THE DISTURNPIKED ROADS OF NORFOLK.

The County Road Surveyor, (Mr. R. M. Brereton, C.E.), has recently presented to the Quarter Sessions a very full and instructive report on the eight main roads of the county, which have been disturnpiked since December, 1870, from which report we abridge the following. The eight roads in question have an aggregate length of 172 miles 6 furlongs and 29 yards, which is contained within the limits of 110 parishes. He points out that the turnpike trustees during the last year of the trusts expended an average of £20. 10s. per mile in the repair of the roads, but this was much less than was required, the average cost per mile when the roads were fully maintained being £32. 10s. Taking the average cost of the annual maintenance, and repairs of these roads by the late trustees at £30 per mile, a similar outlay in the part of the 110 parishes would represent an annual expenditure of £5,190, equivalent to a rate of 3d. in the £ or 5½d. per acre. Under the present parochial system the cost of maintaining these roads necessarily falls very much more heavily upon the parishes in the immediate neighbourhood of Norwich and other towns. Mr. Brereton says "I am sorry to be compelled by a sense of duty to report so unfavourably of the maintenance of the eight disturnpiked roads." After rehearsing the requirements and condition as to the maintenance of the roads he proceeds:—

"So far I have not found the eight Disturnpiked, or now 'Main' Roads, maintained in accordance with the above-mentioned requirements and conditions.

"It may be quoted that this has been, so far, quite an exceptional year, that the Roads were first subjected to soaking rains in the autumn, followed by very long and severe frosts, which broke the 'metal' or crust of the Road to pieces.

"I find, however, that generally the roads are very flat, and even concave, instead of being convex in the centre, proving that there is very little metal or crust left on the surface; that there has been no proper drainage whatever, or provision made for keeping the Roads dry; that there has been great neglect in providing the stone required for 'metalling' at the proper season, when it could best be obtained from the several pits, and screened from dirt, namely, in the summer months; that in consequence the 'metal' was not spread in October and November, but in January last, after the first thaw had set in, so that the Roads were subjected to the heavy wear and tear of the stone carting when they were least capable of resisting the same; and that, generally, the gravel in use for metalling the Roads is very inferior material, containing a large admixture of earthy substances which absorb moisture, and, therefore, in many places the entire road, crust and body, through a rapid thaw, appeared a quagmire.

"If these 'Main' Roads had been maintained by the several Parishes as they were when the Trustees of the Turnpike Trusts fulfilled their contracts, they would not have been saturated and rotted by water for the want of drainage facilities, and they would not have been left so bare of 'metal,' and, therefore, the late severe frosts could not have injured them to the extent that it has; and the heavy traffic could not have cut through the crust or 'metal,' letting the heavily ladened vehicles through to the axles, and the horses to their knees.

"That these 'Main' Roads are generally deficient in metal, in surface and lateral drainage, in convexity, and in all those points which constitute the perfection and real objects of a public highway, towards facilitating the business of the county, and saving unnecessary wear and tear in horses and vehicles, must, I believe, be very apparent to all who require to use them constantly.

"I quite admit that there are portions on the several 'Main' Roads which have been, and are maintained in fair order, but such are very few and far between; and there are other portions which are exceptionally bad, and which are almost impassable for foot passengers, as well as for horses and vehicles, and are, therefore, a source of immense public inconvenience, expense, and danger.

"I saw a large amount of stone spread on the several roads in January which was being rapidly crushed into dust by the traffic owing to being spread whilst the roads were frozen so hard that the 'metal' could not bind with the substratum. I also saw a large quantity being applied during the rapid thaw, before the roads were drained, so that the stone went out of sight, forcing the mud and sand to the surface.

"In both these cases there arises a considerable waste of metalling material and labour, which creates a very serious loss to the parish ratepayers, and a positive source of expense in the wear and tear of horses and vehicles to the public.

"This waste of metalling material is a matter of far more serious importance than most people think. It should be remembered that one mile of Road, only 18 feet, or six yards in width, contains (1760 x 6) 10,560 superficial yards; and if the metal be only one inch in thickness, it represents over this area, 293 cubic yards. As one cubic yard of gravel or broken stone weighs on the average 1-20th of a ton, or 2,700 pounds, it follows that one inch only of metal will weigh 352 tons per mile of Road. On the best made Roads, and which are well maintained, it is found that each horse and cart moving daily over a mile of it will wear off one cubic yard of stone.

"Thus it is that whilst the ratepayers in some Parishes complain of the heavy expenses involved in the repairs of these roads, which are caused by sheer neglect of the requirements of the Common Law in reference to the public highways, and common sense management, the business community at large complain of valuable time wasted in slow travelling, and of increased expenses in horses and vehicles in using the roads.

"I find, also, that where the Trustees had to maintain the Turnpike Roads of a certain width, the Parishes have in many instances neglected to maintain these now 'Main' Roads to the same width, and have also allowed the footpaths to be entirely neglected, and the direction posts to become obscure and useless to the public.

"It is obvious that where there is much traffic, especially from heavily ladened vehicles, the roads must be kept reasonably wide to prevent such traffic from following always in the same groove, and thereby causing the road to wear the more rapidly into ruts. A practical Surveyor if the road be wide enough, will keep the vehicles moving from time to time over different parts of the road by laying a few patches of stones to divert the traffic.

"It is, I understand, for the County Authority to say whether the several Parishes are to be called upon to maintain these 'Main' Roads and side walks to the full extent in which the Trustees of the Turnpike Roads were required to maintain them.

"I am under the impression that the Parishes are legally bound to so maintain them.

"As regards the traffic over these Roads, I am of opinion, that within a certain distance of the chief Market Towns, it is large and important. This is certainly the case in regard to Norwich, and to the towns of Lynn, Downham Market, East Dereham, Aylsham, and North Walsham.

"On the other hand, I find the traffic to be comparatively light at the termination of the Lynn East Gate, and on portions of the other 'Main' Roads; and that there is, in reality, a much heavier and more important local traffic over some of the ordinary Parish Roads leading to certain Railway Stations, than there is on the adjacent 'Main' or disturnpiked Road.

"I fail to see how it is possible to secure, or even to expect, the proper maintenance of these 'Main' Roads under the present parochial system, or to carry out the provisions of the Highways and Locomotives (Amendment) Act of 1878, without the District system.

"From what the majority of the Parish Surveyors tell me, I am satisfied that it will be useless to expect the parishes to maintain these 'Main' Roads in proper form, and to go to the necessary expense, in addition to the maintenance of their ordinary Parish Roads, many of which, throughout the country, need large repairs.

"They state that the great rise in the cost of manual labour; and the increasing difficulty in obtaining suitable materials for metalling the roads, have made the proper maintenance of such highways very much more expensive than it was.

"There is no doubt that the more extensive use of traction engines renders needful the heavier metalling of the roads.

"There was also a large number of farmers, who, having taken a lease of their farms previous to the turnpike roads being disturnpiked, are now unwilling to have their highway rate increased by allowing such roads to be maintained at their former cost. This is, also, the case with nearly all those who intend giving up their farms at Michaelmas.

"I also find that Parishes differ greatly in their extent, that their boundaries are in some cases along the centre of these Roads, whilst others being so irregular, often interlace in such a way as to prevent a parish having a continuous and convenient length of 'Main' road to maintain. As examples I might point out the parishes of Setchy and Wormegay; Wormegay and Tottenhill; Stow Bardolph and Wimbotsham; Wimbotsham and Downham; Hilgay, and Southery; and Pulham Market and Tivetshall. In cases such as these, supposing that Tottenhill wished to avoid having to maintain the 'Main' Road in accordance with the requirements of the County Authority under Section 13 of the Act, and therefore did not ask the County Authority to pay one-half of the expenses out of the county rate, but that Wormegay did, there would arise a real difficulty in the practical working of the Act as regards the proper maintainance of the road under the present parochial system.

"I find also, that there are some parishes in which the surveyors are not masters of the situation, and are, therefore, incapable of carrying out their duties as required by the Highways Acts which are still in force. They are *afraid* to assert their powers under the Highway Act, 5 and 6, Will. IV. c. 50, in levying a sufficient rate to maintain the roads in proper form and condition; in having the fences cut and the overhanging trees lopped; in obtaining the necessary stone by opening new or enlarging old pits in the parish or in the adjacent Parish; in securing the prompt removal of the road scrapings; and in taking measures for the widening of certain roads leading to railway stations, which are now much too narrow for the business upon them and the public convenience.

"I find also that there are some parishes which have no church, and therefore no vestry, and in which there are only one or two occupiers, who are therefore at liberty to please themselves in all highway matters regardless of the public convenience.

