

## THE CORN EXCHANGE

Berwick Advertiser 1856

May 31, Front Page

Corn Exchange

To the worshipful the Mayor of Berwick-upon-Tweed, Robert Ramsay, Esq.

We the undersigned farmers, merchants, bankers and others feel very desirous that there should be a corn Exchange erected in a suitable part of the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed – as the place where the farmers now meet is both dangerous and inconvenient. And considering that all the neighbouring towns have procured buildings suitable for the meeting of farmers, merchants and others on the market day, it is of great importance for the prosperity of the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed to retain a large and influential attendance at the Saturdays' market. We therefore beg that you will call a public meeting to take into consideration the proper steps to be adopted accomplishment of this object, and to carry out the wishes of our requisitions –

E. Black, Wm. Nicholson, E. Makins, John Black, Geo. White, John Lumsden, Thos. Calder, J. Melrose, Wm. Douglas, W.H. Logan, Jas. Sinclair, Carr & Co, David Logan, Jno. Laing, H. Short. Wm. Lowrey, Jno. Bolam, Jas. Oswald, R. Chisholm, Thos. Hogg, Thos. Main, Geo. Henderson, J.M. Meggison, Jno. Clay & Son, J.H. Innes, F.P. Lynn, Jas. Nicholson, J. Borthwick, P. Nairn, Thos. Douglas, John Douglas, R. Makin, Crossman & Paulin, J & A Robertson & Co, W. Wilson & Son, Samuel Riddell & Son, W. Paulin.

I have much pleasure in calling a meeting to be held in the Town Hall on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June, at a quarter before eleven o'clock in the forenoon in accordance with the above requisition.

Robt. Ramsay, Mayor

Repeated 7<sup>th</sup> June 1856

June 14, Front Page

New Corn Exchange

The committee for this undertaking are prepared to receive proposals for the sale of a suitable site for the erection. Any parties having such properties and willing to dispose of them will please communicate with the secretary.

James Sinclair, Secretary

June 28, Local News, p.4.

Corn Exchange – The meeting of the committee entrusted with the arrangement of this undertaking took place on Saturday last when the particulars of the sites which had been found available were laid before it. A second public meeting is to be held tomorrow when a report will be presented of the progress made. The number of shares appropriated is now 861.

July 5, p. 2.

Corn Exchange

The second public meeting on the subject of the erection of a corn exchange in this town took place on Saturday in the Town Hall. There was again a numerous meeting of the influential agriculturist in the district, and the business was conducted with a considerable degree of unanimity and spirit. On the motion of Mr. Adam Darling, Alderman Clay, in the absence of the Mayor, was called to the chair.

The Chairman requested Mr. Sinclair to read the report prepared for this meeting and which he said, had been approved of unanimously by the committee.

Mr. Sinclair then read the report as follows –

Town Hall 'Berwick, 28<sup>th</sup> June 11.30 a.m.

Report for the shareholders relative to the sites offered to the committee for the new corn exchange.

1. Mr. Guthrie's premises in High Street, next to Crawford's Alley, for which the price asked is £ 1250. Frontage 42 ft. 6 in.; depth, 159 ft. 6 in. – containing 706  $\frac{2}{3}$  square yards.
2. Mr. Cunningham's property in Woolmarket, near the top of Hide Hill, price £1600. Frontage 85 ft. 4 in.; depth 94ft. 8in. – containing 721 square yards. But to make this ground available, the 'George Inn' stabling would require to be added which is 15ft. wide, 56ft.long, and contains 93  $\frac{1}{3}$  square yards, and would cost £230 in addition to the sum above named, as without that the area would not be square – the whole would contain 814  $\frac{1}{3}$  square yards.
3. 'Waugh Square', foot of Hide Hill, the property of the Border Brewery Company of Berwick. Front, 71ft. 8in., depth 93ft. – contains 837 square yards. No positive offer has been received, but should the site be approved of, the company will call a meeting of their directors and fix a price. The manager thinks that £ 1700 will be about the sum required.
4. The late Mrs. Norris's Square of buildings in Sandgate, foot of Hide Hill, containing two inns, the 'Fishers Arms' and the 'Golden Swan'. Price £ 1000.Front, 103ft. 6in.; depth 103 ft. – containing 1168  $\frac{8}{9}$ ths square yards. This site is 331 yards larger than any of the others.

Those are the only offers that have been received , although advertisements were inserted in both of the local papers requesting that parties would make offers of sited suitable for the erection of a corn exchange.

The committee have carefully examined the ground plans produced by Mr Brown, and considered the price of each lot, and they respectfully beg to recommend No. 4 Mrs. Norris's Square as an eligible site for the building required. First, because the sum asked is £ 700 less than Nos. 2 and 3 (No. 1 being too small), which makes a clear annual saving at five per cent of £ 35, and the size of the ground, being larger than required, part of it might be sold, or otherwise occupied, to bring in a rent or interest, equal to £ 25 per annum, which would be a clear saving of £ 60 a year, and a large site being still retained to build the exchange upon. For example, Kelso Exchange (without the Porch) has 52 feet frontage, 102 feet depth, and contains 589 square yards. From lot No. 4, 1186 square yards deduct the above and 579 square yards are left to be occupied or disposed, nearly the half of the ground. Thus reducing the first cost of the site to about £ 500. The situation is also important as there is a passage round three sides of the ground, which would admit of a back entrance to the market. The building would be well seen, and might be ornamental as well as useful, the street being wide, level and commodious, and in a regular thoroughfare to the granaries and quay, there would besides be plenty of light. The above considerations have induced your committee to point out No. 4.

MR JAMES GREY of Kimmerston moved this adoption of the report, which was seconded by Mr Ebenezer Black.

MR W. H. LOGAN enquired whether the company had been previously registered. He thought that step should be taken before any other.

THE CHAIRMAN said that would be taken at the proper time. At present the promoters of the scheme were merely feeling their way as to whether it was likely to be successful. He now put it to the meeting to say whether they were unanimously in favour of No. 4 – that situated in Sandgate.

The decision was declared in the affirmative.

MR EBENEZER BLACK said he presumed, from the decision now given, that the entire report of the committee was satisfactory to the meeting and that they desired not merely to express a preference for the site alluded to but also that the subsequent steps should be taken for the formation of the company, and the construction of the building. That company therefore should be properly constituted, he supposed a deed of incorporation would have to be drawn out; that that should be properly done, and all their proceedings be according to law, he thought it would be very necessary that they should have the advice and aid of a lawyer – one that should be able to keep them from getting into confusion. If the meeting concurred in these opinions he would propose that Mr Rowland be their lawyer and secretary, and he moved accordingly. The company had certainly been very much obliged to Mr Sinclair, but it was perfectly understood that he merely was secretary pro tem.

MR ANDREW THOMPSON seconded the motion

THE CHAIRMAN proposed Messrs Marshall and Sanderson to be the company's solicitors.

MR GREY seconded the motion.

MR MASON enquired whether it was usual to combine the offices of lawyer and secretary. Their duties seemed quite distinct.

THE CHAIRMAN said that in Kelso Mr Darling had acted as both, and that without making any charge, but they could not expect the latter circumstance to occur here.

MR W. NICHOLSON moved that Mr Sinclair be continued as secretary. The success of the scheme hitherto had been very much owing to his exertions.

MR SINCLAIR said that he had merely taken the office in hand by way of setting the scheme agoing. He had acted the part of a share-broker and when all that was requisite in that respect had been accomplished he would be perfectly willing to resign the office. For the present he would go on with it if agreeable to the company.

MR MELROSE said it had occurred to him that the meeting was proceeding rather precipitately, they had not yet constituted the company, therefore it appeared premature to elect the permanent officers. Some of the present shareholders had a large interest in the scheme while others had a small one, therefore these parties should not have a like influence in electing the officers. The gentlemen who had a large number of shares should have a proportionate increased number of votes in all elections over that of his smaller shareholders – he spoke disinterestedly on this subject for he had not a large number of shares. What occurred to him to be requisite to be done was this, to define what number of votes a given number of shares should bear. It would therefore be the better plan at present to appoint a committee who should agree upon the constitution of the company, and report to a subsequent meeting what number of votes they would recommend one, two, or more shares should possess. Before you appoint any gentleman to an office you should fix upon what is to be his salary, so that after he is appointed you should not have the ungracious act to perform of beating down the remuneration for his services.

MR GEORGE SMITH thought it very desirable to have the legal officers chosen immediately so that they might take every step legally.

MR MELROSE – Let this meeting say whom the committee may consult in drawing up their report, and arranging the constitution of the company, but do not let them make permanent appointments.

MR BLACK thought with Mr Melrose, that the meeting was not in a position to make permanent appointments - these should not be made until the votes were appointed.

This was concurred in by the meeting, and on a show of hands it was decided, by 21 votes (against 17 for Mr Rowland) that Messrs Marshall and Sanderson should be the solicitors to be consulted by the committee.

## ARCHITECTS

The Chairman thought the committee should seek the aid of some eminent architect so as to secure the erection of an elegant and useful structure. There had been numerous letters received from architects by the committee, which might now be read if the meeting thought well. The general opinion decided that it was too soon to entertain any of these. They were consequently not read.

## COMMITTEE

It was agreed to appoint a committee of twelve gentlemen to make further enquiry about the site agreed upon, to form the constitution of the company and to have the same provisionally registered under the new limited liability act. After various nominations the committee was arranged as follows: - The Mayor and Sheriff of Berwick, Messrs John Wilson, D. Logan, and Hubback, ditto; Mr Wm. Nicholson, Lonnel Hill; Mr D. Logan, Fairneycastle; Messrs. Melrose, Theo. Black, Geo. Smith and Mr Sinclair, as honorary secretary. Any three of whom are to be a quorum.

The committee were instructed, on the motion of Mr Alex. Thompson, to refrain from making a purchase until they had again reported to the shareholders.

The meeting now broke up.

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The committee met again at three o'clock when they were joined by Mr Sanderson. A letter was written to Messrs. Willoby intimating the receipt of their offer of the Sandgate property and promising them a definite answer with regard to its purchase in eight days. It was further agreed to call another general meeting of shareholders for Saturday first.

July 5, Local News p.4

Corn Exchange – The scheme for this structure progresses favourably, the number of shares now appropriated amount to 950.

July 12, p. 2.

Corn Exchange

Another public meeting on the subject of the erection of a Corn Exchange was held in the Town Hall on Saturday at 2 o'clock. It was less numerously attended than the two preceding but still very respectably. David Robertson, Esq., of Ladykirk was present and took an active part in the business.

On the mention of Mr John Black the Mayor was called to preside. The Mayor having taken the chair, said he really was not aware what constituted the purport of the meeting. He was not present at the preceding one and had not been able to attend any of the intermediate committee meetings. Mr Sinclair, however, would be so kind as to read the minutes.

MR SINCLAIR read the minutes of the preceding meeting, where the committee were instructed to write to Messrs. Willoby, intimating the receipt of their offer of the Sandgate property; to meet Messrs. Marshall and Sanderson and instruct them to take steps for constituting the company under the Limited Liability Act of 1855, also to arrange the number of votes which should attach to a given number of shares. All these matters had been attended to. On the two first points Mr Sanderson, being present, would inform the meeting of the result. On the matter of the voting the committee had resolved that 5 shares should possess one vote; above 5 and under 10 bear two votes; under 20 shares three votes, over 20 and upward, four votes. Proxies also to be allowed.

MR SANDERSON said he had written to Messrs Willoby delaying a decided answer as to a purchase of the site until the company had been duly constituted. With regard to constituting the

company under the Limited Liabilities Act of 1855, that could not be done where the individual interests were less than the nominal value of £ 10. It therefore was a point for the decision of the present meeting whether the original value of the shares should be continued, namely £ 2 10s each, and thus forego the advantages of the act referred to, or to convert the shares into the money value of £ 10 each and take advantage of the act. There was one circumstance to be considered in approving of the latter step, which was that 82 shares had been appropriated in smaller quantities than would make each shareholder's interest of the nominal value of £ 10, and it was therefore likely that the 82 shares would be thrown back upon the company. Where odd shares existed there might also be some difficulty, for instance where a party had five shares he would either have to add three to them or drop the odd one. As the co-operation was not for trading purposes, and the building itself would always be a security for its necessary expenses there might be no inconvenience or danger in forming the company under the ordinary arrangement without taking advantage of the recent Act of Parliament. It was also required of this meeting that they appoint trustees. The Committee recommend for that office Messrs. George Smith, Kohn Black, David Logan, and Patrick Clay. They were to be provisionally appointed, and would have to be re-appointed or superseded when the company was constituted. Directors, seven in number, would also have to be elected. These the committee did not nominate. Auditors, also, which the committee also refrained from nominating. For bankers, the committee begged to recommend the Union Bank. The first thing to determine, therefore was for this meeting to say whether they should throw up the advantages of the Limited Liability Act and adhere to their original scheme, or would they increase the value of their shares and take advantage of that act. He then read the clause of the act which distinctly stated that to no company of shareholders of a less individual interest than £ 10 would a certificate of limited liability be granted.

MR DAVID ROBERTSON said he did not know whether the present was the proper time, but he wished to have an opportunity for making one or two observations. He did not wish to interfere with the arrangements made, but he wished merely to throw out a few suggestions which they might act upon if the meeting thought proper. He had read their proceedings hitherto with great interest, therefore he wished to give them the benefit of his advice. He thought they should take no decided steps in their arrangements until the necessary capital was fully subscribed, when at a full meeting of the shareholders the appointments and other arrangements would be the more satisfactorily made. Every thing now to be done should be provisionally done to be confirmed or altered when the entire company could be present. There were two more points he felt solicitous about. It had been his lot throughout life to be present at the formation of various schemes or companies, and he had invariably objected to the employment of paid solicitors. He knew his friend Mr Marshall would take in good part the remarks he was about to make, therefore he felt perfectly at liberty to proceed. He had invariably urged that the solicitors engaged in the formation of a company should act gratuitously until the company was duly formed. And in several instances where he had succeeded in dissuading the parties from having a paid solicitor he had afterwards been thanked by both. He had often been told that the solicitors would not act voluntarily, but he had rarely found any difficulty when the step was decided upon. The object to be gained by such an arrangement was the avoidance of the imminent law charges which it was possible to make at the formation of a company. Now people were very much influenced by precedent, and precedent this meeting had in the case of the Kelso Exchange. Mr Darling had there given his services gratuitously, and it was not in the power of human nature to perform that duty better than he had done. If Messrs. Marshall and Sanderson would consent to give their services gratuitously until the company was constituted, they could afterwards be voted such a sum in the way of a gift as the company might think their early services had merited. There was another point he had strong feelings upon. What occurred at Kelso was very likely to occur here, namely, that parties would subscribe their money to the undertaking

who would not be shareholders. At the last Exchange dinner at Kelso, Dr Murray dropped a few remarks which pressed hard upon the people there. In one or two of these he rather joked at the former failure here in getting up a Corn Exchange. He (Mr Robertson) had afterwards told Dr Murray that the failure of pioneers was invariably to the advantage of those that followed them – that the latter were always the wiser by the errors of the former. He thought, therefore, that this meeting should take as a precedent that which had succeeded in Kelso. He wished the company to limit the amount of any dividend arising from their speculation to five per cent. He hoped to see the use of the Corn Exchange in a short time become free, and for the purpose of accomplishing that object he would have the company to limit their dividends to five per cent. Parties might thereby be induced to make a donation to the funds which they would not do if the effect of their gifts was merely to increase the gains of shareholders. But when the object was to facilitate the opening of the building to a free use, the inducement would be altered and parties might give contributions and others might bequeath funds to it. It was very desirable that the use of the building should be ultimately free of charge, and the public have the advantage of inviting here the great meetings which were occasionally held in similar towns. To these two points he would draw the attention of the meeting, and if they would allow him he would press for a decision, namely. First, that Messrs. Marshall and Sanderson whom the present shareholders had elected as their solicitors, and than whom, he believed a better selection could not have been made, should give their services gratuitously until the company was legally formed.

MR MARSHALL said when they were appointed solicitors to the company it was unexpected and unsolicited on their parts. He was, however, quite willing, and he was sure that his younger partner was equally willing, to comply with the suggestion of Mr Robertson. Therefore their services would, until the company was legally constituted, be given gratuitously. The only exception to this offer was that he hoped the shareholders would not let them be out of pocket – that the expenses they should incur would be reimbursed them.

