

SYD1845

WREGISTER, 4/76, 04/01/1845.

INQUESTS. - On Saturday afternoon, the adjourned inquest on the body of **WILLIAM HENRY RUSSELL**, who had died on the 24th instant, was resumed, in the "Sir Walter Scott" public house, corner of Bathurst and Sussex-streets. Dr. **M'PHEE** being present to hear the statement of his having opened the body contrary to law, Dr. **SILVER** proved that he saw the body of the deceased on Christmas Day, which had been opened. On the day of the inquest he made a *post mortem* examination of the body, which was then in a rapid state of decomposition; but from the heart being twice the natural size, he had no doubt but that death had been caused by disease of the heart. The Coroner stated that it was not his intention to proceed at present any further in the case as it affected Dr. M'Phee. The evidence taken would be forwarded to the Attorney-General, and he (Mr. Brenan) would act in the matter as the Law Officers of the Crown might direct; and if ulterior proceedings were ordered, Dr. M'Phee would receive due notice of same, which would afford him an opportunity of explaining his conduct. The Jury returned a verdict of death by the visitation of God from disease of the heart.

ADJOURNED INQUEST. - On Tuesday morning the jury, who had been sworn to make inquisition, concerning the death of Dr. **JOSEPH MEYRICK**, re-assembled at the Albion Inn, George-street, and the prisoner, **LUCIUS O'BRIEN**, having been brought from the Gaol, at Woolloomooloo, the Coroner proceeded to examine several witnesses, who deposed to the fact of the prisoner having fired two pistols at the deceased. After a patient investigation, which lasted nearly nine hours, the jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against the prisoner, Lucius O'Brien, who was accordingly committed, by the Coroner, to take his trial at the ensuing Criminal Sessions.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/105, 04/01/1845

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - MUSWELL BROOK.

A melancholy occurrence took place here on Friday last, on which day a mounted policeman named **WHITE**, on duty here from Maitland, shot himself. The only cause assigned for this act was that a prisoner whom he had captured a day or two previous had escaped from his custody, and an inquiry was threatened by the officer commanding the party. This had such an effect on the unfortunate man as induced him to destroy himself. The ball passed through his lungs, and he only lived for about an hour after committing the act.

NEWCASTLE.

On the evening of Thursday, the 26th ult., an immigrant miner in the employ of the A.A. Company, named **JOHN WILLIAMS**, a sober and industrious man, aged 43 years, left his home at the New Works to go and fish for snappers on the eastern or breaker beach, and has not since been heard of. It is supposed he must have been pulled in and taken away by a shark or some other large fish, as his neighbours say he was in the habit of making his large line fast to his wrist. Every endeavour to find the body has been used in vain; his knife and a small line were found on the ricks, where it is thought he was fishing, but no other traces of him could be observed. The deplorable state of his widow and five children is not to be described.

The unfortunate miner **JOHN CLISH**, whose dreadful accident was noticed in your last week's *Mercury*, expired on Friday last. All that the skill of Doctors **BROOKS**

and **BOWKER** could suggest was tried, but without even restoring the poor fellow to his speech of senses. January 1st.

SYDNEY NEWS.

SUDDEN DEATH. - On Wednesday evening a man named **WILLIAM WALL** was found dead in a hay loft in the rear of the premises of Mr. **ROBERT MURRAY**, landlord of the "Farrier's Arms," George-street. An inquest was held upon the body, at Mr. Driver's, the "Three Tuns," this afternoon, when the jury returned a verdict of accidental death; it having been proved that the deceased had died of apoplexy, having laid down after breakfast and expired. He had been an old servant of Mr. Murray's, was a fencer and splitter, and out of employment.

WILFUL MURDER. - INQUEST ON DR. MEYRICK.

On Thursday last the adjourned inquest was resumed, before a jury of seventeen, on the body of Dr. **MEYRICK**, who was shot on the 10th December by **LUCIUS O'BRIEN**, in Hunter-street, Sydney. A great deal of evidence was heard, proving positively that O'Brien had shot twice at Dr. Meyrick, pursuing him previous to firing the second shot, and that Dr. M. had died in about half an hour; and a great number of witnesses were also called to testify to the insanity prisoner had been labouring under for years. The jury retired for about twenty minutes, and when they returned the foreman stated that thirteen of the jury were of opinion that O'Brien was guilty of wilful murder, and in possession of his senses at the time he committed the deed, but that four of the jury were of opinion that he was insane at the time. The Coroner said that thirteen was sufficient to establish the verdict, and directed a verdict of wilful murder to be recorded, and committed the prisoner on the charge.

SYDNEY NEWS.

On Christmas evening a female named **CUTHERILL**, residing in Parramatta, availed herself of the absence of one of the medical gentlemen of the town to supply herself with some morphine, of which she is a habitual taker. In the hurry of the theft, she mistook a bottle of strychnine for her favourite drug; and, not finding the first dose operate, she kept on taking the strychnine until violent spasms came on. Dr. **GWYNNE** was called in, and, having ascertained the nature of the drug she had been taking, he applied the stomach pump, and gave her some emetics and iodine. The woman is likely to recover.

PORT MACQUARIE. - A blind prisoner of the crown named **BEDFORD** had been committed to take his trial for the wilful murder of another prisoner named **BROWN**, whom he stabbed several times with a knife.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/106, 11/01/1845

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - SINGLETON.

A sudden death took place here on the 31st ultimo. A ticket of leave holder, named **JOHN GRIFFITHS**, who, according to report, had "dipped deep" at this festive season, was seized with spasmodic pains in the stomach, which ended in inflammation of the most malignant kind. The poor fellow, who had fought in many of the battles of his country, began to complain on the previous day of a burning sensation, to cool which he partook of a few slices of cucumber which he had carried from his master's table, and as he, in the early part of the morning, had drunk a great deal of milk, it is reasonably supposed that the cucumber and vinegar caused the milk to curdle, which produced the inflammatory symptoms that carried him off in less than 24 hours. The event was beautifully alluded to by one of our clergyman in his sermon last Sabbath day.

NEWCASTLE. - The mutilated remains of poor **[JOHN] WILLIAMS**, the unfortunate man mentioned in my last, were found this morning by some boys on the beach under the gaol cliff. The head, shoulders, arms, and one leg are missing, and he was only identified by a remarkable cut on the ankle of the leg that still remains. It is indeed strange that so much of the body should still remain together after being so long in the water (13 days), and on such a rocky, broken shore.

WREGISTER, 4/77, 11/01/1845.

Central Criminal Court.

Monday, January 6.

Before their Honors the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Dickinson.

JOHN JOHNSON, late of Sydney, labourer, was indicted for having, on the 4th November, 1844, made an assault upon one **WILLIAM BROPHY**, by beating, striking, and casting him to the ground, thereby inflicting injuries under the effects of which the said William Brophy languished until the 8th of November, on which day he died. Guilty of manslaughter – to be kept to hard labour in irons upon the public roads for the term of three years.

Friday, January 10.

JOHN VIDALL was placed at the bar, charged with having, on the 23 November, 1844, feloniously, wilfully, and maliciously wounded and killed one **THOMAS WARNE**, by inflicting several blows on the right side of the head, with an axe, or some heavy instrument. The prisoner was defended by Mr. **LOWE**, who, with Mr. **WANT** as attorney, had been assigned by the court for that purpose. The evidence throughout was much the same as that adduced at the Coroner's inquest; and Mr. Lowe, in his address to the jury, rested his defence principally on the unsatisfactory nature of circumstantial evidence in general, and the probability that the prisoner, from his ignorance of the English language, had been made the tool of some designing person, by whom the murder was really committed. After the Chief Justice had summed up, the Jury retired for about quarter of an hour, and returned a verdict of guilty against the prisoner, upon whom sentence of death was at once passed by the Chief Justice.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/107, 18/01/1845

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - NEWCASTLE.

On Thursday last, the 9th instant, an emigrant named **M'LENAN**, in the employ of Messrs. Fisher and Donaldson, during a fit of temporary insanity, brought on by intemperance, put a period to his existence by shooting himself through the head. The body was found by two men near the road leading from Stockton to the Dairy, soon after the rash act had been perpetrated. M'Lenan was quite a young man. January 15th.

SUPREME COURT. - *Saturday, Jan. 11*

GEORGE BYFORD, a blind and elderly man, was indicted for the murder of **JAMES BROWN**, at Port Macquarie, on 27th December last, by stabbing him with a knife. The prisoner was not defended by counsel, and having admitted the commission of the act under provocation, the jury returned a verdict of guilty, and he was remanded for sentence.

Monday, Jan. 13

LUCIUS O'BRIEN was indicted for the murder of **JOSEPH MEYRICK**, at Sydney, on the 19th of December last, by shooting him with a pistol. The Attorney General and Solicitor General conducted the prosecution, and Messrs. Windeyer and

Michie the defence. The offence was fully proved, and was scarcely denied by the prisoner's counsel, who rested his case entirely on the ground of insanity, and produced such a body of evidence bearing on that point for years back, that the jury at once found him not guilty, as being of insane mind at the time of committing the offence. The prisoner was then remanded until the pleasure of his Excellency is known.

Tuesday

JAMES DUVAL was indicted for being an accessory after the fact to the murder of **THOMAS WARNE** by **JOHN VIDALL**, who was convicted of the murder on the previous Saturday. The Attorney General conducted the prosecution, and Mr. Lowe the defence, at the request of the court. The evidence against the prisoner was nearly the same as given in the *Mercury* at the time of the murder, but for the defence witnesses were called who swore to the prisoner's being marketing with his wife till near ten o'clock on the Saturday evening, and it was stated that the murder must have been committed about eight o'clock, to allow of the body being so much burned by ten o'clock, when the fire was put out. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty, and the prisoner was discharged.

SUDDEN DEATH. - On Wednesday night, Mr. **BENJAMIN BRYAN**, landlord of the "Dove and Olive Branch," in Kent-street North, fell down dead behind his counter.

DEATHS.

Died, at Bloomfield, on Saturday, the 11th instant, of apoplexy, after a few hoysr illness, Mr. **ADAM STUART WIGHTMAN**, of Haydonton, Page's River, aged 45 years, leaving an amiable wife and six children to bewail his loss.

SYDNEY NEWS. - **MR. WARNE'S MURDERER.**

Yesterday week **VIDELLE** was tried for the murder of Mr. **WARNE**, in the Supreme Court, Sydney, before their Honors the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Dickinson. The trial lasted the whole day. Mr. Lowe defended the prisoner; but no witnesses were called for the defence. The jury, after a quarter of an hour's consultation, returned a verdict of guilty, and the Chief Justice passed sentence of death upon the prisoner.

WREGISTER, 4/78, 18/01/1845

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE

MURDER OF THOMAS WARNE. - CONFESSION OF VIDALL

The convict Vidall has made a confession to Mr. **KECK**, the Governor of the Gaol, of which the following is the substance:- On the evening in question, between the hours of eight and nine, Vidall and the deceased were sitting together in the apartments of the latter, when a slight quarrel arose between them, and Warne, who appears to have been a man of very excitable temperament, ordered Vidall to leave his premises immediately, threatening if he did not do so, that he, Warne, would stab him with an old sword he had there. Vidall, upon this, went out on the landing, and remained there for a short time; but his evil passions becoming excited, he went softly in, and perceiving that Warne, without observing him, was working at the table with his head leaning up his hand, he seized the large axe produced in Court at his trial, and struck the unhappy man with the back of it upon the head, just in the manner that Dr. **M'KELLAR** supposed the blow to have been inflicted. Immediately on receiving the blow, Warne fell upon the ground, and after a few nervous struggles with his legs expired. The murderer, finding that his deed of blood was complete, locked the door and went out; and it was at this time that he was seen with Duvall, to whom, however, he solemnly denied having said anything at all about what had passed. Upon

returning to the scene of the murder, he cut off the limbs of the deceased without taking off the clothes, and placed the remains upon the fire with the clothes still on them; but, from the running of the fat from the body, the chimney soon afterwards took fire. This fire Vidall extinguished in the same manner described by the witnesses at the trial, but without the aid of anyone, (probably by bringing the table to the window, and standing the buckets of water upon it, so as to place them within his reach.) Finding that he could not [succeed?] in his original intention of burning the body, Vidall abandoned that idea and proceeded to pack up the remains of his victim in the box, just as they were afterwards found. He then went to work to efface the marks of the horrible deed which he had committed, and by five o'clock in the morning had got all cleared up. The blood which appeared on the floor of the room below that in which the murder was committed, must, he says, have flowed through the ceiling from the place where Warne lay after he was murdered, and before he had begun to mutilate the body. The whole of the evidence given on the trial was, to use his own words, as correct as if the witnesses had been watching him throughout, except that of the witness who spoke as to the water having been handed to him from inside, which was wholly a mistake. Vidall most solemnly and expressly declares that he alone is the guilty party, and that neither Duvall nor anybody else knew anything whatever of the transaction; Duvall as well as Wilson having been merely asked by him to assist in moving the box just as they had themselves stated.

INQUEST. - An inquest was held on Tuesday, at the Three Tuns Elizabeth-street, on the body of a male infant, name unknown, which had been found in a water-closet in Kent-street, on Sunday afternoon, and for the murder of which a female, named **MARY BURKE**, was in custody. From the evidence it appeared that the prisoner was a lodger in the house of one **JOHN MURPHY** in Kent-street, that the child was found in the water closet on Sunday, by Mrs. **MAGNER** a neighbour, who taxed Burke with being the mother, which she denied. That she had previously confessed to a Mrs. **SAMUEL** that she was with child by one **JAMES M'FARRELL**, but that the child was still. There being no evidence that the child had breathed after birth, the jury returned a verdict of still born, and the prisoner not guilty of murder; on which she was discharged, but ordered into the custody of the police, to answer a charge of concealing the birth of the infant.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT

Saturday, January 11

Before his Honor Mr. Justice ????????????

GEORGE BYFORD (a blind and elderly man,) was placed at the bar, indicted for having, at Port Macquarie, on the 27th September last, inflicted several mortal wounds with a knife upon one **JAMES BROWN**, whereof the said James Brown expired the 27th December. Guilty – remanded for sentence.

Monday

LUCIUS O'BRIEN was placed at the bar, charged with having on the 19th December last, assaulted one **JOSEPH MERRICK** with a pistol, and mortally wounded him in the right side of the back, of which mortal wound he died shortly afterwards. The fact was clearly proved, but the prisoner was acquitted, on the grounds of being insane at the time, and was remanded until the Governor's pleasure be known.

Tuesday

Before their Honors the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Dickinson.

JAMES DUVAL was indicted as an accessory after the fact to the murder of **THOMAS WARNE** by one **JOHN VIDALL**. Not Guilty – discharged.

Thursday

Before their Honors the three Judges

GEORGE BYFORD, who had previously been convicted of murder, was placed at the bar, and upon being asked in the usual form whether he had anything to say why sentence of death should not be passed upon him, he said, "That he had no just cause to show, for he acknowledged himself so before God and man, and he only hoped that those who heard him would never, as the deceased had done, accuse a man of blinding himself without any foundation for such a charge." Mr. Justice Dickinson then proceeded, in a solemn and impressive manner, to pass sentence of death upon the prisoner.

THOMAS B. HUMPHREYS (out on bail), who had been committed for manslaughter by the Coroner, was discharged from his recognizances, the Attorney General declining to prosecute.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/108, 25/01/1845

SYDNEY NEWS.

MURDER OF THOMAS WARNE. - CONFESSION OF VIDAL.

The convict **VIDALL** has made a brief confession to Mr. **KECK**, the governor of the gaol, with the particulars of which we have been favoured by that officer, and of which the following is the substance:- On the evening in question, between the hours of eight and nine, Vidall and the deceased were sitting together in the apartments of the latter, when a slight quarrel arose between them, and Warne, who appears to have been a man of very excitable temperament, ordered Vidall to leave his premises immediately, threatening if he did not do so, that he, Warne, would stab him with an old sword which he had there. Vidall, upon this, went out upon the landing, and remained there for a short time; but his evil passions becoming excited, he went softly in, and perceiving that Warne, without observing him, was writing at the table, with his head upon his hand, he seized the large axe produced in court at the trial, and struck the unhappy man with the back of it upon the head, just in the same manner that Dr. **MACKELLAR** supposed the blow to have been inflicted. Immediately upon receiving the blow, Warne fell upon the ground, and after a few nervous struggles with his legs expired. The murderer, finding that his deed of blood was complete, locked the door and went out; and it was at this time that he was seen with **DUVALL**, to whom, however, he solemnly denies having said anything at all about what had passed. Upon returning to the scene of the murder, he cut off the limbs of the deceased without taking off the clothes, and placed the remains upon the fire with the clothes still on them; but from the running of the fat from the body, the chimney soon afterwards took fire. This fire Vidall extinguished in the manner described by the witnesses at the trial, but without the aid of any one, (Probably by bringing the table to the window and standing the buckets of water upon it, so as to place them within his reach). Finding that he could not succeed in burning the body, Vidall abandoned that idea, and proceeded to pack up the remains of his victim in a box, just as they were afterwards found. He then went to work to efface the marks of the horrible deed which he had committed, and by five o'clock in the morning had got all cleared up. The blood which appeared on the floor of the room below that in which the murder was committed, must, he says, have flowed through the ceiling from the place where Warne lay after he was murdered, and before he (Vidall) had begun to mutilate the body. The whole of the evidence given on the trial was, to use his own words, as correct as if the witnesses had been watching him throughout, except that of the witness who spoke as to the water having been handed to him from the inside, which was wholly a mistake. Vidall most solemnly and expressly declares that he alone os

the guilty party, and that neither Duvall nor anybody else knew anything whatever of the transaction; Duvall as well as **WILSON** having been merely asked by him to assist in moving the box just as they had themselves stated. *Herald*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/108, 25/01/1845

INQUESTS. - An inquest was held on Friday, the 17th instant, at the Hinton Hotel, Hinton, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner, on the body of **PATRICK RYAN**, who had arrived there from Maitland on the Sunday previous, very ill, and had gradually, sunk from debility till he died on the Thursday. It appeared the deceased had been drinking freely of wine during Christmas week, and seems to have never recovered the effects, but to have got weaker and weaker till he died. A post mortem examination was made by Mr. **BARNES**, and the jury returned a verdict of died from natural causes, and that his death was accelerated by intemperance.

Another inquest was held before Mr. **PARKER** on Tuesday last, at Clarence Town, on the body of Mr. **JAMES MARSHALL** of that place, whose body had been found the previous morning floating in the river, naked, and with stones tied to his feet. It appeared deceased, who was an insolvent, had lately been to Sydney about his affairs, and on his return was very much struck by his servant having robbed him of nearly all his clothes during his absence. After this he appeared much depressed, and drunk a little, a thing he had never done before, but nothing remarkable was observed about him. On Friday morning, the 17th, he left his house after breakfast, and never returned, being missing from that time until his body was found in the river on the following Monday. It appeared from the evidence that deceased had been in his right mind up to the last time he was seen alive, and no mark of violence could be found on his body after recovery. The jury returned a verdict of *felo de se*, and that the deceased had drowned himself.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - SINGLETON.

The committee of our Benevolent Asylum met last Friday afternoon, to consider the case of a young man, named **WILLIAM HOOKER**, who had come from the Bulga, in a very distressing condition, apparently from a general prostration of strength. From the energetic representations of Dr. **VALLACK**, out lodgings were procured (as we cannot yet boast if a proper building for the purpose), and the necessary aid was promised, but the young man died on Sunday morning, at 2 o'clock. His complaint was inflammation of the lungs, under which he had suffered nearly a month without medical advice. As an asylum of this description is calculated to do much real good, in alleviating the mental and bodily sufferings and miseries of our fellow-creatures, it is to be hoped that all classes of our community will liberally contribute towards its support.

We understand that Sir **EDWARD KNATCHBULL** has transmitted £1000 for the benefit of the orphan children of the late Mrs. **JAMIESON**.

WREGISTER, 4/79, 25/01/1845

INQUEST. - Yesterday afternoon an inquest was held at Mr. Gray's, Lighthouse Tavern, corner of Bathurst and Sussex-streets, on the body of **JANE EVELYN**, aged five years, who had expired at the General Hospital on the same morning between one and two o'clock. From the evidence it appeared that on the 14th instant, while the deceased and a number of persons were standing in the street looking at a party of aborigines, a cart which the child did not perceive drove up and passed over her body. The jury found a verdict of accidental homicide, and a deodand of twenty shillings on the wheel which inflicted the injury.

COMMITTAL. - **MARY BURKE**, the female on whose infant an inquest was held last week, was committed on Saturday to take her trial for concealing the birth of her child.

LUCIUS O'BRIEN. - On Saturday last, in conformity with an order from his Excellency the Governor, **LUCIUS O'BRIEN**, who had been indicted for the wilful murder of Dr. **MEYRICK**, but acquitted on the ground of insanity, was conveyed by Mr. **KECK**, the Governor of the Gaol at Darlinghurst, to the asylum at Tarban Creek, in a carriage, accompanied by O'Brien's eldest brother.

HUMAN REMAINS. - The lower portion of the body of an adult female was found, on Monday evening, on the beach at Lane Cove. The shoes and stockings on it have enabled the inhabitants of the neighbourhood where it was found to identify it as the body of a woman who was accidentally drowned there about ten days ago, by the upsetting of a boat in which she, a man and a child, were passing for Sydney, the two latter were saved, but she sank before assistance arrived.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/109, 01/02/1845

SERIOUS ACCIDENT. - On Saturday last **THOMAS GIBBES**, a settler residing at Windemere, met with a very serious accident. He was returning home on a dray laden with casks, when the dray came in contact with a tree, and was upset. Gibbes fell with his arm under the dray, and owing to the bullocks dragging the vehicle before he could be released, his arm was dreadfully lacerated, and the bone completely shattered. A horse was immediately obtained, and he was removed to the Benevolent Asylum. His arm was so much injured that amputation was considered necessary, and the operation was accordingly performed by Dr. **LIDDELL**. The poor man is still suffering slightly from fever, but we are happy to hear that he is likely to recover. This is a painful but forcible illustration of the necessity and advantage of a medical hospital.

CONVICTS UNDER SENTENCE. - We understand that **VIDALL**, who was found guilty at the last sittings of the Central Criminal Court, of the murder of **THOMAS WARNE**, has been ordered for execution on Friday, the 7th of February; and that **GEORGE BYFORD**, the blind man, who was convicted of murdering one of the wardsmen at the Port Macquarie Barracks, has been reprieved. *Herald, Jan. 30*

WREGISTER, 4/80, 01/02/1845

THE CONVICT BYFORD. - The sentence of the prisoner [**GEORGE**] **BYFORD**, who was left for execution for the murder of **JAMES BROWN**, at Port Macquarie, is commuted to transportation for life to Van Diemen's Land, there to be kept to hard labour in chains.

BODY FOUND. - On Sunday evening the remains of a male, apparently of the higher class, were found at Bungarrabee Brush, the flesh of which was entirely gone. The deceased appeared to have been handsomely dressed in a black hat, Cossack boots, and black coat. There was found beside him a leathern portmanteau containing a handsome blue coat, several toothbrushes, and other articles; also a handsome blue cloth cloak, a cap with a peak, a bamboo walking stick with a carved handle, a pocket-comb with a mother-o'-pearl case, the comb being of tortoiseshell and having a silver long oblong plate, with the initials **T.G.W.** engraved upon it; also, parts of a newspaper, apparently the *Calcutta Englishman*, of January or February, 1840. The remains are believed to be those of Major **HOVENDEN**, who left Sydney in July last, and has not since been heard of. At the Coroner's inquest, held on Wednesday, at the public house on the Western Road, the pocket comb, with the initials T.G.W. was

identified by Mr. **WILSON**, who had given it to Major Hovenden. A still more conclusive and melancholy proof as to the remains is that a leather peak of a cap was found, on which is cut quite legibly, "Frederick Hovenden died of hunger."

SUICIDE. - An inquest was held before Mr. **PARKER** on Tuesday week, at Clarence Town, on the body of Mr. **JAMES MARSHALL**, of that place, whose body had been found the previous morning floating in the river, naked, and with stones tied to his feet. It appeared deceased, who was an insolvent, had latterly been to Sydney about his affairs, and on his return was much affected by his servant having robbed him of nearly all his clothes during his absence. After this he appeared much distressed, and drank a little, a thing he had never done before; but nothing remarkable was observed about him. On Friday morning, the 17th instant, he left his house after breakfast, and never returned. He was missing from that time until his body was found in the river on the following Monday. It appeared from the evidence that deceased had been in his right mind up to the last time he was seen alive, and no marks of violence could be found on the body after recovery. The jury returned a verdict of *felo de se*, and that deceased had drowned himself. *Maitland Mercury*.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/110, 08/02/1845

STATE OF THE BENEVOLENT ASYLUM, FEB. 7

The man who suffered amputation of his arm, two weeks ago, is fast recovering.

SYDNEY NEWS. - Thursday evening.

The principal topic of conversation in town to-day has been the execution of the unhappy murdered **VIDALL**, who is to expiate his crime upon the scaffold at Darlinghurst gaol to-morrow morning, at nine o'clock. Since the execution of **KNATCHBULL**, for the murder of **ANN JAMIESON**, so great a sensation has not been manifested.

DEATH FROM STARVATION. - On Sunday, the 26th ult., the remains of a male were found in the Bungarrabee Bush, near Parramatta, the flesh of which was entirely gone. The remains are those of Major **HOVENDEN**, who left Sydney in July, 1843, and had not since been heard of. On the leather peak of a cap which was found near the remains was cut - "Frederick Hovenden, died of hunger."

SUDDEN DEATH.