"Then, *as a rule*, it will be found that the farmers are themselves the surveyors, and it may not always be convenient for them to have their men, horses and carts, working upon the roads, and providing the stone at the season of the year when it should be spread on the roads.

"If Districts were formed, such difficulties in the way of the proper and timely maintenance of the Roads would not exist. The Districts should, of course, be sufficiently large to give constant employment to a regular class of trained road labourers; and to keep in regular work the teams required to haul the 'metal' at the proper season of the year, and to cart away the road scrapings.

"I believe the saving to the ratepayers of the Parishes in having then *no waste* in providing and spreading the 'metal' at improper times, and in avoiding the double, and often treble, labour so involved, would more than cover the cost of the District Management, whilst the saving to the public generally, in the items of horses, repairs to vehicles, comfort, convenience, safety, &c., in having properly maintained Roads, would fully compensate it for the addition caused thereby to the county rate, and which, probably, will not exceed the average parochial rate for the maintenance of the Roads.

"It may be interesting to many to consider this important question from a general county point of view. I find on referring to the Ordnance and Tithe Surveys of the county that there are in round numbers about 970 miles of Highways of every description within the areas of the 110 Parishes referred to. These 110 Parishes represent 16 per cent. nearly of the 698 Parishes in the County, and therefore, at the same ratio there would be about 5,000 miles of highways of every kind in the County.

"But fully 50 per cent. of this gross mileage consists of bye-lanes, and farm roads, &c., on which there is scarcely any traffic, and therefore, hardly any annual outlay upon them.

"The 'Main,' or disturnpiked Roads in the 110 parishes are shown to have an aggregate length of 173 miles; and I find the principal parish, or what may be termed inter-parochial roads, have an aggregate length of 300 miles. The 'Main' and the inter-parochial roads will, therefore, represent 473 miles, or about 49 per cent. of the gross mileage. At the same ratio for the 698 parishes in the county, the 'Main' and chief inter-parochial roads would amount to 2,500 miles, in round numbers.

"Estimating 1000 miles of these to cost £25 per mile for their annual maintenance, and the remainder £10 per mile, the total annual expense would be £40,000, or an average of £16 per mile.

"The rateable value of the county is now taken to be £2,260,207, so that £40,000 would be equivalent to 4¼d. in the £1.

"There are many parishes in the county which are assisted in the expense of maintaining their roads out of certain 'doles.' The above estimate of £40,000 will represent about 7d. per acre on the rateable area of the county.

"I should also mention that a large percentage of the Roads are very much out of repair, and require for the next year or two a heavier outlay than is involved in what are termed ordinary repairs, and I don't quite see how the Parishes can afford to meet that expense. At the same time to allow the roads to remain in such bad order is to depreciate the value of the lands in the County, and indirectly to involve the users of the roads in greater expenses; and also, to prevent people from going as often to the neighbouring towns, so that the shopkeepers and tradesmen generally will also suffer in their business.

"It may, therefore, become necessary to borrow on the security of the Highway Rate a sufficient amount to put the roads in good order, and create a sinking fund for the repayment of the Bonds.

"In conclusion, I must state that, with the exception of a few Parishes on the eight disturnpiked Roads, I do not consider that the Highway Authorities have maintained these Roads in useful condition; and that unless very considerable improvement be made in the matters of drainage, in the use of better 'metal,' in the removal of the road scrapings, and in the trimming of fences, and loppings of trees, I cannot give a certificate that the maintenance *has been* of a satisfactory nature."

THE BURIALS QUESTION.

THE REV. GEO. DRURY'S ACTION FOR LIBEL.

In the Court of Common Pleas, on Tuesday, the hearing of the action Drury v. Wilson was completed before Mr. Justice Denman and a special jury.

Mr. Day, Q.C., Mr Merewether, Q.C., and Mr. Poyser appeared for the plaintiff; Serjeant Parry, Mr. Bu wer, Q.C., and Mr. Kenelm Digby for the defendant.

