PRELIMINARY NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

MR. ROBERTS, Consulting Chemist, Dentist, &c., will REMOVE from MERCERS' Row to 21, THE DRAPERY, when the necessary Alterations are completed.

MESSRS. HULL & SONS,
VALUERS, LAND AGENTS, AND SURVEYORS.
ARBITRATIONS CONDUCTED, RAILWAY and other COMPENSATION CASES and TENANTS' CLAIMS ADJUSTED.
SURVEYS AND VALUATIONS OF ESTATES AND HOUSE PROPERTY.
Offices, 12, *ST. GILES'S STREET, NORTHAMPTON*

The Northampton Mercury,
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1864.

Christmas-time has come again, bringing with it its usual lessons to those who have ears to hear. There is a story in the tales of Boccaccio of a certain Jew whom a Christian friend had long tried in vain to convert to the true faith. At last, the Hebrew, worn out by his friend's representations, declared that he should go to Rome and watch the working of Christianity at the fountain head. The Christian, knowing well what a sink of iniquity the Papal City was in those days, was alarmed at this proposition, and looked upon the Jew's conversion as a thing no longer to be hoped for. The Israelite went to Rome, and came back a convert to Christianity. His friend, after the first rejoicing over the joyful tidings, asked the neophyte in confidence how it was that the contrast between the theory and practice of the Church had not hardened him in unbelief? Ah, the Jew answered, it was exactly that which converted me. When I saw the wickedness of Rome, when I observed how utterly your teachers disregarded the precepts of your religion, I felt certain that the faith which could survive such scandals must be the very truth of God. Such is the purport of Boccaccio's story, though the words have passed from our memory; and the moral contained in it has always struck us as one eminently appropriate to this Christmas season. To-morrow, in every quarter of the globe, the lesson of peace and good-will to men will be preached wherever the Christian faith has spread its way. North and South, in Richmond as in Washington, on the debateable lands of Virginia and Tennessee, where the country has been ravaged by the passage to and fro of hostile armies—there the holy message of peace will be repeated. The accents may be that of the Yankee grating voice, or the lisping Southern drawl, or the childish Negro jargon; but the sense will be the same, whether spoken by white lips or black. In the homes of New Zealand squatters, in the camps of our soldiers, even in the Pahs of the Maori chieftains, the words of forgiveness will be heard once more. In Poland the churches will be filled with crowds gathered round the manger, where the waxen image of the infant Christ lies dressed in swaddling clothes. In every Christian country where men are fighting and quarrelling, turning God's earth into a wilderness, and defacing those whom He has made in His own image, there, also, the truth, that bloodshed, and cruelty, and oppression are things which the coming of the promised Christ was to wash away, is acknowledged in words at least.

So, too, nearer home, the same contrast between the teaching of to-morrow and the practice of our age, must present itself to every thinking man. "The poor," we are told, "ye have always with you;" and the text is quoted often, as a sort of consolation for things being as they are. But yet no one who studies the lesson which was first heralded forth to the world eighteen centuries and a half ago, can believe that the present condition of society is in accordance with the spirit of our faith. How it is to be remedied or improved, is a question over which wise and good men have puzzled in vain, and will have to puzzle yet for many a long year to come. But that men should be living in luxury, while their fellow Christians are wanting food; that the streets of every Christian town should be crowded with lost creatures; that whole multitudes should be growing up—within hearing of the bells, which, from every tower and spire, will to-night ring us the glad tidings of great joy—and yet without knowledge of the meaning of that sacred message,—reared in ignorance, sentenced to misery, and condemned almost to guilt;—that such things should be, is not, and cannot, be in accordance with the promise given to all mankind in the stable of Bethlehem.

And thus, the very force of these contrasts seems to impress all the more forcibly upon those who think, the conviction of the truth of those words of comfort. If the faith in peace and good-will being the appointed end for which mankind should strive, has survived the experience of centuries—survives the contradictions daily given to it by what we see and hear around us—it must be because that faith has about it the immortal vitality of truth. It is well that these things should be remembered. The age in which we live is a very prosperous one for many, perhaps for most of us. Seldom in the world's history has there been more happiness vouchsafed to any country, than to this island home of ours. So all those whose lots have fallen within the charmed circle which divides comfort from want are too apt to think that every thing is for the best in the best possible of worlds. They have only to look around them to see that it is not so; that there exist among us evils which may perhaps be irremediable, but which certainly are inconsistent with the words we shall hear sung and read to-morrow. Christmas is not the time for political discussions, or even for speculations on social reform. There is much, very much, that all of us have to be thankful for; and it is well that this time should be devoted to pleasant thoughts. But yet it is good also for us to bear in mind that the promised peace and goodwill are still visions of dreamland rather than real facts; and that the world must change greatly before the carol sung to-morrow throughout Christendom ceases to be a standing testimony against the principles by which the Christian world is administered, in fact though not in theory.

LONDON SKETCHES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

London, 23rd December.

