

“Merthyr Express” 3 January 1880

Gelligaer School Board A meeting of this Board was held at Pontlottyn on Tuesday se’nnight. Present - Mr. G. Martin (chairman), Revs. A. Davies (vice-chairman), J. P. Williams, T. Theophilus (vicar), Messrs. W. Beddoe, D. Davies, and J. Mathews., also Messrs. F. James (clerk), J. Davies (deputy clerk), J. Jones (attendance officer).

Bible Reading The Rev. T. Theophilus moved that the report of the committee appointed to carry out the resolution in favour of Bible reading in all the schools under the Board be considered. The Chairman seconded the motion. Mr. W. Beddoe proposed, as an amendment, that the consideration of the report be deferred until the 1st of March. The Rev. J. P. Williams seconded the amendment. The issue of cost of Bibles for every child was raised, and the Rev. T. Theophilus asked permission of those members who had signed the report to amend it, and recommended that Bibles be supplied only to children above the age of six years. Mr. W. Beddoe protested strongly against such irregularities. The report, as amended, was carried. Mr. D. Davies proposed that the report now passed should not come into force before the 1st of March, and he was seconded by the Rev. A. Davies, and his motion was unanimously agreed to. The Rev. T. Theophilus, however, proposed that the Clerk be authorised to purchase Bibles at once, but was opposed by the Rev. A. Davies, who gave as his opinion, that no action with respect to carrying out of the report could be taken before such report would come into force. He further said that if a cheque were given towards the purchase of Bibles, he would feel it his duty to object to such expense before the auditor. He then move that all Bibles purchased should be paid for, not from the rates, but by voluntary subscriptions, and mentioned, in support of his motion, the fact that in several boards those who were in favour of Bible reading, supplied Bibles at their own expense to those schools in which it was taught. Mr. Beddoe seconded. The Rev. J. P. Williams said that he had no objection to Bible reading, nor religious teaching, but no Dissenter could support such reading or teaching at the expense of the ratepayers, without betraying the principles of Dissent.

An amendment was proposed by the Chairman that the Bibles should be ordered at the expense of the ratepayers, and that they should be 400 in number. The proposal was seconded by Rev. T. Theophilus. When the amendment was put to the vote, the Chairman, The Rev. T. Theophilus and Mr. Mathews voted for. As Mr. D. Davies, one of the Nonconformist members did not signify his approval of the amendment, he was asked by Mr. Mathews if he understood what was going on. Mr. D. Davies, in reply, said he understood perfectly well, but he concurred with the Rev. A. Davies in regard to the voluntary principle, and he was going to vote for the motion of that reverend gentleman. The Rev. A. Davies’s motion was therefore carried, the proposer, the seconder, and Rev. J. P. Williams and Mr. D. Davies voting for it.

“Merthyr Express” 10 January 1880

Merthyr Local Board of Health: Water Supply of Vochriw The Clerk stated that he had written to the Rural Sanitary Authority stating that the Board could supply all that portion of Vochriw below the railway line with water. A reply had been received desiring to know upon what terms the Board would supply water there. Mr. Lloyd: Can we supply Caeglas also? The Chairman: Caeglas is below the railway. The Surveyor: Mr. Lloyd means the upper part where the colliery is? The Chairman: That is not Caeglas. Caeglas is below the railway. Are we in a position to give an answer to their letter? Mr. Thos. Williams: We should have to lay pipes from Pengarnddu in the direction of Treharris, and then take a branch to Vochriw. The Rural Sanitary Authority would have to meet this cost. The Surveyor was asked to prepare an estimate of the cost.

Tenders For Materials: The clerk opened three tenders for the supply of timber, pipes and cement etc., from Mr. Sibbering, Mr. David Jenkins, and Mr. M. L. Evans. Mr. Jenkins being the lowest, it was decided to accept all his articles except slates, battens and cement which

Mr. Sibbering would supply. For the supply of bricks there was one tender only at 30s. per 1,000 from the Aberdare and Plymouth Iron Company. For the supply of paving stones there were two tenders: one from Thomas Harris, Bedlinog Quarry, paving stones 2½ inches thick at 2s. 2d. per superficial yard; curb stones at 1s. 1d. per lineal yard; channelling at 1s. 1d.; the second from Lewis and Prosser, Treffechan Quarry, Pontypridd, paving stones 2s.2d.; curb 4d per foot; channelling 1s. per yard. The latter was accepted. Two tenders were made for the supply of timber and posts for the making of fences at Torpantau. They were from Mr. Prothero, steam mills, Brecon and Mr. Thos. Asten, Coedpenmaen mills, Pontypridd. Mr. Prothero's tender as lowest was accepted.

"Merthyr Express" 17 January 1880

Highways Board: The Surveyor reported on the progress of the Bargoed and Tirphil new road and the Hengoed new road. The expenditure for Gelligaer parish was £376-18-7.

Vacant Living of Gelligaer The Rev J. L. Meredith of Rhyl has accepted the vacant living of Gelligaer in succession to Rev. Harries.

"Merthyr Express" 24 January 1880

Merthyr Board of Health: Surveyor's Report Gentlemen, - With reference to the application of the Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority for a supply of water from your works to the village of Vochriw, I beg to report that you are unable to furnish such a supply by gravitation to any part of the village. The following statement of levels above the mean altitude of the sea will show the impracticability of conveying water from your works to Vochriw by gravitation: the seat of the Neuadd reservoir embankment - 1336 feet; the Garth filter beds - 1230 feet; Pengarnddu - 1300 feet; the highest point in your works from which a supply of water could be given - 1208 feet; the site of the highest house supplied at Dowlais Top 1191 feet. In Vochriw village the following are the altitudes: the road opposite the Tunnel Pits 1290 feet; the Dowlais Company's railway near the old tunnel under the said road 1246 feet; Pentwyn, Vochriw 1353 feet. As a fall of at least 20 feet would be required to supply the village, a tunnel of considerable length and depth under Senghenydd Mountain would be necessary, and then only the lowest parts of the village would be supplied. By laying a pipe along the deep cutting of the Great Western Railway at Sarn Howell, there is sufficient head to supply Treharris and Bedlinog.

Chairman: It is quite clear we cannot supply Vochriw. Mr. W. Jones: Supposing we supply them with water by meter to nearest spot, and let them pump it. The Surveyor: Yes, that can be done. Mr. Dyke: Within what distance of Vochriw can that be done. The Surveyor: About a mile and a half.

"Merthyr Express" 31 January 1880

Presentation to The Rev. Aaron Davies of Pontlottyn On Thursday night last, at the board school-room, Pontlottyn, a large number of persons gathered to witness the presentation of an illuminated address, as well as a purse containing £60-13s..

"Merthyr Express" 7 February 1880

Merthyr Police Court: Drunkards Morgan Pritchard, Richard Couch, John Jones and Thomas Giles, all young colliers from Vochriw, were summoned for having been drunk and riotous at the place on the 19th January. Shortly before 10 o'clock, P.C. Jenkins saw the defendants, who were drunk, fighting in Vochriw. Fined 5s. and costs.

A Vochriw Affiliation Case Evan Evans collier, again appeared in answer to a summons alleging that he was the father of an illegitimate child of a girl named Margaret Thomas, also of Vochriw. The case had been adjourned so that the girl could call witnesses to corroborate her statement. Two young men were called and gave the required testimony. The child was born on the 19th November, and died on the 18th January. The Stipendiary made an order on the defendant to pay 2s. 6d. per week for the eight weeks that the child lived, £1-5-0 for the midwife, and £1-5-0 for the funeral, and costs.

Gelligaer School Board: Final Meeting of the Old Board The final meeting of the members of the Board, which has just completed its three years' existence, took place at Pontlloftyn on Tuesday afternoon. The members present were: Mr. George Martin, chairman, Revs. A. Davies, J. P. Williams, T. Theophilus, and Mr. Wm. Beddoe.

Transfer of the Pontlloftyn National School To The Board Matters relating to the transfer were outlined.

“Merthyr Express” 13 March 1880

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority The monthly meeting was held at the Workhouse on Saturday. The members present were Messrs. W. Beddoe (who was voted to the chair), L. D. Rees, Lewis Evans, J. Jenkins, W. D. Lewis, D. Evans and the Rev. Aaron Davies.

Tenders for Scavenging Gelligaer Parochial Committee recommended the acceptance of the following tenders for scavenging: Newton, Thomas Owen, at 5s. per week; Pontlloftyn, Wm. Davies, £1; Troedrihwfuch, Wm. Thomas, 1s. 2d.; Tirphil, Charles Munn, 5s.; Bargoed, John Jenkins, 7s.; Vochriw, John Mathews, 10s.; Deri, Richard D. Lewis, 7s.; Bedlinog, Thos. Harris, 6s..

Vochriw Water Supply An estimate was given by the inspector for supplying Vochriw with water from the spring above Penybank which the medical officer said was wholesome and fair for domestic use: 2 inch pipe £393-4-3; 2½ inch pipe £650-8-6; 3 inch pipe £883-11-3.

“Merthyr Express” 10 April 1880

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority At the monthly meeting of this authority, held on Saturday, the members present were: Messrs. R. H. Rhys (chairman), D. E. Williams, John Morgan, and Lewis Evans.

The Supply of Water to Vochriw The Gelligaer Parochial Committee recommended to the Sanitary Authority the adoption of the plan laid before them by the Surveyor for the supply of water from the springs at Penybank to Pentwyn and Vochriw using 2 inch galvanised tubing. The Surveyor presented a plan for the conveyance of water to Vochriw at a cost of £525. The chairman remarked that although their surveyor was a very good man, yet he thought before laying out so large a sum of money, the opinion of a thoroughly competent person should be obtained upon the matter. He suggested the surveyor should be instructed to engage Mr. Samuel Harpur to go over the ground and plan with him, and suggest any alterations that might be necessary to the plan. A motion to this effect was adopted.

The committee recommended the payment of the scavenging accounts.

The medical officer reported the filthy state of piggeries at the back of Guest Street, Vochriw, north side, and recommended their removal. He also reported that there were no privies for the accommodation of the inhabitants of eight houses on the south side of Guest-street, Vochriw, and it was recommended that notices be served upon the owners of the same.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health The following summary of his report was read by Dr. Dyke.

The population of the district was estimated at 17,500; the number of houses occupied at 3,215. The births amounted to 534, and the deaths reported were 308. The birth rate was 30.5, and the death rate 17 only per quarter. The mean of the average mortality in the six years previous to 1879 was 22.3, so that the death rate was less than 5.3 per 1,000. The rates of birth in the several parishes were: Gelligaer, 34.8; Vaynor, 23.3; Penderyn, 20.5; Rhigos, 23 per 1,000. The rates of mortality were: Gelligaer, 18; Vaynor, 16; Penderyn, 15.5; Rhigos, 17 per 1,000. The percentage of deaths of children under 5 years was 36; the mean of the previous 6 years was 45.8; and that of the mortality of persons of 65 and upwards was 17.5, as against 15 in 1878. The average age of death was 30½; in 1878 it was 27¾. From the above statement you will infer that the health of the inhabitants was not prejudicially affected during the year 1879.

Merthyr Board of Guardians The weekly meeting of this Board was held at the Workhouse on Saturday, the members present being - Messrs. G. T. Clark (chairman), R. H. Rhys, J. Williams, D. P. Davies, D. E. Williams, W. Bell, D. Davies (Merthyr), G. Martin, B. Kirkhouse, Eustace Rees, J. W. Jones, M. Bates, T. Edwards. J. Gabe, J. John, Rees Evans, T. Rees, R. T. Griffiths, T. Lloyd, Morgan Morgan, Lewis Evans, John Morgan.

Relief Items The out-door relief given during the past week was as follows: Aberdare, £71 1s. 1d.; Gelligaer, £2111s. 11d.; Merthyr (upper), £65 17s. 9d.; Merthyr (lower), £56 7s. 8d.; non-settled, £1 13s.. The total of the district was £216 11s. 5d.

The Workhouse The master of the Workhouse reported that eight had been admitted and thirteen discharged, none having been born or died. Therefore there remained 241 persons as against 210 last year at the same time. The Board had ordered 26 into the workhouse on the previous Saturday, but only two had come in during the week from that order.

“Merthyr Express” 1 May 1880

Assault at Vochriw Ann French, married, was summoned for assaulting Gwen Griffiths, a married woman, residing at Vochriw, on the 17th inst. Mr. Plews defended. The learned gentleman’s client was proved to have given complainant three blows, the last of which knocked her down. The recipient of the blow was insensible for fully one hour afterwards. Defendant was fined £1 3s. 6d., inclusive of costs, with the alternative of 14 days imprisonment with hard labour. The parties reside within half a dozen doors of each other at Martin-street.

A School Board Case The summons against Alfred Small, collier, Vochriw, taken out by Attendance Officer Jones for a breach of the bye-laws of the Gelligaer School Board was adjourned for one month, defendant alleging that his child was prevented from going to school because of a rather bad cutaneous eruption from which she had been suffering for some time.

“Merthyr Express” 15 May 1880

Vochriw Cricket Club The second fortnightly committee meeting of the club was held at the Rising Sun Inn on Monday the 10th, Mr. J. Harris occupying the chair. A vote of thanks was accorded to W. Evans and C. Payne for the trouble they took preparing the field. The following were nominated to the committee - Messrs J. Harris, chairman; J. Wood, vice-chairman; G. Phillips, treasurer; B. Williams, secretary; A. St. C. Kent Jones, captain; T. Greening, W. Evans, M. Pritchard, T. Radley, T. Bird, E. Evans, C. Payne, T. Jones (Cwmbargoed), T. Prosser.

“Merthyr Express” 5 June 1880

Fochriw Art Union Prize Drawing In Aid of the Building Fund of Carmel Congregational Chapel, Fochriw, will take place at the above chapel, On Thursday, November 25, 1880, under the distinguished patronage and supervision of the following gentlemen: H Richard, Esq., M. P.; W. Beddoe, Esq., Nelson; J. Mathews, Esq., Rhymney; D. Kent Jones, Esq., Fochriw; W. Griffiths, Esq., Merthyr; and J. Evans, Esq., Dowlais.

FIRST PRIZE - £50 CASH

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| 2. Any article or articles to the value of | £25 | 17. Eight pounds of good tea | £1-4s. |
| 3. A handsome pony | £16 | 18. A rosewood writing desk | £1-1s. |
| 4. A handsome cow | £12 | 19. A pair of pictures | £1-1s. |
| 5. A Welsh or English Encyclopaedia | £8 | 20. A china tea service | £1.1s. |
| 6. A beautiful harmonium | £8 | 21. A good silk umbrella | £1.1s. |
| 7. A silver lever watch | £6.6s. | 22. A handsome cruet set | £1.1s. |
| 8. A beautiful sewing machine | £6 | 23. A nice set of trays | £1.1s. |
| 9. The works of Dr. Owen, 24 vols. | £4.4s | 24. A lady’s silver neck chain | £1.1s. |
| 10. A superior piece of cloth | £3.10s. | 25. A fine-toned accordeon | £1.1s. |

11. A mahogany couch	£3.3s.	26. An elegant swing looking glass	£1.1s.
12. A rich Paisley shawl	£3.3s.	27. A good meerscham pipe	£1.1s.
13. An elegant chimney glass	£2	28. A waterproof overcoat	£1.1s.
14. A prime American cheese	£2	29. A gentleman's traveling bag	£1.1s.
15. A pair of good blankets	£1.10s.	30. The Oxford Bible for teachers	£1.1s.
16. A handsome 8-day timepiece	£1-10s.	31. A prime home-cured ham	15s.

In addition to the above there will be TWO HUNDRED PRIZES, consisting of Useful Articles, Music, Historical Books, Hams, Cheese, Knives, etc., etc., etc.

TICKETS SIXPENCE EACH, OR A BOOK OF TWELVE FOR 5 SHILLINGS

The Drawing will be on the principle of the Art Union and the successful numbers will be published in the *Merthyr Express*, *South Wales Daily News*, *Tarian y Gweithiwr*, *Baner ac Amser Cymru*. A list of winning numbers will be forwarded to any address on receipt of a stamped envelope for the same.

Treasurer, Mr. L. Evans, Penybank, Gelligaer; Auditors, Mr. W. O. Morgan, schoolmaster, Fochriw, and Rev. J. R. Williams, Pontlottyn; Hon. Secretary, Rees Morgan, under Chapel; Corresponding Secretaries, Thomas Jones, grocer, Fochriw, via Cardiff; George Phillips, grocer, Fochriw; William Harris, assurance agent, Fochriw. All prizes will be sent to any destination, but the winner must pay carriage of the same.

“Merthyr Express” 5 June 1880

Coal Stealing at Vochriw Mary Ann Griffiths, aged 12, was summoned by P.C. Evans for stealing 25lbs. of coal, the property of the Dowlais Iron Company, from one of the Vochriw sidings, on the 19th inst. She was fined 2s. 6d inclusive of costs.

“Merthyr Express” 12 June 1880

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority The monthly meeting was held at the Workhouse Boardroom on Saturday.

The Water Supply of Vochriw The Clerk said that until they got the permission of the Lord Bute to go on to the land required they were not able to access the water from the Penybank springs. The only other course was to meet the expense of an act of Parliament. ‘Big people could not be hurried,’ he said. The matter would be considered again as soon as they received an answer from Lord Bute’s agent.

“Merthyr Express” 19 June 1880

Concert A very successful concert took place at the National Schools, Vochriw, on Thursday evening, the 10th instant. The following programme was beautifully rendered: Miss Effie Kent Jones opened the concert with a solo on the pianoforte, “La harpe eolienne,” which was warmly applauded. Then followed the glee, “Down with the tyrant,” by the Vochriw Church Choir, accompanied by Mrs. Greening, mistress of the Infant Board School; Master D. J. Jones (Asaph Glan Morlais), of Dowlais, sang the “Soldier’s grave” with great effect, and received loud applause; Mr. J. Harris, Pontsticill, sang a comic song in good style; and the Vochriw Glee Party, under the leadership of Mr. H. M. Williams, gave the “Quarrymen’s Chorus,” which was well received; Miss Maggie Lewis of Dowlais sang the pathetic song “Too late,” in an impressive manner, and was applauded; “My pretty page” came next as a duet by Miss Maggie Jones, Dowlais, and Master D. J. Jones, and was encored; to this succeeded “The village blacksmith,” sung by Mr. John Griffiths, Dowlais, in his usual effective style, and was well received; after this came the comic song “The jolly miller,” by Mr. E. Humphreys of Newport, which fairly brought the cheers of the assembly, and received an encore, to which he responded by giving another most amusing song. An interval of a few minutes was allowed before giving the second part. The Misses Kent Jones played a duet on the pianoforte in a spirited and artistic style. The Vochriw Glee Party sang the “Reaper’s Chorus,” and Miss Maggie Jones (Llinos Morlais) gave “Y gardotes fach” in her

well cultivated and efficient manner, followed by "O, lovely peace," by Misses M. Jones and Lewis. The well known song "The special booby," was given by Mr. J. Harris; Mr. Burkley Angel sang "It's all the same to some," and was encored; Mr. D. E. Humphreys followed with the comic song, "Could I live my time over again;" then the glee, "Sleep while the soft evening breezes blowing," by the Vochriw Church Choir, accompanied by Miss E. Kent Jones. The concert closed with the singing of the National Anthem. Mr. J. Harris, Vochriw, was the able conductor, and Miss Kent Jones was the general accompanist, and kindly lent her pianoforte for the occasion.

