SHIPPING.

Wind, S.W., moderate; fine.

ARRIVALS.—21st MAY.

Derwent, steamer, from Launceston.

DEPARTURES.—20th MAY.

Yoo Yang, steamer, for Sydney.

21st MAY.

Gimblas, barque, for Newcastle; Trader, schooner, for Warrnambool; Martha and Jane, schooner, for Leith; Good Hope, ship, for San Francisco; Kate, barque, for Newcastle; Murray, steamer, for Port Albert.

PROBABLE DEPARTURES.

For London—Essex, 25th May; Enterprise, 30th May; City of Florence, 1st June; Windsor Castle, 3rd June; Hereville, 9th June; Lincolnshire, early.

For King George's Sound—Barcoo, this day.

For France via Suez—Etienne et Leverrier, early.

For San Francisco—Nevada (from Auckland), 15th June.

For Sydney—Dandenong, 23rd May; City of Adelaide, 28th May.

For Brisbane—City of Adelaide, 25th May.

For Adelaide—Coorong, Royal Shepherd, this day; Alhenia, 29th May.

For Lyttelton—Derwent, 23rd May.

For the New Zealand Ports—Rangitoto, this day; Albion, 27th May.

COMMERCIAL.

(From The Courier Office, Tuesday.

Business was a little better in the market to-day, but there was no change in rates. Potatoes are wanted at the advanced figure of £3 per ton, and good hay is in demand. We quote:—Best hay £4 10s to £5 5s, chaffing do £4 5s to £4 10s, wheaten straw £1 to £1 5s, oaten do £1 10s to £1, wheat 4s 2d to 4s 4d, oats 3s to 3s 3d, Cape barley 3s 6d, English do 3s, pollard 1s 4d, bran 1s 1d, potatoes £3 per ton, carrots 35s do, flour £15 to £15 10s do.

GEELONG CATTLE, WOOL, AND HIDE MARKET.

Messrs Napier, Vines, and Co. report:—Fat cattle—190 head yarded, generally of good to prime quality. The market was in her dull, and a considerable number were turned out. Our sales were—1 head at £8 for bullocks, and to £5 12s 6d for cows. Fat sheep—The supply forward was the smallest we have had for months, and sheep of good quality sold readily at an advance on last week's prices. We sold 120 ewes, light weights, second-rate quality, at 4s. Store stock—Good bullocks continue in demand, but hardly any such are offering, and steers of even middling quality realized high prices; cows, unless very good, are not so much enquired for. We held a sale at Camperdown on Friday last, when we offered about 900 head, and disposed of nearly 400 at £4 5s for steers, and to £4 15s 6d for cows. We have sold 280 cows at 4s 6d. Wool—Competition brisk; sales comprising Saxon 16½d to 19d, greasy pieces 7d, washed fleece 19½d per lb. Shoepskins—The wet weather prevented several consignments from coming to hand. We sold 1137 skins at from 47d to 56d, others in proportion. Lambs skins 30½d and 5½d per lb. Station skins, 25 lots, at from 7½ to 5½d for best, other from 6d to 7½d. Hides—We had 400 hides and calfskins; the biddings, however, were anything but spirited, and we passed several lots. We sold several lots green hides at from 4½ to 5d, wet hides 4½d to 5½d and 3d per hide; calfskins, 3d to 5d per lb; goat skins, 1s 5d per doz. Tallow—We sold 40 pipes at full market rates. Bark—We sold a parcel at £4 per ton.

DENILIQUIN STOCK REPORT.

Friday, 17th May.

