Staffordshire Sentinel
Friday 26 July 1878
Defective Weights and Measures—The following persons were summoned at the instance of Major Knight for having defective weights and scales, and were fined as stated : Abraham Ashworth, grocer, Burslem, 5s. and costs . John Knight, grocer, Tunstall, 5s. and costs John Holdcroft, grocer, Burslem, 10s. and costs ; George Collis, grocer, Tunstall, 5s. and costs : James Ball, butcher, Bagnall, 5s. and costs

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE.

[Advertisement.]
The Prudential Assurance Company paid £447 18s. 3d. for 86 claims, which occurred in the North Staffordshire District during the month of June, 1878. It is the largest Assurance Institution in the world, and everybody should assure their lives in it. Apply to any of the Company's Agents or Assistant-Superintendents: J. Nicklin, Kingsfield, Basford, near Stoke-on-Trent; J. Weston, Albert-street, Sandford-hill, Longton; H. Brown, 31, Liverpool-road, Newcastle-under-Lyme; or to District Superintendent J. M. Brandreth—Office: Glebe Buildings, Glebe-street, Stoke-on-Trent.

HANLEY.

Alexandra Music Hall.—Mr. Arthur Vining Miss Nelly Ridgway (a pair of clever comic duett[ists]) have appeared during the week with marked success. The Rivierie troupe of dancers, led by Mdlle. Rivierie, have shown themselves thorough masters of the terpsichorean art. Mr. Albert Windsor, possessed of a good voice, is one of the most refined comiques in the provinces, his songs being above the usual standard. The sisters Polly and Maggie Burch have been well received, and Miss Grace Darnley (serio-comic) continues to please.

Brunswick Presbyterian Church.—On Thursday the annual outing of the teachers and friends of the Sabbath School took place. The *locale* selected was Alton, and the journey was made in a brake and waggonette. Although the weather was not at all that could be desired, the outing was greatly enjoyed, the gardens affording much pleasure and gratification to the visitors. A substantial tea was partaken of at the Shrewsbury Hotel, shortly after which the party returned home.

TUNSTALL.

Ancient Order of Shepherds Demonstration.—The first fete arranged by the joint committee connected with Shepherds in the Valley and Prince Albert Lodges of this Order was held on Tuesday. In the morning a numerous respectable procession of the officers and members visited a number of their patrons, including—Mr. J. H. Williamson, Goldenhill; Mr. E. Challinor, Dr. May, Mr. W. Pendleton, Tunstall; and others who had generously promised subscriptions. A beautiful banner, and St. Mary's Brass Band, headed the procession, and representative Shepherds, with their suitable dog, brought up the rear. The morning's march was greatly admired by the spectators generally. In the afternoon the company, with numerous visitors, assembled in Phoenix Park, where upwards of 500 partook of tea in a large tent. Many more were disappointed of that privilege. Afterwards various amusements were enjoyed, including a football match with Goldenhill v. Tunstall. The result was that the money prizes were divided between the competitors. Dancing was also enjoyed to the strains of the band until evening.

KIDSGROVE.

Women's Club.—The annual festival in connection with this club took place on Wednesday. Over 160 of the members met at the Club-room, Plough Inn, and walked to Clough Hall, where they were met by Mr. Williamson, and partook of that gentleman's hospitality. They afterwards called at the Rectory, and the residences of the principal inhabitants of the town, and then proceeded to the church, where a very appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. G. H. Collier, from Timothy, chap. ii., verses 1—5. After the service, the procession, preceded by the club's banner and the Kidsgrove Prize Band, completed the perambulation of the town, and afterwards sat down to a knife-and-fork tea, provided by Mrs. Emmons, of the Plough Inn. The annual statement shows the society to be in a very prosperous condition.

School Treat.—The annual treat of the scholars connected with the Wesleyan Sunday School took place on Tuesday. The children, teachers, and friends assembled in the schoolroom, where a substantial tea was provided, after which they walked in procession to a field on the Whitehall Estate, kindly lent by Mr. Nield, where various amusements were provided and games indulged in until a late hour.

LONGTON.

Catholic Church.—A splendid addition has recently been made to this church by the erection of a magnificent lady-altar. It has been erected by the eminent firm of Earley and Power, from the design of the well-known artist, Mr. Pugin. It has cost upwards of £200, and is a beautiful piece of sculpture. It was used on Thursday evening for Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, the Very Rev. Canon Ilsley, of Birmingham, officiating.

Starr-Bowkett Building Society.—On Thursday evening the first meeting of members of the Longton Society for the appropriation of shares was held in the Victoria Hall, Mr. Starr (founder of the society) in the chair. The Chairman delivered a brief address on the occasion, pointing out the principles and main features of the society, and showing how a member subscribing sixpence a week until it became £27 6s. was entitled to an advance of £100; another subscribing 1s. a week until it had reached £54 12s. was entitled to an advance of £200; another paying 1s. 6d. a week until it reached £81 18s. was entitled to £300; whilst a payment of 2s. per week until the subscriptions had reached £109 4s. was entitled to an advance of £400, all advances being free of interest. In explaining the practical working of this society a number of questions were asked and satisfactorily answered. The appropriation was then proceeded with, two scrutineers and five referees being appointed, a boy from the audience holding the ballot-bag. The lucky member was Mr. John Howard, Railway-terrace, East Vale, the sum being £100. It was stated that Mr. Howard had only paid five weekly subscriptions of 6d. each.

RUGELEY.

The Hagley estate, which was recently sold by auction at Birmingham, was purchased by the Marquess of Anglesey for £30,000.

School Anniversary.—The anniversary sermons in connection with the Congregational Sunday Schools were preached, on Sunday, by the Rev. H. Luckett, of Gainsborough. The collections amounted to £12. On the following Tuesday the scholars held their annual treat in a field, kindly lent by Mr. James Gardner, of the Stone House, and the children thoroughly enjoyed it.

THE TUNSTALL ATHENÆUM FETE.