"Merthyr Express" 11 July 1880

Rural Sanitary Authority Dr. Dyke presented his annual report, and was re-appointed medical officer for three years, at a salary of £160. A letter enclosing a draft agreement was received from the solicitors of the Marquess of Bute, offering to give the authority the land required for laying down the water supply to Vochriw under payment of £1 per annum and six months notice to give up possession of the land. The Board considered that to make an outlay of £500 on so insecure a tenure would not be advisable, and upon the suggestion of the chairman it was resolved to take the customary steps for obtaining a provisional order for what was required.

"Merthyr Express" 17 July 1880

Cricket: Merthyr Vale v Vochriw A match was played on Thursday 8th July and resulted in a victory for the home team in the first innings by three runs with one wicket to fall. Both teams played one short. Vochriw scorecard: M. Pritchard 28; H. Rees 0; D. Kent Jones 10; A. Kent Jones 1; T. Jones 0; J. Harvey 5; R. John 0; C. Payne 3; W. Evans 1; G. Phillips 0. Extras 2. Total 50. Merthyr Vale 53.

Ravages by a Mad Dog in Gelligaer Parish: Several Persons Bitten On Thursday morning, a mad dog ran about the village of Cwmfelin, biting dogs and attacking persons. As well as a valuable retriever bitch, belonging to P.C. Hunt, another belonging to Mr. Davies, grocer, was also bitten. Two valuable dogs belonging to Mr. Davies, Penrhiw, shared a similar fate, and a man named Stokes was also bitten near here, and a lad living near the Craig signal-box was bitten on the face. The dog made over the mountain to Deri, where an onslught was made on dogs and one valuable cat. Then he ran on to Bargoed, down to Pengam, and then made off up the Gelligaer road. The great brute evaded his pursuers and got back home to Giltfachmain, where Mr. Lewis Jones shot him dead about 8.30p.m.

"Merthyr Express" 24 July 1880

Centenary of the Sunday School Movement At Pontlottyn on Monday last, the Centenary of the Sunday School movement was celebrated by the Chapels and Church.

Merthyr Local Board of Health In the course of discussion relating to the laying of damp-proof courses for houses, the chairman, Mr. G. Martin, cited the cottages at Vochriw, belonging to the Dowlais Iron Company, respecting which the medical officer said he had some complaint to make, namely that they were wooden cottages, temporarily put up.

"Merthyr Express" 31 July 1880

An Improved Safety Lamp for Miners At the present time, when we are frequently being shocked by the publication of the details of dreadful colliery explosions, it is gratifying to learn that gentlemen who are practically acquainted with mining operations are endeavouring to devise means of preventing the recurrence of such shocking catastrophes. Joseph Rayner, M.A., a mining engineer from Wakefield, late member of the Midland Institute of Engineers, and who has been connected with coal mining operations all his life, is just introducing a patent improvement for safety lamps, which appears calculated to meet the long felt want. The lamp in question is not only keyless, but while it will stand any quantity of wind without having the light exhausted, the flame is instantly extinguished on any attempt being made to open the lamp, or immediately on any foul air being encountered. Mr. Rayner's patent is

rendered of still greater value by the fact that his improved extinguisher can be applied to all the numerous varieties of safety lamp at present in use in collieries. By a simple contrivance, the quantity of air entering the lamp can be regulated at will, and whilst the miner can instantly perceive danger, it is impossible for him to tamper with the lamp, which is completely encased.

“Merthyr Express” 28 August 1880

Child Dies From Dog Bite A child from Bedlinog has died from a dog bite. The child was bitten about a month ago.

“Merthyr Express” 4 September 1880

Vochriw v New Tredegar: Cricket The first match between these teams came off on Saturday 28th August on the ground of the former. The weather was perfect and was eagerly witnessed by a large number of spectators from the neighbourhood. Play began at 3 p.m. New Tredegar scored 33 in their first innings and Fochriw 20. In the second innings the visitors scored 18, leaving Vochriw to score 31 to win. Vochriw scored 35 for nine wickets, so were victorious by 4 runs and one wicket. The Vochriw team was R. Rees, S. K. Jones, A. Kent Jones, M. Pritchard, T. Jones, C. Payne, W. Evans, H. John, T. Edwards and J. Bird.

Sunday School Treat On Thursday last, the 24th, the Church gave her annual Sunday school treat. The children with their teachers assembled in the mission church between two and three o'clock. A short service was said by the vicar of the parish, during which service the choir and children sang two hymns, accompanied on the piano by Miss Effie Kent Jones. Service over, a procession was formed, headed by the clergy, and followed by the Bargoed Brass Band, and then the children, two deep, took up the rear. After having traversed some part of the neighbourhood, the procession returned to the schoolroom, when each child was satisfied with “te a bara brith.” After the juvenile feast was over, the youngsters were dismissed to their juvenile games. Now commences the “tea fight” in earnest as 120 adults partook of the cup that does not inebriate; even my lady friends were satisfied with the cake. Mr. and Mrs. G. Phillips should be proud of having obtained such celebrity. Great praise is due to the ladies presiding at the tea table, namely, Mrs. and Miss Evans, Mrs. and Miss Pryse, Misses Morgan, Thomas and Breillat, and Mrs. James and Mrs. Bradley acquitted themselves remarkably well in the “brewing department;” and James, E. Lewis, Payne and Radley discharged their “cutting duties” most satisfactorily. The following clergymen were present: The Revs. T. Theophilus, vicar of the parish; J. L. Meredith, rector of Gelligaer; H. Harris and D. J. Jones, Rhymney; E. Evans, Deri; T. L. Davies and W. Jones Evans, Pontlottyn. There were also present the Misses E. & C. Theophilus, and Master Georgie, Mrs. Jones Evans, and Miss Effie Kent Jones. After the “fight” was over, hundreds, including tea drinkers and sight seers, adjourned to the Marquis of Bute’s park (the mountain side) to indulge in various games, some in dancing to the time of sweet music, discoursed by the Bargoed Brass Band, others in racing and jumping, and the other class in “Kissing in the ring.” About eight o’clock the band struck up the finale, and then marched home, and then little by little pleasure seekers began to disappear, till at nine o’clock stillness reigned on the mountainside.

“Merthyr Express” 11 September 1880

Fochriw Sunday School Treat Be good enough to put me right with my friends. The following were left out from my report of the treat: Miss M. Jane Harris who assisted Miss Morgan on No.3 table; also Messrs. Greening and Benjamin Williams. The former is the zealous, faithful and active superintendent of the Sunday School; the latter the secretary of the tea party committee, and was most indefatigable in his exertions to solicit subscriptions etc. I must not forget Sergeant Phillips’s name, who had the superintendence of the “fires” and “boiling” departments. I regret these names were missing from last week’s report. CARACTACUS. Fochriw, Sept. 6th, 1880.

Gelligaer School Board

The monthly meeting of this Board was held at Pontlloftyn on Thursday afternoon, the members present being the Rev. Aaron Davies (chairman), Rev. T. Theophilus, Rev. J. P. Williams, Messrs Lewis Lewis and David Evans.

Penybank School It was resolved to apply for a loan of £750 to defray costs of the Renybank Schools.

The Rejection of Children for Non-Payment of School Fees A notice of motion was placed upon the agenda at the former meeting with respect to the desirability of teachers being instructed to refuse the school to any children who did not bring their school fees. After lengthy discussion, it was decided that it would be inadvisable to refuse school to any child who did not bring his school fees.

Higher Education In Wales The Chairman felt that the Board might well spend a little time in considering the question of intermediate and higher education in Wales, which was now going to the front. They would remember that one of the members for the county brought the matter before the House of Commons last year, and there was a great debate upon it, the promise being given that an inquiry should be made into the necessities of Wales. As soon as the present Government came into authority they found that it had named a Commission to inquire into the educational wants of South Wales and Monmouthshire. He had learnt that the great point was to bring before these gentlemen such evidence as could be obtained to enable them to make a good report of their cases as Welshmen to the Government, in order to get something brought forward in the House respecting it, and perhaps some enactment carried through. The Gelligaer Board having for a long time dealt with elementary education, was not only interested in primary but in intermediate education, and in the higher education also, because, as it was said, the mother in her leading teachings of the children, formed the man, so they might also say that the primary teacher had something to do with forming the man in the intermediate and higher stages of education. He thought that this is a matter which the School Boards should take up, and he advocated that the Gelligaer Board should be the first to do so (hear, hear). In the parish of Gelligaer they were interested in a grammar school, which might come under consideration in the scheme, and he suggested that they might take the matter up by inviting a conference of the Bedwellty and Mynyddislwyn School Boards with the Gelligaer Board, so that they might meet together, discuss the question, and, as all three Boards were interested in the welfare of the Pengam Grammar School, to decide upon what evidence they would like to bring before the commissioners. He would move that they take up the matter in this way, and invite such a conference of the three boards (hear, hear). After much discussion, it was unanimously resolved that the Clerk would invite members of the three Boards to the proposed conference, to consider the question of intermediate and higher education in Wales, with the object of representing their views to the Commissioners now about to consider the matter.

“Merthyr Express” 25 September 1880

Inquest On Saturday an inquest was held at the Rising Sun upon the body of John Jones, Twynyrodin, who met with his death by endeavouring to jump on a locomotive engine while passing by the tunnel pits. The verdict was “accidental death.” It was proposed by the foreman of the jury, Rev. W. Jones-Evans, that the fees should be handed to the widowed mother, a hard-working woman, who had been widowed for 11 years, her husband having been killed in one of the Vochriw pits in 1869.

The Mission Church at Vochriw The mission church is progressing; the congregation as well as the number of communicants is steadily increasing. At the request of the respected vicar of the parish, a “parochial committee” has been appointed to look after the “temporalities” of the church, and to assist the clergy in their manifold duties.

“Merthyr Express” 9 October 1880

Colliery Death On Saturday last, Isaac Jones of Dowlais, a youth employed in a stall at the Dowlais Company's No.1 pit, Vochriw, was instantly killed by a fall of rock.

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority Fochriw Water Supply The Clerk said that he had received no official answer with respect to the land required for supplying Fochriw with water. The Chairman said that he had been negotiating with the Dowlais Company and with Mr. Lewis on behalf of Lord Bute. Both parties had agreed to accept the three years notice with respect to the land, and with this modification, he (the chairman) had told them that the authority would take the land required for 99 years at £1 per annum, subject to three years notice. The chances were, also, that neither would want the land again. As no official communication had been received the matter was allowed to stand for a little while. They had plenty of water now; the only thing was to make arrangements for the future. This course was agreed upon.

Gelligaer Parish The minutes of the Gelligaer Parochial Committee recommended acceptance of the tender of Mr. Jacob Williams of Pontlottyn for the construction of 15 feet of culvert for £3, and also that the plan of Mr. Thomas Jones, for a stable at Vochriw. Mr. L. D. Rees moved, and Mr. J. Jenkins seconded, the adoption of these minutes.

“Merthyr Express” 23 October 1880

Colliery Death On Tuesday, at Vochriw No.1 Pit, a lad named Charles Evans, living at Dowlais Top, was severely crushed between a tram and the side.

“Merthyr Express” 27 November 1880

Marriage of Miss Kent Jones On Tuesday, the 16th inst., the little village of Fochriw was the scene of great rejoicing on the occasion of the marriage of the above much-esteemed young lady, eldest daughter of Dr. Kent Jones, to H. Roddock Kirby Esq., of Waterloo, near Liverpool. The marriage ceremony took place at the Parish Church of Pontlottyn by the Rev. T. Theophilus, vicar, the service being choral. The sacred edifice was beautifully decorated and densely crowded. As the bride entered, leaning on the arm of her father, and followed by her two bridesmaids, viz. Miss E. Kent Jones, sister of the bride, and Miss Williams of Llangamarch Rectory, Breconshire, the choir sang, “The voice that breathed over Eden.” The bride, who wore her traveling costume and a large diamond pendant, the gift of Mr. J. McG. Kirby, Esq., Colchester, was given away by her father. The bridesmaids were dressed in ruby velvet, trimmed with silk, and hats to match, were presented by the bridegroom with handsome silver bracelets with the monogram of the married pair. As the wedding party left the church, the organist, Mr. J. Jones, of Pontlottyn Schools, played “The Wedding March,” in brilliant manner. On the previous night, the bride received, amongst her numerous and valuable presents, a massive silver cake basket, presented by the Rev. T. Theophilus, on behalf of the choir and congregation at St Tyfaelog's, and a handsome oaken salad bowl, mounted on silver, by the Rev. W. Tibbot, Independent minister, chairman of the Fochriw presentation committee, from the workmen and friends of the said place. A few influential gentlemen spoke at length on the past services rendered by Miss Kent Jones on several occasions, amongst whom we noticed Messrs. J. Harris, W. Rees, and the Rev. M. Evans, Baptist minister. On the return of the bride and bridegroom from church to the residence of the bride's father, the men of Fochriw met the happy pair, and drew them up to the residence of the bride's father, where she received a downpour of rice and good wishes. Eighteen guests sat down to partake of the dejeuner, supplied by Mr. Howfield, Merthyr. Mr. and Mrs. Kirby left by the 3.30 p.m. train en route to London to spend their honeymoon.

“Merthyr Express” 27 November 1880

Gelligaer School Board: Vochriw Schools The following communication was read from the managers of the Vochriw Board School, dated November 24th, 1880: “At the request of the managers, I beg to submit to your consideration the following resolution passed on the 8th November: 1st That we as managers beg to suggest to the Board the necessity of passing a

bye-law to enforce the attendance of the children at the same school they enter for 12 months before they can be removed. We have two cases here: two of the children of Pentwyn left the school after they had made up their attendances, and went to Penynbank school, and did not appear on the day of the examination, and this injured the school of a few pounds Government grant. 2nd That we apply to the Board for authority to pay two monitors - namely, Elizabeth Evans and Catherine Morgan, at the rate of 1st year pupil teachers, as they have both qualified by age and ability as pupil teachers. - Your obedient servant, Thos. Jones."

Mr. L. D. Rees: The reason these children moved was that they were beaten by one of the teachers. I suggest that no corporal punishment be inflicted at any school under the Board.

Mr. Lewis Evans: I know about the case very well, and I consider Mr. Rees's suggestion a very good one. Rev. J. P. Williams: The case is against the pupil teacher and not the head teacher. The rule has been passed some time ago that no pupil teacher was allowed to punish any child; the head teacher is the only person that has any authority to chastise any of the children attending the schools. After further discussion, Mr. L. D. Rees said: To dispense with the matter, I now give notice that I will now at the next meeting of the Board move "That no corporal punishment be inflicted in any school under the Gelligaer School Board."

Rev. T. Theophilus: I also move that all children having commenced their schooling at any school under the Board, shall not be allowed to move to another without the consent of the Board." Mr. Beddow: I have much pleasure in seconding that. Carried. Chairman: I move that both Elizabeth Evans and Catherine Morgan be appointed monitors at the rate of the 1st year pupil teachers, at a salary of £8 per annum. Carried.

"Merthyr Express" 8 January 1881

Colliery Accident On Tuesday afternoon, Edmund Williams, a young man living at Blanche Street, Dowlais, and employed as a collier at No.2 Pit Vochriw, was killed by a fall of stone whilst at work in his stall.

"Merthyr Express" 29 January 1881

Shocking Accident to a Collier At Dowlais Inn on Saturday, an inquest was held before Mr. Deputy-Coroner Williams on the body of David Thomas, collier, living at 177, High Street, who was run over by a locomotive at Fochriw on the 18th inst. Deceased by a terrible mishap lost both his legs, and died within half an hour of the occurrence. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

"Merthyr Express" 5 February 1881

Gelligaer School Board The adjourned meeting of this Board was held on Thursday, 27th ult. At the Board-room, Pontlloftyn. Present - Rev. A. Davies (chairman); Rev. J. P. Williams, vice-chairman; Rev. T. Theophilus; Messrs. L. D. Rees, Cefn Hengoed; Lewis Evans, Penybanc; Mr. John Davies (deputy clerk); and Mr. John Jones (attendance officer).

Corporal Punishment Mr. L. D. Rees moved a resolution directing that no corporal punishment should be inflicted until the lapse of one hour from the commission of the offence, and that a record of such punishments containing the date of the infliction and the nature of the offence punished be kept in a book to be produced at the meetings of the Board. This was revised as follows, and agreed unanimously: "That managers shall direct that corporal punishment should not be inflicted except in urgent cases, and this only by the principal teacher."

Section 19, New Code The Chairman proposed and the Rev. J. P. Williams seconded the following resolution, following resolution which was carried unanimously: "That the attention of all the head teachers in their schools be called to section 19, new code, as to the bringing up children in habits of punctuality, of good manners and language, of cleanliness and neatness, and also, to impress upon the children the importance of cheerful obedience to duty, of consideration and respect for others, and of honour and truthfulness in word and act."

Analysis of H. M. Inspector's Reports Rev. J. P. Williams brought forward a very elaborate list he had prepared of the percentage of passes and the grants per head of all the schools under the Board, for the year ending October 31st, 1880. In examining the list, it seemed to him that the following schools had passed exceedingly well: Gelligaer, Pontlloftyn, Bargoed, Tirphil, Troedyrhiwfuwch and George Inn. He considered the Newton, Penybank and Deri schools had passed fairly, and called for further improvements in the future. As for the other two schools, Fochriw and Bontnewydd, he must say they had passed a very unsatisfactory examination. The percentage in Fochriw was only 72, and in Bontnewydd, 78; when the percentage in the other schools of the Board were ranging from 94 to 98 per cent. Also, the difference in the grants very nearly amounted to one-half, which showed a very sad state of things. The percentage of passes in reading, writing, and arithmetic under this Board, in comparison to England and Wales, were extremely satisfactory, being as follows: Gelligaer: Reading, 98.7; writing, 85.5; arithmetic, 84.2; total, 89.5; grants, 15s. 8½d per head. England & Wales: Reading, 87.53; writing, 80.8; arithmetic, 73.87; total, 89.5; grants, 15s. 3½d per head.