What is seasonable weather, is a question to which I have never yet heard a satisfactory answer. Why it should be thought seasonable to Christmas to have chilblains on your feet, and chapped hands, and a cold in the head, is also an unsolved mystery. However, it is the popular impression that cold and ice and snow promote geniality at Christmas, and I suppose the world knows best. But yet, I have a lurking suspicion that people don't really like being cold at any time. In fact my doubts have gone as far as to question whether men really feel particularly jolly at Christmas time. Emerson said once, that with the gradual progress of intellectual enlightenment, the world would wake up some fine Monday morning, and discover they had forgotten the preceding day was Sunday. If a similar experience were to take place with regard to Christmas, I wonder how many persons, who profess to be exceedingly jolly, would experience a sense of relief. Of course a holiday is a holiday all the world over, and people with whom holidays are few, and who really do get a holiday at Christmas, may very naturally look forward to the day. But any candid person would allow that Christmas has its drawbacks. Political economists may solve the mystery as best they can, but my experience of life is that everybody has to pay money at Christmas, and nobody receives it. Tax-gatherers, rate-collectors, and the Board of Works may be an exception to the rule; but their gain is our loss. A friend of mine, who is a clerk in the Savings' Bank department of the Post Office, tells me that he is detained hours beyond his usual time, because everybody is drawing money out of the Bank. Then, without being a cynic, I may fairly doubt whether the pleasure of meeting your distant relations may not be exaggerated. If you never care to see them for fifty-one weeks of the year, it is hard to see why you should be particularly anxious to meet them on the fifty-second. A family re-union, when its members have got too old to play at round games, is almost always a mistake. And lastly, it seems to me, that without want of patriotism, you may fairly object to roast beef and plum pudding. If you do not happen to be partial to these dishes in ordinary life, why are you to regard a series of dinners, at each one of which you will be surfeited with these articles, as an occasion for exuberant rejoicing?

One peculiar feature of the present Christmas worth noticing is that ill fortune has happily contrived to avoid giving a good deal of pleasure to people who deserve a great deal more than they get. England, as far as I know, is the only country in the world where newspapers are published every week day throughout the year. In consequence, Christmas day is never a holiday to the compositors of a daily paper, except once in seven years, when it falls on a Saturday. In 1864 it was due on the last day of the week, but leap year steps in, and the chance is lost. When Christmas is once over, it is to be hoped in the interest of news-chroniclers that they may have something fresh to write about. For the last week or so there would have been an absolute dearth of topics if it had not been for two or three social scandals. The assault committed by Lieut. Burnaby on Mr. Hooker has given rise to a very lengthy and contradictory correspondence between the different actors in that unsavoury dispute. The verdict most people will arrive at is that none of the party knew very clearly what they were about, or knew very distinctly what actually did occur, and that Burnaby and Hooker were very much alike, especially Burnaby. Then there is the Chetwynd case, which is a very ugly one, whichever side you incline to favour, and in which the lady seems to have been a pretty good match for the gentleman and vice versâ. And, finally, there is the exposure of the Unity Bank. Too little is known as yet to justify the expression of any opinion about the case, but it is clear that everybody will come out of it with no great addition of credit. There can be no doubt that the position of the bank was deliberately misrepresented in the reports issued to the shareholders. But, unless the prosecution can prove that the manager and secretary, who are at present under charge of having made fraudulent representations, derived any pecuniary interest from the misrepresentation, I cannot see how it will be possible to obtain a conviction. As the case goes on it becomes more and more difficult to understand the distinction drawn by the liquidators between the responsibility of the directors and the managers. One vexed question, long mooted, has been settled by the course of this enquiry. Nobody can doubt now, from the evidence given as to Mr. Alderman Mechi's affairs, that the fancy-farming of Tiptree Hall was not profitable as a pecuniary investment.

"Quite Alone" has been reprinted from *All the Year Round*, as a three-volume novel; and is now before the world as a literary curiosity. The author, the publisher, and his deputy-author, have come to a friendly agreement, and Mr. Sala does full justice, in his preface, to the causes which induced the proprietors of Mr. Dickens's periodical to entrust the completion of his story to other hands. If everybody is satisfied, there is no object in discussing who is to blame; but I think the public has some cause to complain. A novel is published as by Mr. Sala, yet, on opening the book, we find that it is only the fragment of a novel, and that when the interest of the story is just beginning, it is hastily finished off by an inferior hand whose name even is not mentioned. The gentleman who, I believe much against his will, undertook the singularly unpleasant and ungrateful task of finishing a living author's book without his consent or knowledge, was naturally anxious to get the job done as quickly and curtly as possible. He has, therefore, contented himself with making the best end he could for the story, and telling it in the fewest and driest words. The oddest part of the whole story is, that Mr. Sala announces in his preface, that if the book should reach a second edition, he may, perhaps, give the public the real ending. The story, in many respects the ablest of the author's works, might as a fragment, have fulfilled the requisite conditions; but the end is so fatal to the merit of the novel, that I doubt its being a real success.