Serjeant Parry addressed the jury. The plaintiff (he said, complains of the publication of a libel injurious to his character, while the defendant says it is in substance true and a matter of public interest. The evidence makes out the truth of the defence. Mr. Day said the object was public agitation in favour of the Burials Bill, and the whole scene a premeditated affair to bear upon the present interest in churchyard matters. here is nothing in all this; the only person to blame for all that occurred at Akenham is the plaintiff alone. But for him the burial would have passed off in propriety and tranquillity. His desire was to publish his views about baptism and burial, and he deliberately intended to insult the living and defame the dead. He is the last person in England to complain of what has been said. I intend to take no intermediate course, and hold no language too strong for denouncing the plaintiff. Contrast the conduct of the parties. Talk of equivocation and intolerance—I shall justify those expressions. This poor child died on the 19th of August. Mr. Drury reproaches every one connected with the scene with some kind of misconduct. But he cannot blame the father for losing his child, nor Mr. Gooding for his attempt to assuage grief. The father is a Dissenter—a crime according to Mr. Drury; he has heard there are difficulties in the way of its burial. These are started by intolerant men, but not by men inspired with the spirit of Christianity. He applies to Mr. Drury, who says, "Yes; but go to my clerk." The clerk is Mr. Drury's agent, and has to ask if the child was baptized; the clerk says that was so, however Mr. Drury denied it. Waterman, hearing the child was not baptized, went on Tuesday evening to Mr. Drury, and the father himself heard Mr. Drury say it must be buried behind the church. Mr. Drury said that only happened on Thursday, and that he went to the father on the funeral day to tell him that no service could be read over the child. Mr. Drury owes a duty to his parishioner, though a Dissenter, and why in the name of truth and kindly feeling did he not go to the man on Wednesday and tell the father it would be preferable to have a service before the corpse came to the burial? Why did he not do this? He heard there was to be a service in the meadow; that was clear from the mother's evidence. Who spoke of consecrated ground? The truth was there was greater ignominy in being buried in one part of the churchyard rather than another. The child was to be "buried like a dog;" that is what the clerk said "No," said the child's mother, "there will be a little service in the field." Mr. Drury heard of this, and I ask you to believe that, although he deny it twenty times. He did nothing to warn them of the excitement that might arise. Of course Ramsay would prefer the last words of prayer and hope as near the grave as possible. A kind-hearted man would have said he did not object, only let them do it as quietly as possible. But Mr. Drury made up his mind for a scene to promulgate his wretched views on baptism. No one may complain of what dogmas a man may hold, but if a man puts them in practice to insult others he is not to be justified. Mr. Drury was asked was he not aware the service was to be at half-past five instead of five. Did he not receive a message on the subject? He said he did not. I believe that to be untrue. Mr. Gooding's boy gave a full and plain account of the giving of a message to that effect. There can be no doubt the message was delivered to Mr. Drury himself. Mr. Drury complains that he was kept waiting more than half-an-hour. The excuse was not true, and he knew it. And when we deal with the libel, suppose he had been kept half-an-hour, was that any reason for interfering with the burial and trying to carry out his despicable views? They say Mr. Gooding and Mr. Smith got all this up to irritate Mr. Drury. Will Mr. Day say this again? He will hardly have such boldness after this evidence, which admits of no inference but that Mr. Drury was the only discordant element in this burial scene. The theory was that Mr. Tozer was selected as a man capable of dealing with Mr. Drury. No doubt he was a man of warm temper, and he lays himself open, perhaps, to my friend's sarcastic remarks; but he has himself furnished the materials. Mr. Tozer says everything was prepared to avoid giving offence. He had no reason to expect Mr. Drury's presence. I very much doubt it being Mr. Drury's duty to be there to meet the corpse; the office says, "The priest going before the corpse shall say," &c., but that alludes to a "baptised" person, and does not allude to such a case as this. Again, we are told Mr. Drury might have been suspended for three months if he had failed to meet the coffin. But the 68th canon, which was quoted to us, says this only about the burial of baptised persons, for whom alone there is a service provided in the Book of Common Prayer. Mr. Drury never thought we should actually refer to the canon; he is trying to mislead you. But, at any rate, even if he conscientiously believed he ought to have been present, it does not mitigate his conduct on the occasion. Was there anything in what Mr. Tozer or the others did which you could censure? Mr. Smith, a Dissenter, lent his meadow, and a cart was lent for the coffin. It was said by Mr. Drury to have been tilted over no one else said so. The coffin was placed on a sheet, and the service commenced. What did Mr. Drury then do? We must refer to the libel itself. It was written after careful consideration by Mr. Tozer, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Gooding, who thought it ought to be made public. I shall ask you to think so too. The sooner such scenes and the possibility of them are put an end to in this country the better for all, even for infidels. Waterman said that Mr. Tozer talked of giving Mr. Drury "a dressing;" but every one denies it. Can any one say Mr. Tozer, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Gooding are liars? Waterman is not to be believed. He denied that he said the child would be buried like a dog, but the two ladies, as I will call them, swore that he did. He said what was false in the one case and in the other. These ladies are to be believed, though they are Dissenters; they are none the worse for that. But Mr. Drury had been kept waiting! Why! The service would not have taken ten minutes. If Mr. Drury had stayed at the gate five minutes longer, you would never have been annoyed and the public disgusted with this inquiry. He had a bad and a wicked mind and intent; he would not have dared to be annoyed had they not been poor people. He was determined to have his revenge for being kept waiting half-an-hour. He says that he went to the father to explain that his child could not have any service because it was unbaptised. He intended that no service of any kind should be held over the child before it was in the grave. He says Mr. Tozer shook his fist in his face. Is it true? All the witnesses say they were round the coffin, some with their hats off, while Mr. Tozer was reading; and that only when Mr. Drury's voice became too loud Mr. Tozer stopped and addressed him. Mr. Drury's account that Mr. Tozer came to him at once and shook his fist, cannot be relied upon. But I ask you to say that the story in the *East Anglian Times* is substantially true, as all these most reliable witnesses maintained. Mr. Tozer, undoubtedly, used strong language, but was it not justifiable? It is Mr. Tozer who describes his own state of excitement; no doubt he would have carried out his threat of bundling Mr. Drury out of the field if it had not been a funeral—there was nothing defamatory in that. How gross must have been Mr. Drury's conduct to provoke such a respectable man as Ramsay, who, no doubt, was in the habit of touching his hat to Mr. Drury as he walked in the parish in his cassock, his rope, and his three-cornered hat. The language of Mr. Tozer, sending Mr. Drury to heaven, &c., was hot, but his feelings were not hard to understand. The interpretation put upon the mention of the nunnery was surprising, and the Judge himself agreed that there was no insinuation against the moral conduct of the nunnery. Unquestionably there had been much noise and disturbance there, and some girl had been detained there against her father's wish. If the fact in that statement were true, what right had Mr. Drury to complain of it? Mr. Sergeant Parry next drew attention to the articles from other journals, inserted in the *East Anglian Times*, of which, he said, the expressions were sometimes foolish, but substantially justifiable. It was foolish to say "the Bishop should be buried from his throne"; but to call Mr. Drury a "monster" was only saying he was something out of the common way. In conclusion Serjeant Parry said—Your verdict will not be ephemeral, and in arriving at a conclusion in this case you will perform a great public duty. The language is strong, but the priest's conduct justified it. In cross-examination as to what he meant by saying the child was not a Christian, or (as Ramsay said) that it was a heathen, I asked him if he taught the doctrine that a child like this cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven, and only can enter hell, where it shall never see the face of the living God. Mr. Drury denied that he taught it. When he pointed with his umbrella at the body did he not believe this of the child? I appeal to your sympathies for this child. It died on its second birthday. He said to the parents, "It is not a Christian," with the deadly purpose of intimating to its parents that it was lost for ever. I should be ashamed of the man who did not criticise such a saying with the strongest language he knew. Mr. Drury said this was an open question. Do you yourselves not know there are priests who believe this dogma of exclusion from the presence of God and eternal loss of unbaptized children? When a priest like this enters on a spot where a child is lying thus in the presence of its parents, I care not that he is called a conscientious man—the Inquisition, the Massacre of St. Bartholomew, the mediæval martyrdoms were done by conscientious men—he intended and was going to bury the child as a dog, as the clerk said. If you think Mr. Drury deserves the utmost denunciation which the public press can give him, you will say so in your verdict. The descriptions in the rest of the article were true, as, for instance, of Akenham Church; the Bishop said the church was in an unfit state, Mr. Drury would not even obey the Bishop, and would sooner have the church in a state of filth than have it cleaned by a churchwarden, who was a Dissenter. It was melancholy to think that the church from which Mr. Drury derived a large income should be left like this. The question of Mr. Drury's being under a monition was another thing in the complaint. Does not Mr. Drury appear as a "mountebank priest?" He squares up to the solicitor and calls him a rascal. What damages could re-habilitate Mr. Drury? Mr. Wilson did not insert the article without making every inquiry as to whether it was true. It was insinuated that all Mr. Drury's life had been unduly raked up; but it was necessary to do so. He himself had gone out of his own neighbourhood to bring his action, and had it tried here instead of his own county. Did he think a difference of dress would prevent inquiry being made about him? It was the clear right of Mr. Wilson; you should know what sort of a man you had to deal with. He was a man bound by the laws of the Church of England, and yet he did things unknown to the Church. He was three times under monition; he conducted strange ceremonies, and used unlawful ornaments over and over again; and was associated with a nunnery, where he held mass. He complains as a minister of the Church of England; but how was he more injured than he had been by his own conduct—masses, processions, monasteries, banners, all the paraphernalia of a foreign Church? He himself speaks of the Church Association as "assassins." Can he complain of strong language? He himself was charged with assault, not apparently with a red-hot poker, but with a wire half-an-inch thick. He himself calls the faith of the majority of this country poison, or, for aught I know, deadly poison. The learned serjeant ended by confidently claiming the verdict of the jury in favour of his client.