Mr. L. D. Rees was of the opinion that the Board ought to enter into a new agreement with all the head teachers, so as to hold them responsible for the state of passes and the grant per head; and he would be almost inclined to propose a reduction in the salary of those teachers whose schools had passed so low a percentage. The Rev. T. Theophilus thought the Board would be justified in calling the attention of the managers to the very low condition of those schools. The Chairman: Would it not be better to send direct to the teachers themselves, calling their attention to those facts, and ask for their explanation? He would propose that that should be done in the first instance, and if their explanations be not satisfactory to send to the managers afterwards. The Rev. J. P. Williams quite concurred with what the chairman had said, and seconded it, which was carried.

“Merthyr Express” 12 February 1881

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority At the usual monthly meeting of this Authority, held on Saturday last, there were present - Rev. A. Davies (in the chair), C. E. Matthews, Thomas Edwards, L. D. Rees, Lewis Evans, D. Evans, and D. E. Williams.

The Vochrhiw Water Supply The Clerk stated that Mr. Harpur's terms for preparing specifications were ten guineas, and he was instructed to inform Mr. Harpur that the Authority accepted these terms. The Clerk: What about possession of the land which you require for this purpose. Are there any other owners than Lord Bute? Mr. L. D. Rees: Yes; we shall be going through properties belonging to Mr. Lewis Evans, Penybank, Mr. Jenkins, and others. Mr. Lewis Evans: And then there are the commoners. Clerk: Do you mean to say that as a commoner you will pull our works down after we have put them up? Mr. Lewis Evans: Certainly; and there are others who will back me up. Clerk: Well gentlemen, this is a matter which you will have to consider. The commoners can, no doubt, prevent you from interfering with their herbage. I suggest you call a meeting of the commoners, and get their consent. Mr. T. Edwards: I don't see why they should object. It will only be cutting their noses to spite their faces. Mr. L. D. Rees: There is a precedent in the immediate locality. The water supply to Tirphil was carried on without asking the commoners' leave. Mr. T. Edwards: They went to Parliament and got a provisional order. Clerk: But even with that they did not get compulsory powers. Mr. L. Evans: You paid the commoners at the Beacons, and why not us? You interfere with the grazing, and we are clearly entitled to compensation. Medical Officer (Mr. T. J. Dyke): The bit we shall require won't be more than half the size of this room. Mr. T. Edwards: If we were doing this thing for our own private profit the commoners might expect us to pay, but, under the circumstances, I don't think they ought to raise any objections, the supply being entirely to their own benefit. Mr. C. E. Matthews: I should be disposed to move that Mr. Lewis Evans wait upon the commoners, of whom, I

understand there are 15, in order to get their consent. Clerk: There would be no harm in that. They simply want their rights to be recognised, I take it. I would let Mr. Evans take his course, and if there would be anything turning up afterwards, why you could meet it when it came. Mr. L. Evans: Then you should do something as regards watering the cattle. Clerk: I would suggest that when the plans are prepared, a tracing should be taken by the inspector to Mr. Evans. Let him see his friends, and hear what they have to say upon the matter (hear, hear). Chairman: A very good suggestion. Clerk: I think they have a right to the watering of their cattle. It was eventually ordered that the meeting be adjourned a fortnight for the consideration of the plans, and that the clerk write asking the commoners' consent to lay down the mains for these works.

Merthyr Police Court: Maintenance Order The Stipendiary today gave judgement in the case of the Guardians v. Evan Davies, colliery overman, Vochrhiw, who was summoned to show cause why he should not be ordered to contribute towards the maintenance of his four grand-children who were chargeable on the union. The matter was adjourned from the previous Monday for consideration of the point raised by Mr. Plews, viz. that defendant's indebtedness made it impossible for him to pay, notwithstanding the fact that he was in receipt of good wages. His worship pronounced in favour of the guardians, and made an order for 1s. 6d. per week with the costs.

"Merthyr Express" 26 February 1881

Gelligaer School Board At the request of the Board, the Clerk prepared a long report on the teaching staff of all the schools, which was as follows: Bargoed 6; Bedlinog 3; Salem 2; Pontnewydd 3; Deri 5; Penybank 2; Pontlottyn 15; Tirphil 8; Troedyrhiwfuwch 3; Gelligaer village 6; Vochriw 9. This includes head teachers, assistant teachers, pupil teachers and monitors. The report did not give sufficient information as to the numbers of children attending each school: hence no action could be taken. The question was accordingly adjourned to the next meeting to obtain fuller information.

"Merthyr Express" 12 March 1881

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Vochriw Water Supply The Clerk stated that he had sent down to Cardiff the sealed undertaking of the Authority herein, but instead of returning it, the agents of the Marquis of Bute had sent him a letter which he would now read to them:-

Cardiff, Feb., 1881 Mr. Corbett has signed the agreement. Be pleased to send us £1 which, by terms of the agreement, is payable, on signing, to the Marquis of Bute. It must, if you please, be distinctly understood that the pipes must be so laid as not to interfere in any way with the user of the surface, by Lord Bute or any of his lessees or tenants, and that if in using the surface, any damage be done to the pipes, neither Lord Bute or his lessees shall be accountable to the guardians. You must write to us stating that the Board accepts these conditions. Yours faithfully, Luard and Sherley.

In the course of a brief discussion which ensued, the Chairman suggested that seven days' formal notice be given to the parties interested that the Rural Sanitary Authority would enter upon the land and lay down the pipes; any damage done to the surface would be paid for. Rev. A. Davies: The Clerk had better advertise for tenders for the construction work. Agreed. Mr. L. Evans: Do you intend having the water into the houses? Chairman: Yes, as far as practicable. Mr. L. D. Rees: You can't take it into the houses at Pentwyn. Chairman: No. Mr. L. Evans: A penny rate will do it I suppose? Chairman: I doubt that. What is the rateable value of the parish? Mr. L. D. Rees: £70,000 at present; £84,000 with the supplemental valuation.

Chairman: Then it cannot be done under a twopenny rate. - It was ordered that mains be at once laid for the service of all the houses which could be served by gravitation, and that plans of the work be submitted for approval to the Local Government Board. A formal report was then read from the sanitary inspector, Mr. J. Jones, who submitted in due form plans which

had been approved of for the water supply, showing the various propertied through which the line of pipes was to be laid, etc.

“Merthyr Express” 26 March 1881

Gelligaer School Board The monthly meeting of this Board was held at the Board-room, Pontlottyn, on Thursday, March 17th under the presidency of Rev. Aaron Davies (chairman), Rev. J. P. Williams (vice-chairman), Rev. T. Theophilus (vicar), Meesrs. W. Beddoe, L. D. Rees, Lewis Evans, Lewis Lewis, John Davies (deputy clerk), John Williams (architect), and John Jones (attendance officer).

Application Dr. Kent Jones attended as a deputation from the Fochriw Cricket Club, and made application for the use of the Fochriw Schools to hold a concert in aid of the funds of the club. Club membership was given as 23. The application was agreed to.

Fochriw The deputy clerk read a letter from the Fochriw managers as follows:

Fochriw Board School, March 16th, 1881. Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I beg to enclose for your consideration the following resolution passed by the above managers. 1. That the secretary send to the Board for an allowance of £97 18s. 5½d. to clear the expenses for the quarter ending March 29th next. 2. That we beg to apply to the Board to let S. Davies and John Evans remain on until the next examination, and to be paid as fifth year pupil teachers, with a view to give them a chance to pass their examination into college. That we apply to the Board to engage Selina Williams as monitress instead of Mary J. Jones who is going to leave on 31st March.

I am, sir, yours obediently, Thos. Jones, sec. F. James, Esq. Clerk.

“Merthyr Express” 9 April 1881

Rural Sanitary Authority: Vochrhiw Water Supply The following letter was read: “As owner of the Penybank Farm, I beg leave to inform the Authority that the springs you are about to divert into your mains near Ty Mawr, now flow through Penybank lands, and they are the only source of supply for my tenant at Ty Mawr and for my cattle grazing on the upper part of Penybank Farm. I shall therefore require provision to be made for supplying cattle and the house at Ty Mawr with water, and also for supplying the cattle at Penybank. Unless I get this, the Authority must understand that I object to the stream being diverted from its course, and will take all necessary steps to prevent it. Yours very truly, Lewis Evans.” It was agreed that pipes be taken to Ty Mawr, and that a supply of water to the cattle of Ty Mawr and Penybank farms should be ensured. During the discussion, mention was made of Evans’ election chances if the parishioners were penalised by his attitude to their water supply.

Tenders for Pipes Chairman estimated total cost of pipes to be £175. Amongst the tenders for laying pipes was one from Llewellyn Davies of Vochrhiw. This matter was deferred. It was decided not to borrow money for the installation of Vochrhiw’s water supply.

“Merthyr Express” 9 April 1881

Merthyr Board of Guardians: Statistics for the Week Vaccinations: Aberdare 22; Merthyr 34. Out-door relief: Gelligaer £22-18-7 out of a total of £204-12-3. Aberdare Training School: 133 remaining; receiving industrial training: boys 45, girls 44. Merthyr Workhouse: admitted 14, discharged 26; remaining 221. Fresh applications for relief 16; ordered in by Board 28; entered workhouse from order 0.

“Merthyr Express” 16 April 1881

Rural Sanitary Authority Vochrhiw Water Supply Tender for laying pipes to be given to Mr. Joseph Gould of Newport. The work to be proceeded with at once, and Mr. James Jones, sanitary inspector, to inspect the work.

“Merthyr Express” 7 May 1881

Gelligaer: Vestry Meeting A vestry meeting was held on Thursday at the Harp Inn, Gelligaer, when Mr. L. D. Rees took the chair. Mr. John Jones, assistant overseer, reported that £3,880 7s. 6d. had been collected from the last half-year’s poor rates, and that there was

£68 6s, 7½d. irrecoverable arrears. From the highway rate £750 4s. 5d. was collected. New rates sanctioned were: poor rate, 1s. 3d.; highway, 4d.; sanitary, 2d.

Sanger's Circus This splendid equestrian establishment visited Merthyr on Thursday and gave two excellent performances. The outdoor procession was the most gorgeous of its kind that we have witnessed on the streets of Merthyr for many a year.

“Merthyr Express” 28 May 1881

Concert On Thursday se’nnight a very successful concert was given under distinguished patronage at the Board schoolroom, for the purposes of augmenting the funds of the Fochriw Cricket Club, when the following well-known artistes took part:- Miss Keturah Evans (Eos Alma), Miss Maggie Davies (Eos Fach), Dowlais, Messrs Tom Williams (Pontypridd), J. Griffiths (Dowlais), Watkin Evans and David Davies (Rhymney), W. T. Morris and B. Angel (Vochriw), W. C. Williams (Merthyr), Mr. D. Bowen, Dowlais, accompanist, and Mr. John Harris, Vochriw, conductor. The programme opened with a pianoforte solo, “Welsh Airs,” very skilfully performed by Mr. D. Bowen. Mr. W. T. Morris followed “Land ho!” and then those sweet warblers, Eos Alma and Eos Fach gave a duet. “Over the hawthorn hedge,” that they sang so prettily that an encore was demanded by the audience, and in response they gave “I know a bank.” Mr. Tom Williams followed and sang “John Brown,” which was encored. The trio, “A little farm well tilled,” by Messrs. Evans, Morris and Davies was well received, after which Mr. Berkley Angel sang a song very sweetly. After the duet, “Albion on they fertile plains,” by Messrs. Morris and Evans, Eos Fach followed with “Jeanette and Jeanot,” which was well received. Next came Mr. W. C. Williams the highly talented comic vocalist, sang an excellent ditty called !£ s. d.,” a song marked by common sense and worldly wisdom. In response to an enthusiastic encore, he gave another effusion which pleased immensely. Mr. D. Bowen opened the second part with an overture, after which Mr. Watkin Evans gave “The death of Nelson” fairly well. Eos Alma and Eos Fach followed with “The Cousins.” Mr. Tom Williams then sang “The bonny blue jackets,” which was loudly encored. After a catch song called “Call John,” by Messrs. H. M. Williams, Angel and Walters, Eos Alma very tastefully gave “The old love and the new,” which was loudly applauded. Mr. W. C. Williams again came forward with “Still they come” which created roars of laughter. Mr. Williams make-up and acting in this song were something to see, to laugh at, and to be remembered. He was, of course, vociferously encored, when he appeared in a different character, which made the audience fairly scream with delight. The trio “Dame Durden,” by Messrs. W. Evans, Morris and Davies, was followed by “The Midshipmite,” well rendered by Mr. J. Griffiths, after which Mr. Tom Williams gave a capital Welsh song, which was encored. The next item, “Howel, Howel, why dost thou linger,” given by Eos Alma and Eos Fach was much appreciated. The usual finale brought to a close one of the most enjoyable concerts ever given at Fochriw.

Alleged Criminal Assault at Vochriw Robert Scattergood, haulier, David Parry, engine driver, and William Morgan, railway porter, three individuals of youthful and respectable appearance, were brought up charged with feloniously assaulting Sophia Davies, a single woman, residing at Vochriw. The confused evidence supplied by Miss Davies, and the evidence of Dr. Jent Jones, resulted in the discharge of the prisoners.

“Merthyr Express” 4 June 1881

Gelligaer Parochial Committee The committee met on Tuesday at the Bargoed Junction Hotel. The officers read the monthly reports and reported Mr. Kirkhouse [Williams Row, Vochriw] and Mrs. Eleanor Thomas of Troedrhywfwch as not having complied with the notices served upon them [relating to nuisances]. One more chance was to be given before legal proceedings would be taken. The Surveyor reported that the contractor for the supply of water to Vochriw had carried out the work to his satisfaction.

“Merthyr Express” 11 June 1881

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Gelligaer Parochial Committee Report

Nuisances The Committee reported that in the matter of the nuisances existing at Williams'-row, Vochriw, belonging to Messrs. Kirkhouse and others, and at Thomas's-court, Pontlottyn, the owner of which was Margaret Thomas, Troedyrhiwfwuch, the notices served on the owners had not been complied with. Recommended that the Authority take the usual proceedings in the matter.

Vochriw Water Supply The Surveyor stated that it would be advantageous if the tank at the new waterworks at Vochriw were arched in brick, nine inch, instead of the proposed covering of wooden planks. The contractor would do the work for the same charge as that stated in his contract for wood. It was resolved that Mr. Harpur, the engineer, be consulted and his approval obtained prior to orders being given for carrying out the work.

Surveyor Report "Gentlemen, - I beg leave to report that Mr. Gould, the contractor, commenced the contract last Monday week, and that he has laid 920 pipes, making 1,840 yards, and that the work has been done to my satisfaction. Mr. Gould will appear here today to ask if you will kindly advance a little money on the work done." In reply to the Chairman, the Surveyor stated that the charge for laying the piping would be 10d. per yard. It was agreed to advance £45.

"Merthyr Express" 25 June 1881

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority Vochriw Water Supply A special meeting of the Authority was held on Saturday last. The Chairman informed the committee that the contractor was moving very rapidly with the work of laying the main for the Vochriw water supply, and that the meeting had been convened to consider whether it would be expedient to get him to lay the services into the houses and upon what terms. Clerk: Had you not better give the residents the opportunity of putting them in themselves? Mr L. D. Rees: A good many of the houses at Caeglas belong to the Dowlais Company, and they may wish to do the work themselves. Chairman: If the contractor lays the services at the same prices as those charged at Aberdare and Merthyr, I don't think you will have anything to complain of. Mr. Gould, the contractor was then called, and he stated that he would do the work at the Aberdare schedule of prices. The Chairman said that nothing definite would be done until the next meeting.

"Merthyr Express" 30 June 1881

Colliery Death Moses Williams, aged 19, was killed in a fall of roof in No.2 Pit, Vochriw.

Show The Glamorgan Agricultural Show was held at Penydarren Park, Merthyr.

"Merthyr Express" 9 July 1881

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority Vochriw Water Supply A letter was read from Mr. Gould, Newport, the contractor for the laying of the mains to Vochriw, submitting the Aberdare list of prices for laying the services to the houses and offering to do the work on these terms. The surveyor was ordered to check the amounts, and subject to finding them correct, the contract was given to Mr. Gould. Mr. Jones was also instructed to go round Vochriw, and obtain the names of those willing or otherwise, to have the services laid. It was agreed that the parties themselves should pay for the fittings in preference to their being put in gratis and an extra charge made for the water. The Authority agreed to fix a standpipe with a proper tap at Pentwyn, pending the laying of services.

Gelligaer Parochial Committee Mr. Kirkhouse had authorised the necessary work to be done to abate the nuisance at Williams'-row Vochriw. It was also reported that the tank at the springs above Penybanc, and the laying of the pipes to Vochriw, had been completed to the entire satisfaction of the inspector, but the hydrants by the roadside had still to be placed.

Settling a Draft Agreement The Clerk produced a draft agreement from Mr. L. Evans's solicitor relating to Mr. Evans demands for compensation for disturbance of his land by the laying of the Vochriw water supply. These disturbances included the effects on supply to Mr.

Evans's farms at Penybank and Ty Mawr, and the watering of cattle. The Clerk was directed to bring up the agreement properly, engrossed on parchment for sealing and signature at the next meeting of the Authority.

A Claim of the Commoners The Clerk read a letter received from Messrs. Simons and Plews, who were instructed by one William Watkins, hay-warden of the Manor of Senghennydd, who was acting on behalf of the commoners, asking the Authority to recognise the rights of that body by making some pecuniary compensation, for the disturbance of the soil due to the piping of water to Fochriw. The Clerk then read a letter from Lord Bute's solicitors which described William Watkins as a self-elected hay-warden, if one at all. They trusted that the Authority would neither recognise the claim, nor pay any attention to the letter from Messrs. Simons and Plews. The Committee determined to follow this course.

Medical Officer's Report Quarterly Report There were 184 births and 95 deaths recorded by the registrars in the rural district in the last quarter. These are equal to an annual birth rate of 43 per 1,000 and a death rate of 23 per 1,000. In the several parishes the birth rates were: Gelligaer, 48; Vaynor, 34; Penderyn, 35; Rhigos, 28.

