T. G. BURRELL,

UNION HALL BUILDINGS,

FOREGATE STREET,

CHESTER.

BABY LINEN DEPARTMENT.

Infants' Shirts .....3½d, 4½d, 6d.
Laps and round top, trimmed Swiss needle-work.
Infants' Pilchers, Swaithes, Binders, &c.
Flannel Barrows.....1s, 14d, 16d, 18d, 1s 9d, 1s 11, 2s 6d, 2s 11d.
Flannel Squares.....10½d, 1s, 1s 6d, 1s 9d.
Infants' Gowns.....9d, 1s, 1s 3d, 1s 6d, 1s 9d, 1s 11d.
Infants' Robes.....1s 11d, 2s 3d, 2s 6d, 3s 6d, 4s 6d.
Infants' Flannel Petticoats, from .....18d.
Infants' Short Stips, from .....9d.
Infants' Frock Bodies, from .....4½d.
Infants' White Frocks, from .....10½d.

Children's Knickerbockers .....6½d, 9½d, 1s, 1s 3d, 1s 6d; regular price, 9d, 1s, 1s 6d, 1s 11d, 2s 3d.
Girls' Drawers, best long cloth, three tucks...9d, 1s, 1s 3d, 18d, 1s 9d.
Girls' Grey Twill, two tucks.....7½d, 8d, 9d, 1s, 14d.
Girls' Night Gowns, best long cloth, from.....18d.

LADIES' UNDERCLOTHING.

Ladies' Chemises, hand-made ..... 1s, 1s 3d, 1s 6d, 1s 9d, 1s 11d, 2s 6d.
Ladies' Night Gowns, plain and twill, best quality, 1s 11d, 2s 3d, 2s 6d, 2s 9d, 2s 11d, 3s 6d.
Ladies' Knickerbockers, twill cloth...1s, 1s 3d, 1s 6d, 1s 11d, 2s 3d, 2s 6d, 2s 11d.
Ladies' Drawers, best long cloth, from.....1s.
Ladies' Bodices, from .....14d.
Home-made Stays .....4s 6d, 6s 6d.
Corsets.....14d, 1s 6½d, 1s 11½d, 2s 3d, 2s 6d, 2s 11d, 3s 3d, 3s 11d, all well worth notice.

The Newest Styles in Mob Caps....4½d, 6d, 8d, 10d, 1s, 1s 3d.
Ladies' Linen Collars.....1½d to 6d.

CHILDREN'S FROCKS, PELISSES, &c.

Merino Frocks .....1s 3d, 1s 6d, 1s 11d, 2s 6d.
Princess' Shape, in all the leading shades.
Infants' Millinery very cheap.
Infants' Bibs, Scotch embroidered, from .....2½d.
Stay Bands, &c.
Diaper Pinafores...4½d, 6d, 8d, 1s, 1s 3d, 1s 11d, 2s 6d.
Holland Pinafores...4d, 6d, 8d, 1s, 1s 3d, 1s 6d, 1s 11d.
Ladies' Cooking Aprons.....9d. each.

HOSIERY.

The under-mentioned Special Prices are worthy of notice:—
Women's Cotton Hose, from .....3d. per pair.
Women's Heather Hose, from .....3d. per pair.
Women's Hose, navy, seal, and black, 4½d., best yarn.
20 doz. Women's Clerical Merino Hose, 4½d., half-price.
10 doz. Women's Best Cashmere Hose, 1s, great bargain.
30 doz. Men's Scotch Wool Hose .....4½d, 6½d, 8½d, 10½d, 1s, 1s 3d.
Men's Scotch Wool Half Hose.....6½d, 8½d, 10½d, 1s, 14d, 18d.
10 doz. Men's Merino Half Hose ..... 6d. per pair.
Seamless for tender feet.
The new Machine-knitted Stockings, 1s 3d, will wear well.
100 doz. Children's Black Cashmere Socks, 4½d., the lightest indication of fear, or even indecision, on the part of our Government may precipitate an Arab rising throughout Egypt and the Soudan as far reaching in its effects as the mutiny which shook the foundations of British supremacy in India. The nation will tremble for the safety of the little band of Englishmen entrenched on the banks of the Nile. Elated with their victory the Arabs will probably endeavour to swoop down upon them before the reinforcements now on their way can arrive, and Lord Wolseley will have to act with promptitude and decision if he means to save them. Owing to the suspicious delay of press messages from the seat of war we are unable to glean any satisfactory account of the disaster at Khartoum. There is no evidence of treachery, but the most reasonable conclusion is that Gordon has been betrayed by some of his Egyptian officers, whose fanaticism has overcome their loyalty to the Khedive. This supposition is strengthened by the fact that he sent a large portion of his garrison to the relief of Stewart, and by thus weakening his force he may have played into the hands of the traitor or traitors. The fall of Khartoum is a fearfully bitter pill for the Ministry, whose hands will hold responsible for the fate of Gordon. By an unparalleled series of mistakes they have brought the disaster about, and the most formidable indictment against them will be found in the despatches of the heroic officer who has probably lost his life in his gallant attempt to save them from the consequences of their Egyptian bungling.