Mr. Day, in his reply, said—We should be better if we had a little time to gather ourselves together after such a speech; but I rely upon your good sense and good feeling to keep your minds open to the defence of a man who has been thus held up to execration. Mr. Drury has come to clear his character against cruel imputations; he is met by a justification, of which I do not complain; and he is met by a denunciation worse than anything that had been published. What does Mr. Drury complain of? That in two copies of Mr. Wilson's paper he has been held up to nothing less than execration of the public, as a man who has acted in a manner unworthy, not only of a Christian, but of any one with a spark of humanity in his breast. It is said these proceedings originate from the scene at Akenham. I say they do not, and I suggested the circumstances which showed this began from the agitation in favour of the Burials Bill, and that the death of this child unbaptised in the parish of such a man as Mr. Drury was a good opportunity. After full consideration, I boldly and unhesitatingly suggest to you that this scene was desired beforehand, and was an opening too good to be neglected. Mr. Drury being known as a man who would not flinch from carrying out the rubrics of the Church of England it was arranged on Tuesday that a quiet service should be held, and it was one intended to irritate and annoy the Incumbent. The father attended Mr. Mosling's chapel, and would probably desire his own minister, but he is not communicated with in any way. Mr. Gooding attends the ministrations of Mr. Scott, and appeared to find great difficulty in Ipswich to get any one to take part in such a service as this; he failed in getting Mr. Smith, Mr. Scott, or Mr. Emery; but Mr. Tozer was recommended to him, though he had never known him, and he was of a different denomination from the parents. The steps to avoid giving offence were simply arranging to have the funeral in the field in front of the church when it was known that the incumbent had been told at what time it would be. The clergyman was there, and was bound to be there by the very canon which was quoted to you, he is responsible for the burial, and is alone authorised to receive the certificate of the child's death. What was the meaning of all those messages if they did not suppose he would be there? A more cruel charge than Serjeant Parry made against Mr. Drury was never made; the broad issue is, did he go there to insult the living and defame the dead? He went by command of the law, and he was expected by the parents. What if he had not been there? He would have been said to have insulted the living. They baited him and tried to annoy him. These people have taken the opportunity of domestic grief to serve sinister ends and political designs. Mr. Drury's umbrella was objected to; but even Mr. Tozer wore a macintosh. It was a wet day. Mr. Drury says he never got the message till about half-past five, and he is said to have lied. Well, why did the whole of the others come at five o'clock? As to this account, the more manly and candid course would have been for Mr. Tozer to have signed it, and we should have known what allowance to make for the representations of one who was concerned in the matter. The whole thing is put in the shape of an article, not of a letter, and the report is made to look like the note of a shorthand writer. I do not question Mr. Tozer's truthfulness, but could a man so hot-tempered and excited be relied upon for an accurate account of such a transaction directly after the child's body had been laid in the grave? The question of Mr. Smith, as a churchwarden, is a difficult one. The law of churchwardens is only known to one man in the world. The Bishop said the custom of election varied in every parish. Mr. Drury said Mr. Smith was not acknowledged by him. It is certainly strange that he was a Dissenter, and one can understand any unpleasantness between him and Mr. Drury. He is a church which no one cares to attend; all the people attend places of their own denominations, and if there were members of the Church of England in the parish they would have taken care to have proper arrangements. The description of the church is owing to Mr. Tozer's garden of rhetoric, from which he culled the flowers appearing in the other parts of his account, and the aviary of deceased birds relegated to the south aisle beyond the vision of the Bishop must be attributed to the same source. Dean Swift himself made extreme jest of the folly of holding service where there is no congregation, and at Akenham there was seldom any congregation, and, therefore, no service, though since the *East Anglian Times* has made Akenham Church celebrated people come there, and there is no suggestion that anything unusual is done. Serjeant Parry treats Mr. Drury like an outlaw or *caput mortuum*, against whom every man's hand should be raised, and talks of the casting of earth upon the grave as an act of contumely, but it is the custom of our ancient Christianity when we have the opportunity of standing at the grave-side. Mr. Drury's advice has always been to have a service in the cottage, where they have as much comfort as in the field. There are Dissenters in Claydon. Have any of them come forward to speak of hostility from Mr. Drury? Anything that Mr. Drury could have done would have been gibbeted in the *East Anglian Times*. "What," Serjeant Parry would have said, "had this mountebank priest to do with thrusting himself into the parents' sorrow with his indescribable petticoats and marvellous headgear?" But this was a better field for political capital. They never warned Mr. Drury; this was all for fomenting public feeling, not for comforting parents or honouring the dead. Do not let us distort justice by having our feelings dragged into political discussions. "To bury like a dog" is a cant expression, condemned by John Bright as a meaningless and mis-leading and superstitious term, used to rouse passion, and these women cannot be relied upon as to the exact use of words. The picture of Mr. Drury pacing up and down the churchyard is without foundation. Mr. Tozer says "some 30 persons were there, some, perhaps, anticipating a scene;" 30 persons from an extended parish of 70 inhabitants! And who could have anticipated a scene but those who prepared a scene? There are several Baptists in the parishes where Mr. Drury has been for 30 or 40 years, and in the course of nature, and considering their practice of baptism, many children must have died and been buried unbaptized; yet no case of complaint has been brought up against Mr. Drury before this one, which is simply brought to arouse the feeling of bigotry. Mr. Drury's garb in his parish was made the occasion of some miserable jokes by Serjeant Parry, at which I was much surprised. No doubt he was carefully watched about his clothes. The cassock is a recognised garb in the Church of England, just as my present dress is one which I should scarcely wear if it were not customary in the profession, nor would my Lord recognize me without it. As to the girdle, it is common to ulsters and to dressing-gowns, and the girding of the loins is enjoined in books of authority; and his solicitor enjoins him to wear what he likes, and he wears in the box his usual dress when he is out of his parish. Throughout the dialogue, by Mr. Tozer's own account, Mr. Drury was insulted in the grossest manner, and yet never betrayed any loss of temper. The idiom used in the language put into Mr. Drury's mouth is Mr. Tozer's. Sergeant Parry said the words "not a Christian" meant "hell fire," and that Mr. Drury went on purpose to tell the parents the child was then suffering eternal torments. Every man would denounce such brutality. It is a cruel, wicked thing, for the sake of political ends, to suggest such a charge against Mr. Drury. Even the Judge protested against the questions which were put to Mr. Drury by Sergeant Parry. He was carried away by his warmth in the cause of his client to create prejudice in your breasts. No such doctrine as suggested has ever been taught by the Church. Even Dante describes those who have died without baptism in the same place as those who lived good lives, but without saving by Christ. How cruel to impute to a clergyman in the box opinions which he has not adopted. How horrible is the doctrine! and how much more horrible the attempt to fix them on Mr. Drury in order to defend an Ipswich newspaper. We are told Mr. Drury used maledictions, but the nearest thing to curse is Mr. Tozer's, "You may go to—Heaven." I never accused Mr. Tozer of imputing moral ill-fame to the nunnery. I blame him for introducing the ladies at all. What connexion had they with the burial? If introduced to adorn the tale, how cruel! A capital topic to catch the public. Mr. Drury has been inundated with ribald letters about it. Mr. Drury has been for 30 or 40 years in the full blaze of publicity. He has been troubled with principles and has acted upon them, or he might have achieved a higher position in the world. He has been two or three times in litigation about the performance of services. You know what pains have been taken to find out all about him, both by attorneys and also by Mr. Wilson in his afternoon rides. I am glad of it. The defendants cannot say they have had no opportunity of finding out about him. Is he a man of ill-repute or against whom one man in his parish can come forward and say a word? Not one person can be found to say one word against him as a pastor or a man. Discoveries have indeed been made which I am surprised to hear brought into a court of justice, but the word "nunnery" is full of prejudice. I know not whether the seclusion of ladies is blameable; but 20 men in the dead of night broke into the place and a lady was carried off and confined as a lunatic. When her father dies and leaves her no money, no one any longer cares about her, and she returns to the house of her own accord. The ruffian who gets a basin of cold water in his face while sacking the house is made a martyr. After dealing with the monitions and the expression "society of assassins," Mr. Day concluded by saying he had detained the jury at great length on account of the attempt made to create prejudice, and would bring their minds back to the one charge, which is that the plaintiff went to insult the living and defame the dead. If the charge be true, Mr. Drury is worthy of your unanimous execration; but there is no ground for your saying the charge is true. My client did not come to barter his character for gold and ask for money; but the defendant having persisted to the last in these cruel imputations, I, on my own responsibility, and without his instructions, call upon you to consider the question of damages. They refused to settle the case when the Judge suggested such a thing, and I am bound to ask you to enable the defendant to know that his character has been cleared in your sight, and make Mr. Wilson know that public purposes must not be fed by attacks on private character.

Mr. Justice Denman, premising the difficulty he was in from only having been present at part of the hearing, warned the jury that they were not to regard themselves as champions of any particular form of belief, nor to give a verdict which should amend any existing law, but to accept the law of the land and decide the matter as a pure case of libel. After commenting upon, and pointing out the particular portions of the libel complained of, his lordship said, the question they had to direct their attention to was whether all the statements were or were not libellous, and were made in a defamatory sense such as would degrade and disparage, and bring into hatred, ridicule, or contempt, the person of whom they were spoken. The next question they had to consider, was were they true in substance and in fact? That depended a good deal upon their belief as to the evidence. The evidence of the plaintiff he did not profess to give them much assistance in. He had read it all carefully, as reported in the newspaper, and, as far as he knew, accurately reported, but there were some points in which, undoubtedly, it was in conflict with the evidence for the defendant. Whether they were of very great importance the jury would judge. Not having heard the plaintiff's evidence, he did not know whether he should not run more risk of injustice by reading all the evidence over to the jury than by leaving it to them as it stood, to form their judgment upon it. The case had been so put on both sides that it was not necessary that they should remember all the points in controversy, because the defence had put it, and Serjeant Parry had repeated it, that he imputed to Mr. Drury that he went to the funeral with the intention of "irritating the living and insulting the dead," whereas he denied anything of the sort, and said that he simply acted in the discharge of his duty, and that the defendant and his party went there with the intention of having a burial conducted offensively close to the churchyard, and to keep him there looking on while they performed a ceremony which was simply for the purpose of annoying him, and that it was done with a sinister motive, and for the purpose of gaining political capital—for the purpose of getting up a Burial Bill, or something of that sort. Now, he was bound to tell them that if that was so, and if the article was written for the purpose of insulting and irritating the plaintiff, that would be no justification for their publishing such an article. He was bound to go further, and say that if they published the libel utterly regardless of his character, or regardless of accuracy, and stated things that were not true, then the more fact that they were actuated by a desire to make capital of it, and to get up a scandal for the purpose of promoting a particular Bill in Parliament, it would be what the law called malice. This would not be a right or legitimate mode of treating other people, and it would not be treating the plaintiff with the respect that one human being owed to another. No one had a right to carry out any by ends by putting into print or publishing of another person that which degraded and disparaged him, and the only justification of it would be the truth of it, and if it was substantially true that would be a justification. But if it was not substantially true, and some by motive was the object, such as to disestablish the Church of England, or bring in a Burial Bill, or anything of that sort, that would be just the very thing the law would not sanction. After pointing out the law of libel more particularly to the jury, his Lordship continued:—Now, this is a lamentable case. I most cordially and heartily sympathise with the observations of my brother judge when this case was in its earlier stage. I most heartily wish the parties had seen fit to assent to his view. Nothing can be more damaging to Christianity itself than to see fights such as these in courts of justice. That is my opinion. It enables enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, and to point with scorn, and say, "See how these Christians love one another," in a very different sense in which the Christians of old were spoken of. You have had a better opportunity than I have had to judge whose fault it is that any suggestion of this sort was not accepted at a previous stage of the case. His Lordship concluded by saying that he felt very much hampered in the matter by not having the opportunity of seeing how Mr. Drury gave his evidence. This made him very diffident as to any observations he might make on that head, so that he left it entirely and wholly with the jury, and that he had better not comment on the demeanour or bearing of the witnesses on the other side, for fear he should do any injustice to either side. It was emphatically a case for the jury to decide, and he would now leave it in their hands.