Surveyor's Report on the Vochriw Water Supply Gentlemen,- I beg leave to report to you that I have attended during the last month upon the workmen employed in laying of water and building the tank at Vochriw. I was satisfied that the pipes were duly laid and properly jointed. The tank was puddle-built and arched in every way in a workmanlike manner. On Tuesday, the water from the springs was admitted into the tank, and I ascertained that the flow of water was perfect at the highest point at Vochriw proper. The hydrants have yet to be placed; they will be fixed next week. I certify that 3,598 yards of piping have been laid, the value of which at the price agreed upon is £149 18s. 4d. The cost of the tank complete is £39; which with extras makes a total of £192 13s. 4d., of which 30%, amounting to £38 10s 8d., is to be kept in hand for six months, leaving a balance due to Mr. Gould of £104 2s. 8d. I also certify that Mr. Gould's bill of £12.1s. for sluice valves etc., is correct, and I recommend that it be paid.

"Merthyr Express" 16 July 1881

Gelligaer School Board Monthly Meeting The monthly meeting of this Board was held at Pontlottyn on Thursday, July 7th, the Rev. A. Davies in the chair. Mr. James explained the decision of the judges in the case of compulsory attendance and pre-payment of school fees It was resolved that 300 cards for the remission of school-fee arrears be printed, and a card given to each child whose fees were to be remitted by the Board, the said card to be delivered to their teachers. Rev. J. P. Williams said that the Board ought to come to some understanding as regards the basis on which fees were to be remitted. He also referred to a statement in The Times in reference to the decision of the judges, that all schools in consequence must become free schools. The Board resolved that no further action be taken at present.

The Chairman, Rev. A. Davies, then brought on his scheme for equalising and re-adjusting salaries of head teachers. In his scheme, after classifying the schools, he sought to reduce salaries in the following cases: Headmasters of Vochriw, Gelligaer, Bargoed; and the headmistresses of Tirphil and Penybank. The scheme also included a premium if passes reached 95%, and a reduction if under 80%. Mr L. D. Davies then presented another scheme. Bonus would be given if the Government grant was above 18s. per head on average attendance, and the teachers would be responsible for all school fees, arrears etc.. [After much heated discussion,] the Chairman asked permission to withdraw his scheme. Mr. Davies persisted in proposing that his scheme be considered at the next Board meeting. Mr. D. Davies moved that the scheme be not considered, which was carried. The Board resolved that the new school at Penybank be opened on Monday 1st August.

"Merthyr Express" 16 July 1881

Church of England Sunday Schools The St. Tyfaelog Sunday Schools had their great demonstration on Monday. It being “pay” Monday, an immense number congregated together and formed into a procession. The clergy headed the rank: Rev. T. Theophilus, vicar of Pontlottyn; Rev. T. L. Davies, curate; Rev. Canon Evans, vicar of Rhymney; Rev. E. Thomas & Rev. W. Jones, curates; Rev. W. Jones-Evans, Vochriw; Rev. J. Bowen Jones, Bargoed; Rev. S. Pryse, New Tredegar; Rev. E. Evans, Deri; Rev. Arthur Jones, St. Mary’s Cardiff, Rev. W. James, curate. Following them came the Pontlottyn Brass Band and the children. After parading the streets they had tea and cake at the St. Tyfaelog Board Schools. The total strength of the muster was estimated to be about 480. Flags and banners added considerably to the gay appearance of the procession.

“Merthyr Express” 6 August 1881

Gelligaer School Board On Monday the new Board school at Penybank was opened. The building cost over £700, and will accommodate 80 children. The architect was Mr. John Williams, Merthyr, and the builder Mr. Thomas Williams of Bargoed. The school is under the charge of Miss Snook. On the same day, the monthly meeting of the Board was held at Penybank. A short discussion took place of the advisability of refusing to admit children to the schools unless they paid their school fees in advance. Rev. J. P. Williams gave as his opinion that it was unnecessary to take such steps to refuse admission, as the school fees were recoverable in the county court, a few cases from their Board having been tried with success a few days previously at Merthyr.

“Merthyr Express” 13 August 1881

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Vochriw Water Supply It was unanimously agreed that Mr. John Jones, Hengoed, be appointed collector of water rates in this village at a minimum salary of £5 per annum, but at a commission of 5% if the amount collected exceeded £100 per annum. Mr. Jones was told that the rate was to be collected quarterly in advance. It was stated by the Surveyor that water was to be laid on to 180 houses of an average rent of 10s. per month each. The Authority agreed that the charge should be the same as Merthyr, namely, two pence per house per week. The seal of the Authority was affixed to an agreement which the Clerk read, and which Mr. Lewis Evans signed, by which the latter, in return for a supply of water to his farms of Ty Mawr and Penybank, undertook to give the contractors the necessary easements.

Vochriw Church School The Church gave its Sunday School a treat on Thursday last. There was a large crowd, natives and aliens, to witness it. At 2.30 p.m. the vicar of the parish said a short service. No sooner was this over than the children and adults were formed into a procession, headed by the clergy and the brass band from Deri and Bargoed. After making the circle of the “city,” young and old returned to the schoolroom, where ample provision was made for them. The feeding over, the ticket purchasers were allowed an innings. They partook of tea and cake from four different tables, which were served by Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Morgan, Miss Kent Jones and Miss Jones-Evans, who were assisted by a staff of waitresses which was numerous and attentive. There was a grand display of flowers at each table, but not was so exquisite as that presented by Miss Harris. The greatest part of the large concourse subsequently adjourned to the Vochriw “park,” which is an extensive one, some to dance to the sweet music of the band, others to amuse themselves with “kiss in the ring.” We noticed, also, that the Vochriw Cricket Club was disporting itself, on the green sward close by. The clergy present, fewer than usual, owing to the Rhymney treat being on the same day, were Revs. T. Theophilus, vicar, J. L. Meredith, rector of Gelligaer, T. Williams, Dowlais, E. Evans, Deri, and W. Jones-Evans, curate of Vochriw. The room was tastefully decorated by Miss Kent Jones and others.

Cricket: Fochriw v Tirphil A cricket match was played on Saturday the 6th. Pritchard hit freely for Fochriw and Beynon for Tirphil. S. K. Jones and Ben Jones bowled well for the

home side, as did Batten and Hammonds for the visitors. The match resulted in a draw in the first innings.

“Merthyr Express” 1 October 1881

Nazareth This chapel belongs to the Primitive Methodists. On the 22nd, a lecture was delivered by the Rev. D. Phillips, Swansea upon the subject, “The Man Jesus Christ.” The attendance, we are sorry to say, was meagre. Had the subject been one verging on the comical we should probably have had a full house. The President, the Rev. Aaron Davies, painfully alluded to the indifference of the people. After a vote of thanks to the lecturer, proposed by the Rev. F. Thomas, the audience separated, highly pleased with the treatment of the subject.

“Merthyr Express” 8 October 1881

Chapel for Sale - To be Sold, a strongly built and well-finished Chapel, situated in Caeglas, Vochriw, known as the “Bethany Primitive Methodist.” For particulars apply at 2, Sun Road, Vochriw, or to Rev. R. Reeve, 5, Union-street, Merthyr.

Medical Mr. Sandford Kent Jones, second son of Dr. Kent Jones, has passed the recent preliminary examination of the Royal College of Surgeons of England with honours. His tutor was Mr. Beavis, Primrose Hill, Merthyr.

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Surveyor’s Report Services had been put in all the houses at Vochriw proper, with the exception of five or six houses in Williams’-row, belonging to Mr. Herbert Kirkhouse, and one house in Brook Row, owned by Mr. Bowen, Talgarth, each of whom had been twice written to, Mr. Kirkhouse being the only one who had replied. Two bills had been received from Mr. Gould, one for laying the house services, amounting to £117-18s., the other for hydrants, etc., amounting to £22. A bill for £171-13-4 had also been received from Mr. Spittle for pipes. Mr. Spittle’s bill was to be paid at once, and Mr. Gould’s bill was referred to the Gelligaer Parochial Committee.

Scarlet fever is said not to be spreading much in the district, but the Surveyor was not at all surprised that there had [been] so much of it, when people insisted upon holding prayer meetings in infected houses, and schoolmasters and schoolmistresses would take all the school children to funerals.

A letter was handed in by the surveyor from Mr. C. H. Thomas on behalf of the Brecon and Merthyr Railway Company, stating that they would require a supply of water to a cistern of theirs, and also for general purposes at Vochriw Station. The clerk was instructed to reply that the Authority was prepared to supply the company at the same rate as that which was charged at Merthyr, the company to go to the expense of providing the meter, and the Authority to have the right to cut off supplies whenever necessary.

“Merthyr Express” 29 October 1881

School Church On the 19th, a thanksgiving service was held at the above place. The church was neatly and chastely decorated by Mrs. Kent Jones, Miss Kent Jones, Miss Harris and Miss Jones-Evans. Mrs. Richards and Miss Morgan, the Rising Sun, gave some goodly gifts in order to carry out the decorations. The singing, especially the English, owing to the absence of the choirmaster, was to say the least below par. The service was read by the Rev. T. Theophilus, and the lessons by the curates. The English sermon was preached by the Rev. J. Jones, Aberavon, and the Welsh sermon by the Rev. E. Thomas, Rhymney. The room was overcrowded. The offertory was made for the Llandaff Extension Society.

“Merthyr Express” 12 November 1881

Gelligaer Parochial Committee Payment of £147 to Mr. J. Gould, contractor, was recommended on account of the Vochriw water supply.

“Merthyr Express” 3 December 1881

Gelligaer School Board Mr. Samuel Davies was appointed assistant master for Vochriw School at a salary of £36 per annum. Miss Mary Ann Williams was appointed monitress for Vochriw School, and Miss S. J. Williams was appointed monitress for Penybank school.

Salary Reductions Mrs. Greening, Vochriw, reduced from £70 to £60 p.a. or, if she undertook sewing, salary would remain the same. Miss Snook, Penybank, reduced from £70 to £60.

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Gelligaer Parochial Committee Report

A meeting took place on the 29th. It was reported that the water tank had been fixed at Pentwyn, and pipes laid to Gelligaer Well. Mr. Lewis Thomas had declined to allow removal of the well, and the work was suspended. The Committee recommended the matter be proceeded with as previously ordered, and that a man be employed at a nominal weekly wage to look after the Vochriw water tank. An account of £24-11-5 was passed for the water tank.

“Merthyr Express” 31 December, 1881

Fatal Accident An inquest was held at the Rising Sun Inn by Mr. Overton, coroner, upon the body of Edward Jenkins, 5 Williams-street, Vochriw, who met his death on his return from Merthyr on Saturday between the old incline and Cwmbargoed station, by being run over by one of the G.W.R. engines. The verdict was “Accidental Death.” The foreman of the jury called attention of the coroner and jury to the absence of a certain publican at whose house the deceased had been drinking.

Mission Church The usual divine services were held on Christmas day. The room had been most chastely decorated by Miss Kent Jones and others. The evergreens etc. were provided, as usual, by Mr. W. Richards, Brook-side. Miss Kent Jones presided at the harmonium in the evening. Mr. Harris, the choirmaster, was present at all the services, which is in itself, a sufficient guarantee of good singing. Our “Christmas tree” and tea party will take place on the 12th. The proceeds will be devoted towards wiping off a debt of upwards of £20 for repairing the church.

“Merthyr Express” 14 January 1882

School Church In the account which we gave of the services on Christmas day at this church, the name of the organist at the evening service was given. We should also have stated that Mrs. Greening presided at the harmonium at the morning service on that day, and that she had for some time been playing at the English services at Vochriw mission church.

Popular Entertainment On Tuesday evening, the 3rd inst., the third of a series of Entertainments, to be held during the winter months, took place at the Mission Church. The Chair was taken by the Rev. W. Jones Evans, curate, and Mrs. Kirby of London acted as accompanist. A long and interesting programme which included Recitations, Musical and Recital Competitions, and Songs was gone through, in a manner which met with hearty approval of the audience. It would be invidious to point out anyone for special praise, but we cannot refrain from mentioning the name of Mr. Kirby, who elicited roars of laughter with his Comic Songs. The room was crowded, many failing to gain a sitting, and one of the most successful entertainments held in the neighbourhood. It closed with the National Anthem. At a late hour, a large display of fireworks took place, in honour of the visit of Mr. & Mrs. Kirby to the place since their marriage. The fireworks were supplied by Messrs. C. T. Brock and Co., of Crystal Palace, London.

“Merthyr Express” 21 January 1882

Christmas Tree and Tea Party On Thursday 12th, a party was held in the Mission Church to defray cost of repairs to the church. The attendance was lower than anticipated, because of the poor weather. The tree was well supplied with many various and useful articles sent by many members of the church. A brisk sale of the contents of the tree took place towards the evening. Amongst those who took a prominent part we noticed Mrs. Kent Jones, Mrs. Jones-Evans, Mrs. Richards, and the Misses Kent Jones and Evans; also Messrs. J. L. Jones-Evans and S. Kent Jones. The above mentioned ladies took trays, and also Miss Morgan of the Rising Sun Inn. Amongst those present were the Revs. T. Theophilus and T. L. Davies, and Dr. Kent Jones.

“Merthyr Express” 4 February 1882

Mission Church The proceeds of the Christmas Tree and Tea party have wiped off £15 of debt of £20 2s. 6½d. for repairing the building.

“Merthyr Express” 11 February 1882

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority The Medical Officer reported that he had received information from Dr. Kent Jones of the occurrence of eight cases of scarlet fever at Cefn Coed, two at Bargoed, two at Bedlinog, eighteen at Deri, and three at Vochriw during the month of January.

“Merthyr Express” 4 March 1882

Gelligaer School Board Receipts for the sale of sewn materials from Vochriw Board School - £4 11s 7½d., and from Penybank School, 4s.

Gelligaer Parochial Authority Tenders for scavenging for the year to March 1883 included one for Vochriw from Mr. J. Mathews for £27.

“Merthyr Express” 11 March 1882

Merthyr Board of Guardians Nominations for the Gelligaer parish included Mr. Lewis Evans of Penybank, freeholder. [He was subsequently elected.]

“Merthyr Express” 18 March 1882

Supposed Case of Infanticide On Saturday the 4th, the body of a newly-born infant was discovered in the privy at the rear of some dwelling houses in Vochriw. From closer examination it appeared to be that of a fully developed female child. A young woman, residing with her parents, was arrested by P.C. Hunt on suspicion of being the mother. The officer took the body from the privy at the instance of a labouring man, who was involved in cleaning it out. On the Tuesday following, an inquest was held at the White Horse Inn, Vochriw, before Mr. T. Williams, deputy-coroner, and a respectable jury, of which Rev. Jones-Evans was foreman. After the evidence of two witnesses who discovered the body, and also that of the policeman, the medical evidence was gone into. Mr. D. Kent Jones, surgeon, told that he was called by P.C. Hunt to examine the child, and he described its appearance etc. Mr. Cresswell, surgeon, Dowlais, said he had made a post mortem examination that day (Tuesday), and came to the conclusion that the child had breathed, but for how long he was not able to say. The inquest was adjourned for a fortnight to enable the supposed mother to attend.

“Merthyr Express” 8 April 1882

Concealment of Birth at Vochriw Fanny Garbett, 22, single, a respectably-dressed, rather delicate looking young woman, was brought up charged with having attempted to conceal the birth of her child. Mr. D. Rees Lewis appeared to prosecute, and called the first witness, Mary Kinsey, the wife of a collier, residing at 3, David’s Row, Vochriw. She stated that in a closet at the back of her house, which was used in common by her family and that living next door, she saw on the morning of the 4th, the dead body of a child under the seat, upon which there was some blood. Thomas Davies, haulier, who lodged with Mary Kinsey, said that about half an hour before Mrs. Kinsey made the discovery, he cleaned the closet out. There was nothing unusual about the place then. After being told of her discovery by Mrs. Kinsey, he went to the closet and saw the body. It was removed in his presence by P.C. Hunt. P.C. Hunt (Cwmfelin) said the child was naked, with the afterbirth attached. He directed some women to sever the umbilical cord, after which he showed the body to Dr Kent Jones.

The Stipendary: In future you had better not interfere with the natural appearance of anything which may come under your notice, unless the act should be necessary for the saving of life, which was not the case here.

Elizabeth Ann Hawke, a young woman who had worked with the prisoner at the Bargoed Coke Ovens, said that she had repeatedly said to the prisoner that she was pregnant prior to the finding of the child. Despite the fact that appearances were against her, she had

persistently denied being pregnant. Amelia Garbett, 4 Davies's-row, Vochriw, the prisoner's step-mother, gave similar evidence. After the finding of the body, a conversation about the birth took place between her and her step-daughter, but her step-daughter denied all knowledge of it. The witness noticed nothing in her appearance immediately after the event different to that which she had presented immediately before. She complained of a cough in the night, and the witness thinking she had had but little rest, told her to stay at home from work the next morning.

Dr. Kent Jones, surgeon, Vochriw, who was next sworn, said that the body shown him by the police was that of a fully-developed, newly-born female infant. Dr. Kent Jones could not say positively whether it had been born alive or dead. There were certain marks observable on the body; the right side of the head and the right leg and arm were flattened, but these might well have been the result of severe labour or the lying of the body in a particular position after death. The umbilical cord had been cut, but not in the way it would have been in the case of a proper delivery. On the afternoon of the day upon which the child was born, the witness examined the prisoner and found that she had been recently delivered - within 18 hours or less.

P.C. Evans said that he saw the prisoner at her house shortly after finding the child. She denied all knowledge of the affair. On the following Saturday the 11th, the witness visited her bedside and heard a conversation going on between her and her stepmother, in the course of which the young woman admitted having given birth to the child and finding it dead, she watched her chance, and whilst Mrs. Garbett was out shopping, took the body out in the slop bucket to the closet at the back. P.C. Hunt then began to search the house for baby linen, but stopped when told that the prisoner had made no preparation of the kind.

This was all the evidence, and the Bench at once committed the accused for trial at the next assizes. The prosecutor did not object to bail. The magistrate said that he felt it would be better for the young woman to remain in custody. She would have to go to prison, where she would be well cared for, pending her trial at the next assizes which would take place in a fortnight or three weeks at the latest. This would be far preferable to a long wait which would be the result if the accused was released on bail. The accused, who had remained silent and tolerably composed throughout the hearing, began to shed tears when told she must go to prison.

