KETTERING.

CHURCH INSTITUTE MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT CLASS.—"The Temperance Question" was the subject of an admirable paper given before the above class on Monday evening last by Mr. W. Smith. The Rev. T. Wilkinsonin presided, and there was a fair attendance. The paper gave rise to a lively discussion, in which the rev. Chairman and Messrs. W. E. Hazell, J. J. R. Arnott, J. W. Steff, W. Dilks, T. Barker, F. Hill, H. Raby, and J. Arnold took part; and at the close, on the motion of Mr. J. Barker, seconded by Mr. T. Coles, a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Smith for his address.

TOLLGATE ROAD, BETHESDA, CONGREGATIONAL SOCIETY.—At the meeting of the society, held on Monday evening last, Mr. R. H. Wallis presided. Prayer was offered by the Chairman, "The Sabbath is not antagonistic to Religion." The meeting, which was numerously attended, was addressed by the rev. J. Ward, Mr. J. Watson, and before closing a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman for his spirited conduct.

A HOLIDAY GLIMPSE AT AMERICA.—The above was the title of a lecture delivered in connection with the Church Institute on Thursday evening, 19th inst., by the Rev. P. J. Pennefather, vicar of St. Mary Magdalene, Moorfields, and Chaplain to the last Northamptonshire Rifle Volunteers. The lecture was very informally attended by the Rev. Canon Lindsay, the Rev. Canon Lindsay. At the conclusion of the lecture, which was listened with close attention by the audience, a vote of thanks was accorded to the rev. Lecturer with acclamation.

VOLUNTEER CHALLENGE PLATE.—The handsome and valuable silver challenge plate, presented by the Corporation of Grafton for competition between the companies of the Northamptonshire Rifle Volunteers, and won last year by the Kettering company, has been on view at the Mercury Office during the current year by the M (Kettering) Company for proficiency in class firing, has been on view seven days during the week, in Mr. D. Baxter's shop window, High-street, where it was a subject of much admiration. The plate, which is valued at estimated at £500, and for security it is removed each evening to the Bank, and displayed in the drawing-room of that establishment until morning.

WEBSTER, ALBERTON, AND KETTERING ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting and dinner in connection with the Weekley, Warkton, and Kettering Association for the Promotion of Felone took place on Monday week at the Royal Hotel, when about 70 members and invited guests sat down. The table was presided over by Mr. G. W. Lamb, and at the conclusion of the dinner the usual numerous toasts followed, viz. "Health of the Queen and Royal Family" and "Prosperity to the Weekley, Warkton, and Kettering Association," were proposed and duly honoured by the company. The annual report showed that the association continued in a sound state of finance, the association unimitated its position, and that its efficiency was in a highly forward state of discipline.

DRAPHOUSE MATCH.—A match was played on Saturday afternoon, at the Kettering Bowling Green, between Messrs. Grauby and Kettering Draughts Clubs. The visitors were over-matched and defeated by a majority of one game in winning only eight games. Score:—

KETTERING.		GRAUBY.	
Mr. A. Bailey	11	Mr. J. Tow	13
„ H. Clarke	11	„ H. Farrar	9
„ J. Clarke	11	„ H. Oldershaw	13
„ F. Gibbons	11	„ J. Bidwell	13
„ A. Leasby	11	„ J. Clarke	13
„ J. Gibbons	11	„ H. Oldershaw	6
„ J. Stanley	0	„ H. Clarke	6
„ H. Johnson	0	„ J. Hassell	6
„ F. Newman	0	„ J. Burnham	6
„ J. Hawkins	0	„ J. Newman	11
„ S. L. Nursey	0	„ J. Phipps	6
Total	8		56