WEEKLY CALENDAR.

Sunday, December 25th.—Christmas Day.—Lessons:—Morning, Isaiah 9 to v. 8, Luke 2 to v. 15; Psalms 19, 45, 85; Evening, Isaiah 7 v. 10 to 17, Titus 3 v. 4 to 9, Psalms 89, 110, 132. The Athanasian Creed to be used.
Monday, 26th.—St. Stephen's Day.—Sun rises 7 min. past 8 and sets 57 min. past 3.
Tuesday, 27th.—St. John's Day.—Sun rises 8 min. past 8 and sets 57 min. past 3.
Wednesday, 28th.—Innocent's Day.—New moon 21 min. past 9 in the afternoon.

☞ *Notices of Births, Marriages, and Deaths cannot be inserted unless authenticated with the signature of the person sending them.*

*** *Marriage announcements having the words "no cards" appended are charged for as advertisements.*

BIRTHS.

On the 16th instant, at the Vicarage, Newbold-on-Avon, the wife of the Rev. Theodosius W. Boughton Leigh, of a daughter.

Dec. 18, at 81, Newland, Northampton, the wife of Captain Malone, R.M.L.I., of a daughter.

On the 7th inst., at Dunstable, Beds, the wife of W. P. R. Southam, Esq., of a daughter.

Dec. 13th, Mrs. T. Eagle, Townsend, Neithrop, of a daughter.

Dec. 20th, Mrs. J. H. Bye, Castle street, Banbury, of a daughter.

Dec. 15th, Mrs. W. Hall, Rose Cottage, Brackley, of a son.

Dec. 15th, at Nuneham Park, the wife of Captain Edward Rice, R.N., H.M.S. St. George, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

On the 12th Nov., at Mercara, Coorg, by the Rev. Alfred Fennell, B.A., Millie, eldest daughter of Inspector-General Dr. Macpherson, Honorary Physician to the Queen, to Wm. Venn Drummond, son of the Rev. J. Drummond, of Sully Rectory, Leicestershire, Honorary Canon of Peterborough, and rural dean of Leicestershire, and the Hon. Mrs. Drummond.

At Harrold, Beds, on the 20th Dec., by the Rev. R. Yarde, vicar, Mr. John Sinton, H.M. Inland Revenue, Towcester, Northamptonshire, to Charlotte, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Fairey, Harrold.—No cards.

On the 14th instant, at the parish church, Clifton, by the Rev. S. Newall, vicar, Edward Conover Dawson, Esq., Captain 5th West-York Militia, to Louisa Eleanor, youngest daughter of Thomas Vann, Esq., of Clifton, near Rugby.

On the 19th inst., at Barlboro' Church, Derbyshire, Mr. William Allin, of Belton, Rutland, eldest son of Mr. Allin, Loddington Lodge, Leicestershire, to Elizabeth Harriett, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Phipps Goodman, Loseby, Leicestershire.

On the 15th Nov., at St Stephen's church, Greenspond, in the diocese of Newfoundland, by the Rev. W. J. Milner, incumbent, assisted by the Rev. J. G. Craig, the Rev. Chas. Rock West, only surviving son of Mr. W. West, of Stony Stratford, to Helen McPie, eldest daughter of W. Lang Esq., J. P., of Greenspond, Bona Vista Bay, Newfoundland.

On the 15th inst., at the parish church, Wollaston, by the Rev. W. Briggs, Mr. Henry Sawyer, of Wellingborough, to Louisa, eldest daughter of Mr. Thomas Rice, of Wollaston.

Dec. 15th, at the Independent Chapel, Banbury, Henry Rymill, to Hannah Gibbard, both of Banbury.

Dec. 15th, William Albert Heuman, of the Manor House, Lilly, to Elizabeth Miller, of Water Eaton.

December 20, at Bugbrook church, Northamptonshire, by the Rev. Harwood Harrison, Mr. William Turner, to Hannah Fearnly, second daughter of the late Mr. John Fearnly, cloth manufacturer, of Bromley, Leeds, Yorkshire.

DEATHS.

On the 19th inst., at 15, Sussex-square, Hyde-park, the Hon. Georgiana Maunsell, wife of John Edmond Maunsell, Esq., late of the Royal Horse Artillery, daughter of the Hon. William Cockayne, late of Rushton Hall, county of Northampton, and niece and co-heiress of Borlase, sixth and last Viscount Cullen.

On Thursday, the 15th inst., at Coryton Rectory, Devon, Amelia Frederick, wife of the Rev. William Bousefield, rector of Coblington, Bucks, and daughter of the late Frederick Whitaker, Esq., of the Manor House, Bampton, Oxfordshire, aged 45.

Dec. 22, at the residence of her brother-in-law, Mr. Edward Betts, Stony Stratford, Elizabeth, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Thomas M. King, of London, aged 29.