On Wednesday morning last, as a man named **JOHN WATTS** was breakfasting with a friend in East Maitland, he suddenly rose from his seat, ran out, and fell on the ground, and blood was immediately observed flowing from his mouth. His friends ran out to assist him, but found him bleeding so profusely at the mouth that notwithstanding they tried all they could to aid him, he died in a few minutes, before a medical man could reach him. This poor fellow had been ill for several days, being attended by Dr. **BROWN**, and had had a sudden attack a fortnight previously, which induced him to make over a little property to an old friend to bury him with the proceeds, in case he died. The body lay for many hours in the open air, as he died, and the coroner, who had been sent for, being unable to come that day, the police magistrate requested Dr. Brown to go and examine the body, in order to ascertain the cause of death. Dr. Brown having done so, made an affidavit that, from his previous knowledge of the case, and from the appearance of the body, he was of opinion that the deceased had died a natural death, from the bursting of a blood-vessel on the lungs. The deceased having held a ticket of leave, the police magistrate ordered that the body should be interred, which was accordingly performed that afternoon.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - **HINTON.**

SERIOUS ACCIDENT. - Yesterday, the 6th, the inhabitants here were a good deal shocked at hearing that Dr. **SCOTT**'s overseer, a highly respected man, had just met with a sudden and frightful death. It seems while a thrashing machine was in full operation on the Dr.'s premises, a quantity of foul air had gathered in the barrel, and suddenly exploded with great violence, driving an iron pin of the machine into the forehead of the unfortunate overseer, who was standing by – the pin passing out again at the top of his head. He fell instantly, apparently quite dead. The news reached Dr. **SCOTT**, who was coming towards this place, and he turned immediately, and galloped back to the assistance of the unfortunate man. Last evening we were happy to hear that his life was safe, the pin having providentially escaped injuring any vital part.

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DEATH FROM STARVATION. - On Sunday, the 26th ult., the remains of a male were found in the Bungarrabee Bush, near Parramatta, the flesh of which was entirely gone. The remains are those of Major **HOVENDEN**, who left Sydney in July, 1843, and had not since been heard of. On the leather peak of a cap which was found near the remains was cut – "Frederick Hovenden, died of hunger."

WREGISTER, 4/81, 08/02/1845

CORONER'S INQUESTS. - On Tuesday afternoon a coroner's inquest was held, at the "Fortune of War" public house, on the body of **MARGARET SULLIVAN**, a child, who had been drowned at Neutral Bay on Monday afternoon. **MARY SULLIVAN**, the mother of the deceased, residing at Neutral Bay, deposed that between four and five o'clock on Monday afternoon she saw the body of the deceased in the water; she had last seen her alive about two o'clock at dinner; after dinner witness went to Mr. **BOYD'S**, where she remained about two hours; on her return home she heard some girls screaming, who told her that there was a child drowned; when she went to the water she saw the child's body floating dead; there was a great depth of water where the body was floating; some men who were near the place took the body and brought it to land; witness was satisfied the deceased had been accidentally drowned. **MICHAEL M'CORMICK**, residing at Woolloomooloo Bay, saw the deceased quite well between four and five o'clock on Monday afternoon, near the place where he soon after saw her floating in the water; witness on seeing the body in the water went in and brought it ashore – it was dead. Dr. **D.J. TIERNEY**, of Pitt-street, had viewed the body of the deceased in the house where the jury assembled; he observed no marks of violence on the body. The jury found a verdict of accidentally drowned.

On Tuesday evening last, a labouring man named **WALPOLE**, residing on the Western Road, went to bed with his wife, taking with them an infant son. Two chairs were placed against the side of the bed to prevent the child from falling to the floor, should he slip out. During the night, it appeared that the child had slipped out of bed, and getting caught between the two chairs, had caught by the neck, where he had hung until strangled. A verdict of accidental death was recorded by the Jury empanelled on the body, on Wednesday.

On Thursday afternoon, an enquiry took place in Mellon's Hotel, Chippendale, on the body of **ELIZABETH MOON**, an infant, when the following evidence was given: **WILLIAM MOON**, baker, and father of the deceased, deposed she was nine weeks old; she was put to bed about eleven o'clock on Tuesday forenoon, being then quite well; about three in the afternoon witness went to the bed and found she had worked herself under the bed clothes, and had perspired so freely as to wet the clothes over her; on taking her up she appeared unwell, and becoming worse, Dr. **CATES** was sent for, and saw her, at ten o'clock at night; she died at half-past nine on Wednesday morning. Mr. **JOHN CATES**, surgeon, had seen the deceased alive on Tuesday night, she was then labouring under extreme difficulty of breathing, and in a state of great exhaustion; witness prescribed proper medicine for her case; in his opinion death was caused by the accumulation of blood in the lungs, the circulation having been impeded. The jury returned a verdict of died in consequence of accidental suffocation.

An inquiry took place yesterday afternoon, in Coleson's public-house, corner of Liverpool and George-streets, touching the death of **MARY ANN GARNUM**, aged two years and five months. It appeared from the evidence of the mother that she was washing some clothes between seven and eight o'clock on Thursday evening, when she lifted a boiler full of boiling water off the fire on to the floor for the purpose of emptying it into a tub outside the door; the deceased was then amusing herself at see-saw with another child, at a considerable distance from the pot; witness stepped outside to put the tub right in order that she might empty the water into it; while so employed the deceased fell backwards into the boiling water and was severely scalded on the back and sides; witness sprang in, caught hold of her and got her out before the water had time to cover the whole of the body; she immediately plunged her into a barrel of cold water, and took her to the doctor, who directed her what to do, but deceased died about two hours afterwards. Dr. **AITKIN** had seen the deceased in her mother's arms between eight and nine o'clock on Thursday evening; she was labouring under the effects of a very severe scolding (sic) on the back and sides of the body. He directed the injuries to be properly dressed. Death had been caused by the injuries he adverted to. The jury found a verdict of died from the effects of being accidentally scalded.

Another inquest was held at the same place, on the body of **RALPH LOMAS**, a joiner, who had expired in the General Hospital, at a quarter before ten on Thursday evening. **JOHN SUTTON**, a joiner, deposed that he and the deceased went to Francis-street, at the south end of Hyde Park, about two o'clock on Thursday, both being perfectly sober at the time, for the purpose of finishing a dormer window in a new house they had been working at. The deceased went outside on the roof (which was very steep, and without any parapet) with his shoes on, for the purpose of nailing a board on; when witness was in the act of boring a hole inside, through which deceased was to drive a nail, witness heard something slide down, and fearing it was Lomas sprang to the window, but before he got there deceased had passed over the edge of the roof, and fell with a tremendous crash on the ground, from a height of upwards of thirty feet, by which he was severely injured on his forehead; he was immediately carried to the residence of Mr. Surgeon **WHITTELL**, who, on ascertaining the nature and extent of the injuries, pronounced the case hopeless, but recommended his immediate removal to the General Hospital, where he arrived about three o'clock. Mr. **RICHARDSON**, Colonial Surgeon, afterwards performed the operation of trepanning, but deceased expired the same evening. Dr. **MACFARLANE**, who had previously known the deceased, saw him in the Hospital; there was a large fracture of the frontal bone all the extent of the right eye-brow; the

bone was shattered into small pieces, and a portion of the brain protruded; the covering of the brain had also been injured; in his opinion the injuries described had been caused by a fall, and was sufficient to account for the death of the deceased. The jury found a verdict of died from a fracture of the skull accidentally received.

EXECUTION OF VIDELLE. - **JOHN VIDELLE**, who was found guilty at the last sittings of the Central Criminal Court of the wilful murder of **THOMAS WARNE**, underwent the extreme penalty of the law yesterday morning, at the New Gaol Darlinghurst. Since the time of his conviction, he had been attended by the Rev. Mr. **BOURGEOIS**, to whom he expressed great contrition, but, at times, he was very sullen and dogged in his demeanour. In the early part of yesterday morning he displayed considerable obstinacy, refusing to allow himself to be shaved, to have clean clothes on, or to partake of some tea which was sent to him; but by the exertion of the reverend gentleman by whom he was attended, he gradually assumed a more composed state of mind, and proceeded with apparent earnestness to prepare himself by devotion for his approaching end. At a little before nine o'clock, attended by two Roman Catholic priests, the Rev. Messrs. **M'ENROE** and **BOURGEOIS**, with whom he joined aloud in prayer as the mournful procession moved across the gaol yard. He walked up the steps without other assistance than that afforded him by the clergymen, but on his appearance on the platform, he was scarcely able to stand, and seemed intensely agitated. When the fatal noose was adjusted, the Rev. Mr. M'Enroe came to the rail of the platform, and addressed the crowd as follows:

"The individual who is now about to suffer, confesses the justice of the sentence under which he is now about to die. He acknowledges too, that in his case the laws have been fairly administered, and justice rightfully rendered. He repents him of his sins, and prays that God may forgive them, and asks that all here may join in prayer that he may be forgiven."

A low and deep "Amen" murmured through the crowd, and after the prisoner had affectionately taken leave of both his spiritual attendants, the fatal signal was given, the bolt withdrawn, and the criminal launched into eternity. There was no feeling manifested by the crowd, and the most perfect order prevailed throughout. We must agree, however, with our contemporaries of the *Herald* and *Australian*, in animadverting on the depraved taste which could lead thousands of females to witness such a scene, and on the disgraceful conduct of parents in allowing their children to become habituated to witness disgusting spectacles of this kind.

MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE. - About two o'clock yesterday afternoon, Mrs. **COURT**, wife of **JAMES COURT**, dealer, of Adelaide-place, laid her infant son **GEORGE**, aged six months, on an iron bedstead to sleep, and in order to prevent him rolling over, placed a slight iron railing, made to fit the front of the bed, in its place, and was busily engaged with her housework; about an hour after, one of the children called her to come and see what was the matter with baby, as he was hanging over the bed; on going into the room she was horror struck to find her infant dead, hanging over the side of the bed, his neck fixed between the side rail and the mattress, his face being closely pressed down on the latter, by which means he had been suffocated. An inquest will be held on the body today.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/111, 15/02/1845

EXECUTION OF VIDELLE. - This unhappy man, convicted of the murder of **THOMAS WARNE**, was executed on Friday, the 7th instant, at the new gaol, Darlinghurst. It will be remembered he confessed his crime some time back, but it appears he had since denied the truth of that statement. However, previous to his execution, he again confessed his guilt, and the Rev. Mr. **M'ENROE**, who attended him to the scaffold, stated publicly thereon, that **VIDELLE** confessed his crime, and

that the sentence was just. After prayer, the bolt was withdrawn, and the guilty man launched into eternity. A great crowd was present, among the rest great numbers of women, some of them holding young children by the hand, as if to inure them early to the callous contemplation of scenes of horror.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/112, 22/02/18451

ACCIDENT AT MR. EALES'S FARM, NEAR MORPETH. - We are happy to learn that the poor girls **KELLY** (who were about a fortnight ago since severely scorched on various parts of the body, by the explosion of a flask containing a considerable quantity of gunpowder, causing their clothes to ignite) are now convalescing; and that the eldest, a girl of eleven years of age, who sustained the greatest injury, and of whom Dr. **STEWART**, the medical gentleman in attendance, entertained some fears, is almost now out of danger. Her right hand, the thumb of which Dr. S. found it necessary to amputate, and her left arm, which sloughed to a very great extent, are now presenting very healthy appearances; consequently her ultimate recovery seems every day the more probable. *Morpeth Correspondent.*

DEATH FROM THE BITE OF A SNAKE.

On Saturday afternoon last, about four o'clock, a married woman named **BRIDGET GRIFFITHS**, residing at Reedy Camp, went into the bush with a girl to gather Cape gooseberries, and they had approached close to a fallen tea-tree that lay deeply imbedded in high weeds and bushes, when Mrs. Griffiths felt a black snake suddenly coil round her ankle, and screaming loudly she struck her foot smartly against the log to strike it off; failing in this, she ran a few yards screaming, when the snake dropped off and glided away. Not having felt a bite, Mrs. G. and her companion continued picking gooseberries for an hour, when they entered a hut, and having mentioned the occurrence, the inhabitants asked in great surprise if she had not looked to see whether she was bitten. On this Mrs. Griffiths returned home at once, and on examining her ankle found the snake had bitten her just in front of it. In about ten minutes she began to feel great pain in her head, and found her sight failing, and violent vomiting came on. Her husband tried all the means he could think of to relieve her, sucking the wound, &c., &c., but to no avail, and a dray was sent for to remove her to Maitland, but unfortunately such a time elapsed before one could be procured that it was nine o'clock before they reached Maitland, when they proceeded at once to Dr. Liddell's, where she remained. The unfortunate woman still laboured under violent pain at the back of the leg, in the groin, up the back, and about the neck, accompanied by violent retching; and general paralysis had taken place. She was however perfectly sensible, and could speak, but had no power over her limbs. Medicines were given by Dr. L. to counteract the poison, but though he could give her temporary relief, and attended her assiduously, the poison had entered too deeply into the system, and soon after two o'clock in the morning she went into convulsive fits, which continued till four, when death put a period to her sufferings. To the last she was quite sensible, and had no tendency to sleep. The ground where she was bitten has since been examined, and the holes haunted by the snake found, covered over by a soft mass of decayed weeds that appears to have been accumulating for years, and into which the foot sinks to the ankle, while the living grass and weeds above grow to the height of the armpits.

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Sunday morning last, between twelve and one o'clock, a man named **THOMAS M'CAULEY**, a servant of Capt. **SCOTT**, was driving a loaded bullock dray, on the road to Black Creek, and had got on the dray and fell asleep. He was accompanied by a black boy and a man to whom he was giving a lift

to Lochinvar. Soon after passing Mr. Wright's Inn, at Rutherford, this man awoke M'Cauley, telling him they were approaching a bad bog-hole, and then got down himself, leaving M'Cauley still sitting on the dray. When they got to the place, one of the wheels fell suddenly into a deep hole, and with the jerk M'Cauley fell off on that side just in front of the wheel, which the next moment passed heavily over his body and leg, injuring him very much, and breaking an arm and a leg. His companion hastened back to Rutherford, and Mr. Wright immediately accompanied him to the spot, and helped to remove the poor fellow to his house. Dr. **LIDDELL** was sent for, and immediately attended, and found the injuries to extend to a simple fracture of one arm, a very severe compound fracture of one leg, and a severe fracture of the bones of the pelvis, besides others, a considerable internal effusion of blood having also taken place. Dr. L. applied such instant remedies as to enable him to be removed to the Maitland Benevolent Asylum, where he was carefully attended, though no hopes were entertained of his recovery from the first; general mortification eventually took place, and he died on Tuesday afternoon.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - NEWCASTLE.

On the evening of Friday, the 14th instant, a child of about four years of age, named **MAHER**, was found drowned in a well near his father's house; it is supposed the poor little fellow fell into the uncovered and long disused well early in the afternoon, as the body had the appearance of having been in the water some hours.

WREGISTER, 4/84, 01/03/1845

MAITLAND

From the Maitland Mercury

DEATH FROM THE BITE OF A SNAKE. - On Saturday afternoon last, a married woman named **BRIDGET GRIFFITHS**, residing at Reedy Camp, went into the bush with a girl to gather Cape gooseberries, and they had approached close to a fallen tea-tree that lay deeply imbedded in high weeds and bushes, when Mrs. Griffiths felt a black snake suddenly coil round her ankle, and screaming loudly, she struck her foot smartly against the log to strike it off; failing in this, she ran a few rods screaming, when the snake dropped off and glided away. Not having felt a bite, Mrs. G. and her companion continued picking gooseberries for an hour, when they entered a hut, and having mentioned the occurrence, the inmates asked in great surprise if she had not looked to see whether she was bitten. On this Mrs. Griffiths returned home at once, and on examining her ankle, found the snake had bitten her just in front of it. In about ten minutes she began to feel great pain in her head, and found her sight failing, and violent vomiting came on. Her husband tried all the means he could to relieve her, sucking the wound, &c., &c., but to no avail, and a dray was sent for to remove her to Maitland; but unfortunately such a time had elapsed before one could be procured, that it was nine o'clock before they reached Maitland, where they proceeded at once to Dr. **LIDDELL'S**, where she remained. The unfortunate woman still laboured under violent pain at the back of the leg, in the groin, up the back, and about the neck, accompanied by violent retching; and general paralysis had taken place. She was however perfectly sensible, and could speak, but had no power over her limbs. Medicines were given by Dr. L. to counteract the poison, but though he could give her temporary relief, and attended her assiduously, the poison had entered too deeply into the system, and soon after two in the morning she went into convulsive fits, which continued till four, when death put a period to her sufferings. To the last she was quite sensible, and had no tendency to sleep.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/113, 01/03/1845

INQUESTS. - On Wednesday, the 19th February, an inquest was held before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner, on the body of **THOMAS M'CAULEY**, who had died in the asylum, as mentioned in our last, from injuries received from his dray passing over him near Rutherford on the Saturday evening previous. The facts deposed to differed very slightly from those given by us, and the jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

On Sunday last another inquest was held before Mr. **PARKER**, on the body of **ROBERT HUGDEN**, who had been found floating in the river Hunter, near Mr. Cyrus M'Dougall's, between Maitland and Morpeth, on the same morning. It appeared that on the previous day the deceased came to the bank of the river, and spoke to some of Mr. M'Dougall's men, inquiring where the catameran was that was commonly used to cross the river, as he wanted to go to Maitland. Finding it was in this side of the river, he said he should swim over for it, but was dissuaded from doing so by the men, who told him he was too old, and that they would find a strong man who should swim over for him. Hugden then left the hut, and the men going to their work saw no more of him. In the evening a man named **ROBERT HAND**, living on this side of the river, nearly opposite the farm of the deceased, saw deceased's clothes and a bag of cucumbers lying on the opposite bank, and being unable to see anything of Hugden himself, he feared he must be drowned, and getting the catameran, commenced raking among the weeds in the river to see if he could find the body. Night falling he was unable to continue, but next morning early he saw the body floating near where he had been raking. Dr. **EDYE** having certified that there were no marks of violence on the body, but that death had apparently been caused by drowning, the jury returned a verdict of accidentally drowned.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/114, 08/03/1845

SUDDEN DEATH. - On Tuesday last a man named **MARK JACKSON**, in the employ of Mr. **SMITH**, wheelwright, West Maitland, after having been at work as usual at the hammer, laid down his tool, and with a faint groan fell backwards dead. He had been for the last two months under the doctor's hands, and was thought to have been getting better. An inquest was held on the body the next day, when a verdict of "died by the visitation of God" was returned.

ACCIDENT. - On Tuesday afternoon a little boy, son of Mr. **SMITH**, optician, fell over the rocks near the Flagstaff, and was seriously, though not dangerously, injured.

GOULBURN. - Considerable excitement prevails at Goulburn from a Mr. **DUIGAN**, a settler in the district, having been discovered in the bush, dead, and as it is imagined murdered. He was found lying near a fallen tree, with a wound about an inch wide and two inches long near the crown of his head. A hatchet was found near the spot, corresponding to the wound, and his cabbage-tree hat had also a similar dent in it. A coroner's jury met on the body, but after a lengthy investigation could not come to any decision, nine of the jury and one of the medical gentlemen being of opinion that he had been murdered, the remainder considering that he had been killed by the falling tree. The case is more mysterious from his having received several threatening messages, deterring him from appearing against two men whom he had been bound over to prosecute for robbing him, one of whom was seen lurking about his place a day or two previously to the body being found. The inquest has been adjourned for three weeks, to enable the police to procure further evidence in the case.

MURDER. - Intelligence was received in Sydney, on Tuesday evening last, that a man named **DUGGAN** had been shot, not far from Goulburn. The only reason that

could be conjectured for the commission of this outrage was that the unfortunate victim of it was in the Goulburn mail when it was recently robbed by bushrangers, and it was thought that he could give such information as would lead to the detection of the perpetrators of the robbery. *Morning Chronicle*

WREGISTER, 4/86, 15/03/1845

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

INQUESTS. - An inquest was held on Monday, at the Young Prince of Wales Inn, York-street, on the body of **RICHARD WEBB**, horse dealer, of York-street. It appeared that on Friday, the 28th February, the deceased was at the Cattle Market, and whilst standing at the slip rail, nine horses rushed out and knocked him down, and one of them trampled on his body, by which he was severely injured in the right side; he was immediately conveyed home. Dr. **FULLERTON** saw deceased immediately after the accident, and attended him after it, and stated that three ribs, the 9th 10th and 11th, on the right side, were broken, one of the projected inward and slightly wounding the liver; the cause of death, however, was a rupture of the kidney, to such an extent that it was impossible life could be sustained. The deceased died on Saturday evening and was attended by Doctors **BLAND** and **WALLACE**, besides Dr. Fullerton. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

A second inquest was held at the Royal Oak Inn, Miller's Point, on the body of **JOHN HALL**, a seaman of the ship *Clarkstone*; the captain of the vessel certified that the deceased had been drunk every day since he came ashore and a seaman of the vessel deposed to having found him dead in his berth. A professional gentleman deposed to the death of the deceased having been caused by apoplexy, arising out of drunkenness, and a verdict to that effect was accordingly returned.

SUICIDE. - An inquest was held on Wednesday on the body of **EDWARD MAHONEY**, who was found by his wife about six o'clock that morning lying on the floor with his throat cut. From the evidence it appeared the deceased was a teetotaler, but had recommenced drinking about a week previous. On Tuesday he had a quarrel with Mr. **CRAMPTON**, and went home in liquor. He called at M'Laughlin's public house and wanted to have spirits, which was refused, and he went away threatening to destroy himself. From the nature of the wound it appeared to have been inflicted by himself. Accordingly the jury returned a verdict of self-destruction. The Coroner issued a warrant for the body to be privately buried between the hours of nine and twelve at night.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/115, 15/03/1845

A NOTORIOUS RASCAL. - A man named **BRIGHT** was on Wednesday convicted of horse-stealing, when being brought up for sentence, the Solicitor General said he had received a letter from the police magistrate at Moreton Bay, stating that a one armed man, answering the description of Bright, but who had gone by the name of **MORGAN**, had made his escape from there some time previously, when under a charge of shooting a black boy. It appeared Morgan had been shepherd to Mr. **ERLE**, and the hutkeeper on his station had been murdered by some blacks with spears, though not without strong suspicion of their having been set on to do so by Morgan, as he had had a quarrel with the deceased on the previous night, and left the hut vowing vengeance, and the next morning the body was found transfixed by a dozen shears. Morgan came into the station and reported the murder, and as he came in he met a black boy who was civilised and lived on the farm, and levelling his piece at him shot him dead for no assignable reason. It was also suspected that he was the

party who had fired at Mr. Dalton at Adelaide, and had escaped to Van Diemen's Land, where the police endeavouring to take him he lost his arm in the violent resistance he made. His Honor the Chief Justice ordered Bright to be remanded into the custody of the sheriff, so that an opportunity might be given of identifying him as the perpetrator of the various crimes of which he is suspected. The prisoner represents himself to be a native of Van Diemen's Land, and is stated to be a first rate shot, although his right arm has been amputated within a short distance of the shoulder.

CORONER'S INQUEST. - An inquest was held on Thursday, 27th February, at the house of **SAMUEL PRITCHARD**, of Uffington, Upper Paterson, on the body of **JOHN HALLAM**, who was in the service of Pritchard, and who ruptured a small blood vessel in the stomach from over exertion at the thrashing machine. Verdict, "death from natural causes."

SUSPECTED INFANTICIDE. - A coroner's inquest was held at the Queen Victoria Inn, Newcastle, on Friday last, the 7th instant, on an un-christened infant, aged 14 days, belonging to a man named **PALMER**, residing at the coal pots, Newcastle. From the fact of no medical attendant having been called in, as well as from the child having been buried in the bush, only a few hours after death, it had been imagined that the child had come by its death by unfair means. A post mortem examination of the body, however, proved that death had been caused by the "thrush," although, had medical advice been resorted to, the life of the child might have been saved. A verdict of "death from natural causes" was returned.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT. - On Tuesday afternoon last, a man named **JOHN DILLON** was riding a young horse along High-street, West Maitland, when the animal turned into the yard of Mr. **SMITH**, wheelwright. It was led out, when the rider began beating it with his whip. The horse reared up, when Dillon struck it between the ears with the butt end of his whip, and knocked it down. The shock threw him from his seat, but one foot got entangled in the stirrup. The horse instantly sprang up again, and commenced buckjumping, with Dillon hanging over his back by the stirrup on the off side, but his foot having got loose he was thrown violently on his head on the hard road. He was immediately picked up perfectly insensible, and though every attention was paid him, he expired within a few hours after the accident, of concussion of the brain. An inquest was afterwards held on the body, and the above facts having been given in evidence, the jury returned a verdict of "accidental death."