Slight rains have fallen at Fort Bourke; though much needed work, there is scarcity of feed. Eight thousand wethers passed for Melbourne, also Durkin's 14,000 travelling sheep (Bendemeer); 4400 wethers and 2400 ewes bound for Melbourne, also 14,000 sheep (the sheep from River Darling Warrego); 6200 fat sheep had returned to Tocumla. Melbourne market not offering a sufficient inducement to sell. (We can hardly credit this statement.) From Charleville, 181 head of fat cattle started for Melbourne; 300 store cattle (Strahorn and Brothers) for Wagga Wagga; 75 head fat cattle (Perry's) for Bathurst; 13,000 sheep (M'Dermott's) were near Perilba; 870 store cattle (R. Towns and Co.'s) have started from Bourke for the southern markets. The river Darling is again falling at Bourke; 2300 fat sheep passed Wheamla for Adelaide from the Lower Paroo, also 4300 fat ewes from Mount Murchison, for same destination; 250 fat cattle, from Kathra, passed Wheamla for Victoria; 75 Upper Bogan fat cattle (Perry's) for Bathurst; 3000 fat sheep (Hunt and Crawford's) for Sydney; 40 fat cattle (Park's) for Bathurst; 800 store cattle (Hamborn's) for Wagga. At Ipswich, Queensland, stock and stations are in demand; 730 ewes and bullocks (principally the latter) sold at 6s 6d (Williams Hendson), and 500 bullocks on the border at 70s. Owners of sheep there are reported indifferent about selling; 4000 ewes, 3 and 4 years old wethers, with good fleeces (Marquis sheep), sold at 5s 6d. There was a brisk demand for fat cattle and fat sheep at Ipswich. At Wagga Wagga business during the week was slack; 290 head of store cattle were sold by Mr Wallace to Mr M'Laurin; Mr Forsyth sold the Browlan station to Mr De Lauret; 430 bullocks were sold by Mr Horsley to Mr Leitch; 45 bullocks by Mr Hogan to Mr M'Laurin; 1400 sheep were sold by Mr M'Nicholas to Messrs G. Wills and Co.; 1150 sheep, same owner, to Messrs E. Ingram; 2000 sheep, same owner, to Mr E. Ashcroft. Some steady rain had fallen at Wagga. The demand for store stock there was active, and lots quickly disposed of—bullocks at 50s to 90s, cows to 70s (the latter not so much in demand); cows in lamb 4s to 10s 6d, full-mouthed ewes from 5s 6d upwards. The recent favorable rains in Hay district have raised solid hopes of a good average lambing season. Feed is springing; the stubble is getting freshened up. There is a fair quantity of surface water, and heavy dews at night, which altogether will keep grass and herbage from suffering materially. Lambing is now pretty general throughout the district; 3400 fat sheep left Moulgo on 6th instant for Melbourne; 5600 fat sheep left Tepee, James Tyson's, on 11th instant; 2300 fat sheep left Kerarbury, Mackay, Clarke, and Co.'s—the three lots are for Melbourne. On the 13th instant, the Alma fat wethers, 3000, crossed the great at Hay; 5500 fat sheep left Kilfera (M Donald's), on 11th instant, for Melbourne, in charge of Woodridge. Our Booligal correspondent writes on 13th instant:—"Heavy rain has fallen on the Darling at Wilcannia, also all along the mail track from Wilcannia to Burke. Two mobs of cattle are near Hillston traveling down the Lachlan for Victoria—owners are not yet reported." Good sheep auctions are in demand at Sydney, and realize improved prices. Some large capitalists are looking out for suitable investments in these properties. A station in Northern Queensland has changed hands at 10s per head. Cattle stations are also in good request. The Pear Creek station, Leichhardt district, Queensland, was sold, with 1000 head of cattle, for £3000 cash. Store cattle very scarce. Purchasers were offering 70s per head for bullocks. The demand for store sheep was not quite so active—large-framed store wethers would still sell readily at late quotations. Messrs Foott and Co. sold 700 store cattle at Sydney (one-third cows), at 45s on round, delivery on the Darling; and, that being the fat cattle season, so great there (Foott and Co.) that several mobs of fair feed have not brought their value as stores in the battering districts. Now that the rains, slight though they were, have become general, we may expect some activity in store stock; large quantities are approaching Hay and Deniliquin. Green grass is springing up in moderate quantities, just sufficient *pro tem* for lambing purposes. Lambing in the Murrumbidgee district is becoming general, and hitherto it has been moderately successful. Following are the sales at Deniliquin:—18th May, Offham's 3000 fat sheep (D M'Carthy in charge); 18th, Osborne's 2000 do (Sproule in charge); 18th, Learmonth's 2000 do (M'Kenzie in charge). A flock of Colin Simson's fat sheep will be on commission on Sunday morning. The following are quoted, via Deniliquin, principally for Victorian markets:—1400 store cattle, from the Moorula (Mackay's), Ryan and Hammond, agents; 1300 store cattle (Bayley in charge); 5000 mixed fat sheep (Langmore and Tulloch's).—*Pastoral Times.*

MONEY MONEY! MONEY!

1½ to £1000 to LEND on every description of Goods at the Lowest Rate of Interest.

Fire Proof Safes kept for valuables.

Note the Sign, ☝ and Address—

MONTE DE PIETE LOAN OFFICE,

110 Main Road, opposite the Exhibition Mart.

All transactions strictly private.

£3000 TO LEND on eligible securities, in sums of £5 and upwards, at low rate of interest, repayable by weekly, monthly, or quarterly instalments.

No preliminary charges.

Appointments by letter attended to.

J. BOWMAN,

West End Loan Office, Bridge street.

[Established 1854.]

COSMOPOLITAN CREDIT INSTITUTE

No. 10 HUNTER STREET,

Opposite St. Paul's Church.

[ESTABLISHED 1856.]

Merchants, Tradesmen, Professional Gentlemen, Farmers, Mechanics, and Miners furnished with accommodation at moderate terms. Loans granted in large and small sums, for short or long periods, and under cover of the most desirable privacy.

The secluded position and excellent internal arrangements of this establishment, combined with thorough integrity and proper discretion, stamp it as the best Commercial Credit Institute in Ballarat.

The Proprietor feels every confidence in asserting that the popularity so long enjoyed by him throughout the district is a sure guarantee of the superior advantages this establishment offers above others of a similar character.

