

Berwick Advertiser, 1890.

January 3, p. 2, column 2.

CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK. Thursday, 9th January, 1890, at two o'clock afternoon. Mr Ralph Dixon will sell by auction, as above, A quantity of excellent household furniture and other effects (being a residue from a country house), comprising – very superior mahogany telescope dining table, extending to 12 ½ ft; mahogany pedestal sideboard; chest of drawers; superior wardrobes; walnut chiffonier, sofas, easy chairs, and sets of chairs; handsome bedsteads and first class bedding; sewing machines; a small lot of very superior electro-plated goods, a little worse than new; about 400 yards carpet, hearth-rugs, &c.

Also, in the evening at six o'clock, the remaining stock-in-trade of Mr Thos. Hogg, removed for convenience of sale.

51, Church Street, Berwick, 2nd January 1890.

January 17, p. 2, column 1.

Corn Exchange, Long Room. Mr Clark, evangelist, serving under the Apostle, will lecture on Sunday at 3.

January 24, p. 2, column 2.

Thursday 30th Jan, at twelve o'clock. Mr |Ralph Dixon is instructed to sell by auction, as above, the substantial household furniture and other effects of Mr Thomas Hogg and others, comprising mahogany pedestal sideboard, chests of drawers, walnut chiffonier, sofas, couches, easy chairs, and sets of chairs. Handsome mahogany Elizabethan bedsteads, sewing machines, carpets, hearthrugs, dressing tables, washstands, bedroom chairs, fenders, fire-irons, window poles, Pembroke and other tables, culinary utensils, &c.

51, Church Street, Berwick, 23rd January, 1890.

January 31, Front Page, column 1.

CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK ON TWEED. For two nights only, Tuesday & Wednesday, Feb. 4th & 5th. Messrs Livermore Brothers' world renowned Court Minstrels, en costume George II. 25 Star Artistes. In a new and original programme of refined Negro Minstrelsy and comicalities, which has been received throughout the tour with unbound enthusiasm in every town they have visited. Pronounced by the press and public to be the finest Minstrel combination extant. The [?] of this magnificent company including splendid choir and orchestra, the Phalanx of Comedians, and speciality artistes [?] the renowned Livermore

Brothers in each performance. Doors open at 7:15. Commence at 8. Prices: - 3s, 2s, 1s, and 6d. Seats may now be reserved at A Paton & Sons, High Street.

February 7, p. 2, column 3.

CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK. Thursday, 13th Feb., at 11. Mr Ralph Dixon will sell by auction, as above, a large assortment of excellent and substantial household furniture and other effects, comprising: - Excellent mahogany pedestal sideboard, mahogany dining table, capital round and square mahogany loo tables, handsome mahogany sofas, easy chairs, and sets of chairs in haircloth, chimney mirrors, window cornice poles and curtains, splendid rosewood chiffonier with marble slab, and lofty mirror back, walnut chiffonier, drawing room suite, fenders, fire-irons and ash-pans, gipsy and occasional tables, large open bookcase and cabinet, excellent Brussels and tapestry carpets, Axminster and other hearthrugs, a number of capital timepieces, &c.

Very handsome mahogany Persian bedsteads in green rep, with straw, hair, and wool mattresses; fine brass and iron bedsteads, palliasses, feather beds, bolsters, and pillows; iron and mahogany chair beds and cushions, birch and mahogany washstands, dressing tables and dressing glasses, bedroom chairs, baths, &c.

Superior birch business table, first class safe by S Withers & Co.; window show case; fine hall table; stair carpets and rods; two fine oil paintings; draught screen; bassinette perambulator; music; crystal; sewing machine, &c.

Also, in the evening at 6:30, a consignment of about 400 pairs very superior boots and shoes.

Berwick, 6th Feb., 1890.

February 7, Local News, p. 3, column 3.

THE COURT MINSTRELS. – On Tuesday and Wednesday night Messrs Livermore's troupe gave two performances in the Corn Exchange, which was filled on each occasion by a highly delighted and appreciative audience. The minstrels, who were dressed in gorgeous and effective costumes of the period of George II, numbered 25 altogether, and, besides vocalists included an instrumental band, whose accompaniment greatly enhanced the songs and choruses of which the first part was principally composed. The sentimental and pathetic ballads were very well rendered, "Rock'd in the cradle of the Deep," and "Mary of Argyle," evidently being the favourites of the audience. The comic songs were new and decidedly funny. Instead of the numerous jokes which formerly filled up the intervals between the music of the first part, only a few were perpetrated, but these were very clever. The descriptive song "Livermore's Yacht," was most amusing and a musical absurdity caused great laughter. The glee "Rat tat tat" was effective, while the new and original act "Kentucky Force," representing a number of policemen courting while on their beats, was also very

entertaining. Mr Sam Kaidence's eccentricities on the banjo evoked the risible faculties of the audience and were much applauded, while a comic interlude which introduced ghosts as well as the secret removal of furniture and other articles created much merriment. A triple boot dance by Messrs Livermore, M'Lean, and Lewis was extremely skilful and brought down the house, while a burlesque sketch entitled "Fifteen Dollars" was most amusing. Encores were at times demanded, but owing to the length of the programme they were not given.

February 14, p. 2, column 3.

CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK. Thursday, 20th Feb., T 11. Mr Ralph Dixon will sell by auction, as above, excellent and substantial household furniture and other effects comprising: - excellent mahogany pedestal sideboard, mahogany dining table, capital round and square mahogany loo tables, handsome mahogany sofas, easy chairs, and sets of chairs in haircloth, chimney mirrors, window cornice poles and curtains, splendid rosewood chiffonier, with marble slab, and lofty mirror back, walnut chiffonier, drawing room suite, fenders, fire-irons, and ash-pan, gipsy and occasional tables, large open bookcase and cabinet, excellent Brussels and tapestry carpets, Axminster and other hearthrugs.

Very handsome mahogany Persian bedstead with straw, hair, and wool mattresses; fine brass and iron bedsteads, palliasses, feather beds, bolsters and pillows; iron chair beds and cushions, birch and mahogany washstands, dressing tables and dressing glasses, bedroom chairs, baths, &c.

First class safe by S Withers & Co.; window show case; fine hall table; stair carpets and rods; two fine oil paintings; bassinette perambulator; music; crystal; sewing machine, &c

Berwick, 6th Feb., 1890.

February 21, Front Page, column 1.

Corn Exchange, Long Room. Mr Clark, evangelist serving under the Apostles, will lecture on Sunday at 3.

February 21, p. 2, column 2.

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

A grand evening concert in aid of the funds will be held in the Corn Exchange, Berwick, on Monday, 24th Feb. 1890.

PROGRAMME. Part I.

Overture, Juvenile Orchestra.

- Song, "Alton Water", Mr W Hogarth.
Song, "O for the Bloom of my own Native Heather," Miss Hobbs.
Song, "The Village Blacksmith," Mr R Weddell.
Violin Solo, Mr T Borthwick.
Song, "The Sailor's Grave," Miss Paton.
Song, "The Outlaw," Mr A Lounton.

Part II.

Appropriated by the only original "VIRGINNY MINSTRELS!" (Messrs Biddle, Craig, Dixon, Macdonald, Pattison, Payne; Masters Brough, Hebenton, Mason; Master Biddle, accompanist).

Part III.

- Selection, Juvenile Orchestra.
Song, "The Trumpet's Voice," Mr J White.
Cornet Solo, Mr J Rutherford.
Song, "Ton Bowling," Mr Johnston Pattison.
Song, "Some Day," Miss Gilchrist.

Accompanist – Mr W G Green.

Doors open at 7:30 o'clock; commence 8. Hansoms at 10:30.

Prices of admission - Gallery, 2s; second seats (front of body of hall) 1s; back seats and promenade, 6d. Tickets may be had from Messrs Paton and Sons, High Street; Mr A W Megson, Hide Hill; Mr F Mason, Church Street; Mr J Mitchell, West Street; from any of the members of Committee; or from the Honorary Secretary, Mr Ralph Dixon, 51, Church Street.

February 21, p. 2, column 2.

DR BARNARDO'S HOMES. CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK-ON-TWEED. On Saturday evening. February 22nd, 1890, Rev W J Mayers will tell the story of twenty-three years of "Rescue work amongst waifs and strays." The chair will be taken at 7:30 o'clock by His Worship the Mayor of Berwick (Wm Young, esq.)

DR BARNARDO'S MUSICAL BOYS will play selections on their handbells, Highland bagpipes and other instruments. Admission, 3d, 6d, and 1s. For particulars see bills.

February 21 ,Local News p. 3, column 4.

We beg to draw the attention of our readers to the advertisement of a concert to be given Monday night in the Corn Exchange in aid of the Ornithological Society. An attractive programme is offered.

February 21, p. 4 column 4.

THE AFFAIRS OF MR T HOGG, FRUITERER.

On Monday afternoon a second meeting of the [conditions?] of Mr Thomas Hogg, fruiterer, formerly of High street, was held in the Corn Exchange. Mr Stevenson, Edinburgh, presided.

Mr R Dixon, the trustee of the estate, said that meeting had been called by a requisition of some of the creditors who were dissatisfied with the debtor's manner of accounting for his deficiency, and who were determined, unless insolvency was more satisfactorily explained, to petition against the debtor in the Bankruptcy Court to obtain some further enlightenment as to the way the money had gone. Mr Dixon stated that he had been requested to elicit the following information – the amount of liability incurred for goods received since 1st January 1889; the amount of liability incurred for money borrowed by promissory notes since the 1st January 1889; and the amount paid by him to his credit to any bank since 1st January 1889. He had altered the date till the 12th December so as to make it tally with the time when the debtor signed the trust deed. He had not been able to ascertain the amount of money borrowed but he had made [something?] of the other questions. As far as he could make out, the amount due by Hogg on the 12th December, 1888, was £287 17s 2 1/2d, but there would be more that he could not get at. The amount of liabilities incurred during the year up to 12th December, 1889, was £[1985?] 5s 2d so far as he could make out, but there were some people he had not heard from.

Mr Bogue – What were (sic) the total amount of his liabilities?

Mr Dixon – [£533 16s 6d?] The amount paid into the National Bank was £1270 12s 5d, and into the North-eastern Bank, £33 18s – total, £1304 10s 5d. I heard something about money being in some Edinburgh bank. I wrote to 59 banks in Edinburgh and got replies from 54. They state there is nothing in any of them.

Mr Bogue – Not in his own name, of course.

Mr Dixon – I mentioned in either or more of the following names – Thomas Hogg, Phillis Hogg or Phillis Cumming.

Mr Edney – You make out from that statement that there is over £500 disappeared in twelve months.

Mr Dixon – We realised £100 by the sale of the assets.

Mr Edney – You make the liabilities £833. They increased £530 within the twelve months.

Mr Dixon – yes. We have the assets to take off and they have realised £100.

Mr Bogue – It seems to me that he has lost £450 in one year, taking the stock into consideration. It seems to me impossible for a man to go on any length of time with such a debt.

The Chairman – I believe he did a considerable cash trade.

Mr Dixon – I find that goods got now were settled about three months afterwards.

Mr Edney – It is the shortness of accounts that makes the thing so difficult to understand.

Mr Dixon – He sold goods to pay accounts that were coming in and went on till he found he had tied himself in a knot.

Mr W S Dods – He had tied a biggish knot too, I think. (laughter.)

Mr Edney – He incurred liabilities last year of £1,686 and banked £1,304. There is a deficiency of £382 on that alone.

Mr Bogue – Has he ever had a balance at his credit?

Mr Dixon – Very little.

The Chairman – 3d. (Laughter.)

Mr Edney – The deficiency represents nearly £10 a week. That means a large go back.

Mr Dixon said the assets were – proceeds of stock-in-trade, £62 14s 5d; furniture £13 5s 9d; book debts £15 7s 5d; out-standing £10; in savings bank 5s 4d – total £101 12s 11d.

Mr Edney – How much will you take off that for realisation expenses?

Mr Dixon – I can hardly tell; it will be something well up for £30. I can understand how part of the deficiency has arisen. There has been considerable waste. I expect too much stuff has been got in and that he has not been able to dispose of it.

Mr Weatherston – What is the state of the pole? (Laughter.)

Mr Edney – 1s 6d in the £ after expenses.

Mr Dods – He will have to be nailed before I take it.

Mr Edney – You have heard nothing about property in Spittal?

Mr Dods – He told me Miss Pringle of Morton House owed him £80.

Mr Nicholson – He has told me the same story over and over again.

Mr Weatherston – That was the bait that was held out to me.

Mr Dixon – It has been got by Hogg.

Mr Dods – That was from the church. No tradesman will ever believe he lost that money in a year.

Mr Weatherston – If it is the unanimous feeling of the meeting that the debtor be made a bankrupt, I have no objection.

The Chairman – How much will it take?

Mr Bogue – It will take all the assets.

In answer to enquiries as to where Hogg had obtained the money to start another shop in Woolmarket, Mr Dixon said he had made enquiries, and had been told that a certain party had lent him the money.

Mr Edney – You have a right to go in to the shop and take the goods.

Mr Dixon – It is taken in the name of Mrs Hogg. They told me she had got a loan of money.

The debtor was called in, and in reply to Mr Bogue, said his wife had commenced business on a very small scale.

Mr Edney – You will be paying for what you are getting? Is it correct that you ordered a horse and cart?

Debtor – I have not ordered one. That is quite incorrect.

Mr Bogue – Your estate will realise only 1s 6d in the £. What has become of the money?

Mr Weatherston – There is about £830 unaccounted for. Would you have 25 percent of waste?

Debtor – There was more than 25 per cent. I got too much stuff at a time. That was what did me. It was a trade I knew nothing about.

Mr Weatherston – What right had you to make me pay for your ignorance? Then you told falsehoods at the same time.

Mr Dods – Did you ever get £80 from Miss Pringle?

Debtor – No.

Mr Dods – Then you are a manifest liar. You told me that Miss Pringle of Morton House owed you £80.