MURDER. - On Tuesday (yesterday) three men, attached to the stockade iron gang here, named **JAMES FITZPATRICK**, **MICHAEL MILLIGAN**, and **JOHN FITZGERALD**, were brought before the police court charged with stabbing a fellow convict, named **PETER M'CORMICK**, on the Sunday evening previous. The presiding magistrates were Major **LAST** and Captain **FURLONG**, who, we rejoice to find, has returned to reside in the town. It appeared that M'Cormick had on Saturday made complaints to the serjeant of the stockade respecting the conduct of Fitzgerald and Fitzpatrick, and that on Sunday Fitzpatrick was seen to receive a knife from Milligan, and heard to say "that he would have satisfaction out of that villain M'Cormick." Milligan also exclaiming that "If M'Cormick had said such a thing of him he would have his b----- life." On Sunday evening, after all the men had retired to rest in the prison, Fitzgerald was seen by a man named **CROOK** to enter the sleeping berth of the unfortunate M'Cormick, and stab him repeatedly, saying, "You villain, I'll teach you to take away my character." M'Cormick called out "Murder" several times, till the noise brought in Serjeant **WILSON** and the guard, who found M'Cormick lying on the ground weltering in his blood, having received no less than

five wounds about the breast, besides others in the body. In M'Cormick's berth was found a small knife, wet with blood. The guard took the three prisoners to the watch-house, and removed M'Cormick to the hospital, when in a short time Major Last took his dying deposition, it being feared he was dying. The unfortunate man lived, however, till last night, when we regret to hear he died. It is said he identified Fitzgerald as one of the men who stabbed him. Fitzpatrick and Milligan denied having anything to do with the stabbing, though Fitzpatrick admitted having struck him with a piece of pipe-clay. Fitzgerald also denied any participation, and gave a circumstantial account of Milligan's having done so. The three prisoners were committed to take their trial.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY. - At the Berrima Assizes, on Friday last, **FRANCIS GREEN and JOHN HAYLE** were indicted for highway robbery. The Attorney General, in stating the case, said the charge was robbing one **PATRICK DUGGAN**, and putting him in bodily fear. The principal witness in the case, Duggan, had, since the committal of the prisoners, been murdered, and he consequently laboured under some difficulty in the case, and it had no doubt been imagined that the prisoners would escape the punishment due to their crime by getting the chief witness against them out of the way. A Mr. Davis, also a witness in a case of highway robbery, had been murdered, and no doubt with the same object of getting his testimony out of the way; but they would not escape, for the murdered man had given his evidence at the police office, whereby it appeared that he had fully recognised the prisoners as the men who had stopped and robbed him in his cart at Wheeho. The deposition was fully proved and corroborated by other witnesses. Mr. **HUNT**, chief constable of Goulburn, deposed that the prisoner Green had said after committal that Duggan "should never swear another oath against him," and that Duggan had been murdered by a blow with an axe. Both the prisoners were found guilty, and sentenced to fifteen years transportation.

MAITLAND CIRCUIT COURT.

CUTTING AND MAIMING. - **HAMLET**, a man of color, native of Demerara, was indicted for stabbing, cutting, and wounding one **ALEXANDER FLOOD**, with a knife, with intent to do him grievous bodily harm, at Newcastle, on the 18th October. The prisoner pleaded guilty, but some doubt arising as to the sanity of the prisoner, a jury was empanelled to enquire into the state of the prisoner's mind, Mr. Purefoy, at the request of the bench, conducting the examination on behalf of the prisoner, when it appeared that prisoner had been servant to Mr. Flood, and had been recommended to him as an inoffensive madman. He had been with him about twelve months, and had been a good servant, till towards the last month, when he had become very violent. On one occasion, prisoner had attacked him with a rolling pin, but witness had never given provocation, although he had been attacked several times. The jury, without deliberation, considered the prisoner of unsound mind, and his Honor ordered the prisoner to be committed to gaol as a dangerous lunatic until further orders.

BATHURST. - A man named **HENRY HOGAN** has been committed to take his trial for the wilful murder of his wife, **ANN HOGAN**.

WREGISTER, 4/87, 22/03/1845

THE LATE SUICIDE. - The inquiry into the circumstances attendant on the death of the late **EDWARD MAHONEY**, of York-street, terminated on Monday, and the result was that the unfortunate widow was discharged, there being no evidence to warrant a committal.

MURDER. - On Tuesday, last week, three men, attached to the Newcastle Stockade iron gang, named **JAMES FITZPATRICK**, **MICHAEL MILLIGAN**, and **JOHN FITZGERALD**, were brought before the police court charged with stabbing a fellow convict named **PETER M'CORMICK**, on the Sunday evening previous. It appeared that M'Cormick had on Saturday made complaints to the Sergeant of the stockade respecting the conduct of Fitzgerald and Fitzpatrick, and that on Sunday Fitzpatrick was seen to receive a knife from Milligan, and heard to say, "that he would have satisfaction out of that villain M'Cormick." Milligan also exclaiming that "If M'Cormick had said such a thing of him he would have his b----- life." On Sunday evening, after all the men had retired to rest in the prison, Fitzgerald was seen by a man named **CROOK** to enter the sleeping berth of the unfortunate M'Cormick, and stab him repeatedly, saying, "You villain, I'll teach you to take away my character." M'Cormick called out "murder" several times, till the noise brought in Sergeant **WILSON** and the guard, who found M'Cormick lying on the ground weltering in his blood, having received no less than five wounds about the breast, besides others in the body. In M'Cormick's berth was found a small knife, wet with blood. The guard took the three prisoners to the watch house, and removed M'Cormick to the hospital, when in a short time Major **LAST** took his deposition, it being feared he was dying. The unfortunate man lived, however, till last night, when we regret to hear that he died. It is said he identified Fitzgerald as one of the men who stabbed him. Fitzpatrick and Milligan denied having anything to do with the stabbing, though Fitzpatrick admitted having struck him with a piece of pipe-clay. Fitzgerald also denied any participation, and gave a circumstantial account of Milligan's having done so. The three prisoners were committed to take their trial. *Maitland Mercury.*

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/116, 22/03/1845

SUSPICION OF MURDER. - On Tuesday last an inquisition was held, before **JOHN S. PARKER**, coroner, at the Maitland Inn, on the body of **SUSANNAH LYNCH**, who had been found dead that morning in a paddock off the high road in West Maitland; the inquest was continued by adjournment on Tuesday, a man named **JOHN WILLIAMS** being in custody on suspicion of having caused her death, and the following details were adduced in evidence:-

ELIZA MITCHELL had seen her on the previous evening, in company with a man who wore a white shooting coat, coming down the town.

WILLIAM ROBINSON had seen deceased in Mr. Cummins's public house on the previous evening, in company with prisoner. He had on a blue jacket, white trousers, and a cloth cap, as he then wore, and was not drunk.

ELIZA BRIDEKIRK had seen deceased between eight and nine o'clock, coming out of Mr. Cummins's public house; a short, stout set man, clad in a white shooting coat, followed her, and called her back, saying he wanted to speak to her, but witness did not notice where they went.

MICHAEL RUSSELL saw a short, stout woman, dressed in a dirty straw bonnet, and very dirty clothes, passing Mr. Ledsam's house towards East Maitland, a man, who resembled the prisoner, leading her by the hand. She was very drunk, and abusing the man, trying to get away. A second man was behind, and told the woman to go on, and that he would follow. The woman appeared to be an old woman.

JAMES LUGG was looking after his wife on the previous night, and at length found her, between eight and nine, in Mr. Cummins's public house, in company with the prisoner. Deceased was not there then but came in shortly afterwards, and then appeared drunk, and as if just out of a sleep. The marks (a few scratches) on

prisoner's face were there when he was in Mr. Cummins's. Witness left deceased and prisoner at Mr. Cummins's when he went away.

JOHN CONNOR had engaged prisoner to work for him as a carpenter on the previous day to the body being found, at six shillings per week. The next day he seemed careless and not inclined to work, and witness was informed that he had come home between ten and eleven o'clock.

JOHN DURIE had purchased a plane off prisoner on the day the body was found. He stated then that he was going to sell his tools and go into the bush shepherding, if he could get employment; but witness could not recollect whether he mentioned that it was on account of the low wages he got.

Dr. **LIDDELL** had examined the body, which he found lying on the back, the face turned to one side, the right arm bent and the hand clenched. The depending parts of the body were black, as was usual in cases of sudden death, and similar spots were found on the face, lower jaw, and top of the windpipe. Blood had flowed from the mouth, and the forefinger and thumb of the right hand were covered with it, as if they had been placed in it. The point of the tongue had also been severed by the teeth, and was found lying by the side of the head; a shilling also lay there covered with blood. There were many recent abrasions on the legs and arms, yielding drops of blood; one was on the right elbow, as if she had fallen on that part. There were no marks of injury on the scalp. On removing the skull and *dura mater* there appeared an extensive effusion of *serum* over the brain, and on cutting into the cavities they were found much distended by the serous fluid, but there was no effusion of blood on the brain. From the appearance, death was caused by the effusion of *serum* on the brain, and the lacerations of the tongue might be caused in the last agonies of death. Such an effusion might occur through strangulation, but at the same time was a likely consequence of intemperance.

The prisoner, who had, on the first occasion, been examined as a witness, gave the following evidence:- That he had met deceased about eight o'clock, coming out of her residence, in company with another man, who had on a blue jacket and black hat. She asked him for a *ball*, when he told her to go home, and walked away. About ten minutes after eight he was at Mr. Cummins's public house, and went from there home to Mr. Connor's. The dress he wore then was the same he had wore on the preceding day. The blood on his trousers he could not account for. The inquest was then adjourned to Tuesday next.

NEWCASTLE.

CORONER'S INQUEST. - A coroner's inquest was held on Thursday last, the 13th instant, on the body of poor **M'CORMICK** (whose murder was noticed in your last number). The coroner and jury, after viewing the body, adjourned to the gaol, the perpetrators of the deed being there, and after a long investigation returned a verdict of wilful murder against **FITZPATRICK and FITZGERALD**.

MAITLAND CIRCUIT COURT. - TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 1845
SENTENCES.

DAVID BRIGHT, who had been convicted of horse stealing, and had been remanded for time to be given to inquire whether he was the person who had murdered a black boy at Moreton Bay, was brought up for sentence.

His Honor said that it had not yet been ascertained whether he was the person who had committed a dreadful murder; the most convenient course would therefore be to pass sentence on him for the offence of which he had been convicted, and afterwards the inquiry as to the other and more serious crime would be made, and he would most

likely have yet to undergo his trial for the murder. He was then sentenced to fifteen years transportation.

SUSPICION OF MURDER. - Last week a dealer named **MAHONEY**, residing in York-street, was found with his throat cut, insensible in his room. On a hearing of the case before **J.R. BRENNAN** Esq., coroner for Sydney, the jury returned a verdict of "Felo de se;" but since then circumstances have transpired which have thrown a suspicion on deceased's wife, as being in some way accessory to his death, and she has been apprehended by the police.

BATHURST ASSIZES. - The following is the calendar for these assizes, which commence on Monday next.

HENRY MILLS, and HENRY HOGAN, wilful murder, and
JOHN COOPER, murder, assault with intent to rob and murder.

WREGISTER, 4/88, 29/03/1845

DEATH ON THE RACE COURSE. - On Monday afternoon, as a fine youth, aged about fourteen years, was riding quickly along the Petersham race-course, when the horses were coming in for the first heat of the third race, his foot was unfortunately jerked out of the stirrup-iron, and while in the act of leaning over to catch the iron again with his foot, he was thrown from his seat, and the other foot being fast in the stirrup-iron, the horse dragged him with great violence a considerable distance, striking him several severe strokes with his hind feet, and ultimately dragged his head with such violence against the stump of a tree, as to mutilate it in a frightful manner. He was taken up alive, but expired soon after.

INQUEST. - An inquest was held on Tuesday, at the house of Mr. Walker, corner of Pitt and Liverpool-streets, on the body of the young man **WOOLLER**, who fell a victim to an accident received on the Racecourse at Petersham on the previous day. Medical testimony, that the deceased died from the effects of injuries received by his horse dragging him along the ground, was given, and the jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

An inquest was held, on Wednesday, on the body of Master **E.A. HAYES**, who was killed by the accidental discharge of his fowling-piece on the previous day. The unfortunate young man, who was about fifteen years of age, went out shooting with some of his young friends, and was in the act of getting over a fence; whilst doing which he had laid down his gun against a log, and something touching the trigger, the piece went off and the whole contents lodged in the breast of the young man, who almost immediately expired.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/117, 29/03/1845

ADJOURNED INQUEST. - On Tuesday last, the adjourned inquest on the body of **SUSANNAH LYNCH** was held at Mr. Nicholson's, the Maitland Inn, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., the coroner. No further evidence was adduced, and the coroner having summed up the testimony given on the two preceding days, the jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown. The man **JOHN WILLIAMS** was consequently discharged from custody.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editors of the Maitland Mercury.

GENTLEMEN, - In your last publication, in reporting the evidence given at the inquest on **SUSANNAH LYNCH**, you state that I saw the deceased coming out of Mr. Cummins's public house between eight and nine o'clock. In respect for myself, and in justice to Mrs. Cummins, I beg to state your report is erroneous; I stated that

when at my own door, which is a long way from Mr. C.'s house, I saw the deceased, between eight and nine o'clock.

MARY BRIDEKIRK.

West Maitland, March 27, 1845.

SYDNEY NEWS. - GUNDEROO.

The south country has again been the scene of murder; a Mrs. **WILLIAMS**, residing in the Gunderoo district, sent a servant man, named **MILLFORD**, for some wine. On his return he met with a companion and planted the wine, telling Mrs. Williams that he had been robbed of it. The story was discovered by a woman on the farm being found drunk, and Millford sheltered himself by abusing his mistress and the overseer, throwing the leg of a stool at the latter. **HASSELL**, the overseer, seized a tomahawk and ordered him away, when Millford got possession of a hurdle bar. Hassell then retired to the hut, and sent Mrs. Williams's son a distance of three miles for some percussion caps, and on his return he put one on his fowling piece, and ordered Millford to leave the house; the latter refused, and said that the overseer was not game enough to fire. Upon this Hassell pulled the trigger; the charge lodged in Millford's side, and he expired seven hours afterwards. Hassell has been committed to take his trial for wilful murder.

HABITS OF THE BLACKS. - A black fellow attacking the hut of some white man at Moreton Bay, was shot, and although he got away, shortly afterwards he died. After the usual ceremonies of yelling, scarifying themselves, &c., had been gone through, the body was dissected and cut up into very small portions, and distributed among the tribe, who, after eating the flesh from the bones, carefully scraped them, and ultimately conveyed them to the Logan, to be placed amidst the branches of a sacred tree there. Eating the flesh is considered to be a mark of respect to the deceased by his tribe, and the blacks of other tribes will not join in the cannibalism.

WREGISTER, 4/89, 05/04/1845

BATHURST CIRCUIT COURT

Tuesday, March 25

Before his Honor Mr. Justice a'Beckett.

HENRY MILLS, a native, was charged with the wilful murder of **JOHN YOUNG**. The jury returned a verdict of guilty of manslaughter, with a strong recommendation to mercy. Remanded for sentence.

Wednesday

HENRY HOGAN, a native, was indicted for the murder of his wife, **ANN HOGAN**, by drowning her on the 6th day of February last. Remanded for sentence.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/118, 05/04/1845

DEATH BY DROWNING. - On Thursday morning, the 20th March, a carpenter named **GEORGE LEANE**, while standing on Mr. Portus's Wharf, at Morpeth, observed the body of a man floating down the river with the tide, and there being no boat near he jumped into the river, and with a rope brought the body ashore. After a day or two it was identified as the body of one **RICHARD M'DERMOTT**, a labourer in the employment of Mr. **WILLIAM M'DONALD**. He had received 7s. and 6d. from his master on the Monday previous, and had been last seen at midnight, in company with a man named **JOHN RYAN**, who was very drunk, with whom he crossed by the punt. Ryan was taken into custody during the sittings of the coroner's jury, which was held on the 21st and 24th March, when, after a long and patient investigation, a verdict of "found drowned" was returned, and Ryan discharged.

BODY FOUND. - The remains of a human body have been found near the road leading from Mr. Bettington's to Jerry's Plains, and have not as yet been recognised. The skull appears to have been fractured, and the bones scattered about. Half a gold ring, a small quantity of hair, a striped shirt, and some fragments of a pair of black cloth trousers were lying about the spot. By the appearance of the bones the body is supposed to have been dead about two months. *Government Gazette, April 1*

SYDNEY NEWS.

DREADFUL CRIMES. - A man named **JAMES MARTIN** had been committed to take his trial, by the Penrith bench, for the wilful murder of his wife, under very shocking circumstances.

WILLIAM LAYLEY and JOHN COURT have also been committed, by the same bench, for throwing one **PATRICK HOWITT** on to a fire with intent to do him some grievous bodily harm.

GOULBURN. - An inquest was held in this township, protracted during three days, on the body of the unfortunate man **PATRICK DUGGAN**, who, we stated in a former number, had been found murdered in the bush. A man named **THOMAS CLUNE** and a woman were in custody, and a great number of witnesses were examined, and it was clearly shown that the unfortunate man came to his death by a blow on the head with an axe; a verdict to that effect was returned, the jury finding that Thomas Clune was in deceased's company at the time, and guilty as an accessory before the fact.

MURDER AND ATTEMPTED ESCAPE. - On Wednesday, March 26th, **HENRY HOGAN**, a native of the colony, was tried at Bathurst Assizes on a charge of murdering his wife. It appeared that the prisoner was jealous of his wife, and for a week previous had had several quarrels with her, when on Sunday, the 6th February, she went down to the creek near the house, and a few minutes afterwards was followed there by her husband. Only a short time after he returned, and was met by his sister-in-law going away on horseback, to whom he said that she should find her sister in the creek. The body was found there, and a verdict of wilful murder returned against him. After this, as the people were leaving the court, the prisoner jumped over the dock, knocked down the constable in charge, and was making his way to a side door, when he was again collared, and heavily ironed and handcuffed.

WREGISTER, 4/90, 12/04/1845

BATHURST CIRCUIT COURT

Monday, March 31

Before his Honor Mr. Justice a'Beckett

HENRY HOGAN, who had been convicted of the murder of his wife, was brought up and received sentence of death, with an intimation that he would be recommended for mercy.

HENRY MILLS, who had been indicted for wilful murder, but found guilty of manslaughter, was placed at the bar and sentenced to two years' confinement in Bathurst Gaol.

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT

Monday

Before his Honor the Chief Justice

MARY ANN BURKE was indicted for the concealment of the birth of a male child; there were two counts, the one charging the child as born alive, the other as born dead. Guilty – to be two years imprisoned in Parramatta Gaol.

Thursday

DENIS MARTIN was placed at the bar, and indicted for the wilful murder of his wife, **MARY MARTIN**, at Penrith, on the 27th March last, a second count charged him with the murder of one **MARY MACINTYRE**, the maiden name of the deceased, and by which she was formerly known within a short time before the alleged murder. At the request of the prisoner, time was allowed to prepare his defence, which was undertaken by Mr. **PUREFOY** and Mr. **J.R. BRENNAN**.

Friday

Before his Honor Mr. Justice a'Beckett

DENNIS MARTIN, late of Penrith, labourer, was placed at the bar, and indicted for having, at Penrith, on the 17th of March last, wilfully murdered one **MARY MARTIN**, by casting her against the ground, and by inflicting with his hands and feet certain mortal wounds, bruises, and contusions, from the effects of which the said Mary Martin then and there instantly died. A second count of the indictment described the deceased by the name of **MARY MACINTYRE**. The prisoner was acquitted, but being a ticket-of-leave holder, was remanded to the custody of the police.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/119, 12/04/1845

BODY FOUND. - On Thursday afternoon last, about three o'clock, a black boy in the service of Mr. Clift, whilst playing on the bank of Wallis's Creek, found the body of a woman floating in the water, about two hundred yards above the bridge. He immediately gave the alarm, and Mr. **CLIFT**, Mr. **WILLIAMS**, the wheelwright, constable **TONGE**, and several other parties, went down to the creek, and there found the body floating on its back, about two yards from the East Maitland side of the creek; it was lying across the creek, with the head towards the East Maitland side. The chest was covered with weeds, but the legs were lying in clear water. At the spot where she was found the water was deep close in to the bank and the water covered with weeds, so that a person slipping in would have but little chance of saving themselves. The body was then got ashore, and recognised as that of the wife of **SAMUEL WEBB**, who had been convicted at the last assizes of stealing slabs. An inquiry has been held before **E.D. DAY**, Esq., P.M., but as yet nothing has been elicited to attach suspicion on any person.

MURDEROUS ATTACK. - Yesterday afternoon a tobacco twister in the employment of Messrs. Walthall and Co., **WILLIAM M'VIE MITCHELL** by name, went into the house of one **LUKE FAIRBROTHERS**, situate at the rear of Hughes' tallow chandlery, whilst in a state of intoxication, and had something to drink with Fairbrother's wife, he himself being at the time at Weigh Harbour, working for W.C. Wentworth, Esq. It appeared that after he had been there some time a row ensued between them, and the man was seen by a boy named **KERR**, through the window, kicking the woman, who was lying under the bed. He immediately gave the alarm, and some of the neighbours rushing into the house, found the unfortunate woman lying partly under the bed weltering in blood. Some pieces of iron were found near her head, which belonged to a small iron saucepan, also lying near, and which had been broken over the woman's head, which presented a frightful appearance, from the wounds inflicted. Dr. **LIDDELL** was immediately sent for, and was promptly in attendance, when from his exertions she was restored to consciousness, though she was unable to speak, nor was she sufficiently sensible to give any account of the origin of the attack. Mitchell was taken into custody, and appeared to be more like an insane man than a reasonable creature. Up to a late hour last night the woman still remained insensible, though the medical attendant had hopes of her recovery.

WREGISTER, 4/91, 19/04/1845

BODY FOUND. - On Thursday last week, about three o'clock, a black boy in the service of Mr. **CLIFT**, found the body of a woman floating in the water, about two hundred yards above the bridge. He immediately gave the alarm, and Mr. Clift, Mr. **WILLIAMS**, the wheelwright, constable **TONGE**, and several other parties went down to the creek, and there found the body floating on its back, about two yards from the East Maitland side of the creek; it was lying across the creek, with the head towards the East Maitland side. The chest was covered with weeds, but the legs were lying in clear water. At the spot where she was found the creek was very deep close in to the bank, and the water covered with weeds, so that a person slipping in would have but little chance of saving herself. The body was then got ashore, and recognized as that of the wife of **SAMUEL WEBB**, who had been convicted at the last assizes of stealing slabs. An inquiry has been held before **E.D. DAY**, Esq., O.M., but as yet nothing has been elicited to attach suspicion on any person. *Maitland Mercury*.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/120, 19/04/1845

THE LATE MURDEROUS ATTACK. - Since our last, the man **WILLIAM M'VIE MITCHELL** has been fully committed to tale his trial for assaulting **CATHERINE FAREBROTHER**, but on the examination no particulars were elicited, in addition to those which we have already laid before the public, as it appears the woman had been drinking to such an extent as to have been perfectly insensible to all that occurred after her leaving the public house, until the time she was brought to her recollection by Dr. **LIDDELL**. The man was also very drunk at the time, and is represented by the witness as having been perfectly stupid with liquor.

NATIVE BURYING PLACE. - On Saturday last, as one of the men in the employment of Mr. Jones A. Smith, of Coolie Camp, was digging in a field belonging to that gentleman, he turned up the entire skeleton of a man. Information was immediately given to the coroner (**J.S. PARKER**, Esq.), who was promptly on the spot, and on making some further enquiries amongst the old inhabitants of the place, it was found that tradition handed the spot down as a former burial ground of the blacks. Some further search was made, and other skeletons found, which fully corroborated the tradition, and the bones of the former lords of Australian soil were consequently returned to their former resting place. We are glad to have it in our power to mention that Mr. Smith, with much feeling and delicacy, has had the spot fenced in, so that the heedless foot of the European may not desecrate the last home of his less fortunate and savage brother.

BODY FOUND. - Lengthy inquiries have been held at the police office, before **E.D. DAY**, Esq., touching the death of the unfortunate woman **WEBB**, who had been found in Wallis's Creek. From what has been elicited, there is every reason to believe that the miserable woman made away with herself. On two occasions previously she had endeavoured to cut her throat, and as she had been drinking for a week or ten days without intermission, there is little doubt but that she had thrown herself into the creek whilst labouring under a fit of *delirium tremens*.

WREGISTER, 4/92, 26/04/1845

RESPITE. - The man **HOGAN**, who was sentenced to death at the recent assizes at Bathurst, for murder, has been respited.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT. - Yesterday, about a quarter-past two o'clock, **WILLIAM DONALDSON**, one of the stonemasons employed in the erection of the new Congregational Church, Pitt-street, was raised to the top of the shears for the purpose of securing the block; soon after he had reached the block, he was observed attempting to get his feet into some part of the apparatus to rest on, and in a few minutes after he lost his hold, and fell with a dreadful crash to the ground. He was so severely injured that he died while they were conveying him to the hospital. It is supposed that the deceased, although accustomed to work at great heights, had become giddy, and so lost his hold. The deceased was about twenty-two years of age, and had been married only six months.

DIED.

At Maitland, on Thursday evening last, of apoplexy, The Rev. **EDMUND MAHONEY.**

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/121, 26/04/1845

SYDNEY NEWS. - ATTEMPT AT MURDER.

A prisoner of the crown named **MARGARET YATES**, assigned to her husband, has been committed to take her trial for the attempted murder of her husband, **JOSEPH YATES**, whom she attacked with a shoemaker's knife. The unfortunate man was severely wounded in the left side of the throat, which his wife had attempted to cut, though from the prompt attendance of the medical gentleman, his life has been saved. Jealousy is supposed to be the cause of the attack.

DEATH.

We regret to announce the decease, on Thursday night last, of the Rev. **T. MAHONY**, the Roman Catholic Minister of East Maitland. The deceased gentleman ruptured a blood vessel on Saturday last, and, notwithstanding the best medical attendance, he sank gradually until he expired. The reverend gentleman was much esteemed and respected by all who knew him.

