that it will not be greater. It is very singular, this. The man with the small income, who is touched but lightly in the collection of the tax, wishes that he had to pay ten times more. The man of large income grumbles incessantly at the hardship of having to pay so much.

But as a matter of strict fact Messrs Isaacs and Turner are pegging away at their income tax regulations supremely careless of what you or I, or anyone else, may think or say. Their one desire is to handle the coin and put the public ledger all serene. I doubt, however, if they'll do it.

But if one set of men are supremely disgusted at the Cabinet taxes, there is another no less so concerning the Cabinet economies. The Cabinet Retrenchment Committee has been in the Post Office and the Defence Department. It has left its marks on both. Its report on the Post Office was a hundred-ton discharged in the ear of a sleeper. Mr. James Smibert is said to be dazed by the noise ever since.

All sorts of explanations are rife in the official mind to account for the sweeping nature of the Committee's report. It is something so heterodox for Cabinet Ministers to say that "idle and highly paid" people are walking about doing nothing. First of all, they tell me, the Secretary of the Cabinet Committee is a malcontent, actuated by the fell design of elevating himself by the ruin of his official chief. Another officer, brimming over with a sense of wrong, says that there is a kind of conspiracy in the Department between a couple of intelligent officers to leap to the leadership of the Retrenchment movement, and show how much better they could have done had the Department been in their hands.

But then I remark that all this presupposes that the Ministers—Messrs M'Lean, Vale, and M'Culloch—are a trinity of noodles who are the mere creatures of their own Secretary, and incapable of understanding either the weight of evidence or the equities of ordinary procedure. That is too thin—much! A baby can see through it. And yet it is the best answer given as yet to the specific charge of inflation and extravagance in the Post Office.

And yet, stay a minute. I don't know that I am entirely just. One champion of the Bureaucracy—perhaps the most able there is—I mean Mr. Caldwell, the ex-Chief Inspector—says another thing. Concerning congested and overmanned condition of the Department, he says that it is no fault of the highest official Administrator. And he gives a reason which is good, if it be only true.

And here, be it observed, comes the hint of the hidden games played in the political bowling green. Mr. Caldwell says that Mr. James Smibert has regularly laid before every Postmaster-General in turn long lists of redundant officers, and asked for authority to retire them. But in every case the Minister has refused.

Is this a fact or a fancy, or a little of both? At any rate, there the statement stands on record. Mr. Caldwell has retired on a well-earned pension. He can afford to be independent. And that is the way he lays it on the succession of Ministers who have held the reins at the Post Office.

But surely Mr Duffy, Mr. Peacock, Sir James Patterson and Mr. Wynne will have something to say to this. They all come under the charge. They have been pusillanimous and unfaithful. In the interests of the public I would keep the matter alive, so that the responsibility may be fairly traced home somewhere.

And why? Why, because I have ever found that men are mere children. The same human nature perpetually produces the same results. Three boys, say, are playing with a ball in front of my house. Out of a tussle and scuffle the ball shoots through my stained glass window. I go and catch the offenders *in fragrante delicto*. There is no question as to the broken glass, nor as to the ownership of the ball. They are too potent for denial, just as are the "idle highly paid" hands in the post office. How do the youngsters meet my accusation? "Please, sir, it wasn't I." "And I'm sure I never threw it, sir." "Nor I neither, sir; I asked Jim and Tom to come away out of this and they wouldn't."

There we have it in the post office. Jim and Tom, the officials, stand together and say that Harry owns the ball, and it was his fault. Or if it were not the fault of Harry the Minister, then it was the great many-headed public themselves who wouldn't let the Minister do right. There, Mr. Punch, I have given you something to hurl your pungent shafts of satire at. Let drive! Don't spare 'em!

But what are these Ministers going to say to the charge? It is quite plain that the ex-officer defends his late official head at the expense of the political heads. Mr Smibert is the diligent economical officer who has been ever keen for retrenchment. But he has been ever blocked by each Minister in turn, who lacked the courage to do right lest he might run foul of the politicians and lose the number of his own mess. That is the long and the short of it, according to Mr. Caldwell.

Everybody agrees that the Government means business at the railways, or they would not pay Messrs Whisky and Cain £10 a day to act on a board of inquiry. It seems a lot of money; but when you remember that it is only for a few months to get the railways straight again it is not such a terrible thing after all.

