

as he was on the eve of taking his departure for his native country.

An old man named Davison, said to be a tract distributor, and the recipient of aid from a local benevolent institution, was arrested in Geelong on Friday afternoon as he was chasing some boys through the streets of Ashby, having scarcely any clothing on. On being arrested, he attacked the constable, and made use of disgusting and obscene language. He was brought before the Police Court on Saturday, and sentenced to two months' imprisonment for exposure, and ordered to pay £5, or serve another month in gaol, for using obscene language.

"ANOTHER fatal kerosene accident," is the heading of a paragraph in the *Bendigo Independent*. It appears that on the 26th ult. a little girl, the daughter of Mr. Marquand, of the German Grammar School, Ironbark, tried to accelerate the progress of a fire she was lighting by pouring kerosene upon it. The usual result followed—the flame entering the tin, which exploded, and the poor little girl was immediately wrapped in a sheet of flame. Every assistance was rendered, but the poor child died in great agony about two hours after receiving the injuries.

The odium is reported to have partially destroyed the grapes in and around Deniliquin.

At the Geelong Police Court on Monday a man named Jefferson, alias Shenandoah, who had ill-used John Leby on the road between Cressy and Rokewood, was committed for trial. The dispute arose about the possession of a bottle of gin, complainant saying that if Shenandoah wanted the bottle he must fight for it. A fight ensued; both men were drunk at the time. Complainant had been in the Geelong Hospital a month.

Notice of action has been given to the proprietors of the *Wagga Wagga Advertiser* for charging, by a letter published therein, a clergyman with smoking in the public school in the presence of the children during a recent visit.

DIPHTHERIA has made its appearance at the village of the Junction, just beyond Mount Warrenheip. Mr. Hogan, who had a family of five children, lost two by this disease last week.

A STRIKE has taken place amongst the men employed by the North Huttler's Reef Company, Bendigo. The company gave the miners in their employ the option of either working eight hours at £2 2s. per week, or nine hours at £2 5s. per week, which they refused to accept.

The revenue officers of Eaglehawk have had a pretty good haul. From various unlicensed houses in the district they have secured for confiscation about £250 worth of liquor.

ACCORDING to the *Riverine Herald*, Edward Des Vaux, who did not surrender to his bail at the Melbourne Police Court recently on a charge of indecent conduct, passed through Echuca on Thursday last, having hired a buggy there to convey him to Deniliquin.

The Geelong Gas Company will hold its half-yearly meeting on Monday next. The balance-sheet shows a profit of £1434 9s. 10d. for the six months. The directors in their report will recommend a dividend at the rate of ten per cent. per annum, after paying which there will, it is said, be a good margin left for depreciation and reserve fund.

It would appear that the deer which have been acclimatised at Longerenong by Mr. S. Wilson are either spreading very fast or travel far, as a herd of these beautiful animals has been seen at the other side of the Grampians, there being as nearly as could be guessed about thirty in the mob, and a number of young fawns.

JOSEPH SUZUKA has turned up again in Gipps Land, where he writes to the local paper to say that he is willing to prove that the ammonia remedy of Professor Halford is of no use as against the bite of any of our Gipps Land snakes. "I will capture one of each species, and allow any number of dogs to be bitten by them, and Professor Halford's so-called remedy afterwards applied."

An accident occurred on Monday on the North-eastern Railway at Wallan Wallan, by which a man named John Geo. Millar, thirty-four years of age, was injured. Some trucks loaded with iron were running down an incline, the iron overlapping the trucks. The man in attendance to stop the trucks got his leg crushed between the iron and the truck. He was brought into town and taken to the hospital.

A LUCKY discovery was made on Saturday last by a little boy at Pegleg Gully, Eaglehawk. On a spot where a tent had once been pitched a little boy was fossicking among the rubbish and put his hand on a small match-box, which was in an advanced state of decay, but on being broken was found to contain 12 oz. 10 dwt. of nice shotty gold. The boy's parents, who are in somewhat poor circumstances, rejoiced at the lucky discovery.

At the Geelong Police Court on Saturday last, Joseph Storey, an ex-pubican of Belmont, was fined in various sums and costs, amounting to nearly £5, for assaulting constable Guest, tearing his uniform, using obscene language, and being drunk and disorderly. Storey objected to go to gaol in default on the ground that he was not on good terms with the governor.

The Shire Council of Seymour has adopted a novel method of solving a difficulty which has arisen in consequence of publicans neglecting to make their application in proper time, the new Publicans' Act being in this respect somewhat different from the old act. They have determined to issue such licences without the intervention of the Licensing Bench. The case, it is acknowledged, is an exceptional one, and they have adopted a resolution to prevent its being recognised as a precedent for future guidance.