Debtor- I don't remember what I said. I said I had money to come in. If you give me a chance, I will try to pay the whole of you.

Mr Dods – You said you had money on Spittal meeting.

Debtor – No.

Mr Dods – You deny everything.

Mr Edney – Although Captain Gillard paid you for potatoes at the end of the militia training you wrote to me on the 20th November that he had not done so. I have shown the letter to Captain Gillard. You ran down the credit of a respectable man, a person of position; you did not care what you did; you libelled that man.

Mr Gauld – Is it true you wrote that letter?

Debtor – Mr Edney is telling the truth. I will admit the truth.

Mr Bogue – Who was it you said owed you money at Spittal when you promised me payment?

Mr McDermott – He told me there was a person in Spittal, in the same business as myself, who owed him £80.

Mr MacGregor – How much money was Mr Chisholm due you on the 20th September?

Debtor – Nothing.

Mr MacGregor – Did you not tell me that Mr Chisholm owed you money then? It is strange that you should libel nearly all the people in the town.

Mr Chisholm – I know one gentleman that he told me he had started in business.

Debtor – You did get the loan of money once or twice from me.

Mr Dods – Has he paid his money back?

Debtor – Yes.

Mr Bogue – There will be a resolution passed to put you into the Bankruptcy Court.

Mr Dods – That is the place to send him to show how he has got rid of the brass.

The Chairman – The first year you showed a deficiency of £300; the next year £530. Your stock was valued at £160, but it only realised £100. You therefore went back £373 during the last year. Can you give any explanation of that?

Debtor – The only explanation I can give is that I bought too largely, and sold cheaper than I bought at.

The Chairman – It is a fact you sold your goods cheaper than you bought them at?

Debtor – Yes.

The Chairman - Is it the case that you were buying goods from me and others, and underselling everybody in the town for the sake of paying your debt?

Debtor – Not if they were good.

The Chairman – Would you be astonished if I proved that?

Debtor – I have sold goods cheaper than I bought them rather than lose them. You and others pushed the goods on me.

The Chairman – I deny that; in fact it was quite the reverse. Did you not sell goods below what they cost you to certain people who were prepared to pay cash?

Debtor – I sold some apples.

The Chairman – And plums.

Mr Nicholson – A man bought plums cheaper from him than he could get them at Newcastle. As soon as they arrived he turned them over to him.

The Chairman – Can you give an approximation of what you [?], because you are back £373?

Debtor – I had two shops on my head, and I flitted over three times.

The Chairman – How much would it cost you to shift?

Debtor – I have no idea.

The Chairman – You have no idea of anything. I want you to account for the £373 in last year's transactions. According to your deficiency you were losing over £1 a day.

Mr Edney – There is one thing I cannot understand. That is the great deficiency in twelve months. That will have to be explained, or it will be a serious matter. It is not possible to have no knowledge of it. You came to me twice in the summer time. On the second occasion I told you I wanted to see you get on in business, and offered to pull you through. You then told me you had taken two or three nights at home to go through your books, and you were all right.

Debtor – That was only making up my books. (laughter.)

The Chairman – Where did you get the money to start business this time?

Debtor – My wife borrowed it from Mrs M'Lachlan, in Eastern Lane.

Mr Dods – Then you are on the borrowing system again. (Laughter.)

The Chairman – Are the goods paid for?

Debtor – All the trifles she has got are paid for.

The Chairman – Has any money gone out of your business directly or indirectly to any person?

Debtor – Not a farthing, except for goods.

The Chairman – Has money not been paid back that you borrowed?

Debtor – Yes.

Chairman – To whom?

Debtor – Mr Fraser, Mr Dion, Mr Weatherston, and a great many others. I got a loan of money from my wife's sister when I started, and have some to pay yet.

Mr Dods – Mr Bruce of Spittal, paid you £70 or £80.

Debtor – He never paid me a farthing.

Mr Dods – Mr Bruce is an honest man, but we do not look upon you as one.

Debtor – I never got a penny from Mr Bruce in my life.

Mr Dods – Well, your wife would get it. You do not speak a word of truth.

The Chairman – I move that the trustee make enquiries about this £70 or £80.

Mr Dods – And the debt Miss Pringle was owed him.

Mr Dixon said he made a valuation after an old lady died in Spittal, and there was £60 in cash after everything was settled.

Mr Dods – You got £60.

Debtor – No; there was £60 between two.

Mr Dixon – Then all your share is lifted.

Debtor – I have not a farthing.

Mr Dods – That is nonsense; I would not believe it. You cannot have spent it all in strawberries and two-penny pies. The truth is not in you, and never has been in you.

Mr Nicholson - You told us that a party was owing you money in Spittal.

Mr Weatherston – There is no doubt about that; you obtained money under false pretences.

Mr Edney – You will soon find out what the charge is against you if the case goes to Newcastle. You gave a bill to a firm two days before you signed this trust deed. You have incurred displeasure by the way in which you have taken people in. We have not lost the money in business. We have been swindled out of it.

Mr Weatherston – On the day he closed my bill was due for £25. That was the second time he had renewed it. Between the dates he swindled me out of other £10. He said the money to pay me was to come from a certain gentleman. I asked that gentleman if it was true, and he said no. That was obtaining money under false pretences.

Mr Dods – I don't think we will be doing our duty if we allow him to go at large. He will prey upon some others.

Mr Weatherston - The worst of it is no deserving person in the town can after this ask to borrow £5 or £10. When you found yourself going down hand over fist, why did you not pull yourself together?

Mr Bogue – Had you any idea you were [back?]??

Debtor – No.

Mr Weatherston – You are a splendid hand at making out I.O.U's. I will back you against any man in creation for that particular idea. Why did you not calculate up to see what you were doing?

Debtor – I said I bought too much and sold too cheaply.

Mr Edney – You did not sell anything too cheap tome.

Mr Dixon – I will be bound to say he had nearly £60 worth of paper bags. We realised £6 10s for them at the sale.

Mr Gauld – Does the debtor understand that he has gone back £373 in one year?

Mr Edney – The strange thing is that he never [?] he was going back.

Mr Gauld – Any business man knows that is impossible.

Mr Bogue – He is not a business man.

Mr Edney – I should think it is not an easy thing to finance a credit of £600.

The Chairman – That is what I put at the last meeting.

Mr Dods – Did you hand anything away after you signed the trust deed?

Debtor – No.

Mr Dods – Did Eppie Boston not get a watch and chain?

Debtor – On the Tuesday night before.

Mr Dods – Were they valuable?

Debtor – It was a silver watch and a gold chain.

Mr McGregor – Have you got them in?

Mr Dixon – No, and I cannot get them.

Mr Edney – If he is made a bankrupt, she will have to give them up.

Mr Weatherston – I think she deserves credit for having got it. She has been the sharpest on the job. I think she deserves a medal. (Laughter.)

The Chairman - Have you any more question to ask the debtor?

Mr Dods – What is the [?]? He forgets, and he does not know.

The debtor was then requested to leave the room, and a discussion ensued as to the course to pursue.

Mr Dods – He has borrowed from everybody, and paid nobody.

Mr Edney – It is our duty as citizens to punish the man. I have been advised by a solicitor to take proceedings against him for obtaining money under false pretences.

After some further discussion it was stated that some of the creditors were determined to put the debtor through the Bankruptcy Court.

The Chairman said he might state that the four largest creditors would not agree to those proceedings. Speaking for himself, he said he had lost quite enough of money by the debtor already.

Hogg was then called into the room, and informed of the decision arrived at. He made no reply, and the proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

February 28, Local News p. 3, column 4.

CONCERT – On Monday evening a grand entertainment was held in the Corn Exchange in aid of the funds of the Berwick Ornithological Society. The society greatly increased their prize list for the last exhibition, but this venture unfortunately failed, and left the society in debt to a considerable amount. This concert was arranged to make good the deficiency, and by means of this and other schemes the committee hope to clear of the debt so that the next exhibition may be held clear of any incubus. The weather was rather unfavourable, but, notwithstanding, a fairly large number of people visited the Corn Exchange. The programme was divided into two parts, the second portion being appropriated by the “Virginny Minstrels,” who have lately commenced in the town. The following was the programme of the first part of the concert: - Overture, “Highland Wreath,” Juvenile Orchestra; song, “Afton Water,” Mr Walter Hogarth, encored; song, “O for the Bloom of my Native Heather,” Miss Hobbs, song, “The Village Blacksmith,” Mr R Weddell; song, “The Sailor’s Grave,” Miss Paton; gallop, “Foxhunter’s “ Juvenile Orchestra; song, “The Trumpet’s Voice,” Mr J White; cornet solo, “Killarney,” Mr Tebble, song, “Tom Bowling,” Mr Johnston Pattison, encored;

song, "Some Day," Miss Gilchrist. This part of the programme was exceedingly well rendered. The Juvenile Orchestra for their first piece were heartily applauded. The cornet solo was entrusted to Master Archie Campbell, who played it in a manner that would have done credit to any older performer. The audience loudly applauded him. Mr Walter Hogarth gave a very effective rendering of "Afton Water," and was deservedly encored. Mr Johnston Pattison was also recalled for his singing of "Tom Bowling," and in response gave "Stirling Bridge" in his best style. He was again loudly applauded. Those old favourites, Messrs R Weddell and J Whyte sang in a conscientious manner, while Misses Hobbs, Paton and Gilchrist, gained the plaudit of the audience for their several vocal efforts, which were delivered in pleasing style. Most interest was centred in the second part of the programme, when the "Virginny Minstrels" appeared for the first time in public. Although their title was new most of the "darkies" were old hands. The troupe was composed of nine performers, and all round their essay was very creditable, considering that they had only a short time for preparation. Some of the jokes were rather flat, but one or two good local hits were brought out. The songs for the most part have all done service before, but on this occasion they were well rendered and loudly applauded by the audience. Upon the whole the concert was a very successful one. The following was the programme for the second part: - Overture, "Cross Country," Master Biddle; comic song, "Oh! Dem Golden Slippers," Mr J Payne; song, "Good Old Jeff," Mr R Dixon; comic song, "The Hen Convention," Mr J Craig; song, I dreamt, my little boy, of thee," Master D Hebenton; comic song, "Norah," Joe Pattison; song, "Tell me where my Eva's gone," Mr Macdonald; song, "Take this message to my mother," Mr J Biddle; character song, "I'se gwine back to Dixie," Mr J Craig.

February 28, Local News p. 3, column 4.

DR BARNARDO'S HOME FOR DESTITUTE CHILDREN - On Saturday evening a meeting was held in the Corn Exchange, when the Rev W J Mayers gave an account of he work and founding of these homes. The Mayor of Berwick presided, and on the platform were also the Revs W A Walton, R G Inglis, J Rorke, and J Mursell. The Mayor said it was with a feeling of very great pleasure that he occupied the chair that night. He considered it was an honour to be asked to preside on an occasion of that kind, when the object of their meeting was such a worthy one as showing their sympathy and interest in the valuable work to which Dr Barnardo had devoted his life, in rescuing the poor, weak, helpless little children He was glad to see such a good audience that night, because he thought that in Berwick and neighbourhood there was a large amount of sympathy and interest in Dr Barnardo's work. He hoped the result of that meeting would be that the interest in the work would be strengthened. The Rev W J Mayers addressed the meeting on the work of the Homes. He said it might possibly occur to them on seeing the meeting announced, to ask why Dr Barnardo sent a representative so far to speak about a work which is carried on in the Metropolis. His work was not confined to London and London children. He rarely found himself in any town or city without having the pleasure of telling the people assembled that Dr Barnardo had received some children into the homes from their own town. During the past two years he had taken two children from Berwick. He had not been to one single town that week without

being able to tell a similar story. The doors of the institutions were like those of the new Jerusalem, they were always open ready to receive destitute children. Dr Barnardo had now been carrying on this rescue work for 23 years. Twenty-three years ago, while Dr Barnardo was a medical student in one of the London hospitals, he used to give some of his leisure hours to teaching what was called a ragged school. One cold night, after school had been dismissed, one of the boys lingered over the fire, and on being questioned he told the teacher that he had neither mother nor father, and that he with a number of others "slept out". Dr Barnardo asked the lad if he could take him to the place where they slept out. To this he readily answered yes. On reaching the place where they slept, Dr Barnardo found 13 boys all asleep in the open air, and the boy who had taken him there was taken home, and from that night Dr Barnardo's life's work was commenced. Since then, over 14,000 children have been rescued, and at the present moment there are 3,300 children in residence at Dr Barnardo's various homes, which were for boys, girls and babies. All the year round they were adding to their family at the rate of 8 every day. On one night in each year they took from 50 to 80 children. This was when they give their annual supper to the waifs and strays of London. Strong drink was responsible, so far as they were concerned, for 85 per cent of their work. In their babies' [castle?] they had 190 little babies. One of these was taken in when it was only four days old. He felt that in getting hold of these babies they were doing a good work, as they could not think of the black past. He trusted that many of those little ones would not only turn out to be good citizens, but good soldiers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Already they had had good results. Each child in the homes cost at the rate of £16 a year for its keep. During the last two years, the schools in connection with the homes, at which the children were educated, had passed 99 per cent at the Government examination. During the evening the proceedings were enlivened by a number of the boys from the homes discoursing music on the hand-bells, bagpipes, violin, and dulcimer. On the motion of the Rev R C Inglis, seconded by the Rev J Mursell, a hearty vote of thanks was awarded the Mayor presiding. On Sunday afternoon a demonstration of Sunday school children was held in the same hall, when there was a large attendance. Another meeting was also held in the evening. At both of these addresses were delivered by Mr Mayers. Collections were taken at all the meetings in aid of the homes.

March 7, p. 2, column 1.

Berwick Choral Union, the 21st annual concert will be given on Tuesday, March 11th in the Corn exchange, Berwick. Music: - Balfe's charming ballad opera "The Bohemian Girl." Admission – 3s, 2s, 1s and 6d. Tickets and plan at Paton & Sons, High Street.