This decision elicited the applause of the meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN said the meeting had received a very kind response from their solicitors and he hoped it would be accepted.

MR SANDERSON said the next point to be decided was whether the meeting would adhere to their original scheme of having shares of the value of £ 2 10 s, or would they convert them to £ 10 each and take advantage of the Limited Liability Act.

MR CLAY - As I can see no risk the shareholders would run, I move that the original scheme be carried out.

MR ROBERTSON - I hope you do not mean to throw away the advantage of that recent act of parliament. No person at a distance would become a shareholder unless he were secured by the provision of that act against the possibility of being dragged into the Court of Chancery, where he might be involved for twenty years. No one would invest his money in the speculation, where, like my friend George Hownam, he might have an interest not exceeding £ 50 and be involved in the liability for thousands. Parliament has wisely provided against this evil and would it not be absurd for us to refuse to take advantage of it.

MR CLAY – we have 82 shares appropriated to shareholders in smaller quantities than would make £ 10 each, therefore we are unwilling to sacrifice these shareholders and have the shares returned upon us.

MR ROBERTSON – If the 82 shares are thrown up I will take them. (Applause)

MR GEORGE SMITH now moved that the company be constituted under the Limited Liability Act.

MR FRIAR seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

MR E. BLACK said that the parties who had subscribed must be informed of the change.

THE MAYOR - The scheme takes a new feature today, therefore I think the business should be commenced de novo.

MR SANDERSON said the next step was to elect the Trustees. They were merely nominal – not trustees to the property.

MR ROBERTSON thought they should not elect these trustees until the shares were fully subscribed for.

THE MAYOR - the capital required is nearly subscribed. We want only £ 250 to complete it. We are therefore anxious to make progress in the arrangements.

The four gentlemen recommended by the committee were now elected provisional trustees.

MR E. BLACK - Our primary object today was to give instructions to the committee to purchase the site.

MR SANDERSON – That cannot be done until the company is legally formed and registered, which shall be done without delay, as we have now got instructions as to the manner in which it is to be done. A draft of the deed of incorporation has been drawn up and is now before me, a few blanks only requiring to be filled in, namely, the names of the trustees, directors, and auditors. It is proposed to have seven directors, will some of the company name them? They are to be elected provisionally.

MR ALEX. THOMPSON proposed that the first seven names on the committee be elected.

MR MELROSE said the arrangements made today altered the deed of settlement entirely by disqualifying those who were formerly eligible for election. A question remained to be settled, namely, what number of shareholders now constitute a director. Ten formerly did so. We must first decide what number of shares or amount of money value in the concern shall make a shareholder eligible for office.

MR SANDERSON suggested that the election of the directors be postponed , which was assented to.

MR ROBERTSON suggested that it be an instruction to the committee to solicit and accept of donations from parties willing to aid the undertaking by such means. In Kelso donations were received. He had no doubt that as much as £ 500 had been received in that manner. Parties who did not wish to be bothered with shares would give their aid by a subscription and they would be inclined to do this when they understood that the company had bound themselves not to accept of more than five per cent for dividends.

MR SINCLAIR said in corroboration of Mr Robertson's suggestion that he had been asked by several parties whether the company would no accept of subscriptions.

MR W. NICHOLSON – We should be very glad to get £ 5 by way of donation.

MR MELROSE moved that the committee be instructed to solicit and accept of subscriptions, and that the interest to be derived from the investments shall never exceed the rate of five per cent per annum.

This was agreed to unanimously.

MR SANDERSON what shall be done with the interest would there be any ?

MR ROBERTSON Buy up the shares with the view of making the use of the Exchange free.

MR E. BLACK said he should like to know what the position stood with regard to Messrs. Willoby.

MR SANDERSON the committee proposed making a provision contract with Messrs. Willoby which is to be completed when the company is duly registered.

MR ROBERTSON proposed that the Mayor, the Sheriff, Mr Nicholson and Mr Melrose should be the provisional directors.

MR GEO. MARSHALL suggested that the former committee should be the provisional directors.

MR ROBERTSON said four active members on a committee were far better than a dozen others.

MR JAS. GREY Kimmerton, moved that the four names should be the directors, and was seconded by Mr E. Black.

MR ALEX. THOMPSON moved that the entire committee be elected which was seconded by Mr W.H. Logan.

The meeting was about to divide on these two motions when, at the suggestion of Mr Robertson, Mr Grey withdrew his motion and the entire committee were elected.

MR SANDERSON said that at their next meeting they should elect the permanent directors, trustees, solicitors and bankers. He thought there would be no difficulty in having the deed ready and the company registered by that day week. But he could not say how long it would require the secretary to correspond with the shareholders on the alterations made in the shares.

THE MAYOR Suppose we adjourn for 14 days - the principal part of the small shareholders reside in the town and they can easily be overtaken.

MR SANDERSON it may be published that the deed lies at our office for the perusal of any of the shareholders.

MR ROBERTSON let it be clearly understood that no one is liable for a shilling more than the amount of his shares.

MR SANDERSON We ought to have provisional directors appointed.

MR ROBERTSON Have a few directors as possible. The speculation involves a small sum, only £ 300. You might swallow this up in salaries alone.

MR MARSHALL the directors are unpaid.

MR ROBERTSON I would rather have one, and he a paid one. In that case you are sure of his attendance.

MR SINCLAIR said with regard to attendance that the members of the committee had all of them attended remarkably well.

MR MELROSE proposed that some steps be taken to secure the rate agreed upon. Other parties were known to be anxious to possess it and ever more money he understood had been offered for it. He moved that it be an instruction from this meeting to the provisional directors that they enter upon a provisional contract for its purchase, which meant that the conditions of the contract would be fulfilled when the company was in a position to fulfil them.

This was agreed to.

MR MARSHALL I saw Mr Willoby as I was coming to this meeting and he said he would be quite satisfied with such arrangements.

The meeting was then adjourned for 14 days.

July 26, p.2.

#### CORN EXCHANGE

Another public meeting of the subscribers to the proposed Corn Exchange was held in the Town Hall on Saturday at eleven o'clock. The Mayor was in the chair.

Mr Sanderson read the minutes of the business transacted at the preceding meeting. He afterwards read a report from the Provisional Directors as follows:-

'The Directors have to report that the solicitors to the company have altered the draft deed of settlement in accordance, as far as possible, with the resolutions come to at the last general meeting. -As by limiting the capital to £ 3000 to be raised by 300 shares with power to increase the capital to £ 4000 if it were afterwards found necessary to exercise this power, it would become necessary



under the Limited Liability Act, 1855, to procure a fresh deed to be executed and to go through sundry other processes of registration etc. The Directors propose, in order to avoid the expense that would thereby be incurred, to fix the capital in the first instance at £ 4000 to be raised by 400 shares of £ 10 each, the more especially as if the full amount of authorized capital should not be required, it is not necessary that the total amount of the shares be called up.

‘The Directors also wish to call to the attention of the subscribers to the resolution adopted at their last general meeting, fixing the maximum of dividend at 5 per cent per annum, and providing for the company’s premises being ultimately declared free to the public. Independently of the general question of the expediency of introducing such a provision into the deed of settlement of a public company, counsel has advised that, by introducing a provision into the deed, creating an imperative Trust for the public, what is called a charitable trust would be created, which would render it necessary to enrol the deed of settlement under the Act, and would, moreover, render the deed liable to be invalidated by the death of any single shareholder within 6 months of the execution thereof. The solicitors have, therefore, with a view to escape this difficulty, framed the clause in such a way as merely to limit the dividends to a maximum of 5 per cent per annum, and to authorize an extraordinary meeting of the shareholders to apply any accumulation of profit from time to time in buying up the shares of the company at par, and ultimately, so soon as there should be funds sufficient to pay off all the shareholders, to give direction for the premises of the company being declared free to the public and make provision for their future maintenance and management.

It must be evident to the meeting that it is almost impossible in the company’s deed of settlement to make complete and final provision for an event which cannot occur until after a considerable lapse of time, and to introduce a feasible scheme for the management and maintenance of the premises should they ultimately become free. The directors therefore request that the meeting will take into consideration the propriety, either of altogether rescinding the resolution before referred to, or of sanctioning the qualification thereof by the clause as it now stands in the draft deed of settlement. In deciding on this point it should be borne in mind that it must ever be for the interest of the company to make the prices of admission to the premises as low as possible.

‘With regard to the mode of voting the provisional Directors propose to allow each shareholder one vote in respect of each share up to eight but no shareholder to be entitled to more than eight votes.

‘The qualification of a director is also proposed to be fixed at two shares of £ 10 each, which, if approved by the meeting, should be borne in mind in the nomination of the permanent Directors of the company. The directors also recommend that the number of permanent directors should be fixed at nine instead of seven.

‘It is necessary that the meeting elect nine permanent directors, two auditors, and the bankers of the company, before the deed of settlement can be completed, but also as to the points above brought forward, the directors have approved of the draft deed as prepared by the solicitors, and which will be produced to the meeting.

‘Applications for 30 shares have been received, and the directors have every confidence that the full amount of capital will be subscribed for. Allotment letters will be forthwith issued, and the first call of £ 2 per share must, in compliance with the Limited Liability Act be paid, before the company can be completely registered.

Robert Ramsey, Chairman

MR CLAY moved that the maximum dividend be five per cent per annum under the qualification proposed.

MR A. THOMPSON seconded the motion which was agreed to unanimously.

Mr Sanderson then read the Exemption Clause referring to the Accumulation of Profits, which was to the effect that such profits as shall accrue, and which are not required to be paid to the

shareholders, shall be invested at compound interest. And the said accumulation fund shall at periods of not less than ten years be applied by the directors as shall be resolved upon by a special general meeting of the shareholders. And that the said Corn Exchange shall be used and managed according to such rules and regulations as such special general meetings shall direct.. That in the purchase of shares by such accumulation of profits, with the view of rendering the use of the Exchange free, no shareholder shall be obliged to sell a second share until one had been taken from each shareholder.

This arrangement was adopted unanimously.

#### ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Mr Mason proposed the following to be directors of the company, namely:- Messrs R. Ramsay, P. Clay, John Black, George Smith, David Logan of Fairnycastle, David Logan Berwick, Adam Darling, William Nicholson and Jonathan Melrose.

MR A. THOMPSON seconded the motion.

THE CHAIRMAN remarked that any shareholder was competent to propose another list for election.

No other list was proposed and the gentlemen named were elected unanimously.

The provisional directors are to be continued in office until those now elected are prepared to enter upon it.

#### AUDITORS

MR JOHN BLACK proposed Messrs W. Paulin and J.H. Innes for the office of auditors.

MR MARSHALL seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

#### BANKERS

MR CLAY proposed Mr Meggison to be the banker.

MR A. THOMPSON seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

THE CHAIRMAN now intimated that this concluded all the business which had been set down for this meeting.

MR MASON here intimated that he had been requested by Mr Robertson of Ladykirk to say that he had purposed being present at this meeting but he had been unavoidably detained from it.

In answer to the question, Mr SANDERSON stated that the directors could not obtain possession of the site they had secured until the 31<sup>st</sup> of December, and then only by arranging with the tenants. They could, however, in the meantime, receive plans and estimates and make other arrangements. The meeting having decided that it was not necessary to read to them the draft of the deed as produced, and which was of great length. Mr Sanderson said it would be found at his office for the perusal of any of the shareholders.

MR G. SMITH now proposed that steps be taken necessary for the preparation of the deed. The motion was seconded by Mr John Black and agreed to.

MR SANDERSON said that as soon as 300 shares had been appropriated and £ 2 per share paid, he would be enabled to proceed.

MR SINCLAIR said that the shares applied for amounted to £ 3080.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman being passed the meeting broke up.

Aug. 2, Local News, p. 4.

THE CORN EXCHANGE – A special meeting of the shareholders in this undertaking has been called for tomorrow, for the purpose of taking into consideration the bill just passed by the legislature, by which any number of individuals exceeding seven, can co-operate and form themselves into a company under the privileges of the limited liabilities Act with shares of interest as low as £ 2 10s. The consideration of the meeting tomorrow will be whether the company will again alter the amount of their shares and return to the original scheme of £ 2 10s per share, or

continue at £ 10 as adopted at a late meeting. The subscribers at the last named sum have already raised £ 3,200 of the capital of £ 4,000. The committee have already had presented to them one plan for the proposed erection. It has been prepared by Mr Thomas Sturdy, a pupil of Mr Bellamy, architect in London, and a son of Mr E. Sturdy of this neighbourhood. It is calculated to occupy one half of the site which the committee has secured.

Aug. 9, p. 2

CORN EXCHANGE – Another public meeting of the shareholders in this undertaking was held in the Town Hall on Saturday. Alderman Clay in the chair. The business of the meeting was principally the consideration of the provision of the bill lately passed by the legislature, which grants all the advantages of the former bill of limited liability to companies formed on smaller individual interests than £ 10. The attendance was very small, consisting almost exclusively of the committee, who at their prior sederunt had discussed the new bill, and decided on the course to be adopted in reference to it, namely to adhere to the value of the shares formerly agreed upon, but to take advantage of various clause in the new bill of minor consequence. This was stated to be their opinion which was adopted by the meeting and the solicitors of the company were instructed to prepare the deed of incorporation accordingly. It was also resolved that one annual meeting and one annual declaration of dividend shall be sufficient, instead of two as formerly agreed on. It was stated that shares had been appropriated to the amount of £ 3,350.

Sept. 13, Local News, p. 4

CORN EXCHANGE - At a meeting of the Directors of the Berwick Corn Exchange held on Saturday last, the solicitors produced the certificate of incorporation by virtue of which the company is now incorporated, and qualified to enter upon the business contemplated on its formation. Amongst other matters, Mr Ramsey was elected chairman, and Mr Jas. Sinclair having asked permission, seeing that the company was now completely constituted, was allowed to resign the office of secretary, which he had accepted in the first instance provisionally, and solely with the view of promoting an object of public importance. Mr Stephen Sanderson was elected permanent secretary. The Directors passed a cordial vote of thanks to Mr Sinclair recognising the important service rendered by him in promoting the formation of the company, and soliciting his continued aid, although his official connection with them should be at an end. The Directors also expressed an opinion that a sum of money should be voted to Mr Sinclair for his services, but, in terms of the rules of the company, referred the subject to the next or some subsequent general meeting.

11 Oct.. Local News p. 4.

CORN EXCHANGE – A meeting of the committee entrusted with the arrangements for the creation of this structure was held on Saturday, when a ground plan was submitted to and inspected by them. Three different plans for the superstructure were also submitted by Mr Johnston of Newcastle. These were calculated to cover the entire site in possession of the company, but it has been resolved by them to sell a portion of it. It is a pity that we have not spirit enough in this town for a portion of the community to purchase the part for sale and occupy it with a music hall. We believe that parties have inspected the site with a view to purchase.

Nov. 8, Local News p. 4.

THE CORN EXCHANGE – It will be observed by an advertisement in our front page, that the directors of the Corn Exchange Company solicit from architects plans for the erection. As they propose expending a respectable sum on the undertaking we hope they will be fortunate enough in

securing plans for a structure which will be creditable alike to the munificence of the district and to their own taste.

Nov. 8, Front Page

TO ARCHITECTS – The Directors of the Berwick Corn Exchange Company (Limited) invite architects to furnish designs for a new corn exchange with committee rooms &c, for the town of Berwick.

Sketches of ground plan and other particulars may be obtained from the undersigned, but it is desired to leave architects unfettered as far as possible not only as to general design, but as to the internal arrangements of the proposed building.

There will be awarded for the design, which shall be adopted, (with the subsequent addition of complete specifications) the sum of £ 40, and for the design next most approved of £ 15, and these designs shall become the property of the company. With each design must be lodged an estimate of the cost of carrying it into execution.

Design intended for the competition must be lodged with the undersigned on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> January next.

By order

STEPHEN SANDERSON, SECRETARY

Dec. 13, Local News p. 4.

THE CORN EXCHANGE – the preliminaries for the erection proceed most satisfactory. The committee entrusted with the arrangements held their monthly meeting on Saturday. It was stated that the applications from architects for copies of the memorandum containing the description of the building required and the conditions of competing for its design and surveyorship, had amounted to 142. Several designs were already offered and it was evident that there would be no lack of choice. A writer in the BUILDER, we observe, complains that the architects' fees should be limited to £ 125. The cost of the erection is not to exceed £ 2,750, and if it amounts to that sum the usual fee of £ 5 per cent, on the outlay would be £ 137, but the chances are that it will not reach that sum and the object in limiting the architect's fee is to keep within moderation the character and cost of the building. The arrangement is, we think, a wise one, and the writer in the BUILDER, will fail to raise a prejudice against it. An offer for the material at present on the site was rejected. The sum subscribed to the undertaking in shares and donations now amount to £ 3,500.