The new Chinese temple on Forty-foot Hill, Castlemaine, is going up. The contractors are Chinese, and the European builders say that the work is very well done. The structure, with its furniture, will cost several hundred pounds. The altar will be a most elaborate specimen of mosaic carved wood work. It would have been well (says the *Mail*) if a better site had been chosen, but the Chinese leave the choice of situation to their deity.

The grasshoppers are becoming a pest in several parts of the colony. They appear to have fairly established themselves at Ararat. It is complained they are preying on the orchards.

THERE seems every prospect of the projected Portland Railway Company being established. The sale of shares is progressing in the most satisfactory manner; 2,500 shares, representing £13,000, have been taken up in the town of Portland alone.

THE Cornish boarding-house, Ballarat, was destroyed by fire on Saturday morning last. The *Post* states that the house was the property of Thomas Francis Love, a driver in the employment of the Ballarat and Sebastopol Omnibus Company, who went to Melbourne with the company's busses, leaving his two daughters, young women about twenty years of age, to carry on the boarding-house business. These young persons escaped from the flames with great difficulty, and were not able to save even a change of dress. Mr. Love was uninsured, and has lost nearly everything he possessed.

A VERY narrow escape from a serious accident occurred on the Sydney road, Coburg, on Sunday evening. A vehicle was being driven by a Mr. Maurice Unger, some five or six ladies being occupants at the time, in the direction of Melbourne. Suddenly the horse kicked violently and endeavoured to make a bolt, and succeeded in doing so for a short distance. The whole front of the vehicle was smashed to pieces, and one of the ladies was kicked severely, but fortunately no bones were broken.

ONE of the four greys so often admired in the Beechworth coach was killed the other morning. As the early coach was passing through Coburg to Melbourne, the traces attached to the leaders became disarranged in some way, which set the horse kicking so violently that he struck the shaft horse above the knee, breaking its leg. The animal was shot.

THE district coroner recently held an inquest at Keilor on the body of a boy six years of age. Deceased had gone into a paddock with his elder brother to bring home some cows. While the elder of the two was away for a short time deceased got into a creek, and was found drowned in it. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death by drowning.

ANOTHER instance of the male sex taking to ruseury duties has occurred at Pleasant Creek. In a poultry yard there (says the *News*) one of the hens had brought out a brood of chickens, but from some cause or other she sickened and became unable to look after her charge. The male bird took the maternal duties upon him, which he performed effectually till the hen died. He has now taken sole charge, and gathers the young birds under his wings at intervals during the day and at night.

THE imbroglio between the mining board of Ballarat and the Minister of Mines, in reference to which members should retire from office, has been settled by two members out of the four who have sat for two years consenting to retire, in accordance with the custom that those who received the smallest number of votes at the preceding election should retire first. Those thus situated were Messrs. Croker and Nettell, who, with Messrs. Lamb and Eddy, retire at this election.

A VERY consoling picture is drawn by the *Alexandra Times* of the condition of the township of Alexandra arising from the want of a supply of water. It says:—"The people of Alexandra are sleeping on the very mouth of a volcano. Every store in the place contains a large quantity of gunpowder. A loose lucifer match, a hot windy day, and away goes every house in Alexandra. The only water we have to extinguish the flames is contained in a few tin-lined cases, and such additional supply as could be procured by our watermen at the rate of two hogheads per hour. A dozen sailors, each with a good quid of tobacco in his mouth, could do as much to extinguish the fire, by spitting on it, as all the people of Alexandra can do with their present water supply. If the insurance companies in Melbourne were fully aware of how helpless is our position in case of fire, we question whether they would insure property here at any price."

NEVER go to law. The amount expended in damages and law costs last year by the Barrabool Shire Council was £402 15s. 4d., a very nice percentage of the rates collected.

A PAINFUL case of bigamy is reported from Egerton. A young woman there has married a man named James Allen, the fruits of the marriage being one child. Allen (says the *Ballarat Courier*) is a miner; and as he was returning from his work at the Black Horse shaft recently, he was arrested on warrant by Constable Gibson, charged with deserting his lawful wife, whom he left in Adelaide six years ago, and with whom Allen had not had any communication since. The feelings of the poor young creature—who thought she was his wife, and has been so basely deceived—may be as easily imagined as described.