The annual fete of the Tunstall Athenæum was held on Thursday at Porthill Park. Every arrangement had been made for the entertainment of visitors, but rain fell heavily and almost without intermission throughout the whole day damping alike the skins and pleasures of those who had the courage to turn out. The chief feature of the day was a choral contest between various local choirs for prizes to the extent of £15. The first (£8) went to Shelton, the winners being far before any of the other competitors. Second came Middleport, who sang very well indeed; after this there was more equality among the competing choirs. The judges placed Tunstall third, and Newchapel and Brindley Ford were almost equal, they requested the two to sing again. The former church declined to do this, and the prize accordingly went to Brindley Ford. Tents were provided, in which the visitors found shelter, but the stand was miserably wet, and the effort to enjoy oneself was rather palpable. The band of the 9th Staffordshire Rifle Volunteers played selections during the afternoon and evening, and a few couples tried a dance. It was, however, a little too much for them, and the numbers that indulged were small. The shooting galleries were only moderately patronised; a punch and judy show attracted a good many, but the wet was almost too strong even for this. Towards night the weather cleared up a little, and the visitors seemed to have a rather better time of it. In spite of the rain, as many as 1,500 paid for admission, a circumstance that speaks a good deal for the popularity of the institution.

AN IRISH BREACH OF PROMISE CASE.

DAMAGES, £1,000.

At Galway, on Wednesday, the Sub-sheriff and a jury sat to assess damages in the case of Clarke v. Gibbs, in which judgment had been allowed to go by default. The plaintiff is a young lady of very attractive appearance, the youngest daughter of Mr. John S. Clarke, an extensive gentleman farmer, of Portumna, and the defendant is Mr. John Gibbs, captain in the 5th West York Militia. The parties first became acquainted in 1875, at Oaklawn, in King's county, the residence of Mr. Drought, brother-in-law of the plaintiff, and magistrate of the county. The intimacy resulted in a proposal of marriage on the part of the defendant, which was accepted by the plaintiff, and the engagement received the sanction of the families of both parties. The plaintiff received several letters from the defendant, couched in terms of the most affectionate endearment, in which he addressed her as "Goodie Darling," and hoped "her love would be as firm and lasting as his," and signed himself "her loving Jack." The plaintiff was for a month on a visit to the defendant's father's house as the intended wife of the defendant; but in June, 1870, he wrote her a short curt letter, in which, without assigning any cause, he broke off the engagement, and returned all the presents she had given him.—The jury assessed the damages at £1,000.

SHREWSBURY ASSIZES.

NISI PRIUS COURT.—Thursday.

(Before Sir Henry Manisty.)

A POTTERIES LIBEL AND SLANDER CASE.

(By our own Reporter.)

J. W. Thomas v. C. Head. — As announced by a telegram in yesterday's paper, this case, which promised a somewhat fruitful yield of food for gossip in the Potteries generally, and Stoke in particular, was settled without the ordeal of a trial.—Mr. John Whitta Thomas, clerk to the School Board of Stoke-on-Trent, a member of Stoke Town Council, and a man thoroughly well known in Stoke and the Potteries district, brought the action to recover £1,000 damages from the defendant, Mr. Charles Head, a stationer and bookseller of Stoke, for an alleged libel and slander.—Mr. Underhill and Mr. Rose (instructed by Mr. C. J. Welch) were retained for the plaintiff; and Mr. Matthews, Q.C., and Mr. Jelf (instructed by Mr. W. Turner) were for the defence. Over thirty witnesses were summoned, including Archdeacon Stamer, Bart, Chairman of Stoke School Board; Mr. W. M. Grosse, vice-chairman; the Rev. T. Corker, Congregational minister, Stoke; Dr. Ashwell, and others. There was every indication of a stout fight, but to-day the spirit of conciliation seemed strong, and friends on both sides urged the parties immediately concerned to settle the dispute without a trial.

From the pleadings in the case it was averred, in the statement of claim by the plaintiff, that on Wednesday, the 21st of November last, the plaintiff was present, at a sale of the property of one Dr. Ashwell, in Winton-terrace, Stoke-upon-Trent. On the 24th day of November the defendant false and maliciously wrote and published of the plaintiff the words following:—

From Charles Head, printer and stationer.
Stoke-upon-Trent, Nov. 24, 1877.
To the Venerable Archdeacon Stamer.

Venerable Sir,—As a ratepayer I think there should be some notice taken of the "disgusting expression and disorderly conduct of the Clerk to the School Board, at Dr. Ashwell's sale in Winton Terrace, on Wednesday last," meaning thereby that the plaintiff had expressed himself in disgusting language, and had been guilty of disorderly conduct at the aforesaid sale, and had behaved in a manner unbecoming his office as Clerk to the said School Board, and deserved and ought to be dismissed, punished, or reprimanded, and that the defendant was a ratepayer, and as such ratepayer deemed it necessary, and required that the plaintiff should be so dismissed, punished, or reprimanded. On or about the 26th day of November, 1877, and at other times, the defendant also falsely and maliciously spoke and published of the plaintiff, and of him in relation to his office of clerk to the School Board, the words following: "He is an habitual drunkard, and in the habit of using obscene language, and did at Dr. Ashwell's sale make use of a disgusting expression to a lady thereat, and retains to his own use the money given to him to enable him to pay teachers' salaries," meaning thereby that the plaintiff was drunken, dissolute, immoral, disorderly, and dishonest, and was guilty of feloniously stealing money which came into his hands by virtue of his office of clerk to the School Board, whereby the plaintiff was injured in his credit and reputation, and his tenure of the office jeopardised. On the 3rd day of December, 1877, Archdeacon Stamer wrote to the defendant, requesting him to attend a special meeting of the Board, held for the purpose of inquiring into the charges made by the defendant against the plaintiff. The defendant did not attend the meeting, but further falsely and maliciously wrote and published of the plaintiff, and of him in relation to his office, the words following:

Stoke-upon-Trent, Dec. 4, 1877.
To the Chairman of the School Board.

Rev. Sir,—In reply to yours requesting my attendance at a Board meeting to-day to substantiate the charge or apologise, I beg to reply. I fail to see the charge is mine of the 24th ulto. If you will read my note, I think you will find that an inquiry is all that I asked for, and that that inquiry to be conducted in confidence, and in private by yourself, which you promised to do. If you have failed to find any truth in the various reports, the matter should have dropped, as I did not charge him with anything publicly. I do not intend to commit a breach of confidence, by telling openly to the world, or even to the Board, that which was spoken to me privately and in confidence, when my informants do not wish it. I asked for an inquiry, and gave names of persons who were in a position to give information in that inquiry. While I decline to attend a Board meeting, I re-iterate I can give names of many persons as witnesses, but who will not attend a Board meeting for various reasons. Many reports have been afloat about him, and you and other members of the Board cannot fail to obtain information if you only inquire. Am I to bear the brunt of an investigation when he is a servant of the School Board? Rather, I think the Board, as his masters, should make the inquiry themselves, if any ratepayers see cause for it, I cannot compel my informants to attend a Board meeting, so, I suppose, their absence would prove my untruthfulness. Again, declining to attend as a ratepayer, I request an investigation to be made into the conduct of a public servant named.—I remain, Rev. Sir, yours respectfully,

Charles Head.