“Merthyr Express” 8 April 1882

The Blue Ribbon Movement On Thursday night, April 6th, at Carmel Independent Chapel, a Blue Ribbon meeting was held, when two eloquent speeches were delivered by the Rev. W. Tibbot, Independent minister at Carmel, and Mr. W. Edwards, stationmaster, Cwmbargoed. Mr. T. Edwards occupied the chair, and at the close of the meeting, eight four persons came forward to join the army and don the Blue Ribbon. “This is a good beginning but we hope to greatly increase it, and carry the temperance banner to victory,” said the Rev. Tibbot of the Gospel Temperance Mission

“Merthyr Express” 22 April 1882

Sale By Auction Vochriw (Near Dowlais): Desirable Investment Messrs. Davies and Atkins are favoured with instructions by the Trustees to SELL BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on the premises on Thursday, 4th May 1882 the whole of that well-built and compact Primitive Methodist CHAPEL called “Bethany,” and situated in Cae Glas, near Vochriw Railway Station, surrounded by a thickly-populated neighbourhood, and a very convenient place for a small congregation. It was built about 10 years ago. The interior is well-fitted up with moveable seats and a platform pulpit. It measures over the walls 47ft. by 36ft. more or less, and there is ample room in the rear to extend it in future time. The aforesaid chapel can be altered with a small outlay into a house and shop, or two dwelling houses. The above premises are held under a Lease of 91 years from July 1st. 1873, by Lord Wimborne and

others, and subject to a Ground Rent of £1-6-9 per annum. The Sale will commence at 3.30 to 4 o'clock p.m. Mr. Worman, 2 Sun-row, Vochriw, will show the premises, and for further particulars, apply to the Rev. R. Reeve, 5 Union Street, Merthyr, Mr. George Roberts, Pant Road, Dowlais, or to the Auctioneers, 16, Ivor Street, Dowlais. Dated 18th April, 1882.

St. John's Ambulance Association A Public Meeting will be held at the Drill Hall on Friday 28th April at 8.30p.m., for the purpose of establishing a centre in connection with the St. John's Ambulance Association. The Association is intended to instruct all persons, so as to enable them to give first aid to any wounded or sick person in the absence of a doctor or surgeon. In a district like this, such instruction is of the utmost value, and all classes are invited to support the movement. Pearson R. Cresswell, Lieut-Col. 2nd. Glamorgan R.V., Dowlais, 20th April, 1882.

Appointment of a Manager at the Dowlais Iron Works Mr. Edward Pritchard Martin, the present manager of the Blaenavon Iron and Steel Works, has been appointed to succeed the late Mr. Menelaus as manager of the Dowlais Iron Works. We congratulate Mr. Martin on his return to the great establishment in which he commenced his career many years ago in the high and onerous capacity of general manager.

"Merthyr Express" 29 April 1882

Concert On Monday evening the 17th inst., a concert, presided over by Rev. A. Davies, Pontlottyn, was held at Carmel Chapel. A well arranged programme was gone through, the parts being sustained by Misses Margery Lewis, U.C.W.; Beck Jenkins, Rhymney; and C. M. Thomas, Vochriw; and Messrs. S. Evans and party, Pontlottyn; S. Richards and party, Deri; Dewi Buallt, Vochriw, assisted by the Vochriw Glee Club, under the leadership of Mr. Henry Williams, who sang the "Sailor's Chorus" and "Comrades in Arms." Part 1 included: "Sailor's Chorus" - Glee Party; duet, "Tell me, gentle stranger," - Miss Lewis and Mr. S. Evans (encored); song, "Kilarney," Miss Doyle; pianoforte solo, Miss Kent Jones; song, "I'm a merry Singara," Miss Lewis; duet, "The flower gatherers," Misses Philpots; song, "Y Milwr," Mr. Richards; song, "Katie's letter," Miss Jenkins; chorus, "O Gymru anwylaf," Choir. Part 2: Duet, Messrs. Richards and Owen; song, "Turnham Toll," Miss Lewis; glee, "Comrades in Arms," Glee Party; duet, Miss Thomas and Dewi Buallt; song, "The old cottage clock," Miss Jenkins; quartette, Mr. S. Evans and party; song, "Tell me my heart," Miss Thomas (encored); duet, "Howell, why dost thou loiter," Miss Lewis and Mr. Robert Davies (encored); finale, "God Save the Queen." Miss Kent Jones ably presided at the pianoforte, and Mr. John Harris was the conductor. The proceeds were towards supporting a workman's daughter who succeeded in gaining a scholarship of £25 per annum, tenable for two years, at Pengam. We have no doubt that a large sum will be handed over to the part mentioned.

"Merthyr Express" 13 May 1882

Gospel Temperance Mission A series of meetings in connection with this movement has commenced in Vochriw. On Tuesday evening, 18th April, a meeting was held at Nazareth Chapel, when speeches were delivered by the Revs. T. Rees, Sirhowy, and F. Thomas, Vochriw. On Saturday evening at Carmel Chapel, Mr. T. Williams, Gwaelodygarth, spoke. Each speaker appealed to all classes, especially to Christian friends, to give every possible aid to rescue their fellow-beings from the evil clutches of intemperance. On Thursday, 27th., and May 4th., speeches were delivered by Rev. L. Thomas, Wesleyan, Rhymney, and the Rev. J. Williams, Methodist, Dowlais, ably advocating the cause of temperance. As a result of these meetings, about 200 have signed the pledge and donned the Blue Ribbon; but judging from the attendance at the meetings, one would imagine that the religious friends at Vochriw have not quite made up their minds to do away with drink just yet.

"Merthyr Express" 17 June 1882

Gelligaer School Board It was stated that some improvements and alterations were required in the Fochriw School buildings. A Committee was appointed to consult with the managers on the spot and instruct them to carry out the improvements required. Cheques were given as follows: Penybanc - £20; Fochriw - £84.

“Merthyr Express” 22 July 1882

Vochriw Mission Church On Monday last, the annual Sunday school treat was given. Notwithstanding the unfavourable weather, a large concourse consisting of men, women, and children came together. The Church had been decorated by the Misses Kent Jones, Harris, Williams and Mantle, and they deserve great credit for the interest they take in church work. The little ones began to assemble at 1.30 p.m., but when, at the special hour of two, the “German Band,” under the able and special leadership of Herr Von Nessel, discoursing sweet music, made its appearance, the place seemed alive with excitement. Tea was served under the management of Mrs. James and Miss Margaret Thomas. At 2.30 p.m. the Rev. T. Theophilus arrived, and at once proceeded to read a short service. The choir under the leadership of Mr. J. Harris did its part well, with Miss Kent Jones presiding at the harmonium. The unpropitious state of the weather prevented the usual procession. Now the onslaught on the “bara brith,” etc. commenced - upwards of 100 “grinding mills” were at work - the fires were blazing - the water was boiling - the women converting it to tea - the waitresses were conveying it - and the children were eating and drinking. The juniors satisfied, the seniors presented themselves at the different tables, when every care was taken of them by Mrs. Richards, Miss Morgan, and Miss Kent Jones, assisted by a host of waitresses. The following amateurs gave their services: Miss Margery Davies, Pontlottyn; Miss Thomas, Vochriw; Master Charley James, Mr. John Higgs, Mr. John Williams (Deri) and a friend, and Mr. Pollard. After the usual votes of thanks the National Anthem was sung, and the annual tea party of Vochriw Church was numbered with the past. Amongst the clergy present we noticed the Revs. T. Theophilus, vicar; J. L. Meredith, rector of Gelligaer; E. Evans, Deri; T. L. Davies, Pontlottyn; W. Jones, Newton; W. Jones-Evans, Vochriw. Mr. F. Thomas, an under-graduate from Cambridge, was also present. The ladies who contributed their chit-chat were Mrs. Bowen Jones and Mrs. Harrison, Bargoed; Mrs. T. L. Davies and the Misses Jones and Theophilus, Pontlottyn; Mrs. Kent Jones and Mrs. Jones-Evans, Vochriw; The committee beg to thank Messrs. A. H. Clair Jones and Josiah Richards for the active part they have taken in disposing of the tickets, etc. The cake, which weighed 290 lbs., manipulated by Mr. G. Phillips, grocer, Vochriw, was excellent in taste.

“Merthyr Express” 2 September 1882

Correspondence To The Editor: The Value of a Turkish Bath Sir, I consider it my duty to acknowledge the great remedy I have had from the Turkish Bath. I have been suffering for the past twelve months from rheumatic in my loins and legs. I have tried various sorts of medicines, sea bathing and change of air, but all in vain. At last I tried the Turkish bath at Merthyr, and after four days, I was quite relieved of my pain, and now feel myself quite renewed. I think it will be well to publish this fact for the sake of many who may be suffering as I have been. Yours etc., John Thomas, 4, Moore’s-row, Vochriw, 25th, August, 1882.

“Merthyr Express” 16 September 1882

Temperance On Wednesday se’nnight another series of temperance meetings arranged in connection with Bethel Baptist Chapel, Pontlottyn, was held under the presidency of Mr. D. Jones, Vochriw. The number of attendances showed a considerable increase on that of the previous night, and a very able address was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Berry of Cardiff, who we believe has recently been stationed as pastor of the new English Baptist Church formed at Vochriw. Having spent a large portion of his lifetime as home missionary in London and large provincial towns, Mr. Berry related his experiences connected with the promotion of

religion amongst the inebriate population of the towns where he has been stationed. Most telling were the numerous instances of the reclamations which had been made through the instrumentality of total abstinence.

Sunday Closing This Act came into force throughout the whole of this parish on Sunday last, and the day passed off in the most quiet and peaceful manner, with no sign of opposition or dissatisfaction of any kind evinced from the habitual consumers of drinks. Sanguine anticipation of temperance reformers as to the immediate and ultimate beneficial results to accrue from the passing of the Act seem justified.

“Merthyr Express” 23 December 1882

Grand Concert A grand concert was given at the Board Schools under the auspices of Nazareth Calvinistic Methodist Chapel. Local celebrities from Dowlais, Rhymney, including the Rhymney Glee Party took part. The room was overcrowded. Miss Kent Jones and Mr. Bedlington Harris were at the pianoforte.

“Merthyr Express” 20 January 1883

Popular Entertainment A popular entertainment was given at the Fochriw mission church on Tuesday the 16th. The Rev. W. Jones-Evans presided. We are indebted as usual to Mr. Harris, station-master, for the able manner in which he worked to secure good artists for the occasion. Mr. John Jones, Pontlottyn, was the accompanist, and judging from the cheers which greeted him on his departure, he evidently became a favourite with the Fochriwites. All the artistes tried their best to amuse the audience, the songs and recitations being interspersed with remarks from the chairman, who occasioned much laughter by his ready wit. Programme: address, the Chairman; harmonium solo, Mr. Jones; song, Mr. Harris; recitation - Sergeant Phillips; song, Miss M. J. Evans; recitation, Miss A. James; song, Mr. W. Hocking; trio, Misses Thomas and Shankland, and Mr. D. Jenkins; dialogue, Miss E. Harris and H. Mantle; song, Mr. M. Harvey; harmonium solo, Mr. Jones; song, Miss M. Williams; recitation, Mr. Fred Radly; song, Mr. J. Mostyn; song, Miss C. M. Thomas; recitation, Miss A. Lewis; song, Mr. H. Evans; song, Mrs. Powell; song, Mr. D. Prosser; overture, Mr. Jones; finale, “God Save the Queen.”

“Merthyr Express” 27 January 1883

Dreadful Accident Near Vochriw On Wednesday afternoon, a dreadful accident befell Dr. Kent Jones of Vochriw, on the railway not far from the village. Dr. Jones was returning from Dowlais, and for a short cut proceeded along the deep cutting near the Tunnel Pits which was formerly a tunnel. He allowed one locomotive to pass and then presumed that the line was clear, before and behind him. Unfortunately, a dense mist concealed almost everything from view except at close quarters, and thus it happened that another engine came along, and before Dr. Jones could get out of the way, knocked him down and passed over him. He sustained very severe injuries, one leg severed and the other greatly lacerated and bruised. Dr. Cresswell was telegraphed for. He went with one or two members of his staff by special conveyance, and all that could be done was done. Great sympathy is felt for Dr. Jones, who is much liked by the workmen and the people of the neighbourhood generally. Latest accounts state that Dr. Jones is doing as well as can be expected.

“Merthyr Express” 10 February 1883

Rural Sanitary Authority Finance The Clerk reported that the total amount of the claims of Messrs. Jenkins and Evans, in respect of the water supply to Vochriw was - the former, Mr. Jenkins £74 9s. 6d., and the latter, Mr. Lewis Evans, £57 4s. 2d. These sums, with that of £7 to Mr. Heppel (for tracing), were ordered to be paid.

The Tank at Pentwyn, Vochriw A letter was read from Mr. James, telling the Board that he would require them to remove the tank from his land or pay one guinea per year, with compensation for any damage that might occur. The Surveyor remarked that it would be better to remove the tank than pay the guinea, and this recommendation was adopted.

“Merthyr Express” 10 March 1883

Rural Sanitary Authority The scavenging tender for Vochriw from Mr. Kingsley at 7/- per week was accepted.

Vochriw: A Word for the Police Sir - Kindly allow me through your columns to call attention of our police to one or two things. 1. The public would be obliged if the police were to clear the corners of pavements of those loungers who are a regular nuisance when standing on those corners, especially on Sunday nights and other nights. Special notice may be taken of Railway-terrace. It is impossible to pass that way in company without danger of being jostled about; also the corner of the Board school. 2. The peace-loving inhabitants of Vochriw would be obliged if a policeman could possibly make his appearance when a row is taking place, and not after everything is over. 3. Would the police kindly prevent children from carrying on their games in our public streets?

Yours truly, A SUFFERER

A Promising Young Welsh Woman At the recent Cambridge Local Examinations, Miss Annie Gwen, the daughter of Mr. Thomas Jones, grocer, Vochriw, distinguished herself by obtaining a place in the third class honours division. It appears she is the only girl from Wales under sixteen years of age that has attained a pass with honour. Previous to the above examination she has received from the Science and Art Department four second class certificates in chemistry, mathematics etc.. From her childhood, she has given evidence that she possess abilities considerably beyond the ordinary, and the success which has attended her in the various examinations may be taken as a good omen that there are further honours awaiting her. She has the best wishes of the inhabitants of Vochriw, who naturally feel glad of her rapid scholastic achievements, and also because honour is brought upon her native village. We sincerely wish her well, and earnestly hope we shall live to see her occupying an elevated position.

“Merthyr Express” 19 May 1883

Funeral of Rev. W. Jones Evans On Wednesday afternoon, the funeral took place of the Rev. W. Jones Evans, curate-in-charge at Vochriw, who died on Saturday last at the age of 52 years, after a brief illness. He was very much esteemed and respected, and in order to attend the funeral, a number of men employed at the different collieries, went to work earlier than usual in the morning. Rev. J. Lewis Meredith, rector of Gelligaer, conducted a short service in the deceased's house shortly before the cortege set off. As the funeral procession proceeded towards the church, the choir sang one of those funeral dirges so familiar at Welsh funerals. On the coffin were two crosses and a wreath of choice flowers. The following clergy were present Revs. D. J. Evans, Gelligaer; J. B. Jones, Bargoed; Evan Evans, Deri; John Morgan, Bedlinog; Roberts, Dowlais; W. Thomas, Rhymney; W. Jones, Newton; T. Davies, Pontlottyn; S. Price, New Tredegar; T. Jenkins, A. T. Rees, Caerphilly; S. Johns, Bedwellty; D. Leigh, W. Williams, Llanfabon. Also in the procession were: Messrs. J. Cunningham, traffic superintendent, Brecon & Merthyr Railway; John Harris, station master; J. Randell, Rhymney; J. Jones, Pontlottyn; W. Lewis, Pontnewydd; D. Thomas, Rhos; J. Jones, Hengoed; E. Lewis, Llwyngola; T. M. Jones & L. Evans, Bargoed.

“Merthyr Express” 9 June 1883

Engine House Fire at Vochriw On Thursday night last, about 12.30 a.m., an alarm was given at the Dowlais Police Station that the engine-house at Vochriw pit was on fire. Inspector Rodman and a number of constables obtained the hose, reel, etc., and went over to the spot, and found that the roof had fallen in. There was no hydrant for water near the spot, but fortunately, Mr. Turnbull, the chief engineer, got a connection, and by means of a donkey engine obtained a good supply of water. The large cross beams were steadily burning, and Inspector Rodman got on the top storey of the building, and the fire was soon extinguished. On making inquiries, it was found that some workmen had been repairing until 9.30 p.m.

with open hand lamps, and after they had finished the engine house was locked up. At 11 p.m., fire was discovered in the upper part of the engine-house, and the conjecture is that some of the workmen had, in snuffing their lamps, thrown the burning wick on some oily waste lying there. A good supply of water was, from the time of discovering the fire, brought to play on the frame work attached to the shaft, and thus saved that part. The fire took place near the up-airway shaft, otherwise the men might have been suffocated.

“Merthyr Express” 14 July 1883

Gelligaer School Board: Fochriw and Pantywaun Schools Communications have been read relating to these schools, and it was found that Miss Jones, Fochriw, was a good deal of her time at home attending to the illness of her mother. The members living in the upper part of the district, and the managers, were instructed to arrange as to the supply of teachers for these schools.

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Medical Officer’s Report The medical officer, Mr. Dyke, presented the following report. In the Rural Sanitary District, 141 births and 121 deaths were registered during the second quarter of 1883. On an estimated population of 17,000, these numbers represent annual rates of birth of 33 and deaths of 28 per 1,000. The birth rates in the several parishes were – Gelligaer 36, Vaynor 30, Penderyn 18, Rhigos 24. The death rates in the same parishes were 30, 24, 12 and 4 respectively. Specific febrile diseases caused 26 deaths; 11 were assigned to measles, 9 to whooping cough, and 3 each to scarlet fever and diphtheria. The fevers prevailed chiefly in the town of Pontlottyn, and the village of Fochriw. Acute and chronic lung diseases accounted for nearly one quarter of the deaths.

“Merthyr Express” 21 July 1883

Sale Penybank Farm, Nr. Fochriw, Sale of Leasehold Houses by PUBLIC AUCTION

Lot 1: Numbers 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 Stony houses on part of Penybank Farm in the occupation of Daniel Edwards and others, let at monthly rents of £31 4s. per annum.

Lot 2: Numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4 Stony Houses in the occupation of James Price and others, let at £20 16s. per annum.

These lots are held under separate leases for three lives with such further period as will complete the terms of 99 years from 1st January 1856 for Lot 1, and 1st January 1859 for Lot 2. Ground Rents of £2-15-7 and £1-17-0 respectively. These houses are commonly known as ‘Brithdir Houses.’