Berwick Advertiser 1857

Jan. 10, Local News p. 3.

THE CORN EXCHANGE – the plans for this proposed erection, 54 in all, presented to the committee in competition for their premiums of £ 40 for the best and £ 15 for the second were on Tuesday arranged in the assembly room of the King's Arms Inn. The committee held a special meeting on that day and devoted nearly the whole of it to examining the plans. There was attached to each a technical signature, the name of the actual proprietor being withheld. The committee were thus excluded from the exercise of any personal bias. As might have been expected there was a great diversity in the proposals for the erection, but all the plans were executed with great neatness and artistic beauty. The result of the committee's labours has been to reduce the competitors to four, from which a meeting of the shareholders, we understand, will be commended to make a selection. These plans all represent elegant structures of modern character of architecture and apparently suitable to the object contemplated.

Feb. 14, p. 3.

BERWICK CORN EXCHANGE. A short time ago we announced that the plans lodged by Mr John Johnston of Newcastle had been unanimously adopted for this building, and we are now authorised to state that the second prize was gained by Mr Wm. Gray of this town, whose designs bore the motto 'practical'. In consequence of the somewhat desultory discussion which took place at the general meeting, some misapprehension arose as to the awarding of the second prize, which this explanation is intended to remove. Mr Gray has reason to be proud of the position his plans attained in so wide a competition.

A model of the successful design, exhibiting the interior of the building as well as a drawing of the front elevation, has been exposed to public inspection in the Town Hall throughout the week. The elevation consists of a range of buildings two stories high. One third of which is to be appropriated to some public or private use, other than the corn exchange, namely, that portion nearest to Hide Hill, the building of which is to be conformable to the plan presented. The probability is that it will be purchased by one of the banking firms in the town and adopted to the prosecution of its business. The remainder of the building presents a modern front well relieved with numerous windows and three entrances with a projecting spire rising from the base of the structure to about 10 feet above its roof. The principal entrance is in the centre which will be furnished with iron gates and is to be surmounted with the arms of the borough, over which on the ornamental balustrade running along the eaves is a figure of Ceres supported by numerous agricultural designs. On either side of the entrance is an apartment for secretary or committee's use, and for a withdrawing room for parties having private business. Overhead are two other rooms, one of these is of considerable size, reported to be assigned to the meetings of the Savings' Bank, the other is smaller and is for some purpose in connection with the exchange. Communication with these rooms is to be had from the street direct by a special entrance and staircase on the right hand side of the main entrance. The centre entrance leads into the great hall or corn exchange. This apartment runs the entire breadth of the site. It is to be 102 feet long and 75 feet broad, being about 10 feet longer than the outer hall in the town house. It is to be lofty in proportion. The roof is to be an open one with exposed girders and extensively glazed to admit the light, and is to be connected with the main walls in an alcove form. The extreme end will be circular, having six windows looking into the Foul Ford, to which street there is also an exit. The walls are to be panelled and the floor boarded. At the meeting of the committee on Saturday it was resolved that a gallery should be erected over the front entrance to be capable of seating 300 persons; it was also resolved that there should be an orchestra. The building besides its original purpose will thus furnish one of the most

splendid apartments for holding festival or spectacle entertainments to be found in the north of England. We sincerely hope that the same spirit which has prompted the corn exchange committee to make these arrangements for public entertainment will actuate the communities in our town and neighbourhood to make ample and remunerating use of the same, and our borough thus once more become the centre of the conviviality and gaiety of the district by which it is surrounded. The architect is now preparing his working plan, and the committee will shortly advertise for contracts for the execution of the work.

June 20, Local News p. 3.

THE CORN EXCHANGE – At a meeting of the committee held on Saturday last, Mr John Craig, of Chirnside was selected out of a list of about a dozen applicants for the office of inspector of the works of the new corn exchange erection. It was at the same time resolved that the foundation stone of the new building should be laid at two o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday the 27 instant, Robert Ramsay, Esq., Chairman of the committee, being appointed to perform that duty.

June 20, Local News p. 3

The work of clearing away the old buildings on the site intended for the Corn Exchange is nearly completed and some of the new back buildings are making their appearance above the surface. In the course of the operation the workmen, we understand, have come upon several beams of the old black oak which in ancient times used to prevail in the district, and which is now highly prized both for its antiquity and its capability for bearing a high polish. The old building now being removed had, no doubt, been one of the splendid residences, which old historians refer to as having existed within the ramparts of this garrison. The street in the rear appears to have been at one time raised by four feet, as a course of pavement as found to exist at that depth.

June 27, Local News p.3.

BERWICK CORN EXCHANGE – We understand that the foundation stone of the new corn exchange is to be laid by the chairman of the Directors tomorrow (Saturday), at 2 o'clock afternoon, but it is proposed to defer anything in the shape of a public ceremonial until the opening of the building for public use.

July 4, Local News p.2.

THE CORN EXCHANGE – LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE. The ceremonial connected with the commencement of the building of the Corn Exchange for this town took place on Saturday last, and although it had been resolved that no demonstration or show calculated to create an excitement should be attempted, still the event drew together a considerable number of persons who evinced an interest in the proceedings.

Robert Ramsey, Esq. , one of the aldermen of the borough, and chairman of the Corn Exchange Committee, and been deputed to lay the stone, and he, accompanied by several of the committee, Mr Sanderson, their secretary, the architect and the builder, arrived on the site at two o'clock. The triangles then raised the ponderous stone, and while it hung suspended it disclosed a large excavation in a similar stone underneath; into it there was deposited a bottle, hermetically sealed, containing the following articles: - A copy of the Berwick Advertiser, and the Berwick Warder, a parchment containing the names of the Chairman and Directors, Architect, Builder, and of Mr James Sinclair, one of the principal promoters of the undertaking; also gold, silver, and copper coins of the realm for the present period. The deposit was covered with a copper plate, set in an oak frame, on which was the following inscription: - 'This Foundation Stone of the New Corn

Exchange was laid on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June, 1857, by Robert Ramsey, Esq., Chairman of the Directors, Stephen Sanderson, Esq., Secretary. Mr John Johnston, Architect. Mr Matthew Reed, Builder.'

Mr Johnston, in the name of Mr Reed the builder and himself, presented to Mr Ramsey a handsome silver trowel soliciting him to commence the building with it. It bore the following inscription – ' To Robert Ramsey, Esq., on the occasion of his laying the Foundation Stone of the New Corn Exchange, Berwick-upon-Tweed, June 27, 1857. Presented by John Johnston, Architect and Matthew Reed, Builder.'

Mr Ramsey then addressed the company as follows: - 'Gentlemen – We are met today on no ordinary occasion. Our present meeting is calculated to be of great interest to the inhabitants of the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed having for its object the construction of a Corn Exchange, wherein the business connected with the agriculture of the district is in future to be transacted. I could have wished that the honor of laying the foundation stone had been delegated to some other person, one who could have done more justice to the occasion than I can. The object we have in view by this new building has long been considered a desideratum in this agricultural town, being to provide for the farmers who frequent out market a shelter from the storm and a release from the jostling and inconvenience of a public street while transacting their business, to which they have been long subjected. I hope the scheme will realise all the expectations entertained of it and the business which we still possess be thereby fostered and increased. It will be admitted that encouragement is desirable and an increase of business possible. I have said ours is an agricultural town and it will admit of no other designation. Of manufacturing we have none and the little commerce by means of coasting vessels which we formerly possessed has been absorbed by the operations of the railways. It is now no unusual circumstance to see our convenient little harbour without a single vessel in it. It has long been a wonder to strangers who have visited our town that a building as that we now project has not hitherto been built. Without attempting to [cannot read the next word] for this neglect we shall now indulge in the hope that a suitable place for our corn-market for our district is about to be erected. With reference to the originators of this undertaking I may be allowed this opportunity for giving the honor where it is due. It first originated with and the plan for carrying it forward was devised by Mr James Sinclair [cannot read the next two words] agent here of Lloyds. By his enterprising and public spirit it was brought before the public, by his industry the list of shareholders filled rapidly. And that it did not share the fate of various preceding schemes is entirely owing to his enterprise and skill. So you, gentlemen, and us all are greatly indebted to him.' To the intelligent and wealthy farmer in the district – and in no district is there a more intelligent class of farmers than in our own – we are also much indebted. Without their assistance the scheme should not have succeeded. When completed I hope the building will be an ornament to the town and a convenience to the farmers and merchants who are expected to occupy it, and thus prove a satisfaction to all who shall have in any way contributed to its erection. The dimensions of the building will be as follows: - 90 feet in length, 70 feet in breadth and 42 feet high. The area will accommodate with standing room of 300 persons, the gallery 300 more, while the orchestra, which will be available on any crowded occasion, will hold 100 more. The entire cost of the undertaking will somewhere about £ 3000.

The line having been arranged by a workman assisted by Mr Ramsey with the silver trowel, the stone was gently lowered. After this Mr Ramsey gave the upper stone three knocks with the mallet and then said that he declared this foundation stone solidly and truly laid, and he hoped it would prove the commencement of an elegant and convenient erection. This was followed by cheers by the company.

Mr Melrose of Coldstream (one of the Committee) then addressed the company. He said they had witnessed a simple and unimposing ceremonial. Extremely unattractive but in its ulterior object possessed of much interest to the inhabitants of Berwick. He hoped that the building now

commenced would prove both ornamental and convenient – ornamental to the town and convenient to the inhabitants both of the town and its district. He hoped both these parties would take advantage of its accommodation and that its construction would prove a gratification to all parties. Besides a convenience to the farmers and corn dealers it would no doubt be used for various public purposes. He hoped to see in it musical concerts on a scale of excellence calculated to increase the public taste for music – that it will be used for lectures on scientific and literary subjects. And by affording accommodation lecturers of eminence may be induced to visit the town and by their labour give a higher moral tone to the public taste and desire for enjoyment. We should act wrongly, he said, did we separate without giving expression to our opinion of the admirable manner in which our chairman had discharged the duties imposed on him by the day's proceedings. He therefore proposed that the meeting pass a vote of thanks to Mr Ramsey.

This was followed by cheers from the bystanders.

Mr Ramsey thanked the company for their vote of approval. He hoped he should never be found wanting nor refuse to place his shoulder to the wheel when he could be of any service in helping forward a good work. Such he had regarded the present undertaking and he should be gratified if he had been of any service to it.

This concluded the business, and the meeting gradually broke up. In the afternoon the Directors dined together in the Hen and Chickens Inn, where a party of fourteen sat down to an excellent dinner provided by Mr Tetlow. Mr Ramsey was in the chair and Mr Clay was in the vice chair. In the course of the evening healths of the different parties engaged in the work were duly proposed and acknowledged. The festivities which are to take place on the opening of the new building were anticipated with great pleasure. A hope was expressed that the inhabitants of the town and the families in the district will on that occasion cordially unite in forming a demonstration long to be remembered, and also be the commencement of a more earnest sympathy in each other's welfare.

The builder of the Exchange is, we understand, under contract to have the large hall completed by the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, and the other rooms by the succeeding month of December. So that it will be ready for occupation during the ensuing winter.

July 11, Local News, p.3.

**CORN EXCHANGE** – The first annual meeting of the Corn Exchange Company was held on Saturday last in the Town Hall. Robert Ramsay, Esq., was in the chair. Mr Sanderson said the first business was to place the seal of the company to the deed of copartnery. There were 136 shareholders who held 337 shares. The first call had been made upon the company, and this had been paid up with the exception of £ 25, £ 20 of which were expected to be got in a few days. A report was read from the Directors which stated that the subscribed capital of the company amounted to £ 3370 and it was desirable that it should be extended to £ 4000. The directors wished to have power to borrow £ 1000, and they proposed to sell or lease that portion of the site next to Hide Hill which they had offered to the public. The meeting would also have to fill up the vacancies by re-election or otherwise, which were occasioned by the retirement of the auditors and three directors. The report was adopted by the meeting. Mr George Smith of Ancroft moved that Mr Ramsay, Mr Clay and Mr John Black be re-elected directors. This was agreed to. Messrs. W. Paulin and Jas. H. Innes were re-elected auditors. Mr C.L. Gilchrist moved that that portion of their site which was not intended to be occupied with the exchange building be offered for sale. This was seconded by Mr Wilson of Edington and agreed to. Mr M.G. Crossman moved that power be given to the directors to borrow a sum of money not exceeding £ 1000 to assist in defraying the cost of the building. Supposing that the directors were to sell no more shares, the sum they would require to borrow would be £ 975. Mr Clay seconded this motion which was agreed to. Mr Wilson enquired of the secretary what the directors expected to get by the sale of the extra site and was informed about



£ 500. On the notion of Mr Wilson it was agreed that the meetings in future be held at half-past eleven o'clock instead of two. The meeting now broke up.

Sep. 5, Local News p. 3.

THE CORN EXCHANGE – We observe that Mr Reed the contractor for the erection of this undertaking, is making rapid progress with his work. The walls on all sides are at a considerable elevation, and the plan of the architect is now pretty clearly developed. The weather hitherto has been favourable for the workmen's labour, and the number of persons employed, both masons and carpenters, is considerable. The elaborate masonry which is to ornament the front is making its appearance while within the walls the erection of the gallery, in a substantial manner, is being progressed with. The spare site is still in the market for sale but we are told that two parties are bidding for it. If either of them obtain it we feel confident that a building will be erected agreeably with the plans of the architect, and one that will do no disparagement to the taste or ingenuity.

Sep. 12, Local News p. 3.

SALE OF SITE – The site offered for sale by the directors of the Corn Exchange Company has, we understand, been sold. Mr Douglas, the solicitor, is the purchaser at £ 250. The purpose to which the site is to be appropriated is not stated, but we understand the terms of the purchase are that the building shall be according to the plan by the company's architect, or if another it must be approved of by the directors.

Oct. 24, Local News p. 3.

THE CORN EXCHANGE – The roof to this building was on Saturday erected, and on that and the following day flags were to be seen waving on it in celebration of the circumstance. The progress of the building hitherto has been most satisfactory and everything betokens a favourable completion. The large hall is now formed and an idea is being accurately given of its size and the accommodation which will be afforded. We have formerly given its dimensions, namely 90 feet long, 75 feet broad, and 46 feet high. The interior arrangements, namely, the lighting, the gallery and the orchestra are all sketched but these together with the frontage and its apartments are yet to be constructed. Mr Reed, the constructor, has been favoured with excellent weather and he has not failed to take advantage of that and every other circumstance to forward the work. The foundation stone was laid on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June, and thus within four months the heaviest part of the work is completed.

Berwick Advertiser 1858.

Feb. 20, p.2.

BERWICK CORN EXCHANGE COMPANY – LIMITED A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in the company will be held in the Town Hall, Berwick, on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> Feb. instant at half-past eleven a.m., to receive and consider a report from the Directors dealing with the changes proposed to be made for admission to the Exchange, and other matters.

By order  
Stephen Sanderson, secretary

Berwick 18 Feb. 1858.

NB The Directors also invite the attendance of the farmers and public generally at this meeting.

Above repeated Feb. 27 – Front Page.

March 27, Front Page.

BERWICK CORN EXCHANGE . It is expected that the NEW CORN EXCHANGE will be ready for occupation early in May next, and those who desire to have stalls are requested to lodge their names with the undersigned, so as the number of stalls required may be ascertained. The Directors will only erect stalls as applied for, and the allotment of stalls amongst the earliest list of applicants will be made by ballot shortly before the opening of the Exchange. Gentlemen willing to take season tickets are requested to lodge their names with the undersigned without delay. With the approval of a public meeting called for the purpose, the price of the stalls and season tickets have been fixed as follows:

Stalls giving a right of free admission to the exchange and new room on market days - £ 2 per annum

Season tickets giving a similar right without the privilege of a stall – 7s 6d per annum

The price of admission to the corn exchange alone will be to the general public, not stall or season ticket holders, one penny on each time of entrance, but this will not give the right of entrance to the new room.