GLOVES.

Fabric Gloves, Lisle, Taffeta, pure silk, will be sold from 6d. per pair.
Gents' Lined Caps .....1s 11d, half-price.
20 doz. Black and Coloured French ..... 18d, worth 2s 11d.

40 doz. Ladies' and Gentlemen's Handkerchiefs, from 2½d to 8d, pure linen.
Great variety—Gents' Silk Ties.....4½d, 6½d, 8½d, 1s.
Cuffs, Ties, Scarves, Muffiers, Solitaires, Studs, &c.
Braces.....2½d, 3½d, 4½d, 6d, 6½d, 7d, 7½d, 8d, 9d, 11½d, 1s 3d, all very good value.
Ladies' and Gentlemen's Umbrellas, at various prices, from 11½d to 9s 6d, all very cheap.

JERSEYS.

Boys' Jerseys ..... 1s, 1s 4d, 1s 6d, 1s 11d, 2s 6d.
Boys' Jersey Suits...3s 3d, 3s 11d, 4s 6d, 4s 9d, 5s 11d.

Boys' Shirts .....4½d, 6d, 7d, 9d, 10½d, 1s, 1s 3d, 1s 6d, 1s 11d.
Burrell's Noted Shirts for Men.....18d, 1s 11d, 2s 6d, 2s 11d.

Gents' Cardigan Jackets ....3s 6d, 4s 6d, 5s 6d, 6s 6d, 8s 6d, 10s, 12s, good in quality, low in price.

OUR REAL WELSH FLANNELS.

White .....6d, 8d, 10d, 1s, 14d.
Scarlet.....6½d, 9d, 1s.
Greatly reduced in price.

LACE.

New Patterns in Edelweiss Laces, black, cream, and new colours, from 1½d. yard.

SHIRTINGS, &c.

4,000 yards Oxford Shirting .....4½d to 7d per yard.
These are all splendid value.

Men's Brown Cotton Singlets...1s, 1s 3d, 1s 6d, 1s 11d.
Men's Brown Cotton Pants.....1s 2d, 1s 6d, 1s 11d, 2s 6d, 2s 9d.
Men's Shetland Merino Singlets...1s 11d, 2s 6d, 3s 6d.
Men's ditto ditto Pants.....1s 11d, 2s 6d, 3s 6d, 4s 6d.
Men's Scotch Wool Singlets.....1s 11d, 2s 6d, 2s 11d, 3s 6d.
Men's ditto ditto Pants ...1s 11d, 2s 6d, 2s 11d, 3s 6d.

KNITTING WOOLS.

Best Scotch Super Fingering and Fleecy, plain and fancy colours, 2d per oz., 2s 8d lb., very durable.
Extra Superfine, plain colours, 2½d per oz., 3s 2d per lb.
Ditto ditto, fancy colours, 3d per oz., 3s 10d per lb., highly recommended.
German Worsted, plain colours, 2d per oz., 2s 6d per lb.
Ditto ditto, fancy colours, 2½d per oz., 3s per lb., for gentlemen's and boys' wear is unequalled.
The new La Banium Knitting, plain, 3d per oz., 3s 10d per lb.
Ditto ditto, fancy colours—soft, fine, even, and durable.
This Yarn is softly and evenly spun from good long staple Wool, and though fine will wear like Worsted. Especially recommended for Ladies' and Girls' Stockings, Cuffs, Shawls, Vests, &c.
Our Noted Victoria Knitting Yarn, 4s 6d per lb., 3½d per oz., in fancy and plain colours.

Wool Hats, Hoods, Cuffs, and Mitts Shetland Wool Falls at great reduction.

T. G. BURRELL,

UNION HALL BUILDINGS,

FOREGATE STREET,

CHESTER.

THE CHESTER AND NORTH WALES
PERMANENT INVESTMENT
BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY.

TRUSTEES:
Geo. Arthur Dickson, Esq. | Bryan Johnson, Esq.
Thos. Quellyn Roberts, Esq. | Alfred Orten Walker, Esq.
John E. Edwards, Esq., President.

SHARES £25 each, payable by a subscription of 2s. 6d. per month, on the First Monday in each month.

This Society makes advances for terms varying from 5 to 14 years, the principal and interest being repaid by monthly instalments on a fixed scale.

The surplus profits are divided annually between borrowing and investing members.

Prospectuses and every information may be obtained from the Secretaries, Messrs. WAKEFIELD and ENCOX, 16, Corn Exchange Chambers, Chester.

THE
BEST 2/- TEA

HOWELL'S

INDIAN & CEYLON

TWO SHILLING TEA

GIVES UNBOUNDED SATISFACTION.

G. F. HOWELL,

TEA AND COFFEE MERCHANT,

FAMILY GROCER & PROVISION DEALER,

"THE CESTRIAN SUPPLY STORES,"

19, NORTHGATE ROW, CHESTER.