Announcements

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THE NOTED

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HIGH ST., NORTHCOTE,

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247 BRUNSWICK ST., FITZROY.

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Make your own SODA WATER.—Seltzogene's Systeme Defevre.—3 pint, 10s 6d; 5 pint, 14s; 8 pint, 20s. Charges equally cheap. Sodawater costs about ½d pint when made in Seltzogene, and is the best that can be got.—Knives and Forks from 3s. half-dozen; Teaspoons, from 1s 3d half-dozen; Dessert and Table Spoons equally low. Irwood Table Knives, 7s half-dozen; Irwood Dessert Knives, 6s half-dozen; Carvers, 3s 6d pair; Steels, 1s 6d each; look and wear equal to Ivory: made specially in Sheffield to our order. Nickle Silver Tea, Table, and Dessert Spoons and Forks never change color —buy them. Pocket Knives—a large variety to choose from. Butchers' Knives, Steels, and Choppers.

Cherry Churns to make 6lbs., 21s 6d. All sizes on hand. Milk Buckets, 1s, 1s 6d, 1s 10d, and 2s 3d; Strainer Buckets, 2s 3d and 3s 3d; Strainers, 9d and 1s each; Skimmers, 5d each; Milk Dishes, Butter Pats, Prints, &c.

Halters from 7d each; Bridles, 2s 9d each; Harness Liquid and Black Oil, 10d bottle; Neatsfoot Oil and Castor Oil, 2s gallon, 10d per bottle; Axle Grease, 6d tin; 28lb kegs Axle Grease, 5s 6d a keg; Hames from 3s pair.

Wringers from 15s each; Tubs from 2s 3d; Washup Dishes from 7d each; Hose very cheap; Royal's Unions, ½in, 1s 6d, ¾in., 3s each; Hose directors, rose and jet, from 1s 6d each.

Glass cut to any size: Whitelead, Redlead, Putty, Boiled and Raw Oil, Terebine, Goldsize, Varnish, Mixed Paint and Colors, Paint and Whitewash Brushes.

Saucepans, Kettles, and Boilers; Brooms and Brushes; Axes, a great variety from 3s each; Handles, best in Northcote; Spades, Shovels, Picks, and Pick Handles; Detonators, Dynamite, Fuse, and Blasting Powder.—Harvest Tools.—Scythe, complete with grass hooks, 6s 3d; Blades from 2s each; Hay Forks, from 1s; Hay Rakes, wire teeth, 1s 3d; Reaper and Binder Twine; Hay Rope, strong, 6d lb, full weight.

400 gallon Tank, with tap, 50s.

Guns, Ammunition, &c; Cartridges, Kangaroo, 10s 6d per 100; Excelsior Cartridges, 8s 6d per 100. And a large variety of other goods at the lowest prices.

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HIGH STREET, NORTHCOTE,

AND Brunswick St., Fitzroy.

Announcements.

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THE METROPOLITAN GAS CO.

Having Purchased the Plant and Business of the Northern Gas Co., in the

SHIRE OF PRESTON,

IS now prepared to receive Orders for a Supply of Gas at the Rate of 4s 8½d per 1000 cubic feet.

Application to be made to the Secretary at the Head Office, opposite Princes' Bridge Railway Station.

GAS STOVES in great variety, can be inspected at the SHOW ROOMS, and hired for 12 months from 1s 6d per month.

The Newest Styles of Special Lamps, Globes, and Burners kept in Stock.

Societies

GWALIA LODGE No. 264, U.A.O.D.

REDUCED INITIATION FEES

For three months only, commencing Dec. 8th, 1894.

The above Lodge, having been granted a special permission by the Board of Directors to initiate at reduced rates, are now prepared to enrol candidates at the following scale:—

16 and under 25 years ... 5s.
25 and under 30 years ... 10s.
Over 30, the usual rate, viz.—
30 and under 35 ... £1 10s 0d.
35 and under 40 ... £3 0s 0d.

The Gwalia Lodge meets at the Peacock Inn, Northcote. Alternate MONDAYS.

Next Lodge Night—March 4th.

Lodge Surgeon—Dr. E. J. Bird. T. Beckett, G. Horne, W. H. Stock, and W. C. Wilkinson.

Dispensers.—J. Christopher and J. Slade.

As the time is limited, intending candidates are requested to join at once.