By order  
Stephen Sanderson, Secretary  
Quay Walls, Berwick, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1858.

Above repeated April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1858 & April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1858.

April 10, Local News p.3.

CORN EXCHANGE - At a meeting of the directors held on Saturday it was ordered that the various contractors be urged to greater expedition in the completion of their various works, the period allowed for these being now or nearly expired. It has been announced that the building will be ready for occupation in May while a considerable amount of work remains to be done.

June 5, Front Page

BERWICK CORN EXCHANGE  
NOTICE

Two persons (man and wife) are required to take charge of the new Corn Exchange Buildings in Berwick. Particulars may be ascertained on application to Mr Sanderson, Solicitor, with whom written applications and testimonials must be lodged on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> June.

Quay Walls, Berwick  
13<sup>th</sup> May, 1858.

June 5, Local News p.3.

THE CORN EXCHANGE – This fine building is now rapidly approaching completion, and the proceedings of its inauguration, which are to take place on the 28<sup>th</sup> instant, are looked forward to with considerable interest. The workmen's scaffolding is fast disappearing from its interior, and the design of the architect is admired by all persons who have visited it. By way of testing the effect of sound in the large hall, Mr R. Ross's instrumental band of musicians, who had been sojourning here for a week previous, were on Saturday invited to make the experiment, and the result was in every respect highly gratifying. Notice of the intention had got abroad, consequently a considerable number of ladies and gentlemen were assembled to hear the performance, and, judging from their repeated applause, we may safely assert that the music was heard with good effect. Mr Ross's band, which is more remarkable for delicacy and sweetness than for any stirring or boisterous effect, was distinctly audible in all parts of the building. There were several circumstances prejudicial to a fair trial, such as the entranced being minus the doors, the floor only partially laid, and some little amount of scaffolding still in the way; notwithstanding, these were pronounced to have in no degree marred the effect of the music. In addition to the instrumental music, Mr Ross sang several of his popular songs, all of which were loudly applauded. The arrangements of the occasion were under the management of Mr James Sinclair, whose good taste and judgement in what is appropriate were observable in all the proceedings. The first sounds of music within the hall was very the air 'God save the Queen', during the performance of which the company stood uncovered; after this followed 'Rule Britannia'. The effect of the music was tried both on then ground floor and in the gallery. The orchestra was not in a sufficient state of forwardness to be experimented upon. Mr Ross, in being asked his opinion, stated that the room for the purposes of a concert appeared to him to be faultless. He knew of one room only in the entire kingdom to which he could give a preference, and that was the borough hall at Stockton-upon-Tees. We are glad to say that the musicians were liberally rewarded by the company assembled.

June 19. Front page.

FIRST GRAND CONCERT IN THE NEW CORN EXCHANGE. Mr. George Wilson, Dalkeith (late of Jedburgh) assisted by Mr and Mrs William Howard of the Edinburgh concerts and other distinguished artists will give a concert of vocal and instrumental music in the new Corn Exchange on the evening of Wednesday the 30<sup>th</sup> of June. For particulars see programme. 14<sup>th</sup> June 1858.

June 19. Local news p. 3.

THE CORN EXCHANGE – The approaching event of opening this elegant building is now the subject of general local interest. The arrangements are set forth in advertisements inserted in our first page. Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> instant has been fixed for the public dinner of the shareholders and such of the public as choose to join them. David Robertson, Esq., of Ladykirk, has been judiciously chosen for chairman, an honour to which he is well entitled, not merely because he is the largest shareholder in the undertaking, but because no gentleman more popular in the borough and its district could have been selected. The Mayor of the borough will occupy the vice chair. Mr Tetlow of the Hen and Chickens inn has been entrusted with getting op the dinner – although we do not know of his being previously engaged on so large an entertainment as the one referred to is likely to be – still, judging of his success in smaller affairs, we have no doubt he will put forth every effort to please. The first public intimation of the arrangements was made on Monday, and on that day the committee received assents to be present from ninety gentlemen within the borough, a number

which we have little doubt has been extended since then. If the district contribute as well there can be little doubt of an excellent company. Mr Ross's quadrille band which gave much gratification when lately here, has been engaged to return, and will occupy the orchestra on the occasion. Every shareholder has been presented with two tickets for lady visitors to the gallery, and as the shareholders number one hundred and thirty-eight, there is every prospect of about 300 ladies being in the apartment, as under the arrangements it is likely that every ticket will be used. The company here will no doubt comprise all the gait and fashion of the town and district, and their presence will contribute greatly to the éclat of the opening of the Corn Exchange. The entire proceedings of the occasion will no doubt be such as will merit the participation in them of all parties in our community, the beauty of the arrangements and the harmony in the proceedings will amply reward an attendance thereon. In connection with the opening there is announced a concert of vocal and instrumental music, which is to take place on the Wednesday following. The arrangements have been made by Mr Wilson, Dalkeith, (late of Jedburgh), of whose vocal abilities the public here have on two occasions shown their high appreciation. He is to be assisted by two other vocalists, namely, Mrs Wm. Howard and Herr Keechler, and by ten instrumentalists headed by Mr Wm. Howard, who is acknowledged by competent critics to be one of the best violin players of the day. It is quite evident that to make any remuneration to so large a party the public must turn out very well on the occasion. Mr Wilson, no doubt, calculates on this being the case and we sincerely hope that he will not be disappointed.

June 26. Front Page.

**BERWICK CORN EXCHANGE.** The new corn exchange will be opened on the 28<sup>th</sup> June instant by a dinner at which the public generally as well as the subscribers are invited to be present.

David Robertson, Esquire, of Ladykirk, and the Mayor of Berwick, have kindly consented to take the chair and vice chair.

Dinner tickets (8s each) may be obtained at the Hen and Chickens inn, Sandgate, and gentlemen intending to be present are requested to obtain their tickets without delay.

Dinner at 3 o'clock. The ladies' gallery opens at 4 o'clock.

By order of the committee

Stephen Sanderson., Secretary.

June 26, Local News, p. 3.

**THE CORN EXCHANGE** – Great bustle and activity is now being displayed in having that building ready for the opening festivity on Monday. The builders of the erection have been turned out of it, together with their benches and confusion, and a different class of operatives have been admitted. Mr Tetlow, the provider of the dinner, has had the hall given over to him and he is now arranging his tables and seats. The head of the table is to be at the circular end of the room, whence will descend toward the entrance five rows of tables. Mr Lamb is actively engaged in fitting up the gas lustres, and in the course of tomorrow the appearance of the hall will be entirely changed. The list of diners, we understand, now contains upward of 200 names. The front of the hall outside is being flagged, and the approach to the gallery made as convenient as possible for the ladies. The dinner is announced for three o'clock, but the occupants of the gallery are not expected until four. – The concert on Wednesday evening is very likely to be a gay affair. The company in the gallery will of course be in full dress, the circumstance of such elegant accommodation being provided, and the occasion being the opening of the exchange will well entitle it to this mark of respect. The programme of the entertainment is now in circulation and the list of performers is both numerous and talented. – Thomas Johnston of Golden Square has been selected from a list of candidates for the office of porter to the exchange and entered on his office yesterday. – For the transaction of

business the exchange will be opened for the first time on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July, and we would impress upon our readers that it is their duty to countenance and support the establishment of our important corn market in the handsome and commodious building now provided for it. It would be manifestly unfair to the subscribers to make use of the building only as a place of refuge in stormy weather and we have every confidence that the farmers, millers, and merchants of our district will, like those of their class who frequent the most important of our neighbouring markets, prefer transacting their business in quiet and comfort, to all the bustle, discomfort, and inconvenience of doing so in an open and crowded street. In addition to the exchange hall there are four rooms intended for use as settling rooms, and in which business of any degree of privacy can be transacted. A new room also provided with a good supply of papers will afford the means of acquiring the latest intelligence, or of passing a spare half-hour during a market day. The charges for admission are very moderate. Season tickets giving free admission on market days throughout the year are charged 7s 6d, and stalls giving a similar privilege £ 2, while the general public, not season ticket or stallholders, are charged a penny on each time of entrance. No charge is made for samples. Of the building itself we shall speak more fully next week, but we may mention that the directors have endeavoured to make ample provision for the comfortable transaction of the business of the Corn Exchange, regarding that as the primary object of the building.

July 3. Front Page.

BERWICK CORN EXCHANGE – The new Corn Exchange will open for the transaction of business on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July instant.

Charge on admission to the exchange, 1d on each time of entrance.

Season tickets giving the right of free admission to the exchange and news room throughout the year, 7/6 per annum.

Stalls giving a similar right 40/ per annum, subscribers for stalls and season tickets are requested to pay the same to the secretary.

By order

Stephen Sanderson, secretary

Berwick, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 1858.

July 3<sup>rd</sup>. p. 2.

THE NEW CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK-UPON-TWEED. PROCEEDINGS AT THE INAUGURATION.

We have now the pleasure of announcing the completion of the above splendid structure, and of detailing the festive proceedings which have this week celebrated the opening of its gates and its dedication to the purpose for which it has been erected. We need scarcely remark that all the circumstances attending the event have given to us great satisfaction, and we congratulate with those who take an interest in, and have a desire for, the welfare of our community on the circumstance of our now possessing a building so admirably suited for its intended purpose, and on the harmonious and general participation in the celebration of its completion which has this week been evinced by all sections in the communities of the borough and of its neighbourhood. The building is no less important as an addition to the public edifices here than are the advantages to the purposes of our weekly corn market.

The first steps in the project were taken at a public meeting called on a requisition presented to the Mayor, and held by him in the Townhall on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of June, 1856. The scheme was then introduced by a small party of agriculturists who had privately talked the matter over, and a series of resolutions being prepared, these were read and at once adopted. It was at first proposed that the value of the shares in the company should be £2 10s each; but at a subsequent meeting, and on the

suggestion of David Robertson, Esq., the value of the shares was raised to £10 each, and the present capital of the company has been realised by the sale of 330 shares among 138 proprietors. The services of Mr James Sinclair were early secured, and by his energy and public spirit the knowledge of the project became extensively spread and largely participated in. The getting up of the preliminaries was his handy-work, and the complete success of the undertaking now testifies that that was not inefficient.

The only difficulty the directors had to encounter was the selection of a site. Not but that numerous sites were suggested and offered for purchase, but the desire to obtain as public a situation as possible, and at the same time to avoid investing too much of the capital in the purchase thereof, caused a considerable amount of deliberation. The site selected is perhaps the best that could have been adopted under the circumstances. It was obtained for the sum of £1000, and is nearly equidistant from the two railway stations in the borough. It is situated in Sandgate, a street of respectable width and hitherto sharing in the traffic and business of the town. It possesses a frontage of 103 feet, with a similar breadth, altogether presenting an area of 1,168 feet.

Operations were soon commenced in removing the old buildings, some of which were of great antiquity, and had been residences of some of the notables in the town at an early date. The foundation stone was laid by Robert Ramsey, Esq., chairman of the Board of Directors, and one of the aldermen of the borough, on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> of June, 1857. Its erection has therefore occupied exactly twelve months. The plan of the building was selected from a numerous list sent in for competition, and it is the design of John Johnston, Esq., architect, No. 6 Clayton Street, West, Newcastle.

Immediately above the main entrance is to be a representation of the borough arms, cut out of stone; and overhead at the top of the building is to be a figure of Ceres, with several vases. On either side of the entrance are two elegant apartments to be appropriated, the one for the directors' meetings, the other for a reading room to the subscribers. They are each 20 feet long, 15½ feet high. Over these and the entrance is one large apartment measuring 50 feet in length, 15½ feet in breadth, and 17½ feet in height. This room on festive occasions can be appropriated for the purpose of a refreshment room, and when not used for such, it will be divided by a wooden partition, and as reported is to be used for the business of the Savings Bank. There are two minor entrances to the body of the hall, namely on the left of the plan and in the rear. The staircase up to the tower leads to the gallery only.

The interior or great hall, as it is approached by the main staircase, has a very imposing effect. The gallery adjoins the entrance, and though it affords accommodation for about 300 persons it is neither cumbersome nor to appearance occupying much space. Beyond the gallery the hall is lofty and light. In shape it is nearly oval; it is circular at one end where four windows are inserted. At the opposite end it is square. The roof, which is one extensive span, is of a peculiar construction, having open exposed girders, and nearly one-half of it is formed of ground glass. Plenty of light is therefore supplied. The length of the hall is eighty-five feet; the width is seventy ditto; and the height forty-four ditto. There is an orchestra formed in one of the side walls of the hall. There are also apartments for the residence of the porter, and for the temporary retirement of the company. The stalls or benches for assisting the merchants in transacting their business are arranged round the walls, and these are of such construction that when they are not required they can be folded down and their obstruction removed. There are thirteen gas-lustres pendant from the roof, each containing eight jets, besides numerous brackets along the front of the gallery.

The entire work of the erection has been entrusted to Mr Matthew Reed of Bath Road, Newcastle, and so far as it has progressed its erection has given entire satisfaction to the directors. The frontage of the main building is 38 feet high; it is adorned with numerous windows which give it a light appearance. The spire is sixty feet high, and in its entire state will present a remarkable appearance.

### THE OPENING DINNER.

According to announcements made in our columns during several weeks the formal opening of the Exchange was celebrated by a public dinner. This took place within the building on Monday afternoon, and came off with great éclat. There was present a numerous company, an eloquent and popular chairman, a large party of elegantly dressed ladies in the gallery, first-rate music in the orchestra, a well furnished table, and a continuous flow of oratory. The hall itself looked very elegant. There was hung around a variety of flags, in the window recesses and along the front of the gallery were vases filled with flowers, over the entrance were the words 'Let Berwick Flourish', and at either sides of the same were the sentences 'Speed the Plough' and 'Success to Agriculture', very neatly cut out in variegated paper and attached to the wall. Behind the chair was a very splendid specimen of the Scotch Thistle surmounted by the two union flags crossed. From the orchestra were suspended flags bearing the arms of the borough, and the crest of Mr Marjoribanks one of its members. The dining table consisted of five rows, with a cross table at the top. Covers were laid for 250, and every seat appeared filled. Mr Ross's very efficient band occupied the orchestra. At half-past three o'clock the Chairman, David Robertson, Esq., of Ladykirk, took his seat, which was the signal for a hearty round of applause. He was supported on the right hand by Robert Ramsey, Esq.; John Wilkie, Esq. Of Foulden; Captain Smith, R.N.; Watson Askew, Esq., of Pallinsburn; Ralph Forster, Esq., of Sanson Seal; Rev. John Leach; and Thomas Bogue, Esq. J.P; and on the left by David Milne Home, Esq., Milne Graden; Sir John Marjoribanks, Bart., of Lees; Rev. Thomas Proctor; Patrick Clay, Esq., J.P.; R. Home, Esq.; J.R. Dunlop, Esq.; and Thomas Friar, Esq. The vice-chair at the centre table was occupied by the Mayor, Joseph Fleming, Esq., associated with whom was D.C. Marjoribanks, Esq., M.P. for the borough, and on his right hand were Mr E. Black of Grindon and Mr Mason of Pallinsburn; while on his left were Mr Glendinning of Broomdykes and Mr Turnbull of Dykethead. The general company comprised an equal contribution from town and district; and if the attendance at the dinner on Monday be any criterion to judge from, we should say that the interest felt in the structure and maintenance of the Corn Exchange was shared in by town and country alike.

The Rev. John Leach asked the blessing, and at the close of the repast the Rev. Thomas Proctor said grace.

Exactly at four o'clock the doors of the spacious gallery were thrown open, and presently there was admitted a company of elegantly dressed ladies, which completely filled it. Their entrance was hailed by loud applause from the company in the body of the hall.

The Chairman rose and said – He had the honour to propose the health of their much loved and much honoured Queen. He was persuaded that he only did justice to the feelings of all around him, and no less so of those who adorned the gallery, when he added that her Majesty had no more faithful or more loyal subjects than in this our Border Land, on both sides of the Tweed, and in her Majesty's good old town of Berwick-upon-Tweed, (Cheers). England had just reason to be proud of such a sovereign. Englishmen did not seek to give opinions or make comparisons with the other monarchs of the earth, but he unhesitatingly proclaimed that in the whole habitable globe no throne was more secure than that on which the present Queen of England proudly sits. And why? Not that it was propped up and upheld by bayonets of the sword of terrorism, but because it is based on the affection of a free and a happy people. (Great cheering). Not one good man of whom would not cheerfully lay down his life in defence of the Crown of England, and of the precious life of Her who so gracefully wears it. – (Applause)

The toast was duly honoured and the band played 'God save the Queen'.