Dec. 20, Arthur Charles, youngest son of the late Mr. Joseph Betts, of the Drapery, Northampton, aged 21.

On the 17th inst., after a long and severe illness, Ann, the beloved wife of Henry Mellin Olivant, Upper Mounts, in this town, aged 61 years.

Dec. 17th, at Moulton, Mr. George Roulson, aged 69.

Dec. 21, Charlotte, widow of the late Mr. David Dauckley, of Milton, in the 64th year of her age.

On the 18th instant, at 8, Onslow-gardens, Anne, widow of Major Henry Carmichael Smyth, of the Bengal Engineers, and mother of William Makepeace Thackeray.

On the 16th instant, at Paris, Francis Barron, Esq., of Bilton Grange, Warwickshire, late 16th Lancers, in the 27th year of his age.

At Cogenhoe, on the 14th inst., Mrs. Sarah Sharman, aged 73, relict of the late Mr. Thos. Sharman, carpenter; and, on the 18th inst., Arthur, third son of Mr. James and Mary Sharman, aged 4 years, and grand-child of the above Sarah Sharman.

Suddenly, on the 19th inst., at Chelveston, Elizabeth, relict of the late Mr. Thomas Chettle, in the 71st year of her age.

Dec. 16, at Moulton, after a long affliction, Martha, the wife of Mr. John Wright, builder, aged 63.

On the 11th inst., at the Leighton Buzzard Union, Thos. Green, aged 75 years.

On the 14th inst., at North-street, Leighton Buzzard, the infant daughter of James Bates, aged 12 months.

On the 18th inst., at Soulbury, the infant daughter of Solomon Robinson, aged 3 years.

On the 21st inst., Mr. Wm. Munday, baker, High-street, Leighton Buzzard, aged 32 years.

On the 17th inst., at the Leighton Buzzard Union, Thomas Munday, aged 77 years.

On the 19th inst., at Chiltern House, Dunstable, Beds, Honoria, the affectionate wife of W. P. R. Southam, Esq., aged 33.

On the 18th inst. (from a fall from his horse), to the irreparable loss of his sorrowing widow, and to the great grief of a large circle of relatives and friends, William Cowper, Esq., of Farnboro' Hill, near Banbury, Oxfordshire, aged 60. Mr. Cowper was a sergeant of the First Oxfordshire Light Horse Volunteers, Troop A, of which the Hon. W. H. J. North, of Wroxton Abbey, is the captain.

Dec. 22nd, of consumption, at the residence of Mr. Paul Webster, Harpole, Ann Linnell Sharman, late of Barton Seagrave, aged 18, lamented by all who knew her.

On the 16th instant, Catherine, relict of the late James Dreaper, Esq., of Finsboro, County Kilkenny, aged 76.

At Kettering, on the 18th instant, Sarah Jane, only child of Mr. Thos. Howard, aged 7 years.

Dec. 16th, at Harlestone, deeply regretted, Mary Daniel, aged 35 years.

At Sywell Lodge, Dec. 10th, aged 72, Mrs. Ann Warriner, relict of the late Mr. George Underwood, of Sywell Lodge, deeply lamented by her family and friends and much respected by all who knew her.

At Towcester, Dec. 22, William Thomas, beloved child of William and Emma Jenkinson, aged 7 months.

Dec. 19th, at Daventry, Mary Ann, daughter of Mr. Shakespeare Hornby, aged 34.

Dec. 22nd, at Daventry, George James, eldest son of Mr. George Cluckley, jun., aged 4 years.

Dec. 14th, Mr. Wm. Machin, North Bar street, Banbury, aged 35 years.

Dec. 12th, Miss Emma Hands, Greatworth, aged 21 years.

Dec. 15th, Ellen Martha, daughter of Mr. John Enock, Castle street, Banbury, aged 22 years.

Dec. 14th, Mr. Josh. Matthews, Broom Hill, Epwell, Oxon, aged 47 years.

Dec. 16th, John Stanley, Mill lane, Banbury, aged 61 years.

Dec. 16th, Sarah Jane, daughter of W. Hayward, Grimsbury, aged 2 years.

Dec. 16th, Miss Ann Garrett, Warwick road, Neithrop, Banbury, aged 42 years.

Dec. 17th, William Cecil, son of Mr. Wm. Page, Grimsbury, Northamptonshire, aged 4 months.

Dec. 14th, Mrs. Emma, widow of Colonel Henry Dawkins, of Over Norton, Oxon.

Dec. 17, at 31, Commercial-street, in this town, William Henry Moores, the only and beloved child of the late Mr. William Cox, aged 4 months.

Dec. 22, at his residence, in this town, Thomas Howes, Esq., aged 66.

NORTHAMPTON VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

Orders for Week commencing DECEMBER 26.

Wednesday, 8 p.m.—Engineer J. H. Roberts and Messrs J. B. S. Jope and A. Lemar for duty at the Engine House.