Meaning thereby that the charges made against the plaintiff by the defendant were true, and could be substantiated by the evidence of several persons, and that the plaintiff was of ill-repute in the town, whereby the plaintiff was further injured as aforesaid. On the same day the chairman wrote to the defendant, *inter alia*, asking for the evidence by which any charge against the plaintiff could be substantiated. On the 15th of December, 1877, the defendant falsely and maliciously wrote and published of the plaintiff, and of him in relation to his office, the words following:

Stoke-upon-Trent, December 15th, 1877.

Rev. Sir,—In answer to your last letter, I do not see that I can further the inquiry by coming before the Board, as I can only repeat what I have already told you. My first letter was not sent to you in your official capacity. If the School Board like to appoint a deputation to call upon me, I will give them the names of my informants, and read over to them various statements made to me, with the authors' names.—I remain, Rev. Sir, yours truly,

Charles Head.

Meaning thereby that the charges were true, and that the defendant could sustain them, and that they were made to the said Venerable Archdeacon Stamer, as a private individual only, and were founded upon the information of persons known to the defendant, which information was contained in written statements then in his custody, whereby the plaintiff was injured. The chairman of the School Board required the plaintiff to clear his character from the aforesaid charges and imputations by means of legal proceedings against the defendant. The defamatory words alleged to have been spoken and published by the defendant of the plaintiff were spoken and published to many persons. The plaintiff claims £1,000 damages.

The statement for the defence contained the following: The defendant admits the first, second, and third paragraphs of the plaintiff's statement of claim. He admits that he wrote the letter set out in paragraph four, but denies that he did so falsely or maliciously, or otherwise than *bona fide*. The defendant was and is a ratepayer of the district of the School Board of which the plaintiff was and is a clerk, and before and at the time of writing the letter of November 24th, the defendant had heard from various credible persons living in the district, statements respecting disgusting expressions and disorderly conduct of the plaintiff at Dr. Ashwell's sale, which statements were, and are true in substance and in fact, and thereupon believing it to be his duty as such ratepayer, and having a common interest in the employment of the plaintiff, to report such statements to the Venerable Archdeacon Stamer, who was then and still is one of his representatives as such ratepayer at such School Board, and as Chairman thereof he wrote the said letter in the said paragraph mentioned *bond fide*, believing that some notice ought to have been taken of the said statements respecting such disgusting expressions and disorderly conduct, and not having any other or further meaning to be conveyed thereby. He denies that he spoke and published the words set out in paragraph five. He admits that he wrote the letter set out in paragraph six, but denies that he did so falsely or maliciously or otherwise than *bona fide* in his capacity of ratepayer addressing a letter to one of his elected representatives, touching and concerning the character of a person in whom he had a common interest, and who was then, and is now, a servant of the representative body of which such elected representation was and is a member. He admits that he wrote the letter set out in paragraph eight, but denies that he did so falsely or maliciously or otherwise than *bona fide* in his capacity as aforesaid, or under circumstances other than those stated in the preceding paragraphs. He denies that the plaintiff sustained any damage by reason of the alleged cause of action.

The plaintiff eventually agreed to accept an apology in the following terms: The defendant, through his counsel, to express publicly in Court that he very much regrets that he was mislead by certain communications made to him; and being now informed by the person making the communication that there was not, and is not, any foundation for the statements which have been made reflecting upon plaintiff's character, he now fully withdraws them.

About three o'clock in the afternoon, Mr. Underhill interposed during the hearing of another case; and announced to his Lordship that the Court would not be troubled with the hearing of the case Thomas v. Head, in which some not very agreeable things might have been brought out. His client, Mr. Thomas, was clerk to the School Board of Stoke; he had lived in that town for many years, and he occupied a highly respectable position. In the month of November last he became aware that there were certain scandalous rumours afloat about him. As a result of that, it was arranged that an inquiry should take place, and the Ven. Archdeacon Stamer, chairman of the Stoke School Board, arranged that an inquiry should take place into the matter on the 4th of December. That inquiry, however, was never held, as no one attended in relation to the charges against Mr. Thomas, no one came forward to sustain the allegations made against him. The Chairman of the School Board then said that the only way remaining for Mr. Thomas to clear his character was to bring the matter before a court of justice. That had been done; but he (Mr. Underhill) was happy now to say that defendant had agreed to make an apology, which would fully clear the character of his client Mr. Thomas.

Mr. Matthews, Q.C., in assenting to this course, said the court would be spared investigation into circumstances of a very painful kind. He would only say with respect to his client, Mr. Head, that certain communications had been made to him respecting Mr. Thomas, by a person whom he considered reliable, and which he thought at the time justified him in making the representations he had done. That person had since told the defendant that the communication made to him was in perfect good faith and in reliance upon what he had heard. However, the defendant now desired in the fullest possible manner to withdraw what had been said upon the representations made to him by the party referred to, and assented to the withdrawal of the case upon the terms arranged between counsel.

His Lordship acquiesced in this course, without any comments, and so the case ended.

THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS AT CREWE.

(By Our Own Reporter.)