“Merthyr Express” 28 July 1883

Dr. Kent Jones On Saturday the 14th, a deputation of workmen and other friends from Vochriw and Bedlinog waited on Dr. Kent Jones to present him with a testimonial of their regard in the form of an artificial leg and a purse of money for his long and valuable services as their medical attendant. This movement arose, not only in consequence of his retiring from the district, but particularly from the respect and warm and sincere sympathy entertained towards him upon the severe accident that befell him in January last. The deputation comprised the following workmen, viz., Messrs. Thomas Thomas, Evan Hughes and W. B. Evans, of Bedlinog, who had arranged to present the purse of money; leaving the gift of an artificial leg to the Vochriw deputation, consisting amongst others of Messrs. Thomas Jones (grocer), Seth James, Charles Payne and William Angel. Dr. Kent Jones, on receiving the above, thanked them very sincerely for their kind and good wishes.

“Merthyr Express” 11 August 1883

Gelligaer School Board: Vochriw Schools The Chairman reported that the Committee, as instructed at the last meeting, had appointed a successor to Miss Jones, the assistant mistress at Vochriw, who had left owing to the illness of her mother, and that Mr. John W. Walters, an ex-pupil teacher from the Board school at Treharris, had been appointed until the next examination, at a salary of £3 per month.

“Merthyr Express” 18 August 1883

Vochriw: Sunday School Anniversary On Sunday and Monday last, the anniversary services of the English Baptist Chapel, Vochriw, were held in conjunction with the harmonium opening. Two eloquent sermons were preached by the pastor, Rev. Isaac Cool, in the morning and evening, and in the afternoon, he also gave a very instructive address to parents, scholars and teachers. Recitations were given and suitable pieces sung by the choir, conducted by Mr. James Morgan. The services were unusually well attended, and good collections were made towards the Sunday-school fund. On Monday, a tea meeting was held, when more than double the anticipated number partook of the tea. In the evening a public meeting was held which included addresses and recitations. The chair was ably occupied by Rev. Mr. Cool, who made some very practical remarks in the opening and during the meeting. A very cordial vote of thanks was accorded him at the close.

“Merthyr Express” 8 September 1883

Gelligaer School Board Cwmysgwyddgwyn and Pentwyn Schools The following correspondence was read between the Clerk and the Home Office with reference to the above schools, pointing out that in consequence of the closing of the two national schools, which the above school buildings formerly held, the Board had been obliged to supply school accommodation at a heavy cost. The Government grant had been obtained for the building of each of these schools.

April 14th, 1883. Sir, - I am directed by my Board to draw your attention to two school buildings in the parish in which national schools were lately held, viz, Cwmysgwyddgwyn (Deri), and Pentwyn (Vochriw). The School Board has been obliged to supply school accommodation, the want of which was caused by the closing of these schools, and which supply cost the Board considerable sums of money. We understand that a Government grant was obtained for the building of each of these schools. They have, ever since they were closed, been used exclusively for Divine service. My Board respectfully submits that the money was expressly paid for buildings dedicated to educational purposes. As they have now failed, it desires that means should be taken, if possible, to recover such moneys. The moneys have now become wasted, although this might have been otherwise if the buildings had been offered to the Board under Section 23 of the Education Act, which they were not. On the contrary, a negotiation for the transfer of the Pentwyn School fell through in consequence of the late Rector of Gelligaer's refusing his sanction. We are advised that under the School Sites Act, 1841, these cannot be transferred without your sanction, and we must respectfully beg to suggest that should an application be made to you for such sanction you will decline to give it, except on condition that the building grants moneys be returned to the Government. - I am, etc. F. James, Clerk.

To this letter the Home Secretary made a formal acknowledgement, and afterwards made some formal inquiries. Subsequently, the subject was dealt with by the Education Department in the following letter:-

Education Department, April 21st, 1883. Sir - I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14th instant. The Education Department is advised that they have no power to require the premises of the Cwmysgwyddgwyn national school to be used for the purposes of a school. Possibly an application to the Charity Commissioners for their advice and assistance might be of advantage. Yours, etc. P. Cumin.

This suggestion was carried out, and the Charity Commissioners stated that if they were supplied with the names and addresses of the trustees of the buildings, they would cause a copy of the letter to be forwarded to them for their observation. It was now stated that the trustees were the Rector of Gelligaer, and the Archdeacon of Llandaff, and it was decided to give the Charity Commissioners the particulars with which they desired to be provided.

“Merthyr Express” 27 October 1883

Vochriw: Lecture On Saturday evening last, the Rev. Isasc Cool, the respected pastor, delivered his popular lecture on "Billy Bray, the Cornish miner," at Bethany English Baptist Chapel. Mr. Thomas Jones was to have taken the chair, but being unable to attend, Mr. W. F. Grier of London presided. The lecture was very amusing and interesting, and was much appreciated by a large audience. A vote of thanks to the lecturer and chairman closed the proceedings.

"Merthyr Express" 3 November 1883

Vochriw: Special Sermons at Bethany English Baptist Chapel On Sunday and Monday last, the first quarterly meetings since the Rev. Isaac Cool settled at Vochriw, were held at the English Baptist Chapel. On Sunday sermons were preached morning and evening by Mr. William Baker, of Ystrad, Rhondda, and in the afternoon a Welsh sermon was preached at Carmel Welsh Independent chapel (kindly lent for the occasion) by the Rev. J. Williams, Dowlais. On Monday, a public meeting was held, when Alderman Richard Cory of Cardiff, presided and delivered an excellent address, and called upon the respected pastor, Rev. Isaac Cool, to address them. The rev. gentleman said that three months ago they met there under a dark cloud, and that great efforts had been made in the past to establish an English cause at Vochriw, but somehow or other every attempt had failed. But he was now pleased to tell them that the dark cloud had been removed. His labours had been, upon the whole, very successful under the circumstances. He had baptised nine, and received a few by letter. The church was now well-formed, and had selected three excellent deacons, namely, Messrs. James Morgan, Charles Jones and John Davies. A good Sunday School had been established there, under Mr. David Evans, Superintendent. Alderman Cory was proud to hear such a good report given, and that he was thankful to God that such and earnest and hard-working pastor had been sent there, and that he (Mr. Cory) was exceedingly pleased that he had the honour of purchasing the chapel for the English friends at Vochriw. He hoped that the richest blessings of heaven would be poured upon them. Appropriate addresses were given by the Rev. T. Barstone, Maesycwmmmer, Rev. J. Williams, Dowlais, and Mr. H. Land, Pontlottyn. A collection was made at the close, and Alderman Cory, with his usual liberality, handsomely contributed. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the chairman, and one of the best meetings came to a close.

"Merthyr Express" 17 November 1883

Child Killed On Saturday morning, a sad accident happened near No.1 Pit, Vochriw. A tram, laden with timber, was being drawn along the tram road, when several children attempted to get on for a ride. A little girl, Elizabeth Llewellyn, three years of age, fell under the wheels and was killed on the spot.

"Merthyr Express" 24 November 1883

The Late Rev. W. Jones Evans At the parish church, a handsome tombstone has just been placed over the grave of Rev. W. Jones Evans, the late curate of Vochriw, who died in May last. The cost of the whole has been subscribed by the working men of Vochriw, by whom the deceased was highly esteemed.

Inquest On Monday last, before Mr. Thomas Williams and a respectable jury, an inquest was held at the Rising Sun Inn, Vochriw, on the body of a child named Elizabeth Llewellyn, who was killed by being run over by a tram on the 10th. A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

"Merthyr Express" 23 February 1884

Gelligaer School Board: Non-attendance at Vochriw The attendance officer brought four cases of non-attendance at the Schools. The parents appeared before the Board, and in one, the officer was ordered to issue a summons against the parents.

"Merthyr Express" 1 March 1884

Vochriw: Grand Concert On Tuesday evening, the 19th of February, a most successful concert was held at the Board School when the favourite cantata, entitled "Under the Palms," (by A. T. Roct), was performed by the Pontlloftyn Juvenile Choir, under the conductorship of Mr. W. Lewis. The attendance was very good, the room being tolerably full, notwithstanding the unfavourable weather.

"Merthyr Express" 19 April 1884

Fochriw: Lecture On Monday se'nnight, a lecture was delivered by Rev. D. Jones, Swansea, in Carmel Congregational Chapel, on "England, China and the Opium Trade." After a very interesting lecture, the following resolution was passed: "That this meeting desires to express its protest against the injustice of enforcing the trade of opium on the Chinese, and of prohibiting them the power to deal with it as they may see fit." The following gentlemen also took part in the proceedings: Messrs. Isaac Williams, John Jones, W. O. Morgan, and W. Harris. After the usual votes of thanks had been accorded the lecturer and chairman, the meeting terminated.

Gelligaer School Board Deri School Managers asked permission to engage a monitress to serve in the infant department, which was granted. Mr. W. O. Morgan, Fochriw, was requested to examine those who had passed the VI Standard, and the one who obtained the highest number of marks to be appointed.

"Merthyr Express" 28 June 1884

Fochriw: Educational At the recent examination at Pengam Endowed School, two of the pupil teachers of Fochriw school were first and second prize winners. Ann Mantle took the first prize for 1st year students, and C. Morgans won 2nd prize for those in the third year of their apprenticeship. We congratulate them and also, Mr. W. O. Morgan, the head teacher.

"Merthyr Express" 26 July 1884

Pit Accident At the Big Pit, Vochriw, on Tuesday, a collier named William Thomas of 11, Railway-terrace, Vochriw, was severely injured by a fall of rock from the roof. He was carried home, where he was immediately attended by Dr. Davies, the district medical officer. The Board resolved not to grant the request.

"Merthyr Express" 9 August 1884

Gelligaer School Board Rev. J. M. Williams, curate of Vochriw, applied to the Board for a loan of the Board schoolroom to hold the annual tea treat of the Church Sunday School. The request was refused.

"Merthyr Express" 13 September 1884

Gelligaer Liberal Association A branch was formed at Vochriw, and a meeting held at Carmel Congregational Chapel on Tuesday evening. There was a good attendance. The Committee appointed the following gentlemen: Dr. Davies, chairman; Mr. Thomas Jones, grocer, secretary; Mr. Thomas Jones, Pit-row, treasurer. In a short time a public meeting will be held, when some eminent public and local speakers will take part in the proceedings.

A Fact - Thousands take no other medicine besides Kernick's Vegetable Pills for headache of indigestion.

"Merthyr Express" 27 September 1884

Fochriw: Cantata Performance On Monday evening a meeting was held at Carmel Congregational Chapel, when the cantata "Elijah" was performed by the Sunday School children of the chapel, under the conductorship of Mr. H. M. Williams. The chair was occupied by Dr. Davies. The following are the names of those who took part in the proceedings: Misses E. Shankland, M. J. Davies, A. Williams, E. Harris, G. Wright, L. Williams, A. Jones, M. Jones, J. Angell, M. J. Thomas, E. Thomas and D. Davies; Messrs B. Angell, R. Jenkins, A. M. Williams and G. W. McArthur. Between the different parts, and address was given by Mr. J. Williams, and recitations by Messrs. J. Harris and H. Davies. Mr.

Jas. Griffiths presided at the harmonium. Mr. Henry M. Williams is deserving of the highest praise for the excellent manner in which the cantata was rendered.

“Merthyr Express” 4 October 1884

Gelligaer School Board Monthly Meeting: The National Schools at Deri and Vochriw

Considerable time was spent in a discussion with respect to the closing of the National Schools at Deri and Fochriw. The following correspondence on the subject was read by the Clerk:-

Merthyr, August 11th, 1883. The Secretary of the Charity Commissioners.

Sir, - I am directed by my Board to draw your attention to two school buildings in the parish in which national schools were lately held, viz, Cwmysgwyddgwyn (Deri), and Pentwyn (Vochriw). The School Board has been obliged to supply school accommodation, the want of which was caused by the closing of these schools, and which supply cost the Board considerable sums of money. We understand that a Government grant was obtained for the building of each of these schools. They have ever since they were closed been used exclusively for Divine service. Mr. Board desire respectfully to submit that the money having been expressly paid for buildings dedicated to educational purposes which have now failed, means should be taken, if possible, to recover such moneys. The moneys have now become wasted, although this might have been otherwise if the buildings had been offered to the Board under Section 23 of the Education Act, which they were not, but, on the contrary, a negotiation for the transfer of the Pentwyn school fell through in consequence of the late Rector of Gelligaer refusing his sanction. The School Board have represented the above facts to the Education Department, who have replied by stating that they have no power to deal with the matter, but have recommended us to make an application to the Charity Commissioners for their advice and assistance on the matter. I shall feel obliged, therefore, if you will submit the matter as soon as convenient to the Commissioners, and advise us what steps to take. I am, etc., Frank James

Gellygaer Rectory, August 9th, 1884. Cwmysgwyddgwyn (Deri), and Pentwyn (Vochriw) Schools.

Sir - In reply to your letters dated Oct. 27th, 1883, and July 25th, 1884, requesting us as Trustees of Cwmysgwyddgwyn, Deri, and Pentwyn, Vochriw, Schools, to make observation on the letter of the Clerk of the Gelligaer School Board respecting grants obtained from the Government for the building of the above schools, we beg to state:- “That the school sites were conveyed for the purposes of schools to be always in union with and conducted upon the principles and in furtherance of the ends and designs of the Incorporated National Society for promoting the education of the poor in the principles of the Established Church, and that the minister of the parish may use or direct the premises to be used for the purposes of Sunday schools under his exclusive control and management (see Trust Deed). That when the schools were built and the grants received, there was a bona fide intention to carry them on as public elementary schools, and the intention was loyally carried out as long as was possible. That the intention was only frustrated by the will of the people through the establishment of a School Board, to have undenominational schools. That owing to rivalry of Board Schools, it was found necessary to discontinue the use of the premises for day school purposes, but we beg to submit that the trusts are fulfilled by the holding in the buildings of Sunday Schools and weekday evening classes for religious instruction. We are of opinion that, to require payment of the money granted, would be of the nature of a fine upon the school managers for their efforts in endeavouring to meet the educational requirements of a difficult district, when assistance of every kind was urgently needed. We would call the attention of the Commissioners to the following selection of facts:- (a) That private subscriptions towards the erection of these buildings were asked and secured on the understanding that the buildings were to be used for the double purpose of supplying educational need and of providing means

of public worship. (b) That they continue to be used for such purposes, but that the requirements of the Trust Deed as regards education, are from necessity limited to holding Sunday schools under the direction of the minister of the parish. The clause in the Trust Deed being "that the principal officiating minister the time being of the parish of Gelligaer may use, or direct to be used, for the purpose of Sunday school under his exclusive control and management. (c) That the proportion of expense covered by the grant is very small compared with the outlay. (d) That the National Society, having knowledge of the trust, and having made grants for the erection of these buildings, have not given their sanction to their use for any other than the purposes of their provision. (signed) J. L. Meredith, Rector of Gelligaer; John Griffiths, Archdeacon of Llandaff.

Charity Commission, Whitehall, S. W., August 27, 1884.

Charitable Trusts Acts. Gelligaer, Cwmysgwyddgwyn, Deri), and Pentwyn, Vochriw, Schools.

Sir - Adverting to your letter of the 19th ult., which refers to your previous communication of the 11th of August, 1883, I am to enclose a copy of a letter recently received from the trustees of the schools to which you refer. Assuming the trusts of the schools in question to be correctly stated in the enclosed letter, there seems to be no grounds for the intervention of the commissioners as would be if the school buildings were closed, and now useless, in consequence of the establishment of School Board Schools. In such a case, the commissioners would be prepared to consider an application from the trustees for the sale of the school buildings, with the assent of the Home Secretary in respect of Government Building Grant, and would also be prepared to establish a scheme directing the investment in Government Stocks of the proceeds of the sale (after the repayment of the Government Building Grant, if required), and the application of the dividends for the educational benefit of the children of the parish, who are the objects of the charity attending any public elementary school there in small money payments, as rewards for meritorious conduct or proficiency at the annual examinations. It is not understood what the School Board desire to effect by their suggestion that means should be taken to recover back moneys obtained in respect of a Government Building Grant. I am your obedient servant, Henry M. Vane, Secretary.

The chairman, Rev. Aaron Davies, considering the question to be of such importance to the ratepayers in general had committed what he had to say to paper, and, with their permission, he would now read it to them, which was as follows:- "The schools which received Government grant towards their construction could not be under the exclusive control of the minister of the parish, as the schools were public elementary schools, and as such were under government inspection, and as such, come within the scope of the Education Act, 1870. The intention of the trustees is stated to be, when the schools were built, 'to carry them on as public elementary schools.' Such intention the Board, under the Act of 1870, sec. 23, were ready and willing to carry out and take the charge of the trust as far as relates to the Public Elementary Schools Trust, as the schools were covering accommodation for a large number of the children in their respective localities, and which were claimed and insisted upon to be considered, when the Board made out its report to the Department. If the intention was bona fide, then why not complete the transfer of Vochriw school to the Board, when the Board were willing, and that only for school days, leaving the 'old managers' to deal with what they call Sunday school teaching and weekday night classes, which do not come under the inspection of H.M. Inspector? To say that the trust for public elementary education is carried out by keeping Church Sunday School, and similar classes on week nights, is preposterous. That is at once claiming that the Departments established for giving public elementary education to the children of Her Majesty's subjects, to be a department for supplying Church Sunday Schools, which was not within the scope of the authority of such

department. The Board, owing to the action of the trustees, had to build and spend upwards of £1,000 to meet the deficiency caused by the closure of the said schools. It is but just to the ratepayers that whatever value of the public trust money there is should be used to pay off some part of the loans raised to make the accommodation that was required as a result of the closure. I move that we ask the Commissioners to take steps for that purpose, and that the following members be named a committee to act with the Clerk to draw up the application, viz., Rev. A. Davies, Rev. J. P. Williams, and Mr. Jonathan Williams.

Rev. J. L. Meredith said that it was unkind of the Board to do anything in connection with these schools after the very great amount of work done by the late Canon Harries in establishing schools in the parish of Gelligaer. It was simply a piece of sectarianism, and in his opinion it would be most unfair to visit the sins of the dead upon the living. And he moved that in the opinion of this meeting, this Board have nothing more to do with the question of these schools, and no committee be formed. This was seconded by Rev. T. Theophilus. Upon a division, the original proposition of the chairman was carried by one vote.