DEATH FROM BURNING. - On Saturday week last, the 12th instant, a young woman named **MARY ANN JOHNSTON**, in the service of Mr. Honeysett, miller, of West Maitland, was standing with her back to the fire in her master's house, when her clothes took fire, and she was immediately enveloped in a sheet of flame. No person was in the kitchen at the time, and she ran to the door, and though the flames were promptly extinguished by her master, yet she was so dreadfully burnt about the back part of the legs, body, and arms, that she expired on Thursday last, after lingering to that time in the greatest agony. Dr. **LIDDELL** attended the sufferer, and everything that medical skill could devise was done to alleviate the pain. **E.D. DAY**, Esq., P.M., held an enquiry into the cause of the girl's death, when the above facts were elicited.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/122, 03/05/1845

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editors of the Maitland Mercury.

Re. The Rev. **EDMUND MAHONY**; ... At two o'clock on Sunday morning, the 20th April, he burst a blood vessel. Spiritual and medical assistance and comfort were promptly rendered, and so favourable a change took place, that the physicians entertained hopes of his recovery, but a second rupture about half past five o'clock on the evening of the 24th terminated his earthly career, and destroyed the fond confidence of his suffering friends.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT. - Yesterday a distressing accident occurred at the church in Pitt-street erecting for Dr. Fullerton. A man, named **Wm. DONALDSON**, whilst

engaged at the building, fell from the triangle used for hauling up the stone, a height of nearly eighty feet; his legs fell across an iron pot which was lying at the foot of the triangle with such force as to break the pot in pieces. The poor young man lived by a very short time after the accident. *Morning Chronicle*

WREGISTER, 4/93, 03/5/1845 [e005/93]

SUICIDE. - A coroner's enquiry took place on Thursday evening in the Star Inn, on the body of **PETER M'NEVIN**, lying dead in the General Hospital, when the following evidence was adduced: **GREGORY BOARD**, of Market-street, deposed, that the deceased had lodged in his house for about a month; while there he told witness that he had been employed as an overseer at the hospital; deceased sometimes drank a little - that was when he first became a lodger in the house of the witness; when he first entered the house as a lodger, he said that he had come to Sydney from Port Macquarie to purchase a horse, but he never made any such purchase; witness saw the deceased go up stairs to bed on Tuesday last; on Wednesday morning witness went to the room occupied by the deceased, when he found the door locked; witness called and could not get an answer; in consequence of no answer being returned, witness forced the door, and found the deceased in bed - he was lying dead; there was a small phial lying on the table, on which were the words "laudanum, poison;" witness had no doubt, that if deceased took poison he must have taken it of his own accord, as no person had access to the room where witness saw his body; previously, the deceased was in good health excepting that he complained of a night cold; the deceased had been assigned to a Mrs. **HOGES**, in Sydney, about eight years ago. Dr. **SILVER** deposed to having made a *post mortem* examination of the deceased, and from the appearances of the stomach, and also from what he had detected in other branches of the intestines, as well as the appearance of the body yesterday, witness had no doubt but that death was the effect of laudanum. The Jury found a verdict of *felo de se* in accordance with the medical evidence.

WREGISTER, 4/94, 10/05/1845 [e005/94]

INQUEST. - Between six and seven o'clock yesterday evening, a coroner's inquest took place in Mr. Moniz's public-house, South Head Road, touching the death of **WILLIAM ELKINS**, when a verdict of died by the visitation of God was returned. The medical evidence given by Dr. **MACKELLAR** was, that he had known the deceased for years past as a patient; Elkins was subject to epileptic fits; he saw him in the early part of the day; he was then, to appearance, recovering from a fit of epilepsy; death had been caused by a disease of the brain, during an epileptic fit.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/123, 10/05/1845

SUDDEN ACCIDENT. - A man, named **WILLIAM CONSTIVE**, in the employment of Mr. **T.J. M'CLELLAND**, of West Maitland, was minding the shop during his master's absence, and seemed in perfect health; when his master returned he was seized with a sudden fit, and fell on the ground insensible. Dr. **SLOAN** was promptly in attendance, and succeeded in restoring the unhappy man to consciousness. He has been sent to the hospital, but since that time, a period of some days, he has not been able to utter a word, and seems sinking gradually.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - COOLAH.

A very desperate attempt at murder was made on the 24th April last, at Weebell, a sheep station of W. Lawson's, Esq., M.C., near Weetalabar. A hutkeeper of the station, named **WILLIAM BALDWIN**, having conceived some enmity against a

shepherd on the station, named **REGAN**, followed him into the bush with his flock, and when at some distance from the hut, attacked him with a knife, which he had concealed about him, endeavouring to draw it across his throat. Regan's cries for assistance brought another shepherd to the spot, and Baldwin was taken away. He, however, still harboured vengeance, and in the course of the day again attacked Regan with the handle of a pick. Regan was armed with his fowling piece, which he always took into the bush with him, and on the other coming upon him, fired and shot him in the thigh, and no doubt preserved his own life, by disabling his adversary. Medical assistance was procured, and the man is now doing well, the wounds having been no more than skin deep.

WREGISTER, 4/95, 17/05/1845 [e005/95]

ATTEMPTED SELF-DESTRUCTION. - About one o'clock on Tuesday, **JAMES MURRAY**, a painter and glazier, residing in Long's-lane, attempted to destroy himself by inflicting a severe wound on the lower part of his throat; he was removed in a few minutes after to the General Hospital, where the incision was sewn up, and the proper remedies applied.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/124, 17/05/1845
SYDNEY NEWS.

DEATH FROM FIRE. - A little boy, about four years old, son of a settler at Cornwallis, near Windsor, named **JAMES MORRIS**, was burnt to death in consequence of his clothes catching fire, whilst he was playing by the fire and throwing corn husks into it.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT. - On Tuesday evening last a woman named **ANN TRINBY**, wife of a small settler at Four Mile Creek, was riding home on the top of a dray, driven by a man named **COOPER**, both of them being at the time in a state of intoxication, when the dray going under a sapling, a limb swept her off the top, and falling in front of the wheel it passed over her. She shrieked to the driver for assistance, who stopped, and tried to raise her up, but so great was her agony that she desired him to leave her, and drive on. He took her at her word, and left her, but passing her house told her children, who went to their mother, and carrying her to the roadside lit a fire. There they attended the wretched woman for several hours, until she expired in the greatest torture. The body was taken to the hut, and when Mr. **DAY**, the police magistrate, visited the place, a shocking scene was presented. In one corner of the room lay the body of the unfortunate woman, in another that of her husband, senseless from intoxication, and around a numerous family of children, weeping their loss. An enquiry was held into the circumstances yesterday, by the police magistrate, who certified that death had been caused by accident.

WREGISTER, 4/96, 24/05/1845 [E005/96]

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE

ATROCIOUS MURDER. - On Monday morning, Mrs. **MARY HOADLEY**, an elderly female of considerable property, residing in King-street, was inhumanly murdered while asleep in her bed, the murderer having effected an entrance by the window of her bed room. From the evidence adduced at the inquest which was held on Tuesday, it appears that a young girl, named **ROSINA WILSON**, who had been adopted by Mrs. Hoadley, was also asleep in bed with her at the time the murder was committed, and was awakened by a gurgling in the throat of the deceased; that she immediately touched the deceased, and said "What ails you mother?" at which time

she saw a man come from behind the door and jump out of the bed room window. The young girl then got out of bed and called the neighbours. Doctors **NATHAN** and **M'CRAE** were immediately sent for who, on examining the woman's head, found that there were three wounds, as if inflicted by a hammer, any of which must have caused death. A large hammer, which was used for breaking coals, was found in the room, with some blood on it, also a handkerchief with three holes in it, which had been used as a mask. The handkerchief was proved to be the property of a Mrs. **CADMAN** who had recently lived in the deceased's house. It was found that the entrance had been effected by taking out a pane of glass that had recently been put in by Cadman's husband, and by active exertion of the part of the police, it was discovered that a son of that woman, named **JOHN SKINNER**, had been from home during the night. Cadman's wife was also known to be acquainted with the place in which Mrs. Hoadley kept her money, and she had previously taken away a dog belonging to the house. These persons were accordingly apprehended, and were present at the inquest, and the above facts having been laid before the jury, Mrs. Cadman was discharged, but a verdict of wilful murder was returned against John Skinner, who was accordingly remanded to gaol to await his trial for the crime.

DIED.

On the morning of the 15th instant, in the 53rd year of his age, Mr. **JOHN FIELD**, the Governor of the Newcastle Gaol.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/125, 24/05/1845

HORRIBLE MURDER OF A WIDOW. - At an early hour of Monday morning last, considerable excitement prevailed in King-street, from a rumour having spread that an aged person, in good circumstances, and a very old resident in the colony, had been savagely murdered whilst sleeping in her bed. This was found to be correct; the deceased, who was named **MARY HOADLEY**, was a widow and resided in King-street west, in a small verandah cottage between the houses of Mr. **PATTISON**, gunmaker, and Mr. **HEYDON**, auctioneer. On Tuesday afternoon an inquest was held on the body, before **J.R. BRENAN**, Esq., coroner for Sydney, when two prisoners were in custody, one named **JOHN SKINNER**, and the other his mother, **ANN CADMAN**, and the following facts were elicited. Mrs. Cadman, her husband, and Skinner, had been living for about a fortnight in a room belonging to Mrs. Hoadley, and had left about a week previous to the murder, in consequence of the drunkenness of Mrs. Cadman and her husband. Shortly before leaving Cadman had out a pane of glass into the window of deceased's bedroom, which Skinner was aware of. The prisoners had opportunities of knowing that deceased kept her money in her pocket, which she was always in the habit of putting under her head at night. On the evening of Sunday last deceased went to bed with a young girl, named **ROSINA WILSON**, whom she had adopted. During the night the girl was awakened by hearing a gurgling noise in the deceased's throat, and turning to her, asked her what was the matter. A floating light was burning in the room, and by its light she saw a man come from behind the bedroom door, and jump through the window, which was open. The girl immediately alarmed the neighbours, who came running in, and found her weltering in blood, which was flowing from her head. It was also found that an entrance had been effected by removing the newly put-in pane of glass, which was found in the yard, and by putting the hand in at the orifice and undoing the fastenings of the window. A handkerchief was also found in the yard, knotted, as if it had been tied round a man's head for concealment, and which was recognised as Cadman's property. A hammer was also produced, belonging to deceased, with which the

wound had been inflicted. Skinner's father-in-law also proved that he had been from home from nine in the evening of Sunday until five on the Monday morning, and several persons had seen a man resembling him running through the streets between four and five. When Skinner was apprehended on Monday morning, he said nothing, and asked no questions as to what it was for. Some spots of blood were found on his jacket and on his trousers pocket, as also upon one of his hands. He also refused to eat any breakfast before leaving the house. Dr. **NATHAN** deposed to there having been two wounds given on the head, one with each end of the hammer head, and either of which were sufficient to produce death; he and Dr. **M'CRAE** were about to proceed with the operation of trepanning, but found it was useless. Deceased died a few hours after the reception of the wound. The jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against John Skinner, and acquitted the woman Ann Cadman, who was discharged. The demeanour of the prisoner was calm and composed throughout the enquiry, and was not the least disturbed by the verdict of the jury. The enquiry lasted for five hours and a half, and an immense crowd assembled to hear the result of the inquest.

WREGISTER, 4/97, 31/05/1845

[e005/97]

SUICIDE. - On Saturday last, a man named **BROWN**, a poulterer, residing in Kent-street, put a period to his existence by taking a dose of laudanum. The deceased had been drinking hard for some time previous, and it was not discovered that he had taken poison until several hours subsequently, when Dr. **NATHAN** was called in, but too late to save the unfortunate man's life.

DIED.

On Tuesday last, in childbed, **CATHERINE ANN**, wife of **P.W. MALLON**, Esq., M.D., of Clarence-street, Sydney.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/126, 31/05/1845

DROWNING. - On the afternoon of Saturday last, a little girl, named **SOPHIA YULE**, about two years of age, was accidentally drowned at Swan Reach. The child had strayed from her mother, who was busy in the house, and slipped into a water-hole about ten yards from the door; and she was found quite dead in about twenty minutes after she had left her mother's side. These facts were elicited in an inquiry by the Police Magistrate touching the cause of the child's death.

FATAL ACCIDENT.

On Monday and Tuesday last lengthy depositions were taken before the police magistrate respecting the cause of death of a young man named **GUILFORD SANDERS** (son of Mr. **JOHN SANDERS**, of West Maitland), who expired on Sunday last, his death being attended by very mysterious and suspicious circumstances. It appears that he was brought home to his father's house on Saturday evening last, about five o'clock, apparently drunk, when he was put to bed, and left undisturbed until next morning. His father then found him (as he thought) asleep, and again left him, but repeated his visit to his bed-side three or four times, when he at length discovered him to be in a state of morbid insensibility, and immediately sent for Dr. **LIDDELL**, who did all he could for him, but without avail; he died at eleven o'clock that night, Dr. Liddell declaring his opinion that he died from asphyxia, brought on by excessive drinking. It came out, however, that a young man, named **HARTLEY**, with whom the deceased had been drinking, on being shown the shirt in which he had lain, declared that it smelt of laudanum; that he had been taking laudanum himself, and therefore knew the smell. This caused a suspicion that he had

not met his death by fair means, and a *post mortem* examination of the body was therefore instituted, and the depositions before mentioned taken. In the course of the examination, it appeared that Hartley had purchased two drachms of laudanum at Mr. Pinhey's, on the Saturday, while in a state of intoxication. He said it was for Mrs. Sanders, and as he brought the bottle which Mr. **PINHEY** had often furnished with the same drug for Mrs. Sanders or some of her family, he had no hesitation in supplying him. He had come a short time before that for a tonic draught for Mrs. Sanders's son, and when he came for the laudanum he said he had swallowed the draught himself. So far the depositions seemed to show that laudanum had been the cause of the unfortunate man's death; but Dr. Liddell threw a new light on the subject, by stating that, in his *post mortem* examination, he observed a small blue mark on the left side of the head, on removing the bone from which, a clot of congealed blood was found beneath, which he had no doubt was the real cause of death. There was no smell of laudanum in the stomach. The skull at that part was found to be remarkable thin, so much so, that a mere fall from his feet might have fractured the part. It appeared, also, that he had been seen by himself in the gig in which he was afterwards brought home, rolling from side to side, apparently much intoxicated, and unable to take care of himself. After a mature consideration of all the circumstances of the case, the police magistrate declared his opinion, "that the death of Guilford Sanders was caused by an injury received while in a state of intoxication." Since the above transpired, we have received a communication from the father of the deceased, furnishing some particulars corroborative of the above, as far as the injury on the head is concerned, viz., that Mr. **POULTON** saw him thrown out of the gig, and after getting up and running about thirty yards, re-ascend the vehicle. Mr. P. asked him if he was hurt, and in answer to that enquiry, he said he was not, and drove on.

PARRAMATTA.

An inquest was held on the 22nd inst., at Watsford's public-house, on the body of **DANIEL LAMOUNT**, who had died on the road between Parramatta and Campbell Town, on his way to the Benevolent Asylum, from an enlargement of the heart, his death having been accelerated by the jolting of the cart in which he was conveyed. The jury returned a verdict accordingly. It was stated that his heart had grown to three times its natural size.

SUICIDE. - On Saturday, 24th instant, a man named **BROWN**, dealer in poultry, in Kent-street, who had been drinking hard for several weeks, at last destroyed himself by laudanum; and six or seven hours having intervened before the fact was discovered, medical aid was found ineffectual. *Herald*

WREGISTER, 4/98, 06/06/1845

[e005/98]

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE

HORRIBLE MURDER. - On Tuesday afternoon, from suspicions entertained, a small house in Sussex-street, between Erskine-street and Margaret-place, was forced open, and the marks of a large quantity of blood were found upon the floor, and splashed upon the walls, together with some traces of human hair, which seemed to have been severed by the blow of a hatchet, and forced into the wall by the same instrument. The house belonged to a publican of the name of **SPEARS**, residing in the neighbourhood, and had been let, in his absence, a few weeks since, to an elderly man, who, with a girl of apparently fourteen or fifteen years of age, resided in it. On Thursday or Friday week they left this house. On Friday week an old man and a girl, answering to the description above given, took a house in a court off Parramatta-street, just beyond the toll-bar and are known as Hancock's Buildings. The old man

represented the girl to be his daughter, although the neighbours had strong suspicions that such was not the case. In the evening of Friday they were heard to quarrel, the man threatening her in coarse language, and the sounds of blows and kicks were also heard. He seemed anxious to keep her out of sight. After this both the man and the girl were seen to go out into Parramatta-street, and from the circumstances of their not having been seen to return, and the key being observed to remain in the door outside, some of the neighbours entered the house, and proceeding up stairs they found, in one corner of the room, on some blankets, the body of the unfortunate girl, bearing fearful marks of violence upon it, and apparently having been deprived of life several days. Dr. **CUTHILL** was immediately sent for, but, in the absence of the Coroner, did not interfere with the body. A *post mortem* examination was afterwards made by Dr. **TIERNEY**. On the front of the head was a large wound, and two very large wounds were also apparent at the back of the head. These appeared to have been inflicted by some sharp instrument. On removing the scalp, underneath the wound in the front of the head, was the mark of an injury on the frontal bone. A small piece of the occipital bone of the skull was chipped out, and there were several other minor marks of violence in the same region. On examining the brain, a very extensive effusion of blood had taken place, and clots of extravasated blood were collected in that place. The internal portion of the brain was in a sound state. On the forehead, temples, cheeks, and chin there were bruises and abrasions of the skin, evidently the effect of great violence – the chin, in particular, exhibiting two deep wounds, apparently as if it had been bitten. Both ears were also much injured; but if the effects of violence, it was not of so recent infliction as the other wounds, and might have arisen from disease. On the left hand, the nails of the thumb and middle finger appeared to have been chopped off or plucked out, and there were other deep scars on the hand and arm. The nail of the dexter finger of the right hand was also partially off, and other severe injuries inflicted on it. The sides, back, and stomach were greatly bruised, as if from kicks, or other external violence. On the lower part of the abdomen, there were bruises sufficiently violent to cause death; and the thighs and legs were one mass of discolouration, from a similar cause. On opening the body, there was extensive extravasation of blood underneath the muscles near the wound on the breast. There was a slight adhesion in the lungs, which were in a very unhealthy state, exhibiting considerable effusion of blood. The right lobe of the liver and the spleen was also very much diseased, but these natural appearances were not such as would have caused death. Underneath the blankets on which the girl lay, was found a Hyde Park jacket, also a regatta shirt with stains of blood on it. On Wednesday a jury was empanelled to enquire into the cause of death, but the enquiry was postponed till Monday, in order to afford time for procuring further evidence.

INQUEST. - On Monday, a Coroner's inquiry took place at Mr. Richard Driver's, touching the death of a man named **MILLWOOD**, under sentence in Hyde Park Barracks, whose body had been removed thence to the General Hospital, about ten o'clock on [??] night. Evidence was adduced to the effect that about seven o'clock on Saturday night the deceased and another convict named **EDGERSON** had blows; that deceased fell back, when his head struck against one of the spurs which support the hammock rails; on which Edgerson stooped over the deceased, placed his hand under his head, and assisted in removing him from the wood; Edgerson appeared to be very sorry for what had taken place, as the deceased and he had been messmates; and till Saturday night when the blows took place between them, always agreed well together; when the deceased was taken up he was in a state of insensibility, on which he was removed to the General Hospital. Dr. **SILVER** had examined the neck and brain of

the deceased, and believed that his death had been caused by the rupture of a blood vessel, at the base of the brain, the ruptured vessel appeared to have been in a diseased state, and might have been ruptured by a fall which would not have caused death to a person in ordinary health. The jury returned a verdict of accidental homicide, on which Edgerson was discharged to Hyde Park Barracks.

Same day another inquest was afterwards held in the Britannia Inn, corner of Goulburn and George-streets, touching the death of **FREDERICK BIRCH**, an illegitimate child, aged about seven months, who had died between Friday night and Saturday morning, while in the care of a man and woman named **BODLE**, of Goulburn-street. Several marks of ill-usage were discovered on the body; but on the head being opened by Dr. **TIERNEY**, there were symptoms on water on the brain sufficient to have caused death. The jury found a verdict of died by the visitation of God, at the same time expressing their disapprobation of the manner in which the Bodles had treated the deceased. They were subsequently sharply reprimanded by the Coroner, and discharged.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/127, 07/06/1845

ANOTHER HORRID MURDER IN SYDNEY

The metropolis has again been thrown into a state of consternation by another diabolical murder. It appears that for some weeks a man and a girl of 14 or 15 years of age were living together in a house in Sussex-street, between Erskine-street and Margaret-place. Little of them was known by the neighbours, although more than once screams and cries of murder were heard in the house. On Tuesday afternoon, however, some persons were induced to enter the house (the inmates being missing), when marks of a large quantity of blood were found on the floor and walls, besides fragments of human hair, which seems to have been severed by the blow of a hatchet, and struck by the force of the blow into the wood. Enquiries having been consequently set on foot, it came out that on the Friday previous a man and a girl, answering their description, took a house in a court off Parramatta-street, just beyond the toll-bar, and called Hancock's Buildings. The man represented the girl to be his daughter, but the neighbours suspected that, young as she was, she was cohabiting with him. On the same evening they were heard to quarrel, and the sound of blows and kicks were also heard. After this both the man and the girl were seen to go out into Parramatta-street, and no one after this saw them re-enter the house, or indeed at all. On Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday the key of the house was in the door, but no one was seen to enter it. On Tuesday a little dog was about the place, and some of the neighbours were induced to mark the position of the key, to see if any one went in or out during the night. From the appearance of the key on the following day it did not appear that such had been the case, and on some of the neighbours entering the house, and proceeding through the lower room up stairs, they found, in one corner of the room, on some blankets, the body of the unfortunate girl, bearing fearful marks of violence upon it, and apparently having been deprived of life for several days. Dr. **CUTHILL** was sent for, but, in the absence of the coroner, did not interfere with the body.

The police were soon put on the alert, and the identity of the girl with the one who lived with the man in Sussex-street was pretty fully ascertained. Every enquiry was made, but nothing could be heard of the man. The only thing learned was, that a man had met him on the Parramatta-road, when he said the girl with him was not his daughter, and that he had a wife and sister at Maitland.

On Wednesday a jury was sworn in at Le Burn's public house, and proceeded to view the body, in order that a *post mortem* examination might be made; after which the inquisition was adjourned till Monday, in order that fuller inquiry into the circumstances might be made. The examination was made by Dr. **TIERNEY**. Both on the front and the back of the head were large wounds, which appeared to have been inflicted with some sharp instrument. Underneath the wound in the front of the head was the mark of an injury on the frontal bone. A small piece of the occipital bone was chipped out, and there were several other minor marks of violence in the same region. The injuries on the head were quite sufficient to cause death. Besides these injuries, there were numerous minor ones, showing extreme ill-usage. Underneath the blankets on which the girl lay was found a Hyde Park barracks jacket, also a regatta shirt with stains of blood on it.

It thus appears that two murders have been committed, or else, (which seems the most probable), that the girl had been murdered in the house in Sussex-street, and afterwards removed to the one in Parramatta-street, but such a fact was not distinctly ascertained. Such are the particulars of the murder as they appear in the Sydney papers of Thursday last.

APPREHENSION OF THE SUPPOSED MURDERER

Yesterday a man named **JOHN CONNOLLY**, reading the account in the Buck's Head Inn, West Maitland, was struck with the conviction that the man alluded to was a person he had formerly lived with in Maitland, named **JOHN AHERN**, and, by a strange coincidence, a very short time afterwards he met the very man, who, instead of greeting him as an old acquaintance, evidently avoided him, and sheered off as quickly as possible towards the fields. Connolly now felt convinced that he was the murderer, and gave chase; Ahern, however, was too active for him, and disappeared from sight. Just then constable **KERR**, on horseback, came within hail, to whom Connolly described Ahern, and pointed out the direction in which he had gone. Kerr promptly started in pursuit, and soon brought him back. It was then discovered that he had marks of blood about his dress, which of course greatly strengthened Connolly's suspicions. On being searched, his certificate of freedom was found on him, in the name of John Ahern. On the way to the lockup, he begged the constable to stop at a public-house, and let him have a glass of beer, as he felt quite faint; the constable complied, and while in the house Ahern said he "wished he could drop down dead on the spot." Before the police magistrate he admitted having come overland from Sydney, which he said he left on Sunday forenoon, and arrived in Maitland, on foot, on Wednesday evening. It appears that many months back Ahern left Maitland, taking with him his sister, and his niece, a girl of fifteen or sixteen, the daughter of another sister, who is married to a man named **COLLINS**, residing in West Maitland. The niece, who is supposed to have been the unfortunate girl who was murdered, was named **MARY ANN CLARKE**. Since his recent sudden return to the town Ahern has been to Mrs. Collins's, who questioned him as to what had become of her sister and daughter, to which he only returned evasive answers, appearing rather confused; while there he burned the shirt he had on, and obtained a new one, and it supposed that hearing of the police being on the alert he had determined suddenly to leave Maitland, as he had left his coat at Mrs. Collins's. His dress, including the burnt shirt and the coat, corresponds, we believe, with the description received by the Maitland police. He will be forwarded to Sydney this morning by the steamer, to appear at the adjourned inquest on Monday.

SUDDEN DEATH.

On Wednesday evening, as **JAMES RAFFERTY**, gardener to Mr. **GEORGE TURNER**, of Yarrabong, was taken his tea, he suddenly fell off his seat, apparently in a fit, and though immediate assistance was rendered, he died in about five minutes. Dr. **PARNELL** had been sent for on the first alarm, but did not reach the spot until life was extinct. It appears that the poor fellow had burst a blood vessel in the head, and so sudden and violent was the effect that his teeth closed convulsively on a piece of bread he was in the act of eating, and it could not be removed, remaining set between his teeth after death. Rafferty was nearly sixty years old, and had been many years in the service of Mr. **EDWARD TURNER**, and afterwards of his brother. Though formerly a good deal addicted to drinking, Rafferty had been a sober man for a good while past, and was perfectly sober at the time of the awful occurrence.