THE
CHESHIRE OBSERVER.
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1885.

The bright hopes which were aroused by the heroic achievement of General Stewart and his dauntless comrades have been bitterly disappointed. Khartoum has capitulated and Gordon is either a corpse or a captive. The dread news has literally staggered the nation, and never since the dark days of the Indian Mutiny have Englishmen displayed greater anxiety than they did on Thursday last. When Sir Charles Wilson reached Khartoum he met with a very different reception from that which he fondly anticipated. Instead of the cheers o General Gordon's garrison he heard the yells of the triumphant and savage enemy; and instead of a fraternal greeting, similar to that which *Punch* has unfortunately depicted this week, he received a cannonade which well nigh sunk his flotilla. The town was in possession of the hordes of the Mahdi, and the Palace, which General Gordon has so long heroically defended, was seen to be gutted. Sir Charles endeavoured to obtain information as to the fate of his great countryman, but failed to do so, and there was no alternative but to return to Gubat. We can imagine with what heavy hearts Sir Charles Wilson and his men withdrew from Khartoum. Misfortunes, however, rarely come singly, for on their return the gallant party were wrecked and narrowly escaped a watery grave. But it is useless to waste time in the expression of regrets. The capture of Khartoum and the terrible uncertainty which now enshrouds the fate of England's noble hearted envoy have altered the whole character of Lord Wolseley's campaign. The triumph of the Mahdi, for such it practically is, will move the Mahommedan world like an electric shock, and the slightest indication of fear, or even indecision, on the part of our Government may precipitate an Arab rising throughout Egypt and the Soudan as far reaching in its effects as the mutiny which shook the foundations of British supremacy in India. The nation will tremble for the safety of the little band of Englishmen entrenched on the banks of the Nile. Elated with their victory the Arabs will probably endeavour to swoop down upon them before the reinforcements now on their way can arrive, and Lord Wolseley will have to act with promptitude and decision if he means to save them. Owing to the suspicious delay of press messages from the seat of war we are unable to glean any satisfactory account of the disaster at Khartoum. There is no evidence of treachery, but the most reasonable conclusion is that Gordon has been betrayed by some of his Egyptian officers, whose fanaticism has overcome their loyalty to the Khedive. This supposition is strengthened by the fact that he sent a large portion of his garrison to the relief of Stewart, and by thus weakening his force he may have played into the hands of the traitor or traitors. The fall of Khartoum is a fearfully bitter pill for the Ministry, whose hands will hold responsible for the fate of Gordon. By an unparalleled series of mistakes they have brought the disaster about, and the most formidable indictment against them will be found in the despatches of the heroic officer who has probably lost his life in his gallant attempt to save them from the consequences of their Egyptian bungling.

The Conservators of the River Dee Fishery District are striving with commendable zeal to increase the supply of fish in the river, and it is to be hoped their efforts will meet with the success they deserve. It is with this view they seek to shift the close season a fortnight further on, so as to afford the salmon an opportunity of running out to sea, and at the same time extending the open season a corresponding fortnight, over which it is said it might be spread with advantage and without injury to the river at the back end of the season. There seems, however, to be a strong conflict of testimony between the upper and lower proprietors as to the expediency of such a step. Among the strongest opponents of the proposed alteration is Mr. Robertson, M.P., whose opinion as a large owner of fishing rights, and a gentleman of lengthy experience of the river, is worthy of the most careful consideration. Mr. Robertson has announced himself as an uncompromising opponent of the proposed alteration. There can be no doubt that it is the anxious desire of all parties concerned to get as much profit as they can out of the river; but here the opinion seems rather to resolve itself into one of nets *versus* rod and line fishing, as, while the upper proprietors, who of course are chiefly interested in the latter, and are mainly opposed to the alteration, like fishermen who get their living on the lower river, favour the extension at the end of the season. The argument with them is that a greater number of clean fish are taken then than during the first fortnight of the fishing as now fixed, when it is said scarcely a fish is netted worth retaining. The opinion of these men, too, ought not to be lightly regarded. They have not merely a living to get, but are also interested in the quality of the fish they take. Of course the question is one entirely for practical men, and as Mr. Robertson was careful enough to point out the fitness of one river to be opened at a stated time is no criterion for another. The motion for the extension, which was moved by Mr J. Thompson, was carried after considerable discussion by a narrow majority only. It seems a pity that there should be any conflict among the Conservators on a question of such importance, and while we do not pretend to opinion, it we may perhaps point out that not merely the time but the season may have a material effect on the fishing, and the state of the river may render practicable one year what might be altogether out of the question the next. Thus it seems to us that by far the more reasonable mode of proceeding, if it were possible, would be instead of fixing precise dates as now for opening and closing the river, to leave it in the hands of a representative committee, who, acting under practical advice and according to circumstances, might declare the river open or closed as the nature of the case should determine.