March 7, p. 2, column 3.

SHORT NOTICE. CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK. Thursday, 13th March, 1890, at eleven o'clock. EXTENSIVE SALE OF EXCELLENT HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE AND OTHER EFFECTS. Mr Ralph Dixon has received instruction to immediately remove and

sell by auction, as above, the furnishings of a large house, comprising: - enclosed mahogany and open sideboards, mahogany cheffoniers, sofas, couches, easy chairs and sets of chairs, walnut inlaid China cabinet, drawing room suite, elegant chimney mirrors, cabinet pianoforte, round and oblong breakfast and loo tables, Pembroke, occasional and gipsy tables; rosewood settee, large mahogany chest of column drawers, mahogany, birch, oak and painted chests of drawers; mahogany, birch, and painted washstands and dressing tables; dressing glasses, towelrails, bedroom chairs, excellent iron and wood bedsteads, straw, hair, and wool mattresses, feather beds, bolsters and pillows, large self- heating plunge bath, other baths; iron chair bed, hat and umbrella stand; capital Brussels, Turkey, tapestry and Scotch carpets; fenders, fire-irons, antique brass fenders, fire-irons and ash-pans, walnut wardrobe, dwarf painted do.; kitchen furniture and utensils, stair rods and a host of miscellaneous articles in every department of furnishing.

The auctioneer invites the attention of parties furnishing and others to the above, as every lot must be cleared to close the account. On view on Wednesday from 5 to 7, 51, Church Street, Berwick, 6th March, 1890.

March 14, p. 2, column 4.

BERWICK CHORAL UNION. The Bohemian Girl.

[Just as Berwick Choral Union were the first to introduce oratorio into Berwick, so have they been the first to bring in the opera, as on Tuesday night, at their 21st annual concert, they performed Balfe's charming work, The Bohemian Girl. The success of the entertainment justified the change that the Choral Union has made from "grave to gay" – from sacred to secular music. For some years past it has been found, we are sorry to say, that the oratorio was not so attractive to the public as it once was, for the attendance at the annual concerts of the Choral Union was not so large as it had been at first when the masterpieces of Handel, Haydn, and Mendelsohn were submitted to the judgement and criticism of Berwick audiences. The manner in which the Choral Union had interpreted The Messiah, Elijah, The Creation, and other oratorios proved that they would be fully competent to undertake the lighter work connected with the study of an opera, and hence we felt sure that the members would give a good account of themselves on Tuesday night when they presented the public with the fruits of their winter's labours in the shape of a performance of the composition under the notice, especially as they were still under the able guidance of their talented conductor, - Mr Benjamin Barker, whose long experience in wielding the baton justifies any musical association in placing their fortunes under his painstaking care. The fact that the Choral Union had resolved to take up The Bohemian Girl brought an accession of new members to their ranks, and on Tuesday night about 100 vocalists assembled on the platform to take part in the work of the evening. They were accommodated on a sloping platform at the east part of the hall, and a goodly sight they presented when all were in their places and ready for the signal to commence their agreeable task.

The efforts of the chorus were supplemented and enhanced by an efficient orchestra, composed as follows: - first violin, J B Hastings, Newcastle; T Borthwick, and T Barker, Berwick. Second violins, Mr Sanderson, Newcastle; Messrs B Davies, A Lounton, and C Scott, Berwick. Viola, Mr J Campbell, Berwick. Violoncello, Mr G Barker, Newcastle; Mr W Weatherhead, Berwick. Contra bass, Mr R Weddell, Berwick. Flute, Mr W Green, Berwick. Clarinet, Mr F C Courier, Berwick. The instrumentalists performed their duties with great conscientiousness and care, the overture being played with much taste. The waltz and gallop also were most effective, but the finest effort of the orchestra was the introduction to the third part, when the solo on the violin was most exquisitely and skilfully executed by Mr J B Hastings, Newcastle. So much was it appreciated that an enthusiastic encore was given, and the audience would not be satisfied till the music was repeated.

A word or two as to the composer of "The Bohemian Girl" may not be out of place here. Balfe was born in 1808 at Dublin. His musical talent received early culture, and several anecdotes are related of his singular precocity, which if true, are all the more wonderful from the fact that Balfe, though a brilliant and popular composer, is not considered remarkably original. He is little more than an imitator (chiefly of Auber), and has no true creative genius, but his operatic airs and other vocal music are extremely singable and afford such opportunities of display as vocalists seem to like. The Bohemian Girl, which was amongst the last operas that Balfe wrote, is one of the few English compositions which have been popular in Germany, and is a great favourite in this country. The dramatis personae are as follow: - Count Arnheim (Governor of Presburg), Thaddeus (a proscribed Pole), Florestein (Nephew of the Count), Devilshoof (Chief of the Gipsies), Arline (daughter of the Count), Queen of the Gipsies, Chorus. The opera is founded on a ballet called La Gipsy, derived from Cervantes's tale Preciosa. Its action is as follows: - Count Arnheim, loyal to the Austrian Empire, entertains certain guests at his castle, where they raise the national standard above the Emperor's statue, the Count meanwhile extolling a soldier's life. The guests depart for the chase without him, his daughter Arline, a child six years old, accompanying them with her nurse. Thaddeus, an exiled Polish rebel, enters seeking refuge, which he finds in the company of a tribe of passing gipsies, who disguise him by order of their leader, Devilshoof, just in time to escape his pursuers. The huntsmen, with Florestein, a foolish nephew of Count Arnheim, return in terror with the tidings that Arline is attacked by a stag; Thaddeus rushes to her assistance, and restores her unhurt to the Count, whose gratitude induces him to invite the apparent gipsy to join the feast of rejoicing. At this feast Arnheim proposes the Emperor's health, which is declined boldly by Thaddeus, whose life is in danger for this act, but he is protected by the Count; Devilshoof, however, who had started the republican enthusiasm of Thaddeus, is arrested and confined in the castle. He escapes, and is seen by the distracted company bearing away in his arms Arline, whose abduction suggests his revenge. In act 2, twelve years have been passed in sorrow by the Count; the gipsies are stationed at Presburg ready for a fair, led still by Devilshoof, who catches and robs Florestein, an incautious intruder; the Gipsy Queen, however, commands the restoration of his property; Devilshoof obeys, but reserves a diamond medallion for himself. Arline reared among the gipsies, and tended gently by Thaddeus, wakes from a sleep, and relates a strange dream, which Thaddeus knows is retrospective. She asks the history of her birth, which he hesitates to relate fearing

lest her love should leave him. The Gipsy Queen who also loves Thaddeus irritates Arline into jealousy, whereupon Thaddeus implores her to marry him. Their betrothal is witnessed by the tribe, who now set out for the fair. Here Arline attracts hosts of admirers, among them Florestein, who suddenly recognises his medallion on Arline's neck, where it has been cunningly placed by the Gipsy Queen. In spite of Thaddeus and the tribe, she is seized and conveyed to the Count's castle. Here an accident reveals to the father that the prisoner is his child. Thaddeus implores Arline (Act 3) in a secret interview not to desert him, but the Count spurns the supposed vagabond; when Thaddeus declares himself, and Arnheim is induced to give his daughter to the noble exile. At the feast in their honour, the Gipsy Queen with Devilshoof attempts Arline's life, but the gipsy diverts the shot, which strikes her who aimed it. The festival proceeds to commemorate the happy fortunes of the Bohemian Girl.

Much of the singing has to be done by the individual characters, and the success of the opera depends greatly upon the manner in which they perform their tasks. The Choral Union were fortunate in obtaining competent vocalists to take the chief parts. Arline, the Bohemian Girl, was personated by Madame Clara Whatford, soprano. She did not appear on the scene until the second act was reached, when she sang "I dreamt that I dwelt in marble halls." Her first few notes were sufficient to prove that she possesses a magnificent voice of great power and compass, which she has well under control. As she proceeded with the dream the audience hung upon her pleasing accents, and the closing words "that you lov'd me still the same" reiterated with thrilling effect, called forth tremendous applause and such an irresistible encore as we have seldom heard. After the audience allowed a resumption of the music, Madame Whatford repeated the last verse. She was also heard to much advantage in the song "In the Gipsy's land," the joyous notes of the light-hearted maiden being ring out with the fluency and suavity, as well as a vivacity appropriate to the theme. In the final air "Oh what a full delight," Madame Whatford also gave fit expression to the bliss and rapture of Arline. She took the high notes with ease, and her clarion tones could be heard ringing above the volume of sound produced by the chorus and orchestra. Madame Whatford also gave ample proof of her great vocal powers and sympathetic feeling in other efforts when she sang in duet, trio or quartette. The part of Thaddeus, a proscribed Pole, was taken by Mr T E Gledhill, St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, tenor. To a somewhat weak voice was added the disadvantage of a recent recovery from an illness, but notwithstanding these drawbacks Mr Gledhill gave great satisfaction. His voice is very sweet, and he manages it with extreme judgement. This was very apparent in that exquisite air "When other lips." Mr Gledhill sang it with real dramatic effect and artistic taste. The nicely modulated cadence at the close of each verse was extremely effective, and the performance of the whole song was most excellent. We have heard the air given in Berwick by singers with more robust vices, but we have never listened to such finish and intelligent interpretation not only of the music but the words, into both of which Mr Gledhill infused much feeling. An enthusiastic encore greeted the close of the song, and a verse of it had to be repeated. Mr Gledhill also gave a very fine rendering of "When the fair land of Poland," while his share in the duets with the other soloists, was marked by ability, taste and accuracy. The parts of Count Arnheim and Devilshoof (Chief of the Gipsies), were assumed by Mr John Nutton, principal basso, Durham Cathedral. Upon him devolved a large amount of work, but he accomplished it all in

a manner which fully sustained his reputation here. His efforts on this occasion were even more successful than they were before. In all his songs the mellowness and resonance of his voice were apparent. His first air "A soldier's life," was given with pleasing effect, but the rendering of "The heart bow'd down" was his chief and best performance. The notes of sadness and despair were delivered with suitable modulation, and the grief of the Count was portrayed with much intelligence. A rapturous encore awaited the completion of the song, and Mr Nutton repeated the last verse. As Devilshoof he took part in the duet "Comrade, your hand," with Mr Gledhill, and here the robustness of his voice, and the vigour of his style were much appreciated. His parts in the duet "This is thy deed" with Madame Whatford, and in the trio, "Through the world," were also very effective.

The choruses were all well rendered. As representing the various feelings of assemblage of people they are descriptive, but by no means so dramatic and powerful as many of the choruses in the oratorios which the Choral Union have sung. "Up with the banner" gave a good idea of the clamour of a company. "Away to the hill and glen" was merry and joyful, as befits a hunters' chorus, while "In the gipsy's life you read" reminded us of that insouciance and abandon which is the characteristic of the Romany people. The prayer, "Thou who in might supreme" was delivered with devotional feeling, while "Happy and light of heart" and the fair scene "Life itself is at the beat" were delivered with such animation and liveliness as befitted the themes. The chorus "Shame" gave a suitable representation of the indignation of a crowd. The choruses "Welcome the present" and "Oh what full delight" were also characterised by vivacity and joyousness. All were marked by certainty and accuracy of intonation, the music being sung with a confidence begotten of careful and intelligent study.

The opera was apparently much enjoyed by the whole audience, and we trust it will be followed by others, for although the absence of acting and the usual accessories necessarily detract somewhat from the representation of the work, yet the singing of the music gives a very good idea of its nature. To Mr Barker, the able conductor of the Choral Union, much credit and praise are due for the manner in which he had trained the singers and got up the opera, for the work of preparation must have caused him much labour; while his accomplished daughter, Miss Barker, who acted with her usual judgement and skill, deserves a word of commendation for the efficient manner in which she played the accompaniments.

March 14, Local News p. 3, column 3.

BERWICK CORN EXCHANGE COMPANY. – The annual general meeting of the shareholders of this company was held in one of the side rooms on Saturday. Mr D Logan presided, and there was a moderate attendance. The balance sheet was taken as read. This showed that the income for the year had been £403 9s 2d, £207 8s being rent for stalls. The net profits for the year amounted to £262 10s 6d. The directors' report was read as follows: - "Your directors have again pleasure in meeting you and congratulate you on the continued success and stability of the company. The various accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1889, have been examined and approved, and duly attested by the auditor, and a

printed copy of the account current and balance sheet has been sent to each shareholder. From it you will see that the net profits have been £262 10s 6d, and the reserve fund amounts to £122 19s 5d. Your directors recommend the present meeting to declare a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent per annum, which will appropriate £200, the remaining £62 10s 6d to be carried to the reserve fund, which will then stand at £185 9s 11d. Your directors are arranging to have the hall re-decorated, which will add much to its comfort and appearance. Your directors have to record with great regret the death of one of their members – Mr James Brown Bird – who ever sought to promote the prosperity and best interests of the company. The retiring directors are Messrs John Black, George Hogg, and David Logan, who are eligible for re-election. The chairman moved the adoption of the report. Ald. Alder seconded, and said he would like to call the attention of the directors to the outside appearance of the building. It stood very much in need of pointing. If they crossed over to the other side of the street they could soon see what a state the building was getting into just for want of pointing. Mr Short also drew attention to the fact that there was a hole in the floor near his stall. Ald. Darling said it was the intention of the directors to raise the rent of the stall holders from £3 to £5, and get a small reserve fund to put a new roof on the building. Ald. Alder – Have you any idea what a new roof will cost? Ald. Alder said he had not. He would suggest that the whole matter be referred to the directors to call in an architect acquainted with such work, and report to a future meeting. The chairman said it would be a heavy item of expense to bring a person to report upon it. Mr J R Black asked if any architect could not be found in the town to do the work? Ald. Alder said there was none competent to do the work in the town. They would have to spend about £10 to get a properly qualified man. Ald. Alder – It would be well spent money. He seconded Ald. Darling's suggestion, which was agreed to. Mr Black drew attention to outstanding accounts being shown in the balance sheet. The secretary explained that the directors wished to show the full revenue for the year. Some accounts were due, but were not paid at the end of the year, and so they were put in the balance sheet as outstanding accounts. Half of them had been paid now. They thought it was better to show the full revenue of the company rather than let these sums lie over. The retiring directors were re-elected, and Mr H G M'Creath was added to the directorate in the place of Mr J B Bird, deceased. Mr J M Edney was re-elected auditor to the company. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

March 21, p. 2, column 3.

CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK. Thursday 27th March, 1890, at 11. Mr Ralph Dixon has received instructions to immediately remove and sell by auction the furnishings of a large house, comprising: - enclosed mahogany and open sideboards, mahogany cheffioniers, sofas, couches, easy chairs and sets of chairs, walnut inlaid china cabinet, drawing room suite, elegant chimney mirrors, cabinet pianoforte, round and oblong breakfast and loo tables, Pembroke, occasional and gipsy tables; rosewood settee, large, mahogany, birch, and painted chests of drawers; mahogany, birch, and painted washstands and dressing tables; dressing glasses, towel-rails, bedroom chairs, excellent iron and wood bedsteads; straw, hair, and wool mattresses; feather beds, bolsters and pillows; large self-heating plunge bath, other baths; iron

chair bed, hat and umbrella stand; capital Brussels, tapestry and Scotch carpets; fenders, fire-irons, antique brass fenders, fire-irons and ash-pan, walnut wardrobe, kitchen furniture and utensils; stair rods, and a host of miscellaneous articles in every department of furnishing. The auctioneer invites the attention of parties furnishing and others to the above, as he is instructed to put up every lot for positive sale. Berwick, 20th March, 1890.

April 11, p. 2, column 1.

Berwick Sol-Fa Association. Third annual concert in the Corn exchange on Tuesday 15th April. Cantata: - the work of the "Hesperus", [?] and other miscellaneous pieces. For particulars see bills.

Conductor – Mr T Richardson; accompanist – Miss M Wood.

Reserved seats (numbered): 2s; front seats 1s; back seats 6d. Tickets to be had from Messrs. Mills & Coy, Paton & Sons (where plan of the hall may be seen and seats booked), Plenderleith, Richardson Bros., "The Welcome," members of the Association, and from the Hon. Sec. (Mr James Irvine.)

April 11, p. 2, column 1.

Corn Exchange, Berwick. For three nights only! Commencing Thursday 17th April, 1890. The celebrated Walsham Grand Opera Company.

Artists: -

Madame Telma (Prima donna late of Carl Rossa and Her Majesty's Opera Companies)

Mr H Walsham (Primo tenore, the eminent tenor of Theatres Royal, Drury Lane and Covent Garden.)

Miss L Montegue.

Mr J Purdie (principal basso).

Miss Mabel Doyle.

Miss Marion Cunningham. Mr F Montaigne. Miss Fox. Mr H C Payne. Miss M Collini. Mr R Forster. Miss A Lavell. Mr C Serroni. Miss Nannie Mead (mezzo-soprano). Mr J C Cussens (principal baritone.) Pianist – Madame F Montaigne.

Prices of admission – 3s (reserved), 2s, 1s and 6d. Reserved and unreserved tickets may be had from Messrs. Paton & Sons, stationers. Doors open at 7:30, to commence at 8 o'clock. Carriages may be ordered for 10:30. The operas played will be Balfe's "Bohemian Girl", "Maritana", and "Faust."

April 11, Local News p. 3, column 5.

Tonic Sol-Fa concert. – From our advertisement columns it will be observed the annual Tonic Sol-Fa concert is to be given in the Corn Exchange on Tuesday the 25th inst. The principal piece will be the cantata “Hesperus.” This being, we believe, the first time this admirable cantata has been rendered before a Berwick audience, and the music being worthy of the subject of the great author, we trust there will be an attendance that will show appreciation of a piece so peculiarly appropriate to a maritime locality like our own. The second part comprises selections also of a highly popular and attractive character, and it is to be hoped that the young people, under their able and popular conductor, Mr T Richardson, will receive strong public encouragement to still prosecute their musical studies, and also, along with their sister society, the Choral Union, be able to continue those annual treats to the community, of which to the town has such good reasons to be proud.

April 18, p. 2, column 3.

CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK-UPON-TWEED. Thursday, 24th April, at 11. Ralph Dixon will sell by auction, as above, (the property of parties removing). Excellent and substantial household furniture and other effects, comprising: - excellent mahogany pedestal sideboard, mahogany dining table, capital round and square mahogany loo tables, handsome mahogany sofas, easy chairs, and sets of chairs in haircloth, chimney mirrors, window cornice pocs and curtains, walnut cheffionier, drawing room suite, fenders, fire-irons and ash-pans, gipsy and occasional tables, large open bookcase and cabinet, excellent Brussels and tapestry carpets, Axminster and other hearthrugs, oak dining room suite in velvet. Very handsome mahogany Persian bedsteads with straw hair, and wool mattresses; fine brass and iron bedsteads, palliasses, feather beds, bolsters, and pillows; iron chair beds and cushions, birch and mahogany washstands, dressing tables and dressing glasses, bedroom chairs, baths, blanket chest.

First class safe by S Withers & Co.; window show case; fine hall table; stair carpets and rods; two fine oil paintings; bassinette perambulator; music; crystal; sowing machine; old engravings, &c. Berwick 18th April, 1890.

April 18, p. 2, column 6.

TONIC SOL-FA CONCERT AT BERWICK.

The tonic sol-fa system of musical notation has now fairly established itself in the country as a useful and efficient method by which people may be taught to sing. In Berwick societies have been formed at various times to acquire a knowledge of the system, and those have been attended with considerable success. The most recent association, which was formed

only two or three years ago, and which is now under the able leadership of Mr Thomas Richardson, is in a vigorous and prosperous condition, for each year sees an accession to its membership. This year Berwick Tonic Sol-Fa Association is stronger than ever, and its continued success must be highly gratifying, not only to those who were so active in promoting it, but also to the entire community, for the organisation is doing an excellent educational work, which cannot be without its influence upon young members of society, who seek in a knowledge of music a delightful and refining recreation.

The annual concert which was given by the Association in the Corn Exchange was numerously attended by a large and appreciative audience, as the commodious building was well filled. The singers, who were accommodated on a platform, at the east end of the room, numbered about 80, and the parts of the chorus were well balanced. The programme began with the performance of the cantata "The wreck of the Hesperus," by Anderton. This is the first work of the kind that the Association has undertaken, and although it was not great or captivating, still there are some difficult passages in the cantata, and the singers not only showed praiseworthy courage in attempting to learn the music, but commendable proficiency and skill in having mastered its difficulties and intricacies. The singing of "The wreck of the Hesperus," occupied most of the first part of the programme. The music was attacked with much certainty of intonation and correctness, the various choruses being sung with much precision, but towards the close there was a tendency to flatness. The soloists were Mrs Redpath, soprano; Mr James Irvine, tenor; and Mr J W Blench, bass. All of them performed their allotted tasks with a conscientiousness and care which secured for them hearty applause. After the cantata had been finished, the conductor, Mr T Richardson, sang "Mons," by Adams, in fine style, and was enthusiastically encored, but he declined to repeat the song. The quartette, "Fairyland," by Chilcott [David Chilcott], came next. This was sung by Misses Cockburn and Hogarth, trebles; Misses [Sparshott?] and Sidey, altos; Messrs Watson and Macdonald, tenors; Messrs. Blanch and D Redpath, basses. It was well delivered, and its lively strains brought forth much applause. The first part of the entertainment concluded with the glee "Dashing on before the gale," by Moore, which was sung with vivacity and spirit. The chorus in the second part gave four part songs – "Bonnie Banks o' Loch Lomond," by Roddie; "Hundred Pipers," by Yorkston; "Ballad of the Weaver," by Hatton; and "The Four in hand," by Birch. Of these the two first were most enjoyed by the audience. "Bonnie Banks o' Loch Lomond" was very sweetly sung, and the audience showed a lingering desire for an encore, but did not insist on it. "Hundred Pipers" was given with much vigour and animation, and it had to be repeated. "The four in hand" was also an inspiriting piece, and was sung with much gusto. An agreeable variation took place when Mr T Borthwick, Spittal, played a selection of Scotch airs on the violin with the crispness and delicacy of touch as well as that musically taste by which his manipulation of the instrument is distinguished. He received an irresistible encore. Another quartette "Where art thou, beam of light," by Bishop, was sung by Misses Cockburn and Hogarth, trebles; Misses Sparshott and Sidey, altos; Misses Irvine and Macdonald, tenors; Messrs Blench and D Redpath, basses. The piece was very nicely rendered and the excellent music seemed to be much enjoyed. Miss Cockburn sang "The lady of the sea," by Smart, with much distinctness and enunciation and power. She was heartily applauded. Mrs Redpath also sang with much sweetness and taste "Home light afar," by

Willoughby, while Mr Macdonald pleased the audience so much with his exposition of "Maid of Athens," by Allen, that the audience insisted upon a repetition of the song. A perfect storm of applause also greeted Mr T Richardson after he had sung "Tell her I love her so" with that clearness of intonation suavity, and judicious expression which mark all his vocal efforts. The entertainment concluded with the National Anthem. The members of the Association are to be congratulated upon their performances, and we trust these will be but the stepping stones to higher things in the future. Praise is due to Mr Thomas Richardson, their excellent conductor for the care with which he trained the singers, and for the manner in which he wielded the baton. Miss Polly Wood acted as accompanist, not only with skill and taste, but much judgement, and her playing contributed not a little to the success of the entertainment.

April 18, Local News p. 3, column 5.

THE WALSHAM OPERA COMPANY. – This talented opera company appeared here last night in the Corn Exchange in "Maritana." There was an appreciative audience, and they enjoyed a treat such as is seldom heard outside of large centres of population. The principal parts were sustained by Mr Henry Walsham, Madame Telma, Miss Nannie Mead, and MR J C Cussens. The acting and singing were very good indeed. Not only were the songs artistically rendered, but the choruses were given with excellent effect, and the performance of the opera was much enjoyed by the audience. Tonight the "Bohemian Girl" will be put upon the stage, and on Saturday night "Faust" will be represented. On Sunday the opera company will give a service of sacred songs, the pieces to be sung including some of the gems from oratorios of Handel and other composers. The entertainments are well worthy of patronage. The "Kelso Mail" in criticising the performance of the "Bohemian Girl" by the company, says: - "Mr Henry Walsham, the popular tenor, who assumed the character of Thaddeus, gave really charming renderings of "When other lips," and "The Fair land of Poland," for the former of which he was enthusiastically encored. Madame Telma was de rigueur as the as the Gipsy Queen, and gave a good account of herself in the song "Love smiles but to deceive." The role of Arline was entrusted to Miss Nannie Mead, whose rendering of "I dreamt that I dwelt in marble halls," was well received, as was "The heart bowed down," by Mr J C Cussins in the character of Count Arnheim.

May 2, p. 2, column 1.

Corn Exchange, Berwick. Six nights only. Commencing Thursday 8th May, 1890. Doors open at 7:30, commence at 8 o'clock. Prices: - first seats, 1s; second, 6d; promenade, 3d. Special engagement of Miss Marie Clifford's (late of Carl Rossa's Opera Company, St James' Hall Concerts, &c). Noted Spanish choir and Ladies' Orchestra, which has been enthusiastically and unanimously declared to be the grandest and most unique entertainment ever organised. Miss Marie Clifford, pianist, instrumentalist, and solo directress. Solos, trios, glees, part songs, duets, quartettes, choruses, and selections on banjos, mandolin, violins, harp, pine sticks, musical glasses, dulcimers, zithers, guitars, xylophone &c. Magnificent Spanish

costumes. Concluding every night with a sketch or operetta. Special engagement of Dr Seaton, the renowned Crystal Palace illusionist, who will give experiments in thought reading, prestidigitation, and plate manipulation.

May 9, p. 2, column 2.

CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK. Tonight, and four following nights. Special engagement, at a great expense, of Miss Marie Clifford (late of Carl Rosa's Opera Company, St. James' Hall Concerts, &c.) with her celebrated Spanish Choir and Ladies' Orchestra, which has been enthusiastically and unanimously declared to be the grandest and most unique entertainment ever organised. Patronised by H.R.H. Princess Christian, H.R.H. the late Prince Leopold (Duke of Albany), H.R.H. Prince Albert Victor, H.R.H. Prince George of Wales, Marchioness of Londonderry, Lady Clifton, Lady Spencer, The Bishop of Wells, the Bishop of Salisbury, &c, also thousands of the general public in every town. Doors open at 7:30. Commence at 8 p.m. Admission – front seats, 1s; second seats, 6d; back seats, 3d.

Two sacred concerts on Sunday at 3 and 8. For particulars see bills.

May 16, p. 2, column 2.

CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK. Thursday, 22nd May at 11. Mr Ralph Dixon will sell by auction, as above, excellent and substantial household furniture and other effects, comprising: - excellent mahogany pedestal sideboard, mahogany dining table, capital round and square mahogany loo tables, handsome mahogany sofas, easy chairs, and sets of chairs in haircloth, chimney mirrors, window cornice, poles and curtains. Splendid rosewood chiffonier, with marble slab and lofty mirror back, walnut chiffonier, drawing room suite, fenders, fire-irons, and ash-pans, gipsy and occasional tables, large open bookcase and cabinet, excellent Brussels and tapestry carpets, Axminster and other hearthrugs.

Very handsome mahogany Persian bedsteads with straw, hair, and wool mattresses; fine brass and iron bedsteads, palliasses, featherbeds, bolsters, and pillows; iron chair beds and cushions, birch and mahogany washstands, dressing tables and dressing glasses, bedroom chairs, baths, &c.