These famous cricketers commenced a three days' match against twenty-two of Crewe and district, on the Crewe ground, on Thursday. The attendance of the public was meagre, owing to the wretched state of the weather, rain being almost incessant. The wicket, of course, was heavy, and this considerably militated against brilliant cricket being shown. The Colonials were the first to handle the willow, and shortly before one o'clock C. Bannerman and W. Murdock went to the wicket, against the bowling of Rylott and Dillon. A poor show was at first made, and the game commenced in anything but a lively way. Murdoch having scored a single was caught by Lyons off a ball from Dillon. Horan joined Bannerman but he was doomed to a similar fate, and that player having made a single, he was caught by Dillon. Lyons, who was fielding remarkably well, was the evil genius of Bannerman, who, after adding seven to the score, was beautifully caught by him. Fortune, however, turned, and Gregory and Garrett were in possession of the wickets. Runs then came more freely, and it was soon seen that these two players intended, if possible, to put a better aspect on affairs, which certainly did appear to be very disastrous to the foreigners. These two players batted with great skill and care, and gradually raised the score, and a change was made in the bowling, Wilson being put on in place of Rylott. A separation was finally made, and Gregory, after a well-batted twenty-three, was caught off Dillon, by Banks. Spofforth joined Garrett, and was soon at home. The in-comer hit Wilson prettily to leg for two. Garrett cut the same bowler for two, scored through bad fielding. Garrett also dispatched one of Dillon's to the boundary for three. A few singles having been registered, play was adjourned for luncheon, and it was after four o'clock before the resumption, there being a heavy downpour of rain. On play being resumed, Garrett cut Wilson for one. Spofforth followed with a square leg for two. Singles were the only contributions, and Spofforth ran a narrow escape of being stumped in his eagerness to "sneak" runs. Wilson having bowled a maiden over, Garrett was caught at the wicket from the second ball from Dillon, he having displayed capital cricket for thirty-five. Bailey succeeded, but he was immediately sent back with a "duck," having given a chance at long-on, which was accepted. Blackham was the new comer, and on his arrival he cut his first ball for one, following it up with a hit to square leg for two. Spofforth made a nice drive for three off Dillon. From Wilson he scored two to leg. He repeated this by another two from the same bowler. Blackham having slipped and cut Dillon for singles, he "sneaked" a three to leg from the same bowler, and he again similarly treated another of Dillon's balls. A change was then made in the trundling in favour of Hassall *vice* Dillon. The fresh bowler bowled underhand lobs, and they proved very troublesome to Blackham and Spofforth, who had to persistently block. Maiden over followed maiden over, until Spofforth relieved the monotony by cutting Wilson for three. Monotony, however, prevailed again, and Holden was place to bowl in Wilson's place. From his first ball Spofforth drove him for three, and followed it with another drive for two. Spofforth was again repeating it, when he was splendidly caught at long-on by Rylott. This player had added twenty-four to the score. Allan accordingly joined Blackham, and immediately gave a chance to Broughton at point. It was not accepted, and he gave a second chance to the same player, and that was treated likewise. Allan having been twice let off began to bat with more care, and runs came very slowly. Rylott was again tried. His first over was a maiden, as was his second. Blackham drove Holden for three, and likewise treated his next ball. Dillon was commissioned to bowl in Holden's place, and ultimately a separation was made, Blackham being caught at the wicket. Boyle was the next comer, and was immediately caught by Moorcroft at mid-on. This closed the innings, A. Bannerman not batting, on account of an accident sustained by his finger, the total being 130.

The home team began their innings at a quarter to six with Lyons and Lawler, the bowling being entrusted to Boyle and Garrett. In the first over Lyons cut Boyle for two. Garrett bowled a maiden over, and Lyons hit Boyle to leg for one. In the next over Lyons's career was cut short by being clean bowled by Garrett. Turnbull joined Lawler, and in the third ball from Garrett he was caught by the latter. Two wickets for three runs. Holden succeeded, and having played several balls, play ended for the day without any addition being made to the score. The following is the score:—

AUSTRALIANS, FIRST INNINGS.

C. Bannerman, c Lyons b Dillon	7
W. Murdoch, c Lyons b Dillon	1
T. Horan, c and b Dillon	1
D. Gregory, c Banks b Dillon	23
T. Garrett, c Banks b Dillon	35
F. E. Spofforth, c Rylott b Holden	24
G. H. Bailey, c Trevithick b Dillon	0
J. M. Blackham, c Banks b Dillon	23
F. E. Allan, not out	10
H. F. Boyle, c Moorcoft b Rylott	0
A. Bannerman, absent	0
Extras	6
Total	130

CREWE, FIRST INNINGS.

E. Lawler, not out	0
W. Lyons, b Garrett	3
W. J. Turnbull, c and b Garrett	0
F. Holden, not out	0
Total	3

NOTICES.

J.A.—Monday.

A Burgess writing in reference to the subject of preaching at the Hanley fountain, emphasises his previous statement that Mr. Bebbington has been "inconsistent" in his conduct, and hints that he ought "to make a clean breast of it, and apologise to Mr. Miller." He adds: "Let my opponent remember the humble lines, "that a fault confessed is half redressed." Mr. Bebbington finds fault that I do not give my real name. I answer that under the circumstances it is unsafe to do so, and for reasons I am not afraid to state."

With this notice we must close a correspondence which has already been protracted, and not very interesting to the generality of readers.

THE PAN-ANGLICAN SYNOD.

Thursday being St. James's Day, the Holy Communion was celebrated in Lambeth Chapel in the morning by the Primate, the epistle being read by the Bishop of Gibraltar, and the gospel by the Bishop of New York, who, with the Bishop of Ohio and Madras—all staying in the Palace—assisted in the distribution of the elements. The report of the committee on the condition, progress, and needs of the various churches of the Anglican Commission was under discussion all day, but their lordships were so exercised by the reports which had appeared, that not even a list of the speakers has been furnished, the official information being that the discussion was general, and that the secretaries took no list of the speakers. Such a list would have included almost every one. The report of the committee on the subject was all day under consideration. The question of publication is still under warm discussion. The committees sat very late—one in a committee room of the House of Lords—and it was thought they would not rise until a very late hour.

The coloured Bishop of Hayti preached a striking sermon on Thursday afternoon in Westminster Abbey, from the Gospel for St. James's Day. At the close of the sermon, in a touching peroration, the right rev. prelate said that it was in the spirit of Moses and St. Paul, who were willing to lose their own lives if only they might save those of others, that he desired to labour among his own race in the Republic of Hayti—a race which had been under the malediction of God since the curse of Ham. There, in that cradle of Anglo-Saxon Christianity, beneath the vaulted roof of the magnificent fane filled with the memories of the illustrious departed and the trophies of monumental piety, he, on the festival of the Apostle whose name he bore, deriving a fresh inspiration from the associations of the place, dedicated himself afresh to God. The right rev. prelate pronounced the benediction with outstretched hands.