The Vochriw Staff The assistant master, Mr. Walters, having tendered his resignation, it was resolved that a young man named Jones from Pontlottyn, be engaged as monitor until the next examination.

Finance The following quarterly bills and other bills were ordered to be paid: Cwmfelin schools, £70; Newton, £53; Deri, £82; Pontnewydd, £57; Penybank, £25; Bargoed, £79; Pontlottyn, £133; Pantywain, £28; Gelligaer village, £59; Vochriw £96; Tirphil, £86; George Inn, £29; Troedrihiwfuwch, £27; Daniel Thomas (tredegar), £160; Thomas Thomas, £15 5s.; Frank James, £17 10s.; John Jones, £7 10s.; Public Works Loan Commissioners, £446 19s. 4d.; total, £1,471 4s. 4d. Attendance Officer's Report: Number of children in average attendance was 1,976; on the registers 2,499; school fees received £41 7s. 11½d.

“Merthyr Express” 16 October 1884

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Board: Water Supply to Vochriw It was resolved that the question of fixing a tank at Vochriw be left open until Mr. Truran and the surveyor meet to discuss the matter. The Surveyor will then be authorised to proceed with the placing of the tank on such a spot as will be decided upon. It was also resolved that tenders be invited for the drainage of Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 25 October 1884

Accident On Monday morning a serious accident occurred at No.2 Pit Vochriw, to a boy of about fourteen years, the son of a collier named Morgan, who lives at Pentwyn. The boy was assisting his father when a great mass of debris from the top fell upon him, causing very serious injuries, one of his legs being broken. It is a painful coincidence that some time ago, the same boy had a similar accident whilst engaged in the same work. His condition is somewhat critical, though he appears to improve.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services The annual harvest thanksgiving services were held at the School Church on Tuesday the 21st. The afternoon service commenced at 3 p.m., when Evensong was read in Welsh by the Rev. J. M. Williams, curate (Vochriw) at 3 p.m., and a Welsh sermon was preached by the Rev. J. L. Meredith, Rector of Gelligaer. At 7.30 p.m., the evening service commenced. Evensong was intoned by the Rev. J. L. Davies, curate, Pontlottyn. The lessons were read by Rev. Ll. M. Williams, vicar of Pontlottyn, and the preacher was the Rev. Mr. Meredith. The room presented a very pleasing appearance, having been decorated with great skill and good taste by the Misses Breillat, Misses Harries, Miss Morgan, Miss Evans and others. The services were well attended, the room being quite inadequate to contain the congregation at the evening service. The services were both very hearty; the singing is much improved under the leadership of Mr. Harris. The offertories, which were collected towards the Llandaff Church Extension Society, were also very good.

Besides the above mentioned clergymen, there were also present the Rev. E. Evans, Deri; Rev. D. J. Evans, curate, Gelligaer; and Rev. W. Edwards, curate, Pontlottyn.

“Merthyr Express” 25 October 1884

Franchise Meeting at Vochriw Under the auspices of the Gelligaer Liberal Association, a well-attended meeting was held on Tuesday, with the twofold object of expressing confidence in Her Majesty's Government, and to protest against the action of the House of Lords in rejecting the Franchise Bill. Dr. Davies, Vochriw, presided. The Chairman having stated the objects of the meeting, showed the advantages of supporting a Liberal Government, and briefly ran over the chief points of the political education of the masses in Wales during the past thirty years, and made clear to a demonstration the result of this education. Mr. Thomas Jones, Railway-terrace, moved the resolution of confidence in Her Majesty's Government, and indicated what had been done by past and present Liberal Governments for the good of the country. Mr. William Matthews seconded the resolution, and Rev. J. P. Williams and Rev. Aaron Davies supported the resolution in their usual vigorous and lucid speeches. Mr. Thomas Bevan, colliery manager, next moved the second resolution of protest against the recent action of the House of Lords. Mr. Isaac Williams seconded in a brief and sensible speech. Mr. Evans, Penybanc, supported the resolution, as did Rev. Edward Davies of Rhymney, and last, by Mr. William Morgan, the Pant, who is a radical of radicals, and no mean political opponent. The usual votes of thanks were offered at the close.

“Merthyr Express” 1 November 1884

Gelligaer School Board: The Closing of the National School The committee appointed to deliberate on the adjourned question of the closing the National schools at Cwmysgwyddgwyn and Pentwyn, reported to the Board, and the following reply was ordered to be sent to the Charity Commissioners:-

Merthyr Tydfil, October 23, 1884. Gentlemen, - Cwmysgwyddgwyn (Deri) and Pentwyn (Vochriw) National Schools - Referring to your favour of the 27 August 1884, I am directed by my Board to state that the matter has again had their due consideration. I beg leave to send herewith office copies of the Trust deeds of both these schools, which I shall be glad to receive back when done with. It would appear that the Cwmysgwyddgwyn school was built with money from the Parliamentary grant to the extent of £83 15s., and Pentwyn (Vochriw) school also received a Parliamentary grant of £87 10s.. My Board submit that this public money was granted for the express purpose of supplying public elementary education in the parish of Gelligaer under inspection; that it now appears, and is, in fact, admitted by the rector and archdeacon of 9th August 1884, that no elementary education is carried out in the buildings, and the trustees have not availed themselves of the power of transferring the schools to the School Board, but, on the contrary, have refused to do so. In consequence of these schools being closed, and not transferred, this parish has had to raise money by way of loan for other buildings, to supply the requisite accommodation. The School Board therefore think that the public money spent upon these buildings, which has now become useless, should be returned; and if this can be done, my Board respectfully suggests that the amount received should be applied in part-payment of the loan advanced by the Public Loan Works Commissioners to the Board. I have the honour to remain sir, your obedient servant, Frank James, Clerk.

To the Secretary, Charity Commissioners, Whitehall, London, S. W.

It was unanimously resolved that the above letter should be sent to the Charity Commissioners.

“Merthyr Express” 24 January 1885

The Firedamp at Vochriw: Death of One of the Injured Men and of the Horse. Mr. Thomas Williams, the district coroner, opened an inquiry at the Rising Sun Inn, Vochriw, on Monday

afternoon, into the circumstances related to the death of David Davies, a colliery repairer, in the employ of the Dowlais Iron Company. The deceased was 32 years of age, and resided with his wife and one child at 2, Martin's-row, Vochriw. He was employed at No.2 Pit, and on the night of Wednesday, January 14th, he went to his work as usual. With other men, he was employed in placing the workings in a condition of security by placing great baulks of wood to prop up the top. This process is called "standing timber." Everything went on in its usual way until shortly before 3 a.m. on the following morning. At that time, the deceased and another man were about to set up a baulk. Near them stood a haulier named Charles Williams, with his horse and tram ready to convey the debris brought down from the top by the setting up of the timber. While thus engaged, a heavy mass of debris fell from the top, and the firedamp, thus liberated, was immediately ignited with frightful effect. All three men, and the horse, were burned in the most shocking manner. The three men rushed wildly through the heading, mingling their agonizing cries with those of the poor quadruped. Some of the other workmen who were in the pit at the time came to their assistance, and attended to their injuries as well as they could. When daylight dawned the sufferers were carried to their homes, where afterwards they received the efficient attentions of the skilful medical men in the employ of the Dowlais Iron Company. Davies was fearfully burned about the head, face and body, but it was thought possible he might recover. However, a serious relapse took place on Friday last, and in less than two hours after midnight his sufferings were terminated by death. The inquiry was adjourned until the 26th of February. On Tuesday afternoon, the body of the unfortunate man was taken to the Brecon and Merthyr Railway station, whence it was afterwards conveyed for interment to a little village near Llangammarch, Breconshire. It is reported that the doctors have now given up all hope of the recovery of the haulier, Charles Williams, who lives at 106, Ivor-street, Dowlais. The poor horse has died from the effect of its injuries. Of the third man, we have been unable to gather any information.

"Merthyr Express" 21 March 1885

Gelligaer School Board: Deri and Pentwyn National Schools The Clerk reported that the following letter had been received from the Charity Commissioners.

'In reply to the letter of your Board stating that the Commissioners are empowered to advise trustees of charities in the conduct or administration of their trust, the Commissioners can only intervene in the application of each trustee, and it does not come properly within the functions of the Commissioners to advise those who claim advocacy to the trust upon questions coming between such persons and the trust.' To F. James, Clerk, from H. M. Vane.

It was resolved that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk reply.

"Merthyr Express" 8 August 1885

Mr Alfred Thomas at Tirphil and Fochriw On Wednesday se'nnight, Mr Alfred Thomas, the selected Liberal Candidate for the Eastern Division of Glamorgan, addressed a meeting of the constituency at Tirphil, the Rev. J. P. Williams presiding. On Thursday evening, Mr. Thomas visited Fochriw, and addressed a good, representative meeting at Noddfa Chapel, the Rev. J. P. Williams again presiding. Resolutions of support for the candidate and Mr. Gladstone's government were unanimously carried at both meetings. At Vochriw, Mr. W. Edwards, Rev. J. Pathon Davies, Mr. Thomas Evans (collier), Mr. William Matthews, Mr. Councillor Beavan, Mr. B. Lewis, Cardiff, and Mr. Alfred Thomas, himself, addressed the meeting. The resolution in favour of the Liberal candidate was passed with acclamation, no one dissenting. The chairman gave a full account of the formation of the Liberal Association in the Eastern division, and its actions from the commencement to the time when the disruption took place at Caerphilly, and a "faction" of the Liberal Association seceded, and invited a certain gentleman to become a candidate in opposition to the one duly selected by the Association.

"Merthyr Express" 15 August 1885

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority The Surveyor's report stated that a drainage system for Vochriw was urgently needed. Rev. A. Davies said that there was a scheme some time ago, but they could not get the land. The Clerk felt that a local board ought to be formed for Gelligaer; they could then get powers to purchase the land compulsorily. The chairman said that if Gelligaer was formed into an Urban Sanitary district, it would be much cheaper for the inhabitants in the long run. It was suggested that the parishioners should call a public meeting to discuss the question.

“Merthyr Express” 29 August 1885

Church Sunday School Annual Treat The Church Sunday School held their annual treat on Thursday afternoon, the 20th. At 3 o'clock the children were formed in procession, and, accompanied by their teachers and a few adult members, marched through the village carrying banners and headed by the Pontypool Brass Band. On their return they found everything ready, and were soon busily engaged in discussing the good things provided for them. Tea over, some friends took the children to the mountain, and there delighted them by organising games, and awarding prizes in money and toys, the band playing frequently during the evening. As well as the children, a large number of adults occupied the tea tables. By 7 o'clock there were several hundred people on the mountain indulging in various innocent amusements. The tables were presided over by the following:- Mrs. Richards, assisted by Misses S. A. Williams and S. Jones; Miss Morgan assisted by Misses S. A. Morgan and A. R. Morgan; Miss Evans assisted by Misses M. A. and G. Mantle; and Miss Harries assisted by Misses Ela Harris and Ann Mantle. Valuable assistance was also rendered by Mr. and Mrs. Evans, Pleasant View; Mrs. Geo. Lewis, Mr. T. Greening (superintendent), Mr. D. Phillips and family, Messrs. J. Richards and J. Wood. The afternoon was fine and the treat altogether quite a success.

“Merthyr Express” 17 October 1885

Fochriw Street Lights Sir, - I should be very thankful if you would allow me a small space in your valuable paper to call the attention of the Gelligaer Rural Sanitary Authority to the public street lamps at Fochriw. You called for tenders the other day for lighting 10 lamps, and you received a tender from Mr. Jones for £2 4s. 6d. per lamp, and now it is only what is right that the ten lamps be lighted every night instead of two or three lamps, and they ought to be kept clean and in proper order, so that we may get the most for our money in the way of light. RATEPAYER. [October 24th - a letter from “Observant” regarding Fochriw street lamps, making similar complaints to those voiced in the letter of the 17th.]

“Merthyr Express” 7 November 1885

Vochriw Street Lamps Sir, - As the contractor for lighting the Vochriw street lamps, I wish to reply to two letters which appeared in your newspaper recently. It is true that the light has not been so satisfactory as I would wish. The fault is to be found in the make of the case wherein the paraffin lamp is placed. The lamps have been lit as many as four times the same night, but owing to the presence of a larger draught opening in the case than is necessary, they are blown out. I have called the attention of the surveyor to the matter, and most probably, he will be able to suggest a remedy. No one is more anxious than myself that the light should be properly done to the entire satisfaction of the Board and the public. Your obedient servant, Thomas Jones 31st October 1885

“Merthyr Express” 14 November 1885

Gelligaer School Board Three teachers won Queen Scholarships at the last entrance examination at Swansea Training College, namely, Miss M. A. Williams, Tirphil, Miss Esther Jenkins, Pontlloftyn, and Miss Morgan, Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 21 November 1885

Ordination An interesting ceremony was observed at Vochriw on Thursday the 12th, being the occasion of the ordination of a young divinity student, Mr. James Jones of Llangeler,

recently of Carmarthen College, who in future, will be the pastor of the Welsh Congregational Church at Vochriw. The ministers who took part were the following: Rev. Mr. Griffiths, Cefn; Rev. Jonah Morgan, Aberdar; Professor Jones, Carmarthen College; Rev. Mr. Jeffreys, Llangeler, who spoke of the fitness of Mr. Jones for the ministry. After the morning service, the various ministers and students who had come to witness the ordination lunched together at Pentwyn in the dining hall of Mr. Llewellyn Davies, who is becoming an adept at providing lunch for large numbers in a satisfactory manner.

“Merthyr Express” 20 February 1886

Gellygaer School Board Election Mr Lewis Evans, Penybank, has withdrawn his name from the election of members for Gelligaer School Board.

“Merthyr Express” 27 February 1886

Gelligaer School Board Election Dr. Eleazer Davies, Vochriw, non-conformist, received 858 votes in the election for membership of the Gelligaer School Board. He was unsuccessful. Those elected were as follows: Rev. Ll.M. Williams, vicar of Pontlloftyn, 2,601; Rev. J.L. Meredith, rector of Gelligaer, 1,417; Rev. J.P. Williams, Pontlloftyn, non-conformist, 1,314; Rev. Aaron Davies, Pontlloftyn, non-conformist, 1,305; Mr. Hy. Edwards, Dan-y-Pentre, churchman, 1,225; Mr. W. Beddoe, Nelson non-conformist, 1,045; Mr. Isaac Phillips, Pontlloftyn, non-conformist, 1,005; Mr. John Morgan, Pontlloftyn non-conformist, 986; Mr. E. Lewis, Yswyddgwyn, 954.

“Merthyr Express” 6 March 1886

Gelligaer School Board An application from the curate of Vochriw to hold a concert at the school was granted as the time was so short, but the case was to be seen as “exceptional,” and not a precedent, as a rule had been passed that the schools should only be let for the public as a whole, and not any particular section of it.

“Merthyr Express” 17 April 1886

Entertainment On Tuesday evening last, the usual fortnightly entertainment was given by the Baptist friends at Zoar Hall, Pontlloftyn. On this occasion, the Fochriw friends, in return for services rendered them some time back, came over and carried out a very successful programme. Their pastor Rev. D. Evans presided. After a few pithy remarks by way of introduction, he called upon the party to come forward to sing “Blodeuyn bach.” Next came a recitation entitled, “Washing Day,” by Miss Eleanor Ellis, after which Messrs. Thomas Evans and Dan Evans gave a duet, “The Tonic Solfa lesson.” Mr. James Davies recited in splendid manner “Y Gweddellod a’r lleuad,” and a duet, “Home, sweet home,” by Misses Mary and Ada Jones was very well rendered. “The tower of Babel,” by Mr. Ellis and friends, elicited much applause, while the duet by Dewi Bualt and Miss Thomas was also loudly encored, in response to which Miss Thomas sang “Paham mae Dai mor hyr yn dod?” A recitation by Mr. Rees Thomas, “A ydyw dy galon yn teimlo?” was highly appreciated. The party then sang “May morn,” after which the catch by Messrs. J. Bevan and friends, caused much laughter. Mr. Thomas Evans’s rendering of the song “Gwraig y meddwyn” was very touching, while the recitation “The ship on fire” by Mr. James Davies was all that could be desired. The party then sang “Mi a godaf,” which was sung in good style and becoming spirit. Mr. W. Jones (Morgrugyn) moved a hearty vote of thanks to all, and when put to the meeting, the vote was carried amid loud applause. Miss Thomas then led the National Anthem, and the meeting terminated.

The Debating Society and the Distress On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the Mount Pleasant Coffee Tavern was the scene of great excitement. The Debating Society had contracted with the proprietress for the provision of 400 pints of soup to be given to the most needy inhabitants of the town, and there was therefore great stir amongst them. Tickets had been distributed by members of the society during the previous week, and some very distressing cases were found. Great credit is due to Mrs. Evans for the manner in which she

had carried out the arrangements and the excellent quality of the provender, and also to the society for devoting the proceeds of their annual entertainment to such a praiseworthy object.
Gelligaer School Board Reference was made to the land on which Fochriw Schools had been built. It had cost £600 per acre.

“Merthyr Express” 22 May 1886

Gelligaer School Board An application by the Drum and Fife Band at Vochriw for a reduction in the price of 5s. charged by the Board for the use of the school for practising could not be entertained as nothing had yet been paid.

“Merthyr Express” 5 June 1886

School Church A very pleasant evening was spent in the unconsecrated part of the above church on Friday se’nnight. The proceedings generally consisted of songs, recitations and instrumental music, but the chief interest was the presentation to Miss Harris, Pleasant View, of a testimonial of a handsome floral album, with illuminated address, paid for by a few of the church friends, and also of another token of regard, a beautiful lady’s workbox, the gift of Mrs. T. Greening, head mistress of Vochriw infant school. Miss Harris, who has lately left the neighbourhood to occupy the post of assistant mistress at the Hay National Schools, was for many years a most useful member of the church at Vochriw. For nearly three years, she diligently and ably presided at the harmonium, and her willing help in other directions could always be relied upon. Rev. J. M. Phillips and Mrs. Greening spoke. The miscellaneous part of the proceedings caused great satisfaction, and our hearty thanks are due to the many friends who so kindly and successfully contributed to the harmony of the evening. The chair was occupied by Rev. J. M. Williams, curate. Miss Harris accompanied the singers.

“Merthyr Express” 12 June 1886

Gelligaer School Board There was only one application for the vacancy at Penybank School - Miss J. E. Tarbuck - who was, accordingly appointed.

Band Concert The Board decided to allow Vochriw Fife Band the use of the Vochriw school for a band concert upon the recommendation of the managers of the place.