The chairman said – He had the honour to propose the health of Prince Albert and the rest of the royal family. Few positions in Great Britain are so difficult to fill as that of the Consort to the

Queen. So difficult indeed, you will all remember, that one of the best monarchs that ever sat upon the throne of England, William the 3<sup>rd</sup>, just 170 years ago, to whom we are so largely indebted for the security of our Protestant institutions, when invited to come to England and become the husband of the then Queen Mary, was so sensible of the difficulty of the position, that he boldly told the parliament of England, 'you must either make me King or I will go back to Holland' – and they did make him King; and so no reign was more prosperous or more beneficial to the future of Great Britain than that of 'William and Mary, the greater part of which William reigned alone after the death of Mary. I do not remind you of this part of your history, by any means, to say that such should have been done now. Very far from it, but merely to state to you the difficulties of the position of Prince Consort, which Prince Albert has so worthily filled. (Cheers). The value of that Prince's conduct will be better estimated in after years, from the exemplary manner in which, it is well known the young royal family, our future rulers, have been brought up. (Cheers) And it is now to be seen in all its loveliness, in the domestic happiness which pervade the palace of our sovereign; and which sheds its benign lustre over society, and affords a bright example worthy of imitation in the humblest cottage in the land. (Cheers). But yesterday, it will be remembered that Prince Albert, I believe for the first time of his being separated from Her Majesty, went to pay a visit to their daughter who is destined, if God wills it, to be one day the Queen of Prussia. On his return, so anxious was her majesty to welcome him home again to her and to old England, that, while half of London was asleep, she hurried on at an early hour to the terminus of the railway to receive her husband; and towards afternoon, they were to be seen in an open carriage in the park, sharing, as usual with her subjects the charms of a summer evening. (Cheers). Her Majesty looking remarkably well, and seeming to say – here I have him back again – I am perfectly happy. (Cheers). It is in domestic scenes like these, from which is reflected the charms of life, that the people of England learn to love their Queen and to estimate the value of the Prince Consort.. (Great cheering). The toast was drunk with all the honours – the band playing 'Rule Britannia'.

The Chairman again rose and said he had now the honour to propose a toast which should be given in all public meetings, and he would propose it as he ever had done, and was done by the excellent Earl of Haddington, as you will remember, on the occasion of the great Highland Society's show held in this town some years ago – 'The Church' meaning by that every denomination of Christians within our land. We should all remember that our great heavenly master knew no distinction amongst and laid down his life for all mankind. In our Christian church there are many flocks and many shepherds; but we should one and all never forget that humility and charity are the chief virtues of Christianity and its most beautiful and sacred precepts, and that we should take care not only to talk about them but to act upon them. (Cheers). He would only add, let not presumptuous man interfere with the religion of his fellow man, but let him go and practise his own. The Church, with the respect and silence to which such a toast is entitled.

The Rev. Thomas Proctor rose and replied as follows: - Mr Chairman and gentlemen, I cannot but regret that in replying to this toast, the right man is unavoidably unable to attend in the right place. In the absence, however, of our worthy vicar, I have much pleasure in thanking you for the very cordial manner in which you Mr Chairman have proposed and you gentlemen, have responded to the health of the ministers of the gospel. And here I must be allowed to bear my testimony to our excellent Vicar; his zeal for the welfare of his parish is untiring, and his energy inexhaustible. Your kindly expression of feeling towards the clergy furnishes an instance of the good that may be delivered from friendly intercourse between the laity and the clergy: it shows that our interests are, or ought to be, identical and inseparable; that even in our hours of ease and recreation we should harmonize and accord; - no less than pull strongly and stoutly together in matters of graver import and more abiding interest; - it affords a pleasing proof, that even on your festive occasions, you do not disregard the influence of religion, and this leads me to give utterance to a passing thought



connected with the opening of this building – a thought which I cannot keep to myself – and which I trust you will nor deem out of place, or savouring too much of the sermon. It is this – ‘Except the Lord build the house, their labour is but lost that build it.’ Unless, even here, you acknowledge the goodness of him, whose mercy is over all his works, your godly building is completely shorn of its beauty; unless, even here, you experience grateful hearts to him, from whom cometh every good, when you bring together within these walls the result of the labours of your hands, the produce of your fields, or the evidence of your skill; unless you acknowledge the providence, acquiesce in the dispensation and are sincerely thankful for the blessings of him who maketh his glorious sun to shine, and poureth down his fertilising rain for the use of man, your produce, your industry, and your skill cannot but be unblest. But if in all your ways you acknowledge in the Corn Exchange and market place, as well as in the sanctuary of the closet, he will direct your path; he will bless your sowing and reaping, and you agriculturists know the promise – ‘Your oxen shall be strong to labour: your sheep shall bring forth thousands and tens of thousand; your land shall yield her fruits of increase an hundredfold.’ God will speed the plough; and you will feel the full force of that sacred writ which saith, ‘Blessed are the people that hath the Lord for their God.’ I feel greatly obliged to you for bearing with these remarks, coming as they do from a young man; and trust you will receive them, as I from my heart give utterance to them: - and beg once more to thank you sincerely for the cordial reception you have given to the health of that body to which I have the exalted privilege of belonging.

Mr Proctor sat down amid great applause.

The Chairman again rose, and proposed the ‘Army and Navy’. He said we were a peace-loving people, and to our credit he said so. We should, however, never forget where wealth existed a duty was imposed on its possessors to protect it; besides war-like propensities existed in the very nature of man, and had been so since the world began, as it was to be seen in earliest infancy. We notice the pugnaciousness of children, the bumptiousness of boys and the fighting propensities of man, as all inherent in our nature. The same with nations. Hence arose the absolute necessity of our possessing an efficient army and navy to preserve our own country and property from invasion and destruction, and to protect our numerous and valuable dependencies. (Cheers). The meeting had no doubt heard a great deal lately about an invasion from France. He did not believe there was the remotest chance of it; and further, that such a project never entered the head of the present Emperor of the French. What has at present taken place at Cherbourg is only continuing the improvements which were begun twelve years ago. It may be that the present Emperor of the French has been somewhat extravagant lately, and spending a great deal of money, more than France can well afford, to gratify the love of glory inherent in the French army. But that anything as absurd as an invasion of England, he (the Chairman) believed had not entered the head of any sane man in France, the Emperor inclusive. You will all remember that the first French revolution was caused by extravagance, and the derangement of its finances, even under the great Necker; and it might be well that the present ruler of France should take a warning, that matters may not become complicated; and a similar disaster again occur from a like cause. But with this we have nothing to do. But there is as point, and I wonder it has not been more dwelt on, that no Englishman, or no English minister, desires more to see the defences of England complete – a British navy without, and an effective army within – than the present Emperor of the French; and all good men in France, where we have many friends, as you are aware, know that before now nations and their sovereigns have been hurried into war against the opinions of the good men amongst them. Therefore, said the Chairman, let us have our defences complete, and our navy and our army as they ought to be, and you afford the most powerful argument for the French Emperor to use with his, it may be, troublesome army, that the invasion of England would only end in its destruction, as most assuredly it would. (Cheers). I shall now make a comparison which will bring it home to yourselves, as

agriculturists. Supposing one of you have a very fine field of rich pasture, and your neighbour's field is a very barren one, or at all events, there are a great number of hungry sheep in it, and your fences are bad, no power on earth will keep these hungry sheep from longing to be in this rich pasture of yours. You complain to your neighbour; but what says he? It is not my fault; your fences are so bad I cannot keep my flock within my own territory; but do me the favour to make your fences good and as they ought to be, and there will be no more invasion, or fear of invasion, and we shall be at peace, - instead of ever and anon these angry words. (Great cheering and laughter). Now gentlemen, all you have to do is for the word fences to read defences. Let your Government do its duty, and the nation provide the means, and you will hear no more of French invasions. (Applause). But if you will insist upon it, I will beg the question, absurd as it is, that the French Emperor desires to attack you. Why, we know that there is the small pond between Calais and Dover, and Cherbourg and Boulogne, and our coast - a passage the worst for seasickness, as some of you perhaps know; why, not only would half the French men be sick; but as I have heard some of my dashing young sailor friends say, they would soon take the command of some twenty or thirty little iron steamers, and run bang into and through their big French steamers, and cut them in twain; and leave them to count the cost, and repose in the waters of the Channel. (Cheers). In short, rely on it the thing is all nonsense. When, however, I say all this, England has just reason to be proud of her navy and army and ever has been. The Chairman said he was old enough to remember when the Castle guns of Edinburgh were fired to commemorate the greatest naval victory of this century - the battle of Trafalgar, at which fell, while in the arms of victory, England's best beloved naval son, who in Britannia's ships rode from sea to sea, never lowering her flag to hostile foe, and taught the enemy to dread the name of Nelson. (Applause). Then came the distinguished and gallant Sir John Moore, of whom it was said on his death that he looked like

'A warrior taking his rest,

With his martial cloak around him'

Then again, came that greatest soldier of modern day the Duke of Wellington, who raised the British standards on the line of Torres Vedres never lowered it till he marched through Spain, and planted it within the territory of France; and again at Waterloo, where the peace of Europe was secured for thirty years. (Applause). During those years of wonderful progress the Governments of England have been blamed, but unjustly, for not maintaining large standing armies and navies. When a Russian war did unexpectedly come upon us, we sent forth the finest army that ever left the shores of England; their bravery at the Alma and the Inkerman showed what they could do. They were not proof against a Crimean winter, anymore than the French or Russian armies - all suffered alike; but along with France and Sardinia, they maintained the honour of England, and peace was the consequence - in India, when most unexpectedly the fearful mutiny broke out, the future consequence of which, I am one of those who dread much, from the effects of the climate which forbid colonisation, and the fearful odds against us in point of numbers, but with this I will not distress you. What has been done shows that the Anglo-Saxon race will never be beaten, or ever believe or own that defeat is possible. Nothing but the indomitable courage of the British lion could have carried Havelock, and many such other leaders, with their gallant little bands, through masses of dark, dingy legions, to the relief of their countrymen and countrywomen in every direction where the voices of women and children called loudly for a rescue. (Applause). Alas, too late for Cawnpore, but in time to save from the hands of the mutineers a band of Englishmen and of English women, whose fame will long live in their country's history. (Applause) But you need not be detained with the accounts of their achievements with which you are all familiar. The conduct of Havelock's band may, however, be compared to what you saw a few years ago from your own harbour - a gallant boat's crew going to the relief of a ship in distress; the foaming sea closing behind them, but still on they went till they had reached and saved their countrymen; or what you

have often seen - a ship riding high above the storm and making for your harbour, the sea closing behind it as it came, as has been done by those masses of black Sepoy closing up behind our little gallant band of troops - still as in the one case so in the other, the British flag was to be seen aloft, till they had reached their point, and gained their object amidst the cheers and embrace of their friends (Cheers). But one word more - let England ever cherish her navy and army, and never grudge to pay them handsomely - let the smiles of their fair countrywomen, such as now adorn our gallery, ever be extended to them. This last is what a sailor and a soldier chiefly prize - the applause and smiles of his sovereign and his country; and in the language of the great Nelson 'as England expects' we may truly add, the British army and navy will ever be found to do their duty. (Applause) The toast was drunk with all the honours, after which the band played the 'Red, White, and Blue'.

Captain Smith, R.N. rose and said - Being the only naval officer present he took upon himself the duty of returning thanks on behalf of the navy. It was true that the army had had the greatest part of the tug of the late and present wars. The nature of the operations had given that to them. But whenever the British seamen had had the opportunity of joining in the labour they had not been deficient either in courage or loyalty. These services had been exhibited in the trenches of one campaign and on the banks of the shallow rivers in another country. His opinion was that this country should not be without an efficient navy. It was better to trust to your own protection than to the peaceful disposition of any foreign sovereign. It was true we had a fleet off the port of Cherbourg, and we ought to keep it in a state of efficiency. There was evidently some scheme afloat in augmenting the naval power of France. There were at present 70,000 men in her steam-fleet, and railways were being laid down into Cherbourg, which could be the means of bringing an army of half a million men to that port in a short time. It will not do to trust to the Emperor's peaceful disposition. The rulers of France do not always get their own way. His advice, therefore, was to be prepared. Have an efficient number of men ready to join our army and navy when required. If that be done and a fair field afforded for the prowess of England he had no fear of the results. He again thanked the company for the toast, and sat down amid great applause.

The Mayor gave the next toast, namely the Lords Lieutenant for the counties of Northumberland, Berwick and Roxburgh. Drunk with applause.

The Chairman said that he had now the honour to propose the toast of 'Her Majesty's Ministers', and would propose it as it ever ought to be given in public meetings of this kind - as the servants of the British Crown. Chosen by Her Majesty and not objected to by Her Parliament the present government, like all former governments, so long as they endeavoured to do their best for the public and the common good is entitled to the consideration of the people till Her Majesty call upon them at the proper time to approve of them or otherwise. No one will accuse him of a desire to flatter the present government, or of a leaning towards them, but truth and justice demand, which all governments should have from him, that he should add that no government could have done more during their brief tenure of office, to earn the good opinion of the country than the present one, especially those who preside at the Foreign Office, Lord Malnebury and Mr Fitzgerald, who have shown themselves worthy successors of the excellent Earl of Clarendon. (Cheers) It may, or it may not be, that some wild speeches have been made outside, forgetting the excellent advice of the great Duke of Wellington, on the occasion of George Dawson, the brother-in-law of Sir Robert Peel, making a foolish speech at a dinner in Ireland, 'that young statesmen should take care how they make after-dinner speeches, and better not to make them at all as they were very inconvenient.' (Cheers). However, though not a statesman as their Chairman he must take care lest he should lay himself open to a like censure. He begged to propose the toast. (Cheers) The toast was duly honoured.

The Chairman said – The next toast on the list was the toast of the evening. Having done our duty to our Sovereign and to the Royal Family of England, and to our other usual public toasts it was now his high mission and most gratifying duty to call upon them to fill and to dedicate a flowing bumper to the success of that undertaking which has produced this magnificent edifice. The offspring of your thoughts, the work of yourselves, and now the admiration of your fellow countrymen; the opening of which you are this day assembled to commemorate and to inaugurate; let us then drink success to the Berwick Corn Exchange. (Great cheering). A success in which you are all entitled to bear an equal and envied share, in proportion to your means; and as I trust many of you are destined for years to come to reap its benefits and to enjoy its comfort. And as years roll swiftly by that you will bring up your sons to aid you and to take your places in this lofty hall; and that you will earn for yourselves a good name, such as I am sure you will ever cherish as a sacred thing in this your place of business. Aye, and a good name is the best inheritance a father can leave a son, when coupled with a sound education, he benefit of a good example and the inculcation of high principles. With such a foundation it is a man's own fault if e does not make his way in life. (Cheers). This is a day long to be remembered in this town and neighbourhood; unlike many of the other gatherings of mankind where controversy and rivalry necessarily prevail, and no harm either, as it is such differences of opinion and their fair discussion at the proper time which keep the world right; and long may it be so in old England. But in scenes like this there is no alloy. (Cheers). Man meets man as brother should meet brother, at the Englishmen's best occasional gathering place, under the mahogany, where many a new friendship is made and many an old one renewed and cemented. (Cheers). Berwick was a great town and place when many others had no existence. Why should it not be so again ? You command the German Ocean, the ports of Northern Europe are open to you, the ships and merchandise of every country and climate enter your harbour, you have rivers and rivulets around you, and consequently water power to an unlimited extent; the coal fields of Northumberland are close to your town. You are midway between Leith and Newcastle. Why should not Berwick have become as great as either ? You only require to keep pace with the times, and to encourage other enterprises like this and some energetic men amongst you; and I trust there are some young ones round the table who may lend a willing and able hand to make Berwick what she was, and what she ought to be – one of the most prosperous towns on the eastern coast of England. (Applause). A new era, as well as a new Corn Exchange is this day I trust opened in the history of Berwick. (Applause). You have beside one of the finest agricultural districts in Great Britain around you – that lovely river which flows around the town and from which it takes its surname; whose banks have long been celebrated for their fertility when its neighbouring hills and valleys were comparatively barren; and you have contributed to render them no longer so, by bringing to your harbour ships laden with the manures of foreign countries, from the west and from the east, from the islands of Peru on the other side of the Atlantic, and from those of the eastern archipelago. Thus do we see the benefits of commerce and agriculture united. (Cheers). You have also the rich vales of Bamburgh, of the Till, and of the old Marse of Berwickshire, and its adjoining hills of Lammermuir; and now that you have got your Corn Exchange, it will naturally be the resting place and the mart for the sale of the greater part of their produce. It is extraordinary to look back but twenty-five years ago. After twenty-six of the hardest work of a man, especially a tall one like myself could possibly go through, you arrived from London here, more dead than alive; and when we had to go on to Edinburgh, were shaken and hurling away through this town for as many more hours, as now take us, without the smallest fatigue, from this to London – as witness our friend, your member Mr Marjoribanks, who only left his home last night, and is now here amongst us. See what has taken place within these last twenty-five years. Free trade and the expansive powers of this country, called into rapid extension, its exports and imports nearly doubled a well as its towns population and property. What are we to look forward to is the next twenty-five years.