Extensive premises attached for the reception, as security, of goods requiring space, such as Merchandise, Furniture, Pianos, Carriages, Machinery, &c., &c. Iron safes for the conservation of Diamonds, Gold, and other Jewellery.

MR. WILSON,

SURGEON-DENTIST,

26 Bridge Street,

BALLARAT,

Constructs and fixes ARTIFICIAL TEETH, either in gold or by the new vulcanite process; and guarantees a comfortable fit and a perfectly natural appearance.

Mr W. having frequently seen the vulcanite in use, would strongly recommend it, both for its durability and comfort, especially in full sets, as no spiral springs are required; and, when the gums are firm and healthy, they can be used in mastication in every respect as well as natural teeth.

Teeth stopped with the utmost care, either with gold or amalgam.

Start street, opposite *Star* office.

MR S. DE SAXE,

SURGEON DENTIST,

BRIDGE STREET, BALLARAT,

OVER LANG'S SEED SHOP,

Next the Bridge.

ESTABLISHED 1855.

CONCENTRATED EXTRACT OF MEAT for Making Beef Tea, Soups, &c., in a few minutes.

Crystallized SEA SALT for making a Sea Bath in your own room.

J. LONGSTAFF, wholesale and retail druggist, Ballarat.

F. J. MURRAY,

HOUSE, LAND, AND ESTATE AGENT,

No. 3 Lyon's Chambers.

Several Houses constantly on hand of from Two to Ten Rooms,

To Let and For Sale.

Several Properties for Sale on Weekly Pay points.

CITY OF BALLARAT

Notice to Citizens.

I hereby proclaim FRIDAY, the 24th instant (being the Anniversary of Her Majesty's Birthday), a PUBLIC HOLIDAY within the City.

ROBERT LEWIS, Mayor.

Town Hall, Ballarat, 21st May, 1872.

CITY OF BALLARAT

Public Notice.

The TOWN HALL OFFICES will be CLOSED on FRIDAY, the 24th instant (Anniversary of Her Majesty's Birthday)

By order,

RICHARD FORD,

Clerk of the City of Ballarat.

Town Hall, Ballarat, 21st May, 1872

BOROUGH OF BALLARAT EAST

Notice.

The TOWN HALL OFFICES in connection with the Borough of Ballarat East will be CLOSED on the QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY, 24th instant.

By order,

W. Q PINNELL, Town Clerk.

22nd May, 1872

The Ballarat Courier

PUBLISHED DAILY.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1872.

MATTERS at Levuka, Fiji, are decidedly unsettled. At last advices both the Chief Justice and the Chief Secretary had been insulted, threatened, and assaulted; and a schooner, the Volunteer, which had been brought back to Levuka by an armed guard at the instigation of the Government, had been seized by a number of persons styling themselves indifferently the Ku Klux Klan, Vigilance Committee, and British Subjects' Mutual Protection Society. These gentry, who, as far as can be ascertained from the local journals, are turbulent malcontents, dissatisfied with the Government because the leading spirits amongst them have been left out in the cold, seem to have taken their cue from that eccentric, fussy, and self-important individual, Mr March, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul for Fiji. The probabilities indeed are that had not Mr March openly set at defiance the wishes and orders of the Levuka Government, this incipient rebellion would not have raised its head. It is difficult at this distance to perceive what the Consul had in view when he set himself in opposition to King Cakobau and his advisers; for, if he had any knowledge whatever of national law, he must have been aware that Fiji is a nation to all intents and purposes, and is self-governed. Virtually, although not yet formally, England has recognised the authority of King Cakobau. The Acting Chief Justice of Fiji, Mr Forwood, in delivering the judgment of the Supreme Court on the appeal case Rex v Sinclair (the rascally sea-captain who received a severe sentence for brutally ill-using natives on board his ship), laid down the constitutional state of the question clearly and minutely. He pointed out that, when it was in contemplation to place the Fiji group under the British flag, the Duke of Newcastle, although he declined the proffered honor, distinctly recognised the power of the chiefs to cede their sovereignty to the Queen. His Grace evidently contemplated some such condition of affairs as exists at present; for, in refusing on behalf of H.M. Ministers to assume the dominion of the islands, he gives the reasons that influenced them in their decision. The despatch says:—"It appeared to H.M. "Ministers very uncertain whether the wel-"fare of the Fijians would not be better "consulted by leaving their civilisation to "be effected by the causes and agencies "then already in operation, than by a direct "and authoritative British interference." His Grace also assured the Fijians that their "longing after peace and good "order was viewed in England with "the highest sympathy." More recently Earl Kimberley has admitted that the islands are under the jurisdiction of several chiefs, and expressed the willingness of Her Majesty's Government to give such aid as may be in their power, through the Consul, for the maintenance of order *until the European community can establish a regular government.* This is a clear acknowledgment by anticipation of the Government as at present constituted, which is an amalgamation of natives and white settlers. How, then, can Mr March with any show of reason continue to set up his back against the ordinances issued under the sign-manual of King Cakobau? By this time a British man-of-war is probably at Levuka, with instructions how to act. We shall be greatly surprised if H.B.M. Consul does not receive marching orders, and if a successor has not been appointed who has more modernised notions of the deference to be paid to an independent national Government. We observe with considerable pleasure that an address of sympathy and encouragement has been presented to the Acting Chief Justice, who, through the weakness of the ruling powers, was lately placed in a most awkward position as regards the rescue of a white girl from unjust servitude. This address, which is signed by upwards of 120 of the leading settlers of Levuka, concludes with the following reassuring words:—"We assure your Honor that "we do not fear men who have openly "sympathised with criminals of the worst "class, and are prepared to stand by you "so long as you fearlessly and faithfully "perform your duties." So long as the majority of the settlers are animated with such sentiments, there is little to fear for this rising young nation from the menaces and violence of political mischief-makers. But the hands of the Chief Justice must be strengthened by King Cakobau's Government, who will do wisely to organise a protective force strong enough to put down all attempts to foment anarchy and lawlessness.