The jury retired for a few minutes, and on their return gave a verdict for the plaintiff—damages, 40s.

The Judge, when applied to, said he should leave the costs alone—that is to say, the plaintiff would get his costs, on account of the strong language which had been used.

YARMOUTH.

THE ROYAL WEDDING.—The marriage of the Duke of Connaught with the Princess Louise Marguerite of Prussia evoked but little outward manifestation of rejoicing in Yarmouth, the demonstration being confined to occasional peals from the bells of the parish church and the display of a few flags from the shipping in the harbour, and on the Custom House, and other public buildings. The Mayor (E. H. H. Combe, Esq.), with a kindly consideration that has been much appreciated, forwarded in the early part of the week a donation of £5 to the managers of the Hospital, to be expended in providing a treat for the inmates of the institution on the day of the Royal wedding; and this was followed by a further sum of £15, sent to the Governor of the Workhouse, to be applied for a like purpose. It had been hoped that occasion would have been taken to have devoted the afternoon of Thursday to a public holiday, but this was not done, much to the disappointment of the numerous *employés* in the town, who had been looking forward to a little relaxation.

YARMOUTH AND NORTH NORFOLK RAILWAY.—The intimation conveyed by telegram on Tuesday last of the Bill for extending this line from North Walsham to Stalham, having passed the standing orders of the House of Commons, created a great deal of satisfaction among those interested in the undertaking. Great confidence is expressed in the passing of the Bill through Committee, notwithstanding the vigorous opposition to be expected from the Great Eastern Railway Company, who have little liking for a project that has already made a serious inroad into what they have hitherto regarded as their own country, and which threatens to destroy their existing monopoly of traffic to the Midland and Northern Counties, by establishing a junction with their main lines of railway at Lynn. During the past two months, considerable progress has been made with the extension of the line from Martham to Stalham. The permanent way, and the laying down of the rails have been completed to Potter Heigham. Here some little difficulty has been experienced in the construction of the bridge over the river, owing to the boggy condition of the banks on either side of the stream, but these have been overcome by the sinking of substantial concrete foundations, and in a few days the platform of the bridge will be commenced. The iron frames and girders are awaiting transport at the Yarmouth station of the Company, and as soon as these can be fixed, and the rails placed in position, the extension from the bridge to Stalham will be rapidly pushed forward. It is intended that the extension from Martham to Stalham shall be completed and ready for the beginning of July, and the extent of railway from Yarmouth to North Walsham by the end of the present year. If successful in obtaining Parliamentary powers for the connecting link between North Walsham and Fakenham, active steps will be taken to obtain the land, the object of the Company being to obtain through communication with Lynn at the earliest possible moment. No impediment is likely to arise on the score of capital, the new debenture stock having been taken up to the last share, and it is understood that ample funds are forthcoming, when required, for the thorough carrying out of the undertaking. To this end the new station to be built on the North Nelson Road is to be commenced forthwith. The ground (occupied by Messrs. Pinder's equestrian establishment), will be vacated on Monday, the 24th, by which date steps for the erection of a large and commodious station will be far advanced.

FOOT BALL.—GRAMMAR SCHOOL v. FIFTEEN GENTLEMEN OF LOWESTOFT.—The above match was played on Lowestoft Denes, on Saturday last, under very favourable circumstances, if one may judge by the number of spectators assembled on the ground, attracted by the novelty of a foot ball match, and the fine weather combined. The Lowestoft men having won the toss, decided to play the first 35 minutes against the light breeze which was blowing at the time. The Grammar School, thereupon set the ball in motion, and pressed the Lowestoft team very hard till half-time was called, and during which the Grammar School obtained two tries (gained by Mr. Hervey and Mr. Pughe), and the Lowestoft touched down twice in self defence. After half-time the School seemed to flag a little in their exertions, the ball being kept for some time in neutral ground, but towards the end they rallied again, and once more made the Lowestoft beat a retreat within their own lines. Time being called, the Grammar School was left victorious by two tries, from one of which a poster was kicked, four touchdowns to *nil*. The Lowestoft, Mr. Beaumont (Captain), Mr. J. Gowing and L. Ray; and for the Grammar School, Mr. Arblaster (Captain), Mr. Hervey, and Mr. Hartley deserve especial mention.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.—The following are the returns of births and deaths for the week ending the 8th inst.:—Births, 38; deaths, 17; deaths in the corresponding period of last year, 17.

A SMASH.—On Saturday evening last as a person named Lawn, residing at Gorleston, was leaving for home he contrived to back the vehicle of which he was in charge into the front of the shop, occupied by Mr. Hunter, draper, smashing two large panes of plate glass, and thus doing damage to the extent of between £25 and £30. Mr. Hunter was fortunately insured.

SINGULAR CASE OF SUICIDE.—On Tuesday an inquest was held at the Workhouse, before A. D. Stone, Esq., jun., on the body of William Atkins, one of the crew of the smack Flirt, whose remains had been landed the previous day from that vessel. The evidence showed that deceased, who was a single man, had been lodging at the Dog and Duck public house, on the South Quay. He left on Monday morning to join his smack, which was towed out of the harbour the same day, on a voyage to the fishing grounds. On the Monday afternoon, while at the helm, the vessel being then about eighteen miles from the port, Atkins suddenly called out to Joseph Channel, the master of the Flirt, "Fare you well, you won't see me any more." At the same moment he sprang over the bulwarks into the sea. An alarm having been raised, the crew got out their boat, and pulled towards deceased, who was seen floating on the water. On reaching him he was found partly submerged. When the body was taken into the boat life was found to be extinct. Sail was then made for Yarmouth, where the remains of deceased were landed. The evidence of the master and crew showed that Atkins was sober when he joined the smack on Monday morning last, and that nothing had occurred on board after the departure of the vessel to conduce to the occurrence. The jury returned a verdict that "Deceased committed suicide by drowning, but that the evidence was insufficient to show his state of mind at the time."

WEDNESDAY.

ALLEGED ASSAULT.—Hannah Thurgate was charged with assaulting Elizabeth Marsden. Mr. F. Ferrier appeared for complainant. It appeared from complainant's testimony, that on Monday, while in a public-house in Middlegate Street, she saw her husband treating defendant, and remonstrated with him, on which defendant struck her several blows on the face, knocking her down. As opposed to this version of the affair, it was shown, on behalf of defendant, that the complainant engaged in a struggle with her husband, during which the injuries of which she complained were inflicted. The Magistrates, after a patient investigation of the evidence, dismissed the case.

A TROUBLESOME CUSTOMER.—William Adams, blacksmith, for refusing to quit the Wrestlers' Inn when requested by the landlady, was, in his absence, fined 20s. and costs.

ASSAULT.—John George, dealer, charged with assaulting Charles Dowson, was fined 10s. and costs.

SUNDAY TRADING.—James Hodds, charged with Sunday trading, was fined 5s. and costs.

BYE-LAWS.—William Smith, for leaving a horse and cart unattended on the Feathers Plain, Gorleston, was fined 5s. and costs.

THE STONE-THROWING NUISANCE.—Wm. Rising, a lad, was charged with throwing a stone, damaging a window in Mr. May's office, North Quay, to the value of 15s. Mr. Moy not pressing for the amount of damage, defendant was fined 1s. and costs, a fortnight being allowed for payment.

THE CHARGE OF STEALING WEARING APPAREL.—Henry Miffen, a lad, was placed in the dock, under remand, charged with stealing a quantity of wearing apparel, the property of Mr. Phillips, pawnbroker, of the value of £10; and Edward Miffen and Sarah Miffen, husband and wife, and brother and sister-in-law to the first-named prisoner, were charged with receiving the said property, well-knowing it to have been stolen. Additional evidence having been taken, prisoners were committed to take their trial at the Sessions, bail being granted in the case of Edward Miffen and his wife.

LYNN.

CORPORATION LANDS.—On Saturday a quantity of land, the property of the Lynn Corporation, was let by auction. The rent realised was £272, the previous rent being £327, thus showing a decrease of £55.

THE ROYAL MARRIAGE.—The town was gaily decorated with flags on Thursday in honour of the Royal Marriage.