A man named John Hutton died on Thursday at Mayfield, near Manchester, having completed his 101st year within a few weeks. He was born in Glasgow on the 18th August, 1777, and entered the employ of Thomas Hoyle and Sons, calico printers, Manchester, in 1798, and was in receipt of wages from the firm down to the present time, a period of nearly eighty years. His one hundredth birthday was celebrated eleven months ago by his relatives, five generations of the family being represented at the celebration.

P Natural Light Improved.—Adopt Chappuis a tents,—69, Fleet-street, London

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

HANLEY (BOROUGH).—This Day.

(Before C. Adams and T. Pidduck, Esqrs.)

Theft of a Cigar Holder.—Frederick Shaw, a youth, was charged with stealing a cigar holder, of the value of 1s., the property of William Moston.—The prosecutor keeps a tobacconist's shop in Hope-street, and on Thursday the prisoner went into the shop and saw the daughter of the prosecutor. He asked to look at some cigar holders. The little girl showed him five. He did not purchase any. He gave the little girl four back, and the girl told the prisoner he had got one. Prisoner denied it, and went out of the shop.—P.C. Jones deposed to seeing the prisoner in an entry in Piccadilly with the cigar holder in his hand. Witness asked him where he had had it from, and he said he had bought it at Cobridge for a shilling. Witness afterwards took him into custody.—Prisoner pleaded guilty, and was ordered to receive twelve strokes with a birch rod.

Refusing to Pay Market Tolls.—John Bradbury, fishmonger, Hanley, was summoned for refusing to pay market tolls due to the Hanley Corporation. Mr. Challinor, town clerk, appeared for the Corporation, and Mr. Ashmall for the defendant.—Mr. Challinor said the summons was taken out under the market by-laws, which stated that if a person refused to pay tolls he was liable to a penalty of 40s.—Mr. Cruikshank, collector, stated that Bradbury rented a stall in the market, and £3 5s. 3d. was due from him. Application had been made for the money, but he refused to pay it, giving no reason.—Mr. Ashmall, for the defence, contended that the charge of 4s. per day which had been made by the Town Council was illegal, as it was directly contrary to the Market Act, which only allowed a toll of 1s. per day, to be charged, and to be increased according to the size of the stall. He further contended that inasmuch as the Corporation had elected to proceed under the by-law, framed under the statute, the only toll the by-laws could apply to was that of 1s. per day. The arrangement to pay the 4s. was merely a private one which might be enforced in the County Court.—Mr. Challinor admitted the force of the objection, and withdrew the case.

KIDSGROVE.—Thursday.

(Before H. C. Greenwood, Esq.)

Drunk and Disorderly.—John Scott, a tramp, charged with being drunk at Kidsgrove, on promising to leave the town was ordered to be released.—Michael Hart was fined 5s. and costs for a similar offence, at Goldenhill.—Murace Kavanagh fined 5s. and costs; Edward Fox 2s. 6d. and costs; and Peter Burke 5s. and costs, for similar offences at Goldenhill.

Neglect of Work.—Edwin Smith, John Dockett, and Matthew Darlington, summoned by the New North Staffordshire Coal and Iron Company for neglect of work, were each ordered to pay 1s. damage and costs.—William Quick, summoned by the same company, and adjourned from a fortnight since, was ordered to pay £1 1s. damages and costs.—Mr. Ralph Sherratt appeared for the company.

CONGLETON (BOROUGH).—Thursday.

(Before E. J. Solly, chairman, R. Beales, and Charles Goode, Esqrs.)

Daneinshaw Disturbances.—Richard Pickford, labourer, was summoned for assaulting his wife.—The complainant said that the case was settled.—Superintendent Hall, however, stated that the young woman's father was in court to complain of the defendant's illusage.—Mr. Lovatt, mechanic, Daneinshaw, was then called, and said that on Saturday night the defendant forced his way into his house. After he had beaten his wife he struck witness and his two daughters, used bad language and threats, and raised a general disturbance. He was afraid that he would do him some harm if he was not restrained.—The defendant said that his wife had assaulted him. He was knocked down in the lane and water thrown upon him.—The Bench allowed the case of assault to be settled, and defendant was convicted of a breach of the peace, and ordered to find two sureties in £10 each to keep the peace for six months, and to pay the expenses.

A Wife-beater.—Richard Jones, Spragg-street, was summoned for assaulting his wife.—Complainant said that on Sunday morning, at half-past one, while in bed, defendant told her to get him some money against morning. She told him she had spent all she had got in buying provisions in for the house. He caught hold of her with both hands to strangle her, but she escaped him. After that he ran downstairs and threatened to kill her. He broke open the stairs door, which she fastened to prevent him from attacking her. Subsequently he reached a gun (unloaded) and struck at her with it. On Monday morning he threatened to burn her to death. She said nothing to provoke him. She was afraid of him.—The Chairman said that according to their own account the parties had better live separate.—Jane Shufflebotham having given corroborative evidence, the Bench ordered the defendant to procure two sureties in £10 each, and they had better come to some arrangement with a view to a separation.—The sureties were obtained.

HANLEY (BOROUGH).—Thursday.

(Before R. E. Narramore and J. W. Clementson, Esqrs.)

Youthful Offenders.—James Carroll, Patrick Leonard, James Leason, and Edward Holland, were summoned for being on the Recreation Grounds after the hour of closing, and with doing damage to a board, which was apportioned at 5s. each.—P.C. Maycock gave evidence of the finding of the boys on the Recreation Ground, and that they broke down a notice board.—Each was severely reprimanded, and ordered to pay 2s.

Stone-Throwing.—For this offence, two boys, named Arthur Swetnam and Charles Martin, were each fined 5s. and costs.

Theft at a Public-house.—Henry Bartland was sent to gaol for fourteen days with hard labour for stealing 2s. 6d., the money of James Corns.—Prosecutor and prisoner were drinking together, and the former, who was the worse for drink, put down 2s. 6d. to pay the score. Prisoner took it and ran off.

STAFFORD (BOROUGH).—Thursday.

(Before J. Averill, Esq., Mayor, B. P. Wright, and W. Jones, Esqrs.)

Drunk Again.—Mercy Banes, who was brought before the Bench on Monday, again made her appearance charged with being drunk in Martin-street, on the 22nd inst., and was fined 5s. and costs, or in default fourteen days' imprisonment.