Tuesday witnessed what may be termed the first practical and formal step towards redeeming Chester from the aspersion it has suffered under so long in being a city celebrated for its antiquities and yet possessing no proper building in which they might be housed. Of course a voluminous amount of work has had to be effected by the committee leading up to such a step, but the laying of a foundation stone of a new public building is the first outward and visible sign of public recognition and progress. It may seem strange that Chester considers not acquainted with Chester that it has not long ago possessed a public museum. And yet, perhaps, if one bears in mind the adage that there is a time for everything, one cannot altogether put aside the notion that after all perhaps it is better that the matter has been deferred so long, and that really we are none the worse off for waiting. Other towns of less importance perhaps have long since possessed their local shrines of antiquity, but many will not have the same advantage that will be enjoyed by Cestrian students in possessing the facilities for teaching from example through the eye as well as through the ear under one roof, as will be the case when the new building is completed. This object alone has been worth waiting for. And if the time has arrived, so no less can it be said has the man. The princely munificence of the Duke of Westminster alone has rendered the plan feasible, and if any distinctive name is to be given to the new building just now commenced in Grosvenor-street it would, we apprehend, present a fitting opportunity to commemorate his Grace's generosity by connecting his name or that of some member of his family with it in some way. Let who will come after him the first Duke of Westminster will have done well by Chester, and set one of those splendid personal examples of large-heartedness which only very rarely illuminate the social firmament, and which it is sincerely to be hoped will find continued illustration in a long line of his posterity.

The question of what is a "necessary" is frequently asked, and is subject to various interpretations, especially as occasions differ and circumstances alter cases in regard to minors requiring unusual pecuniary difficulties in our law courts. Thus, while in the case of an "idle" son of a gentleman a claim may be sustained for a dress suit or a certain amount of jewellery, because they are necessaries for his position, the same undoubtedly cannot be said of the son of an artizan. And so on in regard to other matters. But we scarcely, if ever, remember cigars and tobacco being reckoned in the category. As an abstract question of personal necessity, therefore, the Chester Guardians are perhaps correct in the view they have taken in refusing to spend the ratepayers' money in what may be deemed the luxuries of allowances of snuff and tobacco to the inmates of the Workhouse. These are the days of terrible close-fistedness in regard to rating expenditure, and Guardians in other instances have gone the length of refusing even Christmas feasts and other occasions to paupers; and poor-law auditors are getting more and more stringent every day. While, however, we do not question the expediency of economy in a certain point in this matter, and are willing to allow that the line must be drawn somewhere, we think that many, if not the majority, of our readers will admit that it should not be a hard and fast line. We note not the slightest sympathy with the idea of making the Workhouse too comfortable for many unprincipled characters who find a shelter there, and who, once inside, are loth to leave it. But we confess to having a great deal of sympathy, and even commiseration, with deserving old people who have battled with the world in a hard-fought fight, and, coming off second best, have been obliged at last to seek the assistance of the ratepayers in their declining days. Many such persons have been accustomed to what some people would call the luxuries of beer and tobacco; but while the old folks could perhaps, after a trial, do without alcohol, it would be a species of refined cruelty to deprive them of their tobacco or snuff. And we do not think the ratepayers as a body would wish to deprive them of what in their case is as nearly as possible a necessity to their existence. The matter might be a step further, and we plead a plea be put in for the many feeble, but in a sense able-bodied, inmates who render services—and in some cases skilled labour—about the establishment, which, if paid for, would necessitate a considerably larger outlay than their maintenance entails. And if the auditor prove obdurate, and the medical officer cannot come to the rescue, a very strong representation might with commission be made to the Local Government Board. A system of giving small rewards of snuff or tobacco for good conduct or for services rendered would do much towards establishing a "good tone" in the institution, and would not be thrown away if occasion of course taken that the system should not be abused. It must be hard lines with the veriest beggar when he is obliged to forego his whiff of tobacco.

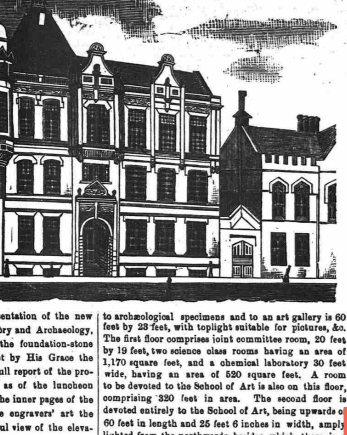
S. MARY'S TEMPERANCE SOCIETY.—The usual monthly meeting was held at the Handbridge School-room on Tuesday last. In the unavoidable absence of the Rector, Mr. Mills, the Chairman organising secretary, presided, and delivered an interesting address. An able address was also given by Mr. Storrar, of Newgate-street, and a well-arranged programme, consisting of glees, songs, and recitations, was creditably performed. There was a large attendance, and it was satisfactory to see a good number of adults from Greesway-street and the courts of Lower Handbridge present, and coming forward to join the society.