First class safe by S Withers & Co; window show cases; fine hall table; stair carpets and rods; two fine oil paintings; bassinette perambulator; music; crystal; sewing machine &c.

Catalogue from the auctioneer.

Berwick, 16th May, 1890.

May 16, Local News p. 3, column 2.

Spanish Choir – During the latter part of last week and the early part of this, Miss Marie Clifford's Spanish Choir and Ladies' Orchestra, gave performances in the Corn Exchange. The entertainment, which was of a high class nature, was only poorly attended each evening. Dr Seaton, who accompanied the choir, gave a conjuring entertainment nightly, which greatly enhanced the programme. On Sunday two sacred concerts were given and although the weather was unfavourable the attendance was good.

May 30, p. 2, column 1.

Berwick Ornithological Society. The fifth annual exhibition of poultry, pigeons, and cage birds will be held in the Corn Exchange, Berwick, on Thursday 11th December, 1890. A special general meeting of members will be held in the Long Room of the Corn Exchange, Berwick, on Monday evening first, 2nd June, at 8 o'clock for the purpose of approving judges for the forthcoming show, and receiving suggestions from the members regarding classification, prize money and special prizes.

F Mason, Hon. Sec.

May 30, p. 4.

BERWICK ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The general meeting of this society was held in the Corn Exchange on Friday night. Mr John Smeaton was called upon to preside. Mr Ralph Dixon read the balance sheet, which showed that the total income had been £203 0s 6d, to which had been added £11 14s 6d, the balance from the 1888 show making in all £214 15s. The principal sources of income were £98 7s 6d received from entries, and £36 7s 7d proceeds of drawing and concert. The total expenditure was £211 12s 9d, which included £115 18s 6d given as prize money. The cash in hand was £1 17s 3d; and the value of plant on hand £1 5s 0d, made the surplus £3 2s 3d. Mr Dixon added that the judges received £5 more than in the previous year; stationery, postages, cost £3 more; while £4 additional was given as special prizes. Some money was yet to come in for advertisements which had appeared in the catalogue, and one or two subscriptions by honorary members had yet to be paid. These sums would go into next year's account. The drawings at the door of the bird show were £10 less than they had been in the previous year; while members' subscriptions had fallen off by about £3. If he might be allowed to express an opinion, he thought this was because the Society did not encourage members at all. Outsiders had the same privilege as ordinary members. The Society did not give special prizes confined to members. If they did they would get members all over the country, as many would join to compete for the special prizes. The concert got up to clear off the deficiency had turned out badly, so far as the money was concerned; only 14s 8d was realised from it. The drawing, however, had turned out very well, over £36 being obtained from it. In answer to a question, Mr Dixon stated that the arrears for advertisements in the catalogue amounted to about £4. Mr Bowstead – Have people been asked for the money? Mr Dixon –

Yes. Mr Bowstead – Have they refused payment? Mr Dixon – No. Mr Herdman moved and Mr Matthewson seconded that the report be adopted. Mr A Darling jr. moved that the arrears for advertisements be collected by the secretary and treasurer, who were responsible to the Society for them. After some discussion, Mr Dixon said he had not given credit in the balance sheet for the money in arrears, because he was instructed at a Committee meeting not to do so. Mr Bowstead – You have had a whole twelve months to collect the money and have not got it yet. Mr Dixon – I have sent for the money several times. Mr Bowstead – The mistake has been in not getting payment before they were inserted in the catalogue. Mr Dixon – Up to this year I have made myself personally responsible for the money, and sometimes have called a dozen times before the money was paid. We shall do our best to get in the arrears. Mr Bowstead – In another year we shall have to guard against such a mistake happening. Mr G Turner said the officials of the Society were not paid a salary, and therefore were not responsible for the money. Mr Dixon – We have done out very best for the Society that we possibly could. Ultimately the balance sheet was adopted, while the secretary and treasurer were instructed to use their best endeavours to get in the arrears. Mr Dixon moved that Alderman Captain Norman continued as president, and Alderman A Darling as vice-president. Both gentlemen, he said, had acted liberally and considerately to the society, who could not do better than continue them in the office. Mr Bowstead seconded the motion, which was adopted. Mr James R Dickinson was re-elected auditor. After some discussion it was agreed to limit the number of the Committee to 14. Mr Bowstead said before they elected a secretary he would propose that they should pay him a salary. He confessed this was rather an outrageous thing to recommend in the face of the financial failure that they had experienced during the past twelve months, but if his motion were adopted the Society probably would not find themselves in the same hole. A man who was paid would look better after the interests of the Society than a man who was not paid. Moreover, it was unfair to ask a man to devote for nothing so much time as the conducting of such a Society as this demanded. He did not pretend that the Society would give him sufficient to pay him fully for his services but they could give him a certain amount, and that would be an inducement for him to work harder for the Society than he would otherwise do. If the committee of management said a certain thing was to be done and it was not done they could call a paid official to account. He would propose that they pay the secretary £5 for certain, but if they found themselves with a balance they could pay him also half of that until he received £10, which was very little for the amount of work to be done. Mr Cooper seconded the motion. – Mr Dixon said he could only take these remarks in one way, and that was that if he had been paid for his services as secretary the Society would not have been £10 in debt. He refuted that altogether. He had done his very utmost for the Society. He had neglected his own business for its sake, and had put his clerk on to the work. If any member of the Society had any fault to find, he found it without reason. He thought he had the confidence of all the members, however, bar one or two, and they would bear him out in saying that he had done full justice to Berwick Ornithological Society. The office of secretary, if it was to be remunerated, was worth a great deal, but he did not think they would get a man to take the same interest in the Society as a fancier who had its welfare at heart. As forgoing to the official and asking him “why have you not done this?” in some societies, if the secretary had got said to him what he had got to , the whole thing would have been thrown upon the hands of the Committee to do

with as they liked. He had been told that it was his fault that the show had been a failure last year. – Mr A Darling – Where was that said? Mr Dixon – At a Committee meeting at the George Inn. – Mr Cooper – I have been at every Committee meeting and never heard it. Speak the truth. – Mr Dixon – Members of the Committee will bear it out. I was told it was through my bad management. – Mr A Darling, jun. – Have you a minute to that effect? I was present at thirteen meetings, and I never heard that expression used. – Mr Cooper – Neither did I. Mr Dixon – I appeal to the members of the Committee who were there. I think it was most unfair to make such a remark or such observations as have been made tonight. I consider that we have done our very best for the Society. We have worked night and day – at least I have. I was here night and day at the show time. – Mr Campbell – At the time some others were away dancing. – Mr A Darling, jr. – I think the less Mr Dixon says about the management of the show the better. I don't want any insinuations that the Committee went away dancing at the time of the show. – Mr Bowstead – It will be better if no ill-feeling is brought into the matter. – Mr A Darling – I think the secretary has had a very good say. I move that he be heard no further. He has said as much as the members of the Society wish to hear. – Mr Mitchell – I don't think there is any given time for limiting a speech. – Mr Dixon said they had done their very best for the Society, whose interests they had thoroughly at heart. Last year he was appointed secretary against his will. He told the meeting that he declined to accept the office, but the forced it upon him, although he said he had not time to attend to the duties. This year he had been asked to allow himself to be again nominated, but he distinctly refused to take it. He himself thought the secretary and treasurer should be one and the same party. – Mr Cooper – That will be settled by the meeting. – Mr Dixon – In several other societies the offices of secretary and treasurer are held by one person. I move that the secretary be not paid. I think a man who is a fancier will manage the duties better than any other. £20 a year would not pay a man for the office if you were to give a salary. Mr Matthewson seconded the motion, which was adopted. A proposition that the offices of secretary and treasurer be united was next made. Mr A Darling, jr., moved that they be separate. Last year they could not tell who was secretary, and who was treasurer. The one held so much money and so did the other. Ultimately it was agreed to unite the offices, and Mr Francis Mason, was appointed to them. The Committee was then appointed as follows: - Messrs. Dixon (chairman), Biddle, Campbell, Caunston, Cooper, Bowstead, Glover, Herdman, Matthewson, Robertson, Bradford, McDermott, Smeaton and F Mason, secretary and treasurer. It was decided to hold the fifth annual exhibition on Thursday, 11th December, the show to last only one day. A vote of thanks to the Chairman and to the retiring Secretary closed the proceedings, after which a committee meeting was held at which the schedule was gone over and arrangements made for appointment of judges.

June 6, p. 2, column 1.

Berwick Ornithological Society. It has been resolved to hold monthly meetings of the members, at which the points of the various subjects connected with the fancy. Pens will be provided for exhibiting any specimens on which members may be desirous of having the opinion of their brother fanciers. The meeting will be held on the second Wednesday of every

month, the first to be in the side room of the Corn Exchange, Berwick on Wednesday next, 11th June at 8 o'clock p.m.

F Mason, Hon Sec. and Treasurer.

June 6, Local News p. 3, column 2.

BERWICK ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY. – An adjourned meeting of this society was held in the Long Room of the Corn Exchange on Monday night. Mr R Dixon presided, and there was a very small attendance. The minutes of last meeting were read and approved. The Chairman intimated that one of the members of committee – Mr Thomas Robertson – had intimated to him that he declined to act; he could not attend. On the motion of Mr F Mason, seconded by Mr Biddle, Mr James Millar was appointed to fill the vacancy. The committee recommended that the following gentlemen be appointed to act as judges at the forthcoming show: - Mr D Bragg, Carlisle, and Mr Enoch Hutton, Pudsey, Leeds, for poultry; Mr Enoch Hutton, and Mr T H Stretch, Ormskirk, Lancashire, for pigeons; Mr George Hope, Edinburgh, and Mr J Carson, Dalkeith, for Scotch fancy and Belgian canaries; and Mr John Pringle, Galashiels, for other cage birds. These were approved of with the exception of the last named, Mr Joseph Bexon, Derby, being appointed in his stead. The schedule and classification of classes were next gone over. In the poultry section one or two classes were thrown out, while in the pigeon section a few classes were introduced. In both sections the prize money was reduced, the Chairman remarking that he thought it would be better for them to creep this year again. Mr A Cooper – If you had taken my advice you would have crept last year. The cage bird section was similar to last year – a members' class being introduced. The classes for rabbits were discontinued.

June 27, p. 2, column 1.

CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK. Wednesday, 2nd July at 11, Mr Ralph Dixon will sell by auction, as above, a large assortment of excellent and substantial household furniture and other effects, comprising: - excellent mahogany pedestal sideboard, mahogany dining table, capital round and square mahogany loo tables, handsome mahogany sofas, easy chairs, and sets of chairs in haircloth, chimney mirrors, window cornice poles, and curtains, marble slab and lofty mirror back, mahogany chiffonier, drawing room suite, fenders, fire-irons, and ash-pans, gipsy and occasional tables, excellent Brussels and tapestry carpets, Axminster and other hearthrugs.

Very handsome mahogany Persian bedsteads in green rep, with straw, hair, and wool mattresses; fine brass and iron bedsteads, palliasses, featherbeds, bolsters, and pillows; iron and mahogany chair beds and cushions, birch and mahogany washstands, dressing tables and dressing glasses, bedroom chairs, baths, &c.

First class safe by S Withers & Co; fine hall table; stair carpets and rods; fine oil paintings, music; crystal; sewing machines, &c.

26th June, 1890.

July 4, p. 2, column 1.

The Equitable Benefit Building Society, Berwick-upon-Tweed. The annual general meeting will be held in the side room of the Corn Exchange on the evening of Wednesday, 9th July, 1890 at 8 o'clock.

Ralph Dixon, Sec.

July 4, p. 2, column 1.

The Berwick and Tweedmouth Gas Light Co. The annual meeting of the shareholders of the above company will be held in the Long Room, Corn Exchange Buildings, Sandgate, Berwick-upon-Tweed, on Wednesday 16th July inst. At 12 o'clock noon precisely, for the transaction, among other things, of the following business viz. :-

1st – to receive the balance sheet and the report of the directors and auditor thereon.

2nd – to elect three directors.

3rd – to elect an auditor.

4th – to declare dividend, and which will be paid immediately after the business of the meeting is transacted.

T G Turner, Secretary. High Street, Berwick, 2nd July, 1890.

July 11, Local News p. 3, column 4.

BERWICK EQUITABLE BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETY. – The annual general meeting of the members of this Society was held in the Corn Exchange on Wednesday evening. Mr R Dickinson, one of the directors, was called upon to preside. The annual statement of accounts, which had been supplied to the members, was held as read. In answer to questions, Mr Ralph Dixon, the secretary, said the working capital of the Society consisted of £8,340 12s 7d, made up of £4,553 5s 11d at the credit of the ordinary shareholders, and £3,787 6s 8d obtained by preference shares. The amount of interest earned during the past year was £437 8s 0d. Of this £320 5s 2d was applied as interest to the shares, while £108 6s 5d remained as net extra profits. Out of this it was agreed to declare a bonus of 2s 10d per share. The retiring directors – Messrs G Black and D Ross – were re-elected, while Mr John Wilson, sculptor, Tweedmouth, and Mr R F Gregson were appointed directors in the room of others whose

qualification had ceased. A discussion took place as to the advisability of having a rule allowing borrowing members 24 years in which to repay the loans, but no definite resolution was come to on the subject. A vote of thanks to the directors and to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

July 18, p. 2, column 5.

BERWICK AND TWEEDMOUTH GASLIGHT COMPANY.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of this company was held in the Corn Exchange, on Wednesday. – Mr C Hopper, Chairman of Directors, presiding.

Mr T G Turner (Secretary) read the balance sheet as follows: - Income – gas sold £4641 2s 5d; use of meters, £129 17s 8d; coke, tar, lime, &c, sold £375 9s 8d – total £5145 9s 9d; Expenditure – salaries, £323 4s 0d; wages, £357 5s 9d; parrot coals, £2150 3s 6d; lime, £74 5s 11; ordinary repairs and maintenance of works and plant, £429 14s 7d; parochial rates, £118 1s 4d; removing and fixing tar, tank, valves, &c, £79 4s 3d; rents, £7 3s 0d; property and income tax, £30 13s 1d; miscellaneous, £60 8s 6d; meters repairing, &c, £110 5s 10d; bad debts, £19 10s 8 ½ d. Interest on bank accounts, £3 0s 1d; insurance and depreciation, £135 15s 0d – total £3898 15s 6 ½ d – the balance being net profit were £1247 14s 2 ½ d.