Having been amongst the first of Victorian journals to hail the establishment of self-government in Fiji, we must express some surprise that the *Levuka Gazette* should have given such prominence to a long letter devoted almost exclusively to abuse of *The Courier.* In December last we commented, but not with undue severity, upon a hypocritical article in the *Gazette,* which recommended the raising of an armed force to carry fire and sword into the territory of Viti Levu, subjugate the inhabitants, parcel their able-bodied males off in small lots amongst the planters, and annex a fine country containing several thousands of acres. It was the cant of "Christianising and "civilising" which roused our reprobation at the time, and would do again if repeated. From the vindictive tone of the writer of the letter referred to, it would probably not be a bad guess to ascribe the authorship of the scoundrelly article which we denounced to the same hand. It argues a bad cause to fly into a passion with well-deserved censure, and to ignore at the same time the honest sympathy of a foreign journal with the early struggles of a nascent government. As regards the whole question of self-government in the Fijian group, our opinion is that it will work out its own salvation, only requiring firmness and a bold front, combined with moderation and integrity. The malcontents, finding themselves in a minority both numerically and morally, will soon succumb to law and order, and the day we hope is not far distant when the Fijian flag will be a power in the Pacific, emblematic of peace and good government, and respected accordingly by the traders and cruisers of all nations.

IN a recent number, the *Alexandra Times* comments on a case of considerable importance to the mining community. Some time ago, according to the version given by our contemporary, the Bank of Victoria had become, by mortgage, the holder of 550 shares in the A1 claim, Raspberry Creek; but the bank would neither assist to work the claim, nor acknowledge its liability to pay calls. Mr W. Villeneuve Smith, a barrister, who was also a large shareholder, at length endeavored to persuade the bank to meet its liability, but failing in this, he gave the bank notice that he would jump the ground so as to enforce its being worked. Neither persuasion nor intimidation having any effect on the bank authorities, he put his threat into execution; jumped the ground, reorganised the company under the name of the Golden Gate, and handed back to the shareholders all their interest; omitting, however, the bank from the distribution. The Bank of Victoria then moved the law to compel Mr Smith to recognise its shares, and the case was heard before the warden at Alexandra, and afterwards before his Honor Judge Molesworth, both of whom decided in favor of Mr Smith. The bank then appealed to the Full Court, and won. Mr Smith appealed to the Privy Council against the decision of the Full Court, and was defeated. It is stated by our contemporary that this gentleman bore the whole brunt of these battles out of his own pocket, so convinced was he of the soundness of his case, both on moral and legal grounds, and the total cost to him of the proceedings from first to last has been nearly £5000. Taking the version of this matter as given by our Alexandra contemporary as correct, a case of peculiar hardship is made out; and if anything could show the looseness of Victorian mining law, it would be this case. Like the dog in the manger, the bank would not utilise the good things spread before it, nor allow others to utilise them. The shareholders might develop the ground at their own cost, but not a pennyworth of assistance would they get from the holder of 550 shares. The bank, in fact, hung like a dead weight round the neck of the company, and in Mr Smith's efforts to shake off the encumbrance, the bank won everything, and the enterprising and energetic man goes to the wall with a loss of nearly £5000! Whatever may be the legal quibbles through which the bank triumphed in the end, there will be no difference of opinion amongst persons engaged in mining as to the absence of equity in the final decision in this case, or as to the false position to which it reduces mining companies. If the bank had paid calls, or shown a disposition to pay them, then Mr Smith would have undoubtedly been wrong in endeavoring to dispossess it of its rights; but in refusing to pay calls the bank not alone prevented the mine from being developed, but showed a desire to benefit purely by the capital and labor of others, on whom it had no claim, and to whom it had no moral right to look for redress. The case is certainly one of considerable importance to mining companies, since the mortgage of shares is a very ordinary occurrence; and it also serves to show how hollow and rotten those laws are which deal with the mining interests of this colony.