INTERESTING STATISTICS.—In the Register General's report for the three months ended 31st December last it is stated that 227 275 births and 132 260 deaths were registered in England and Wales during that period. In the quarter ended 30th September, 50,275 marriages were recorded. In the Chester district or union the births were 552 and the deaths 397, or 68 more than the average. Eight deaths were here due to violence in various ways. A death by measles is returned from Chester Castle during the quarter, which never first happened in the Cathedral sub-district, and two in Hawarden. Diphtheria caused one death in the Castle and in the Hawarden districts. A death by fever is also returned from the Castle sub-district.

CONCERT AT CHESTER WORKHOUSE.—On Friday evening a concert was given to the inmates of the Workhouse by Mr. Skeldon, of the British Schools. The chair was occupied the master, Mr. Bowles through illness, was taken by Mr. Gornall, city missionary. The entertainment chiefly consisted of glees, duets, and songs, the performers being Misses Jones, Smith, Flossie Smith, Tabor, and Daisy Irving, and Messrs. Skeldon, Thomas, F. Smith, P. P. Smith, Meggison, and Hughes. The hall was crowded to excess, over 700 of the inmates, including 200 children, being present. At the close of the entertainment a hearty vote of thanks was given by Mr. Turner, the master of the workhouse, on behalf of the inmates, to the ladies and gentlemen who had taken part in it.

CITY POLICE COURT, YESTERDAY (FRIDAY).—Before the Mayor (Alderman C. Brown), and C. J. Bielby, Esq.—*Roving Husband*: William Meeham, horse dealer, was brought up in custody charged with failure to support his wife and six children, who had thus become chargeable to the Chester Union.—Mr. James Owen, superintendent of relief, who prosecuted, stated that the prisoner deserted his wife and family on the 6th December, and had not since returned to them. This was rather a serious matter, as the family was very and their maintenance expensive. The prisoner, who did not deny the charge, professed willingness to undertake the support of the children, but manifested a decided aversion to having anything further to do with his better half, whom character he described in the least flattering manner possible, saying he had paid £20 in fines for her in Chester and every country village round about. Acting-Sergt. Culliford, who arrested the prisoner, in reply to the Bench, said there was some truth in the man's allegations against his wife.—Mr. Owen pointed out that that was no excuse for the prisoner's conduct, for, though he might have married a worse woman in the world, he was bound to keep her.—The prisoner interposed the remark that whenever he went to a fair and tried to do a bit of business his wife followed him with a big cudgel and abused him greatly.—The Mayor said this was the prisoner's 20th appearance, and his wife had also been there often. If the Magistrates did their duty strictly they would at once commit him to prison, but under the circumstances they would adjourn the case for a fortnight to allow the prisoner an opportunity of paying the amount due, and supporting his family.

THE NEW MUSEUM.



The above engraving is a representation of the new Chester Museum of Natural History and Archaeology, with Schools of Science and Art, the foundation-stone of which was laid on Tuesday last by His Grace the Duke of Westminster, K.G. A full report of the proceedings on the occasion, as well as of the luncheon which followed, will be found in the inner pages of the *Observer*. As a specimen of the engravers' art the above illustration presents a faithful view of the elevation of the building as it will appear in its complete state, and as such, we hope, will find favour with our readers.

The ground plan is somewhat irregular, owing to the several properties that have been brought in to compose the whole; but the architect has succeeded in utilizing it with such rare forethought and nicety of calculation that little or nothing remains to be desired on that head. The accommodation for the various societies as projected by the building may be briefly described as follows:—The design comprises three floors, besides a basement, which will be available for stores, &c. The ground floor is about four feet above the level of Grosvenor-street, the main entrance being through a corridor of ample width, leading to a large open staircase hall 24 feet by 23 feet, from whence access is gained to each department. On entering the building there is a joint library and reading-room, 21 feet by 19 feet, on the left, an apartment on the right, 36 feet by 25 feet, intended as a natural history museum. Beyond this there is the lecture theatre, 44 feet 6 inches by 30 feet, having two distinct entrances from the staircase hall, besides a platform entrance and preparation room at the other end. This room is specially arranged so that all present may have an uninterrupted view of the platform and lecturer's table, and in connection with the preparation room a lift is provided to the chemical laboratory on the first floor. The room to be devoted to archæological specimens and to an art gallery is 60 feet by 32 feet, with top light suitable for pictures, &c. The first floor comprises joint committee room, 20 feet by 19 feet, two science class rooms having an area of 1,170 square feet, and a chemical laboratory 30 feet wide, having an area of 520 square feet. A room to be devoted to the School of Art is also on this floor, comprising 320 feet in area. The second floor is devoted entirely to the School of Art, being upwards of 60 feet in length and 25 feet 6 inches in width, amply lighted from the northward, besides which there is a master's room, 14 feet 6 inches by 12 feet, so situated as to overlook the whole of the teaching space. Ample space is reserved on the site for the future building of archæological and science museums and the class rooms for advanced students in the School of Art. Considerable attention has been paid to the arrangement of the building so as to ensure its perfect warming and ventilation; the warming will be by systems of hot water pipes to the various corridors and rooms not having fireplaces, and the ventilation will be by means of a large extraction shaft, in which will be placed the iron smoke flue for the heating apparatus, to rarify the air, causing an upward current, and to this shaft the vitiated air from the various rooms will be conveyed by means of special ventilating passages. Special attention has also been given to ventilating the chemical laboratory in a similar manner. The whole of the floors of the main building will be fireproof, with wrought-iron beams and light Dennett arching, which will also prevent the transmission of sound between the various floors. The general style of the building is that in vogue during the seventeenth century, the materials for the decorative facing of the exterior being of red Ruabon bricks with dressings of Grinshill stone. The architect for the building is Mr. Thomas M. Lockwood, of Chester, and the work will be carried out by Mr. Edmund Gabbutt, of Liverpool, whose tender of £8,150 has been accepted by the committee. The clerk of the works is Mr. E. Musgrath.

