

A.D. 1853.
A curious
epitaph.

Upon a tombstone in Northallerton churchyard may be seen the following curious inscription :—

“ Hic jacet Walter Gunn,
Sometime landlord of the ‘ Sun,’
Sic transit gloria mundi !
He drank hard upon Friday,
That being a high day,
Then took to his bed and died on Sunday.” *

1856.
Establish-
ment of
Police Force.

Previous to this year the peace of the town had been preserved by parish constables, elected annually by the rate-payers in vestry assembled, and confirmed by the magistrates in Petty Sessions. But on the establishment of the county police force in the town, the ancient and honorary office of parish constable, although it did not immediately die out, became a merely nominal one; and it was not until the death of Richard Nicholson, “the last of the watchmen,” that these relics of antiquity vanished into oblivion. Not that Northallerton needed a stronger staff of peace-preservers, for seldom was the pacific surface of public life ruffled by any thing more alarming than the song of a midnight inebriate; and even if it had, the united courage of “Dickey, the watchman” and three parish constables, invested with official dignity and armed with the “terrors of the law,” would have been more than sufficient to quell even a small riot. But like their blue-coated and brass buttoned successors, these official ornaments were seldom to be found upon the scene until the storm was over. The three gentlemen who last fulfilled the onerous duties of parish constables, were Messrs. Akers, Hardy, and J. Fairburn in or about 1875.

Captain Hill.

Thomas Hill, esq. (late captain North York Militia), appointed chief constable of the North-Riding, October 4th, 1856.

The Shepherd
family.

The members of the Shepherd family were remarkable for the satisfactory discharge of their duties as governors of gaols. Thomas Shepherd was governor of the gaol at Northallerton, and his sons respectively governors of York castle, and the gaols at Wakefield, Beverley, and Northallerton. For many years all these important county gaols continued to be in charge of these good Shepherds; a grandson becoming governor of Wakefield gaol, and a son-in-law governor of York castle.

Closing of the
Churchyard.

The churchyard being ordered to be closed by the Secretary of State, the site of the castle, west of the church, was purchased and laid out in a suitable manner for a cemetery; the southern half was consecrated on the 20th September, 1856, by bishop Spencer (acting for Dr. Musgrave, archbishop of York), and appropriated to the members of the

Consecration
of the
Cemetery.

* *Home Companion* of December 10th, 1853.

established church; the northern half to the dissenters. Two chapels were erected, in which the funeral services are respectively performed.* A.D. 1856.

At the general election, this borough was contested by W. B. Wrightson, esq., and the hon. Egremont Lascelles, second son of Henry, third earl of Harewood, and brother to the present earl. The election took place on Friday, the 27th March, the proceedings being opened by W. T. Jefferson, esq., the returning officer. Mr. Hare proposed Mr. Wrightson, and J. Pattison, esq., seconded the nomination. F. R. Gibbs, esq., then came forward and proposed Mr. Lascelles, who was seconded by C. J. D. Ingledew, esq. A show of hands was taken, and declared to be in favour of Mr. Wrightson, when a poll was demanded by the friends of Mr. Lascelles, which took place the following day (Saturday) and closed as follows:—

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Lascelles.....	126

On the 6th of May, an order in council was made transferring, among other portions of the revenue of the see of Ripon, the manor of Northallerton, from the see of Ripon to the ecclesiastical commissioners, in whose possession the manor now remains.

In or about this year, the right hon. J. Evelyn Denison, Speaker of the House of Commons, having expressed his intention to go abroad during the recess, it became incumbent that a deputy should be appointed. Previous to the prorogation this responsible office was conferred on W. B. Wrightson, esq., M.P. for Northallerton, of Cusworth Park, Doncaster. This distinguished honour to the veteran member afforded much gratification to the inhabitants of Northallerton and district. Mr. Wrightson appointed Deputy Speaker.

This year a workhouse for the Northallerton Poor Law Union was erected on the east side of the town. The Work-house.

On June 20th, 1857, a handsome piece of plate was presented to James Pulleine, esq., of Crakehall, valued at £480. The subject is taken from the "Battle of the Standard." An interesting presentation. The principal figure is David, king of Scotland, mounted on a magnificent war horse, and engaged in mortal combat with two warriors on foot, the king wielding a battle axe, and his assailants attacking him with spears. On the right of the king there are two other figures representing prince Henry wounded, and supported by a courtier. The king and his son are represented wearing coats of mail, and the former is

* By the "Burials Act, 1880," one chapel only is now necessary, permission being given alike to all to inter in any part of the cemetery, on complying with the conditions of the Act.