Mr Turner also read the Directors' annual report which is as follows: - Gentlemen, - It affords your Directors much pleasure in again meeting you on this occasion, and submitting to you the results of the company's transactions for the last year. The accounts have been examined and approved by your Directors, and certified by the Auditor, and from the balance sheet, a copy of which has been sent to each shareholder, you will observe that the balance of net profit available for dividend, amounts to £1247 14s 2 ½ d, out of which your Directors recommend that a dividend of ten per cent, free of income tax, be declared, and which our Secretary will pay immediately after the business of the meeting is transacted. The Directors regret that in consequence of the great advance in the price of parrot coal, they are unable, at the present time to make a further reduction in the price of gas to their consumers. In conclusion, permit us to state that during the past year there have been 15 meetings of the Board, a sufficient proof that the interests of the Company have not been neglected. The retiring Directors, according to rotation, are Messrs Hopper, Gray, and Fender, but are eligible for re-election.

Christopher Hopper, Chairman. July 2, 1890.

The Chairman said in rising to move the adaptation of the report there was very little he could add to it. He could only express the regret of himself and all the Directors that they were not able to announce a further reduction in the price of gas for this year. That had been brought about by the price of coal. They must have all noticed that the rise had been from 3s 6d per ton in some districts to 12s 6d in others. Although the Directors regretted that they could not reduce the price of gas this year, he thought it would be gratifying to the public that they had not raised it 5d per 1000 cubic feet, as a great many gas companies had done. He might state

that if they could only get delivery – they had purchased their coal for the whole season – and if everything went as they had expected, they would get through the year without any difficulty. With these few remarks he begged to move the adoption of the report.

Mr Lawson seconded the motion. He need say nothing to recommend the course to the shareholders. The prosperity and the welfare of the Company as disclosed by the reports were without question, and everything in connection with the Company was going on in first class style. A dividend of 10 per cent must be very acceptable to the shareholders.

Mr Turner next read the attendance of the Directors at the meetings, of which there had been 15. The Chairman, Mr Dumble, and Mr Paxton had attended all; Mr Wilson, 14; Mr Gray and Mr Weatherston, 12; Mr Lawson, 11; Mr Fender, 8; and Mr Lyon, 7. The three retiring directors – the Chairman, Mr Gray, and Mr Fender – were re-elected.

The Chairman returned thanks. The office of Director was a very honourable position; if anything was necessary to induce them to be more careful of the interests of the Company it was the great unanimity and kindness which the shareholders showed to them on such occasion as that. They would do their utmost as they had done in the past to forward the interests of the Company.

The Chairman moved, and Mr A Alexander seconded that the meeting declare a dividend of ten per cent.

Mr Clark proposed a vote of thanks to the Directors for their successful management of the Company's affairs during the past year. The shareholders must have been well pleased with the way in which the business had been conducted, taking into consideration the rise in the price of coal and other material. They had also great reason to be thankful to the Secretary, upon whom a great responsibility rested, and who discharged his duties with efficiency.

Mr G Lamb seconded the motion.

The Chairman in returning thanks, said the Directors would use their utmost endeavours in the future to look after the interests of the Company.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

August 1, p. 2, column 2.

CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK. Thursday, 7th August, at 11. Mr Ralph Dixon is favoured with instructions to sell by auction, as above, the excellent household furniture and other effects of a family leaving the town, comprising – two excellent mahogany enclosed sideboards, fine drawing room suite in olive Utrecht velvet, brilliant toned cottage pianoforte, full compass in elegant walnut case, sofas, easy chairs, and sets of chairs, fine chimney mirrors, very handsome tall chest of mahogany drawers, dressing tables, washstands, dressing

glasses, towel rails, iron and wood bedsteads, palliasses, wool and hair mattresses, oak hat and umbrella stand, whatnot, Brussels and tapestry carpets, hearth rugs, fender and fire-irons, entre tables, stair rods, sewing machine, bureau chest of drawers, kitchen dresser, &c.

Berwick, 30th July, 1890.

August 22, Front Page column 1.

Eastern Border Horticultural Society. The annual competitive exhibition of this society will take place in the Corn Exchange, Berwick-on-Tweed on Tuesday 26th Aug. 1890.

Admission from 2 to 6 o'clock, 1s each (members with tickets free). From 6 to 8 o'clock 6d (members with tickets free).N.B. Tickets issued this year are only available. A band will be in attendance.

Rob. Weddell and Thos. Douglas, Hon. Secs.

September 12, Local News, p. 3, column 5.

BERWICK ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY. – The usual monthly meeting of the above society was held in the Side Room of the Corn Exchange, on Wednesday evening. There was a fair attendance of members, and the show points of several varieties of pigeons, &c, were freely discussed, and rendered very enjoyable and interesting by reference to some of the very excellent coloured plates published with Robert Fulton's standard work on the pigeon, and which was kindly lent for the occasion by Mr James Miller. Very excellent birds of this year's breeding were shown by the following members – Mr J F Bowstead, black barbs; Mr J Biddle, grizzle dragons and red and black chequer show homers; Mr A Caverhill, red antwerps; and Mr T Dickson, yellow agate shortfaced tumblers. Canaries were shown by Mr James Miller. The whole of the birds showed evident signs of careful breeding, clearly demonstrating that our local breeders intend to make a bold bid for premier positions during the present show season. We understand that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 8th, when it is hoped a good number of members and friends will be present, as it is expected a large number of both old and young birds will be exhibited, including many prize winners.

September 19, p. 2, column 1.

CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK. Wednesday, 24th September, 1890, at 11. Mr Ralph Dixon is favoured with instructions to sell by auction, as above, very superior household furniture and other effects, comprising – mahogany open and enclosed sideboards, superior mahogany dining room suite in Morocco; very elegant rosewood drawing room suite in fine fancy arras; cottage pianoforte, sofas, easy chairs, and sets of chairs in haircloth; fine chimney mirrors

window poles, fenders, fire-irons; bordered Brussels and other carpets, Axminster and skin hearthrugs; round mahogany loo tables, excellent bedroom suite, iron and brass bedsteads with hair, wool, and straw mattresses; feather beds, bolsters and pillows; washstands, dressing tables, dressing glasses, towelrails, iron chair beds, mahogany Persian bedsteads, fine oak hall stand, mahogany do., occasional chairs, stair carpet and rods; oil paintings and other pictures; chest of drawers; writing table, silver watch, &c., the whole of which will be on view on Tuesday, at 2 o'clock.

September 19. P. 2, column 1.

Corn Exchange, Berwick. Saturday 27th Oct at 12. Sale of hyacinths, tulips, crocus, narcissus &c., being a direct consignment from Holland.

Ralph Dixon, auctioneer.

September 19, p. 2, column 1.

Corn Exchange, Berwick. Saturday 27th Oct at three o'clock. Sale of the whole loft of prize and prize bred short and medium faced antwerps (red, chequed, and silver duns), belonging to Mr James Campbell, Ravensdowne, who is compelled to decline the fancy.

Ralph Dixon, auctioneer.

September 26, p. 2, column 1.

Corn Exchange, Berwick. Three nights only, commencing 6th Oct, 1890. Mr E Lewis West's famous No 1 company in "Muldoon's Picnic up to date". First you laugh, then you shout, finally you scream. Funnier than a pantomime.

October 3, p. 2, column 1.

Corn Exchange, Berwick. Three nights only. Commencing 6th Oct 1890. Mr E Lewis West's famous No 1 company in "Muldoon's Picnic up to date". A feast of fun. You must laugh. Muldoon's picnic is a physical bracer. See the bricks fall down. A genuine and harmless tonic. See the three-handed reel. One visit will do you more good than half a dozen doctors. First you laugh, then you shout, finally you scream. New songs. New dances. New novelties since last visit. An evening of pure enjoyment. Funnier than pantomime. The old favourites. Doors open at 7:30, commence at 8. Admission – front seats (reserved) 3s; unreserved, 2s; second seats, 1s; back seats and promenade, 6d. – Plan of hall and seats booked at Paton's.

October 10, Local News, p. 3, column 2.

MULDOON'S PICNIC. – On the evenings of Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, appreciative audiences assembled in the Corn Exchange, Berwick, to witness the representation by Mr E Lewis West's famous No 1 Company of this extravaganza, the performance of which has been well styled "a feast of fun." From the commencement to the end there was almost a surfeit of hilarity. The characters were sustained as follows: - Michael Mulcahy, Mr Alfred Webb; Dennis Muldoon, Mr Byron Pedley; Mrs Muldoon, (His Better Half) Mr Edward Neville; John O'Brien, (A Bowery Boy) Mr Colin Coop; Augustus, (A New York dude,) Mr Fred Sinclair; Katie Muldoon, (The pride of the Muldoons) Miss Bertha St Ruth; Cora Muldoon, (Her little Sister,) Little Miss Bee; Captain Mishla, G A , Mr F Adamson; Dr O'Rafferty, Mr H Benson; Ada McLaughlin, (Muldoon's servant) Miss Laura West; Agnes Johnson, (A Friend of Katie's,) Miss F Lamont; Peter Nolan, (A Saloon Barr Tender) Mr Harry Loftus. All of the performers entered thoroughly into the spirit of the play, and the result was a most enjoyable and mirthful entertainment, which was characterised by abundance of rollicking fun in the shape of lively acting, amusing comic songs, witty remarks, humorous dialogues in the Irish brogue, grotesque postures and dancing. The audiences were frequently convulsed with laughter, and were highly gratified with the entertainment. Mr A Webb as Michael Mulcahy, fond of a "dhrink," was highly diverting, not only in his acting, but also in his singing and dancing, all of which were marked by extreme vivacity. Mr Byron Pedley as Dennis Muldoon made an amusing husband and father, fond of his wife and family, but of strong liquor as well. Miss Bertha St Ruth as Katie Muldoon was artistic and clever. Her songs were given with distinctness and sung with much sweetness. They were frequently encored. Mr Colin Coop's delivery of "The Wolf" was also excellent, and had to be repeated. Mr Fred Sinclair as Augustus, the American "dude" or "masher" was highly entertaining, and brought down the house with the song "Where did you get that hat?"

October 17, p. 2, column 2.

CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK. For three night s only! Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 20th, 21st, 22nd October 1890. Messrs Norman and Buckstone's celebrated comedy company in the enormously successful farcical comedy, "THE ARABIAN NIGHTS," by Sydney Goundy, from the Globe Theatre, London.

Arthur Hummingtop

Mr Raymond Capp.

Ralph Ormrod

Mr A Rodney.

Joshua Gillibrand

Mr C A Norman.

Dobson

Mr J Barton.

Rose Columbier	Miss Evelyn Vaudry.
Mrs Gillibrand	Miss Sallie Booth.
Daisy Maitland	Miss Annie Betterton.
Mrs Hummingtop	Miss Margaret Watson.
Barbara	Miss Fanny Watson.

Scene of action –

Morning room in Mr Hummingtop's house.

The programme will include an original comedietta, entitled – “MAN PROPOSES.”

Doors open at 7. Commence at 7:30. Carriages at 10:15. Admission - front seats (reserved), 2s 6d; unreserved, 2s; second seats, 1s; back seats and promenade, 6d.

October 24, p. 2, column 2.

CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK. Tuesday 28th October, 1890 at six o'clock evening. Mr Ralph Dixon will sell by auction, as above, a consignment of drapery goods and boots and shoes.

October 24, p. 2, column 2.

CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK. Wednesday 29th October, 1890 at 11. Mr Ralph Dixon has received instructions to immediately remove and sell by auction, the furnishings of a large house, comprising: - enclosed mahogany and open sideboards, mahogany cheffioniers, sofas, couches, easy chairs and sets of chairs, walnut inlaid china cabinet, drawing room suites, elegant chimney mirrors, cottage pianoforte, round and oblong breakfast and loo tables Pembroke, occasional and gipsy tables; rosewood settee, large, mahogany, birch and painted chests of drawers; mahogany, birch, and painted washstands and dressing tables; dressing glasses. Towel-rails, bedroom chairs. Excellent iron and wood bedsteads; straw, hair, and wool [next sentence not there]. Large self-heating plunge bath, other baths; iron chair bed, hat and umbrella stand; capital Brussels, tapestry, and Scotch carpets; fenders, fire-irons, antique brass fenders, fire-irons and ash-pan, walnut wardrobe, kitchen furniture and utensils; stair rods, and a host of miscellaneous articles in every department of furnishing. The auctioneer invites the attention of parties furnishing and others to the above as he is instructed to put every lot for positive sale

October 24, p. 2, column 2.

CORN EXCHANGE, BERWICK. Tuesday and Wednesday, 4th & 5th November. Specially attractive sale of a furrier's stock. Mr Ralph Dixon respectfully gives notice that he is instructed to sell by auction, as above, a valuable stock of furs, comprising fur-lined coats, with Astrachan, beaver, sealskin, and other collars and cuffs; rich sealskin dolmans, mantles, and Battenburg jackets, and trimmed with skunk, beaver, &c; variety of cloth dolmans, lined with squirrel tails, hamster, kaluga, opossum, &c; beaver, bearskin, and other sets of trimmings; sealskin, sable and other muff bags; an assortment of Boas, shoulder capes, collarettes, plastrons, carriage, travelling, and hearth rugs, of lion, puma, leopard, arctic, Russian bear, wolf, and other skins, &c. Catalogue on application.

Church Street, Berwick 24th Oct., 1890.

October 24, Local News, p. 3, column 3.