(Cheers). Even as late as 1850, I shall never forget the position I had then to fill, such as I now have the honour of doing, as chairman of our great Agricultural Society, held at Coldstream, with the Duke of Buccleuch, and other great landed proprietors and their tenants around me; they one and all with all their possessions felt crushed and bent to the ground as if our land was to be valueless and unable to repay its cultivators. It was in vain to attempt to cheer men whose immediate ruin they considered imminent. The chairman said he was one of those who never desponded, and on that occasion he stated boldly that he felt satisfied something would come to our aid, and somehow we should rise again from the general slough of despondency. They all knew that relief had been felt much sooner than expected, and to much greater extent; and agriculture had prospered more during the last eight years than it had done for the thirty years previously; and the Corn Exchange is a substantial proof of it. (Cheers). Then let us again contrast the situation of your old corn-market, and the frequenters of it, when men used to be muffled up in their great-coats to protect them from the rain without, and what was worse in its consequences, adjourned into the low public houses to conclude their bargains, and to be somewhat wet within, for which hereafter, excuse me in saying, you will no longer have an apology. (Cheers). And here, also, I am sure, I will enlist our fair audience on my side, as of all the charms of life, a man coming home to his wife and family, after a well spent day of business of labour, and of profit, to spend in tranquillity the remainder with them – none is greater. Whereas, one of the greatest of human ills to a family is the reverse – a picture which I shall leave you to paint for yourselves; but not I trust again from nature. (Cheers and laughter). This building is, I trust, also destined for other purposes; balls, concerts, flower-shows, soirees, conversations, lectures, public meetings Etc., and may I take the liberty of suggesting, and I am sure I shall have the ladies in the gallery on my side, and they are sure to carry their husbands and brothers, that at whatever tome they think proper, you should also commemorate and inaugurate the opening of this charming room by a ball, for which it is so well calculated. (Cheers). Let no one in this town either suppose that this hall will interfere with their large rooms or their business, all such doctrines have been exploded, and have been found to be nonsense. The filling of one large room at one time leads to the filling of others at other times, and eventually a common good to all. And now, said the Chairman, to conclude, let me express an ardent hope that much profitable business may be transacted within these walls, to the mutual benefit of buyer and seller. That this building may long shelter those around me, and their brother agriculturists, who may this day from illness or from necessary causes, have been detained at home, from the summer sun to the winter blasts. May the Berwick Corn Exchange, and all within it, long maintain its highest integrity and loft reputation. Amidst the cycles of prices, high and low, during the money panics and the disaster of revolving years, which inevitably come and go, and may it long maintain its high place as old Cheviot has done in the surrounding country, amidst sunshine, and in storm, to be seen again a stately and erect as ever, when the storm has passed away. (Cheers). And may the fame of the Berwick Corn Exchange spread as widely as the vales of Bamburgh, of the Tweed, the Beaumont, the Till, and the Merse of Berwickshire; and may it act like a loadstone in attracting to its stalls samples of their produce, worthy of the lands and of the agriculturists on both sides of the Tweed; and may their enterprising tenants, who have made this country what it is, be amply and justly rewarded by remunerating prices, to which they are so well entitled, in order to repay them for their skill; their toil, and their enterprise. (great applause).

Mr Ramsey replied. He said – Mr Chairman and gentlemen – It has devolved on me as one of the promoters of this undertaking to say a few words in reply to the toast that has been so eloquently proposed and so warmly received, and I beg in the name of the proprietary to thank you heartily for the kind wishes you have expressed for the success of the new Corn Exchange, Sir, there can be but one opinion regarding the desirableness of having such a building, the want of it has been long felt as a very great grievance and it does appear surprising that in a town like Berwick which depends so

much on the agricultural interest for its prosperity, no successful effort should have before been made to supply the deficiency; but, sir, the same remark will apply to this as to every other improvement that takes place, the time has not yet come. It had been reserved for the present generation to erect this beautiful structure, within the walls of which this brilliant company has this day met to celebrate the opening. I had the honour of laying the foundation stone of this building twelve months ago. I have carefully watched its progress, and I have been spared in the kind providence of God to witness its inauguration, and, I unhesitatingly declare that I never was engaged in any work that afforded me greater pleasure, and I am sure that the other gentlemen who contributed towards its erection when they cast their eyes around this splendid hall will also regard it with feelings of pleasure and satisfaction. I believe, Sir, that the projectors of the scheme were actuated by no selfish or mercenary motives when they commenced the work, their one idea was to provide a sheltered market where the buyers and sellers of corn and other products of the earth might transact their business with comfort and convenience, that they might be relieved from the great annoyance of being jostled about and trampled upon by the traffic in the public thoroughfare which was doubled on a market day, that they might no longer be exposed to the stormy blasts of winter and the scorching heat of summer, that the usual place of meeting which might have been suitable for the Goths and Vandals should be supplanted by one more consonant with the views and ideas of civilised society in the enlightened age, and I think, Sir, it will be universally acknowledged that the proprietors have conferred a great benefit on the community at large. Sir, I have heard it frequently surmised that there may be some who frequent our market who will not avail themselves of the accommodation that has been provided for them, but will continue to meet in the public street for the transaction of their business as hitherto, but I trust for the honour of human nature as well as for the credit of our own good town and the surrounding district that those surmises will not be realized. I hope there will not be found amongst us a single individual so far forgetting his duty to society as to cast contempt on the effort that have been put forth, and the money that has been expended to promote his comfort. I have already stated that it was not under the idea that it was to be a lucrative speculation that the good work was entered upon, yet I have no doubt that with prudent and liberal management a fair return will be made for the capital invested, but should it happen otherwise I feel satisfied that the proprietors will consider their money well spent. I again thank you for your good wishes. (Applause).

Mr Marjoribanks, M.P. then rose to propose the next toast, and was received with great applause. In giving the next toast, he said, he could have wished that it had fallen into abler hands. But he had this satisfaction in proposing it that, from its nature, it would be as easy as it was pleasant. They would not require that he should enter minutely into the history of the town, the healths of whose Mayor and Corporation he was about to propose, but they should require of him that he should approach the subject in all sincerity of heart and good will. The toast he had to propose was that of the 'health of the Mayor and Corporation of Berwick'. The Mayor and Corporation of Berwick have always distinguished themselves in the pages of Border history. It was in 1603 that James the Sixth of Scotland was their guest, and it was in this town that he was first proclaimed King of Great Britain, France and Ireland. On that occasion, he knighted the Mayor, and gave the town the grant of the Borough lands. In 1639 Berwick had also the honour of receiving another royal visitor, in the person of Charles the First. That monarch renewed their charter; and again in 1787, they received royalty in the person of the Duke of Cumberland, who opened a ball with Miss Johnston, a celebrated beauty of the period, and a brilliant sample, if it was not presumptuous in him to say so turning to the gallery of the beauty which I see around me (Great applause). But the Mayor and Corporation in more recent times have also done much for the borough. In 1633 they obtained a grant for the bridge which now spans their noble river; and although it can not perhaps bear comparison with the great structure which has since sprung into existence, it still remains a

monument of what the Corporation did for the town. In addition to that, however, they procured grants for the building of their church and the Town hall – the latter a noble a structure as may anywhere be seen. From that time to the present there had not been a good work in which the Mayor and Corporation had not been engaged; indeed, he might say there had not been a good work in which they had not taken a leading part. He might go on to speak at length of what successive Mayors and Corporations had done for Berwick; but he would content himself with these remarks, and would simply propose the health of ‘the Mayor and Corporation of Berwick’. (Applause). The Mayor returned thanks and took the opportunity of expressing a hope that the building in which they were assembled would prove a lasting benefit to the town.’

Mr Milne Home of Wedderburn said he rose for the purpose of proposing the health of two gentlemen – one of whom he was glad to see present - who occupied a position of great responsibility. Elected by the suffrages of the citizens of that town these two gentlemen went to Parliament to assist in legislation of the country. The duty of a member of Parliament was of no light description. It was a duty which could not be performed without great labour and much study. The members of the House of Commons now divide with the Queen the duty of administering the affairs of the nation. That is the case now, but it was not so once. In former times ministers were allowed to conduct the business of the country without much interference; but the system has undergone great change. Now the House of Commons is an all important and influential body. There is no great question which comes under the consideration of her Majesty’s Ministers, which is not submitted to the House of Commons, and by them freely discussed and narrowly investigated. Members of Parliament were not now what they once were. They now laboured for the good of the country, they were answerable for whatever they said or did in their official capacity to their constituents and they were liable to dismissal if they neglected or endangered the interests of the latter and to be retained if they merited the confidence of their supporters. The members of the House of Commons as he had said, now divide with the Queen the administration of the country; and therefore they were entitled to all respect and honour – not because of their high position only, but because of their hard working days and restless nights, and their labour is not the less trying said Mr Home, that their debates have to be carried on in an atmosphere of heat and impurity. It was their duty, he said, to pay all honour to their representatives in Parliament; and as he saw one of the members for the borough present he would couple his name with the toast he had to propose; and he would only add a word at seeing him amongst them. He now gave ‘the members of Parliament coupled with the name of Mr Marjoribanks’. (Applause).

D.C. Marjoribanks, Esq., M.P. in reply said he thanked them much for the kind reception they had given to the toast proposed by Mr Milne Home. He was there amongst them with feelings of the greatest satisfaction; and if anything could enhance his gratification it would be that that building would confer a great benefit on those in whose welfare he naturally took a very great interest. If they went on at the rate at which they had thus begun, he had no doubt that, in time, they would come up to the description of that Frenchman, who wrote in 1762, and who described Berwick as the greatest and most beautiful town he had seen in this country. (Laughter and cheers). He (Mr Marjoribanks) was afraid that he could no go quite so far as a later writer who described their town as one of the greatest and most important of which the country could boast (Laughter and cheers), and the same writer compared their river to the Thames – there (said Mr Marjoribanks) they had certainly the best of it. But although he could scarcely hope to see Berwick attain to the prosperity which the French writer in question argued might and perhaps would be the case, he yet trusted to see the town prosper and increase greatly. (Applause). He would add, before sitting down, on behalf of Mr Stapleton, that that gentleman had, on Friday night requested him to express to the meeting his sorrow that he could not be present. It would have given him the greatest pleasure to be present, but his absence was unavoidable.

Mr Watson Askew then in a few appropriate words proposed ‘the members of Parliament for the adjoining counties’.

Mr Wilkie begged to propose the health of the ladies. (Applause). He had been requested to propose the toast, and he had very great pleasure in proposing it, and in coupling it with the name of Mrs Robertson of Ladykirk. (Cheers).

The Chairman in returning thanks said he begged to thank them in the name of their wives, sisters and daughters, and that of his own wife, who he was especially desirous should be coupled with those who adorned the gallery of this occasion . He had on many occasions like this taken the liberty of giving advice to his young bachelor friends and he would again say that the sooner they followed his example and sought the hand of a lady of their own county, the better for them, as they might take his word for it, that a wife was a young man’s best companion, and an old man’s best adviser. (Great cheering). Further, especially after such a display of beauty as he had seen tonight, let them not think of going from home in search of a partner for life, but follow the example of my two young friends on the right and left, of one of whom I shall say nothing, expecting that I should rather have seen my daughter married to him, than to a man of the highest rank in England. And though I must spare the blushes of the other, I must add that a more charming young lady, or one better brought up than the future bride Sir John Marjoribanks does not live in this or any other county. (Cheers). And you have only to follow his example, I am persuaded, to be much happier men than you are. I shall only add on the part of my own wife, whose family, like my own, have long been known amongst you, that her greatest delight is to make her home at Ladykirk happy and comfortable to all who will do us the honour and the favour to come and see us there. (Great applause).

Sir John Marjoribanks, Harts..., proposed the next toast. He said before proposing the toast which has fallen to my lot, they would perhaps permit him to Add his thanks to those of Mr Robertson for the manner in which they had received and responded to the toast of the ladies. (Applause). He would now call upon them all to fill a bumper in which to drink the toast he was about to give them, for it demanded a bumper. He did not know who it was that had suggested that toast to him, but whoever it was he might be assured that he could not have given it to one more anxious to see it receive a warm and cordial reception. His house had always been firmly and intimately associated with the interests of Berwick, and he was glad to see opposite him the flag of Berwick and that of his own house, hanging side by side. He saw, too, words inscribed on the front of the gallery and below it, which should remind them how intimately the town of Berwick was associated with the agricultural interest. Those words (looking to the gallery) were now surmounted by a lovely wreath. (Applause). The words to which he referred were ‘Speed the Plough’ and ‘Success to Agriculture’. In the wishes so expressed the town must cordially join, because its prosperity depended in a great measure on the agricultural success of the country. The toast which he wished them to drink in a bumper, was ‘Prosperity to the town of Berwick’. (Applause).

Mr Alderman Bogue returned thanks.

Mr Ramsey requested the gentlemen present to fill up a bumper for the toast he was about to give them. The toast he was about to propose to them was that of their chairman. To say all he could say in favour of Mr Robertson would, he thought, savour too much of flattery; and, as they well knew, their chairman disliked anything approaching flattery; and at all events, to say all he could say of the chairman, would be merely a work of supererogation. He would only add, and they knew as well as he did, that their chairman did everything well, and with a willing hand. He gave them, then, the health of their chairman, and he called upon them to drink it in a bumper.. (Great and continued applause).

The chairman in reply begged to thank his old friend of 25 years standing, Mr Ramsey, for the handsome manner in which he had proposed his health. Mr Ramsey and he were both younger sons;



and had to make their own way in life; and he was not sure but that there was more fun in climbing the ladder of life as a younger son, than in reposing in the cradle of an elder one (Laughter). He said that without any disparagement to the five elder sons around him; but as a comfort to the younger sons present as there must always be more younger than older ones, and that none of them may have reason to despair. – (cheers)- he now begged to thank them all for the kind manner in which they had received the toast; it was a proof, if proof were wanting, that a man who did his best to promote the good of the people, and of the country in which he lived, would always receive the thanks, and with them, the approbation of his fellow countrymen. (Cheers). He would only add that there ever had been and ever would be a strong feeling within his mind that there was something much beyond a man enjoying comfort and happiness himself, but also as much as he could to contribute to the good and to the happiness of others, and no less the freedom of thought and action of others and of himself. He had come here today, by their desire, to fulfil the duties of chairman, however, imperfectly; but this much he would add that whenever his countrymen called upon him to fulfil any duty, especially where their interests were concerned, he should ever be ready to obey their call. (Great applause).