Mr. J. Thomas Hughes, organist of Holy Trinity Church, has been appointed organist and choirmaster of the parish church West Derby, Liverpool, at a salary of £100 per annum, in succession to Mr. W. G. Best, who has lately resigned owing to ill-health. Mr. Hughes has been for many years a pupil and assistant to Dr. Bridge, our Cathedral organist.

ST. MARTIN'S WREN CHURCH.—We wish to call our readers' attention to the annual tea party, and concert which is advertised in our columns for Thursday evening, the 12th inst. In all these meetings have usually been of a most entertaining character, and the list of names given of those who have promised to assist is in itself a guarantee that this year's meeting will be exceptionally good. Moreover, the object aimed is one which is certainly deserving of general support.

ACCIDENT WITH A HAY CHOPPING MACHINE.—William Walker a young man engaged in a provender store at Bowling Green Bank, Chester, was seriously maimed by an accident on Tuesday afternoon. He was working a hay chopping machine and somehow allowed his arm to become entangled in the machinery. The limb was so badly injured that amputation was necessary. Walker, it may be added, has been peculiarly unfortunate, having been deprived of his father in a short time ago by an accident with the same machine.

A RUNAWAY COW.—On Thursday afternoon a cow, while being driven from Chester fair, ran off in Eastgate-street, opposite a man named Saml. Hindley, residing in Union-street, "bolted" as far as the Cross, where it encountered a boy and tossed him, his injuries, however, being not serious. The cow then infuriated animal next dashed along Bridge-street, and its vagaries in this locality were attended by a stampede of women and children, several of whom were knocked over, but none seriously hurt. The cow was at length secured in the neighbourhood of Cuppin-street.

JUBILEE SINGERS.—Our readers will learn from our advertising columns that the Fisk University Jubilee Singers, who are now making their third tour through Great Britain, will be in Chester on Friday next, when they will give a concert in the Music Hall, including many of the old plantation melodies they sang in their days of slavery. None who have ever heard "Steal away to Jesus," "I've been redeemed," "I'm a-rolling through an unfriendly world," but will be anxious to hear them again. The concert is given under the patronage of the Mayor of Chester and the Duke and Duchess of Westminster.

THE WILL OF MR. R. S. HUDSON, OF CHESTER.—A large number of claims, amounting, it is said, to about £50,000, have been made on the executors under the will of the late Mr. Hudson, of Chester, by various benevolent societies. As the will contained no instruction for payment, application was made for direction to Mr. Justice Pearson, who ordered affidavits of claims to be filed. A settlement cannot, however, be made for some months, further time being granted for evidence and counter evidence. Direction has, however, been given for a classification of claims, in the hope that by a common arrangement a test case for each class may be fixed upon by the decision, in which those placed in the same class are to abide.

VOLUNTEER PARADE.—The first Commanding officer's parade of the season of the 2nd Cheshire (Earl of Chester's) Rifle Volunteer Corps, was held at the Drill Hall, on Wednesday evening, when there was a goodly muster. The officers present were Captain and Adjutant Fletcher (in command), Captains Pearce, Whalley, and Smith; Lieutenants G. W. Dutton, H. B. Dutton, W. C. C. Peele, and W. D. Jolliffe. The Commanding officer commenced the evening's proceedings with a drill and class firing, and, for the first time, Mrs. Ireland Blackburne's prize of a silver cup, to Sergeant Comber, E Company, for the best attendance at drill and general smartness. The corps subsequently marched out through the principal streets of the city.