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH PETTY SESSIONS.

DECEMBER 23.—Before the Mayor (T. Osborn, Esq.,) Mark Dorman, and E. F. Law, Esqrs.

The Remanded Case.—George Eady, of a court in St. Katherine's, was brought up on remand charged with having, on the 27th November, stolen a sovereign from John Russell, carpenter, of Denford, while in his house.—The prosecutor not having been found, the prisoner was discharged.

Larceny.—William Brent, shoemaker, Bridge-street, was charged with stealing a wheel, value 2s., the property of John Connor, shoemaker, of Francis-street, and 1s., the property of John Lowe, barber, of Horsemarket, on the 20th inst.—John Connor said he lived in lodgings, in Francis-street. The prisoner went to lodge at the same house on Saturday night, and went away on Sunday morning. He slept in the same room as witness, and his working tools were in a bag over the mantelpiece in the room. Complainant got up first, and left the prisoner in the room. Afterwards called prisoner to come into breakfast, but he would not stop, but went out, and witness did not see him any more until he was apprehended. Missed the wheel about a quarter of an hour after prisoner had left, and suspected prisoner had stolen it. Went out in search of him, and saw him in Crispin-street, and he ran away from him. The wheel has not yet been found. It was worth 2s. 6d. Last saw the wheel safe on Saturday evening. No one but witness and prisoner slept in the room.—Inspector Cornwell apprehended the prisoner in St. Giles's-street, on Wednesday morning, and told him he was charged with stealing a shoemaker's wheel belonging to a person named Connor, living in Francis-street. He said he knew nothing about it.—The prisoner pleaded not guilty.—The magistrates sentenced him to one month's imprisonment.—The prisoner was then tried on the second charge.—John Lowe, a hairdresser, living in the Horsemarket, said the prisoner had lodged with him a week. On Saturday he was unwell, and sat by the fire. He went out a little before four in the afternoon, and Mrs. Lowe missed a shilling from off the mantelpiece soon after he had left. Had seen the shilling safe not long before the prisoner went out of the house. Suspected him, and went in search of him. Saw him in Bath-street, and chased him into a yard in Scarlet-well-street. When he caught him he asked him several questions, and he made no answer. Charged him with stealing the shilling, and told him if he would give it up he would let him go. He gave it up without speaking a word. The money which was stolen consisted of one sixpence, a fourpenny piece, and twopence, and these coins prisoner gave up to him. Afterwards gave information to the police.—He was sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour on this charge.

A Drunken Crew.—Isaac Solomon, shoemaker, of a court in Castle-street, W. Parker, chimney sweeper, of Silver-street, and Elisha Corby, of a court in Bridge-street, were charged with having been drunk and disorderly, in Bridge-street, on the 22nd inst.—The defendants all denied the charge.—The case was fully proved by two constables.—Parker was fined 7s. 6d. and costs, or ten days' imprisonment, and Solomon and Corby 5s. and costs each, or seven days' imprisonment. Paid.

Stealing from her Master.—Sarah Ann Wright, nurse girl, of St. James's-lane, was charged with stealing, in the house of her master, on the 17th inst., a scarf pin, a pocket-handkerchief, a quantity of lace, and a sovereign, value in all 23s., the property of her master, Robert Weston, of St. Mary's-place.—The prosecutor asked permission to be allowed to withdraw the charge, and the magistrates, after cautioning prisoner, allowed the case to be withdrawn.

A Light-fingered Couple.—Arthur Acklam[3], hawker, of no residence, and James Jones, hawker, of no residence, were charged with attempting to pick the pocket of Charlotte Hornsey, of 16, Nelson-street, on the 20th instant.—Mrs. Hornsey said she was in Gold-street on Tuesday evening, about twenty minutes to seven o'clock. She was passing Mr. Sheppard's shop window, and while she was looking at the window, she felt a hand in her pocket, and she turned round. One of the prisoners said, "Hallos, what is the matter?" Saw the other prisoner, Acland, standing a few yards off, and tried to catch hold of Jones's hand, to see if he had her purse. He threw off his cape, and ran away. The other prisoner also ran away at the same time. Had in her pocket a purse containing £1 3s. 3½d., and on feeling in her pocket found it was safe. Prisoners turned up College-street when they ran away. Afterwards gave information to the police. Jones's hand was as close to her pocket as possible when she turned round.—Jabez Seamark said he was going up Gold-street on Tuesday night, between 7 and seven, and when he was near to Mr. Walter's hat shop, he heard a woman cry "Stop thief," and then saw the two prisoners and another man running up College-street. Witness followed College-street but did not saw Jones give his cloak to the other prisoner. He followed them as far as Mr. Hollis's entry, and they turned in there, where Jones tried to pull a coat off, but when they saw witness they again ran off down Bearward-street, across the Mayorhold, into Scarletwell-street, and witness got before them; they had to pass a lamp, and witness then looked at all three of them. They both went to the bottom of the street, and Jones pulled his coat off. Witness lives nearly at the bottom of the street, and when the prisoners returned Acland had not the coat on his arm which the prisoner Jones had pulled off, and Jones was wearing his cape. Thought it was a coat that was stolen, as they were running so.—P.C. Kemp said he went in search of the prisoners, and found them at the Foundryman's Arms, in St. James's End, and charged them with attempting to pick the pocket of a female in Gold-street; Jones said, "You are mistaken." Acland asked him who he was, and he said he was a policeman. He took them to the station, and there found two caps (produced) upon the prisoner Acland. He was wearing a hat at the time, and the caps were in his pocket.—The prisoners admitted the charge, and pleaded for mercy, as they had never been placed in such a position before.—They were sentenced to three months' imprisonment each, with hard labour.