INQUESTS. - On Monday last, an inquest took place in the Three Tuns, corner of Elizabeth and King-streets, touching the demise of a man named **MILLWOOD**, a prisoner in Hyde Park Barracks, who came by his death under the following circumstances. On the Saturday previous the deceased and another convict named **EDGERSON** quarrelled in the Barracks, and some blows passed between them, during which the deceased fell backwards, and his head struck against one of the spars which support the hammock rails. Edgerson assisted the deceased, then in a state of insensibility, out of the ward, and showed contrition for what had happened; Millwood was afterwards removed to the General Hospital, where he died. Dr. **JOHN SILVER**, assistant colonial surgeon, certified that death was occasioned by the rupture of a blood vessel at the base of the brain, the vessel being in a diseased state, and likely to be ruptured by a blow which would not injure a healthy person. Under these circumstances, the jury returned a verdict of accidental death, on which Edgerson was returned to the Barracks.

On the same day another inquest was held at the Britannia, corner of George and Goulburn-streets, on the body of **FREDERICK BIRCH**, an illegitimate child about seven months old, who had been entrusted to the care of a man and woman named **BODLE**, in Goulburn-street, about three weeks previously, and in whose hands he died. From the evidence of Dr. **TIERNEY**, who had made a post mortem examination, it appeared that death had been caused by disease existing before the child had been placed in the hands of the Bodles, but that it had been accelerated by grossly improper treatment on their part. The verdict of the jury was that the deceased had died by the visitation of God, but expressed their disapprobation of the cruelty of Bodle and his wife. The coroner sharply reprimanded them, and they were discharged.

SYDNEY NEWS. - On Friday, 23rd ultimo, an inquest was held on the Richmond Road, on the body of **MATTHEW GASKIN**, who had cut his throat with a razor on the previous day. A verdict of *felo de se* was the result.

WREGISTER, 4/99, 14/06/1845

[e005/99]

THE MURDER IN PARRAMATTA STREET.

The inquiry into the death of the young girl whose remains were discovered on the 4th instant, was resumed on Thursday, at the Police Office.

JOHN AHERN, who had been apprehended at Maitland on suspicion of having committed the deed, was placed in the dock, and about twenty witnesses were examined, the substance of whose evidence is that the murdered female, **MARY ANN CLARKE**, was the daughter of **MARGARET AHERN**, a sister of the prisoner, and was, at the time of her death, between thirteen and fourteen years of age; another sister, named **JOHANNA**, was living with the prisoner, while the mother of

the girl was cohabiting with a man named **COLLINS**, at Maitland; about three years ago the girl was sent by her mother, who had just then arrived in Maitland, to service; but shortly after this, the prisoner and his sister Johanna came to Maitland, and the former expressed a wish to have the girl, promising to take great care of her. This was acceded to, and she appeared to have gone with him and his sister, Johanna, into the interior, where he was employed. The three visited Sydney in 1843, and at a subsequent period, where the sister of the prisoner passed as his wife, and the niece for the daughter, all three sleeping in the same bed. On Whit-Monday last the prisoner arrived in Sydney, having with him the girl only. He took a house in Sussex-street, where they remained several days. One of the witnesses stated that during the time they were there, she had had several conversations with the girl, who passed as the prisoner's daughter, and who had never said anything against him; but upon one occasion the prisoner accused her, in the witness's presence, of great misconduct, saying that she was in the habit of going with various men, and that so recently as that morning she had been with him to point out a house where she had been all night with two men. The girl answered in the affirmative to his accusations, and promised to behave better for the future. Another witness gave evidence as to a similar accusation being made against the deceased, which she had not denied. The girl was frequently observed to have marks of violence about her person, and upon one occasion the prisoner was seen to kick her. On the 30th May the prisoner and deceased went to Hancock's houses to let in Mr. Hancock's buildings, one of which he subsequently took, paying for it a week's rent of five shillings in advance. Mr. Hancock's barman, with whom the arrangement was made, observed that the girl bore marks of having suffered extreme ill-treatment, her face and hands being bruised and bloody, and some of the nails having been torn off. He was afterwards seen to push her about violently, and on one occasion he was heard, while drunk, to tell the girl that she might take fire and burn the house and herself too if she liked. Nothing further was known of her until her mangled body was found as described in our last number.

The prisoner appears to have gone overland to Maitland, where he called on Wednesday week at the home of his sister. In answer to the enquiries of the latter, he said that his sister Johanna and the girl had left him in the bush; but he did not mention the name of the place. While at the house of his sister he sent the latter to purchase a shirt for him, which she did, and immediately on receiving it, he put it on, throwing the old one on the fire, notwithstanding his sister's wishes to have it for the purpose of using it up for patching. Subsequently to this, also, he strongly pressed his sister to drink a cup of tea, which she at last agreed to do, but during the ensuing night she was very bad, suffering extremely from pains in the stomach, and remaining weak and exhausted. The next day she heard of the murder in Sydney, and information having been given to the police by a person who knew the deceased, the prisoner was apprehended by constable **KERR**, of Maitland, and lodged in the watch-house. He denied all knowledge of the crime with which he was accused, with many imprecations, but seemed so much agitated that the constable allowed him to have a glass of water before taking him to the watch-house. On being searched, some sugar of lead (poison) was found upon his person, which he said he had been using for a rupture, and marks of blood were seen upon his jacket, waistcoat, and trousers.

Dr. **TIERNEY** having given evidence as to the *post mortem* examination, the prisoner was called upon for his defence; he protested his innocence in the strongest terms, calling God to witness that he had never raised his hand to the girl. He then proceeded to give a long and disgusting detail of alleged acts of misconduct on the part of the deceased, whom he described as an irreclaimable prostitute. It was from

this cause he alleged that his sister Johanna had left him, and he subsequently started for Sydney with the girl in his company, in the hope of meeting Johanna by the way. During the journey down, she used to sleep with him; but he said she had frequently escaped from his side during the night while he was asleep, and gone among the men whom she met with at the different stations, and two or three times she had endeavoured to make her escape from him altogether. He brought her to Sydney from shame of her conduct, and from anxiety to be at a place where it was not known, in the hope that she would mend; but although she made several promises of amendment, her conduct was still the same, and she not only used to go out at night as before, but made the same endeavours to escape, which he in like manner prevented until he went to Parramatta-street, where he purchased a load of wood with the intention of selling it in barrow loads: but on waking the morning after he took the house, which he protested was on a Thursday and not on a Friday as stated by the witnesses, he found the deceased missing; and as she did not come back between that day and Sunday morning, he started off for Maitland overland, where he arrived on the following Wednesday, intending to tell his sister Margaret of her daughter's misconduct, although he refrained from doing so in consequence of having heard that she had just been confined, and fearing therefore that he might injure her. This was the substance of the prisoner's defence, more minute details of which were of a nature unfit for publication.

The Coroner briefly addressed the jury, pointing out how easily the explanation which had been offered by the prisoner, with the view of excusing his extreme watchfulness over the girl, might be set aside by an equally possible supposition that these habits of watchfulness had been used to conceal an improper connection with himself, and how fairly it might be presumed that even the confessions of the girl as to her own misconduct might have been extorted by fear.

The jury without leaving the box found a verdict of wilful murder against the prisoner, who was forthwith committed to take his trial for that offence.

During the investigation the coroner took occasion to pay a high and deserved compliment to the police for their vigilance in bringing the facts of the case to light.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/128, 14/06/1845

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - JERRY'S PLAINS.

A poor man, known by the name of "**BROWN'S DICK**," expired after an illness of a few hours on Sunday night last. An inquest was held on the body by Lieutenant **GALL**, who sent to Muswell Brook for Dr. **WEST** (the resident surgeon being absent from home), for the purpose of making a *post mortem* examination. The Dr. stated that death had been occasioned by disease of the heart. The deceased was a very industrious, striving man, and having purchased an allotment of land in the township, had just finished building a substantial and commodious cottage upon it, and fastened himself the last shingle on the roof but a day or two previous to his untimely end. June 12th.

THE LATE MURDER OF MARY ANN CLARKE. - INQUEST ON THE BODY.

(From our Correspondent)

This morning (Thursday) hundreds of individuals who had been disappointed of getting a view of **JOHN AHERN**, the supposed murderer, on his arrival by the steamer from Maitland on Tuesday evening, in consequence of his being removed therefrom to Goat Island, by the order of the Chief Commissioner of Police, crowded the police yard and its vicinity at an early hour, the adjourned inquest on the body of

the unfortunate girl, **MARY ANN CLARKE**, having been appointed to be held in the western court of the building, this day.

At twenty minutes to eleven a.m. the jury assembled, and the prisoner, who had been conducted under a strong escort of police, to protect him from anticipated violence from the mob, was placed before them. His appearance was anything but prepossessing, being a man of cadaverous countenance, deeply pockpitted, and strongly marked with an expression of determine hardihood, apparently callous to all outward expressions. He is a native of Fermoy, in the county of Cork, Ireland, of 41 years of age, 5 feet 5 inches in height, and square built. It appeared from a certificate of freedom, found on his person, that he was tried at Waterford, in the year 1828, for shoplifting, and transported for seven years to this colony. Mr. Rhodius, the artist, was in attendance, and took a sketch of the prisoner as he stood at the bar.

The coroner, in charging the jury, stated that the inquest had been adjourned from the 1st to the 7th instant, and from that until this day, to afford an opportunity of connecting the chain of circumstantial evidence that would be laid before the jury, and in obtaining which, within the time, neither zeal, vigilance, nor activity had been spared on the part of the police, whose enquiries extended to the districts of Cassilis, Windsor, Parramatta, and Maitland, for the purpose of effectively procuring evidence. No less than twenty witnesses were examined, whose testimony went to prove and corroborate the following facts:- That twelve months ago the prisoner, his elder sister (**JOHANNA AHERN**, who is missing), and the deceased, who was the daughter of another sister of the prisoner's, named **MARGARET COLLINS**, aged between thirteen and fourteen years of age, were living together at Mrs. Henry's, at Maitland, the prisoner and his elder sister having persuaded the girl's mother to consent to their keeping her, under promises of taking the best possible care of her. When the mother went to them to bring her home, the prisoner beat her; he prevented the mother and daughter from sleeping together when they lived in the service of Mr. Taylor, of Maitland, and always kept the latter away from her mother as much as possible. Ultimately they quitted Maitland, without apprising the mother of their intention, who never saw either her sister Johanna or her daughter (until she saw her dead body, after being buried, since she came to Sydney), or the prisoner, until he visited her at Maitland, after the horrid deed. In answer to her repeated and anxious enquiries after her daughter and sister, the prisoner said they had left him in the bush, but he did not say where. He gave her 2s 6d. to buy him a new shirt, and on taking the old one off rolled it up and burnt it. She attempted to save it from the fire, saying it would be useful for patches, but he would not allow her to touch it. A person named **JOHN CONNOLLY**, to whom the deceased, Mary Ann Clarke, had been put to service by the mother, on reading the account of her murder in a Sydney paper, happened to see the prisoner, who avoided him, and meeting Constable **KERR**, of the Maitland police, shortly afterwards, pointed out the direction he had taken, and had him apprehended. On his way to the lockup he complained of faintness, and begged to be allowed to take a glass of beer at a public-house; while there he said, "if he was found guilty he wished they might twist his neck the next minute;" and afterwards he exclaimed, "I wish I could drop down dead on the spot I stand." When brought before the police magistrate, he said he had thrown his old shirt away in the mountains. His coat he had left at his sister Margaret's, and on searching the pockets, a paper of sugar of lead was found, which he said he had to apply to a swelling produced by a rupture, but which, there is strong reason to suspect, he attempted to poison his sister with, as, previous to leaving the house, he caused her to drink some cold tea out of a pannakin, after she was in bed at night, under a threat of breaking the cups and saucers unless

she did so; after which she was severely attacked with vomiting and purging during the remainder of the night, and in the morning he affected not to have heard her, but tried to dissuade her from going out to work, as, he said, she appeared to be unwell. When in a cell with Serjeant **ADSON**, of the Sydney police, who was sent up to Maitland in quest of him, he enquired when the next Criminal Court would be held, and on Adson answering "in about a month's time" – he paused, and then exclaimed, "God bless me! Alive today, and dead this day month! For I suppose they will hang me for this as innocently as they transported me." The remaining portion of the evidence went to prove the taking of the houses in Sussex-street and Hancock's Buildings, Parramatta-street, by the prisoner; his brutality and tyranny over the deceased; the finding of the murdered and mutilated body at the latter place; and the sudden disappearance of the prisoner from Sydney, who, it appears, walked overland to Maitland, after the perpetration of the horrid deed.

The prisoner cross-examined the several witnesses with unblushing effrontery, but all his questions went to criminate himself. He told the jury a long, rambling, and improbable tale of unheard of depravity relative to the deceased, which excited the disgust and indignation of the bystanders so much, that they repeatedly interrupted him with a storm of hisses and groans.

The coroner summed up very briefly, and a verdict of "Guilty of wilful murder" was returned by the jury, without a moment's hesitation. The prisoner was committed forthwith on the coroner's warrant. He had, however, to be detained until the crowd dispersed, and then to be conducted to gaol by a strong military escort, to prevent him being torn to pieces by an enraged populace.

INQUEST. - An inquest was held on Wednesday, the 4th instant, on the body of a **JOHN SMITHERS**, aged 19, who had died in consequence of injuries received while clinging to a capsized boat for several hours. A verdict was returned accordingly.

BATHURST. - On the 27th ult. an inquest was held at O'Connell's Plains on the body of an infant child of Mr. **THOMAS FLOOD'S**, aged two months, which was found dead in its bed, between the unhappy parents, and supposed to have been suffocated by their presence. A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

WINDSOR. - On the 30th ult. the body of Mr. **R. ROBINSON**, of Windsor, bricklayer, was found in the Hawkesbury River, near Freeman's Reach. An inquest was held on the body, and a verdict of "Accidentally Drowned" returned by the jury.

INQUESTS AT PARRAMATTA. - An inquest was held at the gaol, on the 2nd inst., on the body of **WILLIAM BLONG**, who had died in that building on the previous day. It appeared that he had been placed in prison as a dangerous lunatic, until an order should be obtained from the Colonial Secretary for his removal to the asylum. After hearing evidence, the jury returned a verdict of "Died by the Visitation of God." The foreman of the jury drew up a short memorial to the Governor on the want of a hospital in the gaol, which Dr. **HILL** promised should be presented.

On the following day another inquest was held at Kerwin's public-house, on the Sydney road, touching the death of **JOSEPH PERKS**, when it appeared that the deceased had died of *delirium tremens*, brought on by habitual intemperance, and a verdict accordingly was returned.

On Friday, 9th inst., another inquest was held, at Davis's, Church-street, touching the death of **CATHERINE LYONS**, who had expired the same morning in child-bed; and the medical evidence proving that death had been caused by protracted labour (of a week's duration), the jury returned a verdict accordingly.

WREGISTER, 4/100, 21/06/1845

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE

JOHANNA AHERN. - Intelligence was received by the Sydney Police, from Maitland, on Saturday last, that this woman, who has been missing for some time past, and whose brother was committed to take his trial, on Thursday last for the murder of their niece, **MARY ANN CLARK**, has been discovered, living and well, in the Maitland district, where she has been residing since she separated from her brother and niece, while on their overland journey to Sydney.

MURDER. - A female was lodged in Newcastle Gaol on Monday last, for murdering a man whom she had stabbed with a pair of scissors some days before. The deceased arrived in this colony from England, on board the *Thistle* steamer, as an engineer.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/129, 21/06/1845

SUDDEN DEATH OF MR. PILCHER.

It is with great regret that we record the death of Mr. **H.I. PILCHER**, solicitor, who has nee for the last fifteen years a resident of Maitland. The suddenness of the event has increased the grief of his large family and numerous friends. On Saturday Mr. Pilcher was in his usual health, and attending to his professional duties in his office, where, about half-past two o'clock, he was surprised by apoplexy. He was immediately removed in a carriage to his residence. Drs. **SLOANE** and **BEARDMORE** were called in to his assistance; but neither of those gentlemen entertained the least hope of his recovery from the first. The unfortunate gentleman expired a little before eleven o'clock the same evening, not having spoken from the time of the attack. His death, or even serious illness, was wholly unexpected by his medical attendant, who had known him for years. The deceased was in his forty-fifth year. His remains were followed to the grave, on Tuesday last, by about fifty of his friends. It is painful to think of the sad bereavement which Mr. Pilcher's family and personal friends, have sustained by this sudden and melancholy event. The public of the town and district have also sustained a very serious loss. There were few amongst us so ready to devote their time and services to the promotion of public objects, and fewer still who could bring to the task so much ability and intelligence. He was always willing to assist in any useful undertaking, and never hesitated in rendering his services in the way in which they were the most likely to be serviceable. During the time of Mr. Pilcher's residence in the town there have been few public movements, either for local or general purposes, in which he has not born a very active and a very useful part.

SUDDEN DEATH. - On Saturday evening last, a stonemason, named **THOMAS EDEY**, died very suddenly. He had been at work at the new Catholic church in West Maitland, and was taking some tools into his house, together with another of the workmen, when he staggered to a stool, by the fire-side, from which he presently dropped, and before medical assistance could be obtained, indeed, almost instantly, the unfortunate man expired. An inquiry was instituted by the police magistrate the following day, before whom Dr. **LIDDELL**, who had examined the body externally, stated his opinion to be that the man had been suffering some time from disease of the lungs, which had reduced him to a state of great prostration of bodily strength, the immediate cause of death being probably the bursting of an abscess in the lungs. Under these circumstances, it was not deemed advisable to order a *post mortem* examination to ascertain the inward condition of the body.

MANSLAUGHTER. - On Monday last, a man named **JONAS** and **MARY JONAS**, his wife, were brought before the bench to undergo an examination touching the death

of **WALTER M'INDOE**, when the following circumstances were adduced in evidence. On Saturday, the 7th instant, the deceased and the prisoners were at Morpeth enjoying a friendly glass, and did not until a late hour think of returning to Dunmore, where they all lived, and whither they were accompanied by a fourth person – a man with whom they were acquainted. Before parting for the night they went altogether to the prisoners' hut, on very good terms, to have a drink of milk. At this crisis some "chaff" was unfortunately started, during which the female prisoner slapped a wet towel in the deceased's face, who rose to stop her, and she seized a knife to defend herself. Her husband then took up the quarrel, and in an instant he and the deceased were struggling on the floor together, and they thus rolled out of the hut. The other man, fearing mischief from the violent conduct of the woman, seized her and held her fast, while she cried out, "Will you let him murder my husband? Don't you see I've laid down the knife? Let me go." He then let her go accordingly, when she rushed out to the two men, who were still struggling together on the ground; and he saw her twice aim a blow at the uppermost. At the second stroke, the deceased cried, "Save me." He then went out and separated them, when the prisoners returned to their hut, and the deceased rose, turned round twice as if looking for something, and ran to his hut also. This witness then returned to the prisoners' hut, when Mrs. Jonas said, "I'm afraid I've hurt M'Indoe: will you go and see?" He refused on account of the lateness of the hour (twelve o'clock); and observing a large pair of scissors on the table, covered with blood, he asked her if that was what she did it with, and she answered "Yes." The deceased, on returning home, declared himself to be wounded, and Dr. **BROWN** was called to his assistance. The next day, a constable told him he must apprehend the people concerned, to which he replied, "If you do, take the woman, and not the man." He died on the following Sunday (the 15th); Dr. **LIDDELL** examined the body, when he found three stabs which penetrated the chest, on the right side of the spine; and deposed, at the examination on Monday, that in his opinion those were the cause of death, and might have been inflicted by such an instrument as the scissors produced: one of the thrusts must have been very violent, as it penetrated right through the substance of the rib. He thought the woman must have been in a state of maniacal excitement. It may be added, that the unhappy woman never tried to conceal the event, but, on going to the watch-house, voluntarily gave up the scissors, and expressed great contrition for what had happened, wishing herself in the deceased's place, for he was a good neighbour, and she had no cause to hurt him. She was committed for trial on the charge of manslaughter, and the male prisoner was discharged.

DEATH FROM APOPLEXY. - On Thursday last an inquest was held before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner, at Anlaby's Inn, Morpeth, on the body of **WILLIAM SALES**, who, according to the evidence adduced, came by his death under the following circumstances:- On Monday last, the deceased, in company with a man named **THOMAS BUYHAM**, a ticket of leave holder, in the employ of Mr. Eckford, of East Maitland, was proceeding from West Maitland to Morpeth, the former being in a dray which the latter was driving. They were both the worse of liquor, the deceased very much so. On the way Buyham was cautioned more than once not to drive so furiously, and it was pointed out to him that the drunken man in the dray might be injured by the jolting, he having by that time become quite helpless. Buyham not heeding these warnings, continued on in the same reckless manner; and before he reached Morpeth the tail-board of the dray was shaken off, and his companion fell out. He was carried into Anlaby's Inn, where, it being supposed that he was merely drunk, he was laid on a sofa for the night. He never spoke, however,

afterwards, but lingered till Wednesday, when he expired. The jury, in the first instance, gave a verdict that the man had died from apoplexy; but the coroner expressing his dissatisfaction with such a verdict, it was reconsidered, and the final verdict was that the deceased had died from apoplexy, brought on by drunkenness, and accelerated by the careless driving of Thomas Buyham, whom the coroner then informed he would forward a recommendation that he should be deprived of his ticket of leave. Dr. **WILTON** was the medical witness.

HEXHAM. - FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Sunday evening last, as an old man, named **HENRY MUNDS**, a servant of Mr. **SPARKE**, was driving a horse to the paddock, the horse kicked him in the stomach. He fell instantly, but was soon raised by several individuals who saw him receive the kick, and conveyed into the house. He was bled, and medicine given to him, and a messenger sent into Maitland for a medical man, who was unfortunately not at home. As Munds appeared to be doing well the doctor was not again sent for until the next day, when the man got suddenly worse, and appeared to be sinking rapidly. Before the doctor could reach Hexham the poor man was dead. He was aged about 61 years, and had been thirteen years in the service of Mr. Sparke and his late father. He has left no family.

JOHANNA AHERN. - From circumstances elicited at the inquest on the body of **MARY ANN CLARKE** suspicions were entertained that he had also murdered his own sister, she being missing. Since then, however, her sister, Mrs. **COLLINS**, of this town, has received a letter from her, by which it is known that she is alive and well, at no great distance from Maitland. In the letter she inquires after "Jack" (Ahern) and the girl, saying she had not heard of them for a long time.

DEATHS.

Died, of apoplexy, on Saturday, the 14th instant, at his residence, Telarah, West Maitland, **HENRY INCLEDON PILCHER**, Esq., solicitor, aged 45.

SYDNEY NEWS.

INQUEST. - An inquest was holden, on Friday week, at Mr. Driver's, "Three Tuns Inn," Elizabeth-street, touching the death of **JAMES HOLT**, a youth about thirteen or fourteen years of age, who died in the General Hospital on the afternoon of Wednesday, the 11th instant, in consequence of mortification supervening on a severe wound received in the thigh. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that death was caused by injuries received from a cart having gone over his thigh, and placed a deodand of 1s. on the cart.

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE. - Friday, JUNE 13, 1845.

A person named **THOMAS MULDOON**, blacksmith, residing at Penshurst, Upper Paterson, having disappeared from his home under suspicious circumstances, any information regarding him is requested to be communicated to **JOHN BROWN**, Esq., J.P., Gresford.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/130, 28/06/1845

MURRURUNDI. - MELANCHOLY DEATH.

On the evening of Saturday, the 21st instant, Mr. **JOHN CHILCOTT**, of Doughboy Hollow Station, left his house with a loaded piece for the purpose of shooting native dogs near his stock-yard, where they were attracted by a dead bullock. A shot was heard soon after, but no notice was taken, as it was of course supposed that he had fired at a dog. He delayed his return so long, however, that one of the men went to look for him, and found him lying on the top of the calf-pen, quite dead, with the gun close to him. It had been heavily loaded with slugs, which were found to have entered his right arm and come out on the other side of the head. He appears to have got on

the calf pen, and in drawing the gun after him by the muzzle it had exploded. This was evident from his right hand and cheek being marked with powder, shewing they must have been close to the muzzle of the gun. Mr. Chilcott has left a wife and family to deplore his loss. He was very much respected in his neighbourhood. [The remains of the late Mr. Chilcott were respectably interred, at Singleton, on Wednesday last.]

SHOCKING OCCURRENCE.

On Tuesday night, the 17th instant, a man named **JAMES FORD** was shot dead, near Berrima, by a person named **OWEN WELSH**, free by servitude, who had been left in charge of Mr. Toole's public-house, within five miles of that place. Welsh was taken into custody almost immediately after the occurrence; an inquest was appointed to take place to inquire into the circumstances. *Commercial Journal.*

BRAIDWOOD.

... The Shoalhaven River had rose to an alarming height, and the mail was delayed for several days. The following night (the 19th) several deaths took place from exposure to the unusual severity of the weather. **ROBERT GLOVER**, a stockman of Mr. Badgery's, was found dead on Thistle Hill, where it was supposed he had fallen from his horse. **HENRY M'NALLY**, a shepherd of Captain Coghill's, was also found dead, with upwards of £100 (the accumulation of years) about him, although he was in a most ragged condition. A shepherd of Mr. G. Brown's at Queanbeyan, perished in his box from the same cause.