THE cabmen of Ballarat have a grievance against the City Council. Under one of the bye-laws of the corporation, a license is issued at £1 a year for cabs plying for hire in the city, and another license-fee of £2 is imposed where cabs run to any particular spot; say, for instance, Sebastopol. But transfers are not allowed, and no reduction is made for licenses taken out in any part of the current year. Cab driving in Ballarat is not so rosy a game just now that even the £1 or £2 is a matter of indifference to the owner when the license is taken out at the commencement of the year. But the impost becomes very unjust when a new cab is started, say half way through the year, since a double tax, so to speak, is then levied for the remainder of the term. At the meeting of the City Council on Monday, Mr R. S. Mitchell brought under the notice of the members a case of hardship which had arisen out of this inflexible bye-law. A youth named Myall, who had saved for the purpose every shilling he could spare from a small weekly wage he earned in one of our factories, had bought a cab; but when he made his appearance in the street, he was summoned by the police, and fined 5s for plying for hire without a license. He had received a license from the man from whom he bought the cab, and in his youthful inexperience he thought that would be sufficient for his purpose. All his money had been expended in obtaining his stock-in-trade, and therefore had it not been for the sympathy shown by Mr Mitchell, his cab and horse must have remained in the stable after this decision, because he had no money wherewith to procure a new license. The City Council seemed to recognise the justice of Mr Mitchell's representations, and promised to take the matter into consideration. The outcome of its deliberations should be to allow licenses to be transferable; or at least to issue them *pro rata* during the year. It is questionable whether cabmen should be taxed at all; but there can be no difference of opinion as to the injustice of charging a man the same amount for a license on the 29th December as he would be called upon to pay for the same document if taken out on the 1st or 2nd of the previous January. True, the same principle applies to all other licenses, but that fact does not prove the system to be one of municipal equity.

Our parliamentary intelligence will be found unusually interesting this morning. A direct vote of want of confidence in the Ministry was moved last night by Mr Ramsay. This occurred shortly after Mr Duffy had formally announced in the House that Mr Berry had resigned his office as Treasurer of the colony. The report of the committee appointed to enquire into Mr Garrasi's charges has not yet been tabled.

A caucus of the Opposition was held at three o'clock yesterday, in the Opposition room of the Parliament House. Thirty-seven members were present, and four were absent. Several of those who hitherto supported the Government, including Messrs Bent and A. T. Clark, unveiled the Mother. It was unanimously resolved to move a vote of want of confidence in the Ministry, owing to their appointments, and to place the country in possession of what the Opposition consider the abuse of patronage as practised by the Ministry. It was stated that members had received dozens of letters from all parts of the colony detailing acts of favoritism, and it has been determined to bring such cases before the House and the country. Mr Berry's resignation as Treasurer was read by Mr Duffy in the House last night.

Referring to the Garrett-cum-Berry enquiry, the *Herald* of last night says that the investigation has made but little progress, Mr Garrett complaining that he cannot get the witnesses on whom relied to come forward. Our contemporary goes on to say that it will amuse the reader to learn how the Opposition have disposed of the offices in the new Government which they are prepared to form. It stands thus:—

Mr Francis—Chief Secretary.
Mr Harker or Mr Langton—Treasurer.
Mr Osborne—Commissioner of Customs.
Mr J. W. Stephen—Attorney-General.
Mr Kerferd—Solicitor-General.
Mr Gillies—Commissioner of Mines.
Hon John O'Shanassy—Postmaster-General.
Mr W. C. Smith—Commissioner of Railways.
[Not filled up]—Commissioner of Lands.
Whip—Mr Bent.

Messrs Mackay, Macpherson, and Wilson were held to be out of the running.

A meeting of the executive committee to make arrangements for the forthcoming review and entertainment to be held on the Queen's Birthday was held last evening, at the Camp hotel; Colonel Rede in the chair. The hon. secretary, Captain Greenfield, reported favorably of the contributions received; they had been fully up to anticipations. The City Council had been especially liberal, having not only granted the use of the Public Park for the purposes of the review, but allowed them to charge for admission, but had undertaken to put the approaches to the entrance in good condition, and fill up the holes in the Park itself. It was decided to invite the Naval Brigade to the review; also the mayors, the members of Parliament, &c., to the dinner, which will be given in the Alfred Hall, commencing at five o'clock. It is expected that at least 1200 rank and file will be present to take part in the present review. A full parade of both corps will be held this evening under the command of Colonel Rede. A full dress rehearsal of those to take part in the theatrical entertainment will be held to-morrow (Thursday) night.

The charge of mining conspiracy, preferred against Messrs Barnard, Egerton, and Read, came to a conclusion yesterday by the acquittal of the accused. A report will be found elsewhere.