Stealing Flannel.—Francis Goldsmith, painter, no residence, was charged with stealing from the shop door of Mr. Emerton, in the Drapery, a roll of flannel, of the value of 30s., on the 22nd instant.—Thomas Mullins, assistant to Mr. Emerton, said about a quarter past six he was told that a man had stolen a piece of flannel, and had run up Swan Yard, with it. He went after and overtook him in Bearward-street, and found the roll of flannel in his possession. Told him he had stolen the flannel, and took him back to the shop, and then sent for a constable, and gave prisoner into custody, and the flannel produced was given up to the constable. As they were going back to the shop, prisoner said he found the flannel upon the pavement.—P. C. Grant took the prisoner into custody, and told him the charge, and he said, "Very well." The flannel produced was given up to him.—Prisoner pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

Assault.—Henry Bonehill, currier, 2, Chalk-lane, was charged with assaulting and ill-treating Caroline Groves, of Scarletwell-street, on the 20th instant.—When complainant commenced giving her evidence the defendant turned, with his arms akimbo on the dock, and looked her in the face. She said she had lived with the defendant a year and nine months. She was not his wife. He struck her several times, and she was afraid of him.—Defendant, in a jocular manner, said there were two sides to the question, and faults on both. He turned round and said, "Now then, give us a kiss"—(laughter)—but she declined to respond to the affectionate appeal.—Fined 5s., and costs.

Beer-house Case.—Hezekiah Rose, beer-seller, Bridge-street, was summoned for having had nine men in his house at fifteen minutes past ten on Sunday morning, the 18th instant. It being the first offence, he was fined 2s. 6d., and 7s. 6d. costs. Paid.

George Smith, blacksmith, was charged with being drunk and disorderly, and making use of obscene language, in King-street, on the 20th instant.—Fined 5s. and costs for being drunk, and 1s. for using obscene language. Imprisoned for seven days.

Drunk.—William Wingrove, of no residence, was charged with being drunk and disorderly, on the Parade, on the 21st instant.—Defendant admitted the offence, and was fined 5s. and costs. Paid.

A Pair.—James Tipler, finisher, and Mary Tipler, of Oak-street, were charged with having been drunk and disorderly, in Bridge-street, on the 22nd instant.—Each fined 5s. and costs.

An Unruly Apprentice.—Thomas Bullimore, of Bridge-street, was charged with having absented himself from the service of his master, Mr. F. Mulliner, on the 19th instant.—Mr. Mulliner said defendant was apprenticed as a vice smith, and he had been advised that he was not doing the work he ought. He became unruly, and absented himself. He wanted to reach the head of the business before he had learned the rudiments.—The defendant said he had been at work at a steam drill for nine months, and he did not know anything more about it than he did at first going, and he thought he ought to learn something else.—The case was dismissed on payment of the costs, the defendant promising to go back to his master, and behave better in future.

4TH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE VOLUNTEERS.

ORDERS FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING DEC. 28TH.

No drill during the week.
Signed, W. G. HOLLIS. Capt.-Comdt.

5TH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RIFLE CORPS.

ORDERS FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING 28TH DEC.

Monday—No drill.
Tuesday, 9.15 a.m.—The corpse will assemble at the Peacock Hotel, for the purpose of proceeding to Blisworth. Every man to be present. Band and drummers to attend.
Wednesday—No parade.
Thursday—No drill.
Friday—No drill.
Saturday—No parade.
Sunday—No D. S. parade.

Subaltern officer for duty—Ensign Parker. Orderly sergeant—S. Marlow. Orderly corporals—W. Wilson and G. Hickman.

OUR CHRISTMAS MEAT SHOW.