AN insupportable calamity has occurred to a lady at Stawell. She lost a favourite cockatoo about three months ago—a particularly advanced bird, well cultured in the English language, and with an occasional penchant for expetives. The lady was of the spinster persuasion, so that she mourned the bird with unceasing regret. On Thursday week her

domestic was surprised to find that the tap of the tank was stopped, when examination proved that some naughty boy had "shang-hai'd" the clever bird, which had fallen into the water, and choked up the pipe. The lady to her horror found she had been regaling on diluted cockatoo—actually drinking her darling from the period of the separation.

Owing to the energy of the Railway Department in pushing on the contractors for the first section of the North-eastern Railway, it is expected that the whole length of the line, excepting a mile or so, will be opened for traffic in April. The permanent way is now laid within six miles of Kilmore, and a portion of it between Broadford and Tallarook. Respecting the third section the *Border Post* remarks that "Mr. Dalrymple takes the management of the works from Chiltern to Wodonga, Mr. Holton from Wangaratta to Chiltern, and Mr. Cain from Benalla to Wangaratta."

A NEW phase is likely to be given to railway contracting. The *Courier* states that several parties of working men are now forming in Ballarat to tender for small sections, believing that Mr. Longmore will adopt a suggestion that the new lines should be let in small sections before competition for the work is invited. Some of the parties, if successful, intend to adopt the co-operative system—that is, to work together for their own benefit instead of, as under the old principle, doing all the hard work whilst the capitalist tenderer has carried off all the profits.

INTERCOLONIAL.

TASMANIA.

All doubt of the thorough acclimatisation of the brown trout in Tasmania is declared by the *H. T. Mercury* to be at an end. There were, on Tuesday week, to be seen in the shop of that ardent disciple of Izaak Walton, Mr. Weaver, such a basket of fish, the produce of his own hook, as has never before been seen in Hobart Town. Besides some smaller trout, there were six weighing together upwards of 30lbs.—as one of these weighed only 21lbs., the other five weighed 25lb. Of these, one, in most beautiful condition, weighed 5lb. 10oz. These trout were the produce of one day's fishing in the Derwent from 11 a.m., and of the next day's up to that hour. But where are the salmon?

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

As illustrating the heat in South Australia the experience of Gawler may be taken. From the South Australian papers we learn that at that flourishing township the weather during the past week has been exceedingly oppressive, the thermometer ranging from 98deg. to 112deg. in the shade. In consequence of this death has been very rife among the infantile population; diarrhoea, dysentery, and congestion of the brain have carried off several little sufferers. Mr. Buchan's death on Monday filled the town with consternation. He was a stout, strong man apparently, and was smitten and died in an hour—cause, apoplexy from the heat. On Tuesday two children died from the heat, one in its mother's arms, in the street, while it was being taken to see the doctor. While Mr. Buchan was being buried, a man named George Smith, who had been in the 50th Regiment, was smitten with sunstroke, and despite all remedies applied by Dr. Nott and others, died very shortly after. The same evening, W. Parnell Gregory was found dead on Mr. Crisp's farm, and at the inquest a verdict was recorded of death from fatigue and the excessive heat.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The Earl of Belmore returns to England by the *Sobraon* early in February. A private letter received in Sydney from Ceylon states that Sir Hercules and Lady Robinson leave Ceylon on the 2nd January for England, and the Governor makes no secret of his desire to remain in Ceylon rather than go to New South Wales, should he be able to persuade Mr. Gregory, M.P., to take his place, and get the consent of the Secretary of State.

An instance of magisterial weakness has been made public for the consideration of the Attorney-General of New South Wales. The *O. and M. Advertiser*, impelled, as it says, by a stern sense of public duty, gives the name of a Wangaratta magistrate who one hot day delayed the business. He "put down," or made the attempt to do so, Mr. Montfort (who is a most efficient officer), and exhibited to the public generally a behaviour which was altogether unbecomingly on a judicial bench. Why he so behaved we do not know, though we have a guess; but we hold that Her Majesty's lieges, charged justly or unjustly with offences, should be freed from the danger of having their cases adjudicated upon by a man or men unfit for the moment to decide on any question."

The thermometer at Deniliquin stood for days at 106 in the shade, a muggy heat, with the atmosphere perfectly still, and the *Pastoral Times* describes the citizens as walking about outside their houses after bedtime in their nightclothes. One gentleman tried to sleep under his pump, but a flock of goats had got there, and it was in vain that he pumped water over them. They enjoyed the bath, and would not budge an inch.