Alleged Theft of a Watch.—Thomas Johnson was charged on remand with stealing a watch, the property of Alexander Roxburg, on the 22nd inst.—Prosecutor, who is a shoemaker residing in Browning-street, said that prisoner and himself worked in the same shop. On the day named he went to the room and hung his watch up on a nail inside the bench at which they worked. Prosecutor left the room at about four o'clock to do some work for another man, leaving the prisoner in the room. When he returned, prisoner asked him if he had got his watch, to which witness replied that he had not, saying that perhaps some of the men had been up and laid it on one side for a joke. Some time after, witness went to the place, and found that the watch was gone. He then asked some of the workmen if they had seen it, and they said they had never touched it. Witness then sent the prisoner to ask his (witness's) wife if she had taken it, but she said she had not done so. Prisoner never left the room; and a police constable was sent for, who searched him, but was unable to find the watch. It was quite possible for anyone to go into the room without being observed.—P.S. Hackney said he arrested the prisoner, who, in reply to the charge, said the watch was hanging up when he left the room, but when he returned it was gone.—The Bench considered that there was no evidence to show that the prisoner had taken the watch, and he was therefore discharged.

TUNSTALL.—Thursday.

(Before H. T. Davenport, R. Heath, jun., W. Adams, R. N. Wood, Esqrs.)

Disorderly.—Samuel Booth was summoned for being disorderly on the 4th inst., at Harriseahead.—He was ordered to pay 10s. and costs.

Assault. — George Johnson was summoned for assaulting Martha Pilkington. — The complainant, who is a little girl, said that on the 17th inst. the defendant beat and kicked her at Red-street because she had taken her sister's part. It appeared that complainant had been quarrelling with the defendant's daughter.—The defendant admitted striking the child, but denied kicking her.—He was fined 20s. and costs.

A Surgeon in the Police Court.—Mr. C. Brady, surgeon, Tunstall, was summoned for being drunk and disorderly. — P.C. O'Brien said that on Tuesday night, at twenty minutes past eleven o'clock he found Mr. Brady in the Market-square drunk and creating a disturbance. He requested him to go home. He would not and was locked up.—Mr. Brady said he had been subjected to frequent annoyance from the police and other parties on the night named. He was insulted, and naturally showed resentment. He asked for an adjournment of the case to enable him to disprove the present charge. He also said that he should have several charges to bring against the police.—The case was then adjourned for a week.

Defective Weights and Measures.—The following persons were summoned at the instance of Major Knight for having defective weights and scales, and were fined as stated: Abraham Ashworth, grocer, Burslem, 5s. and costs; John Knight, grocer, Tunstall, 5s. and costs; John Holdcroft, grocer, Burslem, 10s. and costs; George Collis, grocer, Tunstall, 5s. and costs; James Ball, butcher, Bagnall, 5s. and costs.

Cruelty.—Michael Brown was summoned for allowing a horse to be worked in an unfit state, and William Metcalfe was charged with working it. Inspector Nicolls said he saw the horses at Silverdale, on the 12th of July, attached to an empty cart. The horse was very lame in the near fore leg, the fetlock was over shot, and the animal could only walk on its toes. It was suffering great pain. Mr. Baddeley, veterinary surgeon, gave evidence to the effect that it would be cruelty to work it. Brown was fined 5s. and costs if the horse was destroyed, and Metcalfe was ordered to pay the costs.—Henry Beech was summoned for cruelty to a pony by working it while in an unfit state. Inspector German said he saw the pony attached to a cart on the 18th inst., at Wolstanton. He noticed that the pony had a very bad sore on the back. Inspector Nicolls having given evidence, the defendant was fined 5s. and costs.—Thomas Hambleton was summoned for a similar offence. The horse was seen at Biddulph, and was very lame. Mr. Trigger, veterinary surgeon, Newcastle, said he had examined the horse, and described the diseases it was suffering from, and in his opinion it was totally unfit for work. Mr. Smith, veterinary surgeon, Tunstall, said he had examined the horse, and in his opinion it was fit for the work it was doing. The magistrates inflicted a fine of 5s. and costs.

BERLIN CONGRESS HONOURS.

The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, writing on Thursday evening, says: The distribution of honours and rewards arising out of the Berlin Congress continues. Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Salisbury having received their Garters, less brilliant representatives of England are now being attended to. Mr. Montagu Corry and Mr. Phillip Currie, who were appointed joint secretaries to her Majesty's special Embassy to Berlin, have been appointed Companions of the Civil Division of the Order of the Bath. In connection with this subject, I understand that Sir Richard Wallace has presented to Lord Beaconsfield the Star and Badge of the Garter in diamonds of rare brilliancy, and that the Star and Badge are those that were formerly worn by Lord Hertford, who was a close and valued friend of the Premier.

THE COAL TRADE.

On Thursday fourteen days' notice to quit their employment was given to the men and boys employed at the Darton Hall and North Gawber Hall Collieries, Barnsley, belonging to Messrs. Thorpes, Gawber Hall Company, Limited. Last week the masters pointed out to the workmen that they were working the pits at an immense loss, and asked them to submit to a reduction to help cover that loss and enable them to continue working. The men refused, and they were then requested to send a deputation to meet the directors. This they failed to do, and hence the notices. Five hundred and eighteen men and boys will be thrown out of employment. Yesterday the men and boys employed at the Woolley Colliery, near Barnsley, brought their tools out, in accordance with the notices they gave fourteen days ago to their employers. The masters demanded a reduction of 4d. per ton on the coal and 5d. per yard for packing from a portion of the men, who struck work a fortnight ago, and the others, feeling aggrieved, sent their notices in also.

"RELIGIOUS" FEUDS AT MOSUL.