The Secretary will attend at the Lodge Room every Monday evening for the purpose of enrolling members. Full particulars from any of the members, or

J. M. ARNOLD, Sec.,
Latham St., Northcote.

THE AUSTRALIAN NATIVES Literary & Benefit Association, PRESTON BRANCH No. 51,

Meet every alternate Tuesday at Reading and Recreation Club Rooms, South Preston.

Every Australian Native should join this the only truly National and Patriotic Society.

Next Meeting—Tuesday, 26th Feb.

Medical attendance and medicine immediately on joining.

Sick Pay 6 months after admission.

First-class LIBRARY for use of Members. Non members, 1s per Qr.

Further information may be obtained from the secretary—

GEO. C. WINNETT,
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INTERESTING PUBLIC MEETINGS

Held Fortnightly in the Foresters Hall, High street, North Preston.

Next Meeting—Feb. 23rd.

Programme of Songs, Duets, Dialogues, and Recitations will be given. Admission—a coin.

W. C. WILLIAMS, Hon. Sec.

SOUTH PRESTON GOSPEL Temperance and Blue Ribbon Mission.

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Held every alternate SATURDAY Evenings in Bradford Hall, South Preston, at 8 o'clock.

Next Meeting—March 2.

Programme supplied by local friends.

Chairman, Mr. R. Simpson.

Members' Tickets, 6d per Quarter. Admission—A Coin.

A. J. ROBINSON, Hon. Sec., South Preston.

I.O.R.

Star of Northcote Tent

No. 217,

MEETS in Wesleyan Schoolroom, Northcote, Fortnightly.

Next Meeting—March 7th.

Quarterly Social.

A few of the advantages of the above society are:—

No initiation fees. Graduated scale of payments.

No Levies, largest Benefits greatest Security.

Strictly Temperance principles, and consequently low death rate.

When you join a benefit society, join the best.

Let your boys join the Juvenile branch in connection with the above, and be trained in Temperance, Thrift, and Business.

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Secretary, Mitchell-street, Northcote.
(near P.M. Church).

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Tea Meetings, Socials, Parties, Balls, catered for at Lowest Rates.

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Ladies' Nurse,

5 MITCHELL-STREET, NORTHCOTE.

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W. A. Harrison

Begs to announce that he may be consulted as above at any time at his

VETERINARY SHOEING FORGE, High Street, Northcote.

Good Stock of Horse, Cattle and Dog Medicines always on hand.

Charges for attendance and Medicine moderate.

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Has First-class Servants waiting engagement.

Ladies can rely on being faithfully served and readily attended to.

FRESH FRUIT, CHOICE CONFECTIONERY SUMMER DRINKS And SCHOOL REQUISITES.

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Annual Summer Sale!

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IMMENSE REDUCTIONS IN PRICES.

We never quote Prices which are altogether misleading, but we make it a rule to absolutely quit our Summer Goods at the end of the Season, purchasers can rely on

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CHEAP CASH BUTCHER.

S. Steers

Begs to announce to the residents of Preston and surrounding district that he has again opened in the above business at

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Having made arrangements with the best markets he can now offer to the Public First-class Goods at the lowest possible prices. Don't forget that—Cheapest and the Best. Small goods daily. Families waited upon for orders.

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Must either fall or advertise."

Try an Ad. in the "Leader." The rate is low and the PROFIT great.

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Advertise and keep it.

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Fire Risks of all kinds taken.

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Port Wine ...	11d, 1s 6d,	2s
Shiraz ...	10d, 1s 6d,	2s
Verdeilho ...	1s 6d,	3s
Hermitage ...	1s 6d,	2s
Madeira ...	1s 6d,	2s
Claret ...	1s 6d,	2s
Constantia ...	1s 6d,	2s
Muscat ...	1s 6d,	2s
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IN PULK:

6d per pint, 1s per quart, 3s per gallon and upwards.

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GENERAL PRODUCE MERCHANTS,
GENERAL PRODUCE MERCHANTS,
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NOTICE:—The Public are hereby notified that owing to a change in partnership the firm hitherto known as Rowe & Munro will in future carry on business as MUNRO & CO.

In soliciting the patronage of residents of Northcote, Preston, & adjoining districts the new firm wish it to be fully known that they are determined to keep pace with the BEST in ALL LINES, and will sell at the Lowest Margin of Profit.