“The Arabian Nights” – On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights, Messrs Norman and Buckstone's celebrated company performed this amusing comedy by Sidney Grundy in the Corn Exchange. We regret that the audiences were not at all commensurate with the merits of the actors, for with the exception of Monday night, when a fair number of people were present, the attendance was small. The various performers, however, acquitted themselves with great ability, and gave a most enjoyable and amusing entertainment, which was much appreciated by all who patronised them. Each evening there was also an original comedienne “Man Proposes.”

October 31, p. 2, column 1.

31st annual Volunteer Ball, Corn Exchange, Berwick, Tuesday evening, December 16th.

November 7, p. 2, column 2.

Corn Exchange, Berwick. Mr A L Miller will sell by auction on Wednesday 19th Nov. within the Corn Exchange, Berwick, a quantity of superior household furniture and miscellaneous effects principally removed from two country houses. Particulars to follow. Further consignments can be received.

Berwick, 4th Nov. 1890.

November 14, Front Page.

St. Mary's soiree and concert. Corn Exchange, Berwick, Tuesday, Nov. 25th, 1890. Tea on tables at 6:30, concert at 8 p.m. Admission : one shilling; reserved seats, 1s 6d. Holders of reserved tickets will be admitted to gallery

November 14, p. 2, column 1.

Berwick Ornithological Society. The 5th annual exhibition of poultry, pigeon, and cage birds (open to the world) will be held in the Corn Exchange, Berwick-upon-Tweed, under rules of poultry and pigeon clubs, on Thursday 11th December 1890. Schedules now ready.

Judges – poultry – Messrs D Bragg and E Hutton.

Pigeon – Messrs E Hutton and T H Strech.

Scotch fancy and Belgian canaries – Messrs G Hope and J Carson.

Other canaries and cage birds – Mr J Bexon.

Francis Mason, Hon. Sec. & Treasurer.

November 14, p. 2, column 2.

Mr A L Miller is favoured with instructions to sell by auction at the Corn Exchange, Berwick, on Saturday, 22nd November, at one o'clock, the following carriages and horses, the property of a gentleman giving up horse keeping viz: - Circular fronted brougham, by Maule, Alnwick, with lamps, shafts, pole and bar.

Stanhope wagonette, by H Angus & Co., with do. do.

Whitechapel cart, by Atkinson & Philipson.

Silver mounted double and single harness, ladies' and gentlemen's saddles, horse clothing, etc.

Berwick, 13th November.

November 14, p. 2, column 2.

SALE OF HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE. Mr A L Miller will sell by public auction, within the Corn Exchange, Berwick, on Wednesday 19th Nov. 1890, a large quantity of superior household furniture, principally removed from two country houses, including: - public rooms – handsome mahogany sideboards, mahogany chiffonier, large mahogany telescope dining table, with 5 leaves and leaf case; mahogany cellarette, 6 mahogany hair-seated chairs, 12 do. in leather, large book case, writing table, 2 mahogany loo tables, marble clock, oval walnut table, card table, very handsome inlaid Indian chess table, knotted oak work table, French china painted lamp, gilt mirror, with Alhambra frame; square piano. Bedrooms – 3 mahogany beds and hangings, 3 iron half-tester beds and hangings, palliasses and hair mattresses, 5 iron beds, mahogany wardrobe, double marble-topped washstand and 5 other washstands, 3

dressing tables, towel rail, 8 bedroom chairs, 5 sets Dimity window curtains, birch pedestal, bidet, &c. Kitchen and sundries – 1 large press, 3 divisions; 2 mangles, 3 kitchen tables, 2 fenders, 1 churn, butter tub, meat safe, roasting jack. Brussels and other carpets. 3 sets fire-irons, 6 fenders, 2 galvanised tins for flowers, drab and gold Wedgewood dessert service in basket work, 2 dinner services, trifle dish and stand, salad bowl, storeroom jars, sundry glass and ware, including some old-fashioned crystal. A superior banjo. Large fine-toned musical box, plays twelve airs, with drum and bell accompaniments. Troutng rod, 1 double-barrel B L gun, 1 single-barrel do. do. 4 archery bows, full size; and miscellaneous effects.

Sale at twelve o'clock prompt. On view day previous to sale, between 2 and 5 o'clock.

November 28, p. 2, column 2.

Dwelling house for sale. Mr A L Miller is favoured with instructions to sell by public auction within the Corn Exchange, Berwick, on Wednesday 10th December at 2 o'clock afternoon, all that substantially built freehold dwelling house with yard and appurtenances, being No 75, Upper Ravensdowne, Berwick, as now in the occupation of Miss E Davidson, containing 5 apartments, kitchen, back kitchen and 2 light closets. The house is commodious and in good repair, advantageously situated for residential purposes, being in one of the best quarters of the town, close to the Parish church, Wallace Green Church and the Barracks, and within 5 minutes' walk of the sea. For further particulars apply to Messrs R & T Douglas, solicitors, Berwick, or to the auctioneer.

Bank Buildings, Berwick, 27th Nov. 1890.

November 28, p. 2, column 7.

ST MARY'S CHURCH SOIREE AND ENTERTAINMENT.

The bills announcing this event in the Corn Exchange, Berwick, on Tuesday night, stated "there is a time to laugh and a time to weep." Evidently the Rev James King, M. A., in preparing for the soiree and entertainment, intended that it should be of an uncommon order, and as a recommendation he added at the top of the placards –

"St. Mary's treat, so people say,

Is pure and bright as flowers in May."

The doors were opened at 6 o'clock, at which time a goodly crowd of people were ready to take their seats, for the placards announced that the soiree and entertainment was "under the distinguished patronage of twelve hundred of the elite of Berwick. According to the bills "tea as served at Her Majesty's table was brewed at 6:30 p.m." The programme stated that "after careful sifting the Committee would furnish a perfect blend of *Brassica-phylla* and *Brahmapootra Refinings*." *Brassica-phylla*, we presume, referred to cabbage leaves, but we

have not learnt the meaning of *Brahmapootra Refinings*. Evidently both were a curious “King’s mixture.” Complaints were made last year that the tea was cold, so by way of change it was intimated, on the programme that it would be hot this year. People were further informed that “anyone aggrieved with the quality would have a crown or at least half-a crown on leaving the hall.” Nobody, it was also stated, could be admitted without pay, but anyone could pay without being admitted. As tea was provided only for a thousand, the “total tea” for a tea-total person was 15 cups; for a tea-[totom?] under 10 years old 10 cups. After all had obtained their allowance the hall was cleared for the concert, which began a 8 o’clock, before a full house. The vicar of St Mary’s, who had appended the letters “A.B.C.D., &c to his name, and which some wag deciphered as “able-bodied church defender,” occupied the chair, and shortly introduced the performers. The platform was first occupied by the members of the Berwick Juvenile Orchestra, who performed a selection from “My Sweetheart” in capital style, which was cordially applauded. St Mary’s choir next essayed the glee, “The Village Choristers,” which was well rendered, but the proscenium had the effect of deadening the sound, and, as a consequence, the piece was not so well heard as it might otherwise have been. The Mises King, styled in the programme as “Margaret and Muriel as Les Soeurs,” performed the pianoforte duet “Demoiselles” to the evident satisfaction of the audience. Miss J Barker next appeared, and rendered Tennyson’s beautiful song “Break, Break” in a highly creditable manner, and was deservedly applauded. This was followed by the operetta “Farie Voices,” which was performed by about 50 little children, described in the programme as “charming elfins,” the majority of whom were very young. They were conducted by Me W G Green, and accompanied by the Juvenile Orchestra. The “faries” performed their part admirably, and the lime light turned upon the stage vied beautifully with the bright coloured dresses worn by the children, giving the tout ensemble a really magnificent appearance. The youngsters were loudly applauded for their efforts, the audience apparently agreeing with the statement in the programme – “sweeter than roses in their buds are happy faces in the morning of life.” Mr Tom Barker next entertained the company with a violin solo, for which he gained their hearty approval. Following this the Masters King appeared and danced the Sailor’s Hornpipe in a manner that secured a well-merited encore. Mr Alexander Downes followed with the song “Waiting,” which he rendered in excellent style. Messrs Orr and Hendrick afterwards appeared in a comic song with banjo accompaniment. Master Archie Campbell next delighted the audience with a cornet solo, “The Better Land,” with orchestral accompaniment. This youngster’s beautiful rendering of the solo was deservedly applauded. The second part of the programme was opened by Mr W Green with a well-executed flute solo. St Mary’s choir again appeared in the glee “Moonlight on the lake.” The charming operetta “See-Saw,” which followed, was performed by the same children as before. In this piece the juveniles were again eminently successful, performing their parts in a highly creditable manner, and gained the hearty approval of the audience. Mr James Wallace, dressed in the most grotesque attire, followed and delivered a stump oration. The “get-up” of the performer, his style of delivery, and the matter contained in the “speech” were highly amusing and appeared to be thoroughly appreciated by the company. A violin solo, “Scottish [Gems?]” was the next item on the programme, and in his performance of it, Mr T W G Borthwick fairly took the audience by storm. An encore was clamorously demanded, but Mr Borthwick contended himself by simply bowing his acknowledgements. Messrs Orr and

Hendrick again appeared and rendered a comic song, with banjo accompaniment. Following this the programme announced a [a Barcarolle Escossais, by Cevynus Jeduardiessis.”] The intimation continued to state that no singing in the world could boast a more powerful [?] as the Monsignor could be distinctly heard a mile off! This being turned out to be a collie dog belonging to the Vicar, who stated in the programme that he had been secured for St Mary’s soiree through the influence of “Collared & Collared.” This wonderful vocalist failed to uphold the reputation claimed for him; in fact his efforts were rather weak, but the audience were informed that “the old Scotch barker” would do better next year. The programme concluded with the comic drama entitled “The Dentist’s Den,” performed by Masters R and J King, J Wallace and G Green. The piece was highly amusing, but owing to the late hour and length of the programme, it was not appreciated as it might have been. The duties of conductor and accompanist were ably performed by Mr B Barker, organist and choirmaster of St Mary’s Church.

December 5, p. 2, column 1.

The Committee has pleasure in intimating that the 31st annual Berwick Volunteer Ball will be held in the Corn Exchange, Berwick, on the evening of 16th December 1890, at nine o’clock. Under the patronage and presence of the Mayor of Berwick (Commander Norman, R. N.) and the Sheriff of Berwick (Major Darling, E. C. A. V). Music by an orchestra from Mr Amers, Newcastle. Special floor. Decorations by John Crow, Berwick. Refreshments and supper by Mr Henderson, Red Lion Hotel, Berwick. Military double tickets, 4s; civilians double ticket, 5s; ladies’ ticket, 2s; are now ready, and may be had from Messrs Paton, booksellers, Berwick; Mr Henderson, Red Lion Hotel; Mr Kerr, the Ship, Sandgate, Berwick; and members of the Committee.

Wm S Dunlop, sergeant, Hon. Sec. of the Ball Committee.

December 5, Local News p. 3, column 3.

Berwick Volunteer Ball. On Tuesday night, 16th inst., as will be seen from our advertising columns, the annual Berwick Volunteer Ball will take place in Berwick Corn Exchange. For thirty years now this entertainment has taken place and the pronounced success of it last year showed the Berwick Volunteer Ball gains vigour as it grows in age. Encouraged by the patronage last year’s ball had, the Committee this year have still further considered in what direction the ball might be advantageously furthered. To that end first-class music will be supplied by Mr Amers of Newcastle; the refreshments and supper will be in the hands of Mr Henderson, Red Lion Hotel, Berwick; and John Crow, Berwick, will again attend to the decorations. Already there is promise of a large company on the 16th inst.

December 5, Local News p. 3, column 3.

THE AFFAIRS OF MESSRS LEE AND WIGHT, BOATBUILDERS. - A meeting of creditors of Messrs Lee and Wight, boatbuilders, Tweedmouth, was held in the Corn Exchange on Saturday afternoon. Mr G Riddle occupied the chair. Mr J K Weatherhead (of the firm of Messrs Sandersons and J K Weatherhead) stated that Messrs Lee and Wight had executed a deed of assignment in favour of Mr A L Miller, in whom the whole of their property was now vested. Mr A L Miller then read a statement of affairs. The liabilities of the firm were – unsecured creditors, £810 14s 6d; preferential creditors, £40 18s 7d. The assets were – approximate value of stock-in-trade, plant, tools, &c., £201 6s 0d; book debts, £88 16s 2d, estimated to produce £40; cash in hand of Messrs Sandersons and J K Weatherhead, £8 18s 8d; value of William Wight's household furniture, £14 19s 6d – total, £265 4s 2d. There was thus a deficiency of £586 8s 11d. In reply to a question, Mr Miller stated that there would be no surplus available from the new steam line fishing boat "Admiral" recently launched by the firm. The money unpaid - £145 – would not complete the vessel. Mr A K Makins, who represented Messrs Allan Brothers, the biggest creditors, asked how Messrs Lee and Wight accounted for the deficiency. Mr Miller stated that they had built a steam line fishing boat for Mr T F Robertson Carr in 1886 at a loss. They then owed £250, but considered that their estate would cover this. Messrs Allan Brothers were good enough to give them further assistance, but since then times had been depressed, and fishermen could not afford to buy craft. The firm had built three other steam line fishing boats at a loss. They attributed their present state of affairs to heavy expenses and want of trade. Mr Hair, Eyemouth, said Messrs Lee and Wight might have found their mistake after building the first steam line fishing boat and raised the prices of the others. Mr Miller said Messrs Lee and Wight had been perfectly honest and straightforward; they made no effort to conceal anything. Mr Makins – They lost money on Carr's boat and expected to recoup themselves on the others which they have not done. Mr Miller said Mr Makins represented the largest creditors – Messrs Allan Brothers – whose claim was for £330. He would perhaps state his instructions. Mr Makins said he had been asked to request that the estate be wound up as quickly as possible at the least cost for the most money it would realise. Messrs Allan Brothers were quite willing to accede to the trustee. This course was agreed to. Mr Miller said the statement of affairs showed a dividend of 5s in the £. Of course there were the expenses of realisation.