WESLEYAN FOREIGN MISSIONS.—Anniversary sermons in aid of the funds of the missions were preached in the Wesleyan Chapels, St. John-street and City-road, on Sunday last. The Rev. M. C. Osborn, one of the general secretaries, occupied the pulpit of the St. John-street Chapel at the morning service, and that of the City-road Chapel in the evening; and the Rev. S. Whitehead, late missionary in China, preached at the latter place of worship in the morning and at St. John-street in the evening. A juvenile missionary service was conducted in the City-road Chapel by the Rev. A. H. Vine, on Sunday afternoon, appropriate hymns being sung during the service.—On Monday evening the annual missionary meeting was held at the St. John-street Chapel. Mr. J. Fishwick Stead, of Southport, presided, and was supported on the platform by the Rev. A. H. Vine, H. Ward Price, T. B. Goodwin, J. M. Budden, S. Whitehead, M. C. Osborn, J. Gardner, and Messrs. S. Rigby, G. E. Clarke, R. Challinor, J. D. Bowers, H. R. Bowers, and W. T. Davies. The proceedings having been opened with prayer, the Rev. A. H. Vine read the annual report, from which it appeared that the mission work was going on very satisfactorily, and the results gave much encouragement to those engaged in the work. Mr. R. Challinor submitted the statement of accounts as follows:—General financial statement of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society for 1883. Receipts: Ordinary, £143,222 6s. 4d.; extraordinary, £6,884 10s. 1d.; total, £150,106 16s. 5d. Payments: General expenditure, £150,161 17s.; leaving a deficiency on current account of £55 0s. 7d. Statement for 1884: Public collections, £105 13s. 6d.; total raised by annual subscribers, £79 7s.; by family missionary boxes, £6 17s. 8d.; country branches, £26 19s. 10d.; juvenile agency, £111; making a total of £397 10s. 10d.—Several of the gentlemen present addressed the meeting and the proceedings closed with the usual votes of thanks.

The Birkenhead Town Council have resolved to oppose the Manchester Ship Canal Bill in Parliament, on the ground of probable danger to the lower Mersey.

THE FATAL ACCIDENT.—On Wednesday afternoon as Mrs. Edwards, of Guilden Sutton, was driving a pony and trap over the Grosvenor Bridge the animal shied at a passing tramcar, and, bolting for a short distance, overthrew the trap. Mrs. Edwards and her little son were thrown out with considerable violence, but while the shafts and one of the springs of the vehicle were broken happily the occupants received no injury beyond the shock; the pony was also uninjured.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF THE NEW MUSEUM.—We would call attention to some capital photographs of this event, taken by Mr. Holaway, of Grosvenor-street. While the Duke of Westminster was speaking on the occasion the artist seems to have been fortunate in securing two negatives of the assembly, from which he has produced some good pictures, in which those who were present will not be slow to recognise many portraits, in addition to the excellent likeness of his Grace.

CHESTER CATTLE FAIR.—At the usual fortnightly cattle fair on Thursday, there was but a moderate supply of stock, there being neither fat cattle nor sheep on offer. The bulk consisted of in-calf heifers, milk cows, and stirks, for which the demand was not so good as at the last fair. Best milch cows fetched from £18 to £22; in-calf heifers, £13 10s. to £16; barrens, £11 to £13; stirks sold from £7 to £8. There was a fair supply of pigs, for which there was a better demand, at a slight advance, fat ones reaching 5½d. to 5¾d. per lb. Small stores sold from 22s. to 30s. each, while large stores realised from 25s. to 50s. each.

CHESTER CHURCH MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT AND DEBATING SOCIETY.—At the usual weekly meeting on Friday evening last, in the Mission Room, Newtown, Mr. J. Minns (vice-president) in the chair, a varied programme was given, consisting of miscellaneous papers on different subjects and impromptu speaking. The latter was especially interesting, the subject of "Our army in Egypt" giving rise to an animated discussion (Applause) the meeting not terminating until a late hour. Among those who contributed to the programme were Messrs J. Jackson, W. Shelley, J. Bibbell, J. H. Mason, J. Minns, &c.

THE PARISH OF ALPRAHY IN CHESHIRE.—Joseph Penlington, head gamekeeper to Mrs. Walkden, of the Broomlands, lies in a dying condition at the White Lion Inn, Hankelow, from shocking wounds received in a poaching affray on the Broomlands estate. Penlington and two watchers went out at night to net some rabbits alive, and while thus engaged a lurcher came up to them, and then ran away. Penlington and the two watchers followed it and came in contact with some notorious poachers. A desperate fight ensued with bludgeons. Penlington's head was laid open in three places, his left arm broken, and his right hand smashed with heavy blows from a stick. When he was rendered insensible the poachers ran away. Penlington was carried to the White Lion Inn, where his wounds were dressed by a medical man, but he is in a very dangerous state. A warrant is out, but the poachers have left the district.

PROPOSED RE-ARRANGEMENT OF WESLEYAN BOUNDARIES AT CHESTER.—The vice-president of the Wesleyan Conference (Rev. Frederick Greeves, D.D.) presided on Thursday at an important meeting at Crewe to consider a certain proposed rearrangement of boundaries in the Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, and Macclesfield districts. In addition to the president of the conference, the secretaries and chairman of the Birmingham and Shrewsbury, Macclesfield, Liverpool, and Manchester districts, there was a good attendance of ministers and laymen. The first proposition discussed was as to the desirability of transferring Alderley Edge from the Macclesfield district to the Manchester district, but it was found that that could not be carried out without also transferring Buxton. Whaley Bridge also wanted to be included in the Manchester district, and Congleton in the Birmingham district, but it was pointed out that this could not be effected without taking Whitchurch and Tarporley from the Liverpool district and Wellington from the Birmingham district. A long discussion took place, and several other suggestions were made as to the rearrangement of the boundaries, but ultimately it was decided to make no change for the present.