Mr. Geary, the editor of the *Times of India*, who has "ridden post" through Asiatic Turkey, says of the famous city of Mosul: "It is a large and important city, having the advantage of Bagdad in being mainly built of stone instead of brick or mud; but it is very filthy, its streets are narrow and crooked, and there is a visible tendency to decay everywhere. Here I first came upon a large Christian population, a considerable number of the townspeople being Christians of one sect or another. Their conduct, I am sorry to say, is not edifying. At three of the churches which I visited, Turkish soldiers were on duty to prevent the congregations from coming to blows among themselves. The Chaldean Christians are in a state of civil war about the election of a new patriarch in the place of one who has just died in the odour of perfidy. He had accepted a Papal Bull making portentous changes in the constitution of the Chaldean Church. The bishops approve the Bull, which puts a great deal of power, hitherto wielded by the priests and laity, into their hands. The priests and laity naturally disapprove it. The Consuls of France and England, the Ambassadors of these two Powers at Constantinople, Austria, the Pope, the Porte, the Pasha, the Mussulman roughs, and the noble art of self-defence have been all in turn appealed to or employed in this great quarrel. Were it not for the Turkish regulars at the church doors the two factions would fight it out at the very altar. A very similar state of things prevails between the Syriac Catholics and the Jacobites; two of their churches are saved from the desecration of a free fight solely by the presence of Turkish soldiers. Yet every native Christian you meet will tell you with held breath that the Mahometans of Mosul are dreadful fanatics, and that the Sheikh of the great Mosque has only to go out on to the gallery of the great minaret and give the word to bring about a general massacre of the Christians. I had a long conversation with this very influential Sheikh, and I am satisfied that it will be a long time before he gives the dreadful signal."

THE PROPOSED IMPEACHMENT OF LORD BEACONSFIELD.

The petition from the Foreign Affairs Committee for an impeachment of Lord Beaconsfield, for his alleged treasonable connivance with Russia, presented by Mr. Cowen to the House of Commons on Thursday night, was decided upon at conferences held this week at Manchester and Keighley. It sets forth the history of the Eastern Question during the last fifty years, and then goes on to recount in detail the so-called treasonable acts of the Premier. These acts are summarised in the following twelve articles of impeachment, which conclude the petition:—

That the Earl of Beaconsfield has therefore committed the following high crimes and misdemeanours:—(1). He has wholly neglected to advise her Majesty the Queen even to remonstrace with the Emperor of Russia upon his violation in Servia of the Treaty of Paris, but has allowed remonstrance to be addressed to the injured party, the Sultan. (2.) He has weakened the Porte by advising the Sultan to grant an armistice to Servia instead of sending his troops to Belgrade. (3.) Not having advised her Majesty the Queen to declare war against Russia for her violation of the Treaty of Paris, he has neglected to inform the Sultan that that Treaty was no longer binding on him, and that he might, without breach of agreement, send an army to the right bank of the Pruth to impede the Russian invasion from the other side. (4). He has advised her Majesty the Queen to violate the Treaty of Paris by sending a representative to Constantinople to propose a European interference with the Sultan's Government. (5). He has obtained a grant of money from Parliament under a false pretence of protecting the Ottoman Empire from Russian aggression. (6). Under the same false pretences he has advised her Majesty the Queen to call out the Reserve Forces. (7). He has advised her Majesty the Queen to call to Europe a part of the Indian Forces, there being no enemy against whom to employ them. (8). While pretending to go to the Congress at Berlin to discuss the Treaty of San Stefano, as one that concerned all Europe, he has made a private arrangement with the Power which he pretended to treat as an enemy—a line of conduct which is particularly insulting to France, our ally in the Crimean war, and the only country represented at Berlin which made no attempt to turn to advantage the misfortunes of the Ottoman Empire. (9.) He has advised her Majesty the Queen to conclude a convention for the occupation of Cyprus, which, while it degrades her Majesty into the position of a vassal of the Sultan, commits England to the dishonesty of sharing in the spoils of the Ottoman Empire. (10.) He has advised her Majesty the Queen to undertake a protectorate of Asia Minor, and to join in a European protectorate of Turkey in Europe, and has thus made good government in Turkey absolutely impossible. (11.) He has advised her Majesty the Queen to promise to resist by force of arms any future aggression of Russia in Asia Minor, while the conditions with which this promise is clogged, together with the absence of any attempt to resist by force any present aggression of Russia, shows that he has no intention that the new treaty should be better observed than the treaties of 1856 have been. (12.) He has concluded the secret agreement of May 30 and the convention of June 4 without the concurrence of the Privy Council, without which the Royal prerogative cannot be lawfully exercised, and has thus endangered the prerogative of the Crown and the liberties of the people. Your petitioners further represent that at this moment the inhabitants of Laristan are likely to rise in insurrection against the surrender of Batoum, and that an insurgent army of Turks and Greeks is in arms in the Rhodope Mountains: that Russia appears unable to cope with these insurrections: and that your petitioners are afraid that the English forces may be used against them, which would be an act of unparalleled infamy. Your petitioners therefore pray that your honourable house will exhibit articles of impeachment against Lord Beaconsfield, and will cause him to be arrested and tried for his crimes and misdemeanours by the House of Lords, in order that the honour of England may be saved and the contemplated evils averted. And your petitioners will ever pray.

It is understood that before Mr. Cowen presented the petition he placed it before the Speaker, who informed the hon. gentleman that he saw nothing unconstitutional in the language of the petition, and that he would allow it to be presented with the understanding that the Select Committee on petitions should decide whether it was in order. Mr. Cowen also communicated to Lord Beaconsfield the tenour of the proposed impeachment, at the same time informing the noble earl that, although he had agreed to present the petition to the House, he was not in favour of its prayer.

SECOND EDITION.

MINERS' DISPUTE.

[Special Telegram.]

The Ashton-under-Lyne miners dispute had been settled to-day. Mr. William Gould Thorp, the umpire to whom the wages question of the Ashton miners was referred, has awarded a reduction of 11½ per cent. in the wages for all underground labourers, such reduction not to apply to straight work. The umpire strongly recommends that in future a week's notice before leaving work be given to, or received, by the workers.

WESLEYAN CONFERENCE, BRADFORD: DEATH OF THE REV. P. C. HORTON.

The Conference re-assembled this morning. The intelligence soon spread among the ministers that the Rev. Peter C. Horton died in the vestry in the chapel at ten o'clock last night from syncope of heat. The deceased minister travelled for many years in some of the leading circuits of the connexion, and since his retirement from the active ministry has filled the office of secretary to the Annuitante Society.

MARKET INTELLIGENCE.

Wakefield Corn, This Day.—We had a fair demand for wheat this morning at one shilling in advance of last week's prices. Beans, oats, and maize are dearer. [Weather fine and warm].