BAZAAR.—On Tuesday and Wednesday the Wesleyans held a sale of fancy and other goods in the Music Hall, in support of some of their local institutions. Music was provided during the time, and some curiosities were exhibited.

THE UNION CHAPEL.—The anniversary services in connection with the Sunday School of this place of worship were held on Sunday, when the Rev. H. B. Robinson, of Wisbech, preached in the morning and evening. In the afternoon there was a children's service. On Monday, after a tea, a public meeting was held, when addresses were delivered by several ministers and friends. During the evening a distribution of rewards to scholars varied the proceedings, and the choir sung selections of music.

At the PETTY SESSIONS on Monday—present: The Mayor, Mr. W. Thompson, W. Burkitt, E. E. Durrant, and J. G. Wigg, Esqs.—Edward Mann, engine driver, Purfleet Street, and Charles White sailor, Vicarage Lane, were charged, the former with turbulent behaviour, and the latter with drunken and disorderly conduct in Sedgeford Lane, on Saturday night. Sergeant Smith said he was on duty in Tower Street about eleven o'clock on the night in question. His attention was called to a disturbance in Sedgford Lane, where he found defendants fighting. He took White into custody, upon which Mann became very violent and assaulted two or three persons. Ultimately he was obliged to get assistance to carry them both to the police station. Mann said that White assaulted him, and he merely struck him in self defence. The Bench thought that Mann had received some provocation, and he was discharged on paying 5s. 6d. costs. White was fined 5s. and 8s. costs.

John Roll was summoned by his wife Elizabeth Roll, for an assault, and in a cross summons the wife was charged with assaulting her husband. Mr. Beloe appeared for the woman, who stated that she had been married to Roll fifteen months. On the evening in question she was at home in California Yard, Norfolk Street, when her husband came into the house. He did not speak to her, but deliberately knocked her down with his fist, and kicked her several times. After a young woman named Mary Ann Franks entered the house, he took up a poker and threatened to dash out complainant's brains with it, but Franks took it from him. She then took the poker from Franks, and struck her husband with it. He was not drunk at the time. He had previously assaulted her in a similar way. In answer to the defendant she said she had not refused to unlock the door and admit him. Roll stated that for the last four months he had been engaged in constructing the model of a vessel, and went home for it on the afternoon now in question. His wife was at the Fox and Hounds public-house, and she would not unlock the door and let him get it; he found that the model was smashed. Mary Ann Franks corroborated. On the counter charge Roll said he wished on the same evening to give his wife 10s., and not go near her any more. She had been in the habit of coming home drunk, and had often pulled and knocked him about, and requested him to strike her. On the evening in question her brother, a man named Barnes, had struck him in the Oxford Arms, and he afterwards left that house, and repaired to the Fox and Hounds, where he was followed by his wife and other people. Whilst he was there drinking a pint of beer his wife came and spat in his face. He told her to go away for a "dirty —," whereupon her brother rushed at him, and his wife struck him on the head with a poker. A man named James Grass corroborated. In the defence Wm. Edward Barnes said on that occasion Roll knocked his wife down, and bit her thumb. He pulled him off her, and he then bit witness on the back, and struck him a number of times. He did not see his sister take up a poker, or strike him with one. There was no one present but the three of them. Their worships said they were convinced that an assault had been committed by Roll, and fined him 5s., and costs. They also believed that Elizabeth Roll had assaulted her husband, and she would also be fined 5s., and costs.

THE ALLEGED ASSAULT ON THE BOAL QUAY.—This case in which James Jackson Plowright was charged with assaulting Henry Russell, St. James' Place, and in which there was a cross summons for assault, was adjourned for the production of a witness named Smith. Mr. Beloe appeared for Plowright, and Mr. Glasier for Russell. Witness now said he recollected on the Wednesday on which the assault was said to take place, seeing young Plowright drive unto the quay on a cart which stopped beside a truck. Russell got into the truck, and so did Plowright, but he thought the former got in first. A tarpaulin which was in the truck was thrown out, but he did not know which of them did it, as they were scuffling at the time. He saw Russell strike one blow, and he (witness) afterwards went away. Plowright gave him some provocation by kicking him, but Russell had hold of his leg before that, and he saw Russell turn his leg round. Evidence was also given by John R. Timms, and the defendant gave his version of the case. The magistrates dismissed both charges.

HUNSTANTON.

AT THE PETTY SESSIONS—before H. le Strange, L. Oliver, and E. N. Rolfe, Esqs.—Henry Ransome and Frederick English, fishermen, Snettisham, were charged by Wm. Rix, farmer, with stealing four stones of hay, at Snettisham. Mr. Wm. Rix deposed that he had a stack of hay in a field on the Bircham Road, from which he had several times missed hay. In consequence of information he had received, he went to the stack on the night of the 4th inst., and found hay strewed on the road commencing from the field in which his stack stood. He had not taken any from it for his own use. P.-c. Wharton said on the night of the 6th, he was on duty on the road leading to Bircham. About 200 yards from the chalk pit, which was opposite the field in which the stack stood, he saw a horse and cart in the road. It was a bright moonlight night, and witness saw two men walking backwards and forwards between the cart and the field where the stack was. Witness concealed himself for a time, and presently saw the cart come down the road with the two men in it, which he followed as far as Mr. Rix's house. Witness stopped into the road intending to stop them, but as soon as the men saw him, they urged the horse on at full speed, going along the high road into Snettisham. He gave chase, and came up with them at a shed occupied by Ransome. English was the first he saw. Witness went up to him and collared him, saying, "Now you're fairly caught." He said, "The horse and cart do not belong to me. What have I done?" Witness said, "You've stolen hay from Mr. Rix." He said, "You didn't see us." Witness heard some one in the shed, and said, "Come out" repeatedly, but got no answer. Witness then let English go, and he ran away. Witness went into the shed and took hold of a man, and upon bringing him out, found him to be the defendant Ransome. There was a little hay left in the cart. It and that in the shed corresponded with Mr. Rix's stack. Witness arrested English at his house. Prisoners pleaded guilty, and each were committed for two months.

John Sampson, dealer, Bury, Suffolk, for allowing ten horses to stray on the highway at Ringstead, on the 24th ult., was fined 1s. each horse, and 6s. 6d. costs.

William Slender, dealer, Ringston, Surrey, for a like offence respecting three horses, was fined 10s. and 6s. 6d. costs.

James Nobes, labourer, Heacham, charged by James Adcock, groom, in the employ of Mr. Johnson, of Heacham, with an assault, pleaded guilty, and was fined 6d. and 12s. 6d. costs.

Henry Allen, labourer, Docking, for being drunk and disorderly on the 1st inst., was fined 2s. 6d. and 10s. 3d. costs.

Daniels Bales, labourer, Docking, charged by Charles Crane with assaulting him at Docking, on March 1st, was fined 6s. and costs 14s. 6d.

Charles Pearce, hotel-keeper, Hunstanton, was charged by Sergeant Storey with being drunk and riotous at Hunstanton, on March 4th. Defendant was represented by Hariette Marie Dell, who said that he was too ill to attend, but that as she held the situation of barmaid at the hotel he had sent her. P.-s. Storey said that on the night in question defendant came to the police station yard and wished to speak to him relative to something which happened in the morning. This he refused to do, telling him that he was drunk. Defendant became angry, and said he would "do his business for him." The constable then put him out of the yard, and as soon as he got out he fell down. He then staggered on to the green as far as Mr. Linnell's shop, where the constable called Mr. Linnell and a customer, who was in the shop at the time, as witnesses. Mr. Linnell and Walter Fletcher corroborated. Defendant was fined £2.

GRIMSTON.

AFTER THE DUCKS.—Before G. B. Ffolkes, Esq., and Sir W. Ffolkes, Bart., at the Freebridge Lynn Magistrates Clerk's Office, on Tuesday, William Smith, labourer, Grimston, was charged by James Bunting, publican, with stealing two tame ducks, value 5s., on Sunday night. Prosecutor said on Saturday night he had four ducks and a drake in a shed at the east end of a malt office in a meadow behind his premises at Grimston. The door was properly fastened and secured by a piece of stick. Next morning prosecutor was called up at about two o'clock by Inspector Grimes, who showed him two ducks dead, but quite warm. The ducks prosecutor identified by their plumage and by the whitering round the neck of one of them. Inspector Grimes said on Sunday morning, the 9th inst., he was on duty on the road in Grimston, near the New Inn, and a little to the Hillington side of the Bushel Inn. It was a very bright moonlight night and quite still. He had some ducks quack, as if something was after them. Soon after he saw three ducks come fluttering along the ground in prosecutor's meadow in a direction from the back part of his premises. He turned round to prosecutor's back premises and there saw a shed door open. Just inside the door he found two ducks (produced). They had their necks wrung and had only just been killed. Inside the shed he found the prisoner standing in a corner. When asked what he did there, he made no answer, and said he knew nothing about the ducks. When taken into custody on the charge of stealing the ducks, he remarked, "I must have been a fool. I could have given you the slip by getting over the wall," alluding to a wall between prosecutor's premises and those of his father adjoining, by which prisoner could have got on to the high road in two directions. As soon as it was daylight witness examined prosecutor's back premises, and found many marks made by prisoner's wooden leg. Prisoner admitted that between four and five years ago he was convicted at the Boston Quarter Sessions of stealing £17. 10s., in money, from a farm house where he lived, for which he underwent eighteen months' imprisonment in Lincoln Lindsey Gaol. Prisoner was committed for trial.