The alarm of the City fire-bell was heard about half-past four yesterday morning, and in a few moments afterwards the Eastern bell also joined in awakening the inhabitants of both city and borough. The glare in the sky showed that the fire was in the neighborhood of Redan, and when a detachment of the City Brigade arrived on the scene of the disaster, they found a thirteen-roomed house in flames at the rear of the Bo Peep of the Band and Albion Company. A number of the South Ward brigade, who had arrived previously with their hose-reel, but were unable to play upon the fire in consequence of the nearest hydrant being in Darling street, joined with the City men, and their additional hose enabled them to make the water available, when the fate of the fire was sealed. In a few minutes the flames were quenched, and the conflagration was prevented going to; and the house in which it originated, which was completely destroyed. The building belonged to Mr John Knoth, of the Grand Stand hotel; it had been used as a boardinghouse, and was unoccupied and undergoing renovation, and was partly insured.

Friday next, being the anniversary of Her Majesty's Birthday, is proclaimed a public holiday in Ballarat.

The body of Mr Archibald M'Donald, the teacher of the Roman Catholic school at Egerton, was discovered on Monday night, in an old shaft about 60 feet deep, upon the Messrs Learmonth's claim, at Egerton, and only about 50 yards from where he was last seen alive. It appears that during the search made for him when first missed, a lighted candle was lowered in a lantern down this very shaft, but as the body was resting upon some logs that were lying diagonally in the bottom, no discovery was then made. Some boys throwing stones down the hole last week, imagined that one of them fell into a man's hat. Instead of reporting the matter, however, to Constable Gibson, it only reached his ears as a rumor on Saturday night "that a man's hat had been seen down a hole on the road to Lynch's, about two miles from Egerton." Tracing the rumor to its source, the constable found the boy who had spread the report, and got him to point out the hole. Assistance was procured, and the shaft thoroughly searched, when the remains of the poor schoolmaster were found in a sitting position on the bottom, his back leaning against the side of the shaft, but his head, arms, and hands were hidden by his coat, which was held up over them by the logs before mentioned. Through these logs he had fallen, and thus became concealed from the searchers last week. The unfortunate man's remains were at once got to the surface, and conveyed to an out-building connected with the Mount Egerton hotel, where they now lie, awaiting the coroner's inquest.

Bailors are reminded that, Friday being a holiday, Thursday next, the 23rd instant, will be the last day for filing summonses for the County Court.

A bleer-eyed and dissipated-looking woman, whose face was blotted with drink and of a most unmistakable Bardolphian hue, appeared before the City Court yesterday, on remand from Buninyong, on a charge of drunkenness. When found by the constable at Buninyong, she was enjoying an *al fresco* shakedown on mother earth, and though the night was cold she was "undressed," and a swagsman was lying beside her. She gave her name as Rose Ann Beauford, and referred the sitting magistrates to the authorities at Maryborough for her character. Yesterday Mr Gaunt read her character in court, and it was to the effect that she was a notorious drunken prostitute, who had been frequently convicted, and her husband was now in gaol. Mr Gaunt told her to quit the district, and she was discharged; but her child, a girl aged ten years old, was ordered to be sent to the Industrial School for four years.

James Dalgleish was yesterday arrested and conveyed to the lock-up on a charge of furious driving in the public streets, whereby the life of a woman named Anne Booth was endangered. He was subsequently bailed out to appear on Thursday morning at the Police Court.

The troubles of a travelling tinker occupied the time of the City Court yesterday morning. A man named Charles Barrett was charged with unlawfully assaulting a boy named Woods, about seven years old, by striking him on the head with a billy or tin of some kind, and causing the blood to flow from the wound thus inflicted. It appeared from the man's statement that he was frequently molested in the streets by young urchins, who called after him and threw stones at him, and that on Saturday evening he was struck by a stone in this manner, and turning round he caught young Woods, and rubbed his head against a window-sill, but did not strike him. Of course, Woods was not the lad who threw the stone, and the tinker came to grief by being fined 10s or three days' imprisonment, and as he had no money to pay the fine he had to go to gaol. This seems rather "rough" on the tinker, and perhaps if the father of the boy had withdrawn the charge, and promised his youngster a thrashing if he ever knew him to throw stones at people in the streets, the equities of the case would have been more nearly met, than for the tinker to be annoyed, insulted, arrested, and sent to gaol for trying to pursue his legitimate calling.

The resolution passed recently by the City Council, in regard to the money advanced by it for the formation of the Dead Horse road, came before the Bungaree-shire Council at its meeting yesterday. It was decided to consider the matter at a special meeting of the council to be held next Tuesday. At the same meeting the matter of the division of the shire into ridings—which evoked a pretty warm discussion yesterday—will come on for consideration.