BATHURST. - **HOGAN**, who was sentenced to death at the last assizes for the murder of his wife, has had his sentence commuted to transportation for life, the first three years in irons. He left Bathurst, under a strong escort, on the 17th instant.

WREGISTER, 5/102, 05/07/1845

MURDER AT BATHURST. - From an inquiry held by **R.J. BARTON**, Esq., it appears that **LAURENCE POWER** had been absent from home, at Wellington; on his return he found a man named **JOHN FARRELL**, nick-named **HAPPY JACK**, in the hut with his wife. It would seem that Power had a suspicion that Farrell was carrying on an illicit intercourse with his wife. Shortly after Power had come into the hut he exclaimed, "Well, Jack, I see you are here again," and immediately rushed on him, and a struggle ensued, the woman escaping from the hut for fear of ill treatment to herself; and she stated at the inquiry that she had not seen Farrell since. It was also stated that Farrell was in charge of a dray, and had encamped about a mile of Power's hut. On the following morning the men who were in company with him, on his not appearing, and who probably surmised the intercourse that was carrying on between Farrell and Power's wife, became alarmed, and suspecting that something serious had happened to him, commenced a search for him, and within about a quarter of a mile of Power's hut came on the trace of a recent fire, and on further examination discovered the bones of a human body, apparently consumed by fire; and, on further search, found some buttons, from off wearing apparel, and a knife, that four men who had been in company with Farrell swore positively to having seen in his possession the very day he was missed; suspicion arose, from the circumstances before stated that Power had murdered Farrell. On the party calling at the former's hut, he was found absent from home; they started in pursuit, assisted by a man named **JEWELL**, who displayed a most becoming zeal to discover the murderer, and is entitled to much credit for his exertions. After a lengthened search Power was come up with, apprehended, and brought to a hut, where he was secured by a bullock chain, Jewell keeping a watchful eye on him, until he was handed over to the custody of the police. At the enquiry before Mr. Barton he was brought forward, and at its conclusion fully

committed, on Mr. Barton's warrant, to take his trial for the murder; he was committed to the charge of Corporal **STAFFORD**, of the mounted police, and by himself lodged, in the Bathurst Gaol, on the evening of Thursday, 26th.

MELANCHOLY DEATH. - On the evening of Saturday the 21st June, Mr. **JOHN CHILCOTT**, of Dough boy Hollow station, left his house with a loaded piece for the purpose of shooting native dogs near his stockyard, where they were attracted by a dead bullock. A shot was heard soon after, but no notice was taken, as it was of course supposed that he had fired at a dog. He delayed his return so long, however, that one of the men went to look for him, and found him lying on the top of the calf pen, quite dead, with the gun close to him. It had been heavily loaded with slugs, which were found to have entered his right arm and come out on the other side of the head. He appears to have got on the calf pen, and in drawing the gun after him by the muzzle it had exploded. This was evident from the right hand and cheek being marked with powder, showing they must have been close to the muzzle of the gun. Mr. Chilcott has left a wife and family to deplore his death. He was very much respected in this neighbourhood. *Maitland Mercury*.

TEN POUNDS REWARD.

Whereas it has been represented to the Government that **THOMAS MULDOON**, blacksmith of Peshurst, Upper Paterson, left his home on the morning of the 22nd May last, and has not since been heard of, and that there is strong reason for believing that the said Thomas Muldoon has been murdered, His Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified, that in addition to a reward of Ten Pounds offered by **ARTHUR EDWIN MAY**, Esq., of Gresford, the sum of Ten Pounds will (in the event of Muldoon having been murdered) be paid by the Governor, for the apprehension of the murderer or murderers.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/131, 05/07/1845

CORONER'S INQUESTS. - An inquest was held on Saturday last, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner, at the house of Mr. **C. CATHROW**, Dunmore, Paterson River, on the body of **ANN ELIZABETH CREWE**, an infant aged four months. It appeared, from the evidence of Mrs. **ELIZABETH CREWE**, of East Maitland, the mother of the child, that when she awoke that morning, she found the child lying dead in her arms, although it was quite well on going to bed the night before. She immediately obtained the assistance of her mother, who administered a warm bath, but without effect. The child had been healthy from its birth. From the evidence of Dr. **STREET**, who had made a *post mortem* examination of the body, it appeared that inflammation of the lungs was the immediate cause of death, and that the deceased had also been labouring under mesenteric inflammation, from which children often die suddenly. The jury returned a verdict of "Died by the visitation of God."

Another inquest was held on Sunday last, before **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner, at the house of Mr. **J. ROGERS**, Paterson township, touching the death of a ticket-of-leave holder named **JOHN BLABIN**, aged 45 years, who was killed by the wheel of a dray passing over his head. It appeared from the evidence, that on Friday last the deceased drove a dray into the township, in company with **JAMES AVERY**, **SAMUEL BARKER**, and **MARTHA HOLDEN**, to dispose of some tobacco, &c., and on the Saturday morning were proceeding home again in the same dray, when they stopped at several public-houses, and that the deceased was rather intoxicated, but not so as to be unable to manage his dray. They had occasion also to stop at a store, and Barker not returning to the dray as promptly as the others, the deceased, in

a passion, jumped up on the pole of the dray, declaring with an oath that he would wait for nobody, began to drive, and immediately fell off, when the wheel passed over his head, and killed him on the spot. A shoemaker, named **DAVIS**, who was passing at the time, saw him fall, and cried out "He is a dead man." Those in the dray did not see the accident happen, being engaged in picking up some sugar which had been split. A surgeon was immediately sent for, but his services were unavailing. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased was killed by falling off a dray, the wheel of which passed over his head.

A third inquest was held on Monday last, at the house of **WILLIAM CAVENAGH**, on Mr. Blain's farm, near Hinton, on the body of **JAMES CAVENAGH**, aged two years. It appeared from the evidence of Mrs. Cavenagh, the mother of the child, that on Saturday forenoon she left it at home while she went to the creek for some water. She had often done so before. Before she had been away more than six minutes she heard screams from her house, and rushing in, found her child in flames. After extinguishing them, she sent for her husband, who was at work at the time, ploughing for Mr. **BLAIN**, and took the child to Mr. Blain's house, where she applied oil to it. She did not send for a doctor, not thinking the child seriously hurt. It died, however, between nine and ten o'clock on the following night. From the evidence of Dr. **STREET**, who had examined the body, it appeared that the injuries sustained by the child were so extensive as to preclude all hope of recovery, the abdomen, back, right leg, side, and arm, being also severely scorched. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased came by his death from his clothes accidentally taking fire, and exonerated the mother from blame.

A CHILD LOST.

We beg to call the attention of our readers, and more particularly of those residing on the Lower William and Paterson Rivers, to an advertisement in another column, offering a reward for the recovery of a little girl, who strayed from her home, on Mr. Lang's farm, William River, on Wednesday, the 18th June. From the length of time that has elapsed without any tidings of her, we fear the poor child will hardly be found alive, but we hope that, in mercy to the anxiety of her parents, any one who has heard of or seen any strange child in their neighbourhood lately will immediately give notice to Mr. **CARMICHAEL**.

BODY FOUND. - On Tuesday last the body of a new-born infant, tied up in cloth, was found floating in the water near Balmain, and steps were being taken to discover the mother previous to holding an inquest.

FIVE POUNDS REWARD

On Wednesday, June 18th, a **FEMALE CHILD**, 22 months old, with yellow hair and blue eyes, and having a small red flesh mark at the corner of the left eye, was **MISSED** from Mr. Lang's Farm, on William River. Whosoever will restore to its parents, on the above farm, the child alive, shall receive a reward of **FIVE POUNDS**, or, if the child be found dead, will bring the body, shall received **ONE POUND**, on application to

HENRY CARMICHAEL, Porphyry Point.

BATHURST. - On the 24th ult. a rumour reached Bathurst that a murder had been committed at Ploughman's Creek, thirty or forty miles from that town, on the road to Wellington. Constables were despatched to the spot, and the coroner also left Bathurst to hold an inquest.

Wednesday

Before his Honor Mr. Justice a'Beckett

JOHN SKINNER, late of Sydney, labourer, was placed at the bar, and indicted for having at Sydney, on the 19th day of May, 1845, feloniously assaulted one **MARY HOADLEY**, by striking her on the left side of the head with a hammer, thereby inflicting a mortal wound of the length of six inches and the breadth of three inches, of which mortal wound the said Mary Hoadley then and there instantly died. Not guilty – discharged.

Friday

The court was occupied during the whole of Friday in the trial of the man **AHERN** for the murder of his niece; the case was not terminated until about one o'clock this morning, when a verdict of guilty was returned, and sentence of death passed on the prisoner.

BODY FOUND. - On Monday afternoon, as some children were playing on Steel's Wharf, bottom of Bathurst-street, they observed a small parcel under the platform, which being brought out and examined was found to contain the body of a female infant, aged, according to Dr. **MACKELLAR**, about twenty-four hours.

BIRTHS

At Lambert Cottage, Darlinghurst, the lady of the Colonial Treasurer, of a son, still born.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/132, 12/07/1845

ACCIDENTAL DEATH. - On Monday last an enquiry was held before **E.D. DAY**, Esq., P.M., touching the death of the infant son of a man named **CHEESEMAN**, a small shopkeeper in Morpeth. It appeared that on the previous day the child, having strayed from home, had gone into the premises of Mr. **SANDERSON**, tanner, where it had fallen into one of the tanpits, from which it was taken out dead. A verdict of accidental death was recorded. The child was about three years old.

SUDDEN DEATH. - On Monday forenoon last, an old pensioner, named **WILLIAM ROMLEY**, was seen to drop down near the bridge over Wallis's Creek, between East and West Maitland. Bering apparently in a dying state, he was carried to Mr. Eckford's in East Maitland, where the assistance of Dr. **LIDDELL** was procured, but without avail, as he expired in a few minutes. Dr. Liddell was of opinion that nothing could have saved him, had assistance been rendered ever so timely. The cause of death was the bursting of a blood vessel.

SYDNEY NEWS.

BODY FOUND. - On Monday afternoon, some children playing at Steele's Wharf, bottom of Bathurst-street, discovered a bundle under the platform, and it was found to contain the body of a female child, which, according to the opinion of Dr. **MACKELLAR**, had lived about 24 hours.

JOHN AHERN. - The trial of this prisoner was to come on yesterday. In consequence of his application for gratuitous legal aid, Mr. **FISHER** has been assigned by the court as counsel, and Mr. **G.R. NICHOLLS** as attorney.

MRS. HOADLEY'S MURDER. - **JOHN SKINNER** was brought to trial on Wednesday last, for the murder of Mrs. Hoadley, in King-street, on the 19th May last. The jury found the prisoner not guilty, and he was discharged.

MURDER NEAR BATHURST.

The report of a murder having taken place near Wellington, noticed in our last, turns out unfortunately to be well founded. At an inquiry held before Mr. **BARTON**, a magistrate resident in the district, it appeared that a man named **LAURENCE**

POWER, on returning to his home, near Wellington, found a man named **JOHN FARRELL** with his wife, between whom Power was suspicious that an illicit intercourse was being carried on. Shortly after Power entered the hut a struggle ensued between the men, when the woman left it. Farrell had been in charge of a dray, and had encamped about a mile from Power's hut, in company with some other men, who, on his not returning the morning after the occurrence at the hut, suspected something had happened, and commenced a search for him. About a quarter of a mile from Power's hut they observed the trace of a recent fire, and found some bones of a human body and some buttons which had been in the possession of Farrell a few days before. The men, knowing of the intimacy between Farrell and Power's wife, suspected that Farrell had been murdered by Power, to whose hut they went, but he was not there. A search was immediately commenced for him, and he was soon apprehended and handed over to the police. At the inquiry before Mr. Barton he was brought forward, and at its conclusion was fully committed to take his trial for the murder.

TEN POUNDS REWARD.

Whereas it has been represented to the government that **THOMAS MULDOON**, blacksmith, of Penshurst, Upper Paterson, left his home on the morning of the 22nd may last, and has not since been heard of, and that there is strong reason for believing that the said Thomas Muldoon has been murdered; his Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified that, in addition to a reward of ten pounds offered by **ARTHUR EDWIN WAY**, Esq., of Gresford, the sum of ten pounds will (in the event of Muldoon having been murdered) be paid by government for the apprehension of the murderer or murderers.

WREGISTER, 5/104, 19/07/1845

INQUEST. - On Wednesday afternoon, a coroner's enquiry was held at Mr. R. Driver's, touching the death of Mr. **THOMAS TURNER**, who had been found dead about nine o'clock, in his office, Wentworth-place. According to the evidence of Mr. **HOLDSWORTH**, who resided with the deceased, on the Surry Hills, he went to the office on Wednesday morning, and found him lying dead over a chair. Mr. **NATHAN**, surgeon, was immediately called in, but found the body cold and dead. After the case for the consideration of the Jury had been summed up by the Coroner, Mr. **JENNINGS**, one of those impanelled, stated that although he was satisfied, on the evidence, that death had been caused by apoplexy, yet, as he had heard a man named **WARD** say that "the deceased had exhibited a small bottle on Tuesday, and asserted that it, the bottle, would settle between him and his creditors," he, for one, would like the matter to be investigated. The Coroner immediately recalled Mr. Nathan, and directed him to make an examination of the body, the result of which was, that when the stomach was examined there was not the least symptom of laudanum or any other poison found in it. The jury immediately found a verdict of died by the visitation of God, caused by apoplexy.

DIED.

At Wentworth-place, On Tuesday, the 15th instant, in the 42nd year of his age, Mr. **THOMAS TURNER**, he was the only surviving son of Thomas Turner, Esq., of Devonshire Cottage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/133, 19/07/1845

INQUEST. - An inquest was held on Wednesday, at the "Three Tuns" public house, Elizabeth-street, on the body of an old man named **TURNER**, for many years past

known as a resident in Wentworth-place, who expired very suddenly on Tuesday. A verdict of death from natural causes was returned. *Australian*

INQUEST. - On Thursday, 13th instant, an inquest was held on the body of a female infant which had been picked up in Sussex-street on the previous Monday. The jury returned a verdict that the child had been still-born.

AHERN THE MURDERER.

JOHN AHERN was brought to trial on Friday, the 11th instant, before the Chief Justice, in the Central Criminal Court, Sydney, for the murder of his niece **MARY ANN CLARKE**. The prisoner was defended by Mr. **DARVALL**. It appeared from the evidence that the injuries which caused the death of the unfortunate girl must have been inflicted in the house in Sussex-street, where the prisoner and the girl lived previous to their taking the house in Hancock's-court, Parramatta-street, where the body was found, for in the latter there were no marks of blood or violence except on the person and dress of the deceased, while in the former there were plain indications of a murder having been committed, and hair resembling that of the girl adhering to the blood-stained walls. It did not appear, however, in which house death had taken place, for the wounds were of such a nature as to admit of the possibility of the girl having walked from the one to the other after receiving them. From the position of the body on the bed on which it was found, it was thought that it must have been laid there by a second person. **MARGARET AHERN**, the mother of the deceased, and **JOHANNA AHERN** (another sister of the prisoner) appeared as witnesses, and revealed a frightful amount of depravity on the part of all three, especially as regards the habitual cruelty of the prisoner towards his victim. The prisoner, on being found guilty and sentenced to death, expressed a hope that a "long day" would be allowed him, and also that the clothes taken from him at Maitland would be restored. The Chief Justice told him that his wishes would be made known to the proper authorities, but he was sorry that such frivolous thoughts as we evinced by his latter request occupied his mind at so awful a time. The trial lasted from ten o'clock on Friday morning till half-past one on Saturday morning.

WREGISTER, 5/105, 26/07/1845

DEATH FROM BURNING. - About five o'clock on Saturday evening, as a female, upwards of sixty years of age, residing at Druitt-street, near the corner of Sussex-street, was in the act of lifting a tea kettle off the fire, her clothes ignited, and before her cries brought assistance she was so dreadfully burned that she expired in five hours after at the Infirmary, whither she had been removed.

SUICIDE. - An inquest was held on Wednesday, at the Ship and mermaid, Miller's Point, on the body of a man named **HENRY THOMPSON**, who put an end to his existence, on the previous night, by cutting his throat. The evidence was, that the deceased, although ordinarily a temperate and sober man, did on some occasions, give way to drinking; that he had been drinking, and under the influence of drink, from Saturday evening up to time of his decease; that some four weeks ago, he attempted to smother or drown himself by placing his head in a bucket of water from which he was dragged by a woman named **MAYNE**, who was lodging in the house, which was rented by Thompson. On Tuesday evening, however, a woman named **HIGGINS**, with whom Thompson was living, gave the alarm that Thompson was going to shoot himself, and Mayne, the husband of the woman before alluded to, went to the room where the deceased was, a pistol and powder flask was removed from the room, and according to the statement of Mayne, the deceased, missing the pistol, said that he should find "something else." Some few minutes afterwards, Mayne going down the

staircase of the house met the deceased, who "clasped him around the neck and gave him a kiss," and at the same time gave him a watch (produced) which he told Mayne to keep for his sake, as he was "going to sea." A few moments afterwards there was an alarm that the deceased had cut his throat, and from all the evidence it appeared that he had done so, and from the wound he had himself inflicted death ensued. The Jury under the direction of the Coroner returned a verdict of *felo de se*.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/134, 26/07/1845

CARELESS COMMITTAL. - ESCAPE OF AN ALLEGED MURDERER.

MAURICE JONES was brought before the Central Criminal Court on the 17th instant. He had been committed from the Clarence River for murder; but the Attorney General stated that he was not in a position to place him upon his trial, as he had to send the depositions back to the committing magistrates that further inquiries might be made. On the face of the warrant the prisoner stood committed for felony, without the particular felony being specified. The court animadverted in strong terms on the practice of magistrates committing without closing their inquiries, and without specifying the offence for which they commit. Under the circumstances, there was nothing to justify the detention of the prisoner, and he was therefore discharged.

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE. - On Tuesday, the 15th instant, an old man named **THOMAS VICKERY**, a hair dresser, in a fit of despondency cut his throat with a razor. Dr. **STEWART** was immediately called in, and the unfortunate sufferer is likely to recover, although in a very precarious state. He had been suffering from *delirium tremens*. *Hawkesbury Courier*

WREGISTER, 5/106, 02/08/1845

DEATH OF THE REV. MR. DUNPHY. - It is with feelings of great regret that we have to announce the premature and awfully sudden death by drowning, of the Rev. **JAMES DUNPHY**, which melancholy event occurred on Friday, the 11th instant. The reverend gentleman had been out in the discharge of his pastoral duties, and was returning to Bathurst; but in endeavouring to cross the Mudgee River by some means unknown he seems to have fallen from his horse, and was lost. He was seen to go into the river by a shepherd who was at a short distance from the place and soon after disappeared, and was seen no more. The body of the unfortunate gentleman was not recovered until the following Monday.

INQUEST. - On Saturday afternoon, a Coroner's inquest was held at Barnett's public-house, corner of Market and Sussex-streets, touching the death of **MARY JANE SMITH**, aged two years. It appeared that the deceased, who was labouring under the whooping-cough, had got some cut meat from her father while at breakfast, a piece of which stuck in the throat; her father took her to several places to have it dislodged, but without success, till he carried her to the Infirmary, where Dr. **NATHAN** dislodged it with a probing, but life was extinct before the meat was extracted. Mr. Nathan having certified that death had been caused by suffocation in consequence of a piece of meat having lodged in the gullet, a verdict to that effect was returned.

INQUEST. - On Wednesday, an inquest was held in the "York Hotel," York-street, on the body of **JANE ELIZA BROWN**, a child about 2 years of age, and daughter of Mr. Brown, baker, of York-street, who died on Monday from the effects of injuries received in the following manner:- Mr. **ARTHUR LITTLE**, of Woolloomooloo, was driving along York-street from the barrack gate, and whilst going at a smart trot, the horse's foot struck the deceased, who was in the middle of the road, and it fell, and

received other injury by the horse and gig going over it. Two men who were standing by saw the child lying in the road, and took it to the house of its parents, from which it had strayed two minutes before: but it died from the injuries it had received the same day. It did not appear from the evidence that any blame could attach to Mr. Little, as he was driving at by no means a furious pace, and in a careful manner. Mr. Little did not see the child at all, nor was he aware of the accident until the day after the death of the infant. He expressed much regret that he should have been the unconscious cause of so fatal an occurrence. The Jury found a verdict of "Accidental Death," exonerating Mr. Little from all blame in the transaction, and laid a deodand on the horse of £5.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/135, 02/08/1845

SERIOUS ACCIDENT. - On Monday night last, an old man named **JOHN JENKINS**, in the employ of Mr. **DAVIS**, baker, of West Maitland, having got the worse for liquor, so much so as to be unable to undress himself, was put to bed (in his master's house) with his clothes on, but after some hours sleep he got up again, and being heard moving about by the people in the house, they very properly went to look after him, fearing that he might not yet be sober enough to be trusted where there was a fire. They found him in the bake-house enveloped in flames, and trying to tear his clothes off. After extinguishing the flames, they immediately sent for Dr. **LIDDELL**, who promptly attended, and applied the proper remedies to the unfortunate man, whom he found very severely burnt. It was supposed that his apron had been ignited from the oven fire, as it was completely consumed; and it was thought that, but for part of his dress being woollen, he must have died on the spot, as he had evidently been burning for some time.

DEATH FROM BURNING. - On Monday last, a child named **JOHN BOWMAN**, son of a shoemaker of that name in West Maitland, was burnt to death under the following circumstances:- Between seven and eight in the morning, the child was playing, with one still younger, in his night dress; and the younger child having thrown a boot belonging to one of them in the fire, the deceased tried to pluck it out, in doing which his night gown caught fire, and before his mother could come down stairs he was dreadfully burnt. Dr. **SLOANE** promptly attended, and the proper remedies were applied without delay, but the little sufferer expired about two o'clock the following morning. It was found that the action of the fire had penetrated through the coats of the abdomen; otherwise a fatal result was not anticipated. An inquiry was held by the police magistrate on Tuesday.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/136, 09/08/1845

JOHN A'HERN. - **JOHN A'HERN**, who was found guilty of the wilful murder of his own niece, **MARY ANN CLARKE**, at the last sitting of the Central Criminal Court, is to be executed on Tuesday next.

SUDDEN DEATH. - Yesterday forenoon a man named **FRANCIS GALLAGHER**, formerly a constable in the Maitland police, was found dead, on Campbell's Hill, West Maitland. An inquest was held on the spot by the police magistrate, in the afternoon, and was postponed till to-day. We therefore refrain from giving further particulars.

WREGISTER, 5/107, 11/08/1845

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE

EXECUTION. - The execution of the man **AHERN**, for the murder of his niece, **MARY ANN CLARKE**, has been fixed by the Executive to take place on Tuesday next, the 12th instant, at the New Gaol, Darlinghurst.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/137, 16/08/1845

M'LEAY RIVER. - On the 25th ultimo, an inquest was held by Mr. Commissioner **MASSIE** on the body of a man named **CALLAGHER**, a shoemaker, who met his death under the following circumstances:- A policeman named **CLOGGER** had been dispatched by the Commissioner to the neighbourhood of Chapman and Co.'s establishment, to look after a runaway policeman named **GREEN**. He saw a man leap the fence, and gave chase, but the man turned on him, knocked him down, and continued his flight, which Clogger immediately arrested by his carbine. The man turned out to be the shoemaker. He died shortly after. The Commissioner held that act of the policeman justifiable.

AHERN. - On Tuesday morning, **JOHN AHERN**, convicted of the murder of his niece, **MARY ANN CLARKE**, was executed in Sydney. He knelt on the platform, and joined with the Rev. Mr. **M'ENEROE** in prayer, on arising from which he said "Good Christians, I hope you will all pray for me. I am not guilty of the murder. I acknowledge beating the girl, but not with intent to kill her. I stopt with her till she drew her last breath. The whole affair was owing to a few glasses of liquor." The drop was then allowed to fall, and the wretched man's struggles continued at last ten minutes.

WREGISTER, 5/108, 16/08/1845

DETERMINED SUICIDE. - **WILLIAM GREY**, "recently arrived in the colony."

DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE

EXECUTION. - On Tuesday morning, the extreme sentence of the law was put in force upon the person of **JOHN AHERN**, convicted during the late sittings of the Central Criminal Court, of the murder of his niece, **MARY ANN CLARKE**, aged about fourteen years. After he had taken his place upon the scaffold, he said a few words to the crowd outside the walls, in which he admitted that he was justly ordered for execution, as the unfortunate girl had died from the effects of a beating that he had given her, in consequence of misconduct. He also stated, that after he beat her in Sussex-street, on the Saturday, he being then intoxicated, she accompanied him to Parramatta-street, where, in consequence of her becoming gradually weaker, he was very attentive to her up to the time when she expired, which was on the Sunday morning, while he was absent for some water; on his returning with the water, and finding life extinct, he became horror struck, purchased a quantity of sugar of lead to destroy himself, and set out on the same day overland to Maitland, where he arrived, and was subsequently apprehended with the poison in his possession. After joining in devotional exercises with the Rev. Mr. **M'ENROE**, and having requested those present to pray for him, he was launched into eternity.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/138, 23/08/1845

SUDDEN DEATH. - On Monday morning last, a man named **ROBERT MARSHALL**, a fireman in the employ of Mr. **BLAIR**, miller, Dunmore, died in the lock-up house, West Maitland, under the following circumstances:- elicited during two judicial enquiries instituted by the police magistrate, first on the body on Monday, and afterwards at the court house, on Tuesday last:- He left Dunmore on Sunday to go to Maitland, having 8s. 6d. in his pocket, and quite sober. In the course

of the day he got so much the worse for liquor that he was advised by some acquaintances whom he visited in West Maitland to stop for the night, but he would not. He was next seen by the private watchman, under the verandah of Mr. **HEUGH**, whose house he had mistaken for the Albion Inn, and kept calling out for the landlord: the watchman's attention had been called to him by Mr. Heugh on account of the noise he was making. The watchman then took him towards the lock-up, with the intention of lodging him there; but thinking he was able to take care of himself, he changed his mind, and let him go, and did not see him again until about four o'clock, when he found him on the ground near Mr. Solomon's new stores, moaning, and evidently extremely ill. He immediately obtained the assistance of Constable **BOYLAN**, and carried him to the lock-up. His clothes were wet up to the armpits, his feet were much cut, apparently by shells and sharp stones, and from other appearances it was evident he had attempted to ford the river. In the lock-up he was placed beside a fire, had tea made for him, and was otherwise carefully attended to, but he was thought to be only in a feeble state from the effects of drink, and his immersion in the water on a sharp frosty morning; so that medical assistance was not called till about ten o'clock, when he was evidently dying, and before Dr. **SLOANE** arrived he had expired. There was no money except some coppers found on him, but his employer owed him £2 5s. for wages; and £2 of this was appropriated to his funeral, the remainder to the Hospital. He had no friends in the colony.