If anything were needed as a reminder that Christmas is at hand, in addition to the remarkably respectful demeanour of those who during the present year have done us some service, and the altered manner of those whom it requires a lofty flight of the imagination indeed, to believe that they have been or could be of any service to anybody, the present appearance of our butcher's shops would supply any arguments that might be necessary. For the last two or three weeks past local breeders have sent to our market some of the choicest specimens of their flocks and herds, and there has been on the part of those who cater for that portion of the public who are not vegetarians—we wonder whether there are any at Christmas time—such an amount of rib punching, and other by no means agreeable operations to the animal operated upon, as can only be justified by the season, and the consequently increased demands which are sure to be made upon them by their customers. Animals of such size, and yet of so beautiful a shape, as would have surprised our forefathers, innocent of science as applied to breeding and feeding, have this week entered the slaughtering houses of our butchers, to re appear as miniature mountains of joints, almost any one of which would satisfy the most fastidious of epicures; sheep which have long since departed from their original proportions, and more recently from their native pastures, now grace the shops of our enterprising butchers; and pigs which it would be a mercy to kill, as their existence must have long since become a great source of annoyance and inconvenience to themselves, have this week disappeared from styes, which must have often echoed their painful and feeble grunts, to appear on shop boards with oranges in their mouths and a bunch of many-coloured ribbons attached to all that remains of a tail. Beyond question our meat show falls by nomeans below that of former years, indeed it is probable that it surpasses any former show. In very few instances, except amongst the members of the porcine tribe, is there anything which can be called over-feeding, and this not to such an extent as used formerly to be the case. According to usual custom, we give underneath a brief account of the meat possessed by our butchers, and which has been temptingly displayed in their shops for some days past:—

Mr. G. VIALS, avoiding the superfluous and over-feds, slaughtered a fine and extensive show of bacon hogs and porkets, obtained from some of the best feeders of the neighbourhood.

Mr. ROBINSON, St. Mary's-street, had a superior short-horned ox, bred by Mr. Harris, Wootton, fed by G. Pell, Esq.; 12 Down and other sheep, fed by G. Pell, Esq.; several choice porkets and roasters; also some prime Scotch sheep, from the Metropolitan Cattle Market.

Mr. DUNKLEY, 34, Abington-street, exhibited his usual supply of first-rate shorthorn ox beef, Southdown and half-bred mutton.

Mr. R. SARGEANT, of Cow-lane, had a prime ox, fed by G. Pell, Esq.; one heifer, fed by Mr. Rogers, of Pitsford; six wether sheep, fed by G. Pell, Esq., from Rotheristhorpe; two prime Down sheep, fed by General Bouverie; four fat pigs, fed by G. Pell, Esq.; two very prime porkets, from Lord Southampton's.

Mr. CHARLES COOK, Gold-street, exhibited one fine ox and four heifers, bred and fed by the Duke of Buccleuch; one prime heifer, bred and fed by J. Pain, Esq., Boughton House; eight fine oxen, bred and fed by Mr. J. Stokes, Welton, and 20 others; three sheep from Smithfield Show; 20 Southdowns, bred and fed by J. Marsh, Esq., Holcot; 15 half-bred sheep, bred and fed by Messrs. Dunn and Son, Great Billing; 10 Welsh sheep, and 30 others; three pigs from Smithfield Show; two pigs, bred and fed by Mr. White, Northampton.

Mr. D. SHARMAN, Lady's-lane and Kerr-street, showed some good ox beef, and Down mutton as usual, and a quantity of superior porkets.

Mr. B. FRANCIS, late Cooper and Son, Drapery, has his usual display of prime beef, mutton, and veal, all of most excellent quality.

Mr. ADDINGTON, of 9, Abington-square, had one very superior fat pig, bred and fed by Mr. T. Plumb, of the Racehorse, 11 months old, with a large supply of porkers and bacon pigs.

Mr. ASHBY, Newland, exhibited a superior heifer, fed by Charles Britten, Esq., Northampton; a prime Devon ox, fed by Mr. Blunt, of Alderton; some superior Scotch sheep, fed by Mr. Shepherd, Catesby; some Downs and half-breds, and a quantity of roasting pigs.

Mr. MULLIS, Sheep-street, exhibited three extraordinary fine pigs of the pure white breed, bred and fed by the Earl of Radnor, Coleshill House, Highworth, and which took a prize of £10 at the Smithfield Show, and were much admired; also some choice pigs, fed by Mr. Porter, of Withering; some ditto fed by Mr. Giffard, of Winwick; and a fine sample of different sizes, bred and fed by some first-class local breeders.

Mr. FOX, of 36, Augustine-street, had one prime ox from the sale at Rotheristhorpe, fed by Mr. Pell; two fat calves, from the Northampton Wednesday market; some prime wether mutton; 21 roasting pigs, one porket.

Mr. CHARLES FOX, Bearward-street, had a very fine ox, fed by Mr. Louis Loyd, Monk's Orchard, Addington, Surrey, and bred by Mr. John Monkhouse, the Stowe, Hereford. This animal was highly commended in Class 8, at the late Smithfield Cattle Show. Mr. Fox also had a very prime heifer.

Mr. GEORGE AMBIDGE, Grafton-street, had a very superior bullock, fed by Mr. Hensman, Harlestone; three sheep, fed by Mr. Simons, Kislingbury Lodge; a superior heifer, fed by Mr. Smith, of Titchmarsh; 24 fine sheep, fed by George Pell, Esq., Rotheristhorpe; 10 ditto, fed by Mr. Faulkner, of Boughton Lodge; and seven other fine oxen and sheep.