The *Sydney Evening News* of the 25th January gives an account of the late case of drowning at Bondi. The following is an abridgment of it:—Mr. F. Cornelius was fishing under the cliffs, when he heard a noise overhead as if of stones falling. After listening for a short time and seeing nothing more, he turned round, and saw in the water a man struggling with the waves and ap-

parently drowning. It was flood time, and although the weather was calm the waves were rolling in heavily, and the struggling man was kept afloat, although he did not appear able to swim. Mr. Cornelius called out to him to keep his courage up until he went for his fishing line. At this moment the drowning man seemed quite sensible, and although he never spoke he showed by his looks that he was quite aware Mr. Cornelius was endeavouring to save him. His movements gave the idea that he was disabled in the legs. Mr. Cornelius, after breaking off his line from the rocks, with which in the hurry of the moment it had got entangled, returned to where the unfortunate man was battling for his life with the waves, and after two or three ineffectual attempts to throw the line close enough, succeeded in throwing it round the drowning man, who unfortunately was too far gone then to grasp it, having the moment before vomited, as if in a last effort of nature. When Mr. Cornelius commenced to haul on the line, a tremendous wave coming in washed it from his hold on the man's body, and the back water dragged the poor fellow to seaward. The tide was young flood, and the poor fellow, who during all this time never sank, was seen by our informant for fully half-an-hour rising and falling with the waves, and being carried towards North Head. Nothing is as yet known as to who the unfortunate man was, or what brought him to the cliff where he met his death.

FUJI.

FURTHER papers and advices from Fiji have supplied several additional and important items of news. Tui Thakau, the only great ruling chief of the Fijian Archipelago who had not fully submitted to the Government of King Thakombau, had given in his adhesion to that Government, and had been appointed viceroy of Thakombau. The Government had appointed a commission to investigate the claim to compensation of white settlers of Draketi for injuries done by the natives. The intention, as understood, was in this and any similar cases which might thereafter occur, to enforce payment of such compensation by and from the district wherein the injuries were committed. The Government were investigating the condition of native labourers on plantations, and appeared determined to carry out the law for the protection and surveillance of such labourers. A "Commission of the Peace" had been issued, including the names of seventy-seven gentlemen. Mr. Patrick Brougham, warden of the provincial court of the central district, had been commissioned to administer the oaths of office to the new magistrates.

The following description of the capture of the Solomon Islanders who committed the series of murders a short time ago on board a small schooner, while being conveyed to their plantations, is condensed from the *Fiji Gazette* of the 23rd December.—H.P.M. schooner Jeannie Duncan arrived off Beva at one p.m. on the 7th December, when all hands were landed. On the same day three of the fugitives were found in a native hut with their hands tied behind their backs. Here Mr. Caldwell became greatly excited, and, presenting his rifle at one of the prisoners, so frightened him that he jumped to his feet and rushed for the bush. Mr. Peichard fired and missed him, and several of the party followed in pursuit, and the unfortunate wretch received a shot in his head and another in his body. He then made for the sea (having got his hands loose), into which he dashed, and swam towards a point of land in the distance. As he was swimming, however, he received two bullets in the right breast, and finally, as a *coup de grace*, one in the back, which passed through his body. He then threw up his arms, and the Fiji men easily captured him, and brought him ashore a riddled, quivering specimen of humanity, but still alive. On the 9th two more Solomon men were captured, completing a total of six prisoners under arrest. The remainder of the original party that landed, having stolen a dingy, made away, and are supposed to have perished. On Sunday, 10th, at 1.46 a.m. "All Serene Jack," being the sentry on guard over the prisoners, fell asleep, and one of them escaped. Early in the morning a strong party was sent out in search, and the bush was explored in every direction, but without success. On Wednesday the party with the wounded and remaining prisoners was got on board his majesty's schooner, and adieu was bid to Beva. The vessel arrived in sight of Levuka on the 17th, and came to her moorings on the afternoon of the same day.

The Government have lost no time in making arrangements for the construction of a municipal council. The election of aldermen took place on the 2nd January. Mr. J. Morey was elected mayor.

Several gentlemen are at present in town from the Ba and Raki Raki districts. They report the Kai Colos insurgent along a lengthy line of coast. Last Saturday at Ba the coast natives reported that the mountaineers were coming down. On Sunday they reported that the Kai Colos had been down and burned six lotu (Christian) towns, besides plundering the yam crops. They likewise sent soros down to some of the principal coast towns, asking them to assist in the murder of the white settlers. A body of about 400 coast natives were about to proceed to the plundered plantations for the purpose of recovering as much food as possible. It was expected that there would then be a collision between the belligerent forces. The Kai Colos had not in any way molested the settlers, although it is quite evident from their rising on the same day that it was a premeditated and well-organised movement.