DOCKING.

ON MONDAY a flock of sheep belonging to Mr. William Brown, Sedgeford, was run into by the train which leaves Burnham. The animals were being driven across the line between Docking and Sedgeford when the train dashed through them, killing sixteen and wounding several others, three of which have since died.

THE PRIMITIVE METHODISTS held their quarterly meeting on Monday last in the chapel. Tea was provided, after which a public meeting was held. The chapel was crowded.

THE MONTHLY MEETING of this branch of the National Agricultural Labourers' Union was held on Wednesday, the 5th inst. The members came up well with their contributions, and five new members joined. This branch was reduced to twenty-five members before the strike, but now almost all the men in Thorpe have again joined, making in all seventy members.

SEA PALLING.

ON TUESDAY LAST, at the Baptist Chapel, a service of song, illustrative of "Little Dot" (the music was arranged and selected by Mr. Robert Withers, of Stalham; connective readings, (Mr. G. E. Slipper), was given by the United Ingham and Palling Choirs. Miss Wallage presided at the harmonium. A selection of instrumental music was given at the opening and close of the service by Miss T. Wallage, and Messrs. Saul, Jeary, Withers, and Myhill. Votes of thanks were accorded to Miss Wallage and Mr. E. Slipper, also to Mr. J. Riches for the platform, &c.

CROMER.

PROTECTION FROM THE SEA.—At an adjourned meeting of Commissioners, Mr. T. W. Field in the chair, it was unanimously resolved that Mr. P. E. Hansell, solicitor, the Close, Norwich, be appointed clerk. It was also unanimously resolved that the Commissioners wish to place on record the regret they feel at the death of the late Mr. William Limmer, their late secretary, who for over ten years efficiently and satisfactorily discharged his duties as Clerk to the Commissioners, and that a copy of the resolution be forwarded to his children and Herbert J. Johnson, Esq., Runton.

SHERRINGHAM.

AT LOWER SHERRINGHAM on Monday, there was an excellent attendance at the annual meeting of the local auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society. H. R. Upcher, Esq., presided, and gave a brief and appropriate address. He was followed by the Rev. J. Spurgin, the Rev. W. Cleare (Holt), and Mr. J. R. Cossons, the Norfolk agent. Whilst urging the claims of the society, the various speakers did not omit expressions of sympathy and condolence with many who had been recently bereaved through a sad calamity which took away with startling suddenness many of our brave fishermen. The sum of £18. 11s. 8d. was stated to have been sent from Sherringham last year in aid of the society's funds. The meeting was closed by the Vicar pronouncing the benediction. On the following evening the annual meeting was held at Upper Sherringham.

CLEY-NEXT-THE-SEA.

POPULAR ENTERTAINMENT.—On Friday last an entertainment, promoted by the Committee of the Reading Room to benefit the funds of that institution, was given in the Board School. The programme consisted of readings, songs, glees, and instrumental pieces; and was rendered in a manner to give the greatest satisfaction to a large and appreciative audience. The Rev. J. C. Blackmore was in the chair, and opened the proceedings with a few humorous remarks. In the first part, the singing of Mrs. C. T. Baker, of Holt, in "Pepita," and W. J. Foxell, Esq., B.A., of North Walsham, in "The king and the beggar maid," were enthusiastically received, both performers being honoured by an encore. In response, Mrs. Baker sung, in capital style, "Come, boat me o'er to Charley," and Mr. Foxell obtained release by bowing his acknowledgments. The reading, entitled "John Maynard," by the Rev. H. Codling, was given with considerable elocutionary power, and called forth rounds of applause. The same may be said of the other readings by Dr. Sumpter and Philip Page, Esq., named respectively, "Two Frenchmen in England, or vat you please," and "Betsy and I are out—of temper." These were so excellently rendered as to leave nothing whatever to be desired. A nautical song, "Fifty miles under the sea," by Coastguard King, R.N., caused great laughter, and, in answer to calls for a repetition, Mr. King kindly substituted another piece, which proved equally amusing. In part two we must single out for special commendation, Mr. Foxell's songs, "The man with many names," and "Jack's yarn," both of which brought down the house; also Mrs. Baker's beautifully expressive delivery of "May the angels guard thy slumbers." This was so warmly received, as to end in a re-call, when the pretty well-known song, "Clochette," was excellently given. Mr. J. G. Lane, who obligingly filled the place of an absent performer, was heard to advantage in "Still I love thee," the refrain being very pleasingly taken up by some lady vocalists placed near the platform. Mr. E. Sumpter, who made his *debut* in "Giles's trip to London," acquitted himself most creditably, and the Rev. H. Codling quite stirred the audience by his forcible and energetic interpretation of the ludicrous piece entitled, "The devil in the landlord's cellar." Dr. Sumpter gave, in his usual felicitous style, one of Lord Dundreary's droll representations on "Politics and Brother Sam." The pianoforte solos of Miss Withers and Miss Baker proved very acceptable, and contributed much to the evening's enjoyment. A word of praise is due to the glee party, for their valuable assistance in "See our oars with feathered spray," and "Forgive, blest shade." After the passing of votes of thanks to all who had kindly given their services for the occasion, the entertainment was brought to a close with the National Anthem. We have only to add that the upper end of the room was simply but effectively decorated, and that a substantial addition to the funds of the Reading Room will remain after the expenses are paid.

DOWNHAM.

BURIAL BOARD.—The annual meeting of the Downham Burial Board took place on Monday last, when there were present Messrs. G. F. Wood, J. Flatman, Henry Jones, and H. Pope. Mr. Wood was elected Chairman of the meeting. The minutes for the past year were read. The accounts of the Clerk and Registrar were laid before the meeting, and ordered to be presented to the Auditors for audit previous to the annual vestry. The members retiring this year by rotation are Messrs. J. Flatman, G. F. Wood, and J. Bird, who are eligible for re-election. The Clerk was ordered to publish the notice of the annual vestry meeting, to be held on Wednesday, the 19th inst., for the purpose of receiving the report of the auditors, electing three members in the place of those retiring, and electing auditors for the ensuing year.

A VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT was given on Monday evening, in the Friends' Meeting House, in aid of the Mount Tabor Sunday School fund. The programme was a very long one, and was made up of a good selection of music, all of which was fairly rendered. The chair was occupied by Mr. James Green, of Nordelph, and the entertainment was much appreciated by a large audience.

AT THE PETTY SESSIONS on Monday—present: J. Marcon, T. Howard, and E. R. M. Pratt, Esqs., and Major Stocks—James Loose, of Wormegay, was charged with using a gun without a license. The defendant did not appear. William Bennett said he saw defendant on January 3rd last, standing against his premises near the river side at Wormegay. He had a gun, and fired at and shot a teal. Fined £2. 10s.

Robert Steeles, of Marham, labourer, charged by James Jarvis, of Marham, [illegible] a snare for [illegible] pleaded [illegible] fined 10s. and costs [illegible].

Thomas Kemp, of Hilgay, farmer [illegible] by Henry Taylor, Inspector of the [illegible] Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, [illegible] treating a mare by causing it to [illegible] in an unfit state to do so. [illegible] evidence [illegible] the defendant [illegible] in Downham on the 3rd inst. the [illegible] plainant [illegible] ting the mare, which was very lame. [illegible] G. Whiting, veterinary surgeon, [illegible] saw a chesnut mare belonging to the [illegible] Downham Bridge on the 3rd inst. [illegible] very lame, and suffering from [illegible] flammation of the foot, which [illegible] a large, and the animal was [illegible] endant was fined 10s., costs, 37s. [illegible]

THETFORD.

THETFORD MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.—[illegible] Fison, of King's House, Thetford, [illegible] this institution [illegible] "[illegible] Merchant and Philanthropist," [illegible] and handsomely [illegible].