Mr Milne Home had the pleasure of proposing the next toast – a toast they would agree with him in considering most suitable for the occasion. Berwick being most intimately connected with the whole three interests enumerated in the toast. With regard to agriculture, which stands at the head of the list, the connection is obvious. The greatest portion of the wealth of the town was derived from land, and from the landed proprietors in the county; and for the requirements of commerce they had their noble river and bay. The manufacturing interest was not at that height in connection with the town, which considering the facilities of which the district could boast should be the case. The town afforded great and peculiar facilities for manufacturers; and if there were fewer in the meantime than was desirable he was at least glad to hear that in this respect there had been an improvement of late years. An extensive saw-yard with steam machinery had lately been established by Mr Allan, whom he saw present; and a chemical work had also been established by Mr Wilson, whose acquaintance he had not the pleasure of possessing. Berwick derived very great benefit from agriculture, commerce, and manufacture, and it was proper that they should be joined as they had been in his toast. But there was another reason why they should be united. All these interests are of importance not alone to Berwick, but to the country. They form the great part of the stability of the country; and they cannot be separated. The eye cannot say to the hand you are unnecessary to me, nor the hand to the foot, you are of no use, I can get on quite well without you; and just in the same way these interests cannot be separated; agriculture was now in such a state that without help from the other two interests it could not get on. The agriculturists were indebted to commerce and manufactures in many ways. Perhaps he could not give a better illustration of what he meant to say than by alluding to the making of sulphuric acid. Its preparation was for the purpose of giving to farmers the manure called superphosphate of lime – a manure which enables the farmer to raise a crop of turnips at one half the cost of guano. But how was this superphosphate of lime made. It was made from a substance found on their own fields, thus giving importance to the manufacturing interest, and which was brought also from America, thus giving encouragement to the commercial interest. It would only be right, he thought, in giving his toast that he should couple with it the name of the gentleman who had established the Chemical Works of which he had spoken, and who had consequently been the first to introduce in Berwick that species of manufacture which directly united the three interests which formed the subject of his toast. He would therefore give ‘The agricultural, commercial, and manufacturing interests’ coupled with the name of Mr Wilson. (Applause).

Mr Wilson in reply said, it was certainly with great satisfaction that he now rose to return thanks for their kindness. He had not thought his efforts in the establishment of his manufactory some twenty

years ago, of so much importance as to warrant the connection of his name with that toast that evening. Mr Wilson then went on to describe the connection existing between the farmers and a manufactory such as his, and concluded by again thanking those present for the manner in which they had received the toast of his health.

The chairman then begged that Sir John Marjoribanks, who has shortly to leave the hall, might be permitted to give the toast which was placed opposite his name, instead of in the order on the list. Sir John Marjoribanks, Bart.. said that 'the tenants of Northumberland, Berwickshire and Roxburghshire' was the toast which he had now the pleasure of proposing. There might be good landlords, he said, but a very great deal depended on their having good tenants. It was to the good tenants who were enterprising and energetic in the cultivation and improvement of their land, that they were indebted for the great success of agriculture in these counties. They were all much indebted to them, and he had great pleasure in asking them to drink a bumper to the health of the 'Tenantry of Northumberland, Berwickshire, and Roxburghshire'.

Mr r. Black returned thanks. During the delivery of his speech the meeting got impatient, and he was obliged to sit down without having given them the benefit off his experience.

Mr Glendinning was then called upon. The toast which had been entrusted to his charge was that of the 'Committee of management'. It would not be necessary for him to say a word to ensure its success. It would give the greatest satisfaction to the committee to see that their labours had been crowned with so complete success. In the erection of such a commodious, extensive and well proportioned room. And those who were in the habit of attending the Berwick corn market would also rejoice that they had now a room in which they could transact their business with the greatest possible comfort and convenience. It was in the name of the latter that he wished more especially to return thanks to the committee of management. (Applause).

Mr Geo. Smith returned thanks. The Committee of management were certainly much obliged to all present for their kindness. They had the satisfaction of knowing that they had done their best as a committee. There was one thing he should like to say in connection with that toast. The committee of management had, of course, done a great deal towards the erection of the building, but they had been much indebted in the first instance to a gentleman who was present and whose name he would mention. He referred to Mr James Sinclair. (Applause) But for the exertion of that gentleman he did not think they now would have been inaugurating the opening of that building. To the energy and unceasing efforts they were much indebted. He might therefore, he hoped, take the liberty of proposing the gentleman's health. (Cheers).

Mr Sinclair returned thanks, in a few remarks.

Mr Clay in a few words which were wholly inaudible where we sat, proposed the 'landed proprietors of the district'.

Mr Wilkie returned thanks.

Mr Geo. Smith in a few happy sentences, proposed 'the heir of Ladykirk', to which

The chairman made a short but feeling reply.

Mr Home then proposed the health of the Secretary to the Committee of Management, Mr Stephen Sanderson, Solicitor.

Mr Sanderson made a suitable reply.

Mr Marjoribanks proposed the health of the 'Architect and Contractor for the Corn Exchange', Mr Johnston and Mr Reed, to which both gentlemen replied.

Mr Glendinning of Broomdykes then said he had been called upon to give the next toast. It was that of the corn buyers; and he proposed the toast with the greatest possible pleasure.

Mr Clay replied.

Mr Pinkerton gave the 'Mayor and Croupiers'. He said he was only sorry that his toast was given in the absence of some of the Croupiers, who had left, but they still had the Mayor, Mr Glendinning

and Mr Turnbull present. He would, therefore, propose that the company should drink the healths of these gentlemen. (Applause).

Mr Mayor returned thanks, and remarked that they had had such a good chairman, that the croupiers had had really nothing to do.

Mr Ralph Forster of Sasoon Seal, then gave 'the Tweed', and success to the fishings on both sides of it, which was duly honoured.

Mr Tait of Longridge proposed the last toast of the evening – 'The Earl of Wemya and his Foxhounds.'. He said he was confident the toast would be well received by the present company. It was to the health of a noble lord who hunts the counties on both sides of the Tweed. His lordship has hunted these counties for several years past, and he was sure the worthy chairman would bear him out when he stated that no master of fox-hounds could do their arduous duties in the field more affably and efficient than the noble Earl. (Vehement cheering).

The chairman then gave to 'Their next merry meeting in the hall' which was welcomed with nine times nine, and the meeting broke up.

In the course of the evening the band played several beautiful and popular tunes, and Mr Ross himself sang 'The White Squall', in splendid style and was rapturously applauded. Mr Boig also contributed to the amusement of the evening by singing in good style 'We'll hae nane but Highland bonnets here' and 'The Huntsman's Chorus'.

Mr Tetlow deserves hearty thanks for the manner in which the dinner was arranged and served.

July 3, p. 2

#### MR WILSON'S CONCERT

We stated last week that Mr Wilson's concert in the new Corn Exchange was looked forward to with great interest by all classes in the community. Our anticipations were fully realised on its occurrence, as we have never previously seen so great a gathering at any entertainment within the borough.

The doors were opened at half-past seven o'clock, and immediately thereon a current of company went into the building. The ingress was unaccompanied by the least confusion and the various gradations of situation were reached easily. In half an hour the building was completely full. The seats on the spacious floor were occupied by a well packed, but orderly and decorous company; while the gallery was resplendent with as gay and fashionable a party as we think it is capable for this town and district to produce. All were comfortably seated and possessed the advantages of seeing, and being seen from the other parts of the house.

Most of the ornaments hung up on the day of the dinner had been removed, but the introduction of a sufficient amount of gas lights had been completed.

The orchestra on stage for the performances was erected at the extreme end of the room, and the entire party announced shortly after eight o'clock made their appearance. The performances commenced with a Grand National Overture, admirably played by the orchestra; then followed 'The Rose of Tralee', sung by Mr Wilson. His appearance on the stage was the signal for a hearty round of applause. His singing throughout was excellent and was warmly applauded. The orchestral accompaniments too were of a superior order. We think we never heard better performed. The singing of Mrs William Howard was splendid, and in all her songs she was rapturously applauded and in most instances encored. Verdi's Aria 'Ah forse lui' was in our opinion the gem of the evening, not merely from the singing of the lady, but also from the admirable accompaniments of the orchestra. Mrs Howard's songs of 'My boy Tammy' and 'Cam ye by Athol' were also excellent. The solos by the various instrumentalists also deserve a compliment. We might, however, go through the whole programme and of each piece repeat our praise.

The entertainment proved itself worthy of the occasion on which it took place, and as we formerly stated that the good taste of Mr Wilson was a sufficient guarantee to the public that the concert would be worthy of the most extensive patronage, we think we may now assert that our prophesy did not fail.

The hall, as we have said, was full, the numbers present we guess at about nine hundred on the floor and between 250 and 300 in the gallery – in all about 1,200 persons, and this we think may be considered about the number the hall will hold without over crowding.

The behaviour of this immense throng was beyond all praise. Only one man, and we regret we could not ascertain his name, as we should have published it, being inebriated was for a short time noisy and turbulent. The police, however, speedily had him in custody and he was marched off as unfit to be associated with the better behaved portion of his fellow men.

The opening of the Corn Exchange has therefore been completed with great éclat. We hope that on its being thrown open for business tomorrow, a like success will attend it, and the speculations of our merchants and tradesmen be incited to greater efforts.

July 10, Local News p.3.

**BERWICK CORN EXCHANGE COMPANY – LIMITED.** The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Berwick Corn Exchange Company – Limited, will be held in the Exchange Buildings, on Saturday, the 17<sup>th</sup> day of July instant, at half-past eleven o'clock forenoon precisely.

By Order

Steph. Sanderson, Secretary

Berwick, 7<sup>th</sup> July, 1858.

repeated 17 July 1858.

July 17, p.2.

**NEWSPAPERS.** The newspaper taken at the Berwick Corn Exchange Newsroom will be sold by auction, for the ensuing year, in the Exchange on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> July instant at 2 o'clock afternoon.

They comprise:

All the Berwick papers, Newcastle Journal, Daily Scotsman, Illustrated London News, Punch, The Times of Friday, The Kelso Mail of Thursday.

The papers may be removed after 4 o'clock on Saturday.

Mr James Purves, Auctioneer, Berwick 15 July, 1858

July 17, Local News p. 3.

**THE CORN EXCHANGE** – The second day's use of the Corn Exchange on Saturday last was equally successful as the first. The receipt of pence for entrance amounted to 26s 9d, and we understand that a further sale of forty season tickets took place.

July 24, p.2.

**THE CORN EXCHANGE.** The second annual meeting of this company was held in the Directors' room of the building. Robert Ramsey, Esq., the chairman of the board of directors, was in the chair, and there were besides about forty members present.

The Secretary read the following report, which was unanimously approved of:-

'The Directors in the first place beg leave to congratulate the shareholders on their being able to hold this their second annual meeting in their own premises, and trust that the arrangements which have been made, and are in progress, will meet the approval not merely of the shareholders, but of the public generally who frequent the Corn Exchange Market.

In accordance with the rules of the society the Directors beg to submit the accounts hereto annexed numbered A, B and C. From account A it will be seen that the balance of actual receipts and expenditure up to the 30<sup>th</sup> June last shows a balance due by the company of £ 541 12s 4d, which has been obtained as a temporary advance from the bankers, on deposit of the company's title deeds. On the day of presenting this report, however, a loan of £ 1,000, being the amount authorised to be borrowed by the last general meeting, will be completed on mortgage at four per cent. Statement B is prepared with the view of showing the present actual position of the company, irrespective of anything but the debt they have to provide for, and the funds which may be relied on as applicable to that purpose, and from it the shareholders will observe that the amount of capital contemplated to be raised on the formation of the company (£ 5000) will suffice for the occupation of the present building.

The last statement contains a general statement of affairs.

To enable the Directors, however, to complete the buildings and place the affairs of the company on a satisfactory footing, it is necessary that the shares yet undisposed of (57 in number) should be taken up; and now that the Exchange and adjoining rooms are so far advanced, the Directors trust that the shareholders and the public at large will cooperate in promoting the completion of the whole by subscribing the remainder of the necessary capital.

The Exchange was first opened as a Corn Exchange on Saturday July 3<sup>rd</sup>, and there have already been sold and paid for one hundred and sixty-four season tickets at seven shillings and sixpence each, and twenty two stalls at two pounds each, while many gentlemen whose names were put down for season tickets have not yet had an opportunity of obtaining them. The penny admission on the first market day produced one pound six shillings, and on the second one pound six shillings and tenpence, and the Directors have been greatly gratified to find that on each Saturday on which the Exchange has been opened for public use, the gentlemen attending the Corn Market have unanimously availed themselves of the accommodation provided for them.

At the last annual meeting the Directors were authorised to dispose of the vacant site at the north end of the Exchange, and they accordingly endeavoured to do so, but unsuccessfully. The site therefore remains the property of the company, and it is necessary that, in order to complete the frontage some new measures should be adopted for having it built upon.

The Directors at their last meeting had laid before them an offer from Mr Marjoribanks, M.P., either to purchase the site at the price of £ 200, on the condition of his completing the frontage in unison with the other building, or, if the company will build upon it, to invest £ 200 in shares towards providing the necessary capital. A majority of the Directors present at the meeting were in favour of selling the site subject to proper conditions as to the completion and maintenance of the frontage, while a minority recommended that the site should be retained by the company, and the frontage completed, reserving the space behind for such purpose as the possible contingencies of the Exchange might render necessary. Before, however, taking any further steps in the matter the Directors seek from the shareholders an expression of their opinion as to the course which should be adopted.

It only remains for the Directors to state that according to the rules of the society Messrs Melrose, W. Nicholson and Black retire from the directorship, but are eligible for re-election.

It is also for the meeting to elect auditors for the coming year, the present auditors being Messrs. William Paulin and James H. Innes, who are also re-eligible.'

ROBERT RAMSEY, Chairman.

The accounts referred to were produced for examination. They are too extensive for our publication, besides the report furnishes all the information which it seems requisite to give.

Mr Wilson moved, and was seconded by Mr Maul, that Mr Marjoribanks's offer of £ 200 for the vacant space of ground be accepted.

Mr Clay moved as an amendment that the meeting adjourned for fourteen days, and that the Secretary in the meantime enquire whether Mr Marjoribanks will consent to purchase the front portion of the site merely, the company retaining the back portion.

After considerable discussion the amendment was adopted by the meeting, and the adjournment took place accordingly.

The three directors and the auditors were reelected.

The meeting afterwards proceeded to sell the newspapers supplied to the reading room, all of which, except one or two of the penny dailies, were sold at fair prices.

The receipts at the door of the Exchange on Saturday were again satisfactory. The pence received for entrants amounted to £ 1 1s 6d, besides these one stall was let, and season tickets sold, which realised £ 8 more.

Aug. 7. p. 2.

NEW CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK-ON-TWEED. On Friday evening, 13<sup>th</sup> August, 1858, Mr Lloyd will give MUSICAL DIAPOLOGUE entitled 'Facts of the day and fancies of the hour' with popular illustrations of character, in which he will be assisted by Miss L.M. Wilson and Mr Arthur Lloyd. Doors open at half-past seven – Entertainment to commence at eight. Tickets to be had of Mr Rennison, Bookseller, Bridge Street. Reserved seats (in gallery), 2s; body of hall 1s; promenade 6d. Carriages may be ordered for ten.

Repeated Aug. 14.

Aug. 7, Local News p. 3.

FACTS OF THE DAY AND FANCIES OF THE HOUR – It will be seen from our advertising columns that the Messrs. Lloyd are about to pay us another visit, and their entertainment under the above head will be given in the large hall of the Corn Exchange. Of Mr Lloyd senior we need say little to recommend him again to our readers. He is a well-known and highly popular artist; and never fails to delight his audience. His son, Mr Arthur Lloyd, is a very clever and promising young man and has already created a favourable impression in Berwick. On this occasion these gentlemen will be assisted by Miss M. Wilson. There is little doubt that those who assemble to witness 'facts of the day, and fancies of the hour', on the evening of the 13<sup>th</sup>, will be highly gratified. We recommend our readers to patronise the entertainment.

Aug. 21, Local News p. 3.

MR LLOYD – This gentleman assisted by his son, Mr Arthur Lloyd, gave his entertainment in the Corn Exchange on Friday evening. The attendance was tolerable numerous though not sufficient to fill so large a space as the new building affords. The characters assumed and the plot of the entertainment were the same as the parties appeared in here eight months ago, and which they exhibited to the best advantage and for which they gained considerable applause from the audience. The opinion we now entertain respecting the entertainment is the same as we formerly expressed, namely that we do not think Mr Lloyd senior has made a wise choice in forsaking the round of characters in comedy and farce which he formerly, as a member of a regular company of comedians, sustained so well, for his present entertainment, and his son in continually grinding over the same piece is likely to destroy all talent he may possess for general stage business. In fact we long to see Mr Lloyd back to his former position.

Sept. 4, Front Page.

BERWICK CORN EXCHANGE. – ‘ The directors beg to call attention to the advantages afforded by the new Corn Exchange for sales by auction of every description of property, meetings of agricultural societies, concerts and public meetings of all kinds.

There are also rooms attached to the Exchange – which appointments may be made for the transaction of business by trustees, meetings of creditors, committees etc.

The directors have also arranged for the exhibition of placard advertisements in the hall and lobby on market days.