Our Learmonth correspondent writes:—The prisoners James Stapleton (alias Fitzpatrick) and James Plunkett (alias Dempsey alias Rosci), who were committed at the Learmonth Police Court on Monday to take their trial at the next General Sessions, the former on four and the latter on three separate charges of robbery, appear to be well known to the police, as the previous records against them but too surely testify. The police first made their acquaintance with Stapleton, whose real name is Fitzpatrick, in the year 1865, since which period he has been convicted no less than six times, and received sentences varying from one month up to four years. Plunkett, with the aliases of Dempsey and Roach, was convicted under the latter alias, in 1863, for highway robbery of a Chinaman at Mount Bolton; and in the following year, at Amherst, sentence of death was recorded against him for highway robbery with violence, which was commuted to twelve years' imprisonment, the first two years being in irons, and the marks of the manacles he will carry with him to his grave. The commuted sentence appears to have been further lessened, or he would not have had so early an opportunity of again pursuing the ignominious calling he seems so determined to follow. With reference to the other prisoner, Thomas, who was sentenced to six months for breaking into a miner's hut at Creswick, the only remarkable thing known about him is that some time ago, at Buninyong, he disposed of his wife, child, and household effects for the small consideration of £2 10s. At the conclusion of the cases, the bench highly complimented the police on the manner in which they followed up the whole of the cases, and thought that their conduct all through was worthy of some substantial recognition.

The erroneous statement respecting the finding of a large nugget by the Defiance Company, which the *Buninyong Telegraph* was entrapped into publishing the other day, has led to rather serious results. The man who made the report to the editor met the latter in the Crown hotel billiardroom on Monday. High words were used by both, during which the editor (Mr Goode) was thrown out of the window on to the verandah, sustaining very serious injury.

"A Friend at Mount Pleasant" has handed us 2s 6d for the Williamson fund.

The services connected with the anniversary of the Wesleyan Church, Smythesdale, took place on Sunday and Monday last. On Sunday three sermons were preached—in the morning and evening by the Rev. Mr Ingamells, and in the afternoon by the Rev. Mr Thomson. The congregations were good, particularly that in the evening which was crowded. The usual tea meeting on such occasions did not take place, some misunderstanding having occurred between the committee and the tea contractor, and delay made it impossible to provide tea. The public meeting on Monday evening was moderately attended; the Rev. F. S. Bickford in the chair. Addresses were delivered by Messrs Thomson and Blackett, and the Rev. Mr Ingamells. The financial statement showed the church be out of debt, as well as having paid for the fencing of the land and the erection of a porch to the church. The statement of receipts and expenditure of the erection of the church at Browns, and lately burned down, was also read and adopted.

By a reference to our advertising columns it will be seen that the annual ploughing match in connection with the Ballarat Agricultural Society will be held on Wednesday, the 19th of June next, on Mr William Simpson's farm, situated near the Ballarat-shire Pound, about eight miles from Ballarat, and accessible by good roads from Minesreat, Mount Blowhard, Ascot, Coghill's Creek, Learmonth, Burrumbeet, Windermere, &c. The prizes offered are extremely liberal, and it only requires, we believe, favorable weather to render the proceedings of a most successful character. On the following day a dynamometrical trial of agricultural implements and machines will be made.

It will be seen by our telegrams elsewhere that at the adjourned meeting of the Australian Jockey Club held at Sydney yesterday, it was resolved to erect a new grand stand at Randwick, which is to cost £7000.

Miss Wilson desires to express her thanks through our columns to Mr Bucknell for exhibiting his dissolving views to the children of the Ballarat Industrial School last Saturday.

There was a very large muster last night at the anniversary celebration of the Wesleyan Local Preachers' Association. An excellent tea, provided by Mr Ward, of Victoria street, was partaken of in the Lecture-hall in Dana street, and an adjournment was then made to the church, which was well filled in every part. The chair was occupied by Mr James Oddie, who briefly opened the meeting. The secretary (Mr B Tregaskis) read a short but satisfactory report of the doings and position of the association during the past twelve months, and addresses were subsequently delivered by the Revs Bickford and Dare, and Messrs Polkinghorn, Russell, Raddenbury, and Phillips. The church choir was present, and under the conductorship of Mr J. A. Doane rendered agreeably several selections of music. A collection was made during the evening, and realised a considerable amount.

We are requested by the collector of the Ballarat District Hospital to notify the receipt of the handsome donation of £5, sent by the Indian Co-operative Gold Mining Company, Napoleons out of the nugget found by them on the 15th instant.

A man named Martin Slattery was fined 20s in the Eastern Police Court yesterday morning, for making use of indecent language in the public street.

A very important movement, and one which should serve as an example to Christian churches all over the world, has just been set afoot in this colony. We learn from the *Church of England Messenger* that a scheme has been started, at the instance of a large number of laymen of the English and Presbyterian churches, to get the two bodies to join together for the support of the Christian ministry in places where there is either at present no minister, or where, from attempting to support two, neither receives a suitable income. It is proposed to form a society for raising funds to assist in maintaining the ministry in such places, the money to be handed over to the assemblies for distribution by a joint committee among districts which make application for assistance. The scheme has received the sanction of the bishop's council, and the Presbyterian commission of assembly the other day appointed a committee to confer with his lordship on the subject.

An old offender, named George Richardson, was arrested yesterday in Ballarat East for stealing tools from the shop of Mr Jeffries.