Mr. LAW, of Mercers'-row, had two very fine bullocks, fed by the Messrs. Howes, of Hardingstone; a superior heifer, 12 Scotch sheep, two very superior lambs, fed by Mr. Langham, Haversham, Bucks; and a large quantity of sucking pigs.

Messrs. COLLEDGE & SON, Regent's-square, had a magnificent supply of prime beef and mutton.

Mr. MATTHEWS, of Lady's-lane, had two superior oxen, bred by G. Pell, Esq., at Rotheristhorpe; a capital ox, fed by Mr. Chambers; eight superior Down sheep, fed by General Bouverie; a number of fine Half-down sheep, and two fine hogs.

Mr. J. AMBIDGE, Kingsthorpe-road, a very prime short-horned ox, fed by G. Pell, Esq., Rotheristhorpe; one very superior heifer, three years old, fed by G. Pell, Esq.; some superior Western sheep, fed by Mr. Underwood, of Cold Ashby; and some fine roasting pigs, fed by Mr. Cox, of Kingsthorpe.

Mr. SHARMAN, Bath-street, and Mr. LAW, of Castle-street, had a remarkably fine short-horn ox, fed by G. Pell, Esq., and which took the first prize at the Northamptonshire Agricultural Society; a fine Hereford ox, fed by Mr. J. Cooper, of Irchester; a shorthorn ox, fed by Mr. Stokes, of Weldon; some superior Down sheep, fed by Mr. King, Holdenby; and some capital pigs and porkets, fed by Mr E. Phipps of Preston Deanery.

Mr. J. CLEAVER, Bailiff-street—A fine home-bred ox, fed by Mr. Twitchell, of Wilby; a superior heifer, fed by Mr. Hawkes, of Weston; and some very fine mutton and pork.

Mr. FRANCIS, of the Wellingborough-road, had a very fine supply of ox beef and mutton.

Mr. FITZHUGH, of Bridge-street, had his usual supply of excellent beef, mutton, and pork.

Mr. HENRY COLLEDGE, Abington-street, exhibited a remarkably fine show of ox beef and mutton.

Mr. BARRIT, of St. Giles's-street, had his usual good supply of ox beef and mutton.

Mr. WAITE, Bridge-street, had a capital show of beef and mutton.

Mr. RODDIS, Marefair, exhibited two fine oxen, fed by G. Pell, Esq., Rotheristhorpe; a very choice heifer, fed by Wm. Linnell, Esq., Kislingbury; a fine heifer, fed by Mr. Scriven, Harpole; a quantity of half-bred Down and Welsh sheep, and some neat porkets.

Mr. DICKENS, of the Marefair, had two superior shorthorns, fed by G. Pell, Esq., Rotheristhorpe; one shorthorn heifer, fed by Mr. Linnell, Kislingbury; some fine half-bred Downs, fed by Mr. White, Castle Ashby; and some fine Welsh sheep, fed by Mr. Gough, Duston.

Mr. BACCHUS, Bridge-street, had a very fine show of prime and useful pork.

Mr. COLSON, Bridge-street, exhibited some remarkably fine pigs, fed by Lord Southampton, Mr. Pickering Phipps, Mr. Fisher, of Milton, and others.

Mr. WICKES, of Bull-lane, had four superior Hereford oxen, fed by Mr. Law, Pilgrave, Bucks; and some excellent half-bred sheep, fed by Mr. Harris, Kislingbury.

Mr. JONES BASELEY, of the Horsemarket, had a remarkably fine heifer, fed by Mr. Payne, of Church Brampton; six superior sheep, bred by Mr. G. N. Wetton, Collingtree, and fed by G. Pell, Esq., Heyford; and two porkets, fed by Mr. Baseley, Harpole.

Mr. F. DARNELL, of the Green, exhibited a fine ox, fed by G. Pell, Esq., Rotheristhorpe; a number of superior half-bred and other sheep, bred by Mr. King, of Holdenby, and G. Pell, Esq.; and six fat pigs.

Mr. JOHNSON, College street, had a fine show of first-class beef and mutton.

Mr. J. PAINE, Gold-street, exhibited a prime short-horned ox, fed by G. Pell, Esq; two ditto, fed by William Lovell, Esq., Winwick Lodge; and he also had his usual good supply of Southdown mutton.

Mr. MANNING, of Drum-lane, had a capital supply of prime beef and mutton.

Mr. ALLISTON, of the Regent's-square, exhibited a magnificent ox, bred by Mr. John Monkhouse, of the Stowe, Hereford, and exhibited at the Smithfield Cattle Show, by Louis Loyd, Esq., of Monk's Orchard, Addington, Surrey, and highly commended by the judges; two home-bred oxen, f