ENTERTAINMENT IN NEWTOWN.—On Wednesday evening a successful entertainment took place in the Schoolroom in connection with Christ Church parish, the occasion being the celebration of a tea party of Mrs. Gaage's meeting of members. There was a very large attendance, the room being filled in every part. At the conclusion of a satisfactory repast the tables were cleared, and a long programme of songs, recitations, &c., was gone through. The chair was taken by the Rev. Joseph Hancox, curate of the parish. Mr. Tom Mills and Mr. Banks gave recitations, which were highly appreciated, while Mr. J. Bibbell contributed materially to the harmony of the evening by singing two excellent songs. Mrs. Ragg, Miss L. Dolby, Miss Boyd, Miss Edwards, and Miss Roberts also sang several songs, and were loudly applauded. In the course of the evening Mr. S. W. Ramsden amused the audience with a comic sketch entitled "The Secret History of a Straw Bonnet," and an appropriate and effective address was also given by the Rev. J. Roberts, of the Welsh Church, Nicholas-street. The entertainment concluded with a dramatic sketch by a number of young men connected with one of the Bible classes of the parish, which went off with great effect. Miss L. Dolby accompanied the singers, and the audience separated highly pleased with the amusement which had been provided for them.

annual tea meeting in connection with this church, was held in the Lecture-room on Wednesday evening, when about 350 sat down to an excellent tea. The Rev. F. Barnes, pastor, presided at the annual meeting, which was held afterwards. After the singing of a hymn, and prayer by the Rev. T. Mitchell, the chairman, in a few remarks urged upon his hearers the necessity of punctuality. He found punctuality was not only needed at tea meetings, but also at church. With regard to their year's work, he (Mr. Barnes) was glad to record that they had had a very happy and prosperous year. The church had, unfortunately, lost two good friends through death—their esteemed and venerable deacon Mr. Haswell, and Mr. Hudson, whose name was well known in connection with Methodism at Chester. But while they regretted the loss of their departed friends, he was glad to say that new ones had stepped up, and this had enabled them to present a satisfactory balance-sheet. Their income had reached £1,250 in place of £1,200 in outside objects, making a total of over £900. The collections had been better than in previous years, which had helped to keep them free from debt, and enabled them to contribute to other Chapel funds. They had received 27 new members, and lost 20 through death and other causes. In conclusion, Mr. Barnes, referring to the co-operation with him in his work, and lay aside any personal grievance that might have arisen. Then he felt sure they would be doing something to help along their great work in this city. Anthems, with vocal and instrumental accompanies by the Rev. H. Ward Price and the Rev. W. Jones, the following programme was gone through:—Glee, "The nightingale," Choir; song, "Anchored," Mr. Thompson; chorus, "O Father, thou almighty power," Choir; song, "Love abides," Mrs. David-son; chorus, "The heavens are telling," Choir; song, "Bid me to come," Mr. Thompson; chorus, "Was His loud voice," Choir; song, "Wait for better days," Mrs. Davidson; chorus, "Lift up your heads," choir. The music throughout was very good in tone and performance, especially the chorus "O Father whose almighty power," which was given with thrilling effect by the choir, under the leadership of Mr. Hughes. Mr. Thompson, who played the full powers of his voice in the song "Big Ben," and received a warm encore. Mrs. Davidson, who gave her songs in a tasteful and refined manner, received hearty encores. Mr. Meggisson acted as accompanist in both the choruses and songs. At the conclusion, it was moved by Mr. Rigby, and seconded by Mr. J. Okell, "That the best thanks of this meeting be accorded to all the lady friends who had given their services at the tea; also to the reverend gentlemen who had given the addresses; and to the choir, and other musical friends, who had so generously given their services in connection with the concert."

RAILWAY TRAFFIC.

For the Week ending February 1, with the Corresponding Week of last Year.

	1885.	1884.
London and North-Western ...	£178,046 0 0	£177,060 9 0

BIRTH.

On the 1st inst., at Manor House, Elton, the wife of Joseph Morris, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 3rd inst., at St. Mary's, Poynton, in this county, Henry Francis Herford, of the Middle Temple, to Mary, only daughter of Sir Thomas Wilshere, Knight, of Ashwell Lodge, in this county.

On the 3rd inst., at the Church of Christ, in this city, by Mr. J. M. Van Horn, George Walter Rogerson, of Boughton, to Eliza Hughes, of Chester.

On the 4th inst., at the Parish Church, Wrexham, by the Rev. David Ellwood, vicar, Joseph Jones, The Brewery, Farndon, to Sarah Elizabeth Wright, of Wrexham.

On the 5th inst., at the Presbyterian Church, City-road, in this city, Mr. Peter Edwards, R