BATHURST. - An inquest was held on the 8th instant on some human bones found in the bush a few yards off the Sydney road, on the 4th instant, by a man named **HOWARD**, while in search of a bullock. From some fragments of wearing apparel, and a peculiar formation of the teeth, the remains were known to be those of a man named **JOHN ROURKE**, who had been missing four months. Near the spot was a screen of boughs such as persons erect in the bush to shelter themselves from the weather. None of the bones were fractured, and no opinion could be formed of the cause of death.

The bones of another human being (the skull deficient) have been discovered in the neighbourhood of Blackman's Swamp. *Herald*

PENRITH. - On the morning of the 14th instant Mr. **J.L. TEMPLAR** was returning from a party with two friends. His horse took fright and ran off, his friends not being able to keep up with him; and it was not until the following afternoon that he was discovered, quite dead, his skull having been fractured.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/139, 30/08/1845

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NWS. - NEWCASTLE.

CHILD DROWNED. - We have just heard that a child has been drowned at the Swamps, near Grove's Farm, in consequence of falling into a water-hole. Major **CRUMMER** has proceeded to the spot to hold the necessary inquiry. The father of the child is one **THOMAS CARPENTER**, in the service of Mr. **GROVE**.

SUDDEN DEATH. - On the 21st instant, a man, well known by the name of "**JACK THE PAINTER**," was found at the bottom of Young's Lane, in Sussex-street. The deceased was a frequent visitor at the police office, and it was only two days before his death that he was sent to the mill for 24 hours, for drunkenness. He was in the habit of sleeping about the lime kilns at night. The coroner's jury returned a verdict of apoplexy, induced by habitual drinking.

WREGISTER, 5/111, 06/09/1845

BERRIMA CIRCUIT COURT

Tuesday

JAMES ASTELL, of Yass, was indicted for the wilful murder of **WILLIAM BERRY** alias **WILLIAM BARRY**, at Gundaroo, on the 13th of March last, by shooting at him and inflicting a mortal wound, of which the said Berry alias Barry died. There was a second count charging the offence as manslaughter. Guilty of manslaughter – to be confined in Parramatta Gaol for eighteen months.

DEATH BY DROWNING. - On Saturday evening the body of a young man named **ZANDERS**, a native of Holland, was discovered in the water at the Commercial Wharf, King-street West. The body was subsequently removed to the General Hospital, and an inquest held upon it at Mr. Driver's, on the following day, when it appeared that the deceased had arrived in the colony as an ordinary seaman, and, having purchased a boat for himself, commenced business as a wood dealer. On Saturday night he went to see some of his former ship mates on board the *Maitland* steamer, and became intoxicated. It is supposed that he met his death in the attempt to cross the plank communicating with the wharf. The jury returned a verdict of "found drowned."

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/140, 06/09/1845

CORONERS. [EDITORIAL].

... There is one feature in the present mode of holding inquiries before magistrates which is highly objectionable, and which requires immediate attention, in the event of coroners not being appointed in each district. We allude to magistrates not having the power of summoning juries. In every case in which an inquiry is necessary touching the cause of death the officer holding such inquiry should be empowered, and should be required, to summon a jury. No single individual ought to be entrusted with the power of saying whether death had been brought about by fair or unfair means.

A case has recently occurred in our own town which shows very strongly the necessity of the alteration suggested. A week or so ago a man [**ROBERT MARSHALL**] in a state of intoxication attempted during the night to ford the river. Being unable to accomplish his purpose, he returned into town; and was found by the private watchman about five o'clock in the morning in a helpless state, with his clothes completely saturated, and suffering much from cold; the weather being severe. He was taken to the lockup by the private watchman and a policeman whom he had called to his assistance. At first, we believe, he was put near a fire, and was afterwards put into a cell, and about eight o'clock some tea was given to him, and shortly after, as the man appeared seriously ill, medical assistance was sent for, but the medical gentleman did not arrive until the man had expired. Two enquiries were held before the police magistrate, who came to the conclusion that the man had died from the effects of his exposure the previous night. Now this is precisely one of those cases in which a jury was absolutely required, to ascertain whether the police did or did not pay the degree of attention to the deceased which in his condition was necessary. We have every confidence in the ability and desire of the police magistrate to do justice, and we have no doubt that if evidence had been adduced to prove any culpable neglect on the part of the police that he would have done his duty; but the decision of this question ought not to have been left to him; the inquiry ought to have taken place before a jury, and their verdict would have been quite sufficient to have prevented the doubts now entertained by some of the townspeople as to the conduct of the police in this matter. [See also Maitland Mercury, 3/148, 01/11/1845: Sydney News; CORONERS.]

CALENDAR OF PRISONERS FOR TRIAL AT THE MAITLAND CIRCUIT COURT.

The Maitland Circuit Court will open on Wednesday next, the 10th instant, before Mr. Justice Dickinson. The following are the prisoners who have been warned for trial up to the 3rd instant:-

JAMES FITZPATRICK and JAMES FITZGERALD, bond, murder.

MARY JOHNSON, free, manslaughter.

WILLIAM GOODBURY, free, sodomy.

INQUEST. - An inquiry was held by the police magistrate, at the Hospital, West Maitland, on Wednesday last, on the body of **JOHN JENKINS**, who had died in the hospital about ten o'clock the same morning from the effects of injuries received in consequence of his clothes taking fire while he was in a state of intoxication, on the 28th July last. After viewing the body, the magistrate adjourned the enquiry till the following day, at the court-house, when Mr. **DAVIS**, the employer of the unfortunate man, and other persons were in attendance, and gave evidence to the above effect.

INQUEST. - On the 26th ult. an inquest was held in Board's public-house, on the body of **WILLIAM SMITH**. It appears that he had been drinking for several days, and Dr. **TIERNEY** certified that he died from inflammation of the stomach and bowels. Verdict accordingly.

WREGISTER, 5/112, 13/09/1845

BERRIMA CIRCUIT COURT

Monday

OWEN WELCH, of Berrima, was indicted for having, on the 17th June last, at Sutton Forest, in the house of one **THOMAS TOOLE**, murder one **JAMES FORD**, by discharging the contents of one of the barrels of a double-barrelled gun at him, and inflicting a mortal wound on the left side of the said James Ford, of which wound Ford shortly after died. Guilty – sentenced to be hanged.

INQUEST. - An Inquest was held on Monday by the coroner, **C. BETHEL LYONS**, Esq., in the Colonial Hospital, on view of the body of **MARIA BUTLER**, then lying dead in that establishment. From the evidence adduced, it appeared that the deceased, about ten or twelve days since, while assisting in burning off some stumps from a small farm where her husband resided, at the Field of Mars, some portion of her dress ignited, on perceiving which, she immediately ran for assistance towards home, but before reaching which, the fire through her running had been formed into a complete blaze; the whole of her apparel was consumed off her, and herself so severely burnt that it was found necessary to immediately remove her to the hospital, where every possible assistance was rendered her, and confident hopes of her recovery entertained until within a few minutes of her decease, which occurred on Saturday morning, and was stated to have been extremely sudden, as after abruptly making an observation that she was going to die, she within a few minutes afterwards expired. Medical testimony having been given as to the cause of disease (sic), the jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/141, 13/09/1845

MAITLAND CIRCUIT COURT. - (Before his Honor Mr. Justice Dickinson)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH, 1845.

MURDER. - **JAMES FITZPATRICK and JAMES FITZGERALD**, bond, were indicted for having, at Newcastle, on the 8th March, 1845, wilfully murdered **PETER M'CORMICK**, a man belonging to the stockade at that place, as did the prisoners

also. The indictment charged Fitzgerald as being present, aiding and abetting, while the other perpetrated the murder.

The case disclosed a fearful amount of depravity on the part of the unhappy men among whom it occurred.

The evidence of **WILLIAM CROOKS**, one of the stockade men, which was given with great clearness, conveys an outline of the case. He said that on the morning of Sunday, the 9th March, he was awoke by M'Cormick, who called his attention to what the prisoners were doing; he added, in the hearing of the prisoners, that he would report them, and he did so, in consequence of which Fitzpatrick was questioned by the serjeant. On returning from the examination, he was asked by several what it was about, and he said that that b----y wretch M'Cormick had been trying to take away his character. One of the men, named **MULLIGAN**, said that if he had done the same by him he would knock his grains out, and the expression was repeated by others. The same day witness heard Fitzpatrick ask Mulligan for a knife, and on the latter saying, "Never mind," he said impatiently, "Let me have it;" Mulligan than gave him a knife. In consequence of fears expressed by M'Cormick, witness took care to be near him that night, as neither of them were liked in the prison; he observed, besides, that Fitzpatrick lay down in his clothes; witness, however, was obliged to leave him for a short time to go to another part of the apartment, when he heard Fitzpatrick cry out, "You b----y wretch, I'll learn you to inform against me." There was immediately a cry of murder from the deceased, and when witness got back to the spot Fitzpatrick was on his knees leaning over M'Cormick, and stabbing him with the "heel of his hand." Witness then called out for assistance, but none coming, he seized Fitzpatrick by himself, and only let him go on being threatened with a similar fate to that of M'Cormick, who by this time had got out of the berth and crossed over to the other side of the room, with his entrails protruding. Fitzpatrick then called out, "Where is he?" and three voices from the other side answered, "Here he is." Fitzpatrick then followed him up and again attacked him, none preventing, while there was a general cry among the men of "The b----y wretch, it serves him right." When witness called for help he meant it for the watchman, **BATEMAN**, and he again appealed to him to call in the military, but he only returned a look of disdain, and went towards the door. Fitzgerald had that night shifted to a berth farther off; he had previously slept in the same berth with Fitzpatrick, M'Cormick, and witness; Mulligan lay convenient to it. When he saw Mulligan hand the knife to Fitzpatrick he did not suspect anything, but he had been told that day that Fitzpatrick was going to commit a murder, but he was afraid to report it, for there was not a man among them that would hesitate to commit a murder. He was sure it was neither Fitzgerald or Mulligan who called out "Here he is."

JOHN BATEMAN (the watchman) was examined, but nothing material was elicited from him; he excused his non-interference by the plea of fear of the men.

JOHN SMITH, another watchman, was examined with as little result; his eyes were "that bad at the time that he could not see a man two yards off;" he heard, however, a general cry of "Give it to him, Towzer" (Fitzpatrick being thereby meant): he could not recognise any of the voices, for he was not acquainted with any of the men, and did not keep company with them.

MICHAEL MULLIGAN, the man who lent the knife, remembered Fitzpatrick saying, when he came from the examination by the serjeant, that M'Cormick had reported him for an unnatural crime; Fitzpatrick had borrowed the knife for the purpose of mending his trousers; at night he heard Fitzgerald say, "You hangman wretch, I'll learn you to report me;" witness was going to assist Crooks in taking off

Fitzpatrick, when he was attacked by Fitzgerald with a knife, who threatened to stick it in his heart if he did not be off; witness then got into his berth from fear; he saw Fitzpatrick stabbing M'Cormick, and when the latter ran across the floor after being stabbed, he saw Fitzgerald follow him, and again retreat to his berth when the serjeant was coming.

SAMUEL WILSON, serjeant of the 99th regiment, deposed that he had not been called by any one, but he went among the prisoners on hearing an alarm of murder; he saw Fitzpatrick strike at the deceased with the "heel of his hand," and then run to a berth, where witness apprehended him, and where he also found the knife produced; Fitzpatrick was covered with blood, and by next morning he done his best to wash it away, apparently with his own urine, as he had no other water at hand.

JOHN KELLY, corporal of the same regiment, corroborated this evidence.

Dr. **BROOKS**, Colonial Surgeon at Newcastle, deposed that the deceased came by his death from nine or ten wounds in the chest and belly, all of which might have been inflicted with the knife produced, except one (in the chest) which must have been inflicted with a longer knife. Death was inevitable from the nature of the wounds; and the man, indeed, in a very bad spirit, seemed determined to die, and resisted what witness attempted to do for him; he died on the 11th.

SAMUEL HOLT, chief constable of Newcastle, identified the knife as the same that was given him by Serjeant Wilson, of the Stockade.

Major **LAST**, commandant of the Stockade, at Newcastle, deposed that in his capacity of justice of the peace he took the deposition of M'Cormick previous to his death. In that deposition he distinctly asserted that he was first struck by Fitzpatrick with a stone, or something like one, and then stabbed by Fitzgerald, whom he positively identified as the man who gave him the first wound. He was not so sure about Fitzpatrick stabbing him, although he knew that he had attacked him in some way.

The deposition was read in court.

The Solicitor General briefly addressed the jury; and put the case as against Fitzpatrick much more strongly than as against the other prisoner.

The learned Judge then summed up the evidence.

In about half an hour the jury returned a verdict of guilty against both prisoners, and sentence of death was immediately passed upon them without hope of mercy. Fitzpatrick, who appeared to suffer a good deal throughout the trial, heard his fate in an extraordinary state of excitement, and at the conclusion of the learned Judge's address, waved his cap over his head, and gave vent with great vehemence to three cheers as if for a triumph – "Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!" He appeared very much flushed, but fainted as soon as removed. The other prisoner heard the sentence with great coolness. Both are young men, the latter remarkably little.

MANSLAUGHTER.

MARY JOHNSON, free, was indicted for having, at Dunmore, on the Paterson River, on the 7th June last, caused the death of **WALTER M'INDOE**, by stabbing him with a pair of scissors.

It appeared from the evidence that the prisoner and her husband **JONAS JOHNSON**, the deceased, and a man named **M'CUTCHEON**, had been drinking together at the Greenhills, from which they returned in company to Dunmore, M'Cutcheon going home by himself, and the others going to Johnson's hut, where there was a good deal of chaff amongst them, which ended in a serious quarrel between the deceased and the prisoner, and blows or slaps were exchanged between them. At length, the husband, Jonas, was drawn into the quarrel, and he and the

deceased were soon outside the hut struggling with each other on the ground; a man named **HALFPENNY**, who was present, then laid hold of the prisoner, seeing she had a knife, and fearing mischief; she struggled to get away, however, but he would not let her till she held out both her hands and shewed him that she had no weapon; she then rushed out, and Halfpenny, following her, saw her strike at the deceased, as if tabbing him. The deceased then got up and went away, and the prisoner and Halfpenny returned to Johnson's hut, where Halfpenny for the first time saw a pair of scissors on the table; they were covered with blood, and the prisoner acknowledged that she had wounded the man with them, asking Halfpenny to follow him and see if she had hurt him much; but he refused, on account of the lateness of the hour. The deceased had gone to M'Cutcheon's hut, where Dr. **BROWN** attended him, but he expired in nine days.

Dr. **LIDDELL**, of West Maitland, proved that death had resulted from three wounds in the back, from such an instrument as the pair of scissors in question.

The prisoner called **ANDREW LANG**, Esq., J.P., of Dunmore, and Dr. **STEWART**, of Newcastle, from whose testimony it appeared that she was not always of sound mind. The latter gentleman stated that she laboured under a complaint called puerperal mania, which had become periodical with her, and which had the effect of causing insanity during its continuance, and an extreme liability at all times to be wrought up to a state of morbid excitement by causes which would be inadequate in ordinary cases.

His Honor told the jury it was for them to consider whether the prisoner was capable of judging between right and wrong on the occasion referred to in the evidence.

The jury, after a few minutes consideration, returned a verdict of not guilty. In answer to a question from the learned Judge, the foreman said that their verdict was a general one of not guilty, and not on the ground of the alleged insanity of the prisoner. His Honor then immediately set her at liberty.

The verdict excited evident surprise in court.

The prisoner appeared to suffer much at intervals during the trial, and while the jury were considering their verdict, she implored the Judge not to send her to Parramatta Factory – she was sure both herself and her child (a young infant at her breast) would die in such a horrid place.

THE STOCKADE MURDERERS. - **FITZPATRICK and FITZGERALD**, the unhappy men who were condemned to death on Thursday last for the murder at the Newcastle Stockade, maintain in prison a similar deportment to that exhibited by them on the trial. The little man (Fitzgerald) said, with great vivacity, that if he could only get half an hour at one of the witnesses he would jump up on the gallows and crow like a cock!

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/142, 20/09/1845

INQUEST. - An inquest was held by the police magistrate, on Thursday last, at Campbell's Hill, West Maitland, on the body of **JOHN BAXTER**, aged 67. It appeared from the evidence of Mrs. **NICHOLAS**, his landlady, and of **JOHN SCANLAN**, that the deceased had been suffering from a cough for some time, and that he died suddenly the night before, about eight o'clock, after a severe fit of coughing, during which he vomited an immense quantity of blood. Dr. **SLOANE** certified that death had resulted from natural causes.

for life.

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE. *To the Editors of the Maitland Mercury.*

GENTLEMEN - I beg for the insertion of the following lines at the urgent request of **JAMES FITZPATRICK**, who is condemned to die. You have truly stated in your last paper that when his sentence was pronounced he stopped to pick up his cap, and flourished it in the air, and cried, "Hurrah! hurrah!" But you are not aware that immediately after, overwrought by the intense agony of his trial, which lasted from 9 till half-past 5, and by the electrical rush of thought through his mind of what he might have been, what he then was, and what he was going to be, he sunk senseless to the ground; and in that pitiable state were his handcuffs and chains put on, and fresh air and water administered to him before he could be removed.

I made it a point in my attendance on him to ask what motive induced him so to throw up his cap, and he has assured me over and over again, and in the most solemn manner, that he was entirely unconscious of what occurred from the moment of hearing his sentence until he felt the fresh air blowing upon his face, and was awakened to sensation and life by the kind attentions of those around him. And he has earnestly implored me to rectify the erroneous impression that has gone aboard of his conduct. He acknowledges that he has enough, and more than enough, to repent of already, and deprecates having had his mind called off from the awful preparations in which he is engaged by indignant regrets of the bitterness and injustice of the world.

And, in fulfilment of his desire, permit me to add a few words of remonstrance to some strangers in a cart, who were talking of the event and the trial and his unconscious act with noisy merriment and unnatural exultation, to the surprise and shock of the feelings of myself and others as we left the court. I would beg to remind them that an hysterical laugh is no proof of levity of mind, or of callousness of heart. The involuntary *convulsions of the body* affect some with terror, and all with pity; but it is by far more awful to view, as they did, the *convulsions of a soul*. May God in his mercy ever defend *them* from so terrific, so deplorable a visitation; and I trust that upon reflection they will be led to pity the unhappy Fitzpatrick, and fear for themselves. For "we are fearfully and wonderfully made." - I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

G.K. RUSDEN, A.M., Chaplain.

15th September, 1845.

SYDNEY NEWS.

BERRIMA. - The Assizes terminated on Tuesday, the 9th instant. **OWEN WELSH**, convicted of the murder of **JAMES FORD**, at Sutton Forest, was on that day sentenced to death. There were no other cases of any importance.

On the same evening, the body of a ticket-of-leave holder named **PROSSER** was discovered in the bush about five miles from the township; he had lost his way, and perished from want.

PARRAMATTA. - On the 8th instant, an inquest was held on the body of **MARIA BUTLER**, who had been burnt to death from her clothes igniting while she was burning some stumps on a farm at the Field of Mars. Verdict, accidental death.

BATHURST. - Mr. **HOOD**, J.P., having enquired into the circumstances of some human bones (wanting those of the head) having been found near Blackman's Swamp, a few days since, it has been ascertained that the remains have been there for several years. It appears also, that a man in Bathurst had said, in a fit of *delirium tremens*, that he murdered a man near this very spot and cut off his head. Mr. Hood communicated these particulars to the coroner, but that gentleman finds himself debarred from enquiring into the matter by the regulation restricting the inquiries of

coroners within their own districts – the spot in question being *one rod out of the police district*.

WREGISTER, 5/113, 20/09/1845

MAITLAND CIRCUIT COURT

Thursday

JAMES FITZPATRICK and **JOHN FITZGERALD**, bond, were indicted for having, at Newcastle, on the 9th March 1845, wilfully murdered **PETER M'CORMICK**. The indictment set forth Fitzpatrick as principal, and Fitzgerald as having been present aiding and abetting him. The jury returned a verdict of guilty against both prisoners, and his Honor immediately passed upon them sentence of death, without giving them a hope of mercy.

MARY JOHNSON, free, was indicted for having, at Dunmore, on the Paterson River, on the 17th June last, caused the death of **WALTER M'INDOE**, by stabbing him with a pair of scissors. Not guilty – discharged.

ATTEMPTED SELF-DESTRUCTION. - Between three and four o'clock on Thursday afternoon, a respectably connected man, named **M'NEALE**, who had been for some time employed as a clerk in Hyde Park barracks, and has lately been lodging at Mrs. Bigge's, Phillip-street, attempted to destroy himself by first endeavouring with a razor to sever the artery of one of the wrists; he then tried to hang himself at the back of the door where he was; but finding the beam too low, he again had recourse to the razor, with which he inflicted a sever wound in his throat, when he fainted, and the noise of his fall alarmed the inmates of the house, who entered the room, and seeing what he had been doing, he was immediately removed to the Sydney Infirmary, where he lies in a very debilitated state from the loss of blood; but it is expected that his life will be saved. The only cause assigned for his conduct is, that he was labouring under depression of spirits, induced by previous intemperance.

INQUEST. - On Wednesday afternoon, an inquiry took place in Leburn's, public-house, the Hope and Anchor, Parramatta-street, before the Coroner and a Jury, touching the cause of death of a female infant, whose body had been found, on the preceding day, lying in the burial ground lane, wrapped up in a piece of india-rubber cloth, when the following evidence was adduced:- **JOHN SULLIVAN**, son of **LAURENCE SULLIVAN**, of George-street, deposed:- I am eleven years of age, and know the nature of an oath; I was going from Parramatta-street towards the Burial-ground, through a place called the Burial-ground lane, on Tuesday morning, when my attention was drawn to something like a black apron, or piece of waterproof cloth, and on examining it, I perceived there was a babe wrapped up in it; I immediately gave information of the circumstances to **BRENNAN**, the keeper of the Roman Catholic Burial-ground, who went and saw the body, which is the same that the Jury have viewed. Dr. **TIERNEY** deposed:- I have viewed the body of an unknown female infant, and have made a *post mortem* examination of the same, which is the subject of this inquiry, and find that both the lungs are very much inflated; I am of opinion that the infant must have been born alive. On examining the scalp, I found a quantity of extravasated blood between the scalp and bones, also a great effusion of blood on the brain itself, which must have been caused by extraordinary pressure; I am of opinion that death was caused by violence, as the symptoms I discovered on the head justified such a conclusion. After hearing the medical evidence, the Jury, under the direction of the Coroner, returned a verdict of Wilful Murder against some person or persons as yet unknown.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/143, 27/09/1845

INQUESTS. - On the 17th instant, an inquest was held on the body of an **INFANT** found near the burial ground, and the jury returned a verdict of wilful murder against some person or persons unknown.

At Pitt Town, on the 16th instant, an inquest was held on **WILLIAM DAVIS**, who had died instantaneously from an attack of apoplexy. Verdict accordingly.

At Windsor, on the same day, a verdict of accidental death was given on **THOMAS ROWEN**, killed by a fall from a cart.

WREGISTER, 5/115, 04/10/1845

BATHURST CIRCUIT COURT

Before his Honor the Chief Justice

Thursday

LAURENCE POWER, free by servitude, was indicted for the wilful murder of **JOHN FARREN alias HAPPY JACK**, at Broken Shaft Creek, in the District of Wellington, on the 20th June last. There were three counts in the indictment: first, by effecting the murder by casting or throwing the deceased on the ground; second, by a piece of timber, and third, by a tomahawk. The jury returned a verdict of guilty on the third count, under peculiarly aggravated circumstances, and strongly recommended him to mercy. Sentence of death recorded.