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HAY
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Direct from the producer, he is able to supply the public at FIRST COST, thus saving all middlemen's profits.

Very best country Chaff kept, and pure Oats—no adulteration.

Horse, Cow, and Fowl Feed delivered in any part of Northcote and surrounding districts.

WHOLESALE PRICES for large quantities.

B.E.J. hopes the public will give him a trial and satisfy themselves.

Chris. Fry,

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Prime Chaff, Oats, Potatoes, and Cow Chaff specialities.

WOOD, COAL, & COKE At lowest Rates.

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TOBACCONISTS AND HAIRDRESSERS,

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TOBACCO & CIGARS of the Finest Quality.

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WOOLS, STATIONERY, AND CROCKERY.

A Trial Solicited.

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3000 Acres, Good Grass, Shelter and Water.

Horses, 15/- per quarter; Cattle, 9/-. Reduction for quantity.

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Prescriptions prepared accurately with the best Drugs and Chemicals.

BEWARE.

Dimmick's Great 'Xmas Sale!!!

BOOTS ALMOST GIVEN AWAY!

STARTLING PRICES! JUST HAVE A LOOK AT THEM

Ladies Tan Shoes, 4/6, 5/6, 6/6
Children's Tan 3-strap shoes, 4 to 6, 2/6 and 2/9; do. 7 to 9, 3/3 and 3/6; do. 10 to 13, 3/11—surprising.
Ladies' Glace Shoes, 4/6
Ladies' Leather Shoes, 3/11, special line guaranteed
Children's do., 7 to 9, 2/3; 10 to 13, 2/9—unequalled anywhere.

Strong Nailed Waterlights, 6/3
Nailed lace Boots, 6/6. Blochers from 3/11

look at them hanging at the door.
Ladies' Elastic Sides, 4/11, originally 6/6
Ladies' Glace Bals, 5/11, worth 7/6
Gent's Golosh Bals, 5/11
Gent's Golosh Bals, 6/6
Gent's Golosh Bals, 7/6
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Children's School Boots, 1/9, 2/6, 3/6
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(Opposite Dr. Wilkinson's).

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Flooring	Lime	Galv. Iron	Oregon	Hardwood, 3 x 2, 4/3
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For the past ten years I have been a complete martyr to rheumatism in all its forms. I have tried doctors and hospitals at various times of suffering, and also, I think, every form of advertised remedies, and also followed the advice of well-meaning friends, with a view of effecting a cure for this most trying disease. All that I have been able to do, which hitherto has been, at best, temporary relief from pain, I feel sure, will now be acknowledgment enough to you. I feel, and can truthfully say, that a cure has been effected, and am, as a consequence, very grateful. Although I was very much prejudiced against your remedy, I was induced to try a bottle of your "Thulinius," and in a week or so afterwards I could get about fairly well. Upon again suffering a relapse last February, I took another bottle, with an equally successful result; but at last I determined to go through a course of treatment, and have just completed my fourth bottle, with the gratifying knowledge that I am now free from pain, can walk any reasonable distance without fatigue, have an excellent appetite, and feel myself again competent to re-enter my profession, added to which my oft-repeated attacks of pleurisy have become things of the past. I have not dieted myself in any way, so all the credit is due to your wonderful remedy, under Providence, that my blood is becoming purer daily, and its effects upon my liver and kidneys most pronounced. I send you with this the date of my previous attacks and sufferings should you wish to show them. I shall only be too glad personally to convince fellow sufferers of the benefits to be derived from a course of your treatment, as sorry tried in my own case after ten years martyrdom.—I remain yours faithfully

W. H. NEWTON NEWMAN.

Teacher of Elocution, and twenty-five years Actor and Manager.

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Men's, Youths', and Boys' Clothing—the cheapest in the trade.—Men's Suits from 15s; Youths' do., 12s 6d; Boys' Knicker Suits from 1s 11d; Men's Shirts at 10½d, 1s, 1s 3d. 1s 6d, 1s 11d; Boys' do., from 9d each.

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20 per cent. less than SALE PRICES, and NEW GOODS—No Old Stock, having disposed of it.

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Nottage's Better Suits at Low Prices.	
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Nottage's Youths' Suits ...	12s 6d
Nottage's Mole Trousers,	3s 11d and 5s 11d.
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Nottage's Hats, Shirts, and Braces,	&c., better than Sale Prices.

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