December 12, p. 2, column 2.

BERWICK BIRD SHOW. The fifth exhibition of Berwick Ornithological Society was held yesterday in the Corn Exchange and proved a great success, over 1000 birds being penned. The attendance was good and the Committee are to be congratulated not only upon their arrangements for the show but also the result of it. The judges were – poultry – Mr D Bragg, Carlisle; Mr Enoch Hutton, Pudsey. Pigeons – Mr Enoch Hutton, Pudsey; Mr T H Stretch, Ormskirk. Scotch fancy and Belgian canaries – Mr John Carson, Dalkeith; Mr George Hope, Edinburgh. Norwich and other canaries and other cage birds – Mr Joseph Bexson, Derby. Their awards gave general satisfaction. The poultry classes were well filled with the exception of those for turkeys and geese the display of which was very small. We understand farmers in the district are rearing more of these birds than usual, and it is a pity they do not

encourage the show at Berwick. The coming breed of Langshans or Orpingtons was well represented and some fine specimens were shown. The Plymouth, Brahma, Dorking, Leghorn, Black Hamburg and Minorca classes were all well filled and contained some excellent birds. The winner of the special prize amongst the game birds was just about perfect. The winning drakes and ducks were also remarkably fine specimens. On the whole the display of poultry was splendid. The collection of pigeons was one of the best that has been seen for some time. The pouters were exceedingly good; the first fantail had extraordinary fine carriage; the first Jacobin was a very fine black bird; the first owl – silver – was a well-known winner of many awards, and it took the special prize yesterday in half-a-dozen classes. The magpies, turbits, orientals, short-faced and long-faced tumblers were capital birds. The homer classes were well filled, and contained many excellent specimens. There was also a capital display of cage birds, and competition was keen. The first in class 92 took the silver cup given by the licensed victuallers of Berwick for the best canary in the show (Scotch fancy and Belgian excluded.) For it, the sum of £35 has been refused. Cinnamons were only moderate. The Scotch fancy canaries made a fine display. The dark mules were quite a show in themselves, the majority being a cross between the bull-finch and the gold-finch. There was also an excellent display of British birds. The following is the prize list (here follows a detailed list of winners.)

December 12, p. 2, column 2.

LOCAL GOSSIP. The temperance or total abstinence question has been brought prominently forward in Berwick recently, and it will receive more attention in the future. Public opinion regarding the subject has greatly changed during the last half century. Some of the oldest teetotallers whose memory can go back that length of time – few are now left – can relate how lecturers upon total abstinence were actually stoned and ill-treated when they attempted to propound their views in the public streets of Berwick. To profess one's self a teetotaller, not so very long ago, meant to be scoffed and laughed at by others. The information given by the Rev Joseph Rorke at the United Temperance Demonstration in the Corn Exchange, Berwick, regarding what went on during one Saturday evening at only a few of the public houses must astonish and shock all who are anxious to improve the morals of the community. Mr Rorke, however, did not over-draw the picture. He might have said more without any exaggeration. Although there are 93 establishments in the borough of Berwick for the sale of intoxicating liquor, the actual number of public houses is 86. Mr Rorke only mentioned what took place at two or three. All of these establishments do not have the same amount of trade; it would reveal a terrible state of affairs if they had; but they have sufficient to cause all the evils enumerated by Mr Rorke. The unfortunate aspect of the trade of the public houses in Berwick or any other town, is that the great majority of people who frequent them are those who cannot afford to spend much money in intoxicating liquor. People who indulge in this find it a most expensive luxury, and it is a common complaint that "nothing runs away faster with money than drink." That working man referred to by Mr Rorke, who boasted that he had spent 13s in two days in a public house in Castlegate, must have experienced the truth of this, and probably he will have had to suffer the want of some

necessaries of life in consequence of his improvidence. In this, however, the writer may be mistaken; for those who frequent public houses, like this working man, are usually the most selfish rascals under the sun; when they have money they take too much care to spend it upon their own enjoyment, instead of devoting it to food and clothing for their wives and children, however inclement and wintry the weather may be. Shakespeare says "Every inordinate cup is unblest, and the ingredient is a – devil." One fails to see what pleasure there can be in a number of men sitting round a table drinking quantities of alcohol in the shape of wretched beer or still worse whisky till they become like so many swine. These "jolly good fellows," save the mark! Should arrange to have the photographer at hand when they have finished the carouse in order that he might present them with a memento of it, and also in order that they might in their sober moments see themselves as others see them. Perhaps, if people who drink had any conception of the idiotic appearance their faces wear when they are the worse of liquor. They would hesitate before they bowed down to the shrine of King Alcohol. Local temperance reformers who intend to keep strict watch on the trade of the public houses in Berwick, Tweedmouth and Spittal in future would do well to get a few of those detective cameras which have been in use in Ireland recently, for the purpose of taking photographs of scenes in the streets. These would afford no end of entertainment when they were exhibited by means of magic lanterns at their public gatherings, to which they should invite, amongst others, those of our public men and officials whose frequent recourse to hotels and public houses is a notorious scandal.

Unfortunately drinking to excess is not confined to any class; it is found in all grades of society. Once men give way to the liking for intoxicating liquor, there is no device too cunning which they will not adopt to get it. The writer has heard of masters forbidding their workmen to bring drink to the establishment where they labour; but these have been known to have the bottle hoisted up to their department means of a rope let down to the ground for the purpose; a professional man has been caught drinking it behind a door of a public institution when he thought no one was near; while excuses that are made for entering public houses to get a drink are as familiar as the figures on the dial of a watch or a clock. These instances indicate that certain people take drink for its sake; that is because they like it. There are others who are attracted to public houses by the love of company, and by the amusement which are provided for them. Temperance reformers would do well therefore to devote themselves to the advocacy of certain changes in the management of public houses. Why, for instance, should inn-keepers be allowed to provide amusements? They are not licensed for that purpose. The Legislature has seen fit to make gambling on licensed premises penal, and it might well forbid the playing of billiards, bagatelle and other games there. So long as public houses are permitted to provide such amusements, there is not only a strong argument for keeping them open till ten or eleven o'clock at night, but a great injustice is done to reading rooms and mechanics' institutes which have been established in Berwick and the surrounding district for the welfare of the community. The duty of a licensed victualler is to provide food and drink for man and beast; with amusement he should have nothing to do. Perhaps if that were the case his trade would not be so great as it is at the present day. Inn-keepers should be compelled in the interests of the public, themselves and their servants to be open no more than twelve hours a day at the very most. Whoever heard of any other people in business

working from six o'clock in the morning till ten or eleven o'clock at night? In these days we hear of early closing and half-holiday movements, but none of these are ever adopted by or applied to the inn-keepers. By all means let them also have share of the good things going in order that everybody's health – their own included - may be benefitted. What is good for the shopkeeper must be good for the inn-keeper.

Publicans are so devoted to the interests of the people, in England at least, that they cannot even get a day of rest, and therefore they have to open on the Sunday. Really the public are too exacting; they should pity the poor inn-keeper and allow him some little leisure for the benefit of both his soul and body. Just think, that in Berwick, there are 85 or 86 "Devil's traps" open for the unwary. Many in the town, unfortunately, walk right into them. Others from a distance by some strange fascination are attracted by them, and they give the town a bad name. When the Marshal's Meadows cutting on the North British Railway was made the statistics of drunkenness in Berwick rose greatly. From 1881 to 1883 the numbers of people charged with drunkenness ranged from 106 to 164, the proportion of strangers being from 66 to 104. In 1884 and 1885 when the improvement at Marshal's Meadows was being affected, the numbers of persons charged with drunkenness were 238 and 257, the proportion of strangers being 148 and 182. Between 1886 and 1889 the number of persons charged with drunkenness ranged from 150 to 191, the proportion of strangers being from 67 to 120. In the present year Eyemouth Railway is being made and that has again caused our statistics of drunkenness to rise, the number of persons charged being 221, of whom 129 were strangers. If public houses were closed on the Sunday we should not have this state of things, because the navvies working in the neighbourhood come into Berwick and get drunk frequently on the Sunday. They generally make their appearance before the Magistrates on the Monday morning.

At the United Temperance Demonstration in Berwick Corn Exchange, and at Berwick Presbytery last week, reference was made to the excessive number of licensed establishments, and to the large proportion of "tied" public houses in our town. It must be admitted that 93 licensed establishments are far too many for the needs of the population. One for every 150 people is excessive; this is shown by the fact that the tenants of several are frequently changed because they cannot earn a livelihood in them. As for the "tied" public houses we shall, it is hoped, soon know whether it is legal to have them. It must be a matter for thankfulness to temperance reformers, however, to know that the number of public houses in Berwick has decreased during the past half century. Old people can remember when many more existed. "The Old Highlander," which stood in the neighbourhood of Wallace Green Church, and where the first staff borne by the oldest freeman is said to have been lost, has been demolished. In High Street, at least, four have disappeared – "The Black Bull," which still gives its name to a yard of evil notoriety; one near the top of Western Lane; a third a little below Crawford's Alley; and another up the wide entry near the Town-hall. In Woolmarket one or two have ceased to exist; in Hide Hill the "Wheat Sheaf" formerly stood where Mr Young has now a cabinetmaker's shop; and quite recently another was extinguished in Sandgate to make way for the British Linen Company's Bank. There are, no

doubt, other instances, but they are not known to or remembered by the writer at the present moment.

December 19, p. 2, column 5.

VOLUNTEER BALL AT BERWICK.

The Plan of Campaign studied by our local amateur disciples of Mars possesses various features. Drill and camp life may induce a feeling of camaraderie amongst the volunteers, but we fancy that they enjoy a grand march or various other evolutions and exercises on the floor of a ball-room when "shoulder to shoulder" with the fair sex, even more than all their military exercises. From these "sweethearts and wives" are excluded – they can only be spectators; but in the temple of Terpsichore they can take an active part in those military and callisthenic exercises which are peculiar to such a shrine, and act as a genii of it. That Berwick Volunteers finds the dance an agreeable variation from the rigorous of drill is proved by the fact that they have a ball every year. The annual re-union took place on Tuesday night in that commodious building, the Corn Exchange, Berwick, which was converted into an elegant saloon by Mr John Crow, painter and decorator, High Street, to whom the work of beautifying it had been entrusted. In the first place, however, a temporary floor was laid down by Mr John Cockburn, joiner, Castlegate, to make dancing as agreeable as possible. The stalls round the hall were screened from view by terracotta calico, which was relieved at the top by crimson festoons and tassels, above these being a border of golden lilies. At intervals, banners and semi-circles of ramrods were erected and glittered in the gaslight. The same materials were [need?] to hide the space beneath the gallery, but above them was a partition of variegated paper. The rails of the gallery and alcove were concealed by red calico. Upon those of the former was the quotation "On with the dance, let joy be unconfined," with stars of gleaming bayonets at the sides, while on those of the latter was the royal coat-of-arms adorned with small flags. Underneath the gallery also were a number of Chinese lanterns. At the east part of the room the two side windows were adorned with lace curtains; those in the middle being concealed by crimson calico, on which was placed another representation of the royal arms draped with the Union Jack and other flags. In the middle of each pilaster was placed a shield adorned with small banners, while in the spaces between them were the following mottos: - "Scotland for ever"; "England, home and beauty"; "Sweethearts and wives"; "Defence not defiance"; "Our Queen and country"; "Our hearts and homes"; "ready, aye ready"; "Shoulder to shoulder"; "Good old Berwick"; "Erin go bragh." From the gasoliers were suspended garlands of red and white artificial roses, in the centre being a large Chinese lantern. Access to the area set apart for dancing was gained by two doorways. Over the principal one of them was the inscription "Vis unites fortiori." Each of them was adorned with lace curtains. The long room upstairs was used for refreshments, which were supplied in excellent style by Mr James Henderson, Red Lion Hotel, High Street. Dancing began at nine o'clock to music supplied by Mr Amer's band from Newcastle. The masters of Ceremonies were - Captain Douglas, Sergeant W S Dunlop, Sergeant W Smith and Private

Park. The company was numerous and engaged with much zest in the giddy mazes of dances which followed each other in quick succession "in many a winding bout."

The grand march was led off by the Mayor, (Captain Norman, R. N.,) and Mrs T Douglas, followed by the Sheriff, (Mr T Darling,) and Mrs A Steven. Over one hundred couples joined in the march, which had a very imposing appearance. Amongst those present were: - Major Weddell, Captain Gillard, R.A., and Miss Gillard, Captain Nelson, Surgeon Mackay, and Miss Mackay, Ald. A Darling, Mr Alex. Darling, Mr A Darling, junr., Mrs T Darling, and the Misses Darling, the Under-Sheriff, (Mr T C Smith) and Miss Smith, Mr H R Smail and Mrs Smail, Councillor and Mrs Marshall, Mr W L Miller and Miss Miller, Miss Wallbank, Mr C Wilson, Councillor Brough and Miss Brough, Mr W Douglas, Mr Robert Douglas, Mr W Alder, junr., Mr H Alder, Mr C Vane-Tempest, Mr A Rankin, Duns; Mr J Hume, Ayton, &c.

The programme of dances was as follows: - March and Triumph; valse, Santiago; lancers, Her Majesty's; valse, Adoration; quadrille, Hurly Burly; polka, See me dance; valse and gallop, Toreador and Scots Greys; lancers, Red Hussar; valse, Cordova; polka, Dorothy; quadrille, Jackie-the-Green; Spanish valse; Circassian circle, Favorite; mazurka, Julia; lancers, Pelican; valse, Dearest love; Highland Schottische; polka, Mother Bunch; varsoviana, La Perle; valse, Elsie; Scotch reel; quadrille, Roundabout; country dance, Haymakers.

During the whole evening the enthusiasm was well sustained, and the dancing was carried on with great vigour till an early hour on Wednesday morning.