Sergeant Lutzer has found another crop of nuisances in the back premises of certain residents in the East, who will be summoned on the next court day. The health officer, as well as the inspector of nuisances, intend to take action against those schoolmasters or school-committees who have not improved their closet accommodation since the warning given by us in a previous issue.

On Tuesday Colonel Rede visited the Ballarat College for the purpose of inspecting the college boys in military drill. The colonel put them through the various company and battalion movements, in which they had received instructions under Sergeant Nesbitt, who was complimented by Colonel Rede on the manner in which the boys acquitted themselves. The Colonel remarked that if the college boys arms in their hands, and uniforms on, they would make a good show at the review on the Queen's Birthday. The colonel brought the inspection to a close by requesting from Mr M'Coy the usual half holiday, which was granted.

In consequence of repairs now being carried out at the City Baths, hot baths will not be available either to-day or to-morrow.

Some rabbit coursing will take place at Campbell's hotel, Haddon, on Saturday, for a pair of greyhound slips. Mr J. Hilton will supply the rabbits, and officiate as slipper. Some good sport is expected.

Messrs Permewan, Hunt, and Co., the railway and general carriers, have forwarded waggons, horses, and men to Schoolhouse station, to break down the strike on the part of the carriers who refuse to take delivery of goods from that place for the districts beyond.

An entertainment consisting of dissolving views was given last night at the Pleasant Street School. There was a fair attendance of spectators, who appeared to be highly delighted with what they witnessed.

The *Herald* says that a private letter from China received a short time since intimates that "the celebrated Theresa Longworth, otherwise Mrs Yelverton, alias Lady Avonmore, arrived at Hong Kong a short while back for the purpose of giving public readings there. She has lately been very successful in California and the Eastern States, and has already opened business communications with a view to a professional visit to the Australian colonies."

Referring to the Northern telegraph, the *South Australian Advertiser* writes:—"Some doubt has been expressed as to the permanence of the line of telegraph, and as to the possibility of keeping up the connection. On Thursday morning the Government had occasion to telegraph to Tennant's Creek—a distance of 1250 miles—and in about three hours an answer was received. The value of this facile means of communication with the far interior is seen in the fact that the Government were able by telegram to purchase a number of horses to strengthen the constructing parties from a gentleman who happened to be in the neighborhood of Tennant's Creek with a mob *en route* for the Northern Territory."

The *S. A. Advertiser* has the following to say about Hewitt:—"Mr Hewitt, the English pedestrian champion, is taking his exercise regularly, and some young South Australians have had a spin with him, and proved his great running powers. Some aboriginals, on Friday, entered the lists with the world-renowned foot races, and in wonder and admiration exclaimed, 'My word; big one run that fellow.' Great interest is being taken in the pedestrian sports Mr Hewitt is getting up, and the grand meeting he is arranging for is likely to be a great success."

As a pendant to a paragraph which appeared in *The Courier* a few days back, we extract the following from the *Pleasant Creek Chronicle* of yesterday:—"The adventurous girls whom we narrated in last Tuesday's paper as having set out on a pedestrian excursion to Ballarat are now at home. They were met trudging boldly along by a traveller, who, on learning their intention, advised them to return home. They allowed themselves to be persuaded accordingly, and returned, we don't know whether wiser, but certainly sadder and dirtier girls."

The *Age* says that the Secretary of State for the Colonies has formally notified to his Excellency the Governor that Her Majesty the Queen had been graciously pleased to receive the address relative to the prevention of the Polynesian slave trade, as adopted at a public meeting in the Town Hall in November last, and presided over by his worship the mayor. At the meeting of the City Council on Monday, a letter was received from Lieutenant Rothwell, private secretary to his Excellency the Governor, announcing receipt of the despatch in question from the Secretary of State, in which it is further stated that a bill has been introduced into the Imperial Parliament to prevent the evils complained of.

What the *Pleasant Creek Chronicle* terms a delightful story has been told to it by a draper's assistant:—"A worthy couple recently left Stawell to make the grand tour. On their return, the lady, while making some purchases, expatiated on the sights she had seen. 'And how did you like the Continent?' enquired the polite purveyor of ribbons and flounces. 'The Continent?' replied the worthy matron, 'we didn't go to the Continent; we were in Paris and all through France, but we never thought of going to the Continent.'"

A number of the principal firms in Melbourne (the *Age* learns) are taking steps to secure a holiday for their employés on Saturday, so as to give them a clear time from Thursday night to Monday morning. By doing this the employers reckon that the men will be able to take a trip out of town. A large number of the leading firms have already signed an agreement signifying their readiness to close their places of business. Messrs Henty, Stevenson, and Goldsbrough are taking charge of the requisition for the respective commercial interests to which they belong.

The physical powers of the Chinese (the *Talbot Leader* thinks) are too apt to be underrated, and this was shown on Saturday night, when two of the shareholders in the Court's Freehold waited up to watch the advent of the "footsicker" who hitherto had succeeded in evading detection. One was armed with a revolver, three barrels of which were loaded; the other shareholder providing himself with a stout pick handle and some strong cord. After patiently waiting for some time,