CHURCH INSTITUTE DRAMATIC SOCIETY.—A public performance of Shakespeare's "Much Ado about Nothing" was given in the Corn Exchange on Wednesday evening, the 25th inst., by members of the above society, before a very large and fashionable audience. It is well to be remembered that in previous years the society has given adequate rendering of several of the masterpieces of England's greatest dramatist without marked success, and it was with a feeling of some fear for the success of some of the finest passages ever spoken to a considerable audience, that the attempted representation of Shakespeare was made by male actors. In the present instance this misgiving was happily not realized, and the audience was in the very heartily congratulated on the fact that in the person of Mr. Frank Bailey, as Dogberry, Mr. Bailey has proved a very high Dogberry and are competent to undertake the representation of the comparatively unimportant characters. The Hero was in the sightly and sparkling Beatrice gave ample evidence of her discretion and ability to do full justice to the character, and the latter appeared to advantage in the character of the amiable and true Hero. The Dogberry and Verges characters of Margaret and Ursula were adequately supported by Miss Bailey and Mr. Bailey, and the Leonato of Mr. Gertrude Felce, Miss Ethel Hardwick, Miss Grace Jowett, and Miss Bailey, Balthazar, as Dogberry, appeared largely by their presence to the beauty and effectiveness of the scene in the last act. The Don Pedro of Mr. Frank Benedick was worthily sustained by Mr. E. Maidmount; the Prince, Mr. Charles Clarke, Mr. Frank Bailey, Mr. Prince of Arragon, Mr. H. Norwood, Don John, the bastard, Mr. W. Dixon, Borachio, Mr. Frank Bailey, Conrade, Mr. Hero, Mr. H. Stainer; Antonio, his brother, Mr. A. Bird; Balthazar, Mr. Frank Bailey, Verges, Mr. Frank Bailey, Dogberry, Mr. T. H. Salmon; Conrade, Mr. E. Southall; the Sexton, Mr. W. Dixon; Hero, Mr. W. Mace; Leonato, Mr. W. Coleman; Watchmen, Mr. T. West, and Mr. J. Bailey; Messenger, Mr. Frank Bailey; Musicians, Mr. Robinson. The great hit of the evening was undoubtedly made by Mr. Frank Bailey, whose representation of the character of Dogberry was almost perfect. He was well supported by Mr. Frank Bailey, as his partner, Verges. The interest of the audience was maintained at the highest pitch throughout the entire play, and at the conclusion they were brought to a conclusion at about 10.45. The String Band of the Institute, conducted by Mr. J. Bailey, played a number of selections at intervals during the acts, and appropriate music made was rendered by Mr. Charles Bailey on a choir under the guidance of Mr. Rosom, who presided at the organ. The stage was fitted up by Mr. Bailey, and the scenery, which was of the most appropriate description, was designed and executed by Mr. Charles Bailey. Dresses for principal characters being supplied by Mr. Walker, Mr. Bailey and C. W. Lane and Mr. J. Bailey, and the Hero, Mr. Watson, and before closing a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the rev. Lecturer with acclamation.

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WEBSTER, ALBERTON, AND KETTERING ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting and dinner in connection with the Weekley, Warkton, and Kettering Association for the Prosecution of Felone took place on Monday week at the Royal Hotel, when about 70 members and invited guests sat down. The table was presided over by Mr. G. W. Lamb, and at the conclusion of the dinner the usual numerous toasts followed, viz. "Health of the Queen and Royal Family" and "Prosperity to the Weekley, Warkton, and Kettering Association," were proposed and duly honoured by the company. The annual report showed that the association continued in a sound state of finance, the association unimitated its position, and that its efficiency was in a highly forward state of discipline.

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THRAPSTON.

WE are pleased to be able to notice that the "Minstrels of Thrapston" have made a substantial contribution towards the sum of four guineas as a donation to the County Hospital.

BAPTIST SUNDAY TREAT.—On Thursday, Jan. 19th, the annual treat for the children connected with the above place of worship was held in the Schoolroom. About 150 sat down to tea, after which a dramatic piece, entitled "Beauty and the Beast," in which the children were taken by friends and gentlemen connected with the congregation, was given.

TESTIMONIAL.—On Tuesday afternoon last, in the mahogany room, the Lamb Hotel, Thrapston, presented to Mr. Parkin, for some years farmingmaster of the Northamptonshire Union, at the Visiting Committee Room, Workhouse Hall. The idea was originated by Mr. Sylvanus Brown, who was the chairman of the Thrapston Branch of the Northamptonshire Agricultural and others in the vicinity, with which he was connected, and was unanimously carried, and had been instantaid and handsome marble timepieces, on which was inscribed the following inscription:—"Presented to Mr. Thomas Parkin, of Great Addington, for his faithful services as farmingmaster of the Thrapston Workhouse, January, 1888."

SUDDEN DEATH.—On the night of the 24th inst., another "smoking concert," which was well attended, was held at the Cross Keys Inn, Thrapston. The concert, like the previous one, was organized in order to assist a bicycle club, and was well patronized. It was a late hour when the club left the inn, and it was about 2 o'clock in the morning that a dispute on an agreement that he should pay £2 to Mr. Bailey, and £1 to Mr. Bailey, until the time of the sale of his own and the owner or his agent.—The first witness was Mr. Matthew Brown.—The first witness was the manager of an estate at Cottingham, belonging to Mr. Brown, of Great Addington, in 1887, he had charge of the making of the poles growing on a portion of the estate known as the Lime Kiln Wood, and he was instructed to make the fence enclosing the Wood, and he was instructed to make the fence enclosing the Wood, and he was instructed to make the fence enclosing the