FAKENHAM.

THE MEMBERS of the Fakenham [illegible] Union are exerting themselves with [illegible] energy to stem the tide of intemperance [illegible] in this direction is the recent [illegible] which regularly visit the Cattle Market [illegible] forenoon of Thursdays (the market [illegible] journ to the general Market in the [illegible] on Saturday evenings, for the purpose [illegible] hot coffee, buns, and hot rolls, at a [illegible] For several weeks this movement has [illegible] tion, and has met with [illegible] dealers, farmers and others attending [illegible] expressing themselves much gratified [illegible] ment, and literally patronising it. [illegible] Band of Hope is also in a very [illegible] tion. We understand it is also [illegible] a company for the opening and [illegible] Working Man's Coffee and Reading [illegible] bining therewith the necessary [illegible] accommodation of commercial and [illegible] visiting the town. Several gentlemen [illegible] the neighbourhood have signified [illegible] take shares in such a company.

A FIRE was discovered at Mr. Field's shop, "Norfolk House, Fakenham," [illegible] evening. This establishment was [illegible] fire about two years ago, and the [illegible] having then threatened to extend [illegible] mises, the conflagration of the [illegible] this more recent outbreak in [illegible] to be largely stocked with goods [illegible] for surprise. Sensationally worded [illegible] announced a seven days' sale of [illegible] one days' sale to commence on [illegible] 11th, 1879. Everybody was invited [illegible] establishment and purchase of the [illegible] on offer. On the day before the sale [illegible] Aldis and family left for Yarmouth, [illegible] being early closing day with several [illegible] men in the town. Mr. Aldis's shop was [illegible] p.m. At a few minutes to eight [illegible] was subsequently found only [illegible] assistants and a servant girl were in the [illegible] was seen pouring into the street between [illegible] of the shop. An alarm of fire was made. [illegible] neighbourhood was aroused in a few [illegible] Mr. Hansell's premises, stored with a [illegible] stock of watches, jewellery, [illegible] &c., adjoin the premises of Mr. Aldis on [illegible] side, and only a narrow passage intervened [illegible] them, and Mr. Southwood's stationery [illegible] other side, with very valuable [illegible] thereto. Fortunately the fire brigade [illegible] collected together, and their engine [illegible] bear upon the fire, which they soon [illegible] fortune to extinguish. Valuable [illegible] also rendered by Mr. Andrews, cashier [illegible] Gurneys and Co's., and their porter, [illegible] with them one of Shand, Mason, and Co's. [illegible] fire engines. The flames had already [illegible] the shop ceiling into a sitting room [illegible] furniture of which was seriously damaged. [illegible] few minutes more the fire would [illegible] have penetrated to the upper rooms of [illegible] Mr. F. Aldis was soon found at no great [illegible] from the scene, and quickly hastened home. [illegible] Searle, agent to the Sun Fire Office, with [illegible] stock was insured, was soon on the spot [illegible] valuable directions.

COUNTY COURT.—The usual monthly [illegible] Walsingham and Fakenham was held [illegible] last, before the Deputy-Judge (T. R. [illegible] but there was no business transacted [illegible] special notice.

REEPHAM.

A SERVICE of sacred song was held in the [illegible] leyan Chapel on Thursday, 6th inst., [illegible] "Israel in the Wilderness." Connective [illegible] were very creditably given by Mr. A. [illegible] Miss E. Frankland presided at the harmonium [illegible] her usual ability. The manner in which [illegible] performed their part was highly appreciated [illegible] attendance was very good, and the [illegible] was most admirably executed.

AT THE PETTY SESSIONS on Monday—[illegible] H. Evans Lombe, Esq., Captain H. Pa[illegible] the Rev. J. Fenwick—Wm. Wright, of [illegible] was brought up in custody, charged with [illegible] at Morton, on the previous day. Prisoner [illegible] was out of employ, and had been [illegible] was in search of work, and admitted [illegible] cottager for a piece of bread. He was [illegible] to one day's imprisonment, and consequently [illegible] charged on the rising of the Court.

Benjamin Burton, of Kerdistone, [illegible] being drunk at Foulsham, on the 2nd [illegible] 15s. fine and costs.

Frederick Robinson, of Themelthorpe, [illegible] for a similar offence, paid 17s. fine [illegible] Defendant's conduct was worse than [illegible] companion Burton.

Robert Breese, of Thurning, labourer, [illegible] drunk at Hindolvestone, on the 8th ult. [illegible] fine and costs.

Henry Smith, John Hall, Walter Ell[illegible] Nelson, John Smith, and James Sm[illegible] Guist, labourers, were charged under the [illegible] Amendment Act, 1873, with playing [illegible] and toss on the turnpike road there, on [illegible] the 9th ult. Defendants all pleaded guilty [illegible] paid 5s. 2d. each fine and costs.

Robert Abel, of Guist, labourer, was [illegible] with not complying with an attendance [illegible] upon him on the 27th of September last, [illegible] gard to his child, Anna Abel, and he was [illegible] charged with neglecting to send his child Marian to [illegible] school. Mr. W. E. Clarke, of Fakenham, [illegible] prosecuted on behalf of the School Attendance Committee of the Mitford and Launditch [illegible] Defendant did not appear. He was fined [illegible] costs, 5s. in the first case, and in the second [illegible] order was made for the child Marian to attend the Elmham school.

STOCK MART.—Messrs. Ireland had a [illegible] here on Wednesday. The beef and pork [illegible] slightly improved, but the mutton trade [illegible] for the graziers.

INGHAM.

THE GUNTON HARRIERS met on Tuesday [illegible] Mr. H. Wenn's, and had a capital day's sport.

ON SUNDAY Mr. Jacksons, from Norwich, conducted a service at the Baptist Chapel, and in the evening at the Lecture Hall, Stalham.

INGHAM CHURCH.—On Tuesday last, in the afternoon, the Lord Bishop of Norwich held a confirmation, at which 70 candidates, of both sexes, were present. Miss L. Matthews kindly presided at the instrument on the occasion.

MUNDESLEY.

SCHOOL BOARD.—At the monthly meeting of the Board, held on Tuesday—present: Mr. [illegible] Gordon (Chairman), Messrs. W. L[illegible] (Vice-Chairman), A. Haggith, and W. S. [illegible] the report of Her Majesty's Inspector (the Rev. F. Synge) was received as follows:—

Of 41 children qualified for examination, [illegible] were presented, and 30 of them passed in reading, [illegible] in writing, and 32 in arithmetic. The total amount [illegible] £28. 11s. The school is in good order, and [illegible] have done their work well. The writing [illegible] Needlework had been well taught. [illegible] passed fairly. Miss True will shortly [illegible] tificate.

Miss S. M. Harris, of Denbigh Terrace, Bayswater, was elected mistress of the Mundesley Board School at a salary of £60 per annum.

AYLSHAM.

THE LATE COLONEL FITZROY.—At the Petty Sessions held on Tuesday last—present: The Rev. Robert W. Beauchamp, C. Lewis Buxton, and James Gay, Esqs.—Before the commencement of the regular business, the magistrates present directed their Clerk to enter on the minutes of the proceedings a resolution passed by them expressing their sincere regret at the great loss sustained by the recent lamented death of their esteemed Chairman, the late Lieut.-Colonel Hugh Fitzroy. Mr. S. Linay (Sadd and Linay), solicitor, Norwich, said that on behalf of his brother solicitors and himself he desired to tender to the Bench their respectful sympathy at the heavy loss sustained by the removal by death of the late Colonel FitzRoy. Mr. Linay said that personally he had for many years past received very considerable courtesy from the deceased Chairman, whose object always seemed to be to temper justice with mercy, and to do every thing in a kindly and gentlemanly manner. The various cases for hearing were then proceeded with.

ON Sunday evening a sermon was preached in the Tabernacle Chapel, by Mr. J. Hudson, of Scottow, on the death of the late Mr John Thaxter, of Aylsham, the text being the 10th chapter of J[illegible] 10th verse. There was a large and attentive congregation.

At the PETTY SESSIONS on Tuesday—present: the Rev. R. W. Beauchamp, James Gay, and C. L. Buxton, Esqs.—Christopher Howard, of Cawston, shopkeeper, was summoned by P.-c. Trivett with allowing porter to be drunk on his premises at Oulton, licensed only for the sale of beer, not to be consumed thereon, on the 21st of January last. Case dismissed.

COUNTY COURT.—At the monthly sitting of this Court held on Monday (E. Plumer Price, Esq., Q.C.,

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