“Merthyr Express” 7 August 1886

Gelligaer School Board There were four applications for the teaching post at Penybank school. Miss E. Evans (Hornsey Hill) originally from Cardiganshire, was appointed.

“Merthyr Express” 14 August 1886

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority The Medical Officer reports 10 child deaths from scarlet fever in Deri and Fochriw.

“Merthyr Express” 25 December 1886

Merthyr Board of Guardians: Proposed Division of Gelligaer into Wards Rev. A. Davies reported that the Gelligaer Guardians had met to discuss the proposed division into three wards, and subsequently, a vestry meeting had been held at which a resolution was carried in favour of the division, and an application for two extra guardians. The report of the vestry was read. The Rev. A. Davies moved the adoption of the report. He said that there were really three villages comprising the parish of Gelligaer. There was Bedlinog on the one side, Deri on the other, and Vochriw higher up. Mr. M. Truran seconded the motion. The chairman, R. H. Rhys, stated that neither the population nor the rateable value of the north-west ward entitled it to three members. One additional guardian should be applied for. This was agreed. Mr. Bircham, Local Government Board Inspector, who was present, stated that when the application was made to the Local Government Board, the Clerk should state fully the reasons why Gelligaer should have an extra guardian. It should be said that there was work to be done outside the strict poor law of the Board: that the Gelligaer Guardians had to attend to sanitary works which the Guardians of the other parishes were not called upon to attend to.

Gelligaer School Board: Another Skirmish The ordinary monthly meeting of this Board was held at Pontlottyn on the 16th. Present: Rev. A. Davies (chairman), Rev. J. P. Williams

(vice-chairman), Rev. Ll. M. Williams, Rev. J. L. Meredith, Messrs. W. Beddoe, Isaac Phillips, Henry Edwards, John Morgans, Edmund Lewis, J. Williams (architect), F. James (clerk), Messrs James and Thomas (attendance officers).

Fochriw Schools Rev. L. A. Williams had given notice of motion that the staff of the Fochriw Schools be reconsidered and re-arranged. He thought that it would be injurious to the schools if the plan were put in force. He had examined the registers and had found that the attendance was on the increase, and in all probability, would continue to increase. He saw no reason why any alteration should be made in the staff, and he would therefore move that the school staff be allowed to remain as it is for the next twelvemonth. Rev. J. L. Meredith seconded. The Board divided five votes to three on sectarian lines, and the earlier decisions to end the employment of Mrs. Greening and Mrs. Morgan, sewing mistress at Vochriw were re-affirmed.

“Merthyr Express” 22 January 1887

Gelliagaer School Board Applications for the appointment of two additional managers of the Fochriw schools - Dr. E. Davies, and Rev. Lloyd Rees - was agreed.

“Merthyr Express” 12 March 1887

Rural Sanitary Authority Scavenging Tenders For Vochriw: Mr. Evan Kinsey's tender of 7s. 9d. per week was accepted.

“Merthyr Express” 26 March 1887

Vochriw: Cantata Performance On Tuesday evening se'nnight, a grand performance of the beautiful school cantata entitled “The Indian Summer,” was given by the choir of Carmel Chapel, under the able leadership of Mr. Burkley Angel, who also played the accompaniments. The cantata was performed in the following manner:- First part: Recitation, “Voices of the early morn,” 1st part, Master W. J. Angel; 2nd part, Miss L. Williams; 3rd part, Master W. J. Ballard. Recitation, “The voices of past, present and future,” 1st part, Miss E. Ballard; 2nd W.J. Angel; 3rd, the whole choir. Chorus, “The day awakes,” the choir, “Song of the reapers,” boys choir. Soprano solo, “The Skylark,” Miss E. Ballard; chorus, the choir; soprano solo, “The flower girl,” Miss E. Thomas in full character; chorus, the choir; soprano solo, “The Clarion.” Miss Jessie J. Angel (exceedingly well rendered); chorus, the choir. This concluded the first part. The second part began with a chorus from the choir, followed by a semi-chorus, “O, ye Maidens,” Misses M. J. Davies, J. Angel and J. J. Angel and Messrs. D. Jenkins, A. M. Williams, and W. J. Angel (excellently given). Solo, “The Forest Queen,” Miss M. J. Williams was most exquisitely rendered. Chorus and quartet, “The autumn time.” The quartet was taken up by W. J. Angel, E. Angel, E. Thomas, and E. Williams, the chorus being sung by the choir. The foresters then appeared upon the stage, when the solo was sung by Mr. A. M. Williams in first class style. “Echo” song by Miss Lucretia Williams was very well rendered. Chorus, “Let not grief and pain annoy,” the choir; duet “Sweet sister Fay,” E. Thomas and J. J. Angel; fairy glee trio, “Aelus singeth so lusty and loud,” Miss M. J. Davies, Master W. J. Angel and Mr. D. Jenkins. It was also concluded by a full chorus of the choir. Soprano solo, “Come ye fairies all,” Miss E. Harris joined in a duet by Master W. J. Angel; chorus, “Closing hymn,” the whole choir, the contralto solo being sung by Master W. J. Angel, and the duet further on by W. J. Angel and E. Thomas, concluding with a final chorus by the whole choir. The whole rendering of the cantata was a treat for the audience and a well-merited success to Mr. Burkley Angel. The greatest credit is due to the different artistes who so efficiently maintained their parts, and also the whole choir for the attention paid by them to their young conductor. The choir presented a very picturesque spectacle, the ladies being dressed in white muslin dresses, tied with knots of red ribbon. We are glad to hear that it is intended to perform this cantata in the same place at some future date. We understand there is some talk of a performance at Pontlottyn. We would

strongly urge them to do, as it would certainly be a great pity for such labour to be thrown away on one performance.

“Merthyr Express” 7 May 1887

Fochriw: Lecture The Rev. R. Allen, Bryntroedgam, delivered a lecture at Noddfa Baptist Chapel on Monday, entitled “Na ddigiwch,” (Don’t be offended). Mr. Allen is known as a talented preacher and a most able lecturer. The lecture was one of the best ever delivered in the place. The chapel was crowded with friends from Pontlloftyn, Bedlinog, Brithdir etc. Mr. Bevan, coal agent, presided.

Eisteddfod The Blodeuyn y Mynydd Lodge held an eisteddfod at the Board School, which was kindly lent for the occasion, on Monday night. The chairman was the Rev. J. Jones, Carmel; adjudicator of singing, Mr. James Powell (Ap Dewi), Pontlloftyn; recitations etc. Mr. Henry Davies, Vochriw. The following were the awards:- Soprano solo, Miss Elvira Jenkins, Bedlinog; trio, Mr. Daniel Jenkins and friends; duet, “Edifeirwch y meddwyn,” Daniel Jenkins and Burkley Angel, both of Vochriw; tenor solo, “Cwyp Llewelyn,” divided between Evan Evans and Burkley Angel, Vochriw; recitation, “The Charge of the Light Brigade,” Miss Lizzie Ballard, Vochriw; reading music at first sight, Mr. John Bassett, Bedlinog; bass solo, “Gogoniant i Gymru,” John Bassett and John Thomas, Bedlinog; reading divided between Edward Williams and William Lewis; solo and chorus, “O tyred yn ol,” John Bassett and party, Bedlinog; an eisteddfod song by Mr. James Powell, Pontlloftyn, was loudly applauded.

“Merthyr Express” 28 May 1887

Presentation On Tuesday the 17th, the parishioners of the district of Fochriw met at Pentwyn Mission Church to present the Rev. J. Morgan Williams, their late curate, with an address and a writing-case as a token of the regard in which he was held by them. The church was crowded to excess, and the demeanour of everyone present indicated that the rev. gentleman had endeared himself to them, and that his departure to his new sphere at St. Bride’s Minor, will be much regretted. The address (which was most tastefully got up by Messrs. Farrant and Frost, Merthyr) was presented on behalf of the church members by Mrs. Phillips of Pentwyn, who hoped that there would be a bright future in store for Mr. Williams. He had been successful at Fochriw as the address testifies, and she hoped he would still continue to succeed and to labour, not for temporal things, but for that “eternal crown which fadeth not.” The writing case was presented by Mrs. Lewis on behalf of the Welsh congregation in the most suitable terms. Mr. Williams responded. Other speakers were: Messrs. D. Phillips, D. Greening, Josiah Richards, and the Rev. D. L. Rees. During the evening, a capital programme was gone through, but the chief feature of the music of the evening was the able manner in which the Fochriw Brass Band acquitted itself. This band, which was but lately started, is a decided acquisition to the place, and that its success is heartily wished for. Mr. Harries very ably presided during the evening; and after the usual votes of thanks, a most enjoyable evening was brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.

“Merthyr Express” 11 June 1887

Fochriw Entertainment An entertainment was held on Wednesday night, the 1st inst, at the Vochriw Mission Church, over which the Rev. D. Lloyd Rees presided. Miss Harris was the accompanist, assisted by Mrs. Greening. The programme was as follow: recitation, “Nerth hen arferiad,” Mr. D. Phillips; song, “The Jubilee,” Mr. Hier; recitation, “The curfew must not ring tonight,” Mr. Wright; song, “I want to meet a good young girl,” Mr. Castle; recitation, “Rhowch broc i’r tan,” Mr. John Williams, Pontlloftyn; song, “The hart’s visit,” Mrs. Powell; recitation, “The Zulu War,” Mr. Benjamin Summers, Pontlloftyn, splendidly rendered; song, “We say one thing, and mean another,” Mr. T. Greening; recitation, “The soldier’s pardon,” Mr. Wright; song, “Ar weli di’r packman,” Mr. Hier; dialogue entitled “A chwe-cheiniog gam,” Br. B. Summers and John Williams, Pontlloftyn; song, “I’ll take it home

to Sarah," Mr. Castle; recitation, "Greedy Dick," Master Fred Radley; song, "I Blas Googerddan," Mrs. Powell; recitation, "The ship on fire," Mr. B. Summers, which delighted the audience; song, "Oh, Joe, do let me go," Mr. Castle; song, "Darling, I am growing old," Mr. T. Greening; song, "Disgynai'r gwalaw," Mr. Hier; song (by desire) "Far, far away," Mr. Castle. The evening terminated with the usual votes of thanks.

"Merthyr Express" 25 June 1887

Gelligaer Endowed Schools: Distribution of Prizes The students were examined by Rev. Frank Besant of Emanuel College Cambridge. Senior Class - 2nd prize, £2 and a book to G. M. Evans, Penybanc, Fochriw. Also, Hannah Mantle, Fochriw, 45 shillings; Annie Ann, Vochriw, 35 shillings.

"Merthyr Express" 2 July 1887

Vochriw: Annual Treats Although there was not much preparation made to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee in this village, yet the inhabitants agreed to spend a day instead, on Monday the 27th. If any strangers visited Vochriw on Monday, they would have found no-one there - everyone had gone away. It happened to be Pay Monday, and all the works were idle, so they thought it wise to have their annual tea flights. Instead of having their festivals at home, at 9.30 a special train left the station for Talybont, by which the members of Carmel and Nazareth Sunday Schools, and many more, traveled to that very pretty place, to spend a very happy day. The passengers in all numbered 500. They engaged the Vochriw Brass Band who played most excellently. The Baptist Sunday School went by the ordinary train to Pontsarn, where they enjoyed themselves thoroughly. We are glad to say that everyone returned home at night without an accident occurring.

"Merthyr Express" 6 August 1887

Vochriw: Picnic The annual tea party in connection with Nazareth Welsh Calvinistic Methodists took place on Monday last. The weather was fine and the treat a grand success. About 300 sat down to tea, the tables being presided over by the following ladies:- Mrs. Elizabeth Jones, Mrs. Eleanor Jenkins, Mrs. Matthews (butcher), and Mrs. John Mathews. The following also took a very active part in the work:- Messrs. John Matthews (sen.), John Matthews (butcher), Edward Parry, Griffith Pugh, Hugh Jones, William Adams, Evan Evans and Mrs. Susannah Llewelyn. The C.M. are rather weak in this place, and a little help is needful.

"Merthyr Express" 13 August 1887

Merthyr Rural Sanitary Authority: Water Supply at Pentwyn, Vochriw Applications for the erection of a water tank were turned down mainly due to the general water shortage, severe drought prevailing at the present time.

"Merthyr Express" 20 August 1887

Vochriw: New Station The Brecon and Merthyr Railway Company have built a new station in this place which was greatly needed.

Sunday School Treat On Thursday last the annual Sunday School treat of the Vochriw Church was held. At 2 o'clock there was a service, the Rev. D. Rees, Pontlottyn officiating, and before they proceeded, Mr. T. Greening, superintendent of the school, gave a short address. At 3 o'clock the procession started, headed by the school banner, and the Revs. D. Ll. Rees, Vochriw; D. Rees and W. Pritchard, Pontlottyn; and Mr. Greening, superintendent, Mr. Radley and Mr. Wood. Then followed the Vochriw Brass Band under the conductorship of Mr. David Williams. This band plays exceedingly well considering that they have had only about twelve months' practice. Tea was prepared in the schoolroom, and the following ladies presided at the tables, viz., Mrs. Richards, Miss Morgan, Mrs. Radley, Mrs. Wey and Miss Castle. Everything passed off quietly, and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The Rev. T. J. Jones, vicar, joined them at tea, and had his surpliced choir there.

"Merthyr Express" 9 September 1887

Tea Party Noddfa Welsh Baptist Church had a tea party on Saturday evening. Although the weather was wet, they had a large attendance. The following ladies assisted at the tables:- Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Davies, Mrs. C. M. Jones, Mrs. D. Davies and Miss E. Thomas. The following also took a very active part:- Messrs. Thomas Moore, Thomas Jones, D. Davies, Daniel Evans, T. Evans. A prize of 10 shillings was drawn for and won by Mrs. Rachel Higgon of Pontlloftyn who returned it to the chapel funds.

“Merthyr Express” 1 October 1887

Gelligaer School Board Bills paid: Penybanc £30; Vochriw £85. Penybanc Schools: Mr. J. Williams, White Horse Inn, was appointed correspondent for the schools.

“Merthyr Express” 8 October 1887

Nuisance at Fochriw Sir, - Allow me a small space in your valuable paper to call the attention of the sanitary authorities to the beastly state of things at Fochriw. There is a row of houses called Brook-row, for which three or four water closets are provided. The stench arising therefrom is really unbearable to persons passing by, and surely this should not be allowed when the fever is raging so badly around us. I understand the Dowlais Iron Company were compelled some time ago to lay down pipes and build new closets to each of their houses, and I think the same order should be given in this case. There are other nuisances in Fochriw equally bad as this.

I am etc. CYMRO BACH Fochriw

“Merthyr Express” 29 October 1887

Harvest Festival Thanksgiving services were held at the Pentwyn Mission Church on Monday and Tuesday the 17th and 18th October. The services were well attended throughout, and the church was very tastefully decorated by the following ladies: Miss Morgan, Miss Harries, Mrs. Greening, Miss S. A. Morgans, Miss Ann Mantle and Miss M. A. Mantle, to whom great praise is due. The services on Monday were in Welsh, the preacher being the Rev. J. D. Evans, Treherbert, who delivered a powerful and practical sermon, and on Tuesday in English, when the preacher was the Rev. T. Rees, St. Mary's, Cardiff. The offertories were devoted towards the Llandaff Church Extension Society.

“Merthyr Express” 29 October 1887

Gelligaer School Board: Successful Pupil Teachers Four pupil teachers under the Board have successfully passed the examinations to enter different Training Colleges. Thomas Jones, Pontlloftyn Boys' School passed first class to Borough Road College, and Samuel Davies, Edward Williams and J. G. Evans, in the second division, from Vochriw schools to Bangor College.

“Merthyr Express” 5 November 1887

Educational Successes Mr. John Morgan is entering Cardiff University, and Miss Ann Mantle passed first class at a recent examination at Swansea College.

Concert An evening concert was given at the Vochriw Board School on Saturday last, the proceeds being devoted in aid of Noddfa Baptist Church. Mr. T. Bevan, manager, ably presided, and Ap Myrddin, Dowlais, accompanied. The following programme was gone through:- Selection from “The Messiah” by the Vochriw Brass Band, conducted by Mr. David Phillips, Pontlloftyn (bandmaster). The playing of this Band deserves special mention. Song, “Bird-in-hand,” Mr. C. M. Jones; song, “Y siethiwr ai gu,” rendered in good style by Mr. James Powell (Ap Dewi); song, “My love is a rover,” sung in very effective manner by Miss Margery Lewis, U. C. W., Pontlloftyn; song, “Tar's farewell,” rendered with taste by Mr. F. Hill and Mr. Robert Davies, Pontlloftyn, followed in excellent style with “Till the breaking of the day.” Mr. Davies is a tenor of repute, and as usual, acquitted himself with honours. Next came Mr. George Harding, New Tredegar, who favoured the audience with a selection on the concertina “Bells of Aberdovey” (loudly applauded). The comic song, “Oh! What a mug,” sung in character by Mr. D. Tasker, Merthyr, was encored. The band then played a

selection "Infant Saviour" very ably. Part II commenced with an excellent piano solo by Ap Myrddin. Trio, "Duw bydd trugarog," Mrs. Jones, Messrs. R. Davies and J. Powell, was given in splendid style. The comic song, "You should never marry if you have no cash," was given by Mr. D. Tasker, followed by a concertina solo by Mr. G. Harding, which was encored. Then followed: Song, "Alone on the raft," Mr. R. Davies; song, "Honour in arms," Mr. J. Powell; song, "Daddy," Miss M. Lewis; song, "The first in wisdom," Mr. S. Hier; comic song, "You always sure to find her with a -," Mr. Tasker, who was encored, and sung "Good Tidings,;" Mr. C. M. Jones sung the National Anthem, and after the usual votes of thanks, the meeting terminated.

"Merthyr Express" 24 December 1887

Gelligaer School Board: Vochriw Schools A letter was read from Mr. W. O. Morgan of Vochriw asking that Joseph Evans be retained at the school as an assistant master. The Clerk was directed to reply that, Board having arranged the staff, it could not now be altered. Mrs. Lewis attended before the Board, and stated that Mr. Morgan would not allow her boy, Edward Lewis, who was injured at Vochriw, to attend the school until he was again able to resume his work. All the members were in favour of the boy attending school, and the Clerk was directed to inform Mr. Morgan.

Anniversary Services Anniversary services were held at Noddfa Baptist Chapel on Sunday last. The Rev. B. D. Johns was the preacher. At Carmel, Rev. Davies, Moriah, Dowlais, was the preacher.