A.D. 1857 warding off the blows of his assailants with a massive shield. On the battle ground are some pieces of broken swords and several arrows, which appear to have recently pierced the ground. The whole is composed of bronze work with an undulating surface, and is mounted on a large circular block or pedestal of wood, upon which there are two silver plates; the one bearing Mr. Pulleine's coat of arms, with the motto "*Nulla pallescere culpa*;" and on the other is inscribed "This piece of plate was presented to James Pulleine, esq., chairman during sixteen years of the Quarter Sessions of the North Riding of Yorkshire, by justices, attorneys, and other friends, in token of their grateful thanks to him for the care and attention with which he protected the interests of the rate-payers, and for the unwearied zeal and ability with which he discharged the business of the court, and upheld the dignity of the bench, A.D. 1857."

1859.
General Elec-
tion.

At the general election on April 30th, 1859, W. B. Wrightson, esq., and C. H. Mills, esq., came forward as candidates. The contest was a keen one throughout, both parties being confident of victory up to the declaration of the poll. At the close of the poll, the numbers stood—

Wrightson.....	138
Mills.....	136

1860.
South Parade.

In this year the town of Northallerton began to exhibit signs of increasing vitality, houses being erected in the direction of the railway station. The first house of a new street called the South Parade was erected by Mr. Miles Soppet.

1862.
A tragic event

Early on the morning of January 26th, 1862, a man named Johnson Metcalfe, watchmaker, of Northallerton, whilst under the influence of liquor, entered his house, procured his gun, returned into the street and shot at another man named William Parker, of Brompton, inflicting a wound from which he died a few hours afterwards. For this crime Metcalfe was tried on the charge of wilful murder at York Assizes, convicted of manslaughter, and sentenced to ten years' penal servitude, from which he was released on a ticket-of-leave after the expiration of seven years. It may interest our readers to know that Metcalfe died eighteen years afterwards within a few hours of the time when the crime was committed. Shortly before his death, Metcalfe expressed a desire to be buried in an upright position, in order that he might be prepared "to run at the sound of the last trump."

The Savings'
Bank.

The new Savings' Bank was opened in this year. It stands on the site of the old Guild Hall.

George Gardner, esq., (late captain 13th Hussars), appointed governor of the North-Riding House of Correction, at the Midsummer Sessions in this year.

The foundation stone of a new Wesleyan Chapel was laid on June 23rd, 1864, by Thomas Sadler, esq., of Bedale. The site of the chapel was for many years occupied by the "Pack Horse Inn." A jar was placed in the cavity under the stone by the rev. D. Williams, containing a roll of parchment, on which was engrossed the names of the trustees of the new chapel, ministers of the circuit, treasurers, corresponding secretary, and the secretary of trustees' meetings; also the names of the architects and builders, a preachers' plan for circuit, and a copy of the *Northallerton and Bedale Times* newspaper. The trowel and mallet were presented to Mr. Sadler by Mr. R. M. Middleton on behalf of the trustees.

A.D. 1864.
New Wesleyan Chapel.

This was by far the most important engagement of the Maorie war, and perhaps the most disastrous to the British troops, for in it Lieutenant-colonel H. J. P. Booth, of Northallerton was dangerously wounded, subsequently dying from the wounds then received. The following is a detailed account:—

Assault of the
"Gate Pa."

Lieutenant-general Cameron, commanding the forces, having made a reconnaissance of the rebel intrenchments at Puke-hina-hina (Gate Pa), an attack was organised. On the highest point of a neck of land, a quarter of a mile wide, of which the slopes fell off on either side into swamp, the Maories had constructed an oblong redoubt, well palisaded and surrounded by strong post-and-rail fence, difficult to bowl over with artillery, and an almost invulnerable obstacle to an assaulting column. The intervals between the side faces of the redoubt and the swamp were defended by an intrenched line of rifle-pits. The 68th Light Infantry, with a mixed detachment under Major Ryan, 70th regiment, encamped on the 27th, twelve hundred yards distant, and on that and the following day the guns and mortars intended to breach the position were brought up to the camp, augmented by a large force of seamen and marines from the squadron of Commodore sir William Wiseman. Head-quarters and five companies of the 43rd, under command of Lieutenant-colonel Booth, joined.

After dark a feigned attack was made on the front of the enemy's position, to divert their attention from a flank movement by the 68th, who had received orders to gain the rear and so surround them, which it was conjectured could be effected at low water by passing along the beach and outside the swamp on their right. The manœuvre succeeded perfectly, and in the A.M. the 68th, in extended order, was in rear of the enemy. The guns and mortars opened soon after daybreak, their fire being principally directed against the left angle of the centre work, regarded as the least impregnable point. At twelve o'clock a six-pounder Armstrong gun was