The charges are moderate, and may be ascertained on application to Stephen Sanderson, Secretary. Quay Walls, Berwick, 30<sup>th</sup> Aug, 1858.

Sept. 11, Local News p.3.

THE CORN EXCHANGE – The surplus space of ground belonging to the Corn Exchange Company, and situated on the north side of their erection was on Saturday offered for sale by auction as a building site. No bidders, however, appeared and after being put up it was bought in at the reserve bidding of £ 200.

Sep. 18. p.

FOUND – in the Corn Exchange, today (Saturday) a sum of money. The owner will have it restored on application to Mr Philip Wilson, Dunse.

Berwick, Sep. 13<sup>th</sup>, 1858.

Sep. 18, Local News p. 3.

MONEY FOUND - On Saturday last, during market hours, a sum of money was observed lying in the Corn Exchange, beyond the charge of any one. It was taken possession of by the observer, and although he immediately published the circumstance by means of handbills, the package remains unclaimed.

Sep. 25, Local News p.3

THE NEW CORN EXCHANGE AND THE HARVEST – The newly erected building in the borough is an excellent indicator of the state of forwardness of the work of the harvest in our neighbourhood. The payments for admittance tell the amount of attendance pretty correctly, and in looking over these for a few Saturdays back we see at once how the farmers are gradually getting released from their work at home and able to make their re-appearance in the place for the sale of their crops. Three weeks ago the payments of pence at the door of the Exchange were as low as thirteen shillings, the harvest was then at its throngest; next Saturday they reached £ 1 9s 4d – the cause of the change is very apparent. The latter amount speaks to 400 admittances. The holders of the season tickets are additional, and as there are 200 of these, it is a fair estimate to conclude that one half of them were present on Saturday. The attendance, therefore, must have amounted to upward of 500 persons. A very respectable number of business men produced from our own district. The large hall though respectably occupied was by no means crowded. We have the gratification of remarking as a conclusion to our paragraph that the more the new building is occupied it is the more appreciated and admired.

16 Oct. p. 2.

CORN EXCHANGE BERWICK – On Thursday evening, October 21, 1858, an illustrated lecture will be delivered by Mr E. Graves, ( of the electric telegraph company), on the electric telegraph, what it is and what it does. The lecture will be illustrated by a complete set of apparatus used for the transmission of messages. Wires will be led into the room, so as to place it in direct communication

with Newcastle and London. Questions asked by the audience will be answered from those places, and the latest news of interest signalled from London. Bells will be rung by the electric current. A complete set of submarine cables, including the great Atlantic cable will be exhibited and their construction explained. The mystery of the spirit rapping will be illustrated and the means by which the deception is carried on explained. The electric light will be displayed and a small cannon fired by the electric current. Admission – Gallery, 2s; Body of the Hall, 1s; Back seats, 6d. Doors open at half-past seven, to commence at eight o'clock. Tickets may be had at the Advertiser Office, of Mr Melrose, Bookseller, High Street, and at the doors of the Hall.

Oct. 30, Local News p.3.

THE CORN EXCHANGE BALL – We are glad to learn that the ball proposed on the completion of the Corn Exchange is not to be omitted. Arrangements are now being made, and we believe the event will come off about the end of November.

Nov. 6, Local News p.3.

THE CORN EXCHANGE BALL – The forward announcement of this entertainment appears in our present impression. It contains a long list of influential stewards, all of whom will interest themselves in the success of the project. The most popular ball musicians in Edinburgh, under the direction of Mr Howard of the Theatre Royal, have been engaged, and within an apartment unsurpassed in its arrangements and general appearance, we anticipate a scene of gaiety and festivity not witnessed in the borough for a long time.

Nov. 6, Front page.

GRAND OPENING BALL IN THE CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK-UPON-TWEED. A public ball will take place in the Berwick Corn Exchange on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> November instant.

STEWARDS

SIR JOHN MARJORIBANKS, Baronet

DAVID ROBERTSON, ESQ, of Ladykirk.

JOHN WILKIE, Esq., of Foulden.

CAPTAIN SMITH, R.N., Ava Lodge.

CAPTAIN INNES, Aton Castle.

DOCTOR KIRKWOOD, Berwick.

Messrs. ROBERT RAMSEY, Tweedmouth.

- DAVID LOGAN, Fairney Castle.
- PATRICK CLAY, Berwick
- JOHN TAIT, Langrigg.
- JAMES GREY, Kimmerston.
- JAMES ALLAN, Berwick.
- GEORGE SMITH, Ancroft.
- THOMAS HUBBACK, Sunlaws Hill.
- DAVID LOGAN, Berwick.
- WILLIAM SMITH, Learmouth.

Ladies' tickets – 5s, Gentlemen's 10s 6d may be had at Mr Buchanan's print-seller, Hide Hill, Berwick. BALL AT EIGHT O'CLOCK. Ladies and gentlemen are requested to obtain their tickets as early as possible, to enable the stewards to make the necessary arrangements.

STEPH. SANDERSON, Hon. Secy.

Berwick, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1858.



Repeated Nov. 13 and Nov 20.

Nov. 20, Local News p.3.

THE CORN EXCHANGE BALL – An additional intimation of the forthcoming ball is to be observed in the windows of the drapers in town, in all of which great displays of rich and elegant dresses, appropriate for the ball, are being displayed, and are attracting crowds of admirers. We never remember seeing so great a choice before.

Nov. 27, Local News p.3

THE CORN EXCHANGE BALL – We are enabled through the courtesy of the local committee to afford the following information to such of our readers as intend going to the ball this evening. Parties will be admitted by the principal entrance only, from which should the night prove unfavourable an awning will be extended as far as the kerbstone. On the right hand side of the lobby is a dressing room for ladies; and on the left a cloak room for gentlemen. Each person on entering will be presented with a programme of the dances, music etc, the order of which will be strictly adhered to. The whole of the magnificent hall will be available for dancing, with the exception of the space underneath the gallery on each side of the entrance, which will be used on one side as a card room, on the other as a refreshment room, where tea, coffee, cakes etc will be provided until the supper room is thrown open. The right hand room at the further end of the hall will be reserved as a private sitting room for ladies only. The one on the left hand will be opened after supper, under the superintendence of Mr Edward Davidson, for the supply of such other refreshments as are not provided by the stewards. The large supper room upstairs will be thrown open about midnight, and will continue so during the remainder of the ball, so that parties may retire for refreshments as best suits their dancing engagements. The whole of the refreshments are provided and superintended by Mr Littlejohn of Edinburgh, whose name will be a sufficient guarantee for everything that is elegant and good. The orchestra will consist of eight performers, under the direction of Mr W. Howard of Edinburgh. The stewards have divided themselves into sub-committees to ensure as perfect management as possible.

Dec. 4, p. 2.

#### THE CORN EXCHANGE BALL.

The dancing assembly consequent on the opening of the newly erected Corn Exchange, took place on Friday night, and was attended with great success. The announcement of the occurrence has excited a very general interest and curiosity, not merely among the class of persons likely to attend such an entertainment, but among the public generally. Consequently, for several days prior to the event, very little else seemed to be talked about, and on the night of the assembly, and near to the hour of its commencement, the streets of Hide Hill and Sandgate were literally crowded with people anxious to witness the arrival of the ball company. The sides of the entrance to the hall were packed with a crowd composed of both sexes, who seemed to be much gratified by a sight of the various arrivals, and recognizing some of the company as they alighted, they very good humouredly favoured them with rounds of cheers – Mr Robertson of Ladykirk, the Mayor, and some others coming in for a share of these popular demonstrations. Notwithstanding this state of excitement the conduct of the crowd outside was very becoming and decorous. We have heard of no act of rudeness, nor was the free access to the building at all interrupted. The Corn Exchange Ball appeared a popular occurrence, and the crowds outside, as well as those inside, shared in the feeling. The stewards of the ball were early in attendance and were indefatigable in their efforts to accommodate all parties. As announced by us on several weeks the following gentlemen were

THE STEWARDS

[See entry Nov. 6.]

The local members of the directory subsequently arranged themselves as follows namely – the Dancing room committee, Card room committee, and Supper room committee. This division not only lightened the labour, but secured a more accurate supervision. Where all proceeded so pleasantly an active share in the management could not be otherwise than agreeable. The dressing rooms on either side of the entrance answered their purposes admirably, a numerous party of male and female waiters were in attendance in these and rendered good service.

THE BALL – The time announced for the opening of the hall was eight o'clock, but previous to that hour several parties had arrived from the country. Conveyances kept rapidly setting down company, and when the party was completed – which was shortly after nine o'clock – a most exhilarating and delightful scene was presented. The splendid apartment, with its pilastered walls tastefully coloured, and its lofty and peculiar roof was brilliantly lighted with thirteen gas lustres. The windows were slightly festooned with evergreens, and the walls of the hall were furnished with a variety of seats, composed of sofas ottomans, and chairs tastefully intermingled. The company consisted of 96 ladies and 215 gentlemen – in all 311. The dresses of the ladies were of the most elegant description, and presented all the varied changes of colour and material. Among the gentlemen the usual ball dress was predominant, but that was diversified by the 'scarlet uniform of the hunting club, the richly embroidered dress of the British navy, and the picturesque dress of the highlanders of Scotland. It would be impossible to select one lady as being the belle of the party, either as regards dress, or natural accomplishments. Suffice it, therefore, to say that the town and district fully maintained their long-established character in these respects. With the exceptions of the balls on the occasion of the two cattle shows, no such gathering has taken place here within our recollection; and very probably none since the occasion when Miss Johnston of Hilton obtained a popularity which has handed her name down to the present remote period.

The space underneath the gallery on the right hand of the entrance was appropriated to the refreshments of tea and coffee, and that on the left to card tables, both of which were much resorted to in the course of the night.

At half-past eight o'clock the ball was opened by a contra dance, which was led off by the lady of Sir John Marjoribanks of Lees, and Patrick Clay, Esq., J.P.. The several dances in the following programme succeeded in rapid succession namely:-

1. COUNTRY DANCE
2. QUADRILLE La belle orientale La Motte
3. WALZ Isabella Mellon
4. QUADRILLE Palermo D'Albert
5. GALOP War -
6. LANCERS -
7. WALZ Martha D'Albert
- GALOP Emperor's
- 8 REEL
- 9 QUADRILLE Royal Scotch Laurent.
- 10 POLKA Soldiers D'Albert
- 11 COUNTRY DANCE
- 12 LANCERS
- 13 QUADRILLE Serenade Balfe.
- 14 WALZ First Love Farmer
- GALOP Indiana W. Howard
- 15 LA TEMPETE
- 16 QUADRILLE Court of St. James D'Albert

17 POLKA	Delhi	-
18 REEL OF TULLOCH		
19 QUADRILLE	Highlanders	Laurant
20 WALZ	Star of the west	-
GALOP	Yeomanry	Howard
21 REEL		
22 LA TEMPETE.		

The various dances were very numerously joined in, especially the quadrilles and contra dances, and on their occurrence the floor was literally covered. Waltzes and gallops were very popular with the younger portion of the company, and some of these were very gracefully executed; the shape of the hall seemed well adapted for this description of dancing. La Tempete and the Scotch reels were joined in with all the hilarity and enthusiasm which these dances are so well calculated to inspire, and the spirit with which all parties executed these dances exhibited the cordiality and good feeling which prevailed.

#### THE SUPPER

This entertainment was set out in the apartment in the front part of the building, and over the entrance. There was one table only which ran the entire length of the room, nearly fifty feet long. At this the company stood on one side while a numerous party of waiters were ready on the opposite side to supply their wants. The viands and the other furnishings of the table were supplied by Mr Littlejohn of Edinburgh, and never did that popular caterer for public taste merit higher praise. As a mere sight the table was elegant and rich – the forest and the barn yard alike had contributed to the refreshment and even the plumage of the more elegant of the feathered creation were made subservient to the adornment of the table. Silver and crystal sparkled under the gas lights and the fanciful garnishings of the various joints were very neatly executed and some of them not a little amusing to contemplate. Fruits preserved from the various seasons of the year were presented in all their peculiar luxuriance. Wines were abundant, and the attendance was excellent.

Shortly before twelve o'clock the supper room was thrown open. The company repaired to it in parties as their engagements in the ball room permitted, and afterwards returned to the hall so that no cessation took place in the dancing, and the musicians who comprised Mr Howard's band had little release to their labour. The programme being finished a few more dances succeeded and at half-past three o'clock the National Anthem sounded from the orchestra, and a general breaking up of the party immediately took place.

The same order and propriety as had characterised the arrival prevailed at the departure, and the event closed without leaving a single regret behind it, at least on the part of those who had availed themselves of the opportunity of joining the amusement.

#### THE MUSIC

This was supplied by Mr W. Howard of Edinburgh, and led by him. The musicians were eight in number, and their instruments were the same as are employed at the Edinburgh assemblies and Caledonian Hunt Meetings. The work of the musicians experienced little release, and they performed their duties well. Among the performers was Mr Paul Wallace, one whose music has, in numerous instances contributed to the hilarity of similar meetings in this town.

#### THE COMPANY

The following is a list of the company, incomplete, but accurate so far as it goes: - Sir John and Lady Marjoribanks of Lees. From Ladykirk House, David Robertson, Esq., of Ladykirk. Mrs and Miss Robertson; Mrs Askew, of Pallinsburn; Mr and Mrs Craster. From Ayton Castle, Captain Innes: Norman Innes Esq.: Mr Wanchope; Mrs Elliott and Miss Hakett Inglis. From Foulden House, John Wilkie, Esq., of Foulden, Mrs Du Plat, Miss Dalzell, Mr and Mrs Scott of Ancrum; Major and

Mrs L. Home, Broomhouse; Col. Anstruther. Ralph Forster, Esq., Sansom Seal; Jas. Grey, Esq., Kimmerston, and Mrs Grey, Berrington; the Mayor and the Misses Bogue; the Sheriff, and Miss Fleming; Patrick Clay, Esq. , Mrs Mr and Misses Clay; R. Ramsey, Esq., Tweedmouth; Mr and Mrs Ramsey, jun.; Messrs T and J Allan; Captain Smith, R.N., and Miss Smith; Captain Charles W. Gordon, and Miss Nicholson from the Vicarage; Dr and Mrs Kirkwood; Miss Willoby; Miss J Gilchrist; James Bowhill, Esq., and Mrs Bowhill, of Ayton; Miss Herriott, North Law; David Logan, Esq., of Fairneycastle and Mrs Logan; Wm. Logan, Esq., Ayton; John Cameron, Esq., MPP of Canada; Lieut. Chatfield, R.N.; John Tait, Esq., Longrigg; Mrs Scott, Broomhouse, and Miss Dickson of Peelwalls; D. Logan, Esq., Berwick, Mrs Logan, Miss Archbold, and Miss Brittain, Mrs, Mr and Misses Henderson of New Water Haugh; Wm. Archbold, Weq., Mrs and Misses Archbold of Newham; A.R. Lowrey, Esq., Mrs and Miss Lowrey; Mr J.R. Nicholson, Mrs and Misses Nicholson of Thorton; Dr Embleton of Embleton; Mrs and Misses Embleton; Mrs Taylor; Dr and Miss Paxton of Norham; Mr and Mrs Hubback of Sunlaw Hill; Wm. Allan Esq., Berrybank; Mr C. Colville and Mrs Colville of Ayton; Mr James Black, Grindon; Mr Greet of Norham; Mr and Misses Lumsden of Learmouth; Mrs Hughes of Middleton Hall; Mr and Miss Hughes; Misses Dand of Hanxley; George Smith, Esq., Ancroft, Mrs and Mr Smith, Mr Rae, Newburn; Mr and Mrs Rae, Doddington; Mr Laing, Cornhill; Mr and Mrs T. Thompson; Mr and Mrs A. Thompson, Kirknewton; Mr and Mrs R, Thompson, Cheswick; Mr A. Thompson, Berwick; Mr Joseph Cahill; Mr D. Macbeath and Miss Macbeath of Nunlands; Mr Rusby; Mr J.H. darling; Mr and Misses Elliott of Lamberton; Nr S. Sanderson, Mrs Sanderson and Miss Dodds; William Smith, Esq., Learmouth; Mr and Misses Smith; Mr and Miss Martin, Milbank; Mr and Misses Robertson; Mr Robertson, Kelso.

The Event has continued all this week to be the theme of conversation, and we shall long to have the prospect of another like occurrence.