London Corn, This Day.—Wheat opens quietly, but tolerably steady. Barley unaltered. Oats and maize sell at late rates. Beans and peas quiet. Flour without change. Arrivals: English, wheat 200, barley 460, mal 1,720; foreign, wheat 16,860, barley 11,290, oats 38,600, maize 25,780 quarters, flour 2,880 sacks 600 barrels.

London Stock Exchange, This Day.—There is no feature in the markets. Consols are quiet, and rather easier. As regards home railways, Metropolitan district is firm, on the announcement of a dividend at the rate of ½ per cent., but in other respects the market was flat, and quotations are weak. In foreign bonds scarcely anything is passing. Turkish are a shade firmer, and Egyptian tolerably steady, but Russian remain weak; other stocks quiet.

SERIOUS OUTRAGE AT SHELTON LOCKS.

At the Stipendiary Magistrate's Court, at Fenton, to-day, William Good, a boatman, and Elizabeth, his wife, were charged with having committed a violent assault upon Francis Clarke, an aged boatman, who appeared with two fearfully black eyes. Evidence was given to the effect that on the 16th inst. the parties were by the canal side, at the Shelton Locks, when a dispute arose and was angrily waged as to which should pass through the lock first. While complainant's boat was in the lock, the defendants drew the front paddle and aimed at damaging the boat. The son of defendants joined in the attack business, the boat line was cut, and strong efforts were made to get the complainant's boy and his horse in the canal by twisting the rope round them. A dastardly attack was then made upon the complainant, who was knocked down and kicked, until—as he described it—he became "quite stupid." The defendants afterwards followed him and pitched him into the canal twice. The Stipendiary said it was the most serious case he had had before him for a long time; and was, in fact, one which this Court could not adequately deal with. It was decided to adjourn the case for a week; and a warrant was issued for the apprehension of defendant's son.

A STRANGE AFFAIR.

On Thursday, at the Preston Police Court, a man named James Alston, gamekeeper, of Woodplumpton, was charged with shooting at and wounding William Gregory, labourer. Early on Wednesday morning the prisoner discovered two men on premises adjoining his house, where there are a large number of tame pheasants, last year's birds. The men were evidently attempting to steal the birds, and Alston shot at them with the object of scaring them away. The men decamped; but when daylight broke Alston found traces of blood, which he followed up till he came to the house of Mr. George Billington, farmer, where he found one of the men (Gregory) who had received the charge of a gun in his heel. Later in the day the man's shoe was found in Alston's garden. On finding Gregory, the gamekeeper sent for the police, and he was conveyed to the Preston Infirmary, where he now lies in a very bad condition. It is thought his foot must be amputated.—Alston was remanded.

THE WESLEYAN CONFERENCE AT BRADFORD.

On Thursday morning the Conference resumed its sitting at half-past nine, and the devotional services were conducted by the Rev. John Samuel Jones.—The Rev. D. J. Waller, who was on Wednesday appointed assistant secretary, now read the daily record for the first time, which was adopted.—The Conference then continued the reading of the obituaries. The following completes the list of those ministers who have died during the year: Revs. H. H. Chettle, W. Stapleson, E. B. Pinder, W. Blanchard, C. Haydon, F. S. Keeling, T. Kilner, John Watson, Henry Kirkland, Matthew Banks, Edward Eye, and Luke Scott. On the foreign stations: Rev. W. Cleaver, John Corlett, G. Gray, and—Harding. Several testimonies were borne to the estimable characters of the deceased. Special reference was made to the name of Mr. Chettle by the Revs. Mr. Rattenbury, A. M'Aulay, Dr. Smith, Dr. Osborne, G. Bowden, and Dr. Pope; and to Mr. Haydon by Dr. Jobson, Dr. Osborne, Dr. Farrar, and the Rev. P. C. Horton.—Mr. Horton spoke very feelingly of his old friend and associate Mr. Haydon; and had just returned to a seat upon the platform, when the Conference was alarmed by some one falling heavily on the floor. The secretary and others immediately rushed to his assistance, when it was discovered that Mr. Horton was seriously ill. With great difficulty he was removed to an adjoining vestry, and upon medical aid being immediately summoned, he was pronounced to be suffering from syncope of the heart. After a short time, the President announced that the medical man thought that Mr. Horton would soon be restored.—The Rev. John Rattenbury said a vacancy was created, by Mr. Chettle's death, in the secretaryship of the auxiliary fund, and proposed that the Rev. H. Hoare, who had been attending to the duties of the office for the past few months, and had shown great aptitude for the work, should be appointed. The proposal was seconded and carried.—The Conference then proceeded with the question, "Are there any objections to the moral and religious character of any preacher?" Each year the character of every Wesleyan Methodist minister is submitted to a careful and paternal inquiry, in order to preserve the purity of the ministry and soundness of doctrine. If there is any charge preferred against a minister, it is carefully heard before a committee, and dealt with according to connexional rules and usage. This investigation was proceeding when the Conference adjourned, and resumed at the evening session. The question of character was finished at the evening session. The cases requiring disciplinary action are fewer this year than usual, and it is gratifying to know that nothing of a serious character has been alleged against any minister. Some have resigned their connection with the Connexion through changing their views on Methodist doctrines.—The Conference adjourned at eight o'clock.

Mr. Horton after his attack of illness was removed to a room at the back of the building, and medical aid was sent for; but he rapidly grew worse and died about ten o'clock in the evening. The deceased was an old and respected member of the Methodist body, and had occupied some of the most important circuits, including Manchester, Sheffield, and Liverpool.

Advertisements Received Late.

FOUND, BLACK RETRIEVER DOG; if not claimed in three days will be sold.—Apply, Ephraim Docksey, Farmer, Eave's-lane, Bucknall.

TO BE SOLD, ONE Vertical STEAM ENGINE, 24-inch cylinder, 14-feet fly-wheel diameter, 11-feet winding, all in good order; will be sold cheap. Also, four-year-old HORSE, 15-2.—Apply to Mr. Roberts, New

TO BE LET or SOLD, capital DWELLING-HOUSE, with five bedrooms and green-house adjoining breakfast-room, pleasantly situated midway between Burslem and Longport stations; easy terms.—Apply, E. Bennett, Solicitor, Newport-lane, Burslem, or Piccadilly-buildings, Hanley.

TO BE SOLD, a smart PONY, 11½-hands, very fast; three years old.—G. Kent, Ashfields, Newcastle.

Image © THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.