FELO DE SE. - On Tuesday morning, **WILLIAM FREEMAN**, residing near the entrance to the Balmain-road from the Parramatta-road, having been for some days intoxicated, after telling his wife that he would destroy himself, went into Hearn's stables, in the same vicinity, where he got a horse's halter, which he placed round his neck, and having fastened the ends of it to a saddle rack, hanged himself; when found, at 5 a.m., he was quite dead. An inquest was held on the body on Wednesday afternoon, in Shaw's public house, Parramatta road. The jury returned a verdict of *felo de se*, and the body was ordered to be interred, without funeral service, between the hours of nine and twelve at night. The deceased appeared to be about twenty-eight years of age, and had a wife aged about seventeen years.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/144, 04/10/1845

DEATH FROM POISON. - On Wednesday morning last a child of ten months old having been left by its mother, Mrs. **TURNER**, wife of the puntman at Pitnacree, near Maitland, in charge of an elder child, it somehow or other obtained a quantity of laudanum which had been in the house two or three years. The mother came in, and finding the child in the act of swallowing a portion, immediately took it to Dr. Browne's, East Maitland, but not finding him, she took it to Mr. **LIPSCOMB**, in West Maitland, who administered a strong emetic, and sent the unhappy mother on to Dr. **LIDDELL**, who administered further remedies, but without success, as the child expired at one o'clock the following morning. An inquest was held by the coroner yesterday afternoon, but up to the time of going to press we had not heard the result.

WREGISTER, 5/116, 11/10/1845

ORDER FOR EXECUTION. - **JAMES FITZPATRICK**, who was convicted of murder, at the last Maitland Assizes has been ordered for execution at Newcastle, on the 17th instant. In the case of **JOHN FITZGERALD**, who was convicted of the same offence, sentence of death has been commuted to transportation for life.

INQUEST. - UNNATURAL CONDUCT. - On Monday afternoon, a Coroner's enquiry was held in Martin Gill's public-house, George-street, touching the death of

MARGARET HEALY, then lying dead in Malcolm's-lane, who had died of dropsy. As there were some reports afloat that the conduct of the husband and two daughters of the deceased had been unfeeling towards her during her illness, the enquiry occupied upwards of two hours and a-half, and was terminated by the jury returning a verdict that the deceased had died from natural causes, but requesting the Coroner to admonish the husband and his two daughters for their unnatural conduct, and gross neglect of the deceased during the latter part of her illness. After the verdict had been recorded, the three individuals alluded to were called in and admonished, as the jury had suggested.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/145, 11/10/1845

INQUEST. - On Friday, the 3rd instant, an inquest, adjourned from the previous day, was held at the Hunter River Hotel, East Maitland, by **J.S. PARKER**, Esq., coroner, to inquire into the cause of death of an infant, ten months old, the daughter of **MALCOLM TURNER**, puntman at Pitnacree, near Maitland. It appeared from the evidence that the child had died from the effects of taking laudanum from a bottle, which had been in the house four years, and that an elder girl (nine years of age) had also partaken of it. It appeared, also, that the mother, in the opinion of some of the witnesses, was of unsound mind. The verdict of the jury was to the effect that death had resulted from the effects of laudanum, but how or by whom administered did not appear; and they attached much blame to the parents.

NEWCASTLE. - **FITZPATRICK AND FITZGERALD**. - The former of these men, both of whom were convicted at the last Circuit Court of the murder of a fellow prisoner in the Newcastle Stockade, has been ordered for execution on the 17th instant. The sentence of Fitzgerald has been commuted to transportation for life, and he is to be forwarded to Sydney.

WREGISTER, 5/117, 15/10/1845

INQUEST. - Yesterday afternoon an enquiry took place before the Coroner and a Jury, in Peter Brenan's public house, Pymont, touching the death of **WILLIAM ALEXANDER BASSETT**, then lying dead in the house of **JOHN LANE**, of Pymont. It appeared the deceased destroyed himself by cutting his throat with two razors, one of which he held in each hand, and applied them at the same instant across the upper part of his throat. According to the evidence of Lane, the deceased had for several months past been drinking very hard, and was labouring under *delirium tremens* when he destroyed himself. A verdict of *felo-de-se* was returned, and the funeral ordered to take place between nine and twelve at night.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/146, 18/10/1845

SINGULAR CASE. - On Tuesday last, **THOMAS RAMPLIN**, a native of the colony, was summoned before the bench at the instance of his employer, Mr. **JOHN STEWART**, tailor, West Maitland, under suspicious circumstances. It appeared from the depositions of Mrs. Stewart, and of Dr. **LIDDELL**, and Mr. **W.T. PINHEY**, that on Thursday, the 9th instant, the defendant called at Mr. Pinhey's shop, and stating that his rest had been disturbed in consequence of his having reason to believe that his father had been murdered in New Zealand, procured a pill as a restorative. About ten o'clock the same evening, Mr. Stewart being from home, and it being doubtful whether he would return that night, he gave to his eldest child, a girl of ten years, a portion of tart; another portion of the same he twice offered to Mrs. Stewart, but she declined, and it was left on the table all night; but in the morning it was eaten by the

youngest child, a girl of four years old, who was soon after taken suddenly and seriously ill. Upon this, the defendant, becoming alarmed, went off to Mr. Pinhey's, and told him that he had put the pill into a tart for the purpose of taking it, but had eat the wrong part himself, and the other, containing the pill, had been taken by one of the children, who was very ill in consequence. Mr. Pinhey told him that the pill contained opium, and to make all haste to Dr. Liddell for assistance. He did so accordingly, and the child was recovered from its danger. The pill contained two grains of opium, the greater part of which must have been taken by the youngest child; the other was only slightly ill. There was no evidence to show that the defendant had not eaten part of the tart himself, or that he knew of what the pill consisted: he told Mr. Pinhey not to give him anything that would hurt him. On the other hand, it appeared that he had not been in the habit of taking medicine, and that he was not known to have been suffering from want of sleep. He refused, also, to swallow the pill at the counter, as he had a deal of work to do that night, and it would make him sleep too soon; which statement was untrue, as he had no occasion to work late that night. The case was remanded for further evidence. Next day the case was again gone into, and Mr. Stewart, his eldest daughter, and his servant girl, were examined. Little new light, however, was thrown upon the matter. One point in defendant's favour was, that the two pieces of tart eaten by the children did not form part of the whole tart, and therefore he might have eaten part himself. In defence, he said he pout the pill in a tart because he knew no other way to take it; and that he first broke the tart into three pieces and then put the pill in one, but took the wrong one himself. He was bound over to appear on the 22nd instant, to hear the decision of the Attorney General.

EXECUTION OF JAMES FITZPATRICK.

This wretched man, who was convicted at the last Circuit Court of the murder of **PETER M'CORMICK**, a fellow prisoner in the Newcastle Stockade, on the 8th March, suffered the extreme penalty of the law in front of the gaol, Newcastle, yesterday. He was accompanied by the Rev. **C.P.N. WILTON**, whom he joined in prayer. On passing the gang, his former associates, he bowed, and on the scaffold, which he ascended with a firm step, he exhorted them to take warning by his ignominious death. He did not show on this occasion any of the violent excitement betrayed by him on his trial; his manner on the contrary was firm and collected. The change, however, had been but recently wrought, for in the gaol, on the previous day, he was very unsettled and refractory.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/147, 25/10/1845

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE. - *To the Editors of the Maitland Mercury.*

GENTLEMEN – Allow me to correct an error in an article contained in the *Maitland Mercury* of Saturday, the 18th instant, headed “Execution of James Fitzpatrick.” In *justice* to the memory *even of that wretched man*, who, on the night before his execution, in *apparent* penitence, and with expressions of hope in the *Saviour alone* for pardon, fully confessed to me, in the condemned cell, the crime for which he was about to suffer, as well as the manner in which he committed the murder upon Peter M'Cormick, I consider it my duty, having attended and *watched* his conduct closely for the last four months, to state that so far from being “*very unsettled and refractory*” on “*the previous day*” to his execution, *seven* days had elapsed, prior to his awful end, since he had conducted himself in the manner described in the article referred to.#

New South Wales Inquests, 1845; 24/03/08

On occasions such as *these*, it would be well if the *truth* were sought from those *alone* competent to afford it, for then communications founded upon *mere report* would not be put forth to the world. - I remain, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

C. PLEYDELL N. WILTON, Chaplain of H. M. Jail.

Newcastle, October 20th, 1845

SYDNEY NEWS. - BATHURST.

A man named **ARTHUR M'ANLEY** is in custody on suspicion of the murder of **JOHN BURKE**, whose remains were found in the bush in August last; he had then been missing four months.

WREGISTER, 5/118, 25/10/1845

CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT

Saturday

Before his Honor Mr. Justice a'Beckett

MAURICE JONES, late of the Clarence River, was placed at the bar, and arraigned on a charge of murdering one **THOMAS FINN**, on the 11th October, 1844, at the Clarence River. The prisoner pleaded not guilty, and was remanded until next session for trial.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/148, 01/11/1845

MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE. - On Saturday evening last the family of Mr. **HEALY**, High-street, West Maitland, were thrown into the deepest affliction by his eldest son, **JOHN**, a fine lad of twelve years of age, having been brought home lifeless from the river, where, in company with a number of other boys, he had been bathing, and, having gone beyond his depth, had sunk (it was supposed from the cramp), and was not got out until nearly twenty minutes had elapsed, when of course life was extinct. Dr. **LIDDELL**, however, was immediately called in to the spot, but his exertions were without avail. On the following day an inquiry was held by the police magistrate, who recorded that the deceased had been found drowned. On Monday, the remains of the unfortunate youth, who was very generally liked, were followed to the grave by an immense concourse of persons.

THOMAS RAMPLIN. - The Attorney General has declined to prosecute **THOMAS RAMPLIN**, who was proceeded against a few days since on suspicion of having administered a small quantity of opium to a child.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - EDITORIAL NOTE.

[In reference to a complaint of inaccuracy respecting the report of the execution of **JAMES FITZPATRICK**, we beg to say that we did not receive the information from our usual correspondent.]

DEATHS.

On Saturday, the 25th ult., whilst bathing in the river, Master **JOHN JOSEPH HEALY**, aged 19 years, eldest son of Mr. **NICHOLAS HEALY**, store-keeper, West Maitland, sincerely and deservedly regretted by his sorrowing parents and a numerous circle of relatives and friends.

WREGISTER, 5/120, 08/11/1845

MURDER AT YASS. - NOVEMBER 4. - On Friday last, an inquiry was held at Scott's station, Kenilworth, before **HAMILTON HUME**, Esq., J.P., and Dr. **YATE**, on the body of a man named **M'CARTHY**, when it appeared that death had been caused by sundry wounds inflicted with a tomahawk by a man named **ORIGAN**, who had absconded. Arrant was issued for the arrest of Origan, and, Constable

COUSENS having succeeded in capturing him, he was this day brought up for examination. **WILLIAM CLARKE** deposed as follows: On Sunday, 28th October, M'Carthy and Origan had a few words together, when Origan said, "Come on with me, and we will soon settle it;" M'Carthy got up from where he was sitting, and they both walked towards the hut: witness was walking a short distance behind the prisoner, who put up his hand at the back of his jacket and pulled out a tomahawk; he then got behind M'Carthy, and struck him two blows across the head, when M'Carthy fell; he struck him a third blow on the head, and jumped on his belly while he was lying on his back; he lingered until the Thursday following. The prisoner Origan was fully committed to take his trial for the murder of M'Carthy. He was laughing all the time during the examination, though he was frequently checked by the magistrate.

INQUEST. - On Monday afternoon, a coroner's inquest took place at Mr. R. Driver's, corner of King and Elizabeth-streets, on the body of an aged female named **ROSETTA KITE**, whose body had been found in the water at Grose's Wharf, between six and seven o'clock on Sunday morning. It appeared that for some time past the deceased had been troubled in her mind, and towards the close of last week had been found in the Domain tied to a tree with her own shawl. She returned to her lodgings on Saturday evening, and left them for the last time about six o'clock, promising to return on Sunday morning; but instead of doing so, had gone and thrown herself into Darling Harbour. It was also given in evidence that the deceased had been in the colony upwards of thirty-six years, was about sixty-eight years of age, and had been employed for many years past as a dry nurse in several of the older families in Sydney and its vicinity. Dr. **SILVER** having stated that in his opinion death had been caused by drowning, the Coroner instructed the jury that they had no direction before them to justify their finding a verdict that the deceased had either drowned herself, had fallen into the water by accident, or had been thrown in by another party, and a verdict of found drowned was recorded.

MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE. - On Saturday evening last the family of Mr. **HEALY**, High-street, West Maitland, were thrown into the deepest affliction by his eldest son, **JOHN**, a fine lad of twelve years of age, having been brought home lifeless from the river, where, in company with a number of other boys, he had been bathing, and, having gone beyond his depth, had sunk (it was supposed from the cramp); and was not got out till nearly twenty minutes had elapsed, when of course life was extinct. *Maitland Mercury.*

DEATH BY DROWNING. - On Friday evening last, as a man named **THOMAS BILLINGTON**, a baker, lately in the employ of Mr. **GEORGE SEYMOUR**, was in the act of bathing, near a place on the river known as Sandy Beach, he was, it is supposed, suddenly seized with cramp, and his legs getting entangled in the weeds in deep water, was unable to extricate himself from his perilous condition, and was consequently drowned.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/149, 08/11/1845

SUDDEN DEATH. - On Thursday night, between nine and ten o'clock, a private watchman at Redfern went into the house of Mr. **W. HIPGRAVE**, of that place, and asked for a drink of water, which was given to him; and having drunk it, he fell down and expired almost immediately. *Chronicle, Nov. 1*

WREGISTER, 5/121, 15/11/1845

AWFUL DEATH. - Intelligence was received by the Commandant of the Mounted Police in Sydney, on Thursday; of a melancholy occurrence which had happened to

Corporal **KIRK** and trooper **DUNN**, on the new line of road between George's River and Wollongong, by which the former lost his life, and the latter so much injured that it is not expected he can recover. The bush being on fire, the two men were surprised and surrounded by it; and the horses upon which they rode, their arms and accoutrements, except the metallic parts, were reduced to ashes.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/150, 15/11/1845

DEATH FROM DROWNING. - On Saturday last an inquiry was held by **E.D. DAY**, Esq., police magistrate, to ascertain the cause of death of **THOMAS HAYNES**, Phoenix Park, near Morpeth. It appeared from the evidence of **ROBERT CANVIN**, proprietor of the punt at Morpeth, that the deceased fell overboard from a small boat alongside the punt, about eleven o'clock on Friday morning. His hat had fallen into the water, and it was supposed he had lost his balance while endeavouring to recover it (a heavy squall blowing at the time), although Mr. Canvin had picked it up for him by the time he fell over. When he looked up, he saw the deceased holding on by the rope of the punt; but before he could be assisted he let go, and never rose again. The body was not recovered until about eight o'clock next morning. The sum of £7 8s. 6d. and a sealed letter were found in the pockets. Mr. **JOHN WRIGHT**, overseer to Mr. **M'DONALD**, farmer, near Morpeth, in whose service the deceased had been as a blacksmith, certified that the latter was perfectly sober when he went down to the river; he was not in the habit of being otherwise. The police magistrate certified that the deceased had been accidentally drowned, no blame being attached to any person in the matter.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - DUNGOG.

On Tuesday evening last a man named **PETER DILLON** died suddenly within ten miles of this place. On the following day **J.C. BROWN**, Esq., J.P., and Dr. **M'KINLAY**, J.P., proceeded to institute an investigation into the cause of death; but, to their surprise, they found that Mr. **PARKER**, coroner, from Hinton, had anticipated them, and was then holding an inquest. It was understood that by the late regulations coroners are not allowed to act out of their own districts. In this instance the disappointment the above gentlemen have been subjected to is regretted the more, because it may have the effect of keeping them back on any future occasion of sudden death. The jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes. Dungog, November 8.

SYDNEY NEWS. - YASS. - On the 31st ult. a judicial enquiry was held at Scott's station, Kenilworth, on the body of a man named **M'CARTHY**, who had met his death from a tomahawk wound, inflicted by a man named **ORIGAN**, in a quarrel. The result was, that Origan was committed for trial for murder.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/151, 22/11/1845

SIX WHITE MEN FOUND DEAD. - A report has reached Maitland this week of six white men having recently been found lying dead in the bush near the banks of the Balloon River, having no marks of violence upon their persons. The Balloon River is situated about 200 miles north-west of the Barwin, from the point where the Moonee Creek enters the Barwin (the latter place being estimated at about 350 miles from Maitland, by the nearest route), and has only lately been discovered by squatters from the Moonee Creek, who, being pressed for room, have been gradually extending their runs till they reached the Balloon, reported as a small running stream, with a sandy bottom. On referring to the map it will be seen that the position is not far from the parallel of latitude to which Captain Sturt had attained by the last accounts from him,

while it is roughly estimated at 350 or 400 miles east of his position at that time. The report states that the six men found are entirely unknown to the men on the stations near, and it is conjectured that they may be an exploring party sent out by Captain Sturt, who have either been starved to death, or in some way poisoned by the blacks. The latter supposition, however, appears inconsistent with their condition when found, as the aborigines usually mangle the bodies of their enemies after death. The fact of their bodies having been found appears undoubted.

INQUEST. - On Sunday last, the 16th instant, a judicial investigation was held by **E.D. DAY**, Esq., the police magistrate, at the Victoria Dockyard, Miller's Forest, as to the cause of death of **JOSEPH LOW**, a man employed at that place as a cook for the riggers of a vessel. It appeared from the evidence of **JOHN CAMERON**, **WILLIAM BRAMBLE**, and **THOMAS HANSON**, that the deceased had gone to the well on Saturday afternoon for water, and the edge being of clay, and wet and slippery, had fallen in. He was discovered by Bramble, who having gone to the well on a similar errand, found the buckets which the deceased had taken there, his cap, and one of his shoes. On looking into the well he saw the deceased floating with his head just level with the water. Means were immediately used to get him out, and the assistance of Dr. **CADELL** obtained, but life was extinct. There were marks on the ground of the struggle the unfortunate man had made to save himself. One of the witnesses said that the deceased had stated himself to be 49 years of age, but looked 56 or 57: he had heard that he had been deranged in Sydney from the effects of drink. He had only been about three weeks employed at the dockyard. Dr. **J.J. CADELL**, of Raymond Terrace (near the dockyard), certified that death had been caused by drowning; there were no marks of violence further than the deceased might have received during his efforts to scramble out of the well. The police magistrate certified that death had been caused by drowning.

BUSH FIRES. - On Monday, the 10th instant, Corporal **KIRK** and trooper **DUNN**, of the mounted police, stationed on the road between George's town and Wollongong, went out on duty, disregarding a warning given them as to the bush fires, which they said they could ride through. The result was that their horses failed under them, and were left to perish, while themselves barely escaped with life, Dunn being so seriously burnt that his life is despaired of. Another account states that Kirk perished in the flames.

THE SIX MEN FOUND DEAD NEAR THE BALLOON. - Since our last a letter has been received by a gentleman in Maitland stating that about a fortnight or more ago Mr. **MITCHELL**, the Assistant Commissioner, having heard the report that six bodies had been found near the balloon, purposed proceeding to the spot, with a view into examining into the matter. ... [conjectures] ... We shall wait with much anxiety to hear the result of Mr. Mitchell's enquiry, and cannot but hope that the latest information that has reached Maitland may be correct - it is that the report entirely depends on the statement of one man who had been out some days after cattle, and that this man is so much in the habit of telling extravagant tales of his adventures that no dependence can be placed on him. This is stated by a gentleman of this neighbourhood who has just come down from the Barwin, and who heard the tale from the man himself.

HUNTER RIVER DISTRICT NEWS. - **NEWCASTLE.**

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Friday afternoon last Mr. **WILLIAM THORNTON**, of Blood Tree Farm, about four miles from Newcastle, left home accompanied by his son, a youth of 15 years, for the purpose of shooting dicks on the water at Iron Bark Creek. They were in a very small boat (a dingy), and it was nearly eleven o'clock at

night before they reached Iron Bark Creek on their way home. When under the bridge, a heavy piece of timber fell from it, and lodged on the boat, which immediately began to fill. Young Thornton, it appears, had the paddles to hand at the time, and his father went to the lad's assistance; in doing so he fell into the water. Young Thornton then went to assist his father, whom he heard exclaim – "Oh, my God! – Guerne." These were the last words the son heard – when, finding the current too strong, he returned to the shore, and called aloud for assistance for a quarter of an hour, but no one coming up, the afflicted youth was necessitated to return to his mother and communicate to her the heart-rending intelligence of the fate of his father. Early on Saturday morning the chief constable, young Thornton, and two constables, proceeded to Iron Bark Creek, where, about fifty yards from the bridge, they discovered the body floating, the face being above the water. It was taken up and conveyed in a boat to the Lower Hospital in this town; and an inquiry held on the afternoon of Saturday by Major **CRUMMER** as to the cause of death. The remains of the unfortunate deceased were interred on Sunday last in the Episcopalian Burial ground. It is a source of deep regret to add to the above statement, that the bereaved widow of Mr. Thornton is left in very straightened circumstances, with a family of four children, the youngest child being only four years of age. A subscription has been set on foot to ameliorate the condition of this lady, who is very respectably connected. The present situation of Mrs. Thornton and her family is such as to claim the commiseration and assistance of a humane and charitable public. With this view Messrs. **W. NORTON** and **S. KEMP**, of Newcastle, have kindly consented to receive subscriptions and contributions on her behalf; and it is to be hoped that their kind intentions will so far be successful that all who are in a position to give a trifle in this case of "sorrow and woe" will transmit their donations, as early as convenient, to either of the gentlemen above-named. Newcastle, 4th December.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/154, 13/12/1845

THE REPORT OF BODIES FOUND ON THE BALLOON.

We are happy to be enabled to state positively that the report of the bodies of six white men having been found near the Balloon River was entirely without foundation, though when it reached Maitland it appeared to be well authenticated. ... they could not find the slightest foundation for the rumour, and that it was certain no such occurrence had taken place. ... Report had magnified the Balloon into a considerable river, having abundance of fine land near it, but they found it onl a small stream, and the land of indifferent quality.

FATAL ACCIDENT. - On Saturday as a seaman named **ARTHUR CROWE**, belonging to the *Eden Castle*, was engaged aloft, he was seized with a fit, lost his hold, fell on the deck, and was killed on the spot. *Herald, Dec. 8*

A man named **WHITELOCK**, living on Pelican Island, Manning River, was killed lately by an explosion of gunpowder.

WREGISTER, 5/125, 13/12/1845

SUDDEN DEATH. - About eleven o'clock on Sunday forenoon, **JOSEPH CRAWFORD**, one of the seamen belonging to the *Hamlet*, lying at Campbell's Wharf, went into one of the boats astern of that vessel to bathe, and had been but a few minutes in the water when he called for help, and was assisted out of the water. A few minutes afterwards, while putting on his clothes, he fell back and instantly expired.

DIED.

On the 11th November, at Yengarie, near Raymond Terrace, Hunter River, by a fall from her horse, Mrs. **MACANSH**, widow of the late **JOHN MACANSH**, surgeon, R.N.

WREGISTER, 5/126, 20/12/1845

FELO DE SE. - On Monday an inquest was held in the house of William Stone, publican, lower George-street, on the body of **JOHN BAXTER**, a seaman. **THOMAS KIRKWOOD**, surgeon on board the *Surprise* deposed that deceased was second officer on board that vessel; on Monday last, he had informed witness that he had been indulging freely in the use of spirits, and was then very ill; in the opinion of witness he was labouring under *delirium tremens*. Between seven and eight o'clock on Monday evening, witness went below to attend to the Chief Officer, Mr. **PHILPER**, who was then lying ill on board, when witness heard the deceased roaring out, on which witness took a light, went to his berth, and discovered the deceased with a wound about four inches long on the right side of the abdomen, and the intestines protruding through it; witness asked deceased who had inflicted the wound, and what it had been done for; when he replied that he had done it himself with a razor, and pointed downwards; and on looking in the direction pointed to, witness found the razor which he produced, and, with which, in the opinion of the witness, the wound had been inflicted; witness had no doubt but deceased was labouring under previous intemperance. On examining the body, he saw deceased had his trousers on, but thought he had raised his shirt to inflict the wound. Doctors **HOSKING** and **M'KELLAR** were in attendance soon after; the deceased lingered till about half-past ten o'clock on the same evening, when he expired. The deceased was about twenty-eight years of age. Doctor **PETER MANN HOSKING** corroborated the testimony of the preceding witness, and added, that on seeing the deceased, he found him bleeding very much, and saw several portions of the small intestines had been cut through, and were protruding from a wound on the right side of the abdomen; the intestines had been cut through in several places; when asked why he had wounded himself in such a manner, he said he had done it to get ease of a pain he had in that part. The wound was sufficient to cause death. Dr. **F. M'KELLAR** gave similar evidence to that given by the other medical gentlemen, when the jury found a verdict of *felo de se*. On which the body was ordered to be interred between the hours of nine and twelve at night.

WREGISTER, 5/127, 27/12/1845

[final issue]

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE. - A man named **PORTER**, residing in Frazer's-lane, attempted to destroy himself yesterday afternoon, by cutting his throat with a razor whilst intoxicated. Fortunately the wound was not dangerous, and medical assistance being procured, he was conveyed to the hospital, where he now lies.

MAITLAND MERCURY, 3/156, 27/12/1845

INQUESTS. - On Tuesday week an inquest was held on the body of **JOHN BAXTER**, a seaman belonging to the *Surprise*. The deceased had been drinking for a fortnight, and on Monday morning, while labouring under a fit of *delirium tremens*, he cut himself in the stomach with a razor, from the effects of which he died. The jury returned a verdict of *felo de se*.

On the same day an inquest was held on the body of **THOMAS JAMES DIXON**, two years of age. It appeared that the deceased was playing on a bank near

New South Wales Inquests, 1845; 24/03/08

Blackwattle Swamp, where a man was filling a cart with sand. The child fell down the bank and startled the horse, which set off, and the wheel of the cart came in contact with the child's head. The blow produced concussion of the brain, of which the child